



Winchcombe Abbey Winchcombe, Gloucestershire Scheduled Monument No. 28873

Archaeological Watching Brief Report





**WINCHCOMBE ABBEY, WINCHCOMBE
GLOUCESTERSHIRE
SCHEDULED MONUMENT NO. 28873**

**Archaeological Watching Brief
Statement of Results**

Prepared for:
Winchcombe Playgroup
Back Lane
Winchcombe
Cheltenham
GL54 5QL

by:
Wessex Archaeology
Portway House
Old Sarum Park
Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP4 6EB

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Summary

The management committee for the playgroup required improvements to the security and safety of the site for the children, by the construction of a new security fence.

In accordance with the Scheduled Monument description the wall mounted fencing was excluded from the scheduled area, however the replacement of the existing fence required the excavation of a series of 0.3m by 0.3m holes excavated at approximately 3m intervals for supporting fence posts.

The watching brief was carried out between April 12th-13th 2012 in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation and Scheduled Monument Consent (EH Ref: S00028523).

This document contains the results of the watching brief and observations are presented in summary tables for each posthole.

The project archive is currently held at Wessex Archaeology's offices in Salisbury.

Paul White managed the project and Stephen Beach undertook the fieldwork on behalf of Wessex Archaeology.

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**Archaeological Watching Brief
Statement of Results**

Site Name	Winchcombe Abbey Scheduled Monument		
Site Address	Winchcombe Playgroup, Back Lane, Winchcombe, Gloucestershire		
Site Code	79370	Grid Ref	402115 228277
Dates(s) of Attendance	12/04/12 – 13/04/12		
Description of Activities Monitored	Monitoring the excavation of 27 postholes, to provide information concerning the presence/absence, date, nature and extent of any buried archaeological remains within Scheduled Monument.		
Summary of Results and Interpretation			
<p>In total 27 postholes were excavated to the north-east and south of the Playgroup, within the Scheduled Monument (Figure 1). The postholes were between 0.20m and 0.25m square and less than 0.82m deep. No archaeological features and no clearly archaeological (pre-modern) deposits were encountered within any of the postholes.</p> <p>The lowest (earliest) layer observed during the fieldwork was a mid to light brown clay with inclusions of fractured limestone rubble. In general this layer proved to be sterile, however a fragment of a cow scapular was observed within posthole 2. Due to the size of the excavation the animal bone could not be removed and remained <i>insitu</i>, within the excavated section. Small fragments of coal and slag were observed recovered from postholes 13 and 14, and a clay pipe stem fragment was recovered from posthole 13. All of these finds were considered to be of modern origin and were not retained.</p> <p>The postholes to the south of Playgroup building (24, 25, 26 and 27) did not breach modern layers, despite including the deepest posthole excavated during the fieldwork (25). The postholes immediately north of the Playgroup (16, 17, 18 and 19) all encounter modern disturbed clay overlain with concrete.</p> <p>In the postholes situated along Back Lane (1, 2, 3 and 15), the lower mid to light brown clay was overlain by a mixed clay deposit with inclusions of tarmac, modern CBM rubble, plastic and bottle glass.</p> <p>The north-west to south-east line of post holes which extended across the abbey precinct boundary along a public footpath, were disturbed by a service trench containing a modern yellow plastic gas pipe (8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14), and by the concrete foundations and post packing for the previous fencing (4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14).</p> <p>Posthole 20, 21, 22 and 23 were excavated for fence strengthening struts and did not exceed modern deposits, being between 0.05m and 0.26m deep.</p>			
Archaeological features	No archaeological features observed	Natural features	None
Finds observed	Modern animal bone, coal, slag, clay pipe stem fragments, plastic, bottle glass		
Finds collected	None	Samples	N/A

Photography	Digital: 36 shots		
Other records	Day book, Photo register, trench record sheets		
OASIS record #	wessexar1-132305		
Current archive location	Wessex Archaeology, Salisbury		
Long term archive location	Gloucestershire HER		
Other information			
Form completed by	SB	Date	19-07-12
Checked by	PAW	Date	31-07-12
Additional documentation attached -			
Appendix 1	Posthole Summary Tables		
Figure 1	Location of Postholes		

