



A Detached Roman Bath-house at Truckle Hill, North Wroxall, Wiltshire

Assessment Report on an Archaeological Excavation,
Recording and Outreach Programme



**A DETACHED ROMAN BATH-HOUSE AT TRUCKLE HILL
NORTH WRAXALL
WILTSHIRE**

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and Outreach Programme**

Produced for:

English Heritage
1 Waterhouse Square
138 – 142 Holborn
London
EC1N 2ST

and

Wiltshire County Council Archaeology Service
Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre
Cocklebury Road
Chippenham
Wiltshire
SN15 3QN

By:

Wessex Archaeology
Portway House
Old Sarum Park
Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP4 6EB

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was invited by English Heritage and Wiltshire County Council Archaeology Service to undertake an archaeological excavation, recording and outreach programme to provide more information about a newly-discovered Roman bath-house at Truckle Hill, North Wraxall, Wiltshire, centred on Ordnance Survey NGR 383700 176240.

The steep topography of the valley side upon which the bath-house was constructed has posed a difficult conservation problem since the time of the building's discovery, in that direct vehicle access to the site, especially for one carrying fill material, is virtually impossible.

Following a site visit in May 2007 it was felt that that the maximum effort should go immediately into the urgent preservation by record of the most vulnerable parts of the bath-house. To achieve this aim a partnership project was proposed which would provide the resources and people to undertake controlled excavation of the site and maximise the opportunities thus afforded. A further, key element of the sustainability of the project is the implementation of appropriate physical conservation measures following the completion of excavation and recording work.

The success of the project has been mainly due to the support of the landowner and the large number of highly motivated and very competent volunteer excavators it has attracted. Far more excavation and recording has been achieved than was originally anticipated. This is being followed by a conservation programme at the site.

Previous work at and in the vicinity of the Truckle Hill Roman bath-house, culminating in the excavation of 2007, has revealed a particularly well-preserved structure, arguably one of the best surviving rural, detached bath-houses in the country, and also one of the largest.

The excavations uncovered the complete suite of rooms, of two phases, with initial construction probably taking place during the 2nd century AD, perhaps in the second half of that century. The use of the bath-house continued until the end of the 3rd or, more likely, the 4th century AD. There is a possibility that the new, phase 2 *frigidarium* / cold bath remained unfinished at the time the bath-house ceased operation. The chronological relationship to the bath suite in the Truckle Hill villa excavated in the mid-19th century is uncertain, but it is suggested that the construction and use of the latter superseded the detached bath-house which was subsequently abandoned.

A surprisingly small assemblage of finds, particularly metalwork (excluding nails), was present. However, the small quantity of decorative material recovered in 2007 (painted wall plaster and window glass) indicates that the bath-house was relatively sumptuously appointed, though it had been extensively robbed of re-usable

materials, probably soon after it was abandoned. The quality of the decoration, as well as the large size of the bath-house, suggests that it may have been used by the occupants and visitors to the villa rather than being a separate bath-house for estate workers.

Like some other detached bath-houses, it was subsequently used for agricultural purposes, perhaps as a barn, and a corn-drying kiln was constructed within part of the shell of the abandoned building, probably in the 4th century AD. Samples from deposits associated with this activity were exceptionally rich in cereal remains, comprising predominately glumes and spikelet forks of spelt wheat. These are highly indicative of mass de-husking on a scale probably far exceeding the needs of the nearby villa's inhabitants. The most likely reason for this is that pure, cleaned grain was being produced to supply military needs and towns, for example Bath which lay less than 15 kilometres to the south-west along the *Fosse Way*.

There is convincing evidence that parts of the bath-house were excavated in the 19th century with G. Poulet-Scrope, excavator of the nearby villa, remaining the most likely candidate for this work. There is also a possibility that the exposed structure was consolidated and retained as a landscape feature at that time.

It is recommended that the results of the 2007 excavation be published as a short article in the *Wiltshire Archaeology and Natural History Magazine*. The results of further work proposed for 2008 (and possibly 2009), mainly in the surrounding valley, would be published separately in a subsequent article.

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Acknowledgements

The programme of archaeological work was commissioned by Wiltshire County Council on behalf of English Heritage, and we are most grateful to both bodies for provided funding which enabled the project to be undertaken. In this respect, the efforts of Phil McMahon (Inspector, English Heritage South-West Region) and Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger (County Archaeologist, Wiltshire County Council) were instrumental in its success. Barney Sloan of English Heritage is also thanked for his role in approving the HEEP grant for the project. The continued interest and support of the landowner, Mr Antony Little, has been a major factor in the successful conclusion to this stage of the project. His provision of various facilities, help on site and concern that the bath-house should be preserved for posterity have contributed to a uniquely enjoyable experience.

Roy Canham (former County Archaeologist for Wiltshire) has maintained an active interest in the site since its discovery and has done much to promote the preservation of the remains, and it is pleasing to record that this has finally come to fruition.

Various individuals provided help and advice during the course of the fieldwork. Steven Hill (Dooey) and quad bike took all our equipment and finds to and from the site and daily replenished our water supplies. Paul Lysley kindly allowed parking on his land for the many volunteers and visitors. Dave Sabin undertook metal detecting across the site and also provided information on the archaeology around Castle Combe. The thoughts of Pete Wilson (English Heritage) based on his extensive knowledge of Roman buildings have been of considerable assistance in understanding the structural sequence and operation of the bath-house. This has expanded upon ideas stemming from earlier, very limited work undertaken by Brian Kerr and David Neal, along with the geophysical survey carried out by Paul Linford and A Payne, and examination of the earthwork and landscape evidence by Mark Bowden (all of English Heritage). Sarah Jennings, in her role as English Heritage monitor for the post-excavation work, has subsequently assisted in providing further advice, as have Pete Wilson and Vanessa Straker.

In many ways the involvement of a large number of enthusiastic and very capable volunteers was the key factor in the success of the project, for this allowed substantially more of the bath-house to be investigated than was initially envisaged and also for this work to be undertaken to professional standards. Concerns that there might be only a small number of volunteers rapidly vanished as people came from all over Wiltshire, as well as adjoining counties, the total number reaching almost 50 over the three week duration of the excavation. Given this number it would be wrong to single out individuals, but all those who took part deserve the warmest thanks for their help. They included members of local groups, university students, museum volunteers, staff from both Wiltshire County Council and English Heritage,

Wessex Archaeology or ex-Wessex Archaeology staff, and people who had heard about the project and simply wanted to help in whatever way they could. Some came only for a day, many for a week or more and a few for the entire three weeks, but all contributed to a successful project which it is hoped will continue in future years.

The fieldwork was directed by Phil Andrews with the assistance Darren Baker, and the project managed for Wessex Archaeology by Margaret Bunyard. Organising and co-ordinating the team of volunteers at what was relatively short notice owes much to Margaret, and it is thanks to her that this vital aspect of the project ran so smoothly. We are grateful to Susan Clelland for undertaking a GPS survey which finally enabled the bath-house to be accurately located in the landscape. Thanks should also go to Charlotte Matthews, Bob Davis and Charlotte Cutland who carried out the rapid building recording in 2004, shortly after the bath-house was first exposed and its significance recognised.

This report was compiled by Phil Andrews, with the finds assessment by Rachael Seager Smith and the environmental assessment by Chris Stevens and Sarah F. Wyles (molluscs). The finds were processed by Margaret Melsom and the environmental samples processed by Laura Catlin. The report graphics were prepared by Rob Goller and the site photography was undertaken by Elaine Wakefield.

A DETACHED ROMAN BATH-HOUSE AT TRUCKLE HILL NORTH WRAXALL WILTSHIRE

Assessment Report on an Archaeological Excavation, Recording and Outreach Programme

SECTION A: POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was invited by English Heritage (EH) and Wiltshire County Council Archaeology Service (WCAS) to undertake an archaeological excavation, recording and outreach programme to provide more information about a newly-discovered Roman bath-house at Truckle Hill, North Wraxall, Wiltshire, centred on Ordnance Survey NGR 383700 176240 (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 The Truckle Hill Roman bath-house lies within the parish of North Wraxall in the district of North Wiltshire. It sits within the Wiltshire Cotswolds in a landscape rich in Romano-British archaeology – the Fosse Way Roman Road lies 1.5 km to the west as does the major shrine site at Nettleton Shrub. The bath-house is only some 150m away from the Truckle Hill Roman Villa, a substantial villa and probable farm estate centre, partly excavated by G. Poulet-Scrope in 1859-60 (Scheduled Monument W878; *WAM* 1862; Scott 1993, 205).
- 1.1.3 The villa occupies a relatively flat, hilltop position, whilst the bath-house lies below this at a height of c. 84m aOD on the west side of a narrow, steep-sided valley that extends approximately north-west to south-east (see **Plate 1**). The course of a stream runs along the valley floor, although the flow is intermittent. The bottom of the valley is grass-covered with woodland on its upper slopes and a series of parallel ridges suggestive of landslip along the sides. The bath-house lies on the top of one of these ridges which was modified for the purpose, a terrace having been cut into the slope with the spoil from the cut used to create a platform in front of this to the east.
- 1.1.4 The geology of the area consists of Acton Turville beds which are predominantly limestone with some alluvial cover on the valley floor (British Geological Survey 1970). Soils in the area are of the Elmton 1 association being shallow, well-drained, brashy calcareous fine loamy soils developed over limestone (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).
- 1.1.5 The bath-house was discovered in 2003 by the landowner, Mr Antony Little, whilst 'quarrying' stone rubble for estate works. In doing this he exposed part of a well-preserved, apsidal-ended building which he believed was a medieval chapel, on account of the land on which the site lies being called Chantry Field. A local, professional archaeologist, David Sabin, noticed the site while out walking in spring 2004, and English Heritage and the County Archaeologist were notified. A subsequent site visit was undertaken and it

was immediately recognised that the building was of Romano-British origin. At the time of its discovery the structure was in exceptionally fresh condition with coursed, dressed and pointed masonry walls surviving up to 1.5m high. Very few associated finds were recovered and the possibility was highlighted that the bath-house may have been at least partly excavated during the mid-19th century, at the same time as the villa was being investigated.

1.2 The problem of preservation

- 1.2.1 The steep topography of the valley side upon which the bath-house was constructed has posed a difficult conservation problem since the time of the building's discovery. Direct vehicle access to the site, especially for one carrying fill material, is virtually impossible. Antony Little removed rubble fill from the site in the trailer of a quad bike, but it can only get to the site whilst empty. Consequently the curatorial efforts of WCAS and the EH regional Ancient Monuments Inspector (Phil McMahon) have focused on the provision of winter protection for the exposed masonry whilst a long-term solution to its preservation *in-situ* and backfilling was sought.
- 1.2.2 Unfortunately, despite EH South-West Region funding, co-ordinated attempts to adequately protect the exposed remains through the winter months were not successful, and deterioration of the site had accelerated at an alarming pace. Quarrying for fill in an archaeologically sterile area nearby was also considered, although the results of the geophysics (indicating further buried remains in the vicinity) are such that there is no obvious source of material nearby.
- 1.2.3 Given the loss of fabric through accelerated decay there has been a need to revise the initial long-term research strategy (WA 2007a) which concentrated on chiefly non-intrusive work and was centred on the presumption that the backfilling problem would be solved in the short term.
- 1.2.4 Following a site visit in May 2007 it was felt that that the maximum effort should go immediately into the urgent preservation by record of the most vulnerable parts of the bath-house. To achieve this aim a partnership project was proposed which would provide the resources and people to undertake controlled excavation of the site and maximise the opportunities thus afforded.
- 1.2.5 It is proposed that future seasons of work at the site should return to the phased, multi-disciplinary research strategy proposed in the initial project design (WA 2007a). This includes desk-based research and assessment, topographic and further geophysical survey within the valley and immediately surrounding area, as well as archaeologically evaluating features that are visible or indicated by geophysical survey. In addition, some further, small-scale targeted investigation is proposed within the bath-house itself.

