

**Land to the Rear of Holy Cross Almshouses
Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury
Shropshire**

Archaeological Evaluation



for
Morris Property Limited


CA Project: 4695
CA Report: 14001

February 2014

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prepared by	Tim Havard, Project Officer
date	4 February 2014
checked by	Laurent Coleman, Principal Fieldwork Manager
date	4 February 2014
approved by	Cliff Bateman, Principal Fieldwork Manager
signed	
date	4 February 2014
issue	01

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Cirencester Building 11 Kemble Enterprise Park Kemble, Cirencester Gloucestershire, GL7 6BQ t. 01285 771022 f. 01285 771033	Milton Keynes Unit 4 Cromwell Business Centre Howard Way, Newport Pagnell MK16 9QS t. 01908 218320	Andover Stanley House Walworth Road Andover, Hampshire SP10 5LH t. 01264 347630
e. enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk		

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Land to the Rear of Holy Cross Almshouses
Location: Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire
NGR: SJ 4980 1259
Type: Evaluation
Date: 13-17 January 2014
Planning Reference: Shropshire Council 13/03670/FUL
Location of Archive: Shropshire County Museum Service
Accession Number: E.00584 (2014)
Site Code: HCA 14

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in January 2014 at Land to the Rear of Holy Cross Almshouses, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire. A total of five trenches were excavated.

The evaluation identified pits and a well of medieval date likely to be associated with medieval occupation of the Horsefair. Additionally, surfaces and a wall footing of a possible medieval date and other structural features dating from the 17th century or later through to the modern period were identified.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In January 2014 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Morris Property Limited on Land to the Rear of Holy Cross Almshouses, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire (centred on NGR: SJ 4980 1259; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application (planning ref: 13/03670/FUL) for the construction of 52 apartments and associated parking facilities.

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2013) and approved by Dr Andy Wigley, Principal Archaeologist, Historic Environment Team, Shropshire Council. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2009), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (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 Andy Wigley, including a site visit on 16 January 2014.

The site

1.3 The proposed development area enclosed an area of approximately 1.1ha. However, only the eastern part of the site, an area of approximately 0.2ha, was subject to an evaluation. A watching brief is to be undertaken on the rest of the site. The area subject to evaluation lies at approximately 51m AOD, and sloped gently downwards from north to south.

1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Salop Formation mudstone, sandstone and conglomerate of the Permian and Carboniferous Periods. Superficial deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel alluvium dating to the Quaternary Period are noted in this area (BGS 2014).

Archaeological background

1.5 The site has been the subject of a Desk-based Assessment (DBA) and Heritage Impact Assessment (Morris 2013). The DBA, the results of which are summarised below, identified areas of high, medium and low archaeological potential. The area once occupied by buildings on the northern and western side of the Horsefair was considered as having high archaeological potential. The area behind buildings on

the northern side of the Horsefair was considered an area of medium potential whilst the remainder of the site was considered as having low potential having been open fields until the mid-19th century (ibid, 24-25).

Roman

- 1.6 There is potential for archaeological remains in the areas immediately adjacent to the Abbey Foregate road, which marks the historical entrance to Shrewsbury from the east. The origins of the street and related development are unknown, however there is some evidence for Roman activity such as a villa in this area (Morris 2013, 6).

Medieval

- 1.7 The site lies immediately northwest of Shrewsbury Abbey, a Scheduled Monument, that was established c.1083-90 (National Monument 1003718). Shortly after the establishment of the Abbey, a mill race was installed to power a series of water mills, one of which was sited close to the abbey precinct (Morris 2013, 6). The property boundaries respect the line of the mill race and are likely to be contemporary. The north-eastern extent of the site extends over the area occupied by the medieval street frontage on Horsefair; this area was shown to contain significant depths of stratified deposits including the remains of buildings and industrial features during trial excavations in 1991 (ibid, 24).
- 1.8 Excavations in Abbey Foregate to the west of the abbey, at the Peach Tree restaurant, encountered metallised surfaces approximately 0.4m below the present ground level (Morris 2013, 24).

Post-medieval

- 1.9 Available map evidence suggests relatively limited activity, with open fields being illustrated in the early 17th century (Morris 2013, 7). The Holy Cross Almshouses were built in the early 1850s and are Grade II listed buildings.

