



making sense of heritage

Great Martins, Shurlock Row, Reading, Berkshire, RG10 0PN

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Planning Ref: 14/02872
Ref: 108270.01
October 2015



**Great Martins, Shurlock Row,
Reading, Berkshire, RG10 0PN**

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Farr and Roberts Landscaping to undertake an archaeological watching brief during proposed landscaping within the grounds of Great Martins, Shurlock Row, Reading, Berkshire (NGR 483486, 174720).

Planning permission had been granted for (ref: 14/02872) a new driveway layout and landscaping works subject to an archaeological watching brief being undertaken.

Great Martins is a Grade II listed property (list entry 1135846) comprising a 16th century house which was altered and extended in the 17th. Great Martins was acquired by Henry Hewitt in the late 1840's. He established a brewery at the site with associated buildings as well as a lavish new house at the west end of the old farmhouse. Although most of the brewery buildings were subsequently demolished the 19th century house still remains.

The watching brief was conducted within eight areas adjacent to the house comprising works associated with the driveway, formal garden, remodelling and services in the vicinity of the house complex. Although the watching brief did identify some walls thought to belong to the 19th century brewery buildings on the south-west side of the house and an earlier 20th century patio and steps associated with the south-western frontage in general the excavation areas did not proceed below the modern or post-medieval deposits and no earlier archaeological features were found.

Tree relocation in the area of the formal garden exposed sections through to the underlying natural geology. However, within these small areas there was no evidence for pre-19th century features or activity.

The watching brief was undertaken on the 4th–6th of March, the 29th April and the 15th, 18th, 27th and 28th of May 2015.



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Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by Farr and Roberts Landscaping and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Doug Wilson in this regard. Thanks are also extended to Matt Keightly of Rosebank Landscaping for his assistance on site. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Roland Smith of Berkshire Archaeology for his help and advice.

The watching brief was undertaken by Tom Burt, Susan Clelland and Simon Flaherty. The report was compiled by Naomi Brennan and Simon Flaherty with illustrations prepared by Nancy Dixon. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Simon Cleggett and Bruce Eaton.



Great Martins, Shurlock Row, Reading, Berkshire, RG10 0PN

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by Farr and Roberts Landscaping to undertake an archaeological watching brief during proposed landscaping within the grounds of Great Martins, Shurlock Row, Reading, Berkshire, RG10 0PN (hereafter the Site), centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 483486, 174720 (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 Great Martins is a Grade II listed property (list entry 1135846) comprising a 16th century house which was altered and extended in the 17th and 19th centuries.

1.1.3 In September 2014 the Council for the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead received an application (ref: 14/02872) for a Change in Use of part of the grounds of Great Martins to form a new driveway layout and landscaping works – including the restoration of formal and sunken garden, alterations to an existing veranda and the creation of a sculpture walk (**Figure 2**).

1.1.4 Permission was granted subject to the following conditions

No development shall take place, including demolition, until the applicant or their agents or successors in title have 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 by the planning authority.

Reason: The site lies in an area of archaeological potential, particularly in relation to the late medieval settlement of Shurlock Row and use and development of Great Martins in the early post-medieval period. Berkshire Archaeology would consider that archaeological monitoring and recording during the construction and landscaping activities (a watching brief) would be an appropriate form of investigation if planning permission is granted. The location and extend of archaeological monitoring should focus on major development impacts in areas close to the existing Great Martins house.

1.1.5 Following discussions with Roland Smith of Berkshire Archaeology (advisor to the Local Planning Authority (LPA)) it was established that the archaeological Watching Brief should focus on areas of impact in proximity to the house complex and its immediate footprint, curtilage and setting. Here there is the potential for buried remains relating to possibly earlier buildings/structures and associated formal gardens.

1.1.6 The watching brief was undertaken on the 4th–6th of March, the 29th April and the 15th, 18th, 27th and 28th of May 2015.



1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The Site is a 17 acre estate located on the edge of Shurlock Row village, located approximately 9 miles east of Reading and 7 miles south west of Maidenhead. The Site is bordered by Shurlock Row Lane to the west and Callins Lane to the south with open fields and a polo pitch to the north and east. The southern part of the site lies with the Shurlock Row Conservation Area.
- 1.2.2 The site is relatively flat and located at approximately 41 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) and the underlying geology is recorded as London Clay Formation (clay, silt and sand) with no superficial deposits recorded (British Geological Survey).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 A Study Area was established within a 1 km radius of the Site boundary. The recorded historic environment resource within this Study Area as held in the Berkshire Historical Environment Record (BHER) was then considered in order to provide a context for the discussion and interpretation of the known and potential resource within the Site. The National Heritage List for England records 17 Grade II listed buildings within the Study Area; this includes Great Martins itself which is Grade II listed (list entry 1135846).

