



Courtfield House Trowbridge, Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation



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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Ashford Homes (SW) Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation located in Courtfield House, Polebarn Road, Trowbridge, Wiltshire

A single archaeological feature, a small pit, was uncovered in trench 4, demonstrating that archaeology survived within the site.

The presence of a subsoil above the natural geology suggests the natural has not been truncated and the potential for archaeological resources to survive is high.

In the event only one feature was uncovered which was seen to cut the subsoil. A single sherd of pottery was recovered from its lower fill and dates the pit to the post medieval, and a small piece of peg tile from the upper fill dates to the medieval or early post-medieval.

Two sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered from the upper fill of the pit. While these are residual they are of interest as there is very little other evidence of activity from that period in the area.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Ashford Homes (SW) Ltd, for commissioning the archaeological evaluation. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service, who monitored the project for the LPA, and to the contractors for their cooperation and help on site.



Courtfield House, Trowbridge - EVAL

Archaeological Evaluation

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Ashford Homes (SW) Ltd, to undertake an archaeological evaluation located in Courtfield House, Polebarn Road, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, BA14 7EG. The evaluation area is centred on NGR 385945 157850 (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 The proposed development comprises the conversion of a former school principal building (Courtfield House) to four dwellings and associated external works; the erection of sixteen dwellings and associated works following the demolition of the Polebarn Hall, Pine Hall and external WCs, and partial demolition of the Wool Store; and comprehensive landscaping.
- 1.1.3 A planning application (18/04656/FUL) was submitted to Wiltshire Council in 2018, although a formal decision notice has not yet been issued. The proposal for archaeological evaluation of the development area was agreed in consultation with Wiltshire Council Archaeological Service (WCAS), archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority (LPA). A resolution to grant permission was given at the Western Area Planning Committee Meeting on 13/04/2022.
- 1.1.4 The evaluation is part of a staged approach in determining the archaeological potential of the site, and follows other non-intrusive archaeological work, including a heritage statement (Wessex Archaeology 2020).
- 1.1.5 The evaluation comprised the excavation, investigation and recording of four trial trenches, each measuring 10 m by 2 m and targeting the locations of the proposed development. It took place on 1 and 2 August 2022.

1.2 Scope of the report

- 1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a detailed description of the results of the evaluation, to interpret the results within a local, regional or wider archaeological context and assess whether the aims of the evaluation have been met.
- 1.2.2 The presented results will provide further information on the archaeological resource that may be impacted by the proposed development and facilitate an informed decision with regard to the requirement for, and methods of, any further archaeological mitigation.

1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 The evaluation area comprised a parcel of land of approximately 0.7 hectares located within the south-eastern edge of the historic core of the Wiltshire town of Trowbridge. It was largely within the property boundary of Courtfield House, which occupies the southern part of the site. The evaluation also encompassed an area of car parking to the east of Courtfield House currently outside of the house boundary.



- 1.3.2 The southern boundary of the site within the Courtfield House grounds was marked by a garden wall with gate piers. The wall enclosed the small, lawned, front garden of the main house. The remainder of the site, to the north of the extant buildings, was made up of the rear gardens of Courtfield House, characterised by lawned areas interspersed with and bordered by mature trees and fruit trees. Courtfield House garden is bordered to the east by the rear gardens of private residences on Polebarn Road, Trowbridge Town Park surrounds the site to the north and west.
- 1.3.3 The area used as car parking, located to the east of Courtfield House, was bound by a residential house to the north and Polebarn Road to the east and south.
- 1.3.4 The site was situated within a relatively flat area of land at an elevation of between 41 m and 42 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). Local topography fell gently to the south towards the valley of the River Biss.
- 1.3.5 The underlying geology is mapped as Cornbrash Formation – Limestone sedimentary bedrock, with Forest Marble Formation – Mudstone immediately south of the site (British Geological Survey 2022).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background was assessed in a prior Heritage Statement (2020), which considered the recorded historic environment resource within a 500 m study area of the proposed development. A summary of the results is presented below, with relevant entry numbers from the Wiltshire Historic Environment Record (HER) and the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) included. Additional sources of information are referenced, as appropriate.

