



making sense of heritage

Bramshill House, Bramshill, Hampshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report



Ref: 108640.08
November 2015



**Bramshill House,
Bramshill, Hampshire**

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Prepared for:

City & Country Bramshill Ltd
Bentfield Place
Bentfield Road
Stansted
Essex
CM24 8HL

Prepared by:

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

www.wessexarch.co.uk

November 2015

**Project number: 108640.08
Accession number: A2015.48**



Quality Assurance

Project Code	108640	Accession Code	A2015.48	Client Ref.	
Planning Application Ref.		Ordnance Survey (OS) national grid reference (NGR)	475803, 159774		

Version	Status*	Prepared by	Checked and Approved By	Approver's Signature	Date
v01	I	NB	CWM	Chris Moore	27/11/2015
File:	X:\PROJECTS\108640\Reports\Evaluation\108640_Bramshill House evaluation_v01_NB_CWM151126.docx				
File:					
File:					
File:					
File:					
File:					

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

DISCLAIMER

THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT WAS DESIGNED AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF A REPORT TO AN INDIVIDUAL CLIENT AND WAS PREPARED SOLELY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THAT CLIENT. THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT DOES NOT NECESSARILY STAND ON ITS OWN AND IS NOT INTENDED TO NOR SHOULD IT BE RELIED UPON BY ANY THIRD PARTY. TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY WILL NOT BE LIABLE BY REASON OF BREACH OF CONTRACT NEGLIGENCE OR OTHERWISE FOR ANY LOSS OR DAMAGE (WHETHER DIRECT INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL) OCCASIONED TO ANY PERSON ACTING OR OMITTING TO ACT OR REFRAINING FROM ACTING IN RELIANCE UPON THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT ARISING FROM OR CONNECTED WITH ANY ERROR OR OMISSION IN THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THE REPORT. LOSS OR DAMAGE AS REFERRED TO ABOVE SHALL BE DEEMED TO INCLUDE, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, ANY LOSS OF PROFITS OR ANTICIPATED PROFITS DAMAGE TO REPUTATION OR GOODWILL LOSS OF BUSINESS OR ANTICIPATED BUSINESS DAMAGES COSTS EXPENSES INCURRED OR PAYABLE TO ANY THIRD PARTY (IN ALL CASES WHETHER DIRECT INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL) OR ANY OTHER DIRECT INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL LOSS OR DAMAGE.



Bramshill House, Bramshill, Hampshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Contents

Summary	iii
Acknowledgements.....	iv
1 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Project background	1
1.2 The Site.....	1
2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.....	2
2.1 Introduction	2
2.2 Prehistoric (pre-AD43).....	2
2.3 Romano-British (AD43-410)	2
2.4 Medieval (1066-1499), post-medieval (1500-1800) and 19th century	2
2.5 Previous surveys	3
3 METHODOLOGY.....	4
3.1 Project Aims	4
3.2 Project Objectives	4
3.3 Evaluation methodology	4
4 RESULTS	5
4.1 Introduction	5
4.2 Trench 1.....	5
5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE	6
5.1 Introduction	6
5.2 Ceramic Building Material (CBM)	7
5.3 Glass.....	7
5.4 Metal objects.....	7
6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE.....	7
6.1 Samples taken	7
7 CONCLUSIONS.....	7
7.1 Summary.....	7
7.2 Discussion.....	7



8	STORAGE AND CURATION	8
8.1	Museum	8
8.2	Archive	8
8.3	Publication	9
8.4	Copyright.....	9
8.5	Security Copy	9
9	REFERENCES.....	9
9.1	Bibliography	9
10	APPENDIX 1: STRATIGRAPHIC SUMMARY	11
11	APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM	12

Figures

Figure 1: Site and trench location plan

Figure 2: North-north-east facing section of wall **112** and deposits within feature **104**

Plates

Plate 1	North-north-west facing elevation of wall 112
Plate 2	North-north-east facing section of wall 112 and feature 104
Plate 3	North-north-east facing section of 104 at north-western end of the trench
Plate 4	Garden plan of Bramshill 1715-16
Plate 5	View south-westwards from the trench and Lady Abney's Walk
Plate 6	Mid excavation view showing brick rubble at the base of layer 110
Plate 7	South-west corner and buttress of the trocco terrace
Plate 8	Brickwork visible at turret base, view from the south-west

Cover image: View from the trench north-westwards to the house



Bramshill House, Bramshill, Hampshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by City & Country Bramshill Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Bramshill House, Bramshill, Hampshire, centred on National Grid Reference 475803, 159774. Bramshill House is a large Grade I Listed Jacobean property (list entry 1340025) situated within a Grade II* Registered Park and Garden (list entry 1000165), of which the site forms the core area.

This report presents the results of an evaluation located to the south-east of the house within an area believed to have formerly been an Italian Garden. Several contemporary plans of this area are available dating to the 17th and 18th century and the evaluation trench was targeted on the projected location of the south-west boundary wall of the garden.

The evaluation was undertaken between 28th-30th October 2015. The evaluation trench was located at NGR 475994, 159564.

The evaluation was able to confirm the position of the Italian Garden boundary wall as indicated on a 1699 survey and demonstrate its good state of preservation below ground level with at least ten courses remaining. The brickwork observed was consistent with a post-medieval date.

A series of deposits butting against the north-north-western face of the garden wall are thought to represent the fills of a substantial cut feature, the extent of which could not be established within the trench. The stratigraphic relationships between the wall and adjacent feature could not be established with certainty: although the exposed deposits within the cut feature post-date the wall, construction of the wall could post-date the original excavation of the feature, which may be associated with establishment of the Italian Garden perimeter or perhaps an earlier boundary ditch.

