



OAKFORD  
ARCHAEOLOGY

**Archaeological monitoring and recording at Bowhill,  
Dunsford Hill, Exeter**



*on behalf of  
the client*

**Report No. 22-24**

**Project No. 1945**

**July 2022**



# OAKFORD ARCHAEOLOGY

Archaeological Groundworks and Historic Buildings

44 Hazel Road,  
Wonford  
Exeter,  
Devon  
EX2 6HN  
tel: 07834 591406  
e-mail: [info@oakfordarch.co.uk](mailto:info@oakfordarch.co.uk)  
web: [www.oakfordarch.co.uk](http://www.oakfordarch.co.uk)

---

## AUTHOR

M Wootton & M Steinmetzer

## WITH CONTRIBUTIONS BY

John Allan and Marcie Weeks

---

Report No 22-24

Revision: 01  
Date: July 2022

## Contents

Summary	
1 Introduction	1
1.1 The site	1
2. Aims	1
3. Methodology	1
4. Archaeological and historical background	2
4.1 General background	2
4.2 Bowhill	3
4.3 Archaeological background	3
5. Results	3
5.1 Introduction	3
5.2 The Great Hall	3
5.3 The Courtyard	4
6. The Finds	4
6.1 Introduction	4
6.2 Medieval	4
6.3 Post-medieval	5
7. Conclusion	6
8. Project Archive	6

Acknowledgements

Bibliography

Appendix 1: Method statement

Appendix 2: Finds quantification

## List of illustrations

- Fig. 1 Location of site.
- Fig. 2 Detail from the 1838 St Thomas Parish Tithe Map.
- Fig. 3 Detail from the 1<sup>st</sup> edition 1890 Ordnance Survey Map Devonshire Sheet LXXX.9.
- Fig. 4 Detail from the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 1905 Ordnance Survey Map Devonshire Sheet LXXX.9.
- Fig. 5 Plan showing the location of observations at Bowhill.
- Fig. 6 Plan of cobbled floor (107).
- Fig. 7 Section through the floor sequence within the Great Hall.
- Fig. 8 Stone Mortar.

## List of plates

- Plate 1 General view of the cross passage showing newly exposed cobbled surface (107 - left) and the surface (2133 - right) exposed by the Department of the Environment in 1977. Looking southeast.
- Plate 2 Detail of cobbled surface (107). Looking northeast.
- Plate 3 Detail of the possible edging or sub-division (110) along the northwestern edge of cobbled surface (107). Looking southeast.
- Plate 4 Close-up of cobbled surface (107) butting up to edging course (110). Looking southeast.
- Plate 5 General view of the underlying natural subsoil (109). Looking northeast.
- Plate 6 Close-up of post-hole [111]. Looking northwest.
- Plate 7 General view of cobbled surface (2133) previously exposed in 1977 by the Department of the Environment. Looking southwest.

- Plate 8 General view of the central courtyard showing the shallow excavations and sub-rounded feature (118). Looking west.
- Plate 9 General view of the central courtyard showing the shallow excavations and sub-rounded feature (118) in the foreground. Looking north.
- Plate 10 General view of the northern end of the courtyard excavations showing the location of a previously unrecorded excavation trench [119] from the 1977-8 excavations. Looking west.
- Plate 11 Section through the previously unrecorded trench [119] from the 1977-8 Department of the Environment excavations in the courtyard. Looking northwest.
- Plate 12 Close-up showing remains of the original late 15th-early 16th century foundations (far right) and the later c.1800 rebuilding and refacing (left and centre) of the former interior elevation of the west range. Looking west.
- Plate 13 General view of location of the backfilled trench [119]. Looking west.
- Plate 14 Detail of conjoining masonries within the west corner of the central courtyard, showing the complexity of development. Looking west.

## Summary

*A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out by Oakford Archaeology (OA) between April and May 2022 during works at Bowhill, Dunsford Hill, Exeter, Devon (SX 9065 9159). The work comprised the monitoring of groundworks associated with reductions in the floor level in the Great Hall and the construction of a small extension in the courtyard.*

*Interior works revealed the extent of previous ground disturbance as result of the works carried out by the Department of the Environment in 1977 and Exeter Archaeology in 1989. In addition, the works revealed a previously undisturbed section of 19<sup>th</sup> century cobbled flooring associated with the subdivision of the house into separate dwellings and the conversion of the former Great Hall into a barn.*

*Work in the courtyard revealed the remains of an excavation trench extending as far as the northwest wall. Previously unrecorded this is possibly associated with the works undertaken by the Department of the Environment in 1977-8.*

*Finally, the works in the courtyard partly exposed the foundations of the western boundary wall. Closer inspection suggests that these are in part at least late 15<sup>th</sup> or early 16<sup>th</sup> century in date, perhaps the remains of the earlier west range.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out by Oakford Archaeology (OA) between April and May 2022 during works at Bowhill, Dunsford Hill, Exeter, Devon (SX 9065 9159). The work was required as a condition of the grant of planning permission (16/0501/FUL) for the installation of a new floor in the Great Hall and the construction of a small extension within the courtyard by Exeter City Council (ECC), as advised by the Principal Project Manager Heritage (PPMH) and Historic England (HE).

### 1.1 The site

The site (Fig. 1, pls. 1-14) lies beyond the southwestern edge of the historic suburb of St Thomas, on the north side of Dunsford Road and at a height of *c.* 23m AOD. Bowhill House is a Grade I Listed Building (1103985), built in *c.* 1500 on the site of an earlier house. Following extensive alterations and additions in the 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> centuries, the building was purchased by the Secretary of state for the Environment in 1976 and is now in the ownership of English Heritage. The site was the subject of extensive excavations and historic building recording in the 1970s and 80s.<sup>1</sup>

### 1.2 Geological background

The site lies on a gentle northeast facing slope overlooking St Thomas and the floodplain of the river Exe. The geology of the area belongs to the Whipton Sandstone Formation, a sedimentary bedrock formed 252 to 299 million years ago in the Permian Period and gives rise to deposits of sand, clay and gravel.<sup>2</sup>

## 2. AIMS

The principal aim of the archaeological work is to supervise the excavation for the new floor and the new single storey building in the courtyard by the contractors, to investigate and record any buried archaeological deposits exposed during the groundworks, and to report on the results of the project, as appropriate.

## 3. METHODOLOGY

The work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by OA (2022). This document is included as Appendix 1.

Machine excavation was undertaken under archaeological control using a 360° mechanical remote-controlled excavator fitted with a 1.2m wide toothless grading bucket. Topsoil and underlying deposits were removed to the level of either natural subsoil, or the top of archaeological deposits (whichever was higher). Areas of archaeological survival were then cleaned by hand, investigated and recorded.

The standard OA recording system was employed; stratigraphic information was recorded on *pro-forma* context record sheets and individual trench recording forms, plans and sections for each trench were drawn at a scale of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate and a detailed black and

---

<sup>1</sup> Blaylock, S. 2004

<sup>2</sup> [www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk)

white print and colour (digital) photographic record was made. Registers were maintained for photographs, drawings and context sheets on *pro forma* sheets.

