

# Chapter 8

## Archaeological potential

**8.1** This chapter assesses the archaeological potential of the site. This has been assessed using professional judgement and an understanding of the known archaeological resource in the site and surrounding study area. Further research and evaluation will be required to confirm the absence/ presence of archaeological remains and their significance and to inform an appropriate mitigation strategy of the remains affected by development.

### Finds evidence

**8.2** As per chapter 3, there are nine HER records that relate to finds within the site; the location of which is shown on Figure 8.1 at the end of this chapter. Finds deposition arises as a result of various processes (e.g. casual loss, abandonment, waste disposal, and deliberate internment). Worked flint is often common and widely spread simply because of the length of time over which it was used. Erosion of the finds' original contexts (e.g. middens and surface refuse spreads) is also common given the time elapsed since deposition. Consequently, worked flints are not necessarily indicative of settlement activity unless they occur in particularly high concentrations, or with other artefacts/ monuments. Isolated finds, particularly of coins and dress accessories (e.g. portable material culture), are often the result of casual losses and pottery can become widely spread as a result of manuring.

**Table 8.1: Finds within the site**

Period	Description
Mesolithic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Worked flints, Cokers Frome (Open Space South) [MDO2518]</li> </ul>
Neolithic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concentration of flint working waste, Charminster (Open Space South) [MDO800]</li> </ul>
Bronze Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Worked flint including cores, scrapers and secondary worked flakes, Stinsford (School Campus) [MDO2503]</li> <li>Concentration of flint working waste, Charminster (Open Space South) [MDO800]</li> <li>Worked flints, Charminster noted during site visit roughly at 368781, 91828 (Open Space South) [LUC ref: ND11]</li> </ul>

Period	Description
Iron Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
Prehistoric	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Worked flint scatter, Yalbury Stinsford (Open Space South) [MDO2520]</li> <li>Quern stone, north of Cokers Frome (Housing West) [MDO2501]</li> </ul>
Roman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coin hoard, Fordington Moor (Open Space South) [MDO19162]</li> <li>Pottery? Stinsford (Housing West) [MDO2513]</li> </ul>
Early medieval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
Medieval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pottery? Stinsford (Housing West) [MDO2513]</li> <li>Pottery and a penny of Edward I (School Campus) [MDO2504]</li> <li>Medieval and later finds relating to Burton deserted medieval settlement (Open Space South) [MDO2505]</li> </ul>
Post-medieval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
Modern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>

**8.3** Groups of finds, isolated finds that are of domestic nature (e.g. quern stones), or finds of building material, are typically considered more likely to represent settlement activity. Finds within the site that may indicate settlement that is not otherwise attested, are considered below. The Roman coin hoard has also been discussed as they are often highly significant finds in themselves and may in some cases be representative of a wider pattern of 'special' deposition.

**Possible Bronze Age settlement [DHER ref: MDO2503]**

**8.4** In 1978 fieldwalking was undertaken in a field called 'Lanes Close', east of Slyer's Lane, where the School is proposed. A large amount of Bronze Age worked flint, including more than 50 scraping tools, several cores, and numerous secondary worked flakes, were collected. The distributions of the various categories of flint suggested a 'habitation' focus in the south-west corner of the field (around SY 70459152), within the School Campus area. Google Earth imagery shows some ephemeral circular cropmarks in this location, however, it is of note that a number of post-medieval

chalk pits are also recorded in the area and these may be what is visible. The digging of the chalk pits in the area [DHER ref: MDO20526] is likely to have damaged any potential earlier archaeological deposits in the area.

**8.5** This possible settlement site lies 400m east of a possible prehistoric enclosure [DHER ref: MDO2516] and approximately 780m south of a second possible enclosure [DHER ref: MDO20523], which is associated with a Bronze Age barrow cemetery [DHER ref: MDO20434-8; MDO205424-25].

**Possible prehistoric settlement [DHER ref: MDO2501]**

**8.6** In 1973 a sandstone saddle quern (i.e. grinding stone) was discovered in a field boundary, located approximately 650m north of Cokers Frome Farm, in the south of the Housing West area. The quern stone was reportedly comparable to those found at Maiden Castle in both Neolithic and Iron Age 'A' horizons. Although redeposited, it is suggestive of settlement in the area and it is of note that there is evidence for an, albeit earlier Bronze Age settlement [DHER ref: MDO20434-8; MDO205424-25, MDO2515-6 and MDO2503] to the east of this findspot, within the Housing East area. There is also evidence [DHER ref: MDO2502: see below] for a possible Roman settlement c. 600m to the south, between the two housing areas, near Cokers Frome Farm. The possible Neolithic and Iron Age dates suggest that either settlement could have some continuity with this one.

