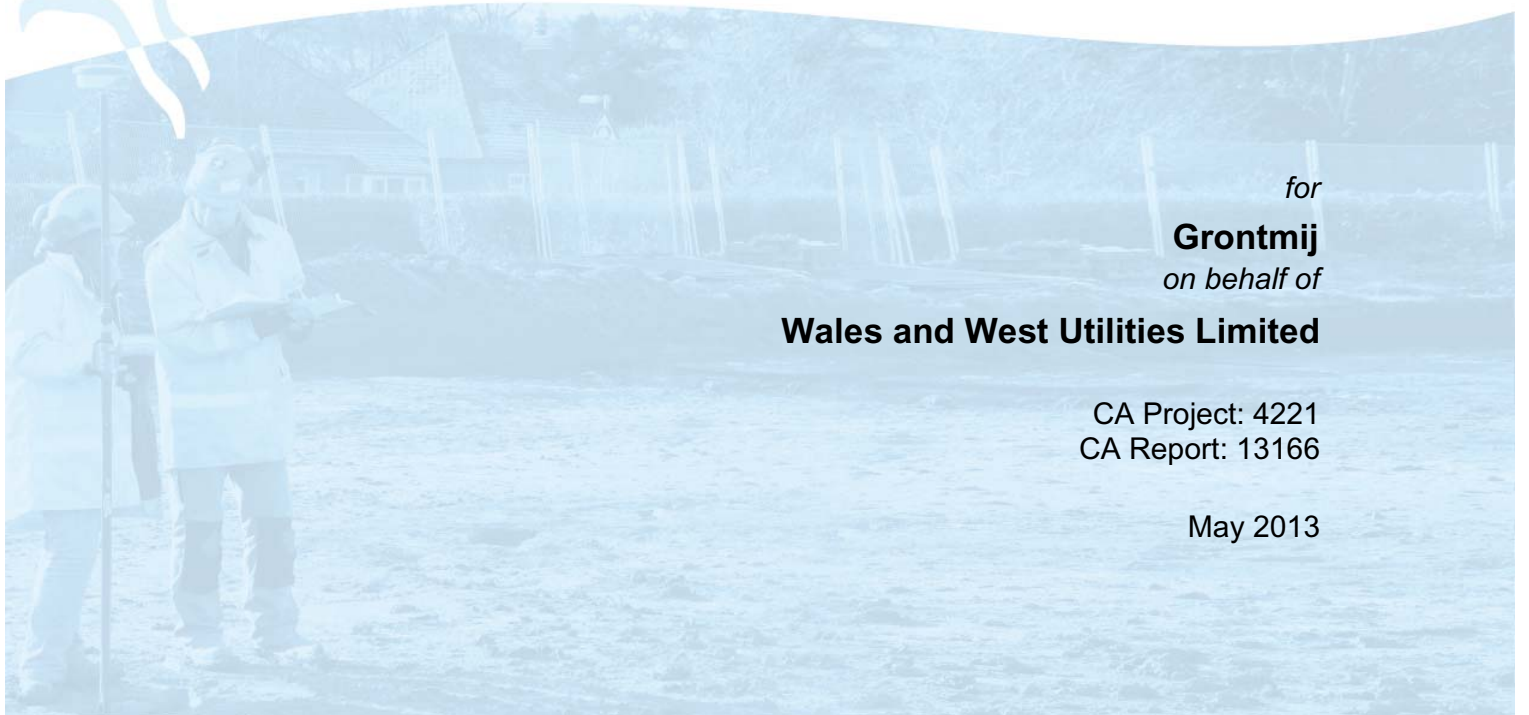


**Church Close
Dartmouth
Devon**

Archaeological Watching Brief



for

Grontmij
on behalf of

Wales and West Utilities Limited

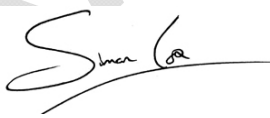
CA Project: 4221
CA Report: 13166

May 2013

Church Close
Dartmouth
Devon

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 4221
CA Report: 13166

prepared by	Peter Busby, Supervisor Designate, Stuart Joyce, Project Officer and Mark Brett, Senior Project Officer
date	15 May 2013
checked by	Laurent Coleman, Project Manager
date	21 May 2013
approved by	Simon Cox, Head of Fieldwork
signed	
date	6 June 2013
issue	01