2.2 Archaeological and historical context

Courtfield House and associated listed structures

- 2.2.1 Courtfield House is a substantial residence of mid-18th century date, with 19th and 20th century alterations and extensions. The house itself is thought to have been constructed in or around 1754. It comprises two storeys, attic and cellar, and is constructed of Flemish bond brickwork, with the possible incorporation of earlier stone fabric. Courtfield House passed through a succession of owners and tenants from the mid-18th to mid-20th centuries, all of whom seem to have been involved in the textile industry.
- 2.2.2 The 1776 Parish Map of Trowbridge and the Trowbridge tithe map of 1838 (not depicted) show that Courtfield House and the attached Workshop occupied a small rectangular plot, joined to the north by a larger, square parcel of land (including the proposed development area) and another similarly sized parcel of land to the south. The tithe apportionment suggests that the parcel of land to the north (rear) of Courtfield House had become part of the property by 1850 and was used as a Paddock.
- 2.2.3 A 19th century extension attached to the eastern elevation of Courtfield House, known as Polebarn Hall, is thought to be a former coach house and stables. Other structures within the Site include an 18th century Workshop (or Dye-House), which adjoins the western elevation of Courtfield House. Extending to the west of the Workshop and occupying the south-eastern corner of the site, is the Wool House (or Wool Store), which was built in the 19th century.

2.2.4 The key heritage assets comprise:

- Courtfield House: Grade II* (List Entry 1021635), built in 1762
- Workshop to southwest of Courtfield House, together with Lead Pump: Grade II (List Entry 1021636), of 18th century date
- 'Garden Wall and Gate Piers to the southeast of Courtfield House: Grade II (List Entry 1198424), of 18th century date
- Polebarn Hall: undesignated but attached to Grade II* Courtfield House. Of 1860-78 date.
- The Wool Store: undesignated but attached to Grade II Workshop. Of 1860-78 date
- 'Youth Centre, formerly part of Court Mills' Grade II (List Entry 1364174). Located outside the site boundary

Prehistoric (970,000 BC – AD 43)

2.2.5 The WSHER contains no entries relating to archaeological sites or find spots derived from any period prior to the Bronze Age within the study area.

2.2.6 Excavations in 1988 by Wessex Archaeology (EWI13340), in advance of a retail development in the Court Street/Castle Street area revealed some evidence for prehistoric occupation. Features included a row of six postholes and four pits from the Early Bronze Age and a row of six postholes and four pits from the latter part of the period. In addition, a four-post structure (MWI1271) was dated to the Iron Age by a single sherd of pottery found in the fill of a posthole.

Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)

2.2.7 The only known archaeological feature pertaining to the Romano-British period in Trowbridge is a ditch containing abraded pottery. By itself this feature gives little indication of the extent and nature of Romano-British activity within Trowbridge. This feature was discovered during the excavations carried out by Wessex Archaeology in 1988 ahead of development in the Court Street/Castle Street area (EWI13340). This excavation also yielded residual Romano-British finds from later horizons, amongst which were coins dating to the 3rd and 4th century AD, including one of Valentinian (364-378), and three copper alloy brooches, two of which are datable to the early to mid-1st century (MWI1286).

Saxon (AD 410 – 1066)

2.2.8 It is likely that the settlement of Trowbridge originated in the 7th century and comprised a relatively small and tightly focused settlement centred around Court Street/ Castle Street, in the location of the medieval castle. The Extensive Urban Survey (EUS) indicates that a mid- to late- Saxon settlement (DWI17612), manorial enclosure (DWI17614), late Saxon church (DWI17613), Saxo- Norman settlement (DWI17615) and a late Saxon timber bridge over the River Biss (DWI17616), were all located within this area.

2.2.9 The Court Street/Castle Street excavations by Wessex Archaeology in 1986-88 revealed evidence for Saxon occupation in the form of a series of wooden structures. The earliest phase of the settlement included a sunken feature building and parts of what were thought to belong to a large rectangular building. Further structures were identified by postholes most of which were sealed by Saxon soil horizons of a later date. The phase of settlement



is thought to have existed between the 7th and 11th century although there is no evidence to support continuous occupation during that time.

Medieval (AD 1066 – 1500)

- 2.2.10 The earliest reference to Trowbridge is in the Domesday Survey of 1086, when it was called Straburg, the manor belonging to a Saxon called Beorhtric (Williams and Martin 1992, 192). At that date it comprised 11 villagers, six cottages and a mill. The EUS identifies five main medieval settlement areas, arranged around the focal area of the castle. The Site would have been located beyond the known medieval settlement limit.
- 2.2.11 In 2016, Wessex Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation of St George's Works (EWI8579) comprising two trial trenches and a single test pit. The evaluation produced several features dating to the medieval period including a ditch (MWI175278), a pit (MWI175281) and a posthole (MWI175279). These features were thought to relate to burgrave plots.