2.2 Prehistoric

- 2.2.1 The East Berkshire Archaeological Survey (EBAS) recorded a number of possible prehistoric sites identified through field-walking which recovered flint work (HER no. 03156, 03379, 03380, 03382, 03368, 03064 & 03147) at Waltham St. Lawrence to the north of Shurlock Row. A Mesolithic flint assemblage was recovered from Beenham Farm, Waltham St Lawrence to the east of the Site by the Maidenhead Archaeological and Historical Society (HER no. 02574). A Neolithic (4000BC–2201BC) type polished stone axe and an Iron Age (800BC–42AD) Gaulish uninscribed gold slater (HER No. 00437) were found on land between Shurlock Row and Waltham St Lawrence.

2.3 Romano-British

- 2.3.1 A Roman coin (an as of Gordian III from the first half of the 3rd century AD) (HER No. 00476) was found in Shurlock Row while the EBAS recovered a number of sherds of Roman pottery from around Waltham St Lawrence (HER no. 03398 & 03399).

2.4 Medieval

- 2.4.1 A possible moat or fishpond is located near Callin's Bridge in the precincts of Beenham's Heath Farm (HER no. 00426). The EBAS also recovered several medieval pottery sherds from around Waltham St Lawrence. (HER no. 03261, 03262, 03270, 032888.01, 032880.03, 03288 & 03289). Adjacent to Callin's Bridge and the possible moat is a circular mound with a ramp-like approach on the western side, this feature is undated but a medieval windmill is a possibility.

2.5 Great Martins

- 2.5.1 The Grade II listed Great Martins as it stands today has its origins in the 16th century. In the following centuries the building was greatly altered and extended. It originally began life as a manorial property but was never a manor house. It was the home of a bondsman and then owned by the Martins family for 100 years. The historic farmhouse, the original Great Martins, was a timber framed building that was two storeys with an attic, later the older timber framed portion of the building was encased in brick in the 17th century. The

house was a half H plan of gabled cross wings framing a two bay hall range (Brushe n.d.). It is among the earliest brick –built houses in Berkshire.

- 2.5.2 Great Martins was acquired by Henry Hewitt in the late 1840's and around 1850 he established a brewery at the site with associated buildings. In 1860 he built a lavish new house at the west end of the old farmhouse. It was a substantial three-bay, two-storey house raised on a basement, largely hidden by a terrace front. It has a triple-depth plan round a central staircase hall. The house is built of fine red brick in Flemish bond, with hipped Welsh slate roofing (Brushe n.d.).
- 2.5.3 The property was purchased by Leslie and Marion Crispe in 1928 after the brewery was closed in 1926, who began by clearing the redundant brewery buildings. They made considerable alterations to the site including: the most egregious alterations to the ancient farmhouse-such as a first floor door way made out of a window in the right, east cross wing approached by an external stair- which were removed and the brickwork made good (Brushe n.d.). The area where the redundant brewery buildings were removed from the south of the building now formed an entrance forecourt with a new single storey and attic range built on the east side. This included a Great Hall and squash court near the middle of the rear side of this wing.
- 2.5.4 There were several later 20th century additions to the property including a pool room to the east of the Great Hall, a garage attached to the east wing, an orangery attached to the south side of the 1860's built Henry Hewitt House and a free standing garage to the north west of the main building complex.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims and objectives

3.1.1 The aims of the watching brief were:

- *to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains and,*
- *should remains be present, to ensure their preservation by record to the highest possible standard;*
- *to confirm the approximate date or date range of the remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence;*
- *to determine or confirm the approximate extent of any remains;*
- *to determine the condition and state of preservation of the remains;*
- *to determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present; and*
- *to prepare a report on the results of the watching brief.*

3.2 Fieldwork methodology

3.2.1 The full detailed methodology of the archaeological works was set out in a WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2014), this is summarised below:

3.2.2 The field work consisted of the monitoring of all intrusive groundworks undertaken within proximity to the house. All works were carried out in accordance with the ClfA's *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014a).



- 3.2.3 Investigations were recorded commensurate with the archaeological results using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system and a comprehensive day book. Recording also included written, drawn and photographic elements as conditions determined.
- 3.2.4 A full photographic record was compiled using digital images. The record illustrated both the detail and the general context of the Site as a whole. Digital images have been subject to a managed quality control and curation process that has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure the long term accessibility of the image set.
- 3.2.5 A real time kinematic (RTK) survey was carried out using a Leica Viva series GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service. All survey data was recorded in Ordnance Survey National Grid coordinates and heights above Ordnance Datum (Newlyn), to a three-dimensional accuracy limit of 30 mm.
- 3.2.6 A unique code **108270** was allocated to the Site, and was used on all records and finds.

