

Wiltshire College & University Centre Salisbury Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief



for
JOA Consulting

on behalf of
Wiltshire College & University Centre

CA Project: AN0020
CA Report: AN0020.1

August 2019



Wiltshire College & University Centre
Salisbury
Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Wiltshire College & University Centre
Location: Salisbury, Wiltshire
NGR: 415006 129483
Type: Evaluation and Watching Brief
Date: 24 April and 15 August 2019
Planning Reference: 18/00350/FUL
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Salisbury Museum
Site Code: WCUC19

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in August 2019 at Wiltshire College & University Centre, Salisbury, Wiltshire. Two trenches were excavated. A further trench was monitored during an archaeological watching brief undertaken in April 2019.

No archaeological features were identified. The fieldwork revealed evidence of extensive disturbance and dumping in the post-medieval and modern periods.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In April and August 2019 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief and evaluation for JOA Consulting on behalf of Wiltshire College and University Centre at Wiltshire College & University Centre, Salisbury, Wiltshire (centred at NGR: 415006 129483; Figure 1). The watching brief and evaluation were undertaken to accompany planning permission for demolition of the Nadder and Bourne Buildings (approx. 6,180m²), the erection of New Build Education (Class D1) Floorspace (approx. 3,300² GIA), with associated car parking and landscaping, the renovation and over-cladding of the existing Avon and Wylde Buildings and other ancillary works, which had been granted by Wiltshire Council (ref: 18/00350/FUL), conditional on a programme of archaeological work etc.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief for archaeological evaluation and watching brief prepared by Martin Brown (Wiltshire County Council), the archaeological advisors to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) – Salisbury City Council and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2019) and approved by Martin Brown. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014).

The site

- 1.3 The site measures approximately 1.6ha in extent and is located east of the A36 ‘Churchill Way South’, north of the A36 ‘Southampton Road’ and c.480m south-east of Salisbury city centre, on the site of the current Wiltshire College & University Centre, Salisbury campus. The site is situated at the base of the River Avon valley, approximately 320m north of the main course of the River Avon, with a diverted branch of the river located approximately 30m south-east of the site. The site is relatively level, and is situated at an elevation of approximately 47m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), with the land rising from the edge of the northern border beyond the site.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Newhaven Chalk Formation, sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 72 to 86 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period in an environment dominated by warm chalk seas. Superficial deposits of River Terrace sand and gravel formed up to 3 million years ago, are also

recorded (BGS 2019). Natural geology was not encountered during the course of the fieldwork.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The archaeological background given below is a summary of a Heritage Assessment of the site by Cotswold Archaeology (2017), and reference should be made to that document for further information.

Prehistoric and Roman

- 2.2 No finds or features of prehistoric date have been recorded from within the site, although a number of find-spots of prehistoric material have been recorded within the surrounding area. Many of these are Palaeolithic finds from gravel quarries in the area, or from more general ground disturbance, including gardening and construction works. Worked flints dating from the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age periods have also been recorded within the wider environs of the site. The closest recorded finds were recorded c.60m north of the site, at St. Michael's Church.

- 2.3 No finds or features of Roman date have been recorded from within the site. Within the area, a single Roman find of a small glass bottle has been recorded c.200m west of the site. Although there are records of Roman activity outside the area, there is no indication of any Roman-period activity within the immediate environs of the site.

Early medieval and medieval

- 2.4 No early medieval finds or features have been recorded within the site, although two assemblages of medieval pottery were respectively recorded c.280m and c.380m to the south-east of the site.

- 2.5 A settlement is considered to have been established within the immediate environs of the site, prior to the twelfth-century foundation of *New Sarum* (Salisbury) to the north-west. The focus of activity of the earlier settlement was concentrated on the Grade I Listed St. Martin's Church located c.65m north of the site. There is a record of a church on the St. Michael's site dating from 1217. The existing structure is assumed to be a later addition to an initial structure, with the footings of an earlier building recorded, c.60m north of the site, during an evaluation at the Church. The

area within the immediate environs of the church is considered to be an Area of Archaeological Potential, containing probable evidence of the earlier medieval settlement (Wiltshire Council 2014).

