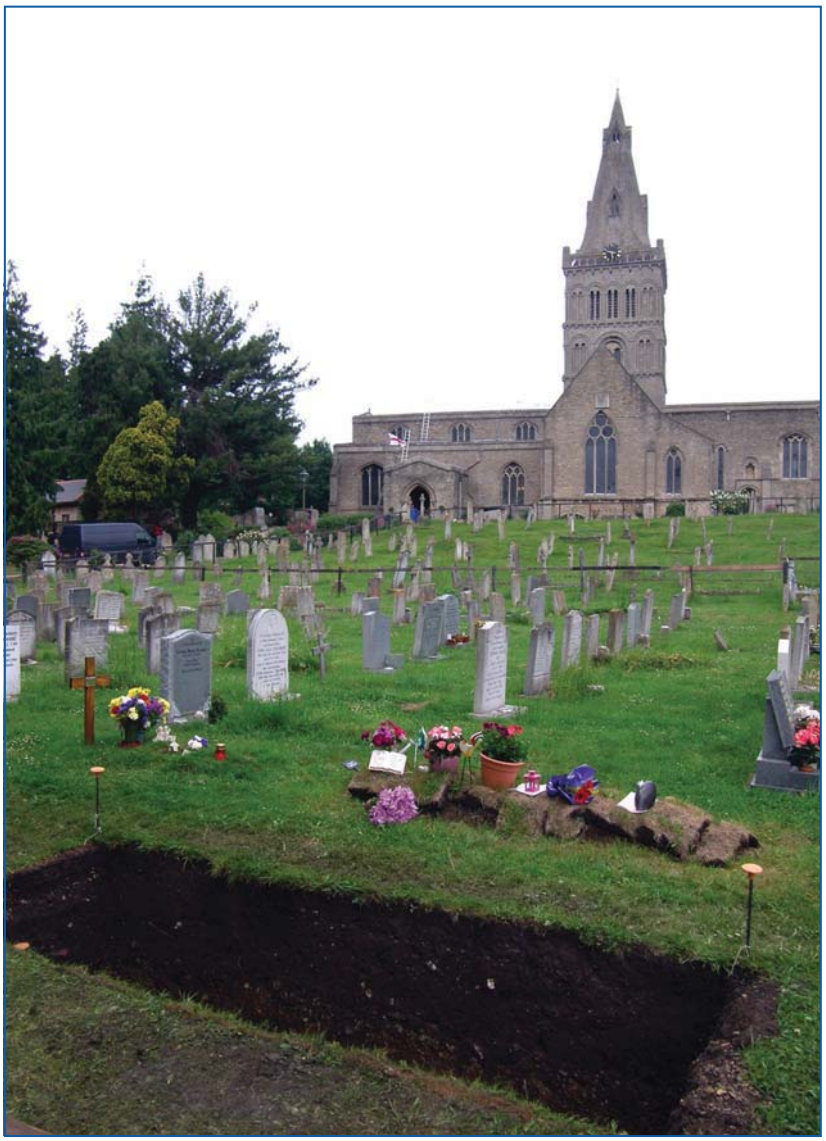
Wessex Archaeology

Castor, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results



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CASTOR, PETERBOROUGH, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results

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Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results

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Summary

In June 2010 an archaeological evaluation comprising the excavation of five trenches and a geophysical survey was undertaken by Channel 4's 'Time Team' around St Kyneburga's Church, Castor, near Peterborough, Cambridgeshire (NGR 512468.94, 298527.97) to investigate the remains of an extensive complex of Roman buildings. These buildings were first investigated in the 1820s by antiquarian Edmund Artis, and the buildings were interpreted as a single unified structure, subsequently termed a *Praetorium*. Several other investigations into the *Praetorium* of Castor took place following the publication of Artis's work in 1828 in an attempt to refine the complex's layout.

Time Team's work aimed to clarify the layout of the *Praetorium* and to phase the development of the buildings. In this the evaluation was only partially successful. Four of the five trenches were positioned in areas which had been previously excavated, and there proved to be a lack of stratified dateable artefacts which could be used to phase the different elements of the building complex. Furthermore, due to the small size of the trenches it was unclear whether the building remains in fact represented a single unified structure or a series of detached buildings. What was clear, however, was that substantial building remains still survive in and around the church of St Kyneburga, and that the work by Edmund Artis in the 1820s had produced very accurate plans and records for the time.

Detailed publication of the results of the evaluation is not considered appropriate, but a short summary will be presented to the *Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society*, for inclusion in the annual round-up of archaeology in the county.

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Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results

Acknowledgements

This programme of post-excavation and assessment work was commissioned and funded by Videotext Communications Ltd, and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank the staff at Videotext, and in particular Tim Taylor (Series Producer), Michael Douglas (Series Editor), Jane Hammond (Head of Production), Jim Mower (Development Producer), Tom Scott (Assistant Producer), Carly Hilts (Researcher), Kerry Ely (Locations Manager) and Ainsley Allen (Production Coordinator) for their considerable help during the recording and post-excavation work.

The geophysical survey was undertaken by John Gater, Jimmy Adcock, Emma Wood of GSB Prospection. The field and topographical survey was undertaken by Dr Henry Chapman of University of Birmingham and landscape survey and map regression by Stewart Ainsworth of English Heritage. The excavation strategy was devised by Mick Aston (Bristol University). The on-site recording was co-ordinated by Steve Thompson, and on-site finds processing was carried out by Helen MacIntyre, both of Wessex Archaeology.

The excavations were undertaken by Time Team's retained archaeologists, Phil Harding (Wessex Archaeology), Tracey Smith, Matt Williams, Ian Powlesland, Raksha Dave and Faye Simpson assisted by Jacqueline McKinley (Wessex Archaeology), Jason Clarke, Jonathon Elston, Anthony Maull, Charlotte Walker, Amir Bassir and Tim Upson-Smith of Northamptonshire Archaeology. The metal detector survey was carried out by Steve Critchley. On-site finds identification was undertaken by Helen Geake (Portable Antiquities Scheme) with on-site pottery analysis by Paul Blinkhorn.

The archive was collated and all post-excavation assessment and analysis undertaken by Wessex Archaeology. This report was compiled by Steve Thompson with initial historical research by Jim Mower, Tom Scott and Carly Hilts of Videotext Communications with specialist reports prepared by Rob Perrin (pottery), Nicholas Cooke (coins), Lorrain Higbee (animal bone) and Lorraine Mepham (all other finds). The illustrations were prepared by Rob Goller. The post-excavation project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Lorraine Mepham.

The work benefited from discussion on site with Mick Aston, Phil Harding, Jacqueline McKinley, Ben Robinson (Peterborough Museum), William Fletcher (English Heritage), Quinton Carroll (Diocese Advisory Committee Archaeologist), Teresa Hall and Helen Geake. Particular thanks are due to Dr Stephen Upex for permission to use images from his forthcoming *Britannia* article within this report.

Finally, thanks are extended to William Burke, Rector of St Kyneburgha and the Peterborough Diocese, Jonathan and Jackie Cook of the Old Rectory and Fiona Perkins and the staff and children of Castor C of E Primary School for allowing access to the Site for geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation.

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Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Videotext Communications Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological recording and post-excavation work on an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Channel 4's 'Time Team' around St Kyneburga's Church, Castor, near Peterborough, Cambridgeshire. (hereafter the 'Site') (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 This report documents the results of archaeological survey and evaluation undertaken by Time Team, and presents an assessment of the results of these works.

1.2 The Site, location and geology

1.2.1 The Site is centred on NGR 512468.94, 298527.97, the southern area of the site is at a height of approximately 21.39m above Ordnance Datum (a OD) while the northern area is located at approximately 9.29m aOD. Castor is located approximately 6 km north-west of Peterborough and approximately 11 km south-east of Wansford.

1.2.2 The underlying geology consists of Blisworth clays, Blisworth limestone, Upper Estuarine deposits and Upper and Lower Lincolnshire limestone (BGS 157/8).

1.3 Historical Background

Romano-British

1.3.1 Castor is located within a landscape rich in Roman-British archaeological remains in the area around Peterborough and the Lower Nene Valley due to its proximity to Ermine Street, one of the principal roads in Roman Britain, connecting London (*Londonium*) to York (*Eboracum*). Following the invasion of AD 43, the Roman forces encountered a large and relatively prosperous native population in the Nene Valley.

1.3.2 The Roman road system in Britain originated in the 1st century AD as a military system centred on London. The roads linked London to the Romanised towns constructed in the native centres of the south-east and to the legionary bases and later towns to the north and west. A number of roads are located in the vicinity of the Site, including Ermine Street, which passes near the towns of Godmanchester (*Durovigutum*), Water Newton (*Durobrivae*), Great Casterton, Ancaster and Lincoln (*Lindum*); King Street, leading from Ermine Street to Lincolnshire; and the Fengate, which led from Ermine Street at Castor into the heart of East Anglia.

1.3.3 A small fort was erected at *Durobrivae*, approximately 2km south-east of the Site, to guard the crossing point of Ermine Street over the River Nene.

Following excavations in 1961 at Longthorpe, approximately 12km east of the Site, a second fort was identified, dating to *c*. AD 50-65.

1.3.4 Roman remains have been reported from under the area of the village and the church since the 17th century and in 1733 comment was made that Castor *'as appears by ye ruins, (was) a City of large extent'*. Large-scale antiquarian excavations were carried out by Edmund Artis in the early 1820s when there were still substantial visible remains of Roman masonry. Artis recovered the plans of a number of buildings which he interpreted as one unified structure.

1.3.5 He was so impressed by the scale of the building ranges that he termed the site the '*Praetorium'* on his map of 1828 (**Figure 2**). Throughout the 19th and 20th centuries finds of Roman material were continually made in the area centred on the church, and these added to the picture of either a number of large, separate structures or, as Artis had interpreted the site, a single large and unified building complex.

1.3.6 During the 1970s and early 1980s a series of small-scale excavations within local village gardens added to the understanding of the site and made considerable additions to Artis' plan. During recent years, more information has been accumulated through archaeological watching briefs and local building developments.

1.3.7 Our current knowledge shows that the Roman building or buildings cover an area of 290 x 130m (3.77 hectares) with at least 11 rooms with tessellated floors and mosaics, at least two bath-houses and several hypocaust systems. The masonry which survives points to monumental architecture, and the evidence now indicates two major phases of building that may link with political and historical events within the province.

1.3.8 The Site of the Roman remains is considered of national importance and has therefore been designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Monument No. PE 93). The scheduling entry describes the site as follows:

(TL 12499854) Roman Villa (R) (Site of) (NAT)

Massive wall foundations visible in the 19th century led older antiquarians to suppose that Castor was the site of a walled Roman town. Artis carried out large scale excavations and recovered the plans of a number of substantial Roman buildings of the villa type. These have been interpreted as the remains of a single large courtyard villa, but they are more likely to be the fragments of a series of houses arranged on and around the rising ground. One of the buildings was considered by Artis to be a temple and this is accepted by Lewis, "The massive nature of the podium and the plan of the building makes the interpretation as a temple well-nigh certain," and he considered the site to represent a group of small houses spread round a temple of classical type.

Further excavation has been carried out on the site, and buildings, including the bathhouse, have been re-investigated.

There seems to be some measure of agreement that the buildings are associated with the pottery industry.

The buildings probably represent a series of detached houses erected about AD 250 on terraces in the hillside, facing south, around a rectangular court or garden. Many of the rooms were heated and were decorated with painted wall plaster and mosaics by the Durobrivan school. It seems likely that the whole complex can be regarded as a "Praetorium" erected by a guild, using the profits of the pottery industry.

Post-Roman

1.3.9 In the post-Roman period the site appears to have had some element of continuity, and both 5th century pottery and later 8th century occupation material has been found in excavated contexts. A nunnery was supposedly founded at `Dormundescastre', in the mid 7th century by Kyneburga, daughter of Penda, king of Mercia and was probably destroyed *c.* 870.

1.3.10 The present medieval church of St Kyneburga contains several fragments of 8th and 9th century stone sculpture and there are chance finds of a coin of Offa (*c*. AD 757-96), and a Saxon pin and strap end, all from close to the church.

1.3.11 Excavation has uncovered a Middle Saxon settlement site near the church, probably an extension of the settlement discovered in 1957-8 (see below).

1.4 Previous Archaeological Work

1.4.1 As indicated above, there has been considerable archaeological investigation within Castor, centred on St. Kyneburga's church. The excavations described below are not intended to represent an exhaustive list of archaeological work conducted in Castor but rather excavations and discoveries specifically relevant to the areas of the current investigation. Much of the detail presented in this section is taken from Upex (forthcoming).

Excavations, 1820s, Edmund Tyrell Artis

The Rectory Gardens

1.4.2 At some time prior to 1823-24, Edmund Artis conducted archaeological work in the Old Rectory gardens to the north-east of St Kyneburga's. This work contributed to his overall plan of Roman remains in the village, published in 1828 (**Figure 2**) which showed a number of linked rooms and a structure he identified as a temple.

West of the main Church

1.4.3 Although Artis marked a number of Roman buildings on his plan of 1828, it is unclear which of these he excavated and which he recorded when they were revealed through other works. Quite when his general plan of the village was surveyed remains uncertain. It appears to have been made at some time between 1803 and 1817 if the dated cottages which are shown in his illustrations are used as a general guide. It is possible that the survey was originally prepared for use by the Milton estate owned by Earl

Fitzwilliam. The estate owned considerable land and property within Castor and they may not have required any greater accuracy than is shown in order to deal with their own property disputes and rents. Thus Artis may have taken such a survey as a basis for his plan and added his overlay of Roman buildings. Some of the Roman buildings he recorded apparently came from his own excavations but it is clear that he also recorded some buildings which were revealed when the lanes called Stocks Hill and Church Hill were being lowered in order to reduce the steepness of the slope and produce a more even gradient. Again, it is unclear exactly when this work was taking place other than to say that it was at some time around 1810-20. A considerable number of Roman rooms, which are shown on the Artis plan, appear to have been cut by these roadworks and Artis seems to have recorded what he saw and even appears to have been allowed to clear some of the rooms and make more detailed plans of structures to the north-west of the church along Church Hill. It may have been somewhere in this area that Artis recorded seeing Roman rooms *"..the walls of which are beautifully painted and from 10 to 14 feet high.*"

North of the main Church

1.4.4 The overall plan that Artis produced in 1828 shows some numbered rooms and a series of unnumbered rooms which he seems to have interpreted as once forming two courtyards - a larger courtyard in the northern part of the site, consisting of rooms around the later medieval church and with buildings within the modern school playing field; and a smaller, southern courtyard comprising buildings he found to the south of the former A47 road.

Southern limit of the Cemetery

1.4.5 To the south of the church, Artis exposed and recorded a bath-house measuring 28.5m x 19.0m that he knew had been partly excavated at some point during the 17th century (**Figures 1** and **2**). It was sited 35m to the east of other buildings excavated by Artis, in the garden of 'The Cedars' and 27m to the west of another Roman building, also shown on the 1828 plan. Artis showed a splendid general view of the site during excavations which must have taken place at some point prior to 1823 (**Figure 12**) and a detailed plan of the bath-house. Much of the site is now inaccessible beneath the school playing field and the path that leads up to the church from the former A47 Peterborough Road.

Excavations, 1957-8, Charles and Ida Green

1.4.6 Work during 1957-8, undertaken by Charles and Ida Green, concentrated on two specific areas related to extensions to the churchyard to the south and east of the church (**Figure 1**). This work, financed by the then Ministry of Works, saw the excavation of an entirely unrecognised building which may have been a bath-house (to the north-east of Artis's Building G), and the re-excavation of the so called 'Temple' site first recognised by Artis (**Figure 1, Room 30**).

1.4.7 The bath-house was 6.5m wide and at least 11.5m long; the walls ran out of the excavated area on the north side of the Greens' trench. There were at least five rooms, including one with a hypocaust and another with the

provision of a concrete-lined tank that may have been a plunge bath. This gave the Greens the impression that at least part of the structure was a bath-house. There was certainly the provision of a small tile-lined aqueduct which led down the slope on the north side of the building and which could have fed baths. The Greens also recorded sections through three separate ditches in this area (Ditches I, II and III), although their reconstruction of the alignment of Ditch I, based on two small interventions (see **Figure 1**) may not have been accurate (see below, section **4.7.6**).

1.4.8 The re-excavation of the 'Temple' site fixed the positions of the walls shown by Artis in his drawings and seemed to confirm his view that the structure was indeed a classical temple, with steps at the front (south side), although it was not possible to produce any evidence that supported the view taken by Lewis that the temple originally had a 'row of prostyle columns'. Doubt was also cast on the theory of whether the 'temple' structure had ever been linked to the buildings to the north, which were seen by Artis. Artis' plan shows that he thought they were linked, but the work by the Greens showed that there was no linking.

1.4.9 During the excavation of the bath-house within the cemetery to the south of the church, a number of post-Roman features were identified, including buildings comprising hollowed-out floor areas (although not true *grubenhauser* in the strictest sense) and several pits containing pottery dating to the 7th century (Green *et al.* 1986-87, 125-6).

Excavations, 1970s, J.P. Wild and G.B. Dannell

1.4.10 Small-scale research excavation within the Old Rectory gardens added considerably to the knowledge of, in particular, the north range of Roman rooms which lay to the north of the church. For the first time an architectural balance and cohesion of rooms could be proved and an updated version of Artis' plan produced.

1.4.11 Trenches cut into the north-western corner of Artis' Room A revealed walls and a poorly preserved tessellated floor made up of limestone tesserae, set into an *opus signinum* sub-floor. This floor had been extensively exposed by Artis, and he produced two plates showing that it had a central panel with a polychrome geometric design surrounded by the coarse border. This was partly revealed in the 1971 trench.

1.4.12 A second trench cut in 1971 located a previously unknown wall which formed a division between Artis' Rooms B and H. Excavation showed that one room had a poorly preserved tessellated floor set on *opus signinum*, while in another a badly preserved *opus signinum* floor survived, which may have originally have had a tessellated surface - there were large amounts of coarse tesserae in the upper fills, but any trace of the surface had been obliterated.

1.4.13 These two trenches proved the general accuracy of Artis' plans, which when transcribed onto modern surveys were shown to be only fractionally out.

School playing field, 1971

1.4.14 During 1971 permission was given by the then headmaster of the local primary school, Mr A.E. Berridge, for three small trenches to be cut at the edge of the playing field to establish the exact position and orientation of the bath-house. Artis' plan of 1828 was shown to be largely accurate, although the exact orientation of the baths on his general plan appeared to be slightly out.

Churchyard, 1977

1.4.15 During 1977 a drainage trench was dug in the churchyard by the church authorities, 2m away from the north wall of the church. There was little chance for excavation, but within the trench the position of a 0.9m wide wall of herringbone masonry was recorded, with typical Roman mortar forming the bonding. This wall appeared to be running in a roughly north-north-east to south-south-west direction although its exact alignment was difficult to confirm because of the narrowness of the drainage trench. Another spread of limestone was also observed some 4m to the east of this wall and may have formed a second wall line, although this was very badly damaged.

1.4.16 How this wall(s) fit into the overall plan of rooms within the North Range is at present unclear. Artis does show a room just to the north of the church (Room F) which would be only some 16m away. The narrowness of the 1977 drainage trench may also allow for some skewing of the alignment to come into line with this room. However, it could also imply either further contemporary rooms in this area of the site (an earlier phase of building which wasn't linked to the general construction of the north range?). Alternatively, the observed narrowness of the 1977 wall could indicate some form of garden walling in front of the main facade of the North Range. At present none of these ideas are capable of being tested by excavation and the function of the wall recorded in 1977 remains problematic.

Watching Brief, 1999

1.4.17 A watching brief was carried out during the excavation of a service trench across the churchyard in November 1999. Previous test pit evaluation along the route suggested that the depth at which the service trench was to be excavated would not pose a threat to Roman remains. No burials associated with the current church were encountered during works; however, a substantial Roman wall and cement sub-floor were encountered during the service trench excavation just within the churchyard, at the footpath entrance. The wall/foundation was constructed in cemented herringbone-coursed limestone and survived to a height of at least 1m. Its only visible face was not plastered. A deposit of soil and limestone rubble lay against its face. This was relatively loose and had the appearance of excavation backfill. Artis probably exposed this wall in his exploration of the building range marked running south from his Room D. The pitted surface of the cement sub-floor lies to the north of the wall, and belongs to the interior of this building range. It was sealed only by the post-medieval limestone threshold of the churchyard entrance. A smaller limestone wall, also probably Roman, was revealed close to the churchyard wall during the diversion. This was breached by the service trench.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1.1 Two project designs were compiled for the proposed archaeological work which provided full details of the research aims and methods relating to the area designated as part of the Scheduled Ancient Monument (Videotext Communications 2010a) and churchyard of St Kyneburga's, following discussions with Castor Diocesan Advisory Committee Archaeologist (Videotext Communications 2010b) . A brief summary is provided here.

2.1.2 The project aimed to carry out a limited programme of non-intrusive investigations and intrusive excavation. The results of this work will also form an important resource for the future management of the site

2.1.3 The following general research aims were proposed:

2.2 Research Aim 1: Clarify the layout of the *Praetorium*

2.2.1 Dr Stephen Upex has proposed a conjectured layout for the *Praetorium* identified by Edmund Artis. This has been based on an analysis of all work conducted on the site and of observations made of existing above ground remains in Castor. All sub-surface archaeological remains, results of previous work and existing above-ground archaeology would be surveyed using GPS and locked onto accurate mapping. This would allow the conjectured layout of the *Praetorium* to be tested.

2.3 Research Aim 2: Site phasing and development

2.3.1 It has been speculated that the *Praetorium* represents a phase in the development of Roman Castor that is later than numerous other buildings not physically linked to the complex. Proposed work would address issues of relative chronology in all target areas.

2.3.2 Areas to be investigated fell into three locations: St Kyneburga's churchyard, the Old Rectory gardens, and the school playing fields.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Geophysical Survey

3.1.1 Prior to the excavation of evaluation trenches, a geophysical survey was carried out across the Site using a combination of resistance, magnetic and ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey. The survey grid was tied in to the Ordnance Survey grid using a Trimble real time differential GPS system.

3.2 Landscape and Earthwork Survey

3.2.1 A landscape survey and analysis of the aerial photographs of the Site was undertaken by Stewart Ainsworth, in conjunction with Dr Stephen Upex. A summary of the findings are incorporated within the discussion here.

3.3 Evaluation Trenches

3.3.1 Investigation of the Site was undertaken with the excavation of five trenches of varying sizes positioned to answer specific research objectives. (**Figure 1**).

3.3.2 The trenches were excavated using a combination of machine and hand digging. All machine trenches were excavated under constant archaeological supervision and ceased at the identification of significant archaeological remains or at natural geology if this was encountered first. When machine excavation had ceased all trenches were cleaned by hand and archaeological deposits investigated.

3.3.3 At various stages during excavation the deposits were scanned by a metal detector and signals marked in order to facilitate investigation. The excavated up-cast was scanned by metal detector.

3.3.4 All archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* record sheets with a unique numbering system for individual contexts. Trenches were located using a Trimble Real Time Differential GPS survey system and Trimble Total Station. All archaeological features and deposits were planned at a scale of 1:20 with sections drawn at 1:10. All principal strata and features were related to the Ordnance Survey datum.

3.3.5 A full photographic record of the investigations and individual features was maintained, utilising digital images. The photographic record illustrated both the detail and general context of the archaeology revealed and the Site as a whole.

3.3.6 At the completion of the work, all trenches were reinstated using the excavated material.

3.3.7 Scheduled Monument Consent was granted prior to work beginning. The work was carried out on the 8th to 11th June 2010. The archive and all artefacts were subsequently transported to the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury where they were processed and assessed for this report.

3.4 Copyright

3.4.1 This report may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which we are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferrable by Wessex Archaeology. You are reminded that you remain bound by the conditions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Details of individual excavated contexts and features, and the full geophysical report (GSB 2010), are retained in the archive. Detailed descriptions of the excavated sequences and structures can be found in **Appendix 1**.

4.2 Geophysical Results

Introduction

4.2.1 Geophysical survey was carried out using a combination of resistance, magnetic and ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey. (**Figures 3** and **4**).

4.2.2 Conditions for survey varied. GPR data collection within the churchyard was difficult due to the upstanding gravestones, whilst other areas consisted of open playing fields and were ideal. GPR data were collected within and surrounding the grounds of the church.

4.3 Resistance Results (Figure 3)

Area 2

4.3.1 Survey within the garden of the Rectory was confined by the limited open area available. It was hoped that resistance survey would complement the GPR data in order to locate any responses associated with the eastern range of the Roman building, part of which are still extant in the garden wall on Stocks Hill.

4.3.2 High resistance anomalies (A) appear to have a significant form, with a possible turn. These responses could have a number of interpretations; a spread of rubble associated with building debris, a response due to natural variations (such as tree roots) or they may be associated with any landscaping changes that may have occurred during the past occupancy of the Rectory.

4.3.3 Anomalies (B) have been given the category of Uncertain. It is not known whether these responses are associated with the Roman archaeology or if they have been produced by trees and shrubs; the latter explanation is probably the cause. Anomaly (C) has produced a high resistance response but this reflects the modern driveway.

Area 3

4.3.4 The playing fields of Castor Primary School were investigated in the hope of locating a Roman bath-house discovered by Artis. A large zone of high resistance appears to be in the right vicinity of the antiquarian excavations. However, 1st edition OS mapping from 1885 shows a number of buildings within a boundary exactly where the zone of high readings are, suggesting that the responses are associated with these buildings and masking any potential Roman archaeology below.

4.4 GPR Results (Figure 4)

Area 1A, B, C and D

4.4.1 Survey in the churchyard was particularly difficult as, despite the postulated likelihood of substantial Roman remains existing here, the several centuries of burials (presumably including many stone or lead caskets and/or slab-lined graves) meant that identifying the older archaeological features amongst the disturbance and reflections from the inhumations was far from straightforward. To further complicate matters, the grid is slightly fragmented owing to the headstones; to minimise their effect, the grid was orientated in line with the predominant direction of the stones.

4.4.2 It is fair to say that the vast majority of deeper responses can be attributed to the inhumations across the site. It is unclear as to why there is such a broad zone of strong yet shallow responses (1) in the north-east; there are a good number of caskets in this area with a tightly-laid row showing as a high amplitude band (2). There are also some responses which are most likely to be modern, giving a metallic-type response within the near-surface and have been labelled as such in the interpretation; there are a number of these down the eastern side of the churchyard in Area 1B.

4.4.3 The high amplitude anomaly (3) near the centre of the survey grid stands out as being the broadest zone of reflections which are not immediately identifiable as individual burials. It also correlates well with an antiquarian excavation that had identified a mosaic floor level. Limited excavation revealed further tessellated flooring (Trench 4). To the west and north-west of this are zones of increased response and sporadic high amplitude responses (4). In the radargrams a surface or disturbance is just identifiable and there does seem to be a certain alignment to trends (5) in a roughly north-west – south-east orientation, similar to the apparent lie of the purported Roman feature (3). This orientation is clearest in the deeper time-slices but the church in Castor is not truly east-west and so the burials, which respect it, are in a similar orientation to anomalies (4) and (5).

4.4.4 At the eastern edge of the churchyard (Area 1B), the orientation of anomaly (6) can be seen to be similar to those identified in Area 1A, but the short length makes attributing a definite interpretation to it difficult. To the south, a low amplitude linear trend (7) seems to mirror the line of the previous response (6) – whilst this could be a robbed-out wall line, given the amount of disturbance across the site this is pure conjecture and, without any supporting evidence, could equally be a chance alignment.

Area 1C

4.4.5 Survey down the road on the north side of the churchyard revealed a drain flanking the northern embankment but also a pair of linear anomalies on this same north-west – south-east alignment. These clearly represent the continuation of known Roman features: two wall stubs protruding from the embankment on the north side of the road.

Area 1D

4.4.6 A small patch of stonework was just visible at the ground surface (8) and obviously caused a significant reflection in the GPR. To the south of this the anomalies recorded appear to be solely related to a service route which crosses the survey area. To the north-east, reflectors assumed to be an outer wall (9) and cross wall (10) of a Roman building have been recorded; the former aligns with the easternmost anomaly crossing the road and the adjacent wall stub.

Area 1 E

4.4.7 No anomalies thought to be of archaeological significance were recorded in this area. Reflectors at the western end of the survey area are believed to be modern, relating to the turning bay and material around the base of a signpost. Excavation in the eastern half of the survey area revealed no major structures, but did uncover a ditch. This ditch had a layer of demolition

material within it and it is possible that some of the reflectors (12) represent more of this material; this remains speculative.

Area 2

4.4.8 A spread of near surface anomalies would seem to be natural effects associated with soil variation across the lawn; indeed the northern reflections may well be an effect of the adjacent tree. Below this, however, two anomalies (one clearly linear and one (11) which is assumed to be) lie at right angles to each other. These are, again, assumed to be part of the Roman phase of occupation in Castor. The southernmost may be a continuation of one of the wall stubs seen protruding from the eastern embankment of Stocks Hill.

4.5 Magnetic Results

Area 3

4.5.1 Results from this area partially correspond to the resistance data. Large zones of ferrous disturbance are likely to relate to the former buildings. However, metal fencing will have added to the 'noise' in the southern part.

4.5.2 Further areas of ferrous responses are of a relatively modern origin as marked on mapping from 1926; a greenhouse belonging to a garden nursery was located throughout the length of the surveyed area and also on the same alignment as the survey grid.

4.6 Conclusions

4.6.1 Roman wall foundations have been located within the GPR, and possibly the resistance data, from within the churchyard and the Rectory gardens. Unfortunately due to the number of inhumations within the churchyard, the responses from the graves have hampered the interpretation. However, if a massive structure such as a *Praetorium* existed it would have been expected that the GPR data would reflect its presence.

4.6.2 Survey within the school playing fields located remains associated with more recent activity in the form of a greenhouse and building debris. The line of a Roman road within the grounds of the leisure centre was potentially detected within the gradiometer data.

4.7 Evaluation Trenches

Introduction

4.7.1 The Site was investigated through the excavation of five trenches (**Figure 1**). Trenches 1, 4 and 5 were located within the grounds of St Kyneburga's church, Trench 2 was located in the grounds of the Old Rectory and Trench 3 located within the sports field of Castor Primary School.

4.7.2 Rooms and buildings will be referred to in this report by letter and/or number, e.g. H/22, (see **Figure 1**) with letters referring to the 1828 plan of Castor by Edmund Artis (**Figure 2**) and the numbers to the suggested reconstruction by Stephen Upex (forthcoming; reproduced here as **Figure 5**).

4.7.3 The results of the evaluation trenching are presented by Area and should be read in conjunction with **Appendix 1.**

Area 1: St Kyneburga's churchyard

Trench 1 (**Figure 6**)

4.7.4 Trench 1 was positioned at the southern limit of St Kyneburga's church, to the south-east of the building revealed in 1957-8 by the Greens (Green *et al.* 1986-87).

4.7.5 The natural geology was identified at a height of 9.67m a OD, 1.10m below the current ground surface, overlain by a probable subsoil deposit **116** associated with probable buried ground surface **112**. This was cut through by a north-east – south-west aligned linear ditch (**113**). Pottery recovered from the ditch fills was exclusively Romano-British, with a date range of 2nd to 4th century AD. The upper fill (**111)** contained numerous smashed fragments of stone roofing tiles as well as 3rd to 4th century pottery.

4.7.6 Ditch **113** lies on a similar alignment to **Ditches II** and **III** identified by the Greens, and is particularly comparable to **Ditch I**, in terms of dimensions and the homogeneous nature of the fills (Green *et al*. 1986-87, fig. 7A), but **Ditches I** and **III** were recorded as 16th century in date, while **113** is clearly Romano-British in date. In fact, **Ditch I** was only partially revealed in exploratory slots and the postulated alignment may have been inaccurate. It may instead have extended to the south-west as **113**.

4.7.7 Ditch **113** does appear to coincide with the eastern of two parallel crop marks which extend to the south, which potentially form the drainage ditch of an approaching road. Geophysical survey could not trace this road alignment.

4.7.8 Ditch **113** was sealed beneath rammed mortar floor surface **106**, which was subsequently cut by a beam slot (**107**) and posthole (**109**), which formed part of a possible post-Roman timber-framed building (**Figure 13, Plate 1**). The Greens identified a number of post-Roman sunken feature buildings to the north-west, associated with post-Roman pits (Green *et al*. 1986-87). No post-Roman material was recovered from either beam slot **107** or posthole **109**.

4.7.9 Both these structural features were overlain by a layer of robbed building material **105**, containing dumps of mortar and unrecycled stonework, potentially derived from the bathhouse structure excavated by the Greens.

4.7.10 Layer **105** was sealed by **104**, a probable old agricultural/horticultural/garden soil deposit containing a mix of medieval pottery with occasional residual early Saxon and late Romano-British sherds. In the 19th century this area of the churchyard had been the Rector's vegetable patch (Green *et al*. 1986-87, 118). This material further to the north became part of the reworked material through which the numerous graves have been cut. Overlying **104** was pathway structure **103**/**102** and this was sealed by the topsoil (**Figure 13, Plate 2**).

Trench 4 (**Figure 7**)

4.7.11 Trench 4 was positioned to the north of St. Kyneburga's church within the graveyard, in order to investigate Building F/18. An account from 1733, from the Peterborough Gentleman's Society Minute Book (1730-1742, 64-5), recorded that *'a curious Tessellated Pavement discovered last week at Castor Church yard by ye sexton digging a grave for a poor woman. The squares were very small and of different colours, and so intermixt as to forme larger squares of than a foot w(hi)ch ran thro ye whole work. When washed and cleaned ye colour appeared exceeding bright and ye whole pavement was so strong cemented together, yt the sexton could get up no one piece of it without defacing it and yt coffin was afterwards layd upon it.'*

4.7.12 As the trench was located within the graveyard, permission was obtained from the Diocese of Peterborough Advisory Committee Archaeologist prior to any works. No human remains were removed from Site and only remains which were clearly disarticulated were lifted to aid further excavation. Following the identification of *in situ* articulated remains the skeletons were exposed but not removed. All disarticulated remains were subsequently reinterred during a burial service led by Rev William Burke of St. Kyneburga's Church (**back cover, bottom right**).

4.7.13 An *in situ* tessellated surface (**407**) set into bedding layer **406** was exposed at 17.86m aOD, 0.65m below the current ground surface. The floor surface had been cut through by grave **414** while a number of inhumations had been laid directly upon the tessellated floor as indicated in 1733 (**Figure 13, Plates 3-4**).

4.7.14 No wall lines were observed defining the limit of the tessellated floor due to *in situ* graves. The southern end of the trench was excavated to a depth of 1.43m below the current ground surface, to a height of 17.36m aOD, and no walls or flooring were observed there either. This was below the level at which the floor was recorded, and it was assumed that at this point this was the exterior of the building, despite Artis's plan of Room F. The putative wall line would therefore pass through the trench at approximately NGR 512486.43, 298536.36 (**Figure 7**). There appear to be some inaccuracies, therefore, with the positioning of Artis's buildings.

Trench 5 (**Figure 8**)

4.7.15 Trench 5 was positioned to investigate the north-east – south-west aligned building (Upex's Building 2) which extends to the south into the churchyard from Artis's Building D. The remains of wall lines are visible in the boundary wall of 'Elmlea', where they have been cut through by the Church Hill roadway.

4.7.16 The remains of a substantial north-west – south-east aligned wall (**504**) was identified at 17.00m aOD, just 0.27m below the metalled surface of the churchyard pathway (**Figure 8, Plate 5**). The wall was some 2m wide and constructed upon a stepped footing **505** which was 0.55m wider than the wall and 1.40m+ high (**Figure 8, Plates 6-7**). The foundations were enormous by comparison to the other exposed walls, and possibly form the footings of a tower or some other substantial structure. No indication of a

construction cut was observed and there was some disturbance due to modern services.

Area 2 - The Old Rectory gardens

Trench 2 (**Figure 9**)

4.7.17 Trench 2 lay within the Old Rectory garden and was targeted upon the north-east corner of the northern range of the building complex, in an area Artis described as containing mosaics and a hypocaust system (**Figure 1**: Rooms B/23 and B/24). Possibly the earliest structures identified here were walls **212** and **220** which formed the north-west corner of Room B/24 (**Figure 9, Plates 8-9**). An associated floor surface **219** was identified at a height of 18.80m aOD (2.34m below the current ground surface). The depth implies that this was the base on which the hypocaust *pilae* would have sat, although no hypocaust structures were observed. The walls had been extensively disturbed by post-Roman robbing and also by Artis's excavation. Walls **212** and **220** and surface **219** were sealed by **218** and **213**; backfill deposits from Artis's excavations.

4.7.18 To the north-west of walls **212** and **220**, at a height of 20.58m aOD (0.55m below the current ground surface) was metalled surface **205**, which was interpreted as an external surface possibly bordering the corner of the building. To the north-west of **205** was a mortar surface **214**/**223** (**Figure 9, Plate 10**), which was distinctively different in character to **205**; however, the relationship between **205** and **214**/**223** could not be ascertained due to the presence of a live electricity cable.

4.7.19 Surface **214**/**223** formed a bedding layer for an internal floor surface and was possibly overlain by a now robbed mosaic. This would fit with Artis's plan, which appears to show a disturbed mosaic in this particular room (B/23). Bedding layer **214**/**223** was constructed upon **217** which sat directly upon the natural gravels **221**. The identification of the natural geology at this height supports the interpretation of this room being sunken and associated with a hypocaust system.

4.7.20 Bedding layer **214**/**223** was cut by a narrow feature interpreted as a robber trench (**215**), possibly associated with the northern wall of the room. A second post-Roman robbing event (**209**) was identified cutting metalled surface **205**, perhaps for the robbing of walls **212** and **220**. This layer was subsequently cut through by Artis's excavation trench (recorded as **206**).

4.8 Area 3 - School Playing Fields

Trench 3 (Figures 10-11)

4.8.1 Trench 3 was positioned to investigate the bathhouse (**Figure 2**: Building G). Artis indicated that the bathhouse had been previously investigated, during the 17th century.

4.8.2 Stratigraphically the earliest deposit within Trench 3 was **316**, interpreted as a pre-Roman deposit which was cut through by the construction cut **319** for wall **317**. Wall **317** was bonded to wall **322** to form part of the flue structures of the bathhouse, as indicated by Artis' plans and the water colour paintings

of his excavations (**Figure 12**). Walls **317** and **322** were constructed upon deposit **324** and sealed by post-demolition deposits **321** and **331**.

4.8.3 Following the abandonment and partial robbing of the building, a large quarry pit, or possible robbing pit (**325**), was cut through deposit **321**. This was located in the area of the hypocaust's stokehole. Pottery recovered from the fills of **325** was dated to the medieval period (12th/13th century). The pit was only partially excavated.

4.8.4 Artis's excavation trench was recorded as **320**; following the backfilling of his trench the remaining spoil had been spread, and formed layers **305**, **306** and **307**. A series of modern features (**310**, **326**, **328**) later cut through **305**.

5 FINDS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Finds were recovered from all five trenches excavated, although quantities from Trench 5 were minimal. The assemblage is largely of Romano-British date, with a smaller amount of later material.

5.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and totals by material type and by trench are presented in **Table 1**. Following quantification, all finds have been at least visually scanned, in order to ascertain their nature, probable date range, and condition. Spot dates have been recorded for datable material (pottery, ceramic building material). This information provides the basis for an assessment of the potential of the finds assemblage to contribute to an understanding of the site, with particular reference to the construction and use of the complex of Roman buildings.

5.2 Pottery

5.2.1 The pottery assemblage is largely of Roman date, with a smaller proportion of later material. The whole assemblage has been quantified by ware type (correlated where appropriate to regional/national type series); totals are given in **Table 2**.

5.2.2 Condition is fair to good; sherds are relatively unabraded, although the assemblage is fragmentary and few profiles could be reconstructed.

Roman

Introduction

5.2.3 **Table 3** shows the amount of Roman pottery by trench. A total of 443 sherds weighing a little under 7 kilos was recovered, giving an average sherd weight of almost 16g. There are a number of joining sherds, or sherds probably from the same vessel(s), from contexts in Trench 1 (surface 106 and upper fill of ditch **113**; layer **105** and beam slot **107**; two secondary fills of ditch **113**), Trench 2 (levelling layer soil horizon and upper fill of Artis' trench; lower fill of Artis' trench and post-demolition layer **213**) and Trench 3 (levelling layer **302** and the fill of modern feature **328**).

5.2.4 The Site is close to many of the known kiln sites which collectively comprise one of the major Roman pottery production centres, the Lower Nene Valley;

indeed, for many years, products of this industry were known as 'Castor' ware. The industry probably started in the second quarter of the 2nd century AD and continued to the end of the Roman occupation of Britain. The known kiln sites have been listed by Swan (1984) and many have been published (Stanground: Dannell *et al.* 1993; Water Newton: Gillam 1999; Sulehay: Hadman and Upex 1975; Chesterton: Webster 1999; Stibbington: Upex 2009. Short summaries of the pottery industry have also been produced (Hartley 1960; Wild 1973, 1974). Using a basic range of fabrics, the potters working at the kilns produced colour coated, grey and cream wares. Local 1st century AD pottery production, prior to that of the main industry, is known at Water Newton (Perrin 1999) and Longthorpe (Dannell 1987).

Methods

5.2.5 The Roman pottery was recorded using the simple Lower Nene Valley classifications – Lower Nene Valley colour coated ware (LNVCC), Lower Nene Valley grey ware (LNVGW) and Lower Nene Valley cream ware (LNVCW), augmented by other local, non-local and imported wares. These comprise shell-gritted ware (shell), pink grogged ware, Black Burnished ware (BB1), Oxfordshire colour coated ware, other grey or oxidised wares, East Midlands greyware, South Gaulish samian ware (SGS), Trier Rhenish ware, Colchester colour coated ware, Cologne roughcast ware and Gallic Pélichet 47 amphora.

The pottery

5.2.6 The range of forms occurring in LNVCC is wide, comprising imitations of samian ware forms 31, 36 and 36, beakers including a hunt cup and folded and 'funnel' neck types, a Castor box, flanged bowls, wide-mouthed jars or bowls, plain-rimmed dishes, jars and flagons. In addition, there are LNVCC body sherds with rouletted, underslip barbotine and overslip painted decoration. The small amount of LNVGW comprises jars with curved, everted and triangular rims and a plain rimmed dish. There are sherds from five LNVCW mortaria in the assemblage. Two of these have bead rims with reeded flanges and one is of a reeded wall sided variety. Where visible, the grits comprise black ironstone. The LNVCW other than mortaria comprises jars, together with a curved sided bowl with a bead rim and a probable imitation samian ware form 36 with a red painted diagonal band around the rim; another sherd also has a band of external red painted decoration. Some of the LNVCC has a grey colour coat.

5.2.7 The shell-gritted ware is all from jars of various sizes including storage jars; two of the jars have undercut rims. Some of the grey ware which is not obviously LNVGW might also have been produced locally, however, or may have derived from kilns in Northamptonshire to the west (Johnston 1969). A number of the sherds, including a flanged bowl, appear to be East Midlands products (Todd 1968). Some of the grey ware sherds have surface decoration, including burnished lattice and horizontal lines, rouletting, diagonal comb impressions, chevrons and incised combed wavy lines. A few sherds appear to have been slipped.

5.2.8 The only definitely 1st century AD pottery is a sherd of South Gaulish samian (demolition deposit **105**). The amount of 2nd century pottery is also quite low, comprising one of the shell-gritted ware jars, the LNVCW and

LNVGW jars, some of the non-local grey ware and the oxidised ware sherds (surface **106**, fills of ditch **113**). A LNVCC hunt cup sherd and a plain rimmed LNVCC beaker with underslip barbotine decoration are of types which were manufactured from the middle of the 2nd century into the 3rd century (demolition deposit **105**). A Cologne roughcast beaker sherd and a beaker of probable Colchester origin are of 2nd century date (both from surface **106**).

5.2.9 The 3rd and, especially, 4th century AD forms are far more plentiful. The LNVCC disc-rimmed flagon, imitations of samian ware forms, wide mouthed jars or bowls, narrow mouthed jars, flanged bowls and plain rimmed dishes, together with the LNVCW mortaria, are all types which began to be produced in the later 3rd century and continued throughout the 4th century. The form of the Castor box (post-medieval levelling layer **202**) places it in the 4th century and the LNVCW imitation samian form 36 with painted decoration (graveyard soil **402**) is dated to the mid to late 4th century. The LNVCC folded beakers and sherds with overslip white painted decoration, as well as the Trier beakers, could be 3rd or 4th century in date. The BB1 flanged bowls and plain rimmed dishes have burnished intersecting arc decoration and are likely to date to the late 3rd to 4th century in this area (Perrin 1999, 124). The shell-gritted ware jars with undercut rims are of 4th century date as is the probable East Midlands grey ware flanged bowl. **Table 4** shows the percentages of the main fabrics by trench.

5.2.10 All of the trenches contained 3rd and 4th century pottery, but Trenches 2 and 4 have the higher proportion of later material. Conversely, Trench 1 has the most pottery likely to be of 2nd century into 3rd century date.

5.2.11 The only contexts containing over 500 gms of pottery were post-medieval levelling layer **202**, post-Roman soil horizon **203**, the fill of Artis's trench **208** and surface **214** in trench 2, of which only the latter layer forms part of the Romano-British stratigraphic sequence. **Table 5** shows the pottery assemblage by main ware type from surface **214**.

5.2.12 The LNVCC from surface **214** includes sherds with no internal colour coat, suggestive of a flagon or narrow mouthed jar, and a folded beaker. Both these vessels could be 3rd to 4th century AD in date, but the BB1 sherd is from a plain-rimmed dish with intersecting arc decoration which should date to the late 3rd to 4th century. The LNVGW and LNVCW are probably of 2nd century date, while the Trier and the grey colour coated vessels are more likely to date to the 3rd century. Four greyware bodysherds have mortar adhering.

5.2.13 The range of vessels from the excavations includes relatively few fine forms, such as beakers, cups and flagons, but there is also a lack of more utilitarian vessels and wares. This suggests an essentially domestic assemblage with perhaps food and other production activity taking place elsewhere. The impression that the pottery from the trenches on the 'lower' terrace is largely earlier than that from the trenches on the 'upper' terrace conforms to an emerging overall chronology for the site (Upex forthcoming).

Post-Roman

5.2.14 The remaining 78 sherds post-date the Roman period; these include wares of Saxon, medieval and post-medieval date.

5.2.15 Two sherds have been dated as early/middle Saxon; both occurred as residual sherds in later contexts. One is in a relatively fine-grained sandy ware, and is well burnished on both surfaces. This came from modern levelling layer **302**. The second, from soil layer **104**, is in an oolitic limestone-tempered ware. Neither sherd is diagnostic.

5.2.16 Late Saxon/medieval wares (54 sherds) include several known local and regional types: Stamford, Ely-type and Lyveden-Stanion wares. Also present are miscellaneous coarse shelly and sandy wares, probably largely of local origin. One of the shelly wares, a very abraded rim sherd with possible finger-impressed decoration (Trench 5 topsoil) could be of Late Saxon date (10th/11th century), while the remainder are more likely to be post-Conquest in date, although probably not dating much beyond the 12th century. The Stamford wares potentially span the Conquest period. Overall, the date range of this chronological group is likely to span the period from 10th/11th century through to at least the 13th century. Sherds occurred in all five trenches, although most came from Trench 3.

5.2.17 Post-medieval wares (22 sherds) include coarse earthenwares (including slipware), English stoneware, white salt glaze, and later factory-produced wares. Sherds occurred in all trenches apart from Trench 1.

5.3 Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

5.3.1 A rigorous recovery strategy was adopted on site for the CBM, as considerable quantities of this material were encountered. This focused on the selection of more diagnostic pieces, which were to be retained for further recording and selection for long-term curation.

5.3.2 The assemblage of CBM retained for recording off site (124 fragments) was almost entirely of Romano-British date, with two medieval fragments. The whole of this assemblage was quantified by type (*imbrex*, *tegula*, etc) within each context, with features such as paw prints, 'signatures' and selected dimensions also recorded. Most pieces were then discarded, retaining only those with distinctive features such as paw prints, and a few other fragments as representative samples of the range of types.

5.3.3 Fabric type was not recorded, as the majority of the assemblage comprised fragments in non-distinctive hard-fired, slightly sandy fabrics firing orange-red. However, variants from this dominant type, all in the form of a distinctive calcareous (shell-tempered) fabric, were recorded, and samples retained. This coarse shelly fabric has been observed on a number in the east Midlands and east Anglia, and has been identified as a probable product of the Harrold kilns in Bedfordshire (Brown 1994). Examples of this fabric type occurred largely amongst the retained box flue tiles, with one *tegula*.

5.3.4 **Table 6** gives the breakdown of CBM types. The assemblage included roof tiles (*tegulae* and *imbrices*) and box flue tiles from a hypocaust heating system. A small proportion comprised flat fragments lacking clear diagnostic

features on which to assign them to specific tile or brick types; these were divided into those less than 30mm in thickness, and those of a greater thickness; the former are likely to represent further examples of *tegulae*, *imbrices* and box flue tiles, while the latter probably derive from bricks of various forms, including those utilised in the *pilae* of underfloor heating systems.

Tegulae

5.3.5 No complete dimensions were noted amongst the *tegulae*, although it was apparent that thickness, as well as flange width and height, varied. Flange height is generally considered to be roughly twice the tile thickness – in this instance thickness ranged from 20 to 30mm, and flange height from 40 to 50mm. Flange profile was either squared or curved. Seven flange cut-aways were observed, six at the bottom of the flange and one on top; these cut-aways enabled the tiles to slot into each other. The bottom cut-aways were all of Brodribb's type 1 (Brodribb 1997, fig. 7).

5.3.6 Two *tegulae* carried finger-smeared 'signatures', and one had a small paw print. Four fragments (two joining), all from deposit **306** (Artis's spoil heap material), had a white surface slip, perhaps evidence of the deliberate use of contrasting colours for roofing. The two joining fragments had a small, square nail hole near the central edge of the tile.

Imbrices

5.3.7 Diagnostic *imbrices* were retained in exactly the same numbers as the tegulae. The normal pattern is for *tegulae* to occur more commonly than *imbrices* (Brodribb 1987, 24). One fragment retained a complete surviving width of 185mm (graveyard soil **403**). None of the retained *imbrices* had any distinctive features.

Box flue tiles (tubuli)

5.3.8 This tile type was the most commonly occurring amongst the retained assemblage. In every case these have been identified on the basis of the characteristic combing or keying. In this instance the combing is generally at least two-directional; some examples have linear combing, and some curvilinear. However, one large, more complete fragment from deposit **305** (Artis's spoil heap material), with two surviving two corners (and therefore parts of three faces) showed combing on only one face. One of the plain faces preserved part of a possible vent or cut-out (which would have allowed the air to circulate laterally).

Flat fragments

5.3.9 The less diagnostic, flat fragments occurred in two broad size ranges: those of 30mm thickness or less, and those of over 30mm thickness. Within the thinner category, three fragments had square nail holes, and could therefore represent further *tegulae*, and two carried finger-smeared signatures. The latter feature, however, was clearly not confined to roof tiles, as a signature was also recorded on one thicker fragment (backfill of Artis's trench in Trench 3). One thicker tile appears to have been overfired (possible garden soil **104**).

5.4 Wall Plaster and *Opus Signinum*

5.4.1 Further building material was recovered in the form of painted wall plaster, and a single piece of *opus signinum*. The latter is a cement-like material, used to line water tanks, and for flooring; this piece came from the backfill of Artis's trench in Trench 3.

5.4.2 Most of the wall plaster came from Trench 4 (graveyard soils **402**, **403**), with smaller quantities from Trenches 1, 2 and 3, but quantities overall are low, and the pieces are small. Both monochrome (33) and polychrome (16) plaster is represented, but overall decorative schemes can only be surmised from the colour palette represented, which includes white, mid red, pale red or pink, dark red, ochre, turquoise, pale green, mid blue and dark blue. The polychrome pieces appear to derive mostly from bands or zones of two colours in various combinations (white/red, turquoise/pale green, red/pale green, dark blue/turquoise, red/ochre), sometimes divided by a thin stripe in a contrasting colour (usually white or dark red). Two very small pieces show part of a motif, perhaps floral, in red on a yellow ground.

5.4.3 One monochrome fragment (surface **214**) has an obtuse angled surface, but all other pieces are flat.

5.5 Stone Building Material

5.5.1 All of the stone recovered from the Site comprised building material. This includes 17 pieces of roof tile, all in the same stone type (local cornbrash); two have nail holes. Neither complete dimensions nor shape could be ascertained for any of the tiles. Two of the larger fragments have been retained as samples, while the remainder were discarded after recording.

5.5.2 One squared block was recovered (graveyard soil **403**), in the same stone type as the roof tile. One corner of this survives, and two flat edges, but no other sources.

5.5.3 The majority of the stone is made up of tesserae from tessellated pavements. These occur in three size ranges: 10-14mm; 20-25mm; and rectangular blocks with lengths up to 30mm. The medium-sized tesserae are the most common; these and the larger, rectangular blocks are nearly all of the same stone (local cornbrash), with a few from surface in blue lias, again local; one large group recovered from graveyard soil **402** includes several small portions of multiple tesserae still within their mortar bedding. A similar small portion of multiple small tesserae came from the backfill of Artis's trench in Trench 3; these are all in a non-local chalk (Upper Cretaceous, the nearest outcrop of which is 30 miles away). Only one other small tessera was recovered (graveyard soil **402**).

5.6 Glass

5.6.1 Only one of the six pieces of glass recovered is of Romano-British date (post-Roman soil horizon **203**). This is a small, clear, thin-walled body fragment with line-abraded decoration, probably from a drinking vessel of some kind.

5.6.2 The remaining glass is post-medieval, and includes both window and vessel glass.

5.7 Metalwork

Coins

5.7.1 Eight Roman coins were recovered (**Table 7**). All eight are small copper alloy issues of the late third and fourth centuries. In general, the condition of the coins is good, with only two coins. As a result of this, all eight could be identified to period. All came either from topsoil (Trenches 2 and 3), or from the backfill of Artis's trench in Trench 3.

5.7.2 The earliest coins recovered from the site are two *antoniniani* of Gordian III (Obj No 3, minted in AD 243 – 244) and Valerian I (Obj No 2, struck in AD 253 – 260). A third radiate *antoninianus,* probably an irregular radiate copy of a coin of Tetricus I was also recorded from the site (Obj No 1). These contemporary copies of 'official' coinage, also known as 'Barbarous Radiates' were probably struck in the late 3rd century AD to compensate for gaps in supply of coinage to Britain, supplying sufficient small change for the province's needs. It is unclear whether these copies were officially sanctioned, if at all, but they are common site finds, and seem to have circulated in the same fashion as officially struck coins.

5.7.3 The remaining five coins from the site all date to the 4th century AD, but do not appear to form a typical assemblage. These include a single coin from the House of Constantine (Obj No 9, struck in AD 331), one of the House of Valentinian (Obj No 6, a Gloria Novi Saeculi issue struck for Gratian at Arles between AD 367 and 375) and three coins of the House of Theodosius (Obj Nos 4, 7 and 8, all struck between AD 388 and 402). These belong to one of the last official issues of coinage delivered to Britain prior to Honorius' edict of AD 410 effectively brought Roman rule in Britain to an end. It is unusual for coins of the House of Theodosius to outnumber earlier fourth century coins in an assemblage, even a small one. The presence of these three coins strongly suggests that there was activity on the site late in the 4th century AD and into the 5th century.

5.7.4 The assemblage recovered from the site at Castor, though small, is interesting. Whilst none of the coins recovered are particularly unusual in themselves, the pattern of coin loss is interesting. The coins recovered all date to the late 3rd and 4th centuries AD, consistent with the use of the site in this period. Two points are of note, however. Late 3rd century assemblages tend to be dominated by later radiate *antoniniani*, particularly coins of the Gallic Empire and their barbarous imitations, whereas two of the three 3rd century coins from Castor pre-date this period. The 4th century coins are also interesting, with the coins of the House of Theodosius indicating that coin use on the site continued well into the late 4th century, and probably into the 5th century AD. Despite these anomalies, it is difficult to draw conclusions on the significance of this assemblage, given its size.

Copper alloy

5.7.5 Apart from the coins, two other copper alloy objects were recovered. One is a small, sub-circular object originally identified as a coin, but of unknown

function, while the second is a pin with a faceted cuboid head. This pin type is of later 3rd or 4th century date (Crummy 1983, 23, 28-9).

Lead

5.7.6 The lead consists entirely of small, irregular waste fragments, most of which came from the backfill of Artis's trench in Trench 3.

Iron

5.7.7 The ironwork consists largely of nails (29 examples). At least some of these, particularly from Trench 4, are likely to be post-medieval coffin nails. Trench 4 also produced 6 upholstery pins (used to secure fabric coverings to the outside of coffins), and one coffin grip (handle). The date range of this coffin furniture is likely to be 18th or 19th century. No other object types were identified, and nothing can be definitively dated as Romano-British.

5.8 ANIMAL BONE

Introduction

5.8.1 The assemblage comprises 91 fragments (or 2.198kg) of hand-recovered animal bone. Once conjoins are taken into account this figure falls to 67. Fifty-eight percent of fragments are from secure contexts and the rest are from modern contexts, including the backfill of an earlier excavation trench.

5.8.2 The following information was recorded where applicable: species, skeletal element, preservation condition, fusion data, tooth ageing data, butchery marks, metrical data, gnawing, burning, surface condition, pathology and non-metric traits. This information was directly recorded into a relational database (in MS Access) and cross-referenced with relevant contextual information.

Preservation condition

5.8.3 Bone preservation is consistent within and between contexts, and is generally good with little or no sign of physical weathering. Fragments displaying gnawing marks are fairly common (*c.*16%) in the assemblage and this suggests that bone waste was accessible to scavenging carnivores for a period prior to burial. No burnt bones are present.

Species represented

5.8.4 Thirty-seven percent of fragments are identifiable to species and element. The following species were identified and are listed in terms of their relative abundance: cattle (43%), sheep/goat (33%), pig (19%), horse (2.5%) and domestic fowl (2.5%).

Roman

5.8.5 A fragment of large mammal long bone shaft was recovered from the fill of ditch **113**, while a sheep/goat femur and a domestic fowl femur were recovered from mortar surface **214**.

Roman/post-Roman

5.8.6 Layer **203** yielded a loose cattle tooth and radius, while metalled surface **205** produced a cattle metapodial and sheep/goat mandible fragment.

Medieval

5.8.7 A small number of bone fragments were recovered from the fill of quarry pit **325**; identified bones include the mandible from a young sheep/goat aged between 6-12 months of age, a distal radius and distal metatarsal, as well as two fragments of distal pig humerus.

5.8.8 Identified bones from layer **104** include a cattle astragalus, humerus and two loose teeth, a sheep/goat metatarsal and scapula, two pig tibiae and a horse calcaneus.

Post-medieval/modern

5.8.9 Five identified bone fragments were recovered from layer **202**, these include fragments of cattle humerus and metatarsal, a sheep/goat radius and the mandible from a young sheep/goat aged between 1-2 years.

5.8.10 Seventeen identified bones were recovered from modern contexts and only livestock species are represented. The material includes a sheep/goat mandible from a 4-6 year old animal.

Quantity of detailed information available

5.8.11 Age information is available from ten post-cranial bones, six loose teeth and three mandibles. Eleven bones and teeth are complete enough to provide metrical data, while butchery marks were evident on only three bones. This information has been fully recorded and is available in the database.

Conclusions

5.8.12 The assemblage is small and includes only a few bones and teeth that are suitable for more detailed analysis to provide information on the age, size and conformation of livestock species. This data is insufficient for the purposes of interpretation and can provide little insight into the sites economy.

5.9 Other Finds

5.9.1 Other finds comprise very small quantities of clay tobacco pipe, ironworking slag, and oyster shell. Apart from the clay pipe (post-medieval), these finds cannot be closely dated.

5.10 Potential and further recommendations

5.10.1 This is a relatively small finds assemblage, of which a high proportion derived from topsoil or demolition contexts, or from the redeposited backfill of Artis's 19th century trenches. The range of material culture overall is fairly limited, only pottery, animal bone and building material (both ceramic and stone) occurring in any quantity. Evidence for lifestyle (vessel glass, jewellery) is extremely limited.

5.10.2 The finds have all been recorded to an appropriate archive level, and no further work is proposed. Certain categories (ceramic and stone building material) have been targeted for selective discard following recording.

6 DISCUSSION

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Limited success was achieved by the evaluation in identifying the layout, site phasing and development of the *Praetorium* identified by Edmund Artis in the 1820s. The basis for Time Team's work was the forthcoming article by Dr Stephen Upex which contains the reassessment of all previous works at Castor, and the current evaluation aimed to add to this corpus of work.

6.1.2 As four of the five trenches were located in areas that had been previously excavated, a paucity of stratified dateable material was recovered to aid in the phasing of the Site. The majority of the recovered finds came from post-Roman demolition/collapse deposits, or those associated with the backfilled trenches of previous excavations, and therefore cannot indicate when specific buildings were constructed.

6.1.3 What was clear, however, was that the plan produced by Artis in 1828, and the conjectured layout of the *Praetorium*, was for the most part accurate, reflecting the high standard of his recording. However, it has been through modern excavation and the reassessment of his work that the precise locations of the structures of his *Praetorium* have been mapped; the current evaluation has enabled the pinpointing of certain buildings within the complex. It did not prove possible, however, to confirm that the complex consisted of a single structure and not a series of detached buildings.

6.2 Romano-British

6.2.1 Trench 1 identified a single north-east – south-west orientated ditch (**113**) which could be the same as Ditch I from the 1957-8 excavations (Green *et al.* 1986-87, 186-87). The two features are comparable in the nature of their fills, and in the dating of the pottery found within them, from 2nd to 4th century AD (after reassessment of the illustrations of the recovered finds from Ditch I: *ibid*., fig. 10, nos. 2-8).

6.2.2 The works within Trench 2 in the Old Rectory garden followed on from the 1971 work of Wild and Dannell (Upex forthcoming) which identified a damaged tessellated pavement within Room B/23. Bedding layer **214**/**223** is likely to be associated with this now robbed floor. The north-west corner of Room B/24 was also identified, to the north-west of the 'union-jack' hypocaust in Room 28. The interior of Room B/24 was 1.79m deeper than the bedding layer in Room B/23, suggesting the presence of a hypocaust system linked to that in Room 28, in confirmation of Artis's records of a hypocaust in this part of the building.

6.2.3 At the western limit of the churchyard, a substantial structure was revealed within Trench 5. The massive nature of wall **504** clearly indicates a structure of more than a single storey. The conjectured plan of the *Praetorium* shows a symmetrical complex with Room 2 mirroring the supposed temple in Room 30, which showed steps leading into the temple. However this temple was identified as being a detached structure and not connected to the buildings within the Rectory garden (Green *et al.* 1986-87, 117).

6.2.4 Trench 4 was targeted on Room F/18 and, although excavation was hampered somewhat by the *in situ* graves, the 1733 reference to a tessellated pavement with burials set upon the floor was confirmed. The walls of the building, however, could not be traced.

6.2.5 Although Artis's plan, from the limited areas that have been tested, seems to have been for the most part accurate, the tendency to link small sections of wall revealed in small trenches together to form a grand building can lead to problems of interpretation. It is possible that the remains represent a number of detached structures and not a single building. The Greens (1986-7), for example, uncovered a detached 'temple', and the GPR survey did not identify connecting walls between areas of known structures to the north of the church (Rooms F/18 and 16). It may be, then, that Artis' *Praetorium* is not the single large and complex structure that he thought.

6.3 Post-Roman

6.3.1 The remains of a single post-Roman building was identified in Trench 1, in the form of a beam slot and posthole set into a rammed surface. Although no dateable material was recovered from these features, they certainly post-dated a ditch containing 2nd to 4th century material. It is probable that the structure was associated with those revealed directly to the north during the excavation by the Greens (Green *et al*. 1986-7).

6.3.2 The work in Trench 3 was hampered by the effects of previous excavations of Building G. The flue structures recorded by Artis were identified, but could not be securely dated. Evidence of later activity was indentified, showing that the Saxon to early medieval activity identified around the church in the form of sunken buildings and pits (Green *et al*. 1986-7) extended to the south. A large pit containing medieval pottery shows continuation of activity in the area following the supposed abandonment of the nunnery of 'Dormundescastre' in the late 9th century.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1.1 The results of the evaluation, although of interest, have added little to our overall understanding of the complex of Romano-British buildings at Castor. Detailed publication is not, therefore, considered appropriate, but a short summary of the results of the evaluation, as given here, will be presented to the *Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society*, for inclusion in the annual round-up of archaeology in the county.

8 ARCHIVE

8.1.1 The project archive, which includes drawn plans and sections, photographs, written records, artefacts and digital data is currently held at the Wessex Archaeology offices under the project code 74155. It is intended that the archive should ultimately be deposited with the Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery. The archive will be prepared for deposition following the Museum's own guidelines, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; Richards and Robinson 2000; Brown 2007).

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Table 1: Finds totals by material type and by trench (number / weight in grammes)

Material Type	Tr 1	Tr 2	Tr 3	Tr 4	Tr 5	Total
Pottery	100/1349	255/4271	93/1574	55/748	14/197	**517/8139**
Romano-British	*88/1256*	*252/4240*	*53/841*	*50/654*	-	***443/6991***
Saxon	*1/16*	-	*1/20*	-	-	***2/36***
Medieval	*11/77*	*1/12*	*30/446*	*3/59*	*5/70*	***54/736***
Post-Medieval	-	*2/19*	*9/267*	*2/35*	*9/127*	***22/448***
Ceramic Building Material	36/5751	29/8922	39/11905	19/3221	1/96	**124/29895**
Opus Signinum	-	-	1/264	-	-	**1/264**
Wall Plaster	2/54	11/1276	4/134	32/820	-	**49/2284**
Clay Pipe	-	-	9/20	-	9/20	**18/40**
Stone	18/5941	33/871	7/141	102/8369	2/60	**162/15382**
Glass	1/1	1/1	1/2	3/19	-	**6/23**
Slag	4/233	-	2/79	-	-	**6/312**
Metalwork		6	19	32	-	**57**
Coins	-	*4*	5	-	-	**9**
Copper Alloy	-	-	*1*	-	-	***1***
Iron	-	*1*	*4*	*32*	-	***37***
Lead	-	*1*	*9*	-	-	***10***
Animal Bone	24/769	30/695	26/551	11/183	-	**91/2198**
Shell	-	6/211	-	1/20	-	**7/231**

Table 2: Pottery totals by ware type

Date	Ware type	No. sherds	Weight (g)
ROMAN	Amphora	2	30
	Black Burnished ware (BB1)	8	126
	Colchester colour coat	2	16
	?East Midlands greyware	17	198
	Mica-dusted ware	1	3
	Misc. colour coat	18	382
	Nene Valley colour coat (LNVCC)	196	3160
	Nene Valley creamware (LNVCW)	26	498
	Nene Valley greyware (LNVGW)	50	590
	Nene Valley mortaria	6	292
	Oxfordshire colour coated ware	2	8
	Pink grogged ware	1	20
	Greyware	39	526
	Oxidised ware	3	18
	Shelly ware	69	1116
	Rhenish ware (Trier type)	2	6
	South Gaulish samian	1	2
	sub-total Roman	*443*	*6991*
SAXON	Oolitic ware	1	16
	Sandy ware	1	20
	sub-total early/middle Saxon	*2*	*36*
MEDIEVAL	Ely-type ware	8	72
	Lyveden-Stanion ware	1	21
	Misc. sandy wares	5	84
	Medieval shelly ware	25	414
	Stamford ware	11	73
	sub-total late Saxon/medieval	*54*	*736*
POST-MED	Creamware	1	3
	English stoneware	4	68
	Redware	12	346
	Refined whiteware	3	16
	White earthenware	1	14
	White saltglaze	1	1
	sub-total post-medieval	*22*	*448*
	OVERALL TOTAL	**517**	**8139**

Table 3: Quantity of pottery by trench (sherd count)

Trench	Rim	Body	Base	Total	%	Wt (g)	%
Trench 1	22	67	4	88	19.9	1256	18.0
Trench 2	48	175	30	252	56.9	4240	60.7
Trench 3	5	47	2	53	12.0	841	12.0
Trench 4	11	38	1	50	11.3	654	9.4
Site	**86**	**327**	**37**	**443**		**6991**	

Table 4: Percentages of the main fabrics by trench

Fabric	Trench 1		Trench 2		Trench 3		Trench 4	
	No.	*Wt. (g)*	*No.*	*Wt. (g)*	*No.*	*Wt. (g)*	*No.*	*Wt. (g)*
LNVCC	21.51	20.93	50.20	46.24	48.15	62.47	46	55.35
LNVGW	23.66	17.67	10.28	7.98	3.70	2.29	-	-
LNVCW	17.20	25.74	1.58	1.77	5.56	4.81	6	7.34
LNVCW (mortaria)	1.07	4.81	1.58	3.78	1.85	17.50	-	-
BB1	-	-	3.16	2.94	-	-	-	-
Shell	5.38	9.61	15.02	17.13	22.22	9.15	30	28.13
Misc. grey	12.90	8.68	10.28	13.11	12.96	4.81	14	7.95
EM grey	9.68	6.98	3.16	2.52	-	-	-	-

Table 5: Fabric totals from surface 214

Fabric	Rim	Body	Base	Total	Wgt
LNVCC	-	27	2	29	196
LNVGW	1	6	-	7	148
LNVCW	-	-	1	1	52
Grey cc?	2	-	5	7	112
Grey	-	7	-	7	128
Trier	-	1	-	1	4
BB1	1	-	-	1	12
Total	**4**	**41**	**8**	**53**	**652**

Table 6: Ceramic Building Material (CBM) totals by type

CBM type	Number
Box flue	31
Flat fragment <40mm	24
Flat fragment >40mm	4
Imbrex	29
Tegula	29
Tessera	3
Medieval ridge tile	2
Total	**122**

Table 7: The coins

Obj	*Context*	*Denom*	*Issuer*	*Decription*	*Mint*	*Issue Date*	*References*
1	201	Cu Alloy Antoninianus	Radiate Copy	Radiate copy. Reverse: Pax l with staff. (PAX) AVG. v stylised	Unknown	AD 270 - 296	
2	201	Cu Alloy Antoninianus	Valerian I	Reverse. Annona l, with cornucopis, modius at feet. ANN- (ONA) -AVGG	Rome	AD 253 - 260	RIC V, Part I, Valerian I, 70
3	302	Silvered Cu Alloy Antoninianus	Gordian III	Silvered and badly corroded. Fortuna seated l holding rudder and cornucopia, sheel below seat. Fort redux or Fortuna redux type	Rome	AD 243 - 244	As RIC IV, Part III, Gordian III 143/144
4	302	Cu Alloy Nummus	Emperor of the House of Theodosius	Victory l with wreath. Victoria Auggg type	Unknown	AD 388 - 402	As LRBC II, 162
6	301	Cu Alloy Nummus	Gratian	Emperor facing, holding labrarum and shield. GLORIANO-(VI SAECVLI). Mint Mark: OF | I / CON*	Arles	AD 367 - 375	LRBC II, 523a
7	301	Cu Alloy Nummus	Emperor of the House of Theodosius	Victory l with wreath. Victoria Auggg type	Unknown	AD 388 - 402	As LRBC II, 162
8	301	Cu Alloy Nummus	Emperor of the House of Theodosius	Victory l, trophy on shoulder, dragging captive. -PVB- Salus Reipublicae or Salus Reipublice type.	Unknown	AD 388 - 402	As LRBC II, 796
9	201	Cu Alloy Nummus	Emperor of the House of Constantine	Urbs Roma/Wolf and Twins. s Mint Mark: TRS.	Trier	AD 331	

Key: LRBC – Late Roman Bronze Coinage, Vols I and II
RIC – Roman Imperial Coinage Vols I - X

APPENDIX 1: TRENCH AND CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

bgl = below ground level
a SL = above sea level

Trench 1			**Centre line co-ordinates**	NGR 512442.60, 298464.38 512444.97, 298462.39
Dimensions: 3.2m x 1.20m		**Max Depth:** 1.70m	**Ground Surface**	10.77m a OD

Context	**Description**		**Depth (bgl)**
101	Topsoil	Current topsoil and turf of area of grass at the southern limit of the south side of the graveyard of the church of St. Kyneburga. Mid to dark grey-brown silty loam.	0-0.15
102	Surface	Deliberate dump of gravel to form pathway at the southern limit of the graveyard. Associated with stone edging **103** to form pathway.	0.15-0.23m
103	Structure	Single course of unworked limestone blocks, unmortared; edge of gravel pathway formed from gravel layer **102**.	0.10m high
104	Layer	Very dark brown-black silty loam with rare small limestone inclusions. Very organic silty loam, possible old agricultural/ horticultural/ garden soil. Mix of some hillwash material from upslope and topsoil material. Sealed by modern pathway structure formed of **102** and **103**. Contains predominantly 11th century pottery.	0.23-0.58m
105	Layer	Mixed and mottled mid and very light yellow silty loam with common small patches of mortar. Mixed deposit of dumped and un-recycled stone and mortar, intermixed with overlying garden soil **104**. Sealed by **104** and overlies **108** and **110**. Dumped material from structure demolished nearby.	0.17m thick
106	Surface	Rammed deposit of mid orange silty sand clay with common dumps of mortar. This rammed surface has been cut by beam slot **107** and posthole **109** to form part of timber building. Overlies **111** and cut by **107** and **109**.	0.16m thick
107	**Cut**	**Cut of beam slot to receive a sill beam for timber-framed building associated with posthole 109 and rammed earthen floor 106 through which the beam slot cuts. Recorded as linear with irregular sides and flat base; 1.28m long by 0.50m wide maximum and 0.17m deep. Infilled with 108. Probably early medieval in date.**	**0.17m deep**
108	Fill	Dark grey-brown silty clay with common small limestone inclusions, single fill of beam slot **107**. Material derived from the surrounding ground surface and the demolished building.	0.17m thick
109	**Cut**	**Cut of sub-circular post hole; vertical sides and flat base; 0.36m in diameter and 0.32m deep, infilled with 110. No sign of post-pipe or deliberate packing material. Cuts through rammed surface 106; associated with beam slot 107 to form timber-framed building. Probably early medieval in date.**	**0.30m deep,**
110	Fill	Dark yellow-brown silty clay with no inclusions. Homogenous fill of posthole **109**. No evidence of post-pipe or packing.	0.30m thick
111	Fill	Mixed and mottled mid yellow /orange-brown with very light yellow silty clay with abundant broken stone roofing tiles. Upper fill of large ditch **113**, deliberate deposit of material used to consolidate and level top of ditch **113** prior to deposition of surface **106**. Sealed by **106** and overlies **114** within **113**.	0.14m thick
112	Old ground surface	Mid grey-brown with mottled yellow patches. Silty loam with rare small limestone gravels. Possible old ground surface which	0.20m thick

		overlies **116** and cut through by ditch **113**.	
113	**Cut**	**Cut of NE - SW aligned ditch, cuts through old ground surface layer 112; filled with 115, 114 and 111. Only western side of ditch observed; overall shape and size not known. Recorded as 0.60m long by 2.03m+ wide by 0.91m deep, with steep stepped western side and flat base. Roman pottery recovered from throughout fills. May be continuation of earliest feature recorded in Green and Green's area to north of Trench 1. It does appear to align on the eastern of two parallel crop marks which extend from the south and Normangate Field.**	**0.91m deep**
114	Fill	Mid yellow-brown/orange silty clay with rare small limestone inclusions and flint gravels. Large homogenous deposit, natural infilling deposit of material derived from the feature edges and the surrounding ground surface. Repeated depositions over time. Overlies **115** and sealed by **111** in ditch **113**.	0.58m thick
115	Fill	Mid orange-brown sandy clay with occasional flint gravels. Earliest fill of ditch **113**, though not primary fill. Material derived from the feature edges. Pottery suggests early medieval backfilling.	0.22m thick
116	Layer	Mixed and mottled mid to light brown silty loam interpreted as a possible old buried ground surface or sub soil associated with **112**.	0.19m thick
117	Natural	Natural geology, sandy silt and gravel rich. Mid orange.	-

Trench 2		**Centre line co-ordinates**	NGR 512528.55,298525.66 512534.39, 298520.72
Dimensions: 7.4m x 2m	**Max Depth:** 2.30m	**Ground Surface**	21.39m aOD

Context	**Description**		**Depth (bgl)**
201	Topsoil	Current topsoil and turf of area of lawned garden, mid grey silty loam with small flint gravels and limestone fragments.	0-0.20m
202	Layer	Mid brown loam, very loose with frequent small limestone fragments. Below **201** and sealing **203**. Post-medieval levelling layer.	0.45m thick
203	Layer	Grey-brown compact loam with frequent small fragments of mortar. Revealed throughout trench and cut by modern service. Interpreted as post-Roman soil horizon. Overlies **216**.	0.25m thick
204	Layer	Yellow-brown clay silt upper fill of pre-Artis robber trench **209** removing walls **212** and **220**. Overlies **210**.	-
205	Surface	Metalled surface formed of small irregular pebbles and crushed Roman CBM, revealed in the eastern half of the trench and cut by robber cut **209**. **205** appears to be an external surface, distinctively different to **214**. Floor bedding layer observed to the west, but relationship between the two could not be observed due to modern electricity cable. Overlies **223**. Unclear if this surface contemporary with walls **212** and **220** or a later post-Roman metalling.	0.10m thick
206	**Cut**	**Cut of Artis's 1820s excavation trench, cuts through 204, filled with 208 and 207. Only partially revealed; 2.2m long by 1.40m wide and 1.1m deep. *In situ* archaeology identified at base of Artis's trench.**	**1.1m deep**
207	Fill	Grey-brown silty clay, loose rubble comprising small to medium fragments of limestone. Upper fill of Artis's trench **206**, overlies **208** and sealed by **201**.	0.61m thick
208	Fill	Dark brown-grey silty clay; lower fill of Artis's trench **206**. Sealed by **207**.	0.41m thick
209	**Cut**	**Post-Roman robber cut, removing walls 212 and 220. Backfilled with 204, 210 and 211. Cuts 205.**	**1.20m deep**

210	Fill	Mid reddish-yellow clay silt with frequent mortar and limestone fragments. Mixed rubble backfill of robber trench **209**. Sealed by **204** and overlies **211**.	0.40m thick
211	Fill	Mixed yellow mortar and rubble fill of **209**. Sealed by **210**.	0.80m thick
212	Wall	NW-SE aligned limestone block wall revealed at the base of Trench 2. Bonded to and contemporary with **220** to form the NW corner of building. 0.70m wide and 0.80m high and formed of roughly hewn limestone blocks bonded in flat horizontal courses. Seven courses observed. Potentially associated with surface **223/214**. Depth of walls compared to floor surface would imply these were associated with hypocaust system located to south-east.	0.80m high
213	Layer	Red/black clay silt layer, mixed post-demolition layer which overlies **218**. Probably Artis's backfill.	0.70m thick
214	Surface	Rammed yellow mortar layer with common crushed Roman CBM, interpreted as internal bedding layer for overlying floor. Identical to **223** in eastern half of trench. Overlies **217** and cut by **215**.	0.18m thick
215	**Cut**	**Cut of partially exposed shallow robber cut for the removal of NW SE aligned wall bordering floor surface 114. 1.30m long by 0.20m+ wide and 0.16m deep. Very shallow – possible internal non-load bearing partition wall?**	**0.16m deep.**
216	Fill	Single fill of **215**, grey-brown silty loam with frequent small limestone mortar inclusions.	0.16m thick
217	Layer	Mid brown silty clay layer with frequent small flint gravels. Very compact band of coarse gravel probably utilised as bedding/levelling layer for floor surface **214/223**. Overlies **221**.	0.07m thick
218	Layer	Yellow-brown clay, thin band of clay containing frequent crushed CBM fragments, possible evidence of the robbing of underlying floor surfaces. Sealed by **213** and overlies **219**. Possibly Artis's backfill.	0.05m thick
219	Surface	Crushed limestone mortar layer at base of trench, probable base on which hypocaust constructed (conjectural as trench placed to investigate site of hypocaust identified by Artis).	-
220	Wall	NE - SW aligned wall forming corner with wall **212**, heavily truncated probably following Artis's excavation, constructed of roughly hewn limestone blocks in yellow mortar.	-
221	Natural	Band of natural gravel. Sealed by **217** and overlies **222**	-
222	Natural	Natural limestone bedrock.	-
223	Layer	Potentially equal to **214** but this not proven; possible bedding layer for internal floor but now overlain by **205**.	-

Trench 3		**Centre line co-ordinates**	NGR 512374.56, 298447.03 512381.92, 298439.66
Dimensions: 10m by 1.6m	**Max Depth:** 1.9m	**Ground Surface**	9.29m aOD

Context	**Description**	**Depth (bgl)**
301	Topsoil	Current topsoil and turf of school playing field. Mid black-grey sandy clay with rare small stones. Overlies **302**.	0.01m thick
302	Layer	Dark grey-brown clay sand deliberate deposit, infill of Artis's trench, levelled and disturbed during landscaping of school playing field. Overlies **303**.	0.72m thick
303	Fill	Mid grey-brown sandy clay with common subangular limestone fragments and CBM. Backfill of Artis's trench. Seals	0.74m thick

		backfill deposit **304**.	
304	Fill	Mid grey-brown sandy clay, backfill of Artis's trench. Fills void between flue structure **322** and overlies *in situ* material **324** at base of flue. Not seen in section.	0.30m thick.
305	Layer	Mottled mid yellow-brown slightly sandy silt with common Roman pottery and CBM. Initially thought to represent *in situ* Roman deposit, cut by post-Roman features, but later became clear that (305) was most likely to be remains of Artis's spoilheap material spread across *in situ* archaeology. Overlies **306**.	0.22m thick
306	Layer	Mottled grey-brown and yellow-brown silty loam Initially thought to represent *in situ* Roman deposit, but subsequently became clear that **306** most likely to be the remains of Artis's spoilheap material spread across *in situ* archaeology. Overlies **307**.	0.15m thick
307	Layer	Mid brownish-yellow sandy silt. Further Artis deposits, sealed by **306**.	-
308	Layer	Dark grey-brown friable silty loam, remains of degraded modern wooden post.	-
309	Layer	Mixed yellow and reddish-orange clay with small stone inclusions, post packing around wooden post.	-
310	**Cut**	**Cut of modern posthole associated with greenhouses and or 19th century cottages. Cuts 305.**	
311	Layer	Mottled mid yellow-brown and orange-brown sandy clay with silt patches. Common small to medium with occasional mortar flecks and tile, glass fragments and rare pottery, fill of rectangular feature **328**, probable modern.	
312	VOID	VOID	VOID
313	Layer	Light brown-grey silty sand; upper fill of possible Saxo-Norman quarry pit or robbing event. Overlies **314** within cut **325**.	
314	Layer	Mid brown-grey sandy silt with poorly sorted subangular limestone fragments, lowest fill of quarry pit **325**. Sealed by **313**.	
315	Layer	Mid grey-brown sandy clay rubble rich backfill, probably modern backfill which fills **326**, later feature cutting Artis's backfill material. Revealed below **302**.	0.76m thick
316	Layer	Mid grey-brown silty sand, pre-Roman deposit, possibly old ground surface cut through by **319**, construction trench for wall **317**.	0.64m thick
317	Wall	NE - SW aligned limestone block wall constructed in herringbone bond and recorded for two courses, to a height of 0.50m and 1.60m long by 0.35m wide. Constructed within trench **319** with material **318** packed in against it. Bonded to **322**, as part of flue structure.	0.50m high
318	Layer	Mid yellow-brown sandy clay infill deposit against wall **317** within construction cut **319**. Post-dates wall **317** and cut through by quarry pit **325**.	1m
319	**Cut**	**Construction cut for wall 317; cuts through 316, contains wall 317 and backfill material 318.**	**0.55m**
320	**Cut**	**Cut of Artis's trench, excavated to reveal hypocaust flue structure 322. Backfilled with 304, 303 and 302.**	**1.10m deep**
321	Layer	Dark yellow-brown silty clay with frequent small sub rounded-angular gravels, with tile fragments and mortar. Rubble-rich deposit probably associated with robbing of stonework from flue system **322**, sealed by Artis's backfill (within cut **320**) and	-

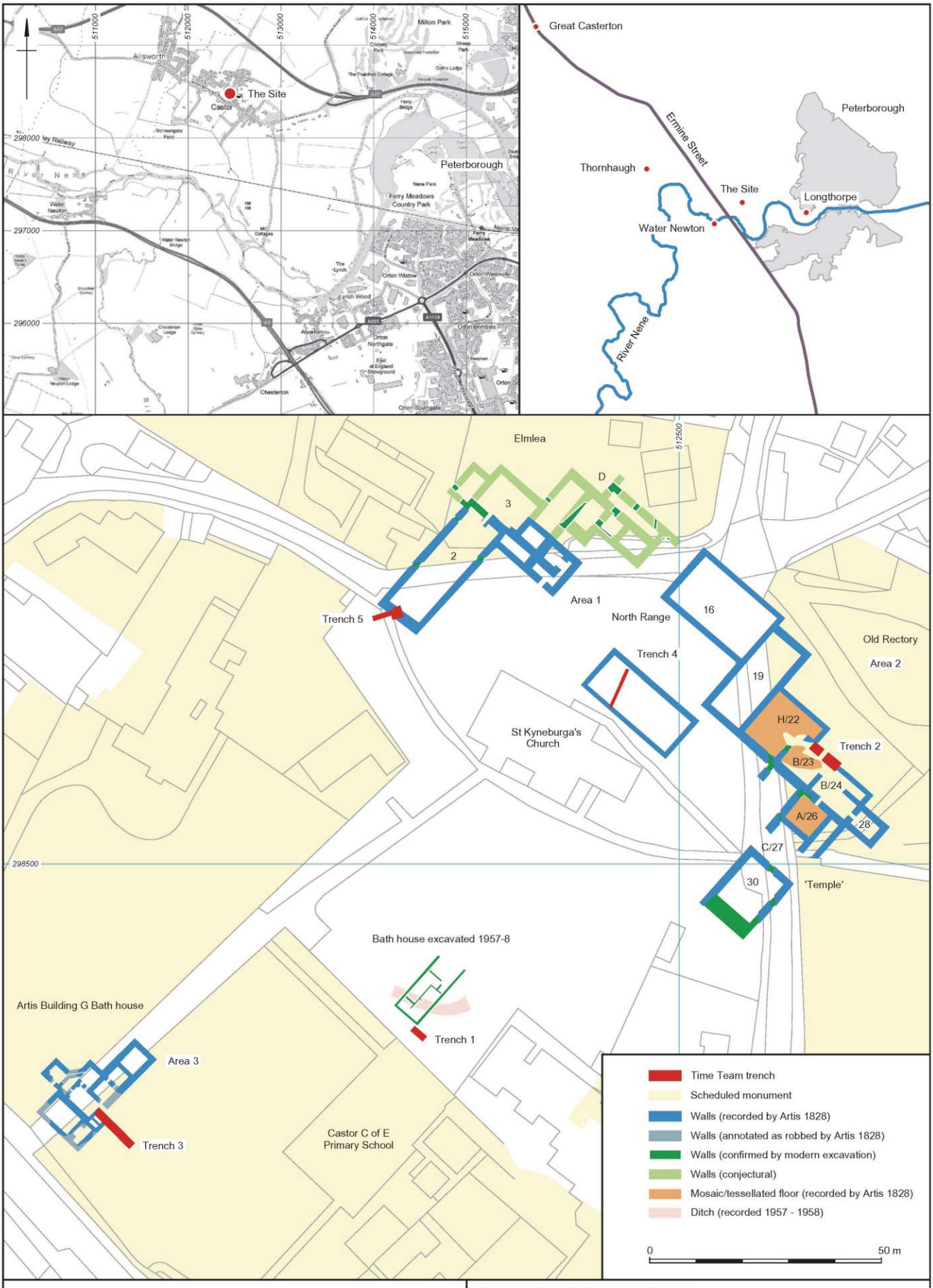
		quite different from this. Cut by **320**.	
322	Structure	Represents fragmentary remains of flue system exposed by Artis. 2.60m long by 0.50m wide and 0.40m high, comprises two parallel walls forming either side of flue, with connecting wall at western end. Constructed of limestone slabs in herringbone style, three surviving courses observed in SW and NE walls and one course at the NW.	0.40m high
323	Layer	Mid to dark orange-brown with dark grey-brown patches, sandy silt with occasional moderate, subangular limestone fragments. Part of Artis's backfill, within cut **320**.	
324	Layer	Mid orange-brown silty clay with occasional subrounded gravels, deliberate bedding layer on which flue structure **322** constructed.	
325	**Cut**	**Cut of large medieval quarry pit, or pit excavated to investigate/rob the Romano-British structure. Contains 313 and 314, 2.70m long+ by 1.60m wide + and over 1m deep.**	**1m deep +**
326	**Cut**	**Modern feature cut through Artis's backfill 305. Filled with 315.**	**0.76m deep**
327	Layer	Mid brown-yellow and brown, mixed and mottled compact silty clay, revealed following overcutting of feature **328**, sealed by **329**, not in section. Possibly fill of **325**.	
328	**Cut**	**Cut of rounded terminus of possible 19th or 20th century feature, possible garden bedding trench associated with greenhouses. 2.40m long by 0.60m wide and 0.54m deep, steep, near vertical sides and flat base. Cuts 305; filled with 311.**	**0.54m deep**
329	Layer	Mid brown-yellow, mixed and mottled deposit of slightly sandy silt, only partially revealed following the overcutting of **328**. Seals **327**, overlain by **306**. Possibly fill of pit **325**.	0.10m thick +
330	Layer	Mid blackish-brown sandy loam, levelling layer during landscaping for the playing fields.	0.15m thick
331	Deposit	Mid orange-yellow silty sand with frequent large, subangular limestone fragments. Part of wall **317**; heavily disturbed and slumped from the extent of the wall, possibly as result of Artis's excavation.	0.24m thick

Trench 4		**Centre line co-ordinates**	NGR 512485.05,298533.61 512488.91, 298542.03
Dimensions: 9m by 0.45m	**Max Depth:** 1m	**Ground Surface**	18.79m aOD

Context	**Description**		**Depth (bgl)**
401	Topsoil	Current topsoil and grass of graveyard.	0.18m thick
402	Layer	Mixed and mottled dark brown black silty loam. This material has been constantly reworked as new burials are interred within the grave yard. The deposit was separated into arbitrary divisions so that any human remains identified could be reburied in the location from which they came. **402** is equivalent to **403**, **404** and **405**. There were considerable disarticulated human remains recovered as well as numerous tesserae, indicating that tessellated floors or mosaics had been impacted upon by the burials.	0.80m thick
403	Layer	Equivalent to **402.**	-
404	Layer	Equivalent to **402**.	-

405	Layer	Equivalent to **402**.	-
406	Layer	Light yellow brown compact silty clay bedding layer for mosaic floor **407**, revealed following disturbance by later burials.	0.10m thick
407	Mosaic surface	Mosaic or tessellated floor surface observed at the base of Trench 4, set into bedding layer **406**. Had been heavily impacted upon by the insertion of burials in later periods. Grave **414** had cut through the mosaic while others (**412** and **408**) had been set on top, as was recorded in the 1700s.	0.02m thick
408	**Grave cut**	**Grave cut, filled with 409.**	
409	Fill	Fill of grave including skeleton (not lifted).	
410	**Grave cut**	**Grave cut, filled with 411.**	
411	Fill	Fill of grave including skeleton (not lifted).	
412	**Grave cut**	**Grave cut, filled with 413.**	
413	Fill	Fill of grave including skeleton (not lifted).	
414	**Grave cut**	**Grave cut, filled with 415.**	
415	Fill	Fill of grave including skeleton (not lifted).	
416	Charnel group	Charnel group of disarticulated human remains.	

Trench 5			**Centre line co-ordinates**	
Dimensions: 1.2m by 1.2m		**Max Depth:** 0.36m	**Ground Surface**	113.50m a SL
Context	**Description**			**Depth (bgl)**
501	Layer	Modern overburden and pathway surface leading to the church. Seals **502**.		0.12m thick
502	Layer	Compact layer of stone and mixed material, assumed to be upper layer of Artis's trench. Sealed below **501**; overlies **503**.		0.15m thick
503	Layer	Mixed and mottled sandy loam deposit, banked up against wall **504**; result of Artis's excavation.		1.60m thick
504	Wall	NW-SE aligned large limestone wall; 1.80m long by 2m wide and 0.20m high, outer faces constructed in herringbone style of limestone slabs with yellow sandy mortar; inner rubble core upon stepped foundation **505** which is 0.46m wider than wall.		0.20m high
505	Foundation	Limestone foundation for wall **504**; five courses herringbone style; 0.55m wider than **504** on south-western side. 1.40m + thick.		1.40m + high



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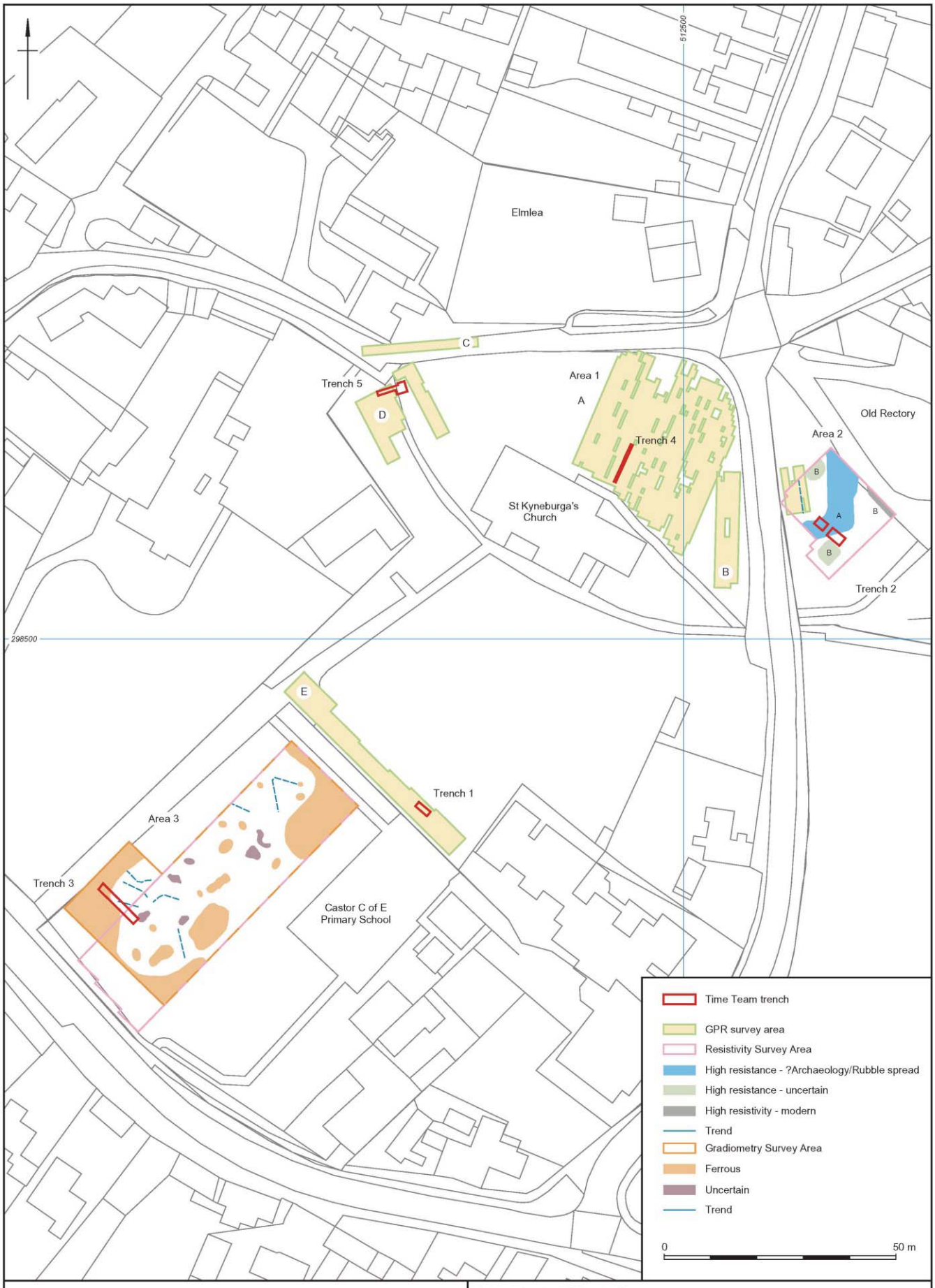
Site and trench locations

Figure 1



Geophysical data courtesy of GSB Prospection LTD

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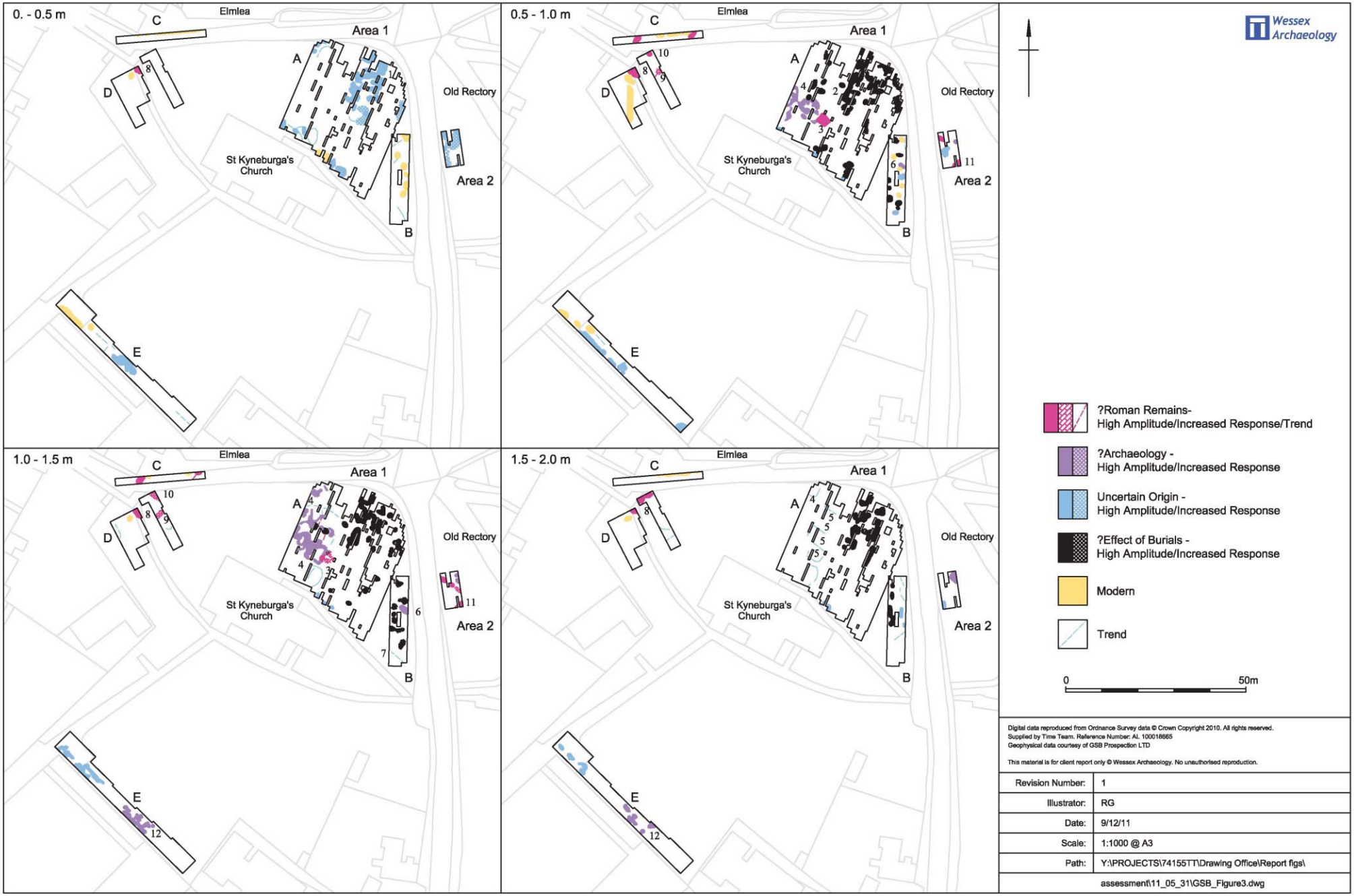
Geophysical survey area and results

Figure 3



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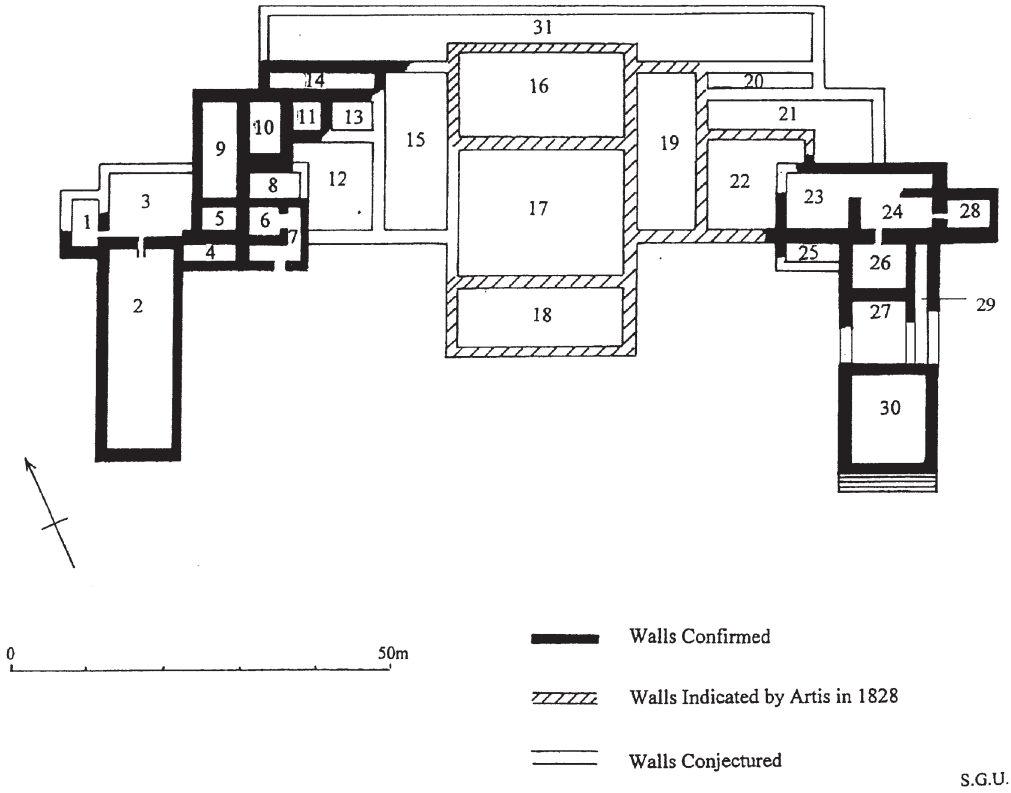
Summary GPR interpretations

Figure 4

Castor Praetorium
Suggested Reconstruction of North Range



Wessex Archaeology	Reproduced by courtesy of Stephen Upex		
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Suggested Reconstruction of the *Praetorium* of Castor by Stephen Upex Figure 5

Ditch 1

Bathhouse excavated 1957-58
(after Green & Green 1986-87)

Pl. 1

112

113

113

Trench 1

Pl. 2

114

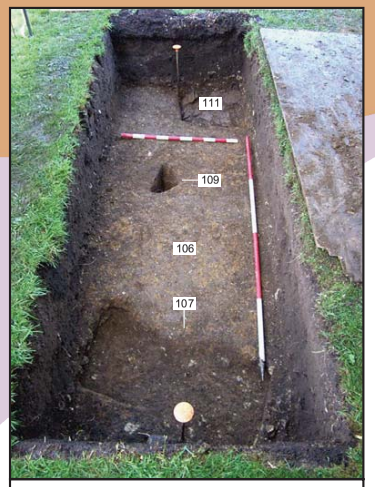

Plate 1: Post-Roman beam slot 107 and post-hole 109 cutting 106, from the north-west.

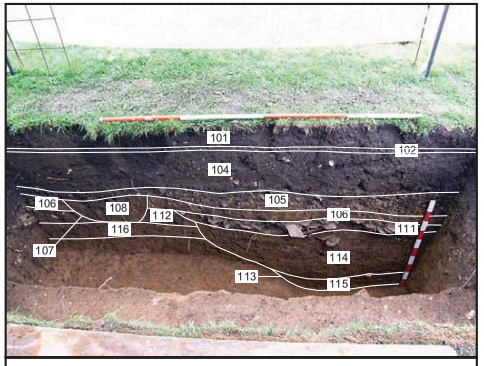

Plate 2: South-east facing section of Trench 1

Wessex Archaeology

Time Team trench

Walls (confirmed by modern excavation)

Extrapolated ditch 1957-58

Extrapolated ditch Time Team 2010

Direction of plate

0 1 2 m

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Trench 1: plan and photographs

Figure 6

Pl. 3

414

407

412

Pl. 4

410

Room F/18

408

Trench 4

Plate 3: Trench 4 from the north-east

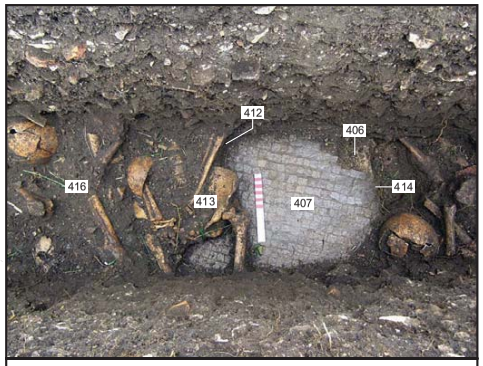

Plate 4: Detail of mosaic 407, graves 412 and 414, and charnel group 416

Wessex Archaeology

Time Team trench

Walls (recorded by Artis 1828)

Direction of plate

0 1 2 m

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Trench 4: plan and photographs

Figure 7

Plate 6: Trench 5 from the west, showing wall 504 and footing 505

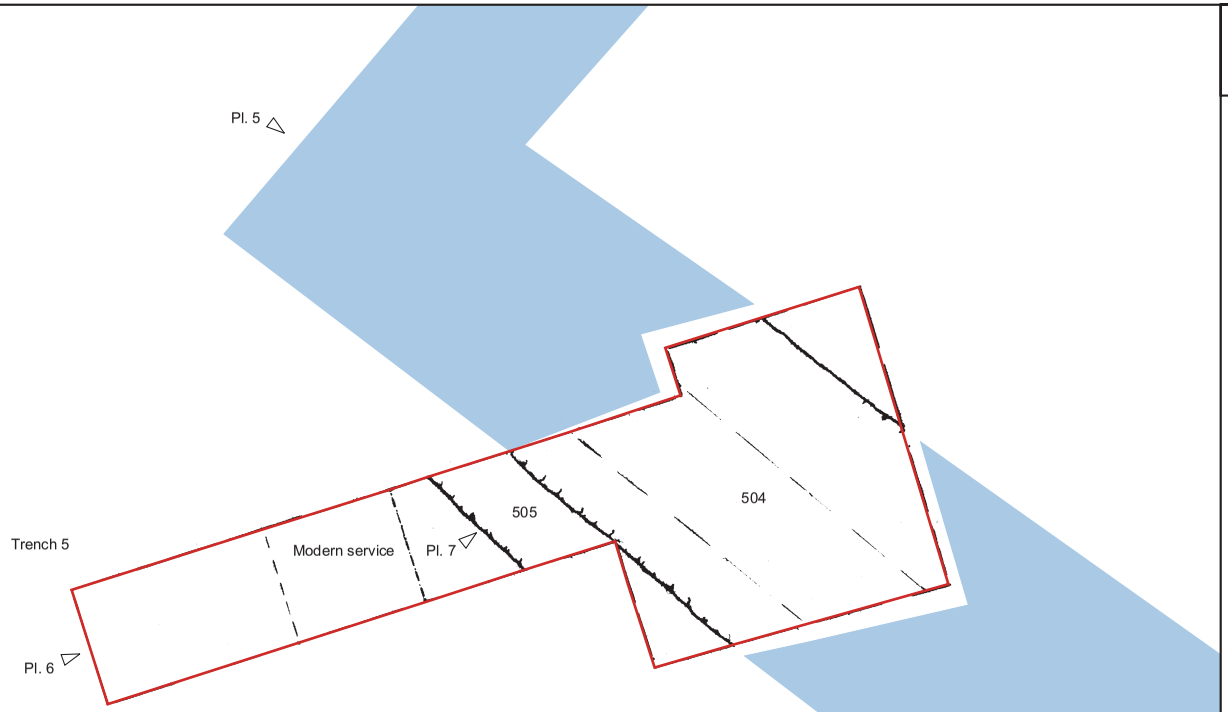

Plate 7: South west facing elevation of wall 504 and footing 505

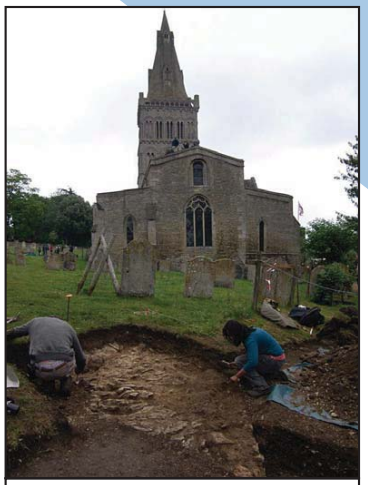

Plate 5: Trench 5 from the north-west

Wessex Archaeology

Time Team trench

Walls (recorded by Artis 1828)

Direction of plate

0 1 2 m

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Trench 5: plan and photographs

Plate 9: Trench 2 from the south-east

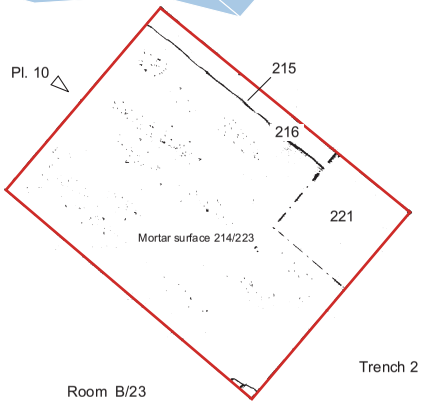

Plate 10: Trench 2 from the north-west

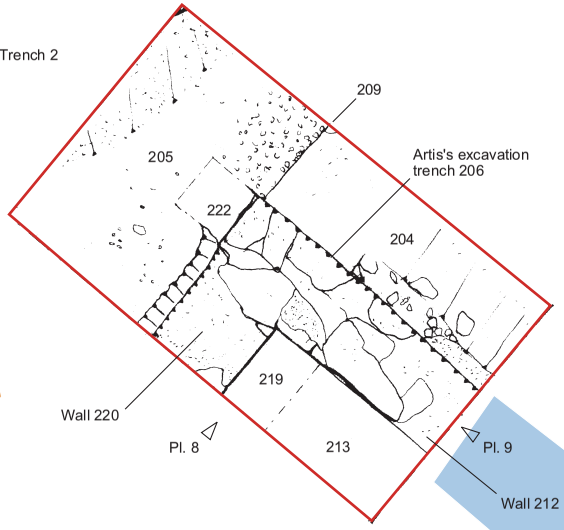

Plate 8: walls 220 and 212

Wessex Archaeology

Time Team trench

Walls (recorded by Artis 1828)

Mosaic/tessellated floor

Direction of plate

0 1 2 m

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Trench 2: plan and photographs

Figure 9

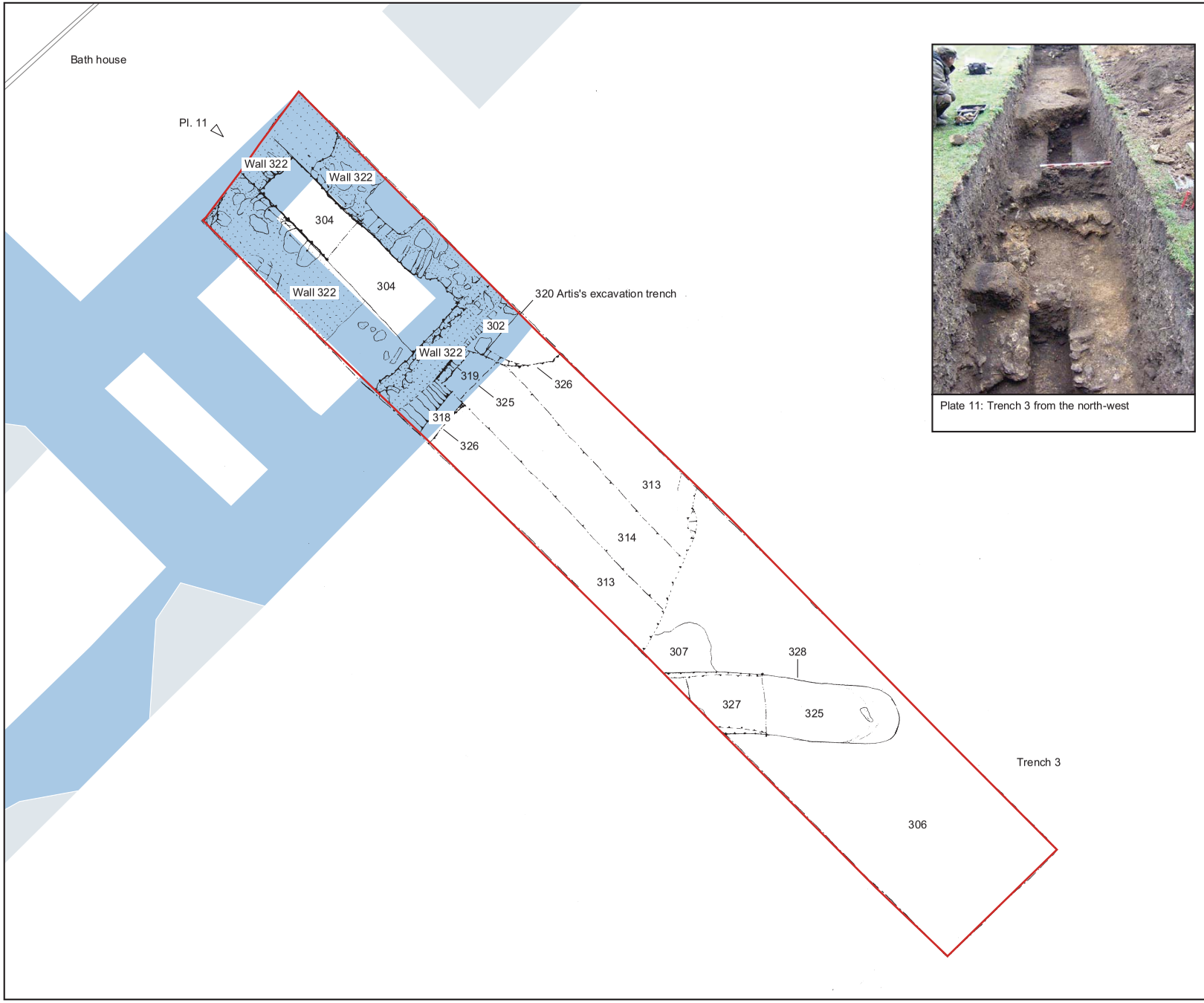

Plate 11: Trench 3 from the north-west

Wessex Archaeology

Time Team trench

Walls (recorded by Artis 1828)

Walls (annotated as robbed by Artis 1828)

Direction of plate

0 1 2 m

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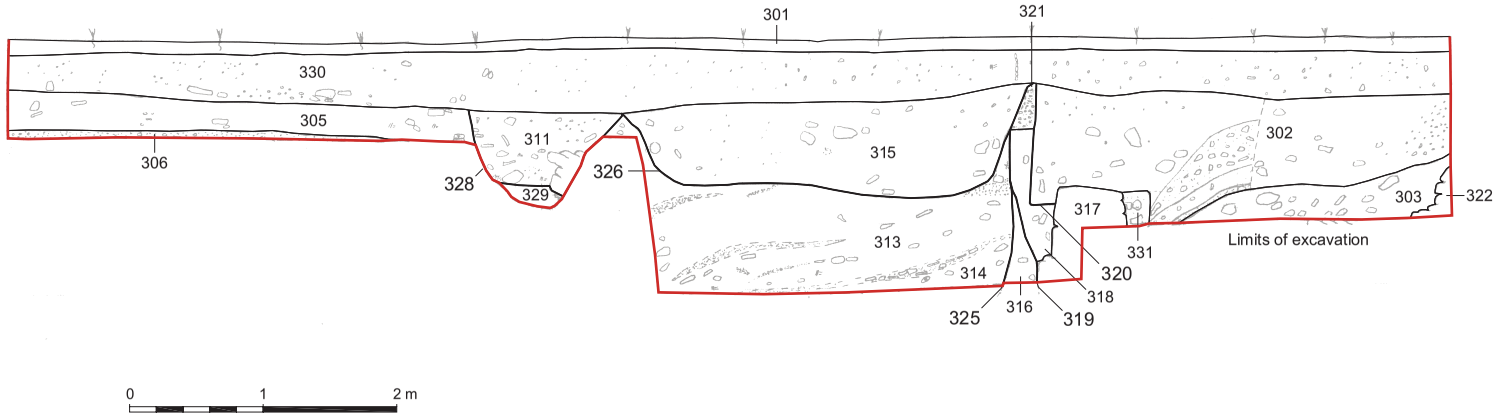
Detail of Trench 3

Figure 10



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North facing section of Trench 3

Figure 11

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