**Possible Roman settlement [DHER ref: MDO2502]**

**8.7** In 1971 a scatter of Roman roof tiles, sherds of pottery, including a piece of imported Samian ware, and a rotary quern stone fragment were recovered from a field north of farm buildings at Cokers Frome [DHER ref: MDO2502]. These finds – which lie a short distance south of a purported Roman Road (Margery 470; LUC ref: ND1) - are indicative of a Roman building or settlement being in the vicinity. Roman roof tiles were distributed on a regional basis having initially being introduced and produced by the military, with civilian production starting from the later 1<sup>st</sup> century.<sup>90</sup> The use of tiles suggests the presence of a more Roman style of building, potentially one of some status as although seemingly ubiquitous, tiles had to be used in large quantities, which arguably also made them a high value commodity. The Samian sherd is from a plate (Dragendorf 18/31) commonly used throughout the second century, and – although only singular – again points to any settlement present being of some status.

<sup>90</sup> Mills, P. 2013. The supply and distribution of ceramic building material

In Roman Britain, in L. Lavan (ed.) Local Economies? Production and Exchange of Inland Regions in Late Antiquity - Late Antique Archaeology vol. 10 pp. 451-69

**8.8** In addition to the Roman road, there are several probable Roman burials [DHER ref: MDO2496, MDO2497 and LUC ref: ND2] in the vicinity of the possible settlement. Whether they relate to the settlement is unclear; inhumation burials are typically of later date and the date of the settlement is unknown. (The Samian is of 2<sup>nd</sup> century date but could be a curated item.)

**8.9** The evidence is insufficient to postulate a settlement function. Nearby ditches and finds of Roman pottery [DHER ref: MDO2520], likely dispersed from manuring, suggest that the site was in an agricultural landscape, within which villas and small settlements would be expected. However, the settlement's roadside location could mean that it may have had other functions as main roads were associated with posting stations (mutations), and rest houses (mansions) and became the focus of industry, as well as settlement.

**8.10** Further evidence of Roman settlement is suggested by the discovery of several probable Roman burials nearby, some Roman ditches near the B3150 and finds of Roman pottery [DHER ref: MDO2520] to the north of Frome Whitfield, although these may result from manuring. It is also of note that there is a medieval deserted settlement just south of the settlement location and continuity between settlements is possible.

#### Roman coin hoard [DHER ref: MDO19162]

**8.11** There is an antiquarian report of a coin hoard being found in what is now Cokers Frome water meadow [DHER ref: MDO20527], just west of the Roman approach road to Dorchester (demarcated by the B3150) and north of the River Frome (not far from Greys Bridge). Roman coin hoards are generally interpreted as being deposited for safekeeping, or ritual purposes. The latter seems likely for this example given that the coins were reportedly found in association with ashes, which may represent the remains of an associated ritual practice. Ritual deposits of metal work are also often associated with watery contexts, such as this was, and are not only common in the Roman period but have a long tradition in British prehistory.

**8.12** Given the braided nature of the River Frome in the south of the site in Open Space south, there is the potential for further similar deposits and associated activity.

### Archaeological potential

**8.13** As per the geology discussion in Chapter 3, the site contains river terrace gravels, alluvial and colluvial deposits meaning that the site has a high potential for geoarchaeology and the preservation of palaeoenvironmental and cultural

organic remains (animal bone, molluscs and charred plant remains), especially in the waterlogged areas around the river.

#### Palaeolithic (c. 700,000 – 40,000 BC)

**8.14** Palaeolithic Britain – then connected to mainland Europe – was an arctic region of glaciers but during warmer interglacial periods hominins occupied the region, primarily exploiting the resources of river valleys and coastal areas. Very few habitation sites are known because settlements were temporary and left little evidence, typically only flint debitage (waste). In addition to which, the land surfaces they were constructed on have been eroded. The archaeology of the period is therefore generally characterised by worked flint tools and waste that were washed into river terrace gravels (and deeply buried) by the waters from rivers and melting glaciers. Where in-situ sites do survive – such as within caves within southwest England – they are of national significance due to their rarity.

**8.15** The River Frome appears to have been a minor tributary or survival of the upper course of the ancient Solent River, which once ran eastwards towards Poole Harbour. As such, the Frome river terrace gravels include Pleistocene deposits that are often a key source of Palaeolithic finds.<sup>91</sup> Extensive deposits of Higher Terrace Gravel remain to the east of Dorchester and have extractive activity at West Knighton, Moreton, and Crossways has recovered at least 70 hand-axes.<sup>92</sup> This suggests there may have been considerable occupation higher up the ancestral Solent, but further upstream little remains of any terrace deposits which might relate to this lost river and nothing is known from the Frome terraces between here and Charminster,<sup>93</sup> with no finds recorded in the site and few in the wider study area.

**8.16** The potential for in-situ archaeology is likely to be **none**, for all areas. The potential for ex-situ finds of this period within the site remains uncertain given the lack of understanding around the dating of the terrace deposits (see the geology section).

