

# C9754 - The Kings of Wessex Academy, Station Road, Cheddar, Somerset.

## An Archaeological Excavation - The Assessment Report



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**An Archaeological Excavation - The Assessment Report**

for

**Wessex Water plc**

by



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**COAS reference:** C1/EXC/15/RKC

**Scheduled Monument consent reference:** S00108758

**National Grid Reference:** between NGR ST 45766 53217 to ST 45845 53039

**Wessex Water plc scheme reference:** C9754

**Somerset Historic Environment Record PRN no:** 32956

**Somerset County Museums Service Accession Number:** TTNCM 76/2015

**OASIS reference:** contexto1-246734

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March 2016

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**Front cover image:** Aerial shot of the Site showing excavation trenches, from the south. © Context One Archaeological Services 2016

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## Non-technical summary

*Context One Archaeological Services Ltd (COAS) carried out a programme of archaeological excavation at Kings of Wessex Academy, Station Road, Cheddar, Somerset, over 28 days between 20 July and 26 August 2015. The project was commissioned and funded by Wessex Water plc under a Term Agreement with COAS. With the exception of a small area at the northern end of the scheme, the Site is wholly situated within the boundary of a Scheduled Monument (No: SM 29673) described as “Roman settlement site, Anglo-Saxon and Norman royal palace, and St Columbanus’ Chapel.”*

*The excavation programme was carried out in advance of a proposed new sewer pipe which is to be installed across part of the school grounds during the summer of 2016. Scheduled Monument Consent for the archaeological works was granted on 11 June 2015 (SM ref: S00108758), for essential archaeological excavation to assess the extent, depth and nature of archaeological deposits.*

*The archaeological works were requested by Ms Melanie Barge (Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Historic England) as it was considered that the effects of the proposed works upon the monument would result in the loss of buried archaeological evidence for which preservation in-situ was not regarded as feasible due to the essential nature of the works. The request for the work also accords with the recommendations set-out in the Monument Management Plan for the Kings of Wessex School, the pipe route crossing both an area where undisturbed significant archaeological remains are likely to survive in a well-preserved condition, and an area where significant archaeology may survive with levels of disturbance not detailed (SCC, EH, N.D).*

*Discoveries made during the archaeological excavation make a small contribution to our understanding of Roman settlement in the environs, elements of the late Saxon and Norman palace, and post-medieval occupation. The excavations uncovered a shallow foundation trench previously discovered by Rahtz in the 1960’s and interpreted as the west wall of an early 13<sup>th</sup> century ‘domestic’ annexe to the contemporary East Hall II of the palace. It is also likely that the excavation encountered the edge of a possible Late Saxon boundary ditch previously identified by Rahtz. Unexpected significant discoveries were confined to a Late Romano-British ditch with re-cut, and a large post-medieval pit.*

*The small number of features found within the trench were cut into the natural. Consequently, when the excavated parts of the trench are extended to full depth for the insertion of the pipe, no further archaeological features will be encountered. Crucially, these works should avoid the medieval foundation. The Late Romano-British ditch was completely excavated and all finds removed therefore no further work is required in this area. The possible Late Saxon boundary ditch should be subject to archaeological monitoring and recording during development works. Monitoring should take place along any lengths that were not excavated, including the area beyond the northern end of TR1 towards the road.*

*A modest assemblage of finds were recovered during the excavation predominantly dated as Late Iron Age to Early Romano-British, Early Romano-British, Romano-British, Late Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval. The Late Romano-British ditch and re-cut yielded most of the finds which were dominated by pottery and animal bone, although small finds included items of personal adornment (a copper alloy pin and two pins of worked bone, one of which is extremely rare), a possible mirror handle, a pair of Roman shears, and five coins dating to the later 3<sup>rd</sup>-century AD. Most of the Romano-British animal bone assemblage was dominated by livestock species, particularly cattle and sheep/goat. There was little evidence of rearing of animals on the Site, and the material was consistent with the butchery, consumption and disposal of livestock of meat bearing age. Patterns of species abundance, age and butchery are consistent with other contemporary Somerset sites. Most of the medieval and post-medieval finds were residual, the roof tile and CBM probably deriving from the demolition of the palace buildings, and the pottery reflecting medieval consumption and subsequent post-medieval occupation of parts of the Site. The post-medieval animal bone assemblage is consistent with table waste, and reflects a wider diet including more birds. The assemblage also included the remains of the head of a large cod, which is likely to have been brought to the Site fresh rather than salted.*

*Although the Site is of national importance, the features themselves or the parts excavated are of limited local significance and warrant a short publication.*

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Context One Archaeological Services Ltd (COAS) carried out a programme of archaeological excavation, analysis and reporting at Kings of Wessex Academy, Station Road, Cheddar, Somerset (the 'Site'), over 28 days between 20 July and 26 August 2015. The excavation was carried out along the route of a proposed new sewer pipe which is to be installed across part of the school grounds during the summer of 2016. The project was commissioned and funded by Wessex Water plc under a Term Agreement with COAS. With the exception of a small area at the northern end of the scheme, the Site is wholly situated within the boundary of a Scheduled Monument (No: **SM 29673**) described as "Roman settlement site, Anglo-Saxon and Norman royal palace, and St Columbanus' Chapel."
- 1.2 Scheduled Monuments are archaeological sites and remains that are regarded as nationally important and which merit protection by statute (*The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 as Amended* (1983)). Guidance notes concerning Scheduled Monument Consent (EH 2012) state that:

*'Written consent must always be obtained before any work on a scheduled monument can begin. Some developments may also need planning permission, which will need to be obtained from the Local Planning Authority.'*

And that:

*'A monument which has been scheduled is protected against disturbance or unlicensed metal detecting. Application for Scheduled Monument Consent must be made to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport before any work can be carried out which might affect a monument either above or below ground level.'*

Scheduled Monument Consent was granted on 11 June 2015 (SM ref: S00108758), for essential archaeological excavation to assess the extent, depth and nature of archaeological deposits as specified within the following documents submitted by Ms Ruth Hall (Senior Environmental Scientist) with the Scheduled Monument application:

- Wessex Water Drawing C9754/020 Rev A: Location Plan
- Specification for an Archaeological excavation assessment, analysis and reporting. AC Archaeology (Cox, March 2015)

The archaeological works were requested by Ms Melanie Barge (Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Historic England), as it was considered that the effects of the proposed works upon the monument would result in the loss of buried archaeological evidence for which preservation *in-situ* was not regarded as feasible due to the essential nature of the works. The request for the works also accords with the recommendations set-out in the Monument Management Plan for the Kings of Wessex School, the pipe route crossing two constraint areas defined as:

*"Areas where undisturbed significant archaeological remains are likely to survive in a well preserved condition. These areas should not be subject to development." (Figure 1: Constraint Area 1)*

*"Areas where significant archaeology may survive with levels of disturbance not detailed. These areas may have the potential for development but prior to finalisation of proposal plans an appropriate level of assessment must take place involving trial trench evaluation to characterise the surviving remains." (Figure 1: Constraint Area 2)*

(SCC, EH, N.D.)

- 1.3 The request for the archaeological work follows advice given by Central Government as set out in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012) and under the terms of the *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 as Amended* (1983).

- 1.4 The programme of archaeological works comprised five elements. This began with the production of a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (COAS 2015) which set out the project strategy and complied with section 3b of Scheduled Monument Consent which states that:

*“No works shall take place until the applicant has confirmed in writing the commissioning of a programme of archaeological work during the development in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved by the Secretary of State advised by Historic England.”*

The WSI was approved by Ms Barge and Mr Steven Membery (Senior Historic Environment Officer, South West Heritage Trust) prior to the commencement of the Site works. The second element comprised the archaeological excavation; followed by post-excavation and assessment report production (this document); analytical report production; and archive deposition. The last two elements will be carried out following the submission and approval of this assessment report by Ms Barge and Mr Membery.

## 2. Site location, geology and topography

- 2.1 The new sewer diversion will run from Station Road (NGR ST 45766 53229), through the grounds of the Kings of Wessex Academy to connect with an existing public foul sewer at the western end of Parsons Pen (NGR ST 45845 53039) (**Figure 1**). Four trenches (Tr) were excavated. The excavation followed the route of the proposed sewer. Originally a single trench was planned however this became intermittent due to the presence of buried services and the maintenance of access arrangements to the school. Consequently, the excavation was divided into four trenches of variable lengths. Tr1 ran southwards along the western side of the driveway, with a dog-leg across the turning circle, before continuing south across the car park. Immediately to the south was Tr2, the smallest trench, and to the south again was Tr3; both these trenches were located within the tarmacked sports court. Tr4 was located within the north-east corner of the grassed playing field to the south and was orientated north-north-west to south-south-east.
- 2.2 The Site occupies ground with a very gentle downhill gradient towards the south. The modern ground surface at the northern end of the Site is located at 12m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), descending to 11.57m aOD at a location 10m south of the dog-leg in Tr1, before declining to 9.78m aOD towards the centre of Tr3, and rising slightly in the playing field to 9.93m aOD in Tr4.
- 2.3 According to the British Geological Survey (BGS 2016), the underlying geology comprises Mudstone and Halite-stone of the Mercia Mudstone Group belonging to the Triassic Period, with Quaternary superficial Head deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel. The soils are characterised as slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage (<http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes>).



Figure 1. Site setting



### 3. Archaeological and historical background

#### By Richard McConnell

- 3.1 The archaeological background for the Site and immediate environs has been drawn principally from secondary sources. This comprises records held by Somerset County Council as part of the Somerset Historic Environment Record (HER; referred to below with the prefix PRN followed by a unique numeric identifier); previous COAS unpublished client reports for the Kings of Wessex Academy; and the 1960's royal palace excavation report (Rahtz 1979, revised 2012).

#### General background

- 3.2 There have been a number of archaeological interventions in the vicinity of the Site, many of which have yielded evidence for extensive settlement and other activity over a considerable period of time.
- 3.3 The earliest phase of activity evidenced in the area is prehistoric. Possible Iron Age occupation was identified during a watching brief and evaluation between 2000 and 2001 (PRN 44966), and flint was recovered during a subsequent watching brief (PRN 11337).
- 3.4 There is a substantial body of evidence for Roman settlement. The most significant find is a probable villa, visible as a parch mark adjacent to St Andrew's church some 250m to the south east. Elsewhere, a rectangular shaped masonry structure, associated with 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> century pottery was revealed during a watching brief in 1999 (PRN 12891), along with other probable structures and numerous finds dating from the mid-1<sup>st</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> century, including 87 coins. An evaluation in 1998 (PRN 35934) revealed well-preserved Roman features, including a probable well and a substantial ditch, as well as quantities of building rubble.
- 3.5 A watching brief in 2005-6 resulted in the excavation of numerous ditches and pits spanning the late Iron Age and Roman period (PRN 24682). This included two broad phases of activity; 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> centuries AD and 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD. The latter was marked by five dated features including two inhumation burials cut into features from the first phase. Radiocarbon dating of the inhumations returned calibrated dates for the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD. Pottery recovered from features attributable to the first phase included diagnostic sherds that are typical of the transitional phase between the late Iron Age and early Romano-British period. The excavated features were predominantly linear ditches, and would appear to represent part of a broadly contemporary system of fields or other enclosures, perhaps originating to the latest pre-Roman Iron Age, with the ditches silting substantially during the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries AD.
- 3.6 There is also evidence for a widespread system of field enclosures from this period, which can be taken as evidence for a contemporary managed and farmed landscape in which the settlement *foci* were located. Geophysical survey has detected linear anomalies over a widespread area (PRNs 12742, 12841 & 12842) and open area excavation recorded a substantial late Roman ditch, which was re-cut at least once, and suggesting 'agricultural activity at the extremity of settlement'.
- 3.7 An excavation ahead of a new drama block in 2007 recorded four archaeological features comprising two ditches, a pit and a post-hole (PRN 26098). None of the features produced conclusive dating evidence but all were conjectured as Roman or later based on comparison with features previously recorded in the immediate environs.
- 3.8 A small evaluation in 2014 comprising 2 no. x 5m long trenches were excavated to support an application to extend dining facilities (PRN 32609) (McConnell and Green 2014). Archaeological activity was limited to a pit or ditch terminal in Trench 1 yielding a few sherds of Romano-British pottery (one was given a late 3<sup>rd</sup> century date) from the surface and a small lump of undiagnostic ironwork. Subsequent excavation of foundation trenches largely identified modern flower beds with residual pottery spanning the Roman to post-medieval periods. A ditch section coinciding with a boundary that was extant until the construction of the school was also identified but not dated.

