

**THE WALLED GARDEN
THE OLD RECTORY
CLAVERTON
BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

For

MR S. AND MRS P. GREEN

CA PROJECT: 2832
CA REPORT: 09066

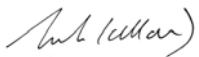
APRIL 2009



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date	21 April 2009
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signed	
date	27 April 2009
issue	01

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SUMMARY

Project Name: The Walled Garden, The Old Rectory
Location: Claverton, Bath and North East Somerset
NGR: ST 7882 6408
Type: Evaluation
Date: 2-3 April 2009
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Roman Baths Museum, Bath
Site Code: ORC 09

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in April 2009 at the request of Mr S. and Mrs P. Green at The Walled Garden, The Old Rectory, Claverton, Bath and North East Somerset. Three trenches were excavated.

No archaeological features or deposits predating the post-medieval period were found. The earliest activity encountered was evidence of quarrying of outcropping limestone in the north-eastern corner of the site. Excavations at the western end of the garden showed that there had been extensive remodelling of the ground surface in the post medieval/ modern period. The rubble and earth imported for this purpose contained sherds of Roman and medieval pottery. Evidence was also found for a glasshouse seen on 19th-century Tithe and Ordnance Survey maps.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In April 2009 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Mr S. and Mrs P. Green at The Walled Garden, The Old Rectory, Claverton, Bath and North East Somerset (centred on NGR: ST 7882 6408; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application for the redevelopment of the site.

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2009) and approved by Richard Sermon, Archaeological Officer, Bath and North East Somerset Council (BANESC). The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (2008) and the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991).

The site

1.3 The site comprises the Walled Garden, the ground surface of which is terraced. The highest terrace is at the southern end of the garden, lying at 74.75m AOD. The middle terrace, once a tennis court, lies at 71.46m AOD. The third and lowest terrace at the northern end of the garden which holds a disused pond, swimming pool and pool house lies at 69.96m AOD. Along the southern edge of the garden lies an earthen ramp joining the three terraces (Fig. 2).

1.4 The walls enclose an area of approximately 0.3ha and the land is currently used as a garden.

1.5 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Great Oolite Limestone of the Middle Jurassic era (BGS 1990). Weathered limestone was encountered during excavation.

Archaeological background

1.6 The walls that enclose the former kitchen garden of the Old Rectory are Grade II listed (Ref. 7/51 ST 76 SE; Images of England number 399481). A Historic Building Report prepared by McLaughlin Ross Ilp (2008) details the known history of the walled garden. This report notes that although the English Heritage listing records the walls of the garden as being of 17th-century date, they are not positively

recorded until they appear on an estate map of 1760 (ibid. 9). This map suggests the garden contained rows of shrubs or trees running north/south. In the 19th century the garden was divided into rectangular plots (strongly suggesting a kitchen garden) and a number of glasshouses and a circular pond were built in the north-eastern quarter of the garden. By 1904 the far northern glasshouse had become a shed. By 1970 only this shed (now recorded as brick) and a single glasshouse remained (ibid. 20). In the 1970s a swimming pool was inserted into the north-eastern corner and the brick shed used as a store. A tennis court was also present at this time. By 2003 the garden had become derelict with the swimming pool unusable (ibid. 21).

- 1.7 The Claverton Conservation Area Character Appraisal notes that Claverton is Saxon in origin (Bath and North East Somerset Planning Services 2007, 6). It is thought that a manor house building or religious court for use by the bishops of Bath and Wells was in existence from the 13th century. The exact site is not known, although it was thought in 1928 to be located to the south of the church (ibid.) and therefore possibly within the area now occupied by the walled garden.

Archaeological objectives

- 1.8 The objectives of the evaluation were to establish the character, quality, date and extent of any archaeological remains or deposits surviving within the site. This information will assist BANESC in making an informed judgement on the significance of the archaeological resource, and the likely impact upon it of the proposed development.

Methodology

- 1.9 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 3 trenches measuring 30m by 1.6m. However, trench 3 was reduced in length to 3.4m by 1.6m due to the presence of live services and garden structures along the rest of its length.
- 1.10 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).

- 1.11 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), however, 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).
- 1.12 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. The artefacts will be retained by the legal landowner and the archive will be deposited with Roman Baths Museum, Bath. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix E, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS

- 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 respectively.

