

**Wiltshire College,
Lackham Campus Agri-Centre Building,
Chippenham,
Wiltshire**

Archaeological Programme of Monitoring and Recording



for
JOA Consulting

on behalf of
Wiltshire College & University
Centre

CA Project: CR0195
CA Report: CR0195_1

April 2020



**Wiltshire College,
Lackham Campus Agri-Centre Building,
Chippenham,
Wiltshire**

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Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	20/04/2020	Adam Howard	Oliver Good	Internal review	General Edit	Richard Greatorex

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Wiltshire College, Lackham Campus Agri-Centre Building
Location:	Chippenham, Wiltshire
NGR:	392352 170211
Type:	Archaeological Programme of Monitoring and Recording
Date:	4 December 2019 to 24 March 2020
Planning Reference:	19/3573FUL
Location of Archive:	Wiltshire Museum
Site Code:	LACA19

An archaeological programme of monitoring and recording was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the development of the Agri-Centre Building at Wiltshire College, Lackham Campus Agri-Centre Building, Chippenham, Wiltshire.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest predating the post-medieval period were observed during groundwork, and no artefacts pre-dating the post-medieval period were recovered. A number of post-medieval/modern soakaways, levelling deposits and a lime bonded sandstone wall were identified.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Between the 4 December 2019 and 24 March 2020 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording (AMR) for JOA Consulting acting on behalf of Wiltshire College and University Centre Wiltshire College at the Lackham Campus Agri-Centre Building, Chippenham, Wiltshire centred on National Grid Reference 392352 170211 (see Figure 1) hereafter referred to as the 'site'. The AMR was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent for the construction of a new College Building (Planning ref: 19/3573FUL).
- 1.2. The AMR was carried out in accordance with *Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)* by Cotswold Archaeology (CA) which was approved by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, the archaeological advisor to the Wiltshire Council (WC). The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014), and the Statement of Standards and Practices for Archaeological Fieldwork in Wiltshire (Wiltshire County Council 1995) 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 proposed development area is approximately 0.12ha, and comprises largely of an open car parking area car parking space and an adjacent area of grass. It is surrounded by the buildings and wider grounds of the Wiltshire College Lackham Campus. It sits within a meander of the River Avon which lies approximately 100m to the north at its closest point. The site lies at approximately 49m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 1.4. The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as sandstone, siltstone and mudstone of the Kellaways Formation, sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 164 to 166 million years ago in the Jurassic Period (BGS 2019). Excavations on one of the Victorian terraces near the house in 2004 showed superficial deposits of light brownish yellow clay (Pratt 2016).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1. A desk-based assessment was undertaken by CgMs (2016) for a nearby site and a Heritage desk-based assessment and impact Assessment were undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in (2017 and 2019a) of the site, a summary of the combined

results is presented below, along with additional documentary background from Pratt (2016). Reference should be made to these documents for full information.

Prehistoric

- 2.2. The only evidence of Mesolithic activity within the wider environs of the site comprises of findspots of flint implements and waste c. 260m and 450m east of the Site.
- 2.3. As with earlier periods, artefact assemblages comprising flint items and pottery of late Neolithic or later date have been recorded within the wider environs of the Site, c. 940m to the north-west.
- 2.4. As with the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods, the Bronze Age within the study area is characterised by artefact assemblages, together with cut features, including pits, postholes, ditches and gullies. Recorded during investigations c. 940m north-west of the Site, these remains are likely to be indicative of domestic occupation and settlement in the general area. Two cremation burials, dating to the Bronze Age or later, were recorded during investigations in this area by Cotswold Archaeology in 2014.
- 2.5. There is strong evidence for Iron Age, or later, settlement within the study area and the surrounding landscape, comprising ditches, enclosures and trackways, and this activity appears to have been concentrated on the base of an escarpment extending east, c. 610m south-west of the Site. Similar features were also recorded within the wider landscape, c. 940m north-west of the Site.
- 2.6. Nash Hill, hillfort, is located c. 520m south-east of the Site. An incomplete, univallate sub-circular enclosure, Nash Hill is likely to have developed as a high-status settlement and defence during the Middle Iron Age, and was probably occupied on a permanent basis.