## 4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### 4.1 General background

The site is located alongside Cowick Street, which may possibly represent the alignment of a Roman road extending west from the Romano-British town. Small quantities of pottery and ceramic building material of this date have been found both to the north and northeast of the present site. Other than these finds, which may represent evidence for Romano-British occupation of the area, little is known of the development of the suburb of St Thomas prior to the construction of the stone bridge across the River Exe at the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>3</sup>

By the 11<sup>th</sup> century the manor of *Coic* was held by the Saxon thegn Almer. Following the Norman reorganisation of the land holdings after the Conquest (recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086), and the death of Harold at Hastings, the manor was granted to Baldwin FitzGilbert, Sheriff of Devon and a major Norman landholder.<sup>4</sup>

According to Gover the manor of Cowick Barton derives its name from the Old English *cuic lande* or 'cow farm'.<sup>5</sup> Various known as *Cuick*, *Couwyk* and *Cowek*, the main focus of settlement in the medieval period appears to have been along Cowick Street. This was in existence as a hollow way during the 14<sup>th</sup> century, and possibly as early as AD1200 when the stone bridge was constructed across the Exe.<sup>6</sup> It is therefore likely that there was settlement alongside Cowick Street during the medieval period at least as far as the present church.<sup>7</sup> The church dates to the early 15<sup>th</sup> century and it is likely that it became a focus for subsequent development along Cowick Street. The extent of development along the street prior to the 17<sup>th</sup> century is not known as many of the houses were subsequently destroyed during the Civil War when the Royalists fortified and cleared the suburb of St Thomas.<sup>8</sup> During this conflict it is likely that a series of temporary fortifications and siege works were constructed along Cowick Street.

### 4.2 Bowhill

The house is thought to have been founded by Roger Holand in c.1500. His daughter had married John Carew of Antony and following Roger's death in 1506 the estate and its lands passed to the Carews. Bowhill remained in the possession of the Carew family until it was forfeited in 1660 by the attainder of John Carew.<sup>9</sup> Following the Restoration Charles II granted Bowhill in 1662 to his brother, Thomas Carew. After the death of Thomas, the property passed to his sister's son John Penneck, who also died without issue in 1752. Bowhill then passed to his cousin, Richard Sawle and from him to his two daughters in 1773. Bridget sold much of her share (including Bowhill itself) to her sister Elizabeth's husband; Admiral John Graves.<sup>10</sup> From the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, the lands and the buildings were leased to a succession of tenants.

---

<sup>3</sup> Blaylock, S. 2000

<sup>4</sup> Thorn and Thorn, 1982, 16,106

<sup>5</sup> Gover 1932, 438

<sup>6</sup> Blaylock, S. 2000

<sup>7</sup> Steinmetzer, M. 2007

<sup>8</sup> Weaver, S. 2007

<sup>9</sup> Everett, A. W. 1958

<sup>10</sup> Cadell and W Davies, London, 1822.

The longest is that of William Lucombe, described as a market gardener, who leased the house between 1740-94. Although perhaps not as well-renowned as the firm of Veitch, the Lucombe nursery was nonetheless a respected business throughout Georgian and Victorian Exeter. Following Williams death his son John continued the nursery business at new premises on the Alphington Road. The house and lands were subsequently occupied by the Kerswill family until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the surrounding lands remaining in use as a nursery until the encroachment of post-war housing developments.

#### **4.3 Archaeological background**

Bowhill was sold in 1932 by the Graves-Sawle, and following a number of new owners, was acquired by the Department of the Environment in 1976. Because of the deteriorating condition of the building the Department of the Environment undertook an extensive programme of repair and conservation, including extensive archaeological excavations and historic building recording.<sup>11</sup>

## **5. RESULTS**

### **5.1 Introduction**

A watching brief was maintained during works in the Great Hall and the central courtyard. Relevant detailed plans are included as Figs. 5-7, Pls. 1-10.

### **5.2 The Great Hall**

The works revealed a compact mid red clayey silt (109) at a depth of 0.4m below current ground level. Extending across the length of the Great Hall this deposit has been interpreted as a natural subsoil. The remains of a 0.15m thick cobbled floor (107), consisting of sub-angular volcanic trap fragments laid so that their long axis generally matches the orientation of the hall, were set directly into the underlying clay. The floor was bonded with a mid-reddish brown clayey silt, while the cobbles formed an irregular surface. The rough angular nature of the floor suggests that this was the utilitarian floor previously identified by Blaylock and associated with the conversion of the Great Hall in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to an agricultural barn.<sup>12</sup>

Overlying cobbled surface (107) was a 0.08m thick layer of mid reddish brown clayey silt (106) extending. This deposit has been interpreted as a levelling layer or sub-base for the overlying 0.02m thick mortar bedding layer (105) consisting of a light grey lime ash with rare charcoal inclusions. This was in turn sealed underneath a 0.07m thick layer of mid reddish brown clayey silt (104) with rare charcoal, pea grit and slate fleck inclusions. Overlying this deposit was a 0.04m thick layer of mid reddish brown clayey silt (103) with frequent charcoal flecks. Both deposits have been interpreted as later, perhaps early-mid 20<sup>th</sup> century levelling deposits for a later floor.

This deposit has been interpreted as a levelling layer or sub-base for the overlying 0.02m thick mortar bedding layer (105) consisting of a light grey lime ash with rare charcoal inclusions. This was in turn sealed underneath a 0.07m thick layer of mid reddish brown clayey silt (104) with rare charcoal, pea grit and slate fleck inclusions. Overlying this deposit was a 0.04m thick layer of mid reddish brown clayey silt (103) with frequent charcoal flecks. Both deposits have been interpreted as later, perhaps early-mid 20<sup>th</sup> century levelling deposits for a later floor.

---

<sup>11</sup> Blaylock, 2004

<sup>12</sup> Blaylock, S. 2000



These deposits, and the surviving cobbled floor were truncated along their northwestern edge by later activity associated with the archaeological works undertaken under the auspices of the Department for the Environment in 1977. Extending to a depth of at least 0.4m below the current floor level, the works extend below the level of the surviving late 19<sup>th</sup> century cobbled floor. The excavations were backfilled by at least three broad clayey silt-based deposits (101, 108-9). A fragment from a 13<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> century stone mortar was recovered from (101).

These deposits were sealed underneath a 0.08m thick mid reddish brown limecrete and cob deposit (100), interpreted as the new floor built in the 1970s.

Finally, the cobbled floor was truncated along its edges by previous archaeological works (102), while two small modern areas of disturbance (113 and 115) are likely associated with late 20<sup>th</sup> century installation of electric cables.

### **5.3 The Courtyard**

The excavations in the courtyard were located against the western boundary wall, were approximately 10m long, 7.5m wide and extended to a maximum depth of 0.5m. The work revealed a mid-reddish brown clayey silt (117), interpreted as a disturbed ground associated with the backfilling of the 1977-8 excavations by the Department of the Environment.

However, the top of a sub-rounded feature (118), approximately 1.2m long and 0.6m wide was uncovered in an area that had not previously been investigated. No finds were recovered from the limited investigations and the function and date of the feature remain unclear.

Along the northwestern boundary of the excavations the remains of a possible former excavation trench [119] were uncovered. This was *c.*1m wide with vertical sides, a flat base and had been backfilled with a mid reddish brown clayey silt (120) with rare inclusions of slate and cbm fragments, and frequent, sub-angular, grey limestone rubble.

Finally, the works revealed part of the foundations of the western boundary wall. At the northern end, underneath the low stone wall (1796) supporting the cob, these consisted of large sub-angular stone rubble bonded with a mid reddish yellow lime mortar. Immediately to the south of this a large section of the stone and cob walling had been refaced in brick in *c.*1800, including the foundations below ground, while the remainder of the west wall consisted of large sub-rounded blocks of Heavitree stone.

## **6. THE FINDS**

by John Allan and Marcie Weeks

### **6.1 Introduction**

The excavation produced a small assemblage of medieval and post-medieval finds. These are itemised in Appendix 2 and briefly described below. The sherds are largely in a good condition, although some of the material is abraded.

