OAKFORD ARCHAEOLOGY

Historic building recording and archaeological monitoring and recording at Halswell House, Goathurst, Somerset

Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological works

on behalf of
Mr Edward Strachan

OA Project No. 1373

June 2018

Written Scheme of Investigation
Historic building recording and archaeological monitoring and recording

Site name	Halswell House, Goathurst, Somerset
Site code	OA1373
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Project type	Historic building recording, evaluation excavation, monitoring and recording
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Museum accession number	TTNCM 54/2017
Planning Application	
Client	Mr Edward Strachan
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Table of Contents

List of illustrations

1. GENERAL BACKGROUND

1.1 Circumstances of the project

This document has been produced by Oakford Archaeology (OA) for Corbel Ltd and Architectural Thread Ltd on behalf of Mr Edward Strachan. The document sets out the methodology to be used during building recording and monitoring and recording of groundworks at Halswell House, Goathurst, Somerset (ST 2533 3373). The work is to be carried out to satisfy a number of earlier Listed Building Conditions (LBC 29-14-000014, LBC 29-1500002, LBC 29-15-00007, LBC 29-15-00008, LBC 29-16-00003, LBC 29-16-000012 and LBC 29-17-00003) and an upcoming application for listed building consent for an extensive programme of external and internal refurbishment and conservation, as well as external and internal excavations. The present document represents an update of an earlier 'written scheme of archaeological work' provided by James Brigers in 2014 and required for approval by Historic England (HE), Sedgemoor District Council (SDC) and South West Heritage Trust (SWHT) prior to commencement of the development.

Due to the historic, archaeological and architectural significance of the house, stableyard and associated structures, and extensive parklands HE, SDC and the SWHT have requested that an archaeological programme of works is implemented in advance of and concurrent with the proposed works with the aim of mitigating the impact of the proposed development on the significance, setting and understanding on the standing and below-ground heritage assets.

1.2 The proposed archaeological strategy

Due to the sensitive nature of the Grade I listed building and the high archaeological potential of the site a condition has been placed on the listed building consent requiring a phased programme of archaeological work to be undertaken. This will be implemented by OA and consist of historic research (Bolton 2014 & 2015), historic building recording, geophysical survey, evaluation, excavation and monitoring of all groundworks connected to the development.

This WSI is entirely concerned with the work on Halswell House detailed below. The work at Millwood is not covered by this document and the project is entirely separate from the work covered by this document.

1.3 The geology and topography of the site

Halswell House lies c. 3km south of Bridgwater, on a gently sloping, north-facing slope, at the western boundary of the Parish of Goathurst in West Somerset. The northern part of Halswell Park lies on gently sloping land between c. 80 and 83m AOD. over Morte slate (BGS 1976), rising gently from the broad undulating valley of the River Parrett towards Halswell House. South of the house the land rises more steeply into a low but dominant ridge that forms the southeastern spur of the Quantock Hills, rising to a height of 228m AOD close to Bolts Cross, Broomfield. Much of the site is open parkland and grass/pasture.

2. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Halswell House is Grade I Listed and the manor of Halswell is mentioned as a holding separate from that of Goathurst in the Domesday survey of 1086, [1] descending as a holding in its own right until its sale and dispersal in the 1950s. Halswell Court is mentioned again in 1318 and the medieval ranges were expanded in the late 17th century to form north, south and east wings around a central courtyard. The imposing north wing as it exists today was constructed in the late 1680's, relegating the remaining medieval and early post-medieval elements to the south to predominantly ancillary functions. The west front of the north range was re-modelled in neo-classical style in c.1754 probably to designs by Francis Cartwright of Blandford.

Extensive landscaping of the grounds to the north and east of the house is known to have been carried out at about the same time as the construction of the north wing and a terraced parterre and lake were created to the north and east of the house. [2] From the mid-18th century the immediate grounds and surrounding park were incorporated into an extensive landscape designed by Sir Charles Kemys Tynte. This included Mill Wood to the northwest, with garden buildings including a rock wall grotto and classical rotunda in the grounds immediately surrounding the main house and further walled gardens added to the south in two phases during the 19th century.

In 1934 the estate was inherited by Charles J.H. Kemeys-Tynte who sold it in 1950. The land was broken up and the house converted into flats. A programme of archaeological work was undertaken in 2003 when the house and immediate grounds were purchased by Dunster Holdings Ltd. This involved the excavation of trenches in the Riding House Garden to the south of the house, [3] the Victorian Garden to the southeast as well as along the banks of the lake to the east of the north lawn. [4] Further trenching was opened to the northwest on the suspected route of the 18th century circular drive. [5]

In addition to the main house the stepped pyramid, the walling, gateway and coach house to the southwest, and the walling, piers and associated lean-to structure to the east of the former stable yard are also Grade II Listed. Moreover, the dovecote or pigeon house to the south of the house is also Grade II Listed. Finally, in addition to those structures listed above the 18th century rock wall grotto to the north of the lake is of considerable historical historic and archaeological merit and, although not protected by listing, for the purposes of the following mitigation strategy will be treated in the same regard as the protected structures.

