

# *Archaeology Wales*

## **Bishop Wordsworth Grammar School Salisbury, Wiltshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief



By  
Chris E Smith BA (Hons) MA MIfA  
Report No. 1263

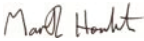
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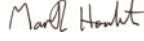
# Archaeology Wales

## Bishop Wordsworth Grammar School Salisbury, Wiltshire

### Archaeological Watching Brief

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Date: October 2014

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# Non-Technical Summary

*This report results from work undertaken by Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) for Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd, Llanidloes, Powys, at Bishop Wordsworth Grammar School Academy, Salisbury. It draws upon the results gained by an archaeological Watching Brief during groundworks associated with the erection of a new food technology structure to the north of the existing Dining Hall. The assessment area is located within the school grounds close to the site of Salisbury Cathedral.*

*The watching brief was maintained during the excavation of foundation trenches and new service runs. A dark brown/black, heavily waterlogged silt deposit was found to overlie the natural within the area of the watching brief. A gully, possibly cut in an attempt to drain the area, was also located. No continuation of the medieval drain previously observed to the east by Blockley (2011) was seen.*

## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 In July 2014 Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) carried out an archaeological watching brief on an area to the north of the Dining Hall within the buildings complex of Bishop Wordsworth Grammar School Academy in Salisbury, Wiltshire, on behalf of Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd (CAP). Work was undertaken prior to erection of a new structure comprising a single storey food technology building.
- 1.1.2 The footprint of the new structure was comprised of approximately 40m of foundation trenches up to 1m in width. The area of the development was centred on NGR SU 14459 29518 (Fig 1).
- 1.1.3 A Specification for the work was drawn up by Kevin Blockley (CAP) and subsequently approved by M Pomeroy-Kellinger, County Archaeologist with Wiltshire County Council.
- 1.1.4 The watching brief took place during all foundation trench excavations associated with the development (Fig 2).

### 1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The underlying solid geology of the area is comprised of chalk, including red chalk, of the Cretaceous period. The solid geology is overlain by loamy and clayey floodplain soils with naturally high groundwater (Geological Survey Map, 2001).
- 1.2.2 The site lies on a relatively flat plateau of land located on the floodplain of the river Nadder at the bottom of a shallow east-west running valley, approximately 70m from the site of Salisbury Cathedral.

### **1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background**

1.3.1 A detailed study of the historical background to the assessment area is presented within Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd desk based assessment of the area (Blockley, 2010).

1.3.2 A total of six archaeological investigations have previously been undertaken within the Bishop Wordsworth school area (Blockley, 2010). These are listed below:

- Excavation in 1962. This work was undertaken prior to construction of the school's swimming pool, south-west of the study area, and located traces of the Bishop's Stables built in 1843.
- Evaluation trenching in 1994. Six hand-dug and five machine-dug trenches were excavated to evaluate the area for development. Three of the trenches located possible medieval and post-medieval walls.
- Recording of the Close Wall in 1998. Recording was undertaken by Tim Tatton-Brown, in relation to repairs being carried out on the walls external facing masonry.
- Evaluation trenching in 2001. Three trenches were excavated to evaluate the area for development. No significant finds were made.
- Evaluation trenching in 2002. A single trench was excavated on the site of the Bishop's Stables built in 1843 and demolished in 1965.
- Evaluation trench in 2011. A single trench was excavated close to the Close Wall noting the presence of a medieval drain.

## **2 Aims and Objectives**

### **2.1 Watching Brief**

2.1.1 The watching brief was undertaken:

- To allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works.
- To provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.

- The main objective of a watching brief is to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on a site.

## **3 Methodology**

### **3.1 Watching Brief**

- 3.1.1 Excavation of foundation and service trenches, along with reduction in ground levels where applicable, was undertaken by mechanical excavator under close archaeological supervision. Exposed areas were subsequently cleaned by hand using a pointing trowel or hoe.
- 3.1.2 The on-site work was undertaken by Andrew Shobbrook. The overall management of the project was undertaken by Chris E Smith (MifA). All areas were photographed using high resolution digital photography
- 3.1.3 All on-site illustrations were undertaken on drafting film using recognised conventions and scales (1:10, 1:20, 1:50) as appropriate.
- 3.1.4 All works were undertaken in accordance with the IfA's *Standards and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (2011) and current Health and Safety legislation.

### **3.2 Finds**

- 3.2.1 A total of 130 finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and bagged by context.

### **3.3 Palaeo-Environmental Evidence**

- 3.3.1 Bulk environmental samples of the waterlogged horizon (1004/1013) were taken during the course of the watching brief. These have been retained to form part of the site archive should any processing be required in the future. This will be added to the report as an addendum.

## **4 Watching Brief Results**

### **4.1 Soils & Overburden Deposits**

- 4.1.1 All of the areas of excavation were sealed beneath a modern 0.05m thick concrete horizon located above approximately 0.2m of small stone and rubble hardcore.
- 4.1.2 The subsoil deposits were composed of mid to dark brown heavy clay silt with small gravel, ceramic building material and plaster inclusions.
- 4.1.3 Where exposed, the deposits taken to represent natural were made up of a firmly compacted gravelly clay consistent with local floodplain deposits.

## **4.2 Ground Conditions**

- 4.2.1 The watching brief was undertaken during a period of warm and sunny weather with good light conditions.
- 4.2.2 The excavations, once carried out below a certain depth, became wet as the water table was encountered.

## **4.3 Watching Brief Areas**

- 4.3.1 The area of the watching brief consisted largely of the footprint of the proposed structure, which measured approximately 20x20m. The total length of the foundation trenches monitored during the watching brief totalled 40m.
- 4.3.2 A context register is contained within Appendix 3.