#### Mesolithic period (10,000 – 6,000 BC)

**8.17** With the end of the last glacial period sea levels rose separating Britain from mainland Europe. The retreating ice gave way to arctic tundra, and in turn to dense forest. Mollusc data recovered from an intrusive Mesolithic deposit within the Neolithic Dorset Coursus provides a rare glimpse of a Mesolithic Chalkland environment of deciduous woodland with some large clearings. Hunter-gathers continued to exploit this landscape and in general the richest zone for sites and findspots in Dorset is in the south coast area around Lulworth,

<sup>91</sup>Webster, C.J. (Ed). 2007. The Archaeology of South West England p. 23

<sup>92</sup> Wymer, J. 1999. The Lower Palaeolithic Occupation of Britain V1, p. 107

<sup>93</sup> Wymer, J. 1999. The Lower Palaeolithic Occupation of Britain V1, p. 107

Weymouth, Portland, and Bournemouth. In the study area, Mesolithic material is rare, but some flintwork [DHER ref: MDO2518] has been recorded within the site in Open Space South.

**8.18** The potential for in-situ archaeology of this period within the site is likely to be **none**, for all areas. Further ex-situ worked flint is likely, the significance of these would depend on their form and number.

### Neolithic period (6,000 – 4,000 BC)

**8.19** During the Neolithic, there was substantial coastal change resulting in the inundation and subsequent burial by marine and intertidal deposits of significant areas of former coastline. The rise in sea levels also reduced river gradients and their flow. The Neolithic period is marked by significant cultural change with the hunter-gathering lifestyle gradually giving way to farming and permanent settlements. Nonetheless, the evidence for settlement remains insubstantial, consisting for the most part of lithic and artefact scatters, pits, hearths and stake- and post-holes. Some such evidence is attested in the study area, including at Maiden Castle and Poundbury (adjacent to the site), both of which have some continuity of settlement throughout the prehistoric period. Pottery also starts to be produced during this period; but because the fabric was soft and friable it rarely survives outside the protected fills of features.

**8.20** Another marked change was the introduction of monumental complexes associated with communal ritual and ceremony. The Dorchester area is significant for its major monument complexes, which include several long barrows – including on to the southwest of the site, near Poundbury - and three major Neolithic monuments:

- A causewayed enclosure (and settlement) underlying the Iron Age hillfort of Maiden Castle, two miles to the southwest of modern Dorchester;
- Two banked circular earthwork henge monuments, Mambury Rings [NHLE ref: 1003204] located towards the centre of Dorchester and Mount Pleasant Henge [NHLE ref: 1002463], to the southeast of the town.

**8.21** Worked flint scatters are common in the area, especially around the monument complexes where they are often dense and of considerable chronological range. However, this patterning may reflect our focus on their study more than the reality of their deposition. Evidence of this date within the site includes:

- **Open Space South:**
  - Neolithic flintwork [DHER ref: MDO800].
- **Housing West (including local space):**

- a quern stone [DHER ref: MDO2501]; of Neolithic origin although a later prehistoric date is equally possible.

**8.22** The potential for hitherto unknown archaeology of this period is likely to be **very low** across most of the site, with some **very low to low** potential in Housing West and **low** potential in Open Space South, due to the proximity to the river and the potential for deeper buried archaeology within colluvial and alluvial deposits. Residual finds of worked flint may be more widely recovered across the site.

**8.23** The significance of any in-situ settlement archaeology would likely be low-medium depending on its character and extent. The significance of any ex-situ worked flints could vary according to their form and number.

### Bronze Age period (4,000 – 700 BC)

**8.24** Soil and mollusc studies have shown that during the Bronze Age large areas of the Wessex chalk downland of Dorset were cleared of secondary woodland. By the Middle Bronze Age (1500-1000 BC), the area largely constituted a farmed landscape defined and bounded by field systems. This change was accompanied by the establishment of longer-lived settlement characterised by more substantial round houses.

**8.25** Significant Bronze Age activity is attested by Poundbury Hillfort immediately southwest of the site and by a series of burial mounds (round barrows) within this monument and around this monument, as well as in the surrounding landscape. Round barrows are the most common prehistoric monument in England. They are typically found in elevated positions and occur in groups, as demonstrated by those found along ridgeways to the south and north of Dorchester, which form some of the densest groups of prehistoric burial monuments in the UK (these are discussed in more detail in the scoping exercise in Appendix C). Round barrows contain individual burials or cremations, sometimes accompanied by rich grave goods demonstrating a shift from communal monuments to a focus on particular people and their power. As the Bronze Age progressed, cremation became more common, with ashes being deposited in a small pit or pottery urn, within an older or new barrow.

**8.26** Other evidence for this period includes bronze and flint artefacts, with the latter becoming increasingly sophisticated over time and the latter increasingly utilitarian. Large metalwork hoards are a characteristic of the Late Bronze Age (c. 1000-700 BC). Highly decorated pottery (beaker ware), indicating specialist rather than domestic production, also appears. As with earlier pottery, the friable nature of this pottery means that it does not often survive well.

