

**Cherington Park  
Cherington  
Gloucestershire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

*for*

**Parr Walker Associates**


CA Project: 3433  
CA Report: 11206

August 2011

Cherington Park  
Cherington  
Gloucestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 3433  
CA Report: 11206

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| prepared by | Charlotte Haines, Project Supervisor  |
| date        | 22 August 2011  |
| checked by  | Richard Young, Project Manager  |
| date        | 25 August 2011  |
| approved by | Mark Collard, Head of Contracts   |
| signed      |  |
| date        | 9 September 2011  |
| issue       | 01  |

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## CONTENTS

|  |    |
|--|----|
| SUMMARY .....                          | 2  |
| 1. INTRODUCTION .....                  | 3  |
| 2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3) .....            | 5  |
| 3. DISCUSSION.....                     | 7  |
| 4. CA PROJECT TEAM .....               | 8  |
| 5. REFERENCES .....                    | 8  |
| APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS ..... | 10 |
| APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM.....     | 12 |

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
- Fig. 2 The site, showing location of groundworks (1:500)
- Fig. 3 Area 1; plan and photograph of the structure (1:50)



## SUMMARY

|                             |                                      |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Project Name:</b>        | Cherington Park                      |
| <b>Location:</b>            | Cherington, Gloucestershire          |
| <b>NGR:</b>                 | ST 9037 9855                         |
| <b>Type:</b>                | Watching Brief                       |
| <b>Date:</b>                | May – July 2011                      |
| <b>Planning Reference:</b>  | 10/05369/FUL                         |
| <b>Location of Archive:</b> | To be deposited with Corinium Museum |
| <b>Site Code:</b>           | CPK 11                               |

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a garage block along with a stone-walled courtyard and an extension at Cherington Park, Cherington, Gloucestershire.

A small stone-walled outbuilding thought to be associated with the demolished 19th century service wing of Cherington Park was observed near the entrance to the park. No archaeological deposits pre-dating the 19th century were observed during groundworks.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In May and June 2011 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Parr Walker Associates at Cherington Park, Cherington (centred on NGR: ST 9037 9855; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent granted by Cotswold District Council (CDC) for the construction of an extension to Cherington Park along with the creation of a garage block and stone walled courtyard (Planning ref: 10/05369/FUL). 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 detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2011) and approved by Charles Parry, Senior Archaeological Officer, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC), archaeological advisor to CDC. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008), the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Field work in Gloucestershire* (GCC 1996), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006).

### **The site**

- 1.3 The development area lies within a property which encloses an area of approximately 1.1ha on the south-eastern edge of the village of Cherington, Gloucestershire. It comprises a large country house set in an ornamental landscape. There are also several outbuildings, in various states of repair, associated with the park.
- 1.5 The solid geology is mapped as limestone of the Forest Marble Formation of the Bathonian era (BGS 2011). This geology was observed in both of the areas where groundworks were undertaken.



### **Archaeological background**

- 1.6 A search of the Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record was carried out and a Heritage Assessment was produced by the client; the results are summarised below.
- 1.7 An estate at Cherington is believed to have existed since before the Norman Conquest. The manor was passed down through descendents of Robert Doyley, Lord of Wallingford. In 1583 the successors sold the manor and it was resold in 1724 to John Neale of Allesley who rebuilt the manor in 1740. Extensions added to the house in the late 19th century included the construction of a service wing and were demolished in 1965, 11 years after the entire building was given grade II Listed building status. The coach house, which is located to the west of the main house, is also grade II Listed and has planning permission for conversion to a dwelling (PW 2011). A watching brief undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in November 2009 during works on an extension to the coach house found no archaeological features or deposits (CA 2010, HER ref 36351).
- 1.8 The house sits within an ornamental landscape including a deer park. Sources in the HER indicate the deer park dates to AD 1600 (HER ref 3871) whilst the Heritage Assessment suggests it was created by John Neale in the 1740s (PW 2011).
- 1.9 Other sites of interest in the area include the parish church of St Nicholas which lies directly to the west of Cherington Park. The church is grade I Listed and has foundations dating to the 12th century (HER ref 8154). Boundary banks of a possible deserted medieval to post-medieval settlement can be seen on aerial photographs to the north-east of the village (HER ref 4164). Earthwork remains of a similar settlement can also be seen to the south-east at Westrip (HER ref 27323). A surface scatter of IA/RB pottery is also documented at nearby Avening (HER ref 37885).