- 2.6 The site lies outside the medieval core of the city, which was focused on the Cathedral, to the south west. The area continued to be in use throughout the medieval period, although most settlement in this area migrated to the 'new town' (located within Salisbury city centre, c.140m north-west of the site, which was established in the 13th century. The eastern ramparts and city defences are recorded as extending up to the western edge of the site.
- 2.7 The growth of the city appears to have stalled during the later medieval period, and by that time appears to have expanded little beyond its defences. By the 16th century, the route to Winchester had shifted further to the north, entering the city at Winchester Gate at the east end of Winchester Street, to the north of the site.
- 2.8 A series of medieval structural and industrial features have been recorded within the area, the majority of which are concentrated to the north-west, within the medieval defences of Salisbury. Additional medieval sites recorded within the area and within the wider environs of the site, include a number of religious buildings, for example, Salisbury Cathedral (c.510m west of the site), and the remains of a Franciscan friary (c.170m west of the site). These sites are located within the medieval defences of the city and will therefore not have extended within the site.

Post-medieval and modern

- 2.9 The Britford water meadows located c.35m south-east of the site, are situated on a meander of the River Avon. Running along the south-western edge of the water meadows is the Avon Navigational Canal, which runs c.370m south of the site, and represents a failed canal enterprise. Within the perimeter of the water meadows, a series of buildings recorded as workshops on Ordnance Survey maps, are located c. 450m south of the site, and may relate to activities within the water meadows or on the adjacent Avon Navigational Canal.
- 2.10 The development of Milford Hill was slow, and did not occur until the early 19th century. Larger houses and villas were built for wealthier inhabitants on the slopes of Milford Hill, to the north of St. Martin's Church and overlooking the city. To the south of the church, there was only limited development at this time, with activity focused

on economic activities, such as gravel extraction and the continued expansion of the water meadows.

- 2.11 The arrival of the railway in 1847 with a station located in Milford Hill, c.155m north-east of the site led to the construction of terraced housing for railway workers. Rampart Road, to the north of the site, is an example of early terraced dwellings within the area, and was constructed in stages, the first of which had been completed by 1843. Further residential development gradually extended southward, towards the site, and included Fowler's Road to the north.
- 2.12 Included within the mid-19th century development of the area was a non-conformist chapel and female penitentiary. These buildings have since undergone a series of alterations, including amalgamation to form a single building. The latest works to the buildings were carried out in the early-21st century, and were preceded by a Desk Based Assessment, and an Archaeological Evaluation (Border Archaeology 2000). The chapel is dated to the 1880s, and replaced an earlier 19th-century chapel, which closed in 1848. Associated with the earlier chapel was a house and garden, which was converted in the mid-19th century into a female penitentiary. This was gradually extended to the south, so that it formed a row of buildings fronting onto St. Martin's Church Street. Both buildings are of significance due to their architectural interest and resulting historical illustrative heritage value.
- 2.13 During the 20th century, the grounds of some of the larger Victorian houses were sub-divided and developed with housing, resulting in the area immediately north and east of the site becoming more densely urbanised in character.
- 2.14 By the 1970's the site had been developed as the Salisbury and South Wiltshire College of Further Education. The college buildings are located within the western and central parts of the site, and comprise the footprints of the Wyle, Avon and Nadder buildings, with an additional building (now removed) to the north of the Avon, and a building at the location of the Craft Centre. Dwellings are depicted as remaining in place on the eastern part of the site. By the late 1970's these dwellings had been demolished and the Bourne building constructed, thus completing the existing layout of the site.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation were to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality, in accordance *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). This information was intended to inform the LPA - Salisbury City Council to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage assets recorded, and consider the impact of the proposed development upon them, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 2 trenches (20m x 1.8m), in the locations shown on the attached plan (Figure 2). A further trench was monitored as part of the watching brief. With the approval of Martin Brown, on site, the position of the trenches was modified slightly to avoid large spoil heaps, modern obstructions and areas of very boggy ground,. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual*.
- 4.2 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*.
- 4.3 Deposits were assessed for their palaeo-environmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*. No deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.4 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Andover. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the site archive

will be deposited with Salisbury Museum. 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 (FIGURES 2-3)