3.9 Following the Roman period there is little evidence of activity in the vicinity until the later Anglo-Saxon period, when in the mid-10<sup>th</sup> century a Royal Palace is known to have existed adjacent to the Site. Excavations directed by Philip Rahtz between 1960 and 1962 (PRNs 11442 & 12760) identified 8 main periods of activity:

- Pre-Period 1
- Period 1: pre c. 930
- Period 2: post- c. 930 to late 10<sup>th</sup> or early 11<sup>th</sup> century
- Period 3: late 10<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> century, probably pre-conquest
- Period 4: later 11<sup>th</sup> to early 12<sup>th</sup> century
- Period 5: early 13<sup>th</sup> century
- Period 6: later 13<sup>th</sup> century to c. 1600
- Period 7: 17<sup>th</sup> century and later

The excavations revealed that the chapel of St Columbanus had origins in the 10<sup>th</sup> century and was predated by a substantial long hall (c. 24m x 6.1m), and two, probably contemporary, minor buildings. In the 10<sup>th</sup> century the first chapel was constructed and the long hall was replaced with a large structure (c. 18.5m x 9.25m) referred to as the West Hall. A number of minor structures were probably contemporary with this building. Both the West Hall and the chapel of St Columbanus were rebuilt in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, and the West Hall was again rebuilt in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. During the 12<sup>th</sup> century the West Hall was replaced with a larger structure to the east, the East Hall. In the 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> centuries both the East Hall and the chapel of St Columbanus were rebuilt.

3.10 The Royal Palace continued to exist until 1230 when the estate was given to the Dean and Chapter of Wells. The estate passed out of ecclesiastical ownership in 1548 when Bishop Barlow sold it to Edward VI. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century the chapel was converted into a dwelling, which continued to be occupied until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

3.11 A branch line of the Bristol and Exeter Railway extending through Cheddar was opened in 1869 (later part of the Great Western Railway). An embanked section of this railway line ran south-east to north-west across the Site until its closure in 1964. The line was subsequently dismantled.

3.12 The Kings of Wessex Community School was constructed in the early 1960's and has undergone subsequent phases of expansion, some of which has resulted in the archaeological investigations described above.

#### Site specific background

3.13 The proposed pipe trench runs very close to the major excavation of the palace remains carried out in the early 1960's (see **Plates 1 & 2**). An examination of the excavation report produced in 1979 by the site director, Philip Rahtz, indicated that the pipe trench could encounter at least four known archaeological features. These include the following from north to south:

- **Trench 74, Building 'L'** - Described as a minor building dating to the 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> centuries, probably related to Manor Farm which once fronted Station Road and is now the site of a later 15<sup>th</sup> century building, Hanham Manor. The building appears to have had plastered walls and floor, with a cellar and a stone/slate roof. It is thought to have been abandoned, possibly after a fire, in the 17<sup>th</sup> century (Rahtz 2012, 189). The limitations of the excavation prevented a clear interpretation. There is no information on the depth of the archaeological remains encountered. A service trench connected this trench with Rahtz's Trench 77 on the eastern side of the school site but gives no information as to its location or purpose.
- **South East Building (SEB)** - Probably a 'domestic' annexe of East Hall II dating to the early 13<sup>th</sup> century, possibly between 1209 and 1211 when it is recorded that King John carried out work at Cheddar (*ibid.*, 62-64, 189-192)). The exact plan was not recovered during excavation but was probably a timber-framed structure on a stone foundation. It is suggested that the building was two-storey and included a hall or chamber, pantry,

corridor, kitchen area and oven. By this period, East Hall II and the annexe formed part of a Royal hunting lodge. The building may have been short-lived as Royal tenure was only held until 1213. The archaeology was generally found to lay within 1m from the 1960's ground surface with the base of several pits and ditches extending this to a maximum depth of c. 1.5m.

- **Lime Kiln II (LK II)** - A lime kiln was observed during the cutting of a service trench(es) for the new school in 1963 (*ibid.*, 192). It measured 5.8m across and resembled a square pit at least 1.7m deep below the 1960's ground surface. The base was not reached. It was postulated that the kiln could have served Chapel I (10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> centuries), East Hall III (13<sup>th</sup>-early 17<sup>th</sup> centuries) or for a building near Manor Farm. No dating evidence was recovered and waterlogging made observations difficult although its burnt edges were apparently unmistakable (*ibid.*, 37).
- **South Boundary (SB)** - Extant prior to the construction of the school comprising a hedge and ditch with evidence for a bank on the northern side through a succession of cleaning episodes (*ibid.*, 132-134). Thought to date to around 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> centuries, but pre-conquest and may once have separated the land of Manor Farm and Church Farm. Excavation showed that the bottom of this feature was encountered at c. 1.5m below the 1960's ground surface.



Plate 1. Tr1 overlooking location of timber-framed palace (East Hall & West Hall) with St Columbanus on the right (from E)



Plate 2. Tr1 with location of timber-framed East Hall on the right (from N)

## 4. Methodology

- 4.1 The programme of archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the *Heritage Service Archaeological Handbook* issued by Somerset County Council in 2011, and the codes, standards and guidelines set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), formerly the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) (December 2014). Current Health and Safety legislation and guidelines were followed on site.
- 4.2 The archaeological excavation comprised four trenches measuring a total of c. 220m in length and 2.3m wide (**Figure 1; Plates 1 & 2**). Trench depths varied between 1.00m (north), 0.60m (centre) and 0.80m deep (south), representing the level at which natural deposits or archaeological features were encountered. A 20m wide easement strip was excavated alongside Tr4 within the playing field. This was machine excavated down to a clean archaeological horizon or sterile deposits (whichever was encountered first). This excluded a zone towards the north-east end as this crossed a permanent fenced area used as a sports equipment store. The area was hand cleaned with the aim of identifying any archaeological deposits/features.
- 4.3 The route of the pipe trench was marked out on the ground with a Topcon GRS1 GPS with pre-configured Ordnance Survey (OS) co-ordinates supplied by Wessex Water. These were checked on the ground by Wessex Water prior to the commencement of any excavation work.
- 4.4 The locations of all known services were marked along the trench as an indication of their positions although the entire route was continually checked with a CAT scanner for their precise locations and any other services that had not been recorded. No excavation took place in the vicinity of any services, except for the removal of tarmac, and a safe exclusion zone was observed to accord with all relevant Health & Safety regulations.

- 4.5 Each side of the trench on tarmac was cut with a disc cutter fitted with a diamond blade to a depth appropriate to lift the tarmac cleanly. Tarmac was removed from Site. A JCB-type machine equipped with 0.5m/1.2m wide toothless (grading) bucket was used to remove tarmac/topsoil/overburden under the supervision of COAS archaeological staff. Machine excavation continued until archaeological features or natural geology was encountered, whichever was the first.
- 4.6 All significant archaeological deposits and features in the impact area were sampled by manual excavation to establish stratigraphic relationships, with the aim of recovering sufficient artefacts to establish the dates and characters of the deposits, and to recover economic and palaeoenvironmental indicators. All features and deposits were drawn on dimensionally stable media at scales of 1:20 (plans) and 1:10 (sections) including representative sections and plans of the trenches. All features/deposits were recorded using standard COAS *pro-forma* recording sheets. Stratigraphic relationships were recorded using a “Harris-Winchester matrix” diagram.
- 4.7 The location, extent and altitude of archaeological features and deposits were mapped relative to the National Grid and Ordnance Datum using a TopCon GRS-1 Global Positioning System.
- 4.8 A photographic record of the work was prepared and involved the use of digital images in .jpg format. This included shots of the excavated area, individual features and working shots to illustrate the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.
- 4.9 Artefacts collected from archaeological features/deposits were bagged using a combination of site code, feature and context numbers. All finds from the Site were retained for processing in preparation for further analysis and archiving. Specialist assessments of the artefact assemblage were compiled using both descriptive and tabular formats (see section 6. and **Appendices 3, 4, & 5**).
- 4.10 With the exception of metalwork, the finds recovered from the excavation programme were washed. The finds were separated into artefact types and quantified by context number, quantity and (where necessary) weight in grams. Bulk finds such as post-medieval and modern brick, tile and slate were noted but not collected. No contexts proved to be suitable for soil sampling. The finds are discussed separately below and, where appropriate, presented as tabular data.
- 4.11 South West Heritage Trust (SWHT) and HE were kept informed of progress. In the event of significant discoveries, meetings were held on Site to discuss further mitigation. Visits were by Ms Barge (HE) with Mr Membery (SWHT) on 31 July 2015, by Mr Hugh Beamish (Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Historic England) on 17 August 2015, and by Mr Membery on 18 August 2015.
- 4.12 On conclusion of the excavation, the trenches were backfilled, following final inspection by HE.

## 5. Results

- 5.1 The deposits and features encountered during fieldwork are listed and described in **Appendix 1**. In the text, context numbers for cuts appear in square brackets, e.g. [1004]; layer and fill numbers appear in standard brackets, e.g. (1002). Features were also assigned a feature number which are prefaced here with an F. Where a feature is discussed, it is referenced with its feature, cut and associated fill numbers.

### SOIL SEQUENCE AND GEOLOGY

Tr1

- 5.2 The modern tarmac (101) along the driveway measured 0.10m thick and overlay a 0.28m thick layer of modern scalplings (102), above a 0.30m deep layer of rubble (mostly blue lias) (103) (104) (**Figure 3, Section 2; Plates 3, 4 & 5**). The rubble (103) covered the fill (112) of a post-medieval pit [107], the fill (127) of a re-cut within the medieval ditch [125], a small possible Romano-British clay deposit (116). It also overlay a 0.32m deep layer of dark post-medieval soil (106) present throughout the trench and cut by a post-medieval pit F3 [107]. This layer contained residual medieval pottery and tile and post-medieval pottery and tile, and in turn covered the natural

gravel with clay patches (113). At the southern end of the trench the rubble (103) overlay scalplings (105) which in turn sealed a medieval ditch F12 (120).



Plate 3. Tr1 N end (from N; 4 x 1m scales)



Plate 4. Tr1 dog-leg (from NW; 4 x 1m scales)



Plate 5. Tr1 S end, F12 & F13 (from N; 2 x 2m scales)



Plate 6. Tr3 (from S; 4 x 1m scales)

## Tr2

- 5.3 The modern tarmac (201) along the drive in the car park measured 0.10m thick and overlay a 0.30m thick layer of modern scalplings (202). This covered a concrete fill (203) sealing an oil heating pipe (204), located within a service trench [206] which cut through modern stone make-up (205). The trench was saturated in oil from a leak in the pipe and had to be abandoned and back-filled before full archaeological recording could take place, however no archaeological features were observed during excavation.

## Tr3

- 5.4 The modern tarmac (301) in the car park measured 0.10m thick and overlay a 0.20-0.30m thick layer of modern scalplings (302), above a 0.20m deep layer of stone make-up (303) (**Figure 3, Section 3; Plate 6**). This make-up layer (303) covered the fill (304) of a narrow service trench F27 [318], the fill (304) extending across the fill (309) of another narrow ditch (soakaway) F18 [308] which cut through natural deposits (305) (306) (307) of gravel and clay.

## Tr4

- 5.5 The topsoil/ turf (401) measured 0.33m deep and covered modern subsoil (402) measuring 0.33-0.47m deep (**Figure 3, Section 4; Plate 7**). Both layers contained residual Romano-British pottery (ERB, RB and LRB). The subsoil (402) covered the natural clay and gravel (412) and sealed the fills (404) (410) of the Romano-British ditches F23 and F28, and the fill (406) of a modern service trench F 24 [405].



Plate 7. Tr4 (from SE; 4 x 1m scales)

## FEATURES

- 5.6 A total of seven archaeological features were excavated during the archaeological investigations, two of which can be securely attributed to the Late Romano-British (LRB) period with a further feature possibly of Early Romano-British (ERB) date. One feature is tentatively dated as medieval (Med) with a further two features assigned to the medieval period (Med), and one to the post-medieval period (P-M). The dating of these features is based on the earliest possible date of the

backfills, using dateable finds and stratigraphic relationships. In addition, two of Rahtz's excavation trenches were encountered in Tr1 and the Late Saxon 'south boundary ditch' previously identified by Rahtz was encountered at the north end of Tr3. Two modern features were given feature numbers, with other modern features noted on sketch plans but not recorded.

- 5.7 A feature summary is provided in **Table 1** (with dimensions, fills, figure and plate references, and dates). Impact depths for the archaeology are displayed in **Table 2** as aOD heights.