Archaeological objectives

- 1.10 The objectives of the evaluation are to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality, in accordance with the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2009). This information will enable Shropshire Council to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage

asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

Methodology

- 1.11 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of five trenches in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). The location of the trenches was altered slightly in the field due to the locations of existing services. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual* (2012).
- 1.12 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2013).
- 1.13 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* (2003) and no deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation* (1995).
- 1.14 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 Shropshire County Museum Service under accession number E.00584 (2014) along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix D, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-6)

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B respectively

Details of the relative heights of the principal deposits and features expressed as metres Above Ordnance Datum (m AOD) appear in Appendix C.

Trench 1 (Figs 2 & 3)

- 2.2 A possible buried subsoil, 1007, comprising light brown yellow sandy clay was overlain by demolition or levelling deposit 1006 from which ten sherds of 19th-century pottery were recovered. This deposit was cut by the construction cut, 1009, for wall footing 1002. This comprised a single course of roughly squared sandstone blocks lying on an east/west alignment along the southern edge of the trench. It was butted on its northern side by a poorly coursed brick wall, 1003, and a patch of mortar, 1004, which bore the impression of a removed sandstone block. Both features, and earlier wall 1002, were butted by layer 1005 which comprised black sandy silt and clinker. The northern half of the trench was truncated by a large concrete footing and concrete encased service, 1008, which was sealed by modern levelling 1001 and the existing tarmac 1000.

Trench 2 (Figs 2-4)

- 2.3 The probable natural substrate, 2026, comprising yellow clay sand, was identified towards the north-western end of the trench at approximately 1.3m below present ground level (bpgl). It was overlain by yellow brown sand buried subsoil 2007 which measured approximately 0.1m in depth, which was in turn sealed by buried topsoil 2006.
- 2.4 A possible foundation trench, 2021, was identified in the northern half of the trench cut through the buried topsoil 2006. It had vertical sides, a flat base and contained a deliberate backfill 2020 of mixed sand, mortar and brick suggestive of demolition rubble. Ditch 2004 lay immediately to the south on a south-west/north-east alignment although there was no stratigraphic relationship between the two features. It was also cut through the buried topsoil 2006 and had moderately sloped sides, a flat base and contained a single deliberate backfill 2003 of clinker, mortar and brick rubble. A small quantity of late 18th to 19th-century pottery was recovered from the fills of both features which were sealed by a levelling deposit 2005. This deposit was cut by two modern soakaways and a modern service.
- 2.5 A probable buried subsoil, 2010, comprising yellow brown silty sand similar to 2007, was identified towards the south-eastern extent of the trench. A brown grey clay silt deposit, 2012, containing frequent charcoal and small ceramic building material (CBM) fragments lay immediately adjacent to the south. No relationship was

established between the two deposits which were both overlain by probable metallated surface 2011. This comprised small to medium sub-rounded stones set in a clay matrix from which seven small sherds of 13th to 15th-century pottery was recovered. This was sealed by a disturbed buried topsoil deposit, 2013, from which 19th-century pottery was recovered and which itself was cut by a north-east/south-west aligned robber cut 2015.

- 2.6 A possible metallated surface, 2017, comprising light brown clay into which several cobbles had been set, was identified in the south-east corner of the trench. This was overlain by a single course of a sandstone wall footing, 2018, which lay on an approximate north/south alignment. No artefactual material was recovered from either the surface or the wall which had both been cut by a modern manhole and associated drain.

Trench 3 (Figs 2, 3 & 5)

- 2.7 A probable demolition deposit, 3013, comprising mixed silty sand with mortar and CBM rubble and measuring at least 0.2m in depth, was identified in a hand dug slot towards the eastern extent of the trench. Two large pieces of CBM dating to the 17th or 18th century were recovered from this deposit which was cut by construction cut 3014 for wall footing 3005 (Fig. 5, Section AA). This comprised three courses of roughly hewn sandstone blocks and the fragmentary survival of one brick course. The wall footing was butted on its eastern side by a mortar and CBM deposit, 3012, whose compacted nature suggested it served as a bedding layer for a surface which has not survived. The wall was also butted on its western side by a sandy silt and CBM rubble deposit, 3008, which was much less compacted than 3012 and from which a small quantity of late 18th to 19th-century pottery was recovered. Both rubble deposits were sealed by buried topsoil 3009 which measured an average of 0.7m in depth and from which mid to late 19th-century pottery was recovered. This deposit was cut by a robber cut 3006 whose location indicated it had been targeted on wall footing 3005.
- 2.8 A brick culvert, 3010, was identified towards the western extent of the trench on a north-west/south-east alignment. It had been backfilled with a mixed mortar and CBM rubble 3011 and truncated by demolition cut 3003 which had been cut through buried topsoil 3009.

