



# New Woodland Classroom Chedworth Roman Villa Gloucestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief



for National Trust

CA Project: 6465 CA Report: 18008

March 2018



# New Woodland Classroom Chedworth Roman Villa Gloucestershire

# **Archaeological Watching Brief**

CA Project: 6465 CA Report: 18008













Document Control Grid								
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by		
А	28 March 2018	Noel Boothroyd	Steven Sheldon	Draft		Cliff Bateman		

This report is confidential to the client. Cotswold Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability to any third party to whom this report, or any part of it, is made known. Any such party relies upon this report entirely at their own risk. No part of this report may be reproduced by any means without permission.

## **CONTENTS**

SUMM	ARY	. 2
1.	INTRODUCTION	.3
2.	ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	.3
3.	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	.5
4.	METHODOLOGY	.5
5.	RESULTS (FIGS 2-3)	.6
6.	DISCUSSION	.6
7.	CA PROJECT TEAM	.7
8.	REFERENCES	.7
APPEN	IDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	.9
APPEN	IDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM	. 12

## **LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS**

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
- Fig. 2 The site, showing location of observed groundworks (1:100 and 1:750)
- Fig. 3 Photograph

#### **SUMMARY**

Project Name: New Woodland Classroom

**Location:** Chedworth Roman Villa, Gloucestershire

**NGR:** 405300 213467

Type: Watching Brief

**Date:** 2-19 January 2018

Planning Reference: Cotswold District Council Planning ref: 17/02641/FUL

**Location of Archive:** To be deposited with the National Trust

Site Code: CHED 18

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the removal of an existing timber classroom and its replacement with a larger timber classroom at Chedworth Roman Villa, Gloucestershire.

Two undated deposits, containing occasional flecks of charcoal and mortar, were identified overlying the natural substrate in two foundation trenches excavated within the north-eastern part of the new building footprint. The function of these deposits remains unclear; however they may represent episodes of colluviation or a buried soil horizon.

No further features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the groundworks, and no artefactual material was recovered.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In January 2018 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for the National Trust at Chedworth Roman Villa, Gloucestershire (centred at NGR: 405300 213467; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to planning consent for the removal of an existing timber classroom and its replacement with a larger timber classroom (Cotswold District Council (CDC) planning ref: 17/02641/FUL, condition 3).
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2017) and approved by Charles Parry, Archaeologist, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC), the archaeological advisor to CDC. The fieldwork also followed Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief (ClfA 2014)

#### The site

- 1.3 The development area is approximately 0.01ha in extent and is located immediately to the west of Scheduled Monument *Chedworth Roman Villa* (National Monument 1003324). The site is located outside of the designated Scheduled Monument and was previously occupied by a timber classroom building. It is bounded to the east by Chedworth Roman Villa and to the north, south and west by woodland. The site is situated on a level plateau and lies at approximately 175.5m AOD, with ground levels rising up to 177m AOD immediately to the west and dropping away to 173m AOD immediately to the east.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Aston Limestone Formation Limestone of the Jurassic era (BGS 2018). No superficial deposits are recorded. The natural substrate, comprising compact mid yellow limestone brash with occasional patches of silt sand, was identified within all of the excavated foundation and service trenches.

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Chedworth Roman villa is situated 12km north of Cirencester; a major urban centre during the Roman period and a provincial capital during the 4th century AD. The villa was excavated in 1864, following chance finds of pottery and *tesserae* in the area,

although the presence of the villa was known about by local woodsmen for some time beforehand. The villa has been open for public viewing since its excavation, when it was the private property of the Stowell Estate. It was purchased by the National Trust in 1924 and several small-scale excavations were undertaken at the villa during the 20th century. These include; investigations of the northern bath suite, inner courtyard and eastern corridor.

