Wessex Archaeology

Cannington Court, Cannington
Somerset

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Project Accession code TTNCM 29/2012

Somerset PRN 31713

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CANNINGTON COURT, CANNINGTON
SOMERSET

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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QUALITY ASSURANCE

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

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Mills Whipp Projects on behalf of their clients EDF Energy to carry out a programme of archaeological evaluation in advance of a planning application in relation to Bridgwater College and EDF Energy working in partnership to develop proposals for the future of Cannington Court as EDF Energy's world class UK company wide training facility.

Following recommendations the Senior Historic Environment Officer for Somerset County Council, a programme of archaeological evaluation was carried out to assess the potential for surviving below ground remains in order to inform the proposals and consequently any decision with regards to the future treatment of the archaeological resource.

The evaluation works were situated in areas of impact within the proposed development footprint which includes; Area A: Amory Block, Area B: Former Tennis Court and Area C.

Structural remains comprising walls, foundations and probable floor surfaces were identified within Area A. The earliest finds relating to the destruction debris and overburden contexts associated with these structural remains, date to medieval period and perhaps indicate a medieval origin to these features. No modern structures are depicted in the locality of these structural remains on the historical mapping from 1825/26 onwards, indicating that these structures date to the 18th century or earlier. It is possible that these remains relate to ancillary buildings which would have been associated with the original monastic layout of the site.

No significant archaeological remains were encountered within Area B or Area C.

It has been indicated by the Client that the development may affect the structural remains in Area A. Consequently, given the level of structural remains revealed in Area A, it is considered likely that the Senior Historic Environment Officer for Somerset County Council will recommend archaeological mitigation works in this area, which may take the form of an open area excavation, as a condition of the planning permission for the proposed development.

The fieldwork was conducted between the 28th May and the 1st June 2012.

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Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by Mills Whipp Projects on behalf of their clients EDF Energy and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to them in this regard. Thanks are also due to the groundwork's teams from Morgan Sindall plc and Soil Consultants Limited for their help during the fieldwork. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Steve Membery of Somerset County Council for his assistance during this phase of the project.

The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Caroline Budd. The fieldwork was directed Stephen Beach with the assistance of Andy Sole. This report was researched and compiled by Stephen Beach and Caroline Budd with the finds assessment completed by Lorraine Mepham and the Illustrations prepared by Linda Coleman.

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Archaeological Evaluation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Mills Whipp Projects on behalf of their clients EDF Energy to carry out a programme of archaeological evaluation at Cannington Court, Cannington, Somerset, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 325745 139570, hereafter 'the Site' (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The evaluation was conducted in advance of a planning application in relation to Bridgwater College and EDF Energy working in partnership to develop proposals for the future of Cannington Court as EDF Energy's world class UK company wide training facility.

1.1.3 Following recommendations by Steve Membery, Senior Historic Environment Officer with Somerset County Council, a programme of archaeological evaluation was carried out to assess the potential for surviving below ground remains, in order to inform these proposals and consequently, any decision with regards to the future treatment of the archaeological resource.

1.1.4 The evaluation works were situated in areas of impact within the proposed development footprint which includes;

- Area A: Amory Block – It is proposed that the Amory Block will be demolished and replaced by a new building.
- Area B: Former Tennis Court – The former tennis court will be replaced with parking
- Area C: Existing car park - The existing car park will be relocated (to Area B) and the heritage courtyard area of Cannington Court will be re-instated

1.2 Site location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The Site is located towards the centre of the village of Cannington on car parking and landscaping associated with Bridgwater College. The area subject to the current archaeological evaluation is bounded to the north by Fore Street, to the east by formal gardens, to the south by Priory Barn and to the west by Amory Block, Priory Lodge (all of which lie within the proposed development boundary) and Church Street. For the purposes of archaeological works, the Site extends beyond the Client's red line application boundary and includes Court House and its winter garden, which are not part of the proposed development (**Figure 1**).

1.2.2 The Site is situated on generally low-lying land, at an average 13m aOD (above Ordnance Datum), and rests on alluvium with river deposits along

Cannington Brook to the south of the subject site. Higher ground nearby consists of sandstone with Mercia Mudstone in the south, Otter Sandstone on the north side of Cannington Hill and limestone on the south of Cannington Hill.

1.2.3 The known depth of modern made ground found in a series of previous investigations in 1993 was generally less than 0.50m (Mills Whipp Projects 2012a).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1.1 The archaeological background to the Site has been documented in a desk based assessment that has been written to inform the feasibility study for Cannington Court (Mills Whipp Projects 2012a) and forms part of the Written Scheme of Investigation (Mills Whipp Projects 2012b). Therefore this information will not be repeated here.

3 AIMS AND METHODS

3.1 Introduction and General Objectives

3.1.1 All works were conducted in compliance with the standards outlined in the Institute for Archaeologist's Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (as amended 2008), excepting where they are superseded by statements made below.

3.2 Stripping and Fieldwork Methodology

3.2.1 The evaluation works were situated in areas of impact within the proposed development footprint which includes; Area A: Amory Block, Area B: Former Tennis Court and Area C: Existing car park (see **Figure 1**)

Area A: Amory Block

3.2.2 Archaeological evaluation in this area comprised the machine excavation of trial trenches TR4a and TR4b (**Figures 1**, **2** and **Appendix 1**).

3.2.3 In addition to the trial trenching archaeological monitoring was conducted during the excavation of a geotechnical trial hole (TH2) and a window sample (WS1) in this area (**Figure 1** and **Appendices 3** and **4**).

Area B: Former Tennis Court

3.2.4 Archaeological evaluation in this area comprised the machine excavation of trial trenches TR1, TR2 and TR3 (**Figures 1**, **3** and **Appendix 1**).

3.2.5 Archaeological monitoring was also carried out during the excavation of a series of geotechnical window samples (WS3 and WS4), trial holes and California Bearing Ratio (CBR) pits and soil contamination test pits (TH3 to TH11) (**Figures 1** and **3** and **Appendices 3** and **4**).

Area C: Existing Courtyard Car Park

3.2.6 Archaeological groundwork in Area C were intended to define the depth of the modern overburden using hand extracted augers in three locations under the existing Courtyard Car Park (AH1, AH2 and AH3). However, modern hardcore was immediately encountered within the first auger hole

excavated (AH2), which could not be penetrated despite prolonged attempts. As a consequence attempts to excavate auger holes AH1 and AH3 were abandoned and three further auger holes (AH4, AH5a and AH5b) were excavated within the northern planted border of the Courtyard Car Park adjacent to the retaining wall (**Figure 1** and **Appendix 2**).

3.2.7 Archaeological monitoring was carried out during the excavation of a geotechnical trial hole TH1 and a window sample WS2 (**Figure 1** and **Appendices 3** and **4**).

Service Location

3.2.8 Prior to machine excavation of the trial trenches and archaeological hand augering, the investigation locations were scanned by Wessex Archaeology using a proprietary Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT). Archaeological works were not excavated in areas where services were located.

Methodology – Trial Trenches

3.2.9 All overburden (topsoil and subsoil) was carefully removed in spits by mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket, to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or natural geology, whichever was encountered first.

3.2.10 Topsoil and subsoil were separated and stored on either side of the trench to ensure the minimum cross-contamination of the different deposits. Spoil was kept at a minimum of 1m from the trench edge in order to provide a safe working area. In addition spoil was heaped a sufficient distance from the excavation to prevent any failure to the sides of the trenches and to prevent any loose material falling into the working area.

3.2.11 The trench locations were secured at all times by HERAS security fencing supplied and maintained by the Principal Contractor.

3.2.12 All machine work was conducted under constant archaeological supervision and ceased immediately if significant evidence was revealed.

3.2.13 Particular care was taken not to damage any areas containing significant remains that might merit preservation *in situ*.

3.2.14 Stripped material was visually examined for archaeological material.

3.2.15 Where appropriate, each trench was cleaned by hand and planned prior to any hand-excavation.

Reinstatement

3.2.16 The up-cast deposits was backfilled in the same order that they were excavated in order to ensure that the soil structure was, wherever possible, maintained. The surface of each trench was compacted by the mechanical excavator on completion of the backfilling to ensure that no ‘soft spots’ were present at the trench locations.

Methodology – Hand Augering

3.2.17 The hand augering was undertaken to a depth sufficient to establish the presence of undisturbed material beneath the modern surface make-up. This was achieved by using a 25mm Dutch auger in order to attempt to penetrate the modern material. Augering ceased on the confirmation of

undisturbed material or where modern material precluded the progress of the auger head.

Methodology – Monitoring of Geotechnical Investigations

3.2.18 Archaeological monitoring was carried out during the excavation of all geotechnical investigations.

Survey

3.2.19 All archaeological remains and other features of relevance to the project were digitally surveyed using GPS within the OS NGR system, including heights above OS datum (Newlyn).