On the innermost (north-north-west) face of the wall a layer of redeposited natural clay on a brick rubble base was thought to form a path and the likely position of Lady Abney's Walk, thought to be associated with the 17th century garden but first specifically documented in 1756. A mortar-rich layer beneath this suggests adjacent construction or demolition activity, although it clearly post-dates the original construction date of the wall.

A possible dark silty topsoil derived deposit within the feature was not considered to be an *in situ* buried soil but rather redeposited material from nearby activity. Fragments of brick and tile, as well as a number of iron nails recovered from a number of the adjacent deposits suggest construction or demolition activity in the area, post-dating the original construction of the wall. The finds have been discarded following quantification and a preliminary assessment.

The project archive resulting from the evaluation will be deposited with the Hampshire Cultural Trust, under the accession code **A2015.48**. A summary of the results of the fieldwork will be submitted to the editor of *Archaeology in Hampshire* for inclusion in the Annual Report published by the Hampshire Field Club & Archaeological Society.



Bramshill House, Bramshill, Hampshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by City & Country Bramshill Ltd, and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Richard Winsborough and Simon Bean in this regard. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Jane George (Property Manager) for all her help and assistance.

The evaluation was undertaken by Naomi Brennan and Grace Flood. The report was written and compiled by Naomi Brennan with advice from Lorraine Mephram (finds) and illustrations by Karen Nichols. Chris Moore managed the project on behalf of Wessex Archaeology.



Bramshill House, Bramshill, Hampshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by City & Country Bramshill Ltd ('the Client'), to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Bramshill House, Bramshill, Hampshire (hereafter 'the Site', **Figure 1**), centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 475803, 159774.
- 1.1.2 Bramshill House is a large Grade I Listed Jacobean property (list entry 1340025) situated within a Grade II* Registered Park and Garden (list entry 1000165), of which the Site forms the core area (**Figure 1**). Since 1953 the Site has been a police training college, with a large number of additional buildings within the Site dating to this time.
- 1.1.3 This report presents the results of an evaluation trench located to the south-east of the house within an area believed to have formerly been an Italian Garden. Several contemporary plans of this area are available dating to the 17th and 18th century and the evaluation trench was targeted on the projected location of the south-west boundary wall of the garden.
- 1.1.4 The evaluation was undertaken between 28th-30th October 2015. The evaluation trench was located at NGR 475994, 159564.

1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The Site lies c.1.5 km to the south-east of Bramshill itself and 3 km to the north-west to the village of Hartley Wintney.
- 1.2.2 The Site comprises an irregular area of land of approximately 105 ha focused on the Grade I Listed Bramshill House and ancillary structures. Also within the grounds are a large number of modern buildings associated with the former National Police College comprising residential accommodation, conference centres and other facilities. The Site lies wholly within the Grade II* Registered Park and Garden (RPG), the boundary of which extends beyond the Site area.
- 1.2.3 The main approach to Bramshill House lies off the B3011 at Double Lodge extending north-east towards the house and crossing the River Hart. The southern part of the Site, comprising land either side of the river south of the approach drive, forms a deer park while areas of woodland, sports pitches and open fields surround the complex of buildings within the central area of the Site. A number of lakes, ponds and streams also lie within the Site.
- 1.2.4 Land within the Site rises from a height of around 69 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at Double Lodge in the south-west to around 87m aOD within the core of the Site, though within the Site there are a number of localised variations in topography.



- 1.2.5 The evaluation area lies within a relatively level area of ground to the south-west of the house at an elevation of around 84.5-85 m aOD, while to the south-west the ground slopes steeply away down to a lake dammed on the south-western side, with the lower edge of the former Italian Garden at around 73 m aOD.
- 1.2.6 The underlying bedrock geology within the higher ground of the Site is mapped as the Bagshot (sand) and Windlesham (sand, silt and clay) Formations, with no superficial deposits recorded, while the river valley is mapped as London Clay Formation with some overlying alluvial deposits (British Geological Survey).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The following summary of the development of Bramshill House and Park has been compiled with reference to the national heritage list entry for Bramshill Park; the draft CMP (Feilden and Mawson 2015); an archaeological desk-based assessment (Keevil 2014); and an archaeological walkover survey (Wessex Archaeology 2015a). The archaeological desk-based assessment and walkover survey were informed by a search of the Hampshire Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record (HAHBR) undertaken in 2014.
- 2.1.2 The list entry summarises Bramshill Park as, '*A series of early C17 formal walled gardens surrounding a contemporary Jacobean house standing within a park of medieval origin which was formally landscape in the C17 and mid C18, and later, in the late C19 and C20, given informal features and enlarged to encompass woodland with axial rides*'. The Park also includes a substantial lake with island, and a large circular earthwork that was the site of a maze of at least 17th century date.

2.2 Prehistoric (pre-AD43)

- 2.2.1 No prehistoric evidence is documented within the Site; though a Scheduled Bronze Age round barrow (list entry 1001865) is situated just beyond its north-east corner. Another possible barrow is recorded in the HAHBR c. 500 m to the north of the Site (HAHBR no. 59433) as well as three Bronze Age cremation urns found at Moor Place Farm in the early 20th century (HAHBR no. 50132). The Bronze Age sites and finds provide background evidence for activity in the area during that time, but are not indicative of the presence/absence of such remains within the Site.

2.3 Romano-British (AD43-410)

- 2.3.1 No evidence for Roman remains is currently documented at Bramshill. A Roman road passes c. 5 km to the north of the house, and buildings of the same period are documented along this route 5 km to the north-north-east, east of Wheatlands Manor (list entry 1006968).

