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## Summary Remarks on the Excavations

The three chapters in Part II have set out the results of past and present excavations at Paithan. These are brought together in Chapter 14 with the results of the studies of the artefacts and environmental evidence retrieved by the present excavations.

The research aims for the 1998 and 1999 seasons have already been set out in Chapter 1. For the most part, these were successfully dealt with and the results have provided a number of important insights into the chronological development of the site and particularly into the development of the two Early Hindu temples and the area of occupation immediately surrounding them. Indeed, Chapter 4 presents the most detailed stratigraphic analysis of the development of an Early Hindu brick temple that has yet been published from anywhere in India. The fact that it has been possible to link this to a systematic, stratigraphic and quantified study of artefacts and environmental samples presents us with the first archaeological study of the foundation and development of an Early Hindu temple within its environmental and economic context. The results of this work and its broader implications are further discussed in Chapter 14.

Most of the 1998 research aims were successfully dealt with, but, given the size and scope of the present research project, it was not possible to achieve completely satisfactory progress with the investigation of the geographic extent and development of the whole site. Some limited survey had been carried out during the 1996 season and this was continued during the 1998 and 1999 seasons, but only at a very limited scale due

to lack of personnel. The results were not on the whole instructive or promising given the heavy overburden of modern occupation, soil movement, dumping, vegetation and general build-up of material. In addition, an attempt was made to excavate trenches across the whole site during the 1998 and 1999 seasons with the same aim. Despite the importance of this aspect of the research, the difficulty of finding suitable space and of negotiating access and permissions with private landowners proved extremely difficult. Thus, with the exception of Trench F and the trench excavated by Dikshit in 1965, the insights into the spatial development of Paithan that are provided in the present report are based entirely on the area within the present ASI protected area at the southern extent of the main mound. This is certainly not broad enough and may not present a fully representative picture, meaning that it has only been possible to sketch out in Chapter 14 a hypothetical outline of Paithan's development based on the information that is presently available. The present author has made the point elsewhere that until the practice of 'urban archaeology' becomes more widely established across India, allowing a more holistic approach to be taken to the study of archaeological sites such as Paithan that have continued to be occupied until the present day, our archaeological understanding of the development of ancient urbanism – especially Medieval urbanism – will not be able to achieve very much progress (Kennet 2013).