

**Webb's Yard, 11 Haw Street,
Wotton-Under-Edge
Gloucestershire**

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
BLP Architecture

on behalf of
N.W.A. Land Ltd

CA Project: 5367
CA Report: 15328

December 2015



Webb's Yard, 11 Haw Street,
Wotton-Under-Edge
Gloucestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief

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A	24 Dec 2015	Greg Crees	Ian Barnes	Internal review		Richard Young

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Webb's Yard, 11 Haw Street, Wotton-Under-Edge
Location:	Gloucestershire
NGR:	ST 7549 9329
Type:	Watching Brief
Date:	20th – 21st May 2015
Planning Reference:	S.15/S15/0340/FUL
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Corinium Museum
Site Code:	WEB 15

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with residential development at Webb's Yard, 11 Haw Street, Wotton-Under-Edge, Gloucestershire.

In the northern portion of the trench, the terminus of an northwest-southeast aligned ditch, and the remains of a post-hole, were recorded. Both features were undated and sealed below subsoil. The other features recorded cut subsoil and are of post-medieval to modern date, and comprised post-holes and/or parts of building footings, pits, and the northeast corner of a brick basement.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In May 2015 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for BLP Architecture, on behalf of N. W. A. Lang Ltd, at Webb's Yard, 11 Haw Street, Wotton-Under-Edge, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: ST 7549 9329; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil Condition 3 attached to a planning consent for residential development issued by Stroud District Council (SDC; Planning ref: S.15/0340/FUL).
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2015) and approved by Stroud District Council (SDC) acting on the advice of Charles Parry, the archaeological advisor to SDC. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 2014).
- The site**
- 1.3 The proposed development is 0.1ha in extent, and comprises a builder's yard surrounded on all sides by residential and commercial properties. The site lies at approximately 98m AOD, and is broadly level.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Marlstone Rock Formation - Limestone, Ferruginous of the Jurassic period. No superficial deposits were noted (BGS 2015). During the course of observations, limestone brash and clay was observed.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The following is a summary of archaeological assessment and investigation which has occurred in the area surrounding the site, including a Heritage Statement (BLP Architecture 2014).
- 2.2 Bronze Age round barrows are recorded c.1km to the east near Blackquarries Hill (MN 205315 and 205320) and other prehistoric activity from the neolithic onwards is recorded c.5 km to the north-east. A Roman fort or fortress was located at Kingsholm, in Gloucester on the banks of the old course of the River Severn. Two

military tombstones have been found at Wotton itself, presenting the possibility of a Roman cemetery in the area (McWhirr 1981).

2.3 The first historical mention of Wotton is in 1086, when it was called *Vutune* and was one of the three hundreds of Berkeley. The village was probably sited around and to the west of the church. It is probable that the town itself was founded about 1252 when a grant of a weekly market and fair was obtained, and a charter was issued. The wool and cloth trades both appear to have been important to the town's subsequent development and a large number of buildings of historic interest survive (Leech 1981).

2.4 The Heritage Statement for the site confirmed that the late 18th century Haw Street was bordered by structures including the Pack Horse Inn (along its south-east edge) and gardens (to the north-west). Map imprints up to the early 20th century indicated a gradual increase in development. In c.1939 Dennis Webb Jnr was identified as operating from Haw Street, thus indicating the source of the site's current name (BPL Architecture 2014).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 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.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2015). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising excavation of foundation trenching (see Fig. 2 for location and extent).



- 4.2 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 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 Corinium Museum, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-4)

- 5.1 The natural substrate (103) was a limestone brash and was revealed at a typical depth of 0.5m below present ground level. This was overlain by colluvium deposit 102 which measured 0.25 – 0.3m in thickness. The colluvium was in turn sealed by 0.2m of silt-clay subsoil (101), and this was overlain by a 0.2m thick layer of modern topsoil (100).
- 5.2 The natural deposit was cut by northwest-southeast aligned ditch 121/129/137 (Fig. 3 sections AA, BB and CC). The ditch measured up to 1.5m in width and 0.59m in depth, and had a flat base. Its profile varied and terminated with a rounded profile (Fig. 3: sections AA – CC). Within the ditch two artefactually sterile clay fills were identified. Post-hole 112 also cut the natural, and was located within the eastern edge of the trench (Fig. 2). It measured 0.32m in diameter with steep sides and a flat base (Fig. 4: section DD). It contained undated clay fill 111.
- 5.2 The other features observed cut subsoil, and correspond well with buildings illustrated on the 1910 Ordnance Survey map. These comprised parts of vertically cut features that were probably remains of robbed out building footings, post holes, and pits, and were located throughout the trench area (Fig. 2). These features contained occasional artefactual finds of post-medieval and modern date, such as pot sherds, ceramic building material and scrap metal.



