

Archaeological Watching Brief
at
**HAYESFIELD LOWER SCHOOL,
BROUGHAM HAYES, BATH, B&NES.**
for
Bath & North East Somerset Council



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BROUGHAM HAYES, BATH, B&NES.**

Centred on
N.G.R. ST 7402 6460

Client: Bath and North East Somerset Council

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Abbreviations

AD	Anno Domini	IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
aOD	above Ordnance Datum	Km	Kilometre
BaRAS	Bristol & Region Archaeological Services	m	Metre
BC	Before Christ	MOLAS	Museum of London Archaeological Services
BRO	Bristol Record Office	NGR	National Grid Reference
c	circa	OS	Ordnance Survey
DCLG	Dept. of Communications & Local Government	SRO	Somerset Record Office
EHA	English Heritage Archive		

NOTE

Notwithstanding that Bristol and Region Archaeological Services have taken reasonable care to produce a comprehensive summary of the known and recorded archaeological evidence, no responsibility can be accepted for any omissions of fact or opinion, however caused.

July, 2012.

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SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks associated with the construction of a two-storey STEM centre science building with associated landscaping in the grounds of Hayesfield Lower School, Brougham Hayes, Bath.

Apart from four sherds of residual Romano-British and medieval pottery, there is no evidence of any significant activity on the site prior to the construction of a Militia Barracks in 1864. The foundations of a group of Second World War prefabricated hutments were recorded in the former tennis court area.

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- Plate 2 Typical section of 1940s hutment foundations
- Plate 3 Ground reduction in the tennis court area, viewed from the south
- Plate 4 Excavating the attenuation tank, viewed from the south-west

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out by Bristol and Region Archaeological Services (BaRAS) at Hayesfield Lower School, Brougham Hayes, Bath.
- 1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by Bath and North East Somerset (B&NES) Council in order to comply with a planning condition for the construction of a two-storey STEM centre science building with associated landscaping in the grounds of Hayesfield Lower School (Planning Application No. 11/04644/FUL).
- 1.3 The archaeological work took place between the 7th of February and the 21st of March 2012.
- 1.4 The project archive will be deposited with Roman Baths Museum & Pump Room under the Accession Number BATRM 2012.4. A digital copy of the report will be sent to the English Heritage Archive. The project has been entered in the OASIS Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations as: bristola1-118868.

2. THE SITE

- 2.1 The site (centred on NGR ST 7402 6460) is situated in the inner suburbs of Bath, *c* 500m to the west of the City Centre. The site is a former tennis court and playing field to the north of Hayesfield Lower School, and is defined by school buildings to the south-west, Brougham Hayes to the north-west, Widcombe, Lyncombe and St James Cemetery to the south-east and the 'Holiday Inn' hotel and car park to the north-east.
- 2.2 The site lies within the Bath World Heritage Site, but is not in a Conservation Area. There are no Listed buildings or Scheduled Ancient Monuments on or near the site.
- 2.3 The site is located above the floodplain on the south side of the valley of the River Avon. The tennis court is at a height of *c* 23m aOD. The playing field slopes down from the edge of the tennis court to *c* 20m aOD at the northern limit of the site. According to the British Geological Survey (2012) the underlying solid geology is Lower Jurassic clays and mudstones of the Charmouth Mudstone Formation, with superficial Middle Pleistocene river terrace deposits of sand and gravel at the northern end of the site.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The site was the subject of an archaeological desk-based assessment and geophysical survey (Mason 2011), which provides a detailed archaeological and historical background, a brief summary of which is provided below.
- 3.2 The northern end of the site lies above a Middle Pleistocene gravel terrace with proven potential for the survival of prehistoric mammalian remains.
- 3.3 Cartographic and documentary evidence suggests that Brougham Hayes may follow the line of a Roman road. The gravel terrace has also been identified as an area with potential for prehistoric and Roman settlement. However, no conclusive evidence of any activity pre-dating the post-medieval period has been identified in or around the site itself.
- 3.4 The site lies in the historic parish of Widcombe with Lyncombe in the Bath Forum Hundred. This parish was incorporated within the boundaries of the City of Bath in 1835. The western edge of the site (Brougham Hayes) lies along the boundary between Widcombe with Lyncombe and Twerton parishes.
- 3.5 An analysis of historic maps shows that the site probably remained undeveloped until the mid-19th century. In 1864 a large Militia Barracks for the 2nd Militia Regiment of Somerset was built on the site. The main barrack block survives in a modified form as part of Hayesfield School.
- 3.6 In 1881 the barracks were converted for use as an industrial school known as the 'Somerset Certified Industrial Home for Boys', but the drill ground, which now forms the playing fields of Hayesfield School, was retained for use by the newly formed 1st Somerset Rifle Volunteer Corps. Children between the ages of seven and fourteen were sentenced to industrial schools for 'crimes' such as vagrancy, begging, petty theft, or associating with known criminals or prostitutes. By 1929 the industrial school had been re-named as the 'Somerset Boys Home'.
- 3.7 The Boys Home closed in about 1930, and was re-opened as a Domestic Science College in 1934 after undergoing a major renovation programme. The renovation programme involved altering and extending the original barracks building and landscaping the drill ground to create playing fields. Later 20th century activity on the site includes several extensions to the School and the construction of Second World War prefabricated hutments in the playing fields. After the War the hutments were demolished and replaced with a tennis court.
- 3.8 A Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey undertaken in 2011. This revealed a number of features beneath the tennis courts, which were interpreted as possible structural remains of the Second World War hutments and modern surfacing layers of the tennis court.

4. AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the methodology outlined in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (Longman 2012), the *BaRAS Site Manual* (2009) and complied with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (IfA 2008). The aim of the archaeological work was to record any archaeological features or deposits revealed during the course of construction work.
- 4.2 The construction work involved reducing the ground level within the footprint of the new building, digging a new attenuation tank and excavating strip foundation and service trenches.
- 4.3 Archaeological features were recorded on a site plans at scales of 1:20. Sections were drawn at scales of 1:10 and 1:20. A photographic record of all features was made using 35mm monochrome and digital colour photographs.

5. RESULTS

- 5.1 The archaeological work revealed a range of post-medieval and modern features and deposits, full descriptions of which are provided in the context summary (**Appendix 2**).

Natural geology

- 5.2 The natural geology of the site (**Plate 1**) comprises interbedded Lower Jurassic clay and mudstone of the Charmouth mudstone formation (112), which was overlain by Middle Pleistocene river terrace deposits of sand and gravel (116) up to 0.35m thick. In the southern half of the site layer 116 was overlain by silty clay colluvium (111). This layer was up to 0.35m thick and contained clay tobacco pipe fragments near the interface with the overlying modern topsoil (109). Layer 111 was cut by Second World War construction trenches [117], [119], [123] and [126].

Post-medieval and modern

- 5.3 Uncovered along the northern edge of the site are post-medieval/modern made ground layers (110) and (145-6). These layers were probably deposited during landscaping works sometime after the construction of the Militia Barracks in 1864. Four sherds of residual Romano-British and medieval pottery were recovered from layer 146, but in this instance they were found in association with late 19th or 20th-century pottery (not retained).
- 5.4 The remains of footings of a group of wartime hutments (104), (107), (120), (124), (127) and (143-4) were uncovered in the tennis court area (**Plate 2; Fig. 2**), all of which were constructed of concrete with brick walls 0.225m in width bonded with a hard black Portland cement mortar. The bricks were all frogged, machine-made, and stamped with the makers mark 'MARSTON BESTPRESS'. The bricks are a product of the Marston Valley Brick Company, which operated between 1929 and 1971 (O'Connor 2002).
- 5.5 Contexts (100-3) and (113-115) are modern surfaces, cuts and deposits related to the construction of post-war tennis courts. Contexts (129-33) are all layers of the modern road and pavement in Brougham Hayes; cuts [131] and [137] are modern service trenches in the road.

