

**Old Chapel
Horton Road
Gloucester**

Archaeological Watching Brief



for

M. E. Wynn & Co Ltd

CA Project: 4069
CA Report: 13034

March 2013

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Gloucester

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signed	
date	11 March 2013
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SUMMARY

Project Name: Old Chapel
Location: Horton Road, Gloucester
NGR: SO 8433 1845
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 03-21 December 2012
Planning Reference: 12/00302/FUL
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Gloucester City Museum
Accession Number: GLRCM: 2012.25
Site Code: OCH 12

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with conversion and extension of the existing chapel building at Horton Road, Gloucester.

A 19th-century wall, probably the western boundary wall for the chapel grounds, was identified during the groundworks.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In December 2012 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for M. E. Wynn & Co Ltd at Old Chapel, Horton Road, Gloucester (centred on NGR: SO 8433 1845; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached by Gloucester City Council to a planning consent (Planning ref: 12/00302/FUL) for the extension and conversion of the existing chapel building. 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* (Gloucester City Council 2012), prepared by Andrew Armstrong, Gloucester City Archaeologist, and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2012) and approved by Andrew Armstrong. 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* (Gloucestershire County Council 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). It was monitored by Andrew Armstrong, including a site visit on 3 December 2012.

The site

1.3 The proposed development site is located on the west side of Horton Road within the area of Wotton, 1.2km east of the historic centre of Gloucester, in the Civil Parish of Gloucester and within Gloucester City Council Planning Authority. The site is bounded to the south and west by modern residential apartments, by Harescombe Drive to the north and Horton Road to the east. The site lies at approximately 24m AOD.

1.4 The development area encloses approximately 0.28ha and comprises the Old Chapel building and a small, irregularly-shaped land parcel. The majority of this area is grass lawn interspersed with mature trees, with a tarmac drive running north/south to the west of the Old Chapel and a strip of land at the south-west that was formerly a footpath to the Gloucester Royal Infirmary.



- 1.5 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation mudstone of the Rhaetian to the Pliensbachian Age with no mapped superficial deposits (BGS 2012). The natural substrate, comprising blue grey clay with patches of sand was observed during the groundworks at a depth between 0.38m and 0.72m below present ground level (bpgl).

Archaeological background

- 1.6 Detailed information regarding the archaeological background of the site is contained within a *Heritage Desk Based Assessment* (Gloucestershire County Council 2012a) and is summarised below.
- 1.7 The assessment concluded that there was low potential for the survival of Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval remains within the proposed development area (Gloucestershire County Council 2012a). However, there was potential for post-medieval burials associated with the Horton Road Hospital based on the extent of the burial grounds depicted on historic mapping dating to the 1840s (*ibid*). According to this mapping the former cemetery underlay the northern end of the Old Chapel and the north-eastern corner of the proposed extension footprint.
- 1.8 An archaeological evaluation comprising the excavation of a single trench was undertaken by Gloucestershire County Council in 2012. The results of the evaluation were negative; no archaeological features were recorded within the trench (Gloucestershire County Council 2012b). It was concluded that either the extent of the burial ground depicted on the historic mapping and identified in the DBA as overlapping the proposed extension was inaccurate, or that the full extent of the burial ground was not fully utilised (*ibid*). In spite of these results, it was not possible to rule out the possibility that part of the proposed extension footprint may have contained burials.

Archaeological objectives

- 1.9 The objectives of the archaeological works were:
- to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks;



- at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

Methodology

- 1.10 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2012). An archaeologist was present during all intrusive groundworks. Trench 1, at the west of the site comprised ground reduction for a new cellar and Trench 2 comprised the excavation of foundation trenches for the extension (Fig. 2).
- 1.11 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.12 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Gloucester City Museum under accession number GLRCM: 2012.25. 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 (FIG. 2)