### **6.2 Medieval**

The medieval assemblage consisted of two items: a single sherd of South Somerset ware and a stone mortar-fragment. The single sherd of 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century South Somerset ware from a possible mottled glazed jug was recovered from the backfill of the 1977-8 excavations in the courtyard.

Recovered from the backfill (101) of the 1977 excavations inside the Great Hall, the 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century stone mortar fragment (Fig. 8) comprises approximately a quarter of the rim and a single lug or handle. The substantial fragment consists of a metamorphic stone, possibly local to Devon or Cornwall. It has a “piked” outer surface and defined chiselled flat rim, forming decorative vertical lines. The fragment includes one bulbous semi-circular lug, which may have had a raised ridge down the centre. The rim of the vessel steps down into the lug forming a defined two step ridge. Small mortars were traditionally made from ceramic material, although these had poor longevity due to the fragility of the material and nature of their use. Large stone varieties provided a much longer lifespan and could keep up with the demands of larger kitchens, such as those in higher status homesteads, manor houses or monasteries. Some stone mortars have previously been found in medieval contexts in Exeter, and include examples made from Swanage limestone, Purbeck marble, Salcombe, Beer stone and other unspecified limestones.<sup>13</sup> The production centres supplying Exeter during this period appear to be located primarily on the south coast, although due to the City's trade links with Normandy some examples were also imported from Caen.<sup>14</sup> However, there are no parallels within the previously examined examples examined by Allan,<sup>15</sup> showing a similar transition of shaping from rim to lug or indeed a mortar made from a similar type of stone.

### 6.3 Post-medieval

The assemblage consists of 70 sherds dating to the post-medieval period. They are generally of local fabrics with occasional imports. A number of diagnostic vessel forms are recognisable. Where applicable, fabrics are given their unique code as designated by Allan (1984).

A small number of non-local fabric types were recovered from the excavations inside the Great Hall. These included a single sherd from a c.1700-50 German stoneware bottle and two sherds of 1690-1750 white and blue imported Chinese porcelain. In addition, two sherds of late 17<sup>th</sup>-mid-18<sup>th</sup> century plain tin-glazed delftware, probably from London, were also recovered from 101.

The regional and local fabrics included four sherds of 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century North Devon gravel tempered coarsewares, a single sherd of 18<sup>th</sup> century North Devon gravel free plain slipware, six sherds of 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century South Somerset redware, 45 sherds of late 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century industrial wares, three sherds of 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century salt glazed earthenware, two sherds 19<sup>th</sup> century redware pottery and four sherds of 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century English stoneware sherds.

The remainder of the assemblage consisted of 18 glass fragments including four fragments of English Green Bottle Glass dating to c.1740-1850, two sherds from a possible 19<sup>th</sup> century pharmaceutical bottle, and complete c.1880-1910 clear glass bottle with a round base and cylindrical body and the moulded words “LEA & PERRINS” written vertically down the body and “WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE” visible around the nape of the bottle neck; ten fragments of 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century redware ceramic building material, two roof slate fragments including one which is a restoration slate with machine marks which was used to replace older slate tiles in 1980-1990, 14 fragments of clay tobacco pipe stem including two dating from the 19<sup>th</sup> century; ten ferrous metal objects including seven nails and two small unidentified iron fragments.

Finally, 13 animal bone fragments were recovered including a distal humerus and tibia from a sheep/goat, a pig innominate, and a cow's calcaneum, as well as five fragments of rib, two

---

<sup>13</sup> (Allan, 1984, 294).

<sup>14</sup> (Allan, 1984, 294).

<sup>15</sup> (Allan, 1984, 294).

seemingly from cow, the remainder of a smaller unidentified species. The beef ribs had been sawn on both ends suggesting they were consumed as small, prepared cuts, while one of the smaller rib fragments displayed greening. The calcaneum had clearly been chopped; with the angle of the blow suggesting the carcass had been hung during this part of the butchering. A single fragment of rib from an unidentified species and another distal humerus from a sheep were recovered from the courtyard.

## 7. CONCLUSION

Despite the limited nature of the excavations, the monitoring of the groundworks has recovered additional information on the extent of the surviving earlier floor surfaces within the Great Hall. The work has added to our understanding of the development of the building and its use as an agricultural barn in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Finally, the identification of the medieval mortar fragment shows that even small-scale modern observations in areas of high disturbance are useful in furthering knowledge about the archaeological resource.

## 8. PROJECT ARCHIVE

The finds have been compiled into a fully integrated site archive which is currently held at Oakford Archaeology's offices under project number 1945, pending deposition with the client (RAMM 22/21). Details of the evaluation, including a pdf copy of the final report will be submitted to the on-line archaeological database OASIS (oakforda1-508283).

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This watching brief was commissioned by Chris Durban. The project was managed for Oakford Archaeology by Marc Steinmetzer. The fieldwork was carried out by Marc Steinmetzer and Michael Wootton; the illustrations for the report were prepared by Mike Wootton. The finds analysis was undertaken by John Allan and Marcie Weeks. Special thanks are hereby recorded to Owen Cambridge (ECC) who provided advice and support throughout the project and Tony Leech.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### Unpublished sources

- Steinmetzer, M. 2022 *Archaeological monitoring and recording at Bowhill, Dunsford Hill, Exeter, Devon*. Written Scheme of Investigation. Oakford Archaeology unpubl. client report.
- Steinmetzer, M 2007 *Archaeological evaluation of land to the rear of 137 and 137A Cowick Street, St Thomas, Exeter*. Exeter Archaeology Report 07-71.
- Hughes, S. 2011 *Land at 137-137a Cowick Street, St Thomas, Exeter, Devon*. AC Archaeology unpublished report series.

Weaver, S. 2007. *Archaeological Desk Based Assessment 137-137A Cowick Street, Exeter, Devon*. CgMs Consulting unpublished document).

### **Published sources**

- Allan, J. 1984 *Medieval and Post-medieval finds from Exeter*. Exeter Archaeological Reports 3.
- Blaylock, S. 2000 Excavation of an early post-medieval bronze foundry at Cowick Street, Exeter, 1999-2000, in *Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society* **58**, 1-92.).
- Blaylock, S. 2004 *Bowhill: the archaeological study of a building under repair in Exeter, Devon, 1977-95*. English Heritage Archaeology Reports.
- Cadell and Davies 1822 *Magna Britannia: Volume 6, Devonshire*. Pages 496-520
- Everett, A. W. 1958 *A Note on Bowhill, Exeter*. *Archaeological Journal*, Vol. 115.
- Gover, J.E.B., Mawer, A. & Stenton, F.M. 1931–2 *The Place-names of Devon*.
- Steinmetzer, M. 2007 *Archaeological evaluation of land to the rear of 137 and 137A Cowick Street, St Thomas, Exeter*, Exeter Archaeology Report No. 07-71.
- Thorn, C. & Thorn, F. (eds) 1985 *Domesday Book 9: Devon*.

