

Part 7: Historic Environment Research Framework



The collation of the information on the development and character of the town has highlighted a number of areas where our understanding of the town is deficient. This has led to the formulation of the research questions set out below, which summarise potential future directions of research on the town. This list is neither exhaustive nor prescriptive, but suggests a framework within which further research could take place and this is linked to the South West Regional Archaeological Research Framework (Webster 2008), where relevant.

7.1 Pre-urban Activity

The pre-urban context of Wareham is poorly understood and there is a paucity of data in particular for the prehistoric period, though excavations on the Bestwall peninsula have demonstrated the very rich prehistoric and Roman remains found in the immediate vicinity. Thus, the questions on pre-urban activity are very general.

1. What is the nature of the prehistoric activity in the area?
2. What is the nature of the Iron Age and Roman activity within the area of the town?
3. What was the nature of the palaeo-environment in the prehistoric and Roman period?
4. What was the context for the extensive middle Saxon iron-working activity on the Bestwall peninsula? Was this industry the result of Royal or ecclesiastical involvement?

7.2 Origins of the Town

The question of the origins of Wareham is crucial to our understanding of the town and its early development. Also Wareham has real potential to inform on a wider Research Aim for the South West Region to develop our understanding of Early Medieval urban settlement (SWARF Research Aim 35) and to deepen our understanding of medieval and later defence and conflict sites (SWARF Research Aim 63).

5. It has been suggested that Lady St Mary Church is the site of a late 7th century Saxon Minster and that this Minster was on the site of an earlier British church or monastery. Can any archaeological evidence be recovered to support or refute this assertion?
6. It has also been suggested in this report that the putative British church may have been founded on the site of an important late or post-Roman burial, potentially that of an early Christian Martyr? Can any evidence for a late or post-Roman cemetery be found in

the vicinity of Lady St Mary Church?

7. Numerous undated burials have been unearthed in the vicinity of the Priory, Lady St Mary church and St John's Hill. What is their context and date?
8. Documentary evidence also suggests that Wareham Priory was sacked by the Vikings during AD876, prior to the construction of the burh defences, and that the Vikings left their ships here whilst they raided inland. Can any archaeological evidence be found associated with these events?
9. It has often been assumed that the grid street pattern and organisation of burgages within Wareham was contemporary with the creation of the town walls in the late 9th century. Can any archaeological evidence be found to support this theory?
10. Is there any evidence, archaeological or otherwise, for the organisation and economy of the late Saxon town?
11. Is there any evidence, archaeological or otherwise, for the organisation and layout of the late Saxon Priory?
12. What was the extent of occupation of the interior of the walled town during the late Saxon period?
13. Documentary evidence suggests that the town of Wareham was sacked many times during the 9th-12th centuries; can any archaeological evidence be found for destruction layers associated with these events and can such evidence throw any light on how this affected the economic development of the town?

7.3 Medieval town

Any archaeological evidence from the town at this period enables a fuller picture of the development of the town and complements the historical evidence. It would feed into the wider Research Aims for the South West Region to improve our understanding of Medieval and later urbanism (SWARF Research Aim 36) and assessment of the archaeological potential for studying medieval economy, trade, technology and production (SWARF Research Aim 47).

14. Domesday records that over half of the houses in Wareham were destroyed or decayed in the years immediately following the Norman Conquest. Can any archaeological evidence be found for this destruction and what effect did it have on the economy and development of the town?
15. It has often been suggested that the construction of the Norman Castle in the SW corner of Wareham accounted for much of

the destruction recorded in Domesday. Can any firm dating evidence for the foundation of the castle be found to confirm or refute this theory?

16. Is there any evidence, archaeological or otherwise, for the organisation and layout of the Medieval Priory? Were the existing buildings of Priory House and outbuildings built before or after the suppression of alien houses?
17. Are there any surviving archaeological or structural remains for the lost churches of St Michael, All Hallows, St Peter's, St Nicholas or St John's?
18. What evidence is there for the medieval economy?
19. What evidence is there for medieval industry and how was it organised?
20. Are there any traces of medieval buildings hidden within later buildings?
21. Is there any evidence for medieval settlement at Northport, Westport or South Best-wall Farm?
22. Where were the medieval markets and fairs held?
23. Leland recorded that the town of Wareham had greatly decayed by the mid 16th century. Can the dark humic soil layer identified in excavations over much of the walled town be associated with this decline?