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 No archaeological features were identified in any of the trenches. Substantial disturbance relating to the post-medieval/modern use of the land and previous structures therein was noted across the site.
- 5.3 **Trench 1** contained a possible remnant of an organic-rich alluvial type deposit **101** encountered at a depth of 1.2m below present ground level and likely associated with the nearby river and flood plain. However this only survived as a small pocket and was heavily truncated.
- 5.4 Deposit **201** within **Trench 2** consisted of dark grey/black clay/silt which contained large volumes of 19/20th century glass bottles, pottery and other refuse.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1 The range of artefacts recovered from the evaluation is listed in Appendix B and discussed further below. All finds have been recorded directly to an MS Excel spreadsheet. The assemblage, entirely from subsoil and topsoil deposits, is predominantly of modern date and none will be retained.

Pottery

- 6.2 A total of 25 sherds weighing 5722g was recovered, the majority (23 sherds) from subsoil deposit **201**. The earliest dated material comprises two sherds (285g) in a glazed red earthenware fabric dateable in the mid-16th to 18th centuries range. The remainder of material is broadly of 19th and 20th century date and includes coloured transfer-print refined white wares, Mocha ware, English stoneware bottles and large, internally-glazed plant pots (appendix B).

Other Finds

- 6.3 A total of 12 fragments (4277g) of modern glass was recorded, most from topsoil deposit **100** (appendix B). Most are drinks bottles, including beer, wine and carbonated water and some feature moulded legends identifying the manufacturer or product. Two 'torpedo' bottles date from the earliest days of carbonisation; a mineral water bottle made for the Strawson and Co., Liverpool (chemists) dates to the mid. or later 19th century; and an example marked 'J. Schwepps and Co, London' probably to 1840 to 1860 AD. A square bottle marked 'JC Eno effervescing fruit salts' (an antacid medicine) dates after 1850 and as late as the early 20th century. Unmarked, mould-made bottles including small examples for perfume or ink from topsoil deposit **100** are of probable early 20th century date.
- 6.4 A single fragment of ceramic building material, a brown-glazed tile of probable 19th or 20th century date was recovered from topsoil deposit **100**.

7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1 It is clear from the fieldwork that the site has been subject to heavy disturbance in the post-medieval/modern periods, predominantly as a result of the previous College buildings which occupied the site, particularly in the form of large numbers of concrete piles.
- 7.2 The identification of a landfill type deposit **201** within **Trench 2** is indicative of refuse dumping in the 19/20th century, presumably with the intention of building up the level of the land in the immediate vicinity of the river to discourage flooding.

8. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Sam Wilson, assisted by Craig Jones. The watching brief was undertaken by Adam Howard and the report was written by Sam Wilson. The finds report was written by Katie Marsden while the illustrations were prepared by Esther Escudero. The archive has been compiled by Sam Wilson, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Oliver Good.

9. REFERENCES

Border Archaeology, 2000, *St Mary's House, St Mary's Church Street (Salisbury College), Salisbury, Wiltshire: An Archaeological Evaluation*

British Geological Survey (BGS) 2019 *Geology of Britain Viewer*
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August 2019

Cotswold Archaeology (CA) 2017 *Salisbury Campus, Salisbury, Wiltshire Heritage
Assessment*, CA Report No. **17643**

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government 2019 *National Planning Policy
Framework (NPPF)*; published February 2019

