JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERVENTION AT

THE SOUTH PAVILION,

WOTTON UNDERWOOD, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

SP 6856 1608

On behalf of

Mr. & Mrs A Blair

FEBRUARY 2012

REPORT FOR Mr. & Mrs. A Blair
South Pavilion
Wotton Underwood
Buckinghamshire
HP18 0SP

PREPARED BY Gwilym Williams, with a contribution by John Moore

ILLUSTRATION BY Eoin Fitzsimons & Gwilym Williams

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ENQUIRES TO *John Moore Heritage Services*
Hill View
Woodperry Road
Beckley
Oxford OX3 9UZ

Tel/Fax 01865 358300
Email info@jmheritageservices.co.uk

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Summary

A small excavation and watching brief was carried out at South Pavilion, Wotton Underwood during 2011, as part of the construction of a sport pavilion including a swimming pool in the gardens of the house. Medieval house remains and associated pits were investigated. Previous work – comprising a desk-based assessment and an associated evaluation – indicated the presence of part of the medieval village of Wotton Underwood, extending from the church, to the east, under the present house and gardens.

Subsequently, the works for the pool-construction revealed pits with a date range from the mid/late 11th to 14th centuries, which accorded with the date-range of features identified during the previous evaluation. The earliest feature, dating from the mid to late 11th century was a large pit extending beyond the south edge of excavation. Six pits dated from the late 11th to early 13th centuries, one of which was cut by the northeast/southwest-oriented gully of an enclosure. There were four pits associated with this phase dating from the early to mid 13th century. Deposits dating from the mid 13th to 14th centuries onwards were present beneath a stone cill representing part of a building. A small quantity of residual Roman pottery was recovered from the medieval features.

To the north of the medieval activity was a low wall, parallel with the garden wall of the walled garden. The whole was sealed by dumps of clay associated with the creation of the formal lake, west of the walled garden, within the grounds of Wotton House, undertaken by Capability Brown in the mid 18th century. The footings of a 19th-century glasshouse were also investigated.

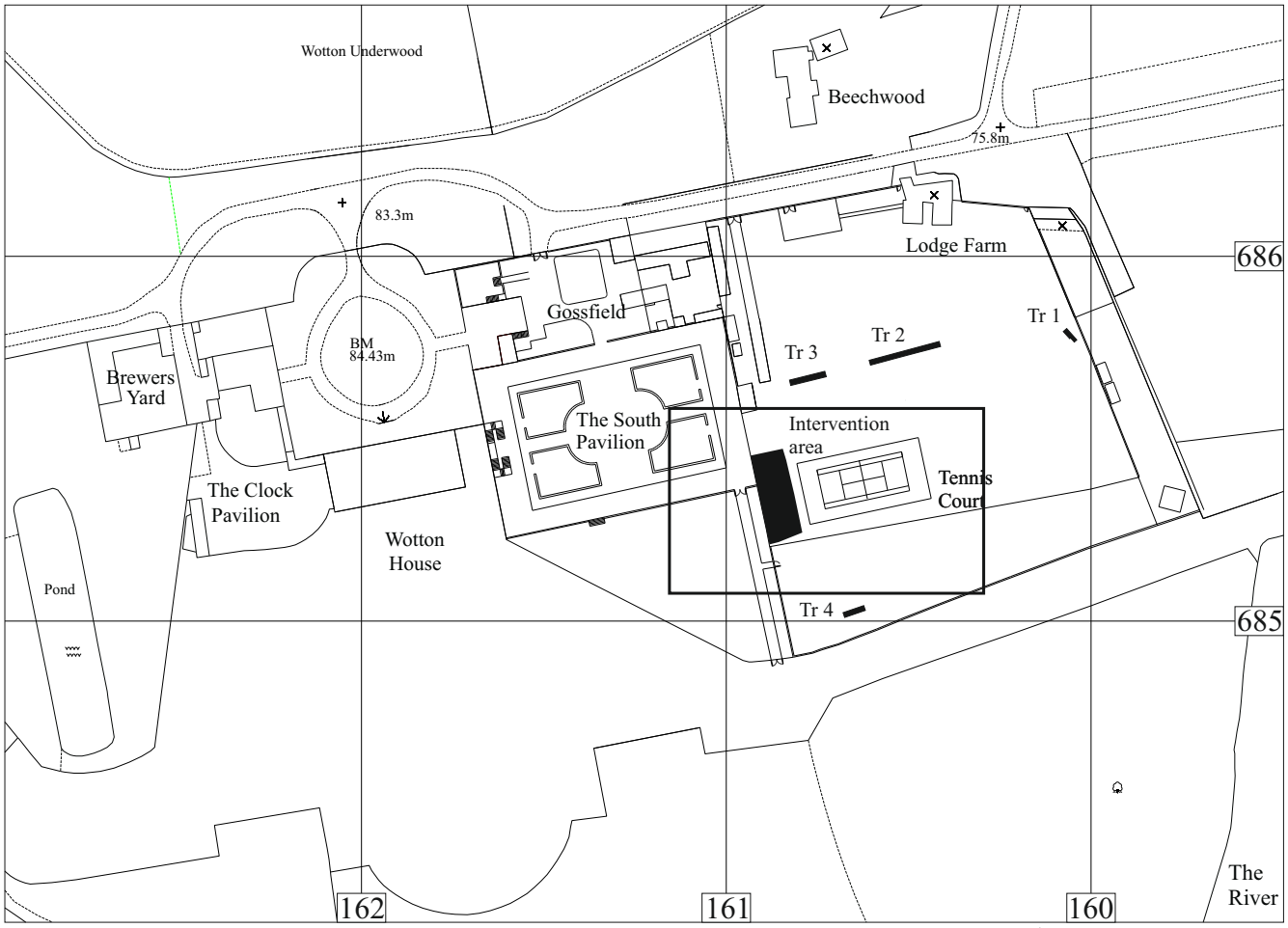
1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The site is located in the western part of Buckinghamshire, approximately 13 kilometres west-north-west of Aylesbury. The South Pavilion is situated in the village and Civil Parish of Wotton Underwood in Aylesbury Vale District. It is the detached south wing of Wotton House with a garden extending to the south and west centred on National Grid Reference SP 6856 1608. The underlying geology is upper Jurassic deposits: West Walton Formation, a dark grey silty mudstone, along with Oakley Member, marl and limestone. These overlie the upper Oxford Clay, a band of which outcrops to the northeast of the site.