7.4 Post-medieval and Modern town

Any archaeological evidence from the town at this period enables a fuller picture of its development and complements the historical evidence. It would feed into the wider Research Aims for the South West Region to improve our understanding of Medieval and later urbanism (SWARF Research Aim 36) and to broaden our understanding of post-medieval to modern technology and production.

24. What was the extent of industrial activity of the town and how did it develop. To what extent did the town's economy rely on its markets and fairs?
25. What physical traces of industrial activity within the town still survive? Are there any remains of former cloth works, breweries, tanneries, fisheries or market gardens and their ancillary buildings and structures?
26. What evidence can the standing secular buildings provide for their function and date?

Appendices



Appendix 1: References

Abbreviations

DHC = Dorset History Centre

AONB = Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

RCHME = Royal Commission on Historic Monuments of England

SWARF = South West Regional Archaeological Framework

PDC = Purbeck District Council

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Appendix 2: Chronology

For the purposes of this project, the following period names, sub-divisions and dates have been used. These are based on those used by the Dorset County Council Historic Environment Record.

Period	Period Sub-divisions	Date Range
Prehistoric	Palaeolithic	500000-10001BC
	Mesolithic	10000-4001BC
	Neolithic	4000-2351BC
	Bronze Age	2350-701BC
	Iron Age	800BC-AD42
Roman	Roman	AD43-409
Saxon	Early Saxon	AD410-899
	Late Saxon	AD900-1065
Medieval	Norman	AD1066-1149
	Earlier Medieval	AD1150-1349
	Later Medieval	AD1350-1539
Post-medieval	Early post-medieval	AD1540-1599
	17 th Century	AD1600-1699
	18 th century	AD1700-1799
	Earlier 19 th century	AD1800-1850
	Later 19 th century	AD1851-1900
Modern	Edwardian	AD1901-1913
	Inter-war	AD1914-1945
	Post-war	AD1946-1969
	Modern	AD1970-2010

Appendix 3: Archaeological Investigations in Wareham

No	Site Name	investigation type	Date	Reference	HER Event No.
1	St Martins House, North Street	excavation	1974	Hinton & Hodges 1977, 42-76	EWX546
2	St Martin's Church	excavation	1979	Keen 1979, 141	EWX1265
3	St Martin's Church	excavation	1985	Hinton and Webster 1987, 47-8	EDO5437
4	26 East Street	evaluation	1977	Hinton & Horsey 1978	EWX2379
5	11 East Street	evaluation	1978	Hinton & Horsey 1978, 124-6	EWX2380
6	Cow Lane/Mill Lane	evaluation	2005	AC Archaeology 2005, Laidlaw <i>et al.</i> 2005	EDO5433
7	Somerfield Store	evaluation	2001	Cox 2001	EWX2072
8	36 North Street	watching brief	1999	Hudson 2000	EWX2039
9	5 South Street	evaluation	1995	Hutcheson 1995	EWX2204
10	West Street, 20, rear	watching brief	2007	Tatler & Bellamy 2007b	EDO5444
11	19 West Street (remains of All Saints' church)	survey	1952	OS Record Card SY98NW22	EDO5424
12	36 North Street	evaluation	1998	Valentin 1998	EWX1841
13	North Street	salvage	1974	Farrar 1974	EDO5423
14	24 North Street	evaluation	1952	Farrar 1952, 97	EDO659
15	8 North Street	watching brief	2004	Ladle 2004	EDO5428
16	Post Office Site, North Street	watching brief	2002	Adam & Valentin 2002	EWX2248
17	75a North Street	watching brief	1986	Jarvis 1987	EWX1261
18	2 Mill Lane	watching brief	1995	Ladle 1995c	EWX2234
19	Dollin's Lane	watching brief	2007	Tatler & Bellamy 2007a	EDO5443
20	Rear of 8 West Street	watching brief	2002	Ladle 2002	EDO5427
21	10 and 10a South Street	evaluation	2002	Adam <i>et al.</i> 2002	EWX2247
22	Rempstone Centre, South Street	watching brief	1973	Hinton & Hodges 1977, 42	EWX1267
23	Rempstone Car Park	watching brief	1995	Ladle 1995b	EWX1949
24	Rempstone Car Park	watching brief	1992	Cox 1992b	EWX1478
25	Gas Pipes, Wareham	watching brief	1974	Hinton & Hodges 1977, 45	EWX1269
26	Priory	watching brief	1962	Farrar 1964, 116	EWX1266
27	Council Yard (Library site, South Street)	evaluation	1974	Hinton & Hodges 1977, 42-79	EWX548
28	Wareham Library	evaluation	2002	Leverett 2002	EWX2225
29	St John's Hill	evaluation	1992	Cox 1992a	EWX1465