APPENDIX 1: POST HOLE SUMMARY TABLES

Post Hole Number	1	NGR (centre point)	402102 228295
Length (m)	Width (m)	Maximum depth below ground level (m)	
0.25	0.25	0.44	
Context Number	Soil Description	Depth below ground level (m)	
101	Turf line	0-0.10	
102	Mixed clay – mid to light green-brown clay with inclusions of oolitic limestone rubble, TARMAC rubble and CBM rubble (London Brick Company)	0.10-0.40	
103	Mid to light brown clay with inclusions of fractured limestone rubble	0.40→	

Post Hole Number	2	NGR (centre point)	402104 228297
Length (m)	Width (m)	Maximum depth below ground level (m)	
0.25	0.25	0.50	
Context Number	Soil Description	Depth below ground level (m)	
201	Turf line	0-0.10	
202	Mid to dark brown slightly silty clay with common inclusions of small modern brick rubble, fragments of plastic, bottle glass and oolitic limestone rubble	0.10-0.45	
203	Light brown clay with very small inclusions of sparse calcareous rubble and animal bone (bovine scapular, partially uncovered at maximum depth, and left <i>in-situ</i>)	0.45→	

Post Hole Number	3	NGR (centre point)	402106 228299
Length (m)	Width (m)		Maximum depth below ground level (m)
0.25	0.25		0.50
Context Number	Soil Description		Depth below ground level (m)
301	Turf line		0-0.10
302	Mid to dark brown slightly silty clay with common inclusions of small modern brick rubble, fragments of plastic, bottle glass and oolitic limestone rubble		0.10-0.24
303	Light orange-brown clay with small and sparse oolitic limestone inclusions		0.24→

Post Hole Number	4	NGR (centre point)	402111 228299
Length (m)	Width (m)		Maximum depth below ground level (m)
0.25	0.25		0.60
Context Number	Soil Description		Depth below ground level (m)
401	Turf line and topsoil		0-0.15
402	Light orange-brown clay with very small and sparse oolitic limestone inclusions – quite mixed considered likely to be re-deposited		0.15→
403	Remnant concrete packing from previous concrete post, present on the north-east side of the post hole		0.15-0.60

Post Hole Number	5	NGR (centre point)	402112 228297
Length (m)	Width (m)		Maximum depth below ground level (m)
0.25	0.25		0.55
Context Number	Soil Description		Depth below ground level (m)
501	Turf line and topsoil		0-0.20
502	Light orange-brown clay with very small and sparse oolitic limestone inclusions		0.20→
503	Remnant concrete packing from previous concrete post, present on the north-east side of the post hole		0.20-0.55

Post Hole Number	6	NGR (centre point)	402114 228295
Length (m)	Width (m)		Maximum depth below ground level (m)
0.25	0.25		0.55
Context Number	Soil Description		Depth below ground level (m)
601	Turf line and topsoil		0-0.18
602	Light orange-brown clay with very small and sparse oolitic limestone rubble inclusions		0.18→
603	Remnant concrete packing from previous concrete post, present on the north-east side of the post hole		0.18-0.55

Post Hole Number	7	NGR (centre point)	402115 228293
Length (m)	Width (m)		Maximum depth below ground level (m)
0.25	0.25		0.52
Context Number	Soil Description		Depth below ground level (m)
701	Turf line		0-0.10
702	Mid to light brown slightly silty clay with sparse tiny calcareous inclusions		0.10-0.19
703	Light orange-brown clay with very small and sparse oolitic limestone rubble inclusions		0.19→
704	Remnant concrete packing from previous concrete post, present on the north-east side of the post hole		0.10→

Post Hole Number	8	NGR (centre point)	402117 228290
Length (m)	Width (m)		Maximum depth below ground level (m)
0.25	0.25		0.60
Context Number	Soil Description		Depth below ground level (m)
801	Turf line and topsoil		0-0.16
802	Backfill of service trench - Mid to dark brown slightly silty clay with very small calcareous inclusions – No trench cut identified within sample area		0.16-0.40
803	Yellow plastic gas pipe		0.36
804	Light orange-brown clay with very small and sparse oolitic limestone rubble inclusions		0.40→
805	Remnant concrete packing from previous concrete post, present on the north-east side of the post hole		0.16-0.60