Post-medieval to modern (AD 1500 – present day)

- 2.2.12 Trowbridge underwent a period of economic expansion during the early post-medieval period due, in part, to the continued growth of the cloth trade. By the middle of the 17th century the town had become one of the county's leading manufacturers of high-quality cloth (West Wiltshire District Council 2004; p.8).
- 2.2.13 It was from the late 18th century onwards, when the Industrial Revolution transformed the local textile industry and new areas of commerce and manufacturing became established, that the town underwent its most rapid and dramatic period of growth. The size of the town more than doubled between c.1700 and c.1900, although the site appears to have remained on the rural periphery of the town until the area began to be developed as a suburb in the mid-18th and 19th centuries.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General aims

- 3.1.1 The general aims of the evaluation, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2022) and in compliance with the ClfA *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a), were to:
- provide information about the archaeological potential of the site; and
 - inform either the scope and nature of any further archaeological work that may be required; or the formation of a mitigation strategy (to offset the impact of the development on the archaeological resource); or a management strategy.

3.2 General objectives

- 3.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the general objectives of the evaluation were to:
- determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified area;
 - establish, within the constraints of the evaluation, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains;

- 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 within the site by reporting on the results of the evaluation.

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2022) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in ClfA guidance (ClfA 2014a). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

4.2.1 The trench locations were set out using a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), in the approximate positions proposed in the WSI. Trench 1 was excavated in its original location but Trenches 2, 3 and 4 were all moved.

4.2.2 Trench 2 was relocated approximately 0.5 m to the north east due to a buried service found running parallel to the trench along its south-west side. Cable avoidance scanning found a second buried service running through the middle of trench 3. The trench was excavated in two halves to avoid this. Trench 4 was originally moved due to the presence of an existing building and large overhanging trees, but another service was found. The trench was relocated a second time to the north of trench 3 (**Figure 1**).

4.2.3 Three of the trial trenches, each measuring 10 m in length and 1.2 m wide, were excavated in level spits using a 360° excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist. Trench 3 was excavated in two sections due to the presence of a buried service and measured a combined total of 8.5 m. Machine excavation proceeded, in all cases, until either the archaeological horizon or the natural geology was exposed.

4.2.4 Where necessary, the base of the trench/surface of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand. A sample of archaeological features and deposits was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the evaluation.

4.2.5 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, although those from features of modern date (19th century or later) would be recorded on site and not retained.

4.2.6 Trenches completed to the satisfaction of the client and WCAS were backfilled using excavated materials in the order in which they were excavated, and left level on completion. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.

Recording

4.2.7 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.



- 4.2.8 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.
- 4.2.9 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 16 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 2022). 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 2: Appraisal).

4.4 Monitoring

- 4.4.1 WCAS monitored the evaluation 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 WCAS.

5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 A single archaeological feature, a small pit, was uncovered in trench 4, demonstrating that archaeology was present within the site.
- 5.1.2 The following section presents the results of the evaluation. Detailed descriptions of individual contexts are provided in the trench summary tables (**Appendix 1**). **Figure 1** shows all archaeological features and located services recorded within the trenches.

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

- 5.2.1 The three trenches at the rear of the property all contained similar natural deposits. The topsoil was a dark brown slightly clayey silt around 0.30 m – 0.40 m thick. Below this a subsoil of dark brown clay silt, 0.15 to 0.2 m thick overlaid the natural limestone bedrock, which was between 0.45 m and 0.55 m below ground level (bgl, **Figures 2 to 7**).
- 5.2.2 Trench 1 was located in a car park in the south-east corner of the site. The surface was covered with a 0.06 m thick layer of tarmac and a 0.2 m layer of pinkish-brown gravel and small rubble. Below this a 0.2 m thick made ground layer had been used to level the ground. This lay directly on the natural geology, a light yellowish brown clay (**Figures 8 and 9**).