- 2.2 The current published model for the development of the villa is largely based on the work of Richmond between 1958 and 1965 (Richmond 1959) and Goodburn between 1979 and 1983. Neither of these investigations were fully published. The conventional view of the villa is that it was occupied from the early 2nd to late 4th centuries AD (Goodburn 1984). Current understanding is that the villa complex originated as three separate blocks in the 2nd century AD. These blocks were subsequently incorporated into a single building around both inner and outer courtyards in the later Roman period. This structure comprised areas at different levels; the North Wing stands on a terrace partially recessed into the hillside and the South Wing lies at a lower level on the valley bottom (RCHME 1979).
- 2.3 A programme of investigative surveys was carried out between 1994 and 2006 in order to further the understanding of the site. Recent work suggests that this consolidation into a single building occurred as a major change in the 4th century AD rather than as a gradual development (TNT 2009).
- 2.4 Archaeological evaluation to the south of The Lodge identified the remains of a possible sub-division within the courtyard of the villa and a probable robber trench possibly indicating the eastward continuation of the southern wall of the southern range of the villa (CA 2009a).
- 2.5 Archaeological evaluation and subsequent watching brief within the access road to the south of the villa complex identified a buried Roman soil horizon overlain by colluvium and the metalled surface of a 19th century trackway. Victorian stone-built culverts were also identified (CA 2008 and 2010).
- 2.6 Two phases of archaeological evaluation have been undertaken in the south-western part of the villa. An archaeological evaluation undertaken in 2009 identified Roman deposits and features associated with the above-ground villa structures (CA 2009b). An archaeological evaluation, undertaken in 2011, identified floor surfaces,

a stone drain, wall foundations and the base of an oven of probable Roman date (CA 2011). It is possible that parts of the identified wall foundations and oven had been remodelled during the Victorian and/or modern periods (*ibid*.).

#### 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 2017). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising ground reduction and the subsequent excavation of 25 foundation trenches and a new service trench for the new classroom building (see Fig. 2 for locations and extent). Non-archaeologically significant deposits were removed by the contactors under archaeological supervision. Where mechanical excavators were used, these were equipped with a toothless bucket.
- 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 from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with the National Trust. 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.

## 5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3)

- 5.1 The natural substrate, comprising compact mid yellow limestone brash with occasional patches of silt sand, was encountered in all of the excavated foundation trenches and throughout the excavated service trench at between 0.3m and 0.37m below present ground level (bpgl).
- 5.2 In Service Trench 26 and Foundation Trenches 1-10 and 13-25 the natural substrate was directly overlain by heavily root affected sand-silt subsoil. This was in turn sealed by topsoil, typically measuring 0.13m in thickness.
- 5.3 In Foundation Trenches 11 and 12 the natural substrate was overlain by thin silt deposits 1102 and 1202 respectively, both of which contained occasional flecks of charcoal and mortar. These deposits were overlain by heavily root affected sand-silt subsoil which was in turn sealed by topsoil, typically measuring 0.11m in thickness.
- 5.4 No further features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil no artefactual material was recovered.

## 6. DISCUSSION

- Deposits 1102 and 1202, identified in Foundation Trenches 11 and 12 respectively, contained flecks of charcoal and mortar and it is possible that they represent episodes of colluviation or a buried soil horizon. However, these interpretations are necessarily tentative due to the limited view afforded by the groundworks undertaken.
- 6.2 Despite the archaeological potential of the site (see archaeological background above), the watching brief identified no further archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. The absence of archaeological deposits may indicate that structural remains associated with Chedworth Roman Villa either do not extend as far as, or were not exposed by the development.

### 7. CA PROJECT TEAM

7.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Noel Boothroyd and Marino Cardelli. The report was written by Noel Boothroyd. The illustrations were prepared by Rosanna Price. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Steven Sheldon.

