

**WINCHCOMBE LIBRARY  
BACK LANE, WINCHCOMBE  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

*For*

**BUILDING SOLUTIONS**

*on behalf of*

**GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**


CA PROJECT: 2976  
CA REPORT: 09190

DECEMBER 2009

WINCHCOMBE LIBRARY  
BACK LANE, WINCHCOMBE  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

CA PROJECT: 2976  
CA REPORT: 09190

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date	3 December 2009
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date	10 December 2009
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signed	
date	11 December 2009
issue	01

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## CONTENTS

SUMMARY .....	2
1. INTRODUCTION .....	3
2. RESULTS .....	4
3. DISCUSSION.....	5
4. CA PROJECT TEAM .....	5
5. REFERENCES .....	5
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS .....	6
APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM.....	7

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)

Fig. 2 The site, showing location of observed groundworks (1:500)

## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Winchcombe Library  
**Location:** Back Lane, Winchcombe, Gloucestershire  
**NGR:** SP 0234 2845  
**Type:** Watching Brief  
**Date:** 27-28 October 2009  
**SMC:** HSD 9/2/14153  
**Location of Archive:** To be deposited with Cheltenham Museum and Art Gallery  
**Site Code:** WIN09

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of an extension to the current library located at Back Lane, Winchcombe, Gloucestershire.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In October 2009 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Building Solutions on behalf of Gloucestershire County Council at Winchcombe Library, Back Lane, Winchcombe, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SP 0234 2845; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a Scheduled Monument Consent for the construction of an extension to Winchcombe Library (DCMS ref: HSD 9/2/14153). The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the development.

1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2009a) and approved by Mr David Bull of English Heritage. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (2008), *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Gloucestershire* issued by Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Section (1995), *Management of Archaeological Projects II* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006).

### **The site**

1.3 The site lies adjacent to the existing library and immediately to the north of the car park (Fig 2). It is located within the Scheduled Monument of Winchcombe Abbey (National Monument No. 28873) and also within the defended enclosure of the Saxon and medieval town. The site comprised 0.07ha of flat, unused grassland to the south of Winchcombe Library and lies at approximately 90m AOD.

1.4 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Lower Lias Clay of the Jurassic Period (BGS 1981). No drift geology or deposits of palaeoenvironmental significance are recorded within the site. The undisturbed substrate was not observed during groundworks.

### **Archaeological background**

- 1.5 The site lies within the Scheduled Monument of Winchcombe Abbey, and also within the defended enclosure of the Saxon and medieval town. The Abbey itself lies approximately 70m to the south of the library, and has been excavated at various times from the early 19th century onwards. Both the Abbey precinct and the town burgh defences ran along the south side of Back Lane. The results of a desk-based assessment (CA 2009b) suggest that the site appears, on current projections, to have lain within these boundaries. Other recorded features within the Abbey precinct lie within the vicinity, but do not intrude within the site. Although there are likely to be archaeological deposits within the Scheduled area, the ground within the site has been landscaped during construction of the library.

### **Methodology**

- 1.6 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2009a). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising ground reduction and the excavation of foundation trenches (Fig. 2).
- 1.7 Written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007). The modern artefacts encountered were not retained.
- 1.8 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. The site archive will be deposited with Cheltenham Museum and Art Gallery. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## **2. RESULTS**

- 2.1 Mixed clay deposit 1005 with modern intrusions of ceramic, plastic, glass and metal was revealed at the base of the trench at a depth of 1m below present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain by silty clay 1004, which in turn was overlain by clayey silt 1003. This was covered by loose rubble 1002. Compact hardcore 1001 lay above this, which was then overlain by topsoil 1000.

- 2.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

### 3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. The absence of archaeological deposits may indicate that structural remains associated with Winchcombe Abbey and the defended enclosure of the Saxon and medieval town, either do not extend as far as or were not exposed by the development, or that they may have been removed during the construction of the current library. The deposits which were uncovered contained significant amounts of modern material including glass, ceramic, metal and plastic, and suggest a series of modern make-up deposits. The depth of the make-up material, in excess of 1m, and the fact that undisturbed substrate was not observed, would suggest that there has been significant raising of the ground level. It is therefore not possible to say if there were archaeologically significant features or deposits here before construction of the library and whether any such features still survive.

