*HMGG12*

# HIDCOTE MANOR GARDEN, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

*Archaeological Trial Trenching*

*for The National Trust*

*August 2012*

HEADLAND ARCHAEOLOGY Ltd

REGISTERED ORGANISATION IfA

# HIDCOTE MANOR GARDEN, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

*Archaeological Trial Trenching*

*for The National Trust*

*August 2012*

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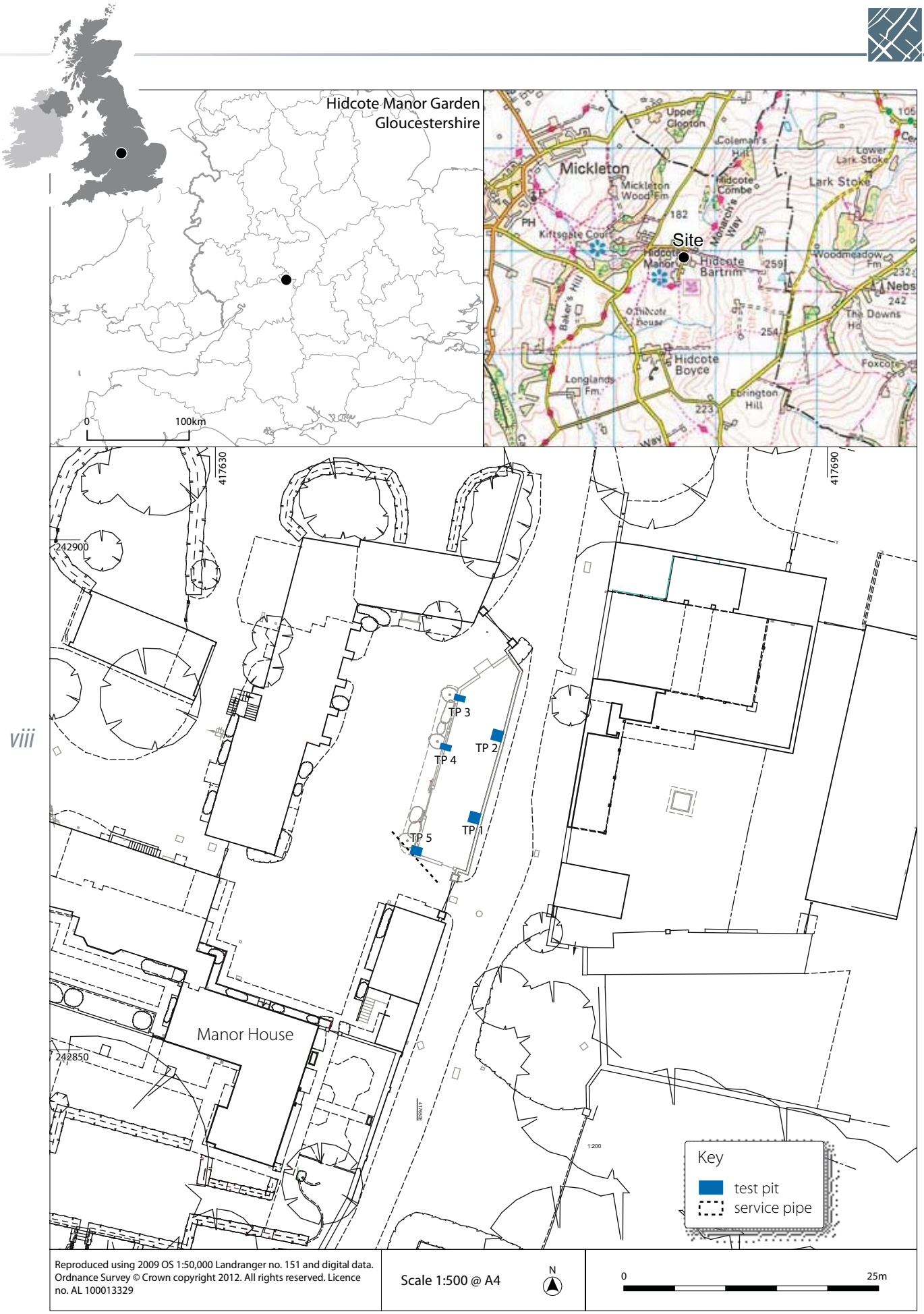


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Scale 1:500 @ A4

N

0 25m

**Illus 1**

*Site location*

# HIDCOTE MANOR GARDEN, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

## Archaeological Trial Trenching

*The National Trust, commissioned Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd to conduct a program of works consisting of the excavation of a series of test pits within the courtyard at Hidcote Manor (National Grid Ref SP 176 428), prior to the reconstruction of a previously demolished farmyard building*

*The works conducted consisted of the excavation of five test pits within the footprint of the previous building and the examination of the upstanding eastern wall and the inspection of a second stretch of wall adjacent to the manor car park.*

*No large-scale archaeological remains or previously unknown heritage assets were identified within the test pits. The evidence that was encountered indicated that the footings of an internal wall and the plaster rendering associated with the former building remain. It is considered likely that the foundations of the former building survive, where they were made of stone or brick. The floor of the building appears to have been removed at the time of its demolition.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

An application for planning permission by the National Trust, for reconstruction of a building previously demolished between the 1930s and 1950s and improvement of car parking facilities, is to be submitted to Cotswold District Council.

As part of the application process, the National Trust commissioned Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd to a ground investigation within the footprint of the building within the main courtyard at Hidcote Manor, Hidcote Bartrim, near Chipping Campden, GL55 6LR (NGR SP 176 428).

The investigation was conducted in order to assess the ground conditions and survival of the previous building, in order to aid the reconstruction of the building, and to establish the nature of the existing courtyard wall's foundations.

The evaluation was conducted between the 10th and 14th of July 2012 and was carried out in line with a Written Scheme of Investigation submitted to the National Trust (Headland Archaeology, Kimber, M 2012).

## 2. SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is currently in the possession of the National Trust and open to the public. The earliest structures of Hidcote Manor (LB 1088548, Grade II) consisted originally of a 17th–18th century farm complex.

The modern day courtyard area comprises a gravel-surfaced car park bounded by buildings on three sides and a stone wall on the eastern side, dividing it from the adjacent lane.

The underlying geology is recorded as Birdlip Limestone Formation. An Ooidal Limestone /Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 176 to 180 million years ago in the Jurassic Period (approximate depth of 1.20m), with underlying deposits of the Whitby Mudstone Formation, a Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 180 to 190 million years ago in the Jurassic Period, both indicative of a local environment previously dominated by shallow seas (BGS 1990).

## 3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The present manor, which sits at the south-west corner of the courtyard, was enlarged in both the 18th and 20th centuries. Other buildings surrounding the courtyard were originally agricultural in nature such as the Grade II listed barn (LB 126954) forming its western side which is of 18th century origin, and now functions as a ticket office. The building to the south (Grade II listed (LB 1088549)) is also of 18th century date, but was converted into a chapel in the 20th century by the designer of the Manor Garden, Major Lawrence Johnston (1871–1958).

Examination of the map progressions shows that the former building can be seen on the first edition OS map (1885), the building is also shown on the 1902 and the 1923 map. The 1923 map indicates that the building is subdivided, which may

demonstrate a date for when the building was converted from an agricultural structure into the garden room that is illustrated in the photographs taken for Country Life (1930).

The Country Life photographs show that the interior of the building was rustic in nature yet had a substantial and well-laid stone flagged floor. The western wall and roof of the building having been opened up to allow light into the interior, the change in the common rafters from rough-cut to machine-cut indicates that this was a conversion to an existing building and not a new development.

**Illus 2**

*Details of the wall footing and redbrick inclusions within test pit 1*

## 4. OBJECTIVES

In general, the objectives of the project were to ascertain whether any archaeological remains were present within the area of the development, and to characterise them by date, extent, preservation, and significance (following the National Planning Policy Framework).

The combined information assembled during the excavation was intended to make it possible to establish the potential impact of the proposed development upon any archaeological assets present within the site boundary to establish the need for and scope of any mitigation measures that may be required prior to or during construction.



## 5. METHOD

The evaluation comprised of the excavation of five test pits, through the principal area of the proposed development. The test pits were originally located with two excavated by hand against the western face of the eastern boundary wall to investigate footing depths; and three positioned within the courtyard to investigate whether any remains of the original building were present.

A slight alteration to the original positions of one of the test pit locations was necessary to avoid an electrical service running east-west through the southern entrance.

Excavation of the three test pits within the driveway was undertaken using a 2 tonne mechanical excavator equipped with a small toothless bucket. All mechanical excavation was under direct supervision of an archaeologist.

The test pits were closely examined for any features and the spoil was re-examined in order to collect any artefacts.

The courtyard wall, and the stretch of stone wall bordering the car park were inspected and photographic and written records made of their fabric and phasing.

### 5.1 Recording

All recording followed IfA Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation (*If*A 2009). A plan of evaluation trenches and features encountered was created and updated onto an AutoCAD base plan showing the courtyard area.

The evaluation trenches were photographed with graduated metric scales and include 35mm black-and-white archival prints and digital reference photographs.

## 6. RESULTS

### 6.1 Test pits

For the ease of reporting the excavation results, the test pit contexts are displayed in a tabular form (Appendix 1). A brief, generalised description of the contexts present in the excavated trenches is given in this section.

The general stratigraphic make up of the site comprises the present day cultivated garden soil within perimeter of the flower border test pits (1 & 2) and a yellow pea grit, gravelled driveway with associated levelling deposits (3, 4 & 5).

Beneath the flowerbed and driveway, deposits are similar and consisted of a sequence of subsoil layers containing various amounts of building debris, to an approximate depth of 600–700mm. At this approximate depth, a hard and compact layer of limestone was encountered; excavation ceased at this level.

At the level the excavation ceased, within the driveway test pits (3, 4 & 5), it was noted that ground water was seen to be percolating into the test pits.

**Illus 3**

*Internal dividing wall, located with in test pit 1*

Deposits observed within the driveway test pits, in general contained greater amounts of modern building debris when compared to that of the flower border test pits.

## 6.2 Courtyard wall (external)

Examination of the external face of the courtyard wall, although greatly obscured by vegetation, shows a distinctive change in the mortar style and stone size approximately 1.00m from the top-down, indicating that the original height of the wall is still evident and the top-most courses were perhaps constructed to increase the height of the courtyard wall after the demolition of the former garden building.

## 6.3 Car park wall

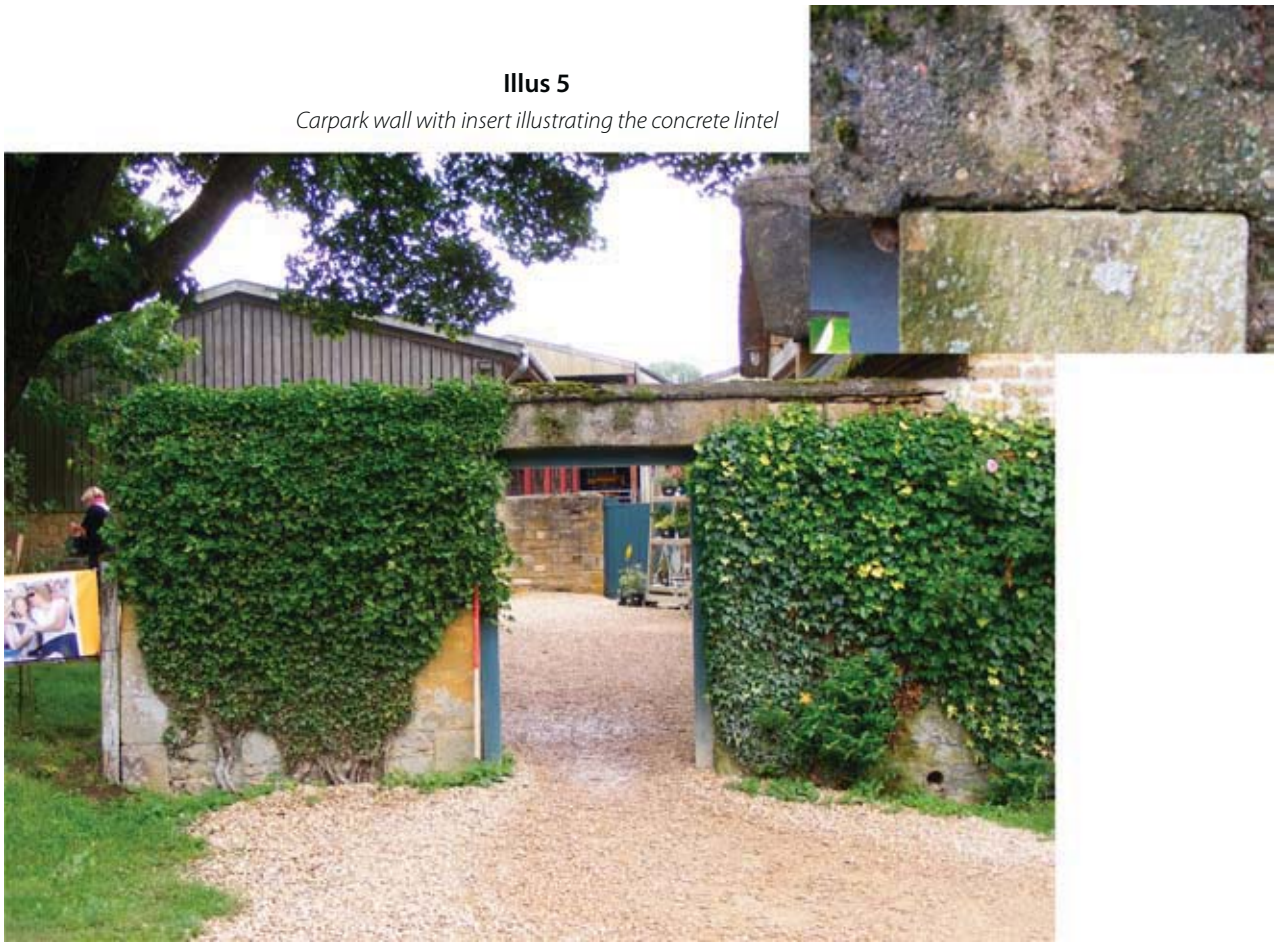
The relative antiquity of the small length of car park wall to the east of the courtyard is brought into question through the inclusion a concrete lintel within the doorway. This maybe a modern repair but further evidence that that the wall is of more recent date is that the wall is not keyed into the adjoining restored barn, but rather butted up to the building, suggesting a later construction date. Furthermore, the overall dimensions of the wall conform oddly to metric measurements.

