

# Recording Buildings

The many structures still standing at Portus reveal a lot of information about how the port was organised and the activities that went on there.

Recording also helps to clarify the complex phases of building and rebuilding at the site over the 500 years of its use.

The buildings were surveyed using a reflectorless Leica total station. Using special software, this data is then used to create 3D models of buildings and walls that can be immediately seen on a laptop computer. Detailed recordings were made of important areas such as the moles and the sea wall using a laser scanner. These are used to create a virtual model accurate to a tenth of a millimetre. Buildings can also be recorded off site, by digitally tracing details from photographs of the structures.

1a&b During the early Imperial period these steps led from warehouses down to the quayside.

2 A digitised version of an earlier hand drawn architect's plan of the Imperial Palace.

3 Detailed drawings - in this case recording the individual bricks from the façade of a warehouse - can be made using spatially referenced photographs.

4 Surveying the Imperial Palace, at the heart of the site.

5 In many buildings, such as this warehouse, the room layouts are still clearly visible amongst the impressive standing walls.