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<p>Cirencester Building 11 Kemble Enterprise Park Kemble, Cirencester Gloucestershire, GL7 6BQ t. 01285 771022 f. 01285 771033</p>	<p>Milton Keynes Unit 4 Cromwell Business Centre Howard Way, Newport Pagnell MK16 9QS t. 01908 218320</p>	<p>Andover Office 49 Basepoint Business Centre Caxton Close, Andover Hampshire, SP10 3FG t. 01264 326549</p>
e. enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk		

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Church Close
Location:	Dartmouth, Devon
NGR:	SX 8773 5134
Type:	Watching Brief
Date:	6 - 26 March 2013
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter
Site Code:	DMG 13

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with gas main replacement works at Church Close, Dartmouth, Devon.

The earliest features encountered during the watching brief comprised a group of seven inhumation burials, exposed within the section of existing service trenches. A 17th-century stone and brick wall foundation and an undated stone wall foundation were also identified.

The majority of the trenches were excavated wholly within the backfill of existing service trenches and contained no significant archaeological features or deposits.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In March 2013 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Grontmij on behalf of Wales and West Utilities Limited, at Church Close, Dartmouth, Devon (centred on NGR: SX 8773 5134; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken under 'permitted development' during the replacement of existing gas pipes to update and rationalise the gas main network. 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* issued by Graham Tait, Archaeologist, Historic Environment Service, Devon County Council (DCC ref: 52L0075_1_0077_1213), and with a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2013) and approved by Mr Tait. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2009), and the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991), the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006).

The site

1.3 The works comprised the excavation of 11 trenches (Trenches 1 to 11) during the replacement of the gas main within the core of the medieval settlement of Dartmouth, adjacent to St Saviour's Church within Church Close and Anzac Street. The site lies at approximately 9.5m AOD, dropping away gently to the south.

1.4 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Bovisand Formation of the Devonian Period (BGS 2013). Shale and mudstone was encountered within Trenches 8, 9, 10 and 11.

Archaeological background

1.5 The site is located within the core of the medieval settlement of Dartmouth, adjacent to, and within the grounds of, St Saviour's Church. The Church building dates from the 14th century and is a Grade I listed structure (English Heritage Building ID 387192). Although the church has been renovated and enlarged many times, particularly in the 17th and 19th centuries, elements of the original 14th century edifice are still visible. A Royal Geographical Society map dated 1862-91 and the



Town Plan of 1888 indicate that the layout of the churchyard and the surrounding streets have remained unchanged for at least the last 150 years (Old-Maps 2013).

Archaeological objectives

- 1.6 The objectives of the archaeological works were to:
- 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

- 1.7 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2013). An archaeologist was present during the excavation of Trenches 8 to 11 (Fig. 2), due to the high potential for human remains beneath the modern road surface in this area of Church Close. In the remaining trenches (1 to 7) the trenches were monitored following the removal of current road surfaces and modern service trench fill. In the event, the section of the pipeline within the grounds of the church that was covered by the DCCHES *Brief* was not excavated.
- 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). All archaeological features and deposits exposed in the faces of the trenches were cleaned by hand. Spoil generated during the excavation was visually examined for the recovery of artefacts.
- 1.9 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter. 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 (FIG. 2)

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the archaeological results; detailed summaries of recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B respectively. Details of relative heights given in the text is expressed as metres below the current ground surface of the relevant trench for each feature, deposit, or structure under discussion.
- 2.2 The natural geological substrate, consisting of shale and mudstone was encountered within Trenches 8, 9, 10 and 11 at 0.3m, 0.14m, 0.37m, and 0.16m below present ground level (bpgl) respectively.
- 2.3 All trenches were excavated within the fills of existing service trenches. No archaeological features or deposits were identified in Trenches 1, 6 and 9.