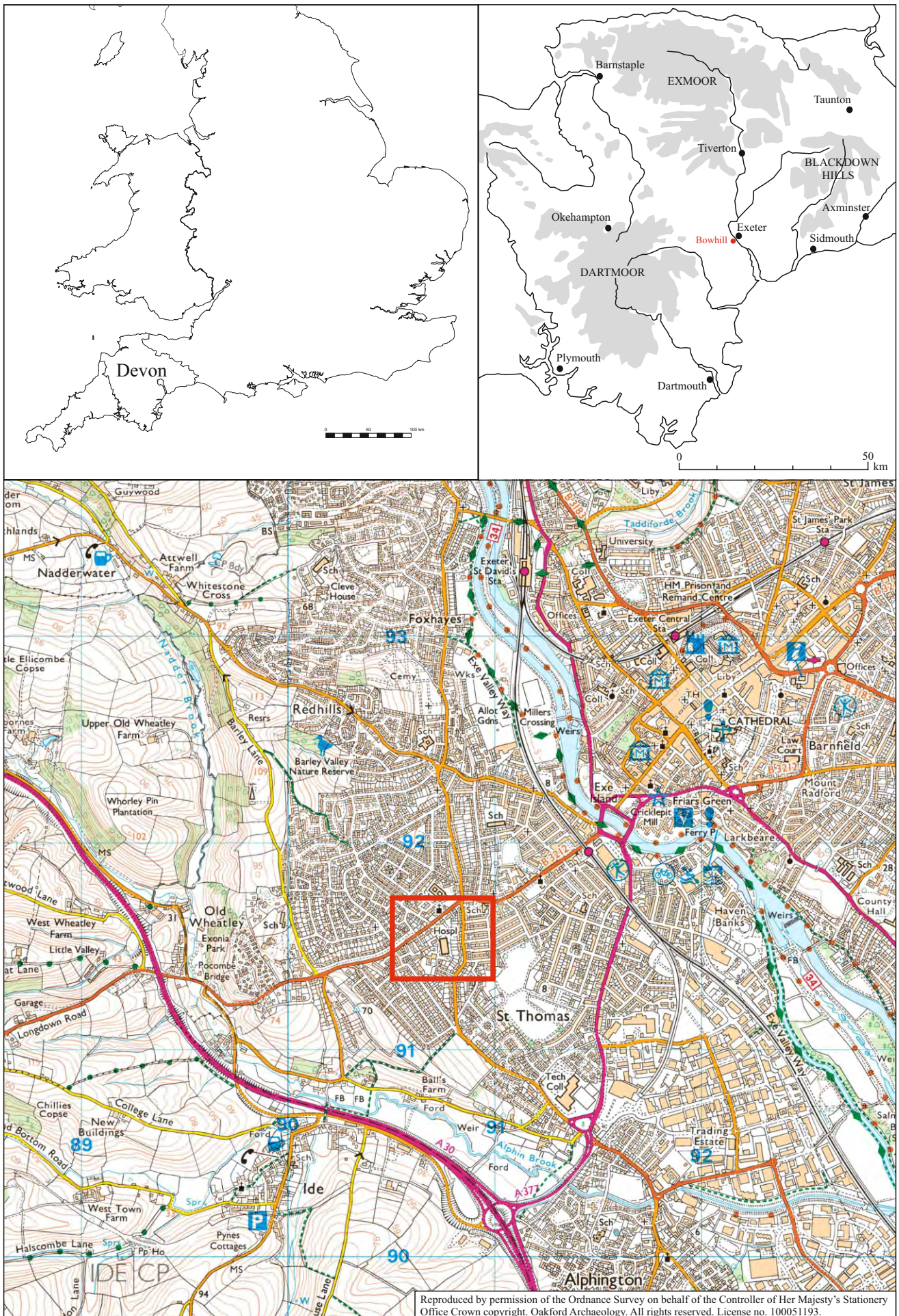


Fig. 1 Location of site.

Reproduced by permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office Crown copyright. Oakford Archaeology. All rights reserved. License no. 100051193.



Fig. 2 Detail from the 1838 St Thomas Parish Tithe Map.

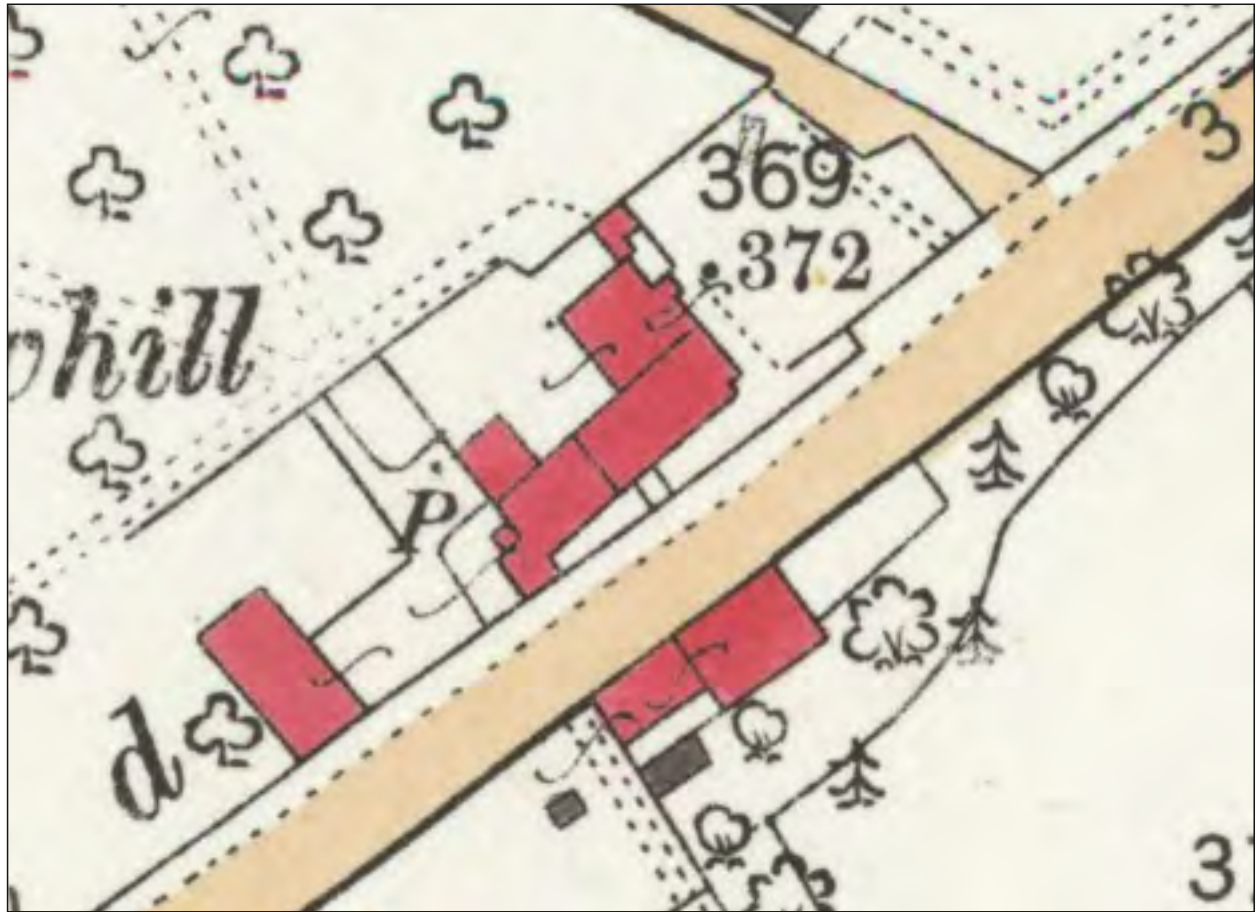


Fig. 3 Detail from the 1st edition 1890 Ordnance Survey Map Devonshire Sheet LXXX.9.

