

**FORMER PEMBROKE SCHOOL  
SALISBURY  
WILTSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

*For*

**BOVIS HOMES (SW) LTD**


CA PROJECT: 3215  
CA REPORT: 10167

SEPTEMBER 2010

PEMBROKE SCHOOL  
SALISBURY  
WILTSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CA PROJECT: 3125  
CA REPORT: 10167

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date	13 September 2010
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date	14 September 2010
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signed	
date	15 September 2010
issue	01

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## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Former Pembroke School  
**Location:** Salisbury, Wiltshire  
**NGR:** SU 1226 3104  
**Type:** Evaluation  
**Date:** 31 August to 3 September 2010  
**Location of Archive:** Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum  
**Site Code:** PSS 10

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in August and September 2010 at the former Pembroke School, Salisbury, Wiltshire. Seven trenches were excavated.

No archaeological features were present. Colluvial deposits, up to 1.7m in depth, were recorded in the central area of the site. In the southwest of the site, modern demolition rubble to 1.2m in depth concealed any potential archaeology.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In August and September 2010 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Bovis Homes (SW) Ltd at the former Pembroke School, Salisbury (centred on NGR: SU 1226 3104; Fig. 1). The evaluation was prior to determination of a planning application for residential development (Planning Ref: S/2010/173).
- 1.2 The current works were carried out following a request for archaeological evaluation by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, County Archaeologist, Wiltshire Council (WC) the archaeological advisor to Salisbury Council, and with a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2010) and approved by Clare King, Assistant County Archaeologist (WC). The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (2008), *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Wiltshire* (Wiltshire County Council 1995) and the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006). It was monitored by Clare King, including a site visit on 2 September 2010.

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The site lies to the north-west of the city of Salisbury and comprises the playing fields of the former school. To the north of the site lie the former school buildings, to the west and east the site is bound by domestic housing, and to the south by Pembroke Road. (Fig. 2).
- 1.4 The site was 0.8ha in size and was under unmaintained grass. It lies at approximately 62m AOD within a south draining, but dry coomb.
- 1.5 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as the Seaford Chalk Formation of the Cretaceous era (British Geological Survey 2005?). Superficial deposits of Head are mapped in the coomb, with River Terrace Deposits (Undifferentiated) immediately to east and Holocene Alluvium to the south in the

Nadder valley. During the current works natural deposits, comprising Head, were solely revealed in the eastern portion of the site.

### ***Archaeological background***

- 1.6 A Desk-Based Assessment has previously been carried out for this site (CA 2009). It is not proposed to repeat the findings of this report in its entirety, however a summary of the findings follows.
- 1.7 The assessment noted that no prehistoric finds have been recovered from within the site, however gravel extraction in the immediate area during the 19th century produced large concentrations of Palaeolithic finds including hand axes and flint working *debitage* (SMR SU12SW004) (*ibid.*).
- 1.8 To the east, c. 300m from the site, lies the route of the Roman road which ran in a northeast to southwest direction between Old Sarum (*Sorviodunum*) and Badbury Rings (*Vindocladia*) (NMR 1047606) (*ibid.*).
- 1.9 To the south of the site lies the medieval village of Bemerton. It is mentioned in the Domesday survey, but the settlement and areas of farming appear to have remained concentrated around the current extent of the village and along the River Nadder to the south (WSSMR SU13SW491) (*ibid.*).
- 1.10 In the 20th century the development area was used as a nursery with large greenhouses built on the northern part of the site and related structures built around these. This part of the site was further disturbed by the construction of the school and associated playgrounds. The southern half of the site was landscaped to some extent when the playing fields of the school were laid out (*ibid.*).
- 1.11 The site lies within an Area of Special Archaeological Significance as defined in the Salisbury District Local Plan, but this is a designation given to much of Salisbury District and does not relate to any specific archaeological potential within the site (*ibid.*).

### **Archaeological objectives**

- 1.12 The general objectives of the evaluation were to provide data on the date, character, quality, survival and extent of the archaeological deposits within the site in order that an informed decision on their importance in a local, regional or national context can be made. This information will assist the Salisbury Council in making an informed judgement on the significance of the archaeological resource, and the likely impact upon it of the proposed development.