Trench 7 (Fig 2)

- 2.4 The earliest deposit encountered was gravelly clay deposit 707. Due to its limited exposure interpretation of this material is not possible. This was cut by foundation trench 710 for broadly east/west orientated wall foundation 709; a 1.5m long section of which was exposed. The wall foundation was constructed from shale blocks laid in relatively regular courses, bonded together by white sandy lime mortar. The wall foundation was 0.6m in width and survived to height of at least 0.2m, but was not fully exposed. This was overlain by tarmac 706 and modern deposits and services. All deposits were sealed by modern tarmac 701.

Trench 8 (Fig 2)

- 2.5 The natural geological substrate (805) consisting of shale bedrock, was revealed at depths of between 0.3m and 0.55m bpgl. This was overlain by deposit 803, which comprised shale fragments in a clay matrix, up to 0.4m thick. Parts of six inhumation burials (804) were identified within the cleaned section of this deposit, which were identified within the section exposed by the re-excavated pipe trench 807 (see Fig. 3). Despite hand-cleaning no grave cuts were identified, although they must have existed.
- 2.6 The burials remained unexcavated as they were not impacted upon by the current works. No further artefactual or ecofactual material was identified and no human



bone was recovered from the excavated backfill. The exposed remains of each burial are detailed below:

Burial 1: Left humerus, scapula and mandible

Burial 2: Tibula and possible fibula

Burial 3: Left humerus, radius, ulna, metacarpals and scapula

Burial 4: Vertebrae, ribs and skull

Burial 5: Humerus and ulna

Burial 6: Decayed cervical vertebrae

2.7 Modern deposits, services and surfaces were also identified.

Trench 10 (Fig 2)

2.8 The natural geological substrate, 1005, consisting of shale bedrock, was revealed at 0.37m bpgl. This was cut by 1004, the cut of east/west orientated inhumation burial 1003. The burial was identified within the exposed section of the re-excavated pipe trench 1006 and remained unexcavated. It was not impacted upon by the current works. No further artefactual or ecofactual material was identified and no human bone was recovered from the excavated backfill. The deposits outlined above were overlain by modern deposits.

Trench 11 (Fig 2)

2.9 Right-angled wall foundations 1104/1109/1110 were identified towards the eastern end of the trench. These ran for c. 4.5m, orientated north/south (1104/1110), with a c. 0.5m long east/west orientated return (1109). The wall had previously been truncated at the centre of its exposed length by the cut of pipe trench 1107. The wall was constructed from red brick and angular shale blocks in rough courses, bonded together by sandy lime mortar. It was 0.4m in width and survived to height of at least 0.13m, but was not fully exposed. A brick fragment and a piece of clay pipe recovered from wall foundation 1104 date to the 17th century.



The finds

- 2.10 The finds recovered from the watching brief consisted of a piece of brick and a clay tobacco pipe stem, both recovered from deposit 1104. The brick fragment had a sandy oxidised fabric, with occasional slate inclusions, with a maximum thickness of 61mm. A 17th century date for the brick was likely, with a similar date for the tobacco pipe stem also probable. The material was of limited archaeological significance and was not retained.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The earliest features encountered during watching brief comprised a group of seven inhumation burials, representing the graves of at least seven individuals. These were identified within the exposed section of existing service trenches. Although only one grave cut was identified, their proximity to St Saviour's Church would indicate deliberate burials within the church cemetery. Deposit 803, within which the human remains were identified within Trench 8, is likely to represent accumulated graveyard soil. The burials are undated artefactually but can confidently be attributed to the period between the 14th and 20th centuries by association with St Saviour's Church.
- 3.2 The discovery of the burials beyond the limit of the present church graveyard indicates that there must have been some re-arrangement or contraction of the churchyard, although the historical mapping suggests that this is not likely to have been effected within the recent past.
- 3.3 Within Trenches 7 and 11, two small segments of *in situ* wall were exposed. These could not be attributed to any structures depicted on the earliest maps consulted, i.e. the Royal Geographical Society map dated 1862-91 and Town Plan of 1888, however they appear to conform to the orientation of the present street plan which has its origins during the medieval period. Wall foundations 1104 contained bricks dating to the 17th century. Due to their very limited exposure further interpretation of these structures is not possible.
- 3.4 The watching brief identified no archaeological remains within Trenches 1 to 6 and 9, which were located entirely within existing service trenches.