1.2 Planning Background

Aylesbury Vale District Council granted planning permission for the erection of a sport pavilion and the retention of fencing around the tennis court at The South Pavilion, Wotton Underwood (09/01783/APP). Due to the site's potential to contain archaeological remains a condition was attached to the permission for a programme of archaeological work to be carried out during groundworks, due to archaeological remains being found during a previous evaluation of the site.



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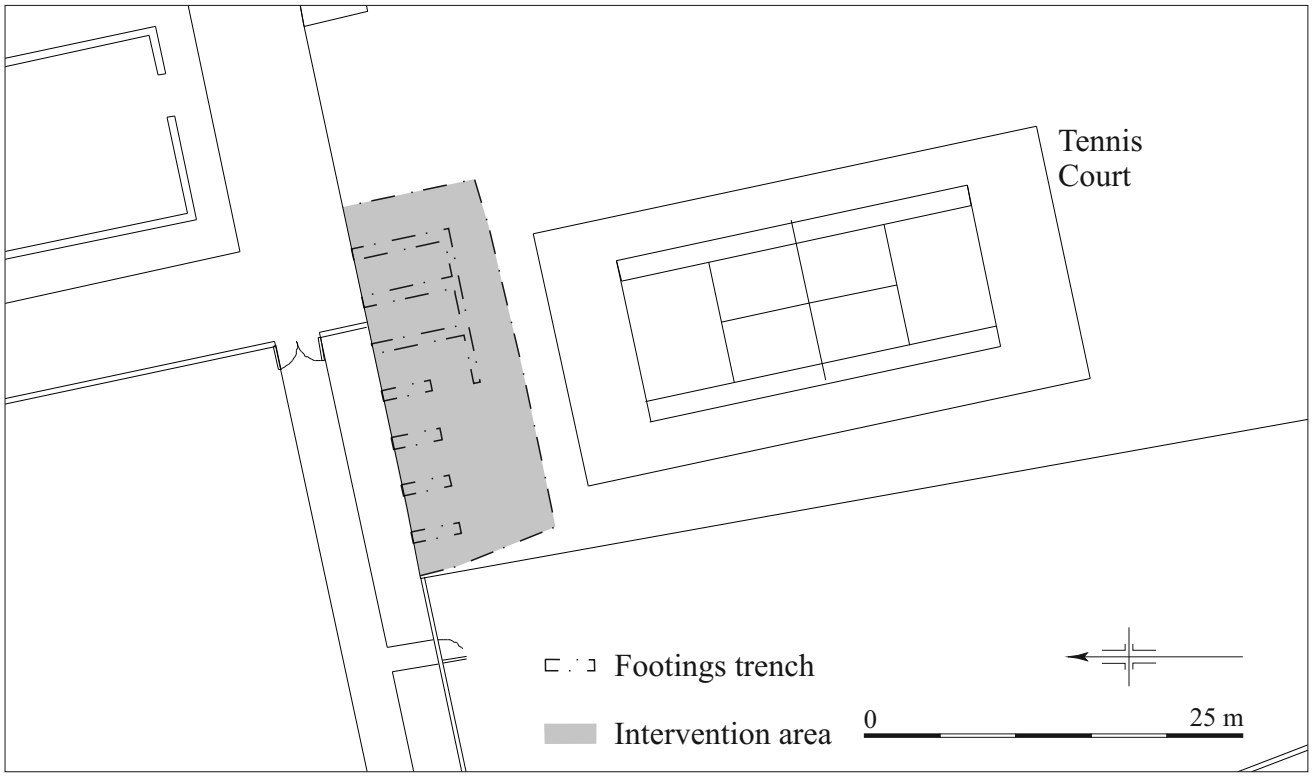

Figure 1. Site location; location of evaluation trenches also included in upper illustration.

This is in line with Planning Policy Statement 5 (Planning for the Historic Environment). Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Services (BCAS) prepared a *Brief* for such archaeological work. A Written Scheme of Investigation outlining the methodology by which the archaeological work would be carried out in order to preserve by record any archaeological remains of significance was submitted to BCAS.

1.3 Archaeological Background

Wotton House and the coach House (South Pavilion) are both Grade I listed buildings that lie within a Grade II* Registered Park and Garden. A map of 1649 shows village settlement running along the line of the north avenue (through the grounds of the South Pavilion) and a possible moat has been noted 550m north of Wotton House.

The village was largely depopulated and landscaped in the 1750s. The current Wotton House is early 18th century in date and is surrounded by a 17th century and early 18th century garden. It lies within an extensive mid 18th-century park, probably designed by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. The 18th century west wall of the South Pavilion garden along with the east wall and gate piers are also Grade II listed structures.

An archaeological desk-based assessment of the site (JMHS 2007) was prepared and two phases of evaluation were previously carried out (Heale & Williams, 2007, Williams 2007). The initial evaluation located the edge of an early greenway or possible hollow way, shown on a map of 1649 in addition to remains of medieval cultivation activity. A late medieval or early post-medieval pond was also located. These remains were buried by later landscaping – carried out either by George London or Lancelot Brown – and it is potentially into this landscaping material that a line of five north/south aligned ponds were excavated.

These ponds, which are first illustrated on a map of 1789, post-dating the work of both London and Brown, are illustrated on all Ordnance Surveys maps to at least 1952 – although not on the present online versions – and are visible on aerial photographs as parch marks. The second evaluation investigated the construction of the ponds. During the initial evaluation a small pit and a ditch were found in the west part of the garden; both were undated, but in the light of recent work are considered to be medieval.

A partial watching brief was carried out during the construction of the new tennis court. This did not find any archaeological features or deposits other than dumped material – probably upcast from excavation of The Lake – for the walled garden. The proposed sport pavilion is approximately 10m north of the tennis court.

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

To record any archaeological remains that will be impacted on by the development with particular regard to the possibility of finds relating to the medieval village or subsequent park construction.

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the work to a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with the client and BCAS.

Site procedures for the investigation and recording of potential archaeological deposits and features were defined in the *Written Scheme of Investigation*. The work was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1999) and the procedures laid down in MAP2 (English Heritage 1991).