#### Romano-British

- 5.8 A ditch F28 [409] was excavated in Tr4 cutting the natural (412), and was partially re-cut by a smaller ditch F23 [403] on the northern side of the feature (**Figure 3, Section 5; Plates 8 & 9**). The earlier larger ditch [409] was aligned north-east to south-west and contained a basal fill (411) of fine silt and gravel perhaps deposited by running water, while the main fill (410) was a reddish brown firm clay with occasional small pebbles and gravel. Both fills are dated by pottery to the LRB period, with the main fill (410) also containing abundant animal bone. The upper fill was cut by the smaller ditch [403] which had a different alignment from north-west to south-east, the dark grey firm clay backfill (404) containing animal bone and small finds including a later Roman and a 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD object (see **section 5**). The pottery spanned the LIRB, ERB, RB and LRB periods. A discrete deposit of clay (116) in Tr1 also contained a single sherd of ERB pottery, however this may have been residual and the deposit possibly later.



Plate 8. Tr4, ditch F28 with re-cut F23 (from W; 1 x 0.50m & 1 x 2m scales)





Plate 9. Tr4, ditch F28 with re-cut F23 (from SW; 1 x 0.50m & 2 x 2m scales)

#### Late Saxon

- 5.9 At the northern end of Tr3 was the southern edge of a ditch (**Figure 2**). This could not be excavated as only a fraction of it was observed. The trench could not be extended northwards due to the presence of an access point to the school and services, to the north of which was the oil contaminated section and services immediately to the north. However, excavation records suggest this represents the southern edge of Rahtz's 'south boundary ditch' which was thought to have originated in Period 2 (post c. 930 to late 10<sup>th</sup> or early 11<sup>th</sup> century) (Rahtz 2012, 55) (see **section 7.**).

#### Medieval

- 5.10 Running north to south along the eastern edge of Tr1 was a ditch F12 [125], cut into the natural deposits (111), and backfilled by firm clay with medium-sized stones (120) (**Figure 3, Section 3; Plate 10**). This was dated by medieval pottery sherds and a horseshoe nail of c. 1050-1350 (see **Section 5**). A small re-cut F13 [127] ran north-south along the western edge of the ditch, the firm clay backfill (126) being similar to (120) although without the stones. The ditch [125] was also encountered by Rahtz during the 1960's excavations and interpreted as the west wall of a timber-framed building known as the 'South East Building' (see below).
- 5.11 Further north in Tr1 was a small pit or scoop F15 [123] cut into the natural (113) (**Figure 3, Section 1**). The firm nature of the clay fill (124) suggested that this might be a natural root ball, however one small fragment of animal bone was recovered. The feature is tentatively assigned to the medieval period on stratigraphic grounds.



Plate 10. Tr1, ditch F12 with re-cut F13 (from N; 1 x 0.20m & 1 x 0.50m scales)

#### Post-medieval

- 5.12 A large pit F3 [107] was partially excavated near the northern end of Tr1 on the eastern side (Figure 3, Section 2; Plates 11 & 12). The pit cut through the post-medieval soil layer (106) and the underlying natural gravel (113), at which point the edges were deeply undercut due to the loose nature of the gravel. The fills peeled off the natural gravel edges and became damper and stickier further down with more stones, including some very large unworked boulders. Both backfills were also extremely loose and rubbly with large voids. The main fill (108) had evidence of tip lines rising upwards from south to north, with fill 112 perhaps presenting backfilling from the northern side of the pit. The base of the feature was not reached due to the confines of excavating against the baulk and the instability of the gravel edges. Collected finds comprised animal bone, medieval pottery, metal small finds, oyster shell, and slate. The presence of degraded mortar and charcoal was also noted.



Plate 11. Tr1, pit F3 (from W; 2 x 1m scales)



Plate 12. Tr1, pit F3 from E section (in plan; 1 x 1m scales)

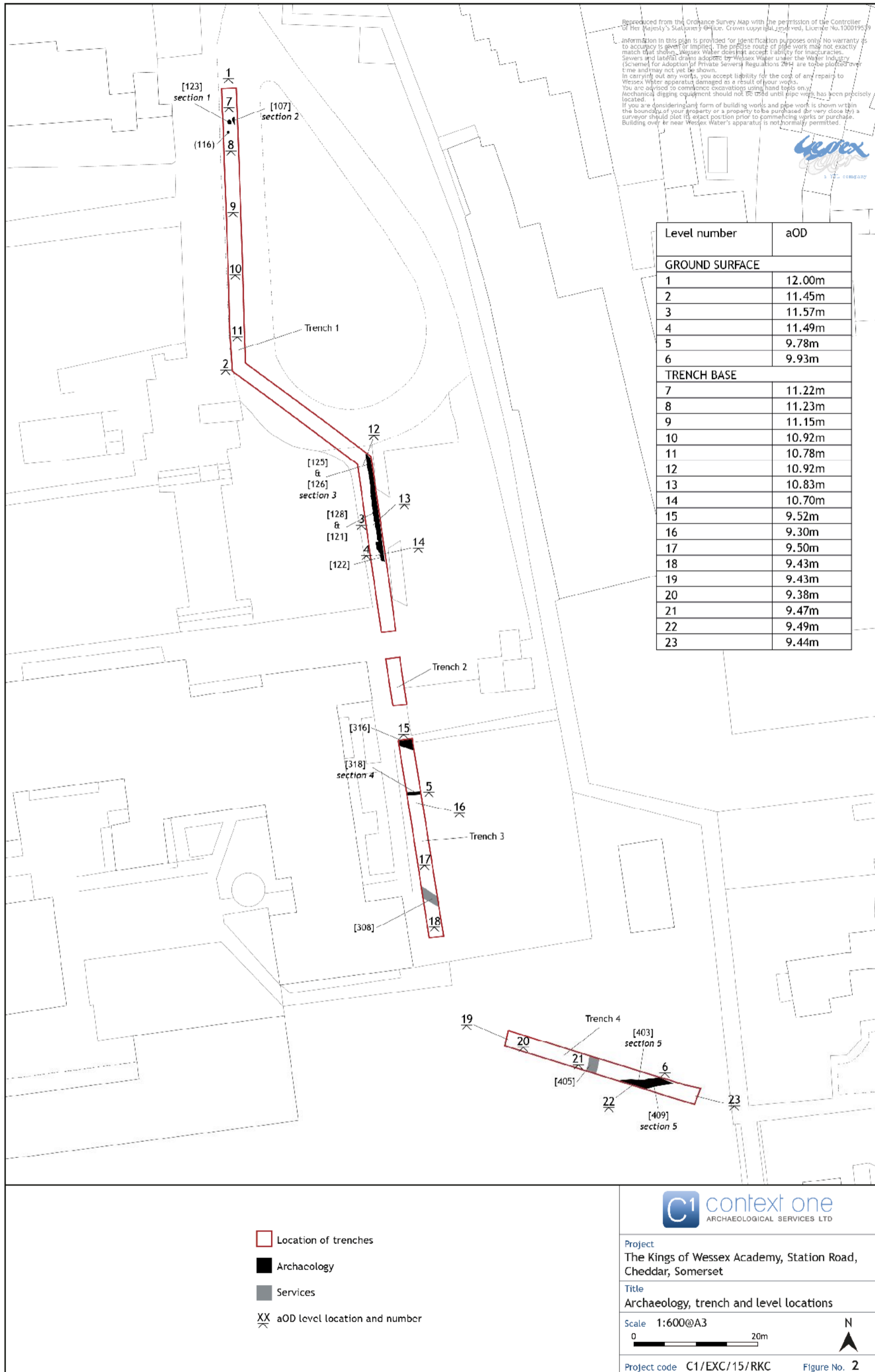


Figure 2. Archaeology, trench and level locations

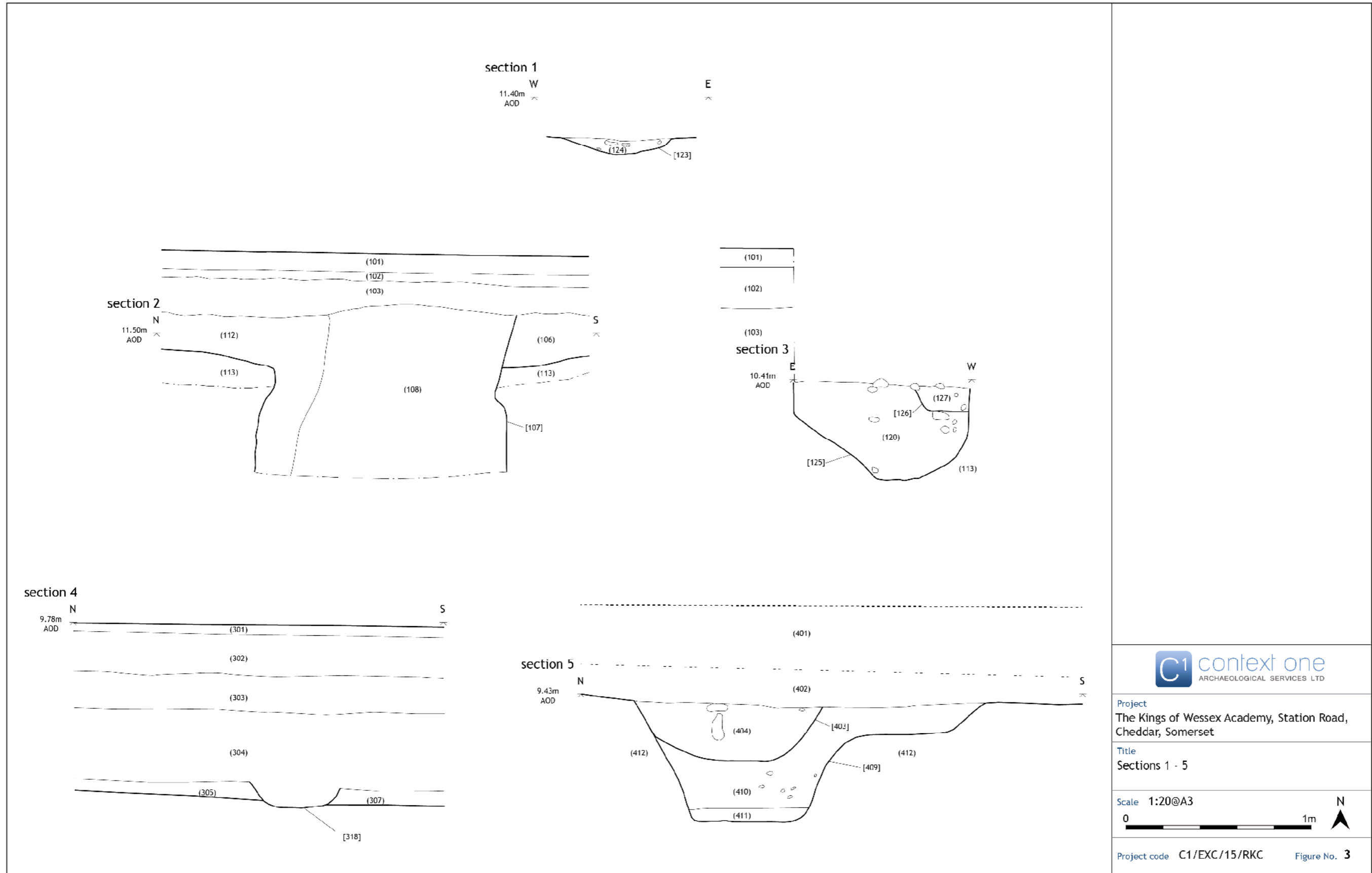


Figure 3. Sections 1-5

### Modern

- 5.13 A narrow ditch [318] ran from east to west across Tr3 (**Figure 3, Section 4**). The fill (304) overlay the backfill (309) of a modern soakaway [308] comprising a narrow trench which also cut natural deposits (305), (306) and (307). A modern service trench [405] (46) also crossed the centre of Tr4 from north to south.
- 5.14 Two 1960's excavation trenches ([121] [122]) were recorded running east to west across ditch F12 and re-cut F13 (**Figure 2**). This was established by section [128] which was excavated across trench 121, therefore confirming that the ditch F12 corresponded to the ditch found by Rahtz and interpreted as representing the west wall of the 'South East building'.