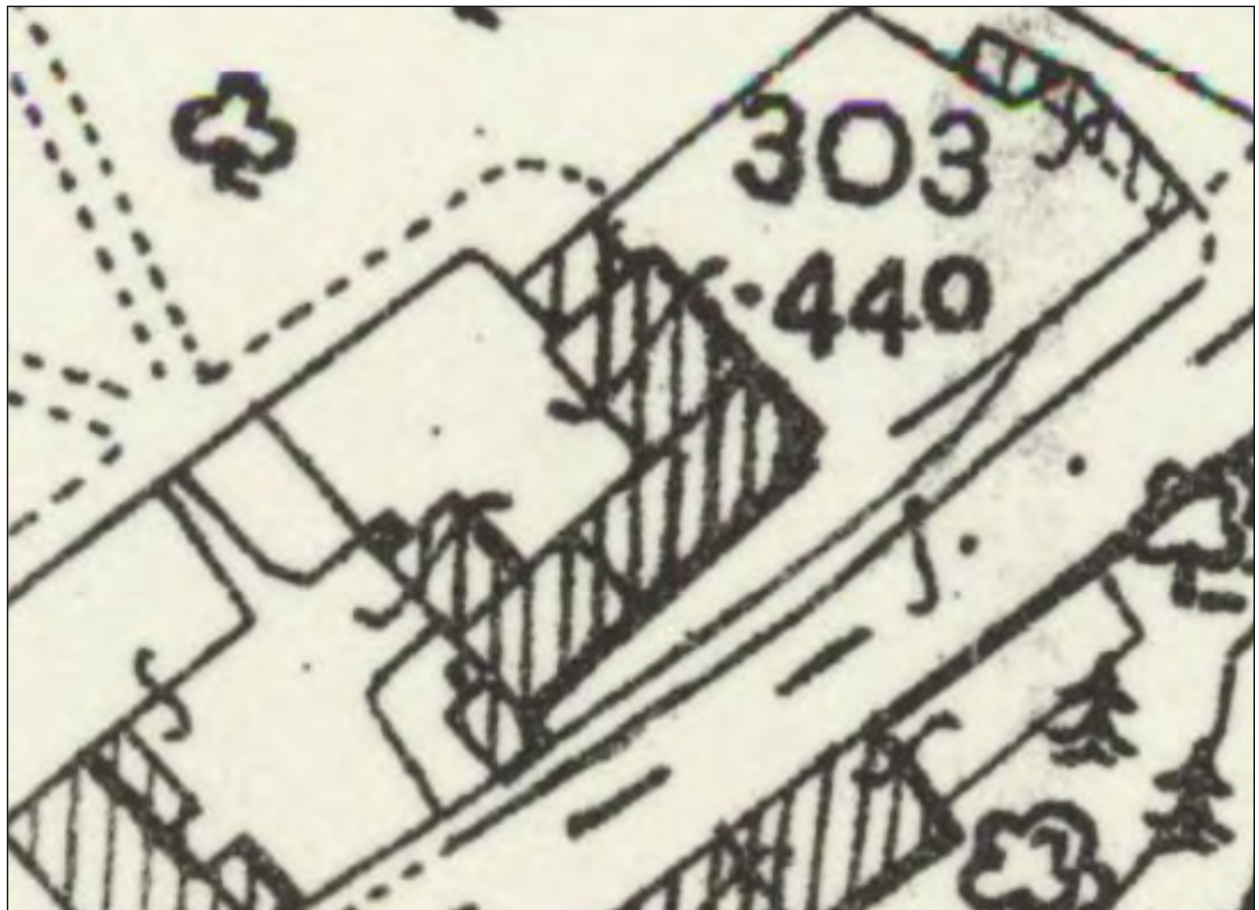


Fig. 4 Detail from the 2nd Edition 1905 Ordnance Survey Map Devonshire Sheet LXXX.9.

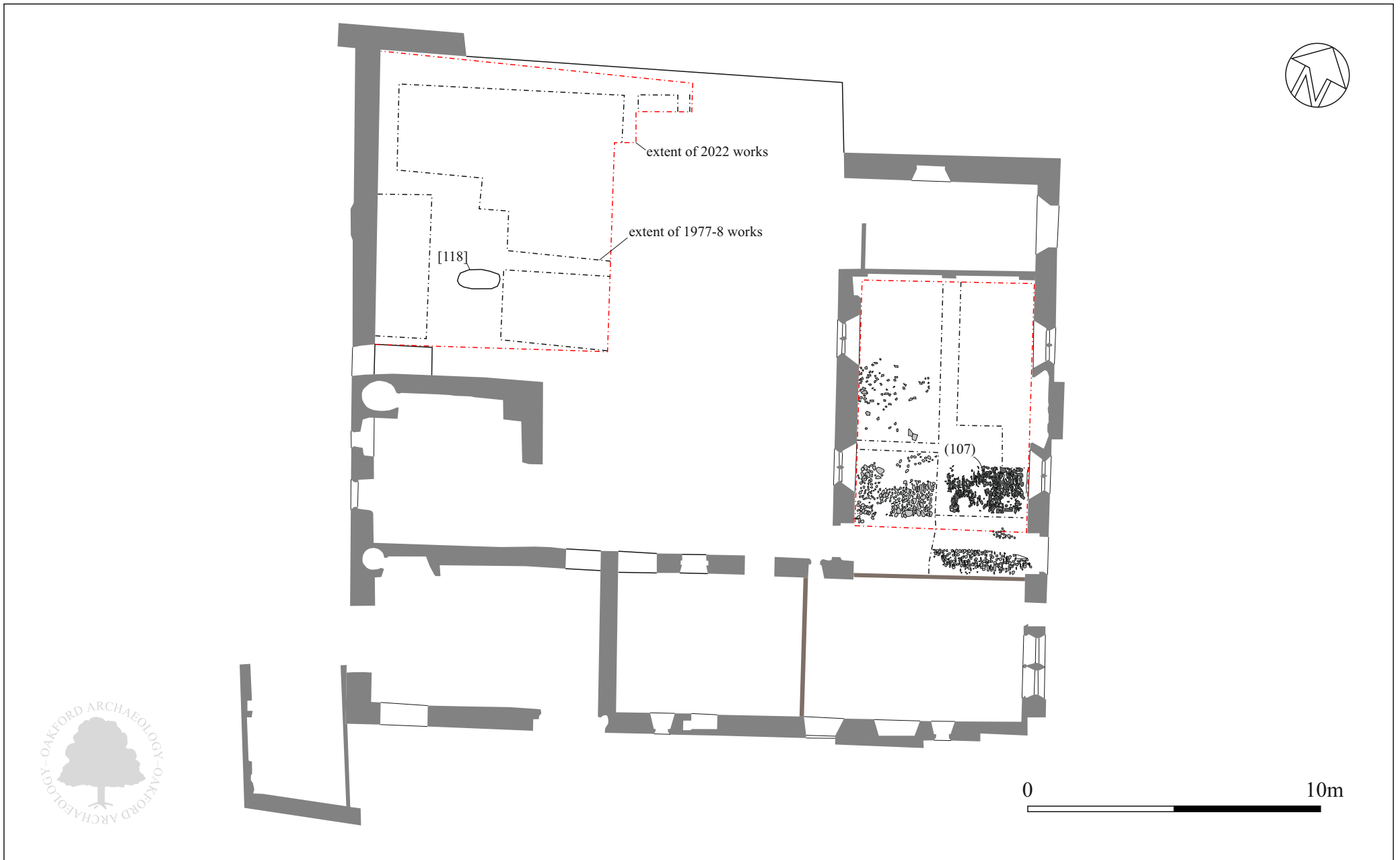


Fig. 5 Plan showing the location of observations at Bowhill in relation to the work undertaken in 1977-8 and 1989.