3.2 Methodology

An archaeologist was present on site during the course of all groundworks that had the potential to reveal or disturb archaeological remains. This included all surface stripping and ground reduction, the various excavations for underpinning and new services. The works comprised in the first instance the excavation of seven pits extending approximately 3.5m south of the north wall of the walled garden. These were excavated to a depth of *c*. 2m for underpinning the wall. Three of the pits on the east side of the new build were subsequently extended for the floor of the pool house. These were monitored, but due to the pits/footings trenches being only 600mm wide, through clay, the archaeological remains were not seen until the area was stripped.

All archaeological features and other remains were recorded by written, drawn and photographic record. Where archaeological features were exposed during any ground reduction but otherwise remained unaffected they were recorded only by plan and written description with any surface finds collected. Where remains were impacted on then they were sample excavated. All artefacts were collected and retained.

Eliza Alqassar of BCAS monitored the work, visiting the site 19th April 2011.

4 RESULTS

All features were assigned individual context numbers. Context numbers in () indicate feature fills or deposits of material.

4.1 Excavation Results (Figures 2 - 6)

The earliest investigated deposit in the area was the natural green or brown grey clay (6), which is oxidised West Walton Formation, and was cut by a number of medieval pits and a gully. The remains were excavated into the natural clay, or lay above it. In some cases, the pits were clearly cut through a deposit of yellow brown clay (66) (Fig. 3.1), which was not always easily seen during machining due to the compacity of the clay subsoils.

All of the pits were extremely shallow – generally in the region of 0.1-0.15m deep – although the occupation deposits to the east, which were very compacted, were higher; it is very possible that these occupation deposits indicate the true height of

medieval ground surface, while the pits have been truncated, probably when the walled garden was laid out.

Mid-late 11th century

The earliest feature was the sub-oval pit 40 (Figs 2 & 3.1), located on the southern edge of the excavation area, and filled with stiff dark grey clay with some charcoal flecking (39). No bone was recovered but the fill yielded one Romano-British sherd, weighing 21g, and a sherd of Cotswold-type ware, weighing 9g, dating from after the middle of the 11th century. The pit measured 1.6m (east/west) × >1.45m (north/south) and was 0.2m deep.

Late 11th to early 13th centuries

There were seven pits which dated from after the late 11th century, and the date-range for which extended into the early 13th century. There was a limited amount of stratigraphic relationships between some of the pits, but this does not seem to indicate any significant chronological difference between the pits. On the northwest side of the investigation were the two discrete pits 36 and 38. Pit 36 (Fig. 3.2), which was filled with grey clay (35), measured >1m (north/south) × 1m (east/west) and was *c*. 0.12m deep; the pit 36 yielded 10 sherds, weighing 50g, of Oxford ware and two sherds, weighing 42g, of Newbury A/B ware. Located *c*. 2.25m east of pit 36, the pit 38, filled with dark grey clay (37), yielded a single sherd, weighing 8g, of Oxford ware. The pit measured >0.7m (northeast/southwest) × 0.7m (southeast/northwest) and was a maximum of 0.12m deep. Both pits were partially truncated on the north side by the later stone revetment 31 (see below).

To the southeast, at a distance of approximately 3.2m, was a group of five pits. Pits 46 and 48 appeared to be the stratigraphically earliest, although their relationship with one another had been destroyed by the excavation of footings. Each of these pits was cut by a later pit, pit 44 and pit 50, respectively.

Pit 46 (Fig. 3.3) measured approximately 1m (north/south) × 1m (east/west) and 0.17m deep; it was filled with stiff dark grey clay (45), which yielded six sherds of Oxford ware, weighing 16g. Pit 44, which measured 1.8m (east/west) × >0.8m (north/south) and was a maximum of 0.1m deep, filled with grey clay (43), containing a single sherd of Romano-British pottery weighing 27g, and eight sherds of Oxford ware, weighing 38g.

The pit 48, east of pit 46, which measured 1.2m (east/west) × >0.7m (north/south), was filled with dark grey brown clay with occasional charcoal flecking (47), which contained eight sherds of Oxford ware weighing 32g. The pit 48 was cut by pit 50, a partly truncated sub-rectangular cut measuring 1.8m (northeast/southwest) × 0.8m (northwest/southeast) and 0.1m deep, filled with dark grey clay (49), containing four sherds, weighing 23g, of Oxford ware. South of the footings trench was the pit 72, which may possibly have formed part of pit 48, measuring >1.7m (east/west) × >0.7m (north/south), filled with dark grey brown clay with occasional charcoal flecking (71) containing four sherds of Oxford ware, weighing 22g. A few further sherds of Oxford ware were recovered from the same deposit subsequently, as fill (85).

To the east of pit 72 were the pits 52 and 54 (Fig. 5); the relationship between pit 72 and pits 52 and 54 had been removed by the Victorian land-drain 55. The pit 52,

Figure 2. Intervention area.

which measured over 1m long (north/south) and 1.2m (east/west) was 0.1m deep, and filled with mid brown grey clay (51), containing six sherds of Oxford ware, weighing 22g, 14 sherds of early Brill/Boarstall ware, weighing 108g, and six sherds of Potterspury ware, weighing 15g. The pit 54, which cut the south edge of pit 52, was undated (see below).

To the south the compact deposit of grey brown clay with comminuted animal bone and charcoal flecking (74), which measured at least 2m (east/west) by 1.6m (north/south), extended beyond the south edge of investigation and was only partially revealed during machining. The full depth of the deposit was not ascertained, but appeared to be no more than 0.05m thick.

Early – mid 13th century

On the west side of the investigation area were three pits and part of a small enclosure. There were no stratigraphic relationships between the pits, although one of the pits was cut by the enclosure gully. On the eastern side of the investigation area was a sequence of deposits, which probably represent occupation surfaces.

The earliest pit was the westernmost pit 30 (Fig. 3.4), cut by the enclosure gully 26. The pit 30, which measured *c*. 1.90m in diameter and was a maximum of 0.17m deep, was filled with dark grey clay (29), containing 22 sherds of pottery including 15 sherds of Oxford ware, weighing 103g, and three sherds of Potterspury ware, weighing 27g. The pit 30 was cut by the gully 26, which had gully 28 at right angles to it. The gully 26 measured at least 5.2m in length – extending beyond the edges of excavation – by 0.3m wide and up to 0.12m deep. It was oriented northwest/southeast. The fill was dark green grey slightly silty clay with occasional charcoal flecking (25) which yielded one sherd of Cotswold-type ware, weighing 4g and four sherds of Oxford ware, weighing 15g; the fill (27) of gully 28, which was the same as fill (25), yielded a single sherd of residual Romano-British pottery weighing 40g, and a single sherd of Oxford ware, weighing 5g. The gully 28 (Fig. 3.5), which measured *c*. 4.3m long and 0.3m wide by up to 0.12m deep, appeared to have been truncated at its east end, as it disappeared without a terminal at the east end. Gully 28 cut pit 36, but did not extend so far east as pit 38.