**Table 1: Individual feature summary**

Feature No.	Context No's & Description	Figure & Plate Refs	Earliest possible date
<b>Pits</b>			
3	[107] (108) (112) Pit. Collected finds comprised animal bone, medieval pottery, metal small finds, oyster shell, & slate. Also contained degraded mortar & charcoal	Fig 2, 3 (section 2) & 5 Plates 11 & 12	P-M
15	[123] (124) Small pit/ scoop. Circular with concave sides & concave base, measuring 0.6m wide & 0.08m deep. Brown compacted silt clay sand fill (124) contained a small fragment of animal bone	Fig 2, 3 (section 1) & 5	?MED
<b>Deposit</b>			
9	(116) Small clay deposit yielding a single sherd of ERB pottery	Fig 2 & 5	?ERB
<b>Ditches/ trenches</b>			
23	[403] (404) Ditch cutting part of earlier ditch F28. Aligned NW-SE with concave sides & base, measuring 1m wide & 0.3m deep. Collected finds comprised animal bone, pottery (LIRB, ERB, RB & LRB), two bone pins, two Cu alloys & three Fe (including shears)	Fig 2, 3 (section 5) & 5 Plates 8 & 9	LRB
28	[409] (411) (410) Ditch partially cut by later ditch F23. Aligned NE-SW with steep concave sides & a flat base, measuring 2m wide & 0.58m deep. Collected finds from (410) comprised animal bone & pottery (ERB, RB & LRB), with (411) yielding only pottery (RB & LRB)	Fig 2, 3 (section 5) & 5 Plates 8 & 9	LRB
12	[125] (120)]. Ditch aligned N-S with steep straight & slightly concave sides & a flat base, measuring 0.95m wide & 0.53m deep. Reddish brown firm clay fill (120) with occasional irregular stones. Collected finds comprised animal bone, medieval pottery & three metal small finds	Fig 2, 3 (section 3) & 5 Plate 10	MED
13	[126] (127) Re-cut of ditch F12. Aligned N-S with concave & straight sides & a flat base, measuring 0.31m wide & 0.13m deep. Yellowish red firm clay fill (127) with gravel	Fig 2, 3 (section 3) & 5 Plate 10	MED
-	[316] (317) Rahtz's Late Saxon south boundary ditch	Fig 2 & 5	LATE SAXON
27	[318] (304) Narrow ditch aligned E-W, measuring 0.40m wide & 0.15m deep	Fig 2, 3 (section 4) & 5	MOD
<b>Antiquarian excavation trenches</b>			
-	[121] 1960's trench aligned E-W. Section was numbered [128]	Fig 2 & 5	MOD
-	[122] 1960's trench aligned E-W	Fig 2 & 5	MOD
<b>Modern services</b>			
18	[308] (309) Soakaway comprising narrow trench aligned NW - SE, measuring >0.30m deep	Fig 2 & 5	MOD
24	[405] (406) Service trench aligned N-S	Fig 2 & 5	MOD

**Table 2: Impact heights for archaeology**

Type	Earliest possible date	Feature/ & Context no.	Height aOD
Pits	MED	F15 [123]	11.20m
	P-M	F3 [107]	11.70m
Ditches	RB	F23 [403]	9.43m
	RB	F28 [409]	9.43m
	MED	F12 [125]	10.41m
	MED	F13 [126]	10.41m
	LATE SAXON	[316]	9.52m
Deposits	RB	F9 (116)	11.23m
Layers	P-M	(106)	11.70m

## 6. The finds

- 6.1 A small assemblage of artefacts was recovered during the archaeological investigations. These included pottery, fired clay, CBM, small finds of metal and worked bone, glass, slate roof tiles, oyster shell, clay pipe, and animal bone. Recommendations for further phases of analytical reporting, where applicable, and selection and retention are summarized in **section 8**.

### POTTERY, BY RACHEL HALL

- 6.2 A total of 1,175 sherds weighing 13,617g, were recovered from nine contexts from the excavation (see **Table 3**). With the exception of a small amount of post-medieval material, the assemblage ranges in date from the Late Iron Age to medieval period. The sherds are all in an abraded condition ranging from fair to poor with an average sherd size of 11.58g.

### Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British

- 6.3 A small amount of material was identified as Late Iron Age in date due to their form and fabric. The sandy fabrics (including rare Iron Oxides inclusions) are probably all locally made. The sherds were recovered from ditch [403]. A small amount of diagnostic ware including an everted jar rim, bead rim, cordoned and burnished decoration was recovered. The remainder of the assemblage comprised abraded body sherds. The plain nature of the small group, along with being handmade and having sandwich firing, dates the group to the Late Iron Age.

### Early Romano-British

- 6.4 A single sherd of Black Burnished Ware as recovered from ditch [409] from a necked jar dating to the early 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> century AD. A small amount of abraded Samian ware was also recovered from layers ditches [403] and [409] and layers (116) and (401/402). The assemblage comprises various base, plain rim and pedestal base sherds. No diagnostic sherds were identified and the fabrics were too abraded to distinguish further fabric types. A small amount of grog tempered ware was also recovered from ditch [403] and layer (401/402).

### Romano-British

- 6.5 The majority of the assemblage was recovered from layers (401/402), ditches [403] and [409]. These sherds comprise various coarse sandy greywares and oxidised wares that are probably locally made and Black Burnished Wares. The vessel types include, necked jars and dog dish rims, dating to the first and second century AD. Flared and drop flanged bowls were also identified, dating to the late third and fourth Century AD. The majority of these vessels have conjoining sherds and fresh breaks. Decoration on the sherds comprised incised lattice work on the body of the vessels, cordoning below the rim and general burnishing.

### Late Romano-British

- 6.6 The low status of the material is also reflected in the fineware sherds present. New Forest Fineware was recovered from ditch [403]. Sherds from indented beakers (Fabric 1a; Fulford), abraded body sherds of New Forest whiteware (Fabric 1c - Fulford) and a small amount of Mortaria (with an illiterate stamp on the rim) can all be dated to AD 260+.
- 6.7 Oxfordshire Fineware (in fabrics A and B) were also recovered from layer (401/402); ditches [403] and [409] comprising various open bowl forms and a small amount of mortaria fragments. These all date from the mid third century AD. The abraded fabrics have remains of a slip in places. A small amount of imported Amphora was recovered from the above ditches. It was identified as Dressel 20, from Spain and is dated between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Century AD. The sherds are heavily abraded.

### Medieval and post-Medieval

- 6.8 The medieval assemblage comprises 25 sherds recovered in small amounts from ditch [125], pit [107] and modern layers (104) and (106). The sherds are all abraded in oxidised, sandy fabrics with abraded green glazes. The assemblage dates roughly to the 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> centuries however it is not very diagnostic. A small amount of the diagnostic ware includes finger-pinched decoration and applied cordons.

- 6.9 A total of 13 sherds were recovered from layers (104) and (106). These comprise abraded Earthenware sherds from open bowls with a small amount of Verwood Ware identified, dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

Table 3: Pottery by Context, Fabric, Date, Number and Weight (g).

Context	Fabric	Date	Number	Weight (g)
104	Earthenware	Pmed	1	68
104	Sandy	Med	1	9
106	Earthenware	Pmed	12	263
106	Sandy	Med	4	113
108	sandy	Med	4	48
116	Samian	ERB	1	3
120	sandy	Med	14	117
401/402	Samian	ERB	2	9
401/402	Greyware	RB	4	61
401/402	Grog-tempered	ERB	1	190
401/402	Oxfordshire fineware	LRB	2	69
401/402	Sandy	Med	2	13
404	greyware	RB	19	475
404	Greyware	RB	418	6030
404	BBW	RB	93	1518
404	Grog-tempered	ERB	369	1313
404	Samian	ERB	14	140
404	Oxfordshire fineware	LRB	24	382
404	Oxidised ware	RB	34	592
404	New Forest ware	LRB	5	365
404	New Forest Fineware	LRB	6	24
404	Amphora	RB	2	149
404	Sandy	LIRB	19	269
410	Greyware	RB	97	1190
410	Amphora	RB	2	25
410	Oxfordshire fineware	LRB	2	6
410	Samian	ERB	1	7
410	Oxidised ware	RB	1	4
410	BBW	ERB	1	11
411	Greywares	RB	19	143
411	Oxfordshire fineware	LRB	1	11
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1175</b>	<b>13617</b>

#### FIRED CLAY, BY RACHEL HALL

- 6.10 One fragment of Fired clay was recovered from one context (see Table 4). This possibly formed part of a Briquetage vessel, which could date to the Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British period. No other diagnostic material was identified.



Table 4: Fired Clay by Context, Fabric, Date, Number and Weight (g).

Feature	Context	Material	Fabric	Date	Number	Weight (g)
-	410	Fired Clay	Sand & Calcareous	Undated	1	2
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>

#### CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL, BY RACHEL HALL

- 6.11 Six fragments were recovered from layers (104) and (106), (see Table 5). Two are incomplete medieval roof tiles with green glaze and incised decoration. A curved roof tile and an unfroged, incomplete brick, both dating to the post-medieval period, were also identified.

Table 5: CBM by Context, Fabric, Date, number and Weight (g).

Feature	Context	Material	Fabric	Date	Number	Weight (g)
104	Sandy	Brick	Modern	1	735	104
104	sandy	Tile	Med	1	62	104
106	Sandy	Tile	Pmed	2	560	106
106	sand & Calcareous	Tile	Med	2	228	106
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>6</b>	<b>1585</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>

#### MISCELLANEOUS MATERIAL, BY RACHEL HALL

- 6.12 A small amount of miscellaneous material was also identified (see Table 6). A fragment of unworked sandstone was recovered from pit [107] and a fragment of abraded mortar was identified from ditch [403].

Table 6: Miscellaneous by Context, Fabric, Date, Number and Weight (g).

Feature	Context	Material	Fabric	Date	Number	Weight (g)
108	Sandstone	Natural	-	2	35	108
404	Mortar	Natural	-	1	9	404
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>3</b>	<b>44</b>

#### FURTHER WORK

- 6.13 No further work is required on the Romano-British and post-medieval pottery, fired clay, CBM or miscellaneous material assemblage. However, the medieval pottery requires specialist analysis to determine a more precise date.

#### SMALL FINDS OF METAL AND WORKED BONE, BY JÖRN SCHUSTER

##### Methodology

- 6.14 The objects were examined visually and, where required, with hand lenses (x4, x8 magnification). Basic type identifications such as 'coin' or 'nail' were recorded. Where possible, initial identifications according to known typologies were noted as well (e.g. Manning 1985; Goodall 2011). Broad period dates attributed to the finds are based on the intrinsic date of the finds established by comparison to known parallels and typologies. No conservation or cleaning of the objects has been carried out but X-radiographies, prepared of all copper alloy and iron objects by Wessex Archaeology, Salisbury, aided identification of further details where necessary. Object identification, measurements, including weight, and detailed descriptions as well as contextual details were entered into an Excel spreadsheet (available in the archive). Recommendations for mineral remains analysis, additional x-raying and conservation treatment (cleaning/ stabilisation/ reconstruction) as well as illustration and requirements for long-term storage and/or selection and retention have been considered and, where deemed necessary, noted in the spreadsheet.

##### Quantification and Provenance

- 6.15 The assemblage comprises 31 objects, including items made of copper alloy, iron, aluminium and worked bone (Table 7). The objects were recovered from 6 contexts, with the vast majority - a total of 22 objects, including all five coins - coming from ditch 403.

- 6.16 The small finds in this report are arranged in groups of functional categories following Crummy (1983, 5-6). A breakdown by category and context date of all finds is shown in Table 8.

Table 7. Number of objects per period and material

Period	CuA	Iron	Worked bone	Al	Total
Roman	2	13	2		17
Roman coin	5				5
Medieval		3			3
Post-medieval		3			3
Modern		1		2	3
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>31</b>

Table 8. Number of objects per context date and functional category (after Crummy 1983, 5-6, with amendments)

Period	Person	Toilet	Hshld	Transp	Tool	Fasten	Metalw	Coin	Query	Total
Roman	3	1			1	11		5	1	22
Medieval				1		2				3
Post-medieval							1		2	3
Modern			2			1				3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>31</b>

- 6.17 At least 12 objects are intrinsically datable, ranging in date from the Romano-British period to the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

#### The Small Finds Assemblage

- 6.18 The three objects in the category personal adornment are all pins found in ditch 403, they comprise two of worked bone and one pin shaft fragment made of copper alloy which cannot be identified further. The two worked bone pins are intrinsically datable to the Romano-British period. A complete pin with pyramidal element surmounted by a hemispherical cap (see front cover) is likely to date to the later 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> century; however, the pyramidal element makes this pin extremely rare and no immediate comparison has been found during the assessment. The other bone pin is a shaft fragment lacking the head and tip, but decorated with two transverse grooves incised below the missing head.
- 6.19 A possible mirror handle is the only object attributed to the category toilet instruments. The double convex-sectioned handle with a slight S-bend in its horizontal axis might belong to a Roman mirror of Lloyd-Morgan type W (Lloyd-Morgan 1981 ).
- 6.20 The two household items are aluminium ring-pulls from modern drink cans and/or fish tins.
- 6.21 The only item in the category transport is a medieval horseshoe nail with fiddle keyshaped head, a type which would have been used in conjunction with horseshoes featuring a lobate, wavy outer edge. Such horseshoes date between the mid-11<sup>th</sup> to mid-14<sup>th</sup> centuries. It was found in medieval ditch 125, provisionally identified as a foundation for a timber-framed building
- 6.22 The only object classed as a tool is a very well preserved pair of Roman shears with Ushaped bow and triangular blades found in ditch 403.
- 6.23 With 14 objects the category fasteners and fittings dominates the small assemblage. All are nails of which ten have preserved heads which will permit attribution to known typologies (e.g. Manning 1985, 133, fig. 32; Wastling in Evans and Loveluck 2009, 143-4; Goodall 2011, 163-4 fig. 9.1). Eleven nails were retrieved from Romano-British ditch 403, two from medieval ditch 125, and one from the top/subsoil (401/402).

