



## Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre St Albans, Hertfordshire

### Archaeological Watching Brief Report





**Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre  
St Albans, Hertfordshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

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Verulamium Museum Site Code: **WLC10**  
Wessex Archaeology Report Ref: **73323.03**  
Path: X:\PROJECTS\73323\WB Report\73323\_Watching Brief Report.doc

St Albans City and District Council Planning Application (5/2010/0259 and 0260)


**December 2011**

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### QUALITY ASSURANCE

SITE CODE	<b>73323</b>	ACCESSION CODE	<b>WLC10</b>	CLIENT CODE	
PLANNING APPLICATION REF.	<b>(5/2010/0259 AND 0260)</b>	NGR	<b>514434 206524</b>		

VERSION	STA TUS*	PREPARED BY	APPROVED BY	APPROVER'S SIGNATURE	DATE	FILE
		SUSAN CLELLAND	NDT		21 <sup>ST</sup> DEC 2011  REVISED 16 <sup>TH</sup> JAN 2012	X:\PROJECTS\73323\WB REPORT\73323_WATCHING BRIEF REPORT.DOC

\* I= Internal Draft E= External Draft F= Final

# Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre St Albans, Hertfordshire

## Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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## Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by St Albans City and District Council (the Client) to undertake an archaeological watching brief as the final stage of an ongoing programme of archaeological works in advance of and during the development at Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre, St Albans, Hertfordshire.

The watching brief was undertaken between May and August 2011 and comprised four areas which included: the site of the new leisure building, a new car park to the west of the development site, footing pads for the erection of Site offices in a construction compound and a coach lay-by and associated drainage to the north of Westminster Lodge.

Of these four areas, archaeological remains were only identified within one, the site of the new leisure building. Romano-British activity was found, comprising a boundary ditch and ditched enclosure which contained occupation and building debris. It is possible both ditches served as leats associated with a masonry building previously identified to the northeast of the Site, which may have been a mill during this period. Re-used Romano-British tile and residual pottery fragments were also found in later medieval features.

A concentration of possible medieval ovens and several associated post and rubbish pits were also found, predominately clustered within the northwest corner of the new leisure building footprint, immediately to the south of the Wessex Archaeology excavation undertaken in 2010. The ovens ranged in both size and profile and have been dated to the 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century, although their exact function remains unclear. It may be that given their proximity to Holywell Hill that they have been used for the provision of food for pilgrims and/or workers associated with Tenter Fields, a site of extensive medieval activity related to the hanging of hides/leather.

## Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by St Albans City and District Council and Wessex Archaeology would particularly like to thank Julie Simpson, Project Manager for Leisure Facilities and Simon West (St Albans City and District Archaeologist) who monitored the project on behalf of St. Albans City and District Council for their advice and assistance.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Susan Clelland who prepared this report. The finds were assessed by Lorraine Mephram and the animal bone identification was undertaken by Lorrain Higbee. Illustrations were prepared by Rob Goller. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Andrew Manning.

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# Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre St Albans, Hertfordshire

## Archaeological Watching Brief Report

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by St Albans City and District Council (the Client) to undertake a programme of archaeological watching brief during development at Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre, St Albans, Hertfordshire (hereafter "the Site"), centred on National Grid Reference 514434, 206524 (Figure 1).

1.1.2 Previous work adjacent to, and within, the Site in the late 1960s and 2007 (Niblett and Thompson 2005; Heritage Network 2007) had demonstrated that the Site contained the potential for archaeological remains. In early 2010, trial trench evaluation confirmed the survival of Romano-British and medieval features (Wessex Archaeology 2010a). This evaluation was followed in mid 2010 by a targeted excavation (Wessex Archaeology 2010b), which focused on one area within the footprint of the proposed new leisure building, which contained a significant cluster of Romano-British and medieval ditches, pits and ovens.

1.1.3 The results of the excavation and previous fieldwork within the Site highlighted the potential for further significant archaeological remains to survive within the Site. In discussion with the St Albans City and District Archaeologist, further work in the form of an archaeological watching brief was required during construction works on the Site to ensure an appropriate level of recording of any revealed features.

1.1.4 In February 2010, St Albans City and District Council submitted two planning applications to redevelop the Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre site. The proposed development included the demolition of the existing leisure centre and associated buildings (Planning Application 5/2010/0260) and the erection of a new leisure facility with new landscaping, parking and access/service roads (Planning Application 5/2010/0259).

1.1.5 The planning applications were approved in April 2010 with an attached Archaeological Condition (C512) which stated that:

*Condition: No development shall take place on Site until the applicant, or their agent or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

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*Reason: To ensure adequate opportunity is provided for archaeological research on this historically important site. To comply with Policy 111 of the St Albans District Local Plan Review 1994.*

- 1.1.6 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by Wessex Archaeology in May 2011 for a programme of archaeological works as agreed with the St Albans City and District Archaeologist. The proposed watching brief area comprised the majority of the proposed footprint of the new leisure centre, compound area, a car parking area to the east and lay-by to the north (Figure 1).
- 1.1.7 The WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2011) was submitted to, and subsequently approved by, the St Albans City and District Archaeologist before the commencement of fieldwork.
- 1.1.8 The subsequent archaeological watching brief was undertaken between May and August 2011.

