



Wick Manor The Green, Wick, South Gloucestershire

Watching Brief Report



South Gloucestershire Planning Reference: PK/17/2964/F
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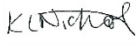
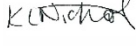
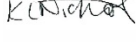


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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Heritage Planning Services Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for the construction of a new pool house, at Wick Manor, The Green, Wick, South Gloucestershire. The works were centred on NGR 369407 172374.

Groundworks revealed that the whole area of the development site had been previously disturbed, apart from a small strip against the eastern boundary. Dating evidence suggests that this took place sometime in the later 17th or 18th century. Deposits revealed by the groundworks are suggestive of the area having been used as a kitchen or herb garden for the manor house during this period. Later drainage, and a series of pet burials were also recorded.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Heritage Planning Services Ltd, for commissioning the archaeological watching brief and Rebecca Bennett, HER Officer, who monitored the project on behalf of South Gloucestershire County Council. Thanks also go to the principal contractors Wraxall and to the groundworks company Erwood and Morris for their co-operation and help on site.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Roy Krakowicz. The report was written by Tracey Smith and edited by Kirsty Nichol who also managed the project on behalf of Wessex Archaeology.



WICK MANOR, THE GREEN, WICK

Archaeological Watching Brief

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Heritage Planning Services Ltd, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the construction of a new pool house in the grounds of Wick Manor House. The works were centred on NGR 369407 172374, The Green, Wick, South Gloucestershire (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 The watching brief was carried out as a condition of planning permission, granted by South Gloucestershire Council (Planning Application PK17/2964/F), as part of a programme of archaeological works, which included a pre-application Heritage Statement and WSI (HPS 2017, WA 2017).
- 1.1.3 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed (WA 2017). The Archaeology and HER Officer approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing. The watching brief was undertaken between 22nd and 23rd January 2018.

1.2 Scope of the report

- 1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the results of the watching brief, to interpret the results within their local or regional context, and to assess their potential to address the aims outlined in the WSI, thereby making available information about the archaeological resource (a preservation by record).

1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 The site was located in the grounds of Wick Manor, The Green, Wick, South Gloucestershire, which is a Grade II listed property (Historic England list entry number: 1216154), described as follows:

House. C17 origin, refronted and remodelled mid C18 with C19 and C20 alterations and additions. Rubble, rendered, slate roofs with raised coped verges and stone gable stacks. House formerly extended further west, rear wing forms L-plan. 2 storeys and 3 windows, all double sashes in eared architraves, first floor central larger single sash (some windows C20 replacements), central Doric porch with pediment, half-glazed door; quoin strips, cornice, parapet and coping, C20 urn to each side. Attached to right, single storey block with high parapet wall in rubble with stone coping, C20 sash in plain surround, lower curtain wall to right with small blocked window. Right return has single storey C20 addition to right, French window and door; 2 small C20 attic lights in main house. Left return has 2-storey rear wing with double sash at ground floor as on front, Venetian window at first floor with 9 panes to central light, splayed glazing bars and 4 panes to each side. Rear has single storey C20 flat-roofed addition; at first floor an oval window, 2 sashes, 2-storey flat-roofed addition in angle of L-plan, 2-light gabled dormer above; rear of rear wing has single storey block with pitched roof, C20 window.

Interior: central entrance hall has stone flagged floor, boxed beam to left, open-well stair to rear right with banded mahogany wreathed handrail, cylindrical newels and plain stick balusters: former external wall to rear has panelled and glazed door with sidelights. Room to right has Adam-style yellow and white marble fireplace, cornice with 3 rows of

mouldings, former door architrave to rear with C20 sash in inserted, reeded architrave to door to hall, shutters to windows. Kitchen in rear wing has fireplace with chamfered pointed segmental arch and oven recess to left. Ground floor rooms had ceilings raised, so first floor rooms are at higher level than central landing. Front attic to left has 2 bays of roof visible, principal rafters, one row of purlins, diagonal ridge purlin and plated yoke, heavy chamfered purlin to rear slope; plank and batten door with strap hinges.

- 1.3.2 Wick Manor lies within the Parish of Wick and Abson, in the village of Wick. It stands on the south side of the A420 road between Bristol and Chippenham. It is accessed from Court Road, via Riding Barn Hill. The location of the new pool house lies to the south-west of the main house, in an enclosed garden which includes an open-air pool (**Figure 1**). The existing ground level sloped very gently from a height of 36.61 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at the eastern side of the site to 35.80 m aOD at the west.
- 1.3.3 The underlying geology is mapped as late to early Triassic Mercia Mudstone Group. Holocene alluvium borders the site to the west and Quaternary river terrace deposits are exposed to the east. The course of the River Boyd runs 100 m to the west of the Manor. (British Geological Survey online viewer).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 A desk-based archaeological assessment was previously produced for the site by Heritage Planning Services Ltd (HPS 2017). A detailed historic background was prepared in this report and relevant details regarding the historic development of the building have been summarised below.