6. THE FINDS

6.1 Artefactual material from watching brief was hand-recovered from six deposits: colluvium, pit and posthole fills, and a footing backfill. The recovered material all dates to the post-medieval/modern period. Quantities of the artefact types recovered are given in Appendix B. The pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric. Fabric codes are equated to the Gloucester pottery type series (Vince 1983) where possible.

Pottery: Post-medieval/modern

6.2 A total of six sherds of pottery (33g) was recovered from colluvium 102, fill 107 of footing 108 and fill 109 of pit 110. Their condition is moderate to good with most sherds displaying minimal edge abrasion and good preservation of glaze. Four sherds of glazed earthenware (TF50), of mid 16th to 18th century date, were recorded in three early modern/modern deposits (102, 107 and 109). In addition to the latter, pottery from 107 includes a sherd of 17th to early 18th century Chinese porcelain a sherd of 18th to mid 19th century Pearlware.

Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

6.3 A total of four fragments of post-medieval ceramic building material, in moderate to good condition, was recorded in fill 107 of footing 108, fill 109 of pit 110 and fill 122 of posthole 123. That from fill 109 is identifiable as a fragment of flat roof tile. Fill 109 also produced a fragment of glazed wall tile of modern date.

Glass

6.4 A fragment from the base of a wine or spirits bottle, in dark green coloured glass of post-medieval date, was retrieved from fill 107 of footing 108.

Clay tobacco pipe

6.5 Fill 117 of pit 118 produced a fragment of clay tobacco pipe stem, which is dateable to the late 16th to late 19th centuries.

8. DISCUSSION

8.1 A northwest-southeast aligned, undated ditch and remains of a post hole were recorded, both sealed below subsoil. The site was situated within the western periphery of medieval Wotton, and it is therefore possible the features could be

medieval in date. However, there is no clear evidence to preclude these features being of earlier or later origin.

- 8.2 The other features cut subsoil and contained occasional artefacts of post-medieval and modern date. Some were probably parts of building footings that relate to modern structures, e.g. sheds or garden partitions depicted on historic mapping (not illustrated), and pitting could relate to associated garden activity within back yard plots. The basement corresponds to the north-eastern corner of a building first depicted on the 1840 Ordnance Survey mapping.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Greg Crees. The report was written by Greg Crees. The finds reports were written by Jacky Somerville. The illustrations were prepared by Daniel Bashford. The archive has been compiled by Greg Crees, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Ian Barnes.

10. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2015 *Geology of Britain Viewer*
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 27th April 2015

BPL Architecture 2014 *Heritage Statement*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 *Webb's Yard, 11 Haw Street, Wooton-Under-Edge, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

Heighway, C. 1983 *The East and North Gates of Gloucester and associated sites: Excavations 1974–81*. Excavation Monograph No. 4. Bristol. Western Archaeological Trust.