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

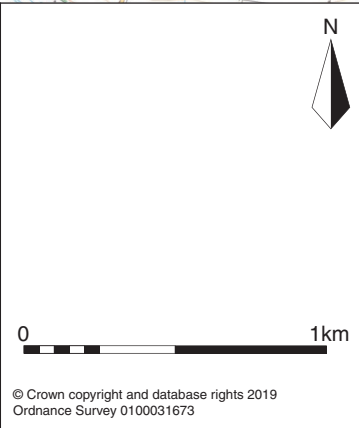
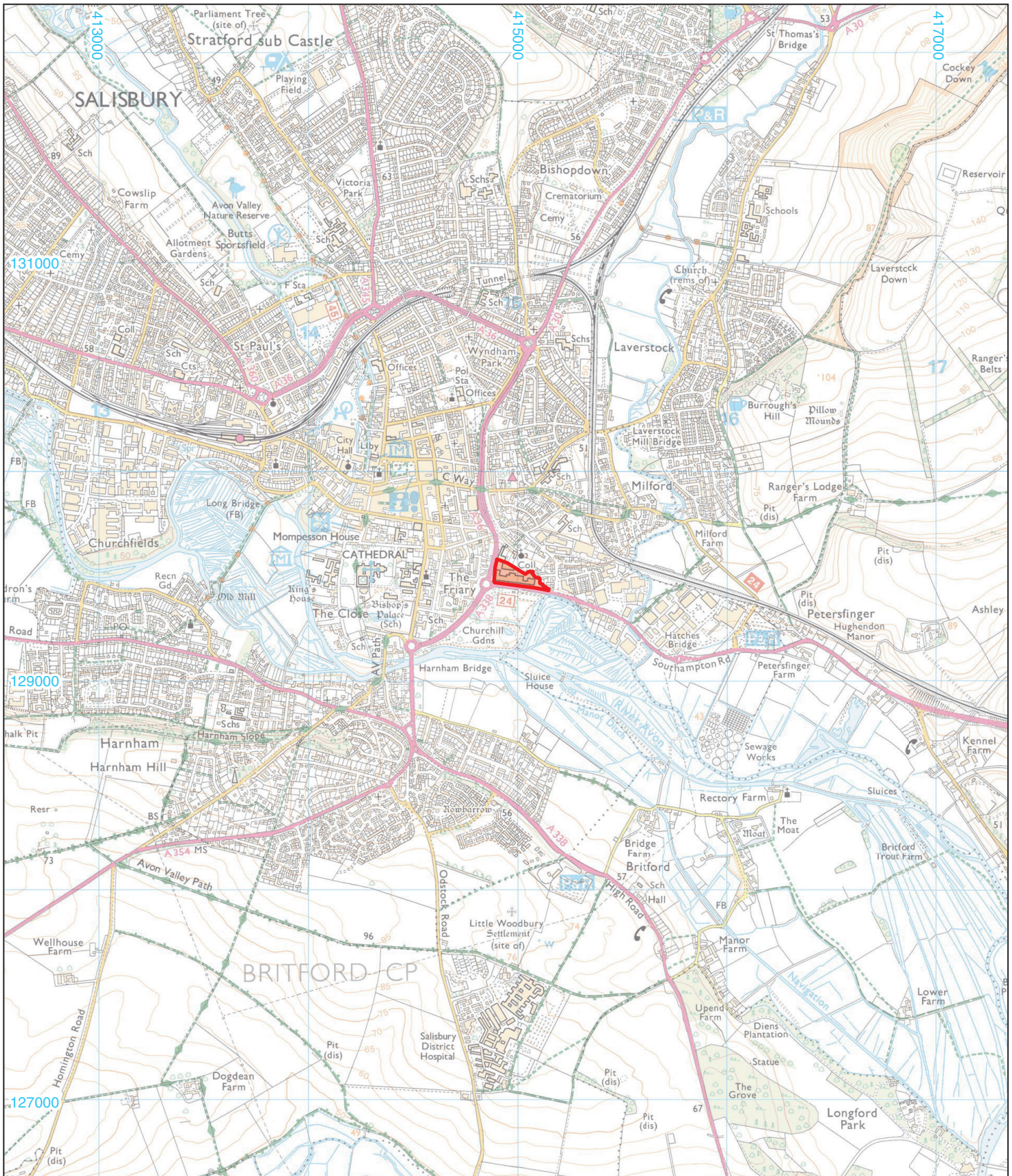
Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Made ground	Mixed dark greyish brown clayey silt with redeposited mid grey silty clay with chalk flecks with abundant angular CBM, concrete, metal, glass etc	>18	>1.8	0-1.2	Modern
1	101	Deposit		Alluvium?	Dark brown clayey silt with organic inclusions	3.5	>1.8	1.2-1.3+	
2	200	Layer		Made ground	Dark greyish brown clayey silt with yellowish white clay lenses and abundant angular CBM, concrete, glass etc	>19	>1.8	0-1.2	Modern
2	201	Deposit		Refuse dump	Dark greyish black clayey silt with abundant glass, ceramics etc	>8	>1.8	1.16-1.2+	Post-medieval/ Modern
3	300	Layer		Concrete/tarmac	Concrete/tarmac	>200	>0.8	0-0.25	Modern
3	301	Layer	302	Made ground	Mixed dark brownish black silty clay with abundant concrete and brick rubble	>200	>0.8	0.25-0.75	Modern
3	302	Cut		Modern cut	'Cut' of modern landscaping/truncation	-	-	-	Modern
3	303	Layer		Natural?	Mid yellowish brown silty clay	-	-	0.25-0.7	
3	304	Layer		Natural	Chalk	-	-	0.7-0.75	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Class	Description	Ct.	Wt.(g)	Spot-date
100	post-medieval pottery	glazed earthenware	1	130	C19- C20