## **1.2 Site location, topography and geology**

- 1.2.1 The whole development site covers an area approximately 3.75ha in size and is located on the first and possible second terrace, overlooking the River Ver to the north and bounded to the southeast by Holywell Hill (A5183). The watching brief area was primarily centred within the northeastern section of the Site, adjacent to the former leisure centre, and is located within the area of significant archaeology identified in a previous evaluation in 2010. The Site lies to the southeast of the Roman city of Verulamium and to the south of the City of St Albans (Figure 1).
- 1.2.2 The watching brief area lies at a height of 77.75m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) with the underlying geology identified as River Gravel overlying Upper Chalk (BGS 1978, sheet 239).

## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1.1 The Site lies less than 400m to the southeast of Roman town of *Verulamium* and immediately north of the Roman Watling Street, which entered the Roman Town through the London Gate.
- 2.1.2 Late Iron Age and Roman remains were recorded in the 1960s to the northwest of the Site, close to, and beneath the area of the running track (E Anthony. 1968). The recorded remains included pottery kilns (HHER 6808) and Late Iron Age and Roman (1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> century) cremation and inhumation burials (HHER 6740 and 6741) lying to the north of Watling Street and outside the London Gate.
- 2.1.3 In 1968 a substantial Roman masonry building was found at the foot of Holywell Hill (HHER Number 13674, St Albans Urban Archaeological Database Event 290, Monument 501 and Niblett and Thompson 2005), within the carriageway of the road immediately to the northeast of the Site and some 500m east of the Roman town. This has been tentatively identified as a watermill, apparently largely because of its position, and the substantial nature of the footings, which are more than 1m wide. Its position relative to



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the river in the Roman period, however, has never been established, and its identification as a mill remains hypothetical. The building could equally well have been a substantial suburban house, or an extramural temple. In July 2007, parts of this building were further observed during an evaluation for service renewal on the corner of the access road (Mud Lane) to the leisure centre and Holywell Hill (Heritage Network 2007). The building appeared to be just beyond the alluvium which demarcated the extent of the floodplain. The finds included Roman brick and roof tile, some flint with mortar attached, and a few 1st-2nd century potsherds.

- 2.1.4 Wessex Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of the Site in January 2010 (Wessex Archaeology 2010a), comprising the excavation of 12 trial trenches (**Figure 1**). Five of the trenches within the northeast corner of the Site produced significant archaeological features and deposits.
- 2.1.5 These features included a roughly east to west aligned ditch which produced moderate quantities of Roman pottery dating from the late 1st to the 4th century AD. The base of flint and mortar walls and associated features were recorded in two trenches (Trenches 9 and 10) at the eastern edge of the Site. These walls were previously recorded during mitigation works in advance of the construction of a gas main (Heritage Network, 2007, **Figure 1**) and both walls appear to be on a similar alignment, possibly from the same structure.
- 2.1.6 An adjacent trench (Trench 11) revealed two pits and demonstrated that there was a high potential for further archaeological remains within the footprint of the proposed new leisure building. Following an on-site meeting between Wessex Archaeology and the St Albans City and District Council Archaeologist, an excavation of an area centred on this trench was undertaken in June and July 2010 (Wessex Archaeology 2010b) (**Figure 1**).
- 2.1.7 Identified features included ditches, one oven/kiln type feature (with three internal postholes), ten pits and three postholes. The oven/kiln type feature was in the "keyhole" style with a sub-circular firing chamber and a smaller, sub-rectangular stokehole. The base of the feature had survived intact and revealed a floor constructed from re-used Roman tiles and rammed chalk. The backfill of the feature contained pottery dated to the 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> century. Two intercutting pits recorded immediately to the east may represent a larger version of this feature that had been completely robbed out.
- 2.1.8 The remainder of the pits were shallow sub-circular features which all contained varying quantities of Roman ceramic building material (CBM), animal bone and medieval pottery dating to the 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century. One ditch, which was aligned from southwest to northeast, contained pottery dating to the 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> century in its upper fill along with residual sherds of Romano-British and medieval pottery. A second ditch comprised a northwest to southeast aligned feature that contained a range of Romano-British pottery wares and two coins that were dated to the late 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD.
- 2.1.9 The ditch was located to the south and parallel to another Romano-British ditch identified during the previous evaluation. It is possible that these ditches somehow relate to the Roman masonry building identified to the

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northeast of the Site, which may be a mill. The ditches could therefore possibly be interpreted as leats.

- 2.1.10 The numerous medieval pits and other features indicated the potential for extensive medieval activity, which may be particularly related to the hanging of hides/leather industry in the Tenter Fields to the north of the Site. Unfortunately the exact function of the oven/kiln remains unclear though it is likely that its use dates to the 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century.

