

**Former Hygrade Factory
Chippenham
Wiltshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

for

CgMs Consulting

on behalf of

McCarthy & Stone Retirement Lifestyles Limited

CA Project: 4275


CA Report: 14049

February 2014

Former Hygrade Factory
Chippenham
Wiltshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 4275
CA Report: 14049

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date	26 February 2014
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date	28 February 2014
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CONTENTS

SUMMARY	2
1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
<i>The site</i>	3
<i>Archaeological background</i>	4
<i>Archaeological objectives</i>	4
<i>Methodology</i>	5
2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-4).....	5
3. DISCUSSION.....	6
4. CA PROJECT TEAM.....	7
5. REFERENCES.....	8
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	9
APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM.....	10

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
- Fig. 2 The site, showing location of observed groundworks (1:600)
- Fig. 3 Extract from the first edition ordnance survey map 1828 (1:800)
- Fig. 4 Mill race masonry 130, 131, and 132, northern end, looking south (1m scale)
- Fig. 5 Upper portion of mill race masonry 130, looking south (1m scale)
- Fig. 6 Plan view detail of wall 124 looking west (1m scale)
- Fig. 7 Brick structure 113-116 with metal fixing 120, looking north-east (1m scale)

SUMMARY

Project Name:	Former Hygrade Factory
Location:	Chippenham, Wiltshire
NGR:	ST 9194 7301
Type:	Watching Brief
Date:	27-31 January 2014
Planning Reference:	12/01714/FUL
Location of Archive:	Chippenham Museum and Heritage Centre
Site Code:	FYH 13

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the development of assisted living accommodation at the former Hygrade factory, Chippenham, Wiltshire.

While the site was heavily truncated by the former Hygrade factory and modern industrial development, surviving *in situ* remains of a 19th-century (or potentially earlier) mill race and two structures that may be associated with a 19th to 20th-century tannery were identified.

No earlier features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In January 2014 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for CgMs Consulting (CgMs) on behalf of McCarthy & Stone Retirement Lifestyle Limited at the former Hygrade factory, Chippenham, Wiltshire (centred on NGR: ST 9194 7301; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to planning consent for demolishing existing buildings and redeveloping the site into assisted living accommodation (Wiltshire Council Planning ref: 12/01714/FUL; Condition 11). The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the development.

1.2 The watching brief was carried out following the approval of a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CgMs (2013) and approved by the Wiltshire Council acting on the advice of Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service team. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2009), and the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991), the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006).

The site

1.3 The site is located to the east of the River Avon, south-east of the town centre of Chippenham (Fig. 1). The site lies between approximately 45m and 40m AOD, with the land dropping away to the west and the River Avon.

1.4 The site is 0.4ha in extent and was occupied by the former Hygrade factory and associated infrastructure; the factory is now demolished.

1.5 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Kellaways Formation - Sandstone, Siltstone and Mudstone of the Jurassic era with no superficial deposits recorded (BGS 2014). The natural geological substrate (clay and gravel) was observed during the watching brief.



Archaeological background

- 1.6 The historical and archaeological background of the site was covered in detail in a desk-based assessment carried out by CgMs (2011). What follows is a summary of that document and the Extensive Urban Survey of Chippenham (McMahon 2004).
- 1.7 The low lying position of the site would have made it less favourable for occupation during the prehistoric period. Evidence of Roman occupation activity is similarly scarce, suggesting that it may not have been intensively settled these periods (McMahon 2004).
- 1.8 Chippenham was first referred to in AD 853. The town was a planned *burh* with similarities in size and topography to Calne, Cricklade, Malmesbury and Wilton. However, no finds or clearly demonstrable features of Saxon date have been recorded to date within the historic core of the town (McMahon 2004). Documentary references illustrate that Chippenham grew at a variable rate from the 9th- to 12th-centuries, and may not have been an area of intensive activity throughout the period (*ibid.*). A Grant of Lands to Chippenham in a charter of 1554 identifies the site to have occupied lands in 'Westmead', described as an area of meadow lands, at this time producing hay crops for summer feed and winter grazing (CgMs 2011).
- 1.9 Information recorded on the Historic Environment Record, National Monuments Record and cartographic evidence indicates that the site was likely to have remained predominantly in agricultural use throughout the post-medieval period. However, in the early 19th century a cloth mill and tannery were established within the site. This industrial use of the site continued throughout the Modern period, culminating in the existing former Hygrade factory that occupies the site today (CgMs 2011).

