



# Astra Printing, Cullompton Devon

Archaeological Monitoring and Supervised Archaeological Strip



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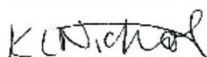
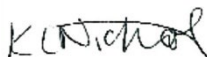
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### Quality Assurance

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3

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Following Senior Historic  
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Shaffey', written in a cursive style.



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## Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by RPS Consulting Services, to undertake an archaeological watching brief and a supervised archaeological strip of the footprint of the proposed building and monitoring of ground reduction in the area of car parking to the north. The monitored works covered 0.53 ha, centred on NGR 302135 107764, located at Willand Road, Collumpton, Devon.

The watching brief comprised the observation of all mechanical excavations associated with twelve geotechnical pits. The supervised archaeological strip comprised the observation of all mechanical excavations and the subsequent excavation and recording of archaeological features and deposits in four areas.

Two of the sixteen observed areas (Areas 14 and 15) revealed archaeological features. Two main periods of activity were recorded, Roman and modern. The features comprised three Romano-British pits and a modern well. Residual Iron Age pottery and prehistoric worked flint were also recovered from later features and deposits.

The watching brief and supervised archaeological strip also established that the site has been subject to a very high degree of truncation relating to construction and landscaping during its industrial development throughout the 20th century.

## Acknowledgements

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# Astra Printing, Cullompton, Devon WB

## Archaeological Watching Brief

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project and planning background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by RPS Consulting Services, to undertake an archaeological watching brief and a supervised archaeological strip of the footprint of the proposed building and monitoring of ground reduction in the area of car parking to the north. The monitored works covered 0.53 ha, centred on NGR 302135 107764, at Willand Road, Collumpton, Devon, EX15 1AP (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The archaeological monitoring and supervised archaeological strip were carried out as a condition of planning permission, granted by Mid Devon District Council (17/02020/MFUL), as part of a programme of archaeological works, which had included a previously prepared desk-based assessment (CgMs 2018) and trial trench evaluation and monitoring of demolition (WA 2020). A variation of condition 2 of this planning permission was granted on 4 December 2020 (20/01577/FUL).

1.1.3 The archaeological recording strategy was drawn up in consultation with the Senior Historic Environment Officer, Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (DCCHET).

1.1.4 The archaeological monitoring and supervised archaeological strip were undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed (Wessex Archaeology 2021). The Senior Historic Environment Officer, Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (DCCHET) approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing. The watching brief and supervised archaeological strip were undertaken between 5 May 2021 and 3 February 2022.

#### 1.2 Scope of the report

1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the results of the archaeological monitoring and supervised archaeological strip, to interpret the results within their local or regional context (or otherwise), and to assess their potential to address the aims outlined in the WSI, thereby making available information about the archaeological resource (a preservation by record).

#### 1.3 Location, topography and geology

1.3.1 The site was located on the eastern side of Willand Road (the B3181), within the north-central part of the Cullompton urban area. The site was c. 0.53 ha in extent and was formerly occupied by factory buildings in the south and centre of the site, surrounded by concrete hardstanding.

1.3.2 The site lay at approximately 62 m AOD (Above Ordnance Datum) at its western boundary and sloped down gradually to approximately 60 m AOD at its north-eastern boundary.





- 1.3.3 The underlying geology is mapped as Cadbury Breccia Formation sandstone, which formed in the Permian Period. This is overlain by superficial colluvial diamicton deposits (British Geological Survey 2021).

## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Introduction**

- 2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background was assessed in a prior desk-based assessment (DBA: CgMs 2018), which considered the recorded historic environment resource within a 1 km study area of the development. A summary of the results is reproduced below, with relevant entry numbers from the Devon Historic Environment Record (HER) and the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) included. Additional sources of information are referenced, as appropriate.

### **2.2 Previous investigations related to the development**

#### *Trial Trenching & Demolition Monitoring (2020)*

- 2.2.1 The evaluation comprised the excavation of four trenches measuring 2 m wide and between 7.4 m and 30 m in length. A watching brief was also undertaken during the grubbing out of modern foundations and the excavation of construction test pits (Wessex Archaeology 2020).
- 2.2.2 Two archaeological features were identified in one of the trenches. One pit contained a struck flint flake and a potsherd, probably dating from the early Romano-British period. Environmental remains from the pit, comprising mature and roundwood charcoal and a fragment of slag, may be indicative of nearby industrial activity. There is no evidence for domestic activity in the vicinity of the site. A second pit was undated, but its stratigraphic position suggests that it is likely to be of a similar date to the first.

### **2.3 Archaeological and historical context**

#### *Prehistoric (pre-AD43)*

- 2.3.1 Three possible prehistoric features (comprising a curvilinear gully and two pits) were identified during archaeological works on the site of the Culm Valley Integrated Centre for Health (west of Willand Road, c. 300 m north-east of the present proposed development site).
- 2.3.2 Previous archaeological works on land to the west of Willand Road and north and south of Goblin Lane (Cotswold Archaeology 2018a, 2018b, 2018c) investigated a number of features recorded previously as cropmarks and geophysical anomalies. Features recorded by these works included a substantial oval enclosure ditch of Early to Middle Bronze Age date (c. 360 m north-west of the proposed development site), with internal postholes representing the remains of a timber structure; a probable Iron Age roundhouse (c. 420 m north-west of the proposed development site); and two further ring ditches of broad prehistoric date (c. 570 m north-west and c. 600 m north-west of the proposed development site).

#### *Roman (AD43-AD410)*

- 2.3.3 A late Iron Age/Roman linear boundary and trackway feature was identified during archaeological excavation work to the north of Tiverton Road (c. 400 m north-east of the proposed development site).



- 2.3.4 St Andrew's Hill Scheduled Monument (National Heritage List for England No. 1019543), comprising the former site of two Roman forts and two Roman camps, is located c. 200 m west of the proposed development site.
- 2.3.5 Previous archaeological works to the south of Goblin Lane (Cotswold Archaeology 2018b; c. 450 m west of the proposed development site) recorded a series of ditches, one of which contained Roman material. It is possible that some or all of these ditches may represent Roman activity associated with St Andrew's Hill Scheduled Monument, which lies to their immediate east.
- 2.3.6 A Roman settlement and an early Roman cremation burial have been recorded at Shortlands Lane (c. 700m south-west of the proposed development site).
- 2.3.7 Archaeological works at the site of the Culm Valley Integrated Centre for Health recorded evidence for an early Roman agricultural settlement, including field boundaries, sub-rectangular enclosures, a circular enclosure and possible postholes.

