

# Harnham Primary Schools Salisbury Wiltshire

## *Archaeological Watching Brief*



*on behalf of*  
Beard Construction

CA Project: 770865  
CA Report: 770865\_1

July 2019



# Harnham Primary Schools Salisbury Wiltshire

## Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 770865  
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A	19/03/19	Emily Troake	Adam Howard	Internal review	General Edit	Richard Greatorex

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## CONTENTS

SUMMARY .....	2
1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	4
3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	7
4. METHODOLOGY .....	7
5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3).....	8
6. DISCUSSION.....	8
7. CA PROJECT TEAM.....	9
8. REFERENCES.....	9
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS .....	11
APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM.....	12

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1	Site location plan (scale)
Figure 2	The site, showing location of groundworks (scale).
Figure 3	Photo of Trench 1 rep sec, Photo Area 4, Photo Trench 3 Area 4, Photo of west facing section Area 6



## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Harnham Primary Schools  
**Location:** Harnham Primary Schools, Salisbury, Wiltshire  
**NGR:** 413630 128830  
**Type:** Watching Brief  
**Date:** 6th February to 19th March 2019  
**Planning Reference:** (18/09691/FUL)  
**Location of Archive:** Wiltshire Heritage Museum  
**Site Code:** HAPS19

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the demolition of existing mobile classrooms and replacement with permanent classroom buildings at Harnham Schools.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefacts pre-dating the modern period were recovered.





## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In February and March 2019 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Beard Construction Limited at Harnham Primary Schools, Salisbury, Wiltshire centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 413630 128830 (see Figure 1).
- 1.2 The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent for the demolition of existing mobile classrooms and replacement with permanent classroom buildings (18/09691/FUL).
- 1.3 The watching brief was carried out in accordance a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2018) and approved by Wiltshire Council (WC) acting on the advice of the Assistant County Archaeologist for Wiltshire Council (ACAWC). The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014).

### ***The Site***

- 1.4 The Site is located within the suburb of West Harnham to the south of Salisbury. Situated to the south of the A3094 Harnham Road, the Site is bounded by a woodland belt along public footpaths to the south, by allotments to the west and to the north and east by residential development. The Site is occupied by the buildings associated with Harnham Infant School and Harnham Church of England Junior School, with associated playing fields, car parks and vegetation. The Site is situated approximately 230m to the south of the River Avon, on north-facing ground rising above the river valley at an elevation between approximately 55m and 65m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). To the south of the Site, the ground rises steeply to c. 100m aOD at Harnham Hill.
- 1.5 The underlying geology of the Site comprises bedrock of Newhaven Chalk Formation, sedimentary deposit laid down in the Cretaceous period, approximately 72 to 86 million years ago. To the north of the Site, the bedrock geology is overlain by superficial Quaternary Head deposits, comprising clay, silt, sand and gravel. There are no superficial deposits to the south of the Site (British Geological Survey 2018).

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The following background information for the site is based on a summary of the results provided in the Archaeological Desk Based Assessment for the site (CA 2018).
- 2.2 No Palaeolithic findspots are known with the immediate environs of the site, but within Salisbury and its wider surroundings, numerous Palaeolithic handaxes have been recovered in former gravel quarries within the Millford Hill area, to the east of the city. The Mesolithic activity is represented by a small number of findspots (Cave-Penney 2004).
- 2.3 Neolithic and Bronze Age activity within the Salisbury area is also represented largely by isolated findspots (Cave-Penney 2004); c. 390m to the north-east of the Site a Neolithic arrowhead was recovered, and a Bronze Age barbed and tanged arrowhead was discovered within the grounds of Harnham Junior School. Bronze Age barrows have recently been revealed and evaluated c. 1km to the west of the site, immediately east of the Cattle Market.
- 2.4 An Iron Age settlement was recorded at Harnham Hill, approximately 275m to the south of the Site. This site, comprising a Little Woodbury style settlement, was investigated in c. 1937 and was probably enclosed by a V-shaped ditch, with internal features including pits and ovens containing Iron Age pottery. Investigations off Bishop's Drive, approximately 220m south of the Site, revealed a ditch and pits which, although undated, could potentially be associated with the Iron Age settlement at Harnham Hill.
- 2.5 Evidence for Iron Age activity within the wider landscape of the Site is more readily visible, with the Iron Age settlement enclosures at Little Woodbury and Great Woodbury (designated as a Scheduled Monument), located approximately 940m to the south-east (Wessex Archaeology 2016).
- 2.6 There is no evidence of Romano-British activity in the immediate environs of the site with activity focusing further to the north at the Romano-British settlement of *Sorviodunum* (Old Sarum). This settlement developed at the convergence of four