- 2.1 In Trenches 1 and 2 the natural geological substrate 103/202 consisting of mid blue grey lias clay, was revealed at an average depth of between 0.38m and 0.76m bpgl. This was overlain by mid brownish yellow silty clay subsoil 102 averaging 0.26m in thickness at the west of the site and by oxidised natural clay layer 201, averaging 0.3m in thickness, elsewhere. Layer 201 was cut by north/south orientated wall 204. The wall consisted of a rubble core footing on which courses of red brick bonded by a light coloured mortar containing charcoal flecks and patches of lime were laid. Two courses of brickwork survived. Wall 204 was overlain by stone crush car park surface layer 200, 0.08m thick, which extended 11.7m from the chapel building and sealed layer 201. Outside of the car park area, oxidised clay 201 was overlain by garden soil layer 101/203, which was 0.38m thick. This was sealed by 0.12m of black humic topsoil 100. At the northern end of Trench 1 topsoil 100 was overlain by a bank of up to 1.22m of modern made ground 104.



3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The north/south wall identified in Trench 2 was made from red bricks set in lime mortar, an identical construction to that of the chapel and indicative of a contemporary later 19th century date for the wall (the chapel was opened in 1873 (GCC 2012a)). The wall respects the alignment of the existing chapel building and is located in approximately the position shown for a churchyard boundary wall indicated on the 1884 Gloucester town plans. A similarly constructed wall still stands to the east of the chapel, suggesting that wall 204 is the matching western boundary wall for the chapel grounds. Despite the archaeological potential of the application area, the watching brief identified no evidence of any post-medieval burials associated with the Horton Road Hospital within the area of observed groundworks. The absence of such deposits may indicate that the burial ground does not extend as far as the area under development or that the full extent of the burial ground was not utilised.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Tim Havard and Rebecca Riley. The report was written by Christopher Leonard. The illustrations were prepared by Ian Atkins. The archive has been compiled by Christopher Leonard, and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Laurent Coleman.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) *Geology of Britain Viewer*.
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 30 January 2013.

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2012 *Old Chapel, Horton Road, Gloucester, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*.

Gloucestershire City Council 2012 *Old Chapel, Horton Road: Brief for an Archaeological Watching Brief*.

Gloucestershire County Council 2012a *Old Chapel, Horton Road, Gloucester: An Archaeological Desk-based Assessment and Historic Building Appraisal*.



Gloucestershire County Council 2012b Old Chapel, Horton Road, Gloucester: An
Archaeological Evaluation.