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Cont ext No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/ thickness (m)
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Friable mid grey-brown sand-silt-clay, poorly sorted 15% sub-angular stone, 5% round to sub-rounded stone, modern finds including cbm, pot sherd, scrap metal wire, concrete fragments			0.15-0.25
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Compact mid brown-yellow silt-clay, 1% sub-angular to angular stone <80mm containing rare modern refuse including fragments of modern CBM			0.2
1	102	Layer		Natural deposit; colluvium	Compact mid brown-orange sand-silt-clay <1% sub-angular stone <30mm			0.25-0.3
1	103	Layer		Natural substrate; limestone brash	Hard angular to sub-angular stone mid yellow-grey sand-clay			n/a
1	104	Fill	106	Backfill within basement walls 105	Friable dark blackish grey-brown sand-silt-clay, <5% sub-angular stone <40mm, <1% cbm fragments 10mm	>1.23	>0.5	1.4
1	105	Masonry	106	Basement walls	Composed of two brick types, both unfrogged; reddish 225x95x67mm and orange 225x110x74mm, and include half bats. Bonding material is light grey mortar with occasional charcoal flecks and stone up to 5mm	>1.23	>0.5	1.4
1	106	Cut		Basement	Vertical sided with flat base. Base is bare geology, not brick or tiled	>1.23	>0.5	1.4
1	107	Fill	108	Backfill of building footing	Friable mixed mid to dark grey-brown silt-clay and orange-brown clay, sub-angular stone, cement inclusions, pot sherd	>0.4	>0.38	0.76
1	108	Cut		Modern building footing	NE/SW, Vertical sided, flat base, terminates within trench	>0.4	>0.38	1.76
1	109	Fill	110	Pit backfill	Friable mixed mid to dark grey-brown silt-clay with small orange clay inclusions, pot sherd, glass	>0.8	0.65	0.2
1	110	Cut		Pit	Oval, moderate sides.flat base	>0.8	0.65	0.2
1	111	Fill	112	Fill of post hole	Firm light orange-brown clay	0.32d		0.2
1	112	Cut		Post hole	Circular, vertical sides, flat base	0.32d		0.2
1	113	Fill	114	Backfill of post hole	Friable mixed grey brown silt clay with sub-angular stone	0.6	0.4	0.4
1	114	Cut		Post hole	Sub-square, sharp corners, flat base	0.6	0.4	0.4
1	115	Fill	116	Backfill of pit	Friable light brown grey yellow silt-clay, sub-angular stone, charcoal, cbm fragments	>0.38	0.67	0.2
1	116	Cut		Pit	Rounded, asymmetrical vertical to to moderate irregular sides, flat base	>0.38	0.67	0.2
1	117	Fill	118	Backfill of pit	Friable light brown grey yellow silt-clay, sub-angular stone, charcoal, ceramic tobacco pipe fragments	>0.15	0.7	0.4
1	118	Cut		Pit	Rounded, steep symmetrical sides, flat base	>0.15	0.7	0.4
1	119	Fill	121	2nd fill of ditch	Compact light orange-brown silt-clay, occasional sub-angular stone <50mm	>0.8	1.5	0.27
1	120	Fill	121	1st fill of ditch	Compact light grey brown clay	>0.8	0.75	0.45
1	121	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE aligned, steep symmetrical U-shaped profile, sharp break of slope (b.o.s) to flat base	>0.8	1.5	0.59
1	122	Fill	123	Backfill of post hole	Friable orangey grey-brown clay-silt	>0.05	0.41	0.38
1	123	Cut		Post hole or end of building footing	Circular/rounded, vertical sided symmetrical U-shaped profile, rounded concave base	>0.05	0.41	0.38
1	124	Geo		Natural geological deposit	Compact mid grey brown orange clay	>1.36	>0.5	0.3
1	125	Fill	126	Backfill of Post hole/ building footing	Compact mixed mid grey brown clay-silt, sub-angular stone, charcoal up to 10mm, cbm fragments	>0.3	0.5	0.2
1	126	Cut		Post hole or end of building footing	Circular/rounded, vertical sided, flat base	>0.3	0.5	0.2