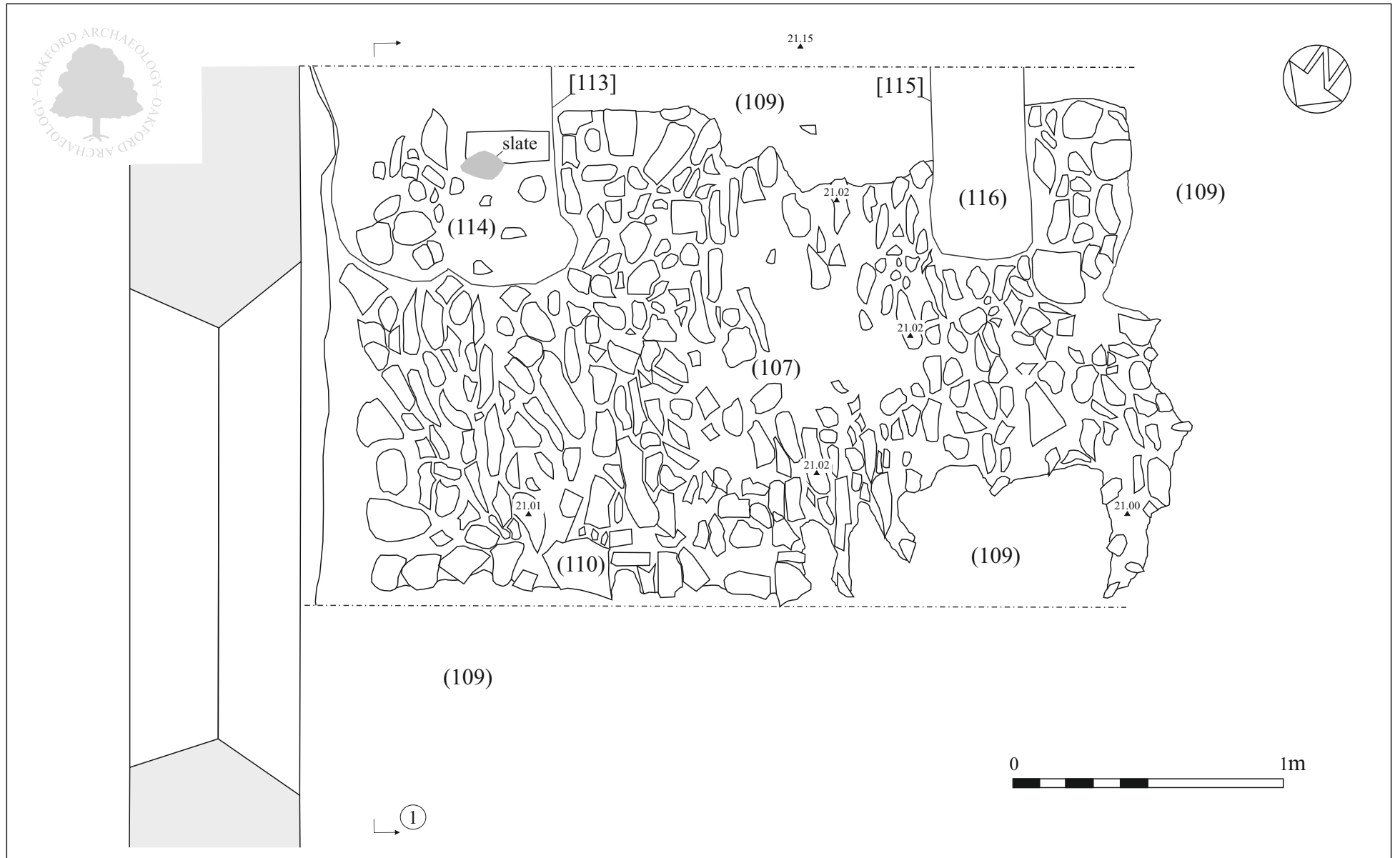


Fig. 6 Plan of cobbled floor (107).

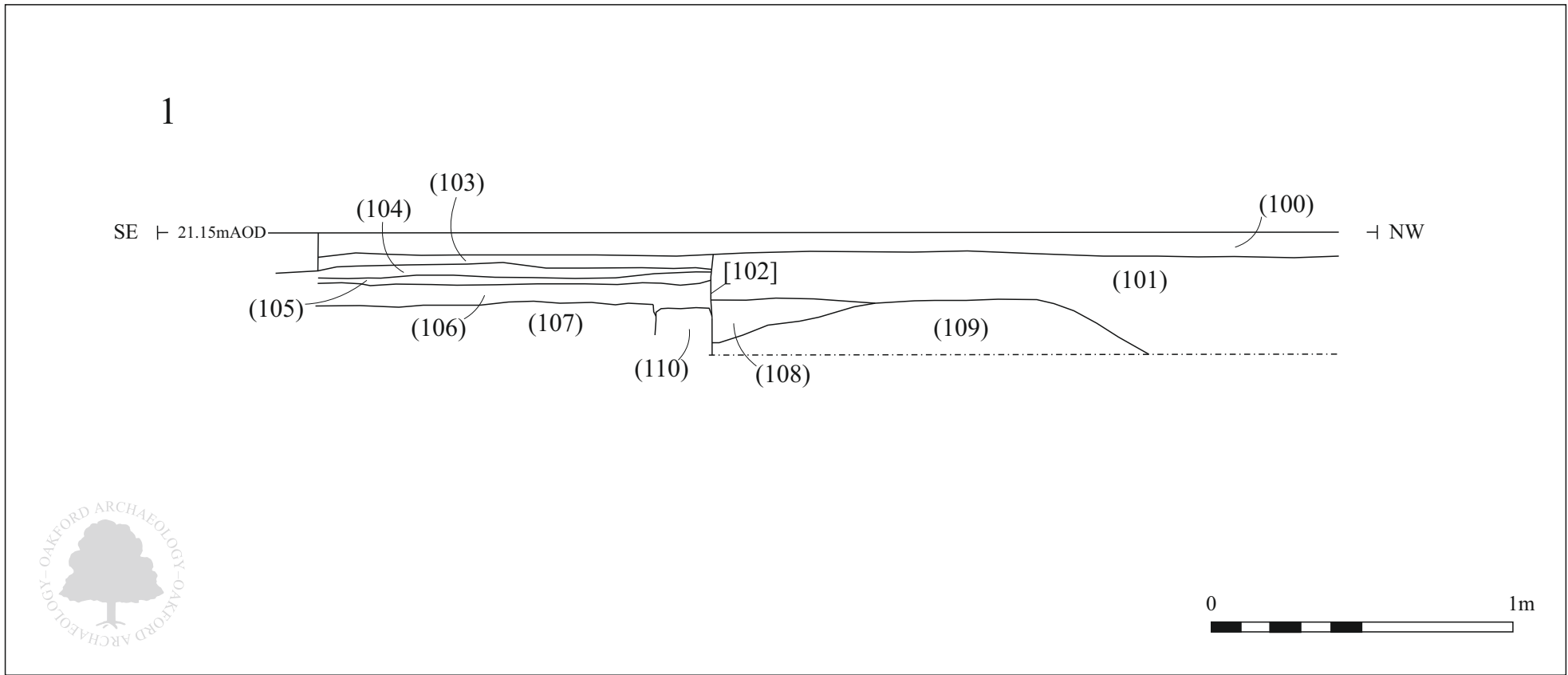


Fig. 7 Section through floor sequence within the Great Hall.



Fig. 8 Stone Mortar.



Pl. 1 General view of the cross passage showing newly exposed cobbled surface (107 - left) and the surface (2133 - right) exposed by the Department of the Environment in 1977. 1m scale. Looking southeast.



Pl. 2 Detail of cobbled surface (107). 2m scale. Looking northeast.



Pl. 3 Detail of the possible edging or sub-division (110) along the northwestern edge of cobbled surface (107). 1m scale. Looking southeast.



Pl. 4 Close-up showing cobbled surface (107) butting up to edging course (110). 0.25m scale. Looking southeast.