- 6.24 Metalworking is represented by a semi-circular-sectioned iron rod with one blunt, damaged end, and its other end hammered out into thin, bent strip. This could have been kept as raw material for a blacksmith.
- 6.25 The five coins appear to be later 3<sup>rd</sup>-century irregular radiate copies made of copper alloy. All were found in Romano-British ditch 403.
- 6.26 Only three items have been attributed to the category comprising objects of uncertain function or purpose. They are a sub-rectangular iron plate from ditch 403, a sturdy iron rod from post-medieval pit 107 and a subtriangular-sectioned, curved rod from soil layer 106.

#### Potential of the Assemblage

- 6.27 Further analysis of the Roman coins, the rare worked-bone pin, the possible copper alloy mirror handle and the iron shears will allow confirmation of their identification and dating. Given the site's close proximity to other significant sites, the assemblage, although of very limited size, has the potential to contribute to the chronological and functional analysis of the site in its wider local setting.

#### Recommendations for further Work

- 6.28 A short report for publication should be prepared, mainly based on the results of the assessment, but including limited further analysis of the coins, the bone pin, the mirror handle and the iron shears in order to confirm the preliminary identifications.
- 6.29 It is recommended that the worked bone, the shears, the horseshoe nail and - if its identification can be confirmed - the possible mirror handle are illustrated for publication.

#### Archive

- 6.30 The archive will be deposited at a suitable regional repository. A spreadsheet and digital scans of all X-radiographs will be made available online at <https://independent.academia.edu/JoernSchuster>

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#### GLASS, BY CHERYL GREEN (COAS)

- 6.31 A single fragment of glass was recovered from the fill (404) of a Romano-British ditch [403]. This is a blue-green or dark turquoise cylindrical rod measuring 14mm long and 4mm in diameter. The rod appears to be hollow, measuring 1.5mm diameter, although soil is still present and would require removal by a conservator in order to confirm this. A series of four roundels suggests a decorative use, and examination with a x10 hand lens reveals these are not identical and that the

object is striated with fine diagonal lines presumably resulting from the glass working process. The surface is slightly opaque as a result of post-depositional processes.

- 6.32 The small assemblage of Roman vessel glass fragments recovered from the Palace excavations include blue-green and green-blue glass (Charlesworth, in Rahtz 2012, 258), which supports a Romano-British date for the object. However, the glass is also similar to blue-green and turquoise coloured moils associated with late 7<sup>th</sup> century glass-working furnaces at Glastonbury abbey, the moils hinting that glass was being used for decorative purposes (Willmott and Welham, in Gilchrist and Green 2015, 237).
- 6.33 It is recommended that the glass rod is subject to specialist cleaning by a conservator. It is also recommended for specialist analysis to confirm the identification, and that the object is photographed for publication.

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#### **MISCELLANEOUS FINDS, BY CHERYL GREEN (COAS)**

- 6.34 A total of 26 miscellaneous finds were collected from four post-medieval and modern contexts during the course of the excavations. These comprised slate (some with roof peg holes), oyster shell, clay pipe and a plastic golf tee.
- 6.35 None of the finds are closely dateable. However, roofing in stone was attributed wholly to Period 6 (later 13<sup>th</sup> century to c. 1600) of the palace (Anderson, in Rahtz 2012, 236). As the slates were confined to Tr1 it is possible that they may have derived from the nearby chapel, which was probably roofed with slate around c. 1330 (Rahtz 2012, 67). Clay pipes recovered from the Palace excavations ranged in dated from c. 1620-40 to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Oyster dominated the mollusca assemblage from the Palace excavations, with 64 valves as opposed to 6 mussel valves, 27 limpet valves and 12 winkle valves (Evans, in Rahtz 2012, 362). With the exception of 11 oyster valves which came from post-conquest contexts, the majority were derived from pre-conquest contexts (*ibid.*).

#### **Recommendations**

- 6.36 The assemblage of slate, oyster shell, clay pipe and plastic has no research value and therefore no further work is necessary. Neither is the assemblage recommended for long term curation.

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Table 9. Summary of miscellaneous finds

Context no.	Type	Qty	Description
104	Slate	1	Slate with creamy white mortar adhering to one side, measuring 0.06m x 0.06m
104	Oyster shell	2	Small fragments of oyster shell, measuring <0.045m
106	Oyster shell	2	Complete oyster shells, measuring < 0.06m
106	Clay pipe	1	Clay pipe stem, measuring 0.035m long
106	Slate	4	Two slates measuring (measuring 0.09m x 0.11m & 0.095m x 0.125m), and two roof slates with sub-circular peg holes approximately 0.01m in diameter (measuring 0.08m x 0.14m & 0.125m x 0.135m)
108	Slate	4	Slate fragments measuring between 0.05m square and 0.11m & 0.13m. Part of a sub-circular peg hole is present on one edge of a slate revealing that this was a roof slate
108	Oyster shell	10	1 small fragment of oyster shell (measuring <0.03m square), 5 complete small shells (measuring approx 0.06m square) and 5 larger shells (measuring approx 0.07m square)
401/402	Clay pipe	1	Clay pipe stem, measuring 0.035m long
401/402	Plastic	1	Modern plastic golf tee
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26</b>	

### THE ANIMAL BONE, BY CLARE RANDALL (COAS)

#### Introduction

- 6.37 The faunal assemblage from Redcliffe Street, Kings of Wessex School was recovered by Context One Archaeological Services during excavation/archaeological monitoring and recording in 2015. The material dates from four periods, Romano-British, medieval, post-medieval and modern.

#### Methods

- 6.38 Each bone fragment was identified where possible to element and species, and where this was not possible Large Mammal (e.g. cattle sized), Medium Mammal (e.g. sheep sized) and Unidentified mammal categories. All data were recorded in an Access relational database. Identification was carried out using comparative collections and with reference to Hillson (1992; 2005) and Schmid (1972) for domestic mammals, and Yalden (2003) for small mammals, and Cohen and Serjeantson (1996) for birds. Fish bones were identified by reference to the Archaeological Fish Resource (University of Nottingham). Zones were recorded where possible for each anatomical element using the Maltby/Hambleton method (n.d.) for mammals and Cohen and Serjeantson (1996) for birds.
- 6.39 Where available cattle, sheep/goat, and pig tooth wear was assessed using Grant (1982), and Payne (1973, 1982). Hambleton (1999) and Halstead (1985) were also used in assigning these to categories. Bone porosity was recorded for all fragments, and each fragment examined for fusion information. Fusion was recorded for each fragment and assigned to age ranges (Silver 1969). The percentage of the element present was estimated and recorded to the nearest 10% for all identified fragments. Each fragment was also examined for pathological changes, breakage patterns, gnawing and weathering indicators. Burnt bone was recorded by colour (buff, brown, grey, black and calcined). The condition of all fragments was assessed on a five-point scale through poor, poor-average, average, average-good and good. Pathological changes were noted and metrical data recorded in accordance with von den Driesch (1976).

#### Results

- 6.40 The assemblage from Redcliffe Street, Kings of Wessex School comprised a total of 338 fragments of disarticulated and co-mingled animal bone (Table 10) from a total of nine contexts, spread over four phases (Table 11). The majority of the material was recovered from one Romano-British feature. Four fragments (1%) were assigned to the modern period and were recovered from two contexts, both layers. A total of 69 (20%) fragments came from two post-medieval contexts, a layer and a pit. Nine fragments (3%) came from two medieval contexts, a pit and a ditch. 256 fragments (76%) came from three Romano-British ditch contexts, all in feature [409].

#### Preservation and taphonomy

- 6.41 The condition of the bone was generally poor-average (67%) or average (32%) and fragmented. One potential associated bone group was noted in post-medieval pit fill (108) [107]. In total 47% of the material was identified to species, which is fairly good for assemblages of this type and period. Of

these 18% comprised loose teeth, which is to be expected, given the fragmented nature of the assemblage. A number of helical breaks and examples of butchery were noted, in the Romano-British and post-medieval assemblages (Tables 12-14) which will have contributed to the degree of fragmentation. Twenty-three fragments (7% of the total assemblage) demonstrated taphonomic changes (Table 15), largely relating to canid gnawing. A single fragment was burned and two weathered. A number of measurements were taken and are included in Table 16. Two pathological specimens are included in Table 17.

#### The Romano-British assemblage

- 6.42 A total of 256 fragments were recovered from three contexts within the main ditch (Table 10). All of the material from this phase was fragmented, constituting co-mingled disarticulated material. 43% of the material could be identified to species. 78% of the material scored as poor-average on bone condition, with 21% as average, which is fairly typical of similar local assemblages. No associated bone groups were noted.
- 6.43 The species identified were cattle, sheep/goat, pig, dog, horse, domestic fowl, duck (*cf* mallard) and unidentified small mammal. The majority of the material related to the three main livestock species, with a significant number of dog and horse fragments. Cattle were by a small margin the most numerous species by NISP (47% of the three main species), with a slightly lesser representation of sheep/goat (45%) and pig in the minority (8%). The minimum number of individuals, confirms that cattle and sheep/goat were probably evenly represented with three individuals each.
- 6.44 The range of elements of all species represented is limited (Table 18 & 19), but includes head, axial and limb bones including some extremities. 21% of elements identified to species were loose teeth. The assemblage was fragmented, and 16 examples of butchery were noted on cattle, sheep/goat, duck and cattle sized mammal bone (6% of the whole assemblage). Fifty examples of breakage of the bone when fresh was noted (20% of the total assemblage), with cattle, sheep/goat, cattle-sized and sheep-sized animals involved. A total of 19 fragments had taphonomic changes noted (Table 15). Gnawing occurred at a rate of 6% of the assemblage, whilst weathering was rare (<1%). Burnt fragments also accounted for <1% of the assemblage.

#### Cattle

- 6.45 A total of 44 fragments were identified as cattle, with 83 fragments relating to cattle sized animals. The minimum number of individuals was three adult animals. Aging information is limited as there were no mandibles which could be assigned a wear stage (Table 20). A number of mandibular teeth were in wear or worn, and all were of the permanent dentition. There were no porous fragments. Only eight elements gave fusion information (Table 21), with early and late fusing elements fused representing skeletally adult animals only. All areas of the body were represented (Tables 18 & 19) including the head, axial and appendicular skeleton. Three examples of butchery were observed on cattle bone and eleven on cattle-sized animal fragments (Table 14), the majority heavy cuts. All of the cattle-sized fragments are ribs, and many of the cuts are through the bone, portioning it.

#### Sheep/goat

- 6.46 Forty-two fragments of sheep/goat bone were identified, as well as 44 fragments of sheep-sized mammal bone. None was positively identified as sheep or goat. This material was contributed by a minimum number of three animals, with at least two adults and one juvenile. A small number of mandibles provide Grant Mandible wear stage and Payne stages. A number of loose third mandibular molars were also available to supplement the data (Table 22 & Figure 4). It is notable that there are no young individuals with the mandibles and estimated scores from the loose teeth all relating to Payne stages D-G. This appears to reflect the true situation as there were no deciduous fourth premolars recovered as might be expected. These mandibles all relate to sub-adult and adult individuals, and most likely relates to meat consumption, with no evidence of rearing of animals on the Site. The fusion data is limited to a single fused ulna (an individual of at least 30 months), although there was a single porous fragment hinting at a small component of younger animals.

6.47 All parts of the body are represented, including the head, axial skeleton and limbs. A single example of butchery was noted on sheep/goat (**Table 14**), utilising a very heavy cut and apparently related to portioning the carcass. Potentially deliberate fragmentation appears to have affected eight further sheep/goat fragments, and 24 sheep-sized mammal fragments. No examples of pathological change were noted in sheep/goat.

*Pig*

6.48 Pig contributed only seven fragments to this assemblage, contributed by a minimum number of one adult pig. The majority of the material relates to head elements, but this should not be seen as representative. Ageing information is very limited, with two incomplete mandibles having adult teeth in wear (**Table 23**), and no fusion information available. No butchery or evidence for deliberate fragmentation was noted. There were no pathological changes noted.