## **4.4 Description (Plates 1-14, Figs 2&3)**

- 4.4.1 The area of the new structure (app 20x20m) was reduced in level by mechanical excavator. Removal of concrete and hardcore deposits was undertaken by mechanical excavator under close archaeological supervision. This revealed a mixed mid to dark brown heavy clay silt subsoil with frequent CBM, rubble and small subrounded stone inclusions (1007). Dateable finds from this horizon included post-medieval glazed and unglazed ceramics/roof tile as well as later 18<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> century clay tobacco pipe.
- 4.4.2 The subsoil horizon was approximately 0.2 to 0.25m in thickness and was ubiquitous across the site. It was located above a lighter brown clay subsoil deposit with frequent CBM deposits (1006). This was also 0.2 to 0.25m in thickness although was not located uniformly across all exposed areas. No dateable finds were recovered from this horizon.
- 4.4.3 Located beneath the light brown subsoil (1006) was a further subsoil horizon (1005) very similar in both appearance and inclusions to (1007). No dateable finds were recovered from this horizon.
- 4.4.4 Located beneath subsoil horizon (1005) was a further dark brown/black deposit composed of very heavy waterlogged silt (1013/1004). This was located towards the base of the trench and was sat above a compact natural gravelly clay (1000). The waterlogged deposits were located very close to the water table as their removal gave rise to small areas of flooding. Waterlogged finds including hazelnuts and a possible leather belt were recovered from this horizon as well as animal bones and likely medieval roof tile fragments.
- 4.4.5 Exposure of the natural gravelly grey clay at the base of trench, at a depth of between 1.2 and 1.3m below the current ground surface, showed a narrow (less than 1m wide) gully feature cut into it. The gully [1001], where exposed, measured 1m in width and was aligned north to south. When its course was projected in a straight line it did not appear in further foundation trench excavations suggesting a likely terminus within the centre of the new structures footprint.



- 4.4.6 Excavation of the gully [1001] showed it to be a flat bottomed feature, cut into the natural clay (1000) and containing only a single fill (1002). Finds from the fill included unglazed ceramic roof tiles of likely medieval date. Not enough of the feature was exposed for a function to be ascertained although as it was overlain by the waterlogged horizon (1013/1004) and, given its very flat base, it may have been utilised for drainage of the area.
- 4.4.7 Located immediately adjacent to the gully feature [1001] was a pit feature [1008] noted in section. It was seen to cut through subsoil horizon (1005) and the waterlogged horizon (1013/1004). It contained only a single dark silty fill (1009) which contained medieval/post-medieval ceramic roof tiles. The feature was overlain by a later subsoil horizon (1006).
- 4.4.8 Modern, though now defunct, services were located in several areas of the foundation trench.

#### **4.5 Finds**

- 4.5.1 A total of 130 finds were recovered and retained during the watching brief from a total of 7 contexts (as well as unstratified finds). A finds catalogue by context number is contained within Appendix 4.
- 4.5.2 The most frequent find within the assemblage with a total of 90 fragments was that of ceramic tile/building material of likely both medieval and post-medieval dates.
- 4.5.3 Waterlogged finds of potential significance including wood, leather and hazelnut were also retained. These are very likely to be medieval in date given associated finds and context.

#### **4.6 Specialist Ceramics Report**

- 4.6.1 The following is a specialist report on the ceramics recovered during the watching brief. It has been compiled by Paul Blinkhorn.

##### **4.6.2 Pottery**

The pottery assemblage comprised 9 sherds with a total weight of 300g. The following fabric types were noted:

**LAV: Laverstock ware** (Musty et al. 1969). 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> century. Buff fabric with sub-rounded quartz up to 2 mm, most less than 1 mm, some red iron. Mainly glazed jugs, some highly decorated, with plain, more developed vessel forms appearing in the later medieval period. 1 sherd, 2g.

**VER: Verwood Ware**, mid 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century. White ware with well-sorted, fine quartz inclusions and a pale-yellowish-green glaze (Brown 2002, 21). 5 sherds, 220g.

**MOD: Miscellaneous 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century wares.** Mass-produced white earthenwares, stonewares etc. 3 sherds, 78g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of fabric types is fairly typical of excavations in Salisbury (eg. Mephram 2000), and shows most of the activity at the site is of post-medieval date, although the single sherd of plain, glazed Laverstock Ware is likely to be late medieval *ie* of 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> century date, although due to its small size, it could conceivably be from an undecorated area of a 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century vessel.. The sherds of Verwood Ware are mainly from glazed bowls, which is typical of the tradition.

*Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type*

Cntxt	LAV		VER		MOD		Date
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
U/S			2	60			U/S
1007			2	148	3	78	19thC
1010			1	12			M17thC
1012	1	2					15thC
Total	1	2	5	220	3	78	

### Roof Tile

Eight fragments of glazed roof tile occurred, with the only stratified examples occurring in context 1011. The following fabrics were noted:

**GRT1:** Knife-cut ‘Cock’s Comb’ ridge tile fragment (weight = 160g), and two fragments of a flat tile (weight = 210g). Moderate to dense fine sand with sparse sub-rounded red ironstone up to 3mm. The ridge tile had a grey fabric with orange surfaces and apple green glaze with copper-speckling, whereas the flat tile had a uniform orange fabric and a clear orange glaze

**GRT2:** Knife-cut ‘Cock’s Comb’ ridge tile. Fairly hard fabric with slightly sandy texture but few visible inclusions other than sub-rounded ironstone up to 5mm. Glossy, variegated orange and green glaze. Yellow-orange with darker surfaces. 1 fragment, 153g.

**GRT3:** Ridge tile. Slightly sandy fabric with few visible inclusions. Grey with orange surfaces. Apple green glaze. 1 fragment, 67g.

**GRT4:** ?Flat tile. Hard, uniform orange sandy fabric. Sparse angular white flint up to 2mm. Orange glaze with green copper-speckling. 1 fragment, 62g.

Two further unstratified fragments of glazed flat roof tile were noted. Both had fabrics similar to GRT1. One fragment weighed 119g and had an even apple green glaze and

less sand in the fabric, the other weighed 216g and had a denser concentration of larger, more angular (up to 10mm) ironstone fragments and a clear orange glaze.

A number of unglazed, flat roof-tile fragments, all in fabrics similar to GRT1 were also noted. Their occurrence is shown in Table 2. Three of the fragments from context 1011 had peg-holes, as did two from context 1004. Six further fragments (778g) were unstratified, and appear to be of early modern or modern date.

