

Abbey House, Abbey Walk, Shaftesbury, Dorset:

Results of an archaeological evaluation

Scheduled Monument no. 1002672

OASIS Record no 424315

NGR 386124,122877

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On behalf of:
Mr & Mrs
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AC archaeology

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SUMMARY

Six trial pits were excavated, in accordance with the terms of a Scheduled Monument Consent and planning condition, prior to the construction of a new garage in the garden of Abbey House, Shaftesbury, Dorset. The proposed garage is situated directly above the postulated nave of Shaftesbury abbey church, part of which is exposed for public display immediately to the east. The purpose of the evaluation was to gauge the depth and character of any archaeological deposits that might be affected by the construction of the garage, which is to be constructed on 12 post pad. The trial pits were excavated to a depth of 0.5m below the existing ground surface and revealed a sequence of garden soils overlying deposits, at a depth of 450-500mm, containing much crushed greensand. This lower material is likely to comprise the upper surface of demolition deposits resulting from the extensive dismantling and stone-robbing of the former abbey church from the 16th century onwards. It is equally possible that the deposits derive from the excavation of material to form the basement of Abbey House, constructed after the 16th century. No structural remains relating to the church were located in the trial pits; datable finds were generally post-17th century in date, but several stone architectural fragments are likely to have been discarded from the medieval church. The construction of the new garage will not impact on significant buried remains.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document sets out the results of an archaeological evaluation by trial pits of the proposed location for the construction of a new garage at Abbey House, Abbey Walk, Shaftesbury, Dorset SP7 8BB (NGR 386124 122877). The work was undertaken by AC archaeology Ltd. in May 2021 on behalf of the house owners, Mr & Mrs Sawrey-Cookson. The site location is shown on Fig. 1.
- 1.2 The new garage lies within the Scheduled Monument known as Shaftesbury Abbey. Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) for both the construction of the garage and the prior archaeological evaluation was granted on 27 January 2021, (Ref: S00240778). Planning permission for the construction of the garage (Ref: 2/2019/1772/House) was granted on 12 February 2021. Condition 3 of the consent states:

Prior to erection of the garage hereby approved, the archaeological investigation and recording as described in the approved methodology "Project Design for an Archaeological Evaluation" ref ACW1265/3/0 dated December 2020, shall be undertaken in full, to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority, and reports of findings made available as described.

- 1.3** The purpose of the evaluation, as set out in the SMC application, was to better understand the potential for any harm to buried archaeological deposits arising from the construction of a garage within the garden of Abbey House. The proposed garage will be an open-framed timber garage measuring c 9m by 5.5m which will have three bays facing west. The construction will not require new drain connections as the eaves have been extended to shed water naturally into the surrounding ground. A short length of armoured electric cable will be required to be installed in a 400mm deep duct from the main house. The current proposal is to support the 12 timber posts on a series of concrete pads; the pads will be up to a maximum of 750mm square, in plan, and a maximum of 450mm deep to support the frame.
- 1.4** The town of Shaftesbury occupies a height ranging from 165m at its lowest street to approximately 235m on the hilltop at the northern extent of the town. In terms of the underlying geology, Shaftesbury sits on Upper Greensand, composed of three beds. The oldest and lowest is Cann Sand, which is found in the lower parts of the town. Above this is Shaftesbury Sandstone, on the steeper slopes, above which lies the Boyne Hollow Chert.
- 1.5** Abbey House is a Grade II listed building (LEN 1334776) with an associated boundary wall also being Grade II listed (LEN 1108781). The house itself lies over the north-western edge of the former Abbey Church of Shaftesbury Abbey, and within a broader scheduled monument (LEN 1002672), which includes the Abbey precinct. The listing for Abbey House describes the property as dating from the later 16th to early 17th century and largely remodelled in the 18th century; it is noted that the building may incorporate remains of the Abbey building. The listing description also states that the foundations of the west end of the abbey church (The Church of St Mary and St Edward, King and Martyr) lie in the garden. For this reason, the garden south of the house is part of the Shaftesbury Abbey scheduled monument, although land under the house itself is not included in this designation.

2. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1** Abbey House occupies land immediately west of the exposed remains of Shaftesbury Abbey church. The house and gardens lie at a considerable height (c .1.5m) above these remains and the difference in levels reflects the fact that large amounts of post-medieval rubble and soil accumulation were removed to reveal the heavily robbed-out foundations of the church.
- 2.2** The history of Shaftesbury Abbey has already been thoroughly outlined, and is well attested (Sydenham 1978; Keen 1999). The earliest evidence for any formal ecclesiastical structure dates to AD888, with King Alfred founding a nunnery in Shaftesbury. This helped stimulate the growth of both town and abbey, with the centre rising to prominence in the area, evidenced by Queen Aelfgifu being buried there in AD946. Shaftesbury also occupied an important strategic and commercial location, being situated at the point where roads from Wiltshire and Hampshire cross into Dorset and on towards Sherborne and the west country. Further routes include Dorchester to the south west and Somerset to the north.
- 2.3** During the 13th century the abbey expanded and the economic success of the town may have been due to a shrine to King Edward as a centre of pilgrimage, as well as the town's location on major routes across the west county. By the early 14th century Shaftesbury was

one of the wealthiest towns in Dorset (Penn 1980). This was probably due to it being a market town, rather than being the centre of any single industry.