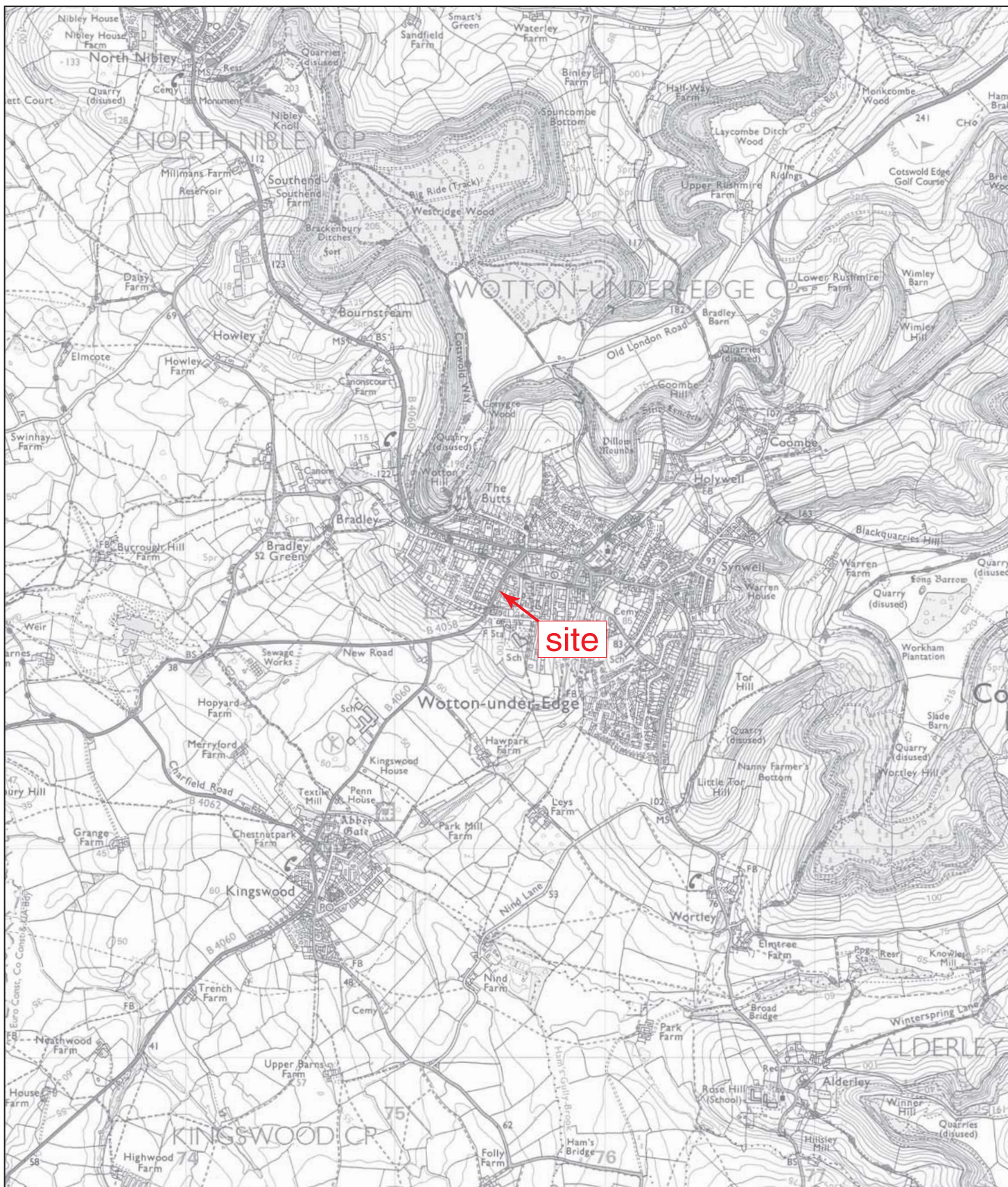
1	127	Fill	129	2nd fill of ditch	Compact light orange-brown silt-clay, occasional sub-angular stone <50mm	>0.6	1.5	0.25
1	128	Fill	129	1st fill of ditch	Compact light grey brown clay	>0.6	1.37	0.27
1	129	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE aligned, steep symmetrical U-shaped profile, gradual b.o.s to flat base	>0.6	1.5	0.52
1	130	Fill	131	Backfill of post hole	Friable mid grey brown silt clay, charcoal, cbm, reddish burnt clay inclusions, root affected	>0.3	0.26	0.3
1	131	Cut		Post hole	Square, sharp corners, vertical sides, flat base	>0.3	0.26	0.3
1	132	Fill	133	Backfill of post hole	Friable mid grey brown silt clay, scrap metal fragments	>0.3	0.28	0.3
1	133	Cut		Post hole	Square, sharp corners, vertical sides, flat base	>0.3	0.28	0.3
1	134	Fill	135	Backfill of post hole	Friable mid grey brown silt clay, charcoal inclusions	0.2	1.8	>0.23
1	135	Cut		Post hole	Square, vertical sided, flat base	0.2	1.8	>0.24
1	136	Fill	137	Fill of ditch	Compact light orange-brown silt-clay, occasional sub-angular stone <50mm	>0.64	>0.5	0.3
1	137	Cut		Ditch terminus	NW/SE aligned, steep concave profile, gradual b.o.s to flat base	>0.64	>0.5	1.3

