

**Old Aberdeen Grammar School
High Street, Aberdeen, AB24 3EE
Data Structure Report**



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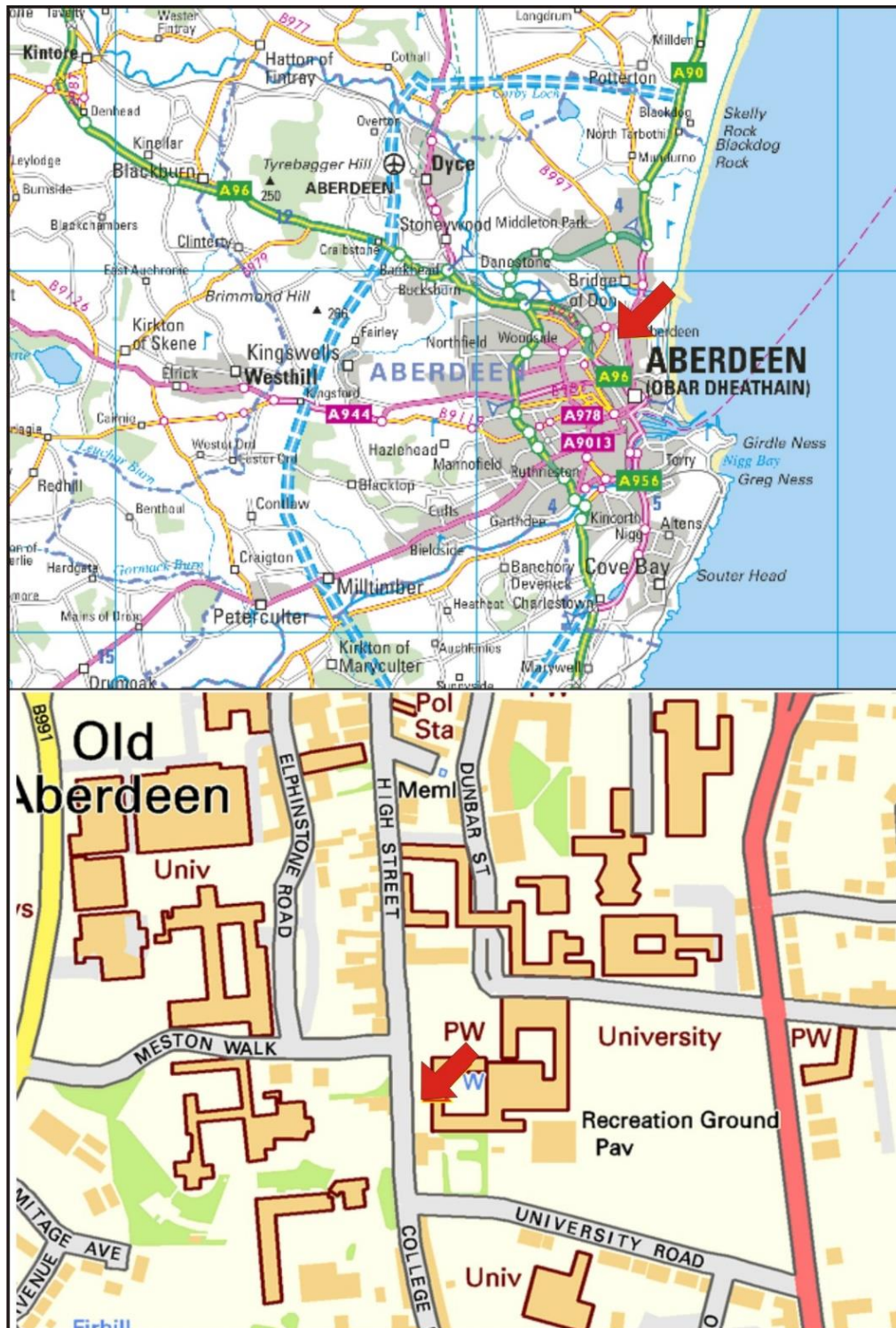
SUMMARY

A team of students led by Gordon Noble (University of Aberdeen) and the current author (Cameron Archaeology Ltd) excavated 15 trial pits on the lawn on the west side of King's College on 16-17th March 2017. A larger trench 12 x 2.5-6.5m was opened 21-28th May 2017. Over 60 students and volunteers aged between 5 and 75, a troupe of scouts, guides, Young Archaeologists Club, and several classes of school pupils helped with the excavation. Around 2300 people visited the dig during the 8 days and were greeted by dig staff members, introduced to the site and shown the finds.

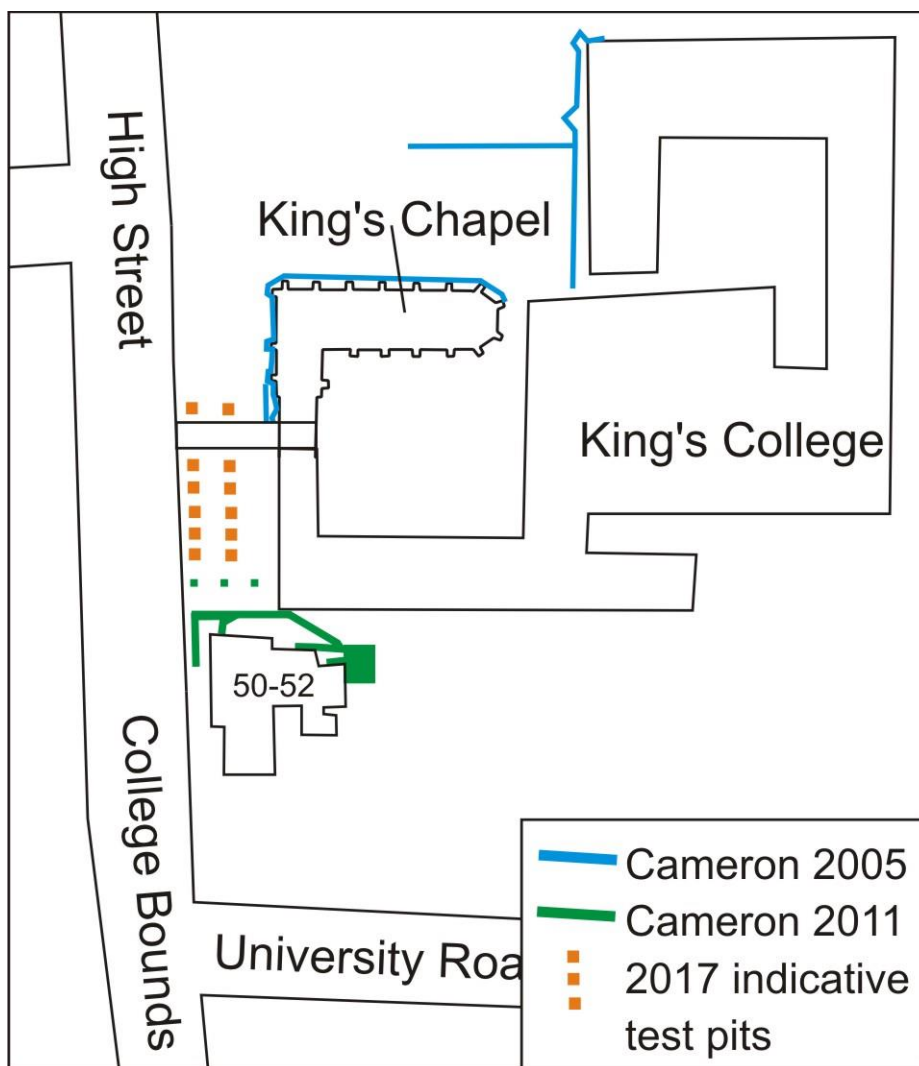
A N-S wall with a return at the north end of the trench may be the west and north walls of the grammar school. A threshold was identified and an area of cobbling leading to the threshold from High Street. Small trenches were excavated through demolition material and mortar floors were identified. Demolition material was recovered as well as many small finds dating to the period when the Grammar School was in use, from the 1530s to 25 April 1754. A dump of building rubble may be from the demolition of the façade adjacent to the site and rebuilding of the current façade in the late 19th century. A large number of finds date from possible Palaeolithic flint, medieval and post-medieval pottery, post-medieval glass, metalwork, building materials, 17th-century clay pipes and many other small finds.

1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The site (Illus 1) is located on the east side of College Bounds adjacent to King's College. It is centred on NGR NJ 93943 08117, at 10-15m OD in the parish of Aberdeen.
- 1.2 The work was commissioned by University of Aberdeen. A Heritage Lottery Fund application to Stories, Stones and Bones was successful to allow trial excavation of trenches in the area of the 16th-century Old Aberdeen Grammar School with associated public outreach.