3.3 Health and safety

- 3.3.1 Health and safety considerations were of paramount importance in conducting all fieldwork. Safe working practices override archaeological considerations at all times.
- 3.3.2 All work was carried out in accordance with the *Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974* and the *Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992*, and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The watching brief was conducted within eight areas adjacent to the house comprising works associated with the driveway, formal garden, remodelling and services in the vicinity of the house complex (**Figure 3**).
- 4.1.2 In general a considerable degree of disturbance was seen immediately adjacent to the house and concluded to be the result of previous construction and remodelling works. Away from the immediate area of the house the general stratigraphic sequence was found to comprise between 0.16–0.22 m of topsoil and 0.28–0.55 m of subsoil overlying a sandy clay geology consistent with the recorded London Clay Formation. Details of the stratigraphic sequence and deposits observed are found in **Appendix 1**.
- 4.1.3 The archaeological advisor to the LPA agreed that the portion of driveway leading immediately from the existing entrance gates and into the estate need not be monitored. Initial works established that there were clear indicators of modern disturbance along its length including plastics, modern brick, building materials and 20th century pottery within the depth of construction impact.

4.2 Results

- 4.2.1 Ground reduction was undertaken for the new driveway to the west of the house (**Area 1**) (**Plate 1**). Here the ground reduction did not extend below the depth of the modern subsoil horizon (**102**) though a number of modern services were observed. It should be noted that the potential still exists for archaeological remains to exist below the subsoil horizon which have not been impacted by the current construction activities.
- 4.2.2 **Areas 2–5** comprised locations where trees were removed and relocated as part of the works within the formal garden (**Plate 2**). Here no archaeological features or deposits

were found though a layer of redeposited clay beneath the modern topsoil in **Area 4 (402) (Plate 3)** could relate to the 19th century or 20th century construction/ demolition activity. Brick rubble was also noted within and above the topsoil in **Areas 3 (301) and 5 (501) (Plate 4)**, this was also concluded to relate to 19th century or 20th century activity.

- 4.2.3 Located at the south-east end of the former orangery was **Area 6**. Excavation in this area only revealed elements of the 20th century structure (**Plates 5 and 6**).
- 4.2.4 **Area 7** was located by the south-west frontage of the house where the existing raised patio was to be removed (**701**). Its removal located another earlier patio of concrete or compressed stone slabs (**702**) and surrounded with a red brick retaining wall (**705**). The footprint of this patio, whose style suggested it was of 1920s or 1930s construction, was less extensive than its successor and a flight of five steps led from the edge of the patio to the front door (**710**) (**Plate 7**).
- 4.2.5 The ground within the patio area had been built up using a combination of redeposited natural and topsoil (**703**). Removal of this indicated that a short step bank had previously been present along the house frontage (**704**) (**Plate 8**). This overlay a buried topsoil horizon (**706**), though not dated the position of this deposit within the stratigraphic sequence suggests it is the post-medieval ground surface. Excavation did not continue below this depth.
- 4.2.6 Removal of the patio (**702**) and associated deposits either side of the steps (**710**) (**Plate 9**) revealed that they were supported by brick arches (**708**) infilled with made ground (**707**) (**Plate 10**). A layer of rammed chalk was also uncovered below the front door step (**709**).
- 4.2.7 **Area 8** comprised a cable trench to the south-east of the 16th century part of the house (**Plate 11**). The modern ground level at this point is around 0.9-1.0 m higher than the ground level at adjacent to the 16th century building.
- 4.2.8 Here the earliest deposit exposed was a post-medieval levelling layer (**803**) which is likely to relate to earlier construction and occupation activity in and around the building complex. Cutting through this deposit were two foundation trenches for brick walls **807** and **810** (**Figure 4 and Plate 12**). The position of these walls, which were composed of red brick, suggests that they relate to the 19th century brewery buildings, which were demolished in the 20th century. The position of **810** correlates with an eastern projecting wing, visible on 19th century Ordnance survey maps. The location of **807**, within the building footprint, suggests it may be an internal division.

5 ARTEFACTUAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

- 5.1.1 No artefacts were recovered during the works. Due to the absence of any features or securely dated deposits no environmental samples were taken.

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1.1 Although the watching brief did identify some elements thought to belong to the 19th century brewery buildings on the south-west side of the house and an earlier 20th century patio and steps associated with the south-western frontage in general the excavation areas did not proceed below the modern or post-medieval deposits and no earlier archaeological features were found.



- 6.1.2 Tree relocation in the area of the formal garden did expose sections through to the underlying natural geology however within these small areas there was no evidence for pre-19th century features or activity.