5.3 Feature

- 5.3.1 A small pit (404) was uncovered in the southern section of the trench 4 (**Figure 10**). It was 0.47 m in width and oval in shape, with its longer side into the trench wall. The sides were near vertical, it was about 0.46 m deep as seen in section in the trench wall, and clearly cut the subsoil. There were two fills: the lower was a mid brown clay silt with cornbrash inclusions and a single post medieval pot sherd. The upper fill was a dark brown clay silt

and contained animal bone, ceramic building material (CBM), pottery, and an iron nail. The pottery was Romano British, but the tile was medieval or early post-medieval.

6 FINDS EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Just 32g of finds were recovered, all from pit 404 in trench 4. With the exception of the metalwork, all the finds have been cleaned and quantified by material type within each context (**Table 1**).

Table 1 Summary of the finds from pit 404 by material type by context (count and weight in grammes)

	405 (lower fill)	406 (upper fill)	Total
Material	No/Wt	No/Wt	No/Wt
Animal bone		3/4	3/4
Ceramic building material		1/11	1/11
Iron		4/7	4/7
Pottery	1/2	2/8	3/10
Total	1/2	10/30	11/32

Pottery

6.1.2 Just three sherds of pottery were recovered. The earliest are two body sherds of Romano-British date, in oxidised and grey sandy fabrics. These came from the upper fill of the pit (context 406), while an early post-medieval glazed redware body sherd represents the only find from the lower fill (context 405). The presence of this piece indicates that the Roman sherds are residual.

Ceramic building material

6.1.3 Further evidence of the residual nature of the Roman pottery sherds in pit 404 is provided by a small piece of ceramic roof tile also found in the upper fill. The thickness (11 mm) and hard-fired sandy fabric of this piece indicate that it derives from a peg tile of medieval or early post-medieval date, but it is too small to be more closely identified or dated.

Metalwork

6.1.4 The iron comprises corroded fragments probably from nails. Nails with a square shank and flat head were introduced in the Roman period and continue largely unchanged until industrialisation in the post-medieval period. Consequently, the fragments cannot be closely dated.

Animal Bone

6.1.5 The animal bone is limited to a distal fragment of a roe deer humerus and fragments of rib from a sheep, goat or roe deer sized animal. The ceramic dating evidence is not sufficient to support a date for the remains.

6.2 Conservation

6.2.1 No immediate conservation requirements were noted in the field, but subsequent examination has identified the iron items as being unstable material types. These objects



are stored with supportive packaging and a desiccant (silica gel) to ensure a dry environment below 35% relative humidity; they are regularly checked.

6.3 Statement of potential

6.3.1 The finds group is small and limited by fragmentation and its mixed date range. As such, the group offers no potential for further research beyond that already recorded.

6.4 Recommendations for further analysis

6.4.1 The pottery and other finds groups have been recorded to an acceptable archive standard and they provide no scope for further work. No further work is recommended, although comments made in this report should be included in any further dissemination of the results of this evaluation.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were encountered during the watching brief.

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Summary

8.1.1 A single archaeological feature, a small pit, was uncovered in trench 4, demonstrating that archaeology was present within the site.

8.1.2 The presence of a subsoil above the natural geology suggests the natural has not been truncated and the potential for archaeological resources to survive is high.

8.1.3 In the event only one feature was uncovered which was seen to cut the subsoil. A single sherd of pottery was recovered from its lower fill and dates the pit to the post medieval, and a small piece of peg tile from the upper fill dates to the medieval or early post-medieval.

8.1.4 Two sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered from the upper fill of the pit. While these are residual they are of interest as there is very little other evidence of activity from that period in the area.

9 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 Museum

9.1.1 The archive resulting from the evaluation is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury. Wiltshire Museum (Devizes) has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project, under the accession code **DZSWS:2022-32**. 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.

9.2 Preparation of the archive

Physical archive

9.2.1 The archive, which includes paper records, graphics and artefacts, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Wiltshire Museum (Devizes), and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (Brown 2011; ClfA 2014c; SMA 1995).

9.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the **site**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:

- 01 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type
- 01 files/document cases of paper records

Digital archive

9.2.3 The digital archive generated by the project, which comprises born-digital data (e.g., 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.

9.3 Selection strategy

9.3.1 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, i.e., the retained archive should fulfil the requirements of both future researchers and the receiving Museum.

9.3.2 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 ClifA'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.

9.3.3 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.