- 2.4** Shaftesbury Abbey was dissolved on 23rd March 1539 with the abbey and all its land being purchased by Sir Thomas Arundel. Although the abbey was destroyed promptly in 1539, many of the subsidiary buildings survived until at least 1565, when a survey of the abbey revealed that over forty ancillary buildings remained. Very few of these buildings survived, although there are fragments of 14th and early 15th century walls and windows surviving in the fabric of the School House and on the east side of Abbey Walk (Webb 2019). It is unclear when the surviving subsidiary buildings of the abbey were demolished, although two blocks are shown on a town map dated to 1615 and by this time the site of the church had become gardens once all the stone had been dismantled and used elsewhere, leaving only rubble core. Abbey House was built at some stage after 1615, but before the end of the century (Webb 2019).
- 2.5** Currently, the exposed remains of the abbey church, known as the Abbey ruins, lie immediately east of Abbey House and were first re-discovered during archaeological excavations in the 1930s. The exposed remains have been subject to recent investigations by the 'SAVED' project (Shaftesbury Abbey, a Voyage of Exploration and Discovery), which has confirmed that many of the exposed remains are reconstructed based upon very little physical evidence and may not indicate the actual arrangements of walls, floors and pier bases.
- 2.6** Previous archaeological investigations at Abbey House provided further insights into the post-dissolution history of the abbey church (Cox and Jones 2019). During refurbishments in 2016, which included the conversion of the cellar by the lowering of the existing floor by up to 500mm, evidence for the Abbey Church was found. This lay immediately under parts of the existing foundations to Abbey House. Based on the line of the exposed church walling to the east of Abbey House, it is considered highly probable that this walling represented part of the north side of the west end of the church. In addition, further evidence suggesting the location of a tower on the north side of the west end of the church was identified. This corroborates evidence from a sketch of the western part of the abbey, showing towers at the western end, dated to AD1548 (Cox and Jones 2019; 206). This conclusion has provided evidence to suggest that the overall length of the nave was c.88m from the exposed outside wall of the main apse to the west front. This is closely comparable in size to the pre mid-twelfth century cathedral at Old Sarum.
- 2.7** During the work undertaken to reduce the floor levels within the cellar of Abbey House, it was clear that the material removed consisted largely of demolition rubble, mortar and associated debris relating to the dissolution and demolition of the abbey. Some areas were shown to contain important in-situ deposits relating to the post-dissolution period; in particular Area B (Cox and Jones 2019, Figure 2) contained a thick deposit of mortar and rubble containing fragments of painted window glass, lead from the windows, as well as domestic refuse such as pottery and animal bone. Area B is within the interior of the church. Although not specifically related to the history of the church, the material does have some intrinsic value. The painted window glass is of particular significance. Although highly fragmented, some pieces were intricately decorated. One piece had a human face, while

others showed architectural elements and vine leaves and other foliage patterns. Such material demonstrates the wealth of the abbey church during the period prior to the dissolution.

- 2.8** Furthermore, the previous investigations in the Abbey House cellars identified human remains. These were located within the cellar area, but outside of the north side of the church, and comprised a series of inhumations, representing remains of both adults and children. Although these were undated, it is thought they are part of a lay cemetery immediately adjacent to the church.
- 2.9** The evidence recovered from the 2016 investigations shows that the proposed new garage will lie within the interior of the abbey church. It is therefore highly likely that further evidence associated with the demolition of the abbey church, as well as in-situ remains, are preserved at depth within the footprint of the proposed garage. However, based on the height differences between Abbey House and the exposed church foundations to the east, it is considered highly unlikely that in-situ remains will be impacted by the construction of the garage. One of the aims of the evaluation was to confirm this assertion.

3. EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

Aims

- 3.1** The principal aims of the evaluation comprised:
- to meet the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework, paragraph 189, by providing an assessment of the significance of any heritage asset affected by the development proposal and the nature of any impacts;
 - to meet the terms of the planning consent;
 - to meet the requirements of the SMC by providing Historic England with a) information regarding potential physical effects on the buried archaeological remains, and b) sufficient information to determine and necessary mitigation required during the construction of the new garage, and;
 - Where possible, the investigation may address research issues, especially those within the South West Archaeological Research Framework (SWARF - Somerset County Council 2012). One research theme in particular has relevance here; this comprises 'Theme A:32 Investigate and identify the locations of Early Medieval religious buildings, monuments and landscapes'.