### **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

- 3.1.1 The overall objectives of the watching brief were to establish the nature, extent and state of preservation of any surviving archaeological remains affected by the development.
- 3.1.2 Specific aims of the work was to confirm and further inform the results of the archaeological evaluation and excavation fieldwork and if possible establish whether any connection could be made between archaeological features within the Site and the Roman features revealed beyond the north and northeastern limits of the Site.

### **4 METHODOLOGY**

- 4.1.1 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the methodology as laid out in the WSI (WA 2011).
- 4.1.2 All works were also carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists Standards and guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (Revised 2008) and ALGAO *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (East Anglian Archaeology occasional paper 14, 2003).
- 4.1.3 All archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording sheets with a unique numbering system for individual contexts and features were located in relation to the Ordnance Survey national grid. All principle strata and features were related to the Ordnance Survey datum.
- 4.1.4 Relevant sections were drawn at an appropriate scale. A full photographic and graphic record was made of the excavated areas. The photographic record illustrated both the detail and general context of the archaeology and the Site as a whole.

### **5 FIELDWORK RESULTS**

#### **5.1 Introduction**

- 5.1.1 The Archaeological Watching Brief comprised in four principal areas which included (Figure 1).
- the site of the new leisure building
  - a new car park to the west of the development site

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- footing pads for the erection of construction offices to the south of the current Westminster Lodge, and
  - a coach lay-by and associated drainage to the north of Westminster Lodge
- 5.1.2 Within the northwest area of the new leisure building footprint, immediately to the south of the Wessex Archaeology Excavation Area (WA 2010) a number of possible medieval ovens, associated pits and a contemporary quarry pit were recorded (**Figure 2**).
- 5.1.3 No archaeological remains were observed within the three other watching brief areas on the new car park, footing pads in the construction compound or in the coach layby area to the north of Westminster Lodge.

## 5.2 Natural deposits and Soil Sequence

- 5.2.1 Natural deposits comprised alluvial gravel with occasional outcropping of the underlying upper chalk. This was overlain by a mid-dark orange sandy loam subsoil layer of between 0.1m and 0.3m in depth. In the northeast area of the Site, remnant medieval topsoil sealed this subsoil and was between 0.05m and 0.25m deep. All the archaeological features recorded during the watching brief were cut from within this medieval topsoil layer and therefore partially sealed by it. This remnant topsoil survived later truncation within a gravel terrace present in the northeast of the Site, to the south and west the natural gravels rose sharply from 76.5m aOD to approximately 79m aOD demarcating the limits of the River Ver floodplain. A sequence of post-medieval and modern topsoil and levelling deposits, truncated variously by modern services, defunct utilities, demolished wall footings and tree rooting formed an overburden of between 0.5 and 1.5m deep.

## 5.3 The Site of the new Westminster Lodge Leisure Building

### *Romano-British*

- 5.3.1 A boundary ditch **1406** (**Figure 2**) was mapped in the northeast corner of the new leisure building. The ditch, excavated as **1366** and **1369** during previous archaeological work (WA 2010b) contained a range of pottery including greyware, black burnished ware, Verulamium region whiteware, Oxfordshire mortaria and samian with a date range of the 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> century AD, animal bone, CBM, mortar and two coins, both Barbarous Radiates dated to the late 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD. Two sherds of 13<sup>th</sup> century pottery recovered from the uppermost fill were interpreted as intrusive. A similar assemblage of finds was recovered during the watching brief in parallel enclosure ditch **1379**, located to the south.
- 5.3.2 Enclosure ditch **1379** (**Figure 2**) was aligned broadly east to west and formed a continuation of ditch **1368** (WA 2010b). Deposits within the base of the ditch were leached and contained notable manganese and iron inclusions implying the ditch served a drainage function. Finds recovered included sherds of Verulamium region whiteware and pieces of a black burnished ware dog dish and animal bone. Two sherds of medieval pottery found in the upper fill of ditch **1368** during the excavation are now thought to be intrusive.