Pit 34, located *c*. 0.75m east of pit 30, and measuring 1.8m (north/south) × 1.3m (east/west) × 0.1m deep, was filled with black brown clay with occasional charcoal (33), containing nine sherds of Oxford ware, weighing 36g, and four sherds of Potterspury ware, weighing 13g. Immediately south of pit 34 was pit 84, measuring *c*. 3.25m (east/west) × 1.25m (north/south) and 0.05m deep, filled with compacted brown grey clay (83), containing 29 sherds of Oxford ware, weighing 245g and a single sherd of Newbury A/B ware, weighing 10g. It is possible that more than one feature is represented by pit 84, although this was not apparent during excavation. The stiffness of the clay fill and the colour made excavation and interpretation slightly problematic, and the possibility cannot, however, be precluded that this feature represents more than one feature.

Mid 13th to 14th centuries

In the centre of the investigation area was pit 42 (Fig. 3.6), measuring *c*. 1.8m in diameter and was 0.1m deep, filled with grey brown clay (41), which contained a sherd of Brill/Boarstall ware, weighing 2g, and a sherd of Oxford ware, weighing 1g. To the east of this pit was a sequence of discrete deposits, which appeared to represent

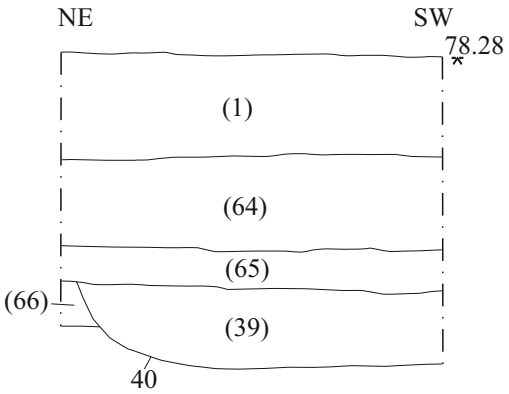

Figure 3.1 Section of pit 40 and representative section

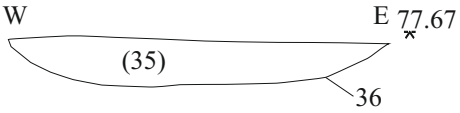

Figure 3.2 Section of pit 36

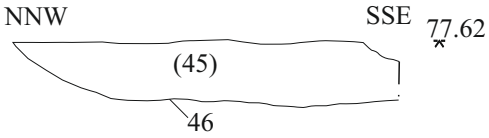

Figure 3.3 Section of pit 46

Figure 3.4 Section of pit 30

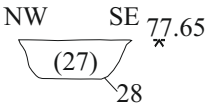

Figure 3.5 Section through gully 28

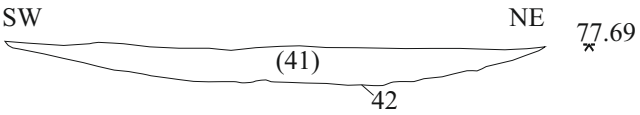

Figure 3.6 Section of pit 42

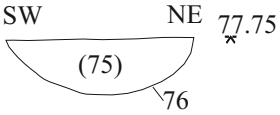

Figure 3.7 Section of posthole 76

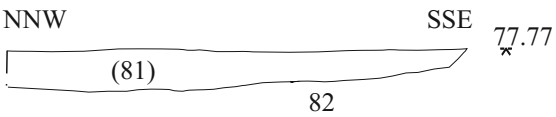

Figure 3.8 Section of pit 82

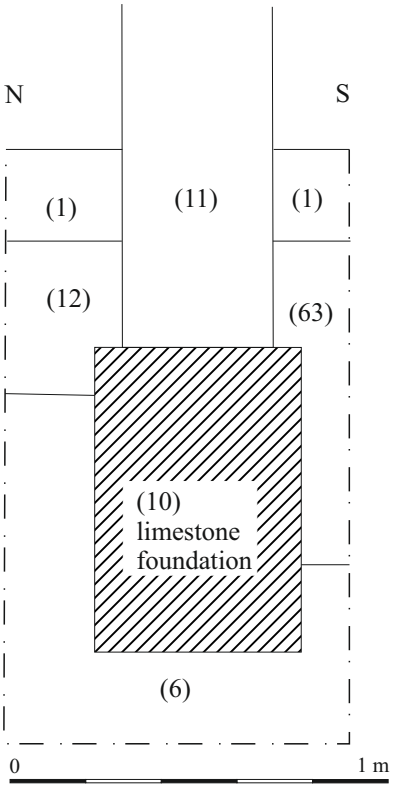

Figure 3.9 Schematic section through wall of walled garden

occupation or floor surfaces. It was not possible to excavate them, within the time constraints of site, as they were extremely compacted and at the reduced level of dig for the contractors. The earliest deposit investigated was a grey brown compacted deposit with some charcoal flecking and comminuted bone through it (61), which measured approximately 1.5m × 1.1m. There were 34 sherds of pottery, weighing 404g, from this layer; of the fabrics represented, Oxford ware, Potterspury ware and Brill/Boarstall ware dominate.

To the north was a probable external surface of grey clay (62), which yielded 33 sherds of pottery weighing 186g, dominated by Oxford ware and some Brill/Boarstall ware. Defining the southern extent of deposit (62) was a line of stone, representing cill 57, the northern side of a building. The stone, which comprised five largish fragments of limestone with more smaller pieces packed between the big stones, measured 3.m in length; however, it is possible that the three stones 3m east of the east end of 57, which are context 80, may actually represent a further part of the building. A small amount of movement occurred during machining. To the south of wall 57, the postulated internal floor (61) was overlain by grey clay with much comminuted bone and charcoal flecking (60), which yielded seven sherds of Oxford ware, weighing 35g. Both deposit (62) and possibly the extension of cill 57 to the proposed wall 80 were overlain by the brown clay (79), which yielded 46 sherds of pottery, weighing 408g

Cut through the internal surface (60) was the posthole 76 (Fig. 3.7)), which measured approximately 0.5m in diameter and was filled with dark brown grey clay (75), which yielded two sherds of Oxford ware, weighing 10g. To the northeast, cutting through the deposit (79) was the smaller posthole 78, which measured 0.25m in diameter and was filled with a similar clay fill (77), which yielded a single sherd of Oxford ware weighing 2g.

