



OXFORD
ARCHAEOLOGY

**Summary of works: Archaeological monitoring and
recording on the North Lawn, Halswell House,
Goathurst, Somerset**



*on behalf of
the client*

Report No. 25-38

Project No. 1373

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OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY

Archaeological Groundworks and Historic Buildings

56 Bridge Street,
Taunton,
Somerset
TA1 1UD

tel: 07562 920885
e-mail: info@oakfordarch.co.uk
web: www.oakfordarch.co.uk

AUTHOR

Hol Wootton ACIfA and Marc Steinmetzer MCIfA

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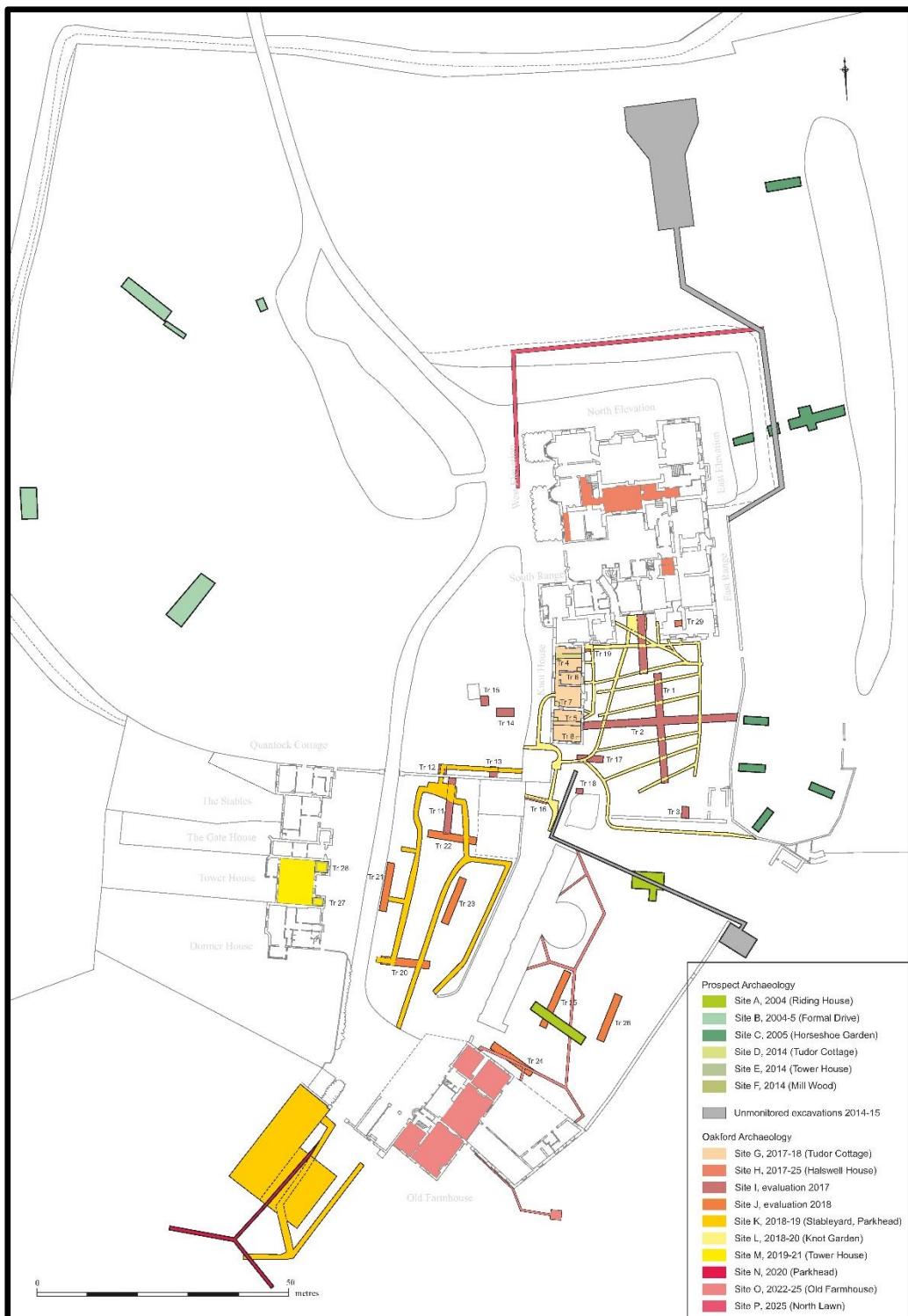
Archaeological monitoring and recording on the North Lawn of Halswell House, Goathurst, Somerset.

Summary of works

Further to the recent work undertaken for the new sewer trench extending from the west elevation of the North Range northward before turning at right angle across the width of the North Lawn, the following account is a brief summary of the archaeological recording. Prior to the latest phase of work only limited recording had been undertaken across the area by Oxford Archaeology in the area immediately to the west of the west elevation, while the works in the North Lawn in 2014 were not subject to archaeological monitoring and recording. Nonetheless, limited photographs taken by Corbel during the works seem to show a series of dwarf brick walls likely associated with the late 17th or early 18th century formal garden extending to the north and east of the North Range.



General view of the excavations across The North Lawn. 2m scale. Looking southeast.



Plan showing location of earlier trenches and recent observations.

The North Lawn

The limited work undertaken to date within the area to the west of the North Range and the North Lawn has exposed extensive historic made ground and landscaping deposits, as well as the remains of two 18th century brick culverts, associated with alterations to the west elevation of Halswell House in c.1754 and the landscaping of the formal Baroque Garden in the period between 1740-50 under Sir Charles Kemeys-Tynte.

The earliest deposit uncovered by the works to the west and north of the North Range consisted of a number of substantial redeposited natural made ground deposits, likely the result of infilling of the earlier 17th century terraces. Built prior to the laying down of the basal historic made ground deposit were two brick-built 18th century culverts and intended to drain both the new approaches to the recently rebuilt West elevation of the house and redirect the large quantities of water that often runs down the prevailing slope at the rear of Halswell House. These were buried underneath the second historic made ground deposit which was in turn sealed underneath an extensive imported sub- and topsoil associated with the creation of the current North Lawn in the period 1740-50.



Section through historic made ground deposits to the west of the North Range and 18th century brick culvert (2178). 1m scale. Looking west.



Section through historic made ground deposits to the west of the North Range and 18th century brick culvert (2180). 1m scale. Looking west.

The records, including context sheets, drawings and digital photographs will be digitised and added to the existing physical and digital archive in line with ADS guidelines, and the results of the work will, in due course, be published.

Hol Wootton ACIfA and Marc Steinmetzer MCIfA