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### *Medieval*

- 5.3.3 Located immediately east of the 2010 excavation area, an oval rubbish pit **1377** was found (**Figure 2**). This pit, approximately 2.1m x 1.5m and 0.45m deep, contained occupation debris including a range of pottery fragments, re-used Romano-British tile and animal bone. The pottery from pit **1377** included 14 sherds, two of which were diagnostic rim sherds, of 'Developed St Neot's ware' from one context (**1378**) which is dated to the late 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century and may suggest that this pit represents one of the earliest medieval features recorded on the Site.
- 5.3.4 At the southern edge of a cluster of medieval features, a well preserved oven (**1393**) was found with a diameter of 1.7m and 0.85m deep (**Figures 2 and 3**). The oven was lined with a thin layer of crushed chalk mortar (**1394**) along its vertical sides and base. Several re-used Romano-British tiles overlay this mortar on the base of the oven. The chalk mortar lining on the feature sides and on the base of the chamber were heat affected, though not to any high degree of intensity. The overlying re-used Romano-British tiles showed no signs of burning however perhaps indicating that they were regularly replaced. A small loose deposit of sandy clay with some charcoal flecking partially overlay the tiles on the base of the oven, however all the deposits backfilling the oven were loose and heavily root disturbed and as such no secure environmental material relating to use was recovered. A crude chalk and flint cob wall at the top of the chamber formed the base of a possible super structure, which had subsequently collapsed to fill a majority of the chamber (deposits **1396**, **1397** and **1398**). This was overlain by reworked topsoil (deposit **1399**). The oven was 100% excavated, however there was no evidence of material or residue associated with its use. A fragment of medieval coarseware was recovered from the associated backfill.
- 5.3.5 Approximately 15m to the northeast of oven **1393**, a second oven was identified (**1382**). The base of this small oven, approximately 1.2m in diameter, (**Figures 2 and 3**) comprised a shallow 0.1m deep feature with a smaller 0.4m diameter stokehole at its southeastern end. Within the base of the feature, offset to the southeast was a sunken 0.8m diameter pit. The sides and base of oven **1382**, including the integral pit were lined with a thin layer of crushed chalk (deposit **1383**) overlain by heat affected clay (deposit **1384**). Abandonment layers of heavily root disturbed chalk (deposit **1385**) and fire debris (deposits **1386** and **1387**), sealed the clay lining and were overlain by a loose deposit of reworked topsoil (deposit **1388**). No evidence of pottery wasters or metal working slag was found within any of the associated deposits. Ovens **1382/1393** and postholes **1389** and **1391** (discussed below) were only visible once a majority of the remnant overlying medieval plough-soil had been removed.
- 5.3.6 Two postholes, **1389** and **1391** (**Figure 2**) lying adjacent to oven **1382**, may have been associated. Both were 1m in diameter and 0.45m deep with steep, slightly concave sides and a flat base. The postholes had been deliberately backfilled in a single episode with loose deposits of re-worked topsoil and large nodules of river gravel. It is likely that the gravel nodules had originally been used as packing around the posts. Several sherds of

both medieval and residual Romano-British pottery fragments and two residual prehistoric worked flints were recovered from posthole 1389.

**Undated**

- 5.3.7 Two adjacent possible oven bases, 1400 and 1402 (Figure 2) were recorded at the eastern extent of the building footprint. Very little of the original features survived disturbance from modern tree rooting and a pipe trench. Both were identified by 0.03m deep circular lenses of crushed chalk overlain by 0.02m deep lenses of red heat affected clay. It is likely they were contemporary with the other medieval ovens recorded to the west.
- 5.3.8 The base of a small oval pit 1375 (Figure 2) (0.15m x 0.6m x 0.3m) was also recorded adjacent to the main cluster of features associated with the 2010 excavation. Filled with a mixed deposit of disturbed natural gravels and re-worked topsoil the function of the pit is unknown.
- 5.3.9 A large sub-circular probable gravel quarry pit 1404 (Figure 2) measuring approximately 5.5m east to west and 6.5m north to south was recorded during wall foundation trenching within the western side of the new leisure building. The pit was a minimum of 1.2m deep however the actual base of the feature lay between the foundation trenches and could not be ascertained. A sequence of gradually accumulated secondary silts filled the pit.

**6 FINDS**

**6.1 Introduction**

- 6.1.1 The watching brief has produced a small finds assemblage, in a very restricted range of material types, including items of prehistoric, Romano-British and medieval date. This augments the assemblages recovered from previous stages of work on the Site (Wessex Archaeology 2010a; 2010b), and echoes many of the features of those assemblages.
- 6.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results are presented in Table 1. Following this quantification, all finds have been at least visually scanned and details of their nature, condition and date range recorded.

**Table 1: All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)**

Context	Animal Bone	CBM	Worked Flint	Roman Pottery	Medieval Pottery
1378	19/245	12/513		1/7	15/256
1381	1/6			11/89	
1388	3/14	1/70			2/28
1390	2/16		2/6	1/12	8/31
1395		1/2661			
1397		4/2355			1/6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25/281</b>	<b>18/5599</b>	<b>2/6</b>	<b>13/108</b>	<b>26/321</b>

CBM = ceramic building material

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## 6.2 Pottery

6.2.1 The pottery assemblage (39 sherds) includes material of Romano-British and medieval date. The whole assemblage has been quantified by ware type within each context. Spot dates have been recorded on a context-by-context basis.

### *Romano-British*

6.2.2 Finewares are represented by a single undiagnostic sherd of Nene Valley colour coated ware (LNVCC).

6.2.3 The remaining sherds are in a range of coarseware fabrics: Black Burnished ware (BB1) from southeast Dorset, Verulamium region whiteware and greywares, probably from several different sources. Identifiable vessel forms comprise a convex-sided 'dog dish' in Black Burnished ware (2nd century AD or later), and a similar dish form in greyware, both from context 1381.