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Category	Fabric Code	Description	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
102	Post-medieval pottery	TF50	Glazed earthenware	1	15	MC16-C18
107	Post-medieval pottery	TF50	Glazed earthenware	2	3	LC18-MC19
	Post-medieval/modern pottery	TF66	Chinese porcelain	1	<1	
	Post-medieval/modern pottery		Pearlware	1	<1	
	Post-medieval ceramic building material		Fragments	2	14	
	Post-medieval glass		Bottle	1	9	
	Worked stone		Slate	1	11	
109	Post-medieval pottery	TF50	Glazed earthenware	1	15	Modern
	Post-medieval ceramic building material		Flat roof tile	1	9	
	Modern ceramic building material		Glazed wall tile	1	3	
115	Burnt stone			1	59	-
117	Clay tobacco pipe		Stem	1	<1	LC16-LC19
122	Post-medieval ceramic building material		Fragment	1	7	Post-medieval

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Webb's Yard, 11 Haw Street, Wotton-Under-Edge, Gloucestershire	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with residential development at Webb's Yard, 11 Haw Street, Wotton-Under-Edge, Gloucestershire. In the northern portion of the trench, the terminus of a northwest-southeast aligned ditch, and the remains of a post-hole, were recorded. Both features were undated and sealed below subsoil. The other features recorded cut subsoil and are of post-medieval to modern date, and comprised post-holes and/or parts of building footings, pits, and the northeast corner of a brick basement.	
Project dates	20th – 21st May 2015	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Webb's Yard, 11 Haw Street, Wotton-Under-Edge, Gloucestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.1ha	
Site co-ordinates	ST 7549 9329	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	None	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ian Barnes	
Project Supervisor	Greg Crees	
MONUMENT TYPE		
	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Corinium Museum	Ceramics
Paper	Corinium Museum	Proforma field recording sheets, field drawings, matrix
Digital	Corinium Museum	Raw survey data, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) <i>Webb's Yard, 11 Haw Street, Wotton-Under-Edge, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief CA typescript report 15328</i>		



