



# Shelley Primary School, Wickhurst Lane, Horsham, West Sussex



for Sunninghill Construction Co. Ltd

> CA Project: AN0078 CA Report: AN0078\_1

> > March 2020



# Shelley Primary School, Wickhurst Lane, Horsham, West Sussex

# Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: AN0078 CA Report: AN0078\_1















Document Control Grid						
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А	2/3/20	Sam Wilson	Ray Kennedy	Internal review	General Edit	Ray Kennedy

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# **CONTENTS**

SUMM	ARY	2
1.	INTRODUCTION	3
2.	ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	3
3.	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	.6
4.	METHODOLOGY	7
5.	RESULTS (FIGS 2-4)	.8
6.	DISCUSSION	9
7.	CA PROJECT TEAM	10
8.	REFERENCES	10
APPEN	IDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	12
APPEN	IDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM	13

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1	Site location plan
Figure 2	Location of monitored groundworks
Figure 3	1892 historic mapping and location of monitored groundworks
Figure 4	Trench 2 photographs
Figure 5	Trench 3 photographs
Figure 6	Trench 4 photographs

#### **SUMMARY**

Project Name: Shelley Primary School

**Location:** Wickhurst Lane, Horsham, West Sussex

**NGR**: 515065 131263

Type: Watching Brief

**Date:** 24-25 September 2019, 7 February 2020, 2 March 2020

Planning Reference: WSCC/026/19

**Location of Archive:** To be deposited with appropriate Museum

Site Code: SHLY19

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundwork associated with construction of a new single-storey classroom block; new reception infill extension; internal remodelling and refurbishment to existing school at Shelley Primary School, Wickhurst Lane, Horsham, West Sussex.

Post-medieval structural remains associated with Slater's Farm, which previously occupied the site, were noted along the northern site boundary within the footprint of the proposed new car park (**Trench 3**). Two phases of wall construction were identified, along with a surviving remnant of internal flagstone floor. Historic map evidence suggests that the earlier stone wall is associated with a building constructed between 1844 and 1880 and the less substantial abutting brick wall a later addition, probably demarking the wider farm compound.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In September 2019, February and March 2020 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Sunninghill Construction Co. Ltd at Shelley Primary School, Wickhurst Lane, Horsham, West Sussex centred on Ntional Grid Reference (NGR) 515065 131263 (see Figure 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent for construction of a new single-storey classroom block; new reception infill extension; internal remodelling and refurbishment to existing school and external works (Planning ref: WSCC/026/19).
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2019a) and approved by John Mills. The fieldwork also followed Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief (CIfA 2014).

#### The site

- 1.3 The site is *c*.1.1ha in size, currently comprising school buildings, hard standing, scattered trees, hedgerows, ornamental shrubs, and a pond. The site is bounded to the north, east and south by residential dwellings, and to the west by Wickhurst Lane.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as mudstone, siltstone and sandstone of the Wealden Group, sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 125 to 146 million years ago in an environment dominated by swamps, estuaries and deltas. No superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2020).

#### 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The following is a summary of publically available information pertinent to the site obtained from a HER search with a 750m radius of the site (HER ref: 2019-097), recent works by Archaeology South East (ASE 2013, 2016); Cotswold Archaeology (2017, 2018); and a Desk Based Assessment, and subsequent evaluation and excavation by TVAS (2012a, b, 2015a, b, 2016).

2.2 West Sussex has a wide range of evidence for settlement activity, with the contrasting geological and topographical areas within the county influencing the distribution and density of archaeological sites (VCH 1986; Brandon 1978, 45). Areas occupied by the Weald Clay until recently were not thought to have been extensively settled and exploited until medieval times due to the heavy nature of the soils, but recent works by Archaeology South East (ASE 2013, 2016) seems to imply that settlement was more extensive than previously thought.

#### Prehistoric

- 2.3 There is evidence of Mesolithic hunting camps, indicated by concentrations of flint work, noted from Wickhurst Green (ASE 2013). Neolithic evidence was also recovered in the form of flint work and sherds of pottery. An evaluation and excavations at land east of the A24 (ASE 2016) revealed remains in the form of residual lithic material dating from the Mesolithic to the early Bronze Age.
- 2.4 A Bronze Age pit, and curated bronze axe from a medieval pit, was also found at Wickhurst Green.