### *Medieval*

6.2.4 Four ware types were identified amongst the 26 medieval sherds: coarse 'gritty' sandy wares of early medieval date (11th to early 12th century); developed St Neots-type ware, with finer shell and sandier texture than the classic type (late 11th to 12th century); reduced sandy greywares (12th to early 14th century); and finer sandy wares (late 12th or 13th century onwards). These all belong to regional ceramic traditions found across Hertfordshire and the surrounding counties; all are known from excavations within St Albans (Turner-Rugg 1995). Developed St Neots-type ware, however, which was confined to a single context here (1378), and includes two jar rims, was not identified amongst the previously excavated assemblages from the Site, perhaps suggesting a slightly earlier focus for the current assemblage. There are no diagnostic sherds amongst the other wares.

## 6.3 Ceramic Building Material

6.3.1 All of the CBM recovered is of Romano-British date. This small group exhibits a high level of surface and edge abrasion, and at least one piece shows signs of having been re-used, by adhering mortar over broken edges. Seven pieces are too small and/or abraded to assign to specific brick/tile type, and seven can only be defined as 'flat fragments', possibly deriving from any of a range of tile types with a thickness up to 40mm. The largest of these fragments is 40mm thick, and measures at least 260mm by 180mm (context 1395); these dimensions place it outside the range for the *bessalis*, but it could belong to a *pedalis*, *lydion*, or any of the larger brick types (Brodrigg 1987). It could originally have been used in hypocaust construction or walling.

6.3.2 There are also small but identifiable fragments of *tegulae* (two examples), *imbrex* (one example) and box flue tile (one example).

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## 6.4 Worked Flint

- 6.4.1 Two prehistoric waste flakes were recovered from context **1390**, one lightly patinated and the other unpatinated and in very fresh condition. These pieces are not closely datable.

## 6.5 Animal Bone

- 6.5.1 Once joining fragments are taken into account, the number of bones recovered drops from 25 to 21. Ten of these are identifiable to species: sheep (4), pig (3), cattle (2) and horse (1). Nine further fragments can be identified only as 'medium mammal' or 'large mammal', and one fragment is completely unidentifiable.

## 7 DISCUSSION

- 7.1.1 The results of the archaeological works discussed above form an overview of the final phase of a programme of archaeological mitigation undertaken during and prior to the development of Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre, St Albans.

- 7.1.2 Archaeological remains discovered during the watching brief were all concentrated within a small part of the development centred on the previous excavation area (WA 2010b) in the northeast of the Site.

- 7.1.3 Romano-British activity was recorded by a parallel northwest to southeast aligned boundary ditch (**1406**) and ditched enclosure (**1379**), both containing occupation and building debris. Deposits within the base of the enclosure ditch implied that the ditch may have served a drainage function. As previously thought, it is possible that both ditches served as leats associated with a masonry building identified to the northeast of the Site, which may have been a mill during this period. Re-used Romano-British tile and residually pottery fragments were also found in later medieval features.

- 7.1.4 A concentration of possible medieval ovens and several associated post and rubbish pits were predominately clustered within the northwest of the new leisure building footprint, immediately to the south of the Wessex Archaeology excavation area (WA 2010b). These ovens ranged in both size and profile, from small, shallow keyhole shaped features to deep circular features. Unfortunately due to a lack of surviving artefactual and environmental evidence their exact function remains unclear. An absence of metal-working/pottery debris and the apparent limited degrees of heat reached, however, may imply that this group of features were used in the preparation of food.

- 7.1.5 Pottery from associated fills suggests their use dates to the 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century. The area was certainly well populated during this period, with the flood plain of the River Ver to the northwest of the Site, known as the Tenter Fields being the site of extensive medieval activity related to the hanging of hides/leather. It may be possible that, given their proximity to Holywell Hill a principal pilgrim route to the abbey during this period, the ovens were used to provide for those pilgrims or those working nearby.

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## 8 ARCHIVE

### 8.1 Preparation and Deposition

8.1.1 The project archive will be prepared in accordance with the guidelines outlined in Appendix 3 of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and in accordance with the *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage* (UKIC 1990).

8.1.2 The archive is currently held at Wessex Archaeology's office building in Salisbury under the WA project code 73320 (evaluation) / 73321 (building recording and 73322 (excavation) / 73323 (watching brief) and Site Code **WLC10**. The completed archive, which will include all paperwork and finds from all phases of the work undertaken (73320 to 73323), will on completion of all fieldwork and post excavation reporting, ultimately be deposited for permanent storage at the Verulamium Museum, where it will be deposited under the Site Code **WLC10**.

### 8.2 Copyright

8.2.1 In accordance with clause 4.2 of Wessex Archaeology's Terms and Conditions of Contracts, copyright of the commissioned report and other project documents is assigned to the Client (St Albans City and District Council). Wessex Archaeology retains the right to be identified as the author of all project documentation and reports as defined in the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 (Chapter IV, s.79).

### 8.3 Security Copy

8.3.1 In line with current best practice, on completion of the project a security copy of the paper records will be prepared, in the form of microfilm. The master jackets and one diazo copy of the microfilm will be submitted to the National Monuments Record Centre (Swindon), a second diazo copy will be deposited with the paper records at the Museum, and a third diazo copy will be retained by Wessex Archaeology.