Approximately 2.2m east of the east end of cill 57 of the postulated building and less than 0.7m north of the stones 80 was pit 82 (Fig. 3.8), which was approximately 1.6m in diameter, although was truncated to the north by a footings trench and partly extended beyond the eastern edge of investigation. The pit was 0.1m deep and filled with dark grey brown clay with charcoal flecking (81).

Sealing the medieval remains was dumped clay, which had previously been identified during evaluation and associated with the excavation of the material for the creation of the artificially enlarged lake, The Warrell (formerly Morel's Pond), located to the northwest of the walled garden. This is detailed below.

Undated features predating the Walled Garden

The pit 54, which cut the south edge of pit 52 (Fig. 5), measured 13m (north/south) by 1m (east/west) by 0.15m deep, and was filled with dark grey clay (53). No finds were recovered from the fill.

In the central part of the investigation area were three postholes – 88, 90 and 92 – measuring *c*. 0.4m in diameter and up to 0.1m in depth. The fills of all three were uniform mid grey brown; no finds were recovered from any of the postholes. As no finds were recovered it is not certain that the postholes were contemporary, but they are in a line. Although 90 and 92 are extremely close, it is possible that these are part of the layout of gullies 26 and 28.

Figure 4. Site photograph; looking west.

Figure 5. Photograph of section through pits 52 & 54; drain 55 in background

Figure 6. Photograph of part of wall 31.

Remains associated with landscaping by Capability Brown
Cut into the natural clay was the cut 32, which extended for 13.5m, 0.4m wide and was 0.15m deep, filled with pieces of limestone and rammed clay, wall 31 (Fig. 6), which might have functioned as a revetting event during dumping for the creation of the walled garden. To the north, were the stone foundations (10) of the standing brick wall 11 of the walled garden, which comprised roughly worked blocks measuring up to 250mm × 150mm; the thickness of individual stones was not recovered as the wall footings were not impacted upon during underpinning. These footings were 0.8m high, excavated *c*. 0.25m into the natural (6) and 0.55m deep (Fig. 3.9); the illustration is a composite from observations in several of the underpinning pits. Overlying the natural (6) and the stone 'revetment' 31 was the red brown clay (67) – also (63) – which abutted the stone footings and brick wall of the garden on the south side. Overlying the natural on the north side of the garden wall, within the parterre was a double depth of garden soil, clay loam (12), overlain by topsoil (1). The deposit (63) was overlain by stiff very dark brown clay (65) which varied in thickness between 0.07m and 0.2m in the vicinity of the investigation area. Sealing the brown clay (65), was greenish grey clay with comminuted brick and tile, charcoal, chalk and small limestone pieces (64), which was very similar to deposits seen during the evaluation and deposit (14) seen to the south where the tennis court now lies.

Victorian
There were three land-drains – 56, 55 and 70(Figs 2 & 5) from west to east – within the excavation area, the cut of which extended up to 2.7m in length and 0.2m in width; the cuts had ceramic land drain cylinders laid end to end in them. These were not sampled.

At ground level, brick footings 4, measuring more than 8.4m × 3.3m were located on the east side of the investigation area, which were characterised by a double skin thickness – *c*. 300mm wide – and three courses high. The bricks measured *c*. 225mm × 160mm × 65mm. Within the brick footings was a deposit of dark brown humic material with much broken brick, tile, and glass (3). The broken rubbish was overlain by a dump of orange brown clay loam (2). These represent a glasshouse; scarring on the wall of the walled garden indicated the location of wooden up-rights associated with it.

4.2 Report on Tennis Court *(by John Moore)*
Planning permission was granted under 08/00706/APP to the previous owner (Mrs E Lecky) for the construction of swimming pool with two pavilions, pond, tennis court, pergola to north side of walled garden, four arbours in parterre and improved parking. The present owners intended to proceed only with the new tennis court (Figure 1) under this permission..

Unfortunately the groundworks for the tennis court were commenced prior to the realisation and extent of condition 3 of the planning decision which related to the need for a programme of archaeological works to be carried out as part of the development programme. As soon as the requirement was fully understood the architect (Simon Templeton) immediately contacted John Moore Heritage Services (JMHS) on 17 August 2008. An on-site meeting was held that day between Simon Templeton, John Moore, Andy Sheridan (Estate Manager) and Martin Lockyear (groundwork contractor).

The north end of the footprint for the tennis court had been reduced while the south end had been made up in order to create a level base. Type 1 roadstone had been laid down and compacted over the north and central areas and was in the process of being deposited in the south part. The ground at the extreme north end had been reduced by *c*. 1m extending *c*. 120mm into the West Walton Formation characterised here by pale green-grey clay.

Undated archaeological features in the form of pits and possible ditches have previously been found cut into the geological deposits. These may have belonged to medieval activity or early post-medieval garden features. Possible medieval plough or cultivation soils were also encountered. The north part of former walled kitchen gardens has been raised by *c.* 0.9m with two phases of dumping in the probable post-medieval period associated with either the construction of Wotton House, South Pavilion and Clock Pavilion, or the earlier manor house which was demolished before 1704 (Heale & Williams 2007, Williams 2007). At least one of these phases of dumping may relate to Lancelot 'Capability' Brown work between 1739 and 1760 (JMHS 2007). The spoil may have originated from the terracing to the north of the walled garden.

In the north part of the tennis court the work already carried out prior to the engagement of JMHS had involved the excavation down to or into the geological deposits over a north-south extent of an estimated seven to eight metres. At the extreme north limit of excavation *c.* 120mm of natural clay (archaeological context 13) had been removed.

The following was recorded in the vertical west and east sections of the area of ground reduction. The north section was battered back, heavily smeared, and too dried out to hand clean Above the natural clay on the west side was a deposit of grey-brown clay with 5% content of charcoal flecks (12) seen up to 200mm thick in the west section with an overlying 200mm thick deposit of mid black clay with 2-5% tile fragments and areas of charcoal flecking with localised 5% content (11). The uppermost deposit was 320-480mm thick topsoil (10), thicker at the north end. The topsoil on west side at the north end was 80mm thicker than on the east side.