**8.27** Bronze Age evidence – or prehistoric evidence that may be best characterised as Bronze Age (or later) - within the site includes:

- **Housing West (including local space):**
  - Possible prehistoric enclosure ditch [DHER ref: MDO2515], west of possible enclosure and settlement in Housing East (and Slyer's Lane).
- **Housing East (including local space, school campus and employment area):**
  - Round barrow cemetery [DHER ref: MDO20434-8; MDO205424-25], surviving a ring-ditches (buried remains) in the northern part of this area.
  - Possible prehistoric enclosure [DHER ref: MDO20523], near the round barrows.
  - Possible prehistoric enclosure ditch [DHER ref: MDO2516], east of the settlement site (and Slyer's Lane)
  - A flintwork scatter suggestive of a possible settlement site [DHER ref: MDO2503], in the School Campus area.
- **Open Space South:**
  - Concentration of flint working waste, Charminster [DHER ref: MDO800]
  - Small collection of worked flints noted during site visit, near Charminster [LUC ref: ND11]
- **Open Space North:**
  - No known evidence but the area is elevated and located between known round barrows/ ring ditches.

**8.28** The potential for hitherto unknown archaeology of this period is likely to be:

- **Housing West (including local space):** Low-Moderate
- **Housing East (including local space, school campus and employment area):** High
- **Open Space South:** Low – Moderate (the key areas being closest to Poundbury and Housing East)
- **Open Space North:** Low

**8.29** Residual finds of worked flint may be more widely recovered across the site.

**8.30** The significance of any in-situ settlement archaeology would likely be low-medium depending on its character and extent. The significance of any ex-situ worked flints would vary according to their form and number.

### Iron Age period (c. 700 BC- 43 AD)

**8.31** The best known and most visible remains of the Iron Age are hillforts and nearly 3,000 examples are known from across the British Isles. Early hillforts appear from the 7th century BC onwards and are typically smaller than later ones, having seemingly been used not as permanent habitation sites but for seasonal gatherings, trade/ exchange, and religious activities. Later, larger multi-ditched hillforts that were used for permanent settlement begin to appear. In Dorset, Maiden Castle, Poundbury and Hod Hill formed an important network of hillforts within the *Durotrigian* tribal area, although they appear to reflect statements of elite power rather than the need for defence.

**8.32** Beyond the hillforts, the landscape was typically one of arable, pasture and managed woodland, dotted with farmsteads. Most Iron Age settlements were small, and probably housed single extended families. These individual farmsteads were set within extensive landscapes of fields and tracks, and a very large area of Iron Age to Roman field systems is known to the north of the site [DHER ref: MDO20448]. Many settlements were enclosed by banks and ditches but unenclosed settlements of single or small groups of circular huts, and even large village-like settlements, are known.

**8.33** In the Later Iron Age, probably from the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC onwards, the shift towards larger defended settlements was accompanied by the introduction on new material culture including iron artefacts, wheel produced pottery, and coinage. While iron often does not survive well due to its corrosive nature, pottery and coins are relatively common finds. Some worked flint tools – often crude in comparison to earlier ones - also continued to be used during this period.

**8.34** There is no definitively dated Iron Age archaeology within the site, but it is immediately adjacent to Poundbury Hillfort [NHLE ref: 1013337] and more generally dated prehistoric evidence that could indicate activity during this period includes:

- **Housing West (including local space):**
  - Possible prehistoric enclosure ditch [DHER ref: MDO2515], west of possible enclosure and settlement in Housing East (and Slyer's Lane).
- **Housing East (including local space, school campus and employment area):**
  - Possible prehistoric enclosure ditch [DHER ref: MDO2516], east of the settlement site (and Slyer's Lane).

**8.35** The site is likely to have been agricultural land and some settlement activity may be expected given its size, proximity to

the Poundbury Hillfort and the possible presence of Bronze Age and Roman settlements.

**8.36** The potential for hitherto unknown archaeology of this period is likely to be **low-moderate** across the site, with settlement remains most likely near Poundbury and in the areas of potential Bronze Age and Roman settlement, where it may be precursive/ successive.

### Roman (43 – 410 AD)

**8.37** The site lies immediately north of Roman town 'Durnovaria' (now Dorchester). This settlement developed around a Roman fort that was established shortly after the conquest, east of Poundbury Hillfort. The town was over 70 acres in area and in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD featured earthwork defences, although these were later replaced by stone walls (now scheduled as NHLE: 1002449). Part of the street plan has been identified, along with several buildings including the amphitheatre (which were created by converting the Maumbury Rings), public baths near Icen Way; and several town houses near Colliton Park (one of which is scheduled as NHLE ref: 1002721). Also extant to the southwest of the site, between Whitfield Farm and Poundbury Hillfort, are the remains of an aqueduct [NHLE ref: 1002730 and 1013337] that brought water into the town from the Frampton area.