## 9 REFERENCES

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## APPENDIX 1: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: wessexar1-115992

### Project details

Project name Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre, St Albans, Hertfordshire

Short description of the project Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by St Albans City and District Council (the Client) to undertake an archaeological watching brief as the final stage of an ongoing programme of archaeological works in advance of and during the development at Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre, St Albans, Hertfordshire. The watching brief was undertaken between May and August 2011 and comprised four areas which included: the site of the new leisure building, a new car park to the west of the development site, footing pads for the erection of Site offices in a construction compound and a coach lay-by and associated drainage to the north of Westminster Lodge. Of these four areas, archaeological remains were only identified within one, the site of the new leisure building. Romano-British activity was found, comprising a boundary ditch and ditched enclosure which contained occupation and building debris. It is possible both ditches served as leats associated with a masonry building previously identified to the northeast of the Site, which may have been a mill during this period. Re-used Romano-British tile and residually pottery fragments were also found in later medieval features. A concentration of possible medieval ovens and several associated post and rubbish pits were also found, predominately clustered within the northwest corner of the new leisure building footprint, immediately to the south of the Wessex Archaeology excavation undertaken in 2010. The ovens ranged in both size and profile and have been dated to the 12th to 14th century, although their exact function remains unclear. It may be that given their proximity to Holywell Hill that they have been used for the provision of food for pilgrims and/or workers associated with Tenter Fields, a site of extensive medieval activity related to the hanging of hides/leather.

Project dates Start: 01-05-2011 End: 19-08-2011

Previous/future work Yes / No

Any project codes associated 73320 - Contracting Unit No. reference

Any project codes associated 73321 - Contracting Unit No. reference

Any project codes associated 73322 - Contracting Unit No. reference

Any project codes associated 73323 - Contracting Unit No. reference

Type of project Recording project

Site status None

Current Land use	Community Service 2 - Leisure and recreational buildings
Monument type	DITCHES Roman
Monument type	PITS Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	FLINT Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Roman
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	HERTFORDSHIRE ST ALBANS ST ALBANS Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre
Postcode	AL1 2DL
Study area	4.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 143 064 51.7441635368 -0.344253590322 51 44 38 N 000 20 39 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 76.00m Max: 78.00m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project originator	brief City/Nat. Park/District/Borough archaeologist
Project originator	design Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	A Manning
Project supervisor	S Clelland
Type of sponsor/funding body	City Council
Name of sponsor/funding body	St Albans City and District Council

### Project archives

Physical recipient	Archive Verulamium Museum
Physical Archive ID	WLC10
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones', 'Ceramics', 'Worked stone/lithics'

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Digital recipient Archive Verulamium Museum

Digital Archive ID WLC10

Digital Contents 'none'

Digital available Media 'Images raster / digital photography','Survey','Text'

Paper recipient Archive Verulamium Museum

Paper Archive ID WLC10

Paper Contents 'none'

Paper available Media 'Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Report','Section','Survey '

**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre, St Albans, Hertfordshire: Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Author(s)/Editor(s) Clelland, S