9.3.4 Any material not selected for retention may be used for teaching or reference collections by Wessex Archaeology.

Finds

9.3.5 As the group is small, highly fragmented and of missed date, retention is not recommended.

Documentary records

9.3.6 Paper records comprise site registers (other pro-forma site records are digital), drawings and reports (Written Scheme of Investigation, client report). All will be retained and deposited with the project archive.

Digital data

9.3.7 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.

9.4 Security copy

- 9.4.1 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.

9.5 OASIS

- 9.5.1 An OASIS (online access to the index of archaeological investigations) record (<http://oasis.ac.uk>) has been initiated, with key fields completed (**Appendix 2**). A .pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by WCAS 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.

10 COPYRIGHT

10.1 Archive and report copyright

- 10.1.1 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*.
- 10.1.2 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.

10.2 Third party data copyright

- 10.2.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g., Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which 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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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Trench summaries

NGR coordinates and OD heights taken at centre of each trench; depth bgl = below ground level

Trench No 1		Length 10 m	Width 1.20 m	Depth 0.55 m
Easting 385997.7159		Northing 157839.2450		m OD 41.1766
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
101		Surface	Tarmac. Surface of car park.	0–0.06
102		Made ground	Pinkish-brown gravel and small rubble, quite compact. Modern.	0.06–0.26
103		Made ground	Mid brown silty clay with sparse gravel inclusions. Early modern / modern.	0.26–0.46
104		Natural	Light yellowish-brown clay.	0.46+

Trench No 2		Length 10 m	Width 1.20 m	Depth 0.45 m
Easting 385946.9167		Northing 157845.2387		m OD 40.3291
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
201		Topsoil	Dark brown, friable, slightly clay silt. Heavily turbated by well-established shrub and tree rooting.	0–0.3
202		Subsoil	Mid-dark brown slightly clay silt. Lightly compacted yet friable, frequent natural limestone frags. Subtle yet clear horizon with topsoil, clear horizon with bedrock.	0.3–0.45
203		Natural	Cornbrash limestone bedrock.	0.45+

Trench No 3		Length 8.50 m	Width 1 m	Depth 0.60 m
Easting 385928.7134		Northing 157848.7355		m OD 40.1338
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
301		Very dark grey friable silty loam	Some light rooting from turf with a clear boundary to layer below.	0–0.40
302		Subsoil	Dark brownish. gravelly sandy loam with very clear boundary to bedrock	0.40–0.55
303		Natural	Limestone bedrock. Light greyish rock with yellow patch of clay at SW end	0.55+

Trench No 4		Length 10 m	Width 1.20 m	Depth 0.50 m
Easting 385929.1586		Northing 157861.0978		m OD 40.1959
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
401		Topsoil	Dark brown, friable, slightly clay silt. Heavily turbated by well-established shrub and tree rooting.	0–0.3



402		Subsoil	Mid-dark brown slightly clay silt. Lightly compacted yet friable, frequent natural limestone frags. Subtle yet clear horizon with topsoil, clear horizon with bedrock.	0.3–0.5
403		Natural	Cornbrash limestone bedrock.	0.5+