No	Site Name	investigation type	Date	Reference	HER Event No.
30	10 St John's Hill	watching brief	1995	Ladle 1995a	EWX1740
31	St John's Hill	watching brief	1993	Dodd 1993	EWX1515
32	The Quay	watching brief	1974	Hinton & Hodges 1977, 45	EWX1268
33	Wareham Sewer replacement	watching brief	1994	Wessex Archaeology 1995b	EWX1622
34	15 Church Lane	evaluation	1953	Shelton 1954	EWX544
35	Castle Close	excavation	1950	Clark 1950; Renn 1960	EWX542
36	Castle Close	evaluation	1999	Whitehead 1999, SAS 1999	EWX2010
37	Pound Lane	excavation	1974	Hinton & Hodges 1977, 77-9	EWX545
38	Pound Lane	watching brief	1985	Jarvis 1985	EWX1263
39	Trinity Lane	building survey	2005	Robinson et al. 2005	EDO5441
40	Trinity Lane	evaluation	2005	Cox 2005a	EDO5442
41	Town Walls	excavation	1952	RCHME 1959	EWX547
42	Water pipe, Wareham Walls	watching brief	1955	Farrar 1956	EDO620
43	West Walls	watching brief	1963	Taylor 1963	EWX1215
44	Bellevue, 2 Pound Lane	watching brief	2009	Ladle 2009a	EDO5435
45	East Walls	watching brief	1994	Ladle 1994b	EWX1527
46	Bowling Green	excavation	1972	Parrington 1974	EWX543
47	Electrical sub-station, West Walls	salvage	1940	Farrar 1954a, 85	EDO1408
48	20 West Walls	evaluation	1953	Farrar 1954a, 84-5	EWX539
49	East of Tinker's Lane	excavation	1953	Farrar 1954a, 85	EWX540
50	17 Roper's Lane	excavation	1970	Farrar 1970, 148-50	EDO5422
51	22 Roper's Lane	watching brief	1983	Jarvis 1983	EDO1410
52	6 Roper's Lane	watching brief	1993	Ladle 1993a	EWX1516
53	6 Roper's Lane	watching brief	2001	Ladle 2001	EDO5431
54	4 Roper's Lane	watching brief	1993	Ladle 1993b	EWX1264
55	23-25 West Walls	watching brief	2000	Ladle 2000	EWX2232
56	22 West Walls	evaluation	2002	Robinson 2002	EWX2250
57	Hillyard Court	watching brief	1987	Jarvis 1987	EDO5438
58	29 Bell's Orchard	evaluation	1987	Cox 1986	EWX549
59	Moreton's Lane/Carrion Lane	salvage	1976	Keen 1976	EDO1411
60	Howard's Lane/Bonnet's Lane	Evaluation	1994	Crockett 1994	EWX1535
61	Howard's Lane/Bonnet's Lane	Excavation	1994	Harding 1994	EWX1630