Field methodology

- 3.2** The archaeological investigations were undertaken in accordance with the terms of the SMC and as outlined in the approved project design prepared by AC Archaeology Ltd (Cox 2021).
- 3.3** Six trial pits, each 1m square in plan, were excavated to a maximum depth of 500mm, in the approximate positions of the proposed foundation pads; locations are shown in Fig. 1. The position of TP6 was adjusted on site, to avoid removing a mature shrub. The positions of the trial pits were chosen to provide cross-sectional deposit data on both a N-S and W-E axis.

- 3.4** The trial pits were excavated by hand, with the excavations ceasing at either significant archaeological deposits or a depth below ground surface of 500mm.
- 3.5** All deposits revealed within the trial pits were recorded using the standard AC archaeology Ltd. pro forma single sequence recording system. This comprises written, graphic and photographic records, and in accordance with AC archaeology Ltd.'s General Site Recording Manual, Version 2 (2012). The position of each trial pit was recorded using a Leica CS10/GS08 GNSS with a horizontal and vertical accuracy of up to 2cm. This device was also utilised to record all spot heights and levels.

Project Archive

- 3.6** The project archive has been prepared using the unique AC archaeology Ltd site code ACW1265. It is intended to deposit the archive with Shaftesbury Abbey Museum and Gardens, Shaftesbury, Dorset. An OASIS record has been initiated.

4. RESULTS

- 4.1** A consistent sequence of deposits was recorded in most trial pits across the footprint of the garage, generally only varying in the upper levels and the depths of deposits present. Only TP5 revealed evidence for any significant variation. An overall summary of results is shown in Table 1, sectional and profile information summarised on Fig. 1. A more detailed description of TP5 is set out below.

Trial Pit 5 (Section Fig. 2a; Plate 5)

- 4.2** The existing ground surface comprised the gravel surface of the driveway, which sealed a buried topsoil of mid-brownish black, silty clay. This former topsoil was 380mm thick and surrounded a probable late post-medieval surface or foundation - context 503. Context 503 was composed of brick fragments, greensand and occasionally limestone fragments, mortared together in a lime-based sandy mortar with rare flecks of charcoal. This probable surface was 100mm thick, with only the eastern edge encroaching into the trial pit. Context 503 appeared to have a north - south alignment, based solely upon observations made from the eastern edge of the context and is of uncertain character. The thin nature of the context is indicative of a former surface, possibly a pathway or garden feature, but most likely a rough foundation for a former garden structure. Below the buried former topsoil, the mixed-greenish grey sandy silt was again identified. At this depth, 0.5m from the ground surface, excavations were halted.

Table 1: Summary of deposits present

Trial Pit Number	Context Number	Description	Depth below ground surface (mm)	Interpretation	Same as?
TP1	100	Mid-greyish black, clayey silt loam, loose.	0-450	Topsoil under lawn	600
TP1	101	Mid-greyish green, firm, sandy silt. Common sub angular greensand stone and rare angular limestone (<100mm).	+450	Demolition deposit	202, 302, 402, 502, 603
TP2	200	Loose flint and chert gravel, often containing large fragments of greensand, limestone and concrete at lower horizons.	0-150	Gravel surface	300, 400, 500,
TP2	201	Mid-brownish black, silty clay loam.	150-400	Buried topsoil/garden soil	301, 401, 501, 602
TP2	202	Light-greenish grey, sandy silt, compacted, containing common sub angular greenstone fragments and rare sub angular limestone (<100mm in size).	+400	Probable demolition deposits	302, 402, 502
TP3	300	Loose flint and chert gravel, often containing large fragments of greensand, limestone and concrete at lower horizons.	0-120	Gravel surface	200, 400. 500
TP3	301	Mid-brownish black, silty clay loam.	120-400	Buried topsoil/garden soil	201, 401, 501, 602
TP3	302	light greenish grey, sandy silt, was exposed, containing common sub-angular greensand fragments and rare sub-angular limestone (<100mm in size)	+400	Probable demolition deposit?	101, 202, 402, 502, 603
TP4	400	Loose flint and chert gravel, often containing large fragments of greensand, limestone and concrete at lower horizons.	0-100	Gravel surface	200, 300, 500,
TP4	401	Mid-brownish black, silty clay loam.	100-380	Buried topsoil/garden soil	201,301, 501, 602
TP4	402	Loose mid-greenish grey, sandy silt was noted. This contained rare sub angular greensand (<100mm) and frequent lime-based sandy mortar.	+380	Probable demolition deposit?	101, 202, 302, 502, 603
TP5	500	Loose flint and chert gravel, often containing large fragments of greensand, limestone and concrete at lower horizons.	0-150	Gravel surface	200, 300, 400
TP5	501	Mid-brownish black, silty clay loam.	0-150	Buried topsoil/garden soil	200, 300, 400
TP5	502	Mid-greenish grey, loose, sandy silt.	+500	Probable demolition deposit?	101, 202, 302, 402, 603
TP5	503	Mortared brick, greensand and limestone fragments (<120mm).	350-450	Possible former surface?	No similar deposit
TP6	600	Mid-greyish black, clayey silt loam loose.	0-150	Topsoil in flower bed	100
TP6	601	Light brownish grey, ash and silt, loose.	150-200	Dumped burnt refuse and garden material	No similar deposit
TP6	602	Black, soft, clayey silt.	200-500	Buried topsoil/garden soil	201, 301, 401, 501
TP6	603	Mid-greenish grey, loose, sandy silt.	+500	Probable demolition deposit?	Possibly same as 202, 302, 402, 502