Illus 1 Location plan (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2017)



Illus 2 Site plan showing previous work and proposed test pits (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2017)

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 King's College Chapel and Bishop Elphinstone statue are Listed Category A and King's College Quadrangle, Library and Elphinstone Hall are Listed Category B. 50-52 College Bounds is Listed Category B. 'King's College', originally dedicated to the Virgin Mary, but thereafter known as the 'Royal College' or 'King's College' after James IV (Kennedy 1818), was the original college of the University of Aberdeen, instituted in 1494, although building apparently started in 1500. The only original buildings surviving are the chapel (NJ 9397 0815) and the 'Ivy Tower' (NJ 9400 0811) (MacGibbon and Ross 1897, Vol 3, 287-96), which formed part of the SE corner of the old building. Immediately east of the chapel on the north side of the modern quadrangle is the 'Cromwell Tower' (NJ 9400 0814) built in 1658 (Simpson 1939, 3). The chapel, founded in 1500 is a long, narrow building with an apsidal east end. A tower at the SW corner is surmounted by one of the very rare 'crown' spires. The buttressed exterior of the chapel is decorated with coats of arms. The Ivy Tower also dates from the 16th century, but is a rubble-built, semi-circular tower, three storeys high of much inferior workmanship to the chapel. The original windows have been blocked and others inserted. The Cromwell Tower, allegedly erected by Cromwell's troops, bears the date 1658 and is a plain rectangular building, three storeys high, with an apparently modern battlemented top. The original windows have

been blocked and others inserted as in the 'Ivy Tower'. All three buildings bear evidence of restoration. The other buildings of the college are of 19th and 20th century date (Kennedy 1818; MacGibbon and Ross 1897, Vol 3, 287-96; Simpson 1939, 3).

- 2.2 Several small trenches were opened up during the installation of floodlights on the W front. The foundations of the 1832 frontage were exposed. A stone drain constructed of stone walls capped with large flat granite blocks was uncovered running parallel to this frontage and was thought to be associated with its construction. At the front of the site was a cobbled area (Stones and Cameron 1989, 18).
- 2.3 A watching brief was carried out in October 2004 during the installation of an electric cable through the lawn to the N of King's College Chapel. In a trench running between the High Street, Old Aberdeen and the Elphinstone Hall there was no evidence of any activity that might have been associated with the medieval frontage of the High Street - an area shown as garden ground on both Gordon's map of 1661 and the 1866-67 OS map of Aberdeen. In a second trench, running parallel to and E of the High Street to New King's Building, two walls and an area of flooring were uncovered, which are tentatively identified as relating to a 19th century professorial manse (Murray 2004, 8).
- 2.4 An archaeological excavation was carried out in December 2003 prior to the installation of a new organ in the chapel. Concrete flooring was removed and the ground excavated to natural level. In one trench a cut was revealed in the natural subsoil. The cut contained loose loam, stones and gravel, and a small number of iron nails with wood adhering. A fragmentary skeleton was uncovered and recorded; the C14 date which was eventually received for this burial was 1030-1220 (95.4%) cal AD. The grave had been disturbed, probably when the previous organ was installed, in 1959. Brick and stone supports were inserted under the floor during this time to add strength (Cameron 2003).
- 2.5 Monitoring of trenches took place in August and September 2005 for the floodlighting of various University of Aberdeen buildings including King's College Chapel (NJ90NW 7; c 1500), New King's and Elphinstone Hall. The foundations of the chapel were recorded, including an X-shaped mason's mark on a sandstone block in the foundation of a buttress in the NE corner of the chapel. The foundations of the N wall of the chapel were 0.5-0.6m wide, whereas there was no foundation on the W side: the sandstone blocks were laid immediately onto the stone and gravel subsoil. A stone culvert was recorded adjacent to the W wall of the chapel; this was recorded in 1989 (DES 1989, 18) during a previous floodlighting scheme. One wall foundation was recorded in a trench in front of New King's; it was probably one of the walls of the brewery seen on the 1867 OS map (Cameron 2005).
- 2.6 A watching brief was undertaken on 5 April 2007 on a number of engineering test pits within the area of the medieval burgh of Old Aberdeen. No archaeological features or finds were evident (Murray, 2007, 10).
- 2.7 A watching brief was maintained in 2011 during the renovation of 50-52 College Bounds. Large trenches were dug to the north of the building (Illus 2) onto College Bounds showing this was previously disturbed ground. A line of post pits was excavated for fencing and this ground appeared less disturbed and the soil contained 19th-century pottery and bones (Cameron 2011).
- 2.8 The Old Aberdeen Grammar School was formerly attached to the University of Aberdeen's King's College. The school is shown on a 1661 map of Aberdeen, but actually dates back to at least 1533 when the statutes and laws of the school were written down by the University Grammarian Theophilus Stewart. The school was a preparatory school for pupils who wished to study at the university. The pupils underwent a gruelling timetable, with prayers, classes on the Latin authors and language lessons and discipline was strict with pupils referred to as *qui sub nostra ferula* (those who soldier on under our cane) (HLF application). The last reference to the Grammar School is in April 1753:

‘...The masters, having considered the above proposal, did unanimously approved of the same, being fully sensible that the business of teaching the elements of Latin, in the way of a common grammar school, is become [sic] altogether uncreditable for a professor in an university; and, although it might be necessary at the time of the foundation, when perhaps there was not a grammar school in the north of Scotland, yet now it is entirely useless, seeing at the Revolution provision was made by act of parliament for a publick school in every parish in which the elements of Latin in taught...’. (Thanks to Mary at Special Collections, Aberdeen University for this research). The Old Aberdeen Grammar School disappears from the mapping by the early 19th-century (Illus 5, 6) but it’s demolition date is unknown.

3 THE EXCAVATION

A team of students led by Gordon Noble (University of Aberdeen) and Ali Cameron (Cameron Archaeology Ltd) excavated 15 trial pits on the lawn on the west side of King’s College on 16-17th March 2017. A larger trench 12 x 2.5-6.5m was opened 21-28th May 2017. Over 60 students and volunteers aged between 5 and 75, a troupe of scouts, guides, Young Archaeologists Club, and several classes of school pupils helped with the excavation. Around 2300 people visited the dig during the 8 days and were greeted by dig staff members, introduced to the site and shown the finds.

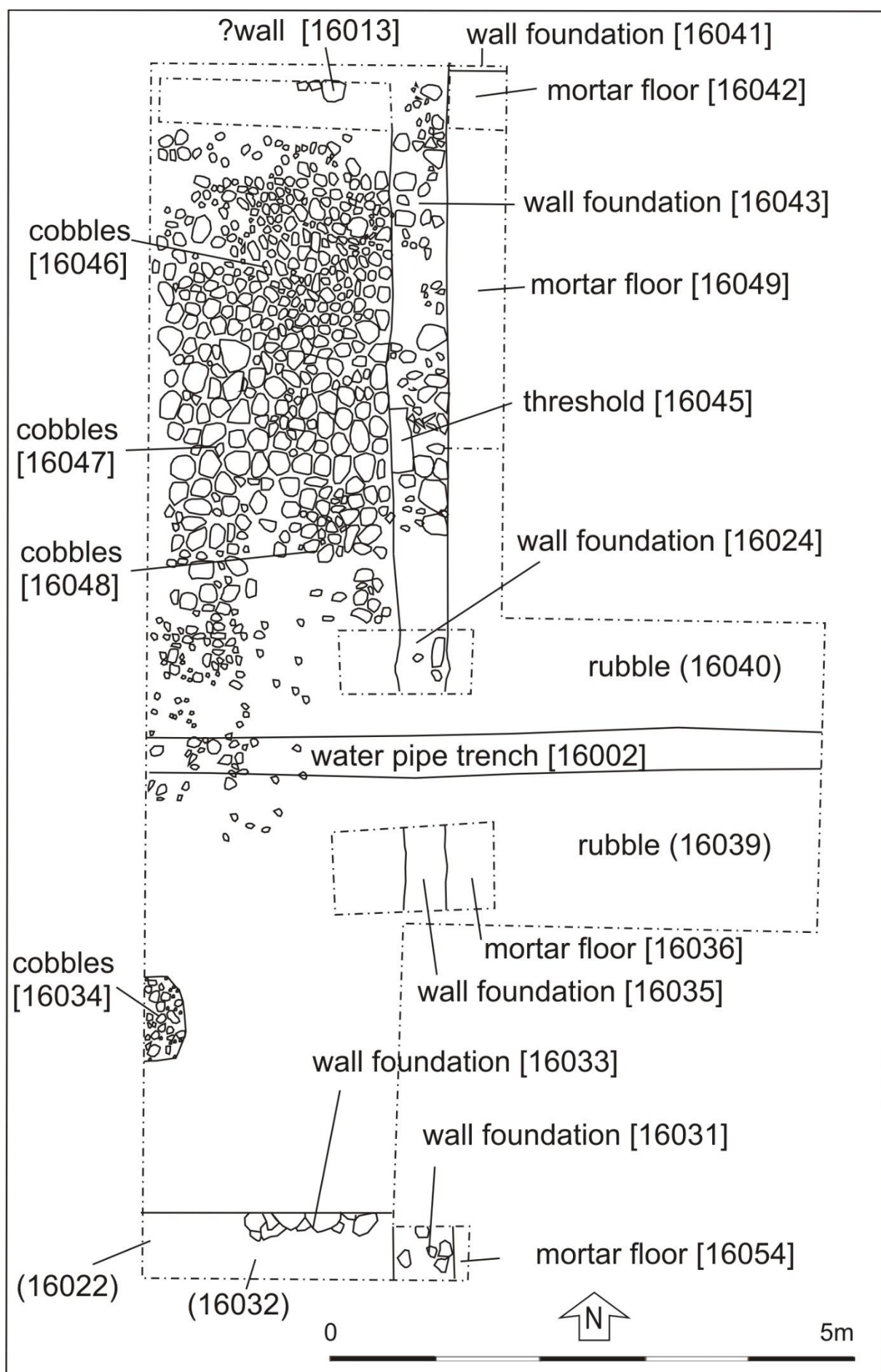
A small amount of historical research has been carried out and this is collated into two magazine article (see Appendix 5).