**8.38** Several Roman roads are known to have led into the town and one purportedly runs through the site (Margary 470; LUC ref: ND1). It is generally considered to follow the route of the current Stinsford to Charminster Road, meaning it may not survive well. However, it is potentially attested further south than this by earthworks to the east of Frome Whitfield House and in Burton deserted medieval settlement [DHER ref: MDO20977 and MDO762]. There are probable Roman burials in this area [DHER ref: MDO2496], and also near Slyer's Lane [DHER ref: MDO2497 and LUC ND2] that may also indicate the route of this road. Extra-mural burials such as these have also been found to the west, south and east of Durnovaria; with a nationally important large late Roman cemetery at Poundbury [NHLE ref: MDO18389]. As Roman burials were not permitted in towns, many are located along the roads leading into the town, or demonstrate a spatial relationship with enclosure boundaries beyond the city walls.

**8.39** Roads often became the focus of settlement and industry and a roadside settlement [DHER ref: MDO2502] may have existed along the road within the site, in the area north of Cokers Frome Farm. Whilst recorded in Open Space South its location and extent remain unclear, and (if present) the settlement may extend into the southern part of the Housing West or Housing East areas. Other rural settlements are evidenced in the wider area, for example, there is a farm at Poundbury, immediately south of the site. Such settlements are likely to have been widespread in the rural hinterland of

Durnovaria and would have been accompanied by extensive field systems, such as those evidenced in the site [DHER ref: MDO2522] in the southern part of Housing East and to the north of the site [DHER ref: MDO20448]. Nearby pottery finds [DHER ref: MDO2513] within the site, likely result from manuring.

**8.40** The Roman coin hoard [DHER ref: MDO19162] discovered in a water meadow near Grey's Bridge, in Open Space South, highlights how the water courses in the south of the site may have been viewed as an appropriate location for ritual deposits.

**8.41** The distribution of evidence for Roman activity within the site is as follows:

- **Housing West (including local space):**
  - Roman road [Margary 470; LUC ref: ND1]; attested in this area by possible earthworks near Frome Whitfield.
- **Housing East (including local space, school campus and employment area):**
  - Roman road [Margary 470; LUC ref: ND1]; route suggested by burials near Slyer's Lane and current Stinsford – Charminster Road.
  - Two probable Roman burials [DHER ref: MDO2497 and LUC ND2].
  - Roman enclosures [DHER ref: MDO2522].
- **Open Space South:**
  - Roman road (Margary 470; LUC ref: ND1); attested in this area by possible earthworks near Frome Whitfield.
  - Finds evidence for a Roman settlement [DHER ref: MDO2502].
  - Multiple probable Roman burials [DHER ref: MDO2496].
  - Roman coin hoard [DHER ref: MDO19162].
  - Roman pottery [DHER ref: MDO2513].
- **Open Space North:**
  - None recorded.
- **Link Road:**
  - Crosses the postulated route of the Roman road as indicated by the modern Stinsford to Charminster road and the linear earthwork at Burton.

**8.42** The potential for hitherto unknown archaeology of this period is likely to be:

- **Housing West (including local space):** Moderate - High
- **Housing East (including local space, school campus and employment area):** Moderate
- **Open Space South:** Moderate - High
- **Open Space North:** Low - Moderate
- **Link Road:** Moderate

### Early medieval (410AD – 1066)

**8.43** The early medieval period is characterised in the archaeological record by a paucity of evidence (or at least of chronologically different material), reflecting the decline of coinage and mass-produced pottery. This makes the identification sites of this period and their understanding difficult, with much reliance placed on burials, stray finds and place names.

**8.44** Large urban settlements - such as that at Dorchester or '*Domwaracester*' as it then became known – declined. Nonetheless, there is some evidence for continued settlement. For example, early medieval activity have been attested in the grounds of Wollaston House [NHLE ref: 1002384] and at The Greyhound Yard site. There is documentary evidence of a royal residence within Dorchester and by the 10th century there were two mints. Buildings and enclosures of the 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> centuries also overlie the Roman cemetery at Poundbury, indicating the continuity of settlement in that area too. Some of the burials here may also be sub-Roman, given the difficulty in dating burials without grave goods.

**8.45** There is no conclusive evidence for early medieval activity in the site, but its proximity to '*Domwaracester*' and the River Frome would make it attractive for settlement, or at least agriculture. It therefore seems likely that the three deserted medieval settlements (DMVs), which lie alongside the River Frome (primarily in Open Space South) and their associated parish boundaries, have pre-conquest origins. Certainly, that just beyond the site at Wolfeton appears to be of Saxon origin.<sup>94</sup>

**8.46** Additionally, the Roman burials in the vicinity are not securely dated, so a post-Roman date cannot be ruled out. The location of these suggests that some could be encountered in the south-eastern part of Housing West.