*Early medieval (AD410-1066) and medieval (1066-1539)*

- 2.3.8 One of the prehistoric ring ditches recorded west of Willand Road (Cotswold Archaeology 2018a; c. 570m north-west of the proposed development site) had been recut twice. A radiocarbon date of 332 AD–533 AD (i.e. Late Roman/post Roman) was obtained from charred grain and barley recovered from one of these recuts. This grain assemblage is likely to represent domestic waste and is indicative of settlement activities taking place in the near vicinity.
- 2.3.9 The Domesday Book (1086) records Cullompton as a relatively small settlement of ten households. The historic core of the medieval town lay c. 500 m south of the proposed development site, which was probably situated within the associated agricultural hinterland.

*Post medieval (1540-1800) and modern (1800-present)*

- 2.3.10 Nineteenth century cartographic sources show the site as undeveloped pasture/agricultural land. By 1904, a 'Woollen Factory' had been constructed within the southern part of the proposed development site. The site saw further industrial development as the 20th century progressed. This development is likely to have had a widespread negative impact on any archaeological remains present at the site.

### **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **3.1 Aims**

- 3.1.1 The aims of the archaeological monitoring and supervised archaeological strip, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2021) and as defined in the ClfA *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014a), were to:
- Determine whether the Romano-British pits identified during trial trenching survived in isolation or whether they are part of a concentration of activity from that period;
  - allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of the development or other works;
  - provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the



watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard; and

- guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.

### **3.2 Objectives**

3.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the objectives of the archaeological monitoring and supervised archaeological strip, also defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2021), were to:

- determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified works area;
- record and establish, within the constraints of the works, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains (a preservation by record);
- place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
- make available information about the archaeological resource on the site by preparing a report on the results of the watching brief.

## **4 METHODS**

### **4.1 Introduction**

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methodology set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2021) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in CIfA guidance (CIfA 2014a). The methods employed are summarised below.

### **4.2 Fieldwork methods**

#### *General*

4.2.1 The watching brief monitored geotechnical pits 1 to 12. The supervised archaeological strip was undertaken in Areas 13 to 16 (**Figure 1**).

4.2.2 The attending archaeologist monitored all mechanical excavations within the specified areas. Where necessary, the surfaces of uncovered archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand to aid visual definition. A sample of archaeological features and deposits was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the watching brief.

4.2.3 Spoil from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. Artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained.

#### *Recording*

4.2.4 All exposed archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete record of excavated features and deposits was made, including plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections) and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid.



- 4.2.5 A Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service surveyed the location of archaeological features. All survey data is recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSTN15 and OSGM15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.
- 4.2.6 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

### **4.3 Finds and environmental strategies**

- 4.3.1 Strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of finds and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2021). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b), *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011) and ClfA's *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting* (Type 1: Description).

### **4.4 Monitoring**

- 4.4.1 The Senior Historic Environment Officer monitored the archaeological monitoring and supervised archaeological strip on behalf of the LPA. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with the client and the Senior Historic Environment Officer.

## **5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE**

### **5.1 Introduction**

- 5.1.1 Archaeological features and deposits consisting of three pits and a brick lined well were revealed in two of the sixteen areas (Areas 14 and 15) indicating limited archaeological remains were present across the site.
- 5.1.2 Extensive modern made ground deposits were revealed across the site (Test Pits 2 to 8, 10 and 11 and Areas 13 to 16). Modern disturbance was revealed in Areas 14, 15 and 16 and relate to the recent demolition of a number of buildings on site.
- 5.1.3 Modern car park and yard surfaces and their associated bedding layers were revealed in Test pits 1, 2, 4, 5, 12 and Area 13, and relate to the former use of the site as a printing works.
- 5.1.4 The following section presents the results of the watching brief and supervised archaeological strip with archaeological features and deposits discussed by period.
- 5.1.5 Detailed descriptions of individual contexts are provided in the trench summary tables (**Appendix 1**). **Figure 1** shows all archaeological features recorded within the trenches.

### **5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits**

- 5.2.1 The natural substrate, consisting of variable sandy silts, and sands and gravels, was revealed across the site at a depth of 0.3 m to 1.06 m below ground level (bgl).



5.2.2 The natural substrate was overlain in test pits 5, 8, 9 and 11 by sandy silt topsoil. An intermediate subsoil was noted in test pit 8 but not observed elsewhere. No topsoil or subsoil was noted in test pits 1 to 4, 6, 7, 10, and 12, and Areas 13 to 16 due to heavy truncation relating to construction and landscaping during the industrial development of the site in the 20th century.

### 5.3 Prehistoric (1,000,000 BC to AD 43)

5.3.1 No features or deposits of prehistoric date were encountered during the works. However, residual worked flint of potential Neolithic date was recovered from the fills of Romano-British pits 1403, 1406 and 1506 and from a disturbed layer 1410 in Area 14.

5.3.2 Two sherds of residual Iron Age pottery were also recovered from fills within Romano-British pit 1406 suggesting earlier activity in the vicinity of the site.

### 5.4 Roman (AD43 – 410)

5.4.1 Three pits of broad Romano-British date (1403, 1406 & 1506) were revealed in the southern part of the site (Areas 14 and 15, **Figure 1**).

5.4.2 Pit 1403 was sub-circular with moderate, concave sides and a concave base, measuring 2.60 m in diameter and 0.40 m deep. The pit contained two fills, the lower fill 1404, a clayey, slightly sandy silt was artefactually sterile, however the upper clayey-silt fill 1405 contained a single sherd of Roman pottery in addition to residual worked flint and an iron nail (**Figures 2 & 3**).

5.4.3 Pit 1406 was sub-circular with moderate, irregular sides and an irregular/undulating base, measuring 3.60 m in diameter and 0.80 m in depth. The pit contained three sandy-silt/clayey-silt fills 1407, 1408 and 1409 (**Figures 2 & 4**). The lower pit fill 1407 contained two sherds of Roman pottery, an iron nail and fired clay likely to be of structural origin (e.g. oven/hearth lining). The middle fill 1408 contained ten sherds of Roman pottery, fired clay, iron nails, fuel ash slag, a copper alloy coin (ON 2) of Late Roman date and residual worked flint and Iron Age pottery. The upper tertiary fill of the pit, 1409, contained considerable quantities of residual worked flint and two joining potential brooch fragments.

5.4.4 Pit 1506 has been interpreted as a possible gravel extraction pit. The pit was sub-circular with moderate, concave sides and an irregular/undulating base, measuring 4.1 m in diameter and 1.10 m in depth. The full extent of the pit could not be determined due to heavy truncation from the foundations of buildings previously occupying the site. The pit contained three fills 1507, 1508 and 1509 consisting of sands and clayey silts from which were recovered four sherds of Roman pottery including an amphora sherd, animal bone and residual worked flint (**Figures 2 & 5**).

### 5.5 Modern (1800 – present)

5.5.1 Although no datable artefacts were recovered from well 1504, the brick construction for the well lining suggests a late date (**Figure 6**). The construction cut for the well was circular with vertical, straight sides, measuring 1.34 m in diameter, with the brick structure constructed flush against the sides. The well had subsequently fallen out of use and had been backfilled with building rubble/demolition rubble consisting red bricks with black mortar attached measuring 23 cm x 11 cm x 7 cm.



## 6 FINDS EVIDENCE

### 6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 A small quantity (1.7 kg) of finds was recovered from three pits, the backfill of modern groundworks and two layers in trenches 14 and 15. The assemblage has been cleaned and quantified by material type in each context. This information is summarised in Table 1. The finds have also been identified and, where possible, dated to establish a broad chronological framework for the excavated features and more generalised archaeological activity in the vicinity.
- 6.1.2 The overall date range of the assemblage extends from at least the Neolithic (flint) to the post-medieval/modern periods (copper alloy coin), although the three pits are likely to be of Romano-British date.

### 6.2 Flint

- 6.2.1 The earliest finds comprise 39 pieces of struck flint (Table 2, **Appendix 2**), providing evidence of prehistoric activity. Fifteen pieces are formed of Greensand chert ranging in colour from dark reddish brown to a more brownish yellow. The cortex tends to be thin and grey or buff; it is often a little battered. The material is generally rather coarse but appears free of any obvious flaws. Many of the examples are from small cobbles. Greensand chert is readily available locally as it forms the scarp slope of the Blackdown Hills to the east of Collumpton.
- 6.2.2 The remaining pieces are of a grey, speckled flint or, more rarely, a dark brownish grey translucent material. All are of fairly good quality although some examples have sparse cherty inclusions. The cortex is a little thicker and coarser than that of the chert and of a similar buff colour, in places stained a little red by the local iron-rich sediments. The provenance for this material is less obvious, but it may occur in local river gravels and is certainly available to the southeast, where Chalk outcrops on the Devon coast.
- 6.2.3 Only one piece shows any sign of patination (pit 1406, layer 1408) with a light, creamy discoloration, but several pieces have a slight surface gloss. Some degree of edge damage is common, but it is most notable on pieces from deposits more prone to continued disturbance (i.e. upper pit fills and made ground). Conversely, pieces exhibiting the best condition are from the disturbed natural layer (see below), possibly representing a context more reasonably considered as associated with primary deposition. Four pieces (three flakes and one bladelet) are burnt.
- 6.2.4 No diagnostic tools are present and most of the material is not suggestive of any particular mode of technology, so their date remains unclear. Cores are only present as fragments and evidence for the type of hammer employed is consistently indistinct. However, two (relatively broad and short) flint blades and two broken flint bladelets from disturbed natural layer 1410 appear to be products of deliberate blade production, exhibiting clear blade-like dorsal scars and in one case some slight evidence of platform preparation. A broken chert flake from pit 1406 (layer 1408) is a rejuvenation flake from the face of a blade core that also shows some sign of platform preparation. With such a small number of examples it is difficult to attribute a date with any confidence, but these five pieces would be most consistent with a Neolithic date.

### 6.3 Pottery

- 6.3.1 The pottery all came from pits and is predominantly of Roman date (1st to 4th century AD), although two residual Iron Age sherds from pit 1406 (layers 1407 and 1408) hint at earlier activity in the vicinity. Both are thin-walled plain bodies in rock-tempered fabrics (Table 1) comparable with fabric R13 (containing sanidine and a variety of other rock fragments) from Blackhorse, on the route of the A30 near Exter (Laidlaw and Mephram 1999, 178-9).
- 6.3.2 Despite the small size of the assemblage, the Roman sherds include Continental imports, as well as local, British coarsewares. The sherds had suffered considerable, probably post-depositional surface abrasions and edge damage and just one rim is present. These factors, coupled with the longevity of most of the fabrics represented, make more precise dating within the Roman period difficult. No overtly Late Roman wares are present, but in an assemblage of this size, that need not be significant.
- 6.3.3 The largest group of Roman sherds came from pit 1406 (12 sherds, 163 g). These include a base fragment (34 g) from a large, 2nd century AD Gaulish samian bowl or dish and the only rim, from a high-shouldered jar with an unelaborated, vertical rim, in the Southwestern Black Burnished ware fabric, which is predominantly of 1st to 3rd century AD date. Other jars are represented by base sherds in South-east Dorset Black Burnished ware (two sherds, 13 g) and the more local sandy greyware fabrics (1 base among the 5 sherds, 74 g). Three body sherds (23 g) in a very hard fired white-slipped redware fabric probably derive from a flagon; these too would not be out of place in a 2nd to early 3rd century group but no such date can be assigned with confidence.
- 6.3.4 Pit 1403 contained a single flake (6 g) of local sandy greyware. An abraded South-east Dorset Black Burnished ware body sherd (2 g) and the Dressel 20 amphora sherd (38 g) came from Pit 1506. These amphora were used to carry olive oil from southern Spain to all parts of the western empire from the mid-1st to at least the mid-3rd century AD and may therefore indicate the consumption of such 'exotic' commodities in the locality (as a foodstuff and/or to provide lighting), although once empty, such vessels were often traded in their own right as empty containers. The two sherds from pit 1508 (8 g) both occur in hard, 'gritty' or slightly pimply fabrics, probably more akin to the Early Roman Exeter fortress ware B (Holbrook and Bidwell 1991, 149-151) than the sandy greyware fabrics seem elsewhere in this assemblage.

**Table 1** Pottery quantification by fabric

Period	Fabric	No. sherds	Weight
Iron Age	Rock-tempered ware	2	8
Roman	Greyware	8	88
	South-east Dorset Black Burnished ware	3	15
	White-slipped redware	3	23
	Dressel 20 amphora	1	38
	Samian	1	34
	Southwestern Black Burnished ware	1	19
Total:		19	225



## **6.4 Animal bone**

- 6.4.1 Two animal bones (46 g) were recovered from pit 1508. The bones comprise a proximal fragment of cattle radius and a near complete sheep/goat metatarsal, both in poor condition, with flaky cortical surfaces and abraded edges. Signs of butchery are evident on the shaft of the cattle radius.

## **6.5 Metalwork**

- 6.5.1 The iron and copper alloy objects have been examined in their raw state; no x-radiography has been undertaken at this stage. The preliminary identifications indicate that the iron objects consist of three handmade nails and part of a badly corroded, rod or bar, broken at both ends. All came from pits 1406 and 1403.
- 6.5.2 Although illegible, the size and shape of a copper alloy coin (ON 2; pit 1406) suggest that it is of Late Roman date. Two joining fragments from a curved, externally ribbed strip (ON 3) were also found in this feature. These might be from the bow of a brooch, but they are too fragmentary for this to be certain.
- 6.5.3 A short length (92 mm) of circular-sectioned wire (3 mm in diameter), broken at both ends, and with a 'knot' of twisted, flat-sectioned wire tied around it, came from disturbed natural layer 1410 (ON 1). This could be part of a Roman bracelet with expanding joints, a common and widespread type, generally of late 3rd or 4th century AD date.
- 6.5.4 A second copper alloy coin came from made ground deposit 1401. This too is illegible but is clearly an Imperial penny of post-medieval or modern date.

## **6.6 Other finds**

- 6.6.1 A flake from the edge of one of the larger, thicker types of Roman brick was found in the backfill (context 1510) of the modern groundworks. Although the full thickness does not survive, this piece was at least 47 mm thick, suggesting a bipedalis or sesquipedalis, types commonly used to form the floor on which the pilae of a hypocaust would be mounted, to cap the pilae, as flooring or lacing/bonding courses in walls (Brodrigg 1987).
- 6.6.2 All the other finds are from pit 1406 and comprise four abraded, featureless fragments of fired clay and a single piece of fuel ash slag. The fired clay is likely to be of structural origin (e.g. oven/hearth lining), and the fuel ash slag is indicative of high temperature pyrotechnical activities but none of the pieces are sufficiently diagnostic for the nature of these to be more closely identified.

## **7 CONCLUSIONS**

### **7.1 Summary**

- 7.1.1 The watching brief and supervised archaeological strip identified a limited number of archaeological features within the site, with features revealed in two of the sixteen areas.
- 7.1.2 Two main periods of activity were recorded; Roman and modern. The features comprised three Romano-British pits and a modern well which was probably contemporary with the 'Woollen Factory' which was constructed within the southern part of the site in the early 20th Century.
- 7.1.3 Residual Iron Age pottery and prehistoric worked flint were recovered from later features and deposits and suggest earlier activity in the vicinity.





## 7.2 Discussion

- 7.2.1 The watching brief and supervised archaeological strip has established that only a limited number of features pre-dating the industrial development of the site in the 20th century survive within the site boundary.
- 7.2.2 Monitoring revealed that the site has been subject to a very high degree of truncation relating to construction and landscaping during both the initial building of the 'Woollen Factory' and the further industrial development of the site as the 20th century progressed.

## 8 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

### 8.1 Museum

- 8.1.1 The archive resulting from the archaeological monitoring and supervised archaeological strip is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Bristol. Royal Albert Memorial Museum has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project, under the accession code **RAMM:20/10**. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner to transfer title of all finds to the museum.

### 8.2 Preparation of the archive

#### *Physical archive*

- 8.2.1 The physical archive, which includes paper records, graphics, and artefacts, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Royal Albert Memorial Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011).
- 8.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the accession code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:
- 1 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type
  - 1 files/document cases of paper records

#### *Digital archive*

- 8.2.3 The digital archive generated by the project, which comprises born-digital data (eg site records, survey data, databases and spreadsheets, photographs and reports), will be deposited with a Trusted Digital Repository, in this instance the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), to ensure its long-term curation. Digital data will be prepared following ADS guidelines (ADS 2013 and online guidance) and accompanied by metadata.

### 8.3 Selection strategy

- 8.3.1 It is widely accepted that not all the records and materials (artefacts and ecofacts) collected or created during the course of an archaeological project require preservation in perpetuity. These records and materials will be subject to selection in order to establish what will be retained for long-term curation, with the aim of ensuring that all elements selected to be retained are appropriate to establish the significance of the project and support future research, outreach, engagement, display and learning activities, ie the retained archive should fulfil the requirements of both future researchers and the receiving Museum.



- 8.3.2 The selection strategy, which details the project-specific selection process, is underpinned by national guidelines on selection and retention (Brown 2011, section 4) and generic selection policies (SMA 1993; Wessex Archaeology's internal selection policy) and follows ClfA's 'Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives'. It should be agreed by all stakeholders (Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists, external specialists, local authority, museum) and fully documented in the project archive.
- 8.3.3 In this instance, given the relatively low level of finds recovery, the selection process has been deferred until after the fieldwork stage was completed. Project-specific proposals for selection are presented below. These proposals are based on recommendations by Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists and will be updated in line with any further comment by other stakeholders (museum, local authority). The selection strategy will be fully documented in the project archive.
- 8.3.4 Any material not selected for retention may be used for teaching or reference collections by Wessex Archaeology.

#### *Finds*

- 8.3.5 The finds comprise a small assemblage and their further research potential is correspondingly limited, but there are nevertheless elements of interest.
- Pottery (19 sherds): Iron Age and Romano-British; small quantity but could have some limited further potential beyond the remit of the current project in terms of augmenting the local ceramic sequence. Retain all.
  - Ceramic Building Material (1 fragment): Romano-British brick but due to small size not attributable to specific brick type. Little or no archaeological significance; no further research potential; do not retain.
  - Fired Clay (4 frags): negligible quantity, undiagnostic and undatable. Little or no archaeological significance; no further research potential. Retain none.
  - Worked Flint (39 pieces); small assemblage indicative of prehistoric activity but probably largely residual. Limited archaeological significance and further research potential, but of some interest as flint not local to the site. Retain all.
  - Coins (2 objects): both in poor condition; one probably late Roman, the other post-medieval/modern. Limited archaeological significance; retain Roman issue only.
  - Slag (1 piece): fuel ash slag (not indicative of metalworking), undated. No further research potential. Do not retain.
  - Metalwork (6 objects); very small quantity, of which only two copper alloy objects are at least tentatively identified and of possible Roman date (?brooch, ?bracelet). Iron objects (3 nails and undiagnostic bar fragment) are in particularly poor condition and subject to further deterioration. Very limited archaeological significance and further research potential. Retain copper alloy objects only, but all objects should be X-radiographed as a basic record.
  - Animal bone (2 frags): negligible quantity, little or no archaeological significance, no further research potential. Retain none.



#### *Palaeoenvironmental material*

- 8.3.6 One environmental sample was taken, but the context was not considered to be archaeologically significant, and the sample was not processed. It has been discarded.

#### *Documentary records*

- 8.3.7 Paper records comprise site registers (other pro-forma site records are digital), drawings and reports (Written Scheme of Investigation, client report). In accordance with the RAMM deposition guidelines, all hard copy records will be scanned and incorporated with the digital archive. Hard copy records will be offered to the Museum if it accepts the artefactual material from the site. If the hard copy records are declined, they will be disposed of following scanning.

#### *Digital data*

- 8.3.8 The digital data comprise site records (tablet-recorded on site) in spreadsheet format; finds records in spreadsheet format; survey data; photographs; reports. All will be deposited, although site photographs will be subject to selection to eliminate poor quality and duplicated images, and any others not considered directly relevant to the archaeology of the site.

### **8.4 Security copy**

- 8.4.1 In line with current best practice (eg, 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.

### **8.5 OASIS**

- 8.5.1 An OASIS (online access to the index of archaeological investigations) record (<http://oasis.ac.uk>) has been initiated, with key fields completed (wessexar1-505721 Appendix 3). A.pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by the Senior Historic Environment Officer on behalf of the LPA. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) ArchSearch catalogue.

## **9 COPYRIGHT**

### **9.1 Archive and report copyright**

- 9.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*.
- 9.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.



## 9.2 Third party data copyright

- 9.2.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (eg, Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material.



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*Wessex Archaeology 2020 Astra Printing, Willand Road, Cullompton, Devon: Archaeological Evaluation and Demolition Watching Brief (unpublished client report 230100)*

*Wessex Archaeology 2021 Astra Printing, Willand Road, Cullompton, Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Monitoring and Supervised Archaeological Strip.  
Unpublished report ref. 230101.1*



## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1 Context Appendix

Trench No 1		Length 0.75 m	Width 0.75 m	Depth 0.75 m
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
100		Surface	Hardcore parking area. Limestone hardcore. Modern.	0–0.2
101		Surface	Tarmac surface.	0.2–0.25
102		Bedding layer	Hardcore bedding for tarmac surface 101.	0.25–0.5
103		Surface	Cinders surface. Undated, probably post-medieval, or modern.	0.5–0.55
104		Natural	Reddish brown silty clay.	0.55–0.75+

Trench No 2		Length 1 m	Width 0.60 m	Depth 0.75 m
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
200		Surface	Hardcore car parking surface. Limestone hardcore	0–0.0.05
201		Made ground	Mixed building rubble, metal, stone, cinders. Metal objects suggest later 20th century date.	0.05– 0.3
202		Made ground	Mixed silty clay, modern CBM, rebar. Modern date.	0.3– 0.55
203		Natural	Reddish brown silty sand.	0.55+

Trench No 3		Length 1 m	Width 0.60 m	Depth 1.20 m
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
300		Made ground	Mixed silty sand, mid brown, modern CBM, slate tile, plastic. Modern date. Tip lines noted in deposit.	0–0.8
301		Natural	Reddish brown silty sand.	0.8+

Trench No 4		Length 1 m	Width 0.60 m	Depth 1.40 m
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
400		Surface	Limestone hardcore carpark surface. Modern date.	0–0.4
401		Made ground	Mix of dark brown sandy clay, building rubble, cinders, modern metalwork. Modern date.	0.4– 0.7
402		Natural	Dark brown sandy clay. Hydrocarbon smell.	0.7+



Trench No 5		Length 1 m	Width 0.60 m	Depth 1.10 m
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
500		Surface	Limestone hardcore carpark surface.	0–0.1
501		Made ground	Mix of mid brown sandy silt, modern building rubble, CBM, plastic. Modern date.	0.1–0.3
502		Surface	Tarmac surface.	0.3– 0.4
503		Made ground	Mix of large limestone blocks, mid brown sandy silt, cinders, CBM. Hydrocarbon small. Modern date.	0.4– 0.6
504		Made ground	Possible surface. Cinders and gravel. Hydrocarbon smell. No dating, probably modern.	0.6– 0.75
505		Buried soil	Mid brown sandy silt.	0.75– 0.85
506		Natural	Reddish brown sandy silt	0.85+

Trench No 6		Length 0.75 m	Width 0.75 m	Depth 0.80 m
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
600		Made ground	Mix of reddish-brown sandy silt and modern building rubble., wire, CBM etc. Modern date.	0– 0.3
601		Natural	Reddish brown siltstone, laminated.	0.3+

Trench No 7		Length 1.40 m	Width 0.60 m	Depth 1.50 m
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
700		Made ground	Modern hardcore surface. Probably recent site clearance works. Contains occasional modern brick.	0– 1.06
701		Natural	Red sands and gravel.	1.06+

Trench No 8		Length 1 m	Width 0.60 m	Depth 0.80 m
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
800		Made ground	Hardcore layer, same as 700.	0– 0.2
801		Buried soil	Buried topsoil. Greenish brown sandy silt.	0.2 – 0.4
802		Subsoil	Reddish brown sands and gravel.	0.4– 0.6
803		Natural	Sand and gravel	0.6+

Trench No 9		Length 0.80 m	Width 0.60 m	Depth 0.90 m
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
900		Topsoil	Mid reddish brown sandy silt.	0– 0.3
901		Natural	Reddish brown sand and gravel.	0.3+





Trench No 10		Length 1.50 m	Width 1.50 m	Depth 1 m
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1000		Made ground	Mid brown sandy silt with modern building rubble, CBM, slate roof tile, plastic. Modern date.	0– 0.25
1001		Made ground	Mix of stone rubble, brick rubble and gravel. Probably demolition debris.	0.25– 0.7
1002		Natural	Reddish brown sandy silt.	0.7+

Trench No 11		Length 1 m	Width 0.60 m	Depth 1.20 m
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1100		Made ground	Mix of stone, tarmac, CBM. Modern date.	0– 0.4
1101		Buried soil	Buried topsoil. Mid greenish brown sandy silt.	0.4 – 0.6
1102		Natural	Reddish brown sandy silt.	0.6+

Trench No 12		Length 0.70 m	Width 0.50 m	Depth 0.50 m
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1200		Surface	Concrete hardstanding at entrance to site. Reinforced with rebar.	0– 0.25
1201		Bedding layer	Brick rubble bedding for 1200.	0.25– 0.45
1202		Natural	Reddish brown sandy silt.	0.45+

Trench No 13		Length 27 m	Width 8 m	Depth 2.60 m
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1300		Surface	Tarmac Surface.	0.00–0.06.
1301		Bedding Layer	Mid-grey, sub-angular chunks of rock up to boulder-sized in places, but a mix of red house bricks (frogged / unfrogged, black mortar attached) and stones elsewhere.	0.06–0.26
1302		Made ground	Made-Ground. Dark brown with light red undertones. A clayey silt with common amounts of sub-round pebbles, up to medium gravel sized. Thickest at west end, then becoming thinner eastwards.	0.26–0.56 max.
1303		Made ground	Made-Ground. Overall, a light reddish grey. Sub-round pebbles (riverine?) up to coarse gravel-sized, admixed with coarse and medium sands.	0.41– 0.86 max



1304		Made ground	Made-Ground. A mix of pale yellow, brown, grey and black soils. Heterogeneous mix of yellow clayey silt with abundant sub-angular chunks of rock, up to coarse gravel-sized; silts and clayey silts; demolition rubble (frogged / unfrogged house bricks with black mortar adherent).	0.00–1.20 (?)
1305		Natural	Degraded Bedrock. Light red. Fine sands (plus some silt?) that are compact and hold form when machined.	0.30+

Trench No 14		Length 25 m	Width 20 m	Depth 0.70 m
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1400		Made ground	Made-Ground. A heterogeneous mix of dark, brownish-grey, gritty, clayey silt(s) with black, streaks / seams / pockets all admixed with building debris (crush?) containing fragments of red house-bricks / black mortar.	0.00–0.40 max.
1401		Made ground	Made-Ground. Mid greyish brown. A clayey silt with common amounts of sub-round pebbles and sub-angular stones up to coarse gravel sized.	0.40–0.70 max.
1402		Natural	Large patches of light reddish brown, yellow reddish brown sand(s) interspersed within mid-greyish-brown, sub-round and sub-angular (riverine?) gravels / pebbles up to cobble-sized.	0.70+
1403	1404, 1405	Pit	Sub-circular pit aligned N/A with moderate, concave sides and a concave base. Length: 2.60 m. Depth: 0.40 m.	
1404	1403	Secondary fill	Mid brown with light red undertones clayey, slightly sandy silt with common amounts of sub-round (water-rolled pebbles) and sub-angular stones up to coarse gravel-sized	
1405	1403	Tertiary fill	Light reddish-brown sandy, clayey-silt with sparse amounts of sub-round stones (water-rolled pebbles) up to medium gravel-sized. sparse amounts of charcoal flecks	



1406	1407, 1408, 1409	Pit	Sub-circular pit aligned N/A with moderate, irregular sides and an irregular/undulating base. Length: 3.60 m. Width: 3.60 m. Depth: 0.80 m.	
1407	1406	Secondary fill	Mix of brown, light reddish-brown, light red and pale-yellow components. some heat-reddening heterogeneous mix of silty soils containing varying amounts of clay and sands with common amounts of charcoal flecks. common amounts of sub-angular and sub-round (water-rolled pebbles) stones up to coarse gravel-sized	
1408	1406	Secondary fill	Light reddish-brown heterogeneous mix of sandy-silt(s) with diffuse pockets of clayey-silt with sparse amounts of charcoal flecks. common amounts of sub-round (water-rolled pebbles) and sub-angular stones up to coarse gravel-sized	
1409	1406	Tertiary fill	Mid greyish brown slightly clayey silt with common amounts of sub-round (water-rolled pebbles) and sub-angular stones up to coarse gravel-sized	
1410		Disturbed Natural	Mix of brown and light reddish brown-red components sands and silty sands with sparse sub-round and sub-angular water-rolled pebbles up to medium gravel-sized	

Trench No 15		Length 34 m	Width 27 m	Depth 0.70 m
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1500		Made ground	Made Ground. A heterogeneous mix of brown, grey-brown and black soils plus building debris.	0.00–0.30
1501		Made ground	Mid greyish-brown sandy silt. Varying amounts of building debris.	0.30–0.70 max.
1502		Natural	Red / light reddish brown / yellow sands and patches of gravel (sub-round pebbles), up to cobble sized.	0.70+
1503	1504, 1505	Construction cut for Well	Circular cut for well. aligned N/A with vertical, straight sides. Diameter: 1.34 m.	
1504	1503	Brick lining of Well	Red airbricks	



1505	1503	Deliberate backfill	Building rubble/demolition rubble with red house-bricks with black mortar attached. bricks measure 0.23m x 0.11m x 0.07m. Backfill of well.	
1506	1507, 1508, 1509	Gravel Extraction Pit	Sub-circular gravel extraction pit. aligned not known. with moderate, concave sides and an irregular/undulating base. Depth: 1.10 m.	
1507	1506	Secondary fill	Mixed hues. Light reddish brown and pale yellow heterogeneous mix of sands and sandy-clayey silts with common amounts of sub-round stones (water-rolled pebbles) up to medium gravel-sized	
1508	1506	Secondary fill	Dark, brown-grey clayey silt with common amounts of sub-round stones (water-filled pebbles) up to medium gravel-sized	
1509	1506	Secondary fill	Mixed hues. Light reddish brown, yellowish brown and brownish-grey heterogeneous mix of sands and clayey silts with common amounts of sub-round stones (water-rolled pebbles) up to medium gravel-sized	
1510		Modern backfill in modern groundworks	Mixed hues. Light reddish brown and yellowish brown mixture of clayey silts	

Trench No 16		Length 23 m	Width 20 m	Depth 0.45 m
Easting		Northing		m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1600		Topsoil admixed with demolition rubble	Mix of black, dark brown-grey and red components. Mix of clayey -silt soil and fragments of CBM.	0.00–0.30
1601		Subsoil/Made Ground	Brown grey with red undertones. Sandy, clayey silt encountered in eastern half of dig, only. (See sheet for Trench 14).	0.30+
1602		Natural	Mix of dark reddish brown and brownish red sands interspersed with gravels / pebbles.	0.30+



## Appendix 2

Table 2: Finds quantified by material type (number of pieces / weights in grammes)