The entire area of the current holding associated with the house is recognised on the Register of Parks and Gardens of Specific Historic Interest and the Somerset Historic Environment Record as a heritage asset in its own right and is considered an area of high archaeological potential. [6]

[1] *Thorn and Thorn 1985, 7.2*.
[2] *Information derived from entry in VCH Somerset, vol. 6 1992; p. 49*.
[3] *Soms HER PRN 19435*.
[4] *Soms HER PRN 28172*.
[5] Soms HER PRN 13787.
[6] *Soms HER PRN 10188*.

3. PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

The archaeological work to date has comprised a rapid historic building assessment of the main building complex (Rushton 2015) and preliminary trenches in the Knot House (formerly Tudor cottage), Quantock cottage and the Tower House (Brigers 2014). The latter work was undertaken under a written scheme of investigation provided by James Brigers (Brigers 2014).

In addition to this other work has been undertaken since 2014 without archaeological monitoring and recording. This includes

- the installation of an electric substation at the rear of the gardener's and stableboys garden and the excavation of a new electric service run through the gardener's and the south garden;
- the installation of a new cess pit and drainage run in the main north lawn of the house;
- the complete re-slating and associated works to the roof over the east and south ranges, and the Knot House. Dendrochronological analysis of oak timbers from the south range roof were taken, returning a date of 1590, or soon after, for the construction (Moir 2015);
- repointing of the east elevation of the east range, the south elevations of the south range with extensions, and the east and south elevations of the Knot House;
- reconstruction of the 'Tudor' gables on the west and east elevations of the east and south ranges;
- work to the windows on the east elevation of the east range and south elevation of the south range and the east and south elevations of the Knot house.
- removal of a modern extension against the south range, removal of chimney stacks against an 18th century extension of the south range and removal of the chimney stack at the south end of the Knot house.

OA have been appointed as the new archaeological contractor in December 2016 for Corbel Ltd and Architectural Thread Ltd on behalf of Mr Edward Strachan to oversee an integrated and comprehensive approach to the archaeological work required by HE, SDC and the SWHT. As part of the ongoing works OA are trying to retrospectively mitigate through further recording the unsupervised sections of work laid out above:

- all further service runs to be monitored as part of the blanket archaeological watching brief on all works within the grounds and parkland;
- the installed cess pit will be removed as part of a future programme of works. In order to mitigate the impact of any new foul drainage arrangement a comprehensive geophysical survey (GPR and resistivity) of the north and eastern gardens will be undertaken to highlight the best route for the new foul service runs and location for the cess pit, supplemented if necessary by evaluative trenching and or a blanket watching brief on any excavations;
- all the roofs over the east and south range, and the Knot House, will be drawn to scale, annotated and photographed from the inside as the restoration work

proceeds. A comprehensive dendrochronology strategy will be established and implemented as the works proceed;

- all the external elevations will be recorded retrospectively and visible information logged. In addition, this will be supplemented by the comprehensive recording of the internal elevations and cross-referenced with historical photographs and drawings where available;
- all the rebuilt 'Tudor' gables on the west and east elevations of the east range and the south range will be recorded retrospectively. In addition, this will be supplemented by the comprehensive recording of the internal elevations and cross-referenced with historical photographs, architects notes and drawings, and information provided by Corbel where available;
- work to the windows on the east elevation of the east range and south elevation of the south range and the east and south elevations of the Knot house will be recorded retrospectively and visible information logged. In addition, this will be supplemented by the comprehensive recording of the internal elevations and cross-referenced with historical photographs and drawings architects notes and drawings, and information provided by Corbel where available;
- removal of a modern extension against the south range, removal of chimney stacks against an 18th century extension of the south range and removal of the chimney stack at the south end of the Knot house will be recorded retrospectively and visible information logged. In addition, this will be cross-referenced with historical photographs and drawings architects notes and drawings, and information provided by Corbel where available

4. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

4.1 General aims

The primary objective is to preserve the archaeological evidence contained within the site by record and to attempt a reconstruction of the history and use of the site. The works laid out in this document will provide an adjunct to the works that have already taken place on the site and should be seen as contributing to the overall research aims of the project.