**8.47** The archaeological potential for further unknown remains of this date is considered to be **low** across the site, except at the DMV sites in Open Space South where there is **low-moderate** potential.

### Medieval (1066 – 1485)

**8.48** In 1086 the Domesday Survey recorded 88 households in Dorchester, 100 having been destroyed, possibly to make way for a royal castle on the site now occupied by the Prison. The Domesday Book also includes entries for Stinsford and Charminster, which lie either side of the site (and to the northeast and northwest of Dorchester, respectively). Charminster was the larger of the two settlements with approximately 28 households, compared to just eight in Stinsford.

**8.49** The remains of deserted medieval settlements have been recorded at both Charminster (Wolfeton) and Stinsford, and another three deserted medieval settlements are located within the site at Burton, Frome Whitfield and Cokers Frome, primarily within Open Space South. These are attested variously by earthworks, features, and finds; that at Burton also includes a moated site [DHER ref: MDO802]. The settlement at Frome Whitfield is also referenced in the Domesday Book, however, whilst the settlement at Burton might correspond to 'Cernes' in the Domesday Book that at Cokers Frome is not mentioned. These sites form part of a wider regional pattern of deserted settlements within Dorset river valleys.

**8.50** Housing West and East would have formed their agricultural hinterland, and it is not surprising that there are a number of medieval agricultural features recorded within them: (e.g. ridge and furrow, field boundaries and strip lynchets – see DHER ref: MDO20968; MDO20978; MDO2984; MDO2984; MDO2487; MDO21076; MDO20979; MDO20980; MDO20981; MDO20982; MDO20983; MDO20988). Review of the LiDAR data available for the site suggests that some additional ridge and furrow may survive in the vicinity of Higher Farm Burton Cottages.

**8.51** The distribution of known evidence for medieval (and medieval to post-medieval) activity within the site is as follows:

- **Housing West (including local space):**
  - Agricultural features [DHER ref: MDO20984, MDO20968, MDO20978, MDO21076, MDO20985 and MDO2487]
- **Housing East (including local space, school campus and employment area):**
  - Field boundary and ridge and furrow [DHER ref: MDO20978 and MDO2487]
- **Open Space South:**
  - Cokers Frome DMV [DHER ref: MDO20966]

<sup>94</sup> The name Wolfeton means 'Wulf's settlement' and denotes a Saxon origin (The Landmark Trust. 2016. Wolfeton Gatehouse, p. 11)

- Whitfield Frome DMV [DHER ref: MDO2485 MDO20967]
- Burton DMV [DHER ref: MDO762 and MDO802]
- Agricultural features [DHER ref: MDO2519, MDO2521, MDO20467, MDO2521, MDO21076, MDO20992, MDO20985, MDO2487, MDO20968, MDO20978, MDO20992]

■ **Open Space North:**

- Agricultural features/ routes? [DHER ref: MDO20467 and MDO20544]

■ **Link Road:**

- Agricultural features [DHER ref: MDO20985, MDO20985]

**8.52** There is likely to be a **moderate-high** potential for hitherto unknown archaeology of this period within all areas of the site. This is likely to be characterised by agricultural field systems, ridge and furrow earthworks, and routeways. The potential for additional settlement is **low**, although the extent of the known DMVs may be greater than evidenced by their above ground earthworks.

**8.53** The significance of any hitherto unknown medieval remains is likely to be low.

**Post-medieval (1485 – 1750) and industrial - modern (1750 – present)**

**8.54** Dorchester has been the county town of Dorset since 1305. By the post-medieval period it was a cloth town of some importance, as evidenced by the impressive early 15th century rebuilding of St Peter's church and the similar tower at St George's in Fordington - an adjacent village whose manor virtually surrounded Dorchester. Despite several destructive fires, Dorchester saw many civic improvements that helped to consolidate its position as the county town and in the 18<sup>th</sup> century it gained a reputation for its ale.

**8.55** It was during these periods that the site came to possess much of its current agricultural character with the implementation of planned and regular enclosure across the site and the creation of the water meadows and their associated infrastructure along the River Frome. These field systems are defined by extant hedgerows – often including trees – and include several historic trackways. Review of historic maps has also identified a number of water management features and bridges, which may or may not be extant. The location of these possible archaeological assets is shown on Figure 8.1 at the end of this chapter.

**8.56** Dispersed across this agricultural landscape are a few isolated historic farm holdings, some of which are the successors to the earlier DMVs. A review of historic maps has also identified several former agricultural settlements/ buildings in the site. Numerous post-medieval extractive pits are also evident in the site, these may reflect the need for agricultural fertiliser (chalk), although they may equally have been used for other reasons such as surfacing paths/ tracks, or for local industry.