Phase 1

A granite wall foundation was identified running N-S across the excavation area. It was therefore at least 12m long and 0.7m wide. At the N edge of the trench there was a return forming a corner (wall foundation 16011 and 16012). No section of this was excavated. Associated with this wall was an area of large, medium and small cobbled surfaces (16046, 16047 and 16048; Illus 6, Illus 7). This was at least 6m wide and was revealed to be at least 2.2m long; the trench was not excavated to the street frontage and so the full length was not revealed. The main section of the large cobbles led to a large stone threshold (65 x 22cm; 16045) the location of the door through wall 16011 (Illus 4). A small patch of cobbles 16034 (Illus 8) may suggest that this surface originally went further south but has been disturbed by later activity or this may be a patch of cobbles laid separately, possibly as a base for a separate structure.

The S part of the wall survived as medium granite fieldstones in light brown mortar (16024, 16035 and 16031; Illus 5). Demolition material was excavated from around and above the wall. On the E side of this wall was a white sandy mortar floor which may have been the base for a tile or stone floor; no evidence of this floor covering was recorded although only small sections of this surface were excavated. The levels on this possible floor vary from 13.15/13.18m OD at the N and S end of the trench to 13.30/13.47 in the centre of the trench suggesting either different levels within the existing building(s) or removal of more material at the N and S of the trench during the demolition.

A possible wall foundation ran N-S across the site. It was 0.9m wide at the N end of the site [16013] (Illus 9) and terminated near the S end of Trench 16 [16033] (Illus 11) where it was 1.2m wide with a rounded end constructed of large and medium stones in a grey clayey loam. It was not possible to investigate this feature fully during this excavation and further work at the site may help to interpret this feature which may pre-date the main features of this phase (and may in fact not be one continuous feature but two on the same alignment).



Illus 3 Plan of main features



Illus 4 Wall foundation 16011 W face; facing E



Illus 5 Wall foundation 16035 (left) with sandy mortar floor/bedding 16036 (right) showing electric cable in top of Victorian water pipe trench (top); facing N



Illus 6 Threshold 16045 (centre) with cobbled surface 16047 (top); facing W



Illus 7 Wall 16011 (top left), cobbled surfaces 16046 (bottom left), 16047 9centre) 16025 and 16048 (right); facing E



Illus 8 Cobbled surface 16034; facing W



Illus 9 Upper stones of 16013 being uncovered; facing S



Illus 10 Stones in upper level of 16033; these stones did not extend to the S edge of the trench forming a rounded end; facing N

Phase 2

The layers above the Phase 1 walls was filled with large amounts of demolition material and trough surfaces some from these structures but also possibly from the other demolitions which took place in the area. The Kings' college frontage seen on for example Parson Gordon's map was replaced in 1822 with the new façade and some of the finds recovered come from this period. Large amounts of stone, brick, animal bone, clay pipe and other small finds (Illus 11-12) were recovered from the upper levels of this trench.



Illus 11 Fragment of sandstone window or door mouldings from demolition material 16039/40



Illus 12 Stone roof tile from demolition material4 THE FINDS

There was a very large assemblage of finds dating from prehistoric flints to 20th century rubbish. Most of the finds pre-date the end of the 19th century and it is assumed that the area has been sealed under grass since the completion of the current frontage and the contamination is from the insertion of service trenches including two series of trenches for floodlights.

The finds have not been fully studied to date but this is ongoing in the University of Aberdeen Department of Archaeology.

4.1 Metalwork

The metalwork was generally well-preserved. Iron, copper alloy and lead were all represented. These include an iron key (Illus 13), iron horseshoe (Illus 14), copper alloy buttons (Illus 15-17), lead window came (Illus 18), bullets and lead shot (Illus 19), small copper alloy watch or casket key (Illus 20) and copper alloy Victorian ferrule for an umbrella or walking cane (Illus 21).



Illus 13 Iron key



Illus 14 Iron horse-shoe fragment



Illus 15 Copper alloy button from 16000 (SF106)



Illus 16 Copper alloy button front and reverse maker 'TURNER/PATENT'



Illus 17 Copper alloy button front and reverse



Illus 18 Lead came waste fragment



Illus 19 Two bullets (pre-WWI and one post), lead pierced disc and lead shot



Illus 20 Small copper alloy key



Illus 21 Copper alloy ferrule (from an umbrella or walking cane) decorated with older style decoration (Jane Geddes pers comm)

4.2 Pottery

A large assemblage of pottery included medieval local redwares from 13th-15th centuries (Illus 22-23), Siegburg stoneware drinking vessel rims, c1350-1500/1550 (Illus 24), Slip-trailed earthenwares, late medieval to early post-medieval (Illus 25), Tin-glazed earthenwares, late medieval to early post-medieval (Illus 26), Porcelain and painted earthenwares (Illus 27) and other stonewares including a Westerwald tankard base, c 1700AD (Illus 28).



Illus 22 Selection of medieval local redware pottery, 13th-early 15th century



Illus 23 Late medieval local redware pottery, late 14th-15th century



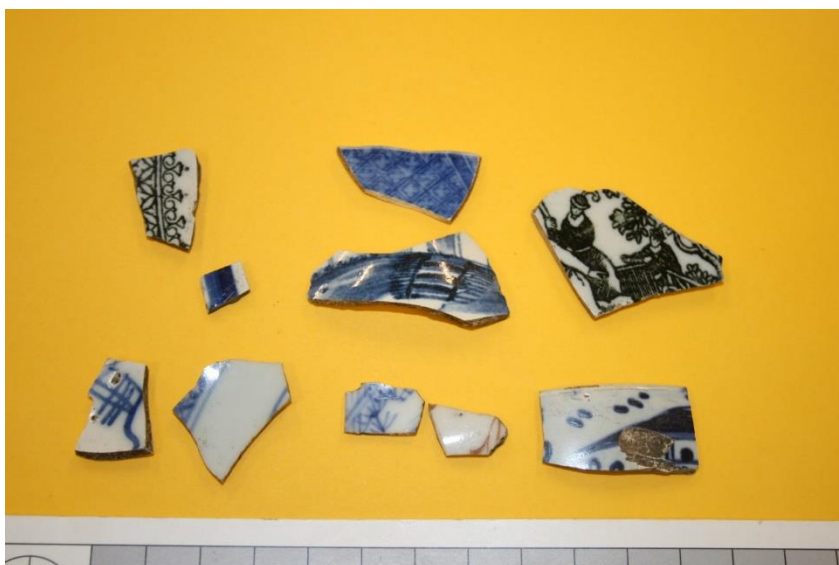
Illus 24 Siegburg stoneware drinking vessel rims, c1350-1500/1550



Illus 25 Slip-trailed earthenwares, late medieval to early post-medieval



Illus 26 Tin-glazed earthenwares, late medieval to early post-medieval



Illus 27 Porcelain and painted earthenwares

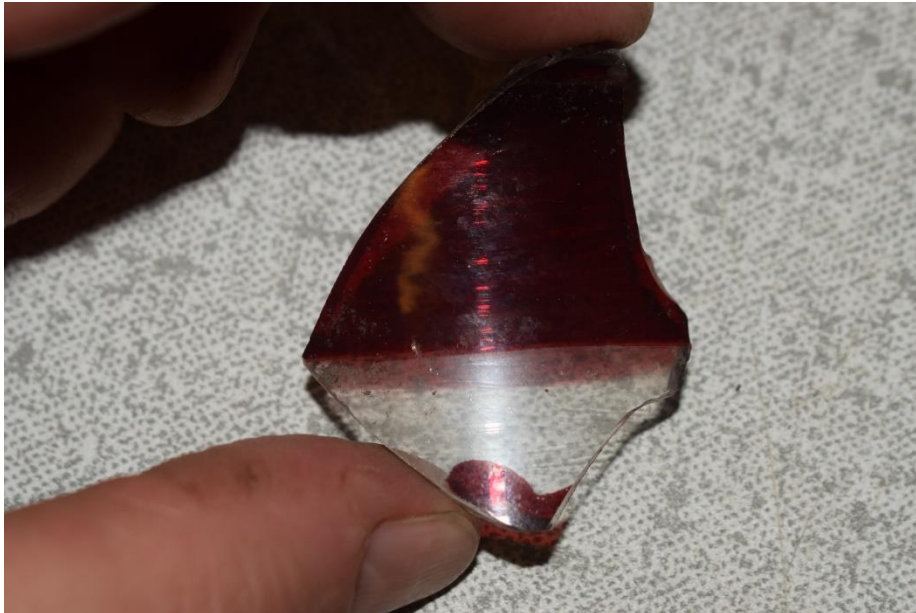


Illus 28 Westerwald tankard base, c 1700AD

4.3 Glass

Vessel and window glass was recovered from throughout the post-medieval period. There were a small number of fragile early window glass and thousands of later window glass associated with the demolition of several buildings in the vicinity, including the Grammar School.

