

Wessex Archaeology

Whitestaunton Manor House, Whitestaunton, Somerset

An Archaeological Evaluation and an
Assessment of the Results



Ref: 52568.12

May 2004

**WHITESTAUNTON MANOR HOUSE
WHITESTAUNTON
SOMERSET**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND
AN ASSESSMENT OF THE RESULTS**

**Document Ref. 52568.12
May 2004**

Prepared for:

**Videotext Communications Ltd
49 Goldhawk Road
LONDON
SW1 8QP**

By:

**Wessex Archaeology
Portway House
Old Sarum Park
SALISBURY
Wiltshire
SP4 6EB**

© Copyright The Trust for Wessex Archaeology Limited 2004, all rights reserved

The Trust for Wessex Archaeology Limited, Registered Charity No. 287786

**WHITESTAUNTON MANOR HOUSE
WHITESTAUNTON
SOMERSET**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND
AN ASSESSMENT OF THE RESULTS**

Contents

Summary.....	5
Acknowledgements	6
1 BACKGROUND	7
1.1 Site location.....	7
1.2 Geology and topography	7
1.3 Previous archaeological work	8
2 METHODS	10
2.1 Introduction.....	10
2.2 Aims and objectives	10
2.3 Fieldwork methods.....	11
3 RESULTS	13
3.1 Introduction.....	13
3.2 Geophysical survey	13
3.3 Evaluation trenches within the Scheduled Area	13
3.4 Evaluation trenches outside the Scheduled Area	16
4 FINDS	19
4.1 Introduction.....	19
4.2 Pottery	19
4.3 Ceramic building material.....	21
4.4 Mortar, plaster and <i>opus signinum</i>	21
4.5 Stone.....	21
4.6 Glass.....	22
4.7 Slag	22
4.8 Metalwork	22
4.7 Other finds	22
4.8 Animal bone.....	22
4.9 Marine shell	23
5 DISCUSSION	24
5.1 Potential of the finds assemblage.....	24
5.2 Potential of the animal bone assemblage	24
5.3 Archaeological interpretation.....	24

6	RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER WORK.....	26
7	THE ARCHIVE	27
8	REFERENCES.....	28

Tables

Table 1: Finds totals by material type (number / weight in grams).....	20
Table 2: Summary of the coin assemblage.....	22

Figures

Figure 1: Site and trench (Trenches 1–13) location, also showing the Scheduled Ancient Monument and areas of geophysical survey (Areas 1–6)

Figure 2: Outline plan of the Roman remains as displayed (after Bowles 1999, fig 4.1)

Figure 3: Plan of Trench 1, with Plates 1–4

Figure 4: Plan of Trench 2, with plates 5–10

Plates

Plate 1: View of Trench 1, looking north-east, showing flagstone floor

Plate 2: View of broken flagstone in Trench 1, showing *pila* and water-filled *hypocaust*, looking north west, 0.5m scale

Plate 3: View of two alignments of reused Roman tiles in Trench 1: evidence of a later phase of Roman building or Victorian reconstruction? Looking north-east, 1m and 0.5m scales

Plate 4: North-west facing external elevation of building in Trench 3, showing footing course and roughly faced Roman wall overlain by irregular Victorian masonry. Looking south-west, 1m scale

Plate 5: View of Trench 2, looking south-west, showing plunge pool, opus signinum floor of northern room, with the large pool in the background, 1m scales

Plate 6: View of corridor or ambulatory, showing large ?collapsed architectural fragment, looking north-east, 1 m and 0.5m scales

Plate 7: The mosaic floor of the large pool, looking east, 0.5m scale

Plate 8 View of culvert/wall (contexts 225/215) in the main northern room, looking south-west, 0.2m scale

Plate 9 View of plunge-pool, with Victorian backfill partially removed to show stone floor, looking south-west, 0.5m scale

Plate 10 View of Trench 4, showing probably Victorian culvert wall. Looking east, 0.5m scale

Cover: View of the north front of the Grade I listed Whitestaunton Manor House (by Matthew Reynolds)

**WHITESTAUNTON MANOR HOUSE
WHITESTAUNTON
SOMERSET**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND
AN ASSESSMENT OF THE RESULTS**

Summary

Archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Channel 4's Time Team in the grounds of Whitestaunton Manor House, Whitestaunton, Somerset (centred on Ordnance Survey NGR ST 2808 1056) over three days in September 2003. The work was intended to clarify the date, ground plan, function and context of a building excavated in 1882 (probably under the Direction of Major Charles Davis, City Engineer of Bath) and described in the contemporary excavation report as a Roman villa. The foundations of this building were subsequently incorporated into the landscaped gardens of the Manor, and are now a Scheduled Ancient Monument (County No. SO496). Most authorities, including the Scheduled Monument description and the Ordnance Survey, have tended to accept the original interpretation of the remains and refer to the building as a villa. However, some have cast doubt on this interpretation, suggesting that the building might in fact be a Roman shrine and ritual bathing complex, or even a much later garden feature or folly.

The evaluation consisted of four trenches excavated within the Scheduled Area to re-examine the remains exposed in 1882. An additional nine evaluation trenches and six areas of geophysical survey were undertaken outside the Scheduled Area, in the grounds of the Manor House and in the fields beyond, in an attempt to locate other structures or features of Roman date and to provide a context for the known remains.

The results of the evaluation confirmed that the Scheduled Monument was a Roman building, although substantially 'restored' as part of the garden of the Manor House. Finds suggest that the restoration incorporated Roman building material and pottery from a wide variety of sources, almost certainly derived from the antiquarian collection of Sir Charles Elton, owner of the Manor at the time of the original discovery. Further interpretation is constrained by the small extent of the excavated trenches and the difficult conditions created by a high water table. The Roman building is tentatively identified as a bathhouse, situated to take advantage of natural springs, with signs of high status, including painted wall plaster and polychrome mosaic flooring. Probable features include a large mosaic lined pool, up to 35 square metres in extent, a range of heated rooms, and smaller plunge pools. Decorative features and pottery suggest the structure dates from the 3rd or 4th century. No evidence was found to indicate domestic occupation, or for further ranges of building in the immediate vicinity. There were no finds of an overtly religious or votive character.

No other Roman buildings, deposits or features were located outside the Scheduled Area, although it seems probable that domestic buildings lie somewhere close by.

**WHITESTAUNTON MANOR HOUSE
WHITESTAUNTON
SOMERSET**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND
AN ASSESSMENT OF THE RESULTS**

Acknowledgements

The evaluation was commissioned and funded by Videotext Communications. The work would not have been possible without the support provided by Mr and Mrs Michael Dobell, then owners of Whitestaunton Manor House. The support and collaboration of Robert Croft, County Archaeologist, Somerset County Council, is also acknowledged.

The geophysical survey was undertaken by John Gater with staff from GSB Prospection, and survey by Henry Chapman, University of Hull. Excavation strategy was conducted by Mick Aston (Bristol University), site recording was co-ordinated by Phil Harding and Rachael Seager Smith, assisted by Steve Thompson of Wessex Archaeology. The evaluation was undertaken by the Time Team's retained excavators with help from Stuart Prior, Paul Pearce (Cedric), Jo Best, James Bridges, Keith Faxon, and Freya Bowles. Thanks to Time Team Researcher Kate Edwards for providing documentation relating to the Scheduled Monument Consent, to Neil Emmanuel for digital photographic images (not reproduced in this report), and to Matthew Reynolds for the cover image.

The archive was collated and all post-excavation analysis and assessment undertaken by Wessex Archaeology including management (Roland J C Smith), report (Bruno Barber), finds (Lorraine Mephram and Rachael Seager Smith), coins (Nick Wells), animal bone (Stephanie Knight), and illustrations (Mark Roughley).

The progress and successful completion of the work also benefited from discussion on site with the following specialists: Guy de la Bédoyère and Jonathan Foyle (buildings), and David Neal (mosaics). Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Jonathon Bradley of English Heritage for providing information on the Scheduled Monument, and Freya Bowles for allowing access to her unpublished undergraduate dissertation on the Roman remains.