1.3 Outreach

- 1.3.1 The landowner, Antony Little, is very interested in the history of his site and favourably disposed to further investigation. He has generously agreed to cordon off the area of the Roman building and make it available for investigation over several seasons.

- 1.3.2 Not only is the site of intrinsic interest and worthy of research, but its position and state of preservation make it an ideal candidate for community involvement and outreach, extending the benefits of archaeology to a wider audience. It is not often that there is such a good opportunity to involve members of the local community in a significant archaeological investigation.
- 1.3.3 Education and outreach was therefore considered as central to this project, and not as an additional feature. The involvement of local community groups was planned into each relevant phase of the work.
- 1.3.4 Furthermore, the involvement of volunteers and students allowed a greater level of investigation to take place than would otherwise have been possible within the constraints of the budget.

2. PREVIOUS WORK AT THE SITE

- 2.1 Following exposure of the Roman building, a rapid recording exercise was funded by EH Historic Environment Commissions and undertaken by Wessex Archaeology in November 2004 (WA 2005). The survey concluded that the structure was the remains of a bath-house, a conclusion since confirmed by Dr David Neal, who undertook a rapid site assessment funded by WCAS.
- 2.2 A rapid walkover survey by the EH Archaeological Survey & Investigation team of the narrow valley containing the site led to the suspicion that further remains were likely to exist both in the floor and on the lower flanks of the valley, and in the wooded hillsides to east and west. In September 2005 the English Heritage Geophysics Team undertook an earth resistance survey of the immediate vicinity of the bath-house which produced clear results suggesting the presence of at least one further building and a complex of other archaeological features (Linford and Payne 2005). Simultaneously, EH's Archaeological Projects team undertook additional rapid recording of the exposed bath-house wall-plan (report in preparation).
- 2.3 Initial conclusions of this preliminary work are that that the entire head of the valley may have formed a managed landscape in Roman times, potentially of a similar nature to the nearby site at Nettleton and probably attached to the Truckle Hill villa estate.
- 2.4 Other assistance has come from EH South-West Region in the form of a Section 17 Management Agreement, which provided funds to WCAS to cover the costs of winter protection materials for the Roman building and their application/removal.
- 2.5 Due to capacity issues and other priorities, it was decided in November 2005 by EH's Research Committee that the site could no longer be a priority for direct research by EH teams.
- 2.6 Wessex Archaeology, although initially contracted to undertake the rapid recording exercise, has engaged with the project and provided advice and assistance beyond its contractual remit. In early 2007, before the dire condition of the exposed building remains became apparent, Wessex Archaeology produced a detailed project design (WA 2007a) for a largely non-intrusive, phased programme of research embedded within its community

and outreach work. Although events have overtaken that project design, it remains a valid research programme for the long-term.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The principal aim of the 2007 archaeological excavation and recording exercise was to investigate, and secure preservation by record, those elements of the building that were suffering rapid deterioration and would not survive in the short-term, given that a viable backfilling technique has not been found. The objective of this was to resolve basic questions of the building's construction (including floor levels), survival, phasing and function, and give context to the exposed elements of the building remains. Furthermore, it was recognised that this would provide increased understanding of the conservation needs of the site and guide the development and use of physical conservation methods necessary to preserve the site as well as possible.
- 3.2 An integral part of this project was the outreach programme, the aim of which is to enable members of the public, local societies and students to take part in the process and delivery of a worthwhile project. The objective is to encourage community and outreach activities and provide training in field survey and excavation techniques.
- 3.3 If resources permit, further small-scale, carefully targeted excavation was to be undertaken on undisturbed deposits contiguous with the exposed area. The objective of this was to resolve the question of the possibility of whether this site has been subject to unpublished antiquarian excavation, and further inform questions regarding the overall layout and use of the building.
- 3.4 A further objective was to provide archaeological data of sufficient quality to inform the designation of the site, in combination with other research data. This will also increase understanding of the archaeological resource represented on the site and inform revision and further focusing of the longer-term research project.
- 3.5 The aim of the post-excavation programme is to assess, analyse and synthesise the results of the excavation and recording exercise, with the objective of producing a report of appropriate detail and length for publication in an academic journal. It is also anticipated that the results will be disseminated via more 'popular' publications, both printed and web-based.
- 3.6 Finally, it is hoped that this will provide a successful example to future projects of small-scale partnership working and mosaic funding.

4 METHOD STATEMENT

4.1 Excavation

- 4.1.1 Full details of the method statement are contained in the Project Design (WA 2007b) and are not repeated here. However, the exceptional volunteer response enabled more extensive excavation than was originally envisaged to be undertaken and the scope of this is outlined below.

- 4.1.2 The exposed structural remains were hand-cleaned in order to allow the structural relationships (e.g. butt joints) to be clarified, and added to the wall plan. Subsequently, the full extent of the tops of walls which extended beyond the open area was exposed, enabling a near-complete plan of the bath-house to be obtained.
- 4.1.3 The building was subject to re-cleaning to appropriate floor or contemporary ground levels within the bulk of the area that had already been exposed (ie the most vulnerable part of the building, comprising the majority of the north and north-western parts). In the event, relatively little further excavation was required to reach these levels, though small-scale, deeper excavations were undertaken in some areas, principally to establish structural and stratigraphic relationships but also to obtain dating evidence. These deeper excavations were backfilled following the completion of fieldwork.
- 4.1.4 The exposure of the remainder of the building, to the south and east of what was already open, involved little more than the removal (by hand) of turf and a thin accumulation of topsoil. This more than doubled the area open at the beginning of the excavation in September 2007. As in the open area, some deeper excavations were carried out, both within and immediately outside the bath-house, to elucidate details of floor levels etc, and these too were backfilled on the completion of fieldwork.
- 4.1.6 It was anticipated that parts of one or two walls might need to be removed, either because they were insubstantial, obscured significant deposits or could not be preserved. This proved not to be the case and all of the structural remains were retained.

4.2 Finds

- 4.2.1 Full details of the method statement are contained in the Project Design (Wessex Archaeology 2007b) and are not repeated here.
- 4.2.2 However, it might be noted that only a representative sample of the building material (limestone, Pennant roof tile, ceramic building material) was retained for quantification and further analysis. It is anticipated that a larger assemblage of building material will be collected for more detailed study during a planned further season of work at the site.

4.3 Environmental sampling

- 4.3.1 Full details of the method statement are contained in the Project Design (Wessex Archaeology 2007b) and are not repeated here.
- 4.3.2 Although bulk samples of 40 litres were stipulated from suitable contexts, in most cases this quantity was not available. However, all but one of the samples were exceptionally rich in charred plant remains, such that they will require sub-sampling for analysis

4.4 Conservation

- 4.4.1 A key element of the sustainability of the project is the implementation of appropriate physical conservation measures following the completion of

excavation and recording work. Some backfilling has already been undertaken involving the strategic placing (over Teram) of fill material generated from the excavation, to protect the vulnerable and exposed structural elements that cannot be preserved by consolidation. Elsewhere, consolidation will comprise the packing and pointing of the more robust external walls within the exposed sections of the building (in progress, January 2007), combined with soft capping of all of the wall heads. Following this, further backfilling within parts of the bath-house will be undertaken, with the principal aim of placing a thin layer of soil over the currently exposed surfaces / deposits within the various rooms, and then seeding this with grass.

- 4.4.2 This conservation work is being funded locally by WCAS and via the Monument Management Scheme. The landowner, Antony Little, has also provided much help in kind, including arranging for the transport of conservation materials to the site as well as erecting fencing to prevent sheep damaging the upstanding remains.
- 4.4.3 It is anticipated that the conserved bath-house, though on private land, will be available for pre-arranged visits by school parties and other interested groups.

5 STRUCTURAL SEQUENCE

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The excavation was undertaken over a three-week period at the end of September and the beginning of October 2007. The exceptional volunteer response resulted in an average daily workforce of 10 people and this enabled a greater area to be exposed and investigated than had been anticipated (**Plate 1** and **rear cover**).
- 5.1.2 Virtually the entire ground plan of the bath-house was recorded (**Figure 2**), covering a maximum extent of approximately 20m by 12m, though the furnace(s) which is thought to lie on the west side of the *caldarium* was not revealed. Only limited investigation of the area beyond the confines of the bath-house was undertaken, in order to establish the presence and nature of contemporary ground surfaces and associated external features. However, it is anticipated that these will be subject to more extensive excavation during a forthcoming season of work. Nevertheless, the northern extent of the terrace cut (151) for construction of the bath-house was revealed in a small exploratory trench just beyond the north-west corner of the bath-house. This and other external features are discussed further below.
- 5.1.3 There is evidence to suggest that all of the walls were constructed within foundation trenches (though these were not investigated during the excavation), and layers of small, tightly-packed limestone rubble were laid within the individual rooms to provide consolidation for the floors. The walls were all of broadly similar construction, comprising coursed limestone rubble, sometimes roughly squared, with occasional ashlar quoins, bonded with mortar, and exhibiting finely struck pointing on some faces.
- 5.1.4 Although relatively little dating evidence was recovered, there was sufficient to suggest that the bath-house was probably constructed in the 2nd century

AD, perhaps in the second half of that century, and went out of use in the late 3rd or, more likely, the 4th century AD. The dating of the earliest construction remains somewhat tenuous, dependent on a very small assemblage of pottery from what appears to have been a dump of domestic debris in the south-west corner of the *apodyterium*, apparently 'sandwiched' within the construction sequence (see below). Phasing of the structural remains indicate a relatively simple, three phase building, with the earliest *frigidarium* / cold bath (phase 1) being replaced by a second, possibly unfinished *frigidarium* / cold bath (phase 2). The bath-house appears to have been comprehensively stripped of *pilae*, floors and internal decorative features after it fell into disuse. Subsequently, it was utilised for agricultural purposes and a corn-drying kiln (phase 3) built within the extant structure, probably in the 4th century AD though a later, post-Roman date is possible.

5.1.5 The bath-house is described by individual element below, followed by the evidence for external features, the later agricultural use of the building and, finally, antiquarian investigations. (Note: Although all wall numbers appear on **Figure 2**, the majority of layer numbers referred to in the text below are not shown on this figure. Further details may be found in **Appendix 1**).

5.2 Entrance corridor (**Figure 2** and **Plate 2**)

5.2.1 The bath-house was entered from the east, presumably by way of a path (from the villa upslope) or terrace which led into the entrance corridor, all of which had been emptied during clearance operations in 2004, and only very limited further work was undertaken in 2007. This corridor was 1.45m wide and approximately 3m long, with a threshold between walls 7 and 17 separating it from the *apodyterium*. The southern end of wall 17 had been cut back, presumably in phase 3 when the corn-drying kiln was constructed. Traces of a mortar surface (144) survived adjacent to the threshold, overlying rubble foundation 145, but it is probable that this was at sub-floor rather than floor level. A near-complete stone floor tile was removed from this area during initial site clearance (Antony Little pers. comm.), though whether this was associated with the use of the bath-house or the later (phase 3) corn-drying kiln is unclear. There may also have been some sort of threshold at the east end of the entrance corridor, between walls 10 and 22, where a doorway to the outside seems likely to have been located, but this was not confirmed in the excavation.