7 STORAGE AND CURATION

7.1 Museum

- 7.1.1 No appropriate museum has as yet been identified to accept the resulting project archive. The archive will therefore be curated at the offices of WA in Salisbury, until such time as the situation is resolved. Given the small scale of the project, and the lack of artefactual evidence, it is proposed that following the digital scanning of the records, the physical archive is not retained for long-term curation. The digital records, will be retained in the Wessex Archaeology security-copied and backed-up digital archive storage facility, under its designated Wessex Archaeology project code **108270**.

- 7.1.2 All archive elements will be marked with the project number or accession number, and a full index will be prepared.

7.2 Archive

- 7.2.1 The complete site archive, comprising paper records, photographic records, graphics and digital data, has been prepared following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; Brown 2011; ADS 2013; ClfA 2014b).

- 7.2.2 An OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/projects/oasis/> has been completed and submitted. A copy of this is included as **Appendix 2** of this report. A finalised version of this report will be uploaded in .pdf format on completion in conjunction with selected photographic images of the fieldwork. A paper copy of the finalised report will also be included with the project archive.

7.3 Copyright

- 7.3.1 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 to the *Copyright and Related Rights regulations 2003*.

- 7.3.2 This report may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which we are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferrable by Wessex Archaeology. You are reminded that you remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

7.4 Security Copy

- 7.4.1 In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown 2011), a security copy of relevant written records has been prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.



8 REFERENCES

8.1 Bibliography

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9 APPENDIX 1: STRATIGRAPHIC SUMMARIES

KEY: bgl = below ground level, CBM = ceramic building material

AREA 1		dimensions (m)	45.0 x 5.3
Context number	Context type	Description	depth bgl (m)
101	Layer	Modern topsoil. Mid grey-brown sandy loam. Overlies 102.	0.00-0.18
102	Layer	Modern subsoil. Mid yellow-brown sandy silt loam. Not fully excavated.	0.18+
Comments	Area of driveway. Several modern services observed. No archaeological finds or deposits.		

AREA 2		dimensions (m)	2.0 x 2.0
Context number	Context type	Description	depth bgl (m)
201	Layer	Modern topsoil. Dark brown sandy loam. Occasional brick and chalk fragments. Bioturbated. Overlies 202.	0.00-0.22
202	Layer	Modern subsoil. Mid grey brown sandy silt loam. Possible alluvium. Overlies 203.	0.22-0.69
203	Layer	Natural geology. Pale yellow brown sandy clay loam with dark yellow brown mottles. No inclusions.	0.69+
Comments	No archaeological finds or deposits.		

AREA 3		dimensions (m)	2.0 x 2.0
Context number	Context type	Description	depth bgl (m)
301	Layer	Modern topsoil. Dark black brown sandy loam. Frequent brick fragments and rubble (complete examples 22x10x7 cm). Bioturbated. Overlies 302.	0.00-0.16
302	Layer	Modern subsoil. Mid grey brown sandy silt loam. Possible alluvium. Overlies 303.	0.16-0.71
303	Layer	Natural geology. Pale yellow brown sandy clay loam with dark yellow brown mottles. No inclusions.	0.71+
Comments	No archaeological finds or deposits with the exception of redeposited brick demolition rubble (likely 19th/ 20th century).		

AREA 4		dimensions (m)	2.0 x 2.0
Context number	Context type	Description	depth bgl (m)
401	Layer	Modern topsoil. Dark black grey sandy loam. Occasional brick fragments. Bioturbated. Overlies 402.	0.00-0.22
402	Layer	Possible levelling layer/ made ground. Mid yellow brown mottled silt clay. Rare chalk and brick fragments. Bioturbated. Overlies 403.	0.22-0.42
403	Layer	Modern subsoil. Mid grey brown sandy silt loam. Possible alluvium. Overlies 404.	0.42-0.70
404	Layer	Natural geology. Pale yellow brown sandy clay loam with dark yellow brown mottles. No inclusions.	0.70+
Comments	No archaeological finds or deposits.		



AREA 5		dimensions (m)	2.0 x 2.0
Context number	Context type	Description	depth bgl (m)
501	Layer	Brick rubble (19th/ 20th century). Overlies 502.	0.00-0.22
502	Layer	Modern topsoil. Dark brown sandy loam. Occasional brick and chalk fragments. Bioturbated. Overlies 503.	0.22-0.42
503	Layer	Modern subsoil. Mid grey brown sandy silt loam. Possible alluvium. Overlies 504.	0.42-0.68
504	Layer	Natural geology. Pale yellow brown sandy clay loam with dark yellow brown mottles. No inclusions.	0.68+
Comments	No archaeological finds or deposits with the exception of brick rubble (19th/ 20th century).		