	post-medieval pottery	painted refined whiteware	1	27	
	modern pottery	stoneware bottles	2	1310	
	CBM	tile with brown glaze and white decoration	1	180	
	glass	cut perfume style clear circular base mould-blown. 1 clear octagonal, 1 x	1	32	
	glass	clear square ink bottle	2	280	
201	modern pottery	brown-glazed earthenware	1	39	MC19- C20
	modern pottery	English porcelain footed jug	3	150	
	modern pottery	glazed earthenware	1	26	
	modern pottery	Internally-glazed earthenware; large plant pots?	5	2280	
	post-medieval pottery	glazed earthenware	1	155	
	modern pottery	mocha ware	1	67	
	modern pottery	Refined whiteware; black transfer-print	1	63	
	post-medieval pottery	Refined whiteware; purple transfer-	1	665	
	post-medieval pottery	Refined whiteware; Flow-blue	1	124	
	modern pottery	English stoneware jars refined whiteware; black/blue transfer-print	2	445	
	modern pottery	unglazed earthenware (flowerpot)	2	81	
	modern pottery	unglazed earthenware (flowerpot)	2	160	
	glass	small colourless bottles	2	81	
	glass	J. Schwepps and Co. Aerated Water bottle	1	401	
	glass	Strawson & Co. Liverpool (Chemist)	1	493	
	glass	JC Eno Effervescing Fruit Salt	1	234	
	glass	round-base bottle	1	491	
	glass	green glass wine/spirits bottle	1	1035	
	glass	square clear base	1	530	
	glass	green glass ?beer bottle	1	700	