2.2 Archaeological and historical context

Medieval - post-medieval development

- 2.2.1 Medieval records for Wick are scarce, however, there is a record of the village as 'Wyk' in 1253. The name typically refers to the presence of a dairy farm. In addition, the South Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record (SGHER) locates the deserted medieval village (DMV) of Churchley on land to the north-east of Wick Manor. The name refers to a clearing associated with a church and records the chapel in the location of the barn, to the south-west of Wick Manor.
- 2.2.2 The area saw little development until the post-medieval period, except for watermills, leats and dams making use of the River Boyd. Wick Court located just 300 m to the north-east is believed to have been constructed around AD 1665 by Thomas Haynes. However, this may have been as early as AD 1535 – 1610. Piecemeal development continued in the 18th and 19th centuries when farm buildings were constructed to the west of the site and a watermill to the north.

19th-century development

- 2.2.3 The earliest cartographic evidence available for the site, is the 1840s Tithe Map which depicts Wick Manor (then called 'The Green'), as a long L-shaped building, with large attached barn or stable to the west.
- 2.2.4 Further detail is recorded on the 1882 published edition Ordnance Survey Map. The main house is shown with a central division which may indicate two attached dwellings, with annexes to the south and west. East to west, the plot occupies the area of the modern Wick Manor, with a western extension shown in the location of a proposed new Orangery. A large



north-south building is shown attached to the western bay. This is likely to have had an agricultural function.

- 2.2.5 Census records from 1871 show four or five properties recorded under Wick Green. Occupations include Gardener, Labourer, Farmer and Butcher suggesting a plot divided into multiple living spaces occupied by skilled and semi-skilled working families. By 1891 a cottage is listed separately and a single family is listed for Wick Green; John Gunning, Sarah Gunning with one live-in servant, Robert Best.

20th-century development

- 2.2.6 By 1903 the site had been substantially remodelled, and in the 1970s the property was renovated after a period of neglect, during which some of the outbuildings became derelict. A photograph taken at this time shows the western extension represented by a roofed annex and the courtyard (proposed Orangery) and a shed to the west, which were in the process of having their roofs replaced.
- 2.2.7 In 1979 the name of the property was changed from The Green to Wick Manor (Conveyance 3rd December 1979).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

- 3.1.1 The aims of the watching brief, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2017) and as defined in the ClfA' *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014a), were:

- To allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of the development or other works;
- To provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard; and
- To guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.

3.2 Objectives

- 3.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the objectives of the watching brief, also defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2017), were:

- To determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified works area;
- To record and establish, within the constraints of the works, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains (a preservation by record);
- To place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
- To make available information about the archaeological resource on the site by preparing a report on the results of the watching brief.



4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methodology set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2017) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in ClfA guidance (ClfA 2014a). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

4.2.1 The archaeologist monitored all mechanical excavations within the specified area. Where necessary, the surface of potential archaeological deposits was cleaned by hand. A sample of archaeological features and deposits identified was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the watching brief.

4.2.2 Spoil derived from both machine stripping and hand-excavated deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. Where found, artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained for analysis.

Recording

4.2.3 All exposed archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete drawn record of excavated features and deposits was made including both plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections), and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD: Newlyn) heights of all principal features were calculated, and levels added to plans and section drawings.

4.2.4 A Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service surveyed the location of archaeological features. All survey data is recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSGM15 and OSTN15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.

4.2.5 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

4.3 Artefactual and environmental strategies

4.3.1 Appropriate strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of artefacts and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2017).

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Excavations on the site of the new pool house were carried out in two phases; with a topsoil strip being undertaken across the whole trench, followed by a deeper strip to the required foundation level for the new building. Around the edge of the existing swimming pool only topsoil was removed to provide a flat working area. The area for the new pool house was located further to the south.



- 5.1.2 Due to the slope in existing ground levels, the depth of the trench was 0.85 m below ground surface (BGS) at the eastern end of the site and 0.20 m BGS at the western end.