*Horse*

6.49 Horse contributed 12 fragments to this assemblage, contributed by a minimum of one adult individual. A range of elements are represented (**Table 19**). Ageing information is very limited to a single fused acetabulum of the pelvis, representing an animal of >18-24 months. No butchery or evidence for deliberate fragmentation was noted. Pathological changes were noted in an astragalus which showed osteoarthritis of long standing.

*Dog*

6.50 Three fragments of dog were contributed by a minimum number of one adult individual. Two mandibles from context (410) match, and appear to come from the same individual. The teeth are permanent and fully erupted but not worn. No butchery or evidence for deliberate fragmentation was noted. There were no pathological changes noted.

*Bird*

6.51 Two fragments of bird bone were recovered from fill (404), a tarsometatarsus of domestic fowl and a humerus of duck (*cf* mallard) with two very fine cuts on the proximal articulation.

*Comment on the Romano-British assemblage*

6.52 All of the material in this assemblage is consistent with waste from meat consumption. There is little evidence for production of livestock, the animals are all of meat weight and there is considerable evidence of butchery. Whilst the information regarding element distribution is limited, most areas of the body are represented so animals may have been being slaughtered on Site.

**The medieval assemblage**

6.53 This limited assemblage has a more varied selection of species than the earlier periods, and appears to represent table waste.

**The post-medieval assemblage**

6.54 A total of 69 fragments were recovered from two contexts (**Table 10**). The material from this phase was fragmented, constituting co-mingled disarticulated material. 57% of the material could be identified to species. 15% of identified mammal bone comprised loose teeth. The six dog bones from pit fill (108) are consistent with a single adult animal and probably constitute an associated bone group.

6.55 The species identified were cattle, sheep/goat, pig, dog, horse, rabbit, domestic fowl, goose, duck (*cf* teal), duck (*cf* mallard) and cod (**Table 10**). Cattle were the most numerous species by NISP. The larger number of cattle is also reflected in the minimum number of individuals, originating from at least two animals. Pig may be under-represented, also having an MNI of two animals.

6.56 The range of elements of all species represented is limited (**Table 24**). Only six examples, of butchery were noted on cattle, and cattle-sized mammal bone (9% of the whole assemblage). Four examples of breakage of the bone when fresh were noted (6% of the total assemblage), with cattle and cattle-sized animals involved. A total of four fragments had taphonomic changes noted (**Table**

15). Gnawing occurred at a rate of 4% of the assemblage, whilst weathering was rare (1%). No burnt fragments were noted.

#### *Cattle*

- 6.57 A total of 14 fragments were identified as cattle, with 18 fragments relating to cattle sized animals. The minimum number of individuals was two, a minimum of one adult and one juvenile. Aging information is very limited as there were no mandibles which could be assigned a wear stage. There was a single porous fragment. A single distally fused tibia related to an animal of >24-30 months. Axial and limb bones were represented (Table 24). Four examples of butchery on cattle bone and two on cattle-sized ribs were noted, most being heavy or very heavy cuts associated with disarticulation. One pathological cattle fragment was noted, a distal tibia with minor degenerative change.

#### *Sheep/goat*

- 6.58 Five fragments of sheep/goat bone were identified, as well as two fragments of sheep-sized mammal bone. None was positively identified as sheep or goat. One tibia was evidently related to an improved breed. This material was contributed by a minimum number of one adult animal. Aging data was limited to a single worn mandibular tooth. There was no porous bone. The small selection of elements included no examples of butchery or fresh fragmentation.

#### *Pig*

- 6.59 Pig contributed three fragments to this assemblage, but this was contributed by a minimum number of two pigs, at least one adult and one juvenile, which indicates that they are likely to have been under-represented. All three fragments were from skeletally immature individuals. A pelvis fragment had a fused acetabulum indicating an individual of >12 months, but a tibia was unfused distally and proximally, coming from an individual of <24 months, and an unfused ulna an individual of <36-42 months, although the latter was porous. All are consistent with animals of meat weight. No butchery or evidence for deliberate fragmentation was noted.

#### *Horse*

- 6.60 A single horse femur was present in layer (106). This was proximally fused, representing an animal of >36-42 months. No butchery or evidence for deliberate fragmentation was noted.

#### *Dog*

- 6.61 Dog contributed six fragments to this assemblage, a minimum number of one adult individual. This all came from pit fill (108), and is likely to be an associated group. The elements represented were right and left femurs and tibiae, a left fibula and a metacarpal. This probably represents disposal of a companion animal. All of these were fused. No butchery or evidence for deliberate fragmentation was noted. No pathological changes noted.

#### *Bird*

- 6.62 Fifteen bird fragments included four domestic fowl bones, contributed by a minimum of three individuals, at least two adults and one juvenile. One male tarsometatarsus was represented (Table 25). Three fragments of duck bone were noted, two comparable to mallard and one comparable to teal. Three fragments of goose were present, at least one of comparable size and morphology to domestic goose.

#### *Wild mammals*

- 6.63 A single rabbit tibia from pit fill (108) may be an incidental inclusion, or relates to table waste.

#### *Fish*

- 6.64 Three fragments of fish were recovered from pit fill (108). These were all Atlantic cod (*Gadus morhua*), and all head elements from a large individual or individuals.

#### *Comment on the post-medieval assemblage*

- 6.65 This limited assemblage has a more varied selection of species than the earlier periods, and appears to represent table waste.



### The modern assemblage

- 6.66 The modern material consisted of four fragments of bone (three cattle and one unidentified) from two layers.

### Comment

- 6.67 The Romano-British assemblage is typically dominated by the main livestock species, with few wild species and a small representation of domestic fowl, and duck which could be either wild mallard or domestic. Cattle and sheep/goat contributed the majority of the material, which is similar to the abundance at Catsgore (Everton 1982) and Ilchester (Levitan 1994). It differs from the assemblage from Fosse Lane, Shepton Mallet where cattle were much more abundant than sheep/goat, although the species range was similar (Pinter-Bellows 2001, 291). It must however be commented that whilst this is a respectably sized assemblage, as it all comes from one feature the species abundance and element representation may reflect consumption and disposal practice in only one part of the Site.
- 6.68 However, it is clear that there is an emphasis on meat-bearing age animals, with no evidence for the presence or rearing of very young animals on the Site. This is also similar to Catsgore (Everton 1982) and Fosse Lane (Pinter-Bellows 2001, 293). There is considerable evidence of fragmentation of sheep/goat and sheep-sized bone when fresh and butchery on cattle and cattle-sized animals. The butchery is typical of the Romano-British period with heavy cuts and a fairly systematic approach to cutting up the carcass. This is particularly noticeable on the cattle-sized animal ribs, although this is not as heavy or systematic as that seen on the bone recovered from recent excavations of a 1<sup>st</sup> century AD site in Bathwick, Bath (Randall, in Green and McConnell forthcoming). Similar transverse butchery of ribs was seen in the rural assemblage at Catsgore (Everton 1982, 141), Fosse Lane (Pinter-Bellows 2001, 301) and cattle ribs were heavily affected at Ilchester (Levitan 1994, 175).
- 6.69 The medieval assemblage is too small to comment on and may well be derived from re-deposited material from an earlier phase. The post-medieval material presents a limited assemblage, but the range of species and greater emphasis on birds indicates that it is unlikely to be derived from earlier deposits. One of the sheep/goat fragments was of a size which indicates that it was from an improved breed. The inclusion of three fragments of cod bone is interesting. These were all head elements from a large individual. It is unlikely that this derived from salt fish and is likely to have been supplied to the Site fresh. The selection of species and elements is consistent with general table waste.
- 6.70 No further work is recommended on this assemblage. However, the Romano-British assemblage is of a suitable size and quality to add to the general picture of contemporary assemblages in the area and should be included in any appropriate publication.

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Table 10: Species abundance, NISP and MNI. \* denotes a potential Associated Bone Group

Species	Romano-British		Medieval		Post-medieval		Modern		Total
	NISP/No	MNI	NISP/No	MNI	NISP/No	MNI	NISP/No	MNI	NISP/No
Cattle	44	3			14	1+1	3	1	61
Sheep/Goat	42	2+1			5	1			47
Pig	7	1	1	1	3	1+1			11
Dog	3	1			[6]*	1			9
Horse	12	1	1	1	1	1			14
<b>Domestic total</b>	<b>108</b>		<b>2</b>		<b>29</b>		<b>3</b>		<b>142</b>
Rabbit					1	1			1
Small mammal	1								1
<b>Wild Total</b>	<b>1</b>				<b>1</b>				<b>2</b>
Cod Gadus mordua					3	1			3
<b>Fish Total</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>		<b>3</b>		<b>0</b>		<b>3</b>
Domestic Fowl	1	1			4	2+1			5
Duck cf Mallard	1	1			2	1			3
Duck cf Teal					1	1			1
Goose			1	1	3	1			4
Unidentified			1		5				6
<b>Bird Total</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>2</b>		<b>15</b>				<b>19</b>
Large mammal	83		1		18				102
Medium mammal	44		1		2				47
Unidentified	18		3		1		1		23
<b>Unidentified Total</b>	<b>145</b>		<b>5</b>		<b>21</b>		<b>1</b>		<b>172</b>
<b>Main total</b>	<b>256</b>		<b>9</b>		<b>69</b>		<b>4</b>		<b>338</b>

Table 11: Number of fragments by feature type

Feature	Romano-British		Medieval		Post-medieval		Modern	
	Number	No Contexts	Number	No Contexts	Number	No Contexts	Number	No Contexts
Ditch	256	3						
Pit			1	1	48	1		
Layer					21	1	4	2
Robber trench			8	1				

Table 12: Fragmentation, period summary, helical breaks

Species	Romano-British	Medieval	Post-medieval	Modern	Total
Cattle	3		2		
Sheep/Goat	8				
Pig					
Horse					
Dog					
Deer					
Cattle sized	15		2		
Sheep-sized	24				
Unidentified					
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>54</b>

Table 13: Butchery, Period/phase summary, all types of cut

Species	Romano-British	Post-medieval	Total
Cattle	3	4	7
Sheep/Goat	1		1
Pig			
Horse			
Dog			
Duck	1		1
Cattle sized	11	2	13
Sheep-sized			
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>22</b>

Table 14: Butchery. \*with bone in anatomical position

Period	Species	Element	Cut type	No of cuts	Direction*	Comment
RB	Duck	Humerus	Light	1		Disarticulation. Very fine
RB	Sheep/goat	Axis	Chop	2	\	Portioning
RB	Cattle	Mandible	Light	2	/	
RB	Cattle	Pelvis	Heavy	2	\	
RB	Cattle	Skull	Heavy	2	---	
RB	Cattle-size	Rib	Heavy	1	---	Dorsal through
RB	Cattle-size	Rib	Heavy	1	---	Dorsal through
RB	Cattle-size	Rib	Heavy	2	---	Both aspects through
RB	Cattle-size	Rib	Heavy	1	/	Dorsal
RB	Cattle-size	Rib	Light	4	---	Dorsal
RB	Cattle-size	Rib	Light	1	---	Dorsal
RB	Cattle-size	Rib	Heavy/light	4+4	---	Both aspects through
RB	Cattle-size	Rib	Heavy	2	---	Dorsal
RB	Cattle-size	Rib	Heavy	2	---	Dorsal through
RB	Cattle-size	Rib	Heavy	1	---	Dorsal through
RB	Cattle-size	Rib	Heavy	2	---	Dorsal through 106mm
P-med	Cattle	Femur	Heavy	1	---	
P-med	Cattle	Metatarsal	Heavy	1	\	
P-med	Cattle	Metatarsal	Heavy	2	---	
P-med	Cattle	Scapula	Light	3	/	
P-med	Cattle-size	Rib	Chop	1	---	
P-med	Cattle-size	Rib	Heavy	2	\	

Table 15: Summary of gnawed and burnt fragments by Period/phase

Period	Total fragments	Gnawed	% Gnawed	Weathered	% Weathered	Burnt	% Burnt
Romano-British	256	17	6	1	<1	1	<1
Post-medieval	69	3	4	1	1	-	-

Table 16: Metrical information in mm.

