

**HAYESFIELD SCHOOL
UPPER OLDFIELD PARK
BATH**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

For

MACE LTD

CA PROJECT: 2797
CA REPORT: 09057

MARCH 2009


**COTSWOLD
ARCHAEOLOGY**



HAYESFIELD SCHOOL
UPPER OLDFIELD PARK
BATH

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CA PROJECT: 2797
CA REPORT: 09057

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date	26 March 2009
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date	27 March 2009
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signed	
date	27 March 2009
issue	01

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Hayesfield School
Location: Upper Oldfield Park, Bath
NGR: ST 7422 6427
Type: Evaluation
Date: 16-17 February 2009
Location of Archive: To be deposited with the Roman Baths Museum
Accession Number: BATRM 2009.4
Site Code: HFS 09

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February 2009 at Hayesfield School, Upper Oldfield Park, Bath. Two out of a proposed four trenches were excavated.

The evaluation encountered one archaeological feature, a curved cut that has been interpreted as part of a pond first depicted on the 1888 First Edition Ordnance Survey 25” map. The pond lay within the landscaped gardens of Oakfield Park, a large house constructed in the 19th century.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In February 2009 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Mace Ltd at Hayesfield School, Upper Oldfield Park, Bath (centred on NGR: ST 7422 6427; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application for redevelopment of the current site to include demolition, construction and landscaping works.

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2009) and approved by Richard Sermon, Archaeological Officer, Bath and North East Somerset Council (BANESC). The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (2001) and the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991).

The site

1.3 The site is located within the grounds of Hayesfield Upper School and comprises extant buildings with associated tennis courts, sports pitch and garden. Encircling the school is Oldfield Park Road, and the site is bordered to the east by residential properties (Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 37m AOD, and is situated on a steep north-facing slope.

1.4 The proposed development area encloses an area of approximately 2.4ha, and is currently a lawned area containing a number of mature trees.

1.5 The solid geology of the site is not mapped in detail and comprises undifferentiated Lower Jurassic Lias and Middle Jurassic Oolite deposits (BGS 1990). The natural substrate of light greyish yellow clay was encountered in both excavated trenches.

Archaeological background

1.6 The site is located within the Bath World Heritage Site and the Great Western Railway Tentative World Heritage Site lies nearby to the north. An archaeological desk-based assessment prepared by CA (CA 2008) has identified the potential for unrecorded Roman deposits; Beechen Cliff Roman Villa lies approximately 150m to

the north-east and the Fosseway is presumed to extend through the vicinity of the site, although its precise alignment here is uncertain. A further putative road between Bristol and Bath may run approximately 250m north of the proposed development area, along the modern A36. In addition, the desk-based assessment has identified the potential for the remains of demolished buildings associated with the late 19th-century Oakfield Park and associated landscape features, including a pond, to survive within the site.

Archaeological objectives

- 1.7 The objectives of the evaluation were to establish the character, quality, date and extent of any archaeological remains or deposits surviving within the site. This information will assist Bath and North East Somerset Council in making an informed judgement on the significance of the archaeological resource, and the likely impact upon it of the proposed development.

Methodology

- 1.8 The fieldwork as originally conceived comprised the excavation of four trenches in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Due to the restricted space within the site trenches one and three were not excavated. Trench two measured 30m in length and trench four 20m in length. Both trenches were 1.6m wide. Trench two was moved slightly to the west in order to avoid fibre-optic and telephone cables.
- 1.9 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.10 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* (2003) and no deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of Finds Immediately After Excavation* (1995).

- 1.11 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with the Roman Baths Museum under accession number BATRM 2009.4, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix D, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B respectively. Details of the relative heights of the principal deposits and features expressed as metres Above Ordnance Datum (m AOD) appear in Appendix C.

Trench 2 (Figs 2 and 3)

- 2.2 The natural geological substrate 206 was revealed 1.4m below present ground level (bpgl). This was cut by various drains mainly concentrated within the northern end of the trench. The substrate was overlain by light grey clay 202, which was used as a make-up deposit during the construction of the adjacent tennis courts. The clay was overlain by loose black clinker levelling 201, which was in turn sealed by topsoil 200.
- 2.3 Curved cut 203 was observed in the northern end of the trench cutting the natural substrate and with a land drain running in to it. The cut contained two silty clay fills 204 and 205. Primary fill 204 was a relatively thin fill probably the result of natural silting. It contained one sherd of post-medieval pottery and two fragments of post-medieval or modern ceramic roof tile. Secondary fill 205 contained large limestone blocks/rubble and was fairly thick suggesting a deliberate backfilling. Cut 203 has been interpreted as a pond first depicted on the 1888 First Edition Ordnance Survey 25" map (Fig. 3). It was located within the landscaped gardens of Oakfield Park, a large house constructed in the 19th century.