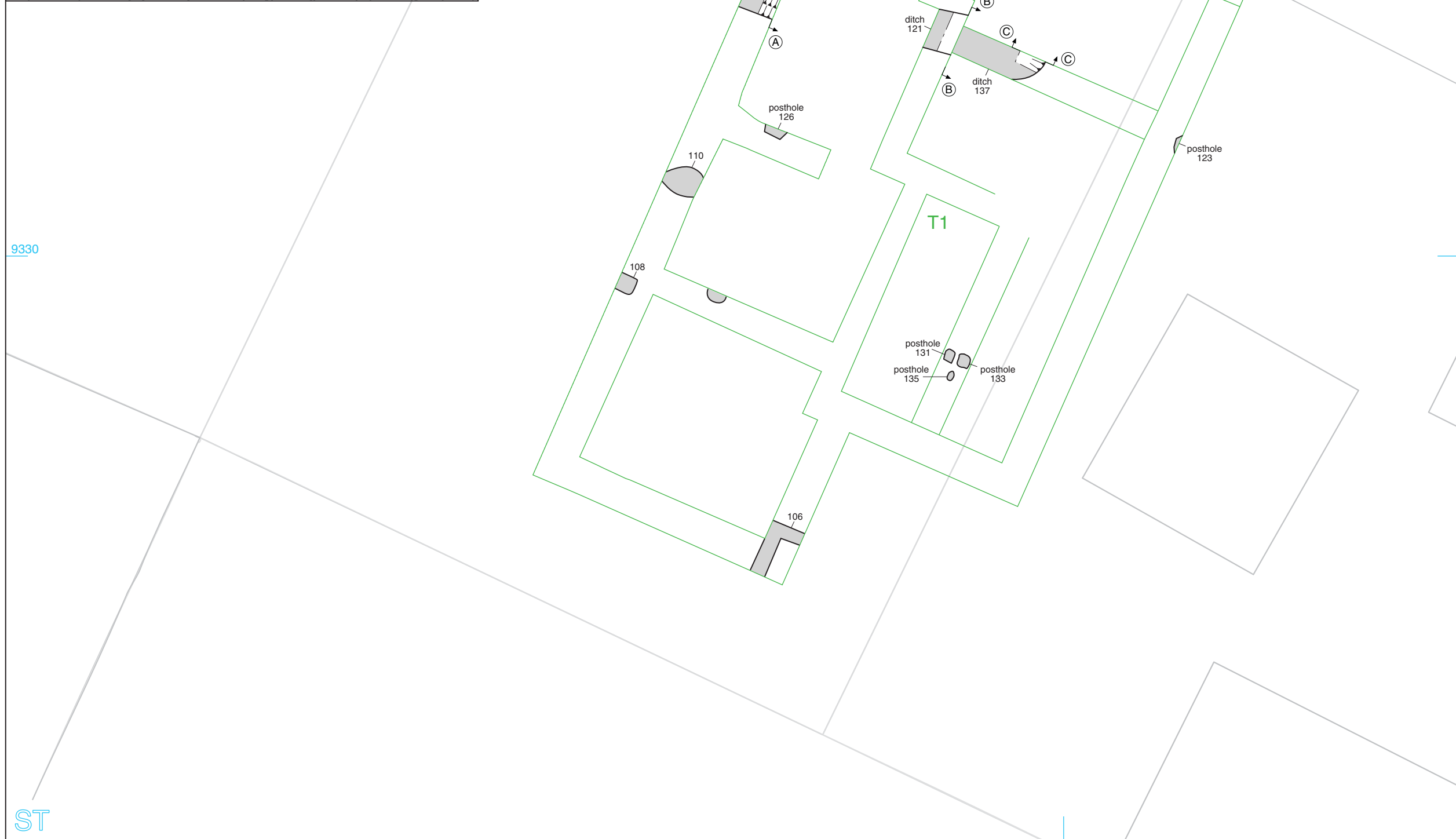
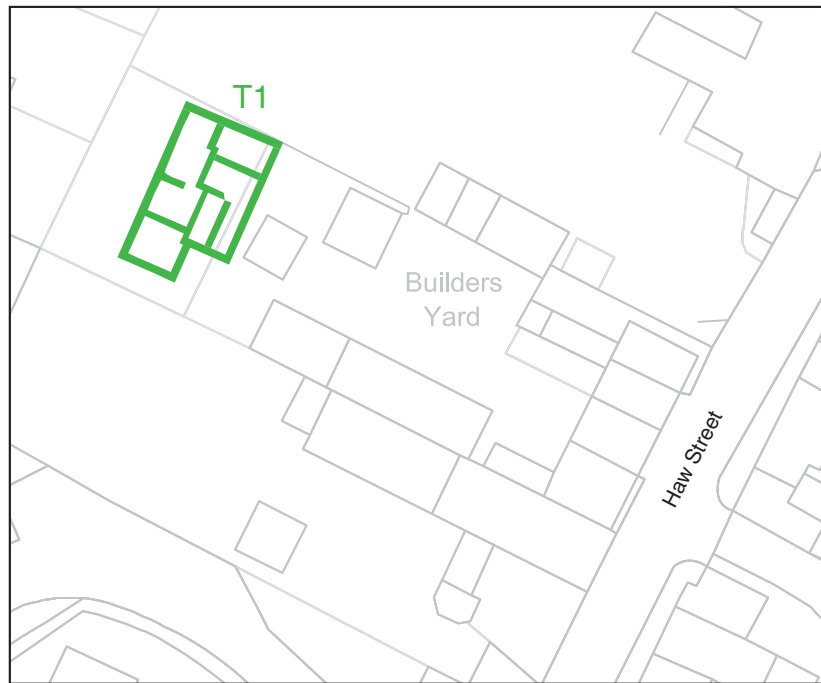
Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 826185
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 Webb's Yard, 11 Haw Street
 Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

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APPROVED BY IB	SCALE@A4 1:25,000	



limit of excavation
archaeological feature



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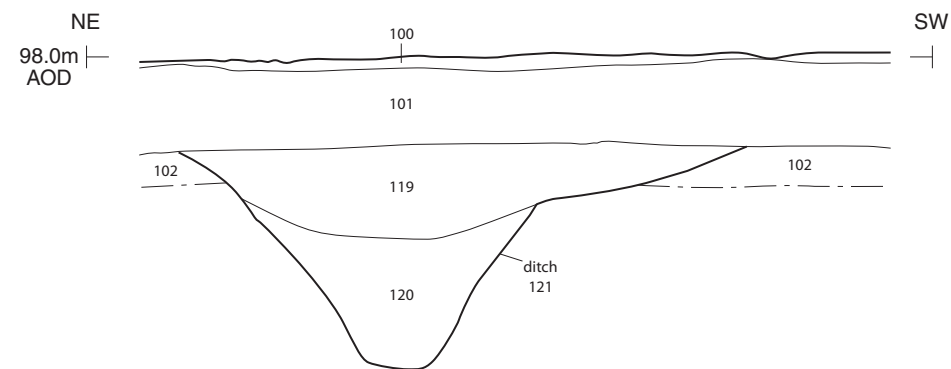
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 Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 826185
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
**Webb's Yard, 11 Haw Street
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FIGURE TITLE
**Site location detail showing Trench 1
 and archaeological features**