#### 8. REFERENCES

- BGS (British Geological Survey) 2018 *Geology of Britain Viewer* http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html Accessed 9 February 2018
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008 Chedworth Roman Villa, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation, CA Report No. **08004**
- CA 2009a Chedworth Roman Villa, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation, CA Report No. **09068**
- CA 2009b Chedworth Roman Villa, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation, CA Report No. **09158**
- CA 2010 Chedworth Roman Villa, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief, CA Report No. **10040**
- CA 2011 Chedworth Roman Villa, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Recording and Evaluation, CA Report No. **10232**
- CA 2017 New Woodland Classroom, Chedworth Roman Villa, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief
- Goodburn, R. 1984 'Chedworth Roman Villa', Britannia 15, 312
- Richmond, I. 1959 'The Roman Villa at Chedworth, 1958-9' *Transactions of the Bristol Gloucestershire Archaeological Society* **78**, 5-23

RCHME (Royal Commission for Historic Monuments of England) 1979 Ancient and Historical Monuments in the County of Gloucestershire: Volume One, Iron Age and Romano-British Monuments in the Gloucestershire Cotswolds

TNT (The National Trust) 2009 Chedworth Roman Villa. Brief for Archaeological Evaluations

## **APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

Trench	Context	Туре	Fill	Context	Description	L (m)	W	Depth/
No.	No.		of	interpretation			(m)	thickness (m)
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown silt clay	>0.6	>0.6	0.13
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid red brown sand silt	>0.6	>0.6	0.2
1	102	Layer		Natural Substrate	Compact mid yellow limestone brash with occasional patches of silt sand	>0.6	>0.6	>0.3
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown silt clay	>0.6	>0.6	0.12
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid red brown sand silt	>0.6	>0.6	0.2
2	202	Layer		Natural Substrate	Compact mid yellow limestone brash with occasional patches of silt sand	>0.6	>0.6	>0.3
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown silt clay	>0.6	>0.6	0.13
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid red brown sand silt	>0.6	>0.6	0.2
3	302	Layer		Natural Substrate	Compact mid yellow limestone brash with occasional patches of silt sand	>0.6	>0.6	>0.3
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown silt clay	>0.6	>0.6	0.13
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid red brown sand silt	>0.6	>0.6	0.2
4	402	Layer		Natural Substrate	Compact mid yellow limestone brash with occasional patches of silt sand	>0.6	>0.6	>0.3
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown silt clay	>0.6	>0.6	0.13
5	501	Layer		Subsoil	Mid red brown sand silt	>0.6	>0.6	0.2
5	502	Layer		Natural Substrate	Compact mid yellow limestone brash with occasional patches of silt sand	>0.6	>0.6	>0.3
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown silt clay	>0.6	>0.6	0.13
6	601	Layer		Subsoil	Mid red brown sand silt	>0.6	>0.6	0.2
6	602	Layer		Natural Substrate	Compact mid yellow limestone brash with occasional patches of silt sand	>0.6	>0.6	>0.3
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown silt clay	>0.6	>0.6	0.13
7	701	Layer		Subsoil	Mid red brown sand silt	>0.6	>0.6	0.2
7	702	Layer		Natural Substrate	Compact mid yellow limestone brash with occasional patches of silt sand	>0.6	>0.6	>0.3
8	800	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown silt clay	>0.6	>0.6	0.13
8	801	Layer		Subsoil	Mid red brown sand silt	>0.6	>0.6	0.2
8	802	Layer		Natural Substrate	Compact mid yellow limestone brash with occasional patches of silt sand	>0.6	>0.6	>0.3
9	900	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown silt clay	>0.6	>0.6	0.11
9	901	Layer		Subsoil	Mid red brown sand silt	>0.6	>0.6	0.2
9	902	Layer		Natural Substrate	Compact mid yellow limestone brash with occasional patches of silt sand	>0.6	>0.6	>0.3
10	1000	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown silt clay	>0.6	>0.6	0.1
10	1001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid red brown sand silt	>0.6	>0.6	0.2
10	1002	Layer		Natural Substrate	Compact mid yellow limestone brash with occasional patches of silt sand	>0.6	>0.6	>0.3
11	1100	Layer	1	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silt clay	>0.6	>0.6	0.11
11	1101	Layer	1	Subsoil	Mid red brown sand silt	>0.6	>0.6	0.2
11	1102	Layer		?Colluvium/buried soil horizon	Mid grey brown silt sand with sparse charcoal, mortar and red-brick/tile flecks	>0.6	>0.6	0.02
11	1103	Layer		Natural Substrate	Compact mid yellow limestone brash with occasional patches of silt sand	>0.6	>0.6	>0.3
12	1200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown silt clay	>0.6	0.6	0.11
12	1201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid red brown sand silt	>0.6	0.6	0.2
12	1202	Layer		?Colluvium/buried soil horizon	Mid grey brown silt sand with sparse charcoal, mortar and red-brick/tile flecks	>0.6	>0.6	0.03