Roman

- 2.7. The level of known Roman archaeological evidence within the wider environs of the Site suggests a similar, if not greater, density of activity compared to that of preceding later prehistoric periods. Investigations c. 940m north-west of the Site, identified continuity of settlement activity following the Iron Age period, comprising enclosures and ditches containing material of early 1st to 2nd century date, which suggested nearby domestic occupation. Such evidence of continuity is common within the surrounding landscape, with repeated phases of agricultural activity and

settlement enclosures comprising prominent features of Iron Age and Roman settlement sites.

- 2.8. Settlement activity is also likely to have continued c. 610m south-west of the Site, with cropmarks on aerial photographs representing a similar pattern of activity to those recorded to the north-west.

Early Medieval and Medieval

- 2.9. There is no evidence of Saxon activity within the Site or study area. During this period, the Site comprised part of one of the estates of the Wiltshire thegn, Aelfstan of Boscombe.
- 2.10. The Site lies within the north-western section of the historic parish of Lackham, bordering the parish of Pewsham to the north-east. During the post-Conquest period, the manor was held by William d'Eu, and was characterised by isolated farmsteads, including Nash Hill Farm c. 720m to the south-east, and hamlets, such as Reybridge and Notton, respectively located c. 790m and 800m to the south-west and west of the Site. While agricultural activity is likely to have dominated the local economy during this period, a 13th-century ironstone mine has been recorded c. 330m to the southwest of the Site.
- 2.11. During this period, the Site may have formed part of the lost medieval settlement of Lackham. Information regarding the exact nature of the medieval settlement at Lackham is sparse, although it is known that a settlement was extant during the 11th century, and was recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as Lacham. While Lackham may have comprised a relatively small estate during the medieval period, there are a few documentary references to events in the 16th century suggesting it was of some importance, including the visit of royalty in 1535.
- 2.12. A review of LiDAR imagery demonstrates possible earthwork features associated with this deserted medieval village (DMV), including indistinctive features in the immediately south-west of the Lackham House. Such features were not visible during a review of aerial photography at the Historic England Archive, although notable evidence comprised a rectangular earthwork enclosure, possible medieval date, located to the south-east of Lackham College.
- 2.13. The remnants of ridge and furrow earthworks, probably associated with the medieval settlement, were evident on both LiDAR imagery and aerial photography within the fields east of Lackham Park Farm, c. 640m north of the Site.

Post Medieval and Modern

- 2.14. The surrounding landscape has remained in agricultural use throughout the post-medieval and modern periods, with the focus of activity based on Lackham House as the centre of an estate.
- 2.15. The current Lackham House, immediately to the south-west of site, is an example of Georgian Architecture and was built between 1793 and 1795. The east and west wings of the house were added at an unknown later date. The old manor house was described as exhibiting 'specimens of various periods from the Norman downwards, and presented an appearance of rude grandeur rather than the beauty of regular architectural proportion. It stood completely embosomed in woods. The great hall was hung with armour' (Cunnington 1852, Pratt 2016).
- 2.16. Excavations at the rear wall of the house in 2001-2 indicated earlier origins of the house from the mid-14th century, but no Saxon or Norman remains (Pratt 2016). The earliest dated illustration of this previous design of the manor house is from 1684. It is clear from cartographic sources that when the house was redesigned between 1793 and 1795 the orientation of the house was shifted 90 degrees so that the west facing entrance became north facing.
- 2.17. Historic Mapping shows a shift in the driveway to the south side of the house by 1835, but by the Tithe apportionment survey map of 1838, the driveway had been established back at the northern side of the house (Pratt 2016). This shift may be evident within the site as it was shifted (parallel) south from the position of a previous trackway to coincide with the immediate frontage of the current house (Pratt 2016). A northern shift in the driveway further west is seen between mapping of 1858 to 1864 but does not appear to affect the current site area. Mapping from 1886 onwards shows no change to the drive or greenspace around site to the present day other than the construction of the carpark within the site after Lackham House became an agricultural college in the 1970.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. The general objectives of the programme of monitoring and recording were:
- to monitor the development groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record any significant buried archaeological deposits/features thus revealed;