5.2.2 There may have been access via the entrance corridor to the *frigidarium* (cold room) / bath 1 and possibly also to the *tepidarium*. However, no doorways were apparent in either wall 7 or wall 10, though wall 10 appeared to have been partly rebuilt, probably in phase 3, which may have obscured any evidence for a doorway here. Alternatively, it is possible that access was via the *apodyterium* (see below).

5.3 *Apodyterium* (changing room) (**Figure 2** and **Plate 2**)

5.3.1 This room measured 6.25m by 5m internally, bounded by walls 3, 7/15, 16 and 17 and, given its location within the bath-house, is interpreted as most likely having been the *apodyterium* or changing room. Virtually all of this room had been emptied during clearance operations in 2004 and only limited further work was undertaken in 2007.

- 5.3.2 Walls 3, 16 and 17 were bonded together and wall 15, between the *apodyterium* and the *caldarium*, appears to have been keyed into wall 16, itself roughly built in this area. A small investigation at the junction of these two walls showed wall 15 to be built on the rubble foundation layer within the room, whereas this layer was laid up against the base of wall 16. There is no evidence, however, to suggest that wall 15 actually represented a separate construction phase within the sequence. More probably, the rear (16) and end (3) walls were constructed first and wall 15 added later, perhaps during a subsequent season of construction work. Wall 15 was particularly well built comprising coursed, squared limestone blocks with ashlar quoins, and survived to a height of approximately 1.5m, the highest wall uncovered in the bath-house. An extensive area of struck pointing was noted on the north side when the wall was initially exposed in 2003, but this had largely fallen away by 2007. Wall 15 was also substantially thicker (1.20m) than the other walls of this room, which were approximately 0.75m wide, and it is probable that this was in some way related to the structure of the *caldarium* to the south, the latter likely to have had a higher roof than the *apodyterium*, this probably being arched or domed and thus requiring more substantial support.
- 5.3.3 The *apodyterium* was divided into two approximately equal-sized areas by two low, offset walls (4 and 5); why they were offset is unknown. The shorter wall (5) on the west side was keyed into the rear wall (16), whereas wall 4 was bonded with wall 17, though there is nothing to suggest that they were not contemporary. Furthermore, wall 4 appears to have been built around the north-east corner of wall 5. Walls 4 and 5 probably formed the base for a partition, perhaps timber, within the *apodyterium*, the tops of the walls indicating the approximate height of the floor within the room.
- 5.3.4 The access from the entrance corridor into the south-east corner of the *apodyterium* was clear, but whether the *apodyterium* also provided access to the *frigidarium* / cold bath 1, the *tepidarium* and *caldarium* was less obvious. With the exception of a probably inserted (and later blocked) entrance to the *caldarium* (see below), there was no evidence for doorways and it seems likely that they lay at a height above that of the surviving wall tops.
- 5.3.5 Patches of mortar (116 and 142) survived within several corners of the *apodyterium*, presumably representing remnants of construction debris at sub-floor level, the most substantial (116) covering the south-west corner. A small investigation here, besides clarifying the structural sequence, also revealed a dump (117 and 118) of what appears to have been domestic debris, including pottery and a fragment of mill- or quernstone as well as a relatively large concentration of charred cereal remains and charcoal. This dump was sealed by mortar layer 116 and overlay 119 / 143, the rubble foundation layer, and thus provides a useful sealed context for dating the construction sequence. A probable 2nd century AD date is indicated from the pottery, possibly nearer the end than the beginning of that century. Quite what this dump of material was doing there is uncertain; perhaps it represents rubbish opportunistically disposed of, maybe during a lull in construction work.

5.4 *Frigidarium* (cold room) / cold bath 1 (Figure 2 and Plate 3)

- 5.4.1 This lay on the east side of the *apodyterium*, north of the entrance corridor, and extended almost as far as the eastern edge of the terrace. Less than

half of the western part of this element of the bath-house was exposed in 2004 and it was subject to more extensive excavation in 2007. Overall, *frigidarium* / cold bath 1 measured approximately 6m by 5.5m, and though not completely exposed, sufficient was investigated to determine its layout and use. The north wall (9) formed a continuation of wall 3 to the west and was bonded with wall 17 forming the west side and wall 18 on the east side. Walls 17 and 18 were probably bonded with wall 10, the south wall but, as noted above, this appears to have been rebuilt (in phase 3) and the upper (probably later) part butted wall 17 at the west end.

- 5.4.2 The *frigidarium* was divided internally by wall 13 which separated the upper, western part from the lower, eastern part occupied by the apsidal-ended cold bath. The upper, western part measured 4m by 2.5m internally, and was entered from either the entrance corridor or more probably the *apodyterium*, though no evidence for a doorway was found. No floor level survived within this area, and it may have been removed when this part of the bath-house was abandoned. The surviving irregular, sandy, slightly mortary surface (128 and 129) was covered with a spread of rubble (layer 127, exposed in the northern two-thirds of the room) deriving from partial demolition or collapse of this part of the structure, prior to its later agricultural use (see below).
- 5.4.3 The cold bath was subject to relatively limited investigation, but this showed it to have a substantial, square east end, the relatively massive nature of the structure here necessary not only to hold the weight of the water in the bath, but also to provide a substantial foundation in the made-ground at the front of the terrace on the steeply sloping valley side. The bath itself was semi-circular with an apsidal east end, with maximum dimensions of 4.5m by 2.25m, the roof perhaps vaulted and domed at this end. Augering indicated a depth of approximately 1m. The cold bath appeared to be almost completely filled with rubble (120), deriving from collapse and / or demolition, and it is anticipated that future work will confirm this and also establish the survival or otherwise of any lining to the sides and base of the bath.
- 5.4.4 It is suggested below that *frigidarium* / cold bath 1 was abandoned as a result of subsidence, perhaps towards the end of the 3rd century, and replaced by cold bath 2 which was built on the north side of the bath-house. Some evidence for subsidence was apparent on the outer face of the north wall (9) which was very ragged, and it could be seen in several places that parts of this wall had broken away.

5.5 *Tepidarium* (warm room) (Figure 2 and Plate 4)

- 5.5.1 This occupied the south-east corner of the bath-house, with the entrance corridor and part of the *apodyterium* lying to the north and the *caldarium* to the west. Much of the north-western half of the *tepidarium* was exposed in 2004, but it was subject to considerably more extensive investigation in 2007. It comprised two principal elements: a rectangular room with an apsidal south end, and a small annexe to the east. Four of the walls (7, 20, 21 and 22) comprising these elements were bonded together, with wall 7 forming a continuation of wall 15 to the west, and wall 20 at the south, incorporating the apsidal end, forming a continuation of wall 19 which incorporated the apsidal end to the *caldarium*. Wall 14 separating the *tepidarium* from the *caldarium* and containing two flue arches was added slightly later, though still part of the same phase of construction. All of these

walls were generally well preserved, with virtually pristine struck pointing surviving in several areas, particularly on walls 7, 20 and 21. The exception was wall 22, the central part of which had been heavily disturbed, perhaps a result of collapse and robbing, and also possibly through later antiquarian investigation (see below).

- 5.5.2 The larger, western part of the *tepidarium* comprised a rectangular area measuring approximately 3m by 2.2m internally, with an apsidal end to the south measuring 2m by 1.5m. The apsidal end was only partially investigated, but the evidence suggests that it was part of the same room, with the springers for an arch at the junction of the two. The apsidal end here, like that in the *caldarium*, may have had a vaulted and domed roof, and this might account for the greater thickness of some of the walls in these two rooms.
- 5.5.3 The smaller, eastern annexe to the *tepidarium* had walls approximately 1.1m wide, thicker than was generally seen elsewhere in the bath-house (note that the width of wall 22 was not established). This annexe comprised a rectangular area measuring approximately 2.5m by 1m, entered through a 2m-wide opening from the west, with springers for what was probably an arch on either side of this opening. The scant remains of what may have been a vertical, tiled vent survived at the south end of wall 22, just within the interior face, and one of the two fragments of LHS-stamped bricks came from destruction debris (140) associated with this wall. The remnants of a mortar surface (152) also survived in this area, at the junction of walls 21 and 22.
- 5.5.4 Wall 14, between the *tepidarium* and the *caldarium* incorporated two flue arches, one at the north end and one at the south, the wall facing between them having largely collapsed. The arches, each constructed of tile over a stone base, were assymetrical, that to the south being more pointed and appearing to be of slightly poorer construction. Both arches were approximately 0.3m wide and 0.8m high, and partly filled with rubble. This rubble overlay a dark charcoal-rich soil (136) up to 0.15m thick which covered the base of the flues and extended over much of the interior of the *tepidarium* (as far as was excavated, across the central part of the room), thinning out to the east. Layer 136 in turn overlay a spread of mortar debris (146), probably derived from construction of the bath-house, and this sealed the rubble foundation layer (147), both the latter layers exposed only in very limited areas during the excavation. Layer 136 is likely to have accumulated during the use of the bath-house, the charcoal deriving from the furnace(s) and being swept through the hypocaust and deposited on the floor. It should be noted, however, that there were no surviving *pilae* within the *tepidarium* and no evidence of where they had once stood. Nevertheless, the tops of the flue arches do indicate the level at which the floor would have been and, at this height, perhaps explains why no doorways were identified within the surviving wall fabric.
- 5.5.5 Most of the remainder of the *tepidarium* was filled with rubble (122) from demolition and / or collapse of the bath-house, but the presence of a trampled surface (121) in part of the area that had been emptied in 2004 may relate to postulated antiquarian investigation of the building in the 19th century. A fragment of clay pipe stem which came from this area in 2007 supports this theory.

5.6 *Caldarium* (hot room) (Figure 2 and Plate 5)

- 5.6.1 This occupied the south-west corner of the bath-house, the *apodyterium* lying to the north and the *tepidarium* to the east. None of this part of the building was exposed in 2004, but the more extensive investigation in 2007 revealed the entire plan, and a section was excavated through the infill deposits at the northern end. Wall 16, the rear wall to the bath-house, formed the west wall, with wall 15 to the north, wall 19 to the south, and wall 14 containing the two flues separating it from the *tepidarium*. The walls at the south-west corner are likely to survive to a height of between 1.5 and 2m, higher than any of the others in the bath-house, a result of the greater depth of the terrace here.
- 5.6.2 The overall plan was similar to (though slightly larger than) the western part of the adjoining *tepidarium*, comprising a square room with an apsidal end to the south. The internal measurements of these two elements were approximately 3m square and 3m by 1.5m respectively, the springers for what was presumably an arched opening at the junction of the two. It is possible that there was a hot bath within the apsidal end, and it is proposed that this be investigated during a subsequent season of work.
- 5.6.3 The excavation at the north end, adjacent to wall 15, revealed a 1.3m-deep sequence of demolition / collapse deposits (123, 124, 148, 149, 150) overlying a 0.18m thick charcoal-rich deposit (137), the latter similar to layer 136 in the *tepidarium* and probably part of the same deposit. The underlying deposit comprised mortar material, probable construction debris, but only a very small area was exposed and this was not further investigated. As in the *tepidarium* no remains of a hypocaust were found, though the area investigated in the *caldarium* was much smaller.
- 5.6.4 Exposure of part of the south face of wall 15 revealed several features of interest (**Plate 6**). Firstly, there was a putlog hole at a height which may have corresponded with a floor surface above the hypocaust. Secondly, the nature of the pointing was very variable with an upper area of very fine, struck pointing, a lower area with struck pointing of an inferior quality and, finally, the bottom part of the wall where the mortar appears to have largely fallen out; perhaps these differences reflected different 'builds' undertaken by different workers. Thirdly, there was evidence for an opening towards the east end, probably inserted rather than original, an opening which would have provided access between the *caldarium* and the *apodyterium*. This opening, just above the level of the putlog hole, was marked by several ashlar, probably of Bath stone, which defined a narrow doorway approximately 0.75m wide. This appears to have been subsequently blocked with loosely mortared rubble, perhaps during phase 3 after the bath-house went out of use and when the corn-drying kiln was constructed.