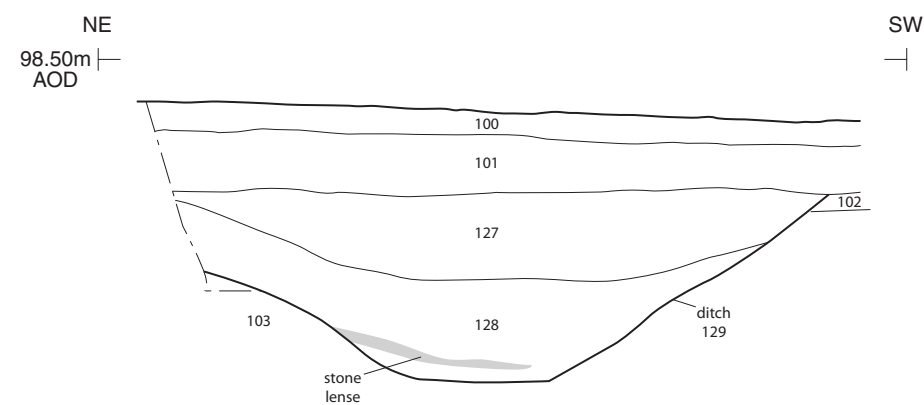
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Section AA



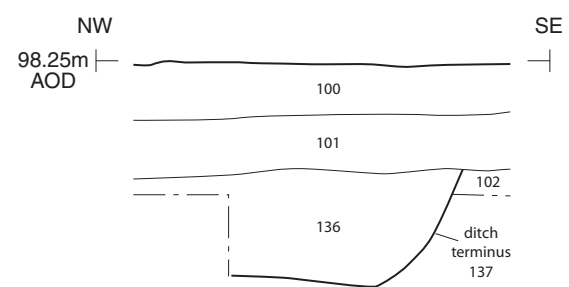
Ditch 121, looking south-east (scale 1m)

Section BB

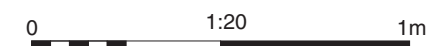


Ditch 127, looking south (scale 1m)

Section CC



Ditch terminus 137, looking north-east (scale 1m)



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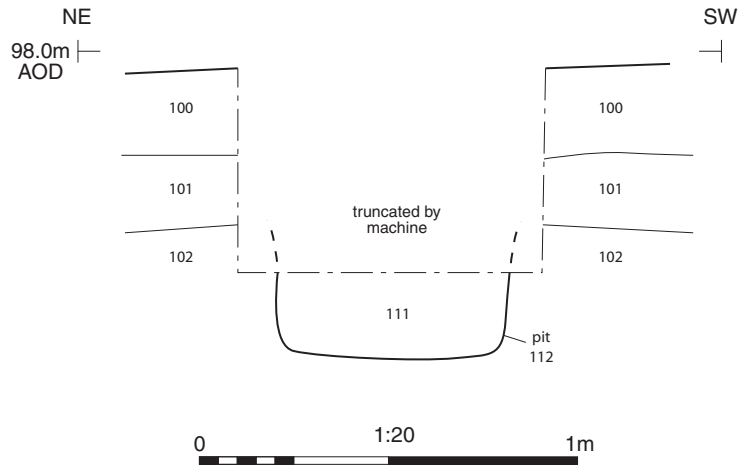
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 Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 826185
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
 Trench 1: sections and photographs

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Section DD



Posthole 112, looking south-east (scale 0.2m)



Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 826185
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

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 Wotton-Under-Edge, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 1: section and photograph

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Andover Office

Stanley House
Walworth Road
Andover
Hampshire
SP10 5LH

t: 01264 347630

Cirencester Office

Building 11
Kemble Enterprise Park
Cirencester
Gloucestershire
GL7 6BQ

t: 01285 771022

Exeter Office

Unit 8
Basepoint Business Centre
Yeoford Way
Marsh Barton Trading Estate
Exeter
EX2 8LB

t: 01392 826185

Milton Keynes Office

41 Burners Lane South
Kiln Farm
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire
MK11 3HA

t: 01908 564660

