

Excavations

A large area, over 900m², is being excavated at Portus, between the Claudian harbour and the Trajanic basin. A major dock has been discovered there, as well as a series of very large buildings.

The remains of a harbour wall as well as a water supply connecting a series of cisterns have been uncovered. These cisterns may have stored freshwater for ships leaving Portus to return to their home ports. Running through the centre of the site is a large oval building 40m wide that may have been a centre for the registration of incoming cargoes.

All of the data from the excavation is recorded in an on-line content management system called ARK. The information from the excavation and survey, including drawing and photographs, as well as the records of the excavated objects are accessed through this one system. This helps both the excavators and the people studying the finds to understand the site better.

1 A plan view of the main excavations at the site.

2 This entry in ARK records part of the oval building and the types of pottery found there.

3 A Flickr website allows the archaeological community and the wider public to follow the fieldwork as it takes place. www.flickr.com/portusproject

4 Some of the important features excavated around a previously unrecorded quayside.