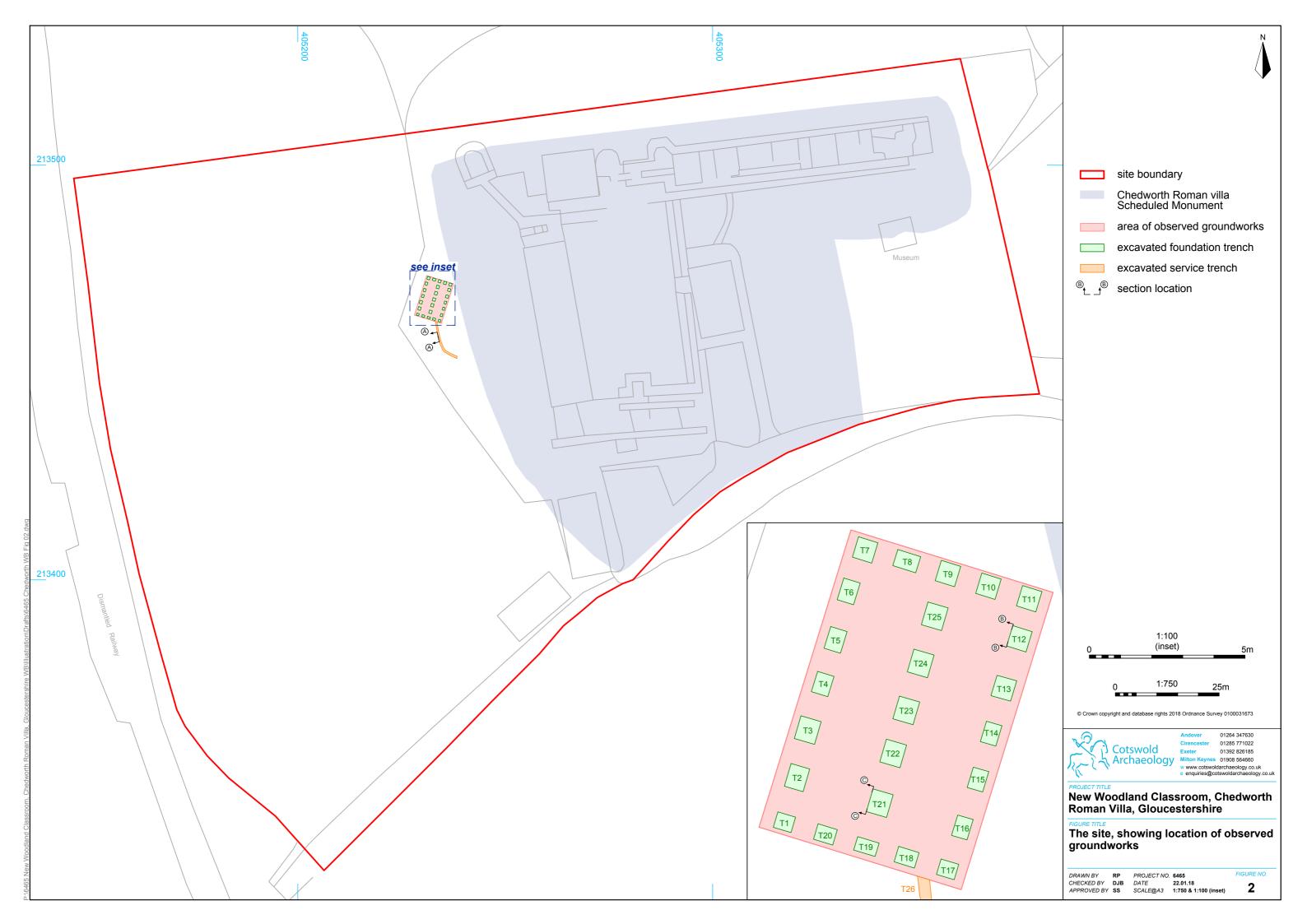
12	1203	Layer	Natural Substrate	Compact mid yellow limestone brash with occasional patches of silt sand	>0.6	>0.6	>0.3
13	1300	Layer	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silt clay	>0.6	>0.6	0.13
13	1301	Layer	Subsoil	Mid red brown sand silt	>0.6	>0.6	0.2
13	1302	Layer	Natural Substrate	Compact mid yellow limestone brash with occasional patches of silt sand	>0.6	>0.6	>0.3
14	1400	Layer	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silt clay	>0.6	>0.6	0.13
14	1401	Layer	Subsoil	Mid red brown sand silt	>0.6	>0.6	0.2
14	1402	Layer	Natural Substrate	Compact mid yellow limestone brash with occasional patches of silt sand	>0.6	>0.6	>0.3
15	1500	Layer	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silt clay	>0.6	>0.6	0.13
15	1501	Layer	Subsoil	Mid red brown sand silt	>0.6	>0.6	0.2
15	1502	Layer	Natural Substrate	Compact mid yellow limestone brash with occasional patches of silt sand	>0.6	>0.6	>0.3
16	1600	Layer	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silt clay	>0.6	>0.6	0.13
16	1601	Layer	Subsoil	Mid red brown sand silt	>0.6	>0.6	0.2
16	1602	Layer	Natural Substrate	Compact mid yellow limestone brash with occasional patches of silt sand	>0.6	>0.6	>0.3
17	1700	Layer	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silt clay	>0.6	>0.6	0.13
17	1701	Layer	Subsoil	Mid red brown sand silt	>0.6	>0.6	0.2
17	1702	Layer	Natural Substrate	Compact mid yellow limestone brash with occasional patches of silt sand	>0.6	>0.6	>0.3
18	1800	Layer	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silt clay	>0.6	>0.6	0.12
18	1801	Layer	Subsoil	Mid red brown sand silt	>0.6	>0.6	0.2
18	1802	Layer	Natural Substrate	Compact mid yellow limestone brash with occasional patches of silt sand	>0.6	>0.6	>0.3