5.7 *Frigidarium* (cold room) / cold bath 2 (Phase 2) (Figure 2 and Plate 7)

- 5.7.1 This lay on the north side of the *apodyterium*, and is likely to have replaced *figidarium* (cold room) / cold bath 1, perhaps as a result of the latter suffering subsidence and instability. This development within the bath-house has been designated phase 2, the only element of the building assigned to this phase. Phase 2 is most conveniently attributed to the later part of the 3rd century though there is no independent dating to verify this. Virtually all of *frigidarium*

(cold room) / cold bath 2 had been exposed in 2004, but further investigative work was carried out in 2007.

- 5.7.2 The construction of this new room involved the demolition to floor level of wall 3, the north wall of the *apodyterium*, and the extension of this room to the north by a further 1.5m. Walls 11 and 12 were butted to wall 3 and continued the lines of walls 16 and 17 respectively, with wall 2 forming the new north wall to the *apodyterium*. All of these walls were slightly wider than their predecessors (walls 3, 16 and 17). Why the earlier north wall (3) was demolished is uncertain, but it may have been because of its relatively shallow depth, which could not easily have been extended downwards to the required depth (in excess of 1m) to create the south wall of cold bath 2. Overall, it may have been simpler to demolish and rebuild the north end of the *apodyterium* in order to accommodate the new cold bath rather than adapt what already existed.
- 5.7.3 Cold bath 2 was semi-circular, formed by walls 1 and 2, and increased the overall length of the bath-house to approximately 19.5m. It was substantially larger than cold bath 1, with maximum internal dimensions of 3.75m by 3.75m. Curiously, there was no obvious point of access between the *apodyterium* and cold bath 2, the surviving height of wall 2 seeming to preclude the location of a doorway in the expected central location, unless there were steps up and then steps down into the cold bath 2. However, the space such an arrangement would require makes this unlikely. There is a possibility that cold bath 2 was never completed and perhaps the access between the two rooms was never formed, though such an explanation is not overly convincing.
- 5.7.4 A small trench dug at the south-west junction of walls 1 and 2 showed the walls to be bonded together and cold bath 2 to be approximately 0.75m deep. Remnants of a mortar floor (141) in the base at the junction of the two walls survived, laid over a bed of limestone rubble (153), but it was clear that the remainder had been dug out, perhaps during antiquarian investigations. Furthermore, the nature of the homogeneous, clay and rubble fill (102) within cold bath 2 suggested that this did not represent *in-situ* Roman deposits, but more likely recent backfill. It was also noticed that the mortar pointing on the north face of wall 2 was rather rough and had a pinkish hue, possibly resulting from weathering since its exposure in 2004. However, this pointing was confined to the upper part of the wall and did not extend to the base of the bath, indeed no part of the (lower) faces of walls 1 and 2 exposed in 2007 had any pointing surviving *in situ*. The implications of this are discussed further below in the section on possible antiquarian investigations of the site.

5.8 External features and deposits (Figure 2)

- 5.8.1 Several small-scale investigations were undertaken around the exterior of the bath-house in order to establish the presence and nature of external surfaces and features.
- 5.8.2 It is almost certain that the area immediately east of the entrance corridor and the *tepidarium* would have been surfaced, possibly paved, perhaps with steps leading up to the entrance. However, no evidence for any surviving surfaces was found in the two small trenches opened here.

- 5.8.3 A small investigation (less than 1m², not illustrated) was undertaken on an animal disturbance on the steeply sloping terrace side approximately 20m east of the *tepidarium*. Some ceramic building material was visible on the surface here and the aim was to rapidly characterise these deposits (155). The very limited work indicated the presence not only of ceramic building material, but also wall plaster (some of it painted) and window glass (one sherd). It seems certain that there is in this area a significant quantity of material deriving from the robbing of the bath-house, probably in the late 3rd or 4th century, and this would repay further, more extensive investigation.
- 5.8.4 To the rear (west) of the bath-house two investigations were undertaken, the larger to expose part of the terrace and the smaller to attempt to locate the furnace(s). The latter, immediately to the west of the *caldarium*, exposed only demolition debris (138) with no evidence for a furnace here. The investigation of the terrace was more successful in that it provided some information on its nature and extent.
- 5.8.5 A trench cut into the slope behind the north end of the building revealed terrace cut 151, the northern end of the terrace which corresponded closely with the northern extent of the phase 1 bath-house. The existing surface topography to the south of this suggests that the terrace may have extended 7m or so back from the rear of the bath-house. There was no evidence to indicate that the sloping side of the terrace cut had been revetted, but only a small area was exposed. Within this area it appears that a layer of small rubble was laid to consolidate the base of the terrace and above this was a rough mortar surface (114) which extended up to the rear wall (16) of the bath-house. On one part of surface 114 was rubble 'pad' 113, on top of which was a substantial, sub-rectangular block of stone which showed evidence of having been in the process of being worked, perhaps to form a *voussoir* (see **cover**; note stone block has been moved, bottom left) One possibility is that it was being prepared for use in *frigidarium* / cold bath 2 which, it is suggested above, may not have been finished. Mortar surface 114, rubble 'pad' 113 and the stone block were sealed by deposits post-dating the use of the bath-house (see below).

5.9 Later corn-drying kiln / agricultural use (Phase 3) (Figure 2)

- 5.9.1 During the late 3rd or, more probably, the 4th century the bath-house was abandoned, robbed of re-usable building materials (eg *pilae* and *tesserae*) and subsequently re-used for agricultural purposes.
- 5.9.2 A corn-drying kiln was built within the entrance corridor and the south-east corner of the *apodyterium* (see **Plate 2**). The entrance corridor was reused as the stoke-hole and flue of the kiln, wall 17 being cut back slightly, though the reason for this is unclear, and wall 10 appears to have been partly rebuilt. The flue arch was probably built within the former threshold, but nothing of this survived. The chamber was created utilising parts of walls 7 and 17 and new walls 6 and 8 which were built against them. Both the latter were of relatively poor construction, and a substantial part of wall 8 was removed during site clearance in 2004. The internal shape of the chamber is uncertain, but mortared rubble in the corners suggests that it was originally circular or oval, and traces of burning were apparently noted on the inner faces in 2004, though no evidence for this survived in 2007. Between wall 8 and wall 15 was a remnant of a roughly paved surface, the remainder of which had been removed in 2004. What appears to be an offset foundation

on the north side of wall 6 may have been the remains of the same rough-pitched stone-paved surface. This perhaps continued around the exterior of the kiln and could also have formed the floor of the flue and chamber within the structure.

- 5.9.3 Overlying the demolition / collapse rubble (127) within the *frigidarium* and extending eastwards across the rubble infill in cold bath 1, was a substantial, black deposit (108) extremely rich in charred cereal remains (**Plate 8**). This was up to 0.45m thick where it had been dumped against wall 17 and presumably represents spoiled debris from the corn-drying kiln. Layer 108 was sealed by layer 126 which largely comprised loose mortar probably derived from subsequent weathering and erosion of the extant bath-house remains, prior to them becoming buried beneath colluvial deposits.
- 5.9.4 A further deposit (112) also rich in charred cereal remains lay to the rear of the building (see **Plate 8**), extending west from the north end of wall 16, though its overall extent was not ascertained. Layer 112 was up to 0.4m thick and sealed a surface (114) and features contemporary with the bath-house (see above). Whether, like 108, it derived from the later corn-drying kiln within the bath-house is unknown. Layer 112 lay beneath demolition / collapse deposits including layer 111 / 132 which comprised mainly Pennant stone roof tiles, perhaps a remnant of the roof which slid off as the building collapsed and, above this, rubble 110 / 131.

5.10 Possible antiquarian investigations

- 5.10.1 Prior to the excavations in 2007 the possibility was raised that the bath-house may have been subject to previous, antiquarian investigation. The obvious candidate for such activity is G. Poulet Scrope, c. 1860, at the same time as he was excavating the villa at Truckle Hill. However, he makes no mention of this in the published report on the villa (WAM 1862), and a search of the archives has failed to produce any information which might support this suggestion (Roy Canham pers. comm.).
- 5.10.2 The work in 2007 confirmed that parts of the bath-house had indeed been subject to investigation prior to its partial clearance in 2003, and a 19th century date still seems most likely, though this could not be confirmed. How much of the entrance corridor and *apodyterium* may have been investigated is unclear, but evidence did come from the *tepidarium*, *frigidarium* / cold bath 2 and the rear of the bath-house. The evidence from the *tepidarium* and *frigidarium* / cold bath 2 has been outlined above, while along part of the rear of the building, adjacent to wall 16, was very clear evidence for an irregular, backfilled trench (139) which extended as far south as rubble 'pad' 113, stopping at the block of stone which rested on the top of this pad. Trench 139 cut through the sequence of Roman and later deposits here and appeared to be sealed only by topsoil (109). From the fill came an iron cleat perhaps deriving from a boot or shoe.
- 5.10.3 In addition to the evidence cited above for antiquarian investigation, there is also a possibility that the partly exposed bath-house was subsequently preserved as a feature in the landscape. The most convincing evidence for this is provided by the pointing on the north face of wall 2 in *frigidarium* / cold bath 2 which was present (or survived) only above the level of what has been interpreted as 19th century backfill. Analysis of samples of mortar taken from this room (as well as other parts of the bath-house) may assist in

confirming whether some 19th century consolidation of the structure is likely to have taken place.

5.10.4 Finally, the relatively deep, apparently undifferentiated ‘dumped’ rubble fills removed by Antony Little, may represent more recent backfill, rather than deposits which accumulated naturally within a disused Roman building such as this in a rural context.

6 FINDS

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 The finds recovered during the 2007 excavation season were almost entirely of Roman date, with only a tiny amount of more recent, post-medieval material.

Table 1: Finds summary

Material	No	Wt (g)
Pottery	150	2116
Building materials:		
Ceramic	89	32119
Stone	49	12130
Wall plaster	18	1054
Fired clay	9	37
Window glass	1	3
Iron	17	180
Animal bone	12	46
Shell	3	25
Flint	1	2
Clay pipe	1	1

6.1.2 All the artefacts were quantified by material type within each context, and this information, currently held on an Access database, is summarized by material type in **Table 1**. The assemblage has also been visually scanned to gain an overall impression of the range of materials present, their condition, and potential date range. Spot dates were also recorded for the pottery.

6.2 Pottery

6.2.1 As well as being the most prolific material type found, the pottery provided the main dating evidence for the site. It was predominantly of Late Roman date; no obviously Early Roman pieces were identified, although the possibility of a few being present among the less diagnostic sherds cannot be completely excluded. The sherds survived in moderately good condition (average sherd weight = 15g, about standard for sites in southern England where an average of 10 - 20g is considered usual), although some pieces showed considerable edge and surface abrasion.