-
- at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated project archive and a report setting out the results 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 2019). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks which comprised the service trenches, footings and an area strip of the buildings footprint (Fig. 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 Andover. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the archive will be deposited with Wiltshire Museum. 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

- 5.1. The natural geological substrate consisted of silty sand and silty clay which was revealed at an average depth of 0.34m below present ground level. This was overlain by either topsoil, tarmac or crushed hardstanding averaging 0.38m in thickness.

Trench 2

- 5.2. **Trench 2** recorded a stone lined soakaway **204**. It was only identified and recorded in section where it appears to have been lined with rough sandstone blocks and bonded with a gritty lime mortar. The soakaway was filled with a light grey/brown clay silt, which contained damaged unfrosted post-medieval bricks, it was 1.8m wide and 1m deep.

Trench 3

- 5.3. **Trench 3** contained a modern soakaway **306**. It was only identified and recorded in section and where the trench sides were so unstable it was impossible to do this with any accuracy. The soakaway appeared as a large cut feature, with redeposited chalk and crushed sandstone towards the base. The Soakaway was 7.5m long, a

minimum of 1m wide and minimum depth of 2.48m and may continue into **trench 14** as pit/soakaway **1404**.

Trench 4

- 5.4. **Trench 4** recorded a north-south wall **402**. The construction trench was 0.98m wide and 0.11m deep. The wall **403** was constructed of roughly squared random coursed sand stone and bonded with lime mortar and clay.

Trench 14

- 5.5. **Trench 14** recorded a contaminated pit or soakaway **1404**, and a dry sandstone lined soakaway **1406**. The western end of pit **1404** had gradual concaves sides and was only visible in section and is probably a continuation of Soakaway **306**. It was 4.7m long, a minimum of a 1m a wide and was at least 1.08m deep, the base was not reached. The upper fill **1404** was a green silty clay with modern CBM inclusions. The lower fill **1403** was a dark green/brown silt/clay. Soakaway **1406** was 1.6m long, 1.1m wide and 1.1m deep, and only part of the south-western and south-eastern edges were exposed. The edges of the pit appeared to be lined with a rough sandstone **1408**, which was constructed from irregular semi-rectangular sandstone brash blocks with no visible bonding. The pit was filled by **1407** a dark greenish black silty clay which contained post-medieval to modern pottery, which was not retained. The soakaway is very similar in form to **204** but would have been considerably larger.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1. No finds were retained but post-medieval and modern artefacts were observed in **204, 306, 403, 1404** and **1406**.

7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1. Despite the archaeological potential of the wider environs of the application area (see archaeological background above), the archaeological programme of monitoring and recording identified no significant archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. A post-medieval/modern wall and several soakaways were observed. The wall in **Trench 4** may be part of earlier phases of construction activity relating to outbuildings or garden features associated with Lackham House, which has undergone several phases of remodelling and repair since its initial construction in the late 1700's (see 2.14 to 2.17 above). The three

soakaways identified on site are evidence of flooding and the subsequent attempts to mitigate it from as early as the post-medieval period.

8. CA PROJECT TEAM

8.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Jeremy Clutterbuck, assisted by Chris Ellis, Pawel Jablonski, Craig Jones and Adam Howard. The report was written by Adam Howard. The illustrations were prepared by Isobelle Ward. The archive has been compiled by Richard Paxford, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Oliver Good.