Trench 1

- 2.2 The earliest deposit encountered was the light yellow natural geology. At the northern end this was encountered at 0.3m below present ground level (bpgl) and at the southern end at 1.5m bpgl, reflecting the steeply sloping underlying topography. Sealing this was a number of make-up layers. This comprised several large dumps of rubble (Fig. 2) including 106 and 107 as well as sandy clays and topsoil. Residual Roman and medieval pottery were found in all rubble deposits. As this incidence is isolated within these areas it is evident that these deposits have been imported from elsewhere and deliberately used to raise the natural level of the ground.

Trench 2

- 2.3 Trench 2 revealed a more consistent depth of made ground. The natural geology was reached at 1.46m at the north-eastern end of the trench and at 1m at the south-western end of the trench. As with trench 1 the natural geology was sealed by a number of redeposited layers making up the modern ground surface. At the north-eastern end of the trench the foundations of wall 207 were encountered aligned north-east/south-west, consisting of roughly hewn limestone within a pale brown crumbly mortar matrix. Lying parallel and to the south-east was red brick wall 209. This was stretcher-built with gaps between each adjacent brick in a style likely to aid

drainage or ventilation. Lying parallel south-east of 209 was 213, a similarly constructed wall. Wall footings 217, constructed from roughly-hewn limestone lay south-east of 213. Between each of these structures lay clean, loose garden soil deposits. Lying south-east of 217 and at the level of the top of the foundations previously described was deposit 205, a thin layer of compacted rubble lying north-east/south-west across the trench. Deposit 204 consisting of compacted limestone rubble lay south-east of 205. Structures 207, 209, 213 and 217 have been interpreted as relating to the glasshouse which was known to have been in this location (see, Fig.3), with certainly 207 and possibly 217 being related to load bearing walls and 209 and 213 relating to internal structures within the glass house. Deposits 204 and 205 are thought to be paths possibly contemporary with the glasshouse due to their height in relation to the foundations and their alignment which is the same as the walls.

Trench 3

- 2.4 Trench 3 was reduced in length due to the presence of live services and substantial garden structures. The natural geology 305 and 306, a light yellow brown silty clay and limestone bedrock respectively was reached at a depth of 1.9m. Through the natural geology the irregular cut 307 was visible filled by deposit 304, a mid to dark yellow brown silty clay containing common limestone fragments. This feature had all the appearance of a quarry cut backfilled by the resulting debris. The feature was sealed by a number dumped rubble and topsoil layers making up the modern ground level.

The Finds Evidence

- 2.5 Quantities of pottery, ceramic building material, clay tobacco pipe, glass, clinker, animal bone and metalwork were recovered from 10 deposits (Appendix B).
- 2.6 Modern and post-medieval pottery (22 sherds, weighing 246g) was recovered from five garden soil layers. Pottery types present consist of china, yellow slipware and unglazed flowerpot type earthenwares.
- 2.7 One sherd of medieval pottery (6g) was recovered from rubble deposit 110 and consists of a bodysherd in an unglazed limestone tempered cooking pot type fabric. Pottery of this type typically dates to the 11th to 13th centuries.

- 2.8 Roman pottery (42 sherds, 464g) was recovered from six deposits, mostly rubble deposits. Pottery types present consist of Central Gaulish Black Slipped ware, Dorset Black Burnished ware, Oxfordshire Red Slipped ware, Savernake ware, Gaulish samian, a miscellaneous oxidised, a micaceous greyware, a white-slipped flagon fabric, a wheel-thrown burnished black-sandy fabric and a whiteware. Some material, in particular the Savernake sherd in rubble deposit 106, is moderately abraded, suggesting a degree of residuality. The pottery types present demonstrate a range of dates within the Roman period: a base ring sherd from a samian cup (form Dragendorff 27) and a Savernake storage jar sherd, both from rubble deposit 106 date before c. AD 150; a Central Gaulish beaker sherd from rubble deposit 107 dates c. AD 160 – 230; and a Black-Burnished ware jar sherd from deposit 107 and an Oxford red slipped ware bowl sherd from deposit 110 date to the later 3rd or 4th centuries AD.
- 2.9 A small amount of ceramic building material (15 fragments, 294g) was recovered from four deposits (garden soils & rubble deposits). Of this material, six fragments (30g) were Roman in date and consisted of unfeatured fragments for which no form could be identified. The remaining ceramic building material consisted of modern brick and tile fragments.
- 2.10 Material of a modern date is not of archaeological significance (deposits 101, 220-222) and has not been retained.
- 2.11 Animal bone was recovered from five deposits, largely layers and dumps. The assemblage comprised bones identified as cattle, sheep, sheep/goat and pig. More fragmented material was classified as cow-sized and sheep-sized. Evidence of butchery was noted in animal bones from deposits 110 and 106, gnawing by dogs in deposit 222 and root etching in deposit 110. The animal bone from deposit 101 is clearly redeposited and can be discarded.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Excavations within The Walled Garden revealed different phases of land use and remodelling although no features were found predating the post-medieval period. The earliest phase found is the evidence of quarrying in trench 3 which must predate the 1760 estate map. This shows the garden filled by neat rows of plants. From this