On the east side of the excavated area and lying above the natural clay was a deposit of mid grey-brown clay with 2-5% of large charcoal flecks and the occasional chalk inclusion (14). This was at least 550mm thick and was overlaid by the topsoil.

The two deposits on the west side equate with two deposits (4/02)/(2/02) and (4/03) seen in evaluation Trench 4 to the west (Heale & Williams, 2007, 10-12). Deposit (14) seen on the east side probably was composed of more than layer as seen further to the east in evaluation Trench 3 (ibid, 10) where individual deposits were identified by differing quantities of inclusions. Drying out of the section may have masked subtle differences.

Following telephone discussions with Ruth Beckley, Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service, it was decided to take no further archaeological work as removal of the Type 1 roadstone down to the natural clay would have potentially further damaged any archaeological remains. The roadstone had been compacted and would have been pressed into the clay.

4.3 Reliability of Techniques and Results

The reliability of results is considered to be good. The monitoring of the works took place in generally good conditions, and the open-area excavation within the footprint of the swimming pool took place during fair weather with excellent cooperation from the groundworks crew. The author would like to extend his thanks to Sean Ellis who carried out the machining and was of particular assistance during all phases of the work. The site was monitored by Eliza Alqassar for BCAS.

5 FINDS

5.1 Pottery *by Paul Blinkhorn*

Analytical Methodology
The pottery was initially bulk-sorted and recorded on a computer using DBase IV software. The material from each context was recorded by number and weight of sherds per fabric type, with featureless body sherds of the same fabric counted, weighed and recorded as one database entry. Feature sherds such as rims, bases and lugs were individually recorded, with individual codes used for the various types. Decorated sherds were similarly treated. In the case of the rimsherds, the form, diameter in mm and the percentage remaining of the original complete circumference was all recorded. This figure was summed for each fabric type to obtain the estimated vessel equivalent (EVE).

The terminology used is that defined by the Medieval Pottery Research Group's Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms (MPRG 1998) and to the minimum standards laid out in the Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of post-Roman Ceramics (MPRG2001). All the statistical analyses were carried out using a DBase package written by the author, which interrogated the original or subsidiary databases, with some of the final calculations made with an electronic calculator. Any statistical analyses were carried out to the minimum standards suggested by Orton (1998-9, 135-7).

The Pottery
The pottery assemblage comprised 473 sherds with a total weight of 4,165g (Table 3). The estimated vessel equivalent (EVE), by summation of surviving rimsherd circumference was 2.15. It was nearly all medieval, and of mid/late 11th – late 13th /14th century date. Where possible, the assemblage was recorded using the coding system of the Milton Keynes Archaeological Unit type-series (e.g. Mynard and Zeepvat 1992; Zeepvat et al. 1994), as follows:

MS6: **Potterspury Ware**, AD1250 - 1600. 25 sherds, 171g, EVE = 0.22.
MS9: **Brill/Boarstall Ware**. 1200-?1600. 91 sherds, 647g, EVE = 0.45.
PM8: **Red Earthenware** 16th – 19th C. 1 sherd, 4g.

Due to the geographical location of the site, there are a number of wares which are common in the Oxfordshire-type series, but not included in the equivalent for Milton Keynes. In these cases, the Oxfordshire codes and dating are used (Mellor 1994), as follows:

OXY: **Oxford ware,** late 11th – 14th C. 310 sherds, 2831g, EVE = 1.07.

OXAW: **Early Brill/Boarstall Ware**, late 12th – 13th C. 20 sherds, 216g, EVE = 0.28.
OXAC: **Cotswolds-type Ware**, mid 11th – mid 14th C. 9 sherds, 75g, EVE = 0.06
OXBF: **Newbury A/B ware**, mid 12th – mid 14th C. 11 sherds, 102g, EVE = 0.07

In addition, six sherds (119g) of residual Romano-British wares were present. It was all grog-tempered ware, and in the main heavily abraded. The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 3. Each date has been checked with reference to the stratigraphic matrix and adjusted where necessary.

The range of fabric types is very typical of sites in the region, comprising mostly wares from fairly local source such as north Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire and Buckinghamshire, with smaller quantities of material from more distant sources such as the eastern Cotswolds and Berkshire.

Chronology and Pottery Occurrence
Each stratified, context-specific pottery assemblage has been given a ceramic phase ('CP') date based on the range of ware and vessel types present, and adjusted according to the stratigraphic matrix. The chronology, defining wares and the amount of pottery per phase is shown in Table 1.

Phase	Defining wares	Date	No Sherds	Wt. Sherds	EVE
CP1	OXAC	M-L 11th C	2	30	0
CP2	OXY, OXBF	L11th - E13th C	49	271	0.12
CP2a	OXAW	L12th – E 13th C	3	29	0.07
CP3	MS9	E - M13th C	129	912	0.48
CP4	MS6	M13th – 14thC	207	2310	1.10
CP5	PM8	M16th – 17thC	83	613	0.38
Total			**473**	**4165**	**2.15**

Table 1: Ceramic Phase Chronology, Occurrence and Defining Wares

The data in Table 1 shows that the main period of activity at the site was from just after the Norman Conquest until the late 13th – 14th centuries. A single context produced pottery of mid-late 16th century date, although all but one sherd was residual (Table 2). Just a single context may be of pre-Conquest date, although it only produced one small sherd of Saxo-Norman date, with the only other pottery present being Romano-British.

Fabric	CP1	CP2	CP2a	CP3	CP4	CP5
RB	70.0%	10.7%	0	4.6%	0	4.4%
OXAC	30.0%	0	0	1.4%	1.2%	4.1%
OXBF	-	15.5%	0	3.5%	1.2%	0
OXY	-	73.8%	51.7%	64.0%	69.4%	70.0%
OXAW	-	-	48.3%	11.8%	4.1%	0
MS9	-	-	-	14.6%	17.2%	19.1%
MS6	-		-	-	6.9%	1.8%
PM8	-	-	-	-	-	0.7%
Total	30	271	29	912	2310	613

Table 2: Pottery occurrence per ceramic phase by fabric type, expressed as a percentage of the total wt per phase, major fabrics only

The occurrence of the major fabrics per ceramic phase is shown in Table 2. It shows a fairly typical pattern for sites in the region, the small size of some of the CP