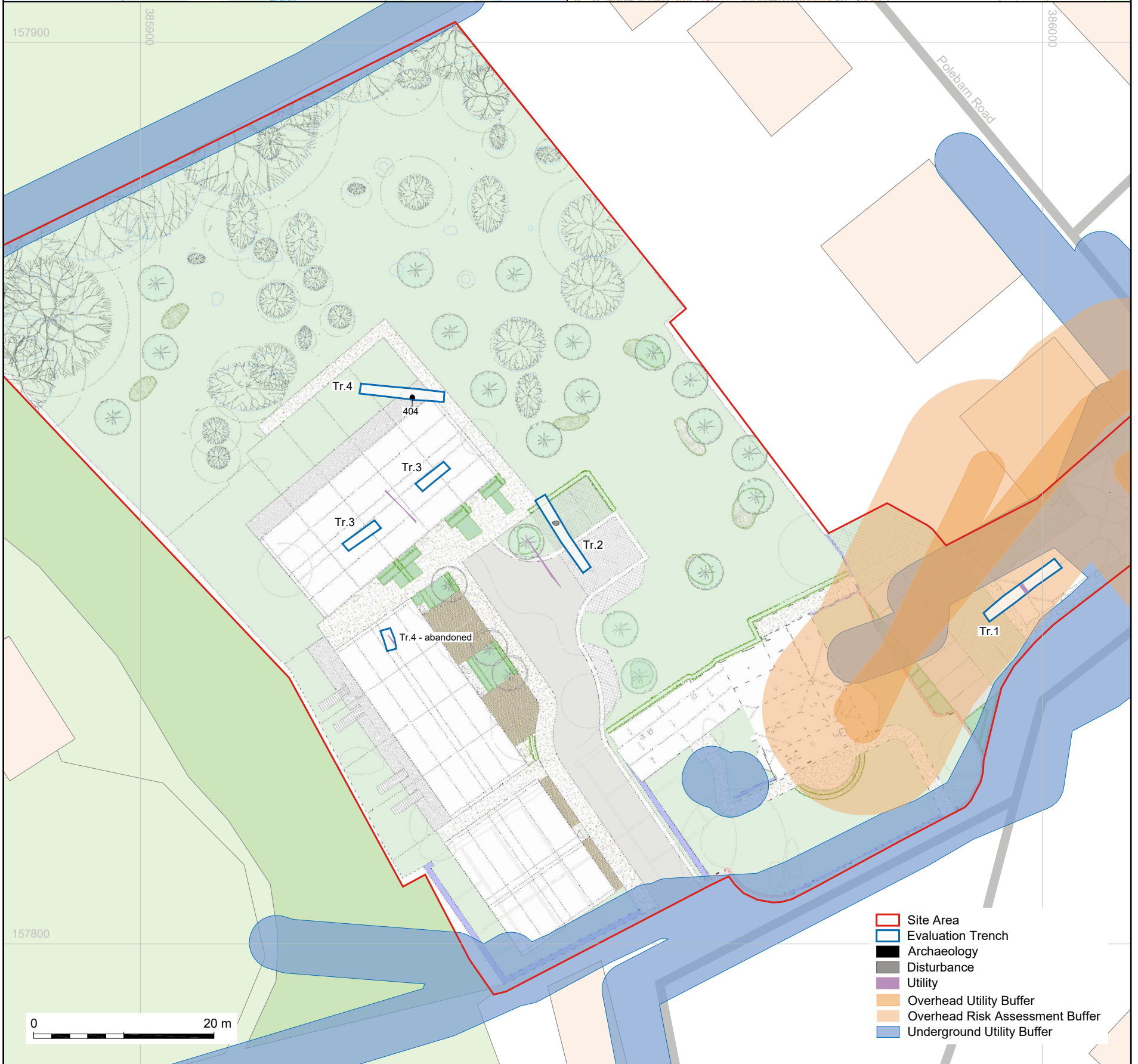
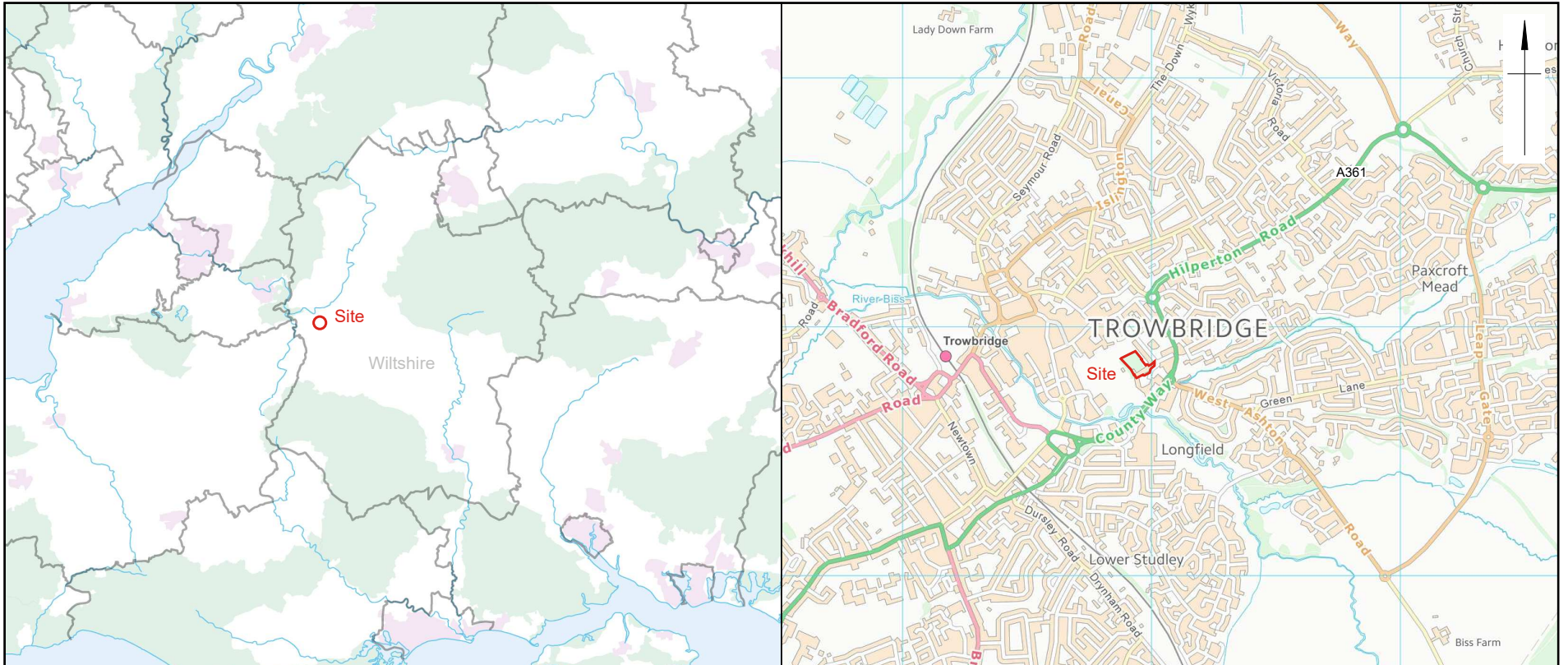