Archaeological objectives

- 1.10 The objectives of the archaeological works were:
- to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks;

- at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

Methodology

- 1.11 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CgMs 2013). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising slab removal and demolition of existing foundations up to 2m below present ground level (bpgl) (Fig. 2). Due to health and safety issues it was not possible to closely inspect the features present.
- 1.12 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2013).
- 1.13 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Chippenham Museum and Heritage Centre. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-4)

- 2.1 The completed archaeological observations noted a consistent stratigraphic sequence, the thickness of recorded deposits varied significantly. The natural geological substrate 103 consisting of clay and gravel, was revealed in areas of ground reduction at an average depth of 1.5m below present ground level. This was overlain by made ground deposit 102 which was up to 1.5m in thickness; it consisted of yellow grey sand clay with brick rubble and CBM inclusions. This was in turn sealed by modern made ground 101 which was up to 0.4m thick. This was further overlain by 104, a layer of reinforced concrete slab up to 0.3m thick, which formed the current ground surface.
- 2.2 A series of foundation walls made of brick, sandstone and concrete were observed, cutting into the natural substrate 103 and made ground 102, and sealed below made

ground 101. Modern disturbance of the site meant that the compilation of a coherent plan could not be undertaken. The walls were identified as parts of cellars and other structures that date from the 19th century onward.

- 2.3 Remains of a north/south aligned mill race (130, 131 and 132) were recorded in the north of the site (Fig 4 and 5); these may relate to the Waterford Mill cloth factory established in 1811. The limited exposure of the remains meant that it was not possible to resolve their southern extent. The remains were 5m wide (east to west), and survived to a depth of 3m bpgl. Its observable lower portion was made in red brick courses bonded together with light grey cement mortar 131 supported by a red brick arch, 132 (Fig. 4). Its upper portion consisted of roughly cut uneven courses of limestone blocks bonded in grey mortar (Fig. 5). It is presumed that the mill race continues below ground along the western edge of the site. Remains of a north-south aligned sandstone block wall (124) were observed to the south; its position and alignment suggests that it may be a continuation of the mill race (Fig. 6).
- 2.4 A roughly rectangular brick structure (125), and pit containing timber framing attached to its interior faces (133), was located at the centre of the observed area (Fig. 2). This feature was not illustrated on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1828 (Fig. 3), but could relate to a tannery established at this time.
- 2.5 A square brick structure (113, 114, 115 and 116) was observed (Figs. 2, 3 and 7). Set into its upper walls was an iron pole with two wheels at either end (120). It appears to be the partially surviving *in situ* remains of machinery associated with the 19th to 20th century factory buildings.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The archaeological potential of the application area (see archaeological background above) the watching brief identified that 19th-century remains should be expected in this area, and the watching brief observations successfully confirmed the presence of these remains. However, poor ground conditions and truncation by the former Hygrade factory meant that little coherent interpretation could be made of the surviving deposits.

- 3.2 The mill race remains are probably associated with the Waterford Mill cloth factory. It was established in 1811 and is depicted on the first series Ordnance Survey map of 1828, along with an adjacent tannery; both were owned by Thomas Bailey. The metal fixture 120 set into walls of a brick structure (113-116), represents surviving *in situ* remains of the 19th to 20th century industrial use of the site.
- 3.3 Brick structure 125 and pit 133 are probably the remains of structures associated with the tannery first depicted on the 1828 Ordnance Survey map. Although the pits do not appear to exactly match those seen on the OS mapping (Fig. 3), their close proximity, form and condition suggest that they were used as part of the same process.
- 3.4 The results overall are consistent with tanneries of this age range, including that at Nailsea, Kingshill, which suggests the tanning pits identified at this site (but not consistently illustrated on OS imprints) are of comparable scale to others in the region (Bowen 1997).

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Greg Crees and Luke Brannlund. The report was written by Luke Brannlund and Greg Crees. The illustrations were prepared by Jon Bennet. The archive has been compiled by Luke Brannlund, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.