Other bibliographic details 73323.03

Date 2011

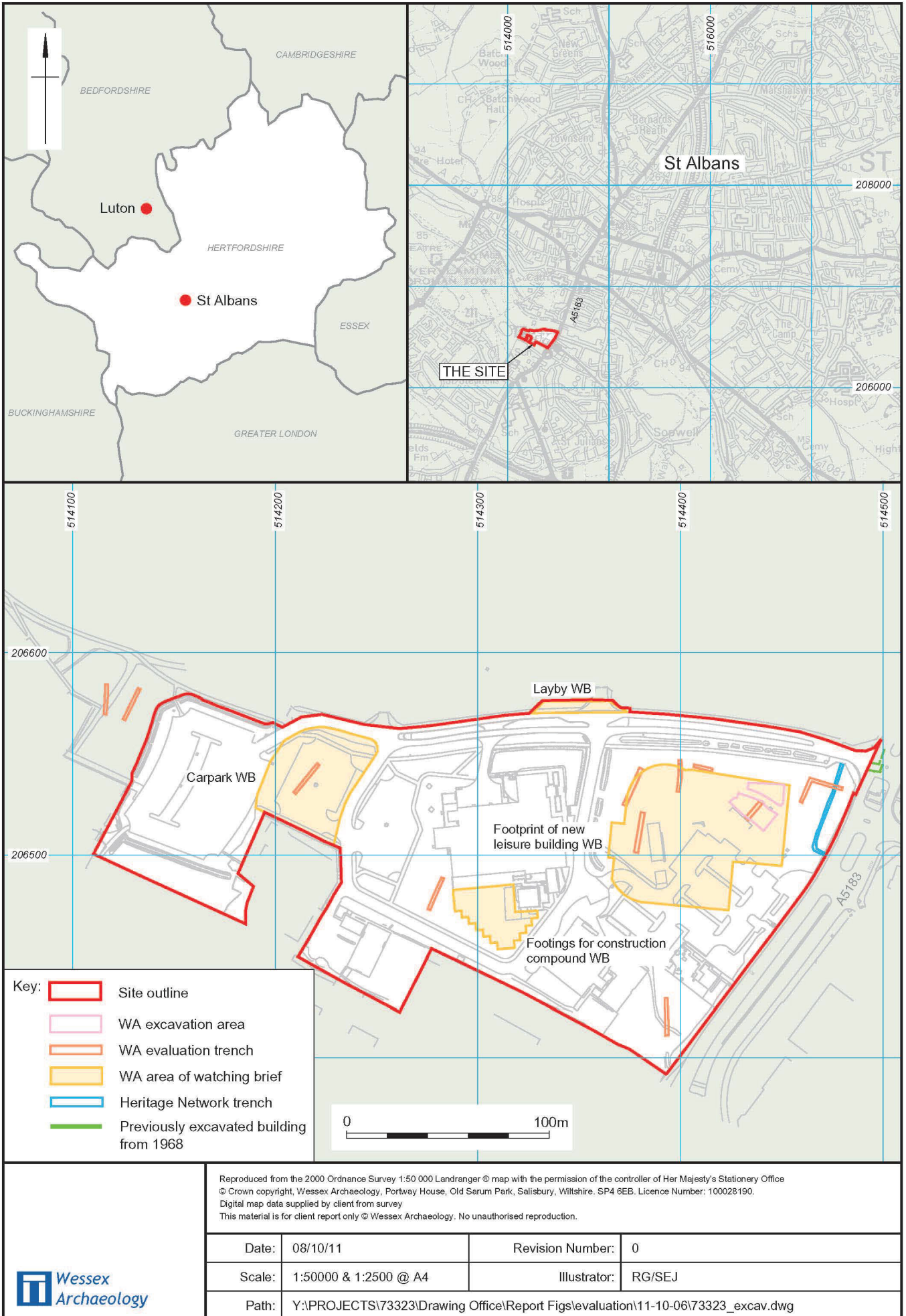
Issuer or publisher Wessex Archaeology

Place of issue or publication Salisbury

Description Standard soft back A4 illustrated report.

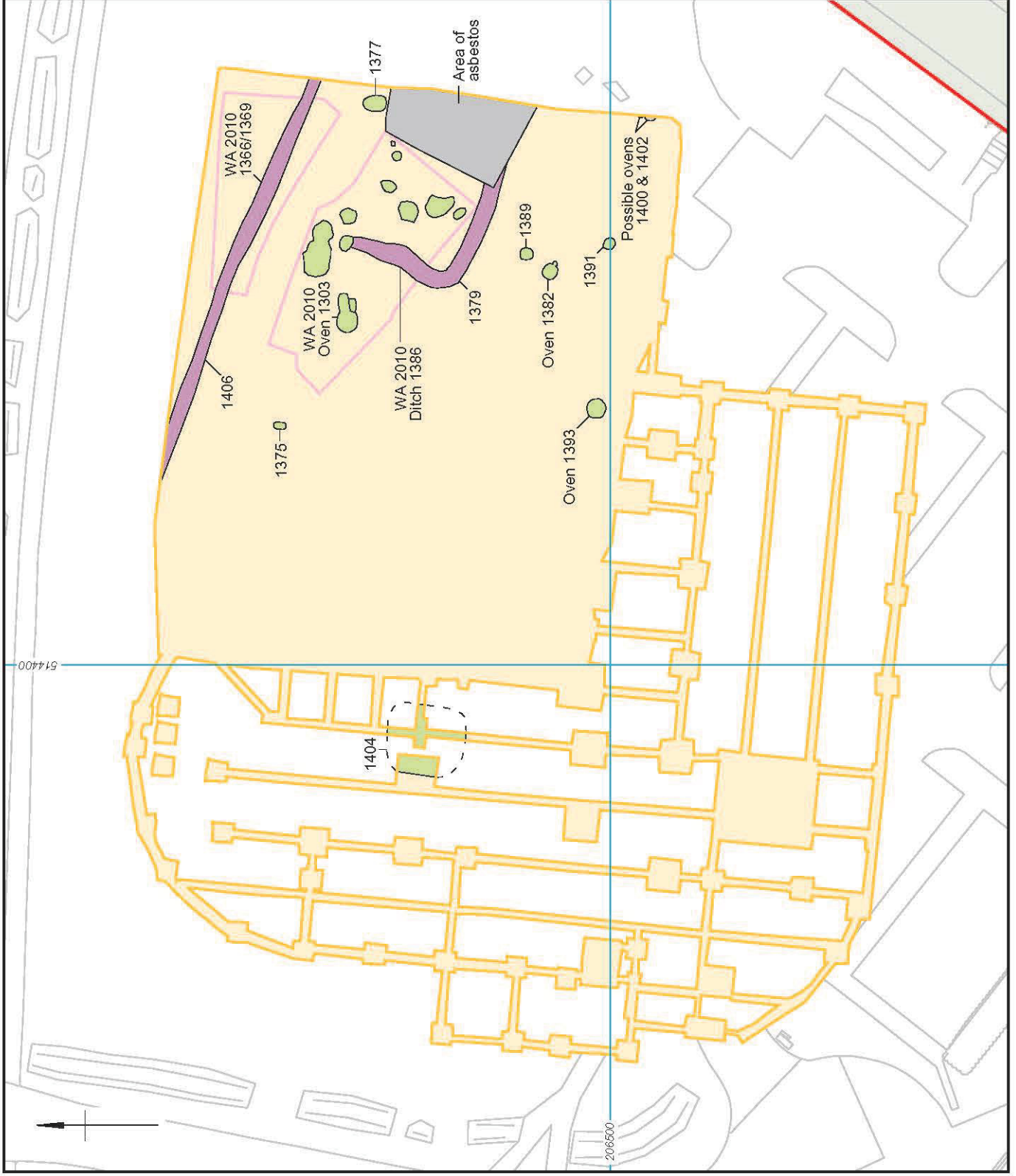
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Entered on 19 December 2011