4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Peter Busby. The report was written by Peter Busby and Mark Brett. The illustrations were prepared by Dan Bashford. The finds report was compiled by Angus Crawford. The archive has been compiled by Tom Weavil, and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Laurent Coleman.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2013 Geology of Britain Viewer http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 25/04/2013.

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013 *Church Close, Dartmouth, Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

DCC (Devon County Council) 2012 *Brief for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording During Excavations for Trenching and Associated Groundworks* Ref: DCC 52L0075_1_0077_1213



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

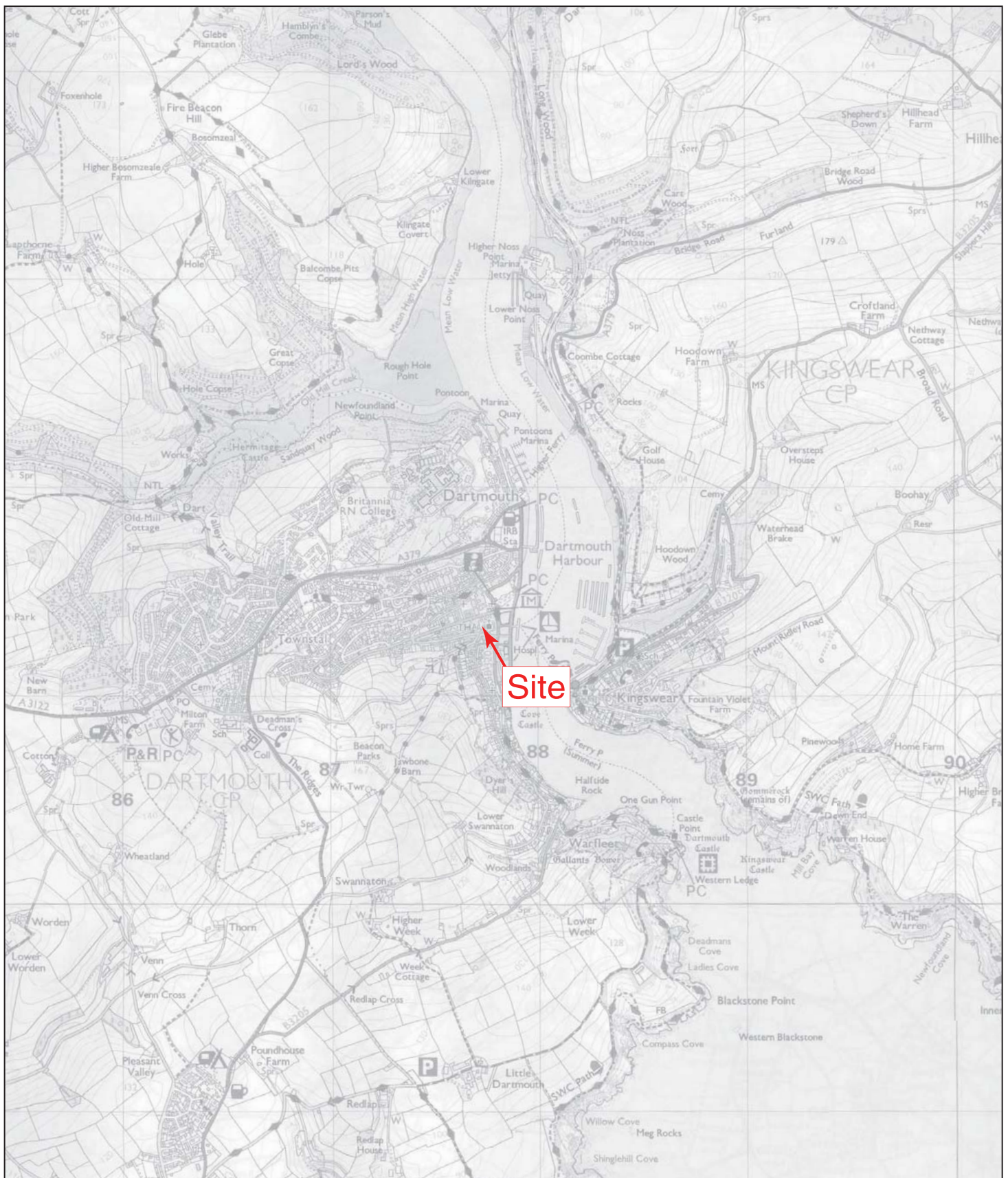
Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	101	Layer		Modern road surface	Black tarmac	3.8	0.8	0.13	
1	102	Fill	Cut (s) Not seen	Fill of numerous service trenches	Grey crushed limestone	3.8	0.8	>0.7	
2	201	Layer		Modern road surface	Black tarmac	1.9	0.8	0.13	
2	202	Fill	Cut (s) Not seen	Fill of numerous service trenches	Grey crushed limestone	1.9	0.8	>0.49	
3	301	Layer		Modern road surface	Black tarmac	0.7	0.8	0.14	
3	302	Fill		Fill of numerous service trenches	Grey crushed limestone	0.7	0.8	>0.59	
4	401	Layer		Modern road surface	Black tarmac	1	0.8	0.13	
4	402	Fill		Fill of numerous service trenches	Grey crushed limestone	1	0.8	>0.61	
5	501	Layer		Modern road surface	Black tarmac	1.5	0.8	0.15	
5	502	Fill	503	Fill of former gas main trench	Grey crushed limestone	0.8	0.5	0.6	
5	503	Cut		Cut for former gas main	Vertical sides, flat base	0.8	0.5	0.6	
5	504	Fill		Fill of numerous service trenches	Greyish brown silty-clay with frequent small to large shale stones	1.1	0.8	0.5	
6	101	Layer		Modern road surface	Black tarmac	1.5	1.5	0.13	
6	102	Fill		Fill of numerous service trenches	Grey crushed limestone	1.5	1.5.8	0.55	
7	701	Layer		Modern road surface	Black tarmac	2	2	0.28	
7	702	Cut		Cut of service trench	Vertical sides. Base not seen	2	2	>0.75	
7	703	Fill	702	Fill of numerous service trenches	Brown sandy silt, frequent bricks, large stones, and lumps of mortar	2	2	>0.75	
7	704	Layer		Demolition rubble	Greyish brown clayey sand with frequent large angular shale stones, bonded with white lime mortar and decaying wood.	2	2	>0.6	
7	705	Void							
7	706	Layer		Surface	Dark grey tarmac	>0.6	>0.2	0.08	
7	707	Layer		Made grown	Yellowish brown shale and gravelly clay	>0.48	>0.2	>0.25	
7	708	Layer		Former wall plate or threshold?	Soft brown silt overlying wall foundation 709	>0.25	0.2	0.04	
7	709	Wall	710	E-W wall	Large angular shale stones in rough courses. Light yellowy white lime mortar bonding	>0.65	0.65	>0.23	
7	710	Cut		Cut for wall 709	Vertical sides. Base not seen.	>0.65	0.65	>0.23	
8	801	Layer		Modern road surface	Black tarmac	6	0.8	0.15	
8	802	Layer		Levelling layer under tarmac 801	Compact brown sandy gravel with frequent mortar flecks	5	>0.2	0.08	