**8.57** The last century has seen the development of Dorchester as a county town; and tourist attraction based around the area's antiquities and the literary connections of Thomas Hardy and William Barnes. Although it expanded to absorb the neighbouring village of Fordington, it has escaped large-scale redevelopment commonly seen in other towns in the 1960s and 70s.<sup>95</sup> Subsequently, expansion has been confined to within the bypass built in the 1980s, although there has been some continued expansion to the west on the Duchy of Cornwall's Poundbury Farm.<sup>96</sup>

**8.58** The distribution of archaeological assets, including those identified by review of historic maps, is as follows:

■ **Housing West (including local space and Link Road):**

- Site of house and garden northeast of Burton Cottages [LUC ref: ND4]
- Site of barns (Hovel Barn?) [LUC ref: ND8]
- Site of Higher and Middle Burton Farm [LUC ref: ND7]

■ **Housing East (including local space, school campus, employment area and Link Road):**

- Site of (former) Eweleaze Barn(s) [LUC ref: ND6]

■ **Open Space South:**

- Site of outbarns? [LUC ref: ND12]
- Site of Cokers Frome Farmhouse and garden, dairy house, barn and stable [LUC refs: ND13, ND14 and ND15]
- Site of house and garden [LUC ref: ND16]
- Water management features [LUC ref: ND18-22, 27-31, 33-38, 41-52 and 58-59]
- Footbridges and footpaths (not extant or survival unknown) [LUC ref: ND9, ND24, ND25, ND26 ND40, ND44, ND53-56 and ND60]

<sup>95</sup> West Dorset District Council. 2003. Dorchester Conservation Area Appraisal p.5

<sup>96</sup> West Dorset District Council. 2003. Dorchester Conservation Area Appraisal p.5

- Field boundary or trackway [DHER ref: MDO20977]

**8.59** There is likely to be a **moderate** potential for hitherto unknown archaeology of this period within all areas of the site. This is likely to be characterised by agricultural field systems, ridge, and furrow earthworks, and routeways. The potential for additional settlement, beyond that identified from historic maps, is likely to be **low**.

**8.60** The significance of the archaeological assets identified from the map regression is low. The significance of any hitherto unknown archaeological assets from these periods is likely to be **very low to low**.

### Archaeological survival

**8.61** The site is largely undeveloped, meaning that generally any archaeological deposits should survive relatively well, especially any that are buried beneath colluvial (hill wash) or which are waterlogged because they are located in the water meadows/ valley floodplain. However, there are some factors that may affect the survival of deposits given the sites past use, these include:

- **Ploughing:** Past and modern ploughing will have resulted in the vertical truncation of any archaeological deposits within the site.
- **Piggeries:** The aerial imagery review showed that the fields between Badger's Copse and Yarlbury House (Housing West) was used for pig farming. These animals can cause ground disturbance to a similar depth as ploughing (e.g. approx. 30cm).
- **Quarrying:** There are numerous quarry pits across the site, and these will have resulted in the removal or severe damage of any archaeological deposits within their footprint. It is of note that there is a large area of chalk pits [DHER ref: MDO20977] recorded in/ near the area of possible Bronze Age settlement.
- **Localised development:** In areas where built development has occurred any earlier archaeological deposits may have been damaged or removed.
- **Water meadows:** The excavation of the channels within the water meadows will have resulted in the removal or truncation of archaeological deposits.

### Summary and recommendations

**8.62** Overall, the potential for hitherto unknown archaeological remains within the site is considered to be high based on experience of development in the area. An appropriately staged programme of further research and evaluation will be

required to better understand the presence/ absence of remains and their significance. (In terms of evaluation, the potential for colluvial/ alluvial deposits on the site may affect the potential to successfully undertake geophysical survey in some areas). This will inform the final requirement for and nature of mitigation. Generally, this entails preservation in situ for remains of high value and the excavation, recording and reporting of remains of lesser value, although as an equally finite resource the avoidance of impacts is always preferable.

**8.63** Ground investigations on the site will therefore need to be monitored or reviewed by a geoarchaeologist to inform a better understanding of the underlying geology and potential for geoarchaeology and palaeoenvironmental remains. This will help inform the requirement for and form of site by site sampling strategies.

**8.64** All archaeological work will need to be undertaken by suitably qualified professionals in accordance with CIFA standards. Practical work will need to be undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) agreed by the Local Archaeological Officer. The WSIs will need to identify to both scheme wide<sup>97</sup> and site-specific research questions.

**8.65** NPPF Paragraph 199 requires that: "*developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible*". The scale of this development and the level of archaeological investigation required means that there will be considerable opportunity for a wide-range of community involvement such as open days, finds display, talks, lectures and volunteering/community. Such opportunities can form part of any archaeological conditions to planning consent. Early engagement with prospective stakeholders such as the local museum and history/ archaeology organisations would therefore be beneficial.

**8.66** Given the size of the site and the number of historic environment considerations therein, it is recommended that an Archaeological Clerk of Works (ACoW) is appointed. Such personnel are standard for infrastructure schemes and complex, potentially high-impact developments with significant historic environment interest on site, providing a proportionate and cost-effective response to managing a significant construction risk.