Plate 1: Plan view of TP1, viewed from the west with 1m scale



Plate 2: TP 2, located against existing kerb stones. Note the heavy rooting throughout all deposits encountered. Viewed from the south with a 1m scale



Plate 3: TP3, viewed from south with a 1m scale



Plate 4: TP4, viewed from the south with a 1m scale



Plate 5: TP5, viewed from the south with a 1m scale



Plate 6: TP6 view from east with a 1m scale

6. THE ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

- 6.1 All finds were washed and marked, where appropriate. Items were quantified by material type with both weight and number recorded by context; this is presented in Appendix 1. The artefactual evidence is outlined below by material type. It should be noted that a single fragment of bright green plastic was discarded from context 501.

Pottery

By Dan Carter

Introduction and Summary

- 6.2 The entire assemblage comprises 98 sherds with a cumulative weight of 701g. The small and fragmentary nature of the sherds is corroborated by a small rim EVE for all vessel types combined of 0.6. The entire assemblage spans a date range of 12-20th centuries, with medieval pottery rarely occurring. The bulk of the pottery falls within the post-medieval to modern date range, with the most prolific vessel type being flowerpots. This corroborates the hypothesis for the use of the area of garages as gardens for an extended period of time.
- 6.3 Notable elements include a single sherd of a medieval Poole Harbour White Ware pitcher (context 401), an early post-medieval German stoneware body sherd, exhibiting an applied strip of text on the exterior (context 302), and a possible blue and white transfer ware sherd displaying a blistered glaze (context 401). While the latter is of relatively recent date, its occurrence is an oddity within a domestic assemblage and may have been sold as a second.

Methodology

- 6.4 Following the cleaning of the pottery and the subsequent initial quantification, the pottery was visually inspected with a hand lens at x10 magnification in order to group and classify fabric types. Vessel types have been identified where possible. However, a large component of the assemblage comprises undiagnostic body sherds. Utilising both these aspects, a date has been provided where appropriate. Pottery fabrics identified as containing calcareous inclusions, identified using a hand lens, were confirmed using 10% hydrochloric acid. Furthermore, the application of a x20-40 microscope, where appropriate, enabled the presence or absence of certain inclusions to be confirmed. This is standard practice in pottery analysis as outlined by Peacock (1977). Where possible estimated vessel equivalents have been quoted by vessel type in order to allow for comparison between different assemblages, in line with current pottery recording standards (Barclay *et al.* 2016).

Medieval pottery

- 6.5 Three sherds of medieval pottery, with a cumulative weight of 15g, were recovered from the investigations. The coarseware elements comprise a handmade West Dorset Sandy ware body sherd (6g), of probable 12-14th century date, and a Crockerton body sherd (8g), of probable 13-14th century date; the latter is wheel thrown. Both of these items were recovered from context 501, and occur alongside post-medieval pottery. The West Dorset sandy ware sherd is highly abraded, indicating that this is residual. The only fineware sherd

present within this subset of the assemblage comprises a tiny (1g) sherd deriving from a glazed pitcher with iron rich slip in horizontal lines on the exterior; this is certainly a product of the Poole Harbour area and was recovered from context 401.

Post-medieval pottery

- 6.6** The bulk of the pottery recovered from the investigations can be ascribed to this period. The occurrence of fabrics for each context is shown in Appendix 2. The bulk of the assemblage comprises mass-produced wares such as blue and white transfer wares and industrially produced white earthenwares, the bulk of which are 19-20th century in date; these are all recovered from topsoil or buried topsoil deposits. The occurrence of flowerpots with a rim EVE of 0.3 supports the hypothesis that the area has been utilised as gardens from at least the early 19th century onwards, with sources in the Warminster or Gillingham area being the most likely source for most of the flowerpots recovered on site. Other earthenware sources present are those usually encountered within post-medieval contexts elsewhere in Shaftesbury (author's observations), evidenced by Verwood-type pottery comprising 15% of the overall assemblage. Additional sources include earthenware from Crockerton, Wiltshire; Donyatt and Wanstrow, South Somerset; Holnest, West Dorset and a number of unprovenanced redwares, almost solely restricted to flower pot forms. The appearance of Crockerton and Verwood-type pottery from deposit 101 shows that this is a post-medieval deposit. The fact that the Verwood sherd derives from Horton provides a tighter date range of 17-early 18th century (Algar *et al.* 1987). This provides a *terminus post quem* of the early 18th century for this deposit. Deposit 302, provided some interesting pottery, including rarely seen early Verwood, datable to the 15-16th centuries, and a single sherd of German stoneware that exhibits an applied band of text to the exterior with a stamp occurring below. The item is covered in mortar, thus may have been incorporated into a building at some point once the item had gone out of use. The presence of a mid-post-medieval Verwood-type pottery, along with the occurrence of Crockerton-type slipware, thought to date from at least the mid-17th century onwards, suggests that there might be a degree of mixing within this deposit as a range of dates are displayed from the pottery recovered from here. However, caution should be exercised as 302 is the only deposit from which this range of pottery has been recovered from. No pottery was recovered from any other stratigraphically equivalent deposit, in order to confirm this hypothesis.