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

- 5.2.1 Natural subsoil was encountered at 0.70 m BGS in the eastern end of the trench, where excavations were deepest. This consisted of a mottled pink and yellow silty-clay with clay patches, containing sub-rounded fragments of degraded mudstone bedrock (103). Overlying this was a subsoil, which was revealed at a depth of c. 0.50 m BGS, consisting of mid-orange brown clay-silt, containing occasional small stone fragments (102; **Plate 1**).

5.3 Post Medieval

- 5.3.1 At the far south-eastern corner of the trench, a cut was visible in the section truncating all deposits across the trench. Starting at 0.30 m BGS, and reaching a depth of 0.80 m BGS (104), this cut had removed all original subsoils across the entire area of the excavation, leaving only 0.20m of intact soils visible within the site. Where this feature was visible in the very edge of the section, it had a near vertical edge and flat base. Its primary fill appeared to be an irregular layer of sub-angular cobble to boulder sized lumps of natural rock with an orange-brown clay-silt, fairly loose matrix (105). This was exposed to its full depth of 0.10 m at the eastern side only, as further westwards the trench became shallower and only the top of deposit 105 was visible in places.
- 5.3.2 Above 105 within the cut 104 was a layer of mixed brown-pink and grey-brown silts, clay-silts and clays, with lenses of degraded natural bedrock (106). This deposit also had a loose matrix, suggestive of being turned with a spade.
- 5.3.3 Cutting through 106 were two linear features (**Figure 2**). A stone filled French drain (107) was aligned south-west to north-east, and a sample slot excavated by hand against the southern edge of the trench (**Plate 2**). The drain was found to have very steeply sloping sides and an irregular base, which was filled by a mottled brown-grey-pink clay-silt containing abundant small and moderately sized stones (108), similar to 105. Three plate sherds, with sgraffito decoration typical of North Devon and Somerset products of the 17th and 18th centuries, were recovered from 108. However, these were abraded and are likely to have been intrusive. Also found in the excavated slot were the remains of an adult dog skeleton, which is also likely to have been intrusive and probably represents a pet burial (see 113 and 114 below).
- 5.3.4 At the western edge of the site, the eastern side of what appeared to be a shallow linear ditch (109) also cut layer 106. This feature had a gently sloping side and may relate to the removal of a hedge or field boundary. The fill was a dark brown-grey clay-silt with heavy root disturbance (110), very similar to the overlying topsoil.
- 5.3.5 Running along the eastern side of the top of this feature were a series of tree throws (115, 116 and 117). These shallow, irregular features probably relate to a row of trees once occupying the former boundary.
- 5.3.6 Overlying 106 was a layer of mixed orange-brown and grey-brown clay-silt with evidence for domestic hearth waste-disposal in the form of ash and carbonised wood (101). This formed a thin, 50 mm lens below the uppermost topsoil and may relate to the use of domestic hearth debris for soil enrichment.
- 5.3.7 Overlying all deposits was a 0.30 m deep layer of dark grey-brown, clay-silt, humic topsoil. It is uncertain whether this layer was deliberately dumped prior to the swimming pool being built and after the garden went out of use, or whether it was formed through garden activity

itself. Given the ashy lenses below it, it seems likely that it was redeposited and spread over the existing ground surface when the swimming pool was added in the 20th century (**Plate 3**). Finds from the topsoil layer included 17th to 19th-century pottery, 19th to 20th-century glass, oyster shells and two clay tobacco-pipe stems.

- 5.3.8 The latest activity revealed by the groundworks were two further domestic dog burials; one adult and one juvenile (113 and 114). These are likely to date to the 20th century and were not retained as part of the site archive.

6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 A small quantity of finds was collected during the course of the watching brief. Four finds were recovered from stratified contexts; the remainder were recovered from the topsoil. Pottery is the most common material type, but there were also fragments of clay tobacco-pipe, glass, oyster shell, a prehistoric flint flake, and an iron nail. Apart from the flint flake, all the finds are post-medieval or modern. The finds have been quantified by material type and context; the results are presented in **Table 1**.

6.2 Pottery

- 6.2.1 The range of pottery types is entirely typical of West Country assemblages of the post-medieval and modern periods. Coarse redwares provide the utilitarian component (kitchen/sanitary); these almost certainly include the products of the South Somerset production centres (such as Donyatt), but may also include products from North Devon and the urban redware potteries in Bristol. Two sherds of Bristol/Staffordshire-type slipware (tableware) were also recovered. Later industrially-produced wares (tableware) comprise edged-pearlware, whiteware (plain and transfer-printed) and porcelain.
- 6.2.2 Undecorated redwares are not particularly conducive to close dating, and can only be broadly dated to the 17th–19th centuries. The redware from context 108, which comprises three plate sherds, has sgraffito decoration typical of North Devon and Somerset products of the 17th to 18th centuries. Bristol/Staffordshire-type slipwares have a date range spanning the 17th to 19th centuries. Edged-pearlware dates from the c. 1785-1830. Transfer-printed wares date from c. 1780 onwards. The porcelain is probably 19th century in date.