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Wiltshire College & University Centre, Salisbury, Wiltshire	
Short description	No archaeological features were identified. The fieldwork revealed evidence of extensive disturbance and dumping in the post-medieval and modern periods.	
Project dates	24 April and 15 August 2019	
Project type	Watching brief and evaluation	
Previous work	Desk-based Assessment (CA 2017)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Wiltshire College & University Centre, Salisbury, Wiltshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	1.6ha	
Site co-ordinates	415006 129483	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Wiltshire County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Oliver Good	
Project Supervisor	Sam Wilson	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Salisbury Museum	
Paper	Salisbury Museum	Trench sheets, registers, etc
Digital	Salisbury Museum	Digital photos etc
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology (CA) 2019 <i>Wiltshire College & University Centre, Salisbury, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report AN0020.1		



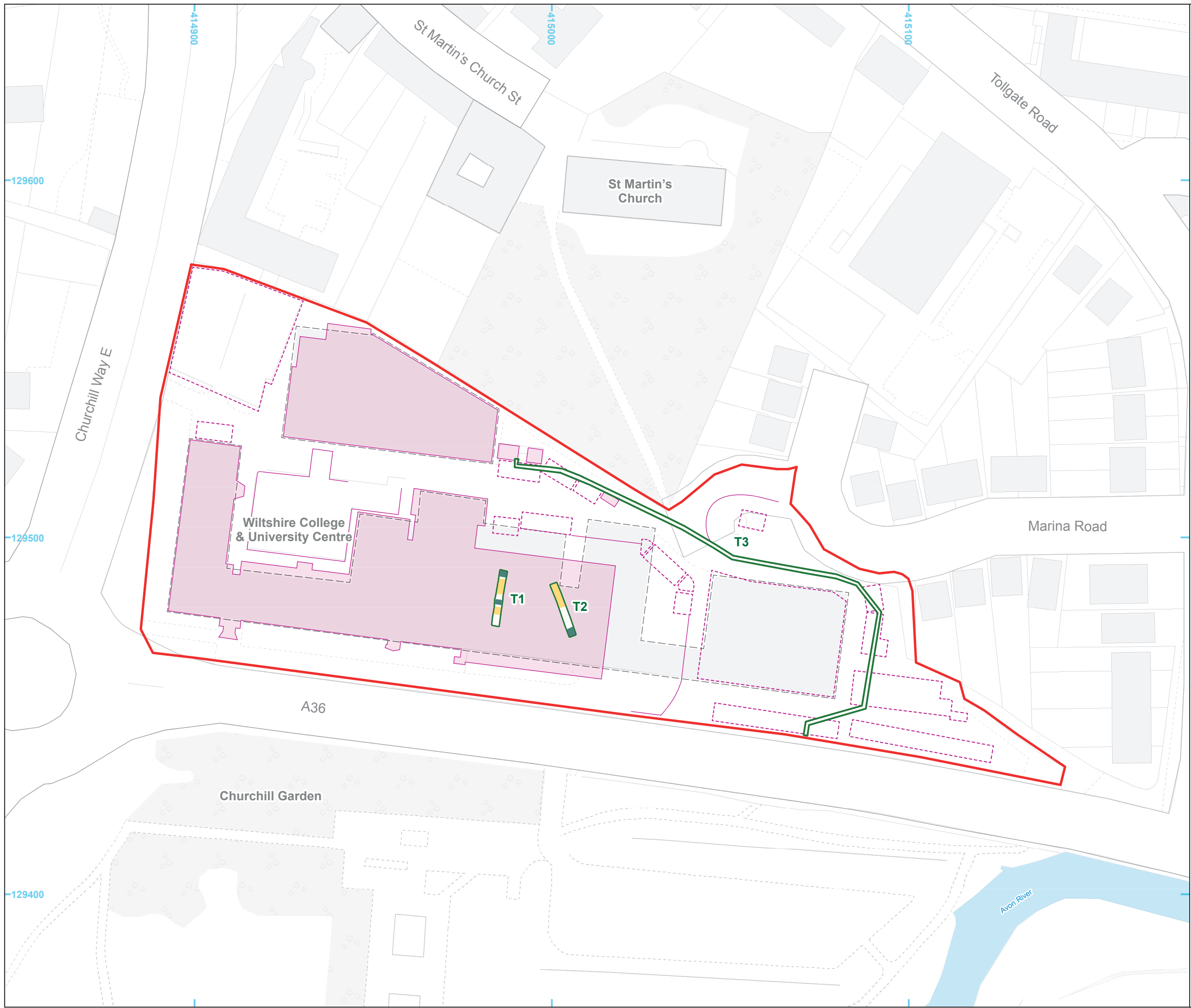

Cotswold Archaeology
 Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 573970
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Suffolk 01449 900120
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 Wiltshire College and University Centre,
 Salisbury, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

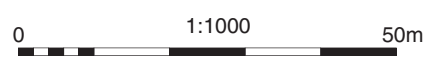
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- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench/
observed groundworks
- Modern feature
- Deposit

- College buildings pre
demolition/development
- Proposed development:**
- Buildings
- Parking spaces



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 Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 573970
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
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enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

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FIGURE TITLE
 The site, showing location of
 evaluation trenches and observed
 groundworks

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Trench 1, general view looking north-west (1m scales)



Trench 2, general view looking north-west (1m scales)



Trench 3, monitored groundworks, looking north (1m scale)


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 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 573970
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 Suffolk 01449 900120
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 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

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FIGURE TITLE
Photographs

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