2.4 Medieval (1066-1499), post-medieval (1500-1800) and 19th century

- 2.4.1 The character of the Site in the early medieval period is largely unknown, although evidence of settlement in this period is known from a number of sites in the area of the Roman road, which would have continued as a major routeway in this period.
- 2.4.2 A house and deer park at Bramshill is documented from the 14th century when it belonged to the Foxley family; the deer park is documented to have encompassed 2500 acres. There is documentary evidence to suggest Henry VIII may have visited Bramshill in c. 1535 and examination of the historic fabric of the existing mansion shows evidence of a large Tudor house probably built around a late medieval two-storey building.

- 2.4.3 It is thought that during the 15th and early 16th centuries the estate owners were largely absentees with perhaps only occasional use of the park and grounds for hunting. The estate did not become its owner's principal seat until 1611, following which the estate was enlarged by the purchase of the manors of Great Bramshill in 1649 and Eversley in 1668.
- 2.4.4 The fine Jacobean interiors, the lake and the four formal rides centred on the Mansion are the result of works undertaken by Edward, 11th Baron Zouche of Harringworth, who acquired Bramshill in 1605. The Zouches extended the Tudor house, but much of what we see now is the result of a later, 18th century phase of alteration following the demolition of the two wings on the south frontage together with a thorough mid-19th century restoration. These alterations were made under Sir John Cope and his heirs who owned the estate from 1700-1936.
- 2.4.5 Formal designed gardens became high status features of the late medieval and early post-medieval period, heavily influenced by Mediterranean ideas and Neo-classical forms. The fashion and style, however, changed in the early 18th century when the English landscape garden came into fashion with its emphasis on the idyllic pastoral landscape with wide vistas encompassing lawns, woodland and lakes. Within the wider parkland, a number of extant and former avenues and rides date from at least the 18th century onwards and include the key approaches to the house.
- 2.4.6 A survey of the Bramshill Estate made by Sir Isaac Justis in 1699 shows the axial rides known as Reading Avenue and Front Avenue, which converge on the House, the lake and island, and the outer garden boundary walls around the house. South-east of the House an enclosed garden is shown, thought to be an Italian Garden subsequently returned to parkland in the 18th or 19th centuries. The layout of the Italian Garden is thought to be shown in a garden plan of Bramshill dated to 1715-16.
- 2.4.7 Since 1953 the Site has been owned by the Home Office who developed and used it as the National Police College. This has resulted in the addition of a large number of structures within the grounds, situated primarily to the north-west of the House. Remaining areas of the park outside the current Site boundary were sold as farmland with sizable parts of the Grade II* Registered Park and Garden(list entry 1000165) now managed by the Forestry Commission.

2.5 Previous surveys

- 2.5.1 In 1998, the Royal Commission on the Historic Monuments of England (RCHME) undertook an earthwork survey in order to establish whether the Italian Garden as shown on the plan of 1715-16 was actually executed. The survey established the survival of the principal elements of the garden earthworks to the north-east and north-west of the pond, including the parterre south of the trocco ground; the terraces; and the line of Lady Abney's Walk. The walk is thought to be associated with the 17th century garden but is first specifically documented in 1756; it was identified as a slight hollow extending for 55 m in the RCHME survey (RCHME 1998, 8).
- 2.5.2 Geophysical survey in the area of the Italian Garden in 1998 was also able to identify some traces of the formal layout of the parterre, which was situated immediately adjacent to the house (Clark 1999).

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Project Aims

3.1.1 The project aims and objectives were outlined in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Wessex Archaeology 2015b). With reference to the ClfA *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a), the general aim of the trial trench excavation was to gather information about the archaeological resource (including its presence or absence, character, extent, condition, depth, quality and date), in order to make an assessment of its merit in the appropriate context, which may lead to one or more of the following:

- *The formulation of a strategy to ensure further recording, preservation or management of the resource*
- *The formulation of a strategy to mitigate a threat to the archaeological resource*
- *The formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research*

3.1.2 The more specific aim of the trial trench was:

- *To identify the presence or absence of any buried archaeological remains of the possible wall shown on the 1699 Justis survey.*

3.2 Project Objectives

3.2.1 In furtherance of the project aim, the following objectives are defined:

- *To identify, investigate and record any such archaeological remains to the extent possible by the methods put forward in the WSI;*
- *To establish the preservation of any buried remains and provide a chronology of the archaeological phasing; and*
- *To disseminate the results through reporting that will inform the requirement for further work.*

3.3 Evaluation methodology

3.3.1 The full detailed methodology of the archaeological works is set out in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2015b) and summarised.

3.3.2 The evaluation consisted of the excavation and recording of a single trial trench in the location shown on **Figure 1**. The proposed location was identified to locate the possible wall of the former Italian garden shown on the Justis survey; the location coincides with the postulated alignment of Lady Abney's Walk (RCHME 1998), as described in documentary sources. All works were carried out in accordance with the ClfA's *Standard and guidance: archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a).

3.3.3 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. A unique code **108640** was allocated to the Site, and was used on all records and finds.

3.3.4 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.

- 3.3.5 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.
- 3.3.6 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 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The general stratigraphic sequence encountered comprised between 0.18–0.28 m of topsoil overlying a thin (0.10 m) layer of subsoil. The underlying natural geology **103** was a mid-orange sandy clay, which is likely to correspond to the recorded Windlesham Formation. However, the Surrey Hill Gravel Member is recorded immediately to the north-west and areas of gravel were noted within the north-western end of the trench. Full details of the stratigraphic sequence and deposits observed are found in **Appendix 1**.