#### Iron Age-Roman

- 2.5 A geophysical survey, evaluation, and subsequent excavation (TVAS 2015a, 2015b, 2016) was carried out on Land north of Old Guildford Road in advance of residential development 300m to the north of the site. A ring gully of Iron Age date was revealed as well as five pits and two postholes.
- 2.6 Archaeological excavations in by ASE (2013) as part of the development of Wickhurst Green housing development site found extensive evidence of settlements from the Iron Age including round houses and field systems.
- 2.7 Late Iron Age-early Roman activity at Wickhurst Green included trackways, enclosures, and settlement activity including a roundhouse. Two square enclosures noted were potentially related to mortuary activity, as two urned cremations were found close to the eastern most enclosure.
- 2.8 A field-walking survey and watching brief, circa 700m south east of the site, by ASE (2012) to the east of the A24 revealed a Late Iron Age / Early Roman ditch and several undated ditches with four excavated trenches. Continuations of these ditches were observed during the subsequent watching brief but no further

archaeological features were observed. A subsequent evaluation and excavations (ASE 2016) revealed a curvilinear boundary ditch which appeared to be the continuation of a ditch of probable Middle Iron Age date identified during excavations at the adjacent Wickhurst Green site. A number of field divisions and/or enclosure ditches of Late Iron Age / early Roman date were also recorded across the site, as were the disturbed remains of a cremation burial of contemporary date. Undated ditches and pits were also recorded.

#### Medieval

2.9 The earliest mention of Broadbridge is in 1279, when a park owned by Roger Covent is noted, though its exact location is uncertain (TVAS 2012). Within the Wickhurst Green development (ASE 2013) 12th-century buildings, trackways and field systems were noted. A single sherd of Saxon pottery was recovered but no other evidence from this period.

#### Post-medieval

- 2.10 Historic maps, including the 1844 Horsham Parish tithe map, show the Site as being within an area of arable land enclosing Broadbridge Heath to the south. The Site is located within the northern extent of plot 737, which is recorded in the apportionment as Barn Yards and is being in use for arable and pasture. The map shows that there is an L-shaped footpath running through plot 737 which passes through the Site. Additionally, there are two buildings, one orientated east-west and another north-south so as to enclose a yard in the north-west corner of plot 737, which is located at the current school entrance. The Site also partially encroaches into two plots to the north. Plot 753 on the west side comprises a homestead and plot 754 to the east comprises a meadow.
- 2.11 During the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, the Site and surrounding area were subject to minimal change, which includes the replacement of the east-west building with one on the north side of the yard. There also appears to have been an extension added to the north-south building at the south-west corner creating an L-shaped building. The footpath has also been realigned to the north, so as to enclose the buildings and then run along the north boundary of the field. Also, the map shows the field boundaries being demarcated by a series of trees. Subsequent 19<sup>th</sup> century OS maps show the only change within the Site as being the addition of a yard to the east and west of the building within the north-west corner, which was established during the late 1890s.

- 2.12 The earliest map examined which names the building and associated land as Slater's Farm, is the 1911 OS map. On this map, the yard area has been opened to the south side with the yard noted on the previous OS maps as being reduced to the area east of the buildings. Subsequent maps of the early 20th century show no changes until 1932 when the yard is reverted to the south of the buildings, rather than the east. Between the 1932 and 1938 OS maps, Oak Lane which runs along the south-west border of the school is established by the sub-division of the field. By the 1961 OS map, the field had been extended on the eastern extent, beyond the Site boundary and a series of large structures built, most likely relating to agricultural activity. The OS maps show no further changes within the Site until the establishment of the school between 1967 and 1975, and the enclosing of the school grounds by residential development. The building is placed in the northwestern extent of the grounds, with a pool recorded at the north-east corner of the building. The school appears to be subject to minimal alteration, which comprised the addition of a building on the north and east side of the pool during the mid-1980s, until it was extensively extended to the south-east between 1987 and 1991 and the pool was converted to a pond. With the exception of the removal of the building to the east of the pond between 1993 and 1996, the maps examined do not depict any further changes within the Site.
- 2.13 Post medieval field boundaries were recorded by ASE (2016) on land east of the A24 as were the remains of a Fulling Mill, of likely 18th century date, represented by a series of earthworks within a small wooded valley.

#### Recent Work

2.14 A watching brief, and subsequent evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology to the south west of the site (CA 2017, 2018) recorded a ditch, which appeared to be a post-medieval or early modern field boundary visible on OS mapping. A burnt out tree throw, radiocarbon dated to the Early Iron Age, was also recorded along with a spread of material thought to be geological in nature.