Site location and watching brief areas in relation to previous work

Figure 1



- Excavation area
- Watching brief area
- Romano-British feature
- Medieval feature
- Undated feature



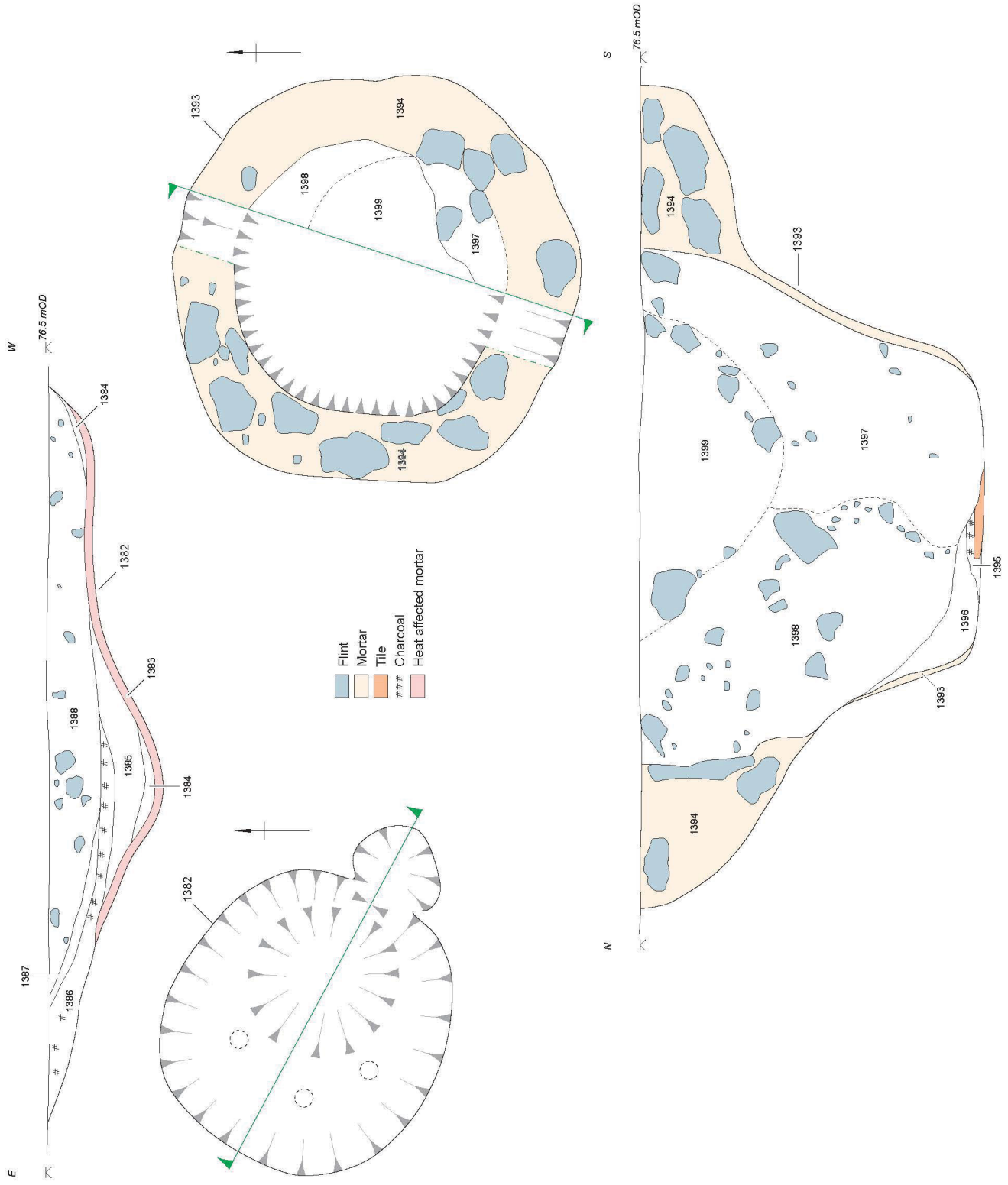
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Detailed plan of archaeological features recorded within the footprint of the new leisure building

Figure 2



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Possible ovens 1382 & 1393

Figure 3



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