AREA 6		dimensions (m)	2.60 x 1.60
Context number	Context type	Description	depth bgl (m)
601	Wall	Single course of modern red brick. Overlies 602.	0.00-0.07
602	Wall	Concrete breeze block foundation. Four courses high.	0.07-1.10
603	Floor	Concrete foundation/ floor of orangery. Limit of excavation.	1.10+
604	Layer	Gravel (construction deposit). Abuts 601.	0.00-0.30
605	Layer	Made ground, black silty clay. Contains building debris and gravel.	0.30-1.10
Comments	Area located at south-east end of former orangery.		

AREA 7		dimensions (m)	52.60 x 19.50
Context number	Context type	Description	depth bgl (m)
701	Layer	Modern patio slabs and made ground. 1980s. Overlies 702 but extends beyond the footprint of this.	0.00-1.20
702	Layer	Earlier patio. Concrete/ compressed stone slabs. 1920s/ 1930s. Associated with 705 and 706. Truncated in places by later work. Overlies 703.	0.10-0.30
703	Layer	Made ground beneath 702. Abuts 705. Mid brown sandy silt loam. Occasional gravel inclusions. Mixed – combination of re-deposited natural and reworked topsoil. Overlies 704.	0.30-0.70
704	Layer	Bank. Mid orange brown silt sand with frequent orange mottles. Overlies 706.	0.30-1.00
705	Wall	Retaining wall associated with patio (702). Red brick face onto concrete block core. At least 12 course, English garden wall bond. Similar brick to those used in 708.	0.10-1.20
706	Layer	Buried soil. Likely post-medieval. Mid brown sandy clay loam occasional CBM fragments.	1.00+
707	Layer	Made ground/ construction deposit associated with steps 710. Mid yellow brown sandy clay. Frequent brick rubble. Mixed. Overlies 706.	0.20-1.20
708	Structure	Support structure for steps. Single course red brick arches (22x11x6.5 cm), no evident frogging. Filled with 707.	0.10-1.20
709	Layer	Formation layer under doorstep. Rammed chalk. Overlies 708.	0.15-0.35
710	Structure	Steps, brick and concrete/ compressed stone with moulded decorations. Overlies 709.	0.10-1.20
Comments	Adjacent to south-west frontage of house. Contained elements of former patio and steps judged to date from the early 20th century.		



AREA 8		dimensions (m)	14.60 x 0.45
Context number	Context type	Description	depth bgl (m)
800	Layer	Extant surface, c1980 paving. Overlies 800 and 804.	0.00-0.04
801	Layer	Fine sand, construction layer for paving 800. Overlies 802.	0.03-0.15
802	Layer	Modern made ground. Compact flint gravel in a sandy clay matrix. Overlies 803 and 811, abuts 807.	0.10-0.43
803	Layer	Post-medieval levelling. Reworked topsoil and subsoil including occupation debris (CBM, brick, charcoal and decayed humic matter). Not fully excavated/ full depth not reached.	0.21-0.60+
804	Layer	Concrete hardstanding. Overlies 805.	0.03-0.12
805	Layer	Construction sand, made ground for 804. Overlies 810.	0.11-0.22
806	Cut	Foundation trench for post-medieval wall. Cuts 803, filled with 807. Straight, near vertical sides. North – south aligned. 0.33 m wide.	0.21-0.60+
807	Wall	Chalk and flint foundation material overlain by a single course of shallow frogged red brick (22x11x7 cm).	0.10-0.60+
808	Cut	Foundation trench for wall. Cuts 803, filled with 809, 810 and 811. Straight, near vertical sides. East – west aligned. 5.5 m long.	0.20-0.60+
809	Deposit	Base layer of coarse sand and chalk mortar. Overlies 808.	0.55-0.60+
810	Wall	Red brick wall, shallow frogged (22x11x7 cm), four courses high. East – west aligned. Overlies 809.	0.22-0.56
811	Deposit	Deliberate backfill of construction cut 808. Redeposited material from 803. Abuts 810.	0.20-0.60+
Comments	Area excavated for cable trench. Depths of deposits varied along the length of the trench.		