#### 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The general 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.
- 3.2 The specific objectives of the Watching Brief were:
  - To determine whether archaeological features associated with the Slater's Farm buildings survive within the development footprint
  - to identify and describe any archaeological features associated with Late Iron Age settlement and agricultural exploitation of the landscape as previously recorded in Broadbridge Heath.

#### 4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2019a). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising the excavations of building foundations, new pond and attenuation tank along with level reduction for a new car park area and associated drainage (Figure 2).
- 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 site archive will be deposited with the appropriate museum under accession number. 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.

#### 5. RESULTS (FIGURES 2-4)

- 5.1 The natural geological substrate consisted of mottled light yellow and grey silty clay which was revealed at an average depth of 0.55m below present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain by mid grey and orange mottled silty clay subsoil averaging 0.27m in thickness, which was in turn sealed by 0.25m of dark black/grey silt/clay topsoil. Modern made ground deposits of approximately 0.5m were noted within **Trench 1** and are likely to be related to modern landscaping of the school grounds. **Trench 1** was discussed in greater detail in an earlier interim summary (CA 2019b).
- 5.2 **Trenches 1**, **2**, **4** and **5** did not contain any features of archaeological interest.
- 5.3 Within **Trench 3**, natural geology **301** was only partially exposed at the excavated depth of up to 0.7m bpgl, with deposit **302** also exposed. Deposit **302** consisted of mid-yellow/brown silt/clay containing abundant brick rubble, stone fragments and other inclusions of relatively modern date. Two shallow pipe trenches dug through **302** demonstrated it to be at least 0.1m thick and revealed a possible drain of relatively modern date.
- Within the northern baulk of **Trench 3**, two phases of wall were identified (**303**, **305**). The earlier phase **305** consisted of seven courses of irregular, roughly hewn stone slabs bonded with a strongly coloured yellow sandy mortar. It survived to a height of 0.4m. Wall **305** lay within the baulk on the northern edge of floor **306**. Within the confines of a narrow plastic water pipe trench excavated at the base of the wall within the footprint of **Trench 3** (approximately 0.4m in width), it could be seen to turn towards the south, but it's full extent was not determined. Its southward return was at the eastern end of the section of wall in the baulk. The later phase, wall **303**, butted against wall **305** at the point where it turned to the south, and lay to the east of wall **305**, on a similar alignment. It consisted of 3 brick courses laid on a rough foundation, surviving to a height of approximately 0.4m. The bricks were of relatively modern appearance although it was not clear if they were frogged. They were bonded with a light sandy mortar. Foundation cuts for either wall were not visible due to truncation by machine.
- 5.5 To the south of wall **305** and only visible within the existing narrow plastic water pipe trench, was floor surface **306**. It consisted of large stones slabs of at least 0.75m in

length and butted tightly against wall **305**. It was contained within wall **305** by the turn to the south, suggesting that it may have been an internal surface.

5.6 There was no visible continuation of wall **305** and floor surface **306** within the pipe trenches dug within **Trench 3**, suggesting that the associated building had been more comprehensively demolished further to the south.

#### 6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The watching brief identified limited evidence for archaeological remains within the site, and nothing which pre-dates the post-medieval period. The structural remains identified within Trench 3 are almost certainly associated with Slater's Farm, which occupied the site from at least as early as 1844, until it was demolished in the late 1960s or early 1970s. It is likely that deposit **302** is associated with this final demolition phase.
- The wall exposed along the northern baulk of **Trench 3**, is thought to represent the remains of the northeastern corner of the east-west orientated former farm building shown on historic mapping (Fig. 2). It clearly demonstrated two phases of construction, with an earlier stone-built wall butted by a later brick-built structure. Overlaying the results of the watching brief on historic mapping of the site appears to provide a close correlation, suggesting that stone wall **305** is associated with a roughly east-west aligned building which appears to have been constructed between 1844 and 1880. The later brick wall **303** appears to be associated with a less substantial wall demarking the wider farm courtyard, seen as an irregular, broadly triangular shape on the historic maps.
- 6.3 The stone floor **306** appeared to be contained within the turn of wall **305** and thus was interpreted as likely to be an internal surface. This interpretation appears to be borne out by the historic map evidence where it closely correlates with the interior or the roughly east-west orientated former farm building.
- 6.4 Wall **305** and floor **306** did not appear to survive further south, suggesting that they may only represent a pocket of survival where exposed, perhaps saved from complete demolition due to the correlation with the site boundary of which both wall **303** and **305** appear to be part.