WHITESTAUNTON MANOR HOUSE WHITESTAUNTON SOMERSET

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND AN ASSESSMENT OF THE RESULTS

1 BACKGROUND

1.1 Site location

1.1.1 In July 2003 Videotext Communications was commissioned by Channel 4 to carry out an archaeological evaluation as part of the Time Team television series at Whitestaunton Manor House, Whitestaunton, Somerset (the Site: centred on Ordnance Survey NGR ST 2808 1056) (**Figure 1**). This report sets out the results of that evaluation, assesses the significance of the results and puts forward recommendations for further analysis and publication of the results.

1.1.2 The hamlet of Whitestaunton lies on the edge of the Blakedown Hills, approximately 16km south of Taunton and 8km north-west of Chard in Somerset, and is both a Conservation Area and an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Whitestaunton Manor House, a Grade I listed building, lies on the western side of the hamlet, adjacent to the parish church of St Andrew. The manor of *Stantune* is documented in the Domesday survey (Page 1969, 474) and parts of the existing Manor House are of late 14th-century date (Bowles 1999, 25–6), with Elizabethan and later additions. The church is first referred to in 1291, but the standing structure dates from the later 15th century (Carter 1981).

1.1.3 The evaluation was undertaken in the garden and grounds of the manor house and in the fields beyond (**Figure 1**). The main focus of the evaluation was a Scheduled Ancient Monument (County No. SO496), excavated in 1882–3, and usually described as a Roman villa (below). A secondary focus was on a field to the west of the Manor, containing evident earthworks, possibly of Roman or medieval date (Videotext Communications Ltd 2003, 2).

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The geology of the Blakedown Hills is complex, with Triassic marl and Jurassic shale, clay, and lias overlain by Cretaceous greensand and chalk. The area is heavily faulted (GSGB 1976). Outcrops of white limestone occur frequently. Bedrock lies close to the surface in the vicinity of the Site, and forms the visible foundation of several standing structures, including the

northern wall of St Andrew's Church. Springs occur in the area, where porous chalk and greensand overlies the impervious earlier clays.

- 1.2.2 Overlying soils are characterised as flinty, silty drift often overlying clayey subsoils (SSEW 1983). Gardening from the Elizabethan period onwards will have modified soils around the Manor House considerably.
- 1.2.3 Around the Manor House, the ground is fairly level, at around 163–5m above Ordnance Datum (a OD). This is in part due to levelling and terracing works undertaken to create the landscaped gardens of the Manor. Traces of these gardens remain, including two large ornamental ponds to the north of the house (**Figure 1**). To the west of the gardens the ground slopes steeply upwards into the adjacent pasture, while land also rises to the south and west of the Manor.
- 1.2.4 To the north-west of the manor land falls away into the narrow valley of a small, unnamed stream, which flows into the River Yarty some 2km west of the Site. At the head of the stream valley lie the Scheduled ruins, which, when the evaluation began consisted of low walls, largely obscured by waterlogged soil and vegetation. The stream is fed by a number of springs, which rise in the vicinity of the Manor. One spring now supplies the ornamental pond in the grounds, and two others lie beneath the Whitestaunton to Northay Road, including one marked on the Ordnance Survey as 'St Agnes' Well'.

1.3 Previous archaeological work

- 1.3.1 The earliest archaeological work in the area took place c.1845, when 'the ruins of a little house or chapel...paved with tesserae of brick...standing over a clear spring' were found during alterations to the course of the Whitestaunton to Northay Road (Elton 1883, 98). No trace of this structure survives. The dedication of this spring to a 4th century martyr (St Agnes) indicated on the Ordnance Survey and other sources (Horne 1923, 33) is suspect, and may post-date the discovery of the (possibly Roman) spring housing. It is notable that Elton (1883) does not mention St Agnes, despite the evident Romanticism of his account.
- 1.3.2 At the time of the 1841 Tithe Apportionment, the plot of land where the Scheduled ruins now stand was part of a plot known as Hazel Wood (Carter 1981, 14, field no. 269). The presence of a villa in the vicinity was suspected due to frequent finds of ancient pottery and stone roof-tiles along the banks of the stream, and the discovery of the spring-house (above) (Elton 1883, 98). In 1882–3 a Roman building was excavated here, apparently by Major Charles Davis FSA, on behalf of the owner of the Manor Sir Charles Elton (Bowles 1999, 30). Davis is notorious for the poor quality of his work on the Roman baths and temple complex in Bath, and he left no report or plan of his work at Whitestaunton. The only account of the excavation is that written by Elton (1883), a Romantic antiquarian with little experience of practical fieldwork. Elton's brief report is confusing, full of digressions and lacking a plan of the building. His interpretative account mentions bathrooms on the western side of the structure, including a heated bath with a semi-circular

recess lined with a bench, principal living rooms at the eastern end of the building, arranged around an atrium with a mosaic floor, itself surrounded by a 'cloister' with its floor at a higher level.

- 1.3.3 Shortly after the excavations were completed, the ruins were laid out as a 'feature' within the grounds of the Manor House. A view of 'The Roman villa at Whitestaunton' published in 1894, appears to show low walls (?consolidated) of uniform height, with a level ground surface approximating the envisaged floor level. The ruins are shown lying in a noticeable depression, created at least in part by the excavation, and were accessed from the surrounding grounds by a wooden stair. The drawing shows no obvious traces of standing water (Barrett 1894, 230).
- 1.3.4 Two plans of the remains exist, both apparently based on the remains as displayed and completed long after the excavation. These are an outline plan drawn in 1969 by Kings College Archaeological Society, Taunton (now in the Somerset Records Office; Bowles 1999, 42, fig 4.0), and a measured plan (idealised wall outlines only) surveyed by Freya Bowles as part of her undergraduate dissertation on the remains (**Figure 2**; Bowles 1999, 44, fig 4.1).
- 1.3.5 Bowles's research suggested that the remains had been wrongly classified as a villa. She suggested the building was in fact a religious site dedicated to a water deity, connected with a healing/bathing ritual (Bowles 1999, 58).
- 1.3.6 The remains are designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (County No. SO496), and described in the schedule description as the remains of a Roman villa, possibly landscaped as an 18th-century water-garden. The accompanying maplet held by English Heritage's Designations Department shows the Scheduled Area (**Figure 1**) and an outline plan of the ruins, but only as shown on the Ordnance Survey mapping. English Heritage does not hold any detailed plans of the building.
- 1.3.7 On 4th March 2003, archaeologists from Somerset County Council undertook limited investigations of two locations within the Scheduled Area. This was to act as trial work in advance of the proposed Time Team programme. The investigations confirmed the presence of buried floors and other features in the areas subsequently excavated by Time Team as Trenches 1 and 2 (below, 3.3).
- 1.3.8 The only other recorded archaeological work in the vicinity of the Roman remains were two small trenches excavated in advance of a sewerage scheme (Graham 1995). All observed deposits were interpreted as 19th century landscaping dumps, probably related to an embankment retaining the ornamental ponds. The work suggests that any further Roman remains in this area are potentially deeply buried. Residual Roman ceramic tile and stone roofing tile was recovered, along with medieval and post-medieval pottery.
- 1.3.9 A parish survey of Whitestaunton was conducted under the auspices of Somerset Archaeology and Natural History Society (Carter 1981), which forms a useful background to history and archaeology of the area.

2 METHODS

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 A project design for the work was compiled and provided by Videotext Communications (Videotext Communications Ltd 2003). Full details of the circumstances and methods are contained in that document and are summarised here.

2.2 Aims and objectives

2.2.1 The project design recognised that the Scheduled Ancient Monument had been wrongly classified as a villa for 120 years (Videotext Communications Ltd 2003, 6), as had been suggested by Freya Boyles in 1999 (above, 1.3.5).

2.2.2 The project design stated that the proposed project ‘offer[ed] the opportunity to ascertain the character, extent, and degree of preservation of the archaeological remains at Whitestaunton. It also offer[ed] the chance to add to the knowledge offered by documentary sources and maps and would lead to a greater depth of understanding of this historic site’. The evaluation would ‘form an important resource for its future management and interpretation’ (Videotext Communications Ltd 2003, 6).

2.2.3 Two overall project aims were defined:

- To characterise the archaeological resource at the site, and
- To provide a condition survey of those parts of the site investigated.