Record Photographs

3.2.20 Sufficient dated colour photographs of all areas, including access routes, to provide a record of original condition, and condition on completion of all fieldwork were taken.

3.2.21 Special attention was placed on recording the mechanical excavation, spoil handling and storage prior to, during and following completion of the archaeological works.

3.3 Monitoring

3.3.1 The trenches were monitored by by Steve Membery, Senior Historic Environment Officer with Somerset County Council acting on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (SCC).

3.4 Recording

3.4.1 All recording was undertaken using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording sheets and recording system.

3.4.2 A complete drawn record of excavated and archaeological features and deposits was compiled. This includes both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections). The Ordnance Datum (OD) height of all principal features and levels was calculated and plans/sections are annotated with OD heights.

3.4.3 Archaeological evaluation and monitoring locations and all recorded archaeological features revealed were surveyed using a GPS and tied in to the Ordnance Survey.

3.4.4 A full photographic record was maintained using both colour transparencies and black and white negatives (on 35mm film) and digital photography.

Finds

3.4.5 Finds were treated in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Institute of Field Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 1999), the UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines *"Conservation Guideline No 2"* and the Museums and Galleries Commissions "*Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (1991)"excepting where superseded by statements made below.

3.4.6 All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, except those from features or deposits of obviously modern date.

3.4.7 All retained artefacts will, as a minimum, washed, weighed, counted and identified.

3.4.8 Information has been obtained from Somerset County Museums Service concerning conditions and arrangements for the deposition of finds.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Trial trench, auger hole, window sample and test pit descriptions, and brief soil and feature descriptions can be found in **Appendices 1** to **4**. The locations of each individual intervention observed are shown on **Figures 1** to **4**.

4.2 Archaeological Results – *Area A: Amory Block Trial Trenches*

Introduction

4.2.1 Two trial trenches were excavated with Area A (TR4a and TR4b). Initially intended to be a single trench TR4a and TR4b was split to avoid a series of service cables extending in a north-east direction for the Amory Block and to allow continued access to the Block via an asphalt pathway linked to the Courtyard Car Park.

4.2.2 Both trenches were found to contain archaeological remains comprising stone rubble walling and foundations, floor surfaces and possible remnant floor surfaces (**Figure 2**).

Natural deposits and soil sequences

4.2.3 Area A has clearly been subjected to past landscaping works that have raised the ground level of the Courtyard Car Park and the immediate surrounding area. Because of these works no natural deposits or natural soils sequences, i.e. A Horizon (topsoil), B horizon (subsoil) and Parent material (Natural geology) were encountered within TR4a or TR4b, before archaeological deposits were observed. This does not preclude natural soil sequences being present below the archaeological deposits.

Summary of the evaluation results

Trial Trench TR4a

4.2.4 Structural remains were encountered within Trench TR4a at a depth of 0.60m Below Ground Level (BGL).

4.2.5 Trench TR4a (**Figure 2** and **Plate 1**) contained four walls (**409**, **414**, **415** and **416**), a possible remnant floor surface (**417**) and an underlying levelling layer (**418**) overlain by possible demolition deposits (**413**). These features were overlain by a sequence of made ground (**412**), modern topsoil (**411**) and turf line (**410**).

4.2.6 Wall **409** was situated in the southern end of the trench and was found to be 0.43m wide and extending in a broadly east-west direction. The wall appeared to be *in-situ*, but has mostly been 'robbed out' leaving only a few loose stone rubble elements of the upper structure and a fairly intact

reddish-brown sand rich mortar base which contains some placed flat local sandstone (*c*.0.18×0.22m) and crushed sandstone throughout. Wall **409** appeared to be part of the same structure as walls **414**, **415** and **416** identified in the north-western end of the trench, perhaps forming a small room or cell *c*.2.00m wide, unfortunately any proof of this relationship was beyond the extent of the trial trench. One piece of slate roof tile, green glaze pottery, a possible stone stylus, a metal object possibly a light hinge, oyster shell and animal bone were recovered from the area immediately surrounding wall **409**.

4.2.7 The long eastern edge of northwest-southeast wall **414** was just visible in the western edge of the trench, as a possible line of loose sandstone rubble near the base of the excavated sequence. A small north-western extension of the trench revealed that the sandstone rubble was overlying a mortar foundation similar or identical in construction to wall **409**.

4.2.8 Walls **415** and **416** were identified in the north of the trench and extended beyond the defined trench area. Two further small trench extensions and a small sondage were excavated in the north-east corner of the trench to better characterise these features (**Figure 2** and **Plate 2**). Wall **415** was found to be extending in a parallel east-westerly direction to wall **409**, situated *c*.2.00m to the south. Wall **415** appears to turn through 90º to the south, or is joined by northwest-southeast wall **416** under the north-eastern bulk of the trench. Information retrieved from a small sondage excavated in the north-eastern corner of the trial trench would suggest that wall **415** and **416** are part of the same phase of construction, as no evidence of butting was observed, however this intervention was extremely limited and this relationship although considered likely is by no means proven.

4.2.9 Although excavation of walls **415** and **416** were limited, the interventions proved both walls to be of a similar or identical construction to walls **409** and **415**.

4.2.10 Although the evidence for a relationship between wall **414** and wall **415** was present underneath the north-western bulk of the trial trench, and therefore not visible with the trench, it is considered likely, given the similarities in construction and the orientation of these walls, that they are both related to the same phase of construction.

4.2.11 With the exception of the small sondage excavated in the north-eastern corner of the trench, excavation of the internal area defined by walls **409**, **414**, **415** and **416** halted when possible demolition deposit **413** was reached.

4.2.12 Demolition deposit **413** was found to contain fragments of crushed sand rich mortar and sparse sherds of green glaze pottery. Demolition deposit **413** was not identified within the north-eastern sondage, and was overlain by made ground deposit **412** over much of the trench.

4.2.13 Within the north-eastern sondage a possible remnant floor surface (**417**) and an underlying levelling layer comprising sandstone rubble, and dark red clay (**418**) was found to be butting against the possible corner formed by walls

415 and **416**. This may indicate further similar survival under deposits **412** and **413** within the rest of the area.

4.2.14 All of the archaeological features within TR4a were overlain by made ground layer **412**. This comprised a mid grey-brown clay loam and contained moderate inclusions of undressed sandstone rubble, presumably originally derived from the underlying walls and modern CBM and coal. Finds from layer **412** included green glaze pottery, stoneware pottery, handmade iron nails, a iron object (possibly a hinge) and oyster shell.

Trial Trench TR4b

4.2.15 Structural remains were encountered within Trench TR4b at a depth of 0.36m Below Ground Level (BGL). These remains extended across the entire base of the trench and underlying deposits were not reached during this phase of work.

4.2.16 Trench TR4a (**Figure 2** and **Plate 3**) contained one large wall remnant (**407**), a floor surface (**408**), a possible external floor surface or foundation layer (**406**), and on a slightly different alignment a possible mortar foundation or remnant floor surface (**405**) and associated clay layer **404**.

4.2.17 Wall **407** extended across the entire length of the trench in a broadly north-south direction. Like the walls encountered in TR4a wall **407** was situated loosely *in-situ*, but has mostly been 'robbed out' leaving only loosely packed rough un-bonded and un-dressed sandstone rubble. The remnant wall measured approximately 1.22m wide at its widest visible point within the trench. A few sparse fragments of pinkish red sand rich mortar with calcareous inclusions were found within the sandstone rubble remnants and although none of the visible sandstone rubble had any mortar bonded to it, one piece of undecorated floor tile was recovered from within the wall remnants with similar mortar bonded to both its sides. Other finds retrieved from wall **407** include green glazed pottery, old bottle glass, animal bone, handmade iron nails and oyster shell.

4.2.18 The foundation course of wall **407** could not be investigated without destructive intervention; as such it is not clear whether wall **407** was constructed with a mortar based foundation similar to the walls found within trench TR4a. Wall **407** certainly appears to be a more substantial construction.

4.2.19 A small section of mortar and stone floor surface (**408**) was exposed within the south-eastern portion of the trench (**Figure 2** and **Plates 3** and **4**). Floor surface **408** was clearly butted against wall **407** and is presumed to be broadly contemporary at this stage. The mortar was pale pinkish yellow in colour and the surface of the mortar had been roughly ridged with a trowel or float, presumably intended to allow the secure fixing of a harder, possibly tiled floor surface. Large sandstone rubble blocks were bedded in to the mortar surface intermittently. These were roughly flat on their upper surfaces and measured up to 0.34m in diameter.

4.2.20 A sondage through the made ground (**403**) in the north-western end of the trench revealed further archaeological layers at a depth of 0.65m BGL.