Clay Tobacco Pipe

By Dan Carter

- 6.7** Eight unmarked clay tobacco pipe stems were recovered from topsoil and buried topsoil contexts. They occur in a white pipe clay and are undiagnostic with a broadly post-medieval to early modern date.

Oyster Shell

By Angi Britten

- 6.8** In total, 24 fragments of oyster shell were recovered from the investigations. Shell from context 101 comprised four left hand valves and two right hand valves. Context 202 yielded one right hand valve, while context 302, a single left hand valve. Finally, context 401

produced 4 left hand valves and fragments of 4 right hand valves, with context 501 yielding 1 right hand valve. The specimens were all recovered from topsoil and buried topsoil contexts, datable to the post-medieval or early modern periods.

Stone

By Dan Carter

Roofing material

- 6.9** Fifteen fragments of roofing slate were recovered from topsoil and gravel driveway surface contexts. One from context 501 displays a single peg hole. These are considered to be relatively modern or certainly post-medieval in date, thus have little archaeological value. One fragment of tabular sandstone (3.7kg) was recovered from context 500. The specimen exhibits a single drilled hole at one end and is mortared along one face with a white lime-based mortar.

Architectural Stone

- 6.10** Five fragments of worked stone displaying architectural characteristics were retained from the lower horizon of context 500. These have potential to comprise re-used former abbey stone, but have been re-utilised to firm up the driveway surface, prior to the laying of loose flint gravel that now forms the existing driveway surface. Two of these are greensand stone, one with a 45° inset recess carved into it. The other has a tooled flat surface. An additional fragment occurs in a fine-grained limestone, with chiselling on one face. Finally, two fragments of a fine-grained greensand were collected. The smaller, displays four machine cut sides to form a wedge, while the larger comprises a probable threshold sill, with an upstand positioned at the rear of the item. The item displays a rolled drip on the front and thus is likely to be post-medieval in date. This last item is 15cm in height and depth, and 38cm long (Plate 7).



Plate 7: The sill recovered from context 500, shown with a 20cm scale

Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

6.11 The CBM assemblage comprises 121 fragments, weighing 2137g. Elements from context 100 comprise undiagnostic forms including roof tile and a probable floor tile. These elements are post medieval in date and derive from Warminster/Gillingham or Westbury sources. Context 201 yielded a single brick fragment from the same source. Context 501 differed, as it contained 11 fragments of late medieval floor tile, one salt glazed drain fragment, alongside post-medieval roof tile and brick fragments, again from a local source. The medieval floor tiles occur in a pink/buff, quartz and iron oxide rich fabric, suggesting a Salisbury or East Dorset source; the items are thought to relate to the demolition of the abbey church. Two items two exhibit mortar over broken edges, showing they have been re-used. One item displays two frogs on the lower bed, another comprises a partially complete triangular corner fragment displaying an in-laid white border and internal circular decoration.

Context 202 is distinctly unique within this assemblage, as it yielded four brick fragments all in highly sanded fabrics, that derive from Gillingham/Warminster area, with one brick from Crockerton. The nature of the fabric suggests these could be early post-medieval. This is supported by the thickness of one brick being over 45mm thick.

Iron Objects

By Angi Britten

6.12 Fourteen fragments of iron were recovered from the investigations, they have a cumulative weight of 241g. Nails dominate the assemblage, being thirteen in number, with a single shoe heel cleat. The entire group is likely to be modern to post-medieval in date.

Lead

6.13 One fused ring split-pin was identified from context 401. It is likely to be late post-medieval to modern in date.

Copper Alloy

6.13 One modern fragment of copper pipe was recovered from context 400, with two shanked buttons and a single brass door catch being recovered from context 501. The items are of no archaeological value, being either modern or very late post-medieval in date.

Glass

By Dan Carter

6.14 The glass assemblage comprises 60 fragments with a cumulative weight of 163g. The group contains elements of both medieval and post-medieval date; the medieval components being residual within the contexts from which they were recovered. Context 100 contained a green vessel fragment along with one clear and one degraded window fragment; the latter is likely to be of medieval date. Those items recovered from context 101 were similar but contained no vessel glass. Context 201 only yielded window glass, with colours ranging from clear (of modern date), to pale and dark green (of post-medieval date). Context 202 contained two adjoining fragments of painted window glass, the item exhibits a flower motif and is certainly of medieval date, probably deriving from the abbey church. Contexts 401 and 501 exhibit examples of clear modern window glass alongside numerous types of vessel glass.