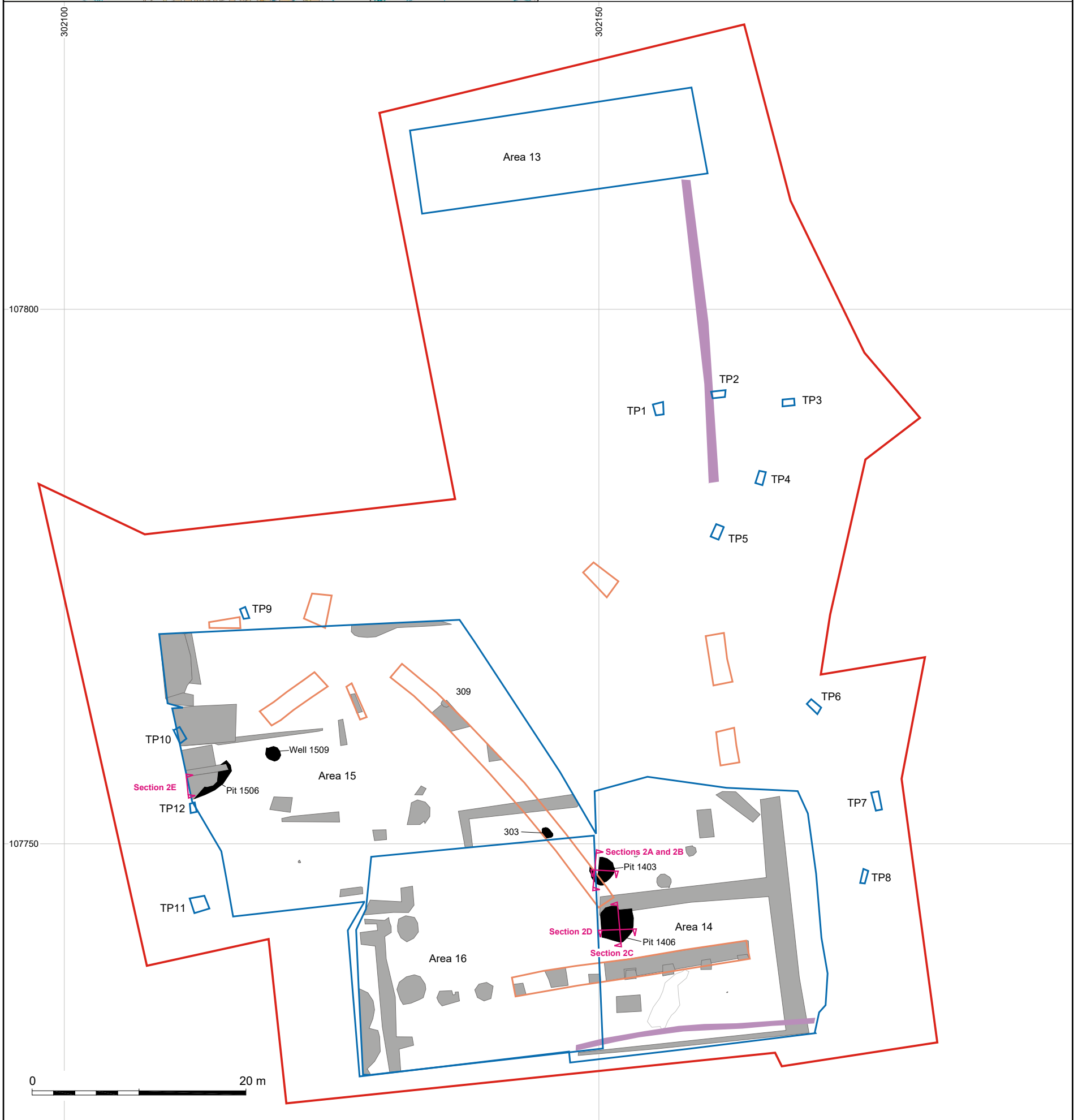
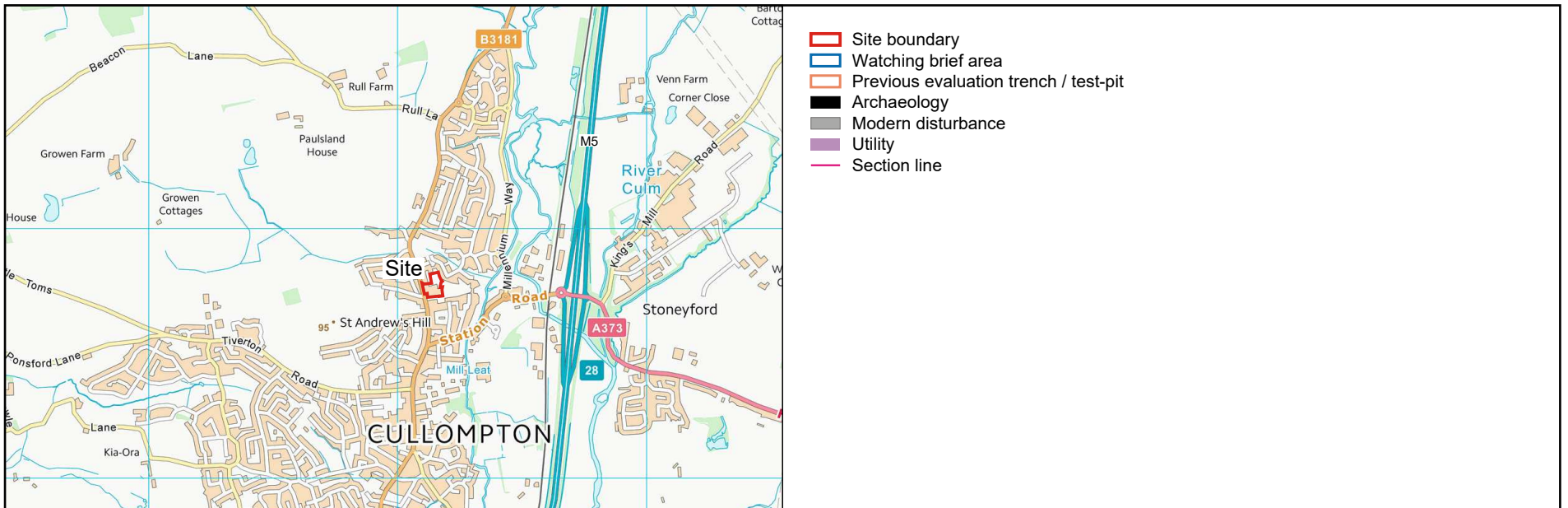
Feature	Context	Animal bone	CBM	Copper alloy	Fired clay	Flint	Iron	Pottery	Slag	Total	
		No/Wt	No/Wt	No/Wt	No/Wt	No/Wt	No/Wt	No/Wt	No/Wt	No	Wt
Made ground	1401			1/7		4/31				5	38
Pit 1403	1405					3/7	1/5	1/6		5	18
Pit 1406	1407				3/70		1/4	3/15		7	89
	1408			1/6	1/12	6/74	2/62	11/156	1/20	22	330
	1409			1/4		11/77				12	81
Disturbed natural	1410			1/5		10/39				11	44
Pit 1506	1507					1/2		2/40		3	42
Pit 1506	1508	2/46				4/206		2/8		8	260
Backfill of modern groundworks	1510		1/840							1	840
<b>Total:</b>		<b>2/46</b>	<b>1/840</b>	<b>4/22</b>	<b>4/82</b>	<b>39/436</b>	<b>4/71</b>	<b>19/225</b>	<b>1/20</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>1742</b>