Vessel glass included drinking vessels (Illus 29) and small vessels (Illus 30-31).



Illus 29 Victorian painted glass vessel



Illus 30 Small bottle rim



Illus 31 Small vessel rim



Illus 32 Clear etched glass

4.4 Bone

A quantity of mammal bones was recovered from most contexts. It was well-preserved which was unusual for Aberdeenshire acid soil conditions. There is a sheep scapula pierced for hanging (Illus 33), bones chopped, hacked, cut and split (Illus 34-39) and antler sawn and chopped (Illus 40). There are ?dog teeth punctures in bones (Illus 41) indicating that bones were either thrown to dogs or the bones were left lying around to be chewed by the animals. A small number of fish bones (Illus 42) were recovered and a small fragment of long bone had been worked (Illus 43).



Illus 33 Sheep scapula with hole cut (right) probably for hanging the joint of meat



Illus 34 Chop marks on mammal bone



Illus 35 Chop marks on mammal bone



Illus 36 Chop marks on mammal bone



Illus 37 Chop marks on mammal bone



Illus 38 Mammal bone split for removal of marrow



Illus 39 Antler working; the tip has been sawn off and the antler hacked with hatchet-type tool



Illus 40 Mammal bones with tooth marks, probably dog



Illus 41 Fish vertebrae



Illus 42 Small mammal long bone shaped

4.5 Clay pipes

An assemblage of clay pipe fragments include a group of 17th-century date associated with the demolition and/or use of the Grammar School buildings (Illus 43). There are stamped heels including 'TG' (Illus 44) and 'AI' with a crown (Illus 45).



Illus 43 Clay pipe stems from 16025 a layer associated with demolition of the Grammar School building



Illus 44 Clay pipe heel with possible 'TG' stamp



Illus 45 Clay pipe heel with a crown over 'A' stamp probably a Dutch pipe made by Gouda manufacturer Adrianes Jansz. Vean der Aerde (1660-), Adries Jansz. Van den Bergh (1666-), Aert (Abraham) Jacobsz (1670-) or Soetje Theunis (1686-91).

4.6 Games and toys

A number of gaming pieces including medieval pot sherd shaped into round (Illus 46) and slate (Illus 47) as well as many marbles recovered from glass bottle necks and used in games including a Seaton Pottery agate ware marble (Illus 48) made in the same way as agate vessels by mixing white pipe clay with local red clay and a mixture of the two to make a tri-colour effect. The last potter and children in the area remembered school pupils picking the marbles up from the Pottery.



Illus 46 Sherd of medieval pottery shaped into a gaming counter



Illus 47 Fragment of slate shaped into a rough circle and with a small circular indentation in the centre



Illus 48 Seaton pottery agate marble made from 3 coloured clays

4.7 Slate pencils

Several slate pencils were excavated, all well-used and sharpened (Illus 49-52).



Illus 49 Selection of slate pencils from 16000



Illus 50 Decorated end of a slate pencil



Illus 51 Slate pencil from 16000 showing sharpening marks



Illus 52 Slate pencil from 16000 showing sharp tip and broken end (left)

4.8 Lithics

A small assemblage of lithics (Illus 53) were recovered from residual contexts including a possible Upper Palaeolithic flint (Illus 54).



Illus 53 Selection of lithics from 16000



Illus 54 Detail of possible Upper Palaeolithic tool

4.9 Coins

A small number of coins were recovered including a Charles II coin (Illus 55) which is contemporary with the Grammar School. Residual coins include a George III 1807 half penny (Illus 56).



Illus 55 Charles II coin from 1603 mid-late 17th century



Illus 56 George III ?half penny 1807

4.10 Building materials

A large amount of brick, roof slate, stone roof tile and other building materials were recovered from the excavation. Most are awaiting study.



Illus 57 Shaped brick, possibly from roof furniture

4.11 Stone

A small number of fragments of non-building material stone were recovered. These include a sandstone basin or possible font (Illus 58)



Illus 58 Rim (left) and interior (right) of a sandstone basin or font

5 CONCLUSIONS

A team of students led by Gordon Noble (University of Aberdeen) and the current author (Cameron Archaeology Ltd) excavated 15 trial pits on the lawn on the west side of King's College on 16-17th March 2017. A larger trench 12 x 2.5-6.5m was opened 21-28th May 2017. Over 60 students and volunteers aged between 5 and 75, a troupe of scouts, guides, Young Archaeologists Club, and several classes of school pupils helped with the excavation. Around 2300 people visited the dig during the 8 days and were greeted by dig staff members, introduced to the site and shown the finds.

A N-S wall with a return at the north end of the trench may be the west and north walls of the Old Aberdeen Grammar School. A threshold was identified and an area of cobbling leading to the threshold from High Street. Small trenches were excavated through demolition material and mortar floors were identified. Demolition material was identified as well as many small finds dating to the period when the Grammar School was in use, from the 1530s to 25 April 1754. A dump of building rubble may be from the demolition of the façade adjacent to the site and rebuilding of the current façade in the late 19th century. A large number of finds date from possible Palaeolithic flint, medieval and post-medieval pottery, post-medieval glass, metalwork, building materials, 17th-century clay pipes and many other small finds.

6 REFERENCES

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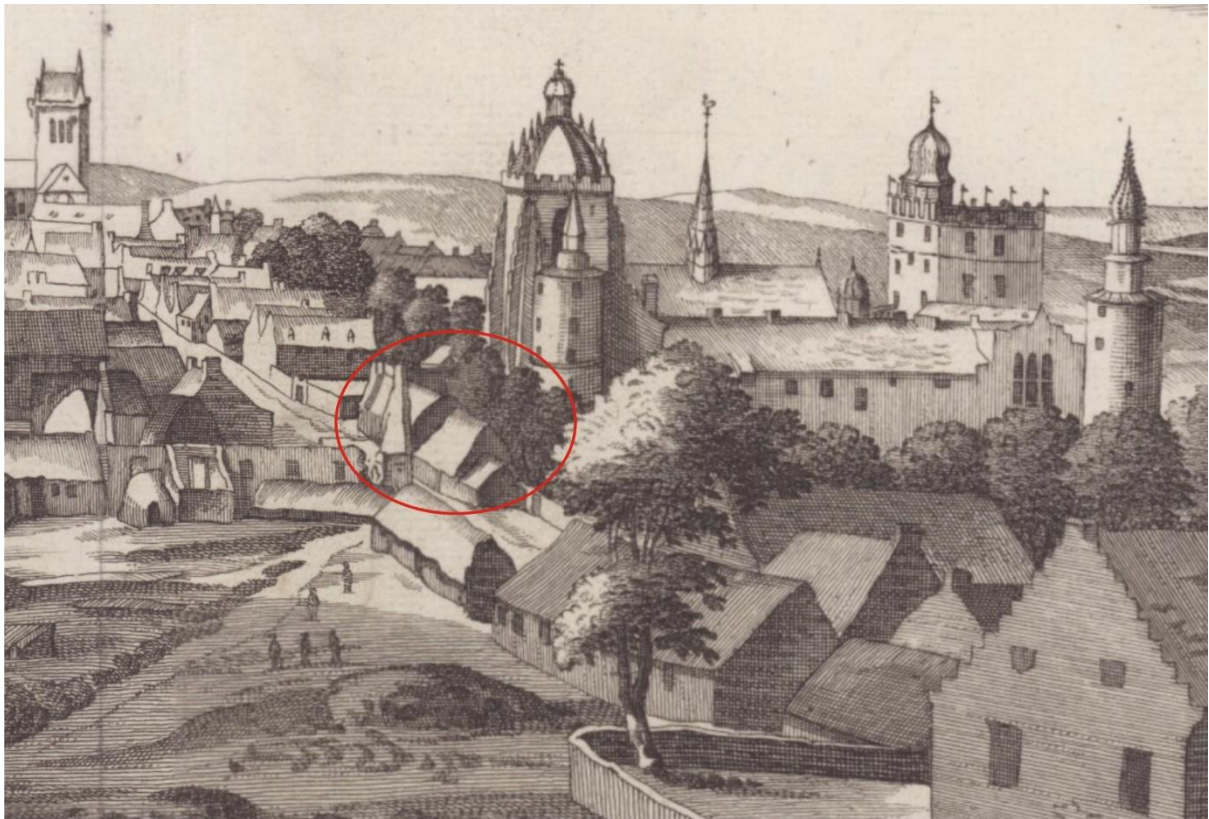
7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Dr Gordon Noble and Dr Chris Croly for initiating this project. Thanks to all the volunteers and students who helped with the dig and worked hard in hot sunny conditions to complete this dig. Thanks also to Bruce Mann, Archaeologist for Aberdeenshire, Moray, Angus and Aberdeen, Jane Geddes, Neil Curtis and Margot Wright for their advice during this work.