6.2.2 The pottery was mainly from local sources (**Table 2**). No Continental imports were identified, the Late Roman date of the assemblage being beyond that of most imported wares. Regional imports included Black Burnished wares from the Wareham/Poole Harbour region of Dorset as well as recognisable products (colour-coated wares and white ware mortaria) of the Oxfordshire

industry. The Black Burnished forms consisted of shallow, straight-sided dishes and everted rim jars, two of the most characteristic and widely distributed products of this industry during the later 3rd and 4th centuries AD, while many of the other sherds displayed the slipping and horizontal wipe-marks characteristic of this ware in the period after c. AD 245. The Oxfordshire colour-coated wares included five joining sherds from a flanged bowl copying samian form 38 (Young 1977, 160, fig. 59, C51), found during initial site clearance (context 154). However, the relatively coarse fabric of this vessel and lack of any clear evidence for a red slip (the surfaces are abraded) might suggest that it was made by one of the small-scale off-shoots of this industry that may have been operating in north Wiltshire at a similar time. The mortaria sherd (the only one in the assemblage) was found outside the bath-house among the dump of burnt cereal remains on the west side of the *apodyterium* (context 112).

Table 2: Pottery totals by ware type

Ware	No.	Wt. (g)
Black Burnished ware	51	605
Greyware	54	762
Oxidised ware	34	487
Oxon colour-coat	6	192
Oxon whiteware mortaria	1	20
Shell-tempered ware	1	31
White-slipped red ware	3	19
Total:	150	2116

6.2.3 The 'catch-all' grey- and oxidized ware categories included products from the north Wiltshire industry, while the few white-slipped wares may have derived from a similar source. Among the oxidized wares, forms included wide and narrow-mouthed jars in a hard orange fabric with a grey core, probably from the Purton kilns (Anderson 1979, 14), a wide-mouthed bowl with a flanged rim and burnished wavy line decoration from an unknown source and a possible Oxfordshire cup/bowl copying samian form 33 and dated to c. AD 240-300 (Young 1977, 197, fig. 73, O43). The greywares too, probably included both north Wiltshire and Oxfordshire products. Vessel forms consisted of everted rim jars and one wide-mouthed necked bowl, a form made by both industries from c. AD 100 onwards (Anderson 1979, fig. 8, 3 and 4; Young 1977, 220, fig.80, R38). This example, however, from the dump of burnt cereal remains (context 108) post-dating the use of *frigidarium* / cold bath 1 was associated with other Late Roman sherds and probably belonged to a similar period. The single piece of shell-tempered ware, from the rim of a fairly large, heavy jar, was also found in this deposit. Such wares are well-known in the area (Brodrigg *et al* 1971, II, 68ff and 1972, III, 54; Rigby 1982, 1/5 D10; Wedlake 1982, 250; Wilmot 1997, 271; Seager Smith 2001, 249), but their absence in the make-up levels at the Beeches, Cirencester may suggest that they belonged within the second half of the 4th century AD (Keely 1986, 163).

6.3 Building materials

6.3.1 Given the nature of the deposits investigated, finds of various building materials were common but, this year, they were not collected in any systematic manner. However, the sample serves to characterize the main

types in use on the site and forms the basis for recommendations on future collection strategies.

Ceramic building material

- 6.3.2 The identifiable pieces of ceramic building material predominantly consisted of bricks (41 fragments), box tiles (33 fragments) and a handful of *tegula* and *imbrex* pieces (three and two respectively). The assemblage was very fragmentary, the only complete dimension being thickness. Thirty-four of the brick pieces were between 34 - 43mm thick, suggesting that they were from the smaller, thinner types - *bessales*, *pedalis* and *lydion* – mainly used to form hypocaust *pilae*, the capping or bases of *pilae* and in bonding or lacing courses in walls. Two of these fragments (contexts 105 and 138) were stamped with the letters LHS. This stamp is well-known in the Cotswold region (Darvill 1979; McWhirr 1979, 181) and at Wanborough (Mepham 2001, 316, fig. 101, 22 and 23), possibly originating from the tile kilns at Minety, although it unfortunately remains undated. Four pieces over 50mm thick also indicated the use of the larger *sequipedalis* and *bipedalis* bricks, mostly used as flooring, especially under the *pilae* of a hypocaust and to bridge the gaps between the top of the *pilae*.
- 6.3.3 Most of the box tile (*tubulus*) fragments exhibited combed keying, mainly in cross-hatched designs, but were too fragmentary to be assigned to specific types (eg. box flue – mainly used in hypocausts, or voussoirs used to create arches). The paucity of roof tile (*tegula* and *imbrex*) fragments highlights the use of stone roof tiles in this structure.

Stone

- 6.3.4 No detailed geological identifications were undertaken, but the building stone assemblage consisted of both dressed and freestone blocks of Pennant sandstone, oolitic and other limestones, including one thick, flat slab of very fine grained limestone, as well as smaller miscellaneous fragments of these and other rock types. Fragments of polygonal stone roof tiles, mostly of Pennant sandstone (greenish grey or pinkish grey in colour), were also found in five contexts, while nine limestone tessera, light or dark grey in colour, were found in contexts associated with the *apodyterium* (contexts 103 and 115) and *tepidarium* (contexts 104, 122 and 125), highlighting possible locations for tessellated floors.

Wall plaster and window glass

- 6.3.5 The fragments of deep red and white painted wall plaster and the piece of window glass (pale blue/green metal) from the small investigation on the slope below the bath-house (context 155), indicate a high standard of décor with this structure. Most of the fired clay fragments are probably also of structural origin, although two pieces, both dark brown in colour and from the vicinity of the *tepidarium* (contexts 104 and 125), may represent ceramic tessera.

Mortar

- 6.3.6 Four mortar samples were collected, three from *frigidarium* / cold bath 2 (from the interior of wall 1, the upper pointing on the north face of wall 2 and mortar floor 141) and one from the *tepidarium* (from the struck pointing on wall 7).

6.4 Other finds

- 6.4.1 Surprisingly, and despite the skilled use of a metal-detector, the only metalwork recovered consisted of iron nails and nail fragments; part of a possible latch or key from the demolition deposit 122 in the *tepidarium*; a small cleat of the type usually used to reinforce the soles of nailed boots/shoes from the fill of the 19th century excavation trench (context 139) and, therefore, probably of recent date; and the cap from a modern cartridge case found in the dump of burnt cereal remains (context 108) post-dating *frigidarium* / cold bath 1. Only the hand-excavated nails and nail fragments were retained (14 in total); those located in unexcavated deposits with the metal detector were not retrieved. All were handmade, round headed with square-sectioned, tapering shanks and probably of Roman date.
- 6.4.2 Five stone objects were identified (quantified with the building materials). A single fragment from a rotary quern or millstone of coarse-grained sandstone, approximately 400mm in diameter and 44mm thick with a grooved grinding surface, was found in the midden deposit in the south-west corner of the *apodyterium* (context 117). Four flat, roughly circular or oval fragments of Pennant sandstone, ranging from 65 – 100mm in diameter, were found in the infill of *frigidarium* / cold bath 2, the dump of burnt cereal remains outside, the midden deposit in the south-west corner of the *apodyterium*, and the infill of the *caldarium* (contexts 102, 112, 117 and 124 respectively). Although the purpose of these objects remains unclear, their frequency and similarity suggest that they were deliberately formed.
- 6.4.3 The few animal bone fragments were all from the burnt cereal remains and midden deposits (contexts 108, 112, 117 and 118) and, together with the oyster shell from the *tepidarium* (context 104), probably represent food remains. The worked flint, part of a broken blade, was found in the cold plunge pool (context 120) and is almost certainly residual, indicative of prehistoric activity in the vicinity. The single piece of clay tobacco pipe found during the cleaning of the *tepidarium* (context 104) may derive from 19th century activity on the site.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 Six bulk samples were taken from deposits associated with the bath-house. The earliest samples came from a deposit (117) and a lens (118) within it in the south-west corner of the *apodyterium*, sealed within the construction sequence. As such they pre-date the use of the bath-house. A further sample came from a charcoal/ash deposit (136) to the east of the flues within the *tepidarium* and is thought to be broadly contemporary with the use of the bath-house. Another sample came from a dump of charred material (112) at the rear of the bath-house. This was thought at the time of excavation to represent rake-out material from a furnace (not located) which heated the *caldarium* and *tepidarium*, but subsequent analysis indicates that it post-dated the use of the bath-house. The remaining two samples came from a dump (108) rich in charred material post-dating the use of *frigidarium* / cold bath 1, and thought to derive from a later corn-drying kiln. All of the samples were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains

Table 3. Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

Feature type/no	Context	Sample	size litres	flot size ml	Grain	Chaff	seeds charred	Charcoal 4/2 mm	Other	Residue
										Charcoal >5.6mm
<i>Below apodyterium</i> (pre-dates use of bath-house)										
Construction layer	117	2	6	100 ⁴	A*	A***	A**	2/1ml	moll-t(C) smb-t(C)	-
lens in layer 117	118	3	1	100 ²	A*	A***	A**	2/2ml	moll-t(C)	-
<i>Tepidarium</i> (contemporary with bath-house)										
Basal layer, within flues	136	6	10	35 ²	B	A	B	5/5ml	moll-t (A) smb (B)	-
Dump from re-use of bath-house as corn-drying kiln										
Layer in <i>frigidarium</i> / cold bath 1	108	4	10	100 ² 0	A***	A****	A***	25/10ml l	moll-t (C)	-
	108	5	10	550 ¹⁵	A****	A****	A**	5/5ml	moll-t (A) smb (C)	-
Dump at the rear of bath-house										
External layer	112	1	18	550 ³	A**	A****	A	6/10ml	moll-t (A)	-

KEY: A*** = exceptional, A* = 30+ items, A = ≥10 items, B = 9 - 5 items, C = < 5 items, (h) = hazelnuts, smb = small mammal bones; Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs Moll-f = freshwater molluscs; Analysis: C = charcoal, P = plant, M = molluscs, C14 = radiocarbon suggestions. NOTE: ¹flot is total, but flot in superscript = % of rooty material.

7.1.2 The samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6 mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. Flots were scanned under a x10 – x40 stereo-binocular microscope and the presence of charred remains quantified (**Table 3**) in order to present data to record the preservation and nature of the charred plant and charcoal remains and assess their potential to address the project and subsidiary aims. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997).

7.1.3 All but the sample from the *tepidarium* (context 136) were large and rich in well-preserved charred material. While the numbers of roots within the samples was generally low, one of those from context 108 and that from 136 had occasional roots and uncharred modern seeds. Therefore, some of the environmental material within them may be intrusive.

7.2 Charred plant remains

7.2.1 Five of the samples were rich in cereal remains comprising predominately glumes and spikelet forks of spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*), with some remains of barley (*Hordeum vulgare* sl). While all of the samples were broadly similar in composition there were some distinct differences.

Context 117

7.2.2 The charred material from deposit 117 in the *apodyterium*, sealed within the construction sequence, contained generally well preserved remains with high

numbers of silica awns. The deposit was dominated by well preserved glumes of spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*). There appeared to be more coleoptiles than in the other samples, though no more than 10-15, and some of the grains showed possible signs of slight germination. There were also noticeably more barley grains, many still hulled, in this deposit with a few accompanying rachis fragments.

- 7.2.3 Weed seeds were notably more numerous and represented a much wider range than seen in the other samples. Along with corn gromwell, oats and dock, were seeds of rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*), brome grass (*Bromus* sp.), dock (*Rumex* sp.), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), field madder (*Sherardia arvensis*), fat-hen (*Chenopodium album*), corncockle (*Agrostemma githago*), nipplewort (*Lapsana communis*), self-heal (*Prunella vulgaris*), stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*), orache (*Atriplex* sp.), scentless mayweed (*Tripleurospermum inodorum*), clover (*Trifolium* sp.) and cat's-tail (*Phleum* sp.).