Trench 4 (Figs 2, 3 & 6)

- 2.9 All features identified in Trench 4 were cut into natural gravel substrate 4001 which was identified throughout the trench at a depth of between 0.3m and 0.7m bpgl. This deposit was sealed by buried topsoil 4015 in the northern third of the trench but was directly overlain by modern levelling deposit 4000 throughout the remainder of the trench.
- 2.10 Pit 4006, identified towards the southern extent of Trench 4, was circular in plan with vertical sides and an uneven base and measured 0.97m in diameter and 0.31m in depth (Fig. 6, Section CC). It contained primary sandy silt fill, 4005, whose green grey colouring suggested it derived from cess material. This was sealed by three further successive sandy silt fills 4004, 4003 and 4002. Two sherds of 12th to 14th-century pottery were recovered from fill 4003 and two sherds of 12th to 15th-century pottery from 4002.
- 2.11 Pit 4014, identified towards the centre of the trench, was sub-oval in plan with steep sides and a concave base and measured 2m in length, at least 1.3m in width and 0.8m in depth. It contained primary sandy silt fill 4013, whose green grey colouring suggested it derived from cess material, from which a single sherd of 12th to 14th-century pottery was recovered. This was sealed by three further successive sandy silt fills 4012, 4011 and 4010. Nine sherds of 13th to 14th-century pottery were recovered from fill 4012, nine sherds of 13th to 15th-century pottery from fill 4011 and 73 sherds of 13th to 14th-century pottery from fill 4010.
- 2.12 The southern extent of pit 4014 was cut by a smaller circular pit, 4009, which contained two sandy silt fills (4008 which was sealed by 4007). Two sherds of 17th to 18th-century pottery and two fragments of CBM of the same date were recovered from the second fill 4007.
- 2.13 An unexcavated sub-square pit, 4019, was identified towards the northern end of the trench and contained a single identified brown grey clay silt fill, 4018, from which no artefactual material was retrieved. This was cut by probable well 4017 which was rectangular in plan with vertical sides (Fig. 6, Section BB). It contained a single identified fill, 4016, of yellow brown clay silt from which ten sherds of 13th to 14th-century pottery were recovered. Safety considerations prevented full excavation of this feature, but insertion of a probe into the base of the excavated slot suggested it had been cut into the natural gravel to a depth of at least 1.9m. Dark staining visible

around the edge of fill 4016, and fill 4018, may represent a former wood lining. Fill 4016 was sealed by buried topsoil 4015.

- 2.14 A further five pits were identified within Trench 4 but were not excavated. Pit 4021 was located in the northern part of the trench. It measured approximately 1.23m in diameter and its uppermost fill, 4020, comprised green grey sandy silt, suggestive of cess material. Unexcavated pits 4023, 4025 and 4029 were circular in plan and varied between 0.52m and 0.82m in diameter. Their uppermost fills, 4022, 4024 and 4028 respectively, also consisted of green grey sandy silt. Pit 4027 was partially exposed along the eastern side of the trench it measured approximately 0.92m in diameter and also contained a green grey sandy silt fill, 4026. No dateable material was recovered from the surface of these features.

Trench 5 (Figs 2 & 3)

- 2.15 A possible buried subsoil, 5003, consisting of mid grey brown clay silt was identified approximately 1.2m bpgl. Further mechanical excavation demonstrated that this deposit measured at least 0.3m in depth, becoming slightly lighter in colour towards its base. This deposit was sealed by dark grey brown clay silt buried topsoil, 5002, which was sealed by levelling layer 5001 for the existing tarmac 5000. No artefactual material was retrieved from this trench.

The finds and palaeoenvironmental evidence

- 2.16 Finds recovered during the evaluation included pottery, ceramic building material, glass, clay tobacco pipe and metal objects. Codings for medieval fabrics given in parenthesis in the text and Appendix B correspond to the Shrewsbury Abbey type series codes as defined by Bryant (2002).