Period	Species	Element	Measurements (mm)
RB	Domestic Fowl	Tibiotarsus	Bp 17.1
RB	Duck (mallard)	Humerus	Bd 15.5 Bp 21.2 GL 91.6
RB	Cattle	Horn	Bd 56.0 Dd 35.5
RB	Cattle	Astragalus	Bd 35.8 GLL 56.1 GLm 50.8
RB	Horse	Astragalus	GB 58.8
RB	Dog	Humerus	Bd 29.3 BT 20.5 HT 17.3
RB	Dog	Mandible	M1B 8.3 M1L 20.6 M2B 6.3 M2L 9.0 Tooth row 35.2
RB	Dog	Mandible	M1B 8.2 M1L 21.5 M2B 7.0 M2L 9.0 Tooth row 34.4
Post-med	Domestic Fowl	Tarsometatarsus	Bd 15.5 Bp 17.0 GL 91.5 Spur length 9.6
Post-med	Cattle	Metatarsal	Bp 48.5 Dp 46.5
Post-med	Cattle	Metatarsal	Bp 51.8 Dp 54.2
Post-med	Sheep/goat	Tibia	Bd 35.2 Bp 56.8 Dd 29.3 GL 279 SD 24.4
Post-med	Sheep/goat	Metatarsal	Bp 18.8 Dp 19.5
Post-med	Dog	Femur	Bp 42.1 DC 19.4 SD 13.1
Post-med	Dog	Tibia	Bp 38.2
Post-med	Dog	Tibia	Bd25.2 Dd 17.3
Post-med	Horse	Femur	DC 52.6

Table 17: Pathological information

Period	Species	Element	Description
RB	Horse	Astragalus	Entire distal facet has macroporosity, extension to margins and polished appearance - osteoarthritis
Post-med	Cattle	Tibia	Minor resorbition to centre of distal articulation. Minor degenerative change

Table 19: Element representation Romano-British period

Element	Cattle	Sheep/goat	Pig	Horse	Dog	Total
Horncore	1	1				2
Cranium	5		2			7
Maxilla			1			1
Mandible	6	13	2	1	2	24
Atlas						
Axis		1				1
Cervical vertebra			1			1
Thoracic vertebra	1					1
Lumbar vertebra	1					1
Sacrum						
Ribs		3				3
Innominate	2			1		3
Scapula	6			2		8
Humerus	1	4			1	6
Radius	1	1				2
Ulna	1	1	1			3
Carpal						
Metacarpal		2				2
Femur	1	2				3
Tibia		3				3
Patella						
Calcaneus				1		1
Tarsal	1					1
Astragalus	1			2		3
Metatarsal	1					1
Phalanges	4	2		1		7
Loose Teeth	10	9		4		23

Table 18: Minimum Number of Elements, cattle, sheep/goat and pig, Romano-British

Element	Romano-British Period									Medieval Period									Post-medieval Period									
	Cattle			Sheep/goat			Pig			Cattle			Sheep/goat			Pig			Cattle			Sheep/goat			Pig			
	L	R	U	L	R	U	L	R	U	L	R	U	L	R	U	L	R	U	L	R	U	L	R	U	L	R	U	
Horncore	1					1																						
Cranium	1	3							1																			
Maxilla									1																			
Mandible	2	2		3	5		1	1																				
Atlas																												
Axis						1																						
Cervical vertebra									1												1							
Thor vertebra			1																		1							
Lumbar vertebra			1																									
Sacrum																												
Ribs				2	+1																	1						
Innominate	1																									1		
Scapula	2	3																	1	1								
Humerus		1		2	1															1								
Radius		1			1																							
Ulna		1			1		1									1											+1	
Carpal																												
Metacarpal					1																							
Prox phalanx			4			2															1							
Interm.phalanx																												
Distal phalanx																												
femur		1			1																1							
tibia				1	1																1					1		
fibula																												
patella																												
calcaneus																												
tarsal			1																									
astragalus		1																										
metatarsal	1																				1+1	1		1				

**Table 20: Toothwear for cattle, Romano-British Period**

Period	Toothwear Scores	MWS	Halstead	Age Range
RB	(P4)h;k;/			

**Table 21: Fusion information for cattle, Romano-British period**

Fusion date	Element	Fused	Unfused
Early fusing (7-10 mths)	Scapula	4	
(7-10mths)	Pelvis	2	
(12-18mths)	Humerus, distal		
(12-18mths)	Radius, proximal	1	
Later fusing (24-30mths)	Metacarpal, distal		
(27-36mths)	Metatarsal, distal		
(24-30mths)	Tibia, distal		
Late fusing (36-42mths)	Calcaneus		
(42-48 mnths)	Humerus, proximal		
(42-48mths)	Radius, distal		
(42-48mths)	Ulna		
(42 mnths)	Femur, proximal	1	
(42-48mths)	Femur, distal		
(42-48mths)	Tibia, proximal		

**Table 22: Toothwear for sheep/goat, Romano-British period**

Period	Toothwear Scores	MWS	Payne	Age Range
RB	/;h;e;V	25	D	Subadult 1-2 years
RB	(Dp4)j;g;e;E	25	D	Subadult 1-2 years
RB	(Dp4)m;g;e;/			
RB	/;g;f;/			
RB	(P4)f;h;f;c	32	E	Young Adult 2-4 years
RB	(P4) f;g;g;d	33	E	Young Adult 2-4 years
RB	(P4)j;h;/			
RB	Loose M3 b		Est E	Young Adult 2-4 years
RB	Loose M3 e		Est E	Young Adult 2-4 years
RB	Loose M3 f		Est E	Young Adult 2-4 years
RB	Loose M3 g		Est G	Adult 4-6 years
RB	Loose M3 g		Est G	Adult 4-6 years

**Table 23: Toothwear for pig**

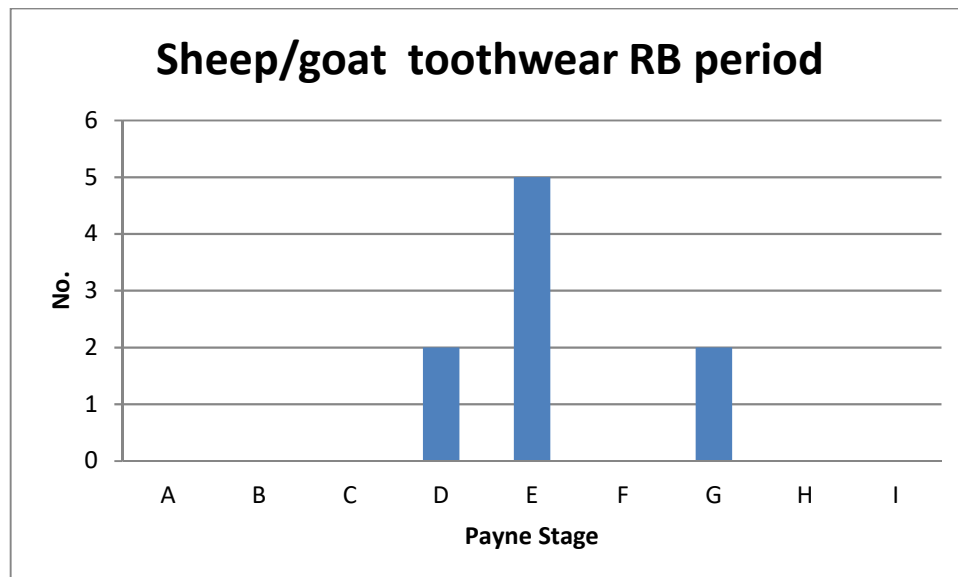
Period	Toothwear Scores	MWS		Age Range
RB	/;LPM;LPM;b			
RB	/;c;LPM;/			

**Table 24: Element representation Post-medieval period**

Element	Cattle	Sheep/goat	Pig	Horse	Dog	Total
Horncore		1				1
Cranium						
Maxilla						
Mandible						
Atlas						
Axis						
Cervical vertebra	1					1
Thoracic vertebra	1					1
Lumbar vertebra						
Sacrum						
Ribs		1				1
Innominate			1			1
Scapula	3					3
Humerus	1					1
Radius						
Ulna			1			1
Carpal						
Metacarpal					1	1
Femur	1			1	2	4
Tibia	1		1		2	4
Patella						
Calcaneus						
Tarsal						
Astragalus						
Metatarsal	3	1				4
Phalanges	1					1
Loose Teeth	2	1				3

**Table 25: Sex data, all Periods**

Period	Species	Element	Female	Male
Post-medieval	Domestic fowl	Tarsometatarsus		1



**Figure 4.** Sheep/goat mandibles, Payne wear stages, Romano-British period

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Information in this plan is given on the basis of the accuracy given or assumed to be shown. West of Wessex Water apparatus. You are advised to consult Mechanical digging equipment located.  
If you are considering any work on the boundary of your property, you should plot its location on the plan.





## 7. Discussion and Conclusions

### Discussion

- 7.1 The archaeological excavation has identified a total of seven archaeological features, five of which can be securely dated. These comprised a Late Romano-British ditch with re-cut, a medieval ditch (also with re-cut) thought to represent a shallow wall foundation for a timber-framed building, and a post-medieval pit (**Figure 5**). In addition, near the north end of the Site a small deposit was tentatively dated by pottery to the Early Romano-British period, possibly representing a remnant of an earlier soil horizon although the find is most likely to be residual. Immediately adjacent was a small pit or scoop also tentatively dated as medieval. Both features were sealed beneath an extensive post-medieval soil layer. The edge of a ditch found at the northern end of Tr3 most likely represents the southern edge of the Late Saxon ‘south boundary ditch’ previously identified by Rahtz (see **Figure 5**). This does not align with a ditch found further south during the 2014 evaluation (McConnell and Green 2014).
- 7.2 The Late Romano-British ditch with re-cut ran north-west to south-east across the north-eastern corner of the school playing field. Yielding a large assemblage of finds spanning the Late Iron Age to Early Romano-British period to the Late Romano-British period, the ditch was clearly utilized for the deposition of a range of domestic waste from nearby settlement. Indeed, a probable villa is located 250m to the south-east, surrounded by evidence for a widespread system of field enclosures to which the ditch may relate. Although the finds from the ditch and re-cut were dominated by pottery and animal bone, there were also some small finds of note within the re-cut. These comprised items of personal adornment (a copper alloy pin and two pins of worked bone, one of which is extremely rare), a possible mirror handle, a pair of Roman shears, and five coins dating to the later 3<sup>rd</sup>-century AD. Most of the animal bone assemblage came from the ditch and was dominated by livestock species, particularly cattle and sheep/goat. There was little evidence of rearing of animals on the Site, and the material was consistent with the butchery, consumption and disposal of livestock of meat bearing age. Patterns of species abundance, age and butchery are consistent with other contemporary Somerset sites.
- 7.3 A medieval foundation trench running from north to south along the eastern edge of the southern length of Tr1 is approximately coterminous with the west wall of the ‘South East Building’ discovered by Rahtz in the 1960’s. There is a slight misalignment between the two, however this probably reflects the inaccuracies of earlier surveying as the discovery of two of Rahtz’s excavation trenches were found crossing the central and southern parts of the foundation trench therefore confirming the association. A medieval horseshoe nail dated mid-11<sup>th</sup> to mid-14<sup>th</sup> century was recovered, together with medieval pottery sherds including some diagnostic wares dated approximately as 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century. A re-cut along the western side of the trench may relate to robbing of dwarf stone walls or perhaps an episode of repair. The plan of the ‘South East Building’ was elucidated from a series of narrow trenches, however Rahtz tentatively envisaged a timber-framed building set on dwarf stone walls above shallow clay-filled ditches, the unmortared wall foundations being too shallow and narrow to support a substantial structure (Rahtz 2012, 189). It may have contained a hall or chamber at the north end, a buttery, pantry and corridor and a kitchen area, a plaster floor and oven (*ibid.*). Thought to date to Period 5 (early 13<sup>th</sup> century) it therefore appeared to be contemporary with East Hall II, perhaps representing a domestic wing, which was abandoned in Period 6 (*ibid.*, 189 & 192).
- 7.4 Most of the medieval and post-medieval finds were residual, the roof tile and CBM probably deriving from the demolition of the palace buildings, and the pottery reflecting medieval consumption and subsequent post-medieval occupation of parts of the Site. The post-medieval animal bone assemblage is consistent with table waste, and reflects a wider diet including more birds. The assemblage also included the remains of the head of a large cod, which is likely to have been brought to the Site fresh rather than salted.

### Conclusions

- 7.5 The excavations uncovered the shallow foundation trench previously discovered by Rahtz in the 1960’s and interpreted as the west wall of an early 13<sup>th</sup> century ‘domestic’ annexe to the contemporary East Hall II. The depth of the ditch is very similar to the depth recorded in the 1960’s

consequently there does not appear to have been any truncation, supporting the assumption that the ground was made-up rather than lowered, mostly as a result of the need for an effective drainage system (Rahtz 2012, 37). This is apparent from the deep make-up layers covering the archaeology and underlying the modern tarmac. Unexpected significant discoveries were confined to a Late Romano-British ditch with re-cut, a possible Late Saxon boundary ditch, and a large post-medieval pit.