Context 118

- 7.2.4 The preservation of material in this lens of charred material contained within context 117 was very good. While the sample was generally similar to that from 117, some notable differences were seen. In particular there were more culms of cereals, as well as several seeds of bristly ox-tongue (*Picris echiooides/hieracioides*). The sample also contained several seeds of thistle (*Cirsium/Carduus* sp.).

Context 136

- 7.2.5 The sample from the *tepidarium* contained much less material than the other samples, and relatively few cereal remains. The main components were poorly preserved glumes of spelt, with occasional grains of spelt. There were relatively few weed seeds, which included occasional seeds of corn-cockle, oats and brome grass.

Context 108

- 7.2.6 The sample from the central area of dump 108 in *frigidarium* / cold bath 1 showed very good levels of preservation with very high amounts of siliceous chaff, mainly awns, but also paleas and lemmas. While still dominated by glumes and grains of spelt wheat, grains of barley, many of which were still hulled, were very well represented. There were also quite a few rachises of barley which could be seen to be of the six-row variety (*Hordeum vulgare* subsp. *vulgare*). The range of weed seeds was similar to those from contexts 118 and 117, but different in that the range of weed seeds was much narrower, although seeds of red bartsia (*Odontites vernus*), wild pea (*Lathyrus* sp.), and vetches/wild pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.) were, in general, not seen in the other samples.
- 7.2.7 The sample from the western edge of dump 108, where it had accumulated against wall 17, contained more roots as well as culm nodes and grains, although spelt glumes were still well represented. Preservation was probably less good and there was less siliceous material. Unlike the other sample from this context, a number of germinated grains were seen (about 5-10) along with a few elongated coleoptiles. The range of weed species was similar,

although a stone of sloe (*Prunus spinosa*) and several small seeds of possible apple (*Malus* sp.) were also present.

Context 112

7.2.8 The sample from the dump (112) to the rear of the bath house contained mainly remains of spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*) with relatively little barley. While weed seeds were also present, comprising mainly corn gromwell (*Lithospermum arvense*), but also oats (*Avena* sp.), docks (*Rumex* sp.) and hemp-nettle (*Galeopsis* sp.), there were generally very few of them. The sample also contained a few fragments of hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) and a stone of probable sloe (*Prunus spinosa*). While an occasional elongated (germinated) coleoptile was recovered, none of the grains could be seen to be germinated.

Discussion

- 7.2.9 The sheer number of glume bases from all but the *tepidarium* (context 136) is highly indicative of the mass processing and separation of glumes following the dehusking of spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*). The waste from such processing is likely to have become charred during parching prior to dehusking (Hillman 1981) or when used as fuel in corn-drying kilns. While some evidence for malting was seen in the samples, it would appear to be very minor.
- 7.2.10 Differences between the samples are significant enough to suggest that most came from separate events rather than a single event. For example, those from the *apodyterium* (contexts 117 and 118) were distinct in that they had a wide range of weed species, including stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*) that was absent from the other samples.
- 7.2.11 While the re-use of part of the bath-house as a corn-drying kiln accounts for the later glume-rich deposits from 108 and potentially 112, that the deposits predating the bath-house also contain such material (117 and 118) implies that such activities were conducted close to this area prior to its construction.
- 7.2.12 Such assemblages have been recovered from Romano-British corn-drying kilns, usually of a later 3rd - 4th century date, in Wiltshire (Ede 1993; Hinton 1999; Stevens 2006a), as well as England as a whole (van der Veen 1991).
- 7.2.13 The finding of seeds of stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*) in the earliest deposits is also of some interest in that they are characteristic of the cultivation of heavier clay soils, often associated with improved ploughing technologies (Jones 1981). Generally in Wiltshire the species is only recovered from late Roman sites (Stevens 2006a), although earlier 2nd to 3rd century examples are known (Stevens 2006b). As noted elsewhere, many corn-drying kilns are often late Roman in date (Morris 1979), although earlier 2nd century examples are known.
- 7.2.14 The sheer amount of material suggests that grain was being dehusked on a very large scale, probably far exceeding the needs of the nearby villa's inhabitants. The most likely reason is that pure, cleaned grain was being produced to supply towns and military needs; for example Bath which lay less than 15 kilometres to the south-west along the *Fosse Way*.

7.3 Charcoal

- 7.3.1 Charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in **Table 3**. Generally the samples contained little charcoal. The sample from the centre of dump 108 in *frigidarium* / cold bath 1 had reasonable amounts, while the sample from the *tepidarium* contained comparatively more charcoal than cereal remains. It was notable that much of the wood charcoal could be seen to come from roundwood, branch and twig.
- 7.3.2 Wood would have been more suitable than cereal chaff for use as fuel in the bath-house furnace. It must be assumed, therefore, that given the comparatively low amounts of wood charcoal within all but the sample from the *tepidarium* (136), then the dump (112) from the rear of the bath-house is not (as was originally thought on site) related to the firing of the bath-house furnace.

7.4 Land and fresh / brackish water molluscs

- 7.4.1 The flots (0.5mm) were rapidly assessed by scanning under a x 10 – x 30 stereo-binocular microscope to provide some information about shell preservation and species representation. The main and dominant taxa were identified where possible. Nomenclature is according to Kerney (1999).
- 7.4.2 Both samples from the *apodyterium* (contexts 117 and 118) contained very few molluscs, represented by a few shells of *Discus rotundatus* from the former and one of *Cepaea* sp. from the latter.
- 7.4.3 The sample from the *tepidarium* (136) was comparatively rich in mollusc shells, with many of shaded conditions represented by *Discus rotundatus*, *Oxychilus* sp. *Vitrea* sp. *Aegopinella* sp., *Carychium* sp. And, more unusually, the small shells of *Acicula fusca* which is indicative of old undisturbed woods and highly intolerant of human disturbance. Intermediate species included *Cochlicopa* spp. and *Trichia* sp., while indicative of open conditions, but fewer in number, were *Pupilla muscorum*, *Vallonia* sp. *Vertigo* sp. and *Helicella itala*. Although there were very few roots, there were modern seeds and some worm cocoons.
- 7.4.4 The two samples from the dump (108) in *frigidarium* / cold bath 1 contained varying numbers of shells. That from the central part contained very few shells, comprising two of *Discus rotundatus* and single shells of *Carychium* sp. and *Vitrea* sp., all associated with shaded conditions. The sample from the western end of the deposit was slightly richer, with shells again mainly of shaded conditions including *Discus rotundatus*, *Oxychilus* sp., *Acanthinura aculeata*, *Carychium* sp. and *Vitrea* sp., but it also included some of open conditions represented by *Vallonia* sp. and *Vertigo* sp., and of intermediate conditions represented by *Cochlicopa* sp. Also present were *Acicula fusca* listed above. That this sample contained more roots, the occasional worm cocoon as well as uncharred seeds of buttercup (*Ranunculus acris/repens/bulbosus*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*), chickweed (*Stellaria* sp.) and common nettle (*Urtica dioica*) might suggest, however, that the deposit could have intrusive elements.
- 7.4.5 Mollusc shells were not abundant in the dump (112) to the rear of the bath-house. However, this did include a mixture of open country species, mainly *Vallonia* sp., as well as some of shaded conditions, mainly *Discus rotundatus*,

but also some of *Aegopinella/Oxychilus* and *Carychium sp.*, while *Pomatias elegans* and *Cochlicopa* spp. represent intermediate environments.

- 7.4.6 It is unclear how contemporary with the bath-house all the molluscs are likely to have been, and certainly some may have accumulated in voids through rooting action in the centuries following the abandonment of the buildings. What is probable, however, is that woodland has been dominant for a very long period.

7.5 Small animal bones

- 7.5.1 During the processing of bulk soil samples for the recovery of charred plant remains and charcoal, small animal bones were noted, and recorded (**Table 3**), in the flots. Most of them looked like small rodents, and given their presence in the more rooty samples they may well represent animals living within the rubble after the abandonment of the building. It might be noted that several concentrations of small rodent bones were noted during the excavation, particularly within voids in the rubble fill within the *tepidarium*, at least some of which may be of comparatively recent date.

SECTION B: UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN AND PUBLICATION PROPOSALS

8 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

8.1 Structural sequence

- 8.1.1 Previous work at and in the vicinity of the Truckle Hill Roman bath-house, culminating in the excavation of 2007, has revealed a particularly well-preserved structure, arguably one of the best surviving rural, detached bath-houses in the country, and one of the largest.
- 8.1.2 The excavations uncovered the complete suite of rooms, of two phases, with initial construction probably taking place during the 2nd century AD, perhaps in the second half of that century, and the use of the bath-house continuing until the end of the 3rd or, more likely, the 4th century AD. There is a possibility that the new, phase 2 *frigidarium* / cold bath remained unfinished at the time the bath-house ceased operation. The chronological relationship to the bath suite in the Truckle Hill villa excavated in the mid-19th century is uncertain, but it is suggested that the construction and use of the latter superseded the detached bath-house which was subsequently abandoned.
- 8.1.3 The small quantity of decorative material recovered in 2007 (painted wall plaster and window glass) indicates that the bath-house was relatively sumptuously appointed, though it had been extensively robbed of re-usable materials, probably soon after it was abandoned. The quality of the decoration, as well as the large size of the bath-house, suggests that it may have been used by the occupants and visitors to the villa rather than being a separate bath-house for estate workers.
- 8.1.4 Like some other detached bath-houses, it was subsequently used for agricultural purposes, perhaps as a barn, and a corn-drying kiln was constructed within part of the shell of the abandoned building, probably in the 4th century AD.
- 8.1.5 There is convincing evidence that parts of the bath-house were excavated in the 19th century with G. Poulet-Scrope, excavator of the nearby villa, remaining the most likely candidate for this work. There is also a possibility that the exposed structure was consolidated and retained as a landscape feature at that time.

8.2 Finds

- 8.2.1 Most of the material recovered relates to the structure of the Romano-British bath-house, either *in situ* or redeposited. However, the relatively small quantities of other material types (such as pottery and ironwork, with the exception of nails) and the complete absence of copper alloy, for example, are perhaps unusual. One might expect, for instance, the frequent loss of coins and items of personal ornament, such as pins and brooches, in a bath-house where clothes were being removed and donned again. This relative paucity of finds may lend weight to the suggestion that the site had been, at least in part, previously investigated, perhaps during the 19th century. Another, 'remote' rural bath-house at Whitestaunton, Somerset (Wessex Archaeology 2004), for example, had been similarly cleaned of artefacts

during its initial excavation and modification for display as a garden folly in the 1880s. Here, other than building materials, the Roman finds consisted of only nine sherds of pottery and four copper alloy coins.

- 8.2.2 Alone, the 2007 finds assemblage has little potential for further analysis, although this situation is expected to change as the information it contains is augmented by that from proposed future seasons of fieldwork. From the pottery, it seems that the bath-house was probably constructed during the 2nd century AD, while the Late Roman sherds from the dumps of burnt cereal remains (contexts 108 and 112) suggest that it was out of use as a bath-house by the late 3rd or, more probably, 4th century AD, given the presence of the single shell-tempered sherd (from context 108). However, it is possible that the later sherds are, in fact, residual in these deposits, which may relate to a later, immediately post-Roman, phase of agricultural activity without any recognisable ceramics of its own. The value of obtaining radiocarbon dates from these deposits is discussed further below.
- 8.2.3 Analysis of the mortar samples may be able to establish whether the pointing on the upper part of the north face wall 2 (*frigidarium* / cold bath 2) is significantly different in composition to the remainder. If this proves to be the case then it might provide support for the suggestion that this pointing may have been done in the 19th century, perhaps to consolidate the structure as a landscape feature following antiquarian investigation.