6. THE FINDS by Mark Corney

Introduction and Methodology

- 6.1 The excavation recovered a small assemblage of medieval and Romano-British pottery comprising 4 sherds (two conjoining) with a total weight of 16gms. The material displays a restricted range of fabrics. All the ceramics have been sorted into fabric types and the medieval material referenced to the fabric series for Bath devised by Vince (1991). The material was examined with the aid of a x10 hand lens and quantified by number and weight; the small assemblage and the size of the sherds precludes any further meaningful analysis. All of the material was recovered from context 146.

Fabrics

- 6.2 Three fabrics have been identified:

Fabric 1: Lower Nene Valley Colour Coat Ware (Tomber and Dore 1998,118). Late 2nd-4th century.

Fabric 2: Orange oxidised surfaces, pale grey core; hard sandy fabric with occasional rounded quartzite inclusions. Probably a variant of Bath Fabric A (Vince 1991) 11th – 13th century

Fabric 3: Pale cream surfaces, pale grey core. Source unknown. Medieval.

Forms

- 6.3 The medieval sherds are too small for identification of form with certainty; the Fabric 1 Nene Valley Ware Roman sherd is from a closed form, probably a beaker and the Fabric 2 vessel may be from a cooking jar.

Discussion and Dating

- 6.4 The assemblage is too small for meaningful comment apart from noting the presence of Roman and medieval material.

7. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 Apart from four sherds of residual Roman and medieval pottery, there is no evidence of any significant activity on the site prior to the construction of a Milita Barracks in 1864. Subsequent landscaping works and the construction of Second World War hutments have resulted in significant horizontal truncation in the former tennis court area, and deposition of the resulting spoil and demolition debris at the northern end of the playing fields. River terrace deposits, presumably of Middle Pleistocene date, were recorded in parts of the site.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND SOURCES CONSULTED

Maps and Plans

An Actual Survey of the City of Bath, in the County of Somerset, and Five Miles Around by Thomas Thorpe (BRO)	1742
Maps of Bath Turnpike Roads (SRO)	1786-7
Plan of the Manor of Lyncombe and Widcombe in the county of Somerset belonging to the Feoffees of Bruton Hospital, J. Charlton	1799
Plan of Bath	1801
Twerton Tithe Map	1838
Lyncombe and Widcombe Tithe Map	1839
Plan of the City and Environs of Bath and it's Suburbs	1852
Plan of the City of Bath	1862
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Ordnance Survey 1: 1250 plans	1951 - 85

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9. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- 9.1 BaRAS would like to thank Bath and North East Somerset Council for funding the project. We would also like to thank Derek Quilter (Divisional Director, Major Projects B&NES) for his assistance throughout the project, and Richard Sermon (Archaeological Officer, B&NES) for his advice.
- 9.2 The archaeological work was managed by John Bryant (Acting Manager BaRAS). Plans, figures, and plates in this report were prepared by Ann Linge (Design and Production Officer BaRAS). The archaeological work was undertaken by Roy Krakowicz and Cai Mason (Project Officers BaRAS).

APPENDIX 1: Policy Statement

This report is the result of work carried out in the light of national and local authority policies.

NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY (ENGLAND)

The *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) for England published by the UK Government in March 2012 states that the historic environment, which includes designated and non-designated heritage assets, is an irreplaceable resource and, as such, should be taken into account by Local Planning Authorities when considering and determining planning applications. This is taken to form part of a positive strategy set out in the respective Local Plan to ensure the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment. The assigned significance of heritage assets will be key factor in terms of their conservation.

Given their irreplaceable nature, any harm to, or loss of, a heritage asset, or heritage assets, should be clearly and convincingly justified as part of a planning application. As part of this, applicants are required to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected by a proposal, including any contribution made by their setting. Where a heritage asset, or assets, are to be harmed or lost as the result of a proposal, the applicant will be required to record and advance the understanding of the significance of that asset or assets, to include making the evidence arising publicly accessible, but this will be in proportion to the significance of the asset/assets in question.