2.2.4 Information supplied by the proposed project would:

- Allow a substantial and long-term management plan to be formulated between English Heritage and the Landowner (to control weed growth, standing water and the flow of water channels adjacent to the Scheduled Monument, and to produce a sustainable replacement for the existing management regime (Brunning 2003).

2.2.5 A number of specific research questions were framed:

- What is the extent of the Roman building at Whitestaunton and what was its function? Are the ruins of a Temple or bathhouse? If so, how does this compare with other Temple sites?
- When was the structure built and how does it fit into the broader landscape context?
- What are the earthworks in the field and how do they relate to the Roman ruins?

- What is the circular feature at the top of the field and how does it relate, if at all, to the earthworks in the field, or temple site?
- How do the ruins relate to the various water sources on the site?
- What is the condition of the ruins? What is the extent of damage caused by vegetation and standing water?
- What evidence can be found of the tessellated pavement near St. Agnes' well?

2.2.6 Although small in scale, a well-resourced three-day evaluation using a combination of geophysics, excavation and research was considered sufficient to address these aims and objectives. Scheduled Monument Consent for the evaluation was granted by the Department of Culture Media and Sport on 21 August 2003 (reference HSD 9/2/5488), under Section 2 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended). The geophysical survey was undertaken under a Section 42 Licence issued by English Heritage on the 18th June 2003 and extended on 18th September 2003 (reference AA 75796/2-1).

2.3 Fieldwork methods

2.3.1 The fieldwork strategy was undertaken using a combination of an extensive geophysical survey across the site (for detailed methodology, see GSB Prospection Limited 2003) and a series of evaluation trenches (**Figure 1**). Trench locations were determined after consultation with the on-site director, Mick Aston, associated project specialists, the Somerset County Archaeologist, Robert Croft, and English Heritage Inspector of Ancient Monuments, South West Region, Robert Iles.

2.3.2 All excavation and reinstatement within the Scheduled Area was undertaken by hand in accordance with the terms of the Scheduled Monument Consent. Trenching within the Scheduled Monument was designed to sample between 7% and 10% of the Scheduled Area. Within the Scheduled Monument the method of backfilling was determined after discussions with English Heritage.

2.3.3 In the gardens of the Manor House, turf was lifted by hand and stored with spoil on plastic sheeting for reinstatement. Excavation in the adjacent pasture was undertaken using a wheeled JCB excavator fitted with a back hoe and 1.8 m wide toothless grading bucket.

2.3.4 Outside the scheduled area, all machine work was undertaken with constant archaeological supervision and ceased at the identification of significant archaeological deposits, or where natural deposits were encountered first. When machine excavation had ceased all trenches were cleaned by hand and archaeological deposits were excavated.

- 2.3.5 A sufficient sample of all deposits was examined to allow the resolution of the principal questions outlined in the aims and objectives above. Other deposits were recorded and preserved *in situ* but not excavated.
- 2.3.6 All archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* record sheets with a unique numbering system for individual contexts. Trenches were located to the Ordnance Grid using a Trimble Real Time Differential GPS survey system. All archaeological features and deposits were planned at 1:10 or 1:20 and sections drawn at 1:10 or 1:20, whichever was appropriate for the circumstances. All principal strata and features were related to Ordnance Survey datum and a photographic record of the investigations and individual features was maintained.
- 2.3.7 Within the Scheduled Monument, an initial stage of work involved the clearance by hand of vegetation growth that had colonised the area of the remains. Due to the presence of springs and a stream in the vicinity, the Scheduled Area was partly waterlogged, and water ingress was a problem encountered in all evaluation trenches in this area, requiring constant pumping to maintain a clear excavation.
- 2.3.8 The work at the site was carried out over the three days 24th – 26th September 2003.
- 2.3.9 At the completion of the work all trenches were reinstated using the excavated spoil from the trenches. All artefacts were transported to the offices of Wessex Archaeology where they were processed and assessed for this report.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 A full geophysical report, details of individual excavated contexts and features, and the results of artefact and environmental sample analysis are retained in project archive (**Section 7**).

3.2 Geophysical survey

3.2.1 Six areas (Areas 1 – 6) were surveyed in the grounds of the Manor House and in the fields beyond. The location of each area is shown in **Figure 1**. Areas 1 and 4 were surveyed by resistivity and fluxgate gradiometry, Areas 2 and 3 by resistivity alone, Areas 5 and 6 by gradiometry alone (GSB Prospection Ltd 2003, 1–4).

3.2.2 The geophysical survey work failed to find any evidence for a villa building or complex in any of the areas investigated. This proved consistent with the analysis of the landscape and limited trial trenching. The majority of anomalies detected were associated with either garden features connected with the Manor House or natural responses due to the close proximity of the natural bedrock to the ground surface (GSB Prospection Ltd 2003, 4).

3.3 Evaluation trenches within the Scheduled Area

3.3.1 At the beginning of the project the Scheduled Area was covered with thick weed growth. Parts of the area, including the central parts of the Roman structure were noticeably boggy or lay beneath standing water. Once weed growth was cleared (above, 2.3.7), the approximate outline of the building known from earlier plans (above, 1.3 and see **Figure 2**) was apparent as a series of low walls. The evaluation was designed to be non-intrusive, the intention being to remove Victorian backfill deposits and material that had accumulated since the 19th century excavations. The intention was to expose selected parts of the remains that had been the subject of Elton's original and confusing report.

3.3.2 **Trench 1** was excavated on the north-western side of the remains, and at its maximum extent measured 4.8 x 10.0m. Natural deposits were not encountered. The earliest features exposed were structural and of Roman date, apparently the north-west corner of a building. The partial outline of one room was recovered (**Figure 3**), with a semi-circular alcove at the north-eastern end, and a second semi-circular recess in the approximate centre of the north-western wall. The Roman walls were built of roughly faced limestone rubble and occasional dressed flint, coursed and bonded with a lime mortar, which had been mostly washed out.

3.3.3 The main room was floored with flagstones (context 103) each approximately 0.9m² and 0.15m thick, with a surface at around 158.80m aOD (**Plate 1**). In one place, a broken flagstone permitted the observation

that this floor was suspended over *pilae* (stone/tile columns, just visible in **Plate 2**), indicating the presence of a *hypocaust* (an underfloor hot air heating system). Water ingress and *in situ* stonework prevented further investigation of the *hypocaust*, which appeared to be approximately 0.5m deep.

- 3.3.4 Above the flagstones were traces of a layer of pinkish yellow concrete, which contained limestone and tile fragments (context 102, see **Figure 3**). Although there was no absolute proof that this was of Roman date, it is probably the decayed remnant of an *opus signinum* (Roman concrete) floor. The interpretation is that the flagstones would have originally been covered by a waterproof floor surface.
- 3.3.5 In the northern alcove, a flagstone floor of similar appearance and level to that in the main room (above, context 103) was visible beneath Victorian rubble (contexts 106–7) which was left *in situ*. At the entrance to each alcove were traces of stonework that could be interpreted as the responds of an arched opening, or as the partially surviving remains of walls dividing the alcoves from the main room. Given the evidence of the *hypocaust*, and the emerging interpretation of the building as a whole, it seems likely that the walls and floors of the alcoves were originally lined with *opus signinum*, and should be interpreted as plunge pools within a bathhouse.
- 3.3.6 At the western end of the trench, the *opus signinum* floor of the main room was overlain by a thin spread of limestone rubble (context 108) overlain by two north-south alignments of re-used Roman ceramic tiles (contexts 109, 110) (**Plate 3**), arranged parallel with the long axis of the room. No dating evidence was recovered, but the excavators assumed that this feature was part of Victorian reconstruction works to display the monument as a garden feature. It remains a possibility that the tiles are evidence for a later phase of the Roman building with a new, higher, but still heated floor, although it seems unlikely on present evidence.
- 3.3.7 The upper parts of all exposed walls had been partially built-up or consolidated after the 19th century excavation. In most cases this was evident in the use smaller un-faced fragments of rubble. The distinction was not always clear, but was most easily seen in Trench 3 (below). In general, the Victorian consolidation followed the line of underlying Roman walls. However, in one case, a Victorian wall (context 114) had been built on an alignment that slightly diverged from that of the less regular underlying Roman wall. It seems likely that some ‘tidying up’ of the ground plan may have taken place.
- 3.3.8 One wall (context 116) was observed to butt the external wall of the building. This might be Victorian, or a Roman addition to the structure. The wall ran north into undergrowth and there was no opportunity to investigate it further.
- 3.3.9 Across the whole trench, the uppermost deposit was a mid to dark greyish brown silty loam containing frequent fragments of limestone and flint rubble. This deposit seemed to be a mixture of Victorian excavation backfill, and silt washed into the area by the nearby streams.