These included a layer (**406**) which comprised a compact sandy clay into which were embedded frequent inclusions of small fractured slate rubble and small pieces of stone rubble. The relationship between this layer, wall **407** and possible foundation **405** is unclear and could not be ascertained without further destructive intervention. Possible wall foundation **405** was also situated within the sondage to the west of layer **406**. It comprised a hard pink-red sand rich mortar with calcareous inclusions, similar in nature to the mortar foundation encountered with TR4a. A lipped edging effect along the long edges of this feature may indicate the presences of an, at present, invisible cut into which the wet mortar was placed before being roughly smoothed flat. This would make foundation **405** later than layer **406**. In addition, clay layer **404** which was only observed around the edges of possible foundation **405**, may also represent some of the infill of this cut. One largish piece of slate was found to be embedded with the upper surface of foundation **405**.

4.2.21 Foundation **405** was also situated on a different alignment to wall **407** indicating it probably belongs to a different phase of construction. .

4.2.22 All of the archaeological features within TR4b were overlain by made ground layer **403**. This comprised a mid to dark brown clay loam and contained moderate inclusions of undressed sandstone rubble, modern CBM, pottery and coal.

4.3 Archaeological Results – *Area B: Former Tennis Court*

Introduction

4.3.1 Three trial trenches were excavated with Area B (TR1, TR2 and TR3) (**Figures 1**, **3** and **Appendix 1**).

4.3.2 No significant archaeological remains were identified in any of these trial trenches. However, an unexpectedly substantial depth of modern made ground was identified within TR1 (see (**Figure 3, section** and **Plate 5**) and TR2, and a well compacted modern mortar deposit (**201**) and associated levelling layers (**202**, **203** and **204**) were identified within also TR2 (**Figure 3, section** and **Plate 6**).

Natural deposits and soil sequences

4.3.3 Area B has clearly been subjected to extensive landscaping works that have raised the original ground level significantly. Natural geology was identified at depths between 1.55m BGL (TR1) and 0.72m BGL (TR3), across Area B, the deeper deposits being present towards the north of the area. No original *in-situ* A Horizon (topsoil) or B horizon (subsoil) deposit were identified within any of the trial trenches.

Trial Trench TR1

4.3.4 No significant archaeological features or deposits were observed within trench TR1. However, a considerable depth of made ground was identified up to a depth of 1.55m BGL, where natural geology, comprising angular red-brown sandstone gravels and cobbles was encountered. Three distinct layers of made ground were identified with the trench (**101, 102** and **103**), each contained quantities of fractured CBM rubble, slag and coal.

Concentrations of slate roofing tile, of the same type retrieved from around wall **409** in located TR4a.

Trial Trench TR2

4.3.5 No significant archaeological features or deposits were observed within trench TR2. Made ground was identified within this trench to a depth between 0.94-1.18m BGL.

4.3.6 A compact mortar deposit (**201**) was identified in the north-west end of the trench at a depth of 0.94m BGL (**Figure 3, section** and **Plate 6**). Because of the loose and friable nature of the overlying made ground (**205**), trench TR2 was extended and stepped in this area to facilitate the safe investigation of this feature. Underlying mortar deposit **201** were a series of levelling layers (**202**, **203** and **204**), and located securely with the middle levelling layer (**203**) was a modern factory made teapot spout, distinctively shaped like the heads and neck of a bird, possibly a peacock. The function of deposit **201** is not clear, the feature was observed in a previously damaged state which made positive identification difficult, this damage presumably occurred when the area was built up. In addition, nothing which would positively identify surface **201** is depicted on the historical mapping (see section 4.6 below), however, the 1st edition Ordnance Survey mapping of 1884 does depict a clearly defined pathway extending east-west across this area and the 1841 tithe map of Cannington depicts a well defined rectilinear pond (tithe number 756; Ross and Foyle, 2012), which appears to have been filled in before the 1884 survey. It would therefore seem feasible that deposit **201** may relate, to an element of this pond.

Trial Trench TR3

4.3.7 Trial trench TR3 was archaeologically sterile, no archaeological features or deposits were identified within this trench. Like trenches TR1 and TR2 a made ground layer (**303**) was identified within this trench to depth of 0.72m BGL.

4.4 Auger Survey Results - *Area C:* Existing Courtyard Car Park

Introduction

4.4.1 Archaeological groundwork in Area C were intended to define the depth of the modern overburden known to be present below the Courtyard Car Park. This made ground was added to the Courtyard Car Park area during the mid 20th century. The 19th century tithe map (1841) records this parcel of land as a bowling green (754), the creation of the bowling green would presumably have involved some previous levelling works. A photograph from the mid 19th century (Ross and Foyle, 2012) shows Area C as bordered lawn at the same level as the west front of the Court, with a path leading east from the west gate, the lawn looks relatively flat, but a number of apparently shallow north-south undulations can be observed, which might indicate underlying features.

4.4.2 Hand augers were used to define the depth of the modern overburden at three locations under and adjacent to the existing Courtyard Car Park (AH2, AH4 and AH5a/b). Auger holes AH1 and AH3 were not excavated due to difficult ground conditions (**Figure 1** and **Appendix 2**).

4.4.3 Descriptions of individual auger holes, including soil descriptions and depths can be found in **Appendix 2** and will not be repeated at length here. Natural deposits were not positively identified within any of the auger holes; however depths beyond the lower road surface, adjacent to the west front of Cannington Court were achieved within one of the auger holes (**AH4**).

Results

4.4.4 The excavation of auger hole AH2 halted at a depth of 0.10m BGL, as the underlying modern hardcore could not be penetrated. In response to this AH1 and AH3 were abandoned as similar ground conditions were expected, and AH4 and AH5 were excavated in the near-by car park border to the west, where softer ground might be expected. A hard sandstone block was hit at a depth of 0.40m BGL within AH5(a), well above the level of the west front, so the auger hole was moved to a near-by location AH5(b), unfortunately further sandstone was also encountered at a depth of 0.50m BGL.

4.4.5 Auger hole AH4 to the north of AH5a/b proved to be more successful with a depth of 1.25m BGL (12.27m aOD) being achieved, before excavation was halted by a similar sandstone block. The level of the road surface opposite AH4 and adjacent to the west front of Cannington Court was 12.61m aOD, so this auger hole did extend 0.34m below that level. Modern inclusions within AH4 (slag and coal) stopped at a depth of 0.75m aOD (12.77m aOD) and it is possible, but by no means certain, that this represents the depth of the modern made grounds.

4.4.6 It should be noted that clearly natural deposits were encounter at a depth of 1.30m BGL (12.20m aOD) within geological window sample pit WS2, *c*.15m north-west of auger hole AH4.

4.4.7 In addition it was noted that the lower road surface adjacent to the west front of Cannington Court and bordering the Area C auger survey area, sloped markedly down from the south (13.22m aOD) to the present car park steps (12.47m aOD), before rising gradually to the north (12.64m aOD). Although not certain, this may represent or echo the original topography.

4.5 Archaeological Results – *Geotechnical Survey, Areas A, B and C*

Introduction

4.5.1 In addition to the archaeological evaluation a series of geotechnical test pits were conducted within Areas, A, B and C (located on **Figure 1**), these were all archaeologically monitored and the results, including the stratigraphic sequence, can be found in **Appendices 3** and **4**, and will not be repeated here.

4.5.2 No archaeological features or deposits were identified within any of the geotechnical test pits. The hand excavated test pits, including the CBR tests (TH1 to TH11) did not breach the made ground level anywhere within Areas, A, B or C.

4.5.3 The window sample tests (WS1 to WS4) reached natural deposits within Areas A, B and C.

Area A: Amory Block

4.5.4 In Area A (Amory Block), obviously natural deposits were only reached at a depth of 1.55m BGL (12.07m aOD). The deepest exposed archaeological deposits observed within trial trench TR4b, adjacent to WS1 were located at 0.65m BGL (12.98m aOD), indicating there may be a considerable depth (under 1.00m) of deposits below the structural remains identified in TR4b.

Area B: Former Tennis Court

4.5.5 Window samples WS3 and WS4 were both excavated at the southern end of Area B. Natural geology was encountered at a depth of 0.60m BGL (12.38m aOD) within WS3 in the south-western corner of the Area, and at 0.82m BGL (12.02m aOD) within WS4 located towards the south-east.

Area C: Existing Courtyard Car Park

4.5.6 Natural deposits were encounter at a depth of 1.30m BGL (12.20m aOD) within Area C (WS2).

4.6 Historic Map Regression

4.6.1 The historical mapping collected by McLaughlin Ross llp for the Historical Building Report on Cannington Court was used to complete this section (Ross and Foyle, 2012), if required please refer to this document (Part II) which depicts the historical mapping referred to in this section.

4.6.2 This map regression only considers the development of Areas A (Amory Block), B (Former Tennis Court) and C (Existing Courtyard Car Park).