Post Hole Number	9	NGR (centre point)	402119 228288
Length (m)	Width (m)	Maximum depth below ground level (m)	
0.25	0.25	0.60	
Context Number	Soil Description	Depth below ground level (m)	
901	Turf line	0-0.10	
902	Backfill of service trench - Mid to dark brown slightly silty clay with very small calcareous inclusions and one piece modern earthenware pottery (not retained) – No trench cut identified within sample area	0.10-0.30	
903	Yellow plastic gas pipe	0.30	
904	Light orange-brown clay with very small and sparse oolitic limestone rubble inclusions	0.30→	
905	Remnant concrete packing from previous concrete post, present on the north-east side of the post hole	0.10-0.60	

Post Hole Number	10	NGR (centre point)	402120 228286
Length (m)	Width (m)	Maximum depth below ground level (m)	
0.25	0.25	0.54	
Context Number	Soil Description	Depth below ground level (m)	
1001	Turf line	0-0.10	
1002	Backfill of service trench - Mid to dark brown slightly silty clay with very small calcareous inclusions – No trench cut identified within sample area	0.10-0.30	
1003	Yellow plastic gas pipe	0.30	
1004	Light orange-brown clay with very small and sparse oolitic limestone rubble inclusions	0.30→	
1005	Remnant concrete packing from previous concrete post, present on the north-east side of the post hole	0.10→	

Post Hole Number	11	NGR (centre point)	402122 228283
Length (m)	Width (m)		Maximum depth below ground level (m)
0.25	0.25		0.60
Context Number	Soil Description		Depth below ground level (m)
1101	Turf line		0-0.10
1102	Backfill of service trench - Mid to dark brown slightly silty clay with very small calcareous inclusions – No trench cut identified within sample area		0.10-0.32
1103	Yellow plastic gas pipe		0.32
1104	Mid brown clay with common small calcareous inclusions		0.32→
1105	Remnant concrete packing from previous concrete post, present on the north-east side of the post hole		0.10-0.60

Post Hole Number	12	NGR (centre point)	402124 228281
Length (m)	Width (m)		Maximum depth below ground level (m)
0.25	0.25		0.67
Context Number	Soil Description		Depth below ground level (m)
1201	Turf line		0-0.10
1202	Backfill of service trench - Mid to dark brown slightly silty clay with very small calcareous inclusions, metal working slag and modern glass – No trench cut identified within sample area		0.10-0.30
1203	Yellow plastic gas pipe		0.30
1204	Mid brown clay with common small calcareous inclusions		0.30→
1205	Remnant concrete packing from previous concrete post, present on the north-east side of the post hole		0.10-0.67

Post Hole Number	13	NGR (centre point)	402126 228279
Length (m)	Width (m)		Maximum depth below ground level (m)
0.25	0.25		0.75
Context Number	Soil Description		Depth below ground level (m)
1301	Turf line		0-0.10
1302	Backfill of service trench - Mid to dark brown slightly silty clay with very small calcareous inclusions, metal working slag and modern glass – No trench cut identified within sample area		0.10-0.30
1303	Yellow plastic gas pipe		0.30
1304	Light brown clay – some orange mottling and inclusions of metal working slag and coal and one clay pipe stem fragment		0.30→
1305	Remnant concrete packing from previous concrete post, present on the north-east side of the post hole		0.10-0.75

Post Hole Number	14	NGR (centre point)	402127 228276
Length (m)	Width (m)		Maximum depth below ground level (m)
0.25	0.25		0.60
Context Number	Soil Description		Depth below ground level (m)
1401	Turf line		0-0.10
1402	Backfill of service trench - Mid to dark brown slightly silty clay with very small calcareous inclusions, metal working slag and modern glass – No trench cut identified within sample area		0.10-0.32
1403	Yellow gas pipe with connection to old lagged metal gas pipe		0.32
1404	Light brown clay – some orange mottling and inclusions of metal working slag and coal.		0.32→
1405	Remnant concrete packing from previous concrete post, present on the north-east side of the post hole		0.10-0.60