**Illus 4**

*Changes in the construction of the east wall*

**Illus 5**

*Carpark wall with insert illustrating the concrete lintel*





## 7. DISCUSSION

In general, excavation of the test pits indicated that the area still contains some evidence of the previous building, although limited.

The test pits located within the existing drive way ( test pits 3,4 &5) revealed no indication as to the original construction of the west wall of the garden building, this may be explained through examination of the photographic record as they suggest that a large portion of the western wall was probably constructed in wood.

However the excavation of test pit 1 produced the most significant remains seen within the test pits, that of a robbed out brick wall, formerly keyed into the courtyard wall.

The presence of the remaining trace of this brick wall indicates that the previous building was subdivided through the insertion of an internal partion (aligned east west) towards the southern end of the building.

The test pits excavated along the courtyard wall again revealed another interesting feature, suggesting that the ground level may have been considerably lower than the present day level of the flower border, as the rendering seen on the inside face of the courtyard wall continued approximately 300mm below the present ground level. (See Illus 2)

Within test pit 1 further details illustrating the construction of the courtyard wall were revealed as the wall also contained red brick within the fabric. The inclusions of red brick may have been inserted as repairs when the garden building was being constructed, possibly indicating that the wall is of greater antiquity than the garden building or more probable, that the eastern wall was contemporary with the construction of the garden building. (See Illus 2)

The test pits indicated that the wall footings were set upon a hard and compact layer of limestone at approximately 700mm below ground level. This was either a footing trench for the eastern wall, containing compacted limestone rubble or a natural geological deposit of limestone.

Excavation within the driveway test pits also revealed that the hard packed limestone was encountered at a depth of 600mm, suggesting that the limestone seen within the east wall test pits may well be a natural layer; excavation was stopped at this level.

The precise age of the eastern wall may always be uncertain, but examination of the map progression indicates that the eastern boundary has always performed an important role in defining the extent of the courtyard at Hidcote Manor.

The location of the car park wall betrays its relatively modern construction, as the wall serves no purpose within the complex, other than to alleviate the view of the carpark from the manor,

and to channel visitors. However, this should not be taken to indicate that the stone used in the construction is not historical in nature.

## 8. CONCLUSION

The work that was conducted in the footprint of the previous building although limited due to the characteristics of tests pits, has indicated that some remains of the former building are still present.

For example the noticeable change in mortar type and styles on the eastern face of the east wall demonstrate that the original east wall of the garden building has been incorporated into the fabric of the courtyard wall.

The excavation of the test pits has indicated that that sections of the former building's foundations do survive, although the stone flooring shown in period photographs appears to have been removed.

The inclusion of a concrete lintel in the car park wall implies that this wall, in its present location, is of little historical significance in relation to the Hidcote Manor complex.