Roman roads just to the east of Old Sarum, c. 3.8km to the north of the Site (Wiltshire County Archaeology Service 2005).

- 2.7 Evidence for early medieval (Saxon) activity within the study area is associated with funerary remains. A Saxon inhumation cemetery in 'Low Field' in Harnham, excavated in 1853 by Akerman, is recorded just to the south-east of the Site. Sixty-four graves were recorded and the burials, accompanied by a number of grave goods, including shield boss, knives, spearheads, beads etc., mostly date to the early 7th century AD. The full extent of the cemetery is not known, but the discovery of a female skeleton c. 300m to the east, together with a findspot of a girdle recorded just to the south of this burial, indicates the funerary activity may have extended north-eastwards, towards the settlement of East Harnham.
- 2.8 It should be noted that the Site is recorded within 'Low Field' on the Britford Tithe Map of 1840. Whilst it is not known whether the investigations of the cemetery extended into the Site, it cannot be ruled out that associated activity may be present at the Site.
- 2.9 In addition, it is possible that undated skeletons recorded to the north and north-west of the Site, are also associated with early medieval funerary practices, potentially suggesting a widespread funerary landscape during this period.
- 2.10 During the later medieval period, the Site was located within the south-western peripheries of the planned medieval town of New Sarum (Salisbury), founded in 1220, which extends to c. 460m north-east of the Site. The relocated city acknowledged pre-existing roads, and developed around the cathedral, comprising a grid street pattern, large rectangular market area and system of watercourses and partially completed ramparts.
- 2.11 The Site is located within the historic parish of Britford, which is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086. The settlements of West and East Harnham (c. 290m to the north-west and 600m to the east), are mentioned in the 12th and 13th centuries and the place-name Harnham is thought to have derived from a phrase meaning 'enclosure frequented by hares' (Wessex Archaeology 2016). Whilst the activity at East Harnham is likely to have been focused near the river crossing at Harnham Bridge (c. 650m to the north-east of the Site; Scheduled Monument), remains recorded during road widening included a possible 13th-14th century yard surface

and pit. Such remains indicate that East Harnham's medieval settlement activity extended further westwards from the indicative area of settlement c. 440m east of the Site (Cave-Penney 2004).

- 2.12 The extant Parsonage Farm, located c. 230m to the north, is thought to have medieval origins and a number of the buildings at the farm, including the 16th century farmhouse, are listed. Medieval features were also recorded as part of the Harnham Flood Defence Scheme, to the north of the study area.
- 2.13 There is no evidence for medieval activity recorded in the vicinity of the Site and it is considered that it would have been located within the agricultural hinterland of known settlements throughout the medieval period.
- 2.14 Throughout the post-medieval period, the Site continued to be located within the agricultural hinterland of Salisbury and the East and West Harnham settlements (Cave-Penney 2004).
- 2.15 This landscape is illustrated on the 1840 Tithe map of the Parish of Britford. The Site is shown within a large open field, divided into several strips. These are recorded in the accompanying Tithe Apportionment of 1839 as 'Low Field', an arable field owned by William Pleydell Bouverie, the Earl of Radnor, and farmed by Isaac Grey. The Site is recorded to have been surrounded by similar fields, with limited development on the outskirts of East Harnham to the east and along Harnham Road to the north.
- 2.16 There is no change recorded within the Site on the 1881 First Edition Ordnance Survey map (not illustrated). Within the surroundings of the Site, allotment gardens and a nursery appear to have been established in the late 19th century and these continue to be in use into the 20th century, as depicted on the 1901 Ordnance Survey map.
- 2.17 By the early 20th century, the Site appears to have been divided into narrow fields, which formed part of the nursery and are likely to have been subject to horticultural use. A farm track off Harnham Road is depicted across the centre of the Site. The early Ordnance Survey maps also illustrate former chalk quarry pits, established on higher ground to the south-west and south-east of the Site.