*Table 2: Occurrence of unglazed flat roof-tiles*

Context	No. Frags	Wt Frags
1002	2	74g
1004	27	1106g
1007	1	6g
1009	1	28g
1010	4	143g
1011	18	801g
1012	21	1032g
Total	74	3190g

The tiles with the sand-and-ironstone fabrics could be products of the medieval kilns at Laverstock, where glazed ridge and flat tiles occurred, and in similar fabrics (Musty et al 1969, 139-142). Some of the Laverstock tiles also had flint inclusions, so it is entirely likely that all the tiles from this site are of such type, which is perhaps unsurprising given that the industry was the main supplier of pottery to the city throughout the medieval period. However, similar fabrics are commonly found in south-east Wiltshire and west Hampshire, and a number of possible sources for roof tiles are documented from the mid-late 14th century, including Alderbury, just 5km from Salisbury (Hare 1991, Table 1).

From archaeological evidence, the tiles could be as early as the mid-late 13<sup>th</sup> century (ibid., 88), and although the industry saw its greatest period of expansion in the 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> centuries (ibid. 99), they could have been deposited much later than their date of manufacture. Musty (1969, 139) noted that some standing buildings in Salisbury still had medieval tiles on their roofs in the 1960s.

#### *Brick*

A single fragment of hand-made brick weighing 670g occurred in context 1010. It is 61mm thick, and is a similar sand-and-ironstone fabric to the tiles. Bricks of such thickness are known in London from the late 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> century (Smith 2004, 258).

## **5 Discussion and Interpretation**

### **5.1 Overall interpretation**

- 5.1.1 The stratigraphic sequence exposed in the foundation trenches of the watching brief appears to show that the earliest levels (1004/1013) in this area were very wet. The levels show up as very heavy and waterlogged silt located above the natural clay (1000).
- 5.1.2 Gully [1001] may have been excavated in an attempt to drain the area and is likely to be medieval in date based on the ceramic roof tiles within its single fill (1002).
- 5.1.3 The pit feature [1008] is definitely of a later date than the gully [1001] though whether it is of late medieval or post-medieval date is unclear.
- 5.1.4 The sequence of subsoil horizons (1007,1006, 1005) containing similar inclusions and overlying the waterlogged deposits (1004/1013) may represent an effort to raise the ground level in the area above the water table.
- 5.1.5 The line of the east-west aligned medieval drain, located to the east of the site by Blockley (2011), was not observed within any of the foundation trench excavations.
- 5.1.6 The ceramics analysis has shown no material within the assemblage to date from earlier than the mid-13<sup>th</sup> century.

### **5.2 Acknowledgements**

- 5.2.1 Thanks are due to: Andy Shobbrook (AW) for undertaking the Watching Brief and to Duygu Riley (Salisbury Diocesan Board of Finance) and Kevin Blockley (CAP) for valuable liaising.