Appendix 2 OASIS summary

OASIS ID (UID)	wessexar1-508691
Project Name	Trial Trench at Courtfield House, Trowbridge, Wiltshire
Sitename	Courtfield House, Trowbridge, Wiltshire
Activity type	Trial Trench
Project Identifier(s)	Courtfield House, Trowbridge, Wiltshire
Planning Id	18/04656/FUL
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Between application and determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Wessex Archaeology
Project Dates	01-Aug-2022 - 02-Aug-2022
Location	Courtfield House, Trowbridge, Wiltshire NGR : ST 85945 57850 LL : 51.319579701636, -2.20306882742671 12 Fig : 385945,157850
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Wiltshire District : Wiltshire Parish : Trowbridge
Project Methodology	Four trial trenches measuring 10 m by 1.2 m were proposed. Due to onsite practicalities 3 were moved and one was shortened.
Project Results	A single archaeological feature, a small pit, was uncovered in trench 4, demonstrating that archaeology was present within the site. The presence of the pit and of a subsoil above the natural geology suggests the natural has not been truncated and the potential for archaeological resources to survive. In the event only one feature was uncovered which was seen to cut the subsoil. A single sherd of pottery was recovered from its lower fill and dates the pit to the post medieval, and a small piece peg tile from the upper fill dates to the medieval or early post-medieval. Two sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered from the upper fill. While these are residual they are of interest as there is very little other evidence of activity from that period in the area.
Keywords	Rubbish Pit - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Animal Remains - UNCERTAIN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Sherd - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus
Funder	
HER	Wiltshire and Swindon HER - unRev - STANDARD



Person Responsible for work	J, Kaines
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Physical Archive, Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Wiltshire Museum;



Coordinate system: OSGB36 National Grid
 Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright and database right 2022.
 Utility routes have been digitised from plans obtained from the asset owners and provided by the client.
 Proposed development plan provided by the client.
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Site plan with proposed development and final trench locations

Figure 1



Figure 2: General view of trench 2 from the south-east (1 m and 2 m scales)



Figure 3: North-east facing representative section of trench 2 (1 m scale)


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Figure 4: General view of the south west end of trench 3 (1m and 2 m scales)



Figure 5: General view of north-east end of trench 3 (1m and 2 m scales)


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Figure 6: South-east facing representative section of trench 3 (1 m scale)



Figure 7: General view of trench 4 from the west (1 m and 2 m scales)


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Figure 8: General view of trench 1 from the south-west (1 m and 2 m scales)



Figure 9: North-west facing representative section of trench 1 (1 m scale)



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Figure 10: North facing section of pit 404 (1 m and 0.5 m scales)

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