4.2 Trench 1

- 4.2.1 The evaluation was successful in identifying the boundary wall as shown on the 1699 Justis survey (**Figures 1-2**). This was confirmed as a red brick wall **112**, 0.55 m wide aligned north-north-east – south-south-west. At least ten courses of the wall survived, though its full height was not seen (**Plate 1**). On its south-south-east side the construction cut **111** could be seen cutting through the natural geology **103**. No backfill within the construction cut was observed and the wall appeared to have been built directly against the vertical face of the construction cut.
- 4.2.2 On the north-north-west side of the wall **112**, a series of deposits (**105-110**) butted against the north-north-western face of the wall (**Plate 2**). These deposits are assumed to represent the fills of a substantial cut feature **104**. Although the trench was extended slightly to the north-west, the extent of **104** was not visible in plan and the full depth of the feature could not be established within a slot positioned immediately against the north-north-western edge of the wall **112**, which was hand excavated to a maximum depth of 1.1m before excavation was halted for health and safety reasons. A sondage dug near the north-west end of the trench located the natural geology (**103**) at around 0.7 m below ground level (**Plate 3**), suggesting that the slope angle of cut feature **104** diminishes towards the north-west. Although its exact form could not be established, given its position **104** may represent a substantial ditch or boundary feature on a similar alignment to wall **112**. As the feature was not fully excavated, the exact stratigraphic relationships between the ditch and wall could not be determined: although the exposed deposits within **104** were seen to post-date the wall, it is possible that construction of the wall could post-date the original excavation of cut feature **104**.
- 4.2.3 The lowest deposit encountered was a fine silt deposit **105**, which appeared to be banked up against the wall **112**. This contained several patches of degraded chalk. Chalk is recorded as the underlying geology in the area around Basingstoke, to the south-west. Chalk can be crushed to form agricultural lime to enrich soil and also processed to form a major component for mortar. This last use is perhaps the most likely as a number of iron nails and brick fragments were recovered from this context suggesting adjacent construction or demolition activity. The deposit clearly post-dates the construction of the wall **112**, though it was observed that the condition and colour of the mortar in the wall altered above this point. While this may be due to variations in preservation due to the

different characteristics of the adjacent deposits, it could also suggest that some alterations occurred to the upper portions of the wall, or even that the wall face itself was exposed at this level for some time.

4.2.4 Overlying **105** was a gravel rich deposit **106**. This contained no artefactual evidence, though sparse charcoal flecks confirm the presence of some anthropogenic activity in the vicinity. This deposit appeared to derive from the north-west with several bands within fill suggesting a series of depositional events. Above this was **107**, a distinct dark silty sand. The dark colour of this deposit could suggest that it was formerly topsoil, though the sharp interface between this and the deposit below would seem to indicate that this is not an *in situ* buried soil. This also appears to derive from the north-west and could suggest material disturbed by work within the nearby parterre garden as shown on a 1715-16 plan (HRO ref. 133M84/3) (**Plate 4**) and confirmed by previous surveys (RCHME 1998; Clark 1999). Overlying **107** was deposit **108**, a gravel rich, slightly mixed layer which was seen to extend through to the north-western end of the trench.

4.2.5 Above **108** and immediately adjacent to wall **112** was a distinct mortar rich layer **109**, which contained several fragments of brick and one complete example. This deposit would appear to be the result of construction or demolition work in the immediate vicinity and may suggest alterations to the wall itself at this time. Overlying this and also adjacent to the wall was layer **110**. The base of this deposit was formed from large fragments of brick (**Plate 6**) overlain by redeposited natural clay. The position and character of layer **110** suggests a deliberate deposition, perhaps forming a path alongside the boundary wall; the alignment of this suggested path corresponds with the position of a pronounced linear hollow visible on the ground surface (**Plate 5**) and identified in the RCHME survey as Lady Abney's Walk (RCHME 1998).

5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A small quantity of finds was recovered during the evaluation from feature **104** (contexts **105**, **107** and **108**), the mortar-rich deposit **109** and the possible path **110**. This latter layer included a deliberate deposition of brick rubble as its base. Quantities by context are given in **Table 1**. Though not closely datable the assemblage is assumed to be entirely of post-medieval date.

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

	Context	105	107	108	109	110	Total
CBM	count	9	1	33	7	28	78
	weight	200	10	100	3000	8500	11810
Glass	count	1		2			3
	weight	1		6			7
Iron	count	11					11



	weight	48					48
--	--------	----	--	--	--	--	-----------

5.1.2 This small assemblage has little or no potential for further research. Given the small quantities of material involved, their nature and date range (commonly occurring types of relatively recent date), the finds have been discarded following quantification and a preliminary assessment.

5.2 Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

5.2.1 Of the CBM recovered the majority of identifiable fragments appeared to be from bricks, though a fragment of roof tile was identified in deposit **105** and two further fragments in deposit **108**. A single complete un-frogged brick was recovered from layer **109**, with dimensions compatible with a post-medieval date (5.2 cm deep, 11.5 cm wide and 24 cm long). Other bricks with complete dimensions recovered show some variation in width (11.3-11.5 cm) and depth (0.52-0.60 cm); though no other complete lengths could be recorded. A fragment of curved brick (possibly part of a brick 'special') was also noted in deposit **105**. In both colour and dimensions the brick fragments are consistent with the examples seen in the extant portion of wall **112**.

5.3 Glass

5.3.1 Three fragments of flat window glass were recovered from deposits **108** and **105**. These are not closely datable but would be consistent with a post-medieval date.

5.4 Metal objects

5.4.1 Eleven handmade iron nails were recovered from context **105**, these are fairly short (3-3.5 cm) but broadly similar in size and appearance. Again, these are not closely datable.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Samples taken

6.1.1 Due to the nature of the deposits and a lack of precise dating evidence no environmental samples were taken.

7 CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Summary

7.1.1 The trial trench evaluation has confirmed the position of the garden boundary wall (**112**) as predicted from the 1699 Justis survey and demonstrated its good state of preservation below ground with at least ten courses remaining; its full height was not revealed (**Plate 1**). The brickwork observed was consistent with a post-medieval date.

7.1.2 A series of deposits butting against the north-north-west face of the wall appear to be within a substantial cut feature adjacent to the wall. These deposits include a possible path represented by a deposit of clay and brick, recorded on the inner (NNW) side of the wall.