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# *Archaeology Wales*

## **APPENDIX I:** Figures

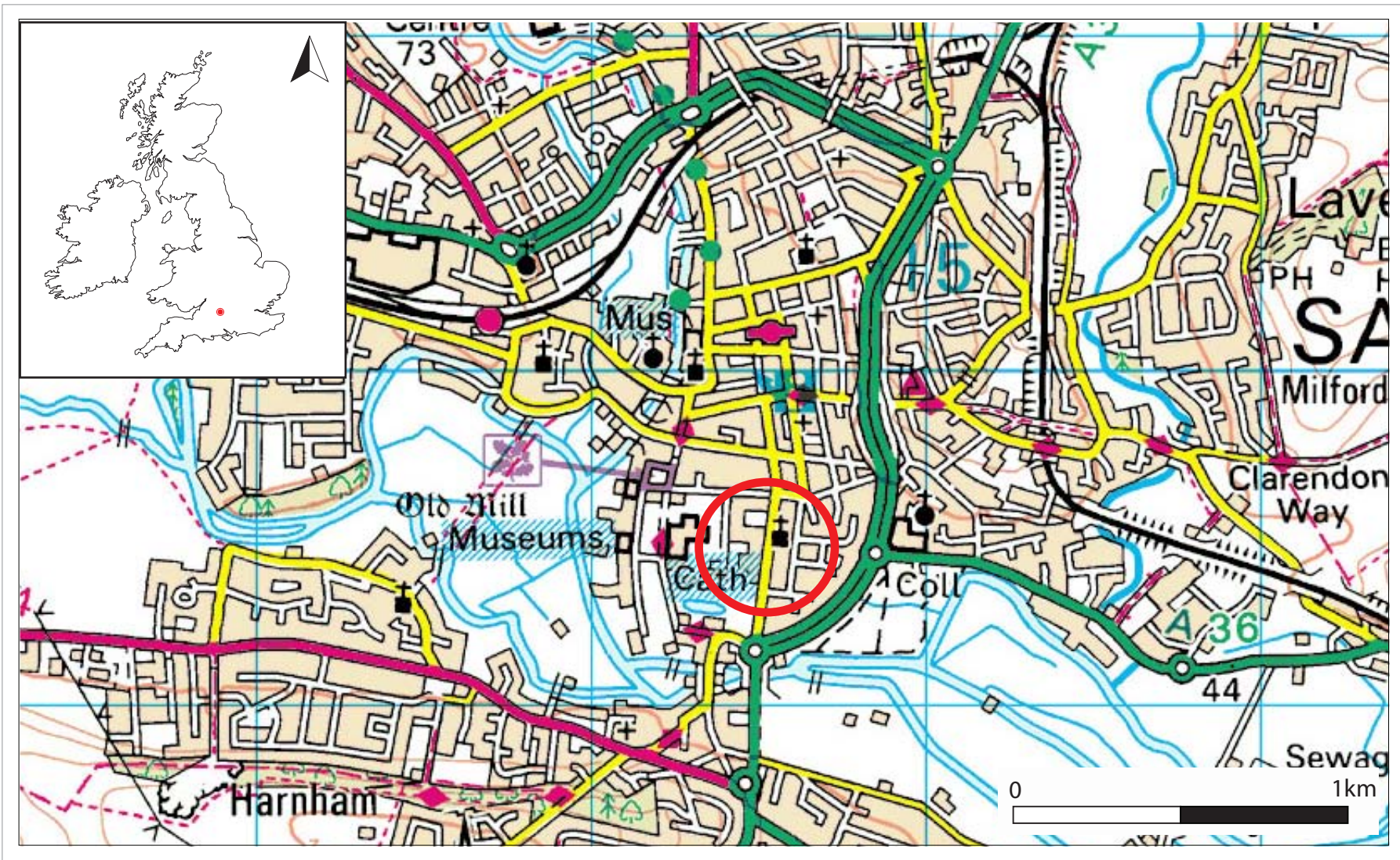


Fig 1: Figure showing location of assessment area



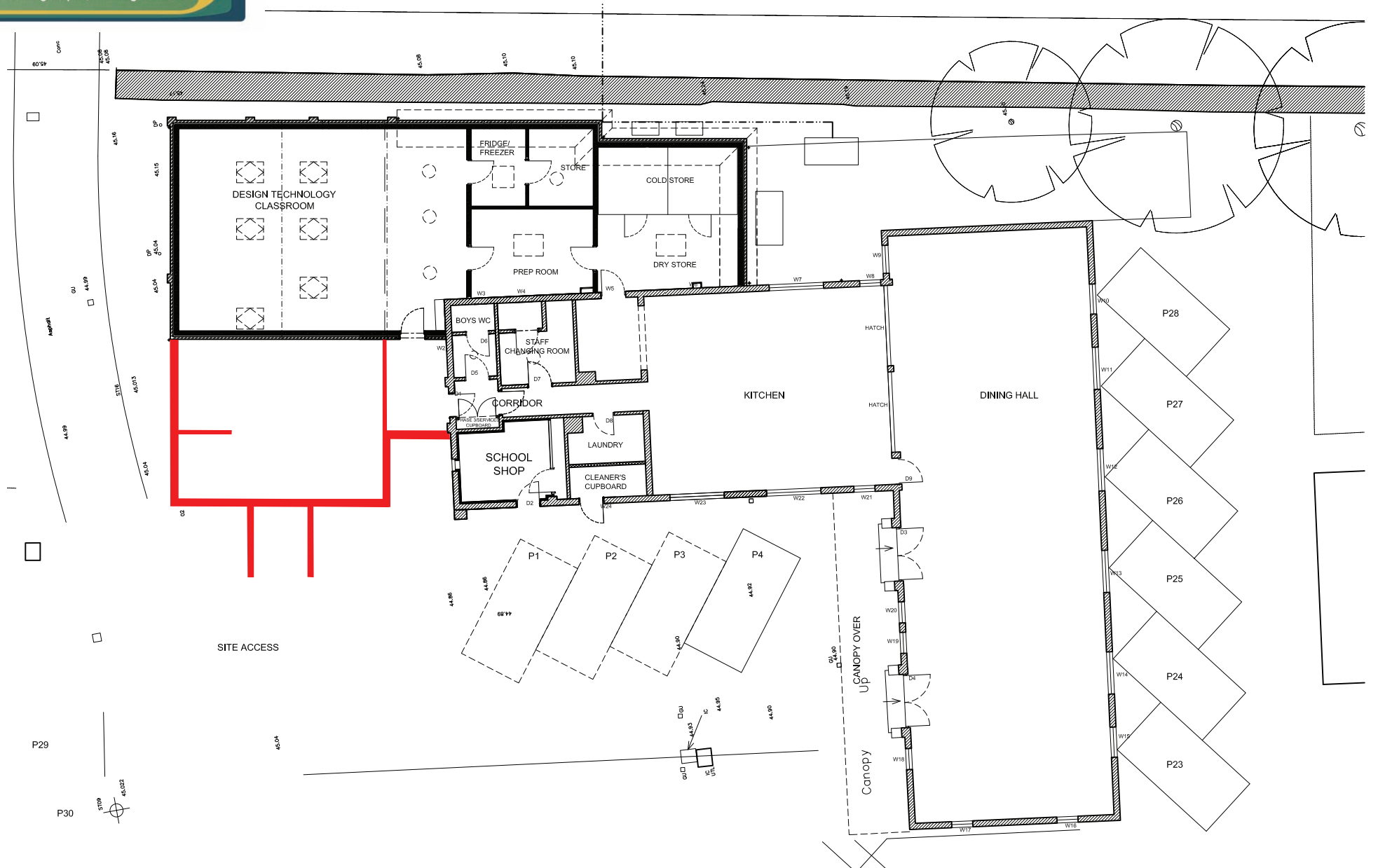
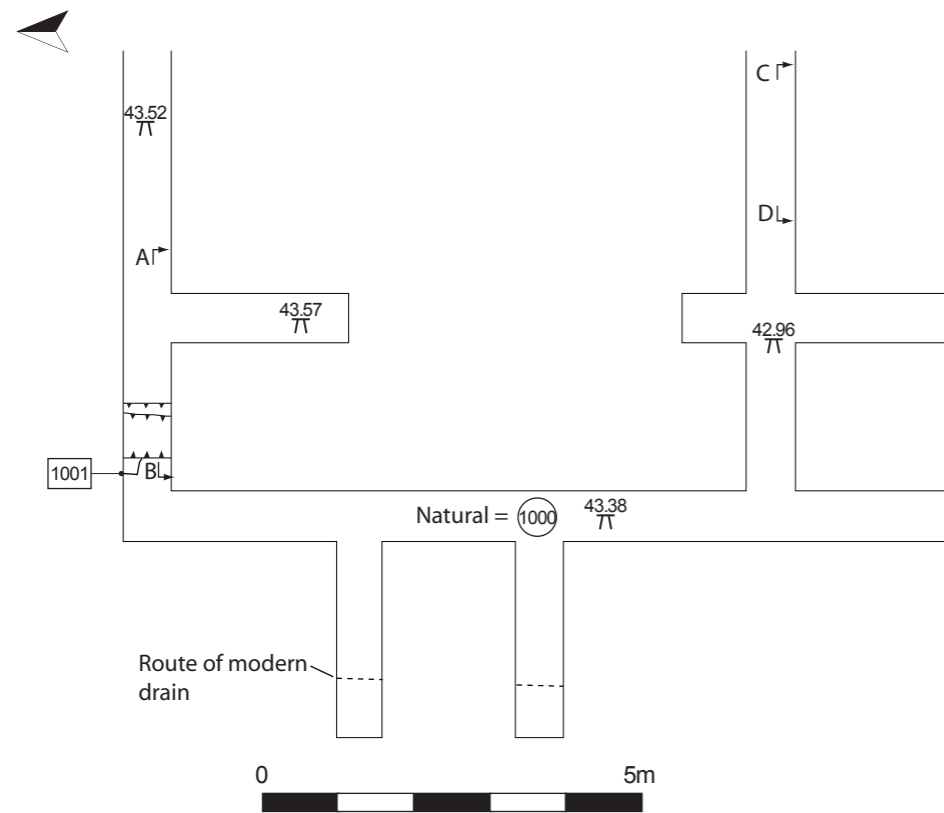