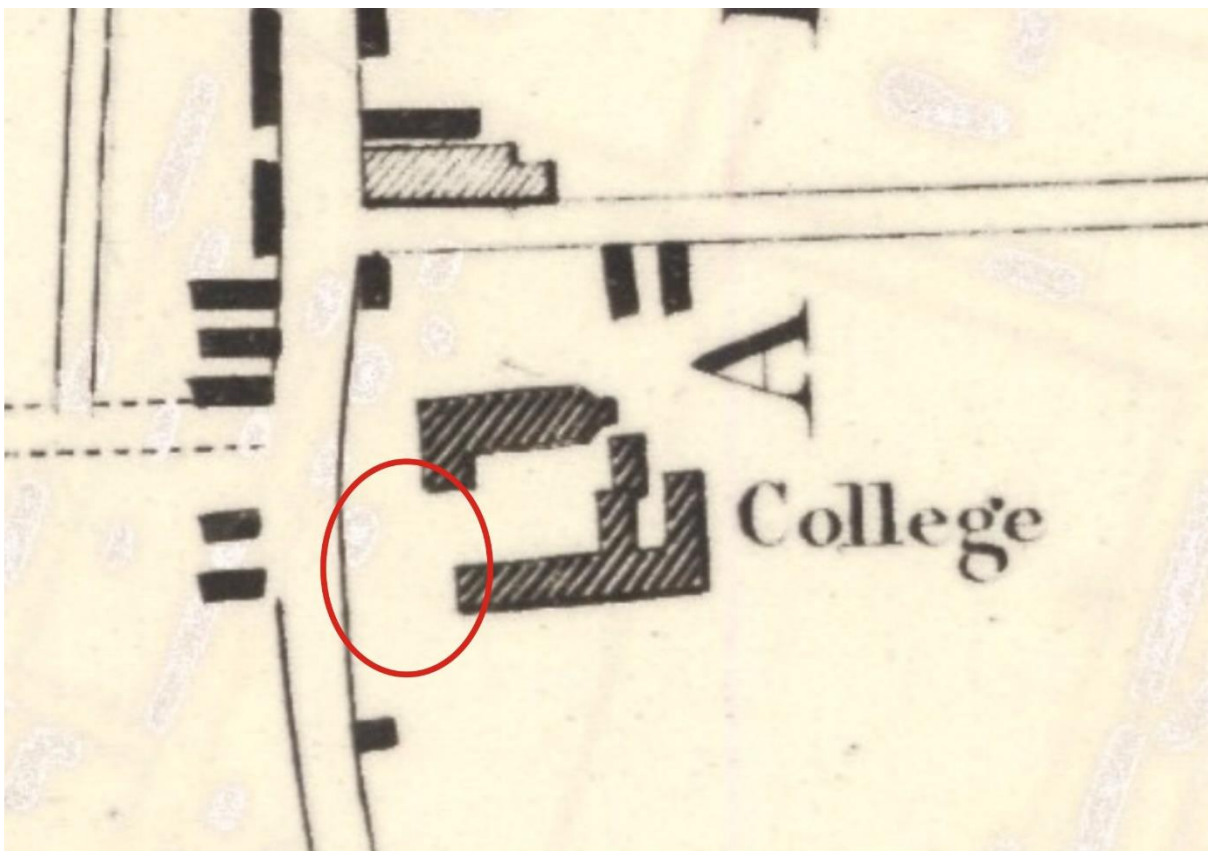
APPENDIX 1 MAPS



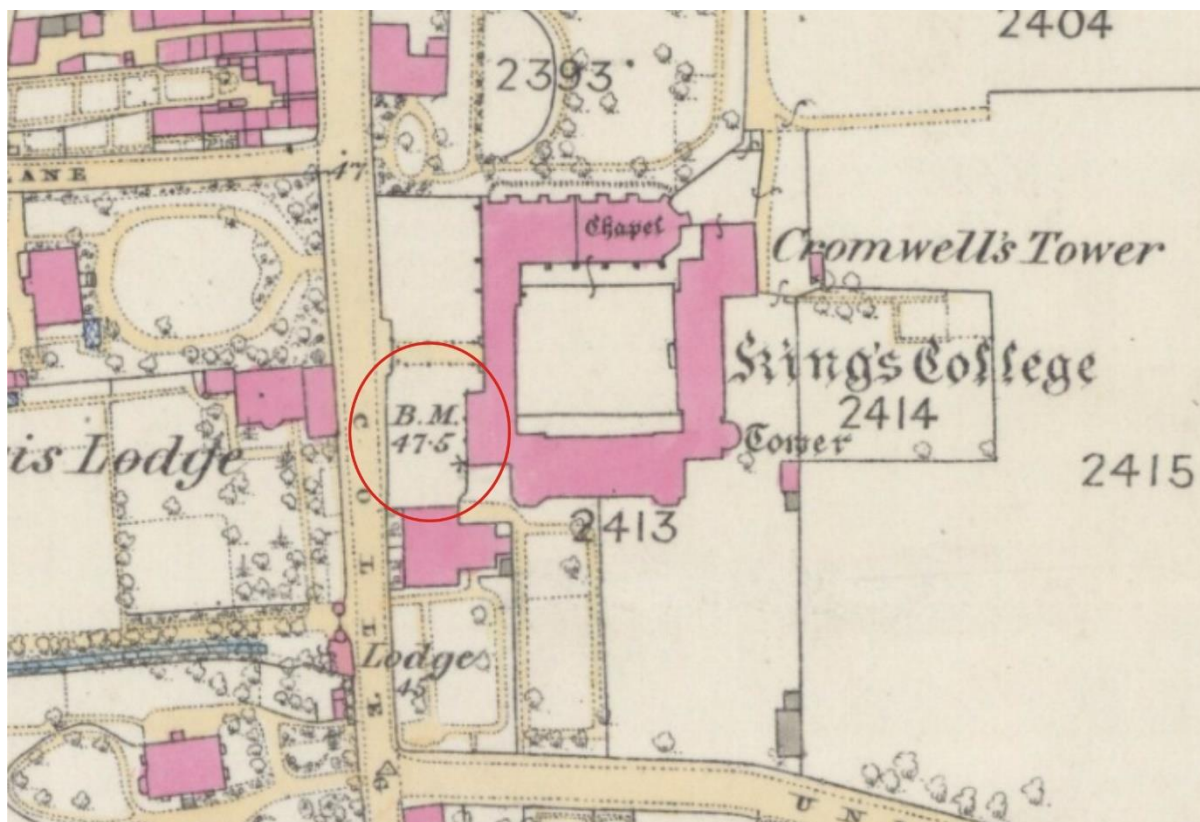
Illus 59 Gordon's map of 1661; 12 is 'Mediceners house and Gramer Scoole opposite' (copyright National Library of Scotland)



Illus 60 Slezer 'The Prospect of Old Aberdien' showing the area of the Old Aberdeen Grammar School (copyright National Library of Scotland)



Illus 61 Great Reform Act Plan 1832 showing the area of the now demolished Old Aberdeen Grammar School (copyright National Library of Scotland)



Illus 62 First Edition OS map showing the area of the now demolished Old Aberdeen Grammar School (copyright National Library of Scotland) Aberdeen Sheet LXXV.7 (Old Machar) Survey date: 1867 Publication date: 1869

APPENDIX 2 PLANS AND SECTIONS

Plan/Section no	Description	Scale and details
Plan 1	Plan of 16001, 2, 3	1:100 whole trench
Plan 2	Plan of Tr16/1 16008 and 16010	1:20
Plan 3	Plan of Tr16/1 16008 and 16010	1:20
Plan 4	Plan of whole trench levels and main features	1:50
Plan 5	Plan of whole trench all features	1:50
Section 1	Section N edge Tr16/1 16000, 16007, 16008, 16009, 16010, 16011, 16013, 16012, 16052	1:10
Section 2	Tr16/4 N edge 16000, 16003, 16033, 16032, 16022, 16054, 16031, 16055, 16056	1:10

APPENDIX 3 CONTEXTS

Context no	Description	Plan/Section
16000	Turf and topsoil	S1/2
16001	Ceramic water pipe in trench 1m wide and 1m deep running through centre of trench	
16002	Fill of 16001 – sand and grey loam	