8.3 Environmental remains

- 8.3.1 The charred plant remains offer the opportunity to examine the processing of cereals and their cultivation, as well as the agricultural activities conducted prior to or contemporary with the construction of the bath-house and during its later re-use.
- 8.3.2 The charcoal has the potential to examine the use of fuel and possibly also woodland management. Such fuel probably relates to the processing of grain rather than fuelling the bath-house itself. Given the small amount of wood charcoal within the samples such potential is limited.
- 8.3.3 The mollusc samples have the potential to examine the local environment and landscape. However, such potential is limited as the degree of contemporaneity with the use, reuse and subsequent abandonment of the bath-house is unclear.

8.4 Radiocarbon dating

- 8.4.1 There is potential to radiocarbon-date all of the deposits containing charred plant remains and charcoal, although such potential may be limited by the calibration curve, in that the returned date ranges are quite broad compared to pottery dating. For example, at 94.5% probability 1900±35 BP calibrates at 20 AD to 220 cal. AD; 1800±35 BP at 120-340 cal. AD; 1700±35 at 250-420 AD; and 1600±35 at 390-550 AD. If a 2nd to 3rd century date is expected (for construction) then there may be very little potential without further modelling. However, if a 4th or possibly 5th century date is expected (for the later, agricultural use) then radiocarbon dating may be of some help in clarifying this.

9 RECOMMENDATIONS AND METHOD STATEMENT

9.1 Structural sequence

- 9.1.1 The excavation of 2007 is likely to be just one, albeit the major stage of work at the site. However, it is clear that the results of this excavation coupled with information from earlier work undertaken on and around the bath-house are more than sufficient to justify publication of a short (approximately 15 pages) article in the county journal. It is also anticipated that the results will be disseminated via more 'popular' publications, both printed and web-based.
- 9.1.2 The proposed journal article will include an introduction outlining the project background and previous work at the site. This will be followed by a description of the bath-house and the structural sequence (little further analysis of this is required beyond what is presented in this assessment), with reference made to the finds and environmental remains where appropriate, though summaries of these will be presented in separate sections. The article will conclude with a discussion of the bath-house; its overall setting and likely relationship with Truckle Hill Roman villa; its subsequent re-use for agricultural purposes; the likelihood that it was partly excavated in the 19th century; and, finally, the possibility that it was subsequently preserved as a landscape feature.
- 9.1.3 Proposals for additional work on or in the vicinity of the bath-house, as well as in the surrounding valley and wider landscape, will also be highlighted (see below). The results of this work are likely to be the subject of a further article in the county journal.
- 9.1.4 Following the unqualified success of the outreach programme in 2007, which resulted in all of the excavation aims being achieved and in many cases exceeded, it is clear that work during further seasons may be undertaken on the same basis, involving volunteers drawn from a variety of sources. A desk-based assessment should be carried out which draws together all of the available information on the Truckle Hill villa, as well as the evidence for Roman settlement, including other villas, in the area. In addition, a variety of future fieldwork tasks can also be identified including:
- Establishing the presence or otherwise of a hot bath at the apsidal (south) end of the *caldarium*;
 - Further examination of the cold bath in *frigidarium* / cold bath 1 to establish its depth, the survival of any lining and the drain arrangements;
 - Excavation of an area further to the rear (west) of the bath-house to expose more of the construction terrace and locate the furnace(s);
 - Excavation of an area / trench to the front (east) of the bath-house to locate any surviving surface(s) and, further down the terrace slope, to recover a representative assemblage of robbed and discarded building materials (see below);
 - Excavation of a trench across the top of a small promontory at the north end of the valley where geophysical survey indicates further, buried building remains;
 - Excavation of trenches in several locations on the west side of the valley where geophysical survey indicates various linear features;

- Topographic / earthwork survey of the valley sides with the primary aim of identifying the water supply for the bath-house and the path / track which linked the bath-house to the villa;
- Geophysical survey of the villa to clarify its extent and orientation;

9.2 Finds

- 9.2.1 No analysis in addition to that already undertaken for this assessment is proposed, and the information presented here will be edited for publication. The exception may be the mortar samples which, following discussion with English Heritage, may be analysed to determine if the Roman and possible 19th century mortars can be distinguished from each other.
- 9.2.2 Further fieldwork should highlight the recovery of artefacts of all types to enable more detailed considerations of site chronology as well as status and functional aspects of the assemblage and the appearance of the building.
- 9.2.3 Further information concerning the range and origin of the building materials used in the construction of the bath-house could best be extracted from the structure itself during a future season of fieldwork. It is recommended that a geologist visits the site to identify the range and potential sources of the rock types used, while additional details of block sizes, dressing techniques etc are also recorded from the structure itself as part of the context records. Similarly, the ceramic building material *in situ* within the structure should be identified and recorded in detail, with fabric samples removed to identify potential sources. It is also suggested that all loose fragments of ceramic building material are collected on a context by context basis and examined / quantified by a specialist on site, with only complete, unusual and / or marked pieces being retained for long-term storage.
- 9.2.4 The community nature of this project also provides an ideal opportunity to examine and record any surviving artefacts in museum collections (eg Devizes Museum) from the Truckle Hill villa, presumed to be the parent site of the bath-house. This may provide evidence for connections between these two sites, refining the chronology, sequence of development and range / nature of the activities at both sites. With a small team of volunteers, recording to assessment level could be rapidly achieved with minimum specialist input.

9.3 Environmental remains

- 9.3.1 It is proposed to analyse the charred plant remains from three samples, from context 118 within the construction sequence, 112 and the central part of 108, both the latter associated with the later agricultural use of the bath-house. Given the richness of the samples, they would have to be sub-sampled, the aim of such analysis being to broadly quantify the relative proportion of barley to wheat, and grains to chaff and weed seeds. No further work is proposed on the charcoal and molluscs, the results presented in this assessment being summarised for publication.

9.4 Radiocarbon dating

- 9.4.1 It is suggested that any radiocarbon dates obtained from the bath-house construction sequence will not be sufficiently precise to further clarify the (?)

second half of the) 2nd century date indicated by the pottery. Radiocarbon dating may refine the probable 4th or possibly 5th century date (also based on pottery) for the later, agricultural re-use of the bath-house. However, it is proposed that the usefulness of this be considered again following further work at the site and the recovery of more pottery from key sequences.

10 PUBLICATION PROPOSAL, RESOURCES AND PROGRAMME

10.1 Proposed publication title and synopsis

10.1.1 It is proposed that a short article (approximately 15 pages) be prepared for publication in *Wiltshire Archaeology and Natural History Magazine*. The article will bring together and synthesise the results from the fieldwork undertaken in 2007 and make reference to previous work on the site and on the nearby villa.

Table 4: Publication synopsis

<i>A detached Roman bath-house at Truckle Hill, North Wraxhall, Wiltshire</i>	
Introduction	1000 words
Structural remains	3000 words
Finds	1000 words
Environmental	1000 words
Discussion	1000 words
Acknowledgements	500 words
Bibliography	500 words
Tables	2
Figures	3
Photographs	4
<i>Total words</i>	<i>8000 words</i>

10.1.2 It is also anticipated that the results will be disseminated via more 'popular' publications, both printed and web-based.

10.2 Designated project team

Table 5: Project Team

Name	Position
Phil Andrews, BSc, FSA, MIFA	Post-Excavation Manager
Rachael Seagar Smith, BA, MIFA	Finds Manager
Chris Stevens, BSc, MSc, PhD, MIFA	Senior Project Officer
Rob Goller, PIFA	Graphics Officer
Christine Butterworth, AIFA	Archives Officer
Margaret Bunyard, BA, MA, PGCE, AIFA	Education Manager
Karen Walker, BA, MPhil, MIFA	Head of Specialist Services
Julie Gardiner, BA, PhD, FSA, MIFA	Senior Technical Manager Publication

10.3 Management structure

10.3.1 Wessex Archaeology operates a project management system. The team will be headed by the Project Manager, in this instance Margaret Bunyard, who will assume ultimate responsibility for the implementation and execution of the

project specification as outlined in the Updated Project Design, and the achievement of performance targets, be they academic, budgetary, or scheduled.

10.3.2 The Post-Excavation Manager may delegate specific aspects of the project to other key staff, who both supervise others and have a direct input into the compilation of the report. They may also undertake direct liaison with external consultants and specialists who are contributing to the publication report, and the museum named as the recipient of the project archive. The Post-Excavation Manager will have a major input into how the publication report is written. He will define and control the scope and form of the post-excavation programme.

10.4 Performance monitoring and quality standards

10.4.1 The Post-Excavation Manager will be assisted by the Reports Manager (Julie Gardiner), who will help to ensure that the report meets internal quality standards as defined in Wessex Archaeology's guidelines. The overall progress will be monitored internally by the Head of Post-Excavation (Karen Walker).

10.5 Task list and resources

10.5.1 The tasks necessary to complete the proposed programme of post-excavation analyses and publication are set out in **Table 6** below.

Table 6: Task list and resources

Task No	Task description	Grade	Name	Time (days)
Management				
1	Project Management	PM	Margaret Bunyard	
Finds				
2	Prepare publication text	SPO	Rachael Seager Smith	1
Environmental				
3	Sample analysis	SPO	Chris Stevens	3
Report				
4	Write and assemble publication report	SPO	Phil Andrews	5
5	Figures for publication	DO	Rob Goller	3
6	QA report	SH	Karen Walker	0.25
7	Edit and prepare report for publication	SPM	Julie Gardiner	0.75
8	Proof reading	PM	Phil Andrews	0.5
9	OS Licence			
10	Journal publication cost			
Archive				
11	Archive preparation	PO	Chris Butterworth	0.25
12	Microfilm job sheets and checking	PO	Chris Butterworth	0.25
13	Microfilm paper records	Ext	Marathon UK	
14	Box storage grant			
15	Archive deposition	PO	Chris Butterworth	0.5

Grade: DO = Drawing Office; Ext = external; PM = Project Manager; PO = Project Officer; SH = Section Head; SPM = Senior Project Manager; SPO = Senior Project Officer

10.6 Programme

- 10.6.1 Following acceptance of this report, it is proposed that a draft publication report be prepared by the end of March 2008.

11 STORAGE AND CURATION

11.1 Museum

- 11.1.1 The project archive resulting from the excavation will be deposited with Devizes Museum. The Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project, under the Accession Number **XXXX**.

11.2 Conservation

- 11.2.1 No conservation requirements have been identified.

11.3 Storage

- 11.3.1 The finds, excluding building materials, are currently stored in perforated polythene bags in 1 cardboard box, ordered by material type, following nationally recommended guidelines (Walker 1990).

11.4 Discard Policy

- 11.4.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in Selection, Retention and Dispersal (Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any further analysis following basic quantification and recording. In this instance, any further discard will target building materials that are not required by either Devizes Museum or the landowner. The discarding of any artefacts will be carried out only with the complete agreement of the Museum.

- 11.4.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows the guidelines laid out in Wessex Archaeology's 'Archive and Dispersal Policy for Environmental Remains and Samples'. The archive policy conforms to nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; English Heritage 2002) and is available upon request.

11.5 Archive

- 11.5.1 The complete site archive (**Table 7**), which will include paper and digital records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts and ecofacts, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Devizes Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; Museums and Galleries Commission 1994).