19	1900	Layer	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silt clay	>0.6	>0.6	0.13
19	1901	Layer	Subsoil	Mid red brown sand silt	>0.6	>0.6	0.2
19	1902	Layer	Natural Substrate	Compact mid yellow limestone brash with occasional patches of silt sand	>0.6	>0.6	>0.3
20	2000	Layer	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silt clay	>0.6	>0.6	0.13
20	2001	Layer	Subsoil	Mid red brown sand silt	>0.6	>0.6	0.2
20	2002	Layer	Natural Substrate	Compact mid yellow limestone brash with occasional patches of silt sand	>0.6	>0.6	>0.3
21	2100	Layer	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silt clay	>0.6	>0.6	0.13
21	2101	Layer	Subsoil	Mid red brown sand silt	>0.6	>0.6	0.2
21	2102	Layer	Natural Substrate	Compact mid yellow limestone brash with occasional patches of silt sand	>0.6	>0.6	>0.3
22	2200	Layer	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silt clay	>0.6	>0.6	0.13
22	2201	Layer	Subsoil	Mid red brown sand silt	>0.6	>0.6	0.2
22	2202	Layer	Natural Substrate	Compact mid yellow limestone brash with occasional patches of silt sand	>0.6	>0.6	>0.3
23	2300	Layer	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silt clay	>0.6	>0.6	0.13
23	2301	Layer	Subsoil	Mid red brown sand silt	>0.6	>0.6	0.2
23	2302	Layer	Natural Substrate	Compact mid yellow limestone brash with occasional patches of silt sand	>0.6	>0.6	>0.3
24	2400	Layer	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silt clay	>0.6	>0.6	0.13
24	2401	Layer	Subsoil	Mid red brown sand silt	>0.6	>0.6	0.2
24	2402	Layer	Natural Substrate	Compact mid yellow limestone brash with occasional patches of silt sand	>0.6	>0.6	>0.3
25	2500	Layer	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silt clay	>0.6	>0.6	0.13