5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) *Geology of Britain Viewer*
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> accessed 13 February 2014

Bowen T 2005 *Nailsea Tannery – Nailsea and District Local History Society E-Book*

CgMs (CgMs Consulting) 2011 *Archaeological Desk Based Assessment, Former Hygrade Factory, Westmead Lane, Chippenham, Wiltshire*

CgMs (CgMs Consulting) 2013 *Project design and specification for an archaeological watching brief in respect of: Former Hygrade Factory, Chippenham, Wiltshire*

McMahon, P. 2004 *The archaeology of Wiltshire's towns, an extensive urban survey: Chippenham*

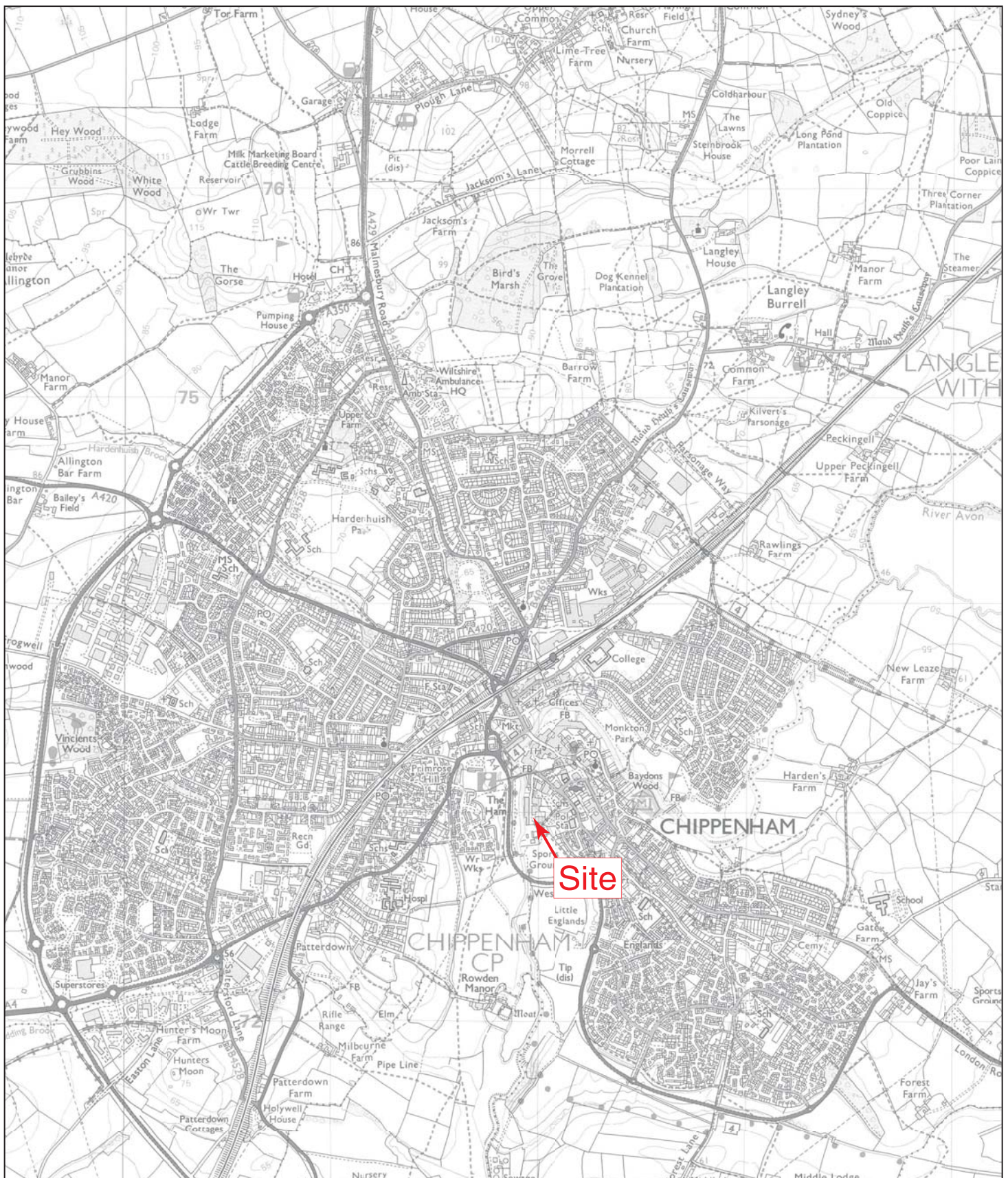


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)
1	100	Layer	Concrete surface	Reinforced concrete			0.3
1	101	Layer	Made ground	Sand, brick, concrete rubble			0.4
1	102	Layer	Made ground	Brick rubble and sand clay			1.5
1	103	Natural	Natural geology	Yellow clay and gravel			n/a
1	104	Layer	Concrete slab	Concrete slab forming roof of cellar			0.1
1	105	Masonry	Wall	Orange-red brick, English Cross bond, with blue-grey mortar		0.4	2
1	106	Deposit	Made ground	Charcoal/ash			1
1	107	Masonry	Wall	N-S aligned, yellow sandstone blocks with yellow-grey sandy mortar			
1	108	Masonry	Wall	E-W aligned, same materials as 107			
1	109	Masonry	Wall	E-W aligned, red-pink sandstone with light red mortar			
1	110	Masonry	Wall	Same as 109			
1	111	Masonry	Wall	Wall between 109 and 110 on N-S alignment			
1	112	Fill	Back fill dep.	Grey-black ash with silt			
1	113	Masonry	Wall	N-S aligned red brick, English bond, with light grey cement mortar	4	0.4	1.8
1	114	Masonry	Wall	E-W aligned, truncated wall		0.4	
1	115	Masonry	Wall	N-S aligned part of square structure including 114, 113, 116			
1	116	Masonry	Wall	E-W aligned red brick wall with possible frogging		0.4	
1	117	Masonry	Wall	E-W aligned red brick wall			
1	118	Masonry	Wall	N-S aligned wall			
1	119	Masonry	Wall	Concrete foundation slabs	6	1.5	1
1	120	Structure	Metal	Iron pole with wheels possibly part of machine			
1	121	Masonry	Wall	Red brick, English bond, with cement mortar, N-S aligned	0.65	0.4	1.1
1	122	Masonry	Wall	E-W aligned same as 121	0.5	0.4	0.9
1	123	Masonry	Wall	E-W aligned same as 122	0.5	0.4	0.9
1	124	Masonry	Wall	N-S aligned, yellow sandstone foundation	8	0.4	0.3