time onwards the garden is regularly mapped and no evidence of quarrying is ever demonstrated. It is thought that by 1760 with the land in use as a productive garden that the steep natural topography had probably been terraced (McLaughlin Ross 2008). Trench 1, in the west of the garden revealed extensive remodelling of the natural ground level which had been raised by 1.5m. It is clear that this had been achieved by bringing in rubble and topsoil from elsewhere. The Roman pottery sherds found within these deposits make Bath a possible origin. Evidence for use of the garden in the 19th century was found in trench 2 which located the foundations of a building which match with a structure seen on the 1855 Tithe map and the 1889 OS map. In the 1855 Tithe map references are made to structures within the garden consisting of 'a Pine [Pineapple] House etc...' and in the in the 1869 advertisement for the sale of Claverton house a 'Hot-house [and] Peach-houses' are said to lie within the garden (McLaughlin Ross 2008). The final phase of use in the garden dating from the last century is the clearest, the levelling of the middle terrace to form a tennis court and the insertion of a swimming pool and pool house in the north-eastern corner of the garden.

- 3.2 The results of the evaluation demonstrated conclusively that investigation by trial trenching, in conjunction with the previous *Historic Building Report*, was the most appropriate method of field investigation to determine the potential of the site. Geophysical survey (resistivity or magnetometry) would not have been of use due to the extent and depths of redeposited rubble and other make-up deposits encountered, and the terracing of the site, as well as the remains of the previous hothouse buildings and the live services, all of which would have affected severely the effectiveness or reliability of such surveys.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Philippa Mitcheson, assisted by Andrew Donald and Caroline Butler. The report was written and the archive compiled by Philippa Mitcheson. The Finds report was written by Teresa Gilmore. The illustrations were prepared by Lorna Gray and the archive prepared for deposition by Kathryn Price. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1990 *Geological Survey of England and Wales, Sheet 265, Bath, Scale 1:50,000*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009 *The Walled Garden, The Old Rectory, Claverton, Bath: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

McLaughlin Ross llp 2008 *Historic Building Report on The Walled Garden of The Old Rectory, Claverton, Bath*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**Trench 1 NW: 74.748m AOD SE:74.528m AOD**

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Turf and topsoil: Dark brown silty clay			0.25	
101	Deposit	Redeposited dark brown garden soil with common limestone fragments and stones			1.1	C19-20
102	Deposit	Pale yellow clayey sand with common limestone fragments		0.28	0.05	
103	Void					
104	Deposit	Dark grey silty clay with common charcoal flecks and limestone fragments		0.45	0.07	
105	Void					
106	Deposit	Limestone rubble in a dark brown grey clay silt matrix		3.16	0.5	C2
107	Deposit	Limestone rubble in a dark brown grey clay silt matrix		1.5	0.4	LC3-C4
108	Deposit	Light yellow grey clayey sand with frequent limestone fragments		0.28	0.06	RB
109	Void					
110	Deposit	Dark orange brown clay silt with common limestone fragments		0.6	0.07	C11-C13
111	Void					
112	Layer	Natural geology: Light yellow brown silty clay with weathered limestone outcrops				