7.2 Discussion

7.2.1 The projected line of the wall north-eastwards extends to a wide buttress just to the north-west of the rounded corner of the trocco (a kind of lawn bowls) terrace (**Plate 7**), believed to be of 18th century origin (HAHBR ID 31917). The terrace is depicted on the 1715-16 garden plan (HRO ref. 133M84/3) but without this pronounced rounded corner, perhaps

suggesting some later alteration to the structure (**Plate 4**): indeed, the early 18th century plan would seem to indicate a direct connection was intended between the terrace and the garden below.

- 7.2.2 The south-western boundary of the Italian Garden lies along the lower edge of the lake and remnants of wall visible adjacent to the southernmost turret here (list entry 1091939) (**Plate 8**) are assumed to be part of the contemporary wall as exposed in Trench 1.
- 7.2.3 On the innermost face of the wall (north-north-west) a layer of redeposited natural clay on a brick rubble base (**110**) appears to form a path along the postulated alignment of Lady Abney's Walk, thought to be associated with the 17th century garden but first specifically documented in 1756 (RCHME 1998, 8). A mortar-rich layer (**109**) beneath this suggests adjacent construction or demolition activity, although it clearly post-dates the original construction date of the wall.
- 7.2.4 A series of deposits (**105-110**) butting against the north-north-western face of the wall **112** (**Plate 2**) are thought to represent the fills of a substantial cut feature **104**, the extent of which could not be established within Trench 1. The stratigraphic relationships between the wall and adjacent feature could not be established with certainty: although the exposed deposits within **104** post-date the wall, construction of the wall could post-date the original excavation of the feature, which may be associated with establishment of the Italian Garden perimeter, or perhaps an earlier boundary ditch.
- 7.2.5 A dark silty, possibly topsoil derived deposit **107** is thought to represent material redeposited from nearby activity rather than an *in situ* buried soil. Fragments of brick and tile and iron nails recovered from a number of the deposits suggest construction or demolition activity in the area. While these deposits post-date the original construction of wall **112** they could possibly relate to some later modification of this structure. Although the wall had been demolished to a level just below the subsoil there was no clear trace of demolition material relating to this event.

8 STORAGE AND CURATION

8.1 Museum

- 8.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the evaluation be deposited with the Hampshire Cultural Trust. The Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project, under the accession code **A2015.48**. All archive elements will be marked with the accession number **A2015.48**, and a full index will be prepared.

8.2 Archive

- 8.2.1 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) and those of the Hampshire County Council Museums Service (2001).
- 8.2.2 An OASIS record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/projects/oasis/> has been completed and submitted online. A copy of this is included as **Appendix 2** of this report. A finalised version of this report will be uploaded to the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) 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.

8.3 Publication

- 8.3.1 A summary of the results of the fieldwork will be submitted to the editor of *Archaeology in Hampshire*, the Annual Report published by the Hampshire Field Club & Archaeological Society.

8.4 Copyright

- 8.4.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the project is retained by Wessex Archaeology Ltd under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The recipient museum 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*.
- 8.4.2 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. Users remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

8.5 Security Copy

- 8.5.1 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.

9 REFERENCES

9.1 Bibliography

- ADS 2013, *Caring for Digital Data in Archaeology: a guide to good practice*, Archaeology Data Service & Digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practice
- British Geological Survey, available at:
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/data/services/digmap50wms.html> [accessed October 2015]
- Brown, D.H., 2011, *Archaeological archives; a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*, Archaeological Archives Forum (revised edition)
- ClfA, 2014a, *Standard and guidance: archaeological field evaluation*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
- ClfA, 2014b, *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
- Clark, K., 1999, 'Bramshill House, Bramshill' in Purdy A and Hopkins D (eds.) *Archaeology in Hampshire: Annual Report for 1998*, 9–10
- Feilden and Mawson, 2015, *Conservation Management Plan: Bramshill*, draft CMP, report ref. 7870 CMP Rev A07
- Keevil, G., 2015, *Bramshill Park, Hampshire: an Archaeological Assessment of the Police College site*, draft desk-based assessment



- Hampshire County Council Museums Service, 2001, *Procedures Governing the Deposition of Archaeological Archives*, Winchester: Hampshire County Council
- Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME), 1998, *Bramshill Gardens, Hampshire: An archaeological survey by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England*, unpublished report
- SMA, 1995, *Towards an Accessible Archaeological Archive*, Society of Museum Archaeologists
- Wessex Archaeology, 2015a, *Bramshill House, Bramshill, Hampshire: Archaeological Walkover Survey*, unpublished report, ref. 108640.05
- Wessex Archaeology, 2015b, *Bramshill Park, Bramshill, Hampshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*, unpublished method statement, ref. 108640.06