	RB		OXAC		OXBF		OXY		OXAW		MS6		MS9		PM8		
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date
25			1	4			4	15									CP3
27	1	40					1	5									CP3
29	1	2	1	9	2	22	15	103			3	27					CP3
33							9	36			4	13					CP3
35					2	42	10	50									CP2
37							1	8									CP2
39	1	21	1	9													CP1
41							1	1					1	2			CP4
43	1	27					8	38									CP2
45							6	16									CP2
47							8	32									CP2
49							4	23									CP2
51							6	22	14	108	6	15					CP3
53							4	23			2	6					CP3
55							1	47			1	7					MOD
57							2	15	1	14							CP4
58					1	1	4	19			3	9	10	62			CP4
59							5	20			1	9					CP3
60							7	35									CP4
61			1	8			33	193	2	52	11	118	7	33			CP4
62					3	8	20	95			8	45	2	38			CP4
63	1	27	3	25			59	429			17	117	2	11	1	4	CP5
71							4	22									CP2
73			1	9			24	961	2	30	15	152	3	25			CP4
74							1	5									CP2
75							2	10									CP4
77							1	2									CP3
79			1	11	2	19	31	289	1	12	11	73					CP4
81							7	66			9	56					CP3
83					1	10	29	245									CP3
85	1	2					3	6									CP2
Total	6	119	9	75	11	102	310	2831	20	216	91	647	25	171	1	4	

Table 3: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type.

assemblages notwithstanding. Residuality is very high in CP5, with just a single contemporary sherd present; the rest of the assemblage is redeposited medieval material. The relatively low proportion of Potterspury Ware in the CP5 assemblage suggests that the site may have fallen from use fairly soon after such pottery was first made. However, these excavations took place on what is the southern edge of the distribution of Potterspury Ware, so this may be the reason why there is a paucity of it. For example, at Brackley, 30km to the north, Potterspury Ware is common in high medieval contexts. At the Elms Site in the town (Blinkhorn 1999), Potterspury Ware comprised nearly 47% (by weight) of the mid/late 13th – 14th century pottery, whereas at Proctor's Yard, Bicester, some 15km to the west of Wotton Underwood, it was entirely absent despite there being apparently activity in the medieval period of broadly the same duration as here and at The Brackley Elms site (Blinkhorn 2002). It is also of note however that 'developed' Brill/Boarstall fabrics of the 15th – 16th century, which are usually common on sites of such date in the region, are entirely absent from this site, and so it seems certain that there was an hiatus in activity from some time in the late 13th or 14th century through to the end of the medieval period.

The Assemblages
The pottery is, in the main, fairly highly fragmented, with most assemblages comprising sherds from a number of different vessels, and perhaps only one context producing a partially reconstructable vessel. The picture is largely that of secondary deposition, with the pottery likely to be from disturbed and scattered domestic middens rather than being groups of material which were stratified more or less at the point of breakage. This is supported by the mean sherd weights for the CP groups, which in most cases is less than or around 10g, which is low for medieval sites in the region.

Vessel types were entirely limited to jars, bowls and jugs, which is entirely typical of groups of pottery of late 11th – mid/late 14th century date. During this time, other vessel types are usually extremely rare, and it was not until the late 14th or 15th century that medieval potters began to expand their repertoire to include specialised vessels associated with cooking and drinking, such as dripping dishes, cups and cisterns. The fact that such pottery is entirely absent from this site reinforces the suggestion that medieval activity had ceased before the end of the 14th century. The rim assemblage is dominated by jars (EVE = 1.03; 47.9%), although bowls (EVE = 0.44; 20.5%) and jugs (EVE = 0.44; 20.5%) are well-represented. Again, this is a fairly typical pattern for the medieval period in the region.

Overall, the assemblage is entirely unexceptional, and appears to be a typical, if somewhat fragmented, domestic assemblage of the late 11th - late 13th/14th century.

5.2 Environmental Remains
Due to the stiff clay nature of the deposits encountered no environmental samples were taken. Furthermore, no bone was recovered from the fills of any of the features, although some comminuted bone was observed within some of the occupation deposits, which could not be hand collected.

6 DISCUSSION
A small excavation was carried out at South Pavilion, Wotton Underwood, during construction of a swimming pool in the gardens of the house. Medieval house remains and associated pits were investigated. Previous work – comprising a desk-based assessment and an associated evaluation – indicated the presence of part of the medieval village of Wotton Underwood. The historic maps (Figs 7 & 8) showed the village to extend west from the church of All Saints, under the present house and gardens, which was confirmed during the investigations. The site was located in the manor of Wotton, later Grenville's manor (VCH 1927).

The earliest feature was a single pit with only two sherds, one of which was Roman and therefore residual. It is possible that this pit might actually be later.

The Phase II activity comprise a number of rubbish pits, none of which yielded any bone, and all of which are believed to have been truncated in the past, probably when the garden was laid out by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. There was a noticeable difference of up to 0.15m between the tops of the pits as they were when the overlying deposits of clay dumping were machined off, and the heavily compacted occupation surfaces within the building. This was visible in section (Fig. 3.1).