16003	Medium grey loam and clay with many finds dated between prehistoric and Victorian S of 16001	
16004	Medium grey loam and clay with many finds dated between prehistoric and Victorian N of 16001	S1
16005	Orange loam and sand in Tr16/1	S1
16006	Brown loam with rounded cobbles in Tr16/1	S1
16007	Medium brown loam with grey mortar, demolition rubble in Tr16/1	S1
16008	Dark brown loam with clay lumps, angular and rounded stones, clay pipe, roof slate, mortar, animal bones in Tr16/1	S1
16009	Mid brown coarse sand with pebbles, animal bone, clay pipe roofing slate in Tr16/1	S1
16010	Cobbled surface rounded stones 10-20cm diam in Tr16/1	S1
16011	Foundation of N-S stone and mortar 60cm wide in Tr16/1 exposed to 50cm deep	S1
16012	Foundation of W-E stone and mortar in edge of Tr16/1 – no width possible exposed to 0.3m deep	S1
16013	Possible wall/foundation in Tr16/1 centre of trench running N-S 90cm wide and exposed to 20cm deep. May = 16033 in Tr16/4	S1
16014-16020	Not allocated	
16021	Light brown/yellow sand with stones, brick and bone fragments	S2
16022	Dark brown silty clay with stones, bone, pottery, pipe	S2
16023	Light brown mortar and loose stones under 16003 next to wall 16024 in Tr16/2	
16024	Medium rounded granite fieldstones in light brown mortar, wall foundation	P5
16025	Medium cobbles in medium grey light sandy loam above wall 16025 in Tr16/2	
16026	Light brown sand under cobbles 16026 in Tr16/2	
16027	Medium grey sandy loam under sand 16026 in Tr16/2	
16028	Rounded and angular boulders in dark grey sandy loam in Tr16/2	
16029	Medium grey sandy loam fill between cobbled surface 16048 and 16025 – possible rubble at edge of cobbles but turned out to be a junction between the cobbles only	
16030	Not allocated	
16031	Yellow/light brown mortar and stones, wall foundation Tr16/4. 60cm wide	S2
16032	Sloping hard light brown mortar 'surface' or demolition level	S2
16033	Large and medium stones in medium grey loam in Tr16/4 but not extending to end of trench. Wall foundation? May = 16013	S2
16034	Cobbled surface, small-medium rounded cobbles in semi-circle at W edge of trench. Joins with cobbles in TP4. Investigated and not certain that it ever continued to E, S and N	
16035	Small to medium rounded boulders in light brown mortar, wall foundation in Tr16/3	

16036	White gravelly sandy mortar ?floor or bedding for floor Tr16/3	
16037	Mortar, stone and grey sandy loam above 16038	
16038	Mortar, stone and grey sandy loam above 16036, floor	
16039	Demolition material, stone, hand-made brick, animal bone, clay pipe on S side 16001 – demolition during rebuilding 1822 façade?	
16040	Demolition material, stone, hand-made brick, animal bone, clay pipe on N side 16001 – demolition during rebuilding 1822 façade?	
16041	=16011	
16042	Medium brown sandy gravel and waterwashed cobbles in NE corner between walls 16011 and 16012 above floor 16052	
16043	Rubble, medium and small stoiens in grey clay loam over 16011 and e edge of trench	
16044	Tr16/5 above mortar floor 16049	
16045	Threshold stone 65 x 22cm	P5
16046	Rounded cobbles 10-15cm; courtyard in front of (w of) grammar school wall	P5
16047	Rounded cobbles 20-25cm; courtyard in front of (w of) grammar school wall	P5
16048	Rounded cobbles 8-10cm; courtyard in front of (w of) grammar school wall	P5
16049	White sandy mortar in E side 16011 Tr16/5	P5
16050	Medium grey clay loam W side 16024 Tr16/2	P5
16051	Medium and small rounded boulders on w side wall 16035 – buttress base?	P5
16052	White sand floor /bedding in Tr16/1	S1
16053	Wet clayey sandy loam with stones	S2
16054	Stoney wet clayey loam at base Tr16/4 – cobbled surface? Not excavated	S2
16055	Dark grey wet clayey loam above mortar floor 16056 in Tr16/4	S2
16056	White mortar floor or bedding in Tr16/4	S2

APPENDIX 4 LEVELS

Level (reduced m OD)	Details	Level no
13.98	String Section 1	
13.88	Turf NW corner	1
13.84	Turf NE corner	2
13.69	Turf SW corner (string Section 2)	3
13.68	Turf SE corner (string Section 2)	4
13.72	Turf	5
13.69	Turf	6
13.75	Turf	7
13.65	Threshold 16045	8
13.62	Cobbles 16047	9
13.58	Cobbles 16046	10
13.07	Tr16/1 end of excavation level	11
13.47	Floor 16049 N end	12

13.32	Floor 16049 S end	13
13.19	Tr16/2 interior	14
13.31	Tr16/2 wall 16024	15
13.08	Tr16/2 exterior	16
13.33	Floor 16036	17
13.48	Wall 16035	18
13.42	Poss buttress base 16051	19
13.60	Cobbles 16034	20
12.92	Tr16/4 end of excavation level	23
13.15	Floor 16052	24

APPENDIX 5 KING'S DIG ARTICLE FOR LEOPARD

Some historical research has been carried out by Dr C Croly and has been collated into two articles for The Leopard Magazine.

1st article

Parson Gordon writing in his *Description of Both Towns* in 1661, to accompany his new map of Aberdeen stated 'At the entrie of the Colledge standeth the Grammar School...'. This intriguing, indeed almost casual line, refers to one of Aberdeen's mostly 'forgotten' schools and certainly one which has been least served by historians and archaeologists. That, however, is about to change. As part of the Scottish Government's 2017 sponsored Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology the University of Aberdeen's Public Engagement with Research Unit working with colleagues in the School of Geosciences have secured funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to undertake a research excavation at the site of the Grammar School during the University's flag ship May Festival celebrations.

The school was for those boys intending to enter college who needed a higher standard of Latin. It was headed by the Humanist or Grammarian of King's College along with a staff of undermasters. The school's first master John Vaus, appointed in the early years of the 16th century, wrote a series of rules for his new school. These provide an invaluable insight into the running of the school at this time and indeed the gruelling (from our point of view) day the boys had. Daily on arrival for school the boys presented themselves on bended knee and prayed to statues of Christ and the Blessed Virgin. The school day formally began at 7am with grammatical analysis. This session finished with corporal punishment of anyone who required it. A public lecture followed at 8am and then breakfast with classes reconvening at 10am. After 11am the youngest were allowed away while the remaining boys were lectured and then had lunch. Classes ran again from 2pm till 4pm, then the boys had to give an account of their classes to their tutors, with an assistant master carefully taking note of all errors. From 5 to 6pm there were disputations followed by evensong and prayers and then the day was finally brought to a formal close. In their first years the boys were allowed to speak in Scots, as their Latin was still in development, and they had the option of also speaking in French, Gaelic or more exotically in Hebrew or Greek. The inclusion of these latter two languages show that the school's curriculum reflected the latest trends in education. However after first year they had to speak only in Latin. Their curriculum was one that would have been recognisable across Europe and drew on classical authors such as Caesar, Cicero and Virgil.

Historical evidence for the school is patchy, however, and only a few further glimpses are afforded to us. For example, on 8 February 1664 the full salary was revealed when Robert Torris was appointed the new master with a very handsome pay of 300 merks (a merk was 2/3rds of a pound) per annum; the terms of his appointment were that he was to undertake 'the whole dueties of ane school master towards scholars in educating and

training in piety and good letters...' The inclusion of piety seems a little surprising, but no doubt relates to training the boys in a moral manner of living. Yet the survival of the school to as late a date as it did is a little surprising. Indeed, by the later 17th and early 18th century the world had changed considerably. The last Humanist to head the school, Mr Thomas Gordon, recognised this when he brought the school to an end on 25 April 1754. He wrote: 'the teaching of elements of Latin in the way of a common grammar school is become altogether uncreditable for a professor in a university...', and so ended this venerable school. At the Glorious Revolution an Act of 1696 had made provision that every parish should have a school and yet after Gordon wrote his lines to close the school, Old Aberdeen was not served by a grammar school for some 5 years. It was not until 1758 that a new Old Aberdeen Grammar School was created, ironically in part at the behest of the University who had written to the Burgh Council of Old Aberdeen noting that Old Aberdeen was wanting for a grammar school!

Our excavation seeks to discover what remains of the Grammar School for King's building and any further evidence that we can of settlement and use of the area in front of King's chapel. There has been limited archaeological investigation of historic Scottish schools so this is very exciting nationally. The excavation will take place during May Festival, 26-28 May, as part of a vibrant weekend of talks, tours, concerts and activities supported by our partners and our new headline sponsor - Total. Keep up to date at www.abdn.ac.uk/festival !

2nd Leopard Article

So, we set out to dig up the Grammar School for King's College at the King's Dig and we found...well lots of evidence is what we found. Can we be certain of what it is? Yes, I am sure we might be able to be certain once we have finished analysing everything. The dig of course is not the end of the matter, there will be post excavation analysis of our finds and a process to bring together all the different aspects of what we have found. What we can happily say is that we found lots of evidence; most of it relating directly to the period of the grammar school and some of it intriguingly earlier.

The King's Dig was a project to excavate the site of the Grammar School for the University of Aberdeen. This sat in front of King's chapel and all the boys who planned to attend the University had to attend several years of lessons at this school to prepare their Latin grammar for the rigours of a higher education. We undertook this dig as part of the University of Aberdeen's May Festival, with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. This funding was made available as part of the Scottish Government sponsored Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology.

One of the key aims of the project and of the Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology was to bring these themes to the public in new and engaging ways. This part we certainly achieved. Over 2000 members of the public did join us on campus. Each day we laid a selection of different finds out in trays on the dyke that separates the lawn from the road College Bounds and spoke to everyone who came to see us about the nature of the dig and our finds.

Whilst finally 9 school groups, as well as Girl Guides, Scouts and the Young Archaeologist Club also joined us for bespoke sessions where they learned about the history of Scottish education and everyone of them then had a chance to take part in the dig. Many took up their trowels whilst other sieved the soil on our spoil heap. Indeed the discarded soil on the heap is often a rich source of small finds that are crucial in the dating and interpretation process. One pupil from Hannover St School found a coin from the reign of Charles II whilst sieving.

We wanted also to extend our reach beyond campus and beyond those who could physically join us. We broadcast live from the dig everyday on Facebook at 3.30 and twice a day over the May Festival weekend, in total our broadcasts were viewed by over 41,000 people. On Friday 26th we were joined by Sir Tony Robinson at the dig site and he signed off our broadcast in true Time Team fashion.

So, our community engagement was a great success and Facebook extended our reach well beyond the numbers we could have hoped for. Throughout all of this the

archaeologists continued to work. A number of features came up including what at first we were confident was a wall of the side of the grammar school running from College Bounds back to the King's. It turned out in fact to be a covering for a Victorian water pipe. However, as the week progressed we found intriguing metallised surfaces and a wall that stretched the length of our trench and parallel to the road. Here we felt might be the school and by the end of the week we found to compliment this a threshold leading into the wall and a stone seemingly worn down by hundreds of people walking over that threshold, perhaps then the main entrance to the school. Small finds dated the building to approximately the correct period. The find touched on many aspects of life by pottery was found in abundance dating from the 15th century onwards. Much of this was locally produced ware. This is interesting and may indicate a successful connection put in place by Bishop Elphinstone. When he got Papal permission to found the college he had Old Aberdeen made a burgh of barony that is to say a small town with its own rights, council an craftsmen. These craftsmen (whose place is assured in history in the place name Wrights and Coopers' Place a little further to the north off of the High Street) were to produce goods for the new college. Other pottery was more exotic such as sherds of colourful 17th century Wester Wald wear from Germany. These betoken foreign trade and point to connections with new Aberdeen, which was a Royal Burgh and could conduct foreign trade.

Other evidence however also emerged of earlier life in the area. This was not expected. Conventional wisdom tells us that the site of the college and much of the High Street was unoccupied prior to the foundation of the College and creation of the burgh of barony, so we should not expect anything pre early 16th century. Some pottery however may be from the 13th century whilst by the end of the week some trenches were dug under the apparent level of the grammar school and there we also found what at first appeared to be demolition layers and then possibly began to look like an earlier building. This is harder to understand: we did not excavate enough of it too say if it was the first version of the school (and perhaps the wall and threshold dated to one of the school's later incarnation) or was an earlier pre college building. Moreover pieces of prehistoric evidence also appeared (indeed quite early in the dig). These flints spoke of a period and a time of which we know little but the Don valley was a fertile area and as such would have attracted humans. One piece of flint maybe Palaeolithic in date; if this turns out to be the case then it joins only a very small number of other old stone age finds from the city.

All very intriguing, but time got the better of us and the trenches had to be filled in at the end of the project. So now we turn to post excavation analysis. The small finds will be analysed and experts will investigate some of them. We will gather all the evidence historic and archaeological and try to make sense of what we have found. We did find a building in the correct location, one which produced numerous small styli that people used to write with. We found evidence of its building techniques and the glass in its windows. We found lots of evidence of the food (well the meat) they consumed, the pipes they used to smoke tobacco in (once it was available) and the beer they drank (small beer that is, which they drank in lieu of water that could make them ill, the brewing process purified the water). But earlier finds mean there is more of a story to tell. In part this may be because there has been so little modern development along the line of the High Street, so, no development, then no developer funded archaeology and then more of a gap in the record. This is perhaps the first step in creating a new narrative of the history and archaeology of this area.

APPENDIX 6 PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo no	Details	Facing
DSC0001	Tr16/4 wall found 16033 and 16003	S
DSC0002-3	Tr16/4 wall found 16033 and 16003	E
DSC0004	Cobbles 16034	E

DSC0005	Cobbles 16034	S
DSC0006-7	Cobbles 16034	W
DSC0008	Tr16/2 wall 16024 being uncovered	W
DSC0009	Tr16/2 wall 16024 being uncovered	N
DSC0010	Tr16/2 wall 16024 being uncovered	E
DSC0011	Tr16/2 wall 16024 being uncovered	S
DSC0012-13	Tr16/2 wall 16024 being uncovered	E
DSC0014	Tr16/2 wall 16024 being uncovered	N
DSC0015-17	Tr16/2 wall 16024 being uncovered	S
DSC0018-25	Volunteers in the sun	
DSC0026-9	Tr16/2 wall 16024 being uncovered with cobbles 16048 in foreground	E
DSC0030-1	Tr16/3 wall 16035 (top) and floor 16036 (bottom)	W
DSC0032	Tr16/3 wall 16035 and floor 16036	S
DSC0033	Tr16/3 wall 16035 and floor 16036	E
DSC0034	Tr16/3 wall 16035 and floor 16036	E
DSC0035	Tr16/3 wall 16035 and floor 16036	N
DSC0036-8	Tr16/3 wall 16035 and floor 16036	S
DSC0039-40	visitors	W
DSC0041	Tr16/4 wall foundation 16031 emerging (bottom) and wall found 16033 (centre)	W
DSC0042	Tr16/4 wall foundation 16031	N
DSC0043	Tr16/4 wall found 16033	N
DSC0044	Tr16/4 stones in 16022	N
DSC0045	Tr16/4 wall foundation 16031	S
DSC0046	Tr16/4 wall found 16033	S
DSC0047	Tr16/4	SE
DSC0048	Tr16/4	E
DSC0049	Tr16/4 wall 16031 (bottom) with Tr16/3, /2 in background	N
DSC0050-55	Stone roof tile with hole	
DSC0056-64	Door or window moulding from 16040	
DSC0065	Tr 16/2 wall 16024 centre	N
DSC0066-7	Tr 16/2 wall 16024 centre	S
DSC0068-9	Tr 16/2 wall 16024 centre	SE
DSC0070-73	Tr 16/2 wall 16024 centre	ESE
DSC0074	Tr 16/4 detail of W end cobble stones layer 16025	S
DSC0075-6	possible saddle quern frag from 16/2	
DSC0077-83	late medieval skillet rim and handle from 16/2	
DSC0084-96	clay pipes (17th century) from 16/2	
DSC0097-8	Extension of trench E of wall 16011	N
DSC0099	Extension of trench E of wall 16011	S

DSC0100	Tr16 N end of trench cobbled surfaces 16046, 47 and 48	E
DSC0101	Tr16 N end of trench cobbled surfaces 16046, 47 and 48	SE
DSC0102-3	Tr16 N end of trench cobbled surfaces 16046, 47 and 48	S
DSC0104-7	Tr16/1 with wall face 16011 (top)	E
DSC0108-9	16011 wall face	E
DSC0110-15	Tr16/1 Section 1 S face of sondage	N
DSC0116	Tr16/1 Section 1 S face of sondage	NE
DSC0117-9	16011 wall face	E
DSC0120-23	Tr16/1 at end of excavation	S
DSC0124	Tr16/1 at end of excavation	W
DSC0125-6	Hannah and Gordon uncovering threshold	SE
DSC0127-30	Tr 16/1	E
DSC0131	Premala removing 16039	W
DSC0132-3	Volunteer families	
DSC0134-6	Tr16/4 wall 16031 (bottom)	W
DSC0137-8	Irvine and Hannah recording Tr16/4, peter digging	SW
DSC0139-42	Tr16/3 wall 16035 and floor 16036 with electric cable in water pipe trench 16001 (foreground)	S
DSC0143-4	Tr16/3 wall 16035 and floor 16036	E
DSC0145-6	Tr16/3 wall 16035 (right) and stones 160051, possible buttress foundation??	N
DSC0147-51	Tr16/3 wall 16035 and floor 16036 with electric cable in water pipe trench 16001 (top)	
DSC0152-3	Gordon & Jasmin discuss, Hannah and Irvine recording	NW
DSC0154	Tr16/2 wall foundation (centre)	E
DSC0155	Tr16/2 wall foundation (centre)	S
DSC0156-7	Tr16/2 wall foundation (centre)	W
DSC0158-9	Glass or enamel cuff link from 160040	N
DSC0160	Tr16/2 wall foundation (centre)	N
DSC0161	Tr16/2 wall foundation (centre)	E
DSC0162-3	Volunteers	
DSC0164-7	Hannah and Irvine recording cobbles	
DSC0168-9	Noble family picnic	
DSC0170-6	Tr 16/5 E edge of wall foundation 16011 and mortar floor 16049	W
DSC0177-9	Volunteers	
DSC0180-1	Threshold 16045 (left) and flat stones around door?	N
DSC0182-9	Tr 16/5 E edge of wall foundation 16011 and mortar floor 16049 and threshold 16045 with line of larger cobbles in 16047	W

DSC0190	Tr 16/5 E edge of wall foundation 16011 and mortar floor 16049	W
DSC0191-3	Tr 16/5 E edge of wall foundation 16011 and mortar floor 16049	S
DSC0194-8	Daniele and Lewis uncovering 16031	
DSC0199	16039 (left) 16040 (right)	W
DSC0200	16039	W
DSC0201	16040	W
DSC0202-4	Tr16/1 W end junction of wall foundation 16011 (left) and 16012 (right) with mortar floor 16052	NW
DSC0205-7	Tr16/1 W end junction of wall foundation 16011 (left) and 16012 (right) with mortar floor 16052	N
DSC0208-11	Tr16/1 W end junction of wall foundation 16011 (bottom) and 16012 (left) with mortar floor 16052	E
DSC0212-13	Tr16/1 W end junction of wall foundation 16011 (right) and 16012 (bottom) with mortar floor 16052	S
DSC0214-15	Tr16/4 at end of excavation	E
DSC0216	Tr16/4 at end of excavation W end 16054	N
DSC0217	Tr16/4 at end of excavation centre 16033	N
DSC0218	Tr16/4 at end of excavation E end mortar floor 16056 (right) wall 16031 (left)	N
DSC0219-20	Tr16/4 at end of excavation	W
DSC0221	Tr16/4 at end of excavation E end mortar floor 16056 (left) wall 16031 (right)	S
DSC0222	Tr16/4 at end of excavation centre 16033	S
DSC0223	Tr16/4 at end of excavation W end 16054	S
DSC0224-8	Tr16/4 S section not drawn	S
DSC0229	Tr16/4 S section not drawn	SW
DSC0230-2	Tr16/4 S section not drawn	SE
DSC_9659-84	Day 1 starting trench	
DSC_9685-96	16001, 2, 3 and 4 cleaned for first time	
DSC_9697-9	Amanda and Jovi doing tours	
DSC_9700-5	Hannah and moyra planning	
DSC_9706-19	16001 and first clean	
DSC_9720-30	Students and volunteers	
DSC_9732-3	small extra trench opened and closed	
DSC_9734-8	16001 section with ceramic water pipe	
DSC_9739-40	cobbles being uncovered	
DSC_9742-47	Westerwald tankard from 16000	
DSC_9748-49	Late med/early post med slip trailed	
DSC_9750-1	Late med/early post med slip trailed	
DSC_9752-7	Late med local jug base and handle	
DSC_9758-63	skillet rim and handle	

DSC_9764-71	Seigburg drinking vessel rims	
DSC_9772-3	students and volunteers	
DSC_9774-6	Seigburg drinking vessel rims	
DSC_9777	Tr16/1 stones in 16007	E
DSC_9778-80	Tr16/1 stones in 16007	S
DSC_9781-2	Tr16/1 stones in 16007	W
DSC_9783	uncovering cobbles	SW
DSC_9784-6	slate pencils from 16000	
DSC_9787-91	clay pipes from 16000	
DSC_9792-5	stone disc with hole partially bored from both sides from 16000	
DSC_9796-9813	flints from 16000	
DSC_9814-22	303 bullet casings, shotgun casing and lead shot (now missing) from 16000	
DSC_9823-33	Clock key, buttons from 16000	
DSC_9834	volunteers working	
DSC_9835-42	18th and 19th cnetury pottery	
DSC_9843-45	clay marbles	
DSC_9846-56	Seaton agate marble	
DSC_9857-72	Charles II turner or twopence	
DSC_9873-78	1807 George 2/3 from 16004	
DSC_9879-89	Ferrule from top of umbrella/parasol - Victorian	
DSC_9890-1	Tr16/1 stones in 16007	W
DSC_9892-5	Tr16/1 stones in 16007	S
DSC_9896	Tr16/1 stones in 16007	E
DSC_9897-9900	cobbles being uncovered	W
DSC_9901	Tr16/4 stone in 16033 emerging	E
DSC_9902-3	Tr16/4 stone in 16033 emerging	N
DSC_9904-5	Tr16/4 stone in 16033 emerging	W
DSC_9906-13	top of slate pencil	
DSC_9914	Tr16/1 top of ?wall foundation 16009 (centre)	W
DSC_9915	Tr16/1 top of ?wall foundation 16009 (centre)	E
DSC_9916-18	Tr16/1 top of ?wall foundation 16009 (centre)	S
DSC_9919	Tr16/1	
DSC_9920	Tr16/4 stone in 16033 emerging	
DSC_9921-2	Tr16/4 stone in 16033 emerging	
DSC_9923	Tr16/4 stone in 16033 emerging	
DSC_9924-34	Teresa Jones, Kittybrewster P7	
DSC_9935	Murray and Tim in Tr16/4	W
DSC_9936-7	Margot does tours	
DSC_9938, 40	cobbles being uncovered	E

DSC_9939, 41	Kevin Stewart tour	
DSC_9942	Murray and Tim in Tr16/4	NNE
DSC_9943	Tr16/1 sand 16009	W
DSC_9944-7	Tr16/1 sand 16009	S
DSC_9948	Tr16/1 sand 16009	E
DSC_9949	Tr16/1 sand 16009	SE
DSC_9951-53	Tr16/4 16033	W
DSC_9954	Tr16/4 stone in 16033 emerging	N
DSC_9955-60	Tr16/4 stone in 16033 emerging	S
DSC_9961	Tr16/2 wall 16024 emerging	S
DSC_9962-3	Tr16/2 wall 16024 emerging	E
DSC_9964-6	Tr16/1 stones in 16009	W
DSC_9967-9	Tr16/1 stones in 16009	S
DSC_9970-4	Tr16/1 stones in 16009	E
DSC_9974-6	sunny section photography shade creators plc	S
DSC_9977	stones on top of 16001	S
DSC_9978-9	cobbles 16047	W
DSC_9980	Irvine talking to visitors	
DSC_9981-3	cobbles 16047	E
DSC_9984	cobbles 16047	SE
DSC_9985	cobbles 16047	S
DSC_9986	Irvine digging deep in Tr16/1	A
DSC_9987-8	cobbles 16047	E
DSC_9989	cobbles 16047	SE
DSC_9990-1	cobbles 16048	E
DSC_9992	Peter and Tim in Tr16/4	SW
DSC_9993-5	Tr16/4	W
DSC_9996-9	Tr16/4	S
IMG_2369-2481	deturfing and cleaning on first day	
IMG_2482-6	Siegburg	
IMG_2487	katie with 1807 coin	
IMG_2488-531	first tours and cleaning	
IMG_2532-5	Ellie with button	
IMG_2536-46	first tours and cleaning	
IMG_2547-50	Yorkshire/Doggerland flint - neolithic or poss Palaeolithic	
IMG_2551-2	tours	
IMG_2553-5	Jovi with stone disc	
IMG_2556-7	tours	
IMG_2558-61	Katie with copper alloy pin	
IMG_2562	Gordon supervising	
IMG_2563-66	digging	
IMG_2567-8	Gordon digging	

IMG_2569-75	Gordon seiving	
IMG_2576-84	schools digging	
IMG_2733-5	day after scouts evening visit	
IMG_2736-9	Bruce Mann visit	
IMG_2741-44	Rocking Horse nursery visit with school class and volunteers - a busy site	
IMG_2745-68	site shots	
IMG_2769-78	Laura Main Call the Midwife	
IMG_2779-86	Jane Geddes and Neil Curtis with ferrule	
IMG_2787-92	Tony Robinson	
IMG_2798-2810	Hannah with medieval window glass	
IMG_2811-23	site shots	
IMG_2824-5, 30-1	possible saddle quern frag from 16/2	
IMG_2851	Margot doing tours	
IMG_2877-89	drone	
IMG_2890-2905	site shots	
IMG_2906-9	Cow scapula with circles cut out - bone working Tr16/2	
IMG_2910-25	site shots	
IMG_2926	cut horn - horn working	
IMG_2927-30	copper alloy tack	
IMG_2931-5	children find lots of animal bone in 16040	
IMG_2935-40	site shots	
IMG_2941-4	Jacob with pottery disc	
IMG_2945-75	backfilling, returfing and leaving site	