4.6.3 The earliest suitably scaled mapping of Cannington Court obtained by McLaughlin Ross llp for the Historical Building Report is a sketch map produced in 1825/1826. This depicts Cannington Court, the Priory Barn and Court House. The area to the west of Cannington Court and to the north of the Priory Barn (the 'Bowling Green') incorporating Areas A and C is depicted as an open area, presumably walled with no other structures present within. Area B is depicted within a larger enclosed area (possibly gardens), which incorporates the western portions of the present college walled garden. A largish rectangular feature enclosing *c*.0.03ha is depicted within the Former Tennis Court Area.

4.6.4 The 1841 tithe map depicts a similar picture. The accompanying apportionment identifies Area A and Area C as a Bowling Green (754) and Area B as Garden (755). The rectangular feature depicted on the 1825/1826 map is identified as a Pond (756).

4.6.5 Areas A and C are depicted relatively unchanged on the Ordnance Survey 1st and 2nd edition mapping of 1884 and 1904. The Dairy Building to the north of Area C, and a dog legged wall to the south of Area A (north of Priory Barn) are first depicted on the 1884 mapping, but do not encroach on either Area A or Area C. The wall and steps adjacent to the west front and gate of Cannington Court are first depicted on the 1st edition mapping, suggesting that the level of the Present Car Park Area (Area C) and to a lesser extent Area A, may have been altered (raised) before 1884. Area B appears to have undergone some re-modelling between the creation of the 1841 tithe map and 1884 Ordnance Survey cartographic survey. Area B is now defined

within its present extent with two rectilinear areas delineated by formal paths contained within. The pond depicted of the 1841 tithe mapping is no longer present, and is possibly overlain by the pathway system, having presumably been filled in.

4.6.6 Area A is depicted unaffected by any further changes on the 3rd edition Ordnance Survey mapping of 1928. To the north of Area C the Dairy Building has been enlarged and extends somewhat further to the south, and a forecourt area is depicted within the northern portion of Area C directly to the south of the Dairy Building. Within Area B the rectilinear garden and pathway system has been removed and replaced by open ground interspersed with trees. A number of outbuildings have been also been constructed along the extreme southern edge of the Area.

4.6.7 An Architects plan of 1938 depicts the addition of the Amory Building within Area A, and the accommodation block to the north-west.

4.6.8 The 1970 edition Ordnance Survey Mapping depicts little change around Area A or Area C. The Tennis Court and further outbuildings long the southern edge, are now depicted within Area B.

4.7 Limited Topographic Survey

4.7.1 A limited number of topographic measurements (levels) were taken in and around Areas A, B and C in an attempt to better understand the original underlying topography of Cannington Court (**Figure 4**). These measurements taken at road and pavement level in, and around the court, coupled with level data obtained from the archaeological trial trenches and geotechnical test pits has enabled a basic picture of the original underlying topography across the western portion of Cannington Court.

Area A and Area C

4.7.2 The present street level (Church Street) directly to the west of Area A was measured at 13.45m aOD, the present ground level within Area A is slightly higher at 13.63m aOD. The underlying natural sandstone geology was observed within WS1 (Area A) at 12.07m aOD, indicating a considerable potential degree of recent and ancient overburden in this area, perhaps as much as 1.00m of deposits below the structural remains identified in trial trench TR4b, although how much of this material is natural is at presnt unclear.

4.7.3 Within Area C natural deposits were encountered at 12.20m aOD within WS2 and possible natural deposits were observed at 12.27m aOD within AH1. The present ground level of Area C is *c*.13.51m aOD, indicating there is between 1.24m and 1.31m of overburden over the natural geology in Area C.

4.7.4 Levels taken on the surface of the churchyard path to the south of St. Mary's Church were measured at between 12.98m and 13.38m aOD, and measurements taken along the base of the retaining wall of the present car park adjacent to Area C, along the west front of Canning Court, measured between 13.22m aOD in the south, and 12,64m aOD to the north, with a

slight dip or low point around the present car park steps, measured at 12.47m aOD.

4.7.5 This information suggests that St. Mary's Church and Priory Barn were originally set on a low ridge which sloped gradually downward towards the north-east. This gradual slope is now generally masked by the made ground under the present car park.

Area B

4.7.6 This underlying south-west to north-east downward slope is continued into Area B. Here evidence for considerable landscaping, comprising made ground deposited across Area B, and in particular against the northern priory wall facing Fore Street was identified.

4.7.7 Present ground levels to the south of the northern priory wall, along the northern edge of Area B were recorded between 12.86m aOD and 13.10m aOD. Pavement levels on the northern side of the priory wall were recorded between 11.65m aOD to the east and 11.98m aOD to the west of Area B, giving a minimum difference in height of present ground level of 1.12m from the south side of the wall to the north. This difference in height is illustrated by **Plates 7** and **9**, but is perhaps most evident in the north-east corner of the Area B, where an old gateway is now blocked by the later made ground (**Plate 8**).

4.7.8 Natural geological deposits were observed in all three archaeological trial trenches within Area B (TR1, TR2 and TR3) and in both geotechnical window samples (WS3 and WS4). The general trend of a south-west to north-east downward slope identified within Areas A and C was continued within Area B. Natural geological deposits were encountered in the southern portion of the Area at 12.38m aOD in WS3 and at 12.02m aOD within WS4. Comparisons with the level of natural geology encountered in Areas A, B and C would indicate that this downward slope is interrupted by an area of relatively level ground around the present Diary Building. The steepness of incline of the downward slope increases between trial trenches TR3 and TR1 with natural deposits being encounter between 12.19m aOD within TR3 and at 11.47m aOD within TR1, a difference in height of 0.72m over 18.00m.

5 ARTEFACTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The evaluation produced a small quantity of finds, deriving from contexts in three of the trial trenches excavated – Trench 2 in Area B (Former Tennis Court), and Trenches 4a and 4b in Area A (Amory Block).

5.1.2 Most of the datable material is post-medieval, with a few medieval items also identified. Quantities of finds by material type and by context are given in **Table 1**, below.

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

Context	Animal Bone	CBM	Glass	Metal (No.)	Mortar	Pottery	Shell	Stone
203						1/74		
205			1/8			16/477	1/50	1/112
401			1/72					
407	9/193	2/478	1/19	2 Fe	2/282	3/12	4/78	
409	2/51	2/170		1 Cu	2/793	2/32	1/11	2/257
412				2 Fe		3/28	2/58	
413						1/6		
415	2/19							
Total	**13/263**	**4/648**	**3/99**	**4 Fe; 1 Cu**	**4/1075**	**26/629**	**8/197**	**3/369**

CBM = ceramic building material; Cu = copper alloy; Fe = iron

5.2 Pottery

5.2.1 Pottery provides the primary dating evidence for the Site. Of the 26 sherds recovered, two are medieval and the remainder post-medieval.

5.2.2 The two medieval sherds both came from wall (**407**) In Trench 4b, and were clearly residual in this context, occurring alongside post-medieval items. They comprise one sherd in a coarse sandy ware, with patchy external glaze, and a second sherd in a fine, slightly micaceous whiteware with all-over green glaze, possibly a continental (French) import. Both are small bosy sherds, heavily abraded, but can be dated on fabric grounds as 13th or 14th century.

5.2.3 The post-medieval wares include coarse redwares, some with white slip coating or slip decoration (probably largely of 17th or 18th century date); Staffordshire-type manganese mottled ware (17th/18th century); and modern (19th/20th century) factory-produced finewares, including a zoomorphic teapot in Jackfield ware, with a spout shaped as a cockerel, from levelling layer (**203**) in Trench 2 (other wares include pearlware, yellow ware, stoneware and refined whiteware).

5.3 Ceramic Building Material (CBM) and Mortar

5.3.1 The CBM comprises three fragments of roof tile and one brick fragment. The roof tile includes one ridge tile, partly glazed, and a second curved tile, probably either a hip tile or pantile. One flat fragment is heavily mortared, and appears to have been re-used in wall (**407**).

5.3.2 Further building material was recovered in the form of mortar fragments from walls (**407**) and (**409**).

5.4 Glass

5.4.1 Three pieces of glass were recovered, of which two are green bottle glass of later 17th or 18th century date. One fragment from turf line (**401**) in Trench 4b comprises the flared neck of a bottle of 'onion' form (*c.*1680-1730), while the second fragment, from wall (**407**), is a body fragment from a bottle of uncertain form.

5.4.2 The third fragment is from a modern bottle or jar, from made ground (**205**).

5.5 Marine Shell

5.5.1 All the shell recovered consists of oyster, and both right and left valves are present, i.e. both preparation and consumption waste. All fragments are abraded and in relatively poor condition; none survive to measurable original dimensions.

5.6 Other Finds

5.6.1 Other finds comprise very small quantities of animal bone (cattle and sheep/goat); metalwork (copper alloy rolled sheet fragment; iron nails and ?bar); and stone (roofing slate and slate pencil). Apart from the slate pencil (modern), none of these finds is datable.