- 3.3.10 **Trench 2** was an irregularly shaped trench, designed to investigate the central part of the building. Several small sondages are included under the same trench number, and the maximum extent of the area investigated by the various parts of the trench covered 18.0m x 8.5m, although the area actually excavated was far less (**Figure 4**). A gravel deposit, interpreted as natural was encountered at 158.80m aOD. The excavations revealed more of the outline of the building recorded in Trench 1, the main difference apparently being that rooms in this part of the structure did not have underfloor heating. Identified features include a large pool, surrounded by a corridor or ambulatory, with a large room to the north-east (**Plate 5**), with three recesses in its northern wall, the central one (the others were not investigated) being semi-circular in plan.
- 3.3.11 The central pool measured 8.5m x 4.4m internally, and was enclosed by a wall (247) which survived up to 0.7m high. A corridor or ambulatory 1.0m wide was identified on three sides of the pool, and may have surrounded it. The outer wall of the corridor (context 239) contained a possible column base in oolitic limestone, but it appeared to have been reused, perhaps in Victorian consolidation. The corridor floor was very disturbed, possibly by Victorian activity, but was recognised as a decayed layer of *opus signinum* (context 207). Two small patches of white and grey lias *tesserae* (contexts 240, 242) appeared to be in situ, all that remained of the actual floor surface. A large block of Ham stone lay on the floor of the corridor; 0.95m long, 0.30m and 0.15m high, it appeared to be a displaced architectural fragment, possibly a door lintel, and was burnt at one end (**Plate 6**). Two steps, 0.32m wide led down from the floor of the corridor (c.159.30m aOD) to the mosaic floor of the pool (contexts 235, 244), which lay at 158.90m aOD, and consisted of white limestone *tesserae* (mosaic) set in a decayed, pinkish off-white, sandy mortar (**Plate 7**). A thin skim of *opus signinum* surviving at the base of the internal elevation of the pool wall may have formed a waterproof seal between the wall and the floor.
- 3.3.12 The large room to the north-east was floored with *opus signinum* (context 207), at the same level as the floor of the corridor or ambulatory. It was separated from the corridor by a limestone wall, which had been reduced almost to foundation plinth level, with a central opening, which appeared to be an original feature. However, a possible lias threshold stone and a patch of blocking observed, but not excavated (see **Figure 4**) suggested there may have been further openings (?an arcade of three arches) in the wall.
- 3.3.13 Within this northern room lay a stone lined culvert (context 225), c.0.5m wide. The feature was not excavated, but appeared to turn through 90° (see **Figure 4** and **Plate 5**). Towards the western limit of excavation, the culvert was observed to carry a flow of water from south-west to north-east. The culvert was capped with (or perhaps founded on - see below) limestone slabs, overlain by mortared limestone rubble, which was recorded on site as a wall (context 215). However, this 'wall' did not rise above floor level in the room and it seems likely that it was in fact the side-walls and capping of the culvert proper (**Plate 8**). The date of the culvert or its stratigraphic position was not

established with any certainty, but it was constructed in a similar manner to the Roman masonry on the site.

- 3.3.14 The central recess off the northern room was investigated. It was semi-circular in plan (radius c.2.3m), divided from the main room by a wall (context 214), and with a sunken floor of lias slabs (212) at 159.05m OD (**Plate 9**). The gap between the slabs and the wall was sealed with *opus signinum*. Where the slabs had been disturbed, the floor make-up (context 213) was recorded. The feature is interpreted as a cold plunge-pool. The other two recesses appear rectangular as now visible, although this may reflect only Victorian reconstruction.
- 3.3.15 Within the excavated areas, there was no trace of an opening between the heated and unheated areas. Bowles' plan suggests such a doorway lay further south (Bowles 1999, fig 4.1).
- 3.3.16 **Trench 3** was a small sondage measuring 1.0m x 0.7m in plan, located to investigate the external wall of the building. Natural gravel was encountered, but its level is not recorded. Assuming the wall was founded on the gravel, natural lay at c.158.37m aOD. The wall stood to a total height of 1.2m (including the foundation plinth), although the upper 0.5m was less regularly coursed and was interpreted as a Victorian rebuild (**Plate 4**). Against the footing, the only deposit excavated was a 0.6m thick dump of silty loam (context 301), probably Victorian excavation backfill and later soil accumulation.
- 3.3.17 **Trench 4** was a small trench 1.8m x 0.8m in plan, located against the west facing elevation of the west wall of a water conduit. The trench was cleared of vegetation and modern materials only. The wall appeared to be of Victorian date, but there was insufficient time to investigate or record details of its construction (**Plate 10**).

3.4 Evaluation trenches outside the Scheduled Area

- 3.4.1 **Trench 5** measured 2m x 1m in plan and was dug in an area of lawn to the west of the Manor House, sited to investigate a high resistance anomaly identified by the geophysical survey. The lowest observed deposit was a brown clay-silt subsoil at 163.40m aOD, overlain by a pale brown, loose sandy garden soil (context 502–3). Cutting this deposit was a crudely built, east–west oriented limestone wall footing, which survived four courses (0.44m) deep and 0.68m wide. The stones were bonded with a sandy yellow mortar, and the wall was bedded on a thin layer of green sand. The wall is interpreted as a post-medieval garden wall. Turf and topsoil sealed all other deposits and features.
- 3.4.2 **Trench 6** measured 2m x 1m in plan and was dug in an area of lawn to the west of the Manor House, sited to investigate a high resistance anomaly identified by the geophysical survey. This anomaly was explained by an area of chert bedrock outcropping at 165.58m aOD, sealed by only 0.11m of topsoil, perhaps as a result of past garden terracing.

- 3.4.3 **Trench 7** measured 2m x 1m and was dug on a steeply sloping area of lawn to the south of the Manor House, to investigate a high resistance anomaly identified by the geophysical survey. A complex of anomalies in this area were interpreted as probable remnants of formal garden features associated with the house (GSB 2003, 2). Natural subsoil lay at 165.53m aOD, sealed by a thin spread of flint and mortar, in turn overlain by a garden soil and topsoil.
- 3.4.4 **Trench 8** measured 6.5m x 1.2m and was dug in a steeply sloping field to the west of the Manor House, in the vicinity of a linear high resistance anomaly identified by the geophysical survey. The anomaly formed one of a series, which seemed to relate to garden boundaries and ornamental features in an area that was once part of the Manor House grounds, but have since reverted to agricultural use (GSB 2003, 3). Excavation identified no archaeological features, but showed that a natural subsoil of silty loam and chert fragments lay at 175.28–175.58m aOD, beneath 0.10m of topsoil.
- 3.4.5 **Trench 9** measured 1.8m x 1.2m and was excavated by machine on a steeply sloping bank immediately east of the Scheduled Monument, with the intention of establishing ground conditions in this part of the Site. The lowest deposit identified (context 902) was a compact, mixed sandy loam containing chert and limestone fragments, animal bone, Roman and medieval pottery and Roman tile. It was unclear whether this was a colluvial deposit or upcast from Victorian excavations. The deposit extended beyond the limit of excavation at 0.6m below the existing ground surface.
- 3.4.6 **Trench 10** measured 5.2m x 1.3m and was dug on a steep slope to the east of the Scheduled Monument, between the monument and the Whitestaunton to Northay Road, with the intention of establishing whether archaeological remains associated with the known ruins survived in this part of the Site. The earliest deposit recorded was a greenish grey sandy clay with frequent small fragments of green sandstone probably derived from underlying geological deposits. It was interpreted as a natural sub-soil.
- 3.4.7 The only feature identified in Trench 10 was a poorly defined cut (context 1004), at least 0.80m wide and 0.76m deep. Its fill (context 1003) was a sandy loam containing a few charcoal flecks and fragments of tile. The feature was not fully defined or excavated, but is interpreted as a possible quarry pit or tree throw. A stony dump deposit, possibly associated with Victorian road construction, sealed the feature, overlain by a thin band of topsoil.
- 3.4.8 **Trench 11** measured 6.5m x 1.25m and was dug to the east of an ornamental pond, just to the south-west of the Scheduled Monument. It was intended to establish the depth of made ground in this area (not established in previous work, above 1.3.8), and whether archaeological remains associated with the known ruins survived in this part of the Site. Excavation was hampered by the presence of an electricity cable, a sewer pipe and a water pipe. Made ground was shown to extend to the maximum depth of excavation at 0.85m below existing ground surface. The made ground (context 1103) contained redeposited Roman building material and a Victorian button.