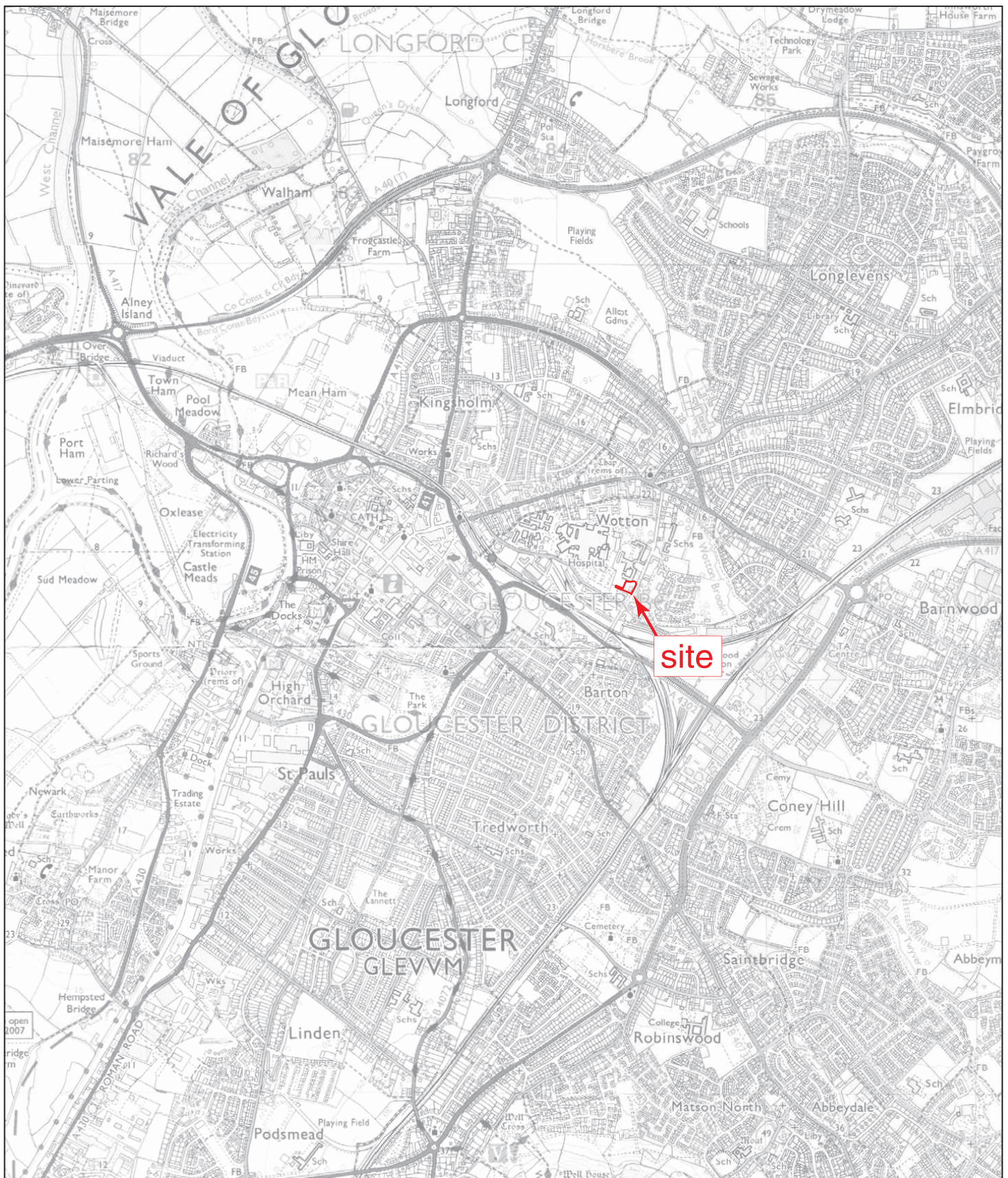


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer	Topsoil	Friable black humic silty sandy clay.			0.12	modern
1	101	Layer	Garden soil	Soft light grey silty clay with common charcoal flecks			0.38	modern
1	102	Layer	Subsoil	Firm mid brownish yellow silty clay			0.26	-
1	103	Layer	Natural	Mid blueish grey lias clay with orange-yellow sandy patches			-	-
1	104	Layer	Bank material	Soft mid yellowish grey silty clay			<1.22	modern
2	200	Layer	Car park surface	Crushed stone and rubble		11.7	0.08	modern
2	201	Layer	Oxidised natural	Firm mid greenish yellow silty clay			0.3	-
2	202	Layer	Natural	Mid blueish grey lias clay with orange-yellow sandy patches			-	-
2	203	Layer	Garden soil	Soft light grey silty clay with common charcoal flecks			0.17	Modern
2	204	Structure	Wall	Red bricks (220x110x80mm) set in light mortar.	>4m	0.58	0.5	C19

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Old Chapel, Horton Road, Gloucester	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with conversion and extension of the existing chapel building at Horton Road, Gloucester. A nineteenth century wall, aligned north-south, was identified during the groundworks.	
Project dates	03-21 December 2013	
Project type	Field evaluation (Gloucester City Council 2012)	
Previous work	No	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Old Chapel, Horton Road, Gloucester	
Study area	0.28ha	
Site co-ordinates	SO 8433 1845	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Gloucester City Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Laurent Coleman	
Project Supervisor	Tim Havard/ Rebecca Riley	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Paper	Gloucester City Museum GLRCM: 2012.25	Context sheets, matrices etc
Digital	Gloucester City Museum GLRCM: 2012.25	Database, digital photos etc
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013 <i>Old Chapel, Horton Road: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 13034 .		



0 1km

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PROJECT TITLE

Old Chapel, Horton Road
 Gloucester

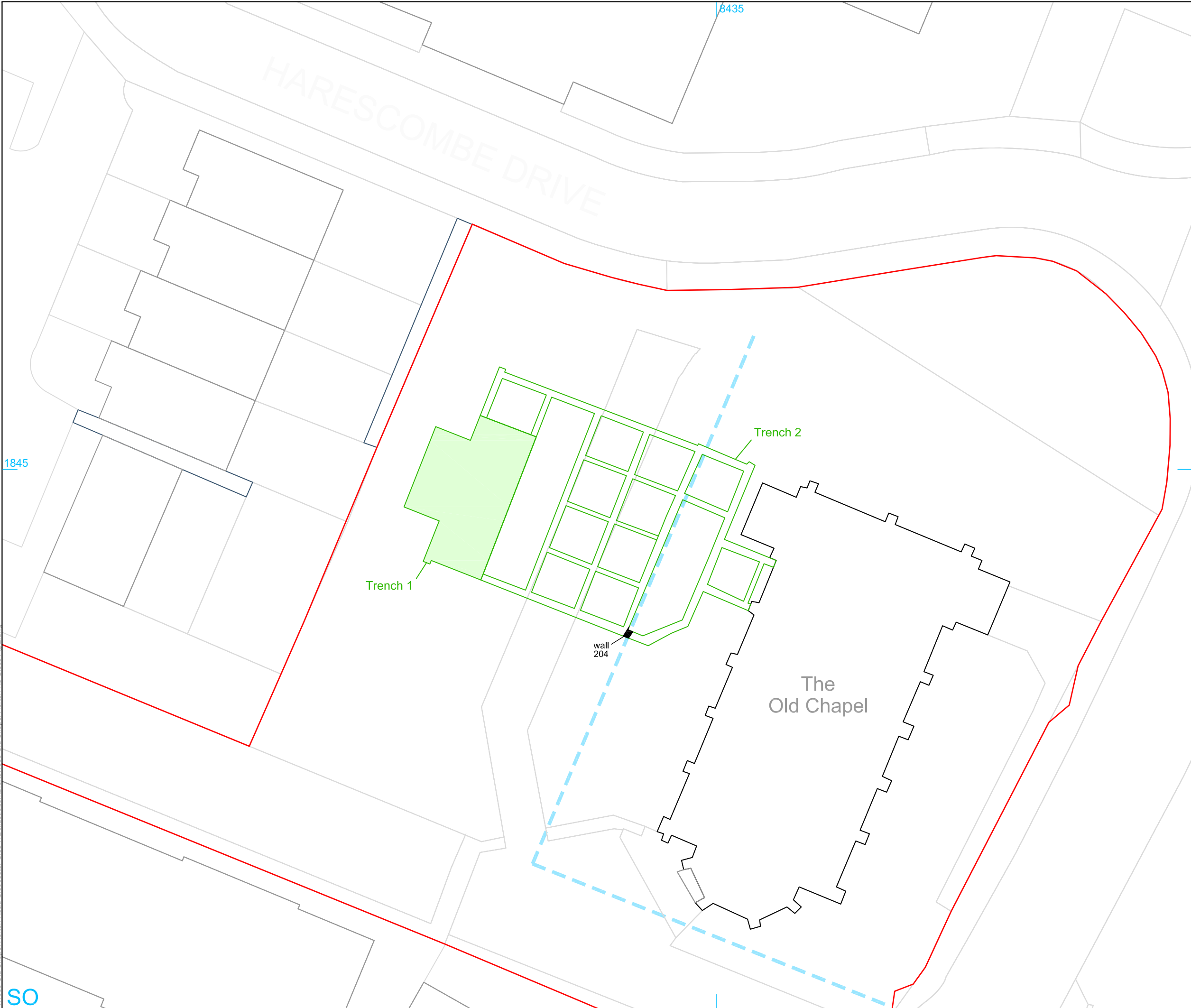
FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

PROJECT NO. 4069 DATE 04-02-2013
 DRAWN BY IA REVISION 00
 APPROVED BY PJM SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1



- site
- area of observed groundworks
- archaeological feature
- - - Chapel boundary showing on 1884 Gloucester town plans

0 10m

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PROJECT TITLE
 Old Chapel, Horton Road
 Gloucester

FIGURE TITLE
 The site showing location
 groundworks

PROJECT NO.	4069	DATE	04-02-2013	FIGURE NO.
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