

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 Weymouth is poorly understood. There have been a number of bronze age cremations reported from Melcombe Regis, together with discoveries of bronze swords beside Westham Bridge. Roman material has been found at Wyke Regis and Radipole, as well as isolated finds within the harbour. Land reclamation and the growth of marshland around Radipole Lake is known to have encroached on the estuary of the river Wey within historic times. These topics can be linked to the wider Research Aims for the South West Region, and assist in answering questions on the former sea level and coastal environment (SWARF Research Aim 23), and the development of Roman port (SWARF Research Aim 46).

1. What is the nature of the Bronze Age activity in the area, do the cremations and apparent deliberate deposition of bronze swords suggest a ritual landscape? If the earthworks (Conybury Hills) shown on a 16th century map are earlier than medieval in origin, might they define some sort of enclave, religious or trading, on the peninsula?
2. What is the nature of the Roman activity at Wyke Regis and Radipole?
3. Do the Roman finds from the harbour relate to the possible Roman port at Radipole?

7.2 Origins of the Town

Weymouth and Melcombe Regis both developed as separate settlements within older parishes, Weymouth was part of Wyke Regis and Melcombe Regis part of Radipole. Virtually nothing is known of either part of the town before the granting of the charters. The form of early medieval settlement is not known, nor how it developed up to the time of the charters. Research into this period of Weymouth's history and archaeology has potential to provide information to inform on the wider Research Aims for the South West Region to develop our understanding of Early Medieval urban settlement (SWARF Research Aim 35).

4. Is there any evidence for Saxon or early medieval settlement?
5. Salterns are recorded in 938; where were they, and did they act as a focus for the later towns?
6. Were the charters granted to stimulate the growth of the towns or were they a reflection of the existence of established trading centres?
7. When was Melcombe Regis laid out on a formal grid, and did this replace an earlier settlement?

7.3 Medieval town

Medieval archaeological evidence is slight from within the town. Any archaeological evidence from within the historic core would enable a fuller picture of the development of the town and complement 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).

8. What evidence is there for maritime trade, both coastal and overseas?
9. Is there evidence of land reclamation?
10. What evidence is there for conflict, both in terms of damage to the town by enemy raids, or defences against attack?
11. What evidence is there for change in population in the medieval period, was it affected by plague in the 14th and the French raids in the 15th centuries?
12. What were the different zones of social differentiation, industrial activity, etc during this period and how did they change?
13. Are there any traces of medieval buildings hidden within later buildings?
14. What evidence is there for the development of religious institutions in the towns and are there any surviving archaeological remains?

7.4 Post-medieval town

The 16th and 17th centuries saw the unification of the two towns, the development of international trade and increasing military activity. Any archaeological evidence from the town at this period would enable a fuller picture of the development of the town to be created, as well as complementing 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 our knowledge of the effects of colonialism (SWARF Research Aim 53).

15. What evidence exists for the early precursors of the Town Bridges and their approach

roads?

16. What evidence survives of the post medieval defence structures, in particular the defences at the Nothe, Newton's Cove and the Melcombe Blockhouses?
17. How were the ports organised and how did they develop over this period?
18. What evidence exists of international trade at this time?

7.4 The 18th, 19th and 20th century town

From the mid 18th century onward Weymouth was developed as one of the first seaside resort towns in the world. Royal patronage meant that development was of a very high status. Steam power came early to the harbour, which maintained its importance as a commercial port.

19. What evidence exists of the development of specific resort structures, such as the esplanade or marine baths?
20. Is there evidence of the reuse of pre-resort buildings as resort structures?
21. How were the new resort buildings adapted to their specific functions, e.g. lodging houses, apartments for rent ?
22. How did the harbour adapt to the coming of steam vessels?
23. How did the town maintain a balance between the demands of a holiday resort and a working port?
24. What traces survive of the development of recreational sailing?
25. What was the impact of the development of major military facilities within and adjacent to the town?