Dorset Historic Towns Survey: Wareham

No	Site Name	investigation type	Date	Reference	HER Event No.
62	Telephone Repeater Station	watching brief	2005	Evans 2005	EDO5439
63	Daler Site, East Street	watching brief	1996	Smith 1997	EWX1712
64	Wareham Hospital Phase 2	watching brief	1991	Cox 1991	EWX1328
65	Christmas Close	evaluation	1994	Cox 1994	EWX1536
66	Streche's Almshouses	evaluation	2005	Cox 2005b	EDO5440
67	Purbeck School	fieldwalking	1976	Keen 1976	EDO5436
68	Wareham Scout Hut	watching brief	2009	Ladle 2009b	EDO5434
69	Water Main Repair, North Bestwall Road	watching brief	2008	Tatler & Bellamy 2008	EDO5478

Appendix 4: Historic Urban Character Types

Broad Type	Character Type	Scope Note
Commercial	Hotel	Large hotels in grounds with car parks.
	Market	Both indoor and outdoor market areas. Also used for historic market places.
	Office	Large office complexes that are identifiable as not being within a mixed use area.
	Offices and shops	Areas of mixed commercial use.
	Plant Nursery/ Garden Centre	Plant nurseries or garden centres covering large areas.
	Public house	Large public houses with car parks. Smaller public houses will be included under a more character dominant type.
	Retail park	Areas of large warehouse-type shops selling products such as furniture, white goods, etc, together with their car parks.
	Shopping centre	Shopping centres mainly out of town and with many small units, usually selling clothing, gifts etc.
	Superstore	Large single stores such as supermarkets and their car parks.
	Other commercial site	For commercial buildings of unknown use or not included in the categories above.
Communication	Airfield	An enclosed area used for the taking off, landing and maintenance of commercial and general aviation aircraft.
	Major road	Main roads, through routes, by-passes, etc
	Minor road	Minor roads linking the main roads.
	Lane/ Path	Smaller access ways, primarily used for historic routes.
	Car Park	Large car parks, including multi-storey, where not associated with a particular establishment.
	Bus Station	Large bus and coach stations.
	Railway	Current railway lines
	Railway (disused)	Lines of former railways, where these are still evident in the landscape.
	Railway Station	Railway stations which have a large impact on the landscape.
Railway Yard	Rail yards which have a large impact on the landscape.	
Industrial	Brewery	Large industrial brewery sites. It can also be used for former brewery sites converted to other uses, where the former brewery buildings remain dominant.
	Brickworks	Includes both brick and tile works.
	Engineering works	All engineering works including light and electrical engineering sites.
	Industrial Estate	Sites comprising small units of light industry, including sites described as 'Business Park' and 'Trading Estate' and primarily used for purpose-built industrial estates. Where industrial estates have been created by conversion of former industrial buildings, they have been characterised under the character type which reflects their original function, if this is still dominant.

Broad Type	Character Type	Scope Note
Industrial (cont)	Maltings	Malthouses and small brewing sites.
	Metal works	All sites working and/or producing metal.
	Mill	All types of water mill.
	Pottery	Industrial site used for the production of industrial and domestic ceramic products.
	Quarry	Includes all extractive industries (stone, sand and gravel, clay, etc.)
	Quay/wharf/ shipyard	Commercial shipping areas, including boatyards.
	Ropery	All rope and twine making sites, including rope walks, etc
	Textile works	Factories where textiles are manufactured.
	Timber Yard/ Saw mill	Large timber yards and/or sawmills.
	Workshops	An area of small industrial sites where the industry is unknown.
	Warehouse	Large storage buildings, including both historic warehouses (which may have now been converted to other uses) and modern warehouse sites.
	Other Industry	An area of industry which does not fit into any of the above.
Landscape	Beach	A sand or pebble area of the shore.
	Enclosed Fields	Enclosed fields which largely retain their original boundaries within an urban area.
	Fish Pond	Large areas of fish pond only.
	Pond	Smaller natural or artificial areas of water, including mill ponds.
	Paddocks and closes	Small regular or amorphous fields and plots close to settlement edge. It also includes areas of historic detached gardens within the urban landscape.
	Remnant Fields	Areas of former fields now enclosed by urban development, often no longer retaining their original shape or size.
	Scrub	Patchy areas of trees and shrubs.
	Unenclosed land	Unenclosed areas including small plots of land within settlement/industrial areas that are not defined as anything else.
	Wood	For all types and areas of woodland within the urban areas.
Military	Military Airfield	Enclosed area used for the taking off, landing and maintenance of military aircraft.
	Barracks	A building or building complex used to house soldiers.
	Depot	An enclosed area with numerous buildings used as the headquarters of a regiment. It can also be a dedicated stores facility.
	Town defences	Town walls, towers, bastions, and defensive earthworks associated with a town
	Territorial Army Centre	Sites of Territorial Army activity.
	Castle	A large fortified building or complex of buildings, built especially during the medieval period
	Other Military	An area of military activity which does not fit into the above.