9. REFERENCES

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

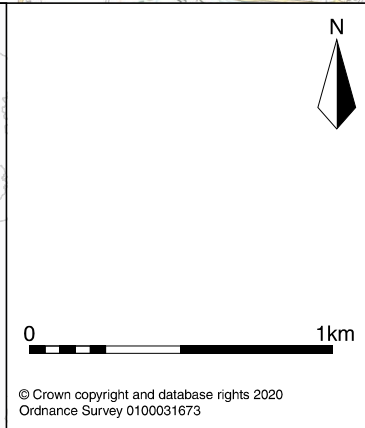
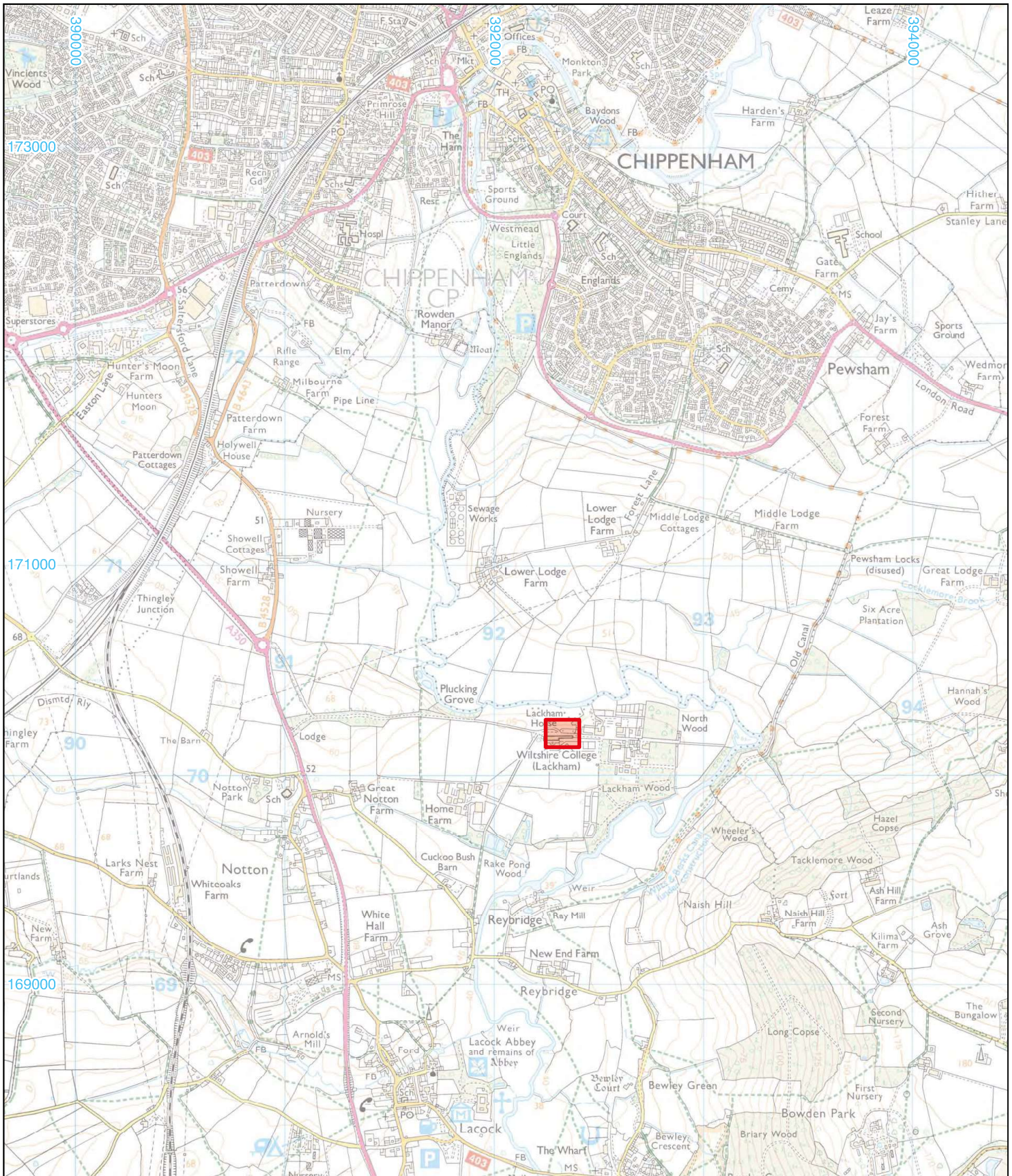
Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty sand.	8.2	7.2	0.22
1	101	Layer		Buried soil	Dark brownish grey silt sand.	8.2	7.2	0.16
1	102	Layer		Levelling	Mid brown silty sand with redeposited light blue and brownish yellow silty sand.	8.2	7.2	0.32
1	103	Layer		Natural	Light blue and brownish yellow silty sand.	8.2	7.2	0.1+
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Light greyish brown clayey silt.	32.2	5	0.22
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Light yellowish green clay.	32.2	5	0.38
2	202	Layer		Natural	Light blue clay with mid brown orange clay.	32.2	5	1.4+
2	203	Layer		Natural	Light greyish yellow clay. Limestone fragment inclusions.	32.2	5	1.1+
2	204	Struct		Soakaway	Stone lined. Vertical sides filled with redeposited topsoil. N - S aligned.	1+	1.8	1
2	205	Fill	204	Soakaway	Light yellowish brown clay. Rubble inclusions.	1+	1.8	1
2	206	Fill	204	Soakaway	Light greyish brown clayey silt. Moderate brick fragment inclusions.	1+	1.8	1
3	300	Layer		Modern	Crushed stone hard standing.	16.5	1.3	0.2
3	301	Layer		Buried soil	Black silty clay. Moderate rooting.	16.5	1.3	0.22
3	302	Layer		Natural	Light blue clay with mid brown orange clay.	16.5	1.3	1.6+
3	303	Layer		Natural	Light greyish yellow clay. Limestone fragment inclusions.	16.5	1.3	0.6+
3	304	Fill	306	Possible structure	Mid blueish grey silty clay. Modern CBM inclusions.	3+	7	1.08
3	305	Fill	306	Possible structure	Mid reddish white silty clay. Limestone and rubble inclusions.	3+	7	1.4
3	306	Cut		Possible structure	Rectangular in plan. Vertical sides and a flat base.	3+	7.5	2.48
3	307	Fill	306	Possible structure	Mid red silt. CBM and burnt clay inclusions.	3+	0.25	0.1
3	308	Fill	306	Possible structure	Mid reddish black clay. CBM and burnt clay inclusions.	3+	0.3	0.1
3	309	Fill	306	Possible structure	White chalk.	3+	7	2.48
4	400	Layer		Construction layer	Rubble and CBM inclusions.	1+	1+	0.25
4	401	Layer		Natural	Mid blueish yellow clayey silt. Rooting.	1+	1+	1.05
4	402	Cut		Wall	Linear cut for wall. Vertical sides and an unknown base. N - S aligned.	0.6	0.98	0.11