Appendices



Appendix 1: References

Abbreviations

DCC = Dorset County Council

DCMS = Department of Culture Media and Sport

RCHME = Royal Commission on Historic Monuments of England

SWARF = South West Archaeological Research Framework

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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 Weymouth

No.	Site Name	Investigation type	Date	Reference	HER Event No.
1	Devenish Brewery	Building survey		National Monuments Record, <i>Devenish Brewery, Spring Road, Brewers Quay, Dorset</i> , building survey	EWX3710
2	Newberry Road	Salvage	1902	PDNHAS 44, 39—40	EWX590
3	13A Cove Street	Watching brief	2002	PDNHAS 125, 169	EWX2331
4	Ship Inn, Custom House Quay	Watching brief	1978	PDNHAS 100, 117	EWX1248
5	Lower Bond Street	Watching brief	1998-99	PDNHAS 121, 161	EWX2014
6	Lower Bond Street	Evaluation	1998	PDNHAS 120, 108	EWX1848
7	The Quayside, Commercial Road	Evaluation	1995	PDNHAS 117, 127	EWX2348
8	Guildhall Car Park	Evaluation	1999	PDNHAS 122, 172	EWX1990
9	Wellington Arms, 13 St Albans Street	Salvage	1836	PDNHAS 81, 107	
10	Lea Road, Wyke Regis	Salvage record	1975	PDNHAS 1981, 131-132	EWX594
11	Manor Farm, Wyke Regis	Evaluation	1990	Wessex Archaeology 1990	EWX1092
12	The Spinney, 97 Wyke Road	Evaluation	1994	PDNHAS 116, 120	EWX1538
13	Ferrybridge, Portland Road, Wyke Regis	Evaluation	1995	PDNHAS 117, 127	EWX1777
14	Church Knapp, Wyke Regis	Evaluation	1998	PDNHAS 129, 115-126	EDO5474
15	Church Knapp, Wyke Regis	Excavation	1998-99	PDNHAS 129, 115-126	EDO5474
16	Wyke Road, Wyke Street	Watching brief	1999	PDNHAS 122, 174	EWX2040
17	Landsowne Villa, Landsdowne Square	Evaluation	2002	PDNHAS 125, 163	EWX2274
18	Former Methodist Chapel, 2 Collins Lane	Building recording	2003	Bellamy 2003	EWX2334
19	Barrow Rise, Wyke Regis	Evaluation	2003	Robinson 2003	EWX2332
20	New Foul Drain, All Saints' Church, Wyke Regis	Watching brief	2006	PDNHAS 128, 132	
21	Spring Cottage, Marlow Road	Evaluation	1995	PDNHAS 117, 127	EWX1775

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No.	Site Name	Investigation type	Date	Reference	HER Event No.
22	Nothe Fort	Building recording	2003	PDNHAS 125, 170	
23	Sandsfoot Castle Gardens	Watching brief	2007	PDNHAS 129, 192	
24	Weymouth Harbour Tidal Defence Scheme				
25	Hydrographic Survey Weymouth Harbour and Marina				
26	Spa Hill	Excavation	1844	PDNHAS 73, 96	EWX614
27	Spa Road	Salvage	1936-7	PDNHAS 73, 96-99	
28	43 Dorchester Road	Evaluation	1995	PDNHAS 117, 127	EWX1783
29	59 Roman Road, Radipole	Assessment	1996	Hewitt 1996	EWX2000
30	69 Mount Pleasant Avenue South, Radipole	Evaluation	2010	Trevarthen 2010	EDO5616
31	Nottingham	Excavation	1938	PDNHAS 73, 98	EDO108
32	Redlands	Salvage	1979	PDNHAS 101, 141-142	
33	Redlands Sports Ground	Evaluation	1997	PDNHAS 120, 108	EWX1913
34	Redlands Sports Ground	Watching brief	1997	PDNHAS 120, 120	EWX1913
35	Redlands	Excavation	2008-9	Whelan and Evans 2009	EDO5606
36	Southill Estate, Radipole Lane	Salvage	1935	PDNHAS 73, 95-6	
37	Southill Junior School, Radipole Lane	Salvage	1972	PDNHAS 96, 54-55	EDO1109
38	Radipole Lane	Salvage	1977	PDNHAS 99, 125	EWX1099
39	Goldcroft Road	Evaluation	1992	PDNHAS 114, 238	EWX1467
40	Chafeys Lake Sewer Renewal	Observations	1995-96	PDNHAS 123, 51-68	EWX2066

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 and detached housing (1700-1850)	An area where historic terraced houses (defined as a row of three or more houses) or detached houses of late 18th and early 19th century predominate. The houses have an average footprint of about 50 square metres or less.
	Larger terraced and detached housing (1700-1850)	An area where historic terraced houses (defined as a row of three or more houses) or detached 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.