1	125	Masonry	Group	Foundation walls forming a square structure			0.2
1	126	Masonry	Wall	N-S aligned red brick foundation	6	0.35	0.2
1	127	Masonry	Surface	Stone cobbles	2	1.5	
1	128	Masonry	Surface	Square and rectangular slabs	0.4	0.4	0.1
1	129	Masonry	Cellar	Red brick, English Bond	6	3	1.85
1	130	Masonry	Wall	E-W aligned stone with grey mortar		0.4	0.5
1	131	Masonry	Mill race	Red brick wall			>2
1	132	Masonry	Mill Race	Red brick arch, part of mill race			>2
1	133	Cut	Pit	Rectangular in plan	3	2.5	1.6
1	134	Timber	Tanning pit	Degraded plants forming square structure with base			
1	135	Fill	Fill of 133	Dark brown silt with sand and brick, concrete rubble			

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Former Hygrade Factory	
Short description (250 words maximum)	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the development of assisted living accommodation at the former Hygrade factory, Chippenham, Wiltshire.</p> <p>While the site was heavily truncated by the former Hygrade factory and modern industrial development, surviving <i>in situ</i> remains of a 19th-century (or potentially earlier) mill race and two structures that may be associated with a 19th to 20th-century tannery were identified.</p> <p>No earlier features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.</p>	
Project dates	27-31 January	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Watching Brief	
Previous work	DBA (CgMs 2011)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Former Hygrade Factory, Chippenham, Wiltshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.4ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	ST 9194 7301	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	None	
Project Design (WSI) originator	CgMs Consulting	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Greg Crees, Luke Brannlund	
MONUMENT TYPE		
	Mill Race Tanning Pit	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content
Physical	n/a	none
Paper	Wiltshire Museum and Heritage Centre	Trench sheets, Photo registers
Digital	Wiltshire Museum and Heritage Centre	Digital Photos, digital data
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 <i>Former Hygrade Factory, Chippenham, Wiltshire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i>		