4	403	Struct		Wall	Stone wall. Roughly squared random coursed. Lime mortar and clay bonding material.	0.6	0.95	0.72
4	404	Fill	402	Wall	Dark greyish red clayey sand.	0.6	1.06	0.11
4	405	Fill	402	Wall	Mid yellowish grey clayey silt. CBM and modern rubble inclusions.	0.6	1.06	0.11
5	500	Layer		Modern	Dark grey aggregate with a mid red sandy gravel layer.	1+	0.6	0.54
5	501	Layer		Levelling	Dark greyish green silty sand. Stone rubble inclusions.	1+	0.6	0.83
5	502	Layer		Natural	Light to mid blueish yellow silty clay.	1+	0.6	0.53+
6	600	Layer		Modern	Black tarmac.	2	1.2	0.16
6	601	Layer		Modern	Mid pinkish red silty sand. Hard standing.	2	1.2	0.12
6	602	Layer		Surface	Light greyish yellow concrete.	2	1.2	0.1
6	603	Depos		Backfill	Dark grey silty. Modern tarmac inclusions.	2	1.2	0.38
6	604	Depos		Backfill	Mid brownish orange sand.	2	1.2	0.1
6	605	Depos		Backfill	Dark brownish grey clay. Patches of gravel inclusions.	2	1.2	0.46
7	700	Layer		Modern	Modern tarmac	2.86	1.45	0.22
7	701	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown clayey silt. Rooting.	2.86	1.45	0.3
7	702	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay. Moderate stone inclusions.	2.86	1.45	0.16
7	703	Layer		Backfill	Mid brownish yellow silty clay/	2.86	1.45	0.28+
8	800	Layer		Modern	Mid pinkish red silty sand. Hard standing.	25	1.8	0.22
8	801	Layer		Backfill	Mid brownish grey yellow silty sand. Rare gravel and CBM inclusions.	25	1.8	0.3
9	900	Layer		Modern	Black tarmac.	4.2	0.62	0.2
9	901	Layer		Modern	Mid brownish yellow sand crushed stone hard standing.	4.2	0.62	0.23
9	902	Layer		Backfill	Mid greyish brown silty clay. Stone inclusions.	4.2	0.62	0.18
9	903	Cut		Modern	Linear cut. Vertical sides and a flat base.	4.2	0.62	0.47
9	904	Fill	903	Modern	Dark brownish grey silty sand. Stone and modern CBM inclusions.	4.2	0.62	0.47
*9	905	Layer		Natural	Mid greyish blue silty clay.	4.2	0.62	1.49
10	1000	Layer		Modern	Black tarmac.	1+	0.62	0.26
10	1001	Layer		Modern	Mid brownish yellow sand crushed stone hard standing.	1+	0.62	0.04
10	1002	Layer		Levelling	Dark blue silty clay.	1+	0.62	0.08
10	1003	Layer		Levelling	Brownish yellow sand with rubble and modern CBM inclusions.	1+	0.62	0.28
10	1004	Layer		Natural	Mid greyish blue silty clay.	1+	0.62	2+