Broad Type	Character Type	Scope Note
Public Services	Art gallery	Large art galleries and their grounds.
	Community Centre	Includes all kinds of gathering places (Meeting hall, etc).
	Court Building	Crown Courts and Magistrates Courts.
	Emergency services building	Police stations, fire stations, ambulance stations, and coastguard stations, where free-standing and in their own grounds.
	Higher Education facility	For universities & college campuses - also adult education facilities.
	Library	Large libraries.
	Local Government Offices	All local government and central government offices including civic centres.
	Medical facility	All types of medical facility including hospitals, health centres, etc.
	Museum	Large museums
	Prison	For buildings marked 'Prison'
	Public building	Other non-specific public buildings.
	School	Use for schools and any associated playing fields.
	Town hall	Town Halls
Recreation and Ornamental Landscapes	Allotments	Large allotment areas within settlement areas.
	Camping Site	A usually fairly level area used for the pitching of tents or the parking of caravans for holiday use.
	Cinema	Large cinema complexes and their car parks.
	Deer Park	An area enclosed by a park pale for the stocking of deer.
	Golf Course	Landscaped areas used for playing golf, including club-houses, etc.
	Harbour/marina/dock	Areas for recreational boat use.
	Leisure Centre	Building used for various sports, including area of car park.
	Nature Reserve	An area designated for the protection of flora and fauna, often open to the public.
	Parkland	A landscape designed through judicious planting or clearance of trees in order to create vistas and usually associated with a Country House
	Public Open Space	Publicly accessible open areas not used for any specific activity.
	Public Park	For Public Parks and Gardens, larger areas of land which may include an ornamental lake, flower beds, tennis courts and play areas, etc. Also includes 'Recreation areas'.
	Racecourse	An enclosed area used for racing (horses, dogs, cars, etc.)
	Seafront	Sea side area used for public recreation, includes piers, promenades, etc.
Sports field	An area of ground used for organised sporting activities.	

Broad Type	Character Type	Scope Note
Recreation and Ornamental Landscapes (cont)	Theme Park	An area used for the recreation of the public and may include rides which is organised around a central theme.
	Other Recreation	An area of recreation/ornamental landscape, which does not fit into the above.
Religious	Church	Churches of all denominations (including attached churchyard)
	Chapel	Non-conformist chapels, including attached graveyards.
	Cemetery	Large municipal cemeteries or other detached cemeteries (not attached to church or chapel)
	Religious house	Monasteries, nunneries, etc
Settlement	Burgage plots	Long narrow plots running back from the street frontage, of medieval origin.
	Other historic plots	Areas of historic plots other than burgage plots of pre-19th century date.
	Historic suburban settlement	Areas of settlement dating from before the 19th century, which lay outside the core of the medieval town.
	Historic rural settlement	Former villages, hamlets, etc, which have been incorporated into urban areas, usually medieval in origin.
	Apartments	Housing of not more than three or four storeys, also includes maisonettes.
	Small terraced housing (1700-1850)	An area where historic terraced houses (defined as a row of three or more houses) of late 18th and early 19th century predominate. The houses have an average footprint of approximately 50 square metres or less.
	Larger terraced housing (1700-1850)	An area where historic terraced houses (defined as a row of three or more houses) of late 18th and early 19th century predominate. The houses have an approximate average footprint of greater than 50 square metres.
	Victorian Terraced housing	An area where historic terraced houses (defined as a row of three or more houses) of late 19th century date (1850-1900) predominate.
	Edwardian terraced housing	An area where historic terraced houses (defined as a row of three or more houses) of early 20th century date (1901-1913) predominate.
	Suburban villas	Areas of predominantly detached and semi-detached housing set in their own grounds and often in a planned layout built pre-1914.
	Inter-war suburban estate	Planned areas of mainly detached and semi-detached houses, dating to the period 1914-1945.
	Other Inter-war housing	Other areas of housing dating to 1914-1945 not part of larger suburban estates.
	Modern housing estate	Planned estates of mainly detached and semi-detached houses, often with curvilinear roads and culs-de-sac, dating to post-1945.
	Modern Infill	Planned areas of mainly detached and semi-detached houses, inserted into existing established plots (often in the grounds of larger houses), dating to post-1945.
	Town House	Large single detached urban house
Ornamental villas and country houses	Ornamental villas are large detached houses in large grounds, usually 19th/early 20th century in date. Country Houses are large houses, sometimes with a landscaped garden, in or once in a rural area, usually dating from the medieval to the 18th century.	