6.3 Glass

- 6.3.1 The assemblage comprises three shards of dark green free-blown post-medieval bottle glass; a shard of 19th/20th-century aqua glass; and a shard of bright green mould-blown or machine-made octagonal bottle/jar glass, dating from the late 19th or early 20th century.

6.4 Other finds

- 6.4.1 Other finds comprise three oyster shells, an iron nail and an undiagnostic flint flake.

6.5 Conclusions

- 6.5.1 The finds are a typical post-medieval/modern domestic assemblage, which is likely to be derived from reuse disposal/casual loss from the adjacent property.



Table 1 Finds by material type (number of pieces/weight in grammes)

Context	Flint	Shell	Clay pipe	Pottery	Glass	Iron
100	1/3	3/85	2/5	23/284	5/57	
108				3/95		
110						1/28
Total	1/3	3/85	2/5	26/379	5/57	1/28

7 CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Summary

7.1.1 Groundworks revealed that the whole area within the development site had been previously disturbed, apart from a small strip against the eastern boundary. This disturbance had removed existing soil layers across the trench, replacing them with more aerated mixed deposits, suggestive of 'double digging' or the turning of the soils as part of the cultivation process. The dating evidence suggests that this took place sometime in the later 17th or 18th century. The use of a French drain to control water levels further suggests horticultural activity on the site in the intervening period.

7.2 Discussion

7.2.1 The archaeology recorded during the watching brief suggests the site was had been used for horticulture which may be indicative of a kitchen garden in the later 17th or 18th century. Early mapping depicts this area of the estate as an enclosed rectangle. However, given its close proximity with what appears to be a formal garden on the other side of the eastern wall of the plot, as shown on the 1880s published edition Ordnance Survey Map, together with the shelter that would have been afforded by the stone walls on the eastern and northern sides, it is very possible that this area may well have functioned as a kitchen or herb garden for the manor house.

8 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

8.1 Museum & preparation of the archive

8.1.1 The archive resulting from the watching brief is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Bristol. Bristol Museum and Art Gallery has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project, under an accession code which has been applied for (TBC). Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner to transfer title of all finds to the museum.

8.1.2 The archive, which includes paper records, graphics, artefacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Bristol Museum and Art Gallery, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

8.1.3 All archive elements are marked with the site/accession code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:

- 1 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type;



- 1 files/document cases of paper records and A3/A4 graphics;

8.2 Selection policy

- 8.2.1 Wessex Archaeology follows national guidelines on selection and retention (SMA 1993; Brown 2011, section 4). In accordance with these, and any specific guidance prepared by the museum, a process of selection and retention will be followed so that only those artefacts or ecofacts that are considered to have potential for future study will be retained. The selection policy will be agreed with the museum, and is fully documented in the project archive.
- 8.2.2 In this instance, the following categories are recommended for discard: All finds previously retrieved, being later post medieval in date and originating from general land use.

8.3 Security copy

- 8.3.1 In line with current best practice (eg, Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be 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.

8.4 OASIS

- 8.4.1 An OASIS online record (<http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main>) has been initiated, entry number **wessexar1-302722** and a .pdf version of this report will be submitted. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service ArchSearch catalogue.

9 COPYRIGHT

9.1 Archive, report and third party data copyright

- 9.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*. In some instances, certain regional museums may require absolute transfer of copyright, rather than a licence; this should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.
- 9.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.
- 9.1.3 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (eg, Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable 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 such material.




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Watching brief area
 Wick Manor House