6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1.1 Structural remains were identified with trial trenches TR4a and TR4b within Area A. Dating of these structural remains is somewhat problematic as no secure dating evidence was retrieved from any of the archaeological contexts identified within these trenches. The earliest finds relating to the insecure destruction debris and overburden contexts associated with these structural remains, date to the medieval period perhaps indicating a medieval origin to these features. Certainly no modern structures are depicted in the locality of TR4a/b on the historical mapping from 1825/26 onwards, so these structures must be 18th century or earlier.

6.1.2 It is worth considering that beyond the main priory buildings (around the cloister i.e. Cannington Court, Priory Barn, St. Mary's Church and the extent of the priory precinct, the layout of Cannington Priory is little understood. Although Coppack (2006) correctly states '*There was no such thing as a typical monastery*', each individual monastic settlement as, ideally, a self-sufficient entity, would require a series of various ancillary buildings including a brewery, bakery, guest lodgings, stables and livestock sheds in line with the hypothetical or ideal layout of a monastery known as the St. Gall plan (http://www.stgallplan.org). The position of these ancillary buildings would vary between monastic sites and would be dependant on the need for access to drainage and water and how the site would sit in the local landscape (Coppack, 2006, 88).

6.1.3 No significant archaeological remains were encountered within Area B. Hard mortar and stone deposits located with trial trench TR2 were found to be overlying deposits containing modern material. Area B has been subjected to various phases of landscaping in the post-medieval and modern periods which have resulted in as much as 1.55m of overburden being present within this portion of the Site. No archaeological evidence of the outline of a rectilinear pond, of unknown antiquity, depicted on the earliest 19th century mapping of the Site was identified during the evaluation. The pond was destroyed or in-filled by 1884 when the 1st edition Ordnance Survey mapping was produced, and replaced by gardens and formal paths, it is probable that at least some landscaping work done within Area B at this stage. Further landscaping and levelling are will have occurred within Area B when it was

turned into a tennis court in the late 20th century. The tennis court would require a level area, and any remnants of the apparent north-west to south-east slope identified during the project would have needed to be removed.

6.1.4 No archaeological features or deposits were observed within Area C. This does not preclude the presence of archaeologically significant remains in this area, as the sample area was limited to only three auger holes and one window sample. Overburden between 1.24m and 1.31m in depth was identified over the natural geology in Area C.

7 ARCHIVE

7.1.1 The archive will eventually be deposited with the Somerset County Museum, under Project Reference Number 31713, and under a unique accession code TTNCM 29/2012. This accession code will be marked on all elements of the archive.

7.1.2 The primary archive, including copies of all photographs, will be deposited with the Somerset County Museum or another suitable depository no later than six months after completion of all required fieldwork and post-excavation work. Details of the Archaeological Evaluation will also be entered into the online "Oasis" database maintained by the Archaeological Date Service (ADS).

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

7.2 Copyright

7.2.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the Site will be retained by Wessex Archaeology Ltd under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved. The recipient museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profitmaking, and conforms with the Copyright and Related Rights regulations 2003.

7.3 Security Copy

7.3.1 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 Archaeological Record (English Heritage), a second diazo copy will be deposited with the paper records, and a third diazo copy will be retained by Wessex Archaeology. Alternatively, the security copy may be in the form of a pdf file.

8 REFERENCES

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APPENDIX 1: TABLE OF TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

Trial Trench No.	**1**	**NGR**	**E**	**325743 139631**	**W**	**325722 139628**
Length (m)		**Width** (m)			**Max. Depth** (m) (Below Ground Level – Ground Level at 13.02m aOD through this sequence)	
21.80		**1.80**			**1.55**	

Context No.	**Soil Description**	**Depth** (m) (B.G.L)
101	Made Ground – Fine gravel with inclusions of bone china, slate, small CBM rubble – a possible remnant of the tennis court hardcore	0-0.08
102	Made Ground – Mid greenish-brown sand with clay with inclusions of fractured CBM rubble, slag, coal and fractured gravels	0.08-0.64
103	Made Ground – Orange-brown sand with clay component contained inclusions of small gravels, red brick rubble, roofing slate, coal and slag	0.64-1.55
104	Natural – Gravels and cobbles in a red-brown sandy matrix	1.55→

Trial Trench No.	**2**	**NGR**	**NW**	**325724 139620**	**SE**	**325737 139616**
Length (m)		**Width** (m)			**Max. Depth** (m) (Below Ground Level – Ground Level at 12.84m aOD through this sequence)	
13.16		**1.80** (3.21 max)			**1.25**	

Context No.	**Soil Description**	**Depth** (m) (B.G.L)
201	Compact Mortar Surface – Mid to light grey compact mortar which a found to be overlying a series of levelling layers	0.94-0.97
202	Stone Levelling Layer – A layer of red-brown flat local sandstones which appear to form a platform for mortar surface 201	0.97-1.00
203	Levelling Layer – Mid red-brown sand and clay with frequent inclusions of small sub-angular and rounded stone rubble, coal fragments and occasional sherds of bone china	1.00-1.03
204	Levelling Layer – Mid red crushed sandstone containing inclusions of occasional coal fragments	1.03-1.25
205	Made Ground – Mid red-brown sand and clay with inclusions of sandstone rubble and gravel, coal and modern bone china and red brick	0.38-0.94
206	Topsoil – Mid grey-brown sandy clay loam with moderate inclusions of modern CBM, pottery and coal	0-0.18

207	Subsoil – Mid grey-brown compact sandy clay loam with moderate inclusions of modern CBM, pottery and coal	0.18-0.38
208	Natural – Identified within sondage adjacent to surface 201 – Mid red-brown sandstone and gravels in a sandy clay matrix	1.25→

Trial Trench No.	**3**	**NGR**	**NE**	**325750 139614**	**SW**	**325741 139610**
Length (m)		**Width** (m)			**Max. Depth** (m) (Below Ground Level – Ground Level at 12.91m aOD through this sequence)	
10.17		**1.80**			**0.90**	

Context No.	**Soil Description**	**Depth** (m) (B.G.L)
301	Topsoil – Mid grey-brown sandy clay loam with moderate inclusions of modern CBM, pottery and coal	0-0.18
302	Subsoil – Mid grey-brown compact sandy clay loam with moderate inclusions of modern CBM, pottery and coal	0.18-0.42
303	Made Ground – Mid red-brown sand and clay with inclusions of sandstone rubble and gravel, coal and modern bone china	0.42-0.72
304	Natural – Mid orange-brown sandstone rubble and gravels in a sandy matrix	0.72→
305	Natural – Dark orange-brown sterile sand	0.72→

Trial Trench No.	**4a**	**NGR**	**NW**	**325718 139553**	**SE**	**325720 139549**
Length (m)		**Width** (m)			**Max. Depth** (m) (Below Ground Level – Ground Level at 13.63m aOD through this sequence)	
3.90		**2.12**			**0.84**	

Context No.	**Soil Description**	**Depth** (m) (B.G.L)
409	Wall – A wall extending in an east-west direction in the southern end of the trench. The wall remains loosely *in-situ* but has mostly been 'robbed out' leaving a fairly intact mortar base which contains some placed flat local sandstone (*c*.0.18×0.22m) and crushed sandstone throughout. Further excavation would reveal construction cuts etc. but these are not currently visible	0.60→
410	Turf line – Mid grey-brown loam	0-0.09
411	Topsoil – Mid grey brown sand and silty clay	0.09-0.15
412	Made Ground – Mid grey-brown clay loam with	0.15-0.76

	moderate inclusions of sub-angular and rounded sandstone rubble and moderate inclusions of modern CBM, pottery and coal	
413	Demolition Deposits – A deposit of dirty orange-red mortar, only the upper surface of this deposit was exposed in the base of the western section of the trench.	0.76→
414	Wall – Wall running roughly north-south – seen mostly in the western section of the trench	0.60-0.80
415	Wall – Wall running roughly east-west – seen mostly in the northern section of the trench	0.70-0.86
416	Wall – Wall running roughly north-south – seen mostly in the east section of the trench	0.66-0.82
417	Possible Remnant Floor Surface – located in the north-east corner of the trench within sondage. Possibly a rough layer put down under a now robbed out flooring	0.99-1.05
418	Levelling Layer – Sandstone rubble and dark red clay layer – Possibly put down as a base for subsequent floor surfaces. Located in sondage in the north-east corner of the trench	1.05→

Trial Trench No.	**4b**	**NGR**	**NW**	**325722 139543**	**SE**	**325724 139537**
Length (m)		**Width** (m)			**Max. Depth** (m) (Below Ground Level – Ground Level at 13.63m aOD through this sequence)	
6.39		**1.80**			**0.74**	