11	1100	Layer		Modern	Black tarmac.	1+	0.71	0.15
11	1101	Layer		Modern	Mid brownish yellow sand crushed stone hard standing.	1+	0.71	0.31
11	1102	Layer		Levelling	Mid yellowish brown silty sandy clay. Rare stone inclusions.	1+	0.71	0.22
11	1103	Layer		Natural	Mid brownish yellow silty clay.	1+	0.71	0.19+
12	1200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brownish grey clayey silt.	1+	1+	0.3
12	1201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brownish yellow clay.	1+	1+	0.30+
13	1300	Layer		Made ground	Stone aggregate	0.7	7	
13	1301	Layer		Modern	Green silty clay. Modern CBM inclusions.	0.7	7	
13	1302	Layer		Natural	Light brownish yellow clay.	0.7	7	1.4+
14	1401	Layer		modern surface	made ground shingle and hard core crush	25.5	1.6	0.37
14	1402	Fill	1404	modern backfill	Green silty clay compact. Modern CBM inclusions.	4.7	1.6	1.08+
14	1403	Fill	1404	modern backfill	dark greenish brown silty clay	4.7	1.6	1,08
14	1404	Cut		cut of pit	gradual concave sides	4.7	1.6	1.08
14	1405	Layer		Natural	light greenish yellow silty clay compact	25+	1.6+	1.2+
14	1406	cut		Foundation cut	straight sides flat base not seen in plan	1.6	1.1	1.1
14	1407	fill	1406	backfill	dark greenish black silty clay compact	1.6	1.1	1.1
14	1408	Struct	1406	Wall lining for pit	rough hewn rectangular sandstone brash blocks	1.6	0.4	1.1