While the NPPF takes into account the historic environment as a whole, additional protection is afforded to designate heritage assets under current English Law. Any proposal that would result in harm or loss of a designated heritage asset is also required to be justified by the applicant in meeting strict criteria set out in the NPPF.

DISTRICT POLICY

Bristol City Council Supplementary Planning Document (2006) states (policy SPD No.7, p4):

(i) There will be a presumption in favour of preserving any archaeological features or sites of national importance, whether scheduled or not.

(ii) Development which could adversely affect sites, structures, landscapes or buildings of archaeological interest and their settings will require an assessment of the archaeological resource through a desktop study, and where appropriate a field evaluation. Where there is evidence of archaeological remains, development will not be permitted except where it can be demonstrated that the archaeological features of the site will be satisfactorily preserved in situ, or a suitable strategy has been put forward to mitigate the impact of development proposals upon important archaeological remains and their settings; or, if this is not possible and the sites are not scheduled or of national importance, provision for adequately recording the site prior to destruction is made, preferably by negotiating a planning agreement to ensure that access, time and financial resources are available to allow essential recording and publication to take place. This report is the result of work carried out in the light of national and local authority policies.

APPENDIX 2: Context Descriptions

Context No.	Type	Description	Stratigraphic relationships	Date
100	Layer	Tarmac surface of tennis court.	Overlies (101)	Modern
101	Layer	Bedding layer for (100).	Underlies (100); overlies (102)	Modern
102	Layer	Bedding layer for (100).	Underlies (101); overlies (103 - 7)	Modern
103	Layer	Made ground.	Underlies (102); fills [115]; overlies (106 - 7), (108), (112), (118), (121), (125) & (143 - 4)	Modern
104	Structure	Brick wall with concrete foundations. Aligned E – W. Constructed with frogged machine made bricks (225 x 110 x 70mm) bonded with a grey Portland cement mortar. 0.35m wide x 2.3m long.	Abutted by (105); overlies (111)	1940s
105	Structure	Concrete floor.	Underlies (103); abuts (104)	1940s
106	Structure	Brick manhole. Aligned E – W. Same construction as (104). Measured 1.04m wide x 1.35m long.	Underlies (108) & (118); fills [117]	1940s
107	Structure	Brick wall with concrete foundations. Aligned E – W & N – S. Same construction as (104). Measured 3m N – S, 1.47m E – W, 0.23m wide.	Underlies (103)	1940s
108	Structure	Dump layer. Post-war demolition rubble.	Underlies (103); overlies (106)	Modern
109	Layer	Topsoil. Friable greyish brown silt with 5% angular stone, charcoal and coal inclusions.	Underlies (102); overlies (110)	Modern
110	Layer	Soil layer. Compact orangey brown silt with 5% angular flint inclusions.	Underlies (109); overlies (111)	Unknown
111	Layer	Colluvium. Compact orangey brown silt with 5% angular stone inclusions.	Underlies (110) (143), (144) & (146), cut by [113], [115], [117], [119], [123] & [126]; overlies (112)	Post-medieval
112	Fill	Natural geology. Interbedded pale yellowish grey geological clay and mudstone.	Underlies (103) & (112)	Lower Jurassic
113	Cut	Modern cut of unknown purpose.	Filled by (114); cuts (111)	Modern
114	Fill	Fill of [113]. Post-war demolition rubble.	Fill of [114]	Modern
115	Cut	Modern cut of unknown purpose.	Filled by (103); cuts (111)	Modern
116	Layer	Natural river terrace deposit. Compact yellow sand and river gravel.	Underlies (111); overlies (112)	Middle Pleistocene
117	Cut	Construction cut for wall (106).	Filled by (106); cuts (111)	1940s
118	Fill	Fill of construction cut [117]. Compact yellowish brown silty clay with occasional mortar and angular stone inclusions.	Underlies (103); overlies (106)	1940s
119	Cut	Construction cut for wall (120).	Filled by (120); cuts (111)	1940s
120	Structure	Brick wall with concrete foundations. Aligned E – W & N – S. Same construction as (104).	Underlies (121); fills [119]	1940s