Fig 2: Plan showing in red the location of the foundation trenches observed under the watching brief

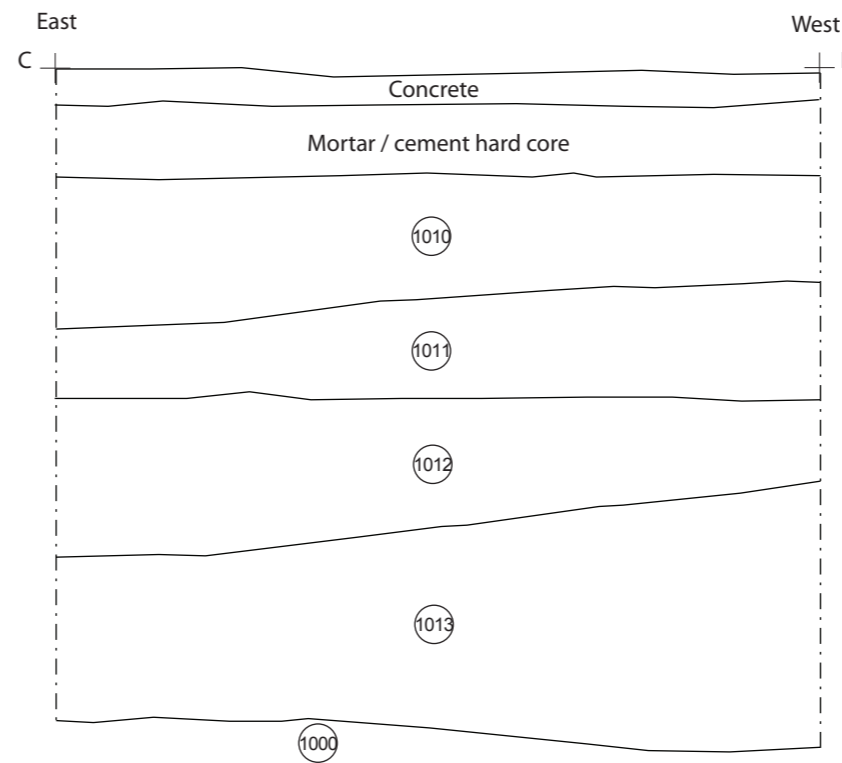
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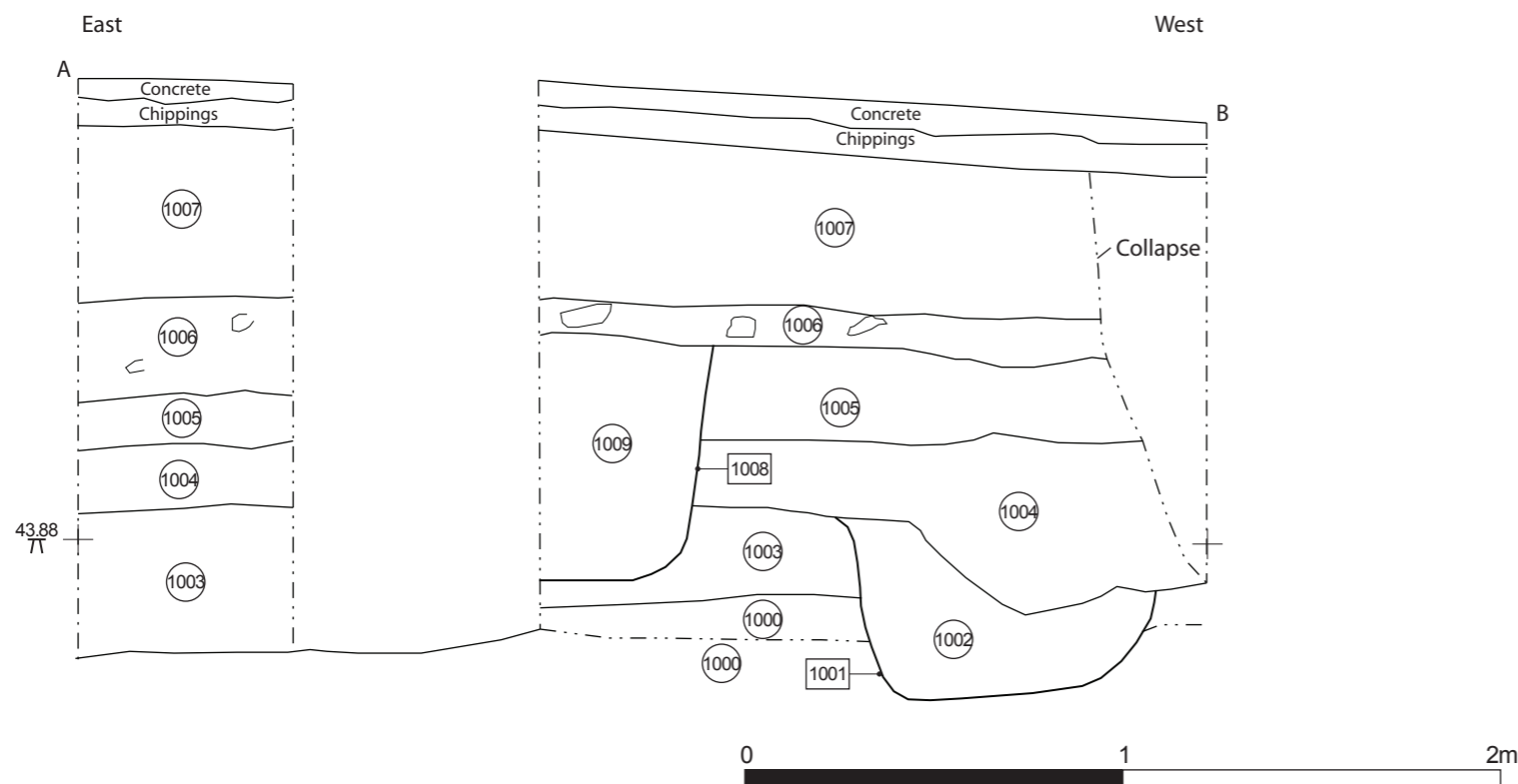
Plan of foundation trench