0 50 m

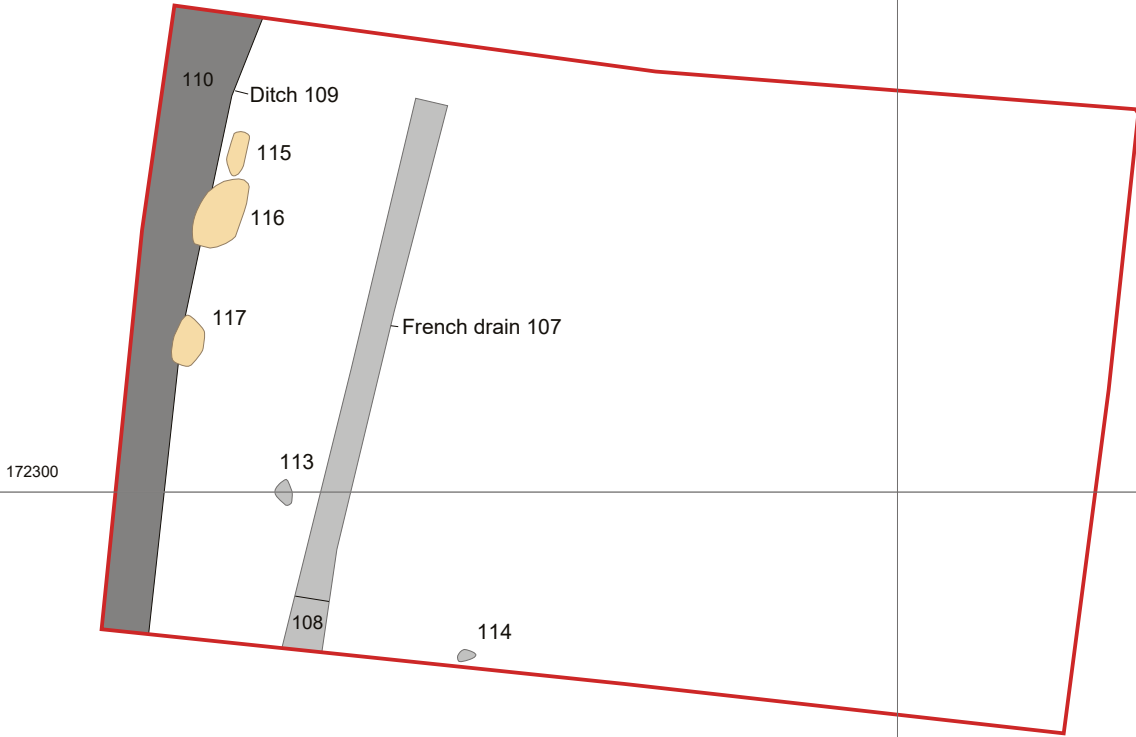
 <p>Coordinate system: OSGB36 (OSTN15/OSGM15)</p>	Site plans provided by the client. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright and database right 2017. This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.	
	Date: 31/01/2018	Revision Number: 0
	Scale: 1:50,000; 1:10,000; 1:800 @ A4	Illustrator: ND/KMN
	Path: X:\PROJECTS\119050\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\WB\2018_01_31	

Site location

Figure 1



Trench



- Watching brief area
- Shallow ditch /boundary
- Modern features
- Tree throw hole



Coordinate system:
OSGB36
(OSTN15/OSGM15)

Site plans provided by the client.
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Trench plan

Figure 2



Plate 1: Natural clay and subsoils at the south eastern corner of site, looking south, 1m scale

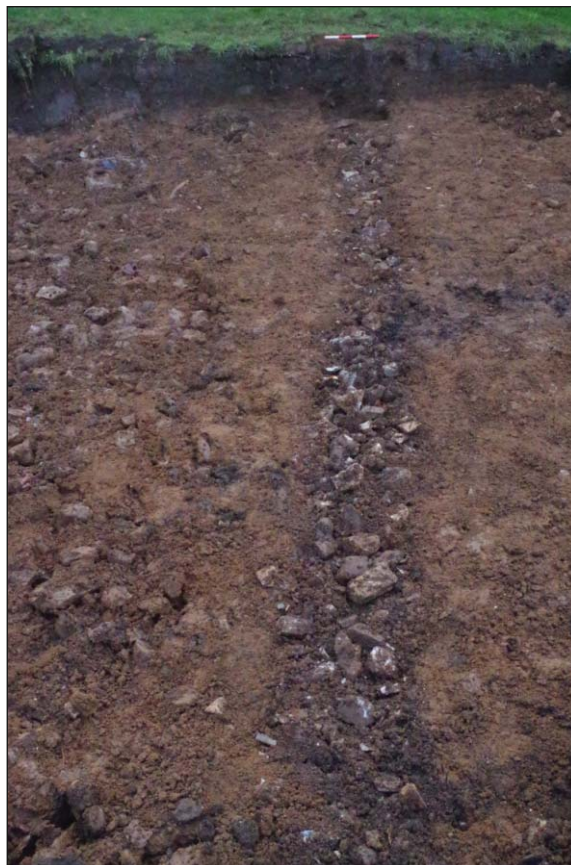


Plate 2: French drain 107 running north to south across the trench, looking south, 1m scale



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Plate 3: Topsoil in section during the first area strip, looking east, 1m scale

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