Animal bone

By Dr Royston Clark

- 6.15** A total of 49 animal bone fragments (weighing 268gm) were recovered from seven contexts (100,101, 201,301, 401,501 and 602). Although the bone was in good overall condition, it was highly fragmented, due in part to butchery processes.
- 6.16** Most of the animal bone belonged to sheep/goat and cattle, with possible evidence for domesticated cat. The bone comprised largely of leg bone fragments and teeth. One proximal end of cattle ulna had saw marks that clearly related to dismemberment of the upper shoulder joint.
- 6.17** As most material came from unstratified contexts, it is considered that no further analytical work is necessary.

7. COMMENT AND INTERPRETATION

- 7.1** Observations from all trial pits are very similar, showing that the depositional sequence is likely to be relatively consistent across the entire area of the proposed garage. This is apparent in both the North-South transect (Fig. 2b) as well as the West-East transect (Fig. 2c). Trial pit 1 differs slightly, in that deposits of a significant nature occur at a slightly shallower depth of 450mm (check section and table 1), while TP5 contains evidence for a possible foundation that is of least post-medieval date.
- 7.2** The nature of the post-medieval deposits containing greensand, limestone and mortar, termed 'demolition deposits', indicate the presence of material overlying any in-situ and medieval remains. Within the scope of this investigation it has not been possible to assess the full depth of this material, but where partially excavated (contexts 202, 302, 402) it is clear that the dateable pottery includes a mixture of post-medieval material. The few small fragments of medieval window glass are considered residual, being found alongside post-medieval CBM and pottery.
- 7.3** What is less clear, however, is the origin of these demolition deposits. It cannot be said with certainty that these represent the primary depositional locations of layers of material accumulated from the recovery and re-working of building material from the abbey church. It is possible that these layers are derived from post-medieval excavations to form the basements of Abbey House itself. Should this hypothesis be correct, these demolition deposits, and the artefactual evidence that they hold, have thus been displaced from their primary locations, and deposited at the (original) rear of the property. Subsequently, they have been sealed by a garden soil of up to 0.45m thick. This is supported somewhat by the obvious topographical anomaly of a clearly artificially flattened area noted in the vicinity (see Cox 2021, Fig. 2 Transect B), when the surrounding area to the south of the property possesses a more natural, southeast-facing gradual slope. It can be estimated that in excess of 50m³ of primary demolition material has been removed from the basements of Abbey House to facilitate their construction. The question remains as to where this material has been deposited, and the former rear of the property is a likely location based upon the evidence.

- 7.4 While these demolition deposits are certainly still of value in understanding the monument, as they both relate to and derive from it, an element of caution should be applied in terms of spatial and stratigraphical organisation of any recovered artefactual evidence. Furthermore, any archaeological interpretation and significance that is placed upon them should also take their origin into account, as these deposits may have reduced archaeological importance in comparison to those lying in primary depositional locations.
- 7.5 It is clear from these investigations that the construction of foundation pads for the new garage will have no adverse impact on in-situ medieval deposits.