## 9. REFERENCES

Institute *for* Archaeologists 2007 *Archaeological Archives Forum Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation.*

Kimber, M *Hidcote Manor, Garden; Gloucestershire Written Scheme of Investigation,* Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd 2012

Institute *for* Archaeologists 2009 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation.*

### 9.1 Maps

1990 British Geological Survey *Mid Wales & Marches,* 1:250 000 scale map.

# 10. APPENDICES

## Appendix 1 Test pit descriptions

| Test pit | Dimensions (m) | Description | Description | Contexts (depths below ground surface) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1.0 x 1.0 x 0.60 | Excavated to a geological deposit, the test pt revealed evidence or red brick within the wall and a small trace of brick wall aligned parallel to the courtyard wall. | topsoil:<br>Subsoil:<br>Layer:<br>Geological deposit: | **100** – 0.10m<br>**101** – 0.35m<br>**102** – 0.20m<br>**103** – u/ex |
| 2 | 1.0 x 1.0 x 0.70 | Excavated to a geological deposit, the excavated test pit was similar to Tp 1. | topsoil:<br>Subsoil:<br>Layer:<br>Geological deposit: | **200** – 0.10m<br>**201** – 0.35m<br>**202** – 0.20m<br>**203** – u/ex |
| 3 | 0.60 x 1.0 x 0.60 | Excavated to a geological deposit, No archaeological features present, ground water encountered at approximately 600mm below present day ground level. | topsoil:<br>Subsoil:<br>Layer:<br>Geological deposit: | **300** – 0.10m<br>**301** – 0.35m<br>**302** – 0.20m<br>**303** – u/ex |
| 4 | 0.60 x 1.0 x 0.60 | Excavated to a geological deposit, No archaeological features present, ground water encountered at approximately 600mm below present day ground level. | topsoil:<br>Subsoil:<br>Layer:<br>Geological deposit: | **400** – 0.10m<br>**401** – 0.35m<br>**402** – 0.20m<br>**403** – u/ex |
| 5 | 0.60 x 1.0 x 0.60 | Excavated to a geological deposit, No archaeological features present, ground water encountered at approximately 600mm below present day ground level.<br>A modern service pipe was encountered at the south west corner of the test pit. | topsoil:<br>Subsoil:<br>Layer:<br>Geological deposit: | **500** – 0.10m<br>**501** – 0.35m<br>**502** – 0.20m<br>**503** – u/ex |



## Appendix 2 Photographic register

| Photo | BW | C/S | Digital | Direction | Description |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Y | Y | Y | E | Tp 1 , showing brick in wall and limestone base, cut out for return wall. |
| 2 | Y | Y | Y | E | Tp2 , showing wall base and footing |
| 3 | Y | Y | Y | E | Tp2, Detail of plaster render below present day ground level. |
| 4 | Y | Y | y | S | Tp 2 , showing internal wall detail |
| 5 | Y | Y | Y | S | Tp 2 , showing internal wall detail |
| 6 | Y | Y | Y | N | Tp 2 , showing internal wall detail |
| 7 | Y | Y | Y | W | External view showing wall details |
| 8 | Y | Y | Y | N | General view of site |
| 9 | Y | Y | Y | W | Eternal wall detail showing change in mortar |
| 10 | Y | Y | Y | W | Eternal wall detail showing change in mortar |
| 11 | Y | Y | Y | W | Eternal wall detail showing change in mortar |
| 12 | Y | Y | Y | SW | General site view, showing manor house |
| 13 | Y | Y | Y | E | General view of carpark wall |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 14 | Y | Y | Y | E | General view of carpark wall |
| 15 | Y | Y | Y | E | General view of carpark wall |
| 16 | Y | Y | Y | E | General view of carpark wall |
| 17 | Y | Y | Y | E | General view of carpark wall |
| 18 | Y | Y | Y | SW | General view of carpark wall |
| 19 | Y | Y | Y | W | General view of carpark wall |
| 20 | Y | Y | Y | W | General view of carpark wall |
| 21 | Y | Y | Y | S | Tp 3, general view during excavation |
| 22 | Y | Y | Y | W | Tp 3, general view during excavation |
| 23 | Y | Y | Y | W | Tp 4, general view during excavation |
| 24 | Y | Y | Y | W | Tp 5, general view during excavation |
| 25 | Y | Y | Y | E | Carpark wall, general view |
| 26 | Y | Y | Y | E | Carpark wall, general view |
| 27 | Y | Y | Y | W | Carpark wall, general view |
| 28 | Y | Y | Y | S | Carpark wall, general view |
| 29 | Y | Y | Y | S | Carpark wall, general view |
| 30 | Y | Y | Y | W | Carpark wall , lintel detail |
| 31 | Y | Y | Y | S | General view of site post excavation |

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