### **Methodology**

- 1.13 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of seven trenches, each 30m long, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). The trenches were located to provide a general cover of the available area. One trench was moved slightly to avoid damage to a mature tree, two trenches were excavated in two portions due to the presence of an informal footpath and a further trench was shortened due to lack of space; all changes were made with the approval of Clare King.
- 1.14 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* (2007).
- 1.15 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* (2003) but no deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of Finds Immediately After Excavation* (1995).
- 1.16 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 artefacts will be deposited with Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum, along with the site archive. 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.

## 2. RESULTS (FIGS. 2-6)

- 2.1 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. Details of the heights of each end of the top of the trenches expressed as metres Above Ordnance Datum (m AOD) appear in Appendix A.
- 2.2 No archaeological features were present. Archaeological deposits, in the form of colluvium, were present in the centre of the site (see Fig. 2 for location and extent). To the west, modern deposits extended to a depth of at least 1.2m below present ground level (bpgl). Head, the superficial geological deposit, was present in the eastern 5m of trench 3, the whole of trench 4 and the eastern half of trench 5 (Figs. 2 and 4). It comprised three main components; small fragments of chalk and chalk powder with common flints, a dark brown silty clay with abundant fractured flints, and a pale brown silt with common chalk fragments and flints. There was a suggestion of periglacial stripping in the chalk, and within trench 5 it sealed flint gravel.
- 2.3 Colluvium was present in trenches 1, 2, 3 and 5, and generally became thicker to the west of the site. It was most closely inspected in trench 3, where two distinct layers were observed; an upper, paler deposit, 304, from which a sherd of late prehistoric pottery and a worked flint were recovered, and a lower, darker layer (305) from which 10 pieces of worked flint were retrieved. Within trenches 1, 3, and 5 the colluvium was cut by modern land drains.
- 2.4 To establish the colluvium's thickness a sondage was excavated at the west of trench 3 revealing silty gravel, possibly Head, at 2.8m bpgl. The sondage was backfilled immediately after rapid inspection.
- 2.5 In the southwest of the site, in trenches 2, 6, and 7, large quantities of modern building rubble were identified, typically to depths of over 1.2m bpgl. This rubble formed a broadly horizontal layer, and was overlain by a mixture of chalk and soil, typically 0.5m in thickness, which was in turn sealed by redeposited topsoil.



## ***The Finds***

- 2.6 Small quantities of artefactual material mainly comprising prehistoric worked flint were recovered from three deposits (Appendix B)

### *Worked Flint*

- 2.7 Worked flint amounting to 14 pieces was recovered. Almost all consist of waste flakes with no indications of having been utilised. Most are primary or secondary flakes (fully or partially cortical) with the surviving cortex and 'quality' of the flint indicating the use of local chalk-derived raw material. All is patinated.
- 2.8 A single retouched piece, possibly a side-scraper, was recovered from colluvium 305. The only indications of dating for this group are those based on technological observations; the irregular and squat-proportioned removals and absence of platform preparation are most consistent with dating across the later Neolithic and Bronze Age periods.

### *Pottery*

- 2.9 A single bodysherd in a handmade, fine, sandy fabric with traces of a reddish surface slip was recovered from colluvium deposit 304. The sherd is identifiable as from a carinated fineware vessel and the form, together with the red-surfaced fabric, suggest an Early Iron Age date (c. 8th to 4th centuries BC).

## **3. DISCUSSION**

- 3.1 A considerable quantity of colluvium was identified within the central area of the site and it is likely also to be present in the west, buried by late 20th century landscaping. Worked flint, broadly dated from the Neolithic to Bronze Age, and a sherd of possibly Early Iron Age pottery were recovered from within the colluvial deposits. The colluvium and the artefacts presumably originated from further up slope, and probably beyond the current site, but its presence is indicative of persistent ploughing, and possibly occupation in the area during the prehistoric period.

3.2 No archaeological features were observed cutting the colluvium nor, where seen, the natural Head deposits. The natural geology present in trench 4 is likely to have been truncated during landscaping for the playing field as steep terracing was apparent to the north and east of this trench. It seems likely that during this landscaping work the former nursery building were levelled, with chalk and soil being used to seal the remains along the western limit of the site

#### 4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken and the report written by Jamie Wright. The illustrations were prepared by Lorna Gray. The archive has been compiled by Jamie Wright, and prepared for deposition by Kathryn Price. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.