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Wiltshire College, Lackham Campus Agri-Centre Building,	
Short description	<p>An archaeological programme of monitoring and recording was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the development of the Agri-Centre Building at Wiltshire College, Lackham Campus Agri-Centre Building, Chippenham, Wiltshire.</p> <p>No features or deposits of archaeological interest predating the post-medieval period were observed during groundwork, and no artefacts pre-dating the post-medieval period were recovered. A number of post-medieval/modern soakaways, levelling deposits and a lime bonded sandstone wall were identified.</p>	
Project dates	4 December 2019 to 24 March 2020	
Project type	Programme of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording	
Previous work	<p>Cotswold Archaeology 2017 Lackham Campus, Wiltshire College, Lackham: Heritage Desk Based Assessment</p> <p>Cotswold Archaeology 2019 Lackham Campus, Wiltshire College, Lackham: Written Scheme of Investigation</p> <p>Cotswold Archaeology 2019a Lackham Campus, Wiltshire College, Lackham: Heritage Impact Assessment</p>	
Future work	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Lackham Campus, Wiltshire College, Chippenham, Wiltshire	
Study area (m ² /ha)	0.12ha	
Site co-ordinates	392352 170211	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Oliver Good	
Project Supervisor	Chris Ellis, Jeremy Clutterbuck, Adam Howard, Craig Joans and Pawel Jabolnski	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Wiltshire Museum	none
Paper	Wiltshire Museum	Context sheets, Trench sheets Photographic register
Digital	Wiltshire Museum	Database, digital photos survey data
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2020 <i>Wiltshire College, Lackham Campus Agri-Centre Building, Chippenham, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report CR0195_1		




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PROJECT TITLE
 Wiltshire College, Lackham, Wiltshire

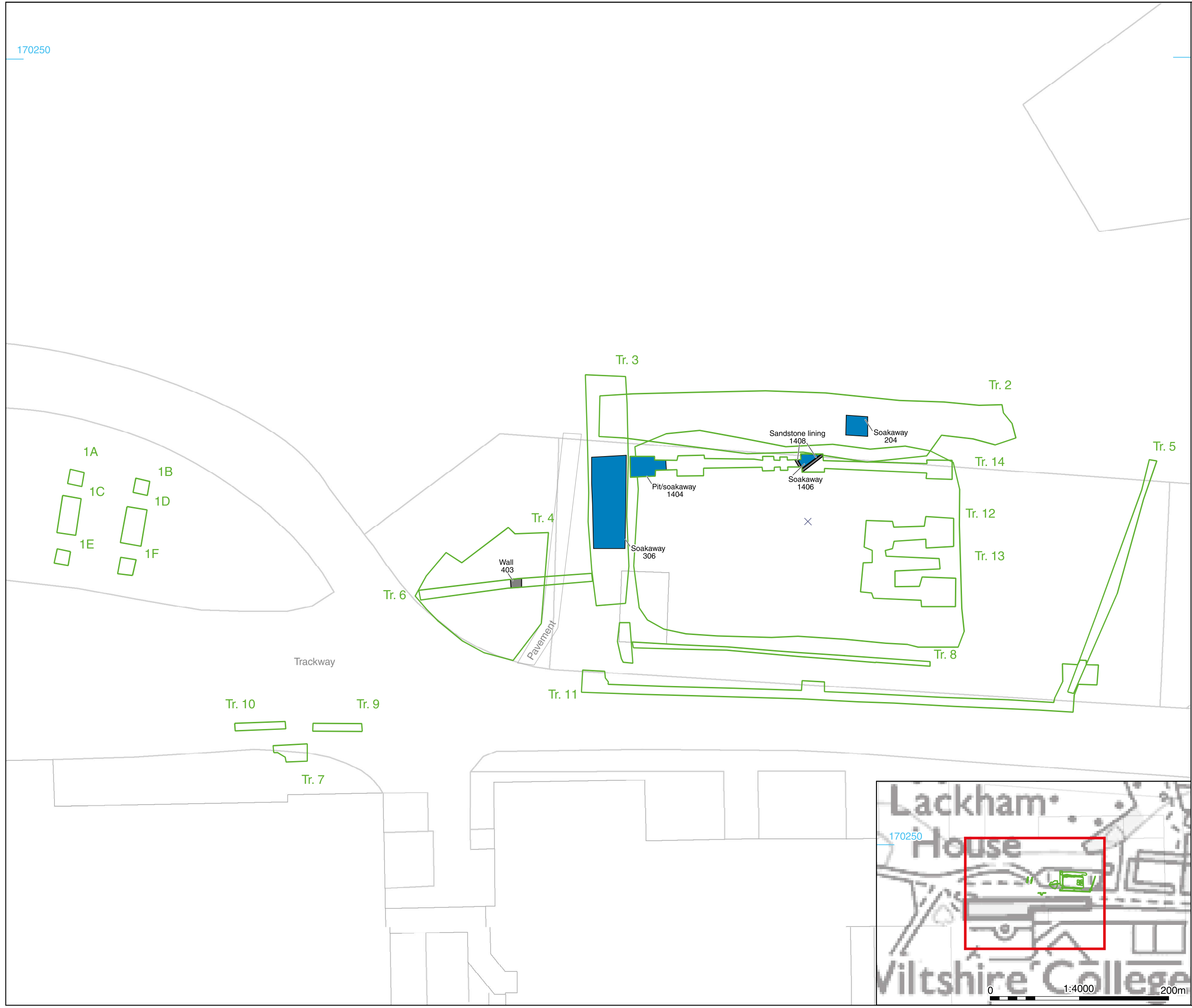
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 Site location plan