Broad Type	Character Type	Scope Note
Settlement (cont)	Farm	Farm buildings and farmhouse, but can include the immediate adjacent farmyard or paddocks.
	Cottages	Small buildings - sometimes singular, sometimes in a row. They are smallish buildings of irregular shape.
	Nursing Home	Residential homes for the elderly.
Utilities	Gas works	Areas of gas works, including gas holders, etc.
	Power station	Power stations - either electric or gas
	Sewage works/ water works	Sewage works, filter beds, water works, pumping stations, etc.
	Sub station	Large electricity sub stations only.
	Telephone Exchange	Large telephone exchanges.

Appendix 5: Archaeological Potential

The measure of urban archaeological potential is based on a consideration of the likely time depth of the potential archaeological remains, the potential survival of these remains, an assessment of the potential diversity of features present and an indication of the likely significance of the information to the history of the town.

These are scored numerically to calculate the final index of urban archaeological potential.

Score	1	2	3
No. of chronological periods of urban development	1-4	5-10	11+
Survival of archaeological deposits	Low	Medium	High
Potential diversity of features present	Low	Medium	High
Significance to town	Low	Medium	High

Overall Archaeological Potential	Low	4-6
	Medium	7-9
	High	10-12

Notes:

- The chronological periods are those used by the Dorset Historic Towns Project.
- The index of survival of archaeological deposits is a generalised index of the likely quality of survival of archaeological features based on the example of excavated sites, where possible, otherwise an assessment will be made on the basis of topography, geology and amount of development.

Low survival is where there is likely to be major truncation and/or destruction of deposits and features through modern landscaping and development and/or soil and geological conditions that indicate likely poor survival of archaeological material, particularly organic materials and metals.

Medium survival is where there is likely to be some truncation and/or destruction of deposits and features through modern landscaping and development and/or soil and geological conditions that indicate likely moderate survival of archaeological material.

High survival is where modern landscaping and development is unlikely to have caused significant truncation and disturbance of archaeological deposits and features and/or soil and geological conditions that indicate good survival of archaeological material, particularly organic materials and metals.

- The potential diversity of archaeological features is a generalised index of the likely range of archaeological features, deposits, finds and historic buildings based on the example of excavated sites where possible, otherwise an assessment will be made on the basis of archaeological evidence from similar areas in the town or from similar towns elsewhere in Dorset.

Low diversity is where there is likely to be a very limited range of archaeological evidence, reflecting either a limited range of activities or marginal areas with overall low level of activity.

Medium diversity is where there is likely to be a range of different types of archaeological finds, features and deposits, either reflecting areas of limited range of activities or areas on the margins of settlement focus.

High diversity is where there is likely to be a wide range of different types of archaeological finds, features and deposits, including structural remains, pits, evidence of craft and industrial activity, etc, and also standing historic buildings, reflecting mainly historic town centre locations.

- The index of significance to the town is a generalised index of the potential of the archaeology to provide significant data to inform

Low significance is to be used primarily for areas of relatively recent suburban development.

Medium significance is to be used primarily for areas of historic development outside the historic core of the town.

High significance is to be used primarily for areas in the historic core of the town.