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
8	803	Fill	804	Multiple grave fills	Homogenous brown clayey shale gravel containing the remains of at least six articulated human burials	5	>0.2	0.39	
8	804	Cut		Multiple grave cuts	Vertical sides and flat bases, cutting natural shale 805, the facets of the cut do not match many of the articulated skeletons in fill 803. This context was not excavated.	5	>0.2	0.39	
8	805	Layer		Natural shale	Natural shale encountered 0.3m below current road surface	6	0.8	>0.6	
8	806	Fill	807	Fill of service trench	Mixed dirty brown clayey shale gravel with frequent large lumps of tarmac and large shale stones containing multiple modern services	6	0.8	>0.6	
8	807	Cut		Service trench	Vertical sides. Base not seen.	6	0.8	>0.6	
9	901	Layer		Modern road surface	Black tarmac	1.8	1	0.1	
9	902	Fill		Fill of numerous service trenches extent not seen	Mixed greyish brown silty shale gravel with frequent large angular lumps of black tarmac	1.8	1	>0.5	
9	903	Layer		Natural Shale	Solid natural shale encountered 0.14m m below current road surface	n/a	n/a	n/a	
10	1001	Layer		Modern road surface	Black tarmac	1.32	0.8	0.10	
10	1002	Fill	1006	Fill of numerous service trenches	Mixed grey brown silty shale gravel with frequent large angular lumps of black tarmac	1.32	0.8	>0.6	
10	1003	Fill	1004	Fill of grave 1004	Greyish brown silty shale gravel with occasional human bone (not excavated), identified in side of the trench	0.9	0.22	0.33	
10	1004	Cut		Grave cut	Vertical sides. Base not seen	0.9	0.22	0.33	
10	1005	Layer		Natural shale	Natural shale encountered 0.37m below current road surface				
10	1006	Cut		Cut for numerous service trenches	Vertical sides. Base not seen	1.32	0.8	>0.6	
11	1101	Layer		Modern road surface	Black tarmac	3.8	0.8	0.13	
11	1102	Layer		Possible sub-base for tarmac	Bright yellow clay-sand with frequent assorted shale gravel inclusions	4.5	2	0.03	
11	1103	Layer		Foundation/leveling layer for 1101	Grey brown clayey silt with frequent shale gravel inclusions	4.5	2	0.09	
11	1104	Wall	1105	N-S wall. Continuation of wall 1110	Large angular shale stones set in rough courses. Off white lime mortar, with frequent brick fragments and a clay pipe stem at its base	n/a	1	0.13	C17th