Pottery: medieval

- 2.17 A total of 93 sherds of Unglazed Sandy Cooking Pots (fabric 80), dating to the 12th to 13th centuries, were recovered from seven contexts (see Table 1), (Bryant 2002, 91-92). These included: rimsherds from eight jars with developed/thickened rims from fill 4010 of pit 4009; a rimsherd from a jar with a thickened, everted rim from fill 4011 of pit 4014; a rimsherd from a jar with a thickened, everted rim from fill 4012 of pit 4014; rimsherds from two jars with developed, everted rims from buried topsoil 4015; and a rimsherd from a jar with a developed, everted rim from fill 4016 of well 4017.

- 2.18 One bodysherd of Early Glazed Sandy Ware (fabric 3) was recovered from fill 4010 of pit 4014 and one from modern levelling layer 4015. Both sherds featured rouletted decoration, which is typical of this fabric type which was commonly used to make pitchers, and dates to the 12th to 13th centuries (Bryant 2002, 93). A foot from a tripod pitcher was also recovered from fill 4010 of pit 4014.
- 2.19 Three joining bodysherds of Local Sandy Wares (fabrics 14 or 82) were recovered from buried topsoil 4015 in addition to four bodysherds from fill 4016 of well 4017. These featured olive green glaze and most likely represented jugs. This ware type dates to the 13th and 14th centuries (Bryant 2002, 95-97).
- 2.20 A number of pottery sherds were recovered in fabrics not represented in the assemblage from Shrewsbury Abbey. A total of eight glazed sherds in an oxidised jug fabric with frequent quartz temper were recovered from fills 4011 and 4012 of pit 4014, buried topsoil 4015 and fill 4016 of well 4017. The sherds from fill 4016 included a fragment from a slashed strap handle. Two bodysherds in a buff-firing, sandy jug fabric were recovered from fill 4003 of pit 4006. Metalled surface 2011 produced seven sherds in a hard-firing, glazed fabric with quartz and clay pellet inclusions. One bodysherd in a quartz-tempered fabric featuring internal and external glaze was recovered from fill 4011 of pit 4014.

Post-medieval

- 2.21 One bodysherd of Tudor Green pottery was recovered from disturbed buried topsoil 2013. Vessels (mostly cups and jugs) in this white ware fabric were manufactured during the 15th to 16th centuries on the Hampshire/Surrey border and it is commonly found in western England (WCC 2014).
- 2.22 A total of three bodysherds of Midlands Purple ware were recovered from modern backfill 2002 and disturbed buried soil 2013. This 'proto-stoneware', wheel-thrown fabric was produced throughout the Midlands region and dates to the 15th to 18th centuries (Bryant 2002, 103).
- 2.23 A total of six sherds of Midlands glazed earthenware types, with pale buff-coloured fabrics, were recovered: one sherd of black-glazed from demolition layer 1006; one sherd of brown-glazed from buried soil 3009; and four sherds of mottled brown-glazed from demolition layer 1006, levelling layer 3004 and fill 4007 of pit 4009.

Forms represented included a jar from layer 1006 and a tankard from fill 4007, both in Midlands mottled brown-glazed earthenware. These ware types were manufactured in Staffordshire and Derbyshire during the 17th and 18th centuries (Soden and Ratkai 1998, 188-189).

- 2.24 A total of 11 sherds of black-, brown- and refined brown-glazed earthenware, refined glazed red earthenware, glazed earthenware and unglazed earthenware pottery were recovered from disturbed buried soil 2013, fill 2020 of cut 2021, demolition deposit 3008, buried soil 3009 and fill 4007 of pit 4009. All were bodysherds apart from the refined glazed red earthenware sherd from buried topsoil 3009, which was a fragment of a teapot lid. These types typically date to the late 17th to 18th/19th centuries.
- 2.25 A total of four sherds of 'Late' English stoneware, dating to the second half of the 19th century, were recovered from disturbed buried topsoil 2013 and buried soil 3009.
- 2.26 Modern backfill 2002 and disturbed buried topsoil 2013 contained a total of three sherds of yellow slipware, which were produced in Staffordshire and Bristol during the late 17th and 18th centuries (Soden and Ratkai 1998, 203). A total of three sherds of yellow ware were also recovered from modern backfill 2002 and buried soil 3009. A sherd of Bristol/Staffordshire mottled brown glaze earthenware/'Tiger ware' was also recovered from deposit 2013.
- 2.27 Buried soil 3009 produced two sherds of Mocha ware. This pottery type was manufactured in Bristol and Staffordshire during the first half of the 19th century (Soden and Ratkai 1998, 193).
- 2.28 Modern backfill 2002 produced three sherds of Creamware, dateable to c. 1740-1780, from a plate and a dish. A total of three sherds of Pearlware were recovered from three contexts. The sherd from backfill 2024 had been decorated with blue transfer-printing and that from buried soil 3009 featured blue painted decoration. Pearlware was manufactured at centres including Staffordshire and Bristol from c. 1790 (Jarrett 2013, 180). A total of 21 sherds of refined whiteware were recovered from seven contexts (see Table 1). Of these, 17 featured transfer printed decoration in blue, one in black and one displayed blue sponged decoration. These pottery types are dateable to the late-18th to 19th centuries.

Ceramic building material

- 2.29 A total of four fragments of medieval ceramic building material were recovered from metalled surface 2011, slump layer 4015 and fill 4016 of well 4017. The fragment from fill 4016 was part of a tile, however, the rest were too fragmentary for further classification.
- 2.30 Fill 4007 of pit 4009 produced two fragments of late medieval/post-medieval ceramic building material. A total of four fragments of post-medieval ceramic building material were recovered from disturbed buried topsoil 2013, buried soil 3009 and demolition rubble layer 3013.

Glass

- 2.31 One fragment from the neck and rim of a post-medieval bottle, dating from the later 17th to later 19th centuries, was recovered from disturbed buried topsoil 2013.

Clay tobacco pipe

- 2.32 A total of 18 fragments of clay tobacco pipe were recovered from modern backfill 2002, fill 2003 of ditch 2004, fill 2020 of feature 2021, modern backfill 2024 of a soakaway, demolition backfill 3002 of culvert 3010, and disturbed buried topsoil 2013. All were stem fragments and that from modern soakaway backfill 2024 had a partial bowl still attached, which did not feature any decoration or maker's mark. These fragments can be broadly dated to the late-16th to late-19th centuries.

Metal objects

- 2.33 An incomplete copper alloy ring of unknown function, measuring 25mm in external diameter, was recovered from demolition backfill 3002 of culvert 3010. Disturbed buried topsoil 2013 produced a distorted fragment of tubular lead, an iron nail and a fragmentary iron strip. None of the metal items are dateable.

Animal Bone

- 2.34 A total of seven fragments (153g) of animal bone were recovered from deposits 2013, 4011, 4015, and 4016. The bone was in a very poor state of preservation with heavy surface erosion observed together with historic and modern fragmentation. However, despite the poor condition, it was possible to identify every fragment. A single ovicaprid (*Ovis aries/Capra hircus*) radius was recovered from disturbed buried soil 2013, while the remaining fragments were identified as cattle (*Bos*

taurus). As both these species are frequent occurrences in assemblages of this period, there is little interpretative value to be gained beyond confirming the presence of cattle and ovicaprids on site.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The evaluation has uncovered evidence from the medieval, post-medieval and modern periods.

Medieval

- 3.2 The excavated pits and probable wells identified in Trench 4 are typical of the type of features which would be expected to survive at the rear of the medieval burgrave plots fronting onto the Horsefair. These findings bear comparison with other medieval sites previously excavated in Shrewsbury such as the site of the former Gas Board Offices on Pride Hill (Carver 1978, 232).

- 3.3 Further medieval activity may be represented by metalised surfaces 2011, from which 13th to 15th-century pottery was recovered, and 2017 which, although different in character to 2011 may be contemporary given its similarity in height. Sandstone wall footing 2018, directly overlying 2017 may also be medieval in date although further excavation would be needed to clarify this.

Post-Medieval

- 3.4 Wall footing 3005 can date no earlier than the 17th to 18th-century but is in the right location to represent one of the buildings shown fronting the north-west corner of the Horsefair on Rocque's 1746 map of Shrewsbury (Morriss 2013). However, it is equally possible that it may represent an altered building shown in the same location on Wood's 1838 plan of Shrewsbury (ibid) with the demolition rubble deposits identified deriving from demolition of structures depicted on the earlier map.

Post-Medieval/Modern

- 3.5 The large possible foundation trench 2021, is on a similar alignment to a glasshouse first depicted on the 1882 First Edition Ordnance Survey Map (Morriss 2013) but appears to be too far south to represent this structure. Its derivation therefore remains uncertain. The location of backfilled ditch 2004 immediately to the south of

2021 approximately correlates with a boundary first depicted on the same map (ibid).

- 3.6 Wall footing 1002 is likely to represent the footing of the glasshouse first depicted on an 1882 town plan of Shrewsbury (Morris 2013).

Undated

- 3.7 There is a noticeable discrepancy in the level of the natural substrate between Trench 4 where it was identified at 50.80m AOD and Trench 2 where it was exposed in a section excavated through 2011 at approximately 49.64m AOD. Such a difference on an otherwise gently sloping site may have been caused by terracing since removed by modern landscaping.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Tim Havard, assisted by Aleksandra Osinska, Pete Searle and Dane Wright. The report was written by Tim Havard. The illustrations were prepared by Jon Bennett. The finds were analysed by Jacky Sommerville and the animal bone by Andy Clarke. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Laurent Coleman and Simon Cox

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	1000	Layer		Existing tarmac		>9	>1.8	0.05	
1	1001	Layer		Modern levelling for 1000		>9	>1.8	0.35	
1	1002	wall		Sandstone wall footing	Single surviving course of roughly squared sandstone blocks aligned approximately E-W	>6.6	>0.4	0.27	
1	1003	wall		brick wall footing	poorly coursed brick wall footing butting 1002	0.8	0.3	0.23	
1	1004	Layer		mortar	patch of mortar butting 1003, left after removal of stone	0.36	0.38	n/a	
1	1005	Layer		demolition or levelling deposit	Clinker and sandy silt, seemingly butting 1002 and 1003	>4	>0.8	0.1	
1	1006	Layer		demolition or levelling deposit	CBM rubble mixed with dark grey brown silty sand. Cut by 1009.	>1.2	>0.8	0.25	C19
1	1007	Layer		disturbed subsoil	light yellow brown silty sand. Cut by 1009.	>8	>1	>0.05	
1	1008	layer		Modern concrete	Modern concrete foundation and services	>8	>2	>0.4	
1	1009	cut		Construction cut	Construction cut for 1002	>6.6	>0.4	0.27	
2	2000	Layer		Existing tarmac		>20	>1.8	0.05	
2	2001	Layer		modern levelling for 2000		>20	>1.8	0.4	
2	2002	fill	2016	Backfill of manhole construction cut		>1.5	1.4	>0.2	C19
2	2003	fill	2004	deliberate backfill of 2004	75% light grey mortar fragments and 25% CBM fragments	>1.8	1.45	0.5	LC18-C19
2	2004	Cut		Ditch	Linear aligned NE/SW, steep sides, flat base	>1.8	1.45	0.5	
2	2005	Layer		levelling layer	dark grey brown clay sand with CBM rubble inclusions	>20	>1.8	0.5	
2	2006	Layer		buried topsoil	dark brown clay silt with rare charcoal inclusions	>20	>1.8	0.5	
2	2007	Layer		buried subsoil	light yellow brown clay sand.	>10	>1.8	>0.1	
2	2008	fill	2009	soakaway backfill	70% mixed CBM and concrete rubble, 30% dark brown clay sand	3.6	>1.3	>0.8	
2	2009	cut		soakaway	modern soakaway	3.6	>1.3	>0.8	
2	2010	Layer		buried subsoil	same as 2007	>2	>1.8	>0.05	
2	2011	Layer		possible metal surface	small to medium sub-rounded and sub-angular stones set in a clay matrix	1.2	>0.5	>0.05	C13-C15
2	2012	Layer		disturbed subsoil	mid brown grey clay silt with frequent charcoal and CBM flecking	>0.6	>0.6	>0.05	
2	2013	Layer		disturbed buried topsoil	dark black brown silty sand	>1.8	>1.6	0.27	C19
2	2014	fill	2015	robber cut fill	mid grey brown silty clay and sand	>1.4	0.27	unexc	
2	2015	cut		robber/demolition cut	Unexcavated	>1.4	0.27	unexc	
2	2016	cut		manhole construction cut		>2.8	>1.8	0.4	
2	2017	Layer		possible metal surface	light brown yellow clay with 10% sub-rounded pebbles	0.7	>0.7	unexc	
2	2018	wall		wall footing	single course of roughly squared sandstone blocks sitting on 2017	>1	>0.3	0.3	

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)	Spot-date
2	2019	fill	2016	modern manhole		1.3	>0.7	>0.44	
2	2020	fill	2021	deliberate backfill of 2021	light yellow brown stone sand, mortar and brick rubble	>8	>1.3	1 max	LC18-C19
2	2021	cut		robber/demolition cut	linear, vertical sides, flat base	>8	>1.3	1 max	
2	2022	fill	2023	backfill of sewer cut		>1.9	0.8	>1.2	
2	2023	cut		modern sewer cut		>1.9	0.8	>1.2	
2	2024	fill	2025	soakaway backfill		1.8	1	>0.7	LC18-C19
2	2025	cut		soakaway		1.8	1	>0.7	
2	2026	Layer		natural substrate	yellow clay sand with sandstone fragments	>0.3	>0.3	unexc	
3	3000	Layer		Existing tarmac		>10	>1.8	0.08	
3	3001	Layer		levelling for 3000		>10	>1.8	0.2	
3	3002	fill	3003	backfill of demolition cut	dark brown grey clinker and sandy silt	>7.7	1.2	0.42	LC18-C19
3	3003	cut		demolition cut of 3010	linear, vertical sides, flat base	>7.7	1.2	0.42	
3	3004	Layer		levelling layer	same as 3009	>3	>1.8	0.55	LC17-C19
3	3005	wall	3014	wall footing	three courses of roughly hewn sandstone blocks with some brick inclusions	>1.8	0.62	0.58	
3	3006	cut		demolition cut of 3005	linear, aligned with 3005, steep sides, uneven base	>1.8	0.92	0.76	
3	3007	fill	3006	backfill of robber cut	dark grey black sandy silt with frequent irregular brick and stone inclusions	>1.8	0.92	0.76	
3	3008	Layer		demolition rubble	light brown grey 50% sandy silt, 50% angular brick, tile and mortar	>3.6	>1.8	>0.35	LC18-C19
3	3009	Layer		buried soil	dark brown grey silty sand	>7.9	>1.8	0.65	MC19-LC19
3	3010	culvert		brick culvert	two surviving brick built side walls of culvert	>0.5	1.2	>0.12	
3	3011	fill	3003	backfill of 3003	mortared CBM rubble infilling culvert 3010	>0.5	0.55	unexc	
3	3012	Layer		levelling layer butting 3005	compacted light grey white mortar mixed with angular CBM brick and tile rubble	2.36	1	0.16	
3	3013	Layer		demolition rubble	mid grey 50% silty sand, 50% CBM and mortar rubble	>0.4	>0.4	>0.3	C17-C18
3	3014	cut		construction cut for 3005	vertical SE side, only observed in one section	>0.4	>0.2	0.2	
4	4000	Layer		Existing tarmac and levelling		>20	>1.8	0.04	
4	4001	Layer		natural substrate	light grey yellow coarse gravel	>20	>1.8	>0.41	
4	4002	fill	4006	fourth pit fill	dark grey brown sandy silt	0.97	0.97	0.23	C12-C15
4	4003	fill	4006	third pit fill	mid brown red sandy silt			0.18	C12-C14
4	4004	fill	4006	second pit fill	mid grey brown sandy silt			0.23	
4	4005	fill	4006	first pit fill	light green grey sandy silt			0.12	
4	4006	cut		pit cut	circular, vertical sides, uneven base	0.97	0.97	0.67	
4	4007	fill	4009	second pit fill	dark grey sandy silt	1	0.86	0.25	LC17-C18
4	4008	fill	4009	first pit fill	dark brown grey sandy silt			0.15	
4	4009	cut		pit cut	circular, steep sides, flat base	1	0.94	0.31	
4	4010	fill	4014	fourth pit fill	mid grey brown sandy silt	>1.2	>0.4	0.3	C13-C14
4	4011	fill	4014	third pit fill	mid grey brown sandy silt	>1.2	>1.2	0.25	C13-C15
4	4012	fill	4014	second pit fill	light orange brown sandy silt	1	>0.8	0.2	C13-C14

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)	Spot-date
4	4013	fill	4014	first pit fill	light green grey sandy silt	>1.05	>0.7	0.5	C12-C14
4	4014	fill		pit cut	sub-oval, steep sides, concave base	2	>1.3	0.8	
4	4015	Layer		Buried topsoil	Dark brown grey silty sand	2.6	>1.8	0.3	C13-C14
4	4016	fill	4017	single exposed fill	mid yellow brown clay silt	1.45	>1.2	>0.6	C13-C14
4	4017	cut		probable well cut	rectangular, vertical sides, base not established	1.45	>1.2	>0.6	
4	4018	fill	4019	unexcavated pit fill	mid brown grey clay silt	>0.98	0.6	unexc	
4	4019	cut		unexcavated pit	rectangular in plan	>0.98	0.6	unexc	
4	4020	fill	4021	unexcavated pit fill	dark brown grey clay silt	1.23	1.23	unexc	
4	4021	cut		unexcavated pit	sub-circular in plan	1.23	1.23	unexc	
4	4022	fill	4023	unexcavated pit fill	dark brown grey clay silt	0.89	0.89	unexc	
4	4023	cut		unexcavated pit	sub-circular in plan	0.89	0.89	unexc	
4	4024	fill	4025	unexcavated pit fill	dark brown grey clay silt	0.82	0.58	unexc	
4	4025	cut		unexcavated pit	sub-circular in plan	0.82	0.58	unexc	
4	4026	fill	4027	unexcavated pit fill	dark brown grey clay silt	0.92	0.25	unexc	
4	4027	cut		unexcavated pit	sub-circular in plan	0.92	0.25	unexc	
4	4028	fill	4029	unexcavated pit fill	dark brown grey clay silt	0.96	0.96	unexc	
4	4029	cut		unexcavated pit	sub-circular in plan	0.96	0.96	unexc	
5	5000	Layer		Tarmac		>11	>1.8	0.06	
5	5001	Layer		Modern levelling	Mixed gravel and hardcore	>11	>1.8	0.6	
5	5002	Layer		Buried topsoil	Dark grey brown clay silt	>11	>1.8	0.65	
5	5003	Layer		Buried subsoil	Mid grey brown clay silt	>6	>0.6	>0.3	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Description	Count	Weight(g)	Spot-date
1006	Post-medieval pottery: Midlands black-glazed earthenware; Midlands mottled brown-glazed earthenware; transfer-printed refined whiteware	10	433	C19
2002	Post-medieval pottery: Midlands purple ware; creamware; yellow ware; yellow slipware; transfer-printed refined whiteware Clay tobacco pipe	8 7	130 21	C19
2003	Post-medieval pottery: refined whiteware Clay tobacco pipe	1 1	1 2	LC18-C19
2011	Medieval pottery: quartz-and-clay pellet tempered fabric Medieval ceramic building material	7 2	70 9	C13-C15
2013	Medieval pottery: Unglazed sandy cooking pot Post-medieval pottery: Tudor Green ware; Midlands purple ware; English stoneware; 'Tiger ware'; yellow ware; yellow slipware; black-glazed earthenware; unglazed earthenware; refined whiteware Post-medieval ceramic building material Clay tobacco pipe Post-medieval glass Lead object Iron object	1 13 1 3 1 1 2	1 117 7 5 50 5 69	C19
2020	Post-medieval pottery: transfer-printed refined whiteware; glazed earthenware Clay tobacco pipe	2 1	148 2	LC18-C19
2024	Post-medieval pottery: transfer-printed Pearlware; unglazed earthenware Clay tobacco pipe	2 1	134 7	LC18-C19
3002	Post-medieval pottery: pearlware; transfer-printed refined whiteware; sponge-decorated refined whiteware Clay tobacco pipe Copper alloy object	4 5 1	226 20 1	LC18-C19
3004	Post-medieval pottery: Midlands mottled brown-glazed earthenware	2	34	LC17-C18
3008	Post-medieval pottery: brown-glazed earthenware; refined brown-glazed earthenware; unglazed earthenware Plaster	5 1	518 422	LC18-C19
3009	Post-medieval pottery: English stoneware; Midlands brown-glazed earthenware; mocha ware; yellow ware; transfer-printed refined whiteware; painted pearlware; refined, glazed red earthenware; brown-glazed earthenware Post-medieval ceramic building material	17 1	591 22	MC19-LC19
3013	Post-medieval ceramic building material	2	2560	C17-C18
4002	Medieval pottery: sandy oxidised fabric	2	73	C12-C15
4003	Medieval pottery: buff-firing glazed jug fabric	2	25	C12-C14
4007	Post-medieval pottery: mottled brown-glazed earthenware; glazed earthenware Medieval/post-medieval ceramic building material	2 2	42 144	LC17-C18
4010	Medieval pottery: Early glazed sandy ware Medieval pottery: Unglazed sandy cooking pot	1 72	