**8.67** An ACoW is a significant benefit for the developer in that it offers a single point of contact for contractors, ensuring all workers on site understand the importance of assets of site, how their work potentially interacts with it and any necessary

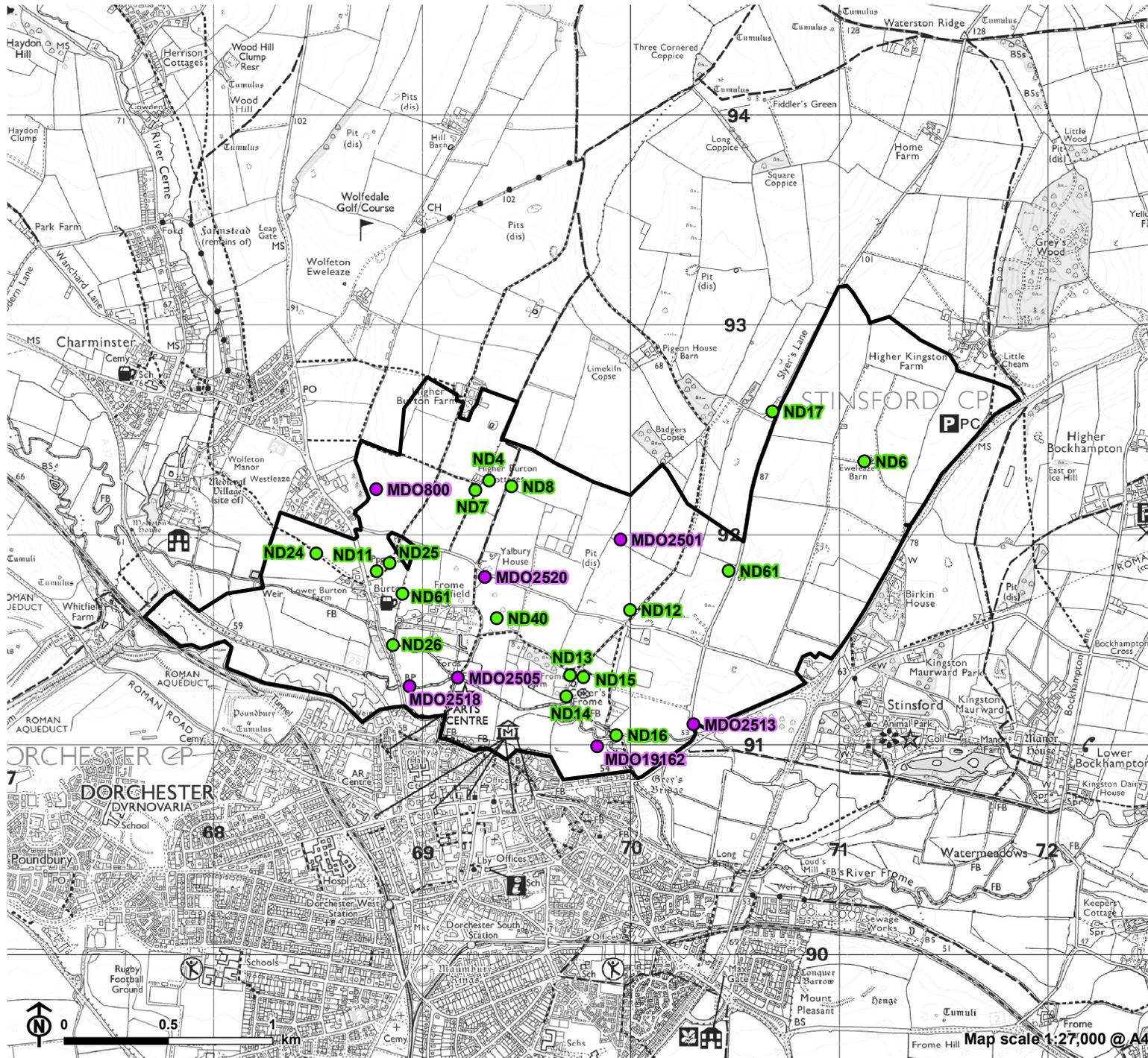
<sup>97</sup> There will be particular value in relating remains to the wider area and particularly to Poundbury Camp and Hillfort, and Maiden Castle.

constraints on their activities. This greatly reduces the potential for accidental damage to known assets and ensures that contractors understand the potential for discovery of archaeological material – and what to do, in the event that this occurs.

**8.68** The ACoW would also serve as a link between the developer/contractor and regulators (i.e. the LPA's archaeological advisor and, where necessary, Historic England), ensuring that consultees are involved wherever mandated by the site Written Scheme of Investigation and Construction Management Plan.



Figure 8.1: Findspots and probable archaeological assets



- Site boundary
- HER findspot
- LUC identified archaeological potential