North facing measured section of foundation trench



North facing section of foundation stratigraphy along with gully [1001]



**Job Title:** Bishop Wordsworth Academy, Salisbury

**Drawing Title:** Plan and sections of foundation trench

**Date:** August 2014

**Drawn By:** ILB

**Scale:** 1 : 100 & 1 : 20 @ A3

**Figure 03:**



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## **APPENDIX II: Plates**



Plate 1: View of foundation trench layout after breaking up of concrete overburden. Looking east, scales 2x1 m

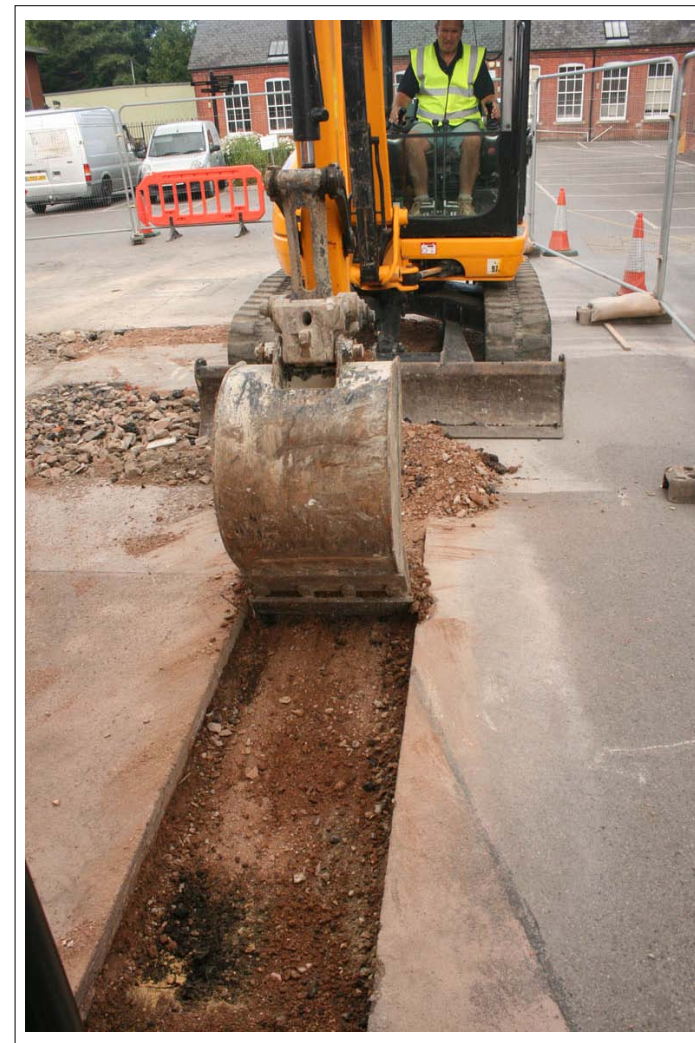


Plate 2: View of mechanical removal of overburden showing hardcore rubble beneath



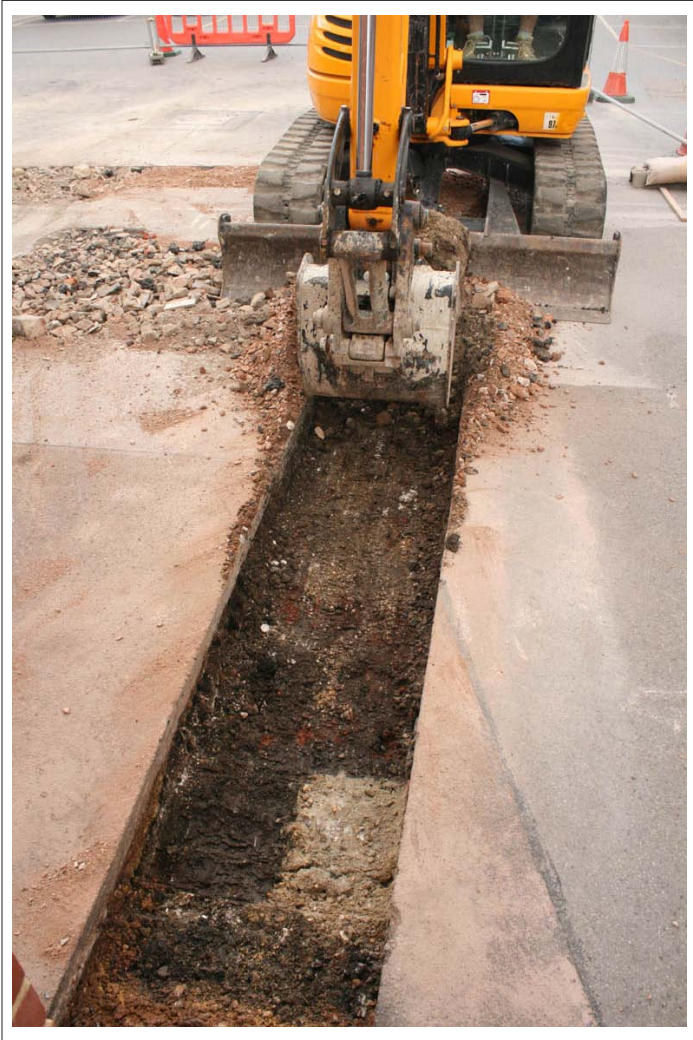


Plate 3: View of subsoil horizon beneath hardcore rubble and overburden layers



Plate 4: View of top of susoil deposit (1007) beneath modern overburden and hardcore layers





Plate 5: View of layered subsoil deposits in section (visible in left of frame)