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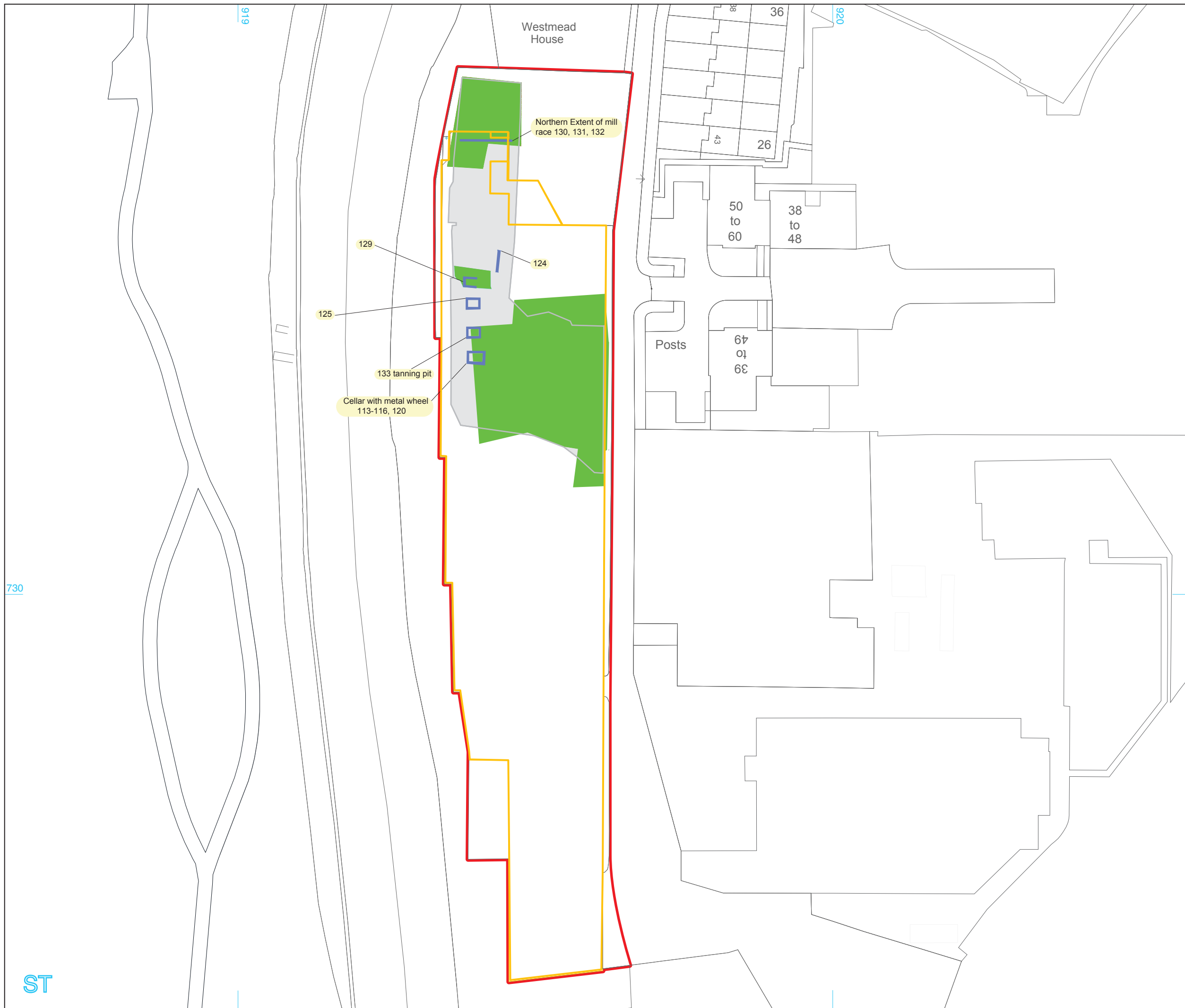


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PROJECT TITLE
 Former Hygrade Factory, Chippenham Wilts

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

PROJECT NO. 4275	DATE 26/02/2014	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY AO	REVISION 00	1
APPROVED BY LM	SCALE@A4 1:25,000	



- site boundary
- Demolished Hygrade building
- ground reduction up to 1.8m bpgl
- concrete slab removal
- modern