- 7.6 The small number of features found within the trench were cut into the natural. Consequently, when the excavated parts of the trench are extended to full depth for the insertion of the pipe, no further archaeological features will be encountered. Crucially, these works should avoid the medieval foundation in the southern part of Tr1, by running the pipe along the western half of the trench. The Late Romano-British ditch was completely excavated and all finds removed therefore no further work is required in this area. The possible Late Saxon boundary ditch at the northern end of Tr3 should be subject to archaeological monitoring and recording during development works. Monitoring should take place along any lengths that were not excavated, including the area beyond the northern end of TR1 towards the road.

## 8. Recommendations

- 8.1 No further work is required on the Romano-British and post-medieval pottery, fired clay, CBM, miscellaneous material, or the animal bone, although the Romano-British faunal assemblage is of a suitable size and quality to contribute to the general picture of contemporary assemblages in the area and should be included in the analytical report/ publication. Specialist analysis is required of the medieval pottery to see if the more diagnostic sherds can be more precisely dated, particularly in relation to the medieval wall foundation of the 'South East Building'. It is considered that the assemblage of small finds of metal and worked bone has the potential to contribute to the chronological and functional analysis of the Site in its wider local setting. This would form part of a short analytical report, incorporating further analysis of the Roman coins, the rare worked-bone pin, the possible copper alloy mirror handle and the iron shears. It is also recommended that the glass rod is subject to specialist cleaning by a conservator, followed by specialist analysis to confirm the identification. Selected small finds and the glass rod should be illustrated/ photographed as part of the final analytical report/ publication.
- 8.2 The collected finds are of potential value to researchers and should be retained as a material archive. A request will be made to the Site owner to transfer the title of all finds to the Museum of Somerset.
- 8.3 Although the Site is of national importance, the features themselves or the parts excavated are of limited local significance. Nevertheless, it is considered that they merit a short publication in the annual Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological & Natural History Society. However, at the time of writing, the scope and manner of any publication has yet to be agreed with Ms Barge (HE) and Mr Membery (South West Heritage Trust).

## 9. Archive

- 9.1 An ordered and integrated site archive has been prepared to comply with guidelines set out in *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson and Neal 2001) and *Standards in the Museums Care of Archaeological Collections* (Museum and Galleries Commission 1992) / *Management of Archaeological Projects in the Historic Environment* (English Heritage 2006).
- 9.2 The project archive is currently held by COAS and consists of the following:

Item	Number	Format
Digital feature sheets	3	pdf
Digital profiled sheets	3	pdf
Feature sheets	5	paper
Context sheets	3	paper

Drawings	9	Permatrace
Sketch plans	4	paper
Context summary	4	paper
Feature list	1	paper
Digital photographic register & levels register	1	Excel
Digital images	57	.JPG

- 9.3 The paper archive has been scanned as a single file in .PDF format and will form part of the physical Site archive to be deposited with Somerset County Museum.
- 9.4 Copies of this report will be deposited with the client/agent and included as part of the Somerset Historic Environment Record. A digital copy of the report will also be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service, via OASIS (On-line Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations - <http://oasis.ac.uk/england/>). The OASIS entry will also be completed to include details of the archive contents.

## 10. COAS acknowledgements

- 10.1 We would like to thank the following for their contribution to the successful completion of this project:

Mel Barge, Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Historic England  
 Jo Foo, Projects Manager, Wessex Water plc  
 Ruth Hall, Senior Environmental Scientist, Wessex Water plc  
 Steven Membery, Senior Historic Environment Officer, Somerset County Council  
 Staff at Kings of Wessex Academy

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## Appendix 1: Context summary

CONTEXT NO.	FEATURE NO.	PERIOD	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION	ABOVE	CONTEMP. WITH	BELOW	LENGTH	WIDTH/ DIAMETER	THICKNESS/ DEPTH
<b>TRENCH 1</b>											
101	-	MOD	Layer	Tarmac	Tarmac	(102)	(201) (301)	-	-	-	0.10m
102	-	MOD	Layer	Scalpings	Make-up	(103)	(202) (302)	(101)	-	-	0.28m
103	-	MOD	Layer	Blue lias rubble, stones measuring <0.10m diameter	Stone make-up	(112) (127)	(104) (303)	(102)	-	-	0.30m
104		MOD	Layer	Blue lias rubble, stones measuring <0.10m diameter	Stone make-up	(106)	(103)	(102)	-	-	0.30m
105	-	MOD	Layer	Scalpings	Make-up in S end of Tr1	(120)	(303)	(103)	-	-	0.20m
106	-	P-M	Layer	Dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) soft to firm silt clay sand with occasional charcoal flecks & 10% gravel	Dark gritty soil layer throughout trench, beneath modern stone make-up layer (103) & above natural	(113)	-	[107]	-	-	0.32m
107	F3	P-M	Cut	Sub-circular with straight sides (base not reached), undercut in places giving bell-like profile	Large pit - rubbish/ cess/ well. During excavation voids kept appearing around edges suggesting the feature was of some depth	(106)	-	(108)	1.23m	>0.40m	>0.84m
108	F3	P-M	Fill	Dark brown (10YR 3/3) soft very loose silt clay & gravel with large voids	Fill of pit [107]	[107]	-	(112)	1.23m	>0.40m	>0.84m
109	F4	MOD	Cut	Not recorded	Service trench	-	-	-	-	-	-
110	F4	MOD	Fill	Not recorded	Fill of service trench [109]	-	-	-	-	-	-
111	-	NAT	Layer	Yellowish brown (10YR 5/8) compacted silt clay with occasional gravel	Natural tan clay above natural gravel	(113)	-	[125]	-	-	0.56m
112	F3	P-M	Fill	Dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) very soft silt clay	Fill within N side of pit [107] against main rubble fill (108) & extending c. 1m northwards above	(108)	-	(103)	-	3.00m	>0.85m

CONTEXT NO.	FEATURE NO.	PERIOD	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION	ABOVE	CONTEMP. WITH	BELOW	LENGTH	WIDTH/DIAMETER	THICKNESS/DEPTH
					natural gravel suggesting remnant of medieval soil						
113	-	NAT	Layer	Natural gravel (80%) with patches of strong brown (7.5YR 5/8) compacted clay	Natural gravels with clay patches throughout base of trench	-	-	(111)	-	-	-
114	-	MOD	Cut	Not recorded	Soakaway	-	-	-	-	-	-
115	-	MOD	Fill	Not recorded	Fill of soakaway [114]	-	-	-	-	-	-
116	F9	RB	Layer	Triangular deposit of firm shallow clay	Small clay deposit	(111)	-	(103)	-	-	-
118	F11	MOD	Cut	Not recorded	Service trench	-	-	-	-	-	-
119	F11	MOD	Fill	Not recorded	Fill of service trench [118]	-	-	-	-	-	-
120	F12	MED	Fill	Reddish brown (5YR 5/2) firm clay with occasional irregular stones measuring >0.03m	Fill of ditch [125] or possibly continuation of ditch recorded by Rahtz	[125]	-	(126) (103) (105)	-	0.95m	0.53m
121	F14	MOD	Cut	Aligned E-W	?1960's trench	-	-	-	-	-	-
122	F14	MOD	Cut	Aligned E-W	?1960's trench	-	-	-	-	-	-
123	F15	MED	Cut	Circular with concave sides & concave base	A small truncated pit or a small scoop (possibly a natural root ball)	(113)	-	(124)	-	0.60m	0.08m
124	F15	MED	Fill	Brown (10YR 4/3) compacted silt clay sand with 10% grit & small gravel, & 10% natural stones measuring <0.10m	Fill of small pit/ scoop [123]	[123]	-	(106)	-	0.60m	0.08m
125	F12	MED	Cut	Aligned N-S with steep straight & slightly concave sides & a flat base	Continuation of ditch recorded by Rahtz	(111)	-	(120)	-	0.95m	0.53m
126	F13	MED	Cut	Aligned N-S with concave & straight sides & a flat base	Re-cut of ditch F12	(120)	-	(127)	-	0.31m	0.13m
127	F13	MED	Fill	Yellowish red (5YR 5/6) firm clay with gravel	Fill of re-cut [126]	[126]	-	(103)	-	0.31m	0.13m
128	F12	-	-	-	Section cut into F12, same as [125]	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TRENCH 2</b>											
201	-	MOD	Layer	Tarmac	Tarmac	(202)	(101) (301)	-	-	-	0.10m

CONTEXT NO.	FEATURE NO.	PERIOD	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION	ABOVE	CONTEMP. WITH	BELOW	LENGTH	WIDTH/ DIAMETER	THICKNESS/ DEPTH
202	-	MOD	Layer	Scalpings	Make-up	(203)	(102) (302)	(201)	-	-	0.30m
203	F16	MOD	Fill	Concrete	Probable upper fill of gas main trench	-	-	-	-	-	-
204	F17	MOD	Structure	Pipe	Oil heating pipe	-	-	-	-	-	-
205	-	MOD	Layer	Stone layer	Make-up	-	-	-	-	-	-
206	F30	MOD	Cut	Trench	Gas service trench	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TRENCH 3</b>											
301	-	MOD	Layer	Tarmac	Tarmac	(302)	(101)	-	-	-	0.10m
302	-	MOD	Layer	Scalpings	Make-up	(303)	(102)	(301)	-	-	0.20-0.30m
303	-	MOD	Layer	Stone layer	Make-up	(304)	(103)	(302)	-	-	0.20m
304	F27	MOD	Fill	Dark clay soil	Fill of narrow ditch [318]	[318]	-	(303)	-	-	0.40-0.50m
305	-	NAT	Layer	Grey brown clay/ gravel	Layer	-	-	(309) [318]	-	-	0.10m
306	-	NAT	Layer	Orange clay	Layer	-	-	(309) [318]	-	-	-
307	-	NAT	Layer	Orange gravel	Layer	-	-	(309) [318]	-	-	-
308	F18	MOD	Cut	Narrow trench aligned NW - SE	Soakaway	(305) (306) (307)	-	(309)	-	-	>0.30m
309	F18	MOD	Fill	Fill of narrow trench aligned NW - SE	Fill of soakaway [308]	[308]	-	(304)	-	-	>0.30m
316	F22	LATE SAXON	Cut	Aligned E-W	Rahtz's south boundary ditch	-	-	-	-	-	-
317	F22	LATE SAXON	Fill	Aligned E-W	Fill of Rahtz's south boundary ditch [316]	-	-	-	-	-	-
318	F27	MOD	Cut	Aligned E-W	Narrow ditch	(305) (306) (307)	-	(304)	-	0.40m	0.15m
<b>TRENCH 4</b>											
401	-	MOD	Layer	Reddish brown (5YR 4/3) friable soil with very small stones	Turf & topsoil	(402)	-	[405]	-	-	0.33m

CONTEXT NO.	FEATURE NO.	PERIOD	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION	ABOVE	CONTEMP. WITH	BELOW	LENGTH	WIDTH/DIAMETER	THICKNESS/DEPTH
402	-	MOD	Layer	Dark reddish grey (5YR 4/2) firm soil with coarse gravel	Subsoil	(403)	-	(401)	-	-	0.33-0.47m
403	F23	RB	Cut	Aligned NW-SE with concave sides & a concave base	Ditch cutting earlier ditch F28	(410)	-	(404)	-	1.00m	0.30m
404	F23	RB	Fill	Dark grey (5YR 4/1) firm clay soil	Fill of ditch [403]	[403]	-	(402)	-	1.00m	0.30m
405	F24	MOD	Cut	Aligned N-S	Service trench	(401)	-	(406)	-	-	-
406	F24	MOD	Fill	Aligned N-S	Fill of service trench [405]	[405]	-	-	-	-	-
407	F25	MOD	Structure	Concrete post	Concrete post for compound	-	-	-	-	-	-
408	F26	MOD	Structure	Concrete post	Concrete post for compound	-	-	-	-	-	-
409	F28	RB	Cut	Aligned NE-SW with steep concave sides & a flat base	Ditch cut by part of ditch F23	(412)	-	(411)	-	2.00m	0.58m
410	F28	RB	Fill	Reddish brown (5YR 5/4) firm clay with occasional small pebbles & gravel	Main fill of ditch [409]	(411)	-	[403]	-	2.00m	0.58m
411	F28	RB	Fill	Reddish brown (5YR 5/3) firm silt with very fine gravel	Basal fill of ditch [409], cut by ditch [403] F23. Very fine silt & gravel suggesting running water at one point	[409]	-	(410)	-	0.64m	0.08m
412	-	Nat	Layer	Reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) compacted clay & gravel with occasional pebble	Clay/ gravel natural	-	-	[409]	-	-	-
413	F29	MOD	Structure	Concrete post	Concrete post for compound	-	-	-	-	-	-