#### 5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2005 *Sheet 298 Salisbury, Bedrock and Superficial Deposits*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009 *Land at Bemerton School, Salisbury, Wiltshire: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* CA Report No. **09146**

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2010 *Pembroke School, Salisbury, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

## Trench 1

East 63.17m AOD, west 62.86m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
101	Layer	Grey silty loam. Topsoil			0-0.2	Modern
102	Layer	Chalk and silty soil. Roughly horizontal, thickened to W.			0.2-0.65	Modern
103	Layer	Dark brown silty loam. Former topsoil.			0.65-0.8	Late 20C
104	Layer	Brown silty loam with much flint gravel. Probable colluvium.			>0.95	
105	Drain	Modern land drain				
Trench machined in two halves to avoid footpath.						

## Trench 2

North 62.82m AOD, south 62.75m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
201	Layer	Topsoil			0-0.1	
202	Layer	Concrete blocks, iron etc			0.7-1.3	
203	Layer	Mix of chalk fragments and soil. Make-up layer			0.1-0.7	
204	Layer	Probable colluvium. Only present in base of trench.			>1.3	

## Trench 3

East 62.87m AOD, west 62.76m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
301	Layer	Topsoil			0-0.15	
302	Layer	Soil/chalk make-up layer.			0.15-0.65	
303	Layer	Truncated former topsoil.			0.65-0.7	Late 20C
304	Layer	Brown silt with much flint gravel. Upper colluvium.			0.7-1.1	
305	Layer	As 304 but dark brown. Lower colluvium.			1.1-2.8	
306	Layer	Fine chalk frags., dark brown clay with flints and gravelly silt. Probable Head			>2.8	
307	Drain	Modern land drain				
Trench shortened to avoid path and spoil from Trench 2						

## Trench 4

North 62.84m AOD, south 62.82m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
401	Layer	Topsoil			0-0.1	Modern
402	Layer	Fine chalk fragments overlying gravel, pale brown silt with chalk fragments and dark brown silty clay with angular flints. Head			>0.1	

## Trench 5

Northwest 62.57m AOD, southeast 62.74m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
501	Layer	Topsoil			0-0.1	Modern
502	Layer	Redeposited chalk.			0.1-0.95	Modern
503	Layer	Colluvium dipping to W. Not fully exposed.			0.95->1.2	
504	Layer	Head. Only in W of trench, dipping to W.				
505	Drain	Modern land drain				
Trench excavated in two halves to avoid path.						

## Trench 6

East 62.66m AOD, west 62.53m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
601	Layer	Topsoil			0-0.15	
602	Layer	Rubble containing masonry to 2m long			0.15-1.5	
603	Layer	Former topsoil..			>1.5	Late 20C

## Trench 7

Northeast 62.82m AOD, southwest 62.62m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
701	Layer	Topsoil			0-0.2	
702	Layer	Rubble			0.2->1	