Trench 2 N: 71.46m AOD S: 71.41m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
200	Layer	Turf and topsoil: Dark brown grey clay silt			0.3	
201	Deposit	Make up: Rubble within a dark brown grey clay silt matrix			0.64	
202	Deposit	Dark grey clay silt garden soil			0.2	
203	Deposit	Mid brown clay silt			0.7	C17-C18
204	Deposit	Pathway: Rubble within a mid grey yellow sandy matrix		2.22	0.16	
205	Deposit	Pathway?: Mid brown yellow silty clay		1.4	0.18	
206	Deposit	Tumble relating to 207		0.9	0.7	
207	Structure	Foundations: Roughly hewn limestone in a pale brown mortar matrix		0.5	0.7	
208	Cut	Construction cut for 207 E/W				
209	Structure	Structure number including 210 and 211				
210	Structure	Red brick latticed wall		0.1	0.6	
211	Structure	Foundations for 210: Roughly hewn limestone		0.3	0.1	
212	Cut	Construction cut for 209 E/W		0.3		
213	Structure	Structure number for 214 and 215		0.3	0.6	
214	Structure	Foundations for 215		0.3	0.1	
215	Structure	Red brick latticed wall		0.1	0.6	
216	Cut	Construction cut for 213 E/W		0.3		
217	Structure	Foundations: Roughly hewn limestone in a pale brown mortar matrix		0.5	0.5	
218	Fill	F/O 219: Backfill of construction cut for wall 217		0.04		
219	Cut	Construction cut for 217		0.28		

220	Deposit	Mid brown clay silt, possibly garden soil layer within glass house		0.5	0.75	C19-C20
221	Deposit	Mid brown clay silt, backfill/ levelling within glasshouse		1.76	0.64	C19-C20
222	Deposit	Mid yellow brown clay silt		0.6	0.64	C19-C20
223	Layer	Natural geology: Light yellow brown silty clay with weathered limestone outcrops				

Trench 3 N: 69.960m AOD S: 69.845m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
300	Layer	Turf and topsoil: Dark brown friable silty clay			0.3	
301	Deposit	Make up: Limestone fragments within a dark brown silty clay matrix			0.5	
302	Deposit	Make up: Limestone fragments within a dark yellow brown clay matrix			0.5	
303	Deposit	Make up/ original ground level?: Dark brown silty clay with common limestone fragments			0.3	
304	Deposit	F/O 307 Quarrying backfill: Dark yellow brown clay with very common limestone fragments			1.12	
305	Layer	Natural geology: Light yellow brown silty clay with weathered limestone outcrops				
306	Layer	Natural geology: Limestone bedrock				
307	Cut	Quarry cut				

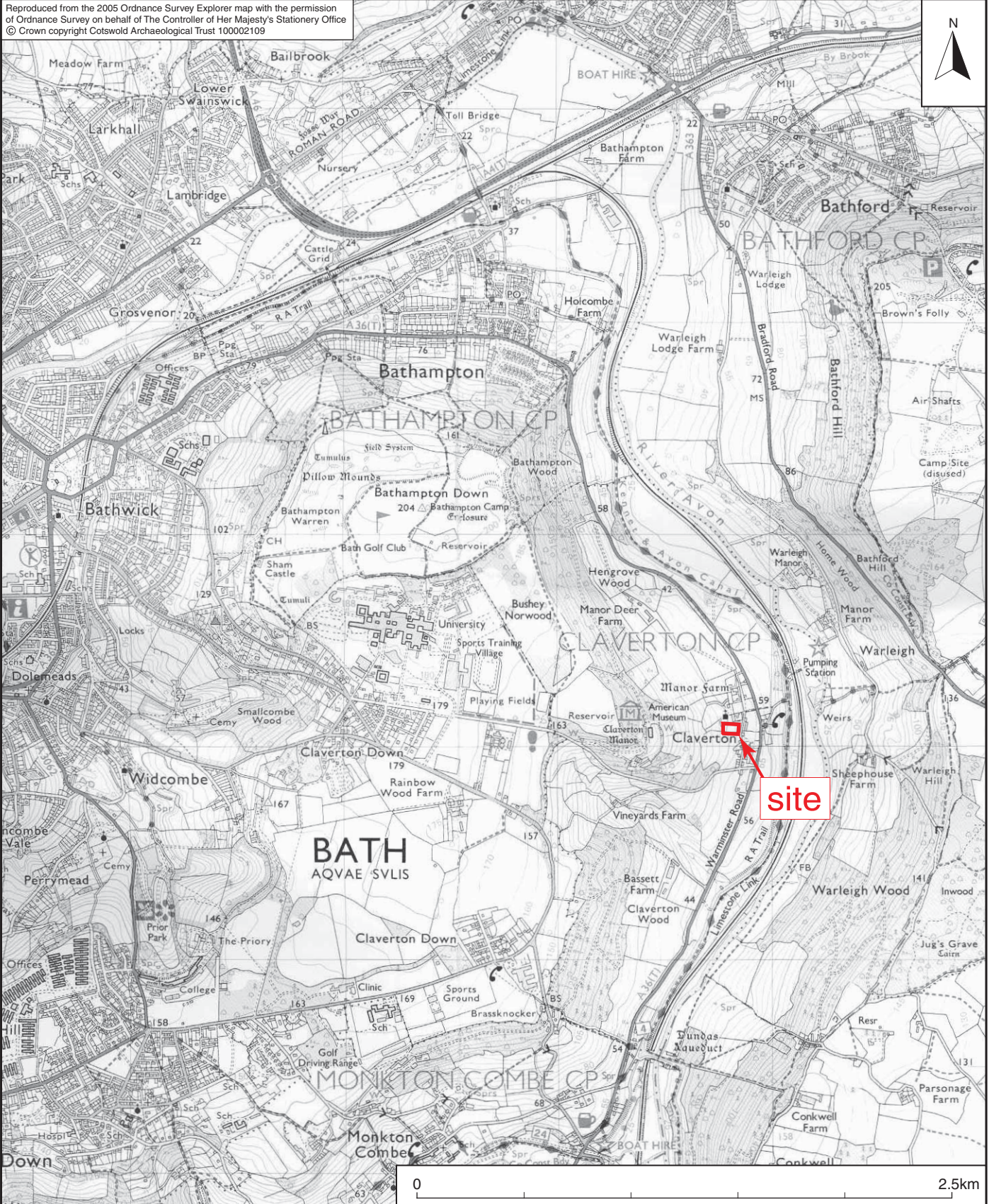
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS


Context	Artefact type	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
101*	Modern pottery: hand painted china, white china Post-medieval pottery: misc glazed earthenware, flowerpot Roman pottery: misc oxidised Modern CBM: tile, misc Clay tobacco pipe: stem Iron nail Modern glass: window Clinker Animal bone; sheep, cow-sized	2 12 8 5 2 1 1 1 1 4	10 160 60 108 6 1 1 1 1 42	C19-C20
104	Animal bone; pig, cow-sized	2	26	-
106	Roman pottery: Savernake, black sandy, Dorset Black Burnished, samian, amphora, misc oxidised Roman cbm: misc Animal bone; cattle, pg, sheep/goat, cow-sized, sheep-sized	20 5 27	160 22 134	C2
107	Roman pottery: Dorset Black Burnished, micaceous greyware, Central Gaulish Black-Slipped	11	110	LC3-C4
108	Roman pottery: whiteware	1	4	RB
110	Roman pottery: Oxfordshire red-slipped ware Medieval pottery: limestone tempered Animal bone; cow-sized	1 1 2	26 6 14	C11-C13
203	Post-medieval pottery: yellow slipware Modern glass: window	1 1	2 1	C17-C18
220*	Modern pottery: hand painted china	1	40	C19-C20
221*	Modern pottery: china, flowerpot Modern CBM: tile Modern glass: window Coal	3 4 1 1	20 156 1 4	C19-C20
222	Modern pottery: flowerpot type earthenwares Roman pottery: white slipped flagon fabric Roman cbm: misc Animal bone; sheep/goat	3 1 1 1	14 104 8 6	C19-C20