### 4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Sian Reynish. The report was written by Alexandra Wilkinson. The illustrations were prepared by Lorna Gray. The archive has been compiled by Sian Reynish, and prepared for deposition by Victoria Taylor. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

### 5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1981: *Solid and Drift Sheet 217*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009a *Winchcombe Library, Back Lane, Winchcombe, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009b *Winchcombe Library, Winchcombe, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment, Typescript Report No. 09067*

**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

## Trench 01

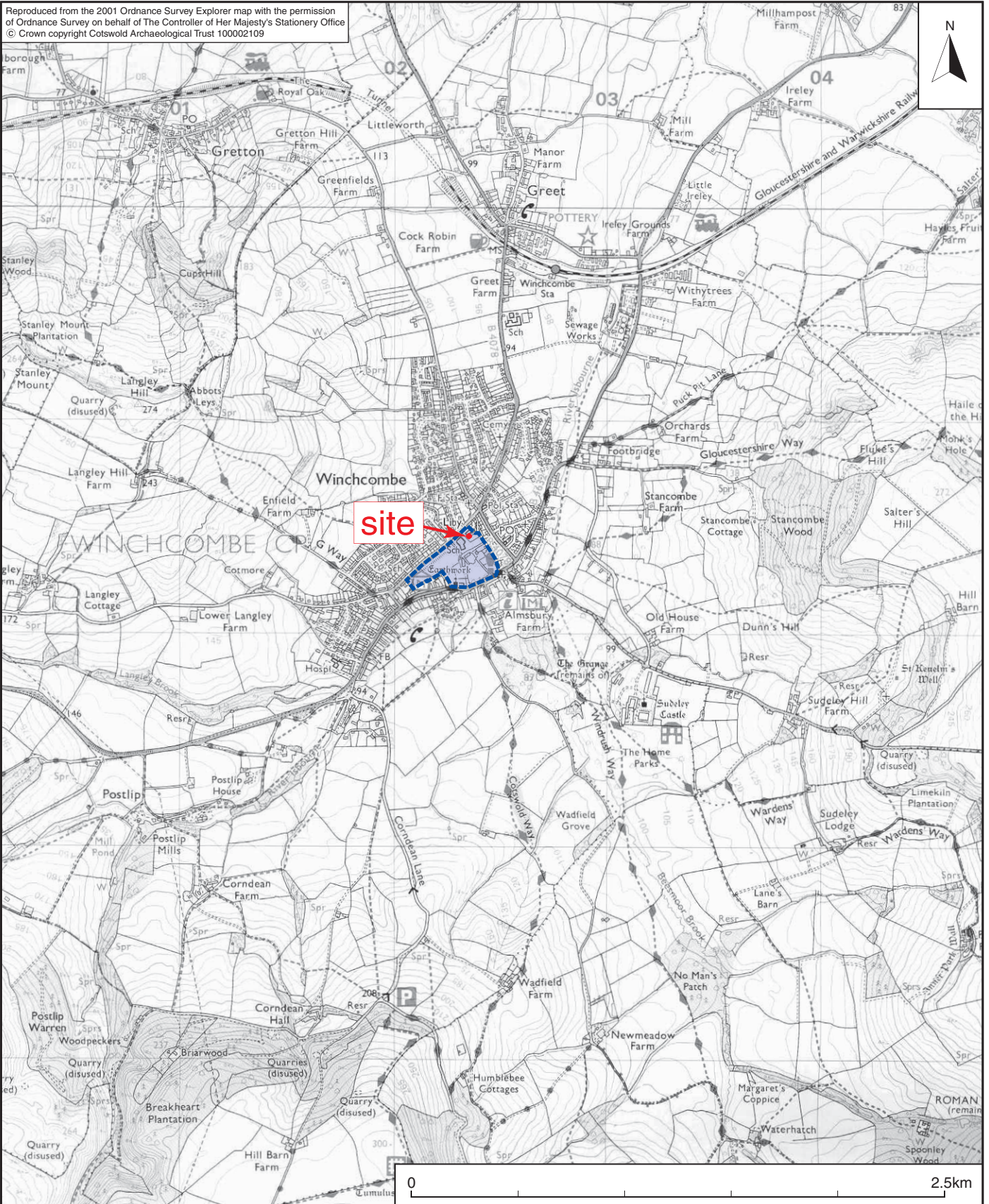
No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1000	Layer	Topsoil: Dark greyish brown clayey silt with modern inclusions of glass, china and plastic throughout.			0.25	Modern
1001	Layer	Light brownish yellow compacted sandy gravel			0.25	Modern
1002	Layer	Light brownish yellow limestone rubble with sparse red brick and ceramic pipe inclusions.			0.3	Modern
1003	Layer	Mid greyish brown clayey silt.			0.1	Modern
1004	Layer	Mid brownish grey silty clay.			0.35	Modern
1005	Layer	Mixed yellowish brown and blueish grey clay with ceramic, glass, plastic and metal inclusions.			n/a	Modern



**APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Winchcombe Library	
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of an extension to the current library located at Back Lane, Winchcombe, Gloucestershire.  No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.	
Project dates	27-28 October 2009	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Archaeological Watching Brief	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	None	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Back Lane, Winchcombe, Gloucestershire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	0.07ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SP 0234 2845	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	English Heritage	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Sian Reynish	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	n/a	n/a
Paper	Cheltenham Museum and Art Gallery	Trench sheets x 2
Digital	n/a	n/a
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009 <i>Winchcombe Library, Back Lane, Winchcombe, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> CA Report <b>09190</b>		