- 3.4.9 **Trench 12** was excavated under the supervision of Bob Croft (County Archaeologist Somerset County Council) outside the Scheduled Area, just north of Trench 11, to attempt to clarify the results from that trench. It was dug after the departure of the surveying team and is only approximately located in **Figure 1**. Natural was identified as a grey clay containing chert fragments, lying some 1.4m below ground level. The only feature identified was an infilled stream channel or culvert, identified only by its loose fills. The primary fill (context 1204) was a shelly, sandy loam, containing large blocks of chert up to 0.25m across. The only pottery recovered, if not redeposited, suggests a date in the Later Roman period (below, 4.2.1). The upper fill (context 1203) was a dark brown, gravely sand containing large chert blocks, slate and ceramic building material. The channel was sealed by some 0.7m of topsoil and probable post-medieval landscaping dumps.
- 3.4.10 **Trench 13** measured 4.5m x 1.2m and was dug in the same steeply sloping field as Trench 8, to the west of the Manor House. It was located to investigate a high resistance anomaly identified by the geophysical survey. When first recorded, it was thought that this anomaly might indicate the villa site, but expansion of the survey area suggested a natural explanation was more likely (GSB 2003, 3). This was confirmed by excavation, which showed a natural subsoil of chert fragments in a grey brown silt at 180.26–180.96m aOD overlain by no more than 0.07m of topsoil.

4 FINDS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Finds were recovered from nine of the thirteen trenches excavated; no finds were recovered from Trenches 8, 10 and 11. Most finds came from Trenches 1 and 2, within the Scheduled Monument. All finds have been cleaned (with the exception of the metalwork) and have been quantified by material type within each context. Quantified data form the primary finds archive for the Site and these data are summarised by trench in **Table 1**.

4.1.2 Subsequent to quantification, all finds have been at least visually scanned in order to gain an overall idea of the range of types present, their condition, and their potential date range. Pottery has been subjected to more formal scanning, including quantification by ware type (details below). Spot dates have been recorded for selected material types as appropriate. All finds data are currently held on an Excel spreadsheet.

4.1.3 This section presents an overview of the finds assemblage, on which is based an assessment of its potential to contribute to an understanding of the site in its local and regional context. Much of the material recovered relates to the structure of the Romano-British building complex (ceramic building material, mortar, *opus signinum*), either *in situ* or redeposited. However, other material culture relating to occupation of the villa is notable by its absence, probably due to modification of the site during the Victorian period. As well as Romano-British material, finds attest to activity on the site both prior to the structure/bathhouse (prehistoric worked flint), and after (medieval pottery, post-medieval finds).

4.2 Pottery

4.2.1 Of the small amount of pottery recovered, only nine sherds are of Romano-British date – four sherds of Black Burnished ware and five of Oxfordshire colour coated ware. The colour coated ware indicates a date range in the later Roman period (mid 3rd to 4th century AD), and this is largely confirmed by the Black Burnished ware forms present: a dog dish (topsoil in Trench 4), everted rim jar of late form (topsoil in Trench 2) and a dropped flange bowl (context 1204, primary fill of a stream channel or culvert in Trench 12).

4.2.2 Eleven sherds are of medieval date (from Trenches 1, 2, 5 and 9). These include flint-/chert-tempered coarsewares with some greensand inclusions, sandy coarsewares, and one sherd of glazed and slip-decorated fineware (topsoil in Trench 1). All the coarsewares are likely to be of at least relatively local manufacture, possibly from the area immediately to the north of the Blackdown Hills (J. Allan pers comm), while the fineware is possibly a Donyatt product, from the kilns a few kilometres to the east. The overall date range is likely to be 12th to early 14th century.

Table 1: Finds totals by material type (number / weight in grams)

Material	Tr. 1	Tr. 2	Tr. 3	Tr. 4	Tr. 5	Tr. 6	Tr. 7	Tr. 9	Tr. 12	Unstrat	TOTAL
Pottery	1/8	13/392	1/3	3/67	27/282	5/50	25/411	8/61	1/46		84/1320
Ceramic Building Mat.	136/32,413	203/15,130	2/547	4/174	4/45		4/59	1/40	16/2020	32/13,000	402/73,428
Mortar		4/63									4/63
Opus signinum	3/299	13/880	2/112						7/514		25/1805
Plaster	6/159	9/67									15/226
Clay Pipe							2/9				2/9
Stone	19/3686	1096/25,237			1/93	1/70			6/303	5/1286	1128/30,675
Worked Flint	1/41					1/12		1/9	2/250		5/312
Glass		1/23				1/61	3/10				5/94
Slag		42/6956				3/79	1/24		2/266		48/7325
Metalwork	1	5	-	1	1	-	12	-	1	-	21
Iron	-	2	-	-	1	-	11	-	-	-	14
Copper alloy	1	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	6
Lead	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Animal Bone	4/41	8/136			4/32		3/21	2/20			21/250
Marine Shell			1/12		4/20						5/32

- 4.2.3 The remaining 63 sherds are of post-medieval date, consisting primarily of coarse redwares (and including most of one flowerpot from topsoil in Trench 5). Other wares – English stoneware, Staffordshire-style slipware, bone china and modern refined whitewares – cover a date range of 18th to 20th century.

4.3 Ceramic building material

- 4.3.1 Roman brick and tile fragments were predominantly found in Trenches 1 and 2. Small quantities of roof tile (*tegula* and *imbrices*) may suggest that at some stage at least part of the bath house structure had a tiled roof. Flue tile (*tubulus*) fragments predominated; a cursory examination indicated the presence of several different fabrics (at least one being flint-tempered, the other predominantly sandy) and numerous different techniques and designs of keying, suggesting that they derived from several different sources. One other, rarer, form of cavity walling was also noted – two joining pieces from a *tegula mammata* were found in context 101 although a thin skim of mortar covering both flat surfaces and extending over the '*mammata*' scar show that it had been reused. Bricks were comparatively rare with only one definite fragment (from context 245, the make-up for the mosaic floor of the central pool) being recognised.
- 4.3.2 Finger-smear signatures were noted on three *tegula* and two flat fragments, all taking the form of concentric semi-circles drawn with two fingers. One of these also had obtuse-angled lattice, covering an area approximately 130 mm x 50 mm, scored (when the tile was nearly dry) along one of its open edges (i.e. at 90° to the flanges) on the opposite surface to the signature. Footprints, one made by a small dog, two by goats or possibly sheep and one of an uncertain species, were also recognised, indicating the presence of these animals at the tiling and that marked tiles were considered acceptable for use.
- 4.3.3 Tesserae, cut from thinner bricks or *tegula*, were also found in contexts 101, 201, 245 and 501 (5, 11, 94 and 1 respectively).

4.4 Mortar, plaster and *opus signinum*

- 4.4.1 Further building material was recovered in the form of small quantities of mortar, wall plaster and *opus signinum* (a concrete-like substance used to seal floors and walls), most of which came from Trenches 1 and 2, with small amounts of *opus signinum* also from Trenches 3 and 12.
- 4.4.2 All of this material is assumed to be Roman. The wall plaster includes monochrome fragments (white, red and green), polychrome (green and red) and one piece with a blue or green stripe on a white background.

4.5 Stone

- 4.5.1 Stone also constituted some of the building material from the structure. Much of this is in the form of limestone tesserae (1066 pieces), which derived mainly from topsoil (context 201) and the Victorian excavation backfill in the pool area in Trench 2. Some areas of mosaic were in situ (above 3.3).