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
11	1105	Cut		Cut for wall foundation 1104	Vertical sided cut, flat base	n/a	1	0.13	
11	1106	Layer		Natural shale	Natural shale identified across the trench	5.5	4.5	>0.54	
11	1107	Cut		Cut of numerous service trenches	Group number for vertically sided linear service trenches	5.8	4.5	>0.7	
11	1108	Fill	1107	Fill of numerous service trenches	Grey crushed limestone and brown shale gravel with occasional large lumps of black tarmac	5.8	4.5	>0.7	
11	1109	Wall		E-W wall. Right-angled return of wall 1104	Large angular shale stones. No mortar observed	>0.4	n/a	0.12	
11	1110	Wall		N-S wall. Continuation of wall 1104	Large angular shale stones, set in three rough courses. Off white lime mortar	>1.5	>0.3	0.2	

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Church Close, Dartmouth, Devon	
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with gas main replacement works at Church Close, Dartmouth, Devon.</p> <p>The earliest features encountered during the watching brief comprised a group of seven inhumation burials, exposed within the section of existing service trenches. A 17th-century stone and brick wall foundation and an undated stone wall foundation were also identified.</p> <p>The majority of the trenches were excavated wholly within the backfill of existing service trenches and contained no significant archaeological features or deposits.</p>	
Project dates	6 - 26 March 2013	
Project type	Archaeological watching brief	
Previous work	Unknown	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Church Close, Dartmouth, Devon	
Study area (M ² /ha)	n/a	
Site co-ordinates	SX 8773 5134	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Historic Environment Service, Devon County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Laurent Coleman	
Project Supervisor	Stuart Joyce	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	Royal Albert Memorial Museum	Trench sheets, context sheets, drawings; photographs
Digital	Royal Albert Memorial Museum	Database, digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013 <i>Church Close, Dartmouth, Devon: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 13166		



Cirencester 01285 771022
 Milton Keynes 01908 218320
 Andover 01264 326549
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Church Close, Dartmouth, Devon