## **Appendix 3 OASIS record**

# Summary for wessexar1-505721

OASIS ID (UID)	wessexar1-505721
Project Name	Archaeological Monitoring and Supervised Archaeological Strip at Astra Printing, Cullompton, Devon
Sitename	
Activity type	Watching Brief
Project Identifier(s)	230101
Planning Id	17/02020/MFUL
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Wessex Archaeology
Project Dates	05-May-2021 - 03-Feb-2022
Location	Astra Printing, Cullompton, Devon NGR : ST 02135 07764 LL : 50.8610753149088, -3.39190025054551 12 Fig : 302135,107764
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Devon District : Mid Devon Parish : Cullompton
Project Methodology	The watching brief comprised the observation of all mechanical excavations associated with twelve geotechnical pits. The supervised archaeological strip comprised the observation of all mechanical excavations and the subsequent excavation and recording of archaeological features and deposits in four areas.
Project Results	Two of the sixteen observed areas (Areas 14 and 15) revealed archaeological features. Two main periods of activity were recorded, Roman and modern. The features comprised three Romano-British pits and a modern well. Residual Iron Age pottery and prehistoric worked flint were also recovered from later features and deposits.
Keywords	Rubbish Pit - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Well - 20TH CENTURY - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	
HER	Devon Historic Environment Record - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive Physical Archive, Documentary Archive - to be deposited with RAMM - Royal Albert Memorial Museum & Art Gallery, Exeter



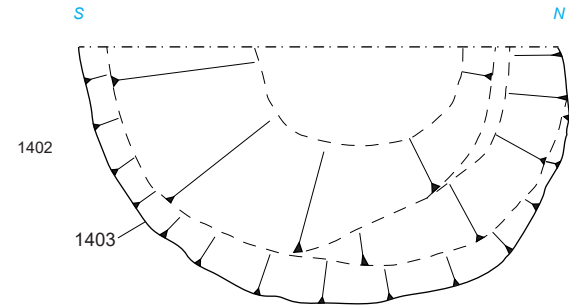
	Coordinate system: OSGB36 Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright and database right 2021. This material is for internal use only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.			
	Date:	31/03/2022	Initials (geomatics):	N/A
	Scale:	1:400 at A3	Initials (studio):	ND
Path:		X:\Projects\230101\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\WB\2022_03_28		

Site location and plan of geotechnical test pits and supervised strip areas

Figure 1



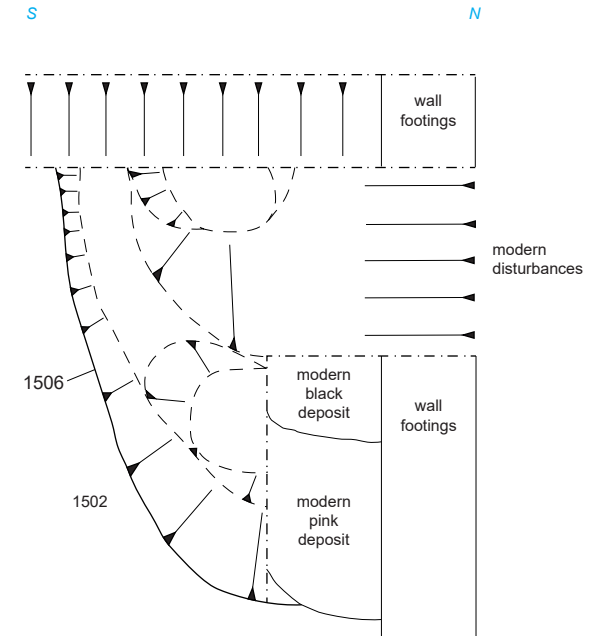
A. Plan and east facing section through pit 1403



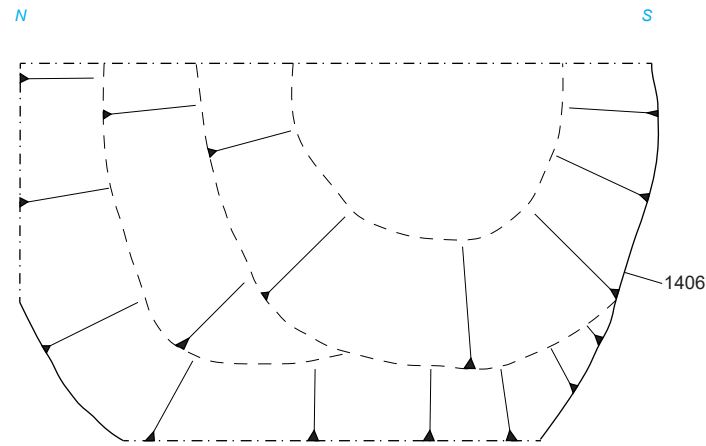
C. West facing section through pit 1406



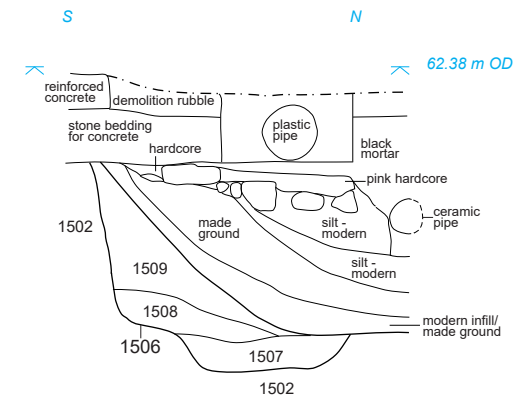
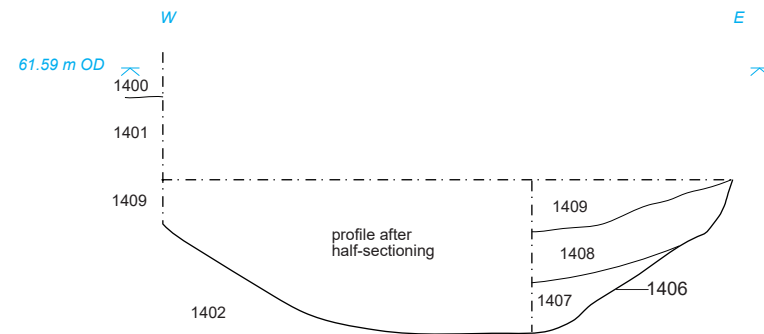
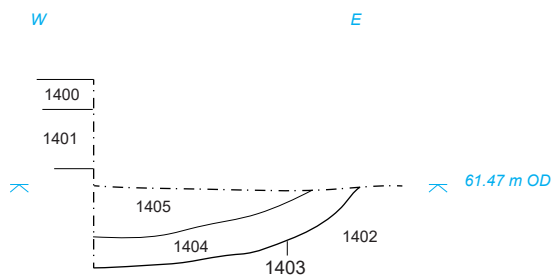
E. Plan and east facing section through pit 1506



D. Plan and east-west facing section through pit 1406



B. South facing section through pit 1403



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Figure 3: Pit 1403, looking north, 1 m scale



Figure 4: Pit 1406, looking east, 1 m scale



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Figure 5: Pit 1506, looking west, 2 m scale



Figure 6: Well 1504, looking west, 1 m scale

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