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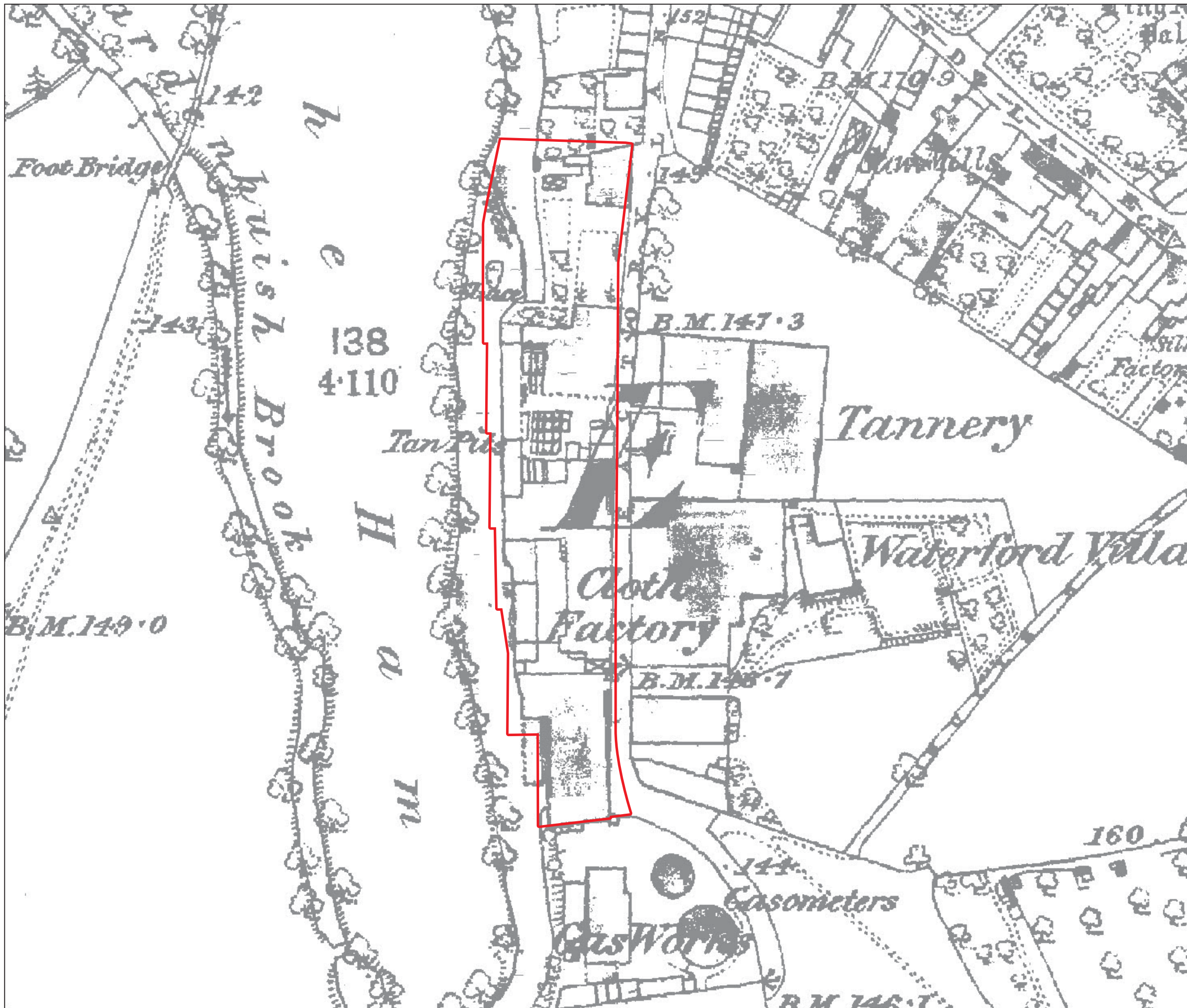
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PROJECT TITLE
 Former Hygrade Factory, Chippenham Wilts

FIGURE TITLE
 The site, showing location of observed groundworks

PROJECT NO. 4275	DATE 26/02/2014	FIGURE NO. 2
DRAWN BY AO	REVISION 00	
APPROVED BY LM	SCALE@A3 1:600	

ST



 site boundary



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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
 Extract from the First Edition Ordnance
 Survey map 1828

PROJECT NO.	4275	DATE	26/02/2014	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	AO	REVISION	00	3
APPROVED BY	LM	SCALE@A3	approx. 1:800	



4



5

4 Mill race masonry 130, 131 and 132, northern end looking south (1m scale)

5 Upper portion of mill race masonry 130 looking south (1m scale)



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FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

PROJECT NO. 4275 DATE 26/02/2014
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FIGURE NO.

4 & 5



6



7

6 Plan view detail of wall 124 looking west (1m scale)

7 Brick structure 113-116 with metal fixing 120 looking north-east (1m scale)



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FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

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FIGURE NO.

6 & 7