### **Methodology**

- 1.7 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2011). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising the reduction in ground level and the excavation of footings trenches for the construction of a new garage block and the removal of cellars along the northern frontage of Cherington Park house for the construction of an extension and stone walled courtyard (Fig. 2).

- 1.8 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.9 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Corinium Museum, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## 2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3)

- 2.1 Groundworks were undertaken as part of the development in two discrete areas. Area 1 refers to the excavations associated with the construction of the new garage block to the east of the entrance to the property and adjacent to the northern boundary wall. Area 2 refers to the groundworks associated with the construction of the extension along the northern side of the existing structure of Cherington Park.

### Area 1

- 2.2 Area 1 was rectangular in shape and measured 23m by 9m. The ground level was reduced over the whole area by approximately 0.30m and footings trenches for the garage walls were then excavated within the stripped area to a maximum depth of 1.6m below present ground level (bpgl).
- 2.3 Natural geological substrate consisting of layers of limestone brash in a yellow and orange sand and silt matrix was observed in the foundation trenches in Area 1 at a depth of between 0.40 and 0.72m bpgl. The limestone was overlain over the whole area by mid brownish orange silt subsoil which was in turn overlain by a mid brown sandy silt buried topsoil layer.
- 2.4 Three sides of a small rectangular structure 107 were observed in the western part of the area (Fig. 3). Two large limestone blocks formed a door jamb creating an entrance to the structure along its southern side. These blocks were set deeply into the buried topsoil and subsoil layers and were butted on either side by a roughly coursed, Cotswold limestone walls. These walls formed three external sides of the structure, the western most wall was not seen to survive. The wall running north-

west/south-east and the northernmost wall of the structure were built onto a levelling deposit of dark brown sandy silt with frequent limestone fragments whilst the southernmost wall was constructed directly onto a clean layer of yellow bedding sand. Other structural features were also laid onto this sand suggesting they were contemporary with the construction with the walls. These features included a large limestone paving slab (surface 105) set between the stones of the door jamb and a limestone paved pathway (surface 104) leading to the entrance of the structure from the south-east. Along the external southern edge of the structure and also lain onto the layer of bedding sand a further area of paving (surface 108) was observed. This area consisted of an L-shaped arrangement of large limestone paving slabs with the short arm of the L butting the external side of the wall of the building, and the long arm of the L running parallel to this north-east south west aligned wall. The internal space created by this paving was filled by roughly stepped layers of unfinished limestone (122) sloping gradually downwards to the south-east.

- 2.5 The internal space of the structure was paved with large limestone slabs (surface 103). Three intrusions had been punched through this floor, two in the entrance way and the third in the north-eastern corner of the building. This hole (intrusion 1) was square in shape and 0.49m in depth and was backfilled by loose dark brown, back and yellow sand and sandy silt with frequent inclusions of modern demolition rubble. A small roughly circular intrusion (intrusion 2) observed in the doorway of the structure cut through both the internal paved floor and the limestone door step and similarly to the square intrusion in the north-eastern corner, was backfilled by modern demolition rubble in a matrix of brown sandy silt. The third intrusion adjacent to the circular hole in the doorway was rectangular in shape and measured 0.90m by 0.86m. A large iron plate, possibly part of a machine base was inserted into the void created in the floor. Limestone blocks and a single brick had been used to pack the space around this plate.
- 2.6 A large spread of limestone demolition rubble in a dark grey brown silty clay matrix (110) was observed lying along the eastern side of the structure and overlying the paved external pathway. This dump extended approximately 5m to the east of the structure. Furthermore two dumps of mortar which appeared to post-date the demolition of the structure were observed overlaying the walls and door jamb.
- 2.8 All the above features and deposits were overlain by a make-up layer consisting of mixed topsoil, and demolition rubble. The westernmost part of the area had suffered



truncation in the modern era, which appeared to have resulted in the total loss of the western side of the structure. A deposit of clean gravel 0.15m in depth overlay the make-up and area of modern truncation in the north-western corner of Area 1. The whole of the area was covered by a thin layer of grey brown sandy silt garden soil.