10 APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: wessexar1-226024

Project details

Project name	Great Martins, Shurlock Row, Reading, Berkshire, RG10 0PN
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Farr and Roberts Landscaping to undertake an archaeological watching brief during proposed landscaping within the grounds of Great Martins, Shurlock Row, Reading, Berkshire (NGR 483486, 174720). Planning permission had been granted for (ref: 14/02872) a new driveway layout and landscaping works subject to an archaeological watching brief being undertaken. Great Martins is a Grade II listed property (list entry 1135846) comprising a 16th century house which was altered and extended in the 17th. Great Martins was acquired by Henry Hewitt in the late 1840's he established a brewery at the site with associated buildings a lavish new house at the west end of the old farmhouse. Although most of the brewery buildings were subsequently demolished the 19th century house still remains. The watching brief was conducted within eight areas adjacent to the house comprising works associated with the driveway, formal garden, remodelling and services in the vicinity of the house complex. Although the watching brief did identify some walls thought to belong to the 19th century brewery buildings on the south-west side of the house and an earlier 20th century patio and steps associated with the south-western frontage in general the excavation areas did not proceed below the modern or post-medieval deposits and no earlier archaeological features were found. Tree relocation in the area of the formal garden did expose sections through to the underlying natural geology however within these small areas there was no evidence for pre-19th century features or activity.
Project dates	Start: 04-03-2015 End: 28-05-2015
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	108270 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Monument type	PATIO Modern
Monument type	STEPS Modern
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country England



Site location	BERKSHIRE WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD WALTHAM ST LAWRENCE Great Martins, Shurlock Row, Reading, Berkshire, RG10 0PN
Postcode	RG10 0PN
Study area	0 Hectares
Site coordinates	SU 83486 74720 51.464795845484 -0.798042976557 51 27 53 N 000 47 52 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	Bruce Eaton
Project supervisor	Tom Burt
Project supervisor	Susan Clelland
Project supervisor	Simon Flaherty
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

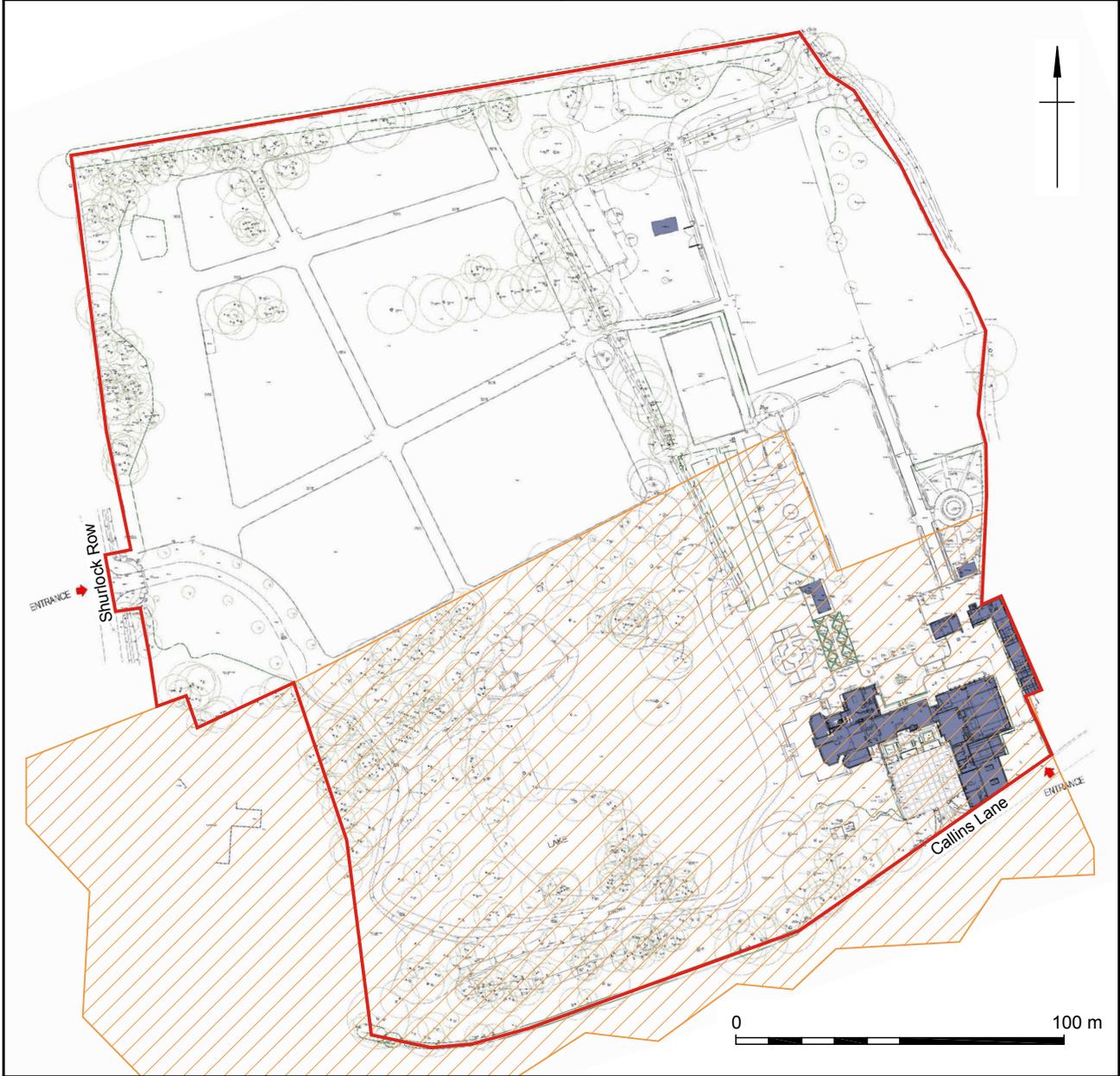
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive ID	108270
Digital Media available	"Database","Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive ID	108270
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Diary","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Great Martins, Shurlock Row, Reading, Berkshire, RG10 0PN: Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Brennan, N.