#### 7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Sam Wilson and Adam Howard. The report was written by Sam Wilson. The illustrations were prepared by Ryan Wilson. The archive has been compiled by Sam Wilson, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Ray Kennedy.

#### 8. REFERENCES

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## **APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

Trench No.	Context No.	Туре	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	(m)	W (m)	Depth/ thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey sandy silt	>5	>4.5	0-0.11	
1	101	Layer		Made ground	Fine white sand	>5	>4.5	0.11-0.42	
1	102	Layer		Made ground	Brown gravel within silty sand matrix	>5	>4.5	0.42-0.65	
1	103	Layer		Natural	Mid brownish yellow silty clay	>5	>4.5	0.65-0.85+	
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark blackish grey silty clay	>36	>16	0-0.25	
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey silty clay with orange mottling	>36	>16	0.25-0.52	
2	202	Layer		Natural	Mottled light yellowish grey silty clay with orange mottling	>36	>16	0.52-1.2+	
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark blackish grey silty clay	>12	>11	0-0.28	
3	301	Layer		Natural	Mottled light yellowish grey silty clay	>12	>11	0.55-0.7+	
3	302	Deposit		Demolition Rubble	Mid yellowish brown silty clay with CBM, stone, glass, etc	>12	>11	0.55-0.65+	Late C20th
3	303	Structure		Wall	Brick wall	>6	0.11	0.4	C19/20th
3	304	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey silty clay with orange mottling			0.25-0.55	
3	305	Structure		Wall	Stone wall	>3	-	>0.4	C19th
3	306	Surface		Internal floor	Stone flag floor	1.6	>0.4	-	C19th
4	400	Layer		Made ground	Astro turf on yellowish brown sand and wood chippings			0-0.1	
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brownish grey silty clay			0.1-0.5	
4	402	Layer		Natural	Mottled light greyish yellow silty clay with occasional red mottling			0.5-1+	
5	500	Layer		Made ground	Tarmac and concrete	>10	>1	0-0.25	
5	501	Layer		Natural	Mottled light yellowish grey and yellowish orange silty clay	>10	>1	0.25-0.3+	