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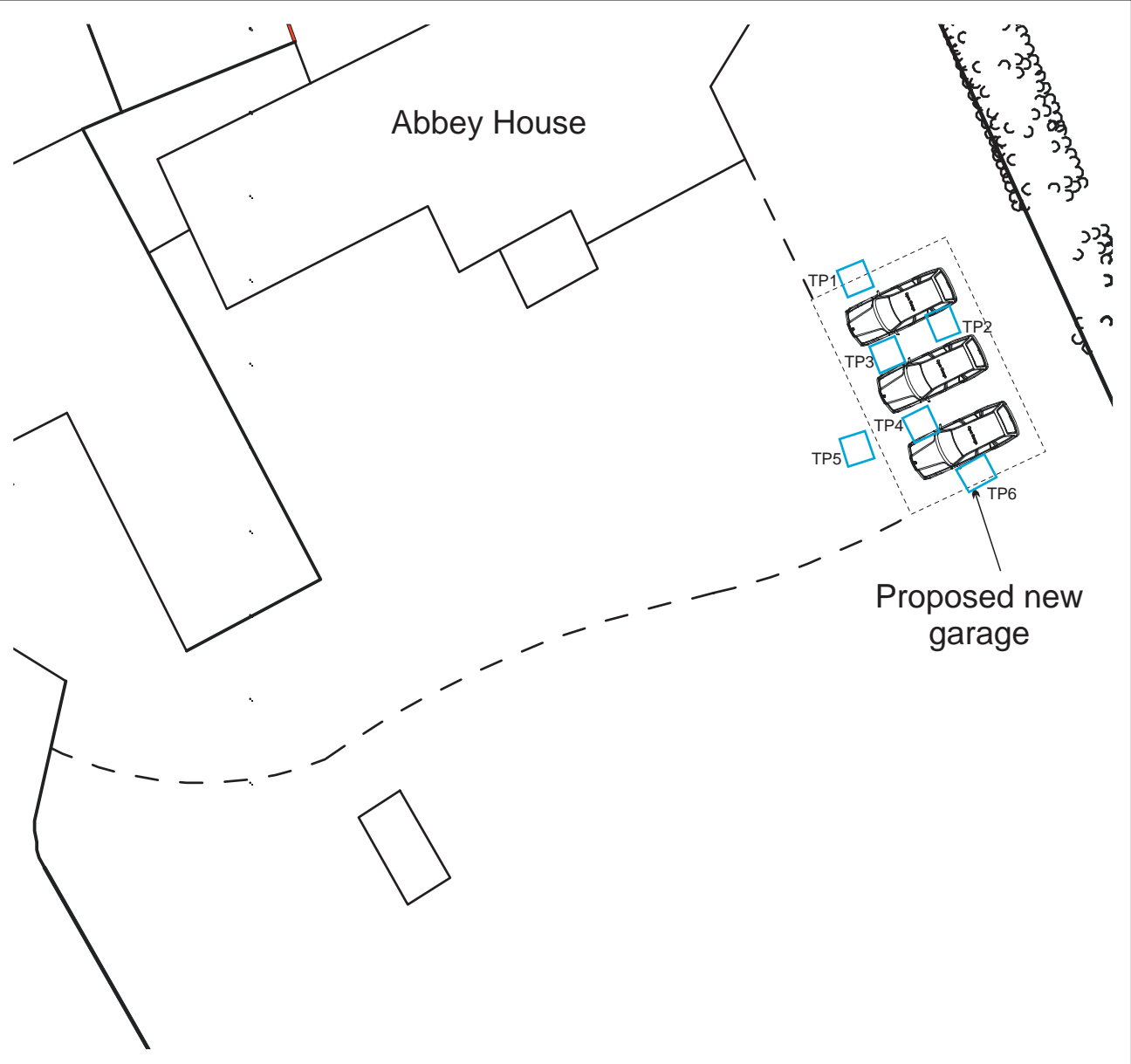
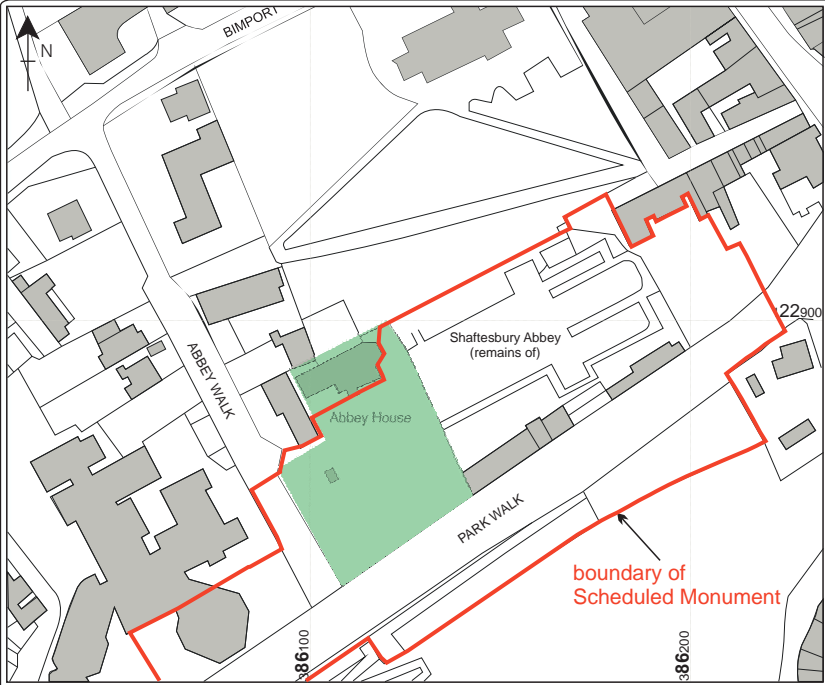
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PROJECT