Other bibliographic details	report number 108270.01
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Wessex Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Wessex Archaeology - Salisbury
Description	A4 bound client report



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Site location

Figure 1



- Buildings
- Primary Gravel Driveway
- Secondary Gravel Drive
- Hard Landscaped Areas
- Tarmac Driveway
- Existing Tennis Court
- Formal Lawn
- Meadows
- Woodland Planting
- Arboretum / Natural Planting
- Shrub / Hedge Planting
- Herbaceous Border
- Main Site Entrance (Vehicular)
- Main Building Entrance
- Site Lines

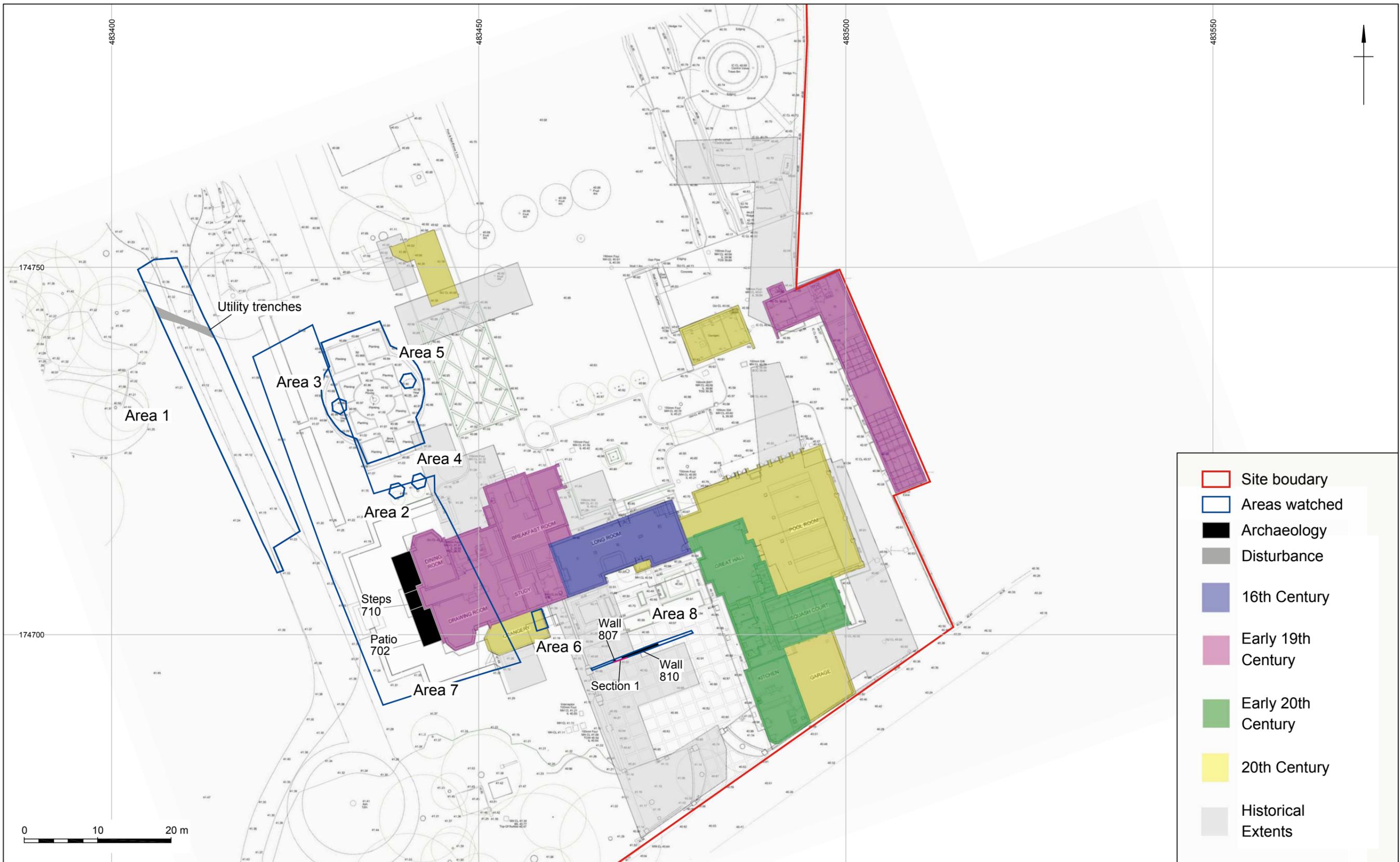
0 100 m



	 Site boundary Baseplan supplied by client. This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.	Date: 12/10/2015	Revision Number: 0
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Proposed Site Plan