Post Hole Number	15	NGR (centre point)	402109 228301
Length (m)	Width (m)	Maximum depth below ground level (m)	
0.25	0.25	0.60	
Context Number	Soil Description	Depth below ground level (m)	
1501	Turf line	0-0.12	
1502	Mid brown slightly silty clay with common calcareous inclusions	0.12-0.40	
1503	Light brown clay with fractured limestone rubble inclusions	0.40→	

Post Hole Number	16	NGR (centre point)	402109 228273
Length (m)	Width (m)	Maximum depth below ground level (m)	
0.25	0.25	0.50	
Context Number	Soil Description	Depth below ground level (m)	
1601	Concrete and TARMAC path and foundations	0-0.30	
1602	Very light brown-yellow clay with inclusions of concrete and limestone rubble	0.30→	

Post Hole Number	17	NGR (centre point)	402108 228272
Length (m)	Width (m)	Maximum depth below ground level (m)	
0.25	0.25	0.53	
Context Number	Soil Description	Depth below ground level (m)	
1701	Concrete and TARMAC path and foundations	0-0.26	
1702	Mid to light brown-yellow clay with inclusions of limestone rubble	0.26→	

Post Hole Number	18	NGR (centre point)	402107 228284
Length (m)	Width (m)	Maximum depth below ground level (m)	
0.25	0.25	0.65	
Context Number	Soil Description	Depth below ground level (m)	
1801	Turf line	0-0.10	
1802	Re-deposited humic topsoil	0.10-0.22	
1803	Concrete and concrete rubble	0.22-0.50	
1804	Light brown clay with orange mottling and sparse, small calcareous inclusions and some	0.50→	

	partially decomposed root matter	
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Post Hole Number	19	NGR (centre point)	402105 228286
Length (m)	Width (m)	Maximum depth below ground level (m)	
0.25	0.25	0.70	
Context Number	Soil Description	Depth below ground level (m)	
1901	Turf line	0-0.10	
1902	Re-deposited humic topsoil	0.10-0.22	
1903	Concrete and concrete rubble	0.22-0.50	
1904	Light brown clay with orange mottling and sparse, small calcareous inclusions	0.50→	

Post Hole Number	20 (45° strut hole)	NGR (centre point)	402108 228283
Length (m)	Width (m)	Maximum depth below ground level (m)	
0.20	0.20	0.05	
Context Number	Soil Description	Depth below ground level (m)	
2001	Turf line	0-0.05	
2002	Concrete	0.05→	

Post Hole Number	21 (45° strut hole)	NGR (centre point)	402104 228287
Length (m)	Width (m)	Maximum depth below ground level (m)	
0.20	0.20	0.10	
Context Number	Soil Description	Depth below ground level (m)	
2101	Turf line	0-0.10	
2102	Concrete	0.10→	

Post Hole Number	22 (45° strut hole)	NGR (centre point)	402108 228300
Length (m)	Width (m)	Maximum depth below ground level (m)	
0.20	0.20	0.26	
Context Number	Soil Description	Depth below ground level (m)	
2201	Turf line	0-0.10	
2202	Mid to light brown clay with sparse inclusions of oolitic limestone	0.10→	