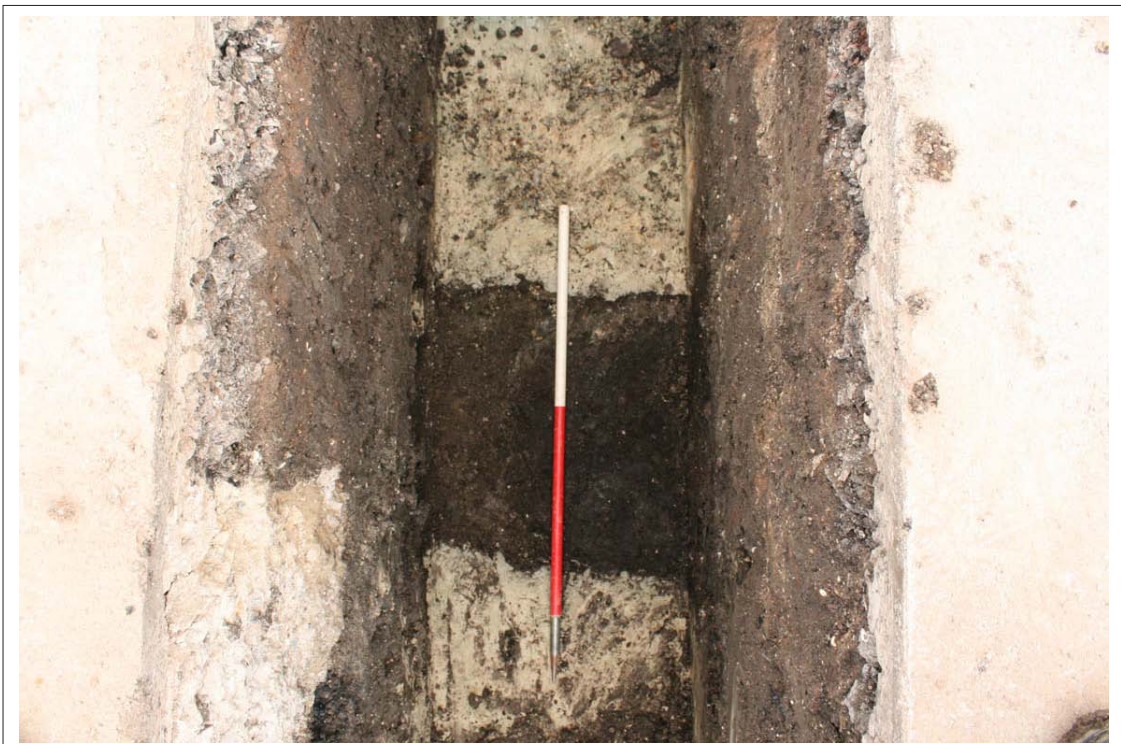


Plate 6: Plan view of gully [1001] cut into natural (1000) at base of foundation trench



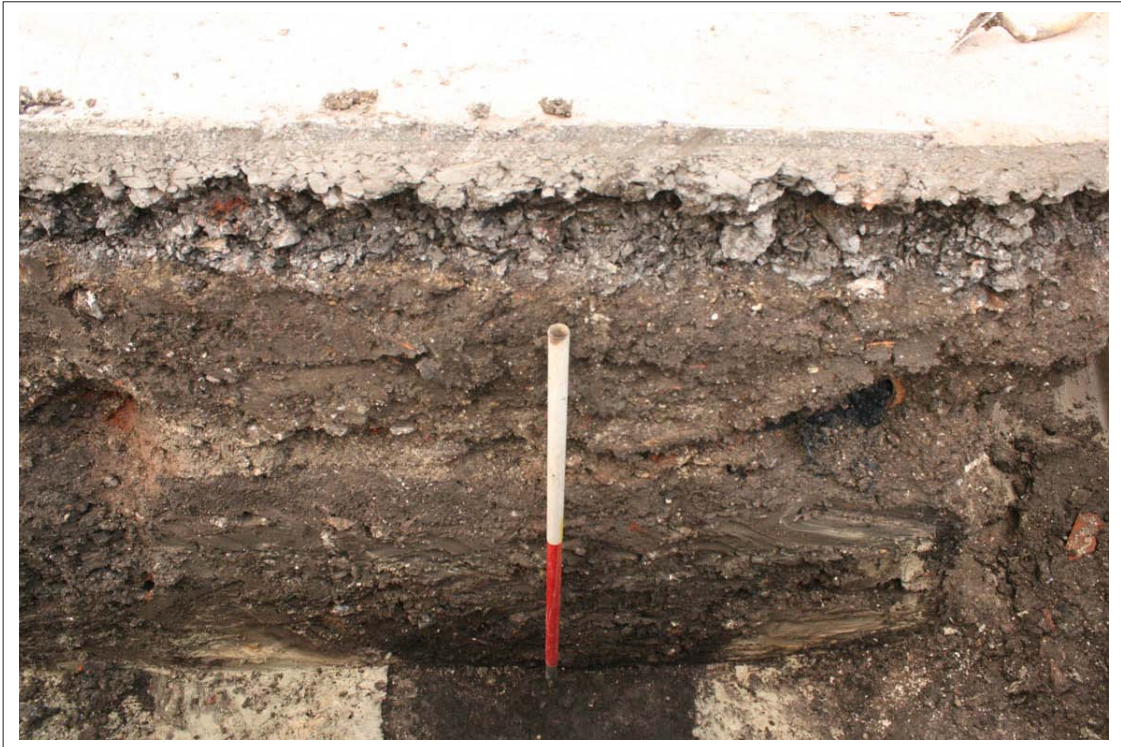


Plate 7: View of gully [1001] in section edge. Looking north, scale 1x1m



Plate 8: Post excavation view of gully [1001] after removal of single fill (1002)  
Scale 1x1m





Plate 9: View along sample section edge showing varying subsoil deposits overlaying the waterlogged horizon (1004/1013)



Plate 10: View of dark waterlogged deposit (1004/1013) in section with visible rising groundwater. Looking south, scale 1x1m





Plate 11: View south showing sample section of deepest area of trench (1.4m)  
Scale 1x1m