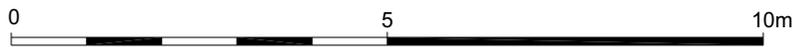
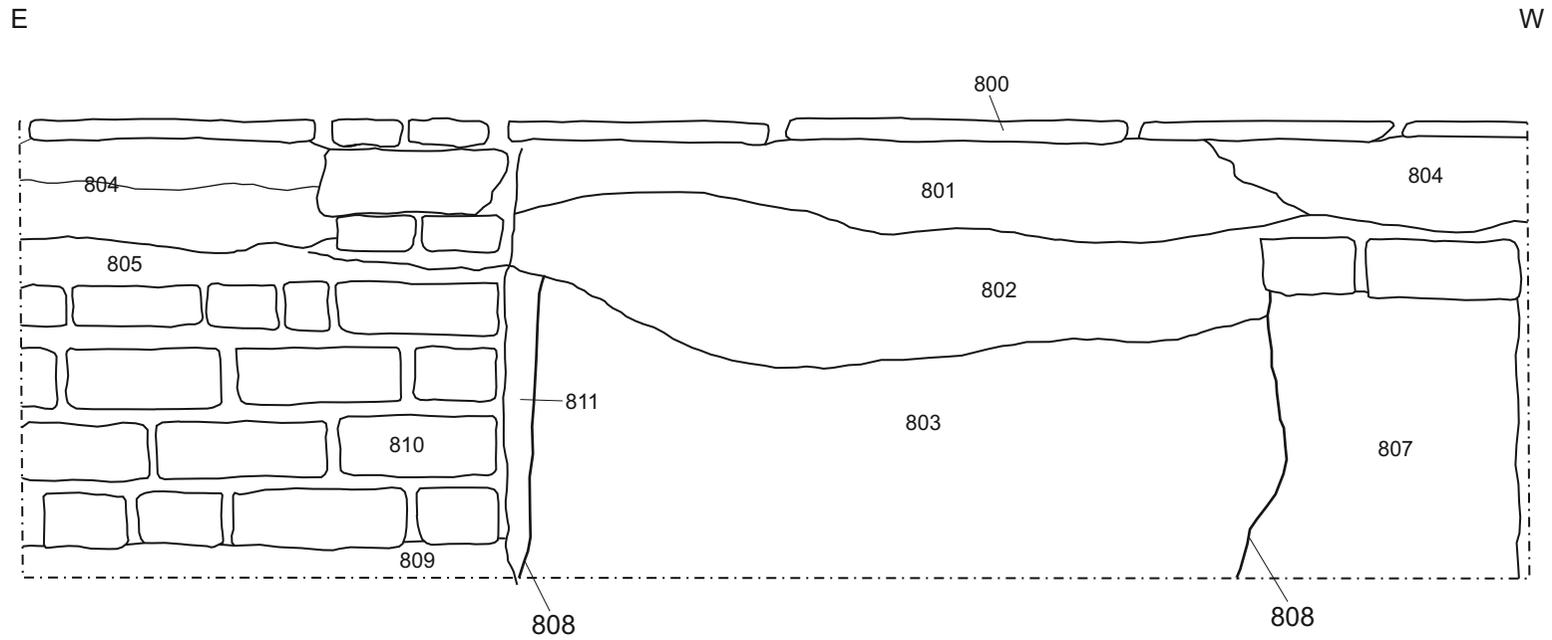
Figure 2



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North facing sections of walls **807** and **810**



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Plate 1: Area 1, view from the south-south-east



Plate 2: Working shot, formal garden, view from the south-east

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Plate 3: West facing section Area 4



Plate 4: South-east facing section Area 5

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Plate 5: Area 6, view from the south-west



Plate 6: North facing section Area 6

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Plate 7: Early 20th century patio 702 and steps 710, view from the south-west



Plate 8: North facing section showing bank 704, made ground 703 and buried soil 706

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Plate 9: Entrance steps 710, view from the south-west



Plate 10: Brick support arches 708, view from the north

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Plate 11: Area 8, view from the west



Plate 12: North facing section of walls 807 and 810

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