10 APPENDIX 1: STRATIGRAPHIC SUMMARY

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

TRENCH 1	Dimensions (m)		Ground surface level:	84.66-84.85 m aOD
	Centre line Coordinates (NGR):			
	10.0 x 1.5 x 1.1			
	475928.30, 159565.87 475939.60, 159561.89			
Context number	Context type	Description	Depth bgl (m)	
101	Layer	Modern topsoil. Mid grey sandy silt loam. 2% gravel, sub-angular - sub-rounded, <1-5cm. Homogeneous. Fairly loose and friable. Bioturbated. Under grass. Diffuse interface with 102. Overlies 102.	0.00-0.28	
102	Layer	Modern subsoil. Mid yellow grey sandy silt loam. 5% gravel, sub-angular - sub-rounded, <1-6cm. Moderately compact. Slightly mottled. Bioturbated. Clear interface with 103. Overlies 103.	0.18-0.40	
103	Layer	Natural geology. Mid orange sandy clay. <1% gravel, sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Compact. Occasional grey green and mid orange mottles. Some bioturbation at interface. Some patches of gravel at north-west end of trench.	0.37+	
104	Feature	Cut of feature filled with 105-108. Not seen in plan. Not fully excavated. Character largely unknown but judged to be possible north-east – south-west aligned boundary feature. Likely at least 7 m wide.	0.35-1.10+	
105	Deposit	Secondary fill of feature 104 . Mid grey silt. 2% gravel, sub-rounded – rounded, <1-3cm. Occasional charcoal and CBM. Occasional patches of degraded chalk. Compact. Fairly homogenous. Not fully excavated. Butts wall 112.	0.40+ deep	
106	Deposit	Secondary fill of feature 104 . Pale grey silty sand. 30% gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-12cm. Sparse charcoal flecks. Occasional pale yellow grey bands within fill suggest possible series of depositional events from the north-west. Compact. Not fully excavated. Clear interface with 105. Overlies 105.	0.45+ deep	
107	Deposit	Secondary fill of feature 104 . Dark brown black silty sand. No visible inclusions. Rare CBM fragments. Despite dark colour no indications of charcoal or hydrocarbons. Compact but friable. Fairly homogenous. Possible re-deposited topsoil. Derives from the north-west. Sharp interface with 106. Overlies 106.	0.08 deep	
108	Deposit	Secondary fill of feature 104 . Mid grey-brown silty sand. 30% gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-4cm. Frequent CBM fragments, rare glass fragments, occasional charcoal flecks. Compact. Slightly mixed. Possible re-deposited topsoil. Derives from the north-west. Sharp interface with 107. Overlies 107.	0.23 deep	
109	Layer	Deliberate deposit, construction or demolition debris. Mid yellow sandy silt loam. Largely composed of degraded mortar and mortar fragments (pale grey white lime mortar). Occasional CBM fragments. Very loose and friable. Noticeable voids against wall 112. Pointing of wall changes at this point, from this point upwards the mortar is much more eroded and softer than where butted by 105. Fairly clear interface with 108. Overlies 108.	0.15 deep	
110	Layer	Deliberate deposit, re-deposited natural on brick rubble base. Possible path. Mid yellow clay. 1% gravel, sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Frequent brick fragments at base of context. Upper portion mid yellow brown mottled with evidence of bioturbation. Cleaner and less disturbed as you move down the profile. Fairly clear interface with 109. Overlies 109.	0.21 deep	
111	Feature	Construction cut for wall 112. North-north-east – south-south-west. Vertical, straight sides. 0.55 m wide. No other fill except for wall structure observed. Not fully excavated. Cuts 103.	0.76+ deep	
112	Structure	Red brick wall, no frogging, irregular sizes (17-24 cm x5-6 cm). Fill of construction cut 111 . North-north-east – south-south-west aligned. Pale brown yellow sandy mortar, friable and weathered, also occasional pale grey yellow sandy lime mortar, hard and compact. Irregular bond pattern, slightly irregular jointing 1-2 cm. At least 10 courses, full height not seen.	0.76+ high	



11 APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: wessexar1-231553

Project details

Project name	Bramshill House, Bramshill
Short description of the project	<p>Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by City and Country Bramshill Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Bramshill House, Bramshill, Hampshire. Bramshill House is a large Grade I Listed Jacobean property (list entry 1340025) situated within a Grade II* Registered Park and Garden (list entry 1000165). The evaluation trench was located to the south-east of the house (NGR 475994, 159564) within an area believed to have formerly been an Italian Garden. Several contemporary plans of this area are available dating to the 17th and 18th century and the evaluation trench was targeted on projected location of the south-west boundary wall of the garden. The evaluation was able to confirm the position of the garden boundary wall as indicated on a 1699 survey and demonstrate its good state of preservation below ground level with at least ten courses remaining. On the innermost face of the wall a layer of re-deposited natural clay on a brick rubble base was thought to form a path and the likely position of Lady Abney's Walk, thought to be associated with the 17th century garden. A mortar rich layer beneath this suggests adjacent construction or demolition activity. Also adjacent to the north-north-west side of the wall and possibly on a similar alignment was a substantial cut feature, the full extent and depth of which could not be established within the limitations of the trench; this is tentatively interpreted as a boundary ditch.</p>
Project dates	Start: 28-10-2015 End: 30-10-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	108640 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	A2015.48 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	English Heritage List of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest
Current Land use	Woodland 6 - Parkland
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Monument type	FEATURE Post Medieval



Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NAIL Uncertain
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Repurposing of existing buildings and associated new development
Prompt	Voluntary/self-interest
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

Country	England
Site location	HAMPSHIRE HART BRAMSHILL Bramshill House, Bramshill
Postcode	RG27 0JW
Study area	15 Square metres
Site coordinates	SU 75994 59564 51.329584524235 -0.909130433531 51 19 46 N 000 54 32 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Developer
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	C. Moore
Project supervisor	Naomi Brennan
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