Historic building recording of the buildings in advance of and during refurbishment has the potential to reveal evidence relating to dating, construction details and materials, layout and function as well as evidence for its later development, while preliminary archaeological investigations and later monitoring of groundworks has the potential to reveal below-ground evidence associated with the existing buildings as well as earlier activity on the site. Specifically, this site affords a rare chance to shed light on an early medieval estate and trace its development to the present day.

Research into the development of early medieval rural estates and settlement pattern and their transition into the early modern period has been identified as an objective within the local archaeological research agenda. Investigation at the micro scale can provide evidence for the chronology, structure and function of individual settlements. The archaeological investigation therefore has the potential to to provide evidence on

the date and character of the early medieval settlement activity at Halswell and its later development.

Using the spectrum of environmental techniques, in addition to archaeological investigations and geophysical survey(s), will provide information on the surrounding landscape, successive gardens and their subsequent transformation.

Finally, because it is anticipated that the project will extend over a number of years it is not possible to anticipate the full impact of the proposed works at this stage. Further updated task specific WSIs or WSI amendments will be produced each time more work is commissioned

4.2 Specific aims and objectives

The specific objective of the historic building recording is to provide a comprehensive analytical record of the existing buildings, in accordance with the HE procedural document of 2016 'Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice', providing a systematic account of the building's significance in terms of architectural, social, regional or economic history. The report will provide a systematic account of the building's origins, development and use, and an account of the evidence on which the analysis has been based. This needs to be adequately detailed to place the findings of the recording in context and to inform future conservation and management decisions. Finally, the publication will provide a comprehensive review of the local and regional historical context.

The aims of the archaeological investigations are to determine and understand the nature, function and character of the site in its cultural and environmental setting.

The general objectives of the archaeological work are to determine:

- to integrate the results of the previous archaeological works with the results of the current works;
- to determine the nature of any archaeological remains present at the site;
- determine the character, date, extent and distribution of any archaeological deposits and their potential significance;
- to investigate any environmental evidence, especially with respect to the development of the gardens and the wider parkland;
- determine the levels of disturbance and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits present at the site;
- if there is any evidence for the date and character of medieval activity, in particular dating evidence for the earliest phase of activity;
- to ensure adequate preservation, by record or in-situ as appropriate, of any archaeological remains not previously identified;
- to place the results of the archaeological work into its local, regional and national context;
- disseminate the results of the archaeological work through an appropriate level of reporting

4.3 **Research frameworks**

This programme of archaeological works takes place within, and will contribute to the goals of Regional Research Frameworks relevant to this area - The Archaeology of South West England: South West Archaeological Research Framework: Research Strategy 2012-2017. Somerset County Council.

5. METHOD

Guidance on the scope of work required under this condition was provided by e-mail dated 27-06-2017 from the SWHT to Corbel Ltd and Architectural Thread Ltd.

The proposed works within the house, grounds and associated outbuildings and structures at Halswell are going to be extensive and it is anticipated that the project will extend over a number of years. It is therefore not possible to anticipate the full impact of the proposed works at this stage. However, this document attempts to broadly identify where significant works will be required and the appropriate archaeological mitigation. Mitigation strategies for areas not specified here but which become the focus for work at a later stage in the project will be outlined in subsequent written schemes to be prepared in advance and approved by HE, SDC and the SWHT.

Liaison will be established with Corbel Ltd and Architectural Thread Ltd and their contractors prior to works commencing in order to advise on OA requirements in relation to the works outlined below. If a good working relationship is established at the outset any delays caused by archaeological recording can be kept to a minimum. However, localised delays to site operations may be caused and time should be allowed within the main contractor's programme for the adequate investigation and recording of archaeological material and exposed historic building fabric.

The SWHT will be informed of the start of the project, and will monitor progress throughout on behalf of the planning authority and HE, and will wish to inspect the works in progress. Any amendments to the specific responses and methods set out elsewhere in this document will be reviewed and agreed with him prior to implementation and completion. A date of completion of all archaeological site work, including historic building recording, will be confirmed with the SWHT and the timescale of the completion of items under section 9 will run from that date.

5.1 **Background research**

Documentary research has been undertaken ahead of the proposed works to set the site in its local and regional historical context (Bolton 2017). This research has examined existing cartographic, photographic and documentary evidence and previous archaeological finds and investigations. The results of the background study will not be formally presented as a separate planning document, but will be incorporated into the grey literature reports and publication.

5.2 HER number and Museum accession number

An HER number (37584) and Museum accession number (TTNCM 54/2017) has been obtained from the Somerset HER.

5.3 Aerial Photographs

Although Aerial photography is not required at this site, it is an important source of information on historic gardens and archaeological sites in general.

5.4 Historical building recording

Historic building recording on Halswell House will be undertaken by a suitably qualified historic buildings specialist on all elements of the fabric to be demolished, altered or covered-over during the process of development All monitoring and recording will be carried out as per OA standard recording procedures and in accordance with the standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeology (*Standards and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures*, 1996, revised 2008).

The following method for historic building recording will be utilised, tailored to the level of recording required which in this instance is considered to be Level 3-4 Recording as defined in Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to recording practice - English Heritage 2016.

- A photographic record using a high-quality digital camera for interpretative and reporting needs.
- Production of floor plans (based on architect's plans where appropriate), with sections, elevations and more detailed drawings of architectural features and details as appropriate. (These will also utilise architect's drawings where available.) These drawings will be prepared at scales of 1:100, 1:50 and 1:20 with smaller details drawn at larger scales as appropriate.
- A detailed written record outlining the evidence for historic fabric, relationships and the sequence of wall coverings, an interpretation of this evidence, and an outline of the development of the building will be produced.
- Provision will be made for the collection and analysis of samples of wall coverings by suitable specialists. Detailed guidance has been provided by Samantha Stein (Historic England Regional Scientific Advisor) with regards to techniques for: *Thin section analysis* on all phases, including charcoal tempered, coal tempered, straw tempered and animal hair tempered plaster/render to determine, for example the phasing, changes in recipes, source materials and methods of applications; *Lipid analysis* on any intact floor deposits, or within the render/plaster to determine the use of the space for food preparation; Wet sieving of bulk samples of thick renders for charcoal retrieval for C14 (Carbon 14), wood and/or macrofossils identification; *XRF (X-ray fluorescence analysis)* of the plasters and paints to determine different mixes and chemical components. The results of the analysis will be incorporated into the final report/publication.
- The archive will be either born digital or scanned to a suitable format for deposition in Archaeology Data Service (ADS).

If significant historic features that are worthy of retention are exposed during the stripping out the historic buildings specialist will request the contractor that these features are not removed and inform the SWHT of their presence.

The works proposed on the house, which will be mitigated through historic building recording and archaeological recording, will include:

- Investigative, and later mitigation, works (internal and external) relating to the damp issues throughout all the buildings where this involves the exposure and/or removal of historic fabric. No works of an invasive or potentially destructive nature to the listed building or associated structures will take place without the advice of Wendy Tomlinson, Inspector of Historic Buildings and Areas, and specialist officers from the local authority and/or Historic England to agree upon an appropriate mitigation strategy should historic fabric be removed or lost, and to ensure that the necessary consents are in place where applicable;
- the raking out and re-pointing of external elevations of all the buildings;
- the opening up of potentially historic fireplaces within all the buildings;
- any demolition or alteration of original building fabric within all the buildings;
- any exposure, removal or alterations to historic floors within all the buildings;
- the recording of the roof structures within all the buildings;
- any miscellaneous works, such as joinery repairs to historic windows, or additional remedial works that haven't been anticipated and that only emerge as being necessary once the building works start;
- the removal, alteration or repair to the Dovecote, grooms and gardener's accommodation and boundary wall;
- the removal, alteration or repair to all the garden and stable yard boundary walls.

5.5 Geophysical Survey

The below-ground works will consist of a staged programme of archaeological work. This will involve a geophysical survey(s) (resistivity and GPR) of those areas outside the buildings most likely to be affected by large scale reduction in ground surface. The geophysical survey(s) will be supplemented by information from LIDAR with regards to buried archaeological features within the gardens, as well as the wider park landscape. Any information will be referenced with regards to existing cartographic and estate records.

5.6 Groundworks

The geophysical survey(s) will be supplemented by archaeological trial trenches. The exact number and location of trenches is not known at this stage and the attached plans (Figs. 1-2) showing the suggested position of the proposed trenches will be subject to changes throughout the later stages of the project. Trenches have been positioned to target the various anomalies identified during the geophysical survey of the south garden. Localised site constraints (eg. buried services, scaffolding, tree canopies etc.) may result in minor modifications to the trench layout. In areas where

no geophysical survey has been undertaken trenches will be located to provide a spatial sample of those areas affected.

The excavation of trial trenches will inform the level of mitigation required before proceeding with the proposed works. The scope and extent of any such mitigation will be agreed following a site meeting with SWHT, HE (if appropriate), Corbel Ltd and Architectural Thread Ltd.

Option 1 - no mitigation required.

Option 2 - monitoring and recording/limited excavation during construction groundworks, if necessary. Sufficient time will need to be allowed for the completion of any archaeological recording and limited excavation necessary within the construction groundworks. At times, this may require a pause in the construction works, but the requirement for this will be kept to a minimum where possible. Where more substantial delays are envisaged, then a site meeting will be convened as necessary with SWHT, HE (if appropriate), Corbel Ltd and Architectural Thread Ltd to agree the way forward.

Option 3 - full archaeological excavation of certain areas prior to construction starting, if necessary.

The need for, and extent of options 2 and 3 will be reviewed and agreed at a site meeting with SWHT, HE (if appropriate), Corbel Ltd and Architectural Thread Ltd, once the trial trenches have been excavated and the results are evident. If required, option 3 will then be carried out and completed before the commencement of construction works, and option 2 will be undertaken during the latter.

Trenches will be CAT scanned by the groundwork contractors prior to excavation. Trenches inside the building will generally be excavated by hand, while external trenches will be opened using a tracked or wheeled machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket. Excavation will continue until either the top of significant archaeological levels or underlying solid geology is reached (whichever is higher), at which point machining will cease and investigation will continue by hand. Where archaeological deposits are present the trench will be cleaned and deposits investigated, excavated and recorded.

On completion of the investigations, trenches will be backfilled by the groundworks contractors with the excavated material and made safe.

The below-ground works at this stage will include:

- the excavation of new drainage and landscaping within the south garden. These will be monitored and recorded by the attending archaeologist during the excavation. Provision will be made in the contractor's schedule for sufficient time and access for the archaeologist to complete any necessary recording. This may cause localised delays to the groundworks programme, although every effort will be made to keep any such delays to a minimum. Should any potentially significant or sensitive archaeological deposits or remains be encountered, but above the required formation or invert level, then these will be hand excavated and recorded by the archaeologist down to the

required level. If no such deposits or remains be present then, once underlying solid geology has been confirmed, or formation/invert level reached, across the whole of the area, archaeological monitoring will be terminated;

- the excavation for underfloor heating within the Knot House and any possible further reduction in level of the ground below, including new drains. These will be monitored and recorded by the attending archaeologist during the excavation. Should any potentially significant or sensitive archaeological deposits or remains be encountered during the excavations, but above the required formation or invert level, then these will be hand excavated and recorded by the archaeologist down to the required level;
- Finally, any other ground works that also have the potential to reveal remains will be subject to archaeological monitoring and recording.

In addition, although the scope and extent of future work is yet to be confirmed, all groundworks within the main building complex, central courtyard, stable yard and associated buildings, the grooms and gardener's accommodation and gardens, as well as within the surrounding landscape will be subject to a staged programme of archaeological work as per 5.8 – 5.10.

5.7 Excavation of archaeological features and deposits

All archaeological deposits will be stratigraphically excavated by hand down to the underlying solid geology in the following manner, unless agreed otherwise with the SWHT:

- all features and significant deposits will be excavated and recorded by hand,
- significant archaeological features (e.g. solid or bonded structural remains) will be preserved intact, even if fills are sampled;
- some less significant and more bulky deposits may be carefully removed by machine with a toothless grading bucket, under direct archaeological supervision,
- the full excavation of small discrete features;
- half-sectioning (50% excavation) of larger discrete features;
- the excavation of long linear features to sample up to 25-50% of their length - with hand-investigations distributed along the exposed length of any such features, specifically targeting any intersections, terminals or overlaps;
- if necessary, an auger will be used to gain information from deep deposits below 1m in depth;
- spoil will also be examined for the recovery of artefacts.

Variations to these may be required, for example to fully recover important finds and material, or to obtain firmer dating evidence, and these will be agreed with the SWHT and then carried out

5.8 Recording of archaeological features and deposits

The standard OA recording system will be employed, consisting of:

- standardised single context record sheets; survey drawings, plans and sections at scales 1:10,1:20, 1:50 as appropriate;

- colour digital photography;
- survey and location of finds, deposits or archaeological features, using EDM surveying equipment and software where appropriate;
- labelling and bagging of finds on site from all excavated levels, post-1800 unstratified pottery may be discarded on site with a small sample retained for dating evidence as required.

Should the above percentage excavation not yield sufficient information to allow the form and function of archaeological features/deposits to be determined, full excavation of such features/deposits will be required. Additional excavation may also be required for the taking of palaeo-environmental samples and the recovery of artefacts.

5.9 Scientific sampling

Guidance on the scope of scientific sampling required by HE was provided to OA at a meeting with Samantha Stein (Historic England Regional Scientific Advisor) and followed up by e-mail dated 12-09-2017. In response, OA will implement a structured programme of environmental sampling appropriate to the aims of the project.

Because it is anticipated that the project will extend over a number of years it is not possible to anticipate the full impact of the proposed works at this stage. However, the points set out below attempt to broadly identify where significant works will be required and the appropriate scientific mitigation. Sampling for areas not specified here but which become the focus for work at a later stage in the project will be outlined in subsequent written schemes with further advice from the Historic England Regional Scientific Advisor. Each sample will be numbered and cross-referenced to context. Sample record sheets will include context information, location and reason for sampling, A register of samples will be kept.

- Sampling for macrofossils in the buried soil and subsoil within the south garden, between 30-40 litres, preferably in 5-10m intervals along exposed sections to detect any planting regime changes across the garden in all directions. A monolith should also be taken through the soil sequence to determine soil formation processes, for thin section analysis to determine whether it had been worked and for phytolith identification or chemical analysis (e.g. phosphates or calcium additives);
- monoliths for soil micromorphology targeting the surface layers close to the main buildings to determine the use of particular spaces;
- thin section sampling of the trampled floor surfaces within G32 Knot House and start of comparative analysis of floor surfaces identified elsewhere within Halswell House;
- bulk samples of all surviving deposits below the Knot House, with further samples of the feature extending north and south of the building. These will help recover preserved evidence of the use of the space(s);
- bulk samples for the recovery of charred plant remains, small bones and finds, will be taken from sealed and datable features such as pits, ditches, hearths and floors. The size of the sample is expected to be in the range of 30-40 litres per context or 100% of smaller contexts. Samples will not be taken from the intersection of features;

- in the event that hearths, kilns or ovens are identified during the trenching, provision will be made to collect at least one archaeomagnetic date to be calculated from each individual hearth surface (or in the case of domestic dwellings sites a minimum of one per building identified);
- OLS (Optically-stimulated Luminescence) dating of landscape based changes such as f. eg. the platform on which the north range sits;
- if any work is done in the pond to the east of the hall, or in any other wetland environments, an auger survey should be employed, preferably using a Russian corer for retrieval of pollen and silt that also may be suitable for carbon 14 dating;
- where deposits are wet, waterlogged or peaty, monoliths will be taken along cleaned vertical surfaces for the retrieval of pollen, diatoms, ostracods and foraminifera.

The use of the scientific sampling techniques outlined above are set to answer a set of general and more specific questions:

- Soil testing for calcium, magnesium and phosphates can be useful in determining the type of activity undertaken in different areas (e.g. additions of fertilisers, path versus bed, changes in uses over time);
- macrofossils can be reviewed with bulk samples, and can indicate both the difference in use of beds across the site, as well as changes in planting regimes. Pollen can also be considered, depending on the preservation conditions. Phytoliths can also be evaluated to determine changes in plantings. Due to the long-term use of the site and the likely changes that have taken place, quantifying the amount of bone may determine whether there is any residual medieval activity within the garden soils as defined by residual animal bone;
- if any material suitable for carbon 14 dating is recovered from the samples, these can be used to give an indication of the dates of planting schemes within the garden prior to truncation and burial;
- if there were any preserved occupation levels in any of the trenches, these could be used for micromorphology and identifying temporal changes in use of space in the investigated areas.

The environmental samples will be taken on site by a suitably qualified archaeologist or, if necessary, by Dr Michael Allen (Allen Environmental Archaeology) with, if required, advice from the Historic England Regional Science Advisor. If suitable deposits are identified the following types of sample will be taken as appropriate.

Environmental samples will then be processed by AEA, in consultation with the Historic England Regional Scientific Advisor, using the HE Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology (HE CfA Guidelines 2002/1), and outside specialists organised by AEA to undertake further assessment and analysis as appropriate.

The environmental sampling will follow the appropriate Historic England guidelines (English Heritage 2011, *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation*; Association for Environmental Archaeology 1995 *Environmental archaeology and archaeological* evaluations. Recommendations concerning the environmental archaeology component

of archaeological evaluations in England. Working Papers of the Association for Environmental Archaeology 2. York: Association for Environmental Archaeology; Dobney, K., Hall, A., Kenward, H. & Milles, A. 1992 *A working classification of sample types for environmental archaeology*. Circaea 9.1: 24-26; Murphy, P.L. & Wiltshire, P.E.J. 1994 *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis*; English Heritage 2011 *Environmental Archaeology, A guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post Excavation*).

5.10 Human remains

Should any human remains be exposed; these will initially be left *in situ* and OA will immediately inform the Client and the County Archaeologist. If removal at either this or a later stage in the archaeological works is deemed necessary, these will then be fully excavated and removed from the site in accordance with Ministry of Justice guidelines. If required, the necessary license will be obtained by OA on behalf of the client. Any remains will be excavated in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Technical Paper No. 13 (McKinley and Roberts 1993). Where appropriate bulk samples will be collected.

5.11 Finds processing

Artefacts will be collected by hand and metal detector, assigned a context number and retained on site for processing. All artefacts will be treated in accordance with UKIC guidelines, First Aid for Finds (1998). Initial cleaning, conservation, packaging and any stabilisation or longer-term conservation measures will be undertaken in accordance with relevant professional guidance (including *Conservation Guidelines No 1 (*UKIC, 2001); *First Aid for Finds* (UKIC & RESCUE, 1997) and on advice provided by Alison Hopper-Bishop, Specialist Services Officer, RAM Museum, Exeter.

All finds will be bagged and labelled according to the individual deposit from which they were recovered, ready for later cleaning and analysis. Processing will take place in tandem with excavation, and advice will be sought from relevant specialists on key artefact types. (See Appendix 2 for a list of specialists.) Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent for appropriate treatment.

5.12 Metal detecting and the Treasure Act

Metal detector searches will take place at all stages of the excavations by an experienced metal detector recommended by the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

Should items be exposed that fall within the scope of the Treasure Act 1996, then these will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner. Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft.

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6. REPORTING

6.1 Grey literature reporting requirements

The results of each phase of archaeological work and historic building recording will be presented within one summary grey literature report within 6 months of the date of completion of each phase of work. The summary report will contain the following elements as appropriate:

- location plan;
- a written description of the exposed historic fabric and a discussion and interpretation of their character and significance in the context of any locally available historical evidence from any nearby sites and historic mapping;
- A site location plan at an appropriate scale, and a plan of the site showing the location of the recorded buildings;
- Phased and annotated floor plans, along with copies of other drawn records (elevations, cross sections, etc) as appropriate to illustrate features of historic or architectural interest and/or the development of the building;
- Photographs of features of significant historic or architectural interest;
- location plan and overall site plans showing the positions of the trenches and the distribution of archaeological features within them, as well as copies of any relevant historic maps;
- a written description of the exposed features and deposits and a discussion and interpretation of their character and significance in the context of the known history of the site;
- plans and sections at appropriate scales showing the exact location and character of significant archaeological deposits and features, including in relation to the plot of the geophysical survey, and of the layout (if available) of the remains found in the adjoining field to the north;
- a selection of colour photographs illustrating the principal features and deposits found;
- specialist reports as appropriate;
- if necessary, an assessment of what further work is necessary to analyse and publish any particularly significant finds and/or results.

6.2 Draft and final reports

A draft copy of each report will be supplied to SWHT and HE for comment on completion of sitework within the timescale above. Following approval of the draft report, a final .pdf version of the summary report will be produced and distributed to HE and the SWHT.

A copy of the .pdf version will also be deposited with the site archive and a copy sent to the Somerset HER (HER number 37584) to demonstrate compliance with the planning condition.

A .pdf copy of the updated summary report will be submitted, together with the site details, to the national OASIS (Online AccesS to the Index of Archaeological investigationS) database within six months of the completion of site work.

7. POST-EXCAVATION AND PUBLICATION

7.1 Overview

In accordance with government planning guidance and the SWHT Brief a comprehensive post-excavation programme including publication in a recognised archaeological journal or monograph will be undertaken following the completion of all phases of historic building recording and below-ground monitoring and recording by OA on behalf of the Client.

An assessment report will be produced by OA together with specialist assessments of the further research potential of all artefact assemblages and environmental samples. An integrated, illustrated interim site narrative will support this assessment.

The requirements will be confirmed with the SWHT and it may be acceptable to proceed directly to the next stage. This will represent a departure from the agreed scheme and if thought appropriate approval will be sought from HET. Following completion of post-excavation assessment of all materials, a review of the post-excavation programming will be held in consultation with HET and the relevant specialists. At this review stage, a timetable including a Critical Path Analysis and the aims of specialist research presented in an Updated Project Design will be identified and agreed. This timetable will also contain agreed monitoring points. After the review, all specialist reports will be commissioned and the full post-excavation programme implemented through to full archive report and publication. The final monitoring meeting will take place when the archive is prepared ready for deposition and the archive report and draft publication report have been submitted to the SWHT.

7.2 Contents of the assessment report

The post-excavation assessment report will include:

- a title page detailing site address, site code and accession number, NGR, author/originating body, client's name and address;
- full list of contents;
- a non-technical summary of the findings;
- the research aims of the works;
- a description of the geology and topography of the area;
- a description of the methodologies used;
- a summary description of the findings;
- a detailed description of the historic building recording results by phase;
- tables summarising features and artefacts;
- selected illustrations including site and trench location plans, and plans of each area;
- excavated showing the archaeological features found;
- interpretation of the archaeological features found;
- discussion of the results by phase;
- specialist assessments on artefacts and environmental finds;
- relevant colour photographs of features and the site;
- a bibliography of all reference material;

- the OASIS reference and summary form.

7.3 **Publication**

The appropriate outlet for publication will be formally identified at Assessment stage. However, for this project it is anticipated that the production of a stand-alone publication will be the most appropriate publication and it is likely that the results will be published as a monograph.

8. ARCHIVING

The archive will consist of two elements, the artefactual and digital - the latter comprising all born-digital data and digital copies of the primary site records and images and will be deposited with the ADS.

An ordered and integrated artefactual site archive will be prepared with reference to *The Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991 2nd edition) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE*, Historic England 2006) upon completion of the project. It will include:

- artefacts;
- ecofacts;
- project documentation – including plans, section drawings, context sheets and registers;
- photographs (digital photographs will be stored on CD-ROM, and colour printouts made of key features);
- a printed copy of the Written Brief;
- a printed copy of the WSI;
- a printed copy of the final report;
- a printed copy of the OASIS form.

Any retained artefacts will be deposited with Taunton Museum in accordance with their current conditions of deposit (Taunton Museum reference number TTNCM 54/2017) within 12 months of the completion of all phases of site work. A retention and discard strategy will be agreed with Taunton Museum after the finish of site work, when it is clear what has been found, but before any processing of the material for archiving (other than cleaning).

OA will notify the SWHT upon the deposition of the digital archive with the ADS, and the deposition of the material (finds) archive with Taunton Museum and or its storage and curation on site.

9. TIMETABLE

Post-excavation processing and assessment tasks will commence shortly after the work commences, to inform the excavation strategy.

Post-excavation Assessment tasks and report writing will be completed within 12 months following the end of all phases of work, unless there are exceptional discoveries requiring more lengthy analysis.

Post-excavation analysis and production of a full grey literature assessment report will be completed within 18 months of vacating the site.

Publication draft will be produced with 3 years of vacating site. The date of publication will be determined by the identified outlet.

The project archive will be deposited within twelve of months of delivering the final report.

10. COPYRIGHT

OA shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved, excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in this document.

11. PROJECT ORGANISATION

The historic building recording and monitoring and recording will be undertaken by a suitably qualified and experienced OA archaeologist in accordance with the Code of Conduct and relevant standards and guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (*Standards and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures*, 1996, revised 2008, and *Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*, 1994, revised 2008, plus *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* 1994, revised 2008)). The project will be managed for OA by M. Steinmetzer MCIfA, who produced this document.

11.1 Health & Safety

Health and Safety requirements will be observed at all times by archaeological staff working on site, particularly when machinery is operating nearby. Personal protective equipment (safety boots, helmets and high visibility vests) will be worn by staff when plant is operating on site.

All archaeological works within this scheme will be carried out in accordance with current *Safe Working Practices (The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974*).

12. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Unpublished sources

Bolton, R. 2014 The Stable Block, Halswell Park, Goathurst, Somerset.

Bolton, R. 2017 Halswell House, Somerset: A structural History 1536-1689. University of Cambridge. PhD dissertation.

Brigers, J. 2014 *Written scheme of investigation for archaeological evaluation, recording and mitigation investigation during a programme of refurbishment and conservation at Halswell House, Goathurst, Somerset*.

Brigers, J. 2014 *Interim summary of the results of preliminary evaluation and recording in Tudor cottage, Quantock cottage and Tower House (Areas 2, 3 and 4)*.

Moir, A. 2015 *Dendrochronological analysis of oak timbers from the main south range, Halswell House, Goathurst, Somerset*. Tree-Ring Services Report TAHP/10/15.

Rushton, N. 2015 *Report into the chronological development of the southern ranges at Halswell House, Somerset*.

APPENDIX 1: CONSULTANT SPECIALISTS

NAME	SPECIALISM	ORGANISATION
Allan, John	Medieval and post-medieval finds	Freelance
Allen, Michael	Environmental	Allen Environmental Archaeology
Bidwell, Paul	Roman finds	Freelance
Blaylock, Stuart	Architectural stonework	Freelance
Cameron, Nigel	Diatom analysis	University College London
Challinor, Dana	Charcoal analysis	Freelance
Coles, Charlotte	Osteoarchaeology	Freelance
Durant, Jennifer	Roman CBM	Royal Albert Memorial Museum
Hopper-Bishop, Alison	Finds conservation	Royal Albert Memorial Museum
Higbee, Lorraine	Faunal remains	Wessex Archaeology
Hurcombe, Linda	Lithics	Exeter University
Jones, Julie	plant remains	Freelance
Juleff, Gill	Metallurgy	Exeter University
Moir, Andy	Dendrochronology	Freelance
Morris, Imogen	petrology/geology	Freelance
Quinnell, Henrietta	prehistoric pottery	Freelance
Riddler, Ian	Worked bone	Freelance
Shiel, Norman	Numismatics	Freelance

Radiocarbon dating is normally undertaken for OA by SUERC.
Geophysical prospection is normally undertaken by Substrata.

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