*discarded

APPENDIX E: OASIS REPORT FORM

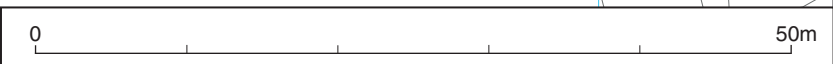
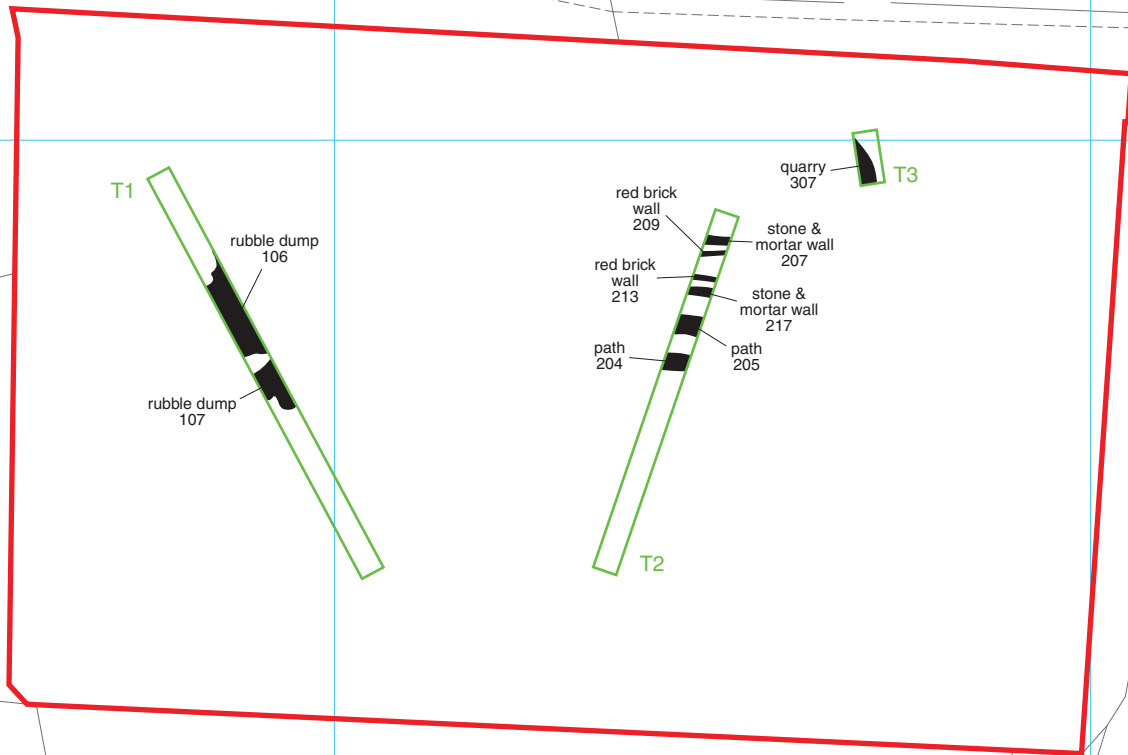
PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	The Walled Garden, The Old Rectory, Claverton, Bath and North East Somerset	
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in April 2009 at the request of Mr S. and Mrs P. Green at The Walled Garden, The Old Rectory, Claverton, Bath and North East Somerset. Three trenches were excavated. No archaeological features or deposits predating the post-medieval period were found. The earliest activity encountered was evidence of quarrying of outcropping limestone in the north-eastern corner of the site. Excavations at the western end of the garden showed that there had been extensive remodelling of the ground surface in the post medieval/ modern period. The rubble and earth imported for this purpose contained sherds of Roman and medieval pottery. Evidence was also found for a glasshouse seen on 19th-century Tithe and Ordnance Survey maps.	
Project dates	2-3 April 2009	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	McLaughlin Ross Iip 2008 <i>Historic Building Report on The Walled Garden of The Old Rectory, Claverton, Bath</i> Western Building Consultants LTD 2009 <i>Condition Survey: Walled Garden Boundary Wall, The Old Rectory, Claverton, Bath</i>	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	The Walled Garden, The Old Rectory, Claverton, Bath and North East Somerset	
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.3ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	ST 7882 6408	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Bath and North East Somerset Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Philippa Mitcheson	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Roman Baths Museum, Bath	Pottery, stone, bone, glass
Paper	Roman Baths Museum, Bath	Trench sheets, context sheets, permatrace drawings, photographic and levels register, WSI, site photographs
Digital	Roman Baths Museum, Bath	Site photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009 <i>The Walled Garden, The Old Rectory, Claverton, Bath: Archaeological Evaluation</i> CA report no. 09066		



 COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY			
PROJECT TITLE The Walled Garden, The Old Rectory Claverton, Bath & North East Somerset			
FIGURE TITLE Site location plan			
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The Vinery