- 2.18 During the early 20th century, the suburb of East Harnham continued to grow (Cave-Penney 2004), with the Ordnance Survey maps of 1901 and 1925 depicting the progressing encroachment of residential properties into the former agricultural landscape within the surroundings of the Site. By 1925, the Site continued to have comprised largely undeveloped fields, although a single structure, likely associated with the nursery activities, is recorded in its north-west corner.
- 2.19 There is no change recorded within the Site until the 1960s, when the Harnham Schools were constructed (1964-1972 Ordnance Survey Plan). Later 20th century development at the Site is associated with the establishment and redevelopment of the school buildings (including construction of new buildings, extensions, play areas, car parks and associated landscaping).

### 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.

3.2 If significant archaeological remains were to be identified, reference was to be made to the *The Archaeology of Wiltshire's Towns: An Extensive Urban Survey – Salisbury*, Wiltshire County Archaeology Service so that the remains could, if possible, be placed within their local, regional and urban context.

### 4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2018). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundwork including the excavation of foundations and service trenches. Non-archaeologically significant deposits were

removed by the contractors under archaeological supervision. Where mechanical excavators were used, these were equipped with a toothless bucket (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 Andover. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the site archive will be deposited with Wiltshire Heritage 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 (FIGS 2-3)

- 5.1 The natural geological substrate consisting of White Chalk was revealed at in Areas 1, 2, 4 and 7 at an average depth of 1m below present ground level. This was overlain by degraded off white chalk and grey brown clay silt averaging 0.50m in thickness, which was in turn sealed by 0.28m of mid-grey/brown clay/silt. Area 6 consisted of a made ground in the north of the area which replaced the subsoil, whilst the north of Area 4 consisted of tarmac and modern made ground, replacing topsoil and subsoil in this area.
- 5.2 No archaeological features or deposits of interest were observed during groundwork operations and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefacts pre-dating the modern period were recovered.

## 6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see archaeological background above), the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. The absence of archaeological deposits may indicate that structural remains associated with the Iron Age and early medieval (Saxon) features identified in the vicinity either do not extend as far as the development footprint or were not exposed by the development, or that they may



have been removed during previous development when the school was originally built.

## 7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Steve Bush, Francesco Catanzaro and Emily Troake. The report was written by Emily Troake. The illustrations were prepared by Amy Write. The archive has been compiled by, and prepared for deposition by Richard Paxford. The project was managed for CA by Richard Greatorex.