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

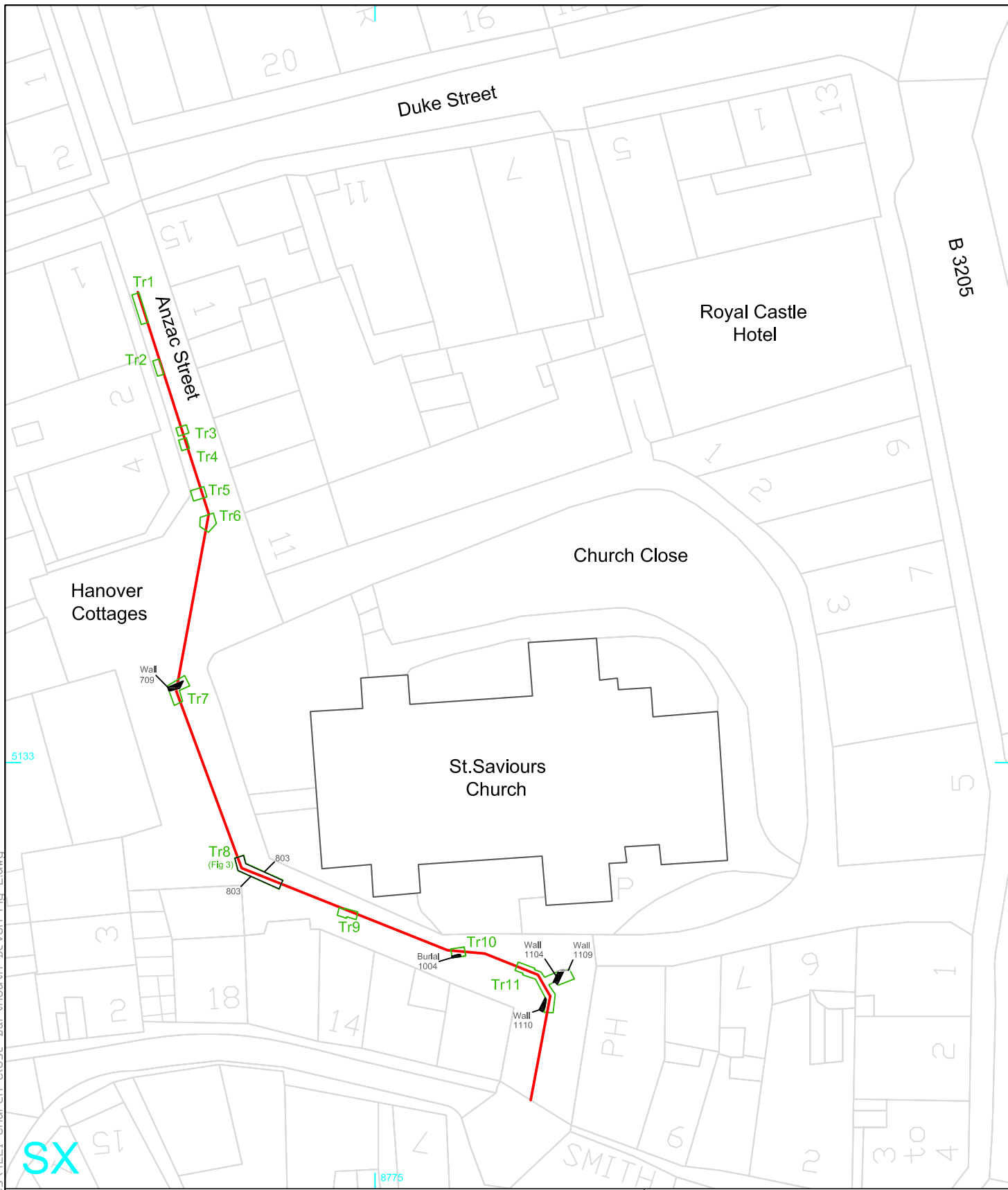


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PROJECT NO. 4221 DATE 15-15-2013
 DRAWN BY DJB REVISION 00
 APPROVED BY PJM SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1



- site
- evaluation trench
- archaeological feature



Cirencester 01285 771022
 Milton Keynes 01908 218320
 Andover 01264 326549
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
Church Close, Dartmouth, Devon

FIGURE TITLE
The Site, showing location of groundworks

PROJECT NO.	4221	DATE	15-05-2013	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	DJB	REVISION	00	2
APPROVED BY	PJM	SCALE@A4	1:1000	



3 Trench 8, looking north-west, showing graveyard soil 803 (scale 2m)



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 Milton Keynes 01908 218320
 Andover 01264 326549
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enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Church Close, Dartmouth, Devon

FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

PROJECT NO. 4221 DATE 28-05-2013
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FIGURE NO.

3