**APPENDIX B: THE FINDS**

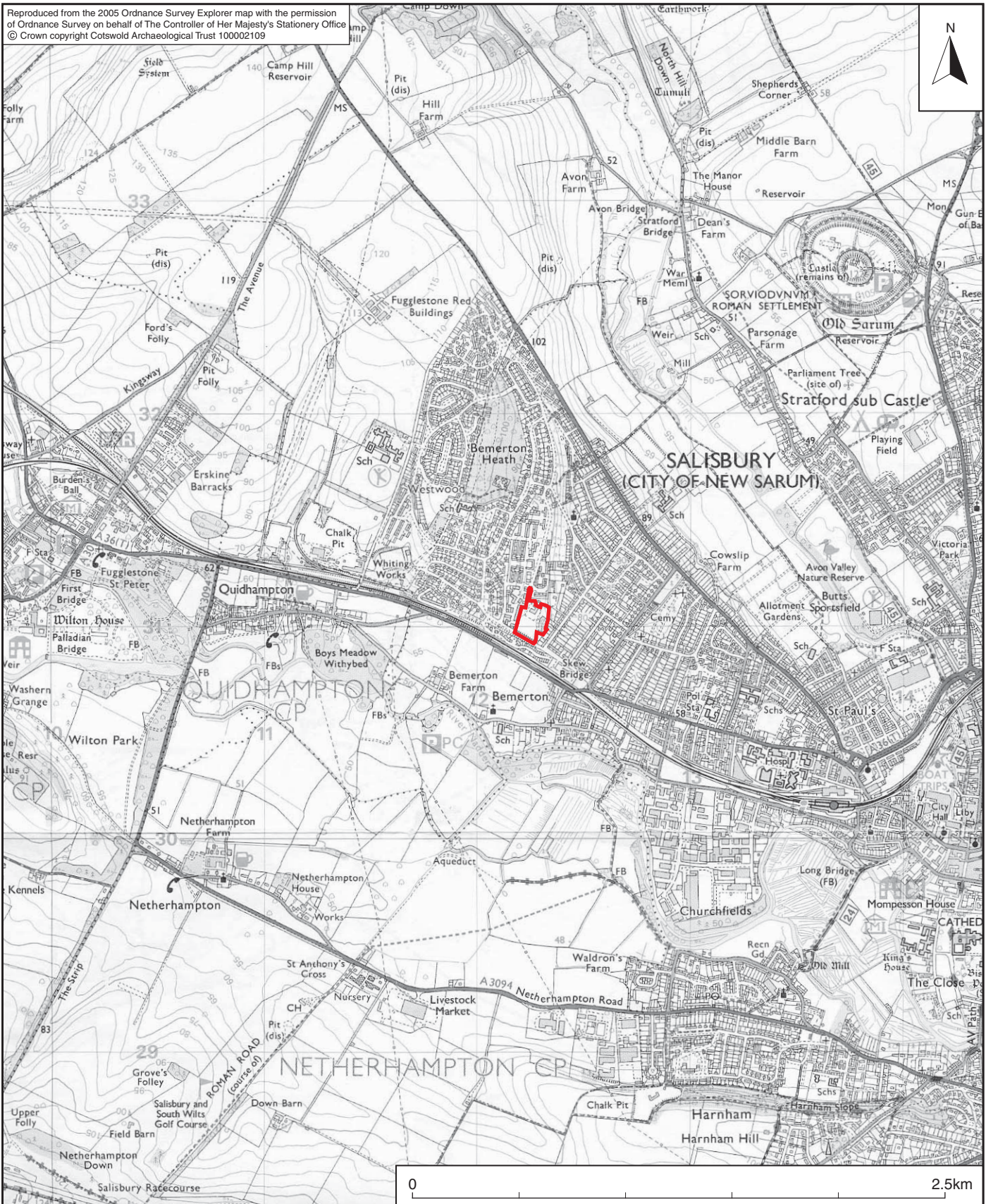
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Weight(g)</i>	<i>Spot-date</i>
201	Worked flint: flakes	3	108	-
304	Late-prehistoric pottery: fine sandy with red surface	1	6	-
	Worked flint: flake	1	7	-
305	Worked flint: flakes (8); broken flake (1); ?re-touched flake/side scraper (1)	10	161	-


## APPENDIX E: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Former Pembroke School, Salisbury, Wiltshire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in August and September 2010 at the former Pembroke School, Salisbury, Wiltshire. Seven trenches were excavated.</p> <p>No archaeological features were present. Colluvial deposits, up to 1.7m in depth, were recorded in the central area of the site. In the southwest of the site, modern demolition rubble to 1.2m in depth concealed any potential archaeology.</p>	
Project dates	31 August to 3 September 2010	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Evaluation	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	Desk Based Assessment: CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009 <i>Land at Bemerton School, Salisbury, Wiltshire: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment</i> CA Report No. <b>09146</b>	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Pembroke School, Penraddock Close, Salisbury	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	0.8ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SU 1226 3104	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Wiltshire Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Jamie Wright	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>	Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum	
Physical	Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum	Worked flint and pottery sherd
Paper	Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum	Trench sheets and Photographic Records
Digital	Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum	Survey data, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2010 <i>Pembroke School, Salisbury, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report <b>10167</b>		