Trench 4 (Fig. 2)

- 2.4 The natural geological substrate 402 was revealed at 0.36m bpgl. This was overlain by subsoil 401, which was in turn sealed by topsoil 400. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed within this trench.

The Finds Evidence

- 2.5 Small quantities of post-medieval pottery and ceramic building material were recovered from the primary fill 204 of pond 203 (Appendix B).
- 2.6 One sherd (10g) of post-medieval pottery was recovered. This consisted of a bodysherd in an internally glazed earthenware fabric, which dates to the 16th to 18th centuries.
- 2.7 Two pieces (42g) of building material were recovered and were identifiable as ceramic roof tile, dating to the post-medieval or modern periods.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The archaeological evaluation identified no Roman deposits within the excavated trenches. The presence of *in situ* subsoil and the absence of modern finds in the topsoil and subsoil of trench four indicate that there has been no truncation during previous development of the site and that archaeological deposits associated with Beechen Cliff Roman Villa and the Fosseyway did not extend as far as the site. The presence of pond 203 in trench two also strongly suggests that there has not been significant truncation. The pond is first depicted on the 1888 First Edition Ordnance Survey 25" map. The 1904 Second Edition Ordnance Survey 25" map records the feature as a 'Fish Pond'. By the time the 1932 Third Edition Ordnance Survey 25" map was surveyed the pond had been backfilled.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Mark Brett and Sian Reynish. The report was written by Sian Reynish. The illustrations were prepared by Lorna Gray. The archive has

been compiled by Sian Reynish, and prepared for deposition by Victoria Taylor. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1990 *Geological survey of Great Britain, Bath, Sheet 265, 1:50,000*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008 *Hayesfield School, Upper Oldfield Park, Bath: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment. CA report no. 08219*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009 *Hayesfield School, Upper Oldfield Park, Bath: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 2

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
200	Layer	Topsoil			0.15	
201	Layer	Loose clinker levelling deposit			0.15	
202	Layer	Clay make-up deposit			<1.2	
203	Cut	Cut of pond	>3.2	>1.6	>0.65	
204	Fill	Primary fill of 203	>3.2	>1.6	0.15	PMED-MOD
205	Fill	Secondary fill of 203	>3.2	>1.6	>0.5	
206	Layer	Natural substrate				

Trench 4

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
400	Layer	Topsoil			0.17	
401	Layer	Subsoil			0.19	
402	Layer	Natural substrate				

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS*Finds Concordance*

Context	Artefact type	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
204	Post-medieval pottery: internally glazed earthenware	1	10	mid C16- C18
204	Roof tile	2	42	PMED-MOD

DRAFT

APPENDIX C: LEVELS OF PRINCIPAL DEPOSITS AND STRUCTURES

Levels are expressed as metres below current ground level and as metres Above Ordnance Datum (AOD), calculated using the benchmark located on the stone wall north of the school buildings on Lower Oldfield Park Road (33.04m AOD).

	Trench 2	Trench 4
Current ground level	0.00m (38.09m)	0.00m (37.32m)
Top of 19th-century pond	1.21m (36.39m)	
Limit of excavation	1.44m (36.65m)	0.5m (36.82m)

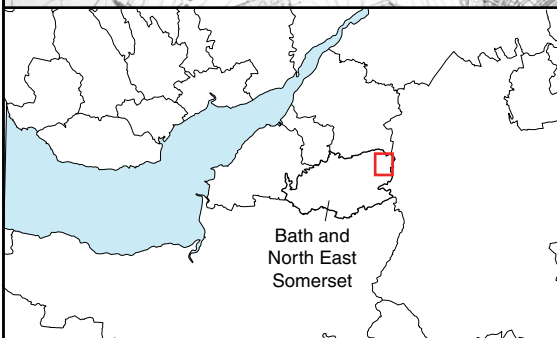
Upper figures are depth below modern ground level; lower figures in parentheses are metres AOD.