Pl. 5 General view of the underlying natural subsoil (109). 1m scales. Looking northeast.



Pl. 6 Close-up of post-hole [111]. 0.25m scale. Looking northwest.



Pl. 7 General view of cobbled surface (2133) previously exposed in 1977 by the Department of the Environment. 1m scale. Looking southwest.



Pl. 8 General view of the central courtyard showing the shallow excavations and sub-rounded feature (118). 2m scale. Looking west.



Pl. 9 General view of the central courtyard showing the shallow excavations and sub-rounded feature (118) in the foreground. 2m scale. Looking north.



Pl. 10 General view of the northern end of the courtyard excavations showing the location of a previously unrecorded excavation trench [119] from the 1977-8 excavations. 1m scale. Looking west.





Pl. 11 Section through the previously unrecorded trench [119] from the 1977-8 Department of the Environment excavations in the courtyard. 1m scale. Looking northwest.



Pl. 12 Close-up showing remains of the original late 15th-early 16th century foundations (far right) and the later c.1800 rebuilding and refacing (left and centre) of the former interior elevation of the west range. 1m scale. Looking west.

# Appendix 1

## Method statement

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document has been prepared by Oakford Archaeology (OA) for the client to describe the methodology to be used during archaeological monitoring and recording at Bowhill House, Dunsford Road, Exeter (SX 9065 9159). This document represents the 'Written Scheme of Investigation' for archaeological work required for approval under the grant of planning permission (16/0501/FUL) for the installation of a new floor and construction of a single-storey side extension and associated works. The work is required by Exeter City Council (ECC) as advised by the Principal Project Manager Heritage (PPMH).
- 1.2 The proposed works lies within the former Great Hall and the courtyard of the late medieval house, in an area that has been extensively excavated in 1977-8 and 1989. The previous work uncovered evidence for activity pre-dating the construction of Bowhill in c.1500, as well as extensive evidence for 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century activity. The Great Hall was converted to agricultural use in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

It is possible therefore that the proposed groundworks have the potential to expose and destroy archaeological and artefactual deposits associated with medieval and later activity in the area.

## 2. AIMS

- 2.1 The aim of the project is to investigate and record any buried archaeological deposits exposed during groundworks associated with the development, and to report on the results of the project, as appropriate.

## 3. METHOD

The PPMH has required that a watching brief be undertaken during all groundworks, and monitoring will take place on all excavations that are likely to expose archaeological deposits.

- 3.1 Liaison will be established with the client and their contractor prior to the works commencing, in order to obtain details of the works programme and to advise on OA requirements. If a good working relationship is established at the outset, any delays resulting from archaeological recording can be kept to a minimum. However, localised delays to site operations may be caused and time should be allowed within the main contractor's programme for the adequate investigation and recording of archaeological deposits.
- 3.2 All machining will be carried out under direct archaeological control, using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. Machining will proceed in spits and will cease if archaeological deposits are exposed in order to allow those deposits to be investigated, excavated and recorded. This may cause localised delays to the groundworks programme, although every

effort will be made to keep any such delays to a minimum. If no such deposits are present then, once natural subsoil has been confirmed, or formation/invert level reached, across the whole of the development area, archaeological monitoring will be terminated. Similarly, if it can be demonstrated that there has been significant modern truncation, then archaeological monitoring will be terminated in these areas.

3.3 If archaeological features are present, then hand-excavation will normally comprise:

- The full excavation of all features and structures to formation level;
- Spoil will also be examined for the recovery of artefacts.

Should the above percentage excavation not yield sufficient information to allow the form and function of archaeological features/deposits to be determined, full excavation of such features/deposits will be required. Additional excavation may also be required for the taking of palaeo-environmental samples and the recovery of artefacts.

#### *General project methods*

3.4 All spoil from the excavations will be scanned for finds and, in addition, scanned with a metal detector.

3.5 If environmental deposits are encountered during the works, these will be assessed on site by a suitably qualified archaeologist, with advice as necessary from Allen Environmental Archaeology or the Historic England Regional Science Advisor, to determine the possible yield (if any) of environmental or microfaunal evidence, and its potential for radiocarbon dating. If deposits potential survives, these would be processed by Allen Environmental Archaeology (AEA) using the current HE guidance and Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation (Historic England, second edition, August 2011), and outside specialists (AEA) organised to undertake further assessment and analysis as appropriate.

3.6 Initial cleaning, conservation, packaging and any stabilisation or longer-term conservation measures will be undertaken in accordance with relevant professional guidance (specifically 'First Aid for Finds' Watkinson, D and Neal V, (London: Rescue/UKICAS 2001) and ClfA 2014 'Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials') and on advice provided by A Hopper-Bishop, Specialist Services Officer, RAM Museum, Exeter.

3.7 Should artefacts be exposed that fall within the scope of Treasure Act 1996 and The Treasure (Designation) Order 2002, then these will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner, Exeter City Council, the Devon Finds Liaison Officer, and HE, according to the procedures relating to the legislation. The location of treasure items will be recorded with an EDM (as per 4.1 above), and, where removal cannot be effected on the same working

day as the discovery, suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft.

- 3.8 Should any articulated human remains be exposed; these will initially be left *in situ*. If removal at either this or a later stage in the archaeological works is deemed necessary, these will then be fully excavated and removed from the site subject to the compliance with the relevant Ministry of Justice Licence, which will be obtained by OA on behalf of the client. Any remains will be excavated in accordance with the CIfA Standards for Recording Human Remains (Piers D Mitchell and Megan Brickley, CIfA 2017). Where appropriate bulk samples will be collected.
- 3.9 The project will be organised so that specialist consultants who might be required to conserve artefacts or report on other aspects of the investigations can be called upon (see below).
- 3.10 Health and Safety requirements will be observed at all times by archaeological staff working on site, particularly when machinery is operating nearby. Personal protective equipment (safety boots, helmets and high visibility vests) will be worn by staff when plant is operating on site. A risk assessment will be prepared prior to work commencing.
- 3.11 PPMH will be informed of the start of the project and will monitor progress throughout on behalf of the planning authority. A date of completion of all archaeological site work will be confirmed with PPMH, and the timescale of the completion of items under section 5 will run from that date.

#### 4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

- 4.1 The standard OA recording system will be employed, consisting of:
  - standardised single context record sheets; survey drawings, plans and sections at scales 1:10, 1:20, 1:50 as appropriate;
  - colour digital photography;
  - survey and location of finds, deposits or archaeological features, using EDM surveying equipment and software where appropriate;
  - labelling and bagging of finds on site from all excavated levels, post-1800 unstratified pottery may be discarded on site with a small sample retained for dating evidence as required.

#### 5. REPORTING AND ARCHIVING

- 5.1 The reporting requirements will be confirmed with the PPMH on completion of the site work. If little or no significant archaeology is exposed then reporting will consist of a completed ECC HER entry, including a plan showing location of groundworks and of any significant features found. The text entry and plan will be produced in an appropriate electronic format

suitable for easy incorporation into the HER and sent to the PPMH within 3 months of the date of completion of all archaeological fieldwork.

5.2 Should significant deposits be exposed the results of all phases of archaeological work will be presented within one summary report within six months of the date of completion of all archaeological fieldwork. Any summary report will contain the following elements as appropriate:

- location plan and overall site plans showing the positions of the excavations and the distribution of archaeological features within them;
- copies of any relevant historic maps and plans;
- a written description of the exposed features and deposits and a discussion and interpretation of their character and significance in the context of the known history of the site;
- plans and sections at appropriate scales showing the exact location and character of significant archaeological deposits and features;
- a selection of photographs illustrating the principal features and deposits found;
- specialist assessments and reports as appropriate, including if necessary (see 5.6 below) an outline of, and timetable for the completion of, any further work required to bring the most important results to wider publication.