Context No.	**Soil Description**	**Depth** (m) (B.G.L)
401	Turf line – Mid grey-brown loam	0-0.09
402	Topsoil – Mid grey brown sand and silty clay	0.09-0.16
403	Made Ground – Mid-dark brown clay loam with moderate inclusions of sub-angular and rounded sandstone rubble and moderate inclusions of modern CBM, pottery and coal	0.16-0.65
404	Clay Layer – Mid red-orange clay - Only seen around partially uncovered foundation **405** in the north-east corner of the trench – Possible backfill around construction cut?	0.65→
405	Possible Foundation – A possible foundation made of compact pink-grey mortar. Extending on a different alignment to wall **407** and considered likely to be of a different phase. A largish piece of slate was embedded into its upper surface. Appears to be associated with clay layer **404**	0.65→

406	Possible External Surface or Layer – A layer situated between (apparently butting) possible foundation **405** and wall **407**. As both foundation **405** and wall **407** are probably of different phases it is uncertain which phase this layer is associated without further (destructive) investigation. Contains frequent slate rubble pressed into it surface along with small pieces of rubble.	0.65→
407	Wall – A wall extending north-northeast to south-southwest along the length of the trench. Apparently robbed out as the remaining stone loosely packed with numerous voids. Stone all appeared local, the largest being approximately 0.38×0.28m. Some of the stone exhibited a rough dressing, but it appeared that any well dressed stone, which might have been present, has been removed. Associated with floor surface **408**.	0.36→
408	Mortar and Stone Surface – Pale yellow-grey mortar surface which was roughly ridged with a trowel or float, presumably a mortar and stone underlay for a possible tiled(?) floor surface, the deliberate ridging seemingly intended to allow the secure fixing of hard floor tiles, the mortar and stone surface appeared to soft to function as a floor surface alone. A single floor tile was also retrieved from wall **407**. Observed only in the south-eastern corner of the trench. Appears to be built up against wall **407**.	0.56→

APPENDIX 2: TABLE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL AUGER HOLE DESCRIPTIONS

Auger Hole No.	**2**	**NGR** (centre point)	325758 139560
Diameter (m)		**Max. Observed Depth** (m) (Below Ground Level – Ground Level at 13.51m aOD through this sequence)	
0.03		**0.10**	

Textural Class	**Soil Description**	**Depth** (m) (B.G.L)
TARMAC	TARMAC	0-0.05
HARDCORE	Modern hardcore *c*.0.01-0.02m Ø. Cannot penetrate with hand auger	0.05→

Auger Hole No.	**4**	**NGR** (centre point)	325761 139564
Diameter (m)		**Max. Observed Depth** (m) (Below Ground Level – Ground Level at 13.52m aOD through this sequence)	
0.03		**1.25**	

Textural Class	**Soil Description**	**Depth** (m) (B.G.L)
Humic Soils	Mid to dark brown garden soils and peat in border of the car park in Area A	0-0.34
Sand and Silt	Mid brown sandy silt with inclusions of slag, coal and small red sandstone rubble	0.34-0.75
Sand and Clay	Mid brown sand and clay with common inclusions sandstone rubble, otherwise quite sterile	0.75-0.80
Sand and Clay	Mid brown sand and clay with frequent inclusions sandstone rubble	0.80-1.10
Clay with Sand	Mid red-brown clay with sand with very sparse small calcareous inclusions	1.10-1.25
Sandstone	Light grey sandstone – Hard sandstone block encountered, cannot penetrate with hand auger	1.25→

Auger Hole No.	**5a**	**NGR** (centre point)	325763 139552
Diameter (m)		**Max. Observed Depth** (m) (Below Ground Level – Ground Level at 13.47m aOD through this sequence)	
0.03		**0.40**	

Textural Class	**Soil Description**	**Depth** (m) (B.G.L)
Humic Soils	Mid to dark brown garden soils and peat in border of the car park in Area A	0-0.35
Sand and Silt	Mid brown sandy silt with inclusions of slag, coal and small sandstone rubble	0.35-0.40
Sandstone	Light grey sandstone – Hard sandstone block encountered, cannot penetrate with hand auger	0.40→

Auger Hole No.	**5b**	**NGR** (centre point)	325763 139553
Diameter (m)		**Max. Observed Depth** (m) (Below Ground Level – Ground Level at 13.48m aOD through this sequence)	
0.03		**0.50**	

Textural Class	**Soil Description**	**Depth** (m) (B.G.L)
Humic Soils	Mid to dark brown garden soils and peat in border of the car park in Area A	0-0.35
Sand and Silt	Mid brown sandy silt with inclusions of slag, coal and small sandstone rubble	0.35-0.50
Sandstone	Light grey sandstone – Hard sandstone block encountered, cannot penetrate with hand auger	0.50→

APPENDIX 3: TABLE OF GEOTECHNICAL WINDOW SAMPLE DESCRIPTIONS

Window Sample Pit No.	**1**	**NGR** (centre point)	**325722 139535**
Diameter (m)		**Max. Observed Depth** (m) (Below Ground Level – Ground Level at 13.62m aOD through this sequence)	
0.11		**1.55**	

Context No.	**Soil Description**	**Depth** (m) (B.G.L)
501	Topsoil/turf Line – Mid brown sandy clay	0-0.15
502	Garden Soils – Very dark brown humic material	0.15-0.36
503	Made Ground – A mixed deposit of very dark brown to black topsoil derived material with inclusions of limestone rubble	0.36-0.60
504	Made Ground (?) – Red-brown clay and sand with mixed stone rubble of grey and red sandstone	0.60-1.55
505	Natural – Red to grey sandstone rubble with a matrix of red sand and very fine gravels	1.55→

Window Sample Pit No.	**2**	**NGR** (centre point)	**325745 139570**
Diameter (m)		**Max. Observed Depth** (m) (Below Ground Level – Ground Level at 13.50m aOD through this sequence)	
0.11		**1.55**	

Context No.	**Soil Description**	**Depth** (m) (B.G.L)
801	TARMAC	0-0.06
802	Hardcore	0.06-0.20
803	Mid brown to black sand and humic material with inclusions of TARMAC rubble	0.20-0.35
804	Mid brown sandy clay with inclusions of yellow limestone rubble and charcoal	0.35-0.90
805	Mid brown-red sand with clay with inclusions of sandstone and slate rubble	0.90-1.30
806	Natural sand with angular sandstone rubble, some rubble light grey and some green.	1.30→

Window Sample Pit No.	**3**	**NGR** (centre point)	**325748 139599**
Diameter (m)		**Max. Observed Depth** (m) (Below Ground Level – Ground Level at 12.98m aOD through this sequence)	
0.11		**1.50**	

Context No.	**Soil Description**	**Depth** (m) (B.G.L)
1101	Overburden and Garden Soils – Dark red-brown sand and clay with inclusions of CBM and bone china	0-0.60
1102	Natural – Blocky red sandstone rubble with patches of brown-green sand	0.60→

Window Sample Pit No.	**4**	**NGR** (centre point)	325726 139594
Diameter (m)		**Max. Observed Depth** (m) (Below Ground Level – Ground Level at 13.24m aOD through this sequence)	
0.11		**1.50**	

Context No.	**Soil Description**	**Depth** (m) (B.G.L)
1701	Broken and crushed TARMAC and clinker	0-0.30
1702	Mid to light brown sand with clay some small sparse rubble inclusions	0.30-0.40
1703	Red sandstone rubble	0.40-0.58
1704	Very dark brown charcoal rich sand with silt with occational inclusions of small rubble or hardcore0.58-0.82	
1705	Natural – Blocky red sandstone	0.82→

APPENDIX 4: TABLE OF GEOTECHNICAL TEST HOLE DESCRIPTIONS

Test Hole No.	**1**	**NGR** (centre point)	**325743 139574**
Length (m)	**Width** (m)	**Max. Depth** (m) (Below Ground Level – Ground Level at 13.50m aOD through this sequence)	
0.50	**0.50**	**0.60**	

Context No.	**Soil Description**	**Depth** (m) (B.G.L)
701	Topsoil/ Garden Soil – Mid brown sandy humic material with inclusions of limestone rubble, CBM and bottle glass	0.00→
702	Wall foundations and footings of Dairy Building – Stone blocks to 0.20m BGL, then rough cast mortar and rubble to 0.40m BGL, then foundation step out 0.22m from the main projection to a depth of 0.60m. Projected foundation very well dressed with light grey sandstone.	0.00→

Test Hole No.	**2**	**NGR** (centre point)	**325716 139548**
Length (m)	**Width** (m)	**Max. Depth** (m) (Below Ground Level – Ground Level at 13.66m aOD through this sequence)	
0.50	**0.50**	**0.70**	