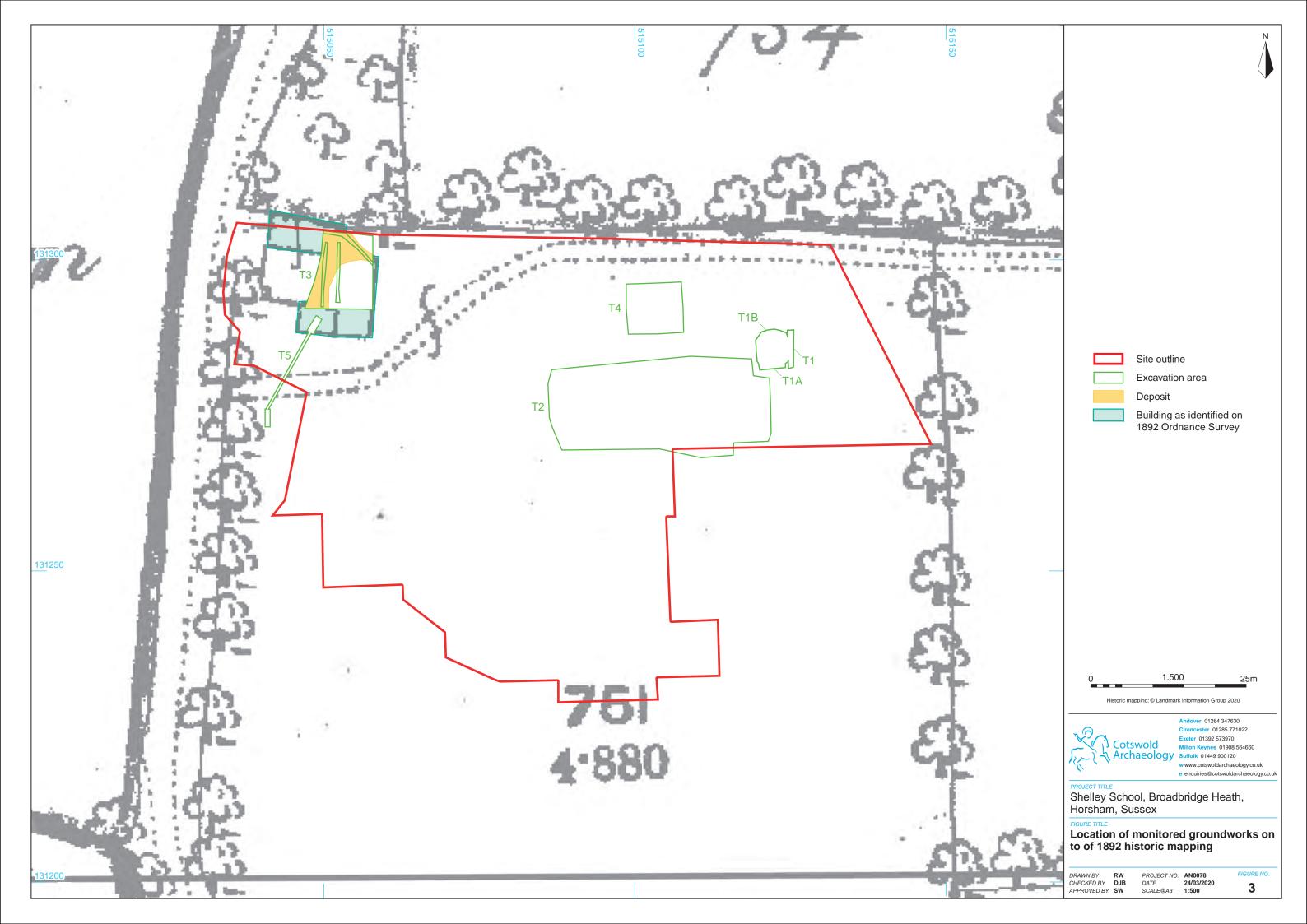
## APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Name	Shelley Primary School, Wickhurst Lane	Shelley Primary School, Wickhurst Lane, Horsham, West Sussex					
Short description	Archaeology during groundworks associ new single-storey classroom block; new internal remodelling and refurbishment to	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with construction of a new single-storey classroom block; new reception infill extension internal remodelling and refurbishment to existing school at Shelley Primary School, Wickhurst Lane, Horsham, West Sussex.					
	Post-medieval structural remains associated with Slater's Farm which previously occupied the site, were noted along the northern site boundary, within the footprint of the proposed new car park (Trench 3). Two phases of wall construction were identified, along with a surviving remnant of internal flagstone floor. Historic map evidence suggests that the earlier stone wall is associated with a building constructed between 1844 and 1880 and the less substantial abutting brick wall a later addition, probably demarking the wider farm compound.						
Project dates	24-25 September 2019, 7 February 2020	24-25 September 2019, 7 February 2020, 2 March 2020					
Project type	Watching Brief	Watching Brief					
Previous work	None						
Future work	Unknown						
PROJECT LOCATION							
Site Location		Shelley Primary School, Wickhurst Lane, Horsham, West Sussex					
Study area (M²/ha)		1.1ha					
Site co-ordinates	515065 131263						
PROJECT CREATORS							
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology						
Project Brief originator	West Sussex County Council						
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology						
Project Manager	Ray Kennedy						
Project Manager Project Supervisor	Sam Wilson						
MONUMENT TYPE	None						
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	Wall, floor surface						
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery animal bone etc)					
Physical		None					
Paper		Trench sheets, contex sheets, registers, etc					
Digital		Digital photos etc					
BIBLIOGRAPHY							

13









Trench 2 working shot, looking south-east (1m scales)



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PROJECT TITLE

Shelley School, Broadbridge Heath, Horsham, Sussex

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 2: photograph

DRAWN BY RW
CHECKED BY DJB
APPROVED BY SW

 PROJECT NO.
 AN0078

 DATE
 23/03/2020

 SCALE@A4
 NA

FIGURE NO.





Trench 3 working shot



Wall 305 and floor surface 306, looking north-west (1m scale)



Wall 303, looking north (1m scale)



Close up of wall 305 construction, looking north (0.3m scale)



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Archaeology Suffolk 01449 900120

Shelley School, Broadbridge Heath, Horsham, Sussex

FIGURE TITLE
Trench 3: photographs

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 AN0078

 DATE
 24/03/2020

 SCALE@A3
 NA

5



Trench 4 post-excavation, looking east (1m scales)



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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 4: photograph

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APPROVED BY SW

 PROJECT NO.
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 DATE
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 SCALE@A4
 NA

FIGURE NO.





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