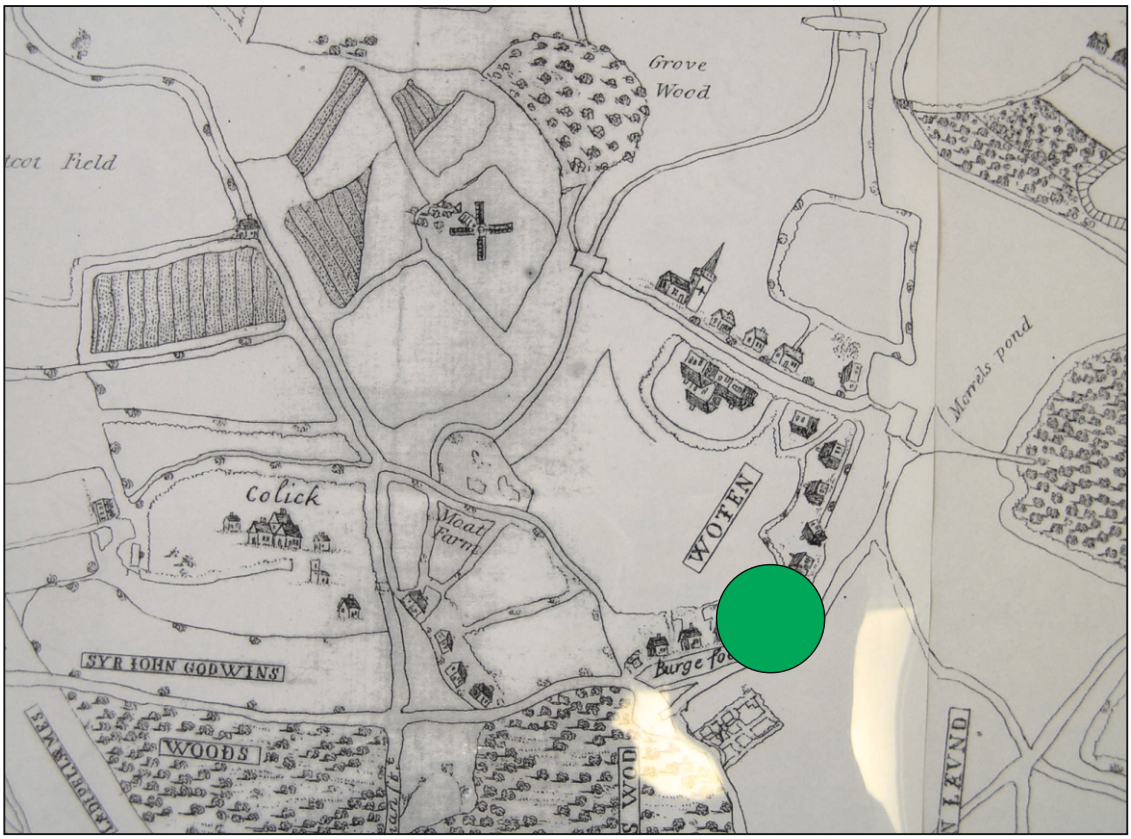

Figure 7. Extract from an Elizabethan map of Wotton Underwood dated between 1564 and 1586
Site of Wotton House in green circle

Figure 8. Extract from an estate map of Wotton Underwood of Richard Grenville (1649)
Wotton House and grounds in green; location of trenches, investigation area and tennis court in black

The pottery from the rubbish pits is – as Paul Blinkhorn notes above – entirely unexceptional, although is heavily biased towards Oxford ware, which continues throughout the life of the site to be well-represented in all the assemblages. This is in contrast with the results of the previous evaluation, during which only 27 sherds weighing 437g, were recovered, none of which were Oxford ware.

The earlier features are dominated by small assemblages of Oxford ware, which also contain Cotswold-type ware and Newbury A/B ware. The assemblages increase in size in later features but with the addition of early Brill/Boarstall ware and Potterspury indicating that Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire industries assume dominance. Paul Blinkhorn comments that sherds in the assemblages are fragmented and of a low mean weight, suggesting that the deposits are secondary. Certainly those contexts which were within the building evidenced heavily comminuted bone.

There were deposits dating from the mid 13th to 14th centuries onwards present beneath a stone cill investigated during the intervention. The cill represents part of a building. As the building extended beyond the edges of the excavation, it is not clear whether it represented the north gable-end of a small building measuring 4m wide and of unknown length, or the north side of building extending for 8m, some of the cill having been removed in antiquity. The exact function of the postulated building is not clear. Paul Blinkhorn, above, comments that some of the assemblage was typical of secondary deposition; certainly some of the pottery was recovered from contexts in which pottery had been stamped into the deposit. This may well indicate that the building is not domestic, but rather industrial or an ancillary agricultural structure. Too little was revealed to ascertain however what the purpose of the structure was, within the context of several pits and the gully enclosure.

What is intriguing is the quantity of Oxford ware – 310 sherds, weighing 2831g – in comparison with the Brill/Boarstall assemblages, which comprised 45 sherds, weighing 383g. Brill is of course only 3 miles to the east; moreover, Grenville's Wood, owned by the lord of the manor at Wotton Underwood, is halfway to Brill. There do not appear to be any strong connections with Oxford, despite the Giffard family being occasionally noted at Oxford (VCH 1954, 1979a, 1979b); nevertheless the quantity of pottery from the environs of the building would seem to be indicative of extensive contact over a period of time.

To the west within the walled garden, the evaluation had located a gully and possible pit, which cannot be tied to the recent work. To the east of the watching brief, an evaluation trench was located within a greenway illustrated on a estate map (Fig. 8) of 1649; it was not entirely clear during the evaluation whether this had been recovered, although the edge of a medieval pond was present. The date of the greenway is not known, but it is noteworthy that the proposed building would be roughly parallel with it, although some caution should always be exercised in the use of historic maps as they are legal documents, first and foremost, which means that they frequently have an innate bias to illustrate specific information on the part of the commissioning individual, most often in court. There is a fine example of such a map from Wotton Underwood (Schulz 1939) concerning a claim of encroachment by Ludgershall and Dorton inhabitants upon the common of Wotton Lawnd on the part of Edward Grenville. The map also shows that in the mid to late 16th century, Wotton Underwood was still unenclosed, as it was to remain until 1742

The excavations have revealed that the intimations of activity evidenced previously during the evaluation under-estimated the quantity of remains. While the activity investigated during the intervention points to an earlier phase of pits replaced by either an industrial or agricultural building, perhaps within a larger domestic site of only modest means, the potential for further remains to be preserved under the dumped material imported during the landscaping by 'Capability' Brown should not be underestimated. Previous work indicated that remains were preserved *in situ*.

To the north of the medieval activity was a low wall, parallel with the garden wall of the walled garden. This appears to have been a temporary structure erected as a retaining wall during the dumping of the clay material, which may derive either from the parterre area, or indeed from the vicinity of the formal lake The Warrell, and associated with its development from Morrel's Pond to a lake within the grounds of Wotton House, which undertaken by Capability Brown in the mid 18th century. To the north of the low revetment wall were the substantial limestone footings on which the brick wall stands. These were built into the clay and certainly formed revetting of the natural clay to the north. Movement subsequently has made the brick wall which is stood on top of the footings unstable.

During the latter part of the 19th century, the walled garden had several glasshouses erected along the south face of the north wall, which are visible on the earliest editions of the Ordnance Survey maps (not illustrated). These did not appear to have been heated. Rubbish, including broken glass, brick, tiles and flower pot were observed during the intervention, but not retained.

7 ARCHIVE

Archive Contents
The archive consists of the following:

Paper Record
The project brief
Written Scheme of Investigation
The drawn records
The project report
The primary site records

Physical Record
The finds

The archive and finds are currently maintained by John Moore Heritage Services. The archive will be transferred to Buckinghamshire County Museum Service with the accession number 2007.191.

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