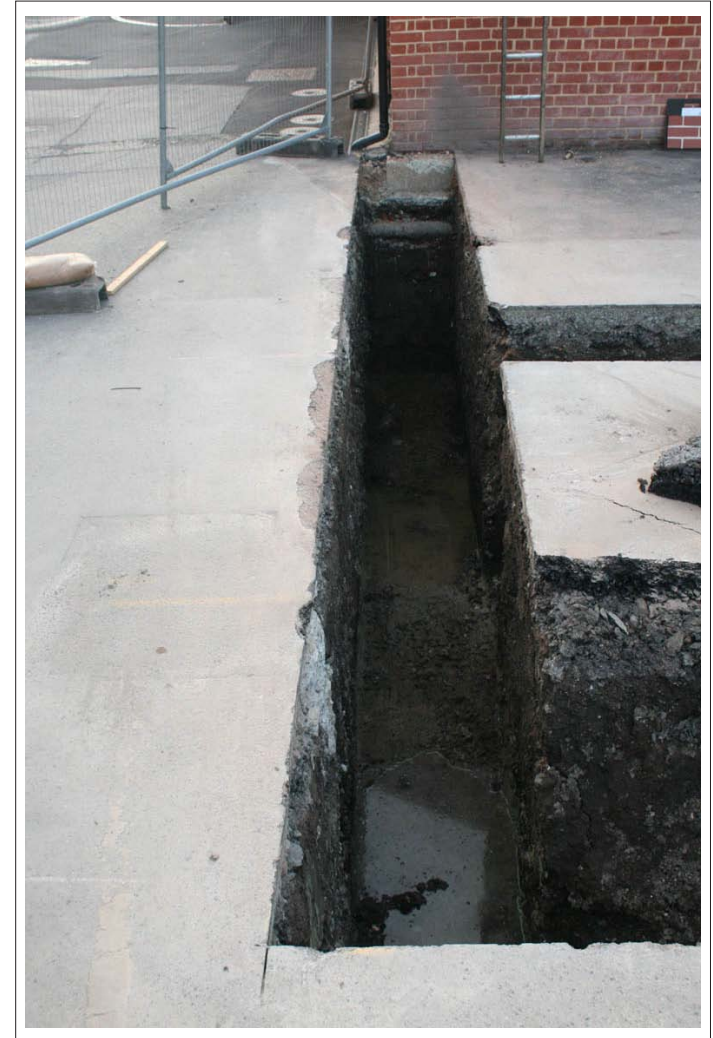


Plate 12: View east along completed northerly  
foundation trench





Plate 13: View south along completed westerly foundation trench



Plate 14: View east along completed southerly foundation trench

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## **APPENDIX III: Context Register**

Bishop Wordsworth Grammar School

Context Register      BWS/14/WB

1000	Gravelly Clay Natural
1001	Cut of gully feature
1002	Dark waterlogged fill of 1001
1003	Waterlogged silt horizon
1004	Waterlogged silt horizon
1005	Silt subsoil horizon/rubble CBM inclusions
1006	Silt subsoil horizon/rubble CBM inclusions
1007	Silt subsoil horizon/rubble CBM inclusions
1008	Cut of pit feature
1009	Single silt fill of 1008
1010	Same as 1007
1011	Same as 1006
1012	Same as 1005
1013	Same as 1004

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## **APPENDIX IV:**

### **Finds Catalogue by Context**

**Archaeology Wales Ltd.**

Finds catalogue Bishop Wordsworth Academy, Salisbury

Site code: 2242 - BWA/14/WB

<b>Number</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Weight in grams</b>	<b>Kept/Disc.</b>
<b>Pottery</b>					
	1007	Post-med. green glazed earthenware	2	150	Kept
	1007	Post-med. Blue & White porcelain	3	79	Kept
	1010	Post-med. green glazed earthenware	1	12	Kept
	1012	Post-med. green glazed earthenware	1	2	Kept
	U/S	Post-med. green glazed earthenware	2	61	Kept
<b>Glass</b>					
	1007	Post-med. Onion Bottle	1	63	Kept
<b>Tile/CBM</b>					
	1002	Med/Post-med. unglazed roof tiles	2	77	Kept
	1004	Med/Post-med. unglazed roof tiles	27	1.111	Kept
	1007	Med/Post-med. unglazed roof tile	1	5	Kept
	1009	Med/Post-med. unglazed roof tile	1	29	Kept
	1010	Med/Post-med. unglazed roof tiles	4	147	Kept
	1010	Post-med. handmade brick	1	677	Kept
	1011	Med/Post. unglazed roof tiles	18	811	Kept
	1011	Med/Post-med. glazed roof tiles	2	213	Kept
	1011	Medieval glazed roof tiles	5	474	Kept
	1011	Modern drainage pipe or pot	1	35	Disc.
	1012	Med/Post-med. unglazed roof tiles	20	968	Kept
	1012	Med/Post-med. unglazed roof tile	1	74	Kept
	U/S	Med/Post-med. unglazed 'Pan' roof tiles	5	785	Kept
	U/S	Medieval glazed roof tile	1	122	Kept
	U/S	Post-med. tin glazed roof tile	1	222	Kept
<b>Clay pipe</b>					
	1007	Late 18th or early 19th Century clay pipe	1	14	Kept
<b>Fe/Iron</b>					
	1004	Nail	1	7	Kept
<b>Bone</b>					
	1004	Animal bones	6	69	Kept
	1007	Animal bones	2	19	Kept
	1010	Animal bones	3	74	Kept
	1011	Animal bones	3	138	Kept
	1012	Animal bone	1	11	Kept
<b>Miscellaneous</b>					
	1004	Oyster shells	5	95	Kept
	1012	Oyster shell	1	34	Kept

1004	Waterlogged - wood	1	2	Kept
1004	Waterlogged - Medieval leather	5	16	Kept
1013	Waterlogged - Hazel nut	1	1	Kept

**Total finds:**

<b>Pottery</b>	9
<b>Glass</b>	1
<b>Tile / CBM</b>	90
<b>Clay Pipe</b>	1
<b>Fe/Iron</b>	1
<b>Bone</b>	15
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	13
<b>Total:</b>	<b>130</b>

# *Archaeology Wales*

## **APPENDIX V: Archive Cover Sheet**

# ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

## Bishop Wordsworth Grammar School, Salisbury

Site Name:	Bishop Wordsworth School
Site Code:	BWS/14/WB
PRN:	-
NPRN:	-
SAM:	-
Other Ref No:	-
NGR:	NGR SU 14459 29518
Site Type:	School Grounds
Project Type:	Watching Brief
Project Manager:	Chris E Smith
Project Dates:	July 2014
Categories Present:	Med, Post-med, Modern
Location of Original Archive:	AW
Location of duplicate Archives:	NA
Number of Finds Boxes:	NA
Location of Finds:	NA
Museum Reference:	NA
Copyright:	AW
Restrictions to access:	None



# Archaeology Wales



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