Context No.	Type	Description	Stratigraphic relationships	Date
121	Fill	Fill of construction cut [119]. Compact yellowish brown silty clay with occasional mortar and angular stone inclusions.	Underlies (103); overlies (120)	1940s
122	Fill	Same as (121).	Same as (121)	1940s
123	Cut	Construction cut for wall (124).	Filled by (124); cuts (111)	1940s
124	Structure	Brick wall with concrete foundations. Aligned E – W. Same construction as (104).	Underlies (125); fills [123]	1940s
125	Fill	Fill of construction cut [123]. Compact orangey brown and red silty clay with occasional mortar and angular stone inclusions.	Underlies (103); overlies (124)	1940s
126	Cut	Construction cut for wall (127).	Filled by (127); cuts (111)	1940s
127	Structure	Brick wall with concrete foundations. Aligned N – S. Same construction as (104).	Underlies (128); fills [126]	1940s
128	Fill	Fill of construction cut [123]. Compact orangey brown silty clay.	Underlies (103); overlies (127)	1940s
129	Layer	Tarmac road surface. Up to 0.07m thick	Overlies (130)	Modern
130	Layer	Tarmac. Up to 0.1m thick.	Underlies (129); overlies (132)	Modern
131	Cut	Modern service trench. Vertical sides, 0.9m wide; unknown depth.	Filled by (132); cuts (133)	Modern
132	Fill	Fill of modern service trench [132].	Underlies (130); fills [131]	Modern
133	Layer	Bedding layer for (129). Stone rubble up to 0.20m thick.	Cut by [131] & [137]; overlies (136) & (139)	Modern
134	Layer	Tarmac surface of pavement. Up to 0.07m thick	Overlies (135)	Modern
135	Layer	Bedding layer for (129). Angular gravel up to 0.10m thick.	Underlies (134); overlies (138)	Modern
136	Layer	Soil layer. Compact dark brown silty clay with 5 - 10% small angular stone inclusions.	Underlies (133); overlies (142)	Unknown
137	Cut	Modern service trench. Vertical sides, 0.8m wide; unknown depth.	Filled by (138); cuts (133)	Modern
138	Fill	Fill of modern service trench [132].	Underlies (130); fills [131]	Modern
139	Layer	Soil layer. Greyish brown organic rich silt with flecks of charcoal.	Underlies (133); overlies (140)	Unknown
140	Layer	Soil layer. Compact greyish brown silty clay with 5 - 10% small angular stone inclusions.	Underlies (139); overlies (141)	Unknown
141	Layer	Soil layer. Orangey brown sandy clay.	Underlies (140)	Unknown
142	Layer	Soil layer. Dark brown silty clay.	Underlies (136)	Unknown
143	Structure	Brick wall with concrete foundations. Aligned N – S & E – W. Same construction as (104).	Underlies (103); overlies (111)	1940s
144	Structure	Brick wall with concrete foundations. Aligned N – S. Same construction as (104).	Underlies (103); overlies (111)	1940s
145	Layer	Made ground. Brown silty clay with brick, ash, coal and stone inclusions. Up to 0.6m thick.	Underlies (147); overlies (146)	Post-medieval or modern
146	Layer	Made ground. Dark greyish brown silty clay with brick, ash, coal and stone inclusions. 0.1 – 0.3m thick.	Underlies (145); overlies (111)	19th or 20th century
147	Layer	Made ground. Post-war demolition rubble.	Underlies (109); overlies (145)	Modern
148	Layer	Made ground. Post-war demolition rubble.	Underlies (109); overlies (145)	Modern