25	2501	Layer	Subsoil	Mid red brown sand silt	>0.6	>0.6	0.2
25	2502	Layer	Natural Substrate	Compact mid yellow limestone brash with occasional patches of silt sand	>0.6	>0.6	>0.3
26	2600	Layer	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silt clay	>8	>0.6	0.13
26	2601	Layer	Subsoil	Mid red brown sand silt	>8	>0.6	0.19
26	2602	Layer	Natural Substrate	Compact mid yellow limestone brash with occasional patches of silt sand	>8	>0.6	>0.05

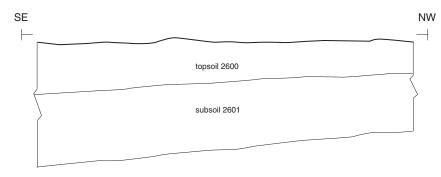
## APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS						
Project Name	Gloucestershire	chedworth Roman Villa,				
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the removal of an existing timber classroom and its replacement with a larger timber classroom at Chedworth Roman Villa, Gloucestershire.					
	Two undated deposits, containing occasional flecks of charcoal and mortar were identified overlying the natural substrate in two foundation trenches excavated within the north-eastern part of the new building footprint. The function of these deposits remains unclear; however they may represent episodes of colluviation or a buried soil horizon.					
	No further features or deposits of a observed during the groundworks, and recovered.					
Project dates	2-19 January 2018					
Project type	Watching brief					
Previous work	Evaluation: CA 2008, 2009, 2011 Watching brief: CA 2010	Evaluation: CA 2008, 2009, 2011				
Future work	Unknown					
PROJECT LOCATION						
Site Location	Chedworth Roman Villa, Gloucestersh	ire				
Study area (M²/ha)		c. 0.1ha				
Site co-ordinates	405300 213467	405300 213467				
PROJECT CREATORS						
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology					
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology					
Project Manager		Steven Sheldon				
Project Supervisor	Noel Boothroyd					
MONUMENT TYPE	None					
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None					
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive: Content:					
Physical	N/A N/A					
Paper	National Trust	Trench recording forms, context sheets, photographic register				
Digital	National Trust	Digital photographs				
BIBLIOGRAPHY		13 L 2 L				
	w Woodland Classroom, Chedworth Ro	man Villa. Gloucestershire:				
Archaeological Evaluation. CA typescript						

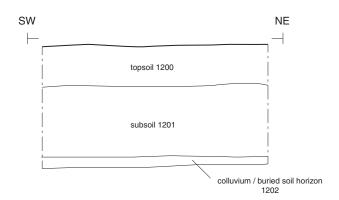




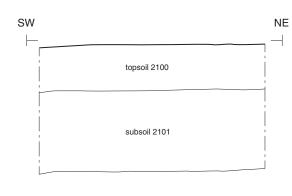
## Section AA



## Section BB



## Section CC







Excavated foundation trenches and service trench, looking north-west (1m scale)



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

New Woodland Classroom, Chedworth Roman Villa, Gloucestershire

Representative sections and photograph

DRAWN BY EE
CHECKED BY DJB
APPROVED BY SS PROJECT NO. 6465 DATE 19.03.18 SCALE@A3 1:50 FIGURE NO. 3



## **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 53
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