Context No.	**Soil Description**	**Depth** (m) (B.G.L)
601	Garden Soil – Mid to light brown sandy humic material with numerous inclusions of filament roots, small sandstone rubble, CBM and glass	0-0.34
602	Concrete Foundations	0.34-0.55
603	Mid to light brown sandy humic material with numerous inclusions of filament roots, sandstone cobbles, CBM and glass	0.55→

Test Hole No.	**3**	**NGR** (centre point)	**325728 139602**
Length (m)	**Width** (m)	**Max. Depth** (m) (Below Ground Level – Ground Level at 12.83m aOD through this sequence)	
0.30	**0.30**	**0.46**	

Context No.	**Soil Description**	**Depth** (m) (B.G.L)
701	Garden Soil and Overburden – A sandy silt with common inclusions of small CBM rubble, slag and clinker	0.00→

Test Hole No.	**4**	**NGR** (centre point)	**325718 139631**
Length (m)	**Width** (m)	**Max. Depth** (m) (Below Ground Level – Ground Level at 12.84m aOD through this sequence)	
0.30	**0.30**	**0.46**	

Context No.	**Soil Description**	**Depth** (m) (B.G.L)
801	Garden Soil and Overburden – A sandy silt with common inclusions of small CBM rubble, slag, clinker and bone china	0.00→

Test Hole No.	**5**	**NGR** (centre point)	**325749 139635**
Length (m)	**Width** (m)	**Max. Depth** (m) (Below Ground Level – Ground Level at 13.08m aOD through this sequence)	
0.30	**0.30**	**0.50**	

Context No.	**Soil Description**	**Depth** (m) (B.G.L)
901	Garden Soil and Overburden – A sandy silt with common inclusions of small CBM rubble, slag, clinker, bone china and coal	0.00→

Test Hole No.	**6**	**NGR** (centre point)	**325753 139606**
Length (m)	**Width** (m)	**Max. Depth** (m) (Below Ground Level – Ground Level at 12.99m aOD through this sequence)	
0.30	**0.30**	**0.45**	

Context No.	**Soil Description**	**Depth** (m) (B.G.L)
1001	Garden Soil and Overburden – A sandy silt with common inclusions of small CBM rubble, slag, clinker, bone china and coal	0.00→

Test Hole No.	**7**	**NGR** (centre point)	**325741 139617**
Length (m)	**Width** (m)	**Max. Depth** (m) (Below Ground Level – Ground Level at 12.93m aOD through this sequence)	
0.30	**0.30**	**0.45**	

Context No.	**Soil Description**	**Depth** (m) (B.G.L)
1201	Garden Soil and Overburden – A sandy silt with common inclusions of small CBM rubble and bone china	0.00→

Test Hole No.	**8** (situated inside a lean-to building)	**NGR** (centre point)	**325746 139591**
Length (m)	**Width** (m)	**Max. Depth** (m) (Below Ground Level – Ground Level at 13.51m aOD through this sequence)	
0.50	**0.30**	**0.45**	

Context No.	**Soil Description**	**Depth** (m) (B.G.L)
1301	Concrete Floor Surface	0-0.05
1302	Made Ground – Red-brown sand with a slight clay component and common inclusions of type 1 hardcore (>0.04mØ)	0.05→

Test Hole No.	**9**	**NGR** (centre point)	**325729 139589**
Length (m)	**Width** (m)	**Max. Depth** (m) (Below Ground Level – Ground Level at 13.54m aOD through this sequence)	
0.50	**0.30**	**1.10**	

Context No.	**Soil Description**	**Depth** (m) (B.G.L)
1401	Concrete Surface	0-0.05m
1402	Wall – Southern Wall of Area B, constructed from red sandstone rubble including foundations of similar construction	0-1.00
1403	Garden Soils – Mid to dark brown humic material with inclusions of CBM rubble and animal bone	0.05-1.10
1404	Natural – Red-brown sandstone rubble with a sand matrix	1.10→

Test Hole No.	**10**	**NGR** (centre point)	**325725 139592**
Length (m)	**Width** (m)	**Max. Depth** (m) (Below Ground Level – Ground Level at 13.33m aOD through this sequence)	
0.40	**0.30**	**0.55**	

Context No.	**Soil Description**	**Depth** (m) (B.G.L)
1501	Garden Soil and Overburden – A sandy silt with common inclusions of small CBM rubble and bone china	0-0.55
1502	Foundation for west wall of Area B	0-0.55

Test Hole No.	**11**	**NGR** (centre point)	**325724 139597**
Length (m)	**Width** (m)	**Max. Depth** (m) (Below Ground Level – Ground Level at 13.09m aOD through this sequence)	
0.40	**0.30**	**0.55**	

Context No.	**Soil Description**	**Depth** (m) (B.G.L)
1601	Garden Soil and Overburden – A sandy silt with common inclusions of small CBM rubble and bone china	0-0.55
1602	Foundation for west wall of Area B	0-0.55

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: wessexar1-128849

Project details

Project name	CANNINGTON COURT, SOMERSET : EVALUATION
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Mills Whipp Projects on behalf of their clients EDF Energy to carry out a programme of archaeological evaluation in advance of a planning application for the future development of Cannington Court as EDF Energy's world class UK company wide training facility. Thearchaeological evaluation was carried out to assess the potential for surviving below ground remains. Structural remains comprising walls, foundations and probable floor surfaces were identified within Area A. The earliest finds relating to the destruction debris and overburden contexts associated with these structural remains, date to medieval period and perhaps indicate a medieval origin to these features. No modern structures are depicted in the locality of these structural remains on the historical mapping from 1825/26 onwards, indicating that these structures date to the 18th century or earlier. It is possible that these remains relate to ancillary buildings which would have been associated with the original monastic layout of the site. No significant archaeological remains were encountered within Area B or Area C. The fieldwork was conducted between the 28th May and the 1st June 2012.
Project dates	Start: 11-05-2012 End: 21-06-2012
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	85500 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	TTNCM 29/2012 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	BUILDINGS Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	ROOF TILE Uncertain
Significant Finds	GLASS BOTTLE Post Medieval

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SOMERSET SEDGEMOOR CANNINGTON CANNINGTON COURT, SOMERSET : EVALUATION
Postcode	TA5 2HQ

Study area	1.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	ST 257 395 51 -3 51 08 57 N 003 03 44 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Consultant
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	Caroline Budd
Project supervisor	Steve Beach
Type of sponsor/funding body	Morgan Sindall plc

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	TTNCM 29/2012
Physical Contents	''Ceramics'',''Glass''
Digital Archive recipient	TTNCM 29/2012
Digital Contents	''other''
Digital Media available	''Database'',''Images raster / digital photography'',''Survey'',''Text''
Paper Archive recipient	TTNCM 29/2012
Paper Contents	''other''
Paper Media available	''Context sheet'',''Drawing'',''Photograph'',''Plan'',''Report'',''Section''

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	CANNINGTON COURT, CANNINGTON SOMERSET Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Beach, S., Budd, C., Mepham, L.
Other bibliographic details	WA report No. 85500.04
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	Wessex Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Salisbury
Description	Unpublished client report

Entered by	J. Sulikowska (j.sulikowska@wessexarch.co.uk)
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Cite only: http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm?ID=128849 for this page

Site location plan showing archaeological works

Figure 1

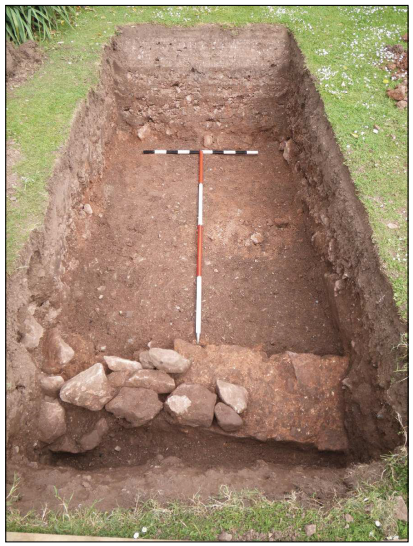

Plate 1: Overall shot of trench 4a from the southeast, showing wall **409** in the foreground, destruction debris layer **413** in centre frame, and hints of walls **414**, **415** and **416** around the northern end of the trench, these were later partially exposed by excavation

Plate 3: Overall shot of trench 4b from the northwest, showing mortar foundation **405** and surface **406** in foreground, wall **407** extending throughout and floor surface **408** to the far left of frame

Plate 2: Wall **415** and **416** showing sondage containing possible remnant floor surface **417** and levelling layer **418**, view from southwest

Plate 4: Floor surface **408** and wall **407** from the west - note tile fragment in the centre left of frame

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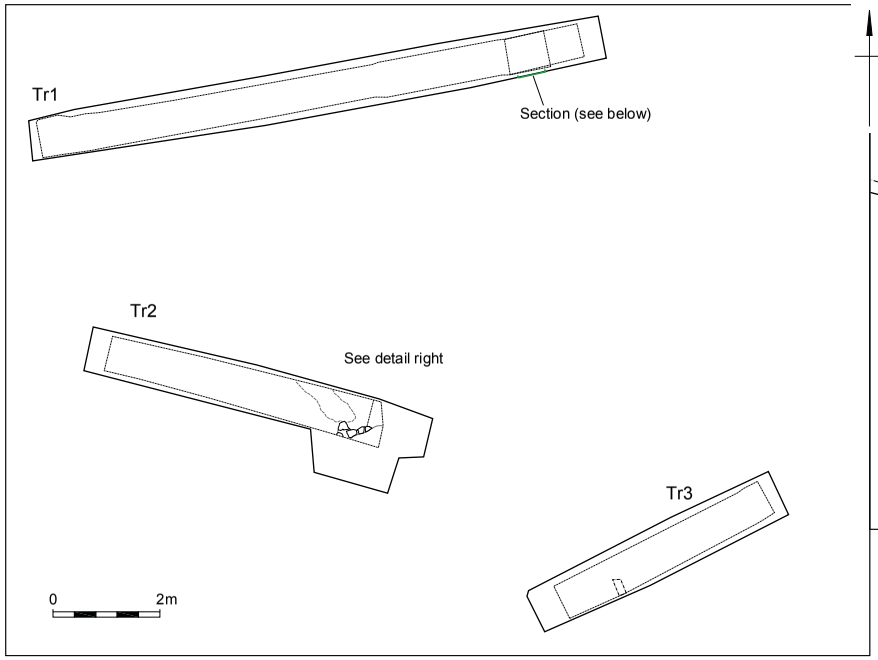
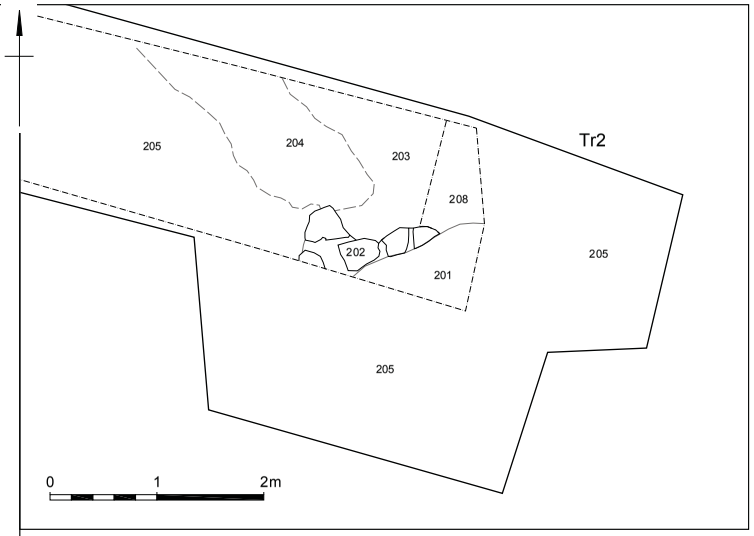
Date:	14/06/12	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:50 @ A3	Illustrator:	LJC
Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\85500\Drawing Office\Report Figs\Eval\12_06_12\85500_Eval.dwg		





205
201
202
203
204
208 (natural)

Detail of trench 2 showing modern features and deposits

Edge of excavation/sondage

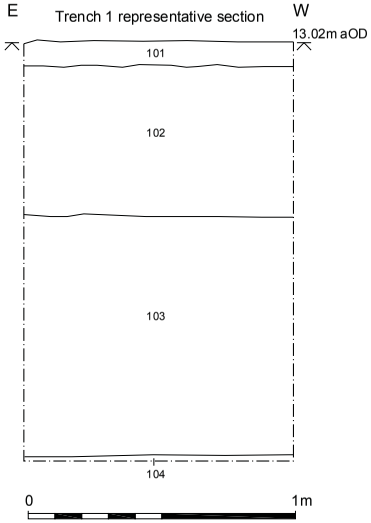


Plate 5: Trench 1 representative section

Plate 6: Modern features **20**1 and **202** in trench 2, showing overlying modern made ground

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		Scale: plans 1:200 &1:50 @ A3	Illustrator: LJC
		Path: Y:\PROJECTS\85500\Drawing Office\Report Figs\Eval\12_06_12\85500_Eval.dwg	

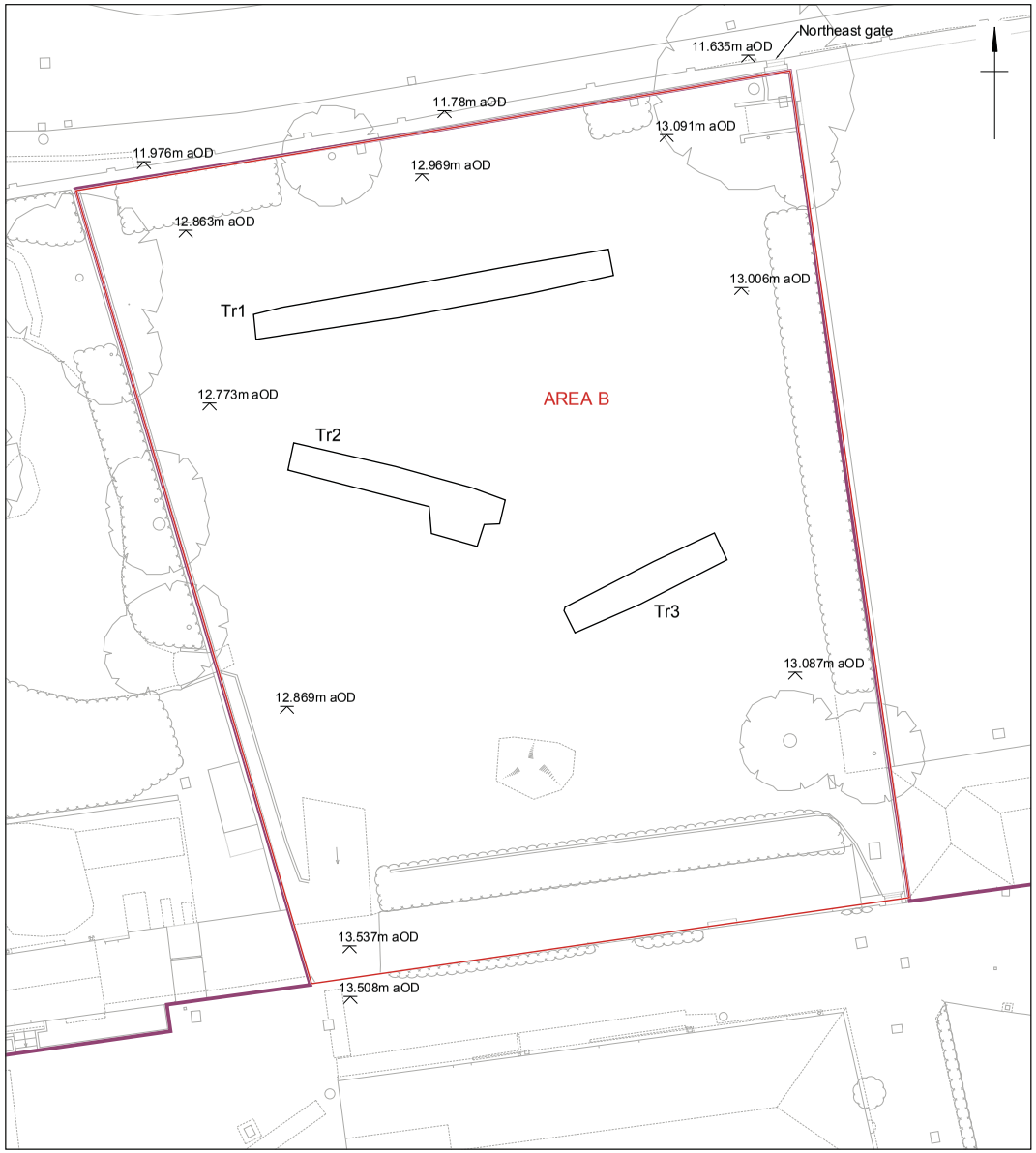

Plate 7: The northern (precinct) wall north of Area B (Former Tennis Court) showing the relative height of the present road/ pavement surface of Fore Street, and the northeast gate leading into Area B from the road (note 2m scale).

Plate 8: The internal side of the north-eastern gate depicted in Plate 7, note the depth of made ground against the internal side of the precinct wall (note 2m scale).

Plate 9: The internal side of the northern precinct wall from Area B, just to the west of the north-eastern gate depicted in Plate 8 (note 2m scale).

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Site
Area
Evaluation trench

Date:	14/06/12	Revision Number:	0
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Area B: Former Tennis Court showing topographic survey

Figure 4

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