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- site
- Scheduled Monument



**COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

PROJECT TITLE

**Winchcombe Library, Back Lane  
Winchcombe, Gloucestershire**

FIGURE TITLE

**Site location plan**

DRAWN BY

LG

SCALE

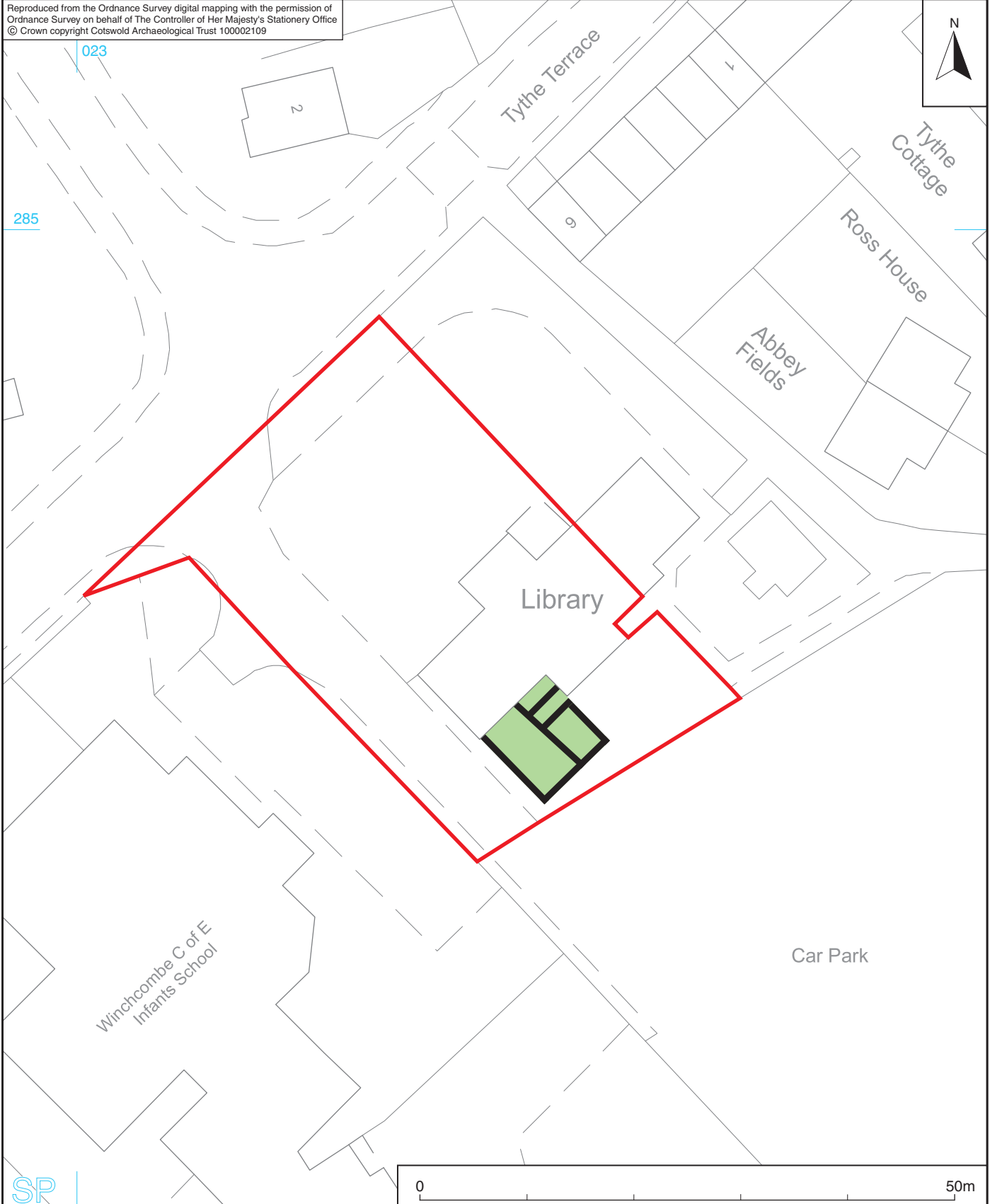
1:25,000@A4

PROJECT NO.

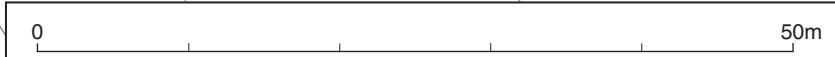
2976

FIGURE NO.

**1**



SP



- site
- area of observed groundworks
- observed footings

**COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

*PROJECT TITLE*  
**Winchcombe Library, Back Lane  
 Winchcombe, Gloucestershire**

*FIGURE TITLE*  
**The site, showing location of  
 observed groundworks**

<i>DRAWN BY</i>	<i>SCALE</i>	<i>PROJECT NO.</i>	<i>FIGURE NO.</i>
LG	1:500@A4	2976	<b>2</b>