## **Area 2**

- 2.10 The ground works within Area 2 involved the removal of a cellar believed to be constructed as part of the 19th century service wing (CA 2011), and the excavation of a footings trench extending approximately 8m to the west of this cellar for the construction of an external wall for the planned extension. This trench ran parallel with the northern frontage of the existing structure (Fig. 2).
- 2.11 The removal of the roughly square cellar exposed limestone bedrock at a depth of approximately 1.50m bpgl. Overlying this was a layer of natural limestone brash similar to that observed in Area 1. The natural substrate layers were covered by a deposit of orange brown sandy clay subsoil which was in turn overlain by a dark brown sandy clay buried topsoil layer. The near-vertical construction cut of the cellar was over 5.5m in length and width, over 3m deep and cut all of the above deposits. The roughly coursed cellar walls were constructed of limestone blocks and the construction cut was back-filled with compact orange yellow clay. An entrance, possibly with steps leading up to ground level, was observed in the north-eastern corner of the structure but was not removed during the development. A limestone vaulted ceiling roofed the structure and was covered by a rubble make-up layer, 0.30m in thickness. This deposit was sealed over the whole area by limestone paved courtyard forming a modern patio which was in turn covered by a layer of mixed topsoil and demolition rubble.
- 2.12 No archaeological deposits pre-dating the cellar were observed and the excavation of the foundations trench extending westwards from the cellar exposed only made ground to a depth of 0.3m.

## **3. DISCUSSION**

- 3.1 The structure in Area 1 probably represents a small garden outbuilding which may be contemporary with the construction of the 19th century service wing (CA 2011). It is certainly visible on the 1884-6 OS mapping. The pathway at the entrance to this

building appears to lead from the area where the service wing is known to have stood. It appears the function of the building may have changed during its lifespan as is evidenced by the presence of the three intrusions into the floor which possibly represent the introduction of machinery to the structure; the surviving iron plate may have acted as a machine base. The obstructive positioning of two of these fittings suggest they were a later addition to the structure rather than having been planned at the time of construction. It is likely this building was demolished in 1965 in the same phase as the demolition of the service wing as it doesn't appear in the 1978 OS mapping. The spread of demolition rubble along the eastern side of the structure is probably representative of this event. Further truncation in the modern era may be responsible for the total loss of the western side of the building.

- 3.2 The cellar removed during groundworks in Area 2 is also believed to be contemporary with the construction of the service wing. Any archaeological features in this location would have been lost due to the intrusive nature of these building works. No archaeological features in the area of the foundation trench were exposed by the development but it is possible they could survive below the made ground.

#### 4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Charlotte Haines and Richard Young. The report was written by Charlotte Haines. The illustrations were prepared by Lorna Gray. The archive has been compiled by Charlotte Haines, and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

#### 5. REFERENCES

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2010 *Coach House, Cherington Park, Cherington, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief* CA Report **10119**

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011 *Cherington Park, Cherington, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2011 *Geology of Britain Viewer*  
[http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer\\_google/googleviewer.html](http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html)

PW (Parr Walker & Associates) 2011 *Cherington Park: Heritage Assessment*



## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

## Area 1

| No. | Type         | Description   | Length (m) | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Spot-date |
|-----|--------------|---|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 100 | Layer        | Topsoil, mid greyish brown sandy silt   | -          | -         | 0.10      | Modern    |
| 101 | Layer        | Make up, mixed topsoil and demolition rubble  | -          | -         | 0.35      | Modern    |
| 102 | Layer        | Compact gravel surface  | -          | -         | 0.15      | Modern    |
| 103 | Masonry      | Limestone paved floor surface   | 2.20       | 1.80      | 0.06      |           |
| 104 | Masonry      | Limestone paved pathway   | >1.80      | 1.25      | 0.05      |           |
| 105 | Masonry      | Door step, large limestone block  | 0.80       | 0.40      | 0.05      |           |
| 106 | Masonry      | Door jamb, 2 large limestone blocks   | >0.50      | >0.50     | >0.40     |           |
| 107 | Masonry      | Roughly coursed, Cotswold limestone built external walls of structure   | >4.40      | 3.40      | 0.22      |           |
| 108 | Masonry      | L-shaped limestone paved surface  | >2.00      | 1.20      | 0.05      |           |
| 109 | Layer        | Yellow bedding sand for 108, 104, 107 and 103   | 4.60       | 4.20      | 0.08      |           |
| 110 | Layer        | Make-up, mid to dark greyish brown sandy silt with demolition rubble  | 9.00       | 4.00      | 0.30      |           |
| 111 | Cut          | Circular intrusion, punched through 103   | 0.48       | 0.43      | -         |           |
| 112 | Fill         | Fill of 111, grey brown sandy silt with demolition rubble   | 0.48       | 0.43      | -         |           |
| 113 | Cut          | Construction cut for 114  | 0.90       | 0.86      | 0.05      |           |
| 114 | Masonry / Fe | Iron plate, limestone block and brick set into 103  | 0.86       | 0.60      | 0.03      |           |
| 115 | Cut          | Square intrusion, punched through 103   | 0.76       | 0.72      | 0.49      |           |
| 116 | Fill         | Back fill of 115, dark brown, black and yellow sandy silt and sand with frequent modern CBM, limestone and charcoal | 0.76       | 0.72      | 0.49      |           |
| 117 | Layer        | Make-up, mixed brown sandy silt and dark yellow sand  | >3.00      | >2.30     | -         |           |
| 118 | Layer        | Natural substrate, limestone brash in yellowish orange sand and silt matrix   | -          | -         | -         |           |
| 119 | Layer        | Subsoil, limestone rubble in mid orangish brown silt matrix   | -          | -         | 0.10      |           |
| 120 | Layer        | Buried topsoil, mid brown sandy silt  | -          | -         | 0.25      |           |
| 121 | Layer        | Levelling deposit, dark brown sandy silt with limestone rubble  | -          | -         | 0.17      |           |
| 122 | Fill         | Tightly packed layers of limestone fragments within 108   | 1.20       | 0.80      | 0.70      |           |
| 123 | Deposit      | Dump of yellow and white mortar   | 1.20       | 0.70      | 0.15      |           |
| 124 | Cut          | Construction cut for 106  | -          | -         | -         |           |
| 125 | Cut          | Modern truncation   | >4.90      | >2.20     | -         |           |

## Area 2

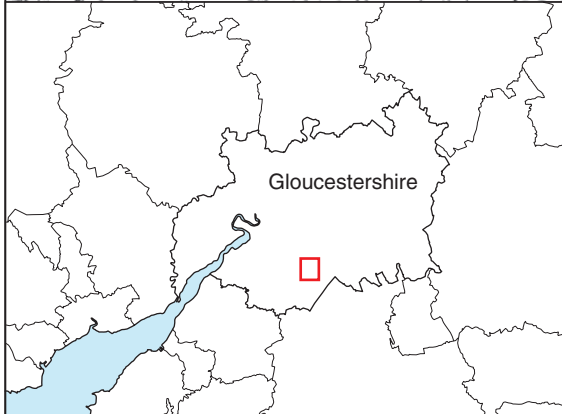
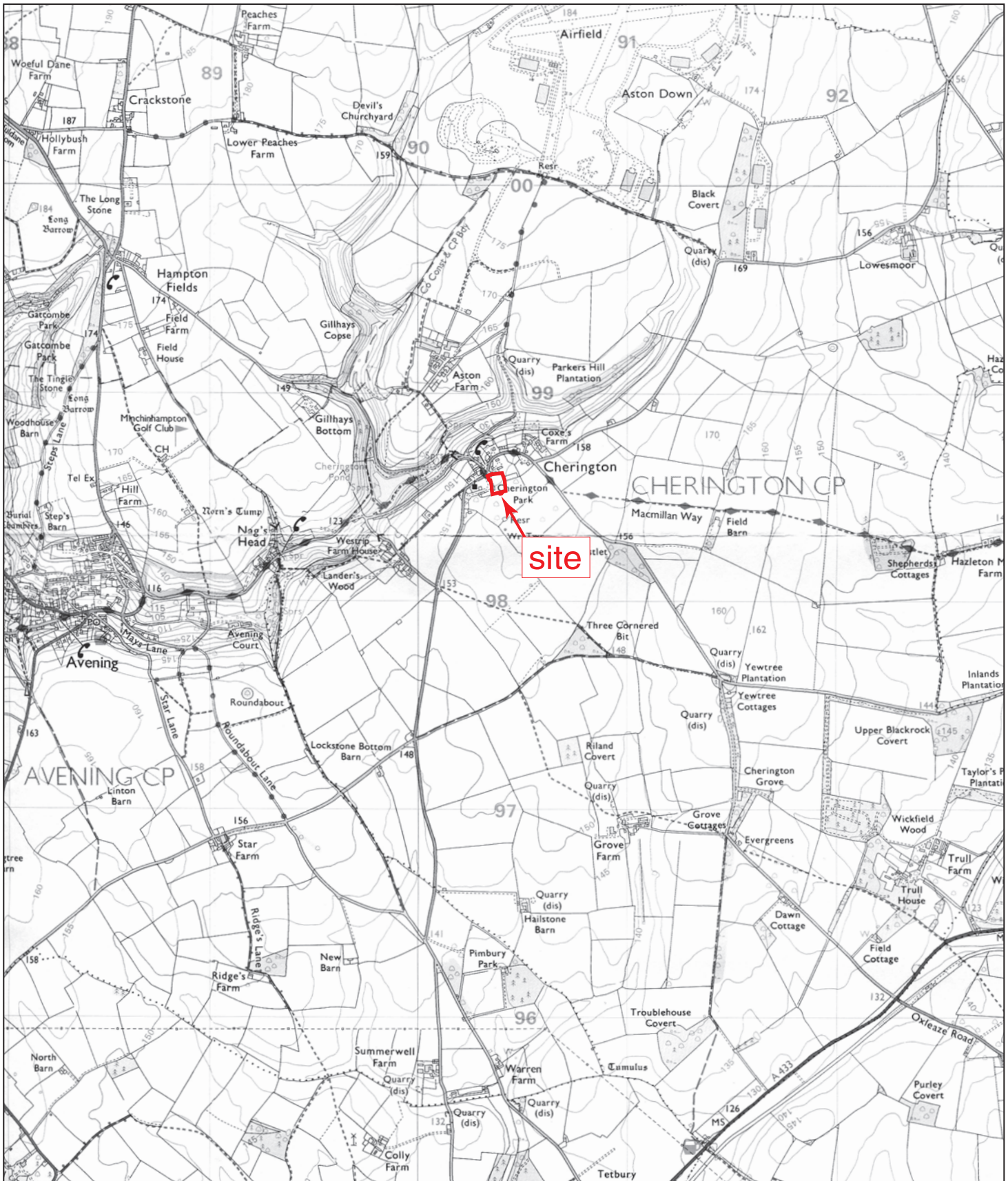
| No. | Type    | Description   | Length (m) | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Spot-date |
|-----|---------|---|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 200 | Layer   | Mixed dark brown sandy silt topsoil and demolition rubble | -          | -         | 0.06      | Modern    |
| 201 | Layer   | Limestone paved surface                                   | -          | -         | 0.06      | Modern    |
| 202 | Layer   | Rubble backfill of disused cellar                         | -          | -         | >0.30     |           |
| 203 | Masonry | Limestone barrel vaulted cellar roof                      | -          | -         | 0.40      |           |
| 204 | Masonry | Limestone cellar floor and walls                          | -          | -         | -         |           |
| 205 | Cut     | Construction cut for 204                                  | 6.00       | 3.00      | 2.25      |           |
| 206 | Fill    | Backfill of 295, compact orangish yellow clay             | -          | 0.75      | 2.25      |           |

|     |         |   |   |   |       |  |
|-----|---------|---|---|---|-------|--|
| 207 | Layer   | Buried topsoil, dark brown sandy clay                                       | - | - | 0.28  |  |
| 208 | Layer   | Subsoil, mid orange brown sandy clay  | - | - | 0.65  |  |
| 209 | Layer   | Natural substrate, limestone brash in yellowish orange sand and silt matrix | - | - | -     |  |
| 210 | Layer   | Natural substrate, limestone bed rock                                       | - | - | -     |  |
| 211 | deposit | Rubble back-fill of disused cellar  | - | - | >2.00 |  |

**APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM**

| <b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>  |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| Project Name  | Cherington Park, cherington, Gloucestershire  |  |
| Short description (250 words maximum)   | An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a garage block along with a stone-walled courtyard and an extension at Cherington Park, Cherington, Gloucestershire. A small stone-walled outbuilding thought to be associated with the demolished 19th century service wing of Cherington Park was observed near the entrance to the park. No archaeological deposits pre-dating the 19th century were observed during groundworks. |  |
| Project dates   | May – July 2011   |  |
| Project type  | Watching Brief  |  |
| Previous work   | N/A   |  |
| Future work   | Unknown   |  |
| <b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>   |   |  |
| Site Location   | Cherington Park, Cherington, Gloucestershire  |  |
| Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)   | 1.1ha   |  |
| Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)  | ST 9037 9855  |  |
| <b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>   |   |  |
| Name of organisation  | Cotswold Archaeology  |  |
| Project Brief originator  | Gloucestershire County Council  |  |
| Project Design (WSI) originator   | Cotswold Archaeology  |  |
| Project Manager   | Richard Young   |  |
| Project Supervisor  | Charlotte Haines  |  |
| <b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>  | None  |  |
| <b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>  | None  |  |
| <b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>   |   |  |
|   | Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)   | Content                                |
| Physical  | Corinium Museum   | Ceramics, animal bone                  |
| Paper   | Corinium Museum   | Context sheets, Drawings, matrices etc |
| Digital   | Corinium Museum   | Survey data, digital photos            |
| <b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>   |   |  |
| CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011 <i>Cherington Park, Cherington, Gloucestershire An Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report <b>11206</b> |   |  |





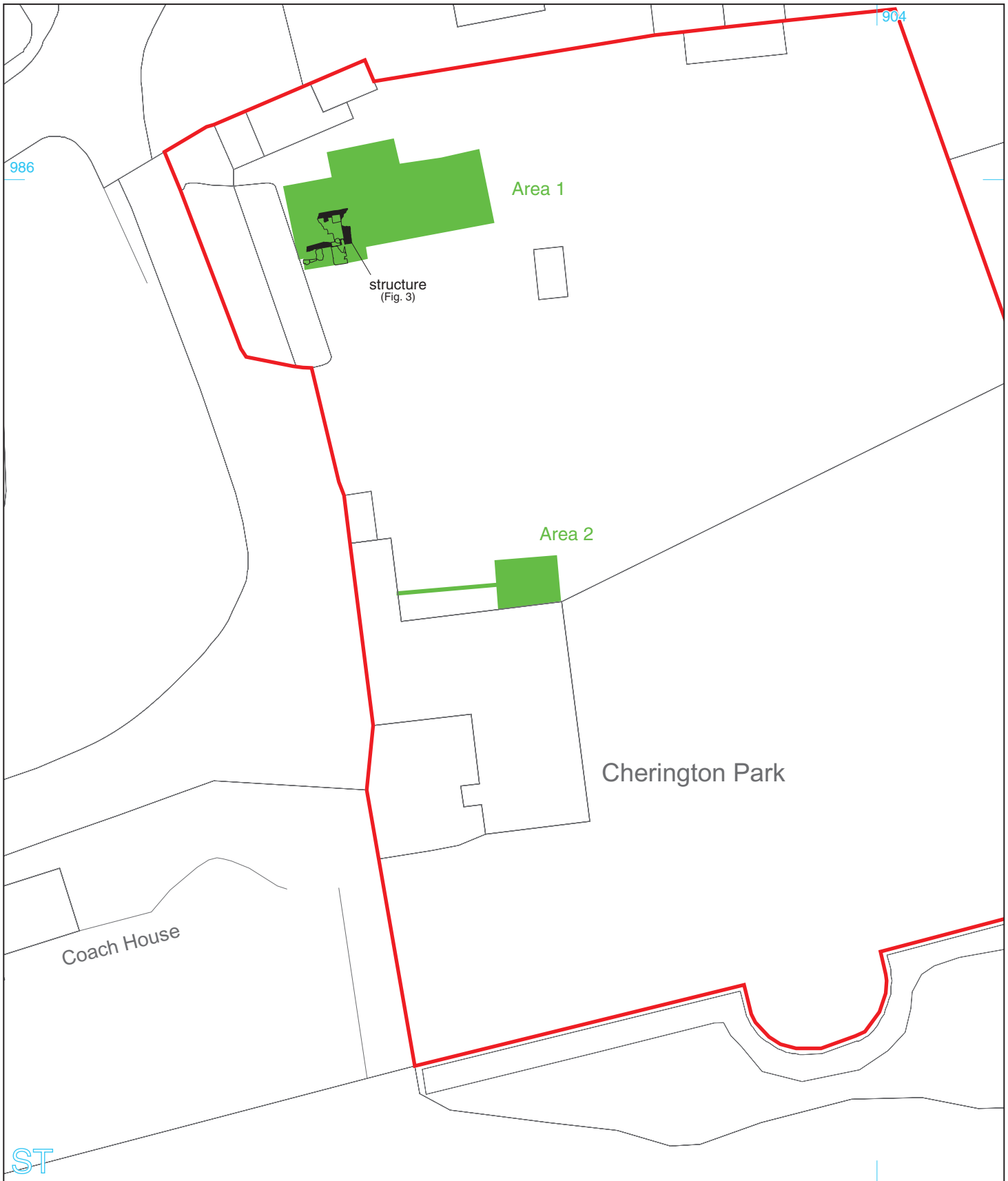

**Cotswold Archaeology**  
 t 01285 771022  
 f 01285 771033  
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk  
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Cherington Park, Cherington  
 Gloucestershire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan

Reproduced from the 2005 Ordnance Survey Explorer map with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright  
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|             |      |          |            |            |
|-------------|------|----------|------------|------------|
| PROJECT NO. | 3433 | DATE     | 12-08-2011 | FIGURE NO. |
| DRAWN BY    | LG   | REVISION | 00         | 1          |
| APPROVED BY | PJM  | SCALE@A4 | 1:25,000   |            |



- site
- area of observed groundworks
- recorded archaeological feature



**Cotswold  
Archaeology**

t 01285 771022  
 f 01285 771033  
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk  
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

*PROJECT TITLE*

**Cherington Park, Cherington  
Gloucestershire**

*FIGURE TITLE*

**The site, showing location of  
groundworks**

PROJECT NO. 3433 DATE 25-08-2011  
 DRAWN BY LG REVISION 00  
 APPROVED BY PJM SCALE@A4 1:500

*FIGURE NO.*

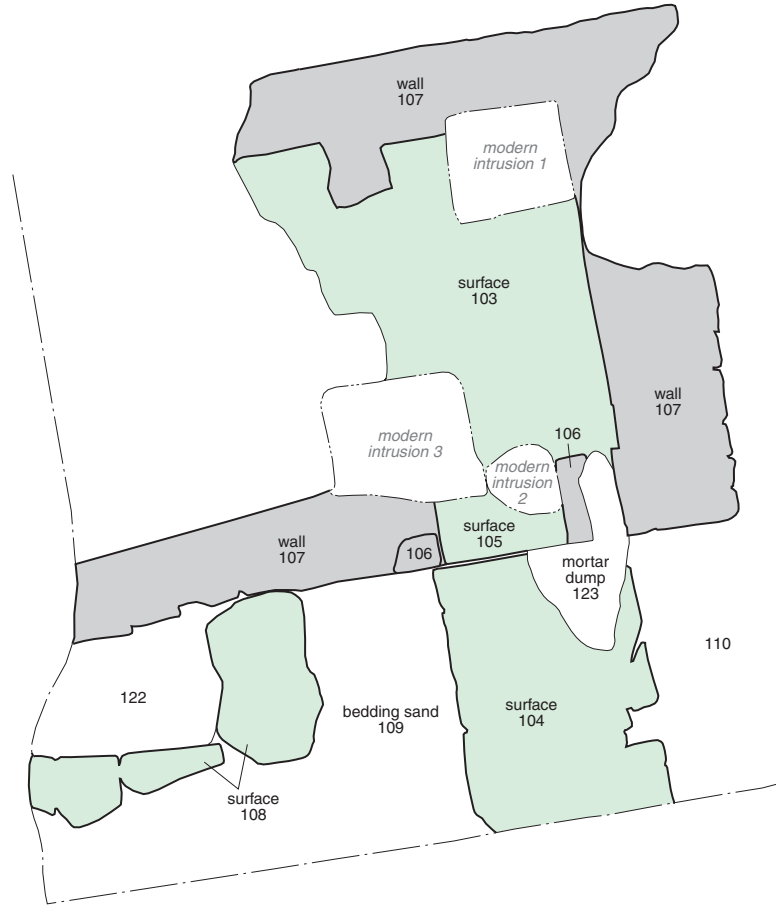
**2**



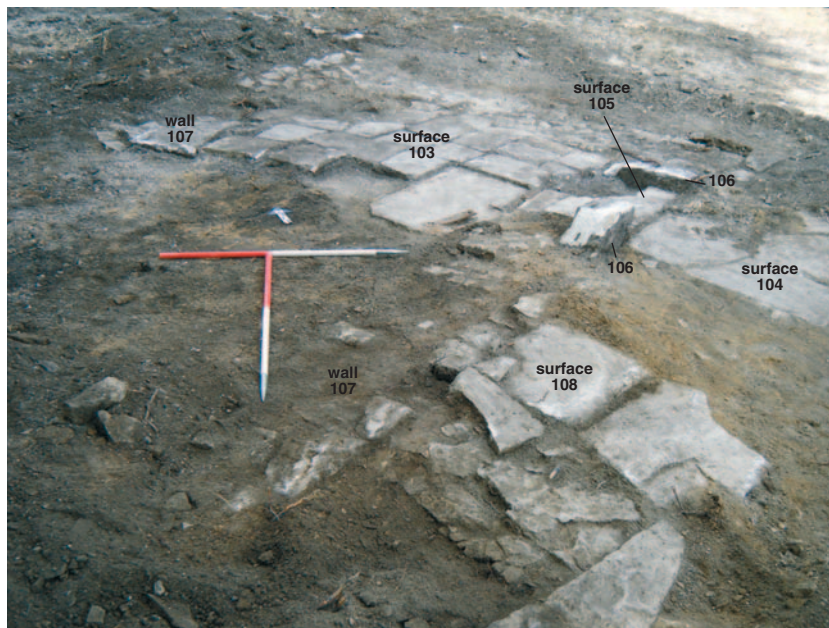




Plan of the structure



View of the structure, looking north-east. (Scales 1m)



- wall
- surface



t 01285 771022  
 f 01285 771033  
 w [www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk)  
 e [enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk)

PROJECT TITLE

Cherington Park, Cherington Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Area 1; plan and photograph of the structure

PROJECT NO. 3433      DATE 12-08-2011  
 DRAWN BY LG      REVISION 00  
 APPROVED BY PJM      SCALE@A4 1:50

FIGURE NO.

3