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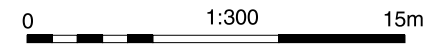
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- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Structure
- Soakaway



- 1A
- 1B
- 1C
- 1D
- 1E
- 1F

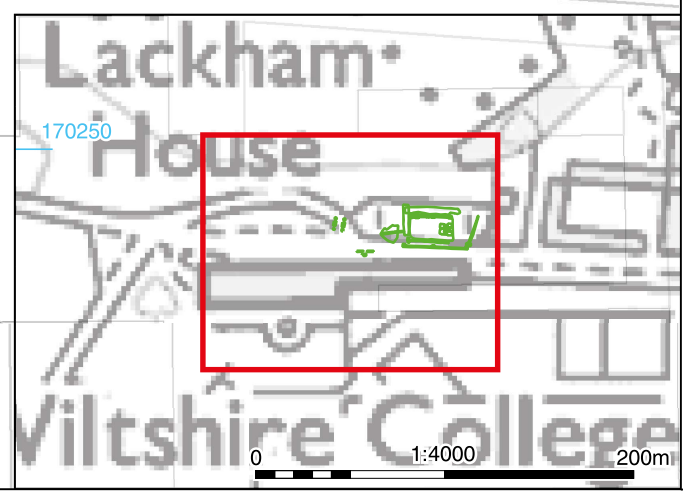


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PROJECT TITLE
Wiltshire College, Lackham, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan with insert



DRAWN BY	IW	PROJECT NO.	CR0195	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	31/03/20	2
APPROVED BY	AH	SCALE@A3	1:4000, 1:300	



Structure 204, looking south (1m scale)



Trench 2, looking east (1m scale)

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FIGURE TITLE
 Trench 2: Photographs

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APPROVED BY	AH	SCALE	@A3 NA	



Trench 3



Southern extent of soakaway 306



Wall 403, looking south (1m scale)



Trench 11, looking east (1m scales)


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FIGURE TITLE
Trench photographs

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APPROVED BY	AH	SCALE@A3	NA	



Trench 13, looking north-east



Structure 1408, looking north-east (1m scale)



Part of Pit 1404, looking north-east (1m scale)

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