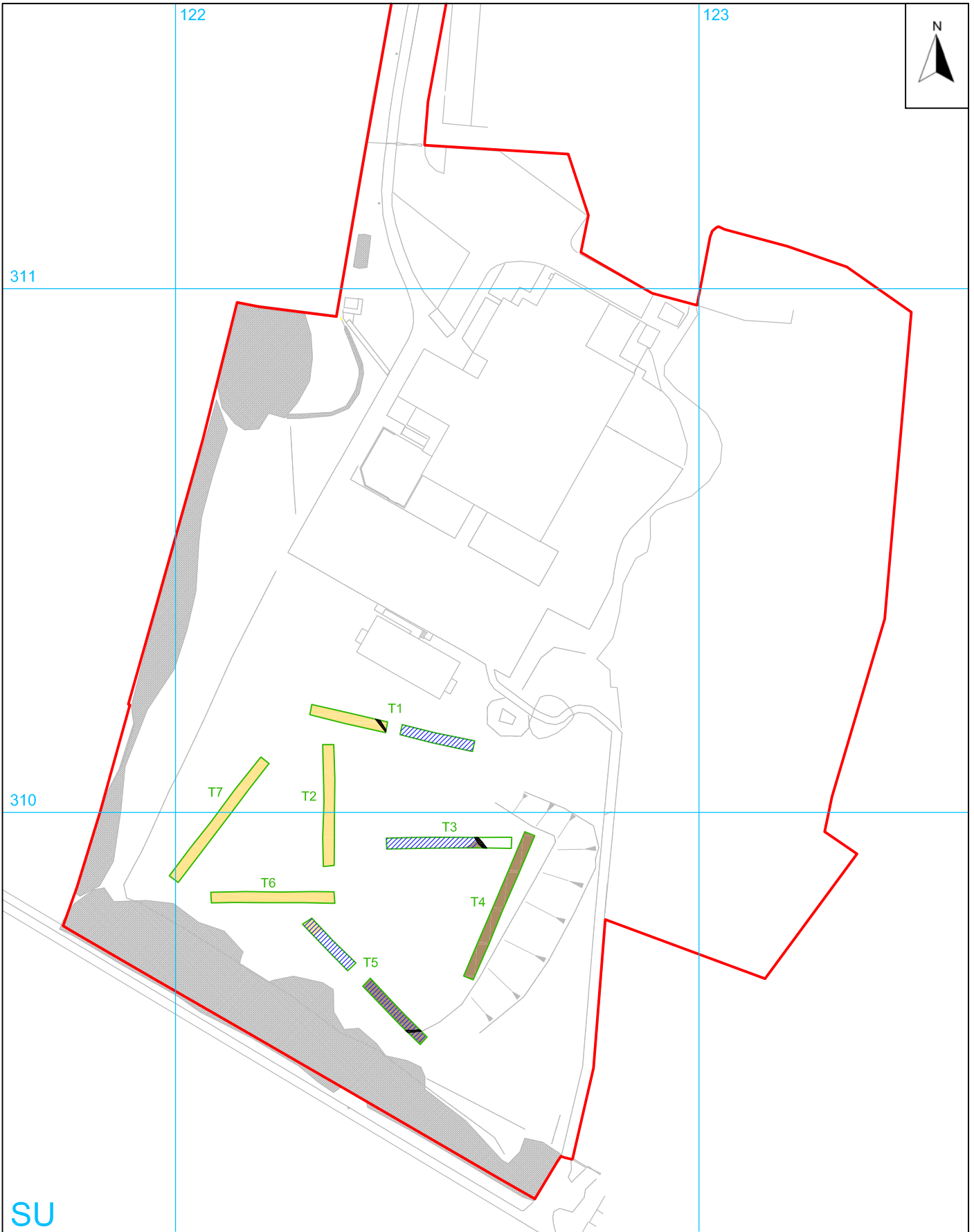


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 <b>COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY</b>			
<b>PROJECT TITLE</b> Former Pembroke School, Salisbury Wiltshire			
<b>FIGURE TITLE</b> <b>Site location plan</b>			
<b>DRAWN BY</b>	<b>SCALE</b>	<b>PROJECT NO.</b>	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
LG	1:25,000@A4	3215	<b>1</b>





SU

- site
- evaluation trench
- modern feature
- natural
- Colluvium
- rubble/make-up



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

Former Pembroke School, Salisbury  
Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

**Trench location plan, showing  
identified deposits**

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1:1000@A4

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FIGURE NO.

**2**





3

3 Trench 1, looking west. Scale 1m



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PROJECT TITLE

Former Pembroke School, Salisbury  
Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

**Photograph**

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FIGURE NO.

**3**



4

4 Trench 4, looking north. Scale 1m



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PROJECT TITLE

Former Pembroke School, Salisbury  
Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

**Photograph**

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n/a

PROJECT NO.

3215

FIGURE NO.

**4**





5



6

5 Trench 2, section. Scale 1m

6 Trench 7, looking south-west. Scale 1m



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PROJECT TITLE

Former Pembroke School, Salisbury  
Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

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PROJECT NO.

3215

FIGURE NO.

5 & 6