5.3 A .pdf version of the report will be produced and distributed to the Client and HE on completion of sitework. A copy of the .pdf version will also be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS).

5.4 An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared with reference to *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* (2015) upon completion of the project.

The archive will consist of two elements, the artefactual and digital - the latter comprising all born-digital (data images, survey data, digital correspondence, site data collected digitally etc.) and digital copies of the primary site records and images, compiled in accordance with the ADS Guidelines for Depositors (2021).

The digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) within 6 months of the completion of site work, while the artefactual element will be deposited with the Royal Albert Memorial Museum (RAMM 22/21). The hardcopy of the archive will be offered to the Royal Albert Memorial Museum and if not required will be disposed of by OA.

OA will notify HE upon the deposition of the digital archive with the ADS, and the deposition of the material (finds) archive with the Royal Albert Memorial Museum.

5.5 If the fieldwork does not expose deposits of archaeological interest and yields little or no artefactual material, then no archive will be prepared or deposited. The results of the fieldwork will be held by the Devon County Historic

Environment Record in the form of the final report and the creation of an OASIS entry and uploading of the report online by ADS.

- 5.6 A .pdf copy of the updated summary report will be submitted, together with the site details, to the national OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological investigationS) database within three months of the completion of site work (oakforda1- 508283).
- 5.7 Should particularly significant remains, finds and/or deposits be encountered, then these, owing to their importance, are likely to merit wider publication in line with government planning guidance. If such remains are encountered, the publication requirements – including any further analysis that may be necessary – will be confirmed with the PPMH, in consultation with the Client. OA, on behalf of the Client, will then implement publication in accordance with a timescale agreed with the Client and the PPMH. This will be within 12 months of the completion of all phases of archaeological site work unless otherwise agreed in writing.

## 6. CONFLICT WITH OTHER CONDITIONS AND STATUTORILY PROTECTED SPECIES

- 6.1 If topsoil stripping or groundworks are being undertaken under the direct control and supervision of the archaeological contractor then it is the archaeological contractor's responsibility - in consultation with the developer and/or site owner - to ensure that the required archaeological works do not conflict with any other conditions that have been imposed upon the consent granted and should also consider any biodiversity issues as covered by the NERC Act 2006. In particular, such conflicts may arise where archaeological investigations/excavations have the potential to have an impact upon protected species and/or natural habitats e.g. SSSIs, National Nature Reserves, Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Ramsar sites, County Wildlife Sites etc.

## 7. COPYRIGHT

- 7.1 OA shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved, excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in this document.

## 8. PROJECT ORGANISATION

- 8.1 The project will be undertaken by suitably qualified and experienced archaeologists, in accordance with the Code of Conduct and relevant standards and guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (*Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*, 2014, revised 2020, the

*Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation*, 2014). The project will be managed by Marc Steinmetzer. Oakford Archaeology is managed by a Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

### ***Health & Safety***

- 8.2 All monitoring works within this scheme will be carried out in accordance with current *Safe Working Practices (The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974)*.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

#### *Specialists contributors and advisors*

The expertise of the following specialists can be called upon if required:

*Bone artefact analysis: Ian Riddler;*

*Bird remains: Matilda Holmes;*

*Dating techniques: Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre;*

*Charcoal identification: Dana Challinor;*

*Diatom analysis: Nigel Cameron (UCL);*

*Environmental data: AEA;*

*Faunal remains: Lorraine Higbee (Wessex);*

*Finds conservation: Alison Hopper-Bishop (Exeter Museums);*

*Fish remains: Hannah Russ, Sheila Hamilton-Dyer;*

*Faunal remains: Michael Wootton;*

*Human remains: Charlotte Coles, Mandy Kingdom;*

*Lithic analysis: Linda Hurcombe (Exeter University);*

*Medieval and post-medieval finds: John Allan, Marcie Weeks;*

*Metallurgy: Gill Juleff (Exeter University);*

*Numismatics: Norman Shiel (Exeter);*

*Petrology/geology: Roger Taylor (RAM Museum), Imogen Morris;*

*Plant remains: Lisa Gray;*

*Prehistoric pottery: Henrietta Quinnell (Exeter);*

*Roman finds: Paul Bidwell & associates (Arbeia Roman Fort, South Shields);*

*Others: Wessex Archaeology Specialist Services Team*

**M Wootton**  
**24 April 2022**  
**WSI/OA1945/01**



## Appendix 2: Finds quantification

Context	Feature	Spot date	Quantity	Weight	Notes
U/S	Courtyard		37		1 sherd South Somerset ?jug with mottled glaze (?14 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> century); 5 clay pipe stem fragments (post-1660); 1 sherd North Devon gravel tempered, rim (17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> century); 1 sherd ?South Somerset redware (18 <sup>th</sup> century); 2 sherds wheelthrown stoneware bottle including base sherd (18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> century); 1 complete glass “LEA & PERRINS WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE” (1880-1910); 5 sherds thin clear glass and 1 sherd aqua clear glass (19 <sup>th</sup> century); 1 sherd flower pot (19 <sup>th</sup> c.); 1 sherd stoneware vessel base with yellow and white glaze, cider flagon (19 <sup>th</sup> – early 20 <sup>th</sup> century); 1 sherd white glass (late 19 <sup>th</sup> – early 20 <sup>th</sup> century); 10 sherds industrial wares, including whiteware, creamware, and transfer ware (19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century); 3 sherds salt glaze earthenware including 1 large vessel base and 1 ?jar neck sherd with brown glaze, 1 sherd and 1 sherd bottle with partial neck (19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century); 2 sherds miscellaneous redwares; 2 fragments animal bone; 1 fragment roof slate with peg or nail hole.
U/S	Great Hall		30		4 clay pipe stem fragments (post-1660); 1 sherd North Devon plain slipware small bowl base sherd (18 <sup>th</sup> century); 1 sherd English green bottle glass (18 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century); 1 sherd redware pot rim ?South Somerset (18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> century); 8 sherds redware ceramic building material including nib tile (19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century); 12 sherds industrial wares including whitewares, transferware and 1 sherd with a gilded pattern (19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century); 1 sherd stoneware with yellow glaze (19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century); 1 sherd unidentified coarse stoneware with “90°” or “.06” stamped onto surface; 1 sherd clear drinking glass stem.
101			69		1 fragment metamorphic stone (?Devon or Cornwall volcanic stone) mortar including handle, with “piked” surface and chiselled rim (13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> century); 5 clay pipe stem fragments (post-1660); 2 sherds import Chinese porcelain (1690-1750); 2 sherds North Devon gravel tempered (17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> century); 2 sherds delftware (late 17 <sup>th</sup> – mid 18 <sup>th</sup> century); 1 sherd German stoneware bottle (1700-1750); 3 sherds English green bottle glass (1740-1850); 2 sherds South Somerset large vessel base, likely same vessel as (206) (18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> century); 2 sherds clear glass bottle including base (19 <sup>th</sup> century); 2 sherds clear aqua class including partial bottle neck and rim (19 <sup>th</sup> century); 23 sherds industrial ware including whitewares (transfer print and plain), flower pot and redwares (19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century); 1 sherd restoration slate tile with machine marks (1980-1990); 11 fragments animal bone; 7 iron nails of various sizes; 1 iron object formed of a flat strip with a hooked end and looped end; 2 small unidentified iron fragments; 2 sherds clear glass.

206			2		2 sherds South Somerset large vessel base, likely same vessel as (101) (18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> century).
Total			138		