Most other stone building material also derived from Trench 2 and comprises lias and shelly limestone roof tiles, and roofing slate. A possible column base made from oolitic limestone and a large rotary quern or quern roughout made from a very coarse, probably igneous rock from a relatively local source were also recovered.

4.6 Glass

4.6.1 All of the glass recovered is post-medieval, comprising wine bottle, clear bottle/jar and window fragments.

4.7 Slag

4.7.1 Just over 7 kg of ironworking slag was recovered, mostly from Trench 2 (topsoil and the fill of an undated probable robber trench, context 208).

4.8 Metalwork

4.8.1 Metalwork includes objects of copper alloy, iron and lead. The copper alloy includes four Roman coins (two 3rd century and two 4th century AD issues) (**Table 2**). The other two copper alloy objects comprise a post-medieval button, and part of a small decorative fitting (unknown date). All coins and objects came from topsoil contexts.

Table 2: Summary of the coin assemblage

SF no.	Context	Description	Issue Date (AD)
1	201	SECVRITAS REIPVBLICAE <i>nummus</i> of Valens	364-378
2	201	Uncertain <i>nummus</i>	mid-late 4 th c
3	401	INVICTA radiate copy poss of Tetricus I	270-296
6	201	Possible radiate copy	270-296

4.8.2 The ironwork comprises 12 nails, one structural fitting (strip with nail *in situ*); one object remains unidentified at this stage. Most of these objects came from topsoil/subsoil contexts in Trench 12 – other objects derived from topsoil contexts in other trenches. None are chronologically distinctive.

4.8.3 The lead object is a small fragment of window came.

4.9 Other finds

4.9.1 Other finds recovered comprise two piece of clay tobacco pipe stem and five pieces of worked chert (four flakes and one blade).

4.10 Animal bone

4.10.1 Twenty one fragments of animal bone, in fair to poor condition, were recovered from seven contexts in Trenches 1, 2, 5, 7 and 9. Gnawing was visible on two bones, and chemical erosion had contributed to the poor condition of other fragments. Conversely, some bones, especially in Trench

2, were stained a dark brown colour and fairly well preserved; such an effect is often seen on waterlogged bones.

4.10.2 Nine bones were identified and species represented included cattle, sheep/goat, horse, pig and hare, a large species list for so few fragments, although potential for interpretation is limited as five of the identified examples were from Victorian or later overburden in Trenches 1 and 2. A range of bone elements was found.

4.10.3 No bones were complete enough for measurement, but four could be aged. Butchery processes in the form of filleting meat from the bone and breakage for marrow extraction had marked three bones.

4.11 Marine shell

4.11.1 Five pieces of marine shell were found, all right valves of oyster, i.e. preparation waste.

5 DISCUSSION

5.1 Potential of the finds assemblage

- 5.1.1 The building material provides a certain amount of information on structure, but it is obvious that this has been ‘tidied up’, probably during the Victorian period. The presence of tile in several different fabrics and with different decorative motifs is unusual for a single building. It is possible that material from an antiquarian collection has been used in the Victorian to Edwardian consolidation and display of the remains.
- 5.1.2 Other material culture relating to any occupation is lacking, so aspects of chronology, site status and on-site activities cannot be explored.

5.2 Potential of the animal bone assemblage

- 5.2.1 The small size and relatively poor condition of the faunal assemblage limits any potential for better characterising the nature of animal exploitation at this site. Its usefulness is further limited by the uncertain date of the assemblage, much of which may be post-medieval.

5.3 Archaeological interpretation

- 5.3.1 Limited trenching outside the Scheduled Area, in the grounds of the Manor House and in the fields beyond (Trenches 5–13) has failed to provide any clear archaeological context for the known Roman remains. This is in accordance with the results of the geophysical survey (GSB 2003, 4). Whether other Roman structures remain to be located, perhaps deeply buried beneath post-medieval landscaping dumps, or sealed by the church or the manor house itself is unclear. Evidence was found for extensive garden terraces and exposures of natural subsoil, indicating that a substantial part of the Site may have been truncated in the post-medieval period.
- 5.3.2 More can be said about the interpretation of the building (the Scheduled Monument) exposed in Trenches 1–3. The core of the structure did appear to be Roman, despite evidence for a certain amount of Victorian ‘consolidation’. No evidence was found to suggest it was a villa (the interpretation favoured by the original excavation account (Elton 1883) and the Schedule description). No evidence was found to support a religious aspect to the Site (such as large numbers of coins, votive items, or explicitly religious items), an interpretation suggested by Freya Bowles (1999). In particular the central ‘cella’ seems likely to be a bathing pool rather than a shrine. The suggested Roman origins and dedication of ‘St Agnes’ Well’ remain unproven.
- 5.3.3 The structure as exposed has the classic plan of a bath-house, with a large, unheated, mosaic-lined central pool, surrounded by a corridor or ambulatory, possibly also floored in mosaic. A heated range with hypocaust and two heated plunge pools lay to one side, with an unheated range and at least one

further plunge pool lay on another. Traces of *opus signimum* floors were typical of a bath house, but the use of mosaic and traces of polychrome painted wall plaster suggest an owner of some social status or pretension. No obvious traces of further rooms or ranges were identified, although a large part of the Scheduled Area was not investigated.

- 5.3.4 The date of the building is uncertain, although the decorative scheme and mosaic is typical of the later Roman period (David Neal, pers comm), supported by the mostly unstratified or topsoil finds.
- 5.3.5 The wider context of the building remains unclear. It seems unlikely that the bath-house stood in isolation. Domestic buildings would be expected to lie close by, although perhaps not in the narrow stream valley chosen for the site of the baths, presumably for the water supply.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER WORK

- 6.1.1 The recovered finds assemblage has little potential for further analysis. No further cleaning of the coins or other metal objects is required. During filming the collections of archaeological material held in the Manor and local museums was examined. The mixed nature of the material and its uncertain provenance suggested that it too was of little potential (Rachael Seager Smith, pers comm).
- 6.1.2 Time Team's evaluation project has been successful in providing useful data on the nature, layout and function of the Scheduled Ancient Monument. The evaluation has produced a small but important archaeological archive for any future research or excavation at the site.
- 6.1.3 Further detailed analysis of the results of this project, however, is not considered to be appropriate in view of the limited scale of the evaluation. Some limited further work is proposed, however, and is set out below.
- 6.1.4 The only account of the Roman remains dates from the late 19th century and is highly inaccurate, and the description of the remains as a 'villa' in the Schedule entry is misleading. It is recommended that a short note is published in the appropriate archaeological journal (in this case the Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society), setting out the revised interpretation of the Scheduled Monument as a bath-house, together with an plan and description of the exposed structure.
- 6.1.5 The results of this project should be used by Somerset County Council and English Heritage to draw up a management plan to ensure the long term preservation of the Scheduled remains.
- 6.1.6 In accordance with the terms of the Scheduled Monument Consent, copies of this report (and of the geophysical survey report) will be submitted to English Heritage and the Somerset County Sites and Monuments Record. In accordance with the wishes of the landowner, the archive will be deposited and curated at Whitestaunton Manor House.

7 THE ARCHIVE

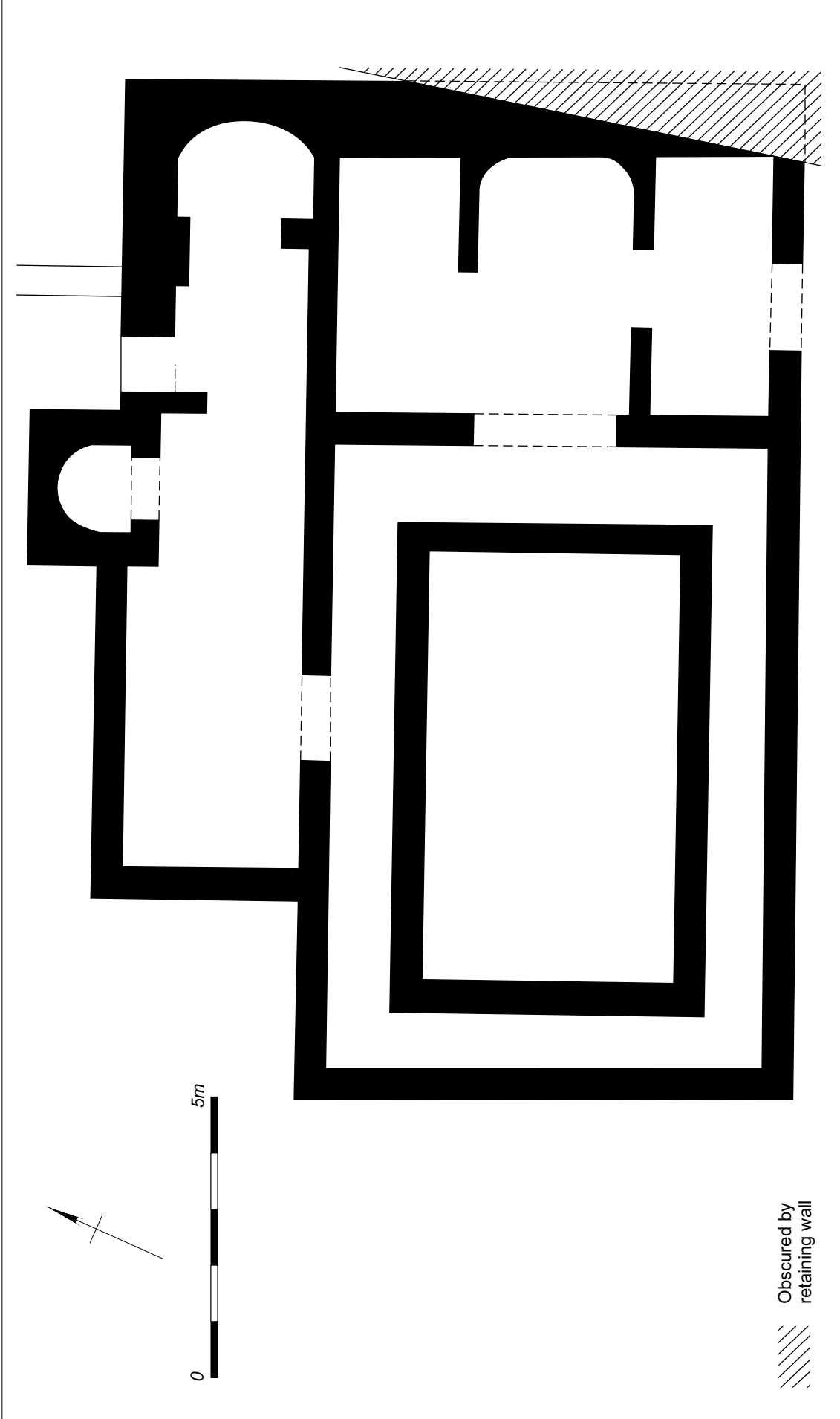
- 7.1.1 The archive, which includes all artefacts, written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken, is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology under the site code WS03 and Wessex Archaeology project code 52568. It is intended that copies of this report will be lodged with the Sites and Monuments Record and with English Heritage, and that, in accordance with the wishes of the landowner, the excavated material and records will eventually be deposited and curated at Whitestaunton Manor House.
- 7.1.2 The finds archive is quantified by weight in Table 1. The finds archive is contained in:
- 11 standard cardboard boxes (each 485 x 280 x 210mm or 0.029 cubic metres)
- 7.1.3 The paper excavation archive is contained in two ring binders, and a posse leaf folder. It includes:
- Project Design
 - Finalised Assessment Report
 - Geophysical survey report (GSB Prospection Ltd 2003). The geophysics report includes a record of all data, plots of the results, interpretation with detailed comments and conclusions.
 - 22 x A4 Context Finds Records
 - 1x A4 Coin List
 - 1x A4 Object Record
 - 8 x A4 Photographic Records
 - 4 x A4 Levels Register
 - 2 x A4 Graphic Register
 - 10 x A4 Trial Trench Record
 - 3 x A4 Context Index Sheets
 - 59 x A4 Context Record Sheets
 - 9 x A3 Drawing Sheets
 - 8 x A4 Drawing Sheets
 - 7 x A4 GPS Data showing trench location, geophysics grid and TBMs
- 7.1.4 The photographic archive is held in 5 clear plastic hangers and 5 strip mounts. It includes:
- 96 x 35mm colour transparency slides (mounted)
 - 96 x 35mm black and white negatives


8 REFERENCES

- Barrett, C R B, 1894 *Somersetshire highways, byways and waterways*, London
- Bowles, F, 1999 'A re-evaluation of the remains of a late Roman building at Whitestaunton Manor in Somerset', unpublished undergraduate dissertation, School of Conservation Sciences, Bournemouth University
- Branigan, K, 1976 *The Roman Villa in South-West England*, Bradford-on-Avon
- Brunning, R, 2003 'Whitestaunton Roman site monument management assessment', unpublished Somerset County Council report
- Carter, R W, 1981 *Parish surveys in Somerset 4: Whitestaunton*, Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society, Taunton
- Elton, C I, 1883 'The Roman house at Whitestaunton', *Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society* 29, 98–103
- Graham, A, 1995 'Archaeological evaluation at the proposed sewerage scheme at Whitestaunton', unpublished report
- GSB Prospection Ltd, 2003 'Whitestaunton, Somerset', unpublished geophysical survey report 2003/74
- GSGB (Geological Survey of Great Britain (England and Wales)), 1976 *Wellington: drift, 1:50,000. Sheet 311*, Southampton
- Haverfield, F J, 1906 'Romano-British Somerset', in W. Page (ed), 207–371
- Horne, P E, 1923, *Somerset holy wells and other named wells*, Somerset Folk Series 12, London
- Ordnance Survey 1978 *Map of Roman Britain* (4th edition), Southampton
- Page, W, (ed) 1969 (1906) *Victoria History of the County of Somerset* 1, (reprinted by University of London Institute of Historical Research), London
- SSEW (Soil Survey of England and Wales), 1983 *Soils of England and Wales. Sheet 5. South-West England*
- Vidiotext Communications Ltd, 2003 'Archaeological Evaluation at Whitestaunton, Somerset. Project design, 18th June 2003', unpublished report by Kate Edwards



Site and trench (Trenches 1-13) location, also showing the Scheduled Ancient Monument and areas of geophysical survey (Areas 1-6)



	This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.		Date:	15/05/04	Revision Number:	0
			Scale:	1:100 @A4	Illustrator:	MR
			Path:	Y:\Projects\52568\DRAWING OFFICE\Whitestaunton\Drawing Office\Report Figures		

Outline plan of the Roman remains as displayed (after Bowles 1999, Fig 4.1)

Figure 2



Plate 1: View of Trench 1 looking north-east, showing flagstone floor

? Heated bath

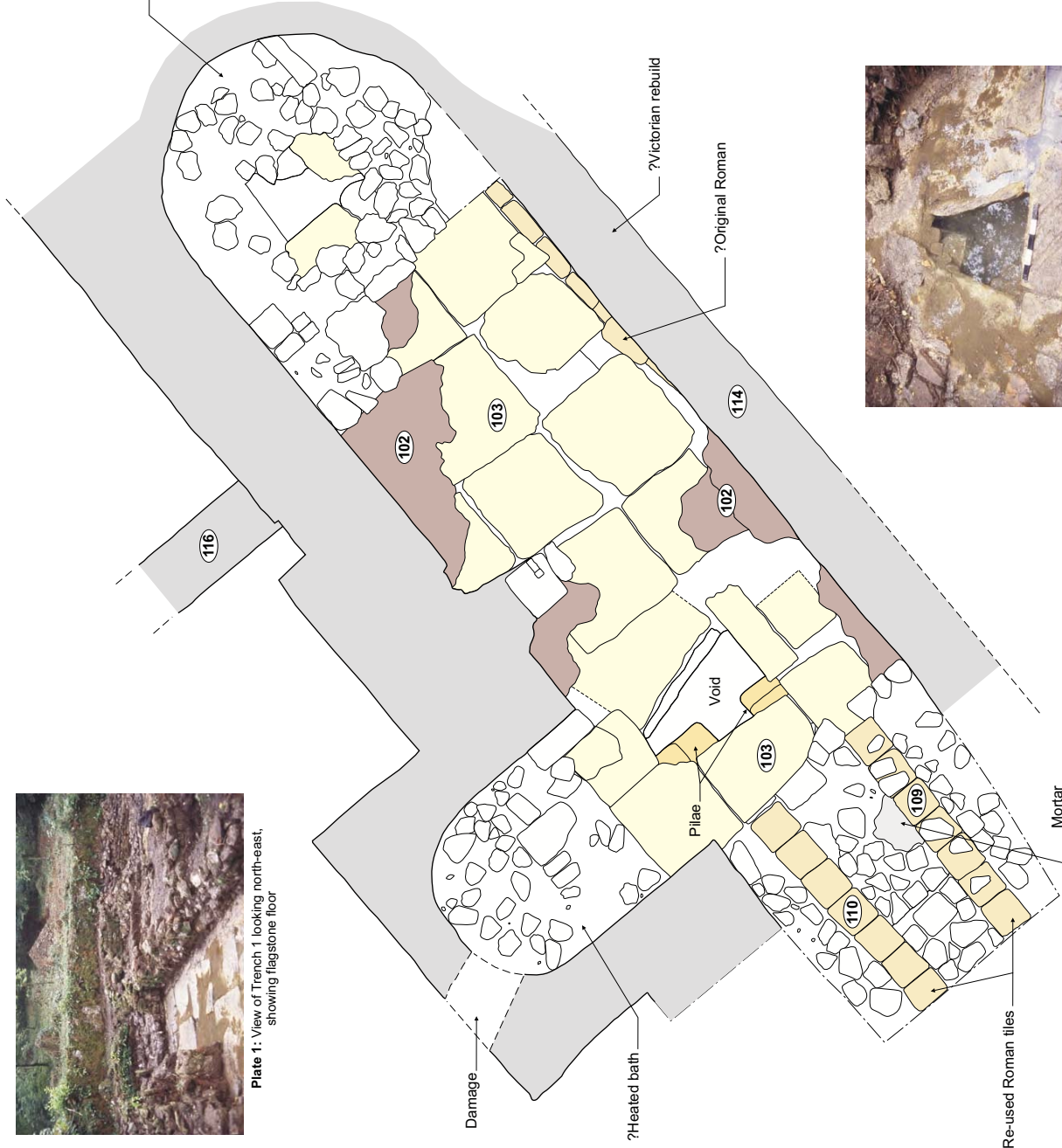


Plate 2: View of broken flagstone in Trench 1, showing pilae and water-filled hypocaust. Looking north-west, 1m scale



Plate 3: View of two alignments of reused Roman tiles in Trench 1: evidence of a later phase of Roman building or Victorian reconstruction? Looking north-east, 1m and 0.5m scales



Plate 4: North-west facing external elevation of building in Trench 3, showing footing course and roughly faced Roman wall overlain by irregular Victorian masonry. Looking south-west, 1m scale



Flagstones over hypocaust
Opus signinum floor

0 2m
Scale 1:40 at A3

This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.

Revision Number:	0
Illustrator:	MR
Date:	15/05/04
Scale:	1:40 @A3
Path:	Y:\Projects\52668\DRAWING
OFFICE\White\taunton\Drawing Office\Report\Figures	



Plate 5: View of Trench 2 showing plunge pool, opus signium floor of northern room, with large pool in the background. Looking south-west, 1m scales



Plate 6: View of corridor or ambulatory, showing large 7'collapsed architectural fragment. Looking north-east, 1m & 0.5m scales



Plate 7: The mosaic floor of the large pool. Looking east, 0.5m scale



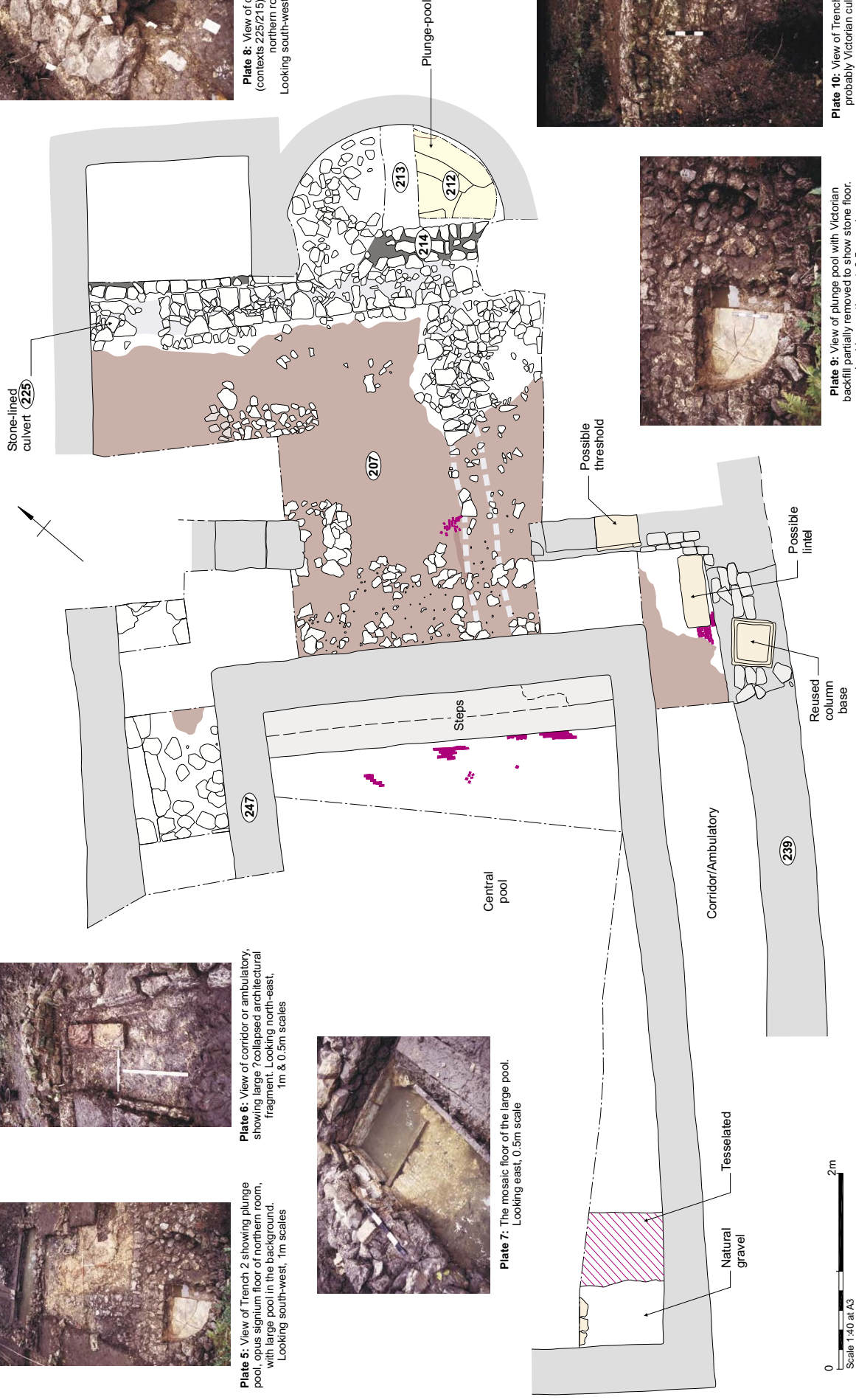
Plate 8: View of culvert/wall (contexts 225/215) in the main northern room. Looking south-west, 0.2m scale



Plate 10: View of Trench 4 showing probably Victorian culvert wall. Looking east, 0.5m scale






Plate 9: View of plunge pool with Victorian backfill partially removed to show stone floor. Looking south-west, 0.5m scale



This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.

Date:	15/05/04	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	Plan = 1:40 @ A3	Illustrator:	MR
Path:	Y:\Projects\522568\DRAWING OFFICE\Whitestaunton\Drawing Office\Report Figures		

 Opus signium floor
  Flagstone floor
  Tesserae





THE TRUST FOR WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY LTD.

Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB

Tel:(01722) 326867 Fax:(01722) 337562 E-mail:info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk

Registered as an archaeological organisation with the Institute of Field Archaeologists

Registered Charity No. 287786

A company with limited liability registered in England No. 1712772