- 11.5.2 The complete site archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology under the reference number 58521.

Table 7. Site Archive

WA Project Code	File No.	Details	No. of sheets	Format
58521	1	Index to archive	1	A4
58521	1	Copy of publication report	XX	A4
58521	1	Copy of assessment report	52	A4
58521	1	WSI	14	A4
58521	1	Context index	3	A4
58521	1	Day book	5	A4
58521	1	Graphics register	2	A4
58521	1	Sample index	1	A4
58521	1	Photo registers	17	A4
58521	1	Survey records	10	A4
58521	1	Context sheets	77	A4
58521	1	Context finds records	23	A4
58521	Roll of drawings	Graphics	3	A1
58521	1	Graphics	17	A3
58521	1	Graphics	3	A4
58521	1	Sample records	10	A4
58521	-	Colour slides	Approx 100	35mm
58521	-	B & W negs and contact sheets	Approx 100 / 5 sheets	35mm
58521	-	Digital photographs	Approx 248	CD
58521	-	Finds boxes	-	12 boxes

11.6 Copyright

11.6.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the Site will be retained by Wessex Archaeology Ltd under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved. The recipient museum and English Heritage, however, will be granted exclusive licences for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profit making, and conforms to the Copyright and Related Rights regulations 2003.

11.7 Security Copy

11.7.1 In line with current best practice, on completion of the project a security copy of the paper records will be prepared, in the form of microfilm. The master jackets and one diazo copy of the microfilm will be submitted to the National Archaeological Record (English Heritage); a second diazo copy will be deposited with the paper records, and a third diazo copy will be retained by Wessex Archaeology.

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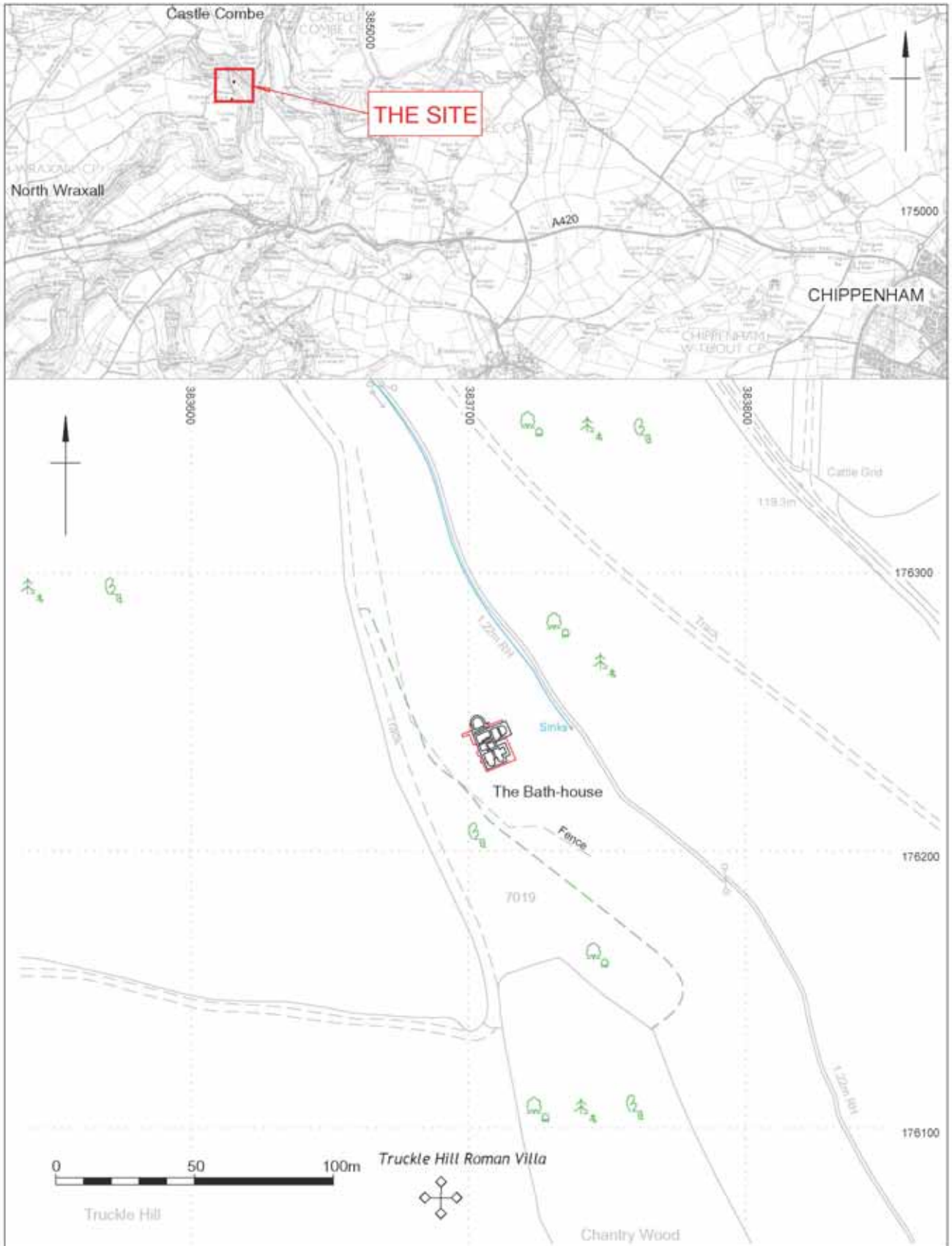
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APPENDIX 1: Context Summary

Context	Description	Interpretation
01	Wall	Apsidal (north) wall – cold room / cold bath 2
02	Wall	South wall – cold room / cold bath 2
03	Wall	North wall – changing room
04	Wall	Dividing wall – changing room
05	Wall	Dividing wall – changing room
06	Wall	North wall – post - bath-house corn-drying kiln
07	Wall	Part of (buttressed) wall between entrance corridor / changing room and warm room / hot room (see also wall 15)
08	Wall	West wall – post - bath-house corn-drying kiln
09	Wall	North wall – cold room / cold bath 1
10	Wall	South wall (?rebuilt) – cold room / cold bath 1
11	Wall	West wall – later extension to changing room
12	Wall	East wall – later extension to changing room
13	Wall	Dividing wall – cold room / cold bath 1
14	Wall	Dividing wall (containing two flue arches) – between warm and hot rooms
15	Wall	Part of (buttressed) wall between entrance corridor / changing room and warm room / hot room (see also wall 7)
16	Wall	West wall – hot room / changing room
17	Wall	East wall –changing room
18	Wall	Apsidal / square (east) wall – cold room / cold bath 1
19	Wall	Apsidal / square (north) wall – hot room
20	Wall	Apsidal / square (north) wall – warm room
21	Wall	South wall – warm room
22	Wall	East wall – warm room
101	Cleaning	Cleaning within cold room / cold bath 2
102	Layer	Infill (?C19) within cold room / cold bath 2
103	Cleaning	Cleaning within changing room
104	Cleaning	Cleaning within warm room
105	Cleaning	Cleaning within hot room (upper deposits)
106	Cleaning	Cleaning within entrance corridor
107	Cleaning	Cleaning outside west wall of changing room
108	Layer	Burnt dump (cereal remains) in / post-dating cold room / cold bath 1
109	Layer	Topsoil – external, west side of changing room
110	Layer	Tumble – external, west side of changing room
111	Layer	Tumble (rooftile) – external, west side of changing room
112	Layer	Burnt dump (cereal remains) – external, west side of changing room
113	Rubble pad	? – external, west side of changing room
114	Layer	External surface, west side of changing room
115	Layer	Tumble – external, west side of changing room
116	Layer	Mortar surface / make-up in changing room
117	Layer	Midden deposit? in SW corner of changing room
118	Layer	Charcoal lense in midden deposit? in SW corner of changing room
119	Rubble	Foundation rubble in changing room
120	Layer	Infill within cold room / cold bath 1
121	Surface	Trampled surface (?C19) in warm room
122	Layer	Demolition deposit in warm room
123	Cleaning	Cleaning within hot room
124	Layer	Infill within hot room

Context	Description	Interpretation
125	Cleaning	Cleaning – external, to SE of warm room
126	Layer	Mortar (collapse) in / post-dating cold room / cold bath 1 (and layer 108)
127	Layer	Rubble (collapse) in / post-dating cold room / cold bath 1
128	Layer	Mortar surface / make-up in cold room / cold bath 1
129	Layer	Mortar surface in cold room / cold bath 1
130	Layer	Foundation rubble in cold room / cold bath 1
131	Layer	Tumble – external, in terrace slot on west side of changing room
132	Layer	Tumble (rooftile) – external, in terrace slot on west side of changing room
133	Layer	Ashy spread – external, in terrace slot on west side of changing room
134	Layer	Erosion deposit? – external, in terrace slot on west side of changing room
135	Layer	Erosion deposit? – external, in terrace slot on west side of changing room
136	Layer	Ashy spread in flues / warm room
137	Layer	Ashy spread in flues / hot room
138	Layer	Tumble – external, west side of hot room
139	Layer	Fill of ?C19 excavation trench – external, west side of changing room
140	Layer	Tumble – external, south-east of warm room
141	Layer	Mortar surface (remains of) in base of cold room / cold bath 2
142	Layer	Mortar surface in changing room
143	Rubble	Foundation rubble in changing room
144	Layer	Mortar surface in entrance corridor
145	Rubble	Foundation rubble in entrance corridor
146	Layer	Mortary debris – construction?
147	Rubble	Foundation rubble in warm room
148	Rubble	Rubble fill in hot room
149	Rubble	Rubble fill in hot room
150	Rubble	Rubble fill in hot room
151	Cut	Terrace cut for bath-house
152	Layer	Mortar surface in warm room
153	Rubble	Foundation rubble in cold room / cold bath 2
154	-	Unstratified finds (most collected by Antony Little during clearance)
155	Layer(s)	Finds from sondage on terrace slope below bath-house



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Site location

Figure 1



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Plan of bath-house, as recorded in October 2007

Figure 2



Plate 1. Bath-house following completion of excavation (scale = 1m; view from north-west)



Plate 2. *Apodyterium* (changing room); later extension to left, offset dividing walls right, entrance corridor upper right. Note also wall of later corn-drying kiln to right of offset dividing walls (scale = 0.5m; view from west)


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Plate 3. *Frigidarium* (cold room) / cold bath 1; collapsed rubble (127) in upper half of room in foreground, apsidal bath (largely unexcavated) in background (scale = 0.5m; view from south-west)



Plate 4. *Tepidarium* (warm room); annexe in foreground, flues between hot room and warm room in background (scale = 1m; view from east)


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Plate 5. *Caldarium* (hot room); apsidal / square south end exposed (scale = 0.5m; view from south-west)



Plate 6. *Caldarium* (hot room); north wall (west end) showing struck pointing (no scale; view from south)



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Plate 7. *Frigidarium* (cold room) / cold bath 2; cold room / bath 1 centre left, changing room centre right (scale = 1m; view from north-west)



Plate 8. *Frigidarium* (cold room) / cold bath 1; collapsed rubble in upper half of room overlain by burnt cereal deposits (108) derived from later corn-drying kiln. Note a further layer of burnt cereal deposits (112) exposed at base of section behind (to west) of bath-house (scale = 1m; view from east)

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WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY LTD.

Registered Head Office: Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB.

Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk

London Office: Unit 113, The Chandlery, 50 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7QY.

Tel: 020 7953 7494 Fax: 020 7953 7499 london-info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk