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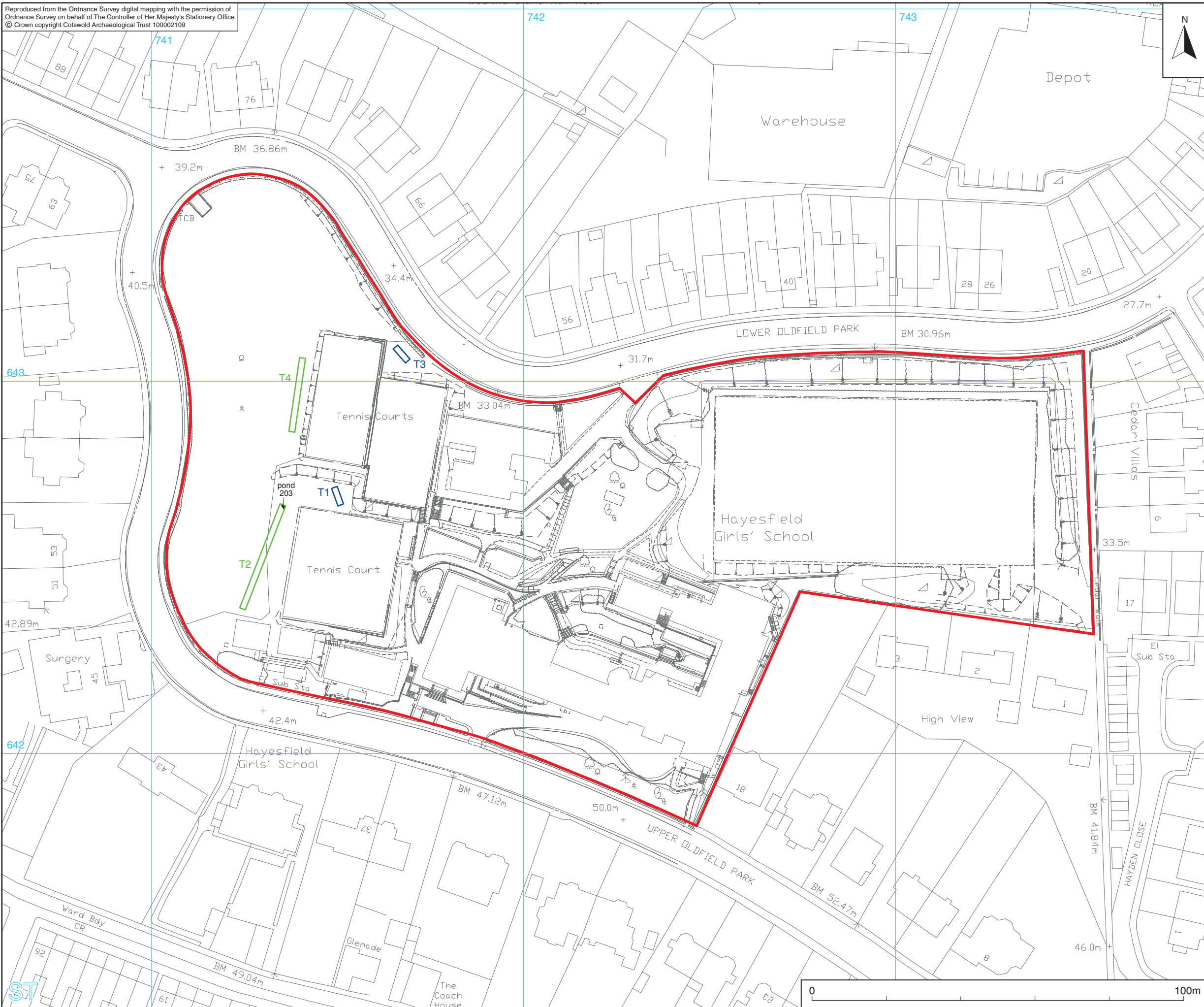
APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Hayesfield School, Upper Oldfield Park, Bath	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February 2009 at Hayesfield School, Upper Oldfield Park, Bath. Two out of a proposed four trenches were excavated.</p> <p>The evaluation encountered one archaeological feature, a curved cut that has been interpreted as part of a pond first depicted on the 1888 First Edition Ordnance Survey 25" map. The pond lay within the landscaped gardens of Oakfield Park, a large house constructed in the 19th century.</p>	
Project dates	16 – 17 February 2009	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	Yes	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Hayesfield School, Upper Oldfield Park, Bath	
Study area (M ² /ha)	2.4ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	ST 7422 6427	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Bath and North East Somerset Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Mark Brett	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Roman Baths Museum, Bath BATRM 2009.4	Pottery and ceramic building material.
Paper	Roman Baths Museum, Bath BATRM 2009.4	Trench sheets, levels register, photographic registers, and colour slides and black and white photographs.
Digital	Roman Baths Museum, Bath BATRM 2009.4	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008 <i>Hayesfield School, Upper Oldfield Park, Bath: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment</i> . CA report no. 08219		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009 <i>Hayesfield School, Upper Oldfield Park, Bath: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA report no. 09057		

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 COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY			
PROJECT TITLE Hayesfield School, Upper Oldfield Park, Bath			
FIGURE TITLE Site location plan			
DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
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- ▬ site
- ▬ evaluation trench
- ▬ trench not excavated
- - - archaeological feature

PROJECT TITLE
 Hayesfield School, Upper Oldfield Park, Bath

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan, showing archaeological features

DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
LG	1:1000@A3	2797	2



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

Hayesfield School, Upper Oldfield Park, Bath

FIGURE TITLE

The results of the evaluation overlaid on the 1888 Ordnance Survey map

DRAWN BY

LG

SCALE

not to scale

PROJECT NO.

2737

FIGURE NO.

3