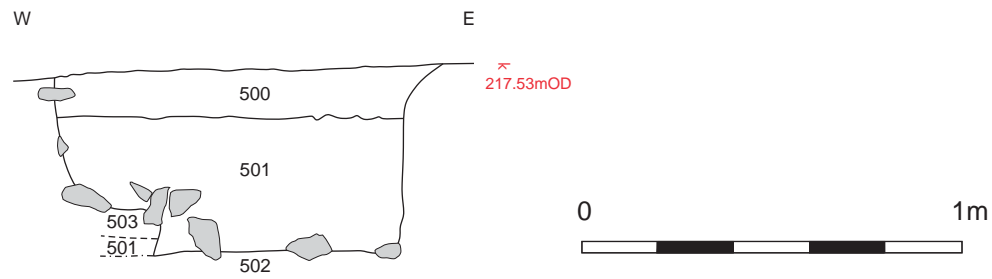
New garage, Abbey House, Shaftesbury

TITLE

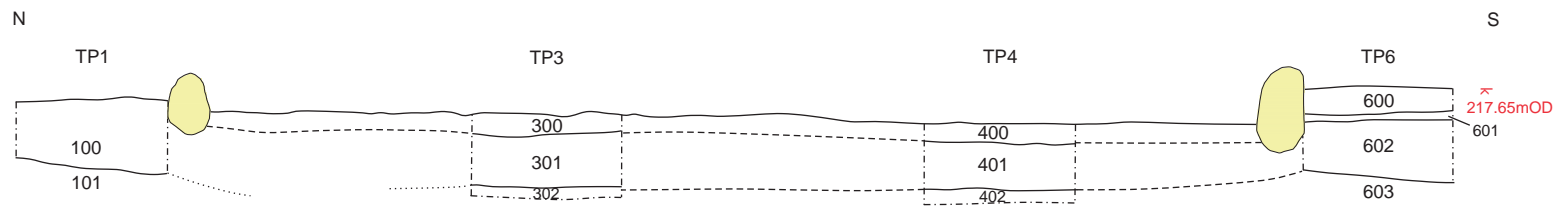
Fig.1: Trial pit locations

Trial pit 5

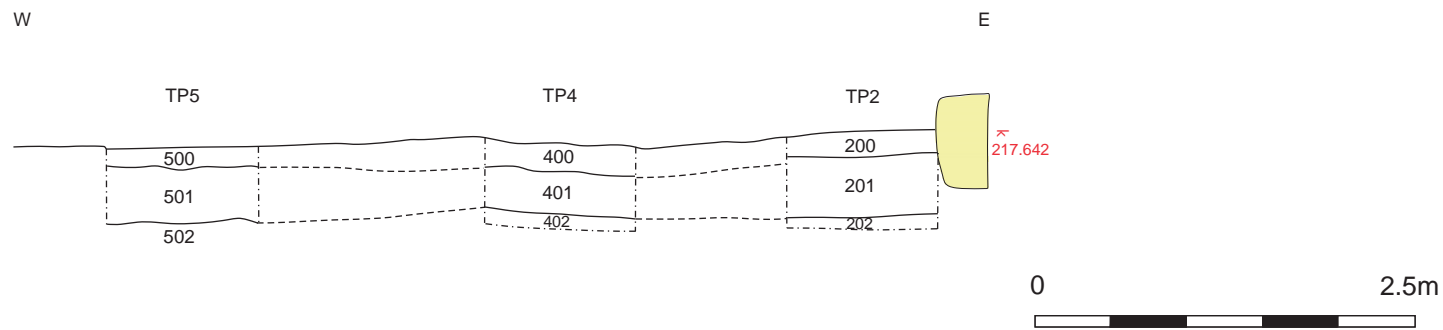
a)








b)




c)



Key:

-  Greensand
-  Kerb stones for parking
-  Limit of excavation
-  Projected deposit
-  Uncertain projection of deposit

 AC archaeology

PROJECT
**New garage, Abbey House,
 Shaftesbury**

TITLE
Fig.2: Sections and profiles

APPENDIX 1: CATALOGUE OF ALL ARTEFACTS, BY CONTEXT

Context	Animal Bone		CBM		Clay Pipe		Clinker/ Coal/Fired Clay		Copper Alloy		Flint		Glass		Iron		Lead		Med Pot		Modern Pot		Mortar		Oyster Shell		Plastic		Post Med Pot		Slag		Stone		Total Count	Total Wt
	No.	Wt	No.	Wt	No.	Wt	No.	Wt	No.	Wt	No.	Wt	No.	Wt	No.	Wt	No.	Wt	No.	Wt	No.	Wt	No.	Wt	No.	Wt	No.	Wt	No.	Wt	No.	Wt	No.	Wt		
100	6	9	27	240	1	2	4	4	-	-	-	-	3	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	37	3	3	-	-	5	148	-	-	6	81	56	531
101	17	100	8	90	-	-	1	5	-	-	-	-	2	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	13	9	208	-	-	4	19	-	-	-	-	43	443
200	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	17	-	-	-	-	6	22	
201	3	17	1	30	2	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	12	-	-	-	-	-	4	60	-	-	-	-	14	146	
202	-	-	4	243	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	2	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	282	
301	2	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	44	-	-	-	-	8	94	
302	-	-	1	80	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	28	-	-	1	231	7	355		
400	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	28399	4	28399		
401	14	50	44	794	4	8	7	23	-	-	1	2	19	108	9	161	1	27	1	1	-	-	-	-	8	72	-	-	38	228	1	30	12	181	158	1684
500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3724	3	3724	
501	8	22	36	638	-	-	1	21	3	65	-	-	5	20	4	62	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	20	1	3	25	107	2	21	7	114	95	1096
602	1	70	1	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	56	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	148	
Totals	51	318	122	2137	8	19	13	53	4	67	1	2	34	163	14	241	1	27			2	68	2	50	24	334	1	3	90	651	3	51	33	32730	409	36939

APPENDIX 1: catalogue of all finds by context

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