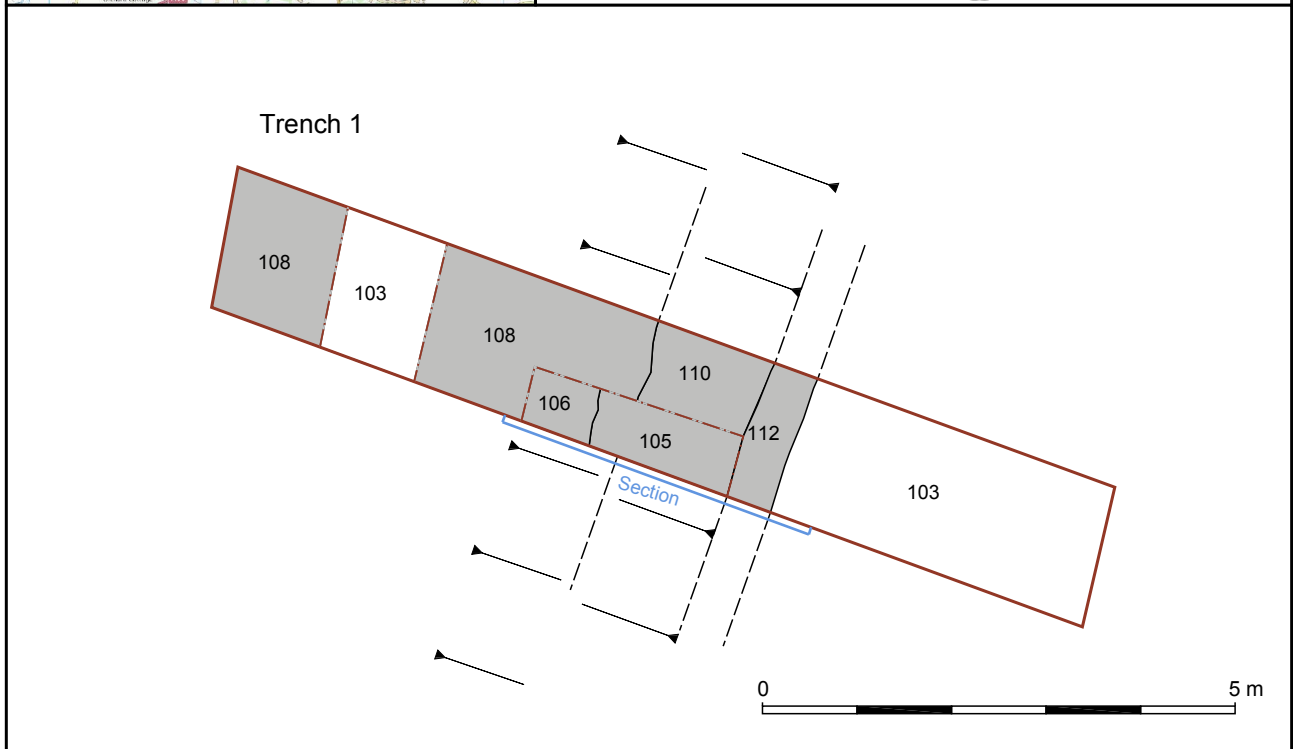
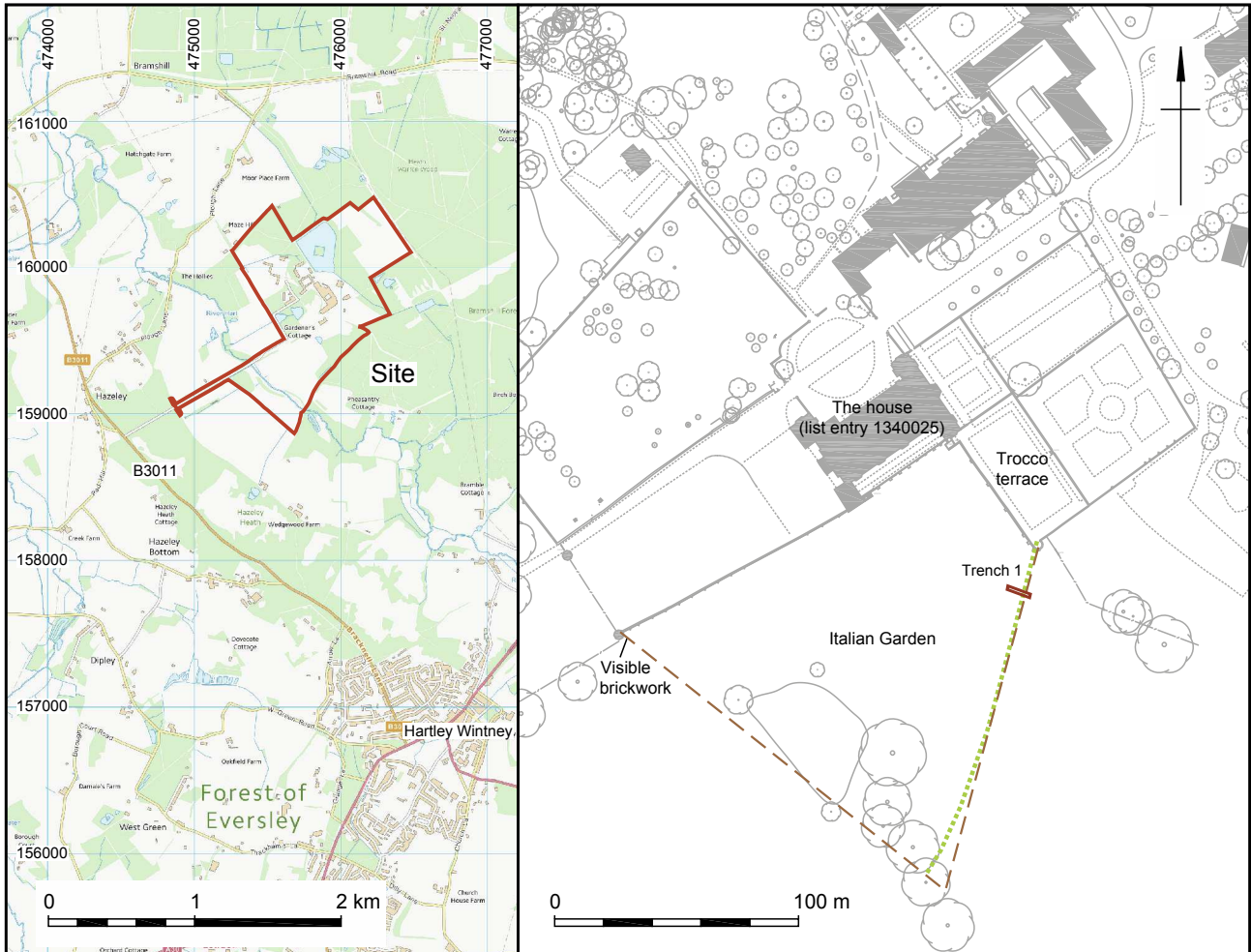


Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Hampshire Cultural Trust
Physical Archive ID	A2015.48
Physical Contents	"Ceramics", "Glass", "Metal"
Digital Archive recipient	Hampshire Cultural Trust
Digital Archive ID	A2015.48
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Hampshire Cultural Trust
Paper Archive ID	A2015.48
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Diary", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

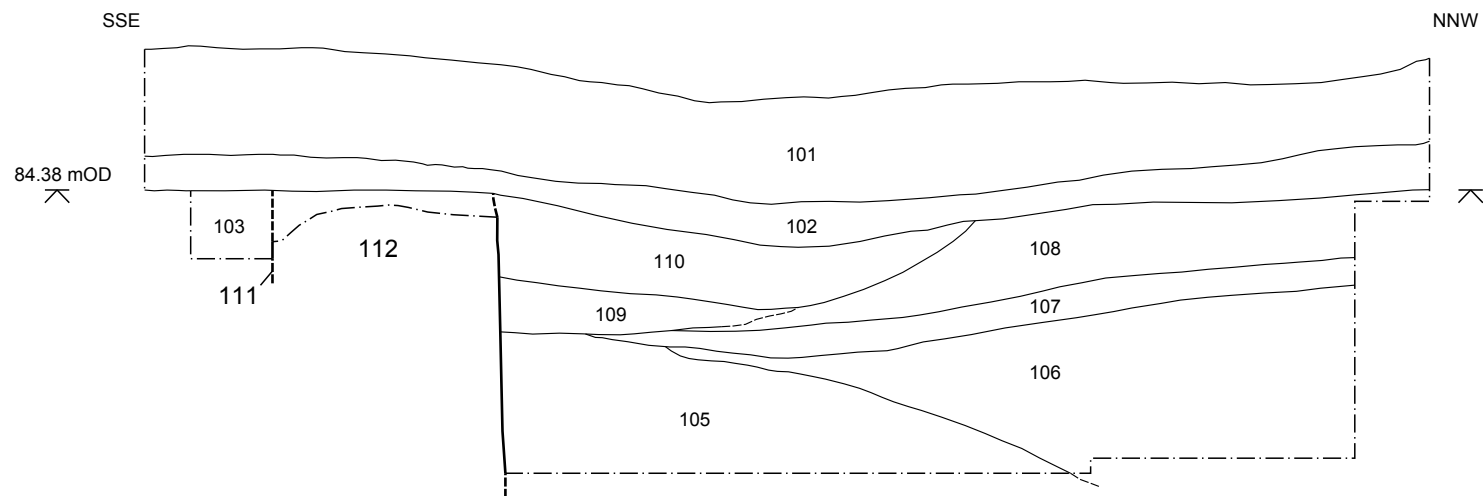
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Bramshill House, Bramshill, Hampshire: Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Brennan, N.
Other bibliographic details	report number 108640.08
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Wessex Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Wessex Archaeology - Salisbury
Description	A4 bound client report



	Basemapping supplied by client. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright and database right 2015. This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.			
	Date:	25/11/2015	Revision Number:	0
	Scale:	1:50,000, 1:3000, 1:80 @A4	Illustrator:	KJF
	Path:	X:\PROJECTS\108640\GraphicsOffice\Report_figseval\2015_11_25		

Site and trench location plan

Figure 1



	This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.	Date:	25/11/2015	Revision Number:	0
		Scale:	1:20 @A4	Illustrator:	KJF
		Path:	X:\PROJECTS\108640\GraphicsOffice\Report_figs\eval\2015_11_25		

North-north-east facing section of wall 112 and deposits within feature 104

Figure 2



Plate 1: North-north-west facing elevation of wall 112



Plate 2: North-north-east facing section of wall 112 and feature 104


	This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.			
	Date:	25/11/2015	Revision Number:	0
	Scale:	N/A	Illustrator:	KJF
	Path:	X:\PROJECTS\108640\GraphicsOffice\Report_figs\eval\2015_11_25		



Plate 3: North-north-east facing section of 104 at north-western end of the trench



Plate 4: Garden plan of Bramshill 1715-16 (taken from a copy held in the HRO, ref. 133M84/3)


	Garden plan of Bramshill 1715-16 (133M84/3) reproduced courtesy of the Hampshire Record Office. This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.			
	Date:	25/11/2015	Revision Number:	0
	Scale:	N/A	Illustrator:	KJF
	Path:	X:\PROJECTS\108640\GraphicsOffice\Report_figs\eval\2015_11_25		



Plate 5: View south-westwards from the trench and Lady Abney's Walk



Plate 6: Mid excavation view showing brick rubble at the base of layer 110



	This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.			
	Date:	25/11/2015	Revision Number:	0
	Scale:	N/A	Illustrator:	KJF
	Path:	X:\PROJECTS\108640\GraphicsOffice\Report_figs\eval\2015_11_25		



Plate 7: South-west corner and buttress of the trocco terrace



Plate 8: Brickwork visible at turret base, view from the south-west

	This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.			
	Date:	25/11/2015	Revision Number:	0
	Scale:	N/A	Illustrator:	KJF
	Path:	X:\PROJECTS\108640\GraphicsOffice\Report_figs\eval\2015_11_25		



Wessex Archaeology Ltd registered office Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB
Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk



Wessex Archaeology Ltd is a company limited by guarantee registered in England, company number 1712772. It is also a Charity registered in England and Wales, number 287786; and in Scotland, Scottish Charity number SC042630. Our registered office is at Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB.