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Cannington Court, Cannington, Somerset.

Post-Excavation Assessment Report
with Proposals for Analysis and Publication



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March 2015



Cannington Court, Cannington, Somerset

Post-Excavation Assessment Report with Proposals for Analysis and Publication

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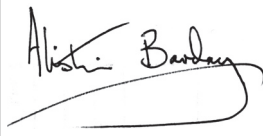
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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by EDF Energy to undertake a programme of archaeological works, comprising excavation and watching brief, at Cannington Court, Cannington, Somerset, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 325745 139570. This was carried out prior to and during the renovation of the Grade I listed former Priory and the restoration of the grounds by EDF Energy for a new training facility. The work followed an earlier programme of archaeological evaluation and historical building recording.

Domesday records that in 1066 Cannington was a royal manor with an estate belonging to Cannington church, this church, possibly of Anglo-Saxon origin, being replaced by the current St Mary's Church in the 14th century. In 1138 Robert de Courcy founded Cannington Priory for Benedictine nuns. At the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1536 the Priory was granted by Henry VIII to Edward Rogers and his family who greatly altered the Priory to create a grand Elizabethan Manor House, before it passed to the Clifford family towards the end of the 17th century.

The excavations in 2013–14 were concentrated to the west of Cannington Court, the former lay wing of the Priory, comprising four ranges with medieval origins arranged around a rectangular courtyard. The lay wing was situated to the north of the probable site of the Priory church, which may have had a small cloister to the north, and been subsequently linked to the north side of the chancel of the later St Mary's Church. The main excavation areas also lay immediately in front of the new, Elizabethan entrance to Cannington Court. These excavations were augmented by a number of watching brief areas both inside and outside the former Priory lay wing which later formed the core of the Elizabethan house.

The excavations were successful in identifying several phases of activity related to the foundation and development of the Priory, as well as its subsequent post-Dissolution use. The earliest archaeological remains appear to predate the Priory foundation and comprised a series of small, 11th–12th-century pits and a ditch which may have formed part of an enclosure surrounding the postulated site of a Late Saxon church, the probable precursor to St Mary's.

The early ditch was cut into by a lime kiln, part of the ditch fill being removed to create the two opposing flues of the kiln. This was probably one of several such kilns located in the immediately vicinity of the Priory lay wing, built to supply lime for use in the construction of the religious complex.

A small part of a floor of encaustic tiles was exposed during renovation work at the south-east corner of the existing Cannington Court building. This floor, of probable 14th-century date, is likely to have lay towards the east end of the Priory church or within an adjacent chapter house, corroborating the suggested location for the church.



Within the northern wing of Cannington Court part of the original approach and entrance to the Priory lay wing was revealed, represented by a cobbled surface flanked by a wall and a possible pillar base.

Associated with the early development of the Priory during the 12th–13th centuries were the remains of a probable ancillary building and adjoining wall. These were revealed in front of Cannington Court and continued the projected line of the north range of the Priory lay wing. The function of these structures is difficult to ascertain due to a lack of finds and extensive later disturbance, though their relatively insubstantial nature suggests they may have been agricultural or service buildings; a boundary wall and associated dovecote is a possible interpretation. The existing tithe barn, which lies to the south, has medieval origins and may have been contemporary, perhaps forming part of a complex of agricultural and related buildings constructed around a service yard immediately to the west of the Priory lay wing. There were no later features of significance found in the vicinity of the lime kiln, suggesting that this area, within the postulated service yard, remained open.

The early phase of building works was followed by subsequent phases of construction, particularly in the 15th century when there was major rebuilding, reflecting a period of relative prosperity. This is likely to have provided further accommodation for guests and visitors, and part of a substantial building uncovered to the west of the Priory lay wing, on the same projected alignment as the north range, may have served such a purpose. An infirmary is another possibility, though this would have been rather close to the lay wing, or perhaps another building that served an agricultural or storage purpose, on the north side of what is likely to have continued in use as an outer service court. Further to the west were other structural elements but insufficient was exposed to clarify their extent and function, whilst several drains/culverts possibly of this period were also revealed.

The Dissolution saw the demolition of all structures except for the Tithe barn immediately west the Priory lay wing, probably between 1536 and c. 1580 when the Elizabethan porch was added to the western elevation of the newly transformed and re-ordered house, now in possession of the Rogers family. This was contemporary with the establishment of a new approach from the west (replacing that to the north), a substantial portion of which was revealed in the excavations, perhaps associated with a gatehouse. Within the central courtyard of the new Elizabethan house (and formerly at the centre of the lay wing), a stone-paved surface was laid, of likely 18th century or later date, and this was recorded by rectified photography.

The finds assemblage is of medium size, and relates mainly to the 17th century and later occupation at Cannington Court, with a small proportion of earlier material. The pottery provides a hint of high status occupation, though the animal bone and charred plant assemblages are limited, and other finds comprise mainly structural material.

It is suggested that the results of the excavations warrant publication as a short article in the *Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeology and Natural History Society*.



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Acknowledgements

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The assistance of Roger Pearce, Arthur Lanham, Damon Johnson, Andrew Teague and Andrew Ash of Kier Construction is also gratefully acknowledged. Particular thanks are extended to Andrew Hunter and Alex Jones of Smiths Construction for their considerable help in facilitating the work. We also owe a special debt to Barry Jobson for his recognition, recording and reporting of the encaustic tile floor during renovation works.

The on-site work benefitted from discussions with Stephen Membrey, Senior Historic Environment Officer (SHEO) of South West Heritage Trust (SWHT), who monitored the work on behalf of the Local Authority, and Kay Ross of McLaughlin Ross LLP.

The excavation was undertaken by Steve Thompson, Piotr Orczewski, Mark Bagwell, Phil Breach, Andy Sole, Pete Fairclough, Benjamin Cullen, Jamie McCarthy, Tom Blencowe, Simon Evans, Daniel Connor, Phil Roberts, Sam Fairhead and Mark Hackney. The watching brief was undertaken by Mark Bagwell, Piotr Orczewski, Andy Sole, Peter Fairclough, John Powell and Ray Kennedy. The rectified photography survey of Cannington Court central courtyard was carried out by Bob Davis and Matt Rous.

The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Sue Farr. This report was written and compiled by Steve Thompson and edited by Phil Andrews. Initial historical research was undertaken by Kay Ross, Andrew Foyle and David McLaughlin of McLaughlin Ross LLP, and this report has drawn heavily on the results of their work. Specialist reports were prepared by Sue Nelson and Lorraine Mephram (finds) with Nicholas Cooke (jeton), Lorrain Higbee (animal bone), Phil Andrews (slag) and Sarah F. Wyles (environmental remains). The report illustrations were drawn by Will Foster.



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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by EDF Energy (the Client) to carry out a programme of archaeological works, comprising excavation, watching brief and rectified photography survey, at Cannington Court, Cannington, Somerset, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 325745 139570 (hereafter 'the Site') (**Figure 1**). This work was carried out prior to and during the renovations of the Grade I listed former Priory and the redevelopment of the grounds by EDF Energy for a new training facility.
- 1.1.2 This programme of mitigation followed an archaeological desk-based assessment (Mills Whipp Projects 2012a), an evaluation (WA 2012a) and a programme of archaeological monitoring (WA 2012b), undertaken alongside a programme of historic building recording by McLaughlin Ross LLP (2012a and 2012b), subject to a separate WSI (WA 2012c). The excavation, watching brief and rectified photography survey formed the fourth and final part of a staged approach to the archaeological works agreed in consultation with Somerset County Council (SCC) and EDF Energy.
- 1.1.3 As part of the proposals for renovation and redevelopment the Client had submitted a planning application (ref 13/12/00036/SF), listed building consent application (ref 13/12/00035/SF) and conservation area consent application (ref 13/12/00034/SF) to Sedgemoor District Council.
- 1.1.4 The planning application included the erection of a single-storey building (the Brassage Building) on the site of the now demolished Amory Block located on the western boundary; extensions linking existing buildings (the Dairy Block and Priory Lodge) on the northern boundary; the erection of a single-storey Energy Centre, partly on the site of an existing plant room (to be demolished); and the replacement of the central car park with gardens (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.5 Planning permission was granted, with the following condition:

8. No development should take place until the applicant, their agent or successors in title have secured the implementation of a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) detailing a programme of archaeological excavation. This programme should include excavation of remains, analysis of results, publication and archiving. The WSI should be agreed in writing by the planning authority prior to implementation. The development shall then be undertaken in accordance with the approved scheme, unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority. Reason: In order to identify and if necessary protect any archaeological remains on the site.

- 1.1.6 The listed building consent application includes repairs and refurbishment to Cannington Court, including investigations in and above undercrofts in Clifford Hall.
- 1.1.7 Listed Building Consent was granted with the following condition:

5. No development should take place until the applicant, their agent or successors in title have secured the implementation of a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) detailing a programme of archaeological excavation. This programme should include excavation of remains, analysis of results, publication and archiving. The WSI should be agreed in writing by the planning authority prior to implementation. The development shall then be undertaken in accordance with the approved scheme, unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority. Reason: In order to identify and if necessary protect any archaeological remains on the site.

- 1.1.8 This document presents the results of the three phases of archaeological excavation; the Brassage (9th July–2nd August 2013), the central car-park (3rd February–14th March 2014) and the linking building 9th–13th June 2014). The watching brief was undertaken periodically from March to July 2014.

2 THE SITE

2.1 Location, topography and geology

- 2.1.1 The village of Cannington lies approximately 4 miles (6.3 km) north-east of Bridgwater, with the Site located towards the centre of the village. The Site is bounded by Church Street on the north, west and south sides, with the Church of St Mary located immediately outside the Site's south-eastern corner, while to the north-east and east are the Walled Gardens of Cannington (www.canningtonwalledgardens.co.uk/) (**Figure 1**).
- 2.1.2 The Site itself comprises the Grade I Listed building of Cannington Court, the Grade II Listed Priory Barn and Grade II Court House, as well as the surrounding precinct wall which is also Grade II Listed.
- 2.1.3 The Site is situated on generally low-lying land, at an average 13 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The underlying geology comprises alluvium with river deposits associated with the Cannington Brook, with sandstone and Mercia Mudstone in the south; Otter Sandstone is found on the north side of Cannington Hill and limestone on the south side.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 The archaeological and historical background was outlined in an Archaeological Desktop Report (DTR) produced by Mills Whipp Projects Ltd (2012a); the results of which are expanded below.

3.2 Study area

- 3.2.1 The DTR researched a study area 2 km in diameter around the Site and made reference to the information held within the Somerset County Council Historical Environment Record (SCCHER).

3.3 Prehistoric

- 3.3.1 The potentially earliest material from within the study area is animal bones and possibly hominid bones found (but since lost) in a cave at Cannington Park Quarry in 1962. (SCCHER ref. 44861, NGR 325180 140430). Potential Mesolithic material was found to the west of the area (SCCHER ref. 10296, NGR 324660 139370), but this may be a spurious site location. A Bronze Age enclosure has been identified 950m north of the Site (SCCHER ref. 30404, NGR 325460 140460), while a Bronze Age knife was found at Cannington Hillfort (SCCHER ref. 16250, NGR 324700 140500).
- 3.3.2 The most significant prehistoric feature in the landscape is the univallate hillfort of Cannington Hillfort (SCCHER ref. 10439, NGR 324700 140500), 1.4 km north-west of the Site. Also known as Cannington Camp or Cynwit Castle, the hillfort has been partially damaged by quarrying, but has been investigated through excavations from at least 1905–1963. These identified it as roughly square and encompassing about 4.8 hectares and at least partially defended by a substantial dry-stone wall. (The SCCHER lists the investigations as refs. 31553, 31554 and 16250).
- 3.3.3 To the south of Cannington Hillfort (960m north-west of Site) earthworks have been identified which produced Iron Age and Roman pottery (SCCHER ref. 10308, NGR 324780 140120). At Knapp Farm (SCCHER ref. 30406, NGR 325110 140040), 800m north-west of the Site possible settlement features from the Iron Age through to the post-medieval period have been recorded.

3.4 Roman

- 3.4.1 It is possible that a Roman settlement existed outside Cannington Hillfort and to the south of Cannington Park Quarry, as traces of a possible Roman building have been found at Knapp Farm (SCCHER ref. 30406, NGR 325110 140040). Roman pottery with a bracelet (SCCHER ref. 10299, NGR 325880 139650), perhaps from a burial, were found 150m north-east of the Site, while to the north Roman pottery was found in ditches at Rodway (SCCHER ref. 10323, NGR 325530 140030). Approximately 1.1 km north-west of the Cannington Court a series of earthworks (SCCHER ref. 10444, NGR 324800 140300) have been interpreted as part of a settlement and field system associated with the hillfort, of possibly Iron Age, Roman or later date.

3.5 Anglo-Saxon

- 3.5.1 It is possible a post-Roman settlement existed in the vicinity of Cannington Hillfort, as a major Roman and post-Roman cemetery was discovered on the site of Cannington Park Quarry 970m north-west of Site. (SCCHER refs. 10503 and 44860, NGR 325100 140300). It has been estimated that originally there were some 2000 burials, now completely removed by quarrying. Excavations in 1962/3 revealed over 400 burials dating from c. 350AD to 800AD. The cemetery included a possible mausoleum structure and it is considered that the cemetery belonged to a surviving Christian British community (Rahtz *et al.* 2000). A timber church may have been associated with the Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Cannington Hill (Yorke 1995, 160), but this clearly did not become the focus of the medieval settlement.
- 3.5.2 Cannington was mentioned in the 9th century, when the Saxon name for the village was *Cantuctone*, "settlement on the ridge". It is likely the village clustered around the church, perhaps extending to the High Street. In 878 AD there was a major battle at Cynwit (Cynuit) possibly near Cannington Hillfort. The English defeated the Vikings and captured the Viking war banner called *Hrefn* or Raven (Dunning *et al.* 1992, 73–76).

3.6 Medieval

- 3.6.1 It has been mooted that the location of the priory was the site of an Anglo-Saxon church or minster, possibly established following Alfred the Great's defeat of the Danes in 878. If so, perhaps this was the one mentioned at *Domesday* and held by Aelfric the Priest in 1066 and Erchanger the Priest in 1086 (VCH 1992). This may have become the focus of the medieval settlement and was possibly the precursor to the 14th-century parish church of St Mary.
- 3.6.2 In 1066 Cannington was a royal manor with an estate belonging to Cannington church, and by the 12th century it was held by the Courci (Courcy) family. The medieval village, probably centred on the church, extended to the High Street. Limited archaeological evidence for the medieval settlement has been revealed through excavation. An evaluation at Hensfield Farm recorded two pits, one medieval in date (SCCHER ref. 30405, NGR 325110 140210), 900m north-west of Site, while 820m to the south-west a medieval metalled surface was found with ditches (SCCHER 30407, NGR 324950 139230).
- 3.6.3 The most significant medieval feature within the study area is Cannington Priory (SCCHER ref. 10300, NGR 325745 139570) which is discussed further below.
- 3.6.4 The church of St Mary was constructed in the 14th century, possibly on the site of the Cannington church mentioned at *Domesday*. Later alterations to the church took place, with the complete rebuilding of the nave and chancel in the 15th century on a different alignment to the existing tower.
- 3.6.5 Two mills were recorded in Cannington at *Domesday* (Thorn C and F 1980, 1–6), with Bosecroft mill recorded in 1225 potentially the same mill recorded as Gurney's mill in 1425 (SRO, DD/DHR. Box 3). The Cannington Priory mill, recorded in 1536 and later known as Town mill or Cole's mill (a flour mill), was located at the end of Mill Lane to the south-west of the Site as indicated on the 1889 1:2,500 Ordnance Survey map of Cannington (PRO, RG 9/1621; RG 10/2380; RG 11/2371; Dunning *et al.* 1992, 85–87). Two water courses flow through Cannington; the main Cannington Brook which flows east–west through the village to the south of the Site and the Mill Stream located to the north of Cannington Brook on the western limit of the village. The latter led to the Town Mill, with the tail race re-joining the Cannington Brook to the south-west of the Site. Gurney mill is located to the east of the village and to the north of Cannington Brook.

3.7 Cannington Court

Medieval

- 3.7.1 In the 12th century the manor of Cannington was given with the advowson to the newly established Priory of Benedictine Nuns founded by Robert de Courcy in 1138. This was augmented in 1212 by a bequest from Hugh de Wells of 5 marks.
- 3.7.2 The original 'House of Canintun' was probably first occupied by a reverend mother and three nuns. The lives of the nuns and their indiscretions are documented, their choice of prioress not always approved of, and there were frequent interventions and inquiries by the Bishop.
- 3.7.3 In the 13th century the Priory was far from prosperous being exempt from tax in 1291 owing to poverty, but in the 14th century it received numerous grants and by the early 16th century it possessed not only the church and manor of Cannington but lands at Witheridge, Puddletown St. Mary, Stowey, Skilgate, Bridport, Bradford, Fiddington,

Blackdown, Bristol and Codley with a value of £39-15-8, of which 75s was to be distributed in alms (Dunning *et al.* 1992, 11). The nuns were drawn largely from local county families, and in addition accommodation was provided for the retirement of ladies of the county, examples being Dyonosia Leverel who was allowed to stay at her own cost, and others who were allowed to stay for Christmas, and some until Easter, with their own maids. These admissions required the permission of the bishop and the advantage to the nunnery was simple, as the ladies staying would provide income. Due to their worldly behaviour, not being bound by vows or the rules of the Sisters, discipline suffered and in the 14th century various irregularities were investigated such as nuns wandering about at night outside the precinct, two of them having nightly conferences with two chaplains and another who gave birth. (McLaughlin Ross LLP 2012a 13–14).

- 3.7.4 The layout of the religious house at Cannington can be divided into two distinct portions, ecclesiastical and secular as determined by analysis of the standing building remains and the historical documents (**Figure 1**). Leland records the nuns' church as located immediately north of the chancel of the rebuilt parish church. The re-aligning of the church in the 15th century was, as mentioned above, a result of the positioning of the existing nuns' church '*hard anexid to the est of the paroch chirch*' (Toulmin-Smith 1964, 163). Leland's record, the re-aligned parish church and the absence of windows in the northern wall of the chancel indicate the nuns' church was located in the south-east corner of the current complex. To the north and west of the nuns' church were a series of buildings arranged around a central cloister (now the location of Clifford Hall – see below). This was the ecclesiastical centre of the religious house, where the nuns were meant to keep themselves separate from the outside world. Further to the north was the secular portion of the complex ranges of buildings arranged around an open courtyard with access into the complex from the north. This is where the great and the good of Somerset would pay to come and stay.
- 3.7.5 The entire complex was much altered during the medieval period and some aspects can be potentially associated with certain individuals residing at Cannington. From 1461–1469 the Prioress was Alianor Poynings, the widow of Henry Percy, the Earl of Northumberland. On the first floor of the western range around the nuns cloister are a set of initials in a 15th-century stone fireplace, thought to belong to the Prioress. Furthermore, the main entrance into an upper hall or refectory located in the eastern secular range, accessed by external stairs within the central secular courtyard, is consistent with the style of the rebuilt parish church dating to c.1460–80. This suggests a planned campaign driven by a wealthy donor, possibly accounted for by the Poynings connection (McLaughlin Ross LLP 2012a, 25).
- 3.7.6 The Priory would not only have included the buildings around the cloister and the secular ranges around the courtyard, but also a series of service buildings making the Priory largely self-sufficient. The location of these service buildings varies from priory to priory depending on local water sources, the slope of the terrain and the shape of the precinct.

Post-Dissolution

- 3.7.7 In 1536 the Priory was dissolved and the nuns and Prioress pensioned off, with Henry VIII selling Cannington to Edward Rogers, one of his esquires. Details of the grant to Edward Rogers in 1538 give a record of the Priory holdings. Henry VIII '*of his special grace, and in consideration of good, true and faithful service granted the whole House and site of the late Priory of Cannyngton, in the County of Somerset, and all the church, bell-tower and cemetery of the said late Priory. Also all messuages, houses, buildings, granaries, stables, dove-cots, gardens, orchards, &c, as well within as without, and adjacent or near to the site, sept, circuit, precinct, &c, of the said late Priory. Also all the manor of*

Cannington, and all the Rectory of Cannington, and the nomination and presentation to the Vicarage of Cannington whensoever vacant, with all the rights, members and appurtenances belonging to the said late Priory. Also all messuages, lands, tenements, mills, meadows, pastures, woods, pensions, portions, tithes, offerings and emoluments whatsoever, as well spiritual as temporal, situate, lying or being in Cannington, Powlett, Stowey and Ffedyngton, in the county of Somerset or elsewhere soever... (Hugo 1867, 137–8, Nottinghamshire Archives DD/SR/234/103). At that time the property was rated at £45 8s 1 0d.

- 3.7.8 In 1582 Edward Rogers, the first Edward Roger's grandson, inherited Cannington. He seems most likely to have been responsible for the major works carried out in the late 16th century. The medieval windows were replaced by the large stone windows with reserved chamfer stone mullions (still extant) and a two-storey (now three) limestone ashlar porch was added to the west façade. The range of west front buildings was extended to provide a near-symmetrical two-storey elevation either side of the porch (**Front and Rear Cover**). It seems probable that a later Rogers added the north wing in the 17th century, linking the east and west wings.

Post-medieval–modern

- 3.7.9 In 1672 Henry Rogers died leaving no children and Cannington reverted to the Crown. The property was restricted to inheritance by male heirs and Cannington was given to Thomas 1st Lord Clifford of Chudleigh, although he only lived another year before his son Hugh inherited. Hugh is credited with adding the third storey above the west wing in 1714, dated by the rainwater hoppers. Also in that year Cannington was leased to the Knight family who were associated with the Court well into the 19th century (three members of the family served as Lord Clifford's stewards). In 1776 a chapel at the Court was in existence and a public Mass was held monthly. By 1791 Cannington Court was described as an old ruinous mansion. The 6th Lord Clifford invited a group of Benedictine nuns to form a nunnery at Cannington in 1806. Probably at the same time a number of changes were made to the fabric, rebuilding part of the east range with Gothic style windows. Six years later Bishop Collingridge came to reside at Cannington, taking up quarters in the south-west wing. Following his death in 1829, the nuns appointed the architect John Peniston to design a new chapel with an octagonal domed roof and lantern, opened in 1831. Five years later the Sisters left Cannington and the house became only partially inhabited by members of the Clifford family. In 1863 a visiting cleric spoke of several walls and doorways still in existence of Perpendicular (Gothic) work, both within the building and communicating with the gardens in the rear. Many rooms had been partitioned by then to provide corridors and additional bedrooms. The cleric gives a tantalising description of earlier excavations carried out in the 19th century by the Cliffords (see below). Another group of nuns from Belgium took up residence from 1863–7.
- 3.7.10 In 1868 the Court became a school, The Cannington Certified Industrial School for Roman Catholic boys, with up to 100 boys boarding, and remained there until moving to new premises in Prior Park, Bath in 1917. In 1919 the 10th Lord Clifford leased Cannington Court to Somerset County Council as Somerset Farm Institute, later Cannington College, providing land-based agricultural and horticultural education. During World War II the college trained the Land Army. In 2004 Cannington College merged with Bridgwater College and the Walled Gardens were redeveloped. In 2008 Cannington Court was sold to The Cannington Centre for Land-based Studies, part of Bridgwater College, and the following year the Walled Gardens were officially opened to the public.
- 3.7.11 The Cannington Court complex incorporates the extensive walled gardens, the medieval tithe barn now called Priory Barn, Court House built in the early 19th century and Priory



Lodge, built 1938. The current Floristry Block and Dairy evolved from a late 19th century outbuilding and the Amory Block was added in 1956. In 1963 Cannington Court and St Mary's Church were listed Grade I and in 1985 Priory Barn, Court House, and the stone boundary wall were all listed Grade II.

- 3.7.12 The main building incorporates several centuries of building work. Fortunately plans for the site exist from 1830, just prior to the building of Peniston's new chapel. Further plans for 1919 and 1920 show how the building was radically altered for use as an agricultural college. Plans for 1938, when Priory Lodge was built, show Cannington Court just before World War II when it closed for the duration as a college and trained land army girls. The new college buildings below the Cannington Farm site were erected in the 1960s and elicited changes to the Cannington Court site. It seems probable that alterations to Priory Barn to provide storage facilities were carried out then. During the 1980s the 1830 chapel, Clifford Hall, was adapted to provide a venue for the inquiry into the proposed construction of Hinkley Point B nuclear power station and seating was increased to the first floor gallery. In 1987 a storm caused considerable damage to the roof above and upper wall of the western cloister range which was rebuilt. In 1994 an application to convert Priory Barn into student accommodation was granted but not carried out; it appears that Priory Lodge was adapted to accommodation from offices instead, and Priory Barn became Lecture facilities.
- 3.7.13 In 2012 the main building was no longer used for accommodation and only the larger rooms were used as lecture rooms, with a small accommodation block along the east wing used for Forensic study. Most of the college activities had either moved to the 1960s college site on the far side of Fore Street, although Priory Barn and the Floristry were still in use. Accommodation was moved to Priory Lodge, formerly college offices, at the west of the site in the 1990s. The adjoining Amory Block was used for lectures. A handful of rooms were also still in use for recreation and toilet facilities. Court House, formerly used for student accommodation and dairy training, was in a very poor state of repair, as were its gardens. The former garden to the west of Cannington Court has been resurfaced as a car park for a number of years (McLaughlin Ross LLP 2012a, 26).

3.8 Previous archaeological work

- 3.8.1 The 9th Lord Clifford undertook excavations sometime before 1868 which were recorded by the Rev. Thomas Hugo (McLaughlin Ross LLP 2012a, 86). This included work within the basements and undercrofts and recorded a '*few fragments of the ancient house.*'
- 3.8.2 In May 2012 Wessex Archaeology undertook a trial trench evaluation of the Site (WA 2012a) in advance of submission of the planning application by EDF Energy to develop Cannington Court. The evaluation revealed immediately to the east of the Amory Block structural remains comprising walls, foundations and possible floor surfaces. The earliest finds, from destruction debris and overburden contexts, dated to the medieval period and indicated a possible medieval origin for these features. No structures are depicted in the immediate locality on the historical mapping from 1825/26 onwards. These structures were, therefore, interpreted as ancillary buildings associated with the Priory and, on the results of the evaluation, further mitigation work was required.

4 STRATEGY

- 4.1.1 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WA 2012d) was prepared which outlined the mitigation strategy to be employed during the course of the redevelopment of Cannington Court. The mitigation strategy was designed to preserve the archaeological remains by record, through methodologies appropriate to the significance of the archaeology and the

potential impact of the proposed developments. This involved detailed excavation where archaeological remains were known or where below-ground impacts would occur where no previous archaeological monitoring had taken place, and watching brief where previous archaeological monitoring had suggested either a low level of significant archaeological remains, or was inconclusive. In the areas of watching brief where further mitigation was deemed necessary, due to initial results, the mitigation strategy was amended following consultation with Somerset County Council (SCC).

5 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

5.1 General

5.1.1 The aims of the archaeological field work were :

- To determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains, and should remains be found to be present to ensure their preservation by record to the highest possible standard;
- To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of the remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence;
- To determine or confirm the approximate extent of the remains;
- To determine the condition and state of preservation of the remains;
- To determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present;
- To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present;
- To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence and the forms in which such evidence may be present.

6 METHODOLOGY

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 The areas of the Site subject to archaeological excavation or watching brief (**Figure 1**) were:

- Excavation Area 1 (EA 1): The footprint of the existing Amory Block and the larger footprint of the replacement Brassage Building;
- Excavation Area 2 (EA 2): The footprint of the new link building joining the former Dairy to Priory Lodge;
- Watching Brief Area 1 (WBA 1): The new energy centre replacing the existing lean-to;
- Watching Brief Area 2 (WBA 2): The new outer courtyard garden replacing the old car park to the west of Cannington Court;
- Watching Brief Area 3 (WBA 3): Following the completion of the Watching Brief Area 2 excavation a number of additional areas were investigated as part of the watching brief; including external drainage runs, retaining wall foundations, the central courtyard and the reduction of floor surfaces within Cannington Court building itself. During this work a

rectified photography survey of exposed remains within the central courtyard was undertaken.

6.2 Fieldwork

- 6.2.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the standards set out in the Specifications provided by Wessex Archaeology (WA 2012b, c and d) and the requirements of SCC and their advisors. All excavation was in compliance with the standards outlined in the Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Guidance: excavation (2008), excepting where they are superseded by statements made below.
- 6.2.2 The modern overburden was removed using a 360° machine excavator under constant archaeological supervision; excavation continued to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or natural geology, whichever was encountered first.
- 6.2.3 Each area was then cleaned by hand as necessary and planned prior to any hand-excavation. A sample of each feature type, for example pits, postholes, and ditches, was excavated and recorded.
- 6.2.4 The watching brief on groundworks inside the building was conducted within the confines of extant structures and areas, generally small, opened up for restoration works. Only a single visit was made to the undercroft in AK 65 due to confined space working restrictions, the possibility of asbestos being present and the presence of bats.

6.3 Recording

- 6.3.1 All recording was undertaken using Wessex Archaeology's standardised *pro forma* recording sheets and a recognised recording system.
- 6.3.2 A complete drawn record of excavated and archaeological features and deposits was compiled including include both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections). The Ordnance Datum (OD) height of all principal features and levels was calculated and plans/sections annotated with OD heights.
- 6.3.3 A full photographic record was maintained using colour transparencies and black and white negatives (on 35mm film) and digital photography.
- 6.3.4 The investigation areas were set out using a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) in general accordance with the WSI. The area locations have been tied in to the Ordnance Survey (OS). All as-dug locations, associated archaeological remains and other features of relevance to the project were digitally surveyed using GNSS within the OS NGR system, but also including heights above OS datum (Newlyn).

6.4 Finds

- 6.4.1 Finds were treated in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations* (2008), the UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines *Conservation Guideline No 2* and the Museums and Galleries Commissions *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (1991), excepting where they are superseded by statements made below.
- 6.4.2 All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, except those from features or deposits of obviously modern date.

- 6.4.3 All retained artefacts were, as a minimum, washed, weighed, counted and identified. Any artefacts requiring conservation or specific storage conditions were dealt with immediately in line with First Aid for Finds (Watkinson and Neal 1998). Ironwork from stratified contexts has been X-rayed and stored in a stable environment.
- 6.4.4 All artefacts recovered during the excavations on the Site are the property of the landowner. On completion of the archaeological post-excavation programme they will be deposited with Somerset County Museums Service or another suitable depository.

6.5 Monitoring

- 6.5.1 The field work was monitored on a weekly basis by Stephen Membery, Senior Historic Environment Officer (SHEO) of South West Heritage Trust (SWHT), on behalf of the Local Authority.

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 The following sections provide a summary of the information held in the Site archive with the results presented by Area (**Figure 2**). It was not always possible to relate individual features and structures exposed within the different areas and so they are presented in isolation for ease of description. The phases allocated are specific to individual Areas.

7.2 Excavation Area 1 (EA 1) (Figure 3; Plate 1)

- 7.2.1 Following removal of the overlying levelling deposits, laid down after the demolition of the Amory Block, and the associated foundations (**2001**) and a further levelling layer (**2002**), *in situ* stratified archaeological deposits and structures were revealed. It was immediately clear that there were several phases of post-medieval and possibly earlier buildings. Few securely dateable contexts were identified and the following phasing is based predominately on the stratigraphic relationships.
- 7.2.2 The natural basal geology was identified as probable Mercia mudstone with sandstone patches (**2003** and **2070**), and this was sealed by a remnant of buried subsoil (**2041**). Other natural deposits included hollow **2101** filled with **2100**.

Phase 1: 13th–14th century (Figure 3; Plates 2–4)

- 7.2.3 The earliest archaeological remains identified were concentrated in the north-west corner of the area and comprised roughly east–west aligned wall **2131** and stone-lined culvert **2150**. Wall **2131** was at least 4m in length and 1.30m wide, a substantial load-bearing structure, of similar dimensions to existing (original) walls within the extant Cannington Court Priory buildings. Unfortunately later activity had removed much of the early wall.
- 7.2.4 Culvert **2150** was in excess of 2.2m long and 0.64m, wide and constructed of parallel stone walls **2126** and **2127** built upon stone-flagged base **2140**, within cut **2128**. The culvert channel measured 0.30m wide. Most of the capping stones (**2148**) had been removed, though part of this capping (a broken millstone – bedstone) did survive at the very western limit of the area. Dating of bedstones (the lower stone) is difficult due to the lack of diagnostic attributes, and this example is clearly reused, likely derived from the Priory mill located to the south-west. The culvert was filled with a fine silt deposit (**2129**), an indication that the culvert perhaps carried water into the Benedictine Priory complex as opposed to carrying waste out.

- 7.2.5 Between wall **2131** and culvert **2150** was a levelling deposit (**2053**) formed of sandstone fragments and crushed stone which contained a single sherd of medieval sandy ware pottery dating to the 13th–14th century. This pottery was securely stratified and provides a *terminus ante quem* for the deposit.
- 7.2.6 A second, potentially contemporary culvert, **2157**, running parallel to and 6.7m south of **2150** was constructed in the same manner, of the same materials and was of similar dimensions. It was at least 7.9m long, by 0.7m wide) and comprised parallel culvert walls **2007** and **2008** built upon stone-flagged base **2150** within cut **2018**. It was in-filled with **2017/2122**. No capping stones were observed and so it is possible the culvert was an open drain.
- 7.2.7 Contemporary with culvert **2157** was metalled surface Group **2162** (comprising discrete areas of metalling recorded as **2061**, **2076**, **2083**, **2069** and **2084**, revealed between later structures and features). The surface was formed from a compact layer of sub-rounded and rounded stones overlain by smaller flint pebbles and was concentrated on the southern side of wall **2131**. It was clearly different to levelling deposit **2053** (see above). This may suggest that **2162** was an external courtyard surface while **2053** formed the base for an internal surface. The capping stones over the culvert **2150** may also infer this. Pottery recovered from the top of metalling **2162** was all of post-medieval date (17th–18th century), indicating that the surface was in use for some period of time.
- 7.2.8 Possibly associated with wall **2131** and culverts **2150** and **2157** were the robbed walls and structures comprising Group **2151**. Group **2151** represents the removal of a possible building located in south-west corner of **EA 1**, which included a north–south aligned wall (remnant **2006** within robber cut **2019**) and an east–west aligned wall (remnant **2086** within robber cut **2085**). Useable stonework would have been removed for recycling while unusable material, in particular the smaller stones derived from the wall core, were discarded. No dateable finds were recovered from these robber cuts.
- 7.2.9 It would appear the first phase in **EA 1** comprised two buildings separated by an external surface. The function of the buildings is unknown as the floor surfaces and any associated features or structures had been removed by later activity. Kitchens, bakeries, breweries and other domestic structures were traditionally located away from the main Priory church and dormitories because of the fire risk they posed. The proximity of the two buildings to the tithe barn may infer a domestic role here. The indenture of the Priory holdings following the Dissolution also lists stables and a dovecote as buildings within the Priory precinct.

Phase 2 (Figure 3)

- 7.2.10 Constructed upon Phase 1 surface **2162** was **2077**, the probable base of a wall or non-load bearing structure. At least 3.50m long by 0.57m wide and 0.15m high, **2077** was built directly on the surface with no footings. Its function and date are unknown. It was butted by undated occupation layer **2062**.
- 7.2.11 No features were revealed which can be associated with the foundation of the Priory in the 12th century, and the structures of Phases 1 and 2 belong to a 200 year period of occupation from possibly the 14th century to the Dissolution in 1536. Very little remains of the demolished structures of Phases 1 and 2, and it is likely that they were ancillary buildings of the Priory, demolished with the useable stonework recycled elsewhere following the Dissolution and the passing of the monastic house to Sir Edward Rogers.

Phase 3: Post-Dissolution (Figure 4)

- 7.2.12 The earliest phase of post-Dissolution activity consisted of two parallel north-east to south-west aligned ditches, Group **2152** (north) cutting surface **2612** and wall **2131**, and Group **2153** (south) cutting robber trench **2019**. Each ditch was investigated through a number of hand dug slots: **2152** – cut **2119** (filled with **2146**), **2067** (**2068**), **2111** (**2112**) and **2117** (**2118**) and **2153** – **2060** (**2040**), **2044** (**2045**, **2059**) and **2147** (**2079**).
- 7.2.13 The function of the ditches is unclear, it is possible they formed part of gardens established during the conversion of the monastic house to a domestic property. Analysis of the historical documents (McLaughlin Ross LLP 2012a, 59) suggests it was the second or third generations of the Rogers family at Cannington who were responsible for the rebuilding and major alterations; either George Rogers (c.1528–82) or more likely his son Edward Rogers (c.1550s–1627). There was a mix of pottery recovered from the ditches, including a number of residual sherds of 13th–14th-century sandyware and Saintonge ware derived from Phase 1 activity in **EA 1**. The bulk of the finds date to between the 17th–19th centuries, with 17th-century German stoneware and yellow ware and 17th–18th-century English stoneware amongst the assemblage. If the pottery recovered belongs to the earlier years of the pottery date range, the features may well be associated with the activities of Edward Rogers, remaining open for a period of time before being deliberately backfilled.

Phase 4 (Figure 4)

- 7.2.14 A NNW-SSE aligned robber cut Group **2158** was revealed in the south-eastern corner of the area. The robber cut contained the remains of wall **2132** and the surviving foundation materials **2057**. The date and function of this structure and how it fits within the development of the Site is unclear as it is on a quite different alignment to the earlier pre-Dissolution structures. The backfilled robber cut contained pottery dating to the 17th–18th centuries.

Phase 5 (Figure 5; Plate 5)

- 7.2.15 Following the robbing of wall **2132** and subsequent infilling of robber trench **2158**, the construction of building Group **2154** took place. This was composed of two parallel 0.70m wide north–south aligned mortar foundations, **2073** (in cut **2072**) and **2011** (in cut **2071**), which were joined at the northern end by east–west aligned foundation **2035** (in cut **2074**), forming a building approximately 12m by 12m. There was an absence of floor surfaces and the function of this structure is unclear. Culvert **2160** may have been associated with **2154**.
- 7.2.16 Building **2154** was located south of the main east–west approach to the post-Dissolution manor house, which is likely to date to c.1580 when the new ashlar porch was built. The roadway revealed in **EA 1** and **WBA 2** was Victorian in date but this replaced an earlier road, and so it is possible that building **2154** formed part of a gatehouse constructed sometime in the 17th century, with perhaps a corresponding element on the north side flanking the entrance.

Phase 6 (Figure 5; Plate 6)

- 7.2.17 In the north-east corner of the area was a large pit **2107/2145**, over 2.2m long by 1.6m wide and at least 0.9m deep. The original function of the feature is unclear but it was backfilled during 19th century.

Phase 7 (Figure 6; Plate 7)

- 7.2.18 Pit **2145/2107** was truncated by Group **2155**, a ceramic drain (formed from an upturned U-shaped land drain capped with tile) 0.44m wide and 0.36m deep which ran roughly north–south for 17m across the Area.

Phase 8 (Figure 6; Plate 8)

- 7.2.19 In the south-east corner of the area were the remains of a north–south aligned wall. The wall had collapsed towards the west resulting in deposit **2013** and collapsed wall **2014**, which sealed Phase 7 ceramic drain **2155**.

Phase 9 (Figure 6)

- 7.2.20 Two east–west aligned 0.55m wide, parallel walls comprised Group **2156**. The southern wall, **2022** (within cut **2123**), was observed for 14m and cut collapsed wall deposits **2013** and **2014** but respected Phase 7 drain **2155**. The northern wall **2024** (in cut **2025**), was observed for 6m and was built over and around drain **2155**. These walls may represent garden features lining the pre-Victorian (Phase 10, see below) approach to Cannington Court. However, investigation of the foundation (**2106**) for wall **2024** revealed it was over 0.8m thick, indicating a load bearing structure and thus potentially part of a building. The foundation was deepest where it was constructed through the soft deposits in pit **2145/2107**. However, where southern wall **2022** was constructed upon solid earlier structures (Phase 1 surface Group **2162**), the foundations were relatively shallow. A pre-1884 photograph of the site (not reproduced here) shows a low building on the site of the current Priory Lodge and a narrow access out on to Church Street, indicating the 17th-century approach had been blocked off. It is possible the Group **2156** walls were part of a similar long, low building.

Phase 10 (Figure 6; Plates 8–9)

- 7.2.21 A new roadway (replacing the pre-Victorian approach) into Cannington Court was defined by kerbstones **2028** within cut **2038**, which truncated the parallel walls of Phase 9 Group **2156**. This roadway was subsequently replaced by Group **2159**, comprising parallel kerbs and a number of levelling layers. Constructed with cut **2032** were curving kerbstones **2026** and **2027** and levelling layers **2105**, **2115** and **2116** (containing post-medieval redwares of 17th–19th-century date). Incorporated into the levelling layers was ceramic drain **2115** providing drainage for the new road, with the levelling layers sealed by **2033**, a compact flint gravel surface. This later group, **2159**, formed the main approach into the complex in the 19th century and is of probable Victorian date, perhaps when the Site was used as the ‘Cannington Certified Industrial School for Roman Catholic Boys’. The road, which was the only feature that could be traced through into **WBA 2**, would have replaced the earlier 16th-century approach leading to the c. 1580 limestone ashlar porch.

Phase 11 (Plate 8)

- 7.2.22 The final phase of development belongs to the first half of the 20th century, when road Group **2159** was removed due to the construction of the Priory Lodge building c. 1938 and the Amory Block in 1956. The road was sealed by deposit **2042** and cut through by **2043** for the installation of culvert Group **2161**, formed of reused stone and un-frogged bricks.

7.3 Excavation Area 2 (EA 2) (Figure 7; Plate 10)

- 7.3.1 Excavation Area 2 (**EA 2**) was positioned between the eastern elevation of Priory Lodge and the western elevation of the Dairy Block, in the main entrance into the central courtyard carpark; the location of a new link building.

7.3.2 Following the removal of modern concrete, tarmac and levelling layers a number of heavily disturbed features and deposits were exposed. The earliest comprised a mixed stone rubble levelling deposit **2528**, which sealed the natural geology **2527** and was sealed by cobbled surface **2526** with a stone-built drain incorporated into it. Cobbled surface **2526** was very similar to surface **2390** within room **AK 15/16** which also had a drain (**2389**) built in to it, and formed possibly the main pre-Dissolution approach in to the Priory complex (see below). Therefore, a 12th–15th-century date for the cobbling is possible. In the northern section the remains of a heavily disturbed red sandstone wall **2521** was revealed, though its date and function are unclear.

7.3.3 A modern brick culvert **2524** in cut **2523** cut the top of cobble surface **2526**, which was subsequently sealed by modern levelling layers and tarmac.

7.4 Watching Brief Area 1 (WBA 1) (Figure 7; Plate 11)

7.4.1 Following the demolition of an existing lean-to structure and the removal of made ground layers **2200** and **2203**, the remains of two possible garden walls, **2201** and **2202**, were revealed. These were 0.84m long by 0.32m wide and 0.40m high and 1.10m long by 0.35m wide and 0.40m high respectively and constructed of roughly shaped red sandstone blocks. The walls may be the remains of garden features or perhaps the structures shown on the 1928 Ordnance Survey map (not reproduced here).

7.4.2 Two further structures were observed cutting the natural geology **2204**; roughly east–west aligned stone-built culvert **2205** and north–west to south–east culvert **2206**. Both culverts were constructed of blue lias, forming the base, walls and capping stones. The stone work appeared to be sawn, perhaps machine-milled, and therefore likely to be much later in date than the culverts observed in **EA 1**.

7.5 Watching Brief Area 2 (WBA 2) (Figures 8–12; Plates 12–22)

Introduction (Plate 12)

7.5.1 Watching Brief Area 2 (**WBA 2**) had previously been a car park, and from a 19th-century photograph of the western elevation of Cannington Court (**Plate 13**) it was clear that the ground surface had been raised by approximately 1m since the 1860s, when the area had been under lawn. The proposed development involved the reduction of the current ground surface down to the same level as the entrance to the inner courtyard through the Elizabethan main porch on the western side of Cannington Court.

7.5.2 Following the removal of tarmac (**2207**) and two layers of levelling material (**2208** and **2209**), a stone drainage channel, **2210**, of probable 19th-century date was revealed, cut into the top of another levelling layer (**2211**). This was removed to reveal *in situ* stratified archaeological remains. It was immediately clear that walls of medieval date had been well preserved beneath the lawns shown in the mid-19th century photograph. Following discussions with Somerset County Council Senior Historic Environment Officer the area was removed from Watching Brief conditions, with the remains to be investigated under Excavation conditions.

Phase 1: Early medieval to mid-12th century (Figure 8; Plates 14–15)

7.5.3 The earliest stratified remains were seven pits (**2395**, **2379**, **2212**, **2287**, **2289**, **2312** and **2278**) located in the north-eastern corner of **WBA 2** which probably predated any building construction within the excavation area. The pits were sub-circular in shape and ranged in size from 0.30m long by 0.28m wide by 0.08 deep (**2289**) up to 1.38m long by 1.28m wide by 0.40m deep (**2278**). Only one pit, **2287**, was clearly stratigraphically earlier than the

first phase of building, as it had been truncated by wall **2227**; unfortunately pit **2287** was un-dated. The pits are likely to belong to a period of pit digging during the earliest occupation of the Site, in the early medieval period; pit **2379**, for example, contained medieval coarseware of the 11th–12th century. Pit **2212** contained further 11th–12th-century coarseware and fragments of melted copper alloy and sheet fragments, and had been cut through by the construction of wall **2215**, part of the second phase of building construction (Phase 4).

- 7.5.4 The largest of the pits, **2278 (Plate 14)**, a probable cess pit, contained medieval coarseware pottery dating to the 11th–12th century and clearly predated the second phase of building as it was sealed beneath floor levelling deposits within the interior of Room 1 (see below). A further pit, **2482**, was revealed in the same area during the Watching Brief (WBA 3), while two further pits (**2403** and **2332**) were revealed 17m south of **2278**, adjacent to east–west aligned gully **2173**. A single, small, abraded sherd of Roman Black Burnished ware was recovered from **2403**, while **2173** contained medieval coarseware dating to the 11th–12th century. Further medieval coarseware was recovered from large tree throw **2293/2308**, which pre-dated the first phase of construction (Phase 2) (see below).
- 7.5.5 At the southern end of WBA 2 a north-east to south-west aligned ditch, **2352/2413**, 10m long, 1.85m wide and 0.65m deep, was traced to within 2.2m of the main western elevation of Cannington Court (within WBA 3). The proximity of this substantial boundary ditch to the main wall of the western range of the Priory potentially infers that the ditch predates the Priory and thus belongs to Phase 1. The ditch was filled with **2335** (lower) and **2353** (upper), the lower fill containing numerous fragments of limestone while the upper fill contained 11th–12th-century medieval coarseware pottery.
- 7.5.6 It is possible that ditch **2352/2413** represents an enclosure surrounding the site of a possible Saxon church, mentioned at *Domesday*, that may have been the precursor to the 14th-century Parish church of St Mary (see above).

Phase 2: mid-12th to mid-13th century (Figure 9; Plates 16–22 and back cover)

- 7.5.7 With the establishment of the Priory in 1138, ditch **2352/2413** became redundant and so was deliberately backfilled with material derived from the construction and use of a series of lime kilns associated with the building of the Priory. Kilns are often found in groups of two or more due to the length of time taken for each firing. The loading, firing and unloading of a kiln could take up to a week and, therefore, to provide a constant supply of lime for construction three kilns working in conjunction would be needed; one being loaded, one being fired and one being unloaded, in rotation
- 7.5.8 The limestone fragments within the lower fill of ditch **2352/2413** were probably derived from a kiln in the vicinity (not revealed within the Site), and once the ditch was infilled it was subsequently cut by the construction of a new kiln, **2174**. Kiln **2174** also cut pits **2332** and **2403** (see above).
- 7.5.9 Kiln **2174 (Figure 9; Plates 16–20 and back cover)** was constructed for the production of lime for mortar and lime-wash used in building works. It was composed of a 3m diameter and 0.90m deep circular firing chamber, **2328**, with a flue, **2397** (a recut of the earlier ditch **2352/2413**), located on the south-western side. The kiln structure was formed by circular, red sandstone, rough dry-stone wall **2229** (six horizontal courses 0.84m high and 0.40m wide), creating a central firing chamber with an internal diameter of 2.26m. The chamber was joined to the flue by a tapering stone-lined channel composed of upright stones and a capping lintel, which narrowed from 0.46m to 0.24m in width. The flue was 0.90m wide at

the base at the junction with kiln structure **2328**, and widened to 1.80m at the ground surface. The full extent of the flue lay beyond the western limit of excavation

- 7.5.10 Following the final use of the kiln it was backfilled with a series of deposits; at the base was **2394**, a crushed sandstone layer, sealed by **2338**; containing common unburnt and partially burnt limestone blocks. Above this was **2337**, which contained many burnt sandstone blocks derived from lining **2329**, overlain by a series of rubble-rich layers, **2337**, **2334** and **2331**, before the final silting **2330**. No dateable finds were recovered from the backfill of the firing chamber. The flue was filled with **2398** and **2399**, which contained a single rim sherd of medieval coarseware pottery dating to the 11th–12th century.
- 7.5.11 The second phase of activity within **WBA 2** saw the first phase of building construction represented by an east–west aligned wall foundation (**Figure 9; Plates 12, 21–22**). Group **2170** (composed of **2227/2280/2262/2221**) was at least 11.5m long by 0.85m wide and survived as two horizontal courses of red sandstone blocks to a height of 0.30m. The wall foundation was constructed with roughly hewn facing stones and a rubble core. At the western end of wall **2170** was the remains of small, possibly square structure, Group **2171**, 4m long (east–west) by 3m wide (north–south) and composed of 0.50m wide walls **2362**, **2229**, **2298** and **2373**, with foundation deposit **2363**. The junction of wall **2170** and structure **2171** had been strengthened by the addition of **2291**, acting as a possible buttress. Group **2171** had been truncated on its northern side by Phase 4 wall **2219** (in construction cut **2218**) and by large modern pit **2240** (Phase 7), and so its actual shape and size is unknown.
- 7.5.12 Butting walls **2229** and **2197** (of Group **2171**) and wall **2221** (Group **2170**) was an external yard surface, **2339**, formed of small sub-rounded cobbles. The layer was very patchy having been truncated by later disturbance, though it did seal tree throw **2293/2308**, thus providing a *terminus post quem* date of post-11th–12th century for the surface and the Phase 2 structures.
- 7.5.13 In conclusion, the identification of the lime kiln, **2174**, cutting the early ditch and containing only 11th–12th-century pottery, provides evidence of the extent of construction which was taking place at this time. It is probable the kiln was built during the initial construction of Cannington Priory in the 12th and 13th centuries. Similar examples to that at Cannington have been securely dated to the late 11th–12th century, for example the group of three kilns at the main entrance to Carisbrooke Castle, Isle of Wight (Young 2000 37–41).
- 7.5.14 The interpretation of **2170** is difficult as it only survived as foundations with no associated floor surfaces, and so it is possible it is a simple garden wall leading to the small, possibly square structure **2171**. The interpretation of **2171** is also hampered by later truncation, however the size and shape is not dissimilar to dovecotes of the medieval period, though dovecotes of this period are predominately circular. A possible grander function to the structure may perhaps be inferred from the recovery of fragments of ‘Grisaille’ decorated glass, which was first used in the 12th century and became increasingly popular in the 13th century, which was incorporated into levelling deposits derived from the demolished Phase 2 building (see below).
- 7.5.15 Overall, activity within the precinct wall of Cannington Priory during the centuries following the foundation in 1138 has been difficult to identify, mainly due to later activity masking and removing such evidence.

Phase 3 (Figure 9)

- 7.5.16 Two parallel roughly north-west to south-east aligned ditches (**2360** and **2357**) were revealed at the northern limit of **WBA 2**, both post-dating the Phase 2 building and predating the Phase 4 building. The ditches lay on the northern side of wall Group **2170** and Group **2171**, and it is clear that they did not extend beyond these walls further to the south. This suggests that the ditches respected and therefore post-dated the Phase 2 walls, though it is likely they were in use at the same time as **2170** and **2171**. The function of these ditches is unclear; both appear to have been infilled with natural material. No finds were recovered to provide a date and it is possible they represent garden features or something similar.

Phase 4: 14th–15th century (Figure 10; Plates 12 and 21)

- 7.5.17 Phase 4 saw the demolition of the Phase 2 structures **2170** and **2171**, with useable material removed for recycling, and ground preparation taking place for the construction of the majority of the structures revealed within **WBA 2**. This included the construction of an east–west aligned building range (Group **2172**) perpendicular to the main western range of secular buildings of Cannington Court.
- 7.5.18 The demolition of structure **2171** resulted in the accumulation of crushed red sandstone layers **2272** and **2319** revealed within Room 1, which could have acted as a temporary ground surface for the new construction. Within Room 3 was a similar deposit, **2336**, which contained a single sherd of Roman Black Burnished ware and a sherd of medieval coarseware. This was subsequently cut through by three small post holes, **2346**, **2350** and **2366**, to possibly hold timber scaffolding poles for the main walls of building **2172**. The post holes varied between 0.3–0.6m in diameter and 0.1–0.6m in depth and were set equidistantly apart, at 2.5m intervals, and lay between 0.65m and 0.77m from wall **2219**.
- 7.5.19 Further post holes potentially associated with the Phase 4 construction included **2273**, located to the south of **2219** and west of wall **2225**, and sealed by levelling layers **2234** and **2233**. Finds from within the post hole and levelling layer **2233** included joining sherds of late medieval (14th–15th century) sandy ware pottery and fragments of 13th–14th-century ‘Grisaille’ glass. It is unclear if the 13th–14th-century glass is derived from the demolished Phase 2 building or if it was broken during installation in the Phase 4 buildings and became incorporated into the bedding layers for now removed flagged floors (see below).
- 7.5.20 To the east of wall **2225** was a possible sequence of three post holes, **2370**, **2342** and **2340**, up to 0.30m in diameter and 0.20m deep. Located immediately to the east of wall **2215** was single post hole, **2266**. Evidence of scaffolding post holes have been previously recorded at sites such as Bordesley Abbey, Worcestershire (Hirst, *et al.* 1983, 33–34), Fountains Abbey, North Yorkshire (Gilyard-Beer and Coppack 1986, 158) and the Priory of St Mary Merton in Surrey (Miller and Saxby 2007, 51). Vertical scaffolding poles (or standards) would often be placed upon timber planks or stone pads if the ground was particularly soft, and so post holes associated with scaffolding are not always found.
- 7.5.21 Building **2172** was composed of two parallel east–west aligned wall foundations, **2219** (north) and **2318** (south). Both walls had been heavily robbed in later periods (see below), but **2219** at least 13m long and 1.40m wide and **2218** at least 5m long by 1.40m wide. Walls **2219** and **2318** were linked by two parallel north–south aligned walls, **2223** and **2225**, to form a room (Room 1 – with internal dimensions of 4.20m by 3.3m), while **2223** also formed an outer wall for a courtyard **2311** to the west, with the southern end forming a supporting buttress. To the east of wall **2225** was Room 2, which extended beyond the excavation area and was at least 2.8m long by 1.2m wide. On the northern side of wall **2219**, north–south orientated wall **2215** was revealed, which would have created two

rooms; Room 3 to the west – with internal dimensions of at least 8.7m by 3.1, and a line of internal pier bases (**2325**, **2286** and **2305**) that would have butted the northern side of wall **2219**. Room 4 was located to the east of wall **2215**, and like Room 2 was only partially revealed within the excavation area; it was at least 3.4m long by 3.3m wide.

- 7.5.22 No *in situ* flooring was revealed, as demolition following the Dissolution had reduced the building to the foundations – however, the remains of possible floor bedding layers and levelling material did survive. Within Room 1 possible occupation/trample layers **2234** and **2233** (see above) butted the surrounding walls, and possibly formed the bedding for a stone flagged floor; a flag was recovered from post-Dissolution robbing pit **2235** (fill **2237**) (see below). Further floor bedding or trample layers were revealed in Room 3, including layer **2349** (which was cut by a possible scaffolding post hole **2344**), and in Room 4 where layer **2422** butted the eastern side of wall **2215**, sealing Phase 1 pit **2212**.
- 7.5.23 To the south of wall **2219** and west of wall **2223** was cobbled courtyard surface **2311**. The surface had replaced Phase 2 yard surface **2339** and sealed wall **2221**. A single small sherd of late medieval (14th–15th century) sandyware was recovered from beneath **2311**. It is possible the courtyard was accessed from Room 3 via a doorway located between pillar/pier bases **2286** and **2305**, where there was a slightly wider gap (3.2m) between the two pier bases compared to **2286** and **2325** (2.1m). Access into Room 1 from the courtyard is also a possibility.

Phase 5: Dissolution (Figure 11; Plates 12 and 21)

- 7.5.24 The demolition and robbing following the Dissolution in 1536 was evidenced by the near complete removal of east–west aligned wall **2318** (robber trench **2238/2251**) and the removal of the northern face and much of parallel wall **2219** (robber trench **2258/2300**). The robber trenches were backfilled with a combination of discarded small stones (**2259/2302** in **2258/2300** and **2239/2252** in **2238/2251**) derived from the wall cores which could not be reused and mortar (**2260/2301** in **2258/2300**). A single sherd of post-medieval redware pottery was recovered from **2259**, which fits with a mid-16th century date for demolition.
- 7.5.25 Within Room 1 evidence of demolition was revealed by layer **2232** which comprised numerous smashed stone roofing slates. Amongst this was a fragment of post-medieval glazed ceramic ridge tile and six sherds of pottery, comprising 11th–12th-century medieval coarsewares, 14th–15th-century late medieval sandyware and 15th–16th-century Tudor Green pottery. Within Room 1, pit **2235** cut through slate-rich layer **2232** against wall **2223**; the fill contained a single blue lias stone floor flag and a sherd of medieval Redcliffe ware dating to c.1250–1500. The external courtyard surface **2311** was subsequently sealed by slate-rich deposit **2297**, derived from the demolition of the building, and the whole area was then sealed by a number of demolition deposits, **2423**, **2424** and **2211**.
- 7.5.26 At the southern limit of **WBA 2** early medieval ditch **2352/2413** was cut by pit **2356**. This was filled with **2354** and **2355** which contained numerous fragments of architectural stonework, including window or door surrounds derived from the demolition of the Priory buildings, with sherds of medieval coarseware and sandyware pottery and later post-medieval redware.

Phase 6: The Rogers' family alterations (Figure 12)

- 7.5.27 Cutting through demolition layer **2211** was **2253**, the construction cut for the main roadway extending from Church Lane across the original service courtyard to the ashlar stone porch which led to the original secular courtyard of Cannington Court. This was a continuation of Group **2159** revealed in **EA 1**, of likely late-18th or early 19th-century date

but replacing an earlier approach. Road **2253** was lined by kerb stones **2256** (northern side; equal to **2026**) and **2257** (southern side; equal to **2027**), between which was compact gravel deposit **2254**, the probable bedding layer for the road surface which had been later removed.

- 7.5.28 At the northern end of **WBA 2** was a roughly east–west aligned structure **2231** of blue lias, measuring at least 3m long by 0.46m wide and 0.24m high. It was faced on its northern side with blue lias, however, the southern side was formed of red sandstone rubble and it was constructed upon post-demolition slate-rich deposit **2297**. It was clearly not a load-bearing wall, as it had no foundations, and may have been part of a garden feature associated with the post-Dissolution manor house; perhaps a continuation of the northern wall of **2156** (in **EA 1**), though constructed of different materials.

Phase 7: 19th century (Figure 12)

- 7.5.29 At the north–western corner of the area was a large pit, **2240**, at least 5m long, 3m wide and 0.44m deep. It is likely to belong to the same period of 19th-century pit digging as **2145/2107** in Area 1.

7.6 Watching Brief Area 3 (WBA 3) (Figures 13–15; Plates 23–28)

Introduction

- 7.6.1 This watching brief was carried out over several months during the course of works at Cannington Court. A number of areas which had not initially been designated as Watching Brief Areas within the WSI were monitored following discussions with EDF Energy and SCC; these included cable and drainage runs as well as the reduction of floor surfaces in five rooms within the main Priory building.

Drainage runs (Figure 13; Plates 23–25)

- 7.6.2 The drainage around the southern and eastern sides of the service courtyard was to be replaced and so the removal of the old pipes was monitored and the trench investigated prior to the installation of the new services. Following the removal of the overlying tarmac (**2410**), a modern cobbled surface, **2411**, formed of roughly shaped irregular setts bedded into deposit **2412**, was revealed. Bedding deposit **2412** sealed the backfill deposits above the ceramic drain runs which were being replaced. At the northern end of the drainage run, adjacent to the north-west corner of Cannington Court (Room **AK 14**) and the eastern elevation of the Dairy Block, bedding layer **2412** sealed a 6.4m long by 1.4m wide spread of rammed mortar, **2479**, relating to wall **2481**. Wall **2481** had been extensively truncated but was at least 1.1m long by 0.5m wide and 0.3m high, built upon 0.85m wide foundation **2479** within construction cut **2480**. The wall was traced to within 0.50m of the western elevation of the Priory building; however, the relationship between the structures could not be ascertained. It is unclear if these structures formed an interior room or part of an exterior surface. No dating material was recovered, though the white very compact mortar in wall **2481** is likely to be of post-medieval or perhaps modern date.
- 7.6.3 At the western limit of the drainage run were the remains of a post-medieval/modern silt trap, **2543**, exposed in the northern section of the trench. Constructed of brick and tile, the structure consisted of two north-west to south-east channels leading from the Priory Barn cottages to a ceramic redware bowl used as a silt trap.
- 7.6.4 The continuation of early medieval ditch **2352** was revealed in the drainage run and recorded as **2413**. Unfortunately, the walls observed within **WBA 2** could not be traced to the east to establish their relationship with the extant remains of Cannington Court.

- 7.6.5 Following the removal of a drain pipe immediately north of the perimeter wall with St Mary's Parish Church, and 8m south-west of Room **AK 62**, disarticulated and redeposited human remains were revealed within deposit **2507** c. 0.40m below the current ground surface. The partial remains of three individuals, two adults and a c. 2–4 year old infant, were recovered, but no grave cuts were observed.

Retaining wall (Figure 13; Plate 26)

- 7.6.6 Located at the north–western corner of **WBA 2**, the retaining wall trench revealed the natural geology (**2217**), sealed by **2494**, trampled/reworked upper natural, which was in turn sealed by made ground **2493**. Cutting **2493** was north–south aligned foundation trench **2492**, which contained a 1m long, 0.37m wide and 0.37m high red sandstone wall, **2491**, with packing material **2490**. Possibly contemporary with **2491** was the remains of a metallised surface, **2497**. The narrow width of the wall indicates it likely formed part of a garden feature, perhaps parterres at the front of the grand house, while the metallising may have been a path. These structures were sealed by **2496**, a deposit rich in broken roofing slates and further rubble and landscaping deposits.

Interceptor tank (Figure 13)

- 7.6.7 A trench approximately 7m square and 2.5m deep was excavated to the north of the Priory building. Following the removal of 0.20m of tarmac (**2516**) and made ground (**2517**), a 0.20m thick rubble layer, **2518**, was recorded. This sealed a very dark organic silty loam deposit, **2519**, which is interpreted as garden soil, and contained two 17th-century clay tobacco pipe bowls, including one produced by Jeffry Hunt of Bristol who began producing pipes c. 1650. The garden soil sealed the top of the natural geology, **2517**, which was revealed at about 1.2m below the current ground surface.

Room AK 7/10 (Figure 13)

- 7.6.8 Following the removal of the concrete staircase which once occupied this room, the existing stone flagged floor was taken up to reveal *in situ* remains. Possibly the earliest feature was east–west aligned wall **2542** (at least 2.7m long by 0.20m wide) and foundation **2538** for the main western elevation of Cannington Court. To the east, a further north–south aligned foundation, **2540**, for the eastern internal wall of the room was revealed. The function and date of wall **2542** is unclear though a medieval date is likely. Butting foundation **2538**, was ceramic culvert **2536**, leading to small brick sump (**2537**). These were sealed by a 0.25m thick bedding layer, **2535**, for the flagged floor. Layer **2535** comprised a mixed red and grey brown silty clay containing abundant broken slate, brick and rubble 19th–20th-century finds.

Room AK 14 (Figure 13; Plate 27)

- 7.6.9 Following the removal of stone-flagged floor **2514** and bedding layer **2515**, the capping stones of a roughly north-east to south-west stone-lined culvert were revealed. The construction cut (**2508**) of the culvert was at least 3.1m long by 1.20m wide and over 0.9m deep; it was cut through deposit **2513** and lined with two parallel stone walls (**2509** and **2510**) with capping stones **2511** sealing the culvert. The 0.45m wide channel was filled with **2512**, a light brown clay. No dating was recovered from the culvert or from the deposit through which it was cut. Bedding layer **2515** contained an undated rough sandstone dish (Object 16).
- 7.6.10 Room **AK 14** was an addition of the late 17th/early 18th century and, therefore, it is likely the culvert predates this, and became obsolete following the construction of the new room. The culvert could not be traced to the south in the northern extent of the drain run in **WBA 3**.

Room AK 15/16 (Figures 13 and 14; Plate 28)

- 7.6.11 Rooms **AK 15/16** are the remains of a stair tower within the northern range of Cannington Court, constructed c. 1600–50 on the analysis of the ovolo mullioned windows. This range replaced the earlier medieval range, with the stairs removed c.1919. (McLaughlin Ross LLP 2012a, 60)
- 7.6.12 Investigations within **AK 15/16** saw the removal of modern concrete floor and overburden **2402** before *in situ* archaeological deposits and structures were exposed. The earliest deposit may have been a 0.10m thick organic trample deposit, **2506**, a possible old ground surface which sealed the natural geology **2217/2505**. This deposit was either cut through or built up against north–south aligned wall **2382/2501/2504** which was built within foundation trench **2503**. On the eastern side of wall **2382/2501/2504**, was red sandstone pillar foundation **2386** (within cut **2387**) on which sat a blue lias pillar base. Butting the pillar base and the wall was levelling deposit **2393**, which was sealed by mortar bedding layer **2392** and clay bedding layer **2391** for cobbled surface **2390**. Surface **2390** was formed of fairly uniform cobbles and edged with rectangular curbing stones (**2401**); drain **2389**, was incorporated into it. The cobbled surface was similar in construction and appearance to surface **2526** revealed in **EA 2**. Sealing the structures and surfaces within **AK 15/16** was a series of levelling/make up layers (**2500**) which contained two almost identical small, biconical redware vessels of 15th/16th century date, providing a *terminus ante quem* for the remains.
- 7.6.13 It is likely that the main access into the medieval monastic house was through the northern range and not the site of the Elizabethan porch in the western range as it is today (McLaughlin Ross LLP 2012a, 56). Therefore, the cobbled surface flanked by a pillar(s) and wall probably marked the original approach into the Priory.

Room AK 20 (Figure 13)

- 7.6.14 Also located within the northern range of Cannington Court, Room **AK 20** revealed *in situ* remains below a number of levelling deposits. The earliest deposit was made-ground layer **2420**, which sealed the natural gravels **2421/2217**. Cutting layer **2420** was foundation trench **2425** for the stone rubble consolidation/levelling layer **2416** on which was built north–south aligned stone wall **2417**. At least 1.20m long, 0.40m wide and 0.30m high, **2417** ran parallel to wall **2418** (at least 1.20m long, 0.67m wide and 0.16m high). Both walls were constructed of red sandstone rubble, and though undated are likely to represent internal walls within the medieval range demolished prior to 1600–1650.

Rooms AK 41/42/43/44 (Figures 13 and 15)

- 7.6.15 The demolition of the 1920s toilet block was monitored, but no trace of the external staircase which would have led to the c. 1460–80 entrance to the first floor Great Hall/Nun's Refectory was found, either in the western elevation of the eastern range or below the toilet block. A stone-lined well was revealed (but not investigated) in **AK 41**, directly in front of the door leading from the courtyard through into **AK 37**.

Central courtyard (Figures 13 and 15)

- 7.6.16 Following the demolition of the 1920s toilet block, the secular courtyard of the Priory was investigated. An area approximately 22m by 11m (290m²) was stripped of the overlying tarmac to reveal a surface, **2529**, formed of mixed, roughly shaped (sub-rectangular to rounded) cobbles (including sandstone, blue lias and limestone). The cobbles were laid in straight lines radiating out from a drain in the south-east corner of the courtyard and set into a mortar bedding layer, **2530**, which sealed the natural gravels (where exposed). A date for this surface is unclear; it is distinctly different from Victorian surface **2411**

revealed in front of the western elevation of Cannington Court, and surfaces **2526** in **EA 2** and **2390** in **AK 15/16** which were possibly contemporary with the earliest phases of the Priory. Courtyard surface **2529** may be of 16th–17th-century origin, dating to the Rogers' occupation, but retained and repaired in the 18th to early 19th centuries. On top of the cobbles were two insubstantial later structures, **2533** and **2534**, of unknown function, and the surface had been repaired in two places with engineering and fire bricks. Courtyard surface **2529** was recorded by a rectified photography survey (**Figure 15**).

Rooms AK 65/71 (Figure 13)

- 7.6.17 These rooms lay within the area thought to have been the location of the Priory church. Removal of the floor in **AK 65** revealed only post-medieval ceramic drains and an initial brief visit to the undercroft below this part of the building recorded nothing of obvious architectural or archaeological significance.
- 7.6.18 However, in order to create a ventilation path in **AK 71**, a remnant of blocked doorway was re-opened between two existing stone retaining walls centred on the large window to the stage/high altar in the existing, 19th-century chapel. This doorway, the upper part of which had been destroyed by 20th-century building work, had brick steps up to the threshold from the undercroft. At the height of this threshold, about 1.2m down, and outside to the east of the the current building footprint, was an encaustic tile floor. Less than 1m² was exposed, and the floor was not seen or recorded archaeologically. However, one or two tiles were removed and later identified from photographs as being of late 13th or 14th-century date (see below), and the remainder of the floor was left *in situ*, not further investigated and the area subsequently covered over.
- 7.6.19 In the undercroft below **AK 65/71** a pile of debris had been previously seen which included some carved stones, possibly parts of an old altar, screen base, window fragments or other mouldings, also likely to be derived from the Priory church. However, further investigation or recording was, for various reasons, not possible. These fragments may well be related to the remains recorded by Hugo (1872, 65–7; quoted in McLaughlin Ross LLP 2012 a, 45–6) as follows:

There still exist, however, some portions of the basement, where the subsequent [16th and 17th century] alterations have spared a few fragments of the ancient House. These consist of several walls and doorways of Perpendicular work, both within the building and communicating with the gardens to the rear.

The ground plan of the structure cannot be determined from these remains, as what would seem to have been apartments now take the form of passages, from walls having been built through them for increasing their strength as foundations of the upper floors.

Of the general architecture of the House and Conventual church nothing can be said. Some years since, during a series of excavations, fragments were discovered of what appear to have been a reredos. They are of tabernacle work of the Perpendicular era, and still bear traces of blue and red colour which the taste of that day applied to carvings in wood and stone.

Lord Clifford has most obligingly provided me with several particulars of the excavations just referred to. An old well in the centre of the court was cleared out, and an encaustic tile and several "grey-beards" [stoneware 'bellarmine' pots] were discovered. The remains of the reredos had been worked into a large fire-place ... the stones were found to be sculptured at the back, and, of course, were not recommitted to their previous and most inappropriate space.

8 FINDS

8.1 Introduction

- 8.1.1 This report discusses the finds recovered from all stages of excavation and watching brief. This assemblage augments the small collection from the evaluation, previously reported on (Wessex Archaeology 2012). As before, the assemblage is largely post-medieval in date, but the excavation and watching brief have produced a larger medieval component. There is a handful of earlier artefacts (prehistoric and Romano-British).
- 8.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and totals by material type are presented in **Table 1**. This section discusses the finds by material type, providing preliminary identifications, and noting their nature, condition and date range. On this information is based an assessment of the potential of the finds to inform an understanding of the Site within its local and regional context (Section 10.9), and recommendations are made for further analysis and publication (Section 11.2).

Table 1: Finds totals by material type

Material	No	Wt
Pottery	988	35,28
<i>Romano-British</i>	4	22
<i>Medieval</i>	67	732
<i>Post-medieval</i>	917*	34,874*
Ceramic Building Material	105	15,997
Wall Plaster	46	656
Clay Pipe	44	184
Stone	37	104,431†
Flint	1	1
Glass	162	859
Slag	63	660
Metalwork	97	-
<i>Coins</i>	1	-
<i>Copper Alloy</i>	14	-
<i>Lead</i>	11	-
<i>Iron</i>	71	-
Human Bone	22	542
Animal Bone	690	12,099
Shell	278	4026

* excludes 'silt trap' (7.8kg); † one millstone not weighed

8.2 Pottery

- 8.2.1 The pottery assemblage is predominantly of post-medieval date, with a smaller medieval component, and a few Romano-British sherds. Condition is fair to good; the medieval assemblage is more fragmentary, reflecting a higher level of redeposition, as many medieval sherds were found residually in post-medieval contexts. The post-medieval assemblage is in better condition, but is biased by one very large feature group, from pit **2107/2145**, which contained 64% of the total post-medieval assemblage by sherd count (75% by sherd weight). This feature contained a number of complete or partial vessel profiles, and some cross-context joins across the pit fills.
- 8.2.2 The whole assemblage has been quantified (sherd count and weight) on a context by context basis by ware type or ware group. In the absence of a regional type series for

medieval ceramics in north Somerset, the medieval assemblage has been quantified by broad ware group (e.g. coarsewares, coarse sandywares, etc), with known wares identified where possible (e.g. Redcliffe ware, Saintonge ware). For the post-medieval period, quantification has been by a combination of broad ware groups (e.g. coarse redwares) and known ware types (e.g. Staffordshire-/Bristol-type slipwares, pearlware). For the whole assemblage, the presence of diagnostic vessel forms, and other diagnostic features, has been noted. **Table 2** gives a breakdown of the assemblage by ware group/type.

Table 2: Pottery totals by ware group/type

Period	Ware	No. sherds	Wt. (g)
ROMANO-BRITISH	Black Burnished ware (BB1)	4	22
MEDIEVAL	Medieval coarsewares	34	344
	Medieval sandy wares	7	159
	Redcliffe ware	3	14
	Late medieval sandy wares	22	196
	Saintonge ware	1	19
	<i>sub-total medieval</i>	67	732
POST-MED/MODERN	Redware	344*	22,741*
	Slipware	65	2342
	North Devon gravel-tempered ware	2	25
	Tudor green ware	1	5
	Green-glazed import	1	30
	Staffs-type slipware	8	79
	Staffs-type manganese mottled ware	1	1
	Tin-glazed earthenware	8	146
	Basalt ware	3	101
	German stoneware	2	35
	English stoneware	42	3904
	White salt-glazed ware	3	48
	Creamware	131	2008
	Pearlware	55	529
	Yellow ware	26	402
	Refined whiteware	224	2459
	Rockingham ware	1	19
	<i>sub-total post-med/modern</i>	917	34,874
	OVERALL TOTAL	988	35,628

* excludes 'silt trap' (7.8kg)

Romano-British

- 8.2.3 Four sherds have been identified as Romano-British. All are in Black Burnished ware (BB1) of south-east Dorset origin. All are small, abraded body sherds, and all occurred residually in later contexts. They nevertheless serve to indicate a Romano-British presence in the vicinity of the Site.

Medieval

- 8.2.4 The medieval assemblage (67 sherds) is dominated by coarsewares, which fall into two broad groups: wares containing prominent rock inclusions (primarily sandstone, some possible shale or slate); and coarse sandywares. Both types are used exclusively for jar forms. The small quantities and scarcity of diagnostic forms (and those that do occur are not particularly chronologically distinctive) limit the potential for close dating, but a date range of 11th to 12th century for the coarsewares, and 12th to 13th century for the sandywares, seems reasonable.
- 8.2.5 In terms of potential source(s), a local origin seems most likely for the coarsewares, and there are two production sites within 10 km of the Site, at Nether Stowey and Crowcombe (Allan 1999, 47). In addition, there are documentary references to pottery production at Bridgwater and Milverton (Le Patourel 1968, 125). It is possible also that some fall into the group of 'North Devon medieval coarseware' defined by Allan, dating from the 13th century onwards (1994, 142-4). These wares were recognised at Cleeve Abbey, approximately 20 km to the west of Cannington (Allan 1999, 47).
- 8.2.6 Finewares comprise three sherds of Redcliffe ware (BPT118 in the Bristol type series), almost certainly all from jugs (ditch **2153**, pit **2107/2145**, pit **2235**); and one sherd of Saintonge ware, a strap handle from a jug or pegau (ditch **2152**). Redcliffe ware dates c. 1250 onwards in Bristol, and circulated as late as c. 1500, while Saintonge ware was imported in the late 13th and early 14th century. The presence of Saintonge ware on this site could be taken as an indicator of status, since imported pottery is largely confined to the major ports in the medieval period, occurring in the hinterland almost exclusively on higher status manorial or ecclesiastical sites. Redcliffe ware too seems to have a high status association in south Somerset, being found at Cleeve Abbey and Glastonbury Abbey (Allan 1999, 44-5). Both the Saintonge and Redcliffe wares could have been acquired through the market of Bristol, or more directly via coastal trade up the Bristol Channel.
- 8.2.7 A few sherds in finer sandy fabrics are likely to belong to the later medieval period (14th to 15th century). Nineteen of the 22 sherds so identified may belong to a single vessel, in a visibly micaceous fine sandy ware, possibly non-local; sherds occurred in post-demolition levelling layer **2233** and posthole **2273** (the same two layers produced a small group of medieval painted window glass: see below), and included a small handle, from a small jug or cup/mug. One other diagnostic sherd, from a bowl rim, came from post-demolition levelling layer **2232**.

Post-medieval

- 8.2.8 Coarse redwares constitute the largest ware type in the post-medieval assemblage. Although quantified here separately from the slip-decorated wares, the two can be regarded as a single group. These wares supplied the utilitarian component of the ceramic assemblage, providing a fairly limited range of bowls in various sizes (for dairying, food preparation and food storage, amongst other functions), jugs (storage and serving of beverages) and, to a much lesser extent, jars (food storage, food preparation). The slip-decorated wares in general are found in a similar range of vessel forms to the plain wares, but in this instance there is a group of shallow slip-decorated dishes, a form not seen amongst the plainwares. These seem to form a 'set' in various sizes - rim diameters range from 160–260mm. These vessels were manufactured in large quantities in north Devon and Somerset, becoming increasingly popular from the mid-17th century (Barker 1993, 8).
- 8.2.9 There are several potential sources for the redwares and slipwares across south Somerset and north Devon. The closest is Nether Stowey, 7 km to the west of Cannington

(Allan 1984, 98; 1999); others include Wrangway (25 km to the south-west of Cannington), and Donyatt (approximately 27 km to the south-east). Most of these centres were producing redwares in very similar fabrics, and no attempt has been made at this stage to try and identify the products of different sources. Two sherds, however, are in the distinctively coarse North Devon gravel-tempered ware. At Cleeve Abbey, some 20 km to the west of Cannington, Allan notes that south Somerset (e.g. Donyatt) products far outnumbered those of North Devon (Allan 1999, 51).

- 8.2.10 The date range of the redwares potentially spans the post-medieval period, but the slipwares date to the 17th to 18th centuries and, from the range of vessel forms present, it seems that the majority of the redwares are likely to belong to the same period. The possibility of earlier wares cannot be ruled out, and two almost identical small, biconical vessels from **2500**, with curvilinear tooled decoration, are likely to be 15th/16th century on stylistic grounds. At the other end of the date range, later wares are also present, in the form of unglazed horticultural wares (flowerpots), of probable 19th-century date or later.
- 8.2.11 Also belonging to the early post-medieval period (15th/16th century) is a single small sherd from a cup in 'Tudor Green' ware, from post-demolition levelling layer **2232**.
- 8.2.12 An earthenware possibly of more exotic origin came from landscaping/levelling deposit **2042**; this is a small body sherd from a relatively thick-walled vessel, green-glazed both inside and out, and with slight horizontal corrugation externally. The fabric is coarse, and contains prominent rock inclusions. This has been identified as a Spanish olive jar of Seville Middle/Late Style, dating between the later 16th and 18th century. The distribution in this country of these post-medieval olive jars (which followed earlier, medieval trade in these vessels) is concentrated in the southern half of England (Gerrard *et al.* 1995, 285, fig. 20.4B).
- 8.2.13 A complete vessel of unusual form was found north of Priory Barn Cottages in **WBA3** (Drainage run). This is handmade in a coarse redware fabric, and consists of a deep, oval, round-bottomed bowl form, with a transverse bar across the rim, just off-centre. The vessel was found, apparently *in situ*, mortared into a drainage channel, and it is presumed that it fulfilled a function as a kind of silt trap, catching larger solids from, for example, a kitchen drain.
- 8.2.14 Early post-medieval finewares are limited to a few sherds of trailed and combed/feathered slipwares and manganese mottled wares of Staffordshire or (more probably) Bristol origin; these include cups and platters with scalloped rims, and date to the later 17th or early 18th century. There are also two sherds of German (Frechen) stoneware of 17th century date, and eight sherds of tin glazed earthenware (17th/early 18th century), including the base from a probable chamber pot.
- 8.2.15 From the beginnings of industrial production (early 18th century) are a few sherds of early English stonewares (white salt glaze and dipped stoneware, both probably of Staffordshire manufacture), in tableware forms (bowl and mug/tankard).
- 8.2.16 Later refined wares are more numerous, and include creamware, pearlware, whiteware and yellow ware, used for tablewares and tea wares, as well as kitchen wares (largely small/medium bowls) and chamber pots. Transfer-printed wares are common amongst the pearlwares and whitewares, but there is also a group of sponged wares, seemingly all from small/medium convex bowls. Creamwares and yellow wares both include 'mocha ware' (a term used to describe slip-decorated with dendritic patterns, but also other kinds of coloured slip decoration such as marbling, banding and cabling). These slip-decorated

wares appeared at the end of the 18th century, but continued to be produced into the early 20th century.

- 8.2.17 Later English stonewares too indicate a date range at least into the 19th century, if not beyond. These include vessels with Bristol (feldspathic) glaze, which must date to the 1830s or later. These stonewares were used for storage vessels of various kinds: a large flagon, for beer or cider, storage jars of various sizes, and smaller cylindrical jars or bottles, either for beverages, or for household products (e.g. furniture polish or blacking).

Pit group 2107/2145

- 8.2.18 A total of 590 sherds (weighing 26,101g) was recovered from this pit, interpreted as a large rubbish pit with a number of deliberate backfills. The majority of the pottery came from a single fill, **2110** (482 sherds, 23,333g). Across the feature group as a whole, coarse redwares predominate, and the majority of these represent large flared or convex bowls or 'pancheons', as well as some jars and jugs. This looks like a typical kitchen/dairy assemblage. One large bowl appears to have been repaired with glue at some stage, and one jug is badly worn on one side of the base, through being constantly tipped in a single direction to pour out the contents.
- 8.2.19 Slipwares are also common in this feature group, particularly shallow dishes with trailed slip decoration. There are fragments of at least ten of these dishes.
- 8.2.20 Also in this feature group were several vessels in 18th/19th-century English stoneware, including a large flagon, and a medium-sized 'bung jar' (Green 1999, 167, 365); there is also a body sherd from a German stoneware jug or bottle of 17th-century date. Other pre-industrial English finewares are scarce, limited to two sherds of feathered slipware, which might originate from Staffordshire but could equally well be of Bristol manufacture. Later refined wares, however, are more numerous, including creamwares, pearlwares, yellow wares (including mocha wares) and whitewares, indicating a date range from mid-18th at least into the 19th century if not later.
- 8.2.21 While the possibility that some of the coarse redwares could be earlier than 17th century cannot be ruled out, the majority of this pit group seems to date from the 17th to early/18th century, tailing off into the later 18th/early 19th century. The pottery from the different fills shows a broad similarity, and may reflect a single clearance episode (an association with the building repairs of 1806–10 is possible, although this would seem a little early for the yellow (mocha) wares, which are more common from the 1830s). Also of interest here is a cross-context join with construction cut **2159**, and other possible same-vessel sherd links (trailed slipware dishes).

8.3 Ceramic building material

- 8.3.1 This category includes fragments of roof tile, floor tile and brick.

Roof tile

- 8.3.2 Prominent amongst the roof tile are fragments of glazed ridge tile (25). These probably include both medieval and post-medieval examples, the former occurring in coarser fabrics with prominent macroscopic inclusions, and the latter in fabrics corresponding to coarse redwares. The post-medieval types have thickened edges, occasionally slashed, and tiles of both medieval and post-medieval type include examples with applied knife-cut crests. One ridge tile in the post-medieval fabric has an unusual flat crest (post-demolition levelling layer **2232**).

- 8.3.3 Also relatively common amongst the roof tile are fragments of post-medieval unglazed curved tiles (26), probably the 'triple Roman' pantiles that can be seen on the extant roofs of Cannington Court.
- 8.3.4 Flat roof tile is very much in the minority, but two certain examples were recovered (drain **2102**, pit **2240**), both of which appear to have been reused, as evidenced by a thick layer of mortar adhering to each. Each preserves a complete width (120mm and 145mm respectively). Another peg tile from overburden **2002** appears to preserve a complete width, but this is unusually narrow (90mm).
- 8.3.5 A few small and undiagnostic unglazed flat roof tile fragments could belong to peg tiles, or to further examples of pantiles or ridge tiles.

Possible roof furniture

- 8.3.6 A piece of possible roof furniture was recovered from medieval ditch **2153**. This is a small, roughly conical object, glazed, with applied decoration, and may belong to a finial of some form.

Floor tile

- 8.3.7 As for the ridge tile, floor tile (10 fragments) occurs in two fabric variants which probably equate to medieval and post-medieval groups, the former in a coarse fabric similar to that used for the ridge tiles. All examples are plain, and most are glazed. None of the floor tiles were found *in situ*.
- 8.3.8 However, although not seen or recorded archaeologically, a small part (less than 1m²) of an encaustic tile floor has been reported immediately to the east and outside of **AK 71**, in the suggested location of the Priory church or chapter house. One or two tiles were removed from this floor (which has otherwise been left *in situ*) and one has been identified from photographs as being of the Wessex school and assigned a late 13th or 14th-century date. It can be equated to no. 187 in the corpus of decorated floor tiles from Somerset (Lowe 2003, 28 and 84). Its decoration comprises part of a repeating pattern of a circle interwoven by arcs of four other circles across the tile corners which contain quarters of a four-petalled flower. Tiles of this type are recorded, for example, at Bruton Priory, Glastonbury Abbey and Montacute Priory (*ibid.*)

Brick

- 8.3.9 No complete bricks were recovered, but most fragments (total 18) appear to belong to unfroged types. One fragment from pit **2107** is from a yellow-firing Gault clay fire-brick of 19th-century date. A fragment of a modern airbrick came from the overburden.

8.4 Clay tobacco pipe

- 8.4.1 The clay pipe consists largely of plain stem fragments, but also includes two decorated (roller-stamped) stems (robber trench **2158**, overburden in **AK 15/AK 16**), and nine datable bowls. Six of the bowls date to the mid to late 17th century (robber trench **2158**, made ground **2042**, two from garden soil **2519**). Two bowls came from the overburden in **AK 15/16**, one of late 17th/early 18th-century date, and the other dating c. 1780–1820, while a decorated bowl from pit **2107/2145** is also of later 18th or early 19th-century date.
- 8.4.2 One of the 17th-century bowls from garden soil **2519** (Interceptor Tank) carries the stamped heel mark of Jeffry Hunt, a pipe maker probably based in Bristol, and who first produced marked pipes c. 1650 (Atkinson 1971). His pipes have a widespread distribution across the West Country. This example features a mid-17th century bowl with a distinctive

overhanging bowl with a line of milling around the lip, and the mark (Hunt used at least seven different dies) is the commonest form (*ibid.*, bowl type 2, mark A).

- 8.4.3 Roller-stamped stems are paralleled at Plymouth, for example, where they appear to occur on both Dutch imports and local West Country products (Oswald 1969); these two examples are both well-made and polished, and could be imports,

8.5 Stone

- 8.5.1 The stone includes a group of millstones, a whetstone and a possible vessel, and various types of building material (roof and floor tiles, architectural mouldings).

Millstones

- 8.5.2 The millstones (five fragments of capping **2148** from culvert **2150**) are made of an Old Red Sandstone conglomerate, which outcrops close to Cannington. The portion of broken millstone was identified as the lower or bedstone (the upper stone being the runner stone) from a pair of millstones as indicated from the lack of rind (rynd) hole; a carved socket to receive the rind (the bracket which holds the runner stone to the spindle and the rest of the gearing mechanism). Dating of bedstones is difficult due to the lack of diagnostic attributes though it is likely derived from the medieval Priory mill.

Whetstone

- 8.5.3 One whetstone was recovered, a rectangular bar-shaped object (Object 16) from wall foundation **2215**. One end is broken, and there is a wear groove along one face.

Possible vessel

- 8.5.4 A piece of red sandstone, found during ground works within Room **AK 14** appears to have been deliberately hollowed out to form a crude dish; its date is unknown.

Building material

- 8.5.5 There are six fragments of architectural mouldings, four from the rubble-rich upper fill of pit **2356**, one from the overburden in **WBA 2**, and one from overburden in **AK 15/16**. All are in limestone, but of varying types. The simplest is a half-round moulding; the others could derive from window or door surrounds, but do not survive complete. It is uncertain whether these belonged to the medieval Priory complex, or from later additions.
- 8.5.6 One much cruder fragment is in chalk or clunch; this has roughly shaped concave moulding, covered in white plaster, and has two iron nails *in situ* in one surface. This came from the **WBA 2** overburden.
- 8.5.7 A roughly shaped blue lias slab from the overburden is possibly part of a floor paving slab as it is worn smooth on one surface, although it is an unusual rhomboid or triangular shape rather than square. It has been reused as there are remnants of red sandstone mortar adhering to all surfaces.
- 8.5.8 The majority of the remaining stone consists of roofing slate, mostly small fragments with a couple of near complete examples. The slates almost certainly derived from local West Country sources; there were slate quarries on Exmoor and the Brendon and Quantock Hills that were worked from the 15th to the 19th centuries. Only a few surviving complete dimensions could be recorded, but from these it is evident that the slates varied in size, which is consistent with the use of tiles increasing in size from roof ridge to eaves (see, for example, Thorp 1996, 294). There is one tile which appears to be complete, measuring 210 x 120mm (post-demolition layer **2297**), while the tops of two others survive, with

widths of 85mm and 120mm respectively (pit **2107**). All three examples have chamfered top edges, to facilitate water run-off; the lower edge would have been cut straight across. Some of the slates have either one or two peg-holes at the upper end, showing they were top-hung (the second peg-hole is possibly due to the correction of an initial mistake in positioning the hole). Many of the fragments have mortar attached, showing they were wet-laid in the West Country tradition of 'scantle' or triple-lap slating (Hughes 2008, 40). Whether these slates were used in the medieval Priory complex, or featured in later additions, is uncertain.

- 8.5.9 A large, roughly square slab from possible robber pit **2235** (390 x 390mm) could have functioned as a roof tile, but is particularly large and heavy for the purpose; alternatively, it could have been a rough paving slab.
- 8.5.10 Architectural stone fragments (not *in situ*) have also been reported previously from the undercroft below **AK 65/71**, possibly parts of an old altar, screen base, window fragments or other mouldings, most likely derived from the medieval Priory church. However, these were not seen during an initial, brief visit to this area and subsequent access was not possible.

8.6 Wall plaster

- 8.6.1 All but one fragment of the small quantity of wall plaster recovered came from a single feature, pit **2107/2145**. Fragments are mostly monochrome white, with a few small fragments in monochrome blue; they appear to be pieces of a lime-washed wall, perhaps typical of an out-house or other ancillary building. One fragment was found in the packing for the kerbstones of road **2159**. The date of the plaster is uncertain, but pit **2107/2145** was backfilled during the latter part of the 17th–19th centuries.

8.7 Glass

- 8.7.1 The glass includes both vessel and window glass. Vessel glass (38 fragments) is all of post-medieval date. This breaks down into four categories:
- *Green wine bottles dating between c. 1680 and c. 1830, free-blown or mould-blown:* 16 fragments fall into this category, but most are too fragmentary to assign to specific forms ('onion', 'mallet', 'squat cylindrical'). Fragments came from the overburden, robber trench **2158**, made ground **2046**, pit **2107/2145**.
 - *Other post-medieval free-blown vessels:* this category comprises rim/neck fragments from two vessels, a flask with wrythen decoration, of 16th or early 17th-century date, from road **2159** (Willmott 2002, type 20.3), and a cylindrical phial of 18th-century date (robber trench **2158**). The flask, almost certainly an English product, made in potash glass, would have been used for the temporary storage and transfer of liquids; its date range spans the Dissolution period, so it is uncertain whether it belonged to the Priory or to the post-Dissolution occupation, but it may be noted that of three comparable vessels found at Exeter, one came from a Dissolution deposit (Charleston 1984, 268, fig. 148, nos. 62, 66-7).
 - *Modern machine-made bottles and jars:* 19 fragments, again too fragmentary to assign to specific types, although fragments from the overburden may belong to soda bottles.

- *Drinking vessels:* only one example, from a modern plain-rimmed drinking vessel of uncertain form (metalled surface **2162**).

8.7.2 Of particular interest amongst the window glass (122 fragments) is a group of medieval painted glass. This group comprises 103 fragments, all but one of which came from the fill of posthole **2273**; the remaining piece came from levelling layer **2233**; there are probable same-vessel pottery sherd links between the two deposits (the pottery from both tentatively dated as 14th/15th century). This glass is in poor condition, heavily degraded and friable.

8.7.3 Fragments of later, post-medieval window glass, with some surface oxidation, came from the overburden, ditch **2152** and robber trench **2158**; two fragments from made ground **2042** are from a quarry with a flame-rounded edge. This material is too fragmentary to ascertain quarry size and shape; it is not closely datable but is likely to be of 17th or 18th-century date. Fragments of modern reinforced glass were recovered from made ground **2042** and bedding layer **2479**.

8.8 Slag

8.8.1 A small quantity of material was recorded as slag (see **Table 1**); on closer inspection, however, only one fragment, weighing 10g (from overburden **2002**) proved to be ironworking slag (undiagnostic, though most likely to be debris from smithing). Fifty small fragments (weighing 225g), from early medieval pit **2212** and late medieval post hole **2344**, comprised melted copper alloy and sheet fragments, and included a copper alloy nail, and is likely to represent melted waste from some activity other than metalworking. Ten fragments (224g) from pit **2107/2145** are clinker, resulting from some unspecified pyrotechnical activity, and two fragments (201g) from the flue of kiln **2174** are vitrified ceramic.

8.9 Coin

8.9.1 A single copper alloy jeton was recovered from rooms **AK 15/16**, the remains of a stair tower in the northern range.

8.9.2 This shows signs of both pre-depositional wear and post-depositional damage, and is heavily corroded in places. However, it is recognisable as one of the stock 'Shield of France' jetons struck in Tournai throughout the 15th century. The stair tower was built c. 1600–50, and this jeton must presumably be a residual find from the preceding medieval range.

8.9.3 Jetons were reckoning counters used in medieval accounting and mathematical calculations. They were used in conjunction with checkerboards or cloths in order to record values and sums of money. Specialist tokens for this purpose were produced from the late 13th century onwards, and they were in widespread use from the 14th century until the late 17th century, when they were made redundant by the increasing spread of Arabic numerals. Nuremberg took over from Tournai as the main European centre for jeton manufacture in the 16th century. Prior to this, designs on jetons usually reflected those on contemporary coins, and jetons were often minted under government authority.

8.10 Metalwork

8.10.1 The metalwork includes objects of copper alloy, lead and iron. Copper alloy objects include four buttons (overburden, road **2159**, construction cut **2253**); a dressmaker's pin (?posthole **2273**); a fragment of a small cast object, probably a rumbler bell (tree throw **2293**); the tripod leg from a cooking vessel (posthole **2273**); a very small, oval decorative

plaque, possibly from a small box, with an embossed design in the form of a stylised Tudor Rose-type flower surrounded by leaves (made ground **2046**); and a possible candleholder drip tray (construction cut **2253**). All these objects are post-medieval but, apart from three of the buttons (one made by P & S Firmin of the Strand, London, post-1837), probably pre-date the modern period. Other objects comprise undiagnostic fragments.

- 8.10.2 The iron consists largely of nails (at least 38 examples) and other probable structural items. Other identifiable objects are confined to a medieval whittle tang knife (made ground **2042**), a second possible knife of uncertain form (pothole **2350**), and a post-medieval patten ring (overburden in **AK 15/16**). A lanceolate socketed object from occupation layer **2050** appears to represent a decorative finial, probably from a wrought iron railing. A probable bucket handle was recovered from the overburden. Strip fragments from medieval ditch **2153** appear to belong to a bucket or barrel hoop(s); the fragments have mineralised wood adhering.

8.11 Lead

- 8.11.1 Most of the lead consists of small scraps of waste material, possibly gathered for recycling during demolition. A strip wrapped around three sides of a rectangular iron block (overburden in **AK 15/16**) may have acted as a clamp.
- 8.11.2 Two very small fragments of window came were found in levelling layer **2233** and posthole **2273**, in deposits containing with the medieval painted window glass (see above).

8.12 Human bone

- 8.12.1 A small cluster of redeposited human bone (**2507**) found during groundworks was subject to assessment. The material was recovered from a 19th-century pipe trench which lay approximately 8m north of the west tower of the Church of St Mary (est. 1375), and continued along the outside edge of the current church boundary wall. The church was linked to Cannington Priory (c. 1138–1536).
- 8.12.2 The bone was rapidly scanned to assess the condition of the bone (McKinley 2004, fig. 6), demographic data, potential for recovery of skeletal indices, and the presence of pathological lesions. Assessments of age and sex were based on standard methodologies (Buikstra and Uberlaker 1994, Scheuer and Black 2000). Stature was estimated as per Trotter and Gleser (1952, 1958). The results are presented in **Table 3** and discussed below.
- 8.12.3 The remains were recovered from the pipe trench backfill, $\leq 0.4\text{m}$ below the current ground surface. Bone condition varies from very good to degraded (grade 0–5). Fragmentation comprises moderate levels of old and new breaks to dry bone.
- 8.12.4 A minimum of three individuals (MNI) are represented. The presence of adults of both sexes and an infant may suggest that the remains are most likely those of members the local population rather than the religious institution, but the small assemblage size, its *ex situ* context and broad potential date range precludes in-depth discussion. The female has a small defect on the distal articular surface of the right humerus; no other pathological lesions were observed.



Table 3: Summary of human bone

context	deposit type	quantity	age/sex	comment
2507	a)?R/inh. burial	c. 18% a.u.l	adult c. 20–30 yr. female	grade 0-1; old & new breaks; slight dinks, end damage; gracile individual; stature: 1.58m;
	b) R	2 frags. l.	adult >20 yr. ??male	grade 4-5; old breaks; eroded; some cracking; ?reworking; no surfaces, measurements or indices; larger & heavier than a)
	c) R	1 bone l.	infant c. 2–4 yr.	1-2; ends gone; slight erosion; old and new breaks; no indices

KEY: R - redeposited; a.u.l. – axial skeleton, upper limb and lower limb

8.13 Animal bone

- 8.13.1 The assemblage comprises 690 fragments (or 12.099kg) of animal bone. Once conjoins are taken into account this falls to 596 fragments. Bone was recovered from 65 separate contexts of medieval, post-medieval and modern date (**Table 4**).

Table 4: Number of identified specimens present (or NISP) by broad chronological period

Species	Phase				Total
	Medieval	Post-medieval	Modern	Undated	
cattle	19	61	18	17	115
sheep/goat	3	31	7	13	54
pig	2	10	4	2	18
horse	1		1		2
dog		1			1
fallow deer		1	1		2
roe deer				1	1
rabbit		20	2	1	23
domestic fowl	1	3	3	7	14
goose		2		1	3
duck			2	2	4
woodcock		2			2
fish				1	1
Total identified	26	131	38	45	240
Total unidentifiable	24	206	51	75	356
Overall total	50	337	89	120	596

- 8.13.2 The following information was recorded where applicable: species, skeletal element, preservation condition, fusion and 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.

Table 5: Animal bone: quantity and type of detailed information

Information type	No.
Butchery	39
Biometric	32
Age - fusion	106
Age - 2+ teeth	3

Preservation condition

- 8.13.3 Bone preservation is on the whole quite good and most fragments show little or no sign of physical weathering. However, a few contexts include bones in very different preservation states, and this is usually an indication that the more poorly preserved bones have been reworked and re-deposited from earlier contexts. Contexts affected in this way include ditches **2152** and **2153**, pit **2107/2145**, and several modern overburden deposits. Only eight gnawed bones were noted in the whole assemblage. This is an extremely low incidence and suggests that scavenging dogs did not have open access to bone waste. It is also possible that the site was kept relatively clean and tidy, and any surface detritus was removed or buried before it could accumulate.

Medieval

- 8.13.4 The medieval assemblage consists of just 50 fragments, a little over half of which could be identified to species. Most of the identified bones belong to cattle, which is represented by a number of post-cranial bones and the mandible from a senile animal. Other identified species include sheep/goat, pig, horse and domestic fowl.

Post-medieval

- 8.13.5 A total of 337 fragments of animal bone were recovered from post-medieval contexts. Cattle bones are relatively common, and include long bones, vertebrae, fragments of mandible and loose teeth. Pit **2107/2145** contained a scapula blade with clear saw marks and several vertebrae and a sacrum which had been split down the mid-line. This butchery technique divides carcass into sides and is fairly typical of the period. Other identified species include sheep/goat, pig, dog, fallow deer, rabbit, domestic fowl, goose and woodcock. The fallow deer bone is the distal half of a humerus and was recovered from demolition layer **2232**.

Modern

- 8.13.6 Most of the modern assemblage is from overburden deposits. Identified species include cattle, sheep/goat, pig, horse, fallow deer, rabbit, domestic fowl and duck. It is worth noting that the distal fragment of horse femur from made ground **2042** had been chopped through the mid-shaft, a clear indication that horse carcasses were processed for meat. Given the long standing taboo surrounding the consumption of horse meat it is likely that dogs were the intended recipients.
- 8.13.7 Most of the identified bones belong to cattle and sheep/goat, both of which are represented by a range of post-cranial bones. Other identified species include pig, roe deer, rabbit, domestic fowl, goose and duck. One fish vertebra was also recovered and has been provisionally identified as *Gadidae* (or cod family).



8.14 Marine shell

- 8.14.1 Most of the shell comprises oyster. Both right and left valves are represented, i.e. both preparation and consumption waste, in roughly equal quantities. The two largest deposits came from occupation layer **2050** (59 shells) and large pit **2107** (144 shells), both of 18th-century date or later
- 8.14.2 Four other species are represented by small quantities of shells: cockle (97), limpet (2), periwinkle (1) and carpet shell (1).

9 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

9.1 Introduction

- 9.1.1 A total of 12 bulk samples were taken during the excavation and watching brief phases of work on the Site, mainly from features of medieval date. These samples were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoal.
- 9.1.2 The bulk samples break down into the following groups:

Table 6: Sample Provenance Summary

Area	Phase	No of samples	Volume (litres)	Feature types
Excavation Area 1	1	2	33	Culvert, layer
Excavation Area 1	5	1	10	Culvert
Watching Brief Area 2	1	4	41	Pits
Watching Brief Area 2	3	2	20	Ditches
Watching Brief Area 2	4	3	29	Post holes, layer
Totals		12	133	

9.2 Charred plant remains

- 9.2.1 The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6 mm, 2 mm and 1 mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. The flots were scanned under a x10 – x40 stereo-binocular microscope and the preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains recorded in **Table 8** (at end of report). Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary and Hopf (2000, tables 3, page 28 and 5, page 65), for cereals.
- 9.2.2 The flots varied in size and there were low to high numbers of roots and modern seeds together with coal fragments in these samples. Charred material comprised varying degrees of preservation.

Excavation Area 1

- 9.2.3 A moderate number of cereal remains were recovered from the Phase 1 culvert **2018**, group **2157**. These included free-threshing wheat (*Triticum turgidum/aestivum* type) and barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) grain fragments and a culm node fragment. The large number of weed seeds recorded from this feature included seeds of vetch/wild pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.), oats/brome grass (*Avena/Bromus* sp.), rye-grass/fescue (*Lolium/Festuca* sp.), docks (*Rumex* sp.), goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.), stinking mayweed (*Anthemiscotula*) and scentless mayweed (*Tripleurospermum inodorum*).

9.2.4 A few cereal remains and a moderately high number of other charred remains were recovered from layer **2039**. These included free-threshing wheat grain and rachis fragments and seeds of vetch/wild pea, celtic bean (*Vicia faba*), oats/brome grass, brassica (*Brassica* sp.), stinking mayweed and possible flax (*Linum usitatissimum*).

9.2.5 The flot from Phase 5 culvert **2058**, group **2158** only contained a very few charred plant remains. These included free-threshing wheat grain fragments and a seed of vetch/wild pea.

Watching Brief Area 2

9.2.6 Cereal remains were recovered from three of the four samples from Phase 1 pits, in particular from pit **2278**. These included free-threshing wheat grain and rachis fragments, barley grain fragments and a glume base of hulled wheat, emmer or spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*). The weed seeds included seeds of oat/brome grass, vetch/wild pea, and clover/medick (*Trifolium/Medicago* sp.). There were also seeds of celtic bean and fragments of hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) shell.

9.2.7 Moderate assemblages were recorded from Phase 3 ditches **2357** and **2360**. The cereal remains included free-threshing wheat, barley and possible rye (*Secale cereale*) grain fragments, and a glume base of emmer (*Triticum dicoccum*). The weed seeds included seeds of oat/brome grass, vetch/wild pea, clover/medick and docks.

9.2.8 Two small assemblages were observed in the samples from Phase 4 post holes **2344** and **2273**, while a high number of cereal remains were noted from layer **2233**. These included free-threshing wheat and barley grain fragments. There were also seeds of oat/brome grass, vetch/wild pea and bean/pea (*Vicia faba/Pisum* sp.) as well as hazelnut shell fragments.

Discussion

9.2.9 These assemblages are indicative of general settlement waste and activities and the weed seeds are all typically found in grassland, field margins or arable environments. The assemblages are compatible with the suggested dates. Free-threshing wheat became common in Southern England within the Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods (Greig 1991; Green 1984) and it seems to generally replace hulled wheat at this time. Stinking mayweed, which appears in the Romano-British period (Greig 1991), thrives in heavier clay soils and has been associated with the increased cultivation of such soils from the Anglo-Saxon period onwards (Jones 1981; Stevens with Robinson 2004). There are similarities between these plant remains and the assemblages from some other medieval deposits in the local area, such as Taunton Priory (Greig and Osborne 1984) and Whitegate Farm, Bleadon (Smith 2003).

9.3 Wood charcoal

9.3.1 Wood charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in **Table 8**. Relatively large amount of wood charcoal fragments were recovered from Phase 5 culvert **2058**, group **2158** in **EA 1**, from Phase 1 pit **2212** in Watching Brief Area 2 and Phase 4 layer **2233** in **WBA 2**. The charcoal included round and mature wood fragments.

9.4 Land snails

9.4.1 A number of land snails were observed in five of the bulk sample flots from **WBA 2**. Some information about shell quantity and species representation was recorded. Nomenclature is according to Anderson (2005) and habitat preferences according to Kerney (1999).

- 9.4.2 The few shells from pit **2212** included those of the intermediate species *Trochulushispidus* and *Cochlicopa* sp., while the small assemblage from pit **2379** included those of the shade-loving species *Vitrea* sp. and the intermediate species *Trochulushispidus*.
- 9.4.3 The low number of shells from ditch **2357** included those of the shade-loving species *Discus rotundatus* and the open country species *Valloniacostata*.
- 9.4.4 A few shells of *Trochulushispidus* were noted in the flots from post hole **2273**.
- 9.4.5 A higher number of mollusc shells were recorded from layer **2233**. These included shells of the shade-loving species *Baleaperversa*, *Clausiliabidentata*, *Discus rotundatus* and *Oxychiluscellarius*, the intermediate species *Cochlicopa* sp. and *Trochulushispidus*, and the open country species *Pupillamuscorum*, *Vertigo pygmaea*, *Valloniacostata* and *Valloniaexcentrica*.

9.5 Small animal and fish bones

- 9.5.1 During the processing of bulk soil samples for the recovery of charred plant remains and charcoals, small animal bones were noted, and recorded (**Table 8**), in the flots. These included those of birds/small mammals and fish.

10 FURTHER POTENTIAL

10.1 Stratigraphic sequence

- 10.1.1 The programme of archaeological works at Cannington Court was for the most part successful in achieving the stated aims identified within the Written Scheme of Investigation, in that it has defined the nature, extent, character and stratigraphic sequence of the remains within the development areas. However, due to the paucity of finds, a clear dateable sequence has not always been possible to achieve.

10.2 Romano-British

- 10.2.1 No evidence of Romano-British activity was recorded on Site, though residual pottery sherds within later features demonstrate activity of this period within the vicinity.

10.3 Saxon– early medieval

WBA 2 – Phase 1

- 10.3.1 The earliest remains within the Site potentially pre-date *Domesday*. They comprise the possible early church enclosure ditch **2352/2413** and the series of small pits containing 11th–12th-century pottery and melted copper alloy debris in **WBA 2**. A date for the digging of the possible enclosure ditch is unknown, however deliberate backfilling c. mid-12th century during the initial building of the Priory complex appears likely. Comparison with other early church sites may provide appropriate parallels for the early church at Cannington.

10.4 Priory foundation

WBA 2 – Phase 2

- 10.4.1 The Priory foundation date of 1138 is well documented and the archaeological evidence supports a mid-12th century date for the first structures (east–west aligned wall foundation Group **2170** and small possibly square structure Group **2171**) within **WBA 2**. It is possible that cobbled surface **2390** in **AK 15/16** formed the original access route into the Priory

from the north and this surface is contemporary with surface **2526** in **EA 2**. The identification of the lime kiln, **2174**, cutting early ditch **2352/2413** and containing only 11th–12th-century pottery provides further evidence of the nature of construction which was taking place. No early remains were revealed within **EA 1**.

- 10.4.2 Together, these somewhat disparate elements, along with the discovery of an encaustic tile floor (see below), and the documentary evidence, provide some potential for elaborating further on the early layout of the Priory, about which relatively little is known.

10.5 Priory expansion

EA 1 – Phase 1, WBA 2 – Phase 4, WBA 3 – Central Courtyard

- 10.5.1 The earliest remains within **EA 1**, comprising east–west aligned wall **2131** and stone-lined culvert **2150**, and building Group **2172** within **WBA 2**, belong to a period of expansion during the 13th–15th centuries.
- 10.5.2 The encaustic tile floor found to the east of **AK 71** falls within this period, and is of probable 14th-century date. Its location strongly suggests that this is either the site of the Priory church, as has been previously indicated, specifically the east end, or the chapter house which may have lay immediately to the north within a small cloister.
- 10.5.3 The Priory expansion is likely to have occurred during a period of prosperity when increasing numbers of paying guests were staying within the Priory, resulting in the need for additional accommodation and supporting facilities.
- 10.5.4 Cannington Priory was separated into two distinct areas of activity; the ecclesiastical – centred around the nuns church and the cloister (which probably lies under the current Clifford Hall, see above) in the southern portion of the building complex due north of the current parish church of St Mary, and the secular – the northern portion of the complex and the main surviving courtyard. The secular ranges of building were to provide accommodation for the great and the good (especially the wealthy wives, sisters and daughters) of local families while keeping them separate from the nuns to limit the influence of the outside world. The Priory would receive paying guests but only those that were ‘*good and honest*’, and that guests must ‘*live at their own proper cost, and their presence was not to attract other strangers to the burden of the House or suspicion of scandal*’. This record, from 27th December 1314, is from the Bishops request to the Prioress for the wife and two sisters of John Ffychet to come and live at Cannington during John’s absence or for ‘as much of that interval as should be agreeable to them’, and is one of numerous accounts detailing those who came to stay (Hugo 1872, 16–17). Further accounts (14th October 1336) record the Bishop granting permission to the Convent to receive two ladies, Johanna Watson and Maud Poer and two maid- servants, to ‘*sojourn, by the assent and will of the Sisters, in their Priory of Kanyngton, until the following Easter, provided that such residence should not be detrimental, prejudicial, or depreciatory either to them or their House*’. Soon after, Isabella Fichet (Ffychet) was permitted to reside with one maidservant in the Priory until Easter, a period of potentially six months (*Ibid.*, 30–31)
- 10.5.5 It is probable that the paying guests would have had numerous servants in their entourage, and that not all paying guests would have had their stay recorded, and so it is unclear how many people were staying within the secular part of the Priory. They would have also taken in travelling guests for perhaps a few nights at a time as well as members of the local community to live out the rest of the days within the precinct, while leaving their possessions to the church. This would have resulted in the need for additional

accommodation and as the northern portion of the western Cannington Court was constructed for this purpose, a new range constructed perpendicular to the western range would seem likely. Unfortunately, as the excavation area did not extend to the western elevation of Cannington Court it is unclear if range **2172** was joined to the western range, and no visible trace survives due to the alterations in the 16th century.

- 10.5.6 A build date for the possible accommodation range **2172** is unclear. However, a *terminus post quem* of c.1300–1400 may be assigned from the finds within the levelling deposits associated with its construction. Historical documents do not shed much light on this matter, though some inferences might be made through the financial state of the Priory. In 1291 it was recorded that the Priory was far from prosperous and was exempt from tithes owed to the King, and this remained so for much of the 14th century. In the 15th century the fortunes of the Priory appear to rise and fall, with exemption from tithe payment recorded in 1417, 1421, 1435, 1450, 1453, 1468, 1475, 1485–87, though they are recorded as paying in 1432 and 1462. In the late 15th century following contributions from their patron, the fifth Earl of Northumberland, the nave and chancel of the parish church was rebuilt (McLaughlin Ross LLP, 2012a 28). In conclusion, it is likely such donations combined with the income from guests in the 15th century paid for the expansion.
- 10.5.7 The new archaeological evidence, coupled with historical documentation and the results of recent building recording, has the potential to provide a better understanding of the layout and use of what is interpreted as a service court, lying to the west of the surviving Priory range which now forms the core of Cannington Court. The recognition of the probable existence of this service court represents a significant addition to our knowledge of the medieval Priory complex.

10.6 The Dissolution

EA 1 – Phase 3, WBA 2 – Phase 5

- 10.6.1 Following the Dissolution of the Monasteries Cannington Court passed to Edward Rogers by an indenture of 20th March 1536/7. All Priory lands and buildings were granted with exception of any *‘such buildings within the site and precinct of the said late Priory, which the King might afterwards order to be thrown down and carried away’*. This stipulation that numerous buildings of the religious house were to be knocked down was probably to force the destruction of the nun’s church by the new owners. Following this Cannington Court underwent a period of major alteration with the remaining Priory buildings converted to a domestic dwelling of some status, a ‘grand house’. It is during this period that the Phase 4 building **2172** was demolished and the material removed for recycling and reused within the conversion.
- 10.6.2 Analysis of the standing remains of Cannington Court (McLaughlin and Ross LLP 2012a and b) identified that the main access into the domestic house changed from the more typical northern range, as revealed in Room **AK 15/16** (see above), to the western range, and this was marked with the construction of the limestone ashlar porch in c.1580. This date, therefore, provides a defined period during which the possible secular accommodation block revealed with **WBA 2** was demolished, sometime between 1536 and c. 1580. John Leland visited Cannington between 1537 and 1543 and in his Itinerary the nuns’ church is referred to in the past tense – *‘the parochie chirch of Cannington is very fair and welle adornyd. There was a priory of nunnes, whos chirch was hard anexid to the est of the paroch chirch. Rogeres of the Court hath this priorie’*. (Toulmin Smith 1964, 163). This indicates that the demolition of Priory buildings had begun by the beginning of the 1540s. The removal of the accommodation range would have provided an open vista towards the front of grand house.

10.6.3 Due to the creation of probable parterres immediately in front of the grand house, the demolished pre-1536 structures remained relatively undamaged by later constructions. However, the structures within **EA 1** and those remains revealed within the rooms of Cannington Court had been severely impacted upon making interpretation for the most part difficult.

10.6.4 Overall, the features and deposits assigned to this period reflect the results of the Dissolution on Cannington Court, but offer little further potential for analysis.

10.7 The Rogers' occupation of Cannington Court

EA 1 – Phases 3, 4 and 5, WBA 2 – Phase 6

10.7.1 The new approach into the Rogers' grand house is likely to have been built some time c. 1580 when the new ashlar porch was constructed on the western elevation. The course of this approach can be traced from the boundary of the Site to the front porch, though the road revealed in the excavation was probably 19th century in date, a replacement for the earlier road. Building **2154** in **EA 1** may have formed a gatehouse through which the new road passed, though this is conjecture.

10.7.2 The features relating to the new approach illustrate the re-orientation (and conversion) of Cannington Court in its new role as a Grand House, but there is only very limited potential for further analysis.

10.8 The 18th–20th centuries

EA 1 – Phase 6–10, WBA 2 – Phase 7

10.8.1 In **EA 1** several structures were built and subsequently demolished during this period, drainage was installed and a large rubbish pit (**2107/2145**) dug. In **WBA 2** large pit **2240** was dug and the 16th–17th-century road approach **2159** repaired, with the latter removed in the earlier 20th century.

10.8.2 There is little or no potential for further analysis of the structural remains assigned to this period.

10.9 Finds

10.9.1 This is an assemblage of medium size, which relates largely to the 17th century and later occupation of Cannington Court, with a small proportion of earlier material.

10.9.2 A handful of Romano-British pottery sherds attest to activity at this period in the vicinity of the Site, but have no potential for further research.

10.9.3 The medieval assemblage is small, but helps to provide chronological information (pottery), functional indications (millstones), and structural evidence (painted window glass, ceramic building material, possibly stone building material). The pottery also provides a hint of high status occupation in the form of regional and continental imports, but the assemblage is nowhere near as rich as that from the nearby abbey at Cleeve (Allan 1999). Evidence for diet and economy is scarce (animal bone), and the amount of detailed information available for further study is of limited scope, for both the medieval and post-medieval periods (**Table 5**). Further analysis of the medieval finds may help to refine the Site chronology, and to comment on possible sources of supply for pottery and building material.

10.9.4 The post-medieval assemblage includes some elements of interest. The large pit group **2107/2145** provides a useful ceramic group, possibly relating to a single clearance episode. A breakdown of this group, and the wider post-medieval ceramic assemblage, in terms of vessel form, will enable some comment to be made on lifestyle and site function, particularly during the 17th and 18th centuries, to which the majority of the assemblage appears to belong. Comments on the likely sources of supply can also be made.

10.9.5 The assemblage of human bone is small and has little potential for further analysis, particularly given its redeposited nature and possibly broad date range.

10.10 Environmental

Charred plant remains

10.10.1 The analysis of the charred plant assemblages has the potential to provide some information on the nature and status of the Site, local agricultural practices and crop husbandry techniques during the medieval period.

10.10.2 The results of this analysis could provide a comparison with the data from other, similar sites in the local area, such as Taunton Priory (Greig and Osborne 1984) and Whitegate Farm, Bleadon (Smith 2003).

Wood charcoal

10.10.3 The analysis of the wood charcoal has the potential provide some limited information on the species composition and the management and exploitation of the woodland resource.

11 PROPOSALS

11.1 Archaeological deposits

11.1.1 An Access database and AutoCAD drawings have been constructed to facilitate rapid cross-examination and updating of the archives during post-excavation analysis. Once the initial post-excavation analysis is completed, revisions will be made as required to the phasing.

11.1.2 The archaeology in the vicinity of the Site will be re-examined by reviewing published reports and available grey literature. This will contribute towards the discussion of the Site within its wider landscape.

11.1.3 The publication text will be written in phase sequence, incorporating the results from all stages of work, drawing on the results of the historical building recording (McLaughlin Ross LLP 2012 a and b) and documentary evidence, and will include the key results of the proposed specialist work. Illustrations will be prepared to accompany the report. The results will be discussed in their local and regional context.

11.2 Finds

11.2.1 The finds assemblage has been recorded to minimum archive level; for most material types, this is considered to be sufficient, and is commensurate with the quantities involved, and their intrinsic interest. Certain categories of material, however, warrant further targeted analysis and publication.

Pottery

- 11.2.2 Further analysis is proposed for the medieval assemblage, following the standard Wessex Archaeology recording system for pottery (Morris 1994), which accords with national minimum standards for the recording of post-Roman pottery (MPRG 2001). While little further information is likely to be gained on the vessel forms represented, fabric analysis will clarify the range of fabric types represented, and their likely source(s)/source area(s). Comparisons can be made with recently excavated larger assemblages from Brent Knoll and Steart Point, broadly contemporaneous with Cannington Court, and currently under analysis by Wessex Archaeology. None of the medieval pottery warrants illustration.
- 11.2.3 Post-medieval pottery will not be subjected to the same level of analysis, but some enhancement of the records will be undertaken, primarily to characterise more closely the range of wares (and their likely sources) and vessel forms, with a view to commenting on the functional range of the assemblage with supporting quantified data. The significance of pit group **2107/2145** will be further considered, together with a few of the other larger feature groups. A range of vessels from pit **2107/2145** will be photographed as a single group.

Ceramic building material (CBM)

- 11.2.4 Further analysis will be conducted on the medieval CBM, examining the fabrics in detail, with a view to commenting on their likely source(s)/source area(s). One or two of the crested ridge tiles may be illustrated.

Stone

- 11.2.5 Geological identifications will be sought for the millstones, whetstone and building material, to ascertain sources. Further brief comment will be prepared on the architectural fragments, to try and determine their date and function within the medieval/post-medieval building complex.

Metalwork

- 11.2.6 No further analysis is proposed for the metalwork, but the copper alloy tripod vessel foot could be illustrated for inclusion in the publication report.

Human bone

- 11.2.7 No further analysis is proposed, but the assessment presented above will be adapted for inclusion in the publication report, together with a summary table of human bone.

Animal bone

- 11.2.8 No further analytical work is required, but it is recommended that a brief (c. 500 words) summary of the animal bone assemblage be included in the publication report, together with a basic quantification table of species by period.

Other finds

- 11.2.9 Other finds do not warrant any further analysis, but summary details may be incorporated in the publication report. The 16th/17th-century glass flask could be illustrated.

11.3 Environmental

Charred plant remains

- 11.3.1 It is proposed to analyse the charred plant remains from Phase 1 culvert **2018** group **2157** and layer **2039** in **EA 1**, and from Phase 1 pit **2278** and Phase 4 layer **2233** in **WBA 2**.



11.3.2 All identifiable charred plant macrofossils will be extracted from the 2 and 1mm residues together with the flot. Identification will be undertaken using stereo incident light microscopy at magnifications of up to x40 using a Leica MS5 microscope, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary and Hopf (2000, Tables 3, page 28 and 5, page 65), for cereals and with reference to modern reference collections where appropriate. They will be quantified and the results tabulated.

11.3.3 The samples proposed for analysis are indicated with a "P" in the analysis column in **Table 8** (at end of report).

Wood charcoal

11.3.4 No further work is proposed on the wood charcoal in these samples.

12 RESOURCES AND PUBLICATION

12.1 Proposed publication

12.1.1 In view of the quantity and nature of the archaeological evidence obtained from the excavation and watching brief, it is suggested that the results of the proposed analysis warrant publication as a short article (approximately 15–20 pages) in the *Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeology and Natural History Society*.

12.2 Management structure

12.2.1 Wessex Archaeology operates a project management system. The team will be headed by the Post-excavation Analysis and Reporting Manager, Alistair Barclay, who will assume ultimate responsibility for the implementation and the execution of the project and the achievement of performance targets, be they academic, budgetary or scheduled.

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

12.3 Performance monitoring and quality standards

12.3.1 The Project Manager (Alistair Barclay) will be assisted by the Quality and Publications Manager (Philippa Bradley), who will help to ensure that the report meets internal quality standards as defined in Wessex Archaeology's guidelines.

12.4 Designated project team

12.4.1 The post-excavation team consists primarily of internal Wessex Archaeology staff (only the stone identification will be undertaken externally). The post-excavation team will be managed by Phil Andrews, and the lead author will be Steve Thompson. The following Wessex Archaeology staff are scheduled to undertake the work as outlined in the task list below (**Table 7**).

12.5 Personnel

12.5.1 It is currently proposed that the following Wessex Archaeology core staff will be involved in the programme of post-excavation analysis:

Table 7: Task list

Task ID	Task	Staff	Days
Management and support			
1	Project management	Alistair Barclay	1
2	Project management	Phil Andrews	1
3	Finds management/specialist advice	Lorraine Mephram	1
Pre-analysis			
4	Extraction of charred plant remains (5 samples)	Nicola Mulhall	1.5
Finds			
5	Pottery analysis/report	Lorraine Mephram	2
6	CBM analysis/report	Lorraine Mephram	1
7	Animal bone summary report	Lorrain Higbee	0.5
8	Stone	Kevin Hayward	0.5
9	Finds illustrations/photography (crested ridge tile, copper alloy tripod vessel/foot, 16th/17th glass flask)	Graphics Office	2
Environmental			
10	Charred plant remains	Sarah Wyles	4
Stratigraphic text			
11	Introduction	Steve Thompson	1
12	Site description by phase/area	Steve Thompson	3
13	Integrate specialist reports	Steve Thompson	1
14	Research and discussion	Steve Thompson	3
15	Compile bibliography and check text	Steve Thompson	2
	Site illustrations	Graphics Office	5
Report production			
16	Report editing	Phil Andrews	1
17	Report QA and submission	Pippa Bradley	1
18	Journal charge		£1000
Archiving			
20	Archive preparation	S Thompson	1
21	Implement finds discard policy; final finds archive check	S Nelson	0.5
22	Final environmental archive check	N Mulhall	0.25
23	Final archive check & digital scanning	C Coates	0.5
24	Archive deposition	25 boxes of artefacts, ecofacts & paperwork	£700

13 STORAGE AND CURATION

13.1 Museum

- 13.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with Somerset County Museum, Taunton. The Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project, under the accession code **TTNCM 29/2012**. Deposition of any finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

13.2 Preparation of the archive

- 13.2.1 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Somerset County Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; IfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 13.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the accession code **TTNCM 29/2012**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following:
- 25 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type; 8 unboxed items (stone building material)
 - 3 files/document cases of paper records & A3/A4 graphics
 - 10 A1 graphics
- 13.2.3 The archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury under Site Code **85502**.

13.3 Conservation

- 13.3.1 No immediate conservation requirements were noted in the field. Finds which have been identified as of unstable condition and therefore potentially in need of further conservation treatment comprise the metal objects.
- 13.3.2 Metal objects have been X-radiographed as part of the assessment phase, as a basic record and also to aid identification. On the basis of the X-rays, the range of objects present and their provenance on the Site (the only item from a medieval context is a nail), no selection has been made for any further conservation treatment.
- 13.3.3 Recommendations are made here for selective retention of the metalwork; any retained metalwork will be packaged appropriately for long-term curation, i.e. in airtight plastic tubs, with a drying agent.

13.4 Discard policy

- 13.4.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in Selection, Retention and Dispersal (Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis.

13.4.2 In this instance, several categories of material can be targeted for discard, on the basis of quantity, condition and/or (lack of) intrinsic interest:

- *Clay tobacco pipe*: discard plain stem fragments (insufficient quantities for any statistically valid stem bore analysis);
- *Ceramic Building Material*: discard small, undiagnostic brick fragments, and all but a sample of pantile fragments (all of similar type);
- *Stone Building Material*: discard roofing slates lacking surviving complete dimensions (lengths or widths);
- *Glass*: discard undiagnostic post-medieval green bottle glass, modern vessel glass, and reinforced window glass;
- *Metalwork*: iron objects are inherently unstable; the assemblage is dominated by nails and other structural items. As commonly occurring types, these do not warrant preservation for long-term curation. X-radiography acts as basic record. Retain other identifiable objects.
- *Marine Shell*: small quantity, insufficient for any further statistically valid analysis; retain one feature group only (pit **2107/2145**) as containing more than 100 shells.

13.4.3 All discard of artefacts will be fully documented in the project archive.

13.4.4 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2002).

13.5 Copyright

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

13.6 Security copy

13.6.1 In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

14 REFERENCES

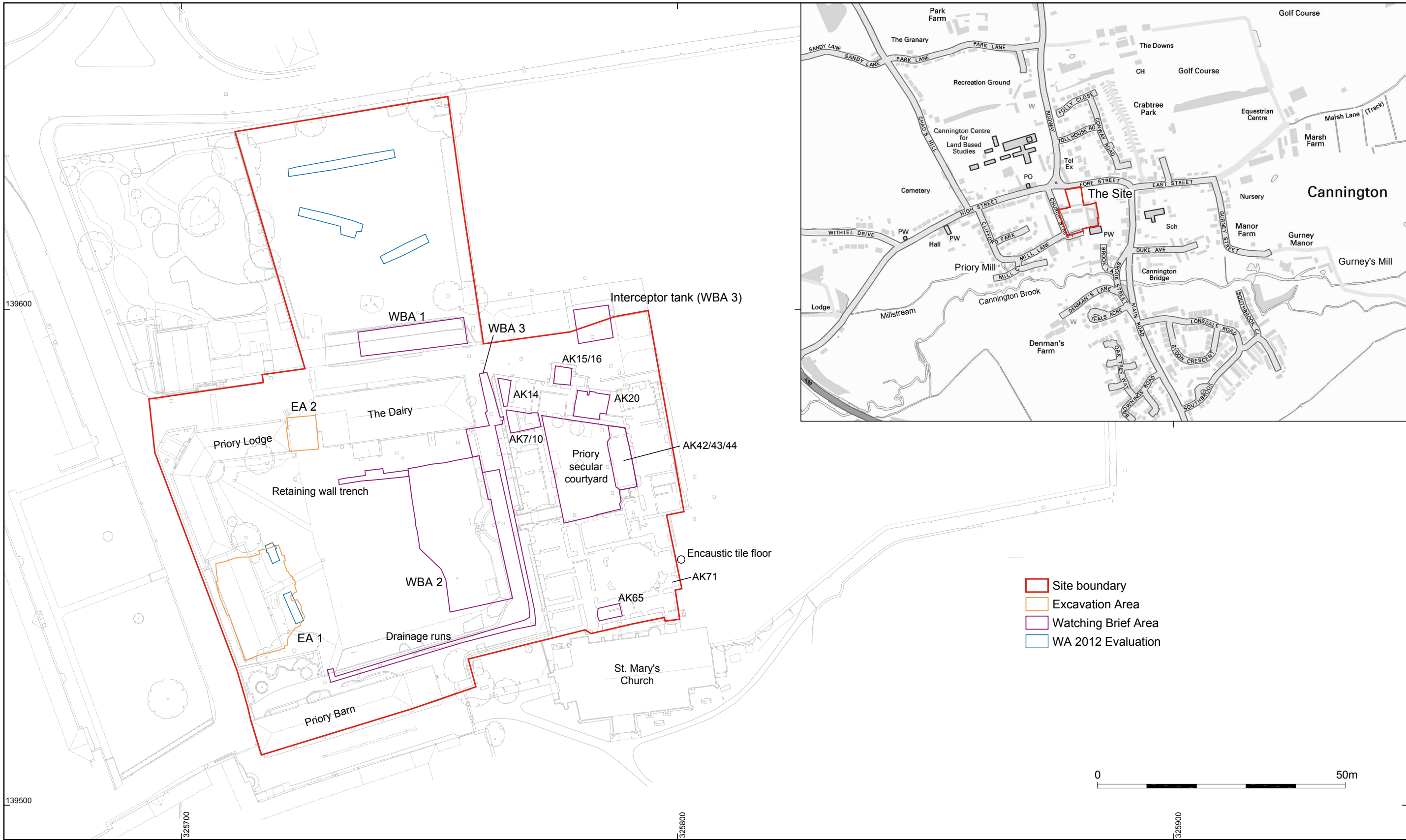
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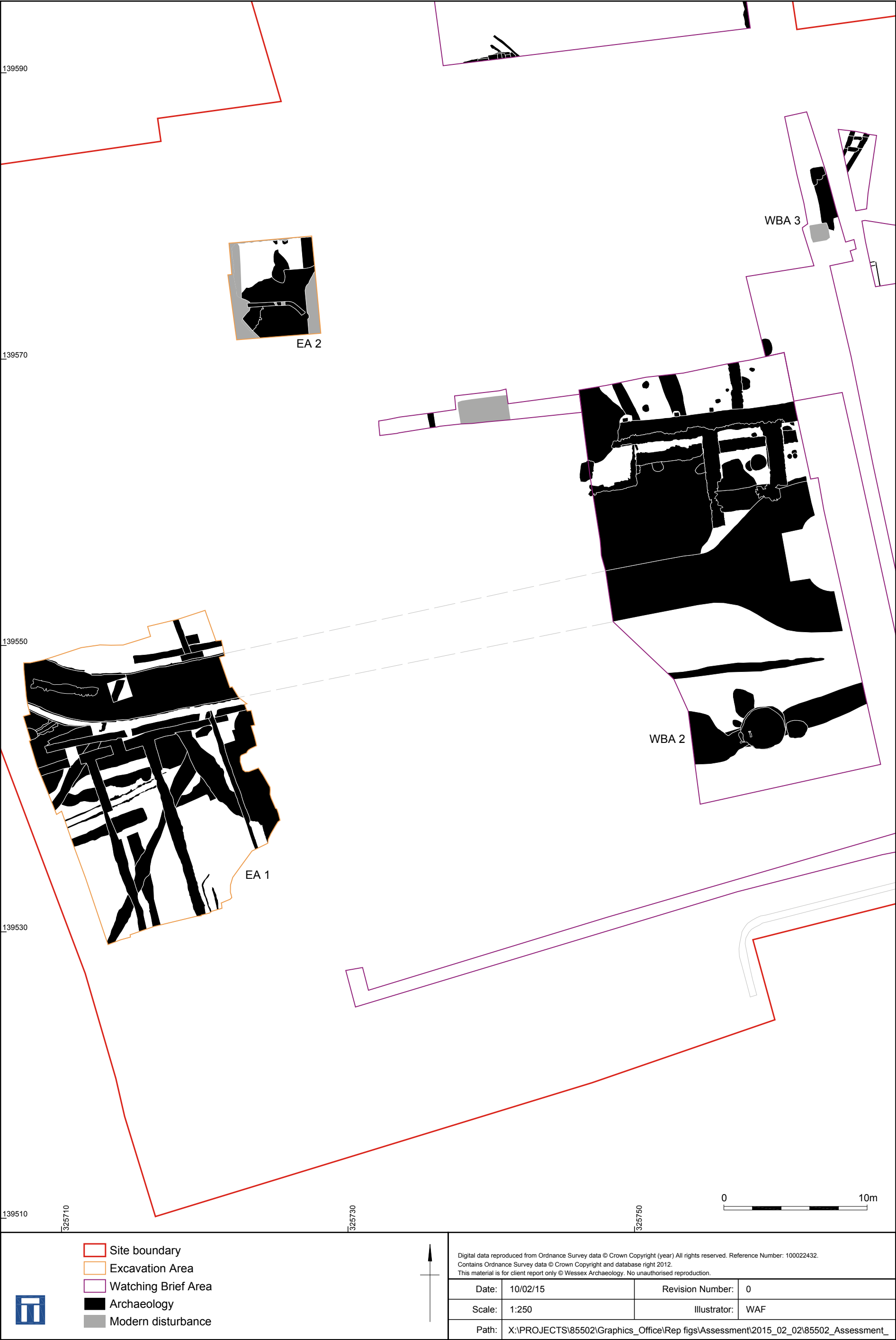


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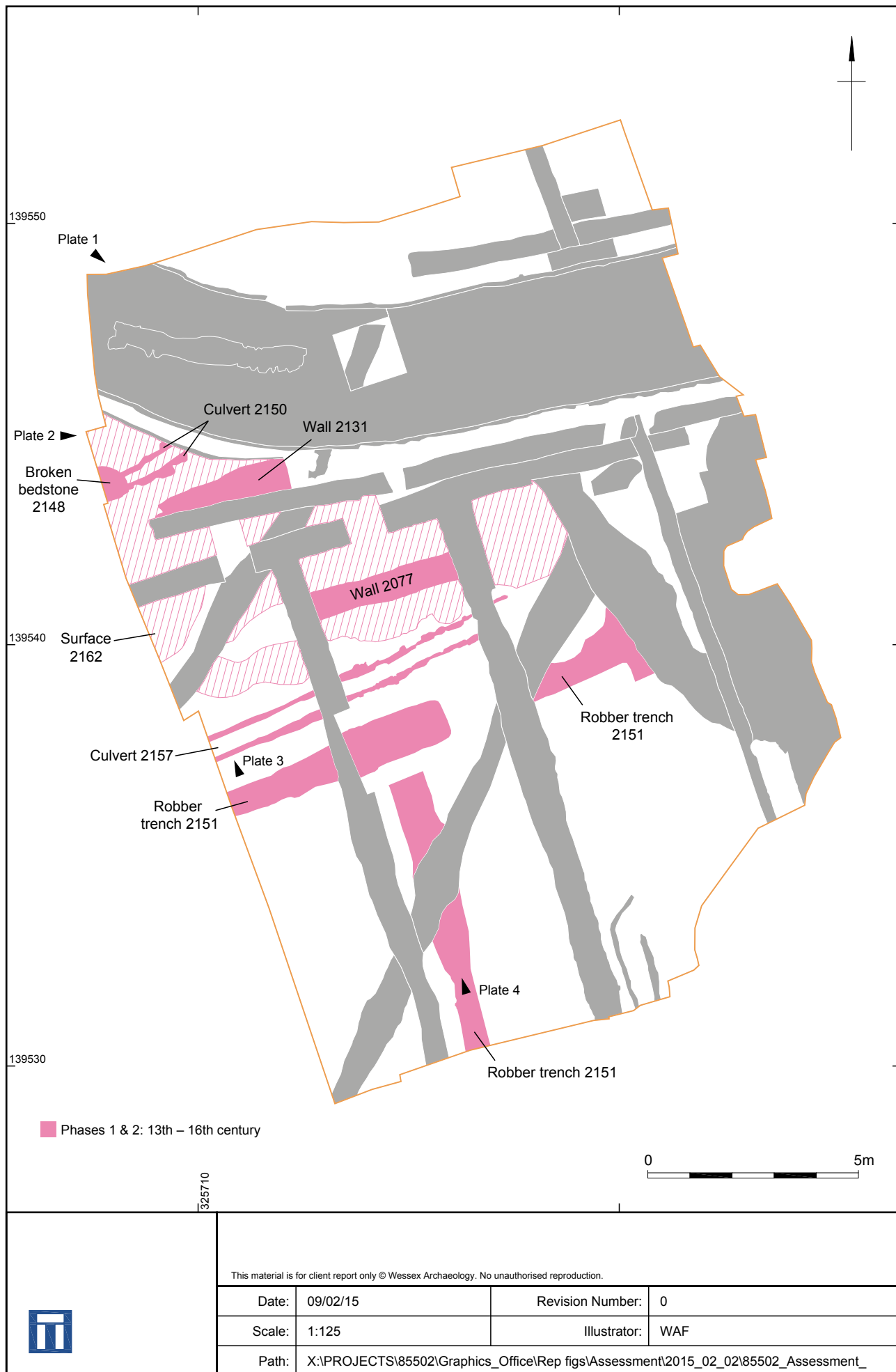
Site location, and excavation (EA) & watching brief (WBA) areas

Figure 1



Excavation Areas 1 and 2 and Watching Brief Area 2

Figure 2



EA 1: Phases 1 & 2: 13th – 16th century

Figure 3



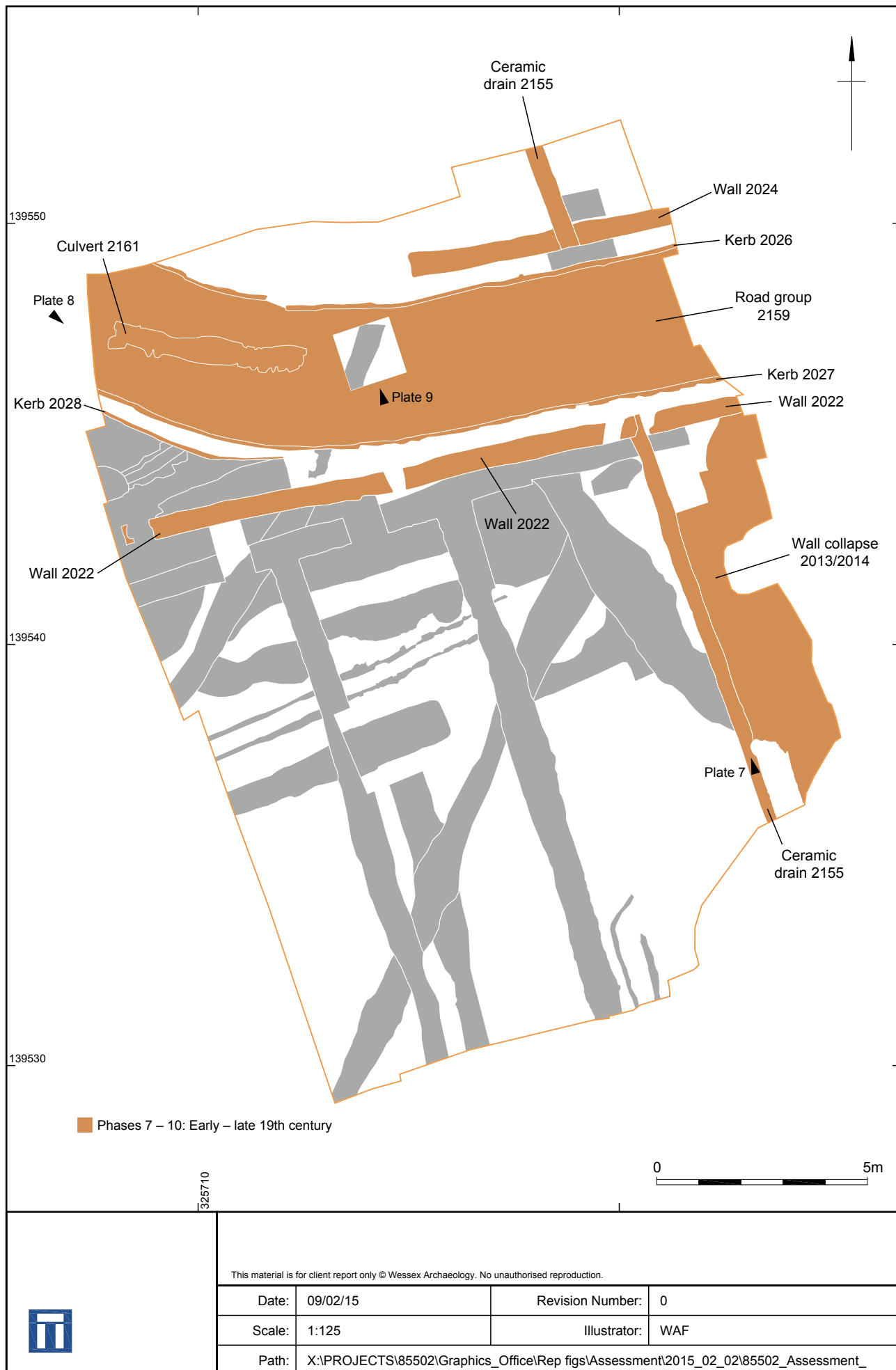
EA 1: Phases 3 & 4: Mid 16th – 17th century

Figure 4



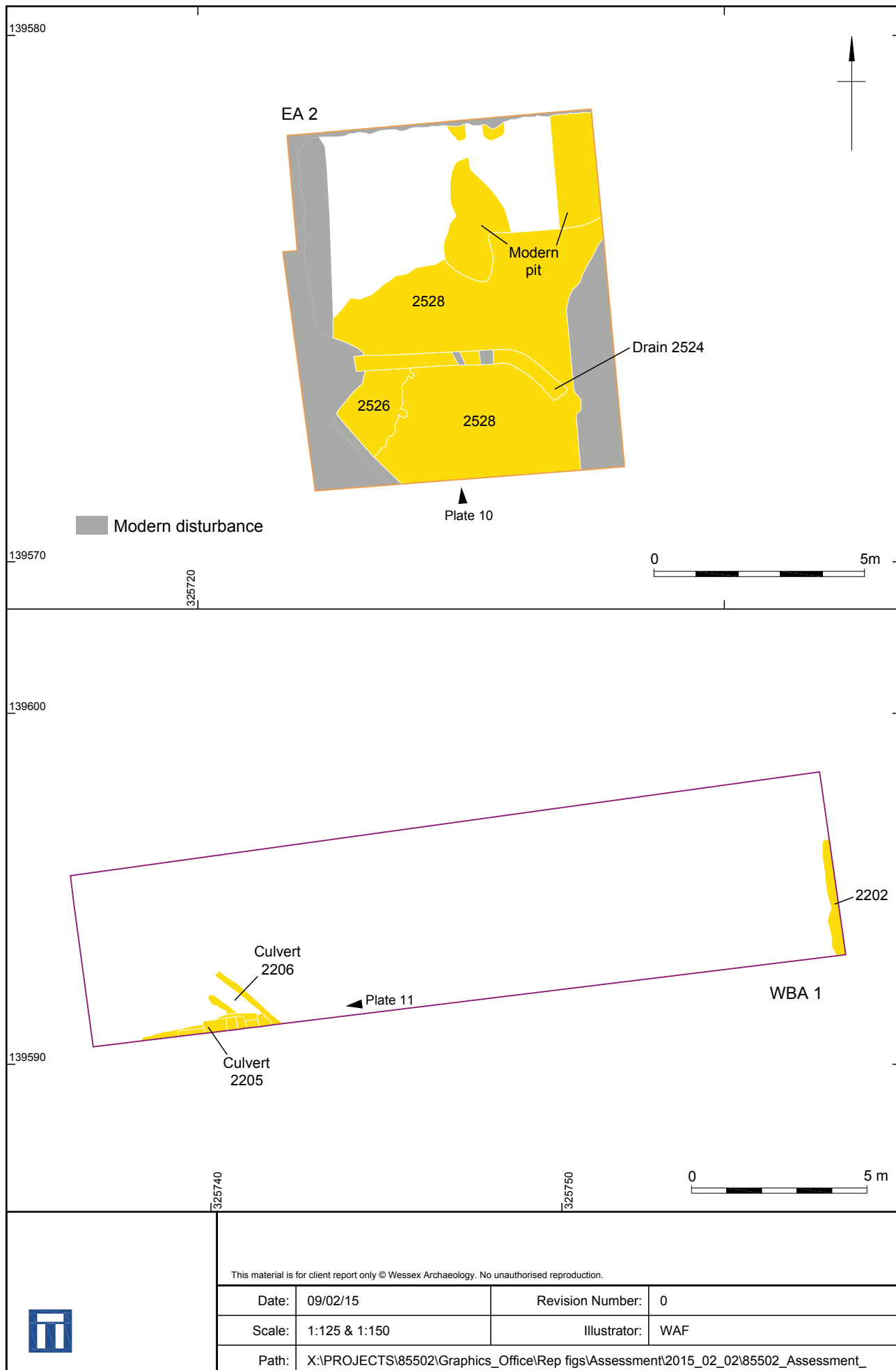
EA 1: Phases 5 & 6: 17th – 19th century

Figure 5



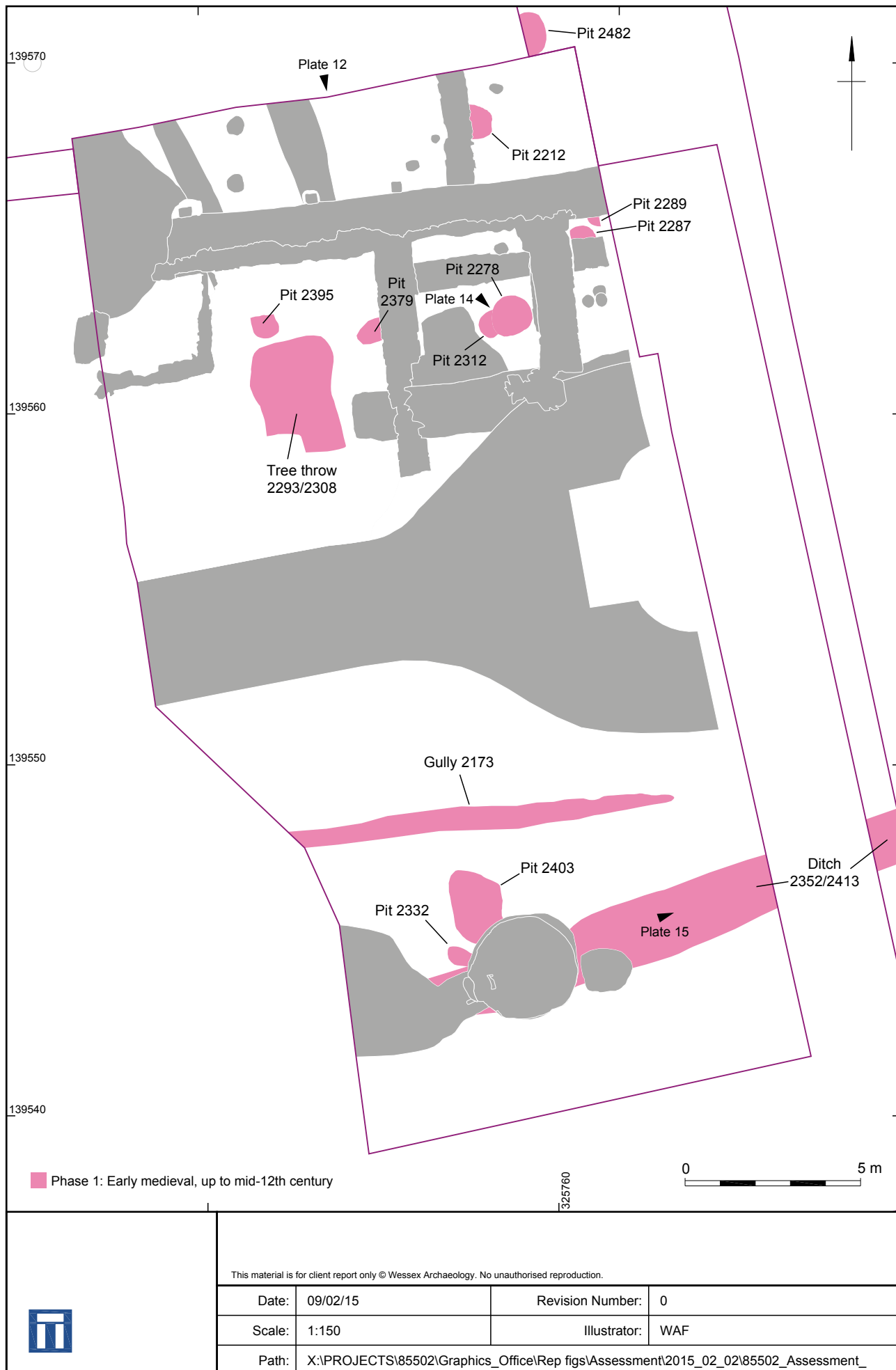
EA 1: Phases 7 – 10: Early – late 19th century

Figure 6



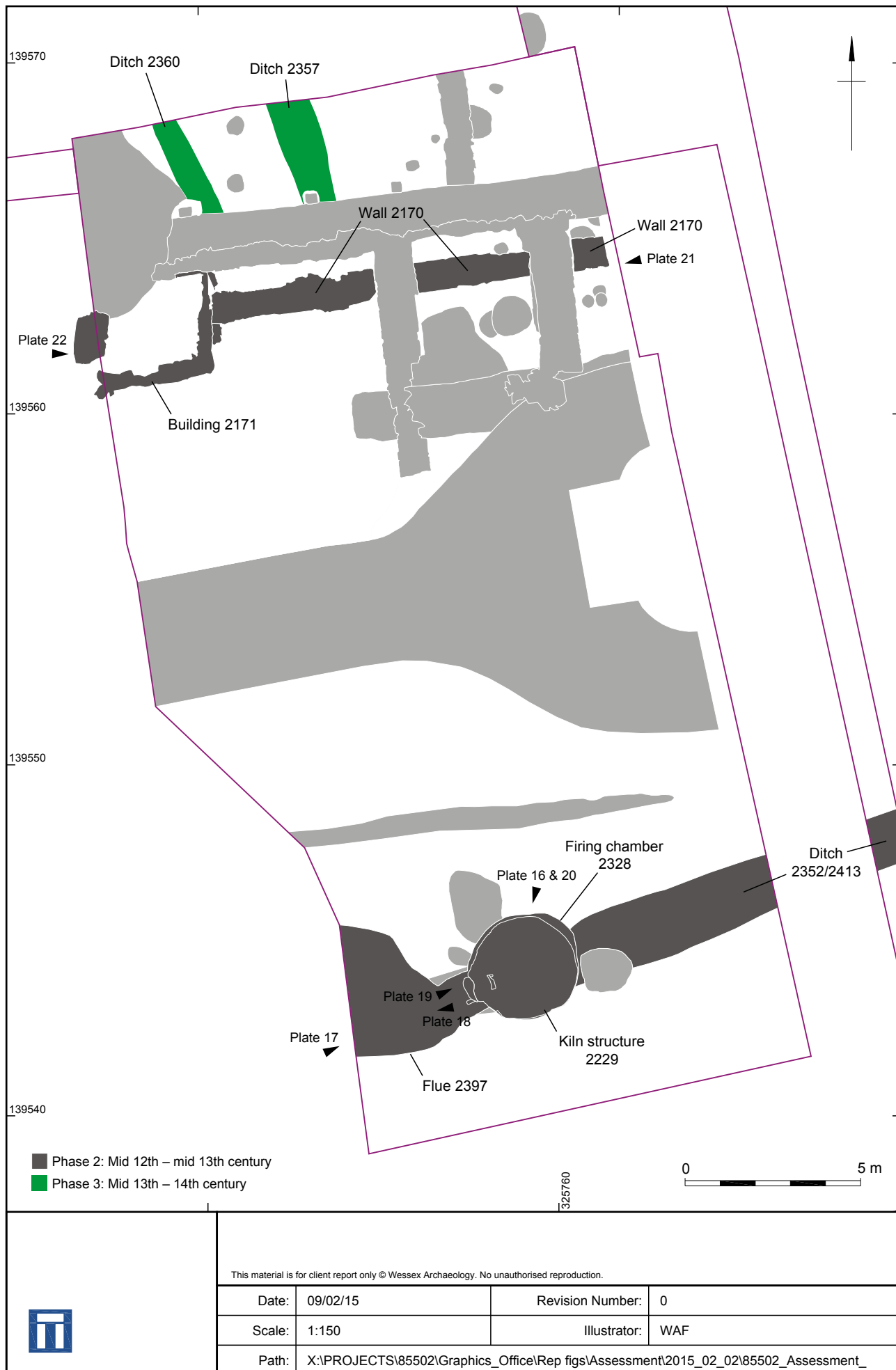
Excavation Area 2 plan (top) and Watching Brief Area 1 plan (bottom)

Figure 7



WBA 2: Phase 1: Early medieval, up to mid-12th century

Figure 8



WBA 2: Phase 2: Mid 12th – mid 13th century (kiln 2174, wall 2170, building 2171 and Phase 3: Mid 13th – 14th century ditches 2360 & 2357)



SPB = Stone pier bases
SPH = Scaffolding postholes



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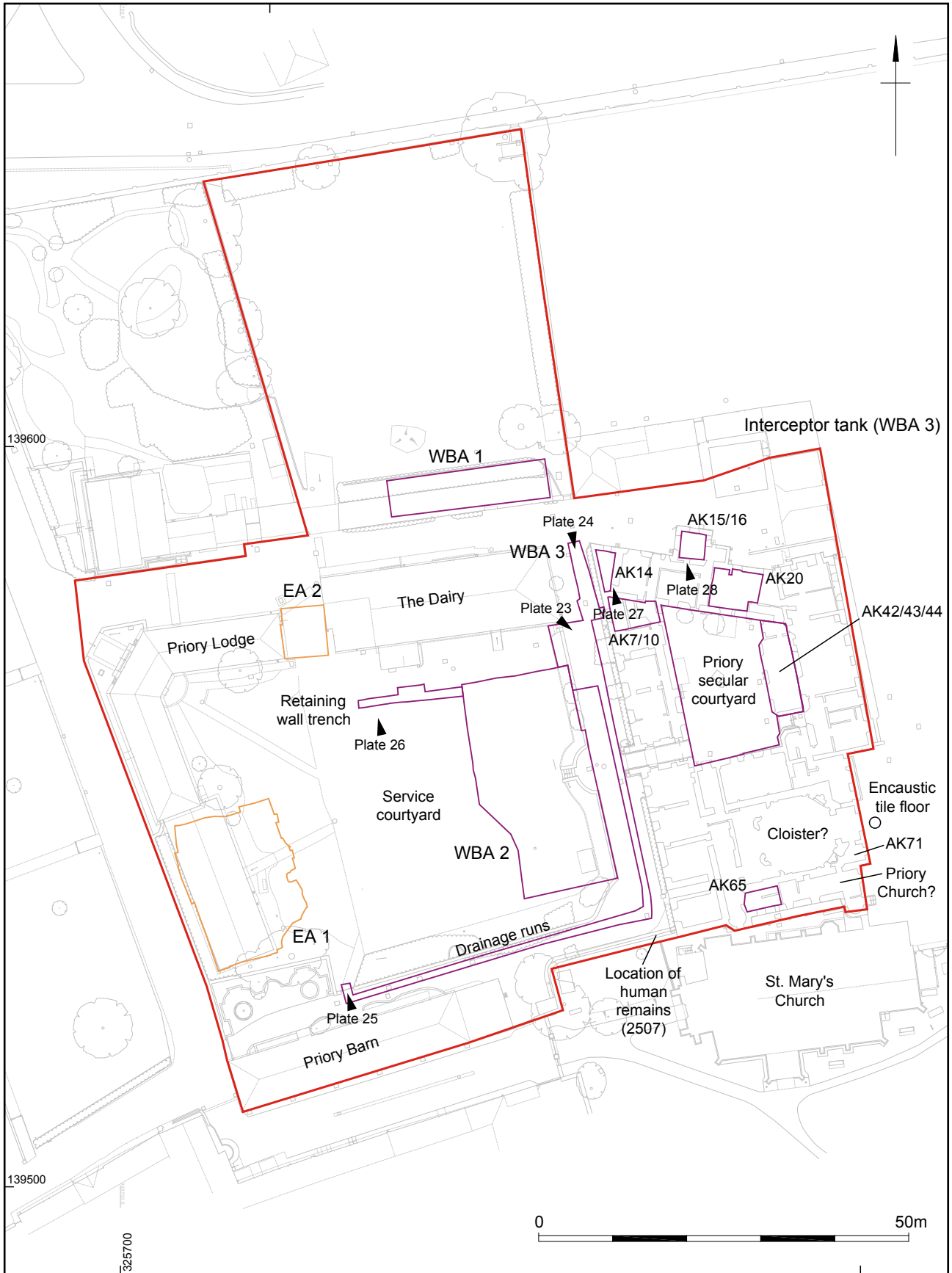
WBA 2: Phase 5: 16th century (Dissolution)

Figure 11



WBA 2: Phase 6 & 7: Late 16th – 19th century

Figure 12



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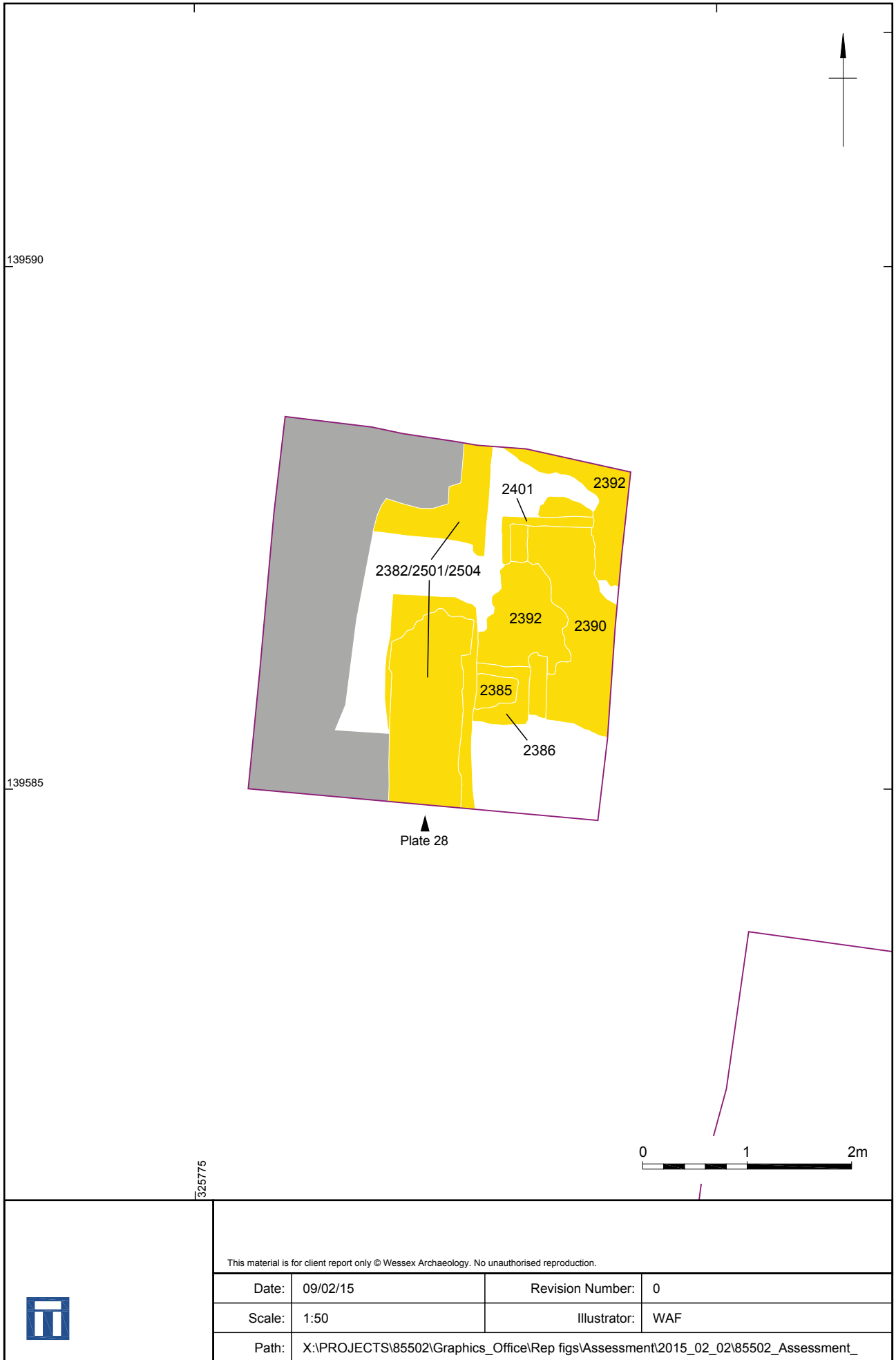
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Watching brief areas

Figure 13





Central Courtyard – Rectified photography survey

Figure 15



Plate 1: Excavation Area 1 (EA1) from the north-west


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Plate 2: Phase 1 wall 2131 and culvert 2150, capped by 2148 (in foreground).
Truncated by Phase 9 wall 2022 and Phase 10 road 2156. View from the west (scale 0.5m)



Plate 3: Phase 1 culvert 2157 (cut 2018, linings 2007, 2008, and base 2055).
View from the south (scale 1m)


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Plate 4: Phase 1 robber trench 2019 (fill 2006) of Group 2151.
View from the south


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Plate 5: Phase 5 Wall 2011 (Group 2154). View from the south



Plate 6: Excavation of Phase 6 pit 2145/2107, truncated by Phase 9 wall 2024 (Group 2156). View from the east.


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Plate 7: Phase 7 ceramic drain 2155, sealed by Phase 8 collapsed wall 2013/2014. View from the west (scale 0.5m, 0.2m)

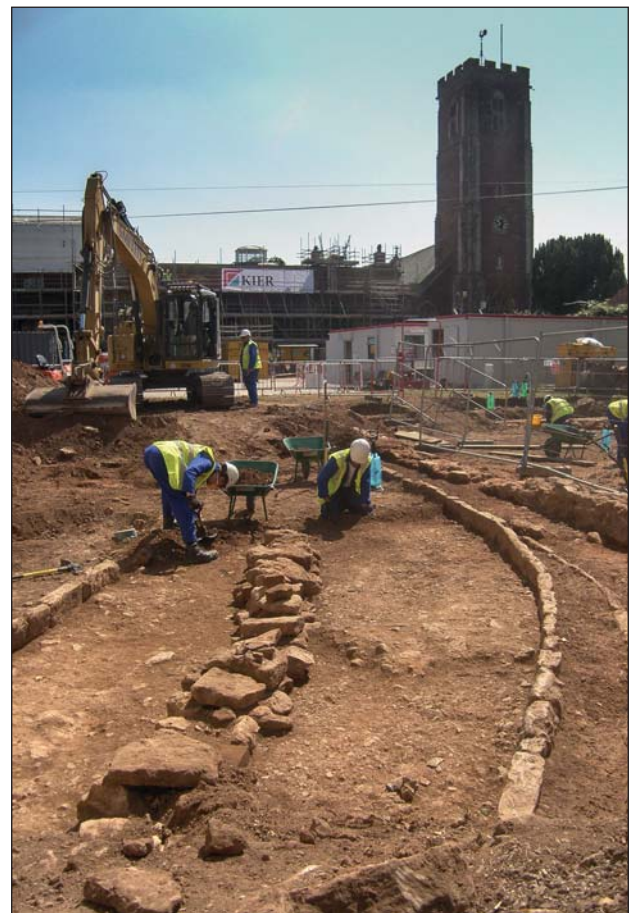


Plate 8: Phase 10 road Group 2159 showing kerbs 2026, 2027 and surface 2003, sealed by Phase 11 culvert 2161. View from the north-west.


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Plate 9: Sondage excavated through Phase 10 road surface 2033, revealing ceramic drain 2115 and base of Phase 3 ditch 2152 (cut 2117). View from the south (scale 1m)


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Plate 10: Excavation Area 2 (EA 2) showing metallated surface 2526 and drain 2524. View from the south (scale 2m, 1m)



Plate 11: Watching Brief Area 1 (WBA 1) Structure 2205 and culvert 2206 from the east. (scale 0.5m)


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Plate 12: Watching Brief Area 2 (WBA 2). View from the north


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Plate 13: West facing elevation of Cannington Court c. 1860. (SRO: D/P/can/23/15)
image courtesy of South West Heritage Trust (Somerset Archives and Local Studies Service)



Plate 14: North-facing section of pits 2278 and 2312 (scale 1m)


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Plate 15: West-facing section of ditch 2352 (scale 1m)



Plate 16: North-facing section of infilling of Kiln 2174. View from the north-east (scale 2m)


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Plate 17: Kiln 2174 under excavation, showing flue 2397 (in foreground) leading to chamber with Phase 1 ditch 2352/2413 in background



Plate 18: East-facing section of flue 2397 (scale 2m, 0.5m)


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Plate 19: East-facing elevation of tapering channel from flue 2397 into firing chamber 2328 (scale 0.5m)



Plate 20: Kiln 2174 from the north-east showing firing chamber 2328, lining 2229, and tapering channel leading to flue 2397 (scale 1m)


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Plate 21: Wall 2170, truncated by later structures. View from the east



Plate 22: Building 2171. View from the west (scale 2 x 2m)


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Plate 23: Watching Brief Area 3 (WBA 3).
Cobbled surface 2411. View from the north west



Plate 24: WBA 3. Rammed mortar surface 2479 and wall remnant 2481.
View from the north (scale 1m, 0.5m)


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Plate 25: WBA 3. South-facing elevation of post-medieval silt trap 2543 (scale 0.5m)



Plate 26: WBA 3. Wall 2491 from the south, with associated deposits. (scale 1m , 0.5m)


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Plate 27: WBA 3. AK14 – culvert 2508. View from the south. (scale 0.5m, 0.2m)



Plate 28: WBA 3: AK 15/16 – Wall 2382/2501/2504. View from the south (scale 1m)


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	Date:	10/02/15	Revision Number: 0
	Scale:	n/a	Illustrator: WAF
	Path:	X:\PROJECTS\85502\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\Assessment\2015_02\85502_Assessment_Plates27_28.ai	



Table 8: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot size	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other	Analysis
Excavation Area 1 (EA 1)													
Phase 1 – 13th-14th Century													
Culvert group 2157													
2018	2017	1	30	130	3	B	C	F-t wheat + barley grain frags, culm node	A*	<i>Vicia/Lathyrus, Avena/Bromus, Brassica, Rumex, Lolium/Festuca, Anthemiscotula, Tripleurospermuminodorum, Chenopodium</i>	10/10ml	Sab/f (C), Coal	P
Layer													
	2039	3	3	3	60	C	C	F-t wheat grain + rachis frags	A	<i>Vicia/Lathyrus, Viciafaba, Avena/Bromus, Brassica, cf. Linumusatissimum, Anthemiscotula</i>	0/1 ml	-	P
Phase 5													
Culvert group 2158													
2058	2056	2	10	675	10	C	-	F-t wheat grain frags,	C	<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i>	35/20 ml	Sab/f (C), Coal	
Watching Brief Area 2 (WBA 2)													
Phase 1 - Early Medieval (up to mid 12th Century)													
Pits													
2212	2213	4	3	150	3	-	-	-	C	<i>Avena/Bromus, Vicia/Lathyrus</i>	50/30 ml	Moll-t (C), cu slag	
2278	2316	7	20	170	10	A	-	F-t wheat + barley grain frags	A	<i>Avena/Bromus, Vicia/Lathyrus, Trifolium/Medicago, Corylusavellana shell frags</i>	5/10 ml		P
2287	2288	9	10	40	20	B	-	F-t wheat + barley grain frags	B	<i>Vicia/Lathyrus, Avena/Bromus, Viciafaba</i>	3/8 ml		
2379	2380	12	8	40	5	B	C	F-t wheat grain + rachis frags, hulled wheat glume base frag	B	<i>Avena/Bromus, Vicia/Lathyrus, Corylusavellana shell frag</i>	2/4 ml	Moll-t (C)	
Phase 3													
Ditches													
2357	2358	10	10	20	5	B	-	F-t wheat + barley grain frags	B	<i>Vicia/Lathyrus, Avena/Bromus, Rumex</i>	2/5 ml	Sab/f (C), Moll-t (C)	
2360	2361	11	10	15	10	B	C	Barley, wheat + ?rye grain frags, emmer glume base frag	A	<i>Avena/Bromus, Vicia/Lathyrus, Medicago/Trifolium</i>	2/4 ml		P



Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot size	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other	Analysis
Phase 4 - 14th-15th Century													
Post holes													
2273	2274	6	8	40	10	C	-	F-t wheat+ barley grain frags	C	<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i>	4/2 ml	Sab/f (B), Moll-t (C)	
2344	2345	8	1	40	5	-	-	-	C	<i>Corylusavellana</i> shell frag	5/10 ml	Sab/f (C)	
Layer													
	2233	5	20	350	25	A*	-	F-t wheat+ barley grain frags	B	<i>Avena/Bromus, Vicia/Lathyrus, Vicia/Pisum</i>	30/60 ml	Sab/f (A), Moll-t (A)	P

Key: A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5; Sab/f = small animal/fish bones, Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs Analysis: P = plant



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