- site
- evaluation trench
- archaeological feature



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

The Walled Garden, The Old Rectory
 Claverton, Bath & North East Somerset

FIGURE TITLE

**Trench location plan, showing
 archaeological features**

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SCALE

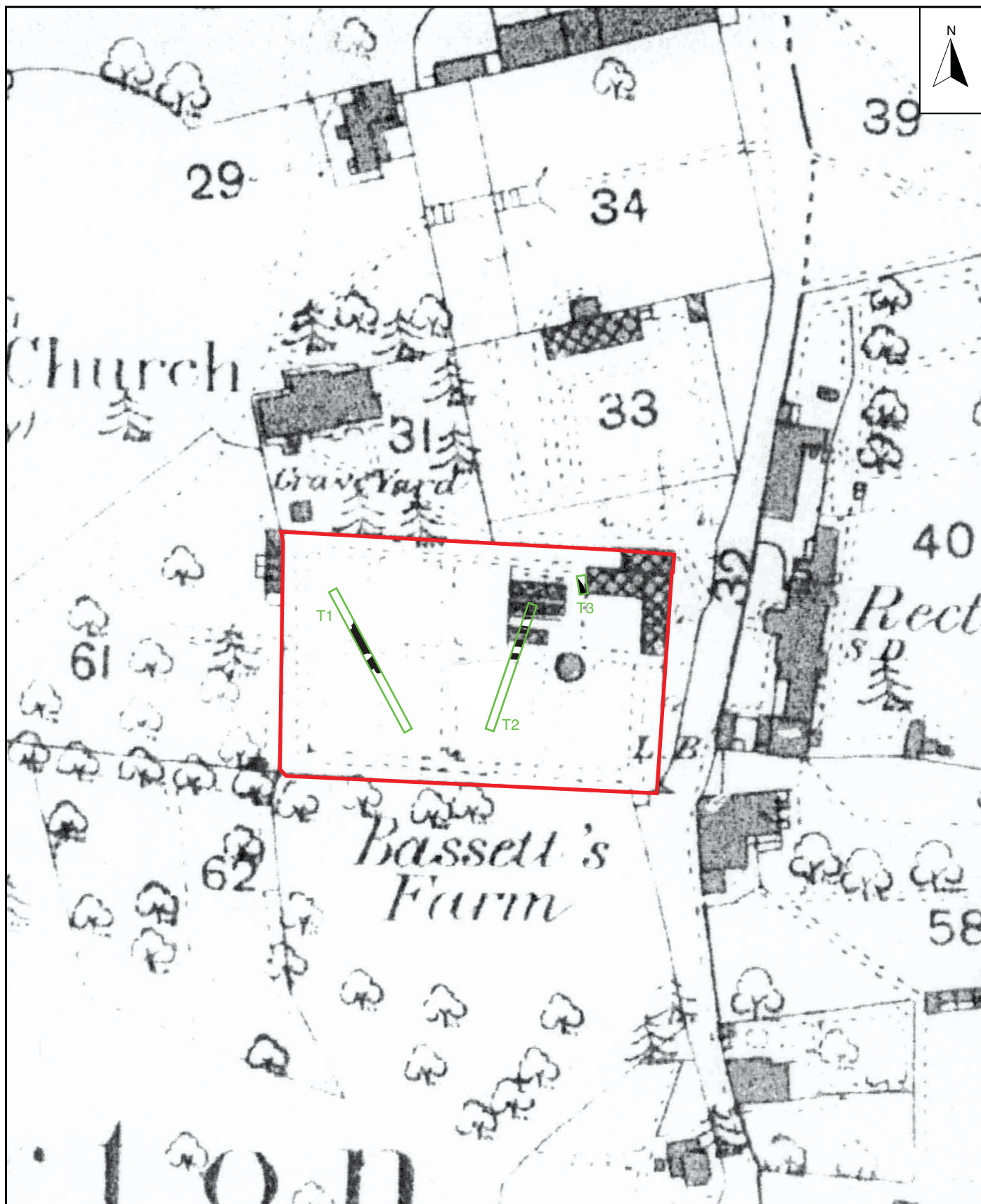
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PROJECT NO.

2832

FIGURE NO.

2



- site
- evaluation trench
- archaeological feature



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

The Walled Garden, The Old Rectory
Claverton, Bath & North East Somerset

FIGURE TITLE

**Results of the evaluation overlain on
to Ordnance Survey map of 1889**

DRAWN BY	APPROX. SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
LG	1:1000@A4	2832	3