## 8. REFERENCES

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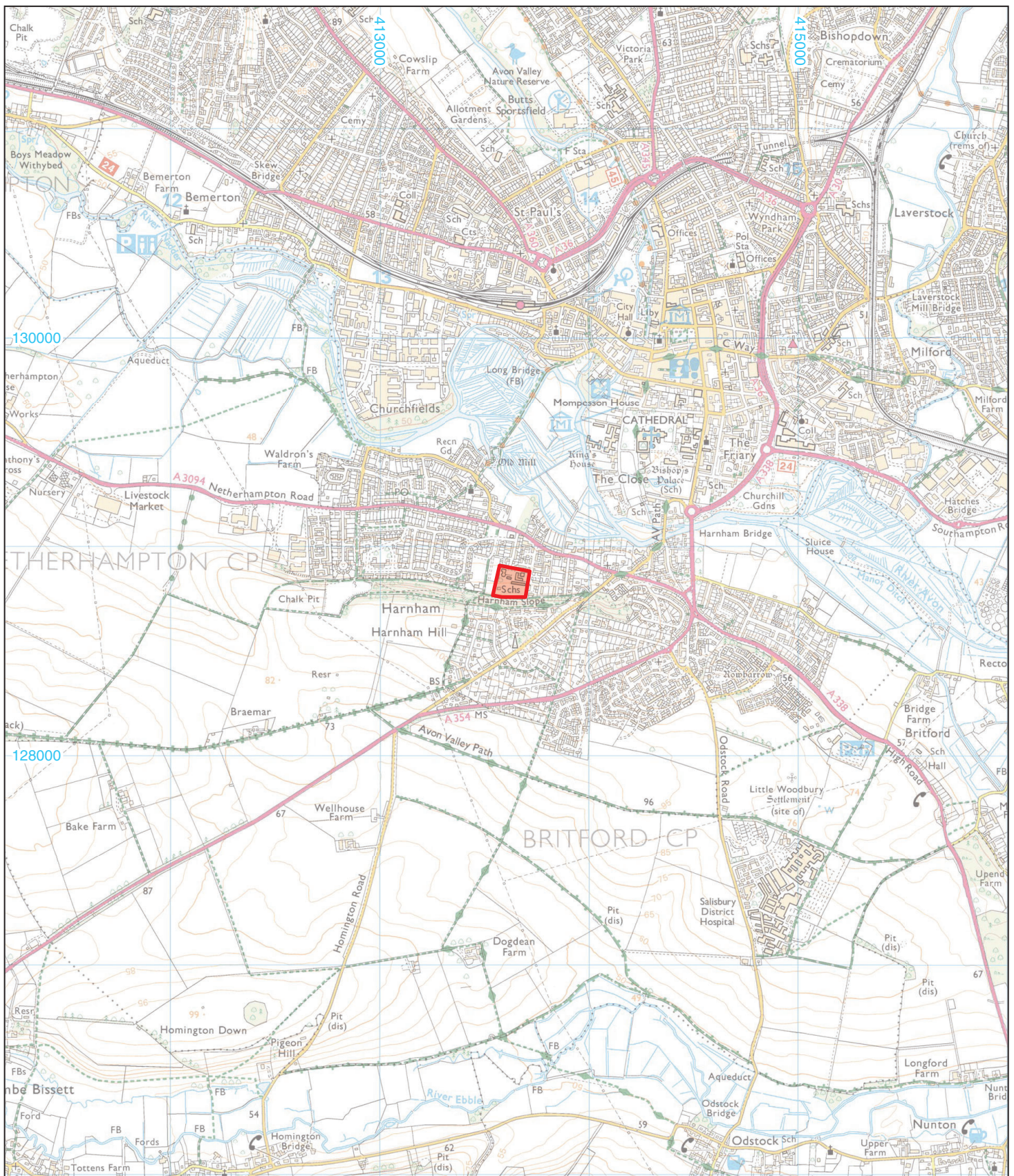
## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay silt with flint and chalk inclusions	3.3	2	0.44	1
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey brown clay silt with sub angular flint and chalk inclusions	3.3	2	0.31	1
1	102	Layer		Natural	Degraded and weathered chalk, light brown silty clay	3.3	2	>0.68	1
1	103	Layer		Natural	Solid white chalk with rare flint inclusions	3.3	2	>1.45	1
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay silt with flint and chalk inclusions	3.4	2.4	0.28	2
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey brown clay silt with sub angular flint and chalk inclusions	3.4	2.4	0.32	2
2	202	Layer		Natural	Degraded and weathered chalk, light brown silty clay	3.4	2.4	>0.85	2
2	203	Cut		Modern Service	Cut of modern service	>0.34	0.6	0.5	2
2	204	Fill	203	Modern Service	Modern backfill of service	>0.34	0.6	0.5	2
2	205	Layer		Natural	Solid white chalk with rare flint inclusions	3.4	2.4	>0.85	2
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown clay sand with rare sub rounded flint	3	1.5	0.25	3
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown clay sand with rare sub rounded flint and chalk	3	1.5	0.3	3
3	302	Layer		Natural	White degraded chalk with light grey brown clay silt	3	1.5	>0.16	3
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay silt with flint and chalk inclusions	22	5.6	0.2	4
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown grey clay silt with chalk and CBM inclusions	22	5.6	0.09	4
4	402	Layer		Natural	Degraded and weathered chalk, light brown silty clay	22	5.6	>0.81	4
4	403	Layer		Natural	Solid white chalk with rare flint inclusions	22	5.6	>1.1	4
4	404	Layer		Tarmac	Modern tarmac	22	12	0.11	4
4	405	Layer		Made ground	Modern made ground	22	12		4
4	406	Layer		Natural	Chalk with moderate flint inclusions	22	12		4
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown clay silt with CBM and chalk inclusions	5	0.4	0.1	5
5	501	Fill	502	Service trench	Cut of service trench	5	0.4	0.2	5
5	502	Cut		Fill of service trench	Modern backfill of trench	5	0.4	0.2	5
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay silt in places replaced with gravel	>15	>10	0.25	6
6	601	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown grey clay silt with degraded chalk inclusions	>15	>10	0.2	6
6	602	Layer		Made ground	Mid brown silty clay with common CBM and modern waste, sewage pipes and electric cables	>15	>10	>0.6	6
6	603	Layer		Natural	Degraded chalk, compact	>15	>10	>0.45	6

## APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Harnham Primary Schools, Salisbury, Wiltshire	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the demolition of existing mobile classrooms and replacement with permanent classroom buildings at Harnham Schools. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.	
Project dates	February – March 2019	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	Harnham Infants and Junior Schools Sliasbury DBA	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Harnham Primary Schools, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP2 8JZ	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)		
Site co-ordinates	NGR: 413630 128830	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	N/A	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Greatorex	
Project Supervisor	Steve Bush, Emily Troake, Francesco Catanzaro	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.) Wiltshire Heritage Museum	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc) Indicate the contents of each archive box
Physical		For example ceramics, animal bone etc
Paper		Context sheets, matrices etc
Digital		Database, digital photos etc
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2019 <i>Harnham Primary Schools, Salisbury: Archaeological Watching Brief</i>. CA typescript report 770865_1</p>		





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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Harnham Primary School, Salisbury,  
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**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan

0 1km

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**CHECKED BY** DJB      **DATE** 10.04.19  
**APPROVED BY** RG      **SCALE@A4** 1:25,000

**FIGURE NO.**

**1**





- Site boundary
- Evaluation area/trench
- Modern



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Harnham Primary School, Salisbury,  
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**FIGURE TITLE**  
 The site, showing location of  
 groundworks

<b>DRAWN BY</b> AW	<b>PROJECT NO.</b> 770865	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
<b>CHECKED BY</b> DJB	<b>DATE</b> 11.04.19	<b>2</b>
<b>APPROVED BY</b> RG	<b>SCALE@A3</b> 1:500	





Representative section of trench 1, looking east (1m scale)



Trench 3, looking south-west (2m scales)



Area 4, looking south-west (2m scales)



Representative section of area 6, looking east (1m scale)


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PROJECT TITLE  
**Harnham Primary School, Salisbury,  
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FIGURE TITLE  
**Photographs**

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CHECKED BY	<b>DJB</b>	DATE	<b>09.04.19</b>	<b>3</b>
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