Fig.1
Site location plans with plate
orientations

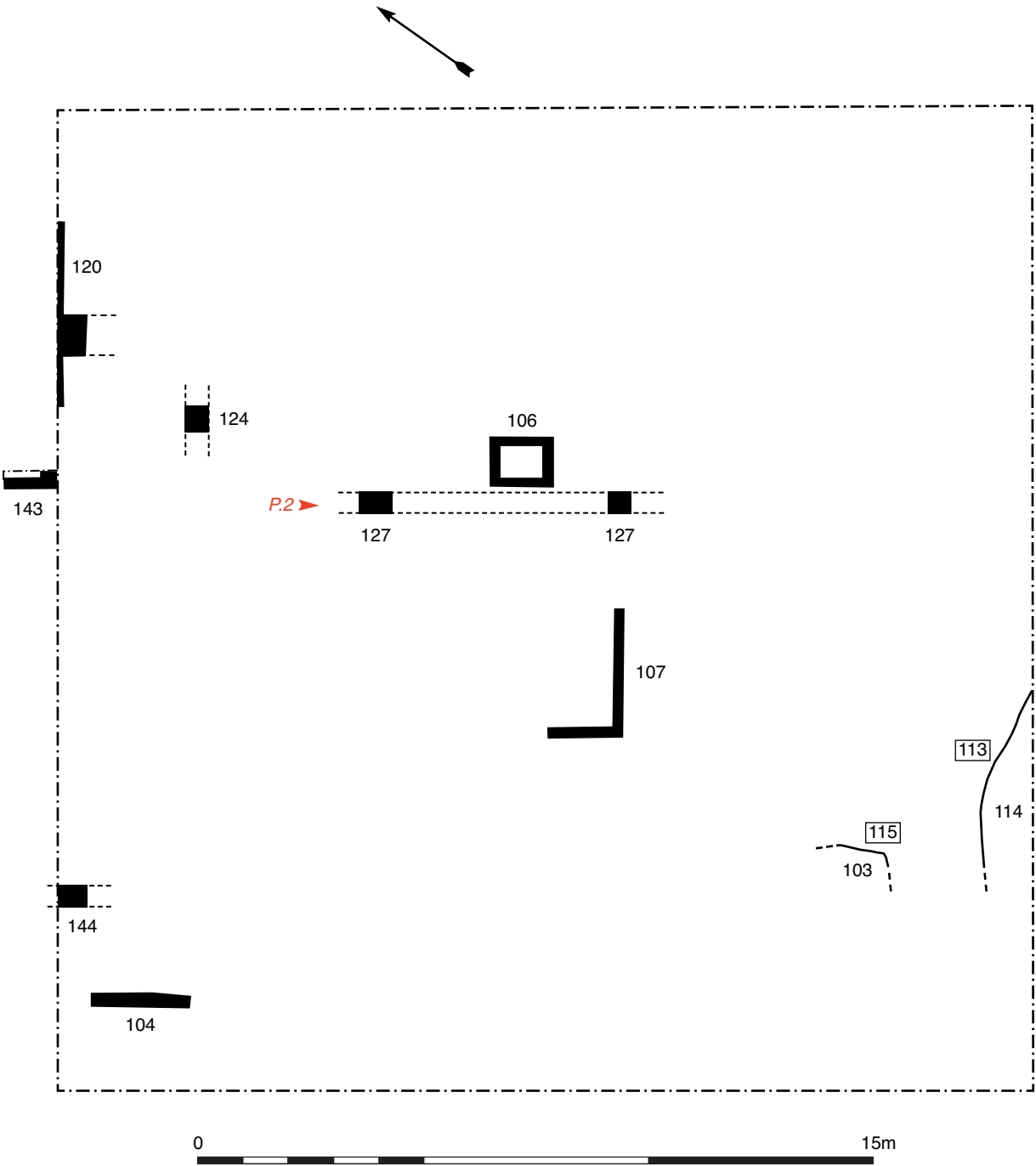


Fig.2 Plan of features in tennis court area



Plate 1 Representative section of natural deposits



Plate 2 Typical section of 1940s hutment foundations



Plate 3 Ground reduction in the tennis court area, viewed from the south



Plate 4 Excavating the attenuation tank, viewed from the south-west