

**The Malthouse
Lechlade
Gloucestershire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

for

Merrie Ridge Corporation NV

on behalf of

Mr M Walecki


CA Project: 3658
CA Report: 11327

March 2012

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Lechlade
Gloucestershire

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date	22 March 2012
issue	01

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CONTENTS

SUMMARY	2
1. INTRODUCTION	3
2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3)	5
3. DISCUSSION.....	6
4. CA PROJECT TEAM	6
5. REFERENCES	6
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	8
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS	9
APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM.....	10

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
- Fig. 2 The site, showing location of groundworks and archaeological features (1:250)
- Fig. 3 Trench 1: Plan and photographs (1:20)



SUMMARY

Project Name:	The Malthouse
Location:	Lechlade, Gloucestershire
NGR:	SU 2147 9948
Type:	Watching Brief
Date:	3-5 January 2012
Planning Reference:	11/02520/FUL
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Corinium Museum
Site Code:	MLT11

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the extension of a new two storey structure by 1.35m and the construction of a new single storey garage at The Malthouse, Lechlade.

A Cotswold stone wall and associated brick tile surface were revealed in the southern part of the site. It is likely that these structures were associated with the malthouse depicted on site on the late 19th and early 20th-century Ordnance Survey mapping. A Cotswold stone and brick well was also revealed during the watching brief. It appeared to cut the brick tile surface and may have removed other deposits and structures associated with the malthouse.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In January 2012 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Merrie Ridge Corporation NV on behalf of Mr M Walecki at The Malthouse, Lechlade (centred on NGR: SU 2147 9948; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent granted by Cotswold District Council (CDC) for an extension of a new two storey extension by 1.35m and the construction of a new single storey garage extension (CDC Planning ref: 11/02520/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 *brief* (GCC 2011) prepared by Mr Charles Parry, Senior Archaeological Officer, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC), the archaeological advisor to CDC, and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2011 a) and approved by Mr Parry. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008), the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Gloucestershire* (GCC 1995), 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 the centre of Lechlade, immediately south of the medieval parish church of St Lawrence's. The level plot, approximately 270m² in size, was originally a stable block, garage and car park. It is bounded by Church House to its east, an electricity substation to its south, Shelley's Close to the west and the churchyard to its north. The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Oxford Clay Formation mudstone of the Jurassic era, overlain by Summertown-Radley Sand and Gravel Member of the Pleistocene (BGS 2011). The natural substrate was not encountered in any of the observed groundworks.



Archaeological background

- 1.4 The *Brief* notes that the site lies in an area where medieval settlement associated with the church may formerly have been present (GCC 2011). In addition, the Gloucestershire County Historic Environment Record (HER) records that between 8 and 10 coffin burials, aligned north/south, were found in a corner of the Market Place (c. 50m to the north of the site) in 1928 (HER ref 3150). An extant medieval fish pond (c. 60m to the south-east of the site) is first recorded on the Ordnance Survey map of 1876. Church House was the home of the Ainge family of wharfingers who traded from Old Wharf (VCH 1981, 109), which lay at the end of the garden c. 150 m to the south-east of the site. It was built in the late 17th century and refronted in the early 18th century. The formal gardens were also laid out at this time. The first edition Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping of 1876 shows a malthouse occupying the site. This is no longer depicted on the 1923 OS mapping.
- 1.5 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during previous groundworks in 2011 associated with the original extension and conversion of an existing garage into a three-bedroom residence on the site. A series of brick and limestone walls and floor surfaces were identified. The heat-affected nature of some of the features and the quantities of tiles with aeration holes encountered suggest that these structures are associated with the malthouse depicted on the historic mapping (CA 2011b).

Methodology

- 1.6 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2011). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising the excavation of new footings (Fig. 2).
- 1.7 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.8 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. The archive will be deposited with Corinium Museum, along with the site archive. The artefacts are not of archaeological significance and will not be

retained. 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)

Trench 1

- 2.1 At approximately 0.7m below present ground level (bpgl) dark brown clayey silt 114 was revealed. It covered most of the trench area and was greater than 0.1m thick. It was covered by dark brown clayey silt 112. In the north-east corner of the trench mid orangey brown gravel 104 was revealed at the limit of excavation. It appeared to be truncated by linear cut 106, which contained stone rich deposit 105. This deposit was made up of irregular size and shape flat Cotswold stone held loosely in a mid brown sandy silt matrix. The western and southern limits of the feature could not be seen as they were covered by mid brown sandy silt 107, which was at the limit of excavation in this section of the trench.
- 2.2 In the southern section of the trench east-west aligned Cotswold stone wall 110 was revealed above deposit 112. This was a continuation of a wall identified in the earlier watching brief. It extended the length of the trench from the earlier extension to the east and appeared to continue beneath the extant property boundary wall to the west. There was a gap in the wall in the middle section of the trench which is presumed to be a doorway. The wall was abutted to approximately half its height by mid brownish grey gritty silt 115. This was sealed by red brick surface 113 which survived only around the doorway of wall 110. The brick surface did not extend through the doorway and here the bricks and the wall were butted by dark grey clayey silt 116. The surface and wall were sealed by a thick layer of light yellowish brown fine silty sand 111. This deposit appeared truncated on its northern edge, probably by the construction of well 109. The well was approximately 1.7m in diameter and was constructed of Cotswold stone and red brick. The well was butted by sandy silt 107 and sealed by rubble layer 108 which contained bottles of late 19th to early 20th-century date. In the north-east corner of the trench deposit 107 was also covered by mid brown silty sand 103. This was covered by charcoal rich silt 102, which was only present in the north-east corner of the trench. This was covered by mid yellowish brown gritty silt 101. All deposits were sealed either by brick and rubble deposit 117 in the southern half of the trench or by topsoil 100 in the northern part of the trench.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The watching brief suggests that the site has been truncated and large amounts of make-up material have been laid down in the development area as, despite the ground being much lower than in the adjacent graveyard, the natural substrate was not observed anywhere within the groundworks. One of the earliest features recorded was a stone-rich deposit. As it was revealed at the limit of excavation and was obscured by later deposits it was not possible to characterise the feature. The continuation of an east-west wall identified during previous work was also recorded. It was associated with a brick surface which had been severely truncated on its northern edge. It is likely that these features were associated with the malthouse known to exist on the site in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. There appeared to be a high level of truncation of this part of the site possibly associated with the construction of the well. This appeared to cut through the existing floor surface and may have removed other deposits and structures associated with the malthouse building. These features were covered by a series of modern make-up deposits.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken and the report written by Alexandra Webster. The illustrations were prepared by Jon Bennett. The archive has been compiled by Alexandra Wilkinson, and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2010 <http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer-google/googleviewer.html> accessed 04 May 2011

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011a *The Malthouse, Lechlade, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011b *Church House, Lechlade, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief*. CA typescript report **11159**

GCC (Gloucestershire County Council) 2011 *Church House, Wharf Lane, Lechlade. Conversion and extension of garage and stable block to provide a dwelling (revised scheme). Brief for a programme of archaeological recording.*

VCH (Victoria County History) 1981 *Victoria County History of the County of Gloucester*, **VII**



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown sandy silt			0.3	
101	Layer	Mid greyish yellowish brown sandy gritty silt			0.1	
102	Layer	Lens of charcoal rich silt			0.01	
103	Layer	Mid brown silty sand			0.2	
104	Layer	Mid orangey brown gravel				
105	Deposit	Irregular shape and size stones in mid brown sandy silt		>1.7		
106	Cut	Uncharacterised cut		>1.7		
107	Layer	Mid brown sandy silt with medium pebbles				
108	Layer	Mid brown sandy silt with rubble and modern rubbish				
109	Structure	Well constructed of Cotswold stone and brick		1.7	>0.6	
110	Structure	East-west aligned Cotswold stone wall		>5m	c.0.5	
111	Deposit	Light yellowish brown fine silty sand			0.2	
112	Layer	Dark reddish brown clayey silt				
113	Structure	Red brick floor surface	c. 3.2	>0.6	0.06	
114	Layer	Dark brown clayey silt				
115	Deposit	Mid brownish grey gritty silt				
116	Deposit	Dark grey clayey silt with charcoal flecks				
117	Layer	Brick and rubble layer covering southern side of trench			c.0.3	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

The finds assemblage recovered from the watching brief is of small size and consisted of three glass bottles recovered from a single deposit (108). All of the bottles were of moulded types produced from the late 19th and into the first quarter of the 20th century, and included a Codd patent mineral water bottle as well as two probable pharmaceutical bottles.

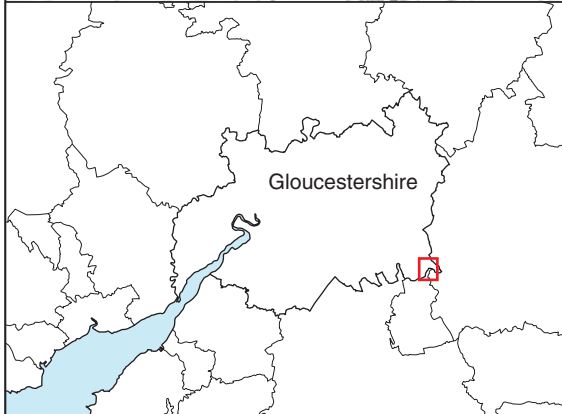
The small size of the finds assemblage and the limited range of material was not suggestive of intense archaeological activity on the site. None of the finds assemblage was of archaeological significance and was not retained.

Appendix B

Context	Description	Ct.	Wt.	Date
108	Glass: bottles	3	599	LC19-EC20

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	The Malthouse, Lechlade, Gloucestershire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the extension of a new two storey structure by 1.35m and the construction of a new single storey garage at The Malthouse, Lechlade.</p> <p>A Cotswold stone wall and associated brick tile surface were revealed in the southern part of the site. It is likely that these structures were associated with the malthouse depicted on site on the late 19th and early 20th-century Ordnance Survey mapping. A Cotswold stone and brick well was also revealed during the watching brief. It appeared to cut the brick tile surface and may have removed other deposits and structures associated with the malthouse.</p>	
Project dates	3-5 January 2012	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	Watching Brief CA 2011	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	The Malthouse, Lechlade, Gloucestershire	
Study area	25m ²	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SU 2147 9948	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Gloucestershire County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Alexandra Webster	
MONUMENT TYPE	Malthouse	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	none	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	n/a	none
Paper	Corinium Museum	Context sheets, trench sheets, plans, sections, registers
Digital	Corinium Museum	digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2012 <i>The Malthouse, Lechlade, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i>. CA typescript report 11327</p>		



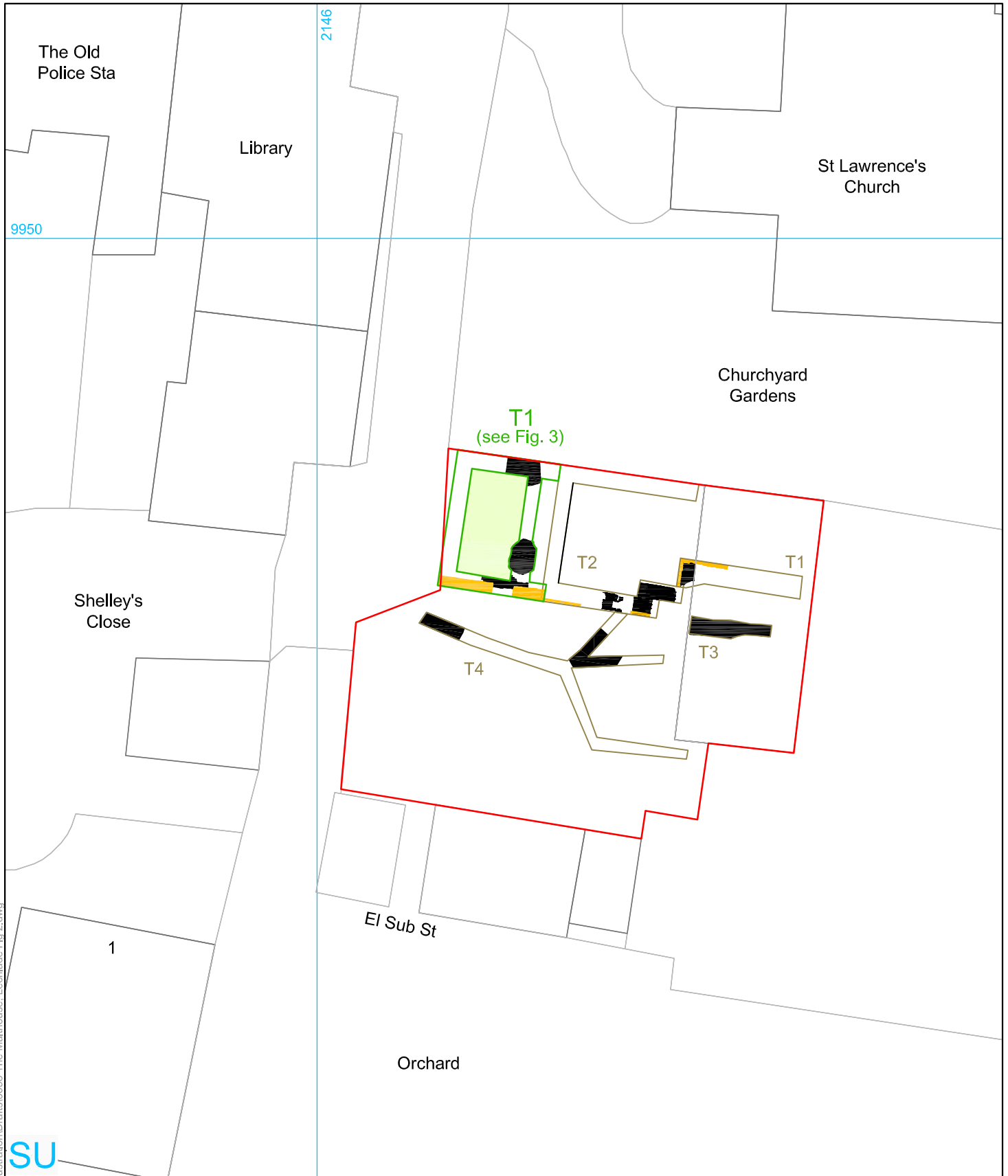
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PROJECT TITLE
 The Malthouse, Lechlade, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

Reproduced from the XXXX Ordnance Survey Explorer map with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright Cotswold Archaeological Trust 100002109

PROJECT NO. 3658	DATE 11-01-2012	FIGURE NO. 1
DRAWN BY JB	REVISION 00	
APPROVED BY PJM	SCALE@A4 1:25,000	



- site
- area of observed groundworks
- area of previous groundworks
- floor surface/well
- wall



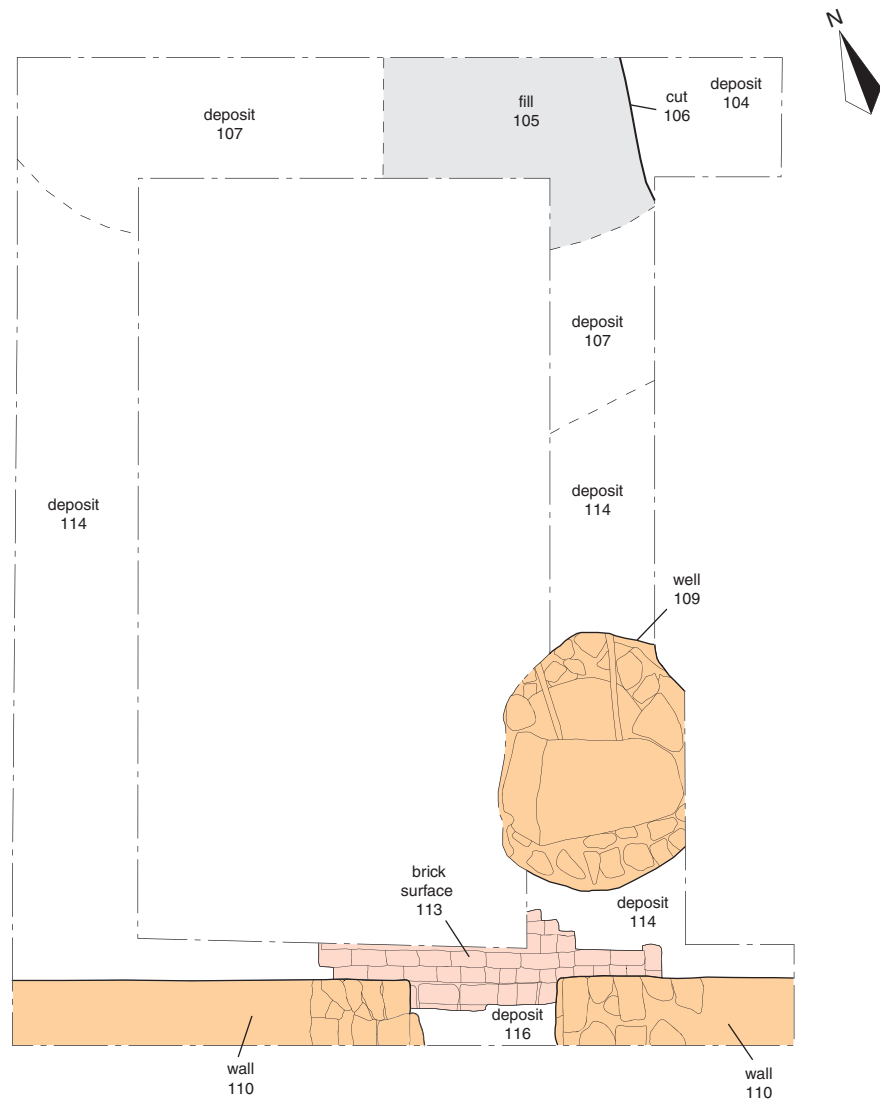
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PROJECT TITLE
 The Malthouse, Lechlade, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
 The site, showing location of groundworks and archaeological features

PROJECT NO.	3658	DATE	11-01-2012	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	JB	REVISION	00	2
APPROVED BY	PJM	SCALE@A4	1:250	

Trench 1, Plan



Trench 1, well 109, looking east (scale 1m)



Trench 1, wall 110 and surface 113, looking south-east (scale 1m)

- archaeological feature
- structure
- floor paving