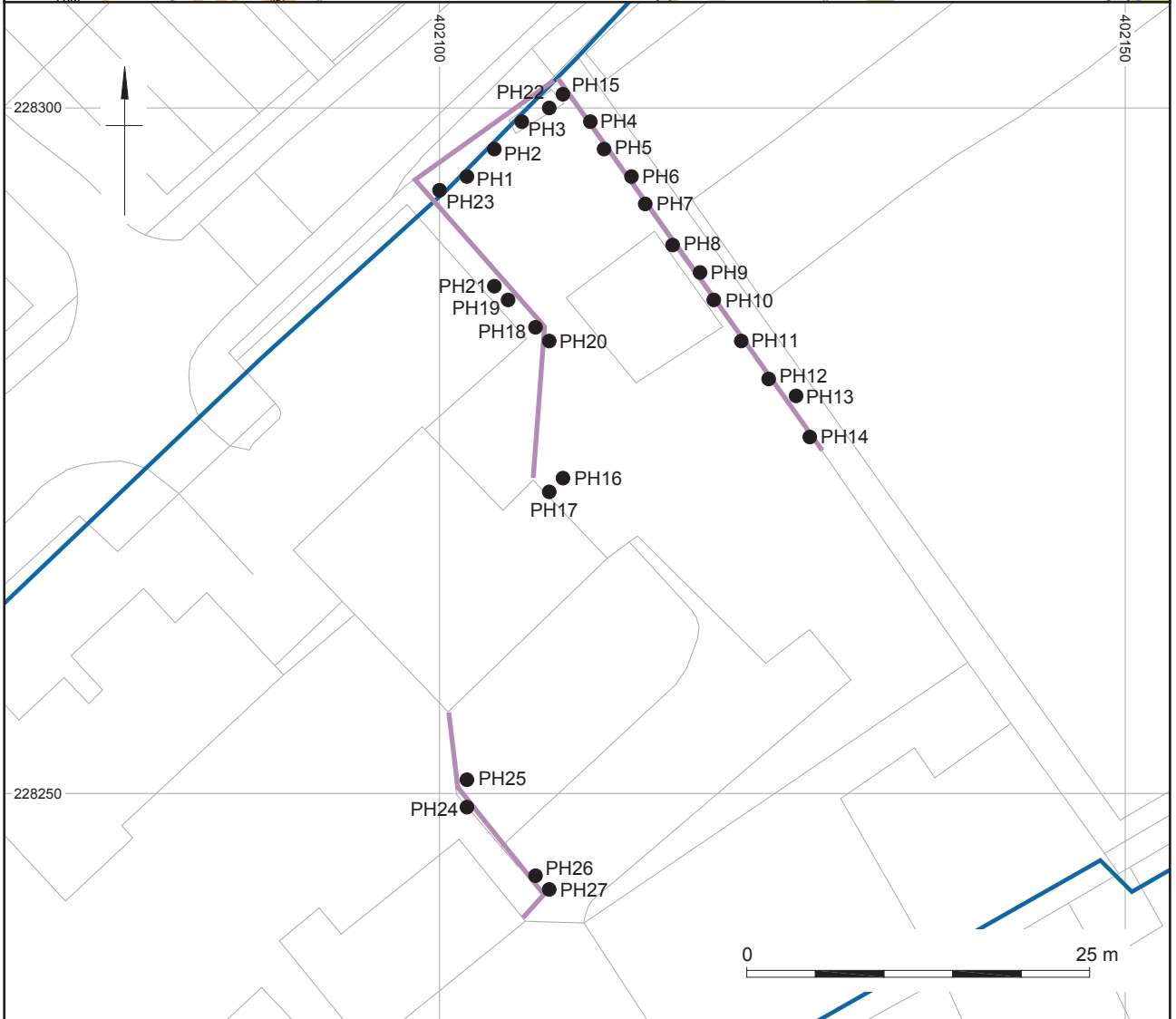
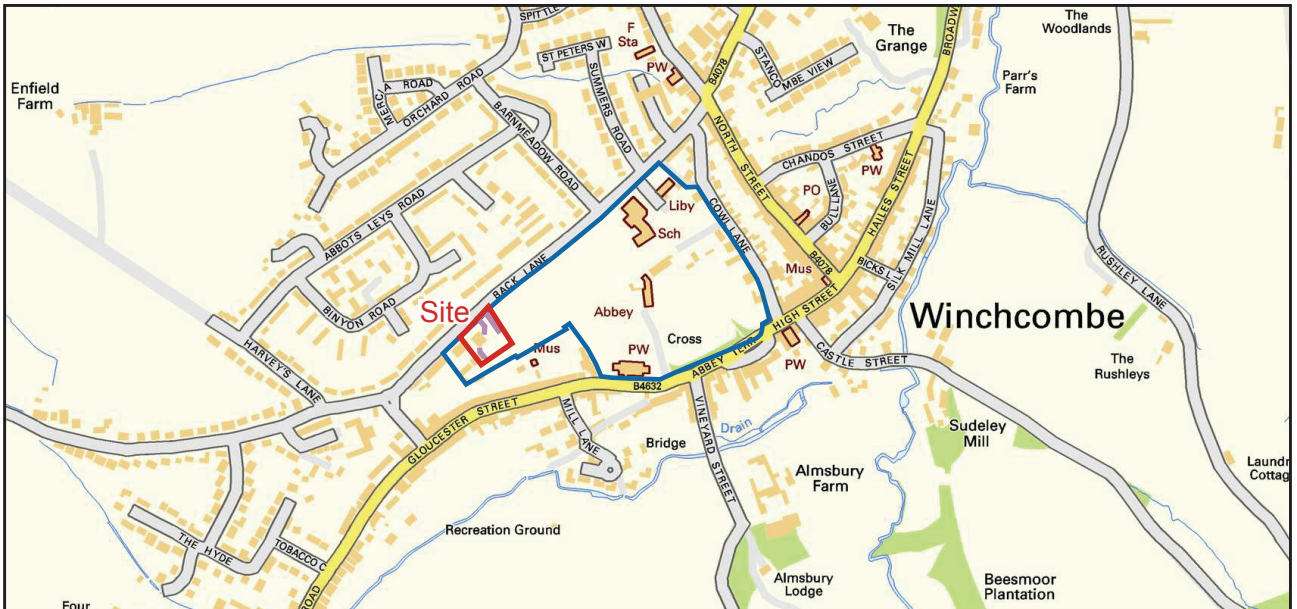
Post Hole Number	23 (45° strut hole)	NGR (centre point)	402100 228294
Length (m)	Width (m)		Maximum depth below ground level (m)
0.20	0.20		0.22
Context Number	Soil Description		Depth below ground level (m)
2301	Turf line		0-0.10
2302	Mid to light brown clay with sparse inclusions of oolitic limestone and plastic sweet wrappers		0.10→

Post Hole Number	24	NGR (centre point)	402102 228249
Length (m)	Width (m)		Maximum depth below ground level (m)
0.25	0.25		0.40
Context Number	Soil Description		Depth below ground level (m)
2401	TARMAC		0-0.05
2402	Scalpings - TARMAC derived		0.05-0.15
2403	Modern hardcore (type 1) mixed with concrete rubble inclusions		0.15-0.38
2404	Wall footings for adjacent wall		0.38→

Post Hole Number	25	NGR (centre point)	402102 228251
Length (m)	Width (m)		Maximum depth below ground level (m)
0.25	0.25		0.82
Context Number	Soil Description		Depth below ground level (m)
2501	TARMAC		0-0.05
2502	Scalpings - TARMAC derived		0.05-0.12
2503	Yellow sands with gravels		0.12-0.26
2504	TARMAC		0.26-0.35
2505	Yellow-brown clay with inclusions of red brick rubble		0.35→

Post Hole Number	26	NGR (centre point)	402107 228244
Length (m)	Width (m)	Maximum depth below ground level (m)	
0.25	0.25	0.34	
Context Number	Soil Description	Depth below ground level (m)	
2601	TARMAC	0-0.08	
2602	Loose hardcore and yellow builders sand – part of footings for adjacent brick wall	0.08→	

Post Hole Number	27	NGR (centre point)	402108 228243
Length (m)	Width (m)	Maximum depth below ground level (m)	
0.25	0.25	0.60	
Context Number	Soil Description	Depth below ground level (m)	
2701	TARMAC	0-0.08	
2702	Scalpings - TARMAC derived	0.08-0.20	
2703	Loose hardcore and yellow builders sand – part of footings for adjacent brick wall	0.20-0.40	
2704	Mid brown clay with yellow-orange mottling and inclusions of fractured limestone rubble and clinker	0.40→	



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	Date: 27/07/12	Revision Number: 0
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Site plan and location of post holes

Figure 1



WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED.

Registered Head Office: Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB.

Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 info@wessexarch.co.uk

Regional offices in **Edinburgh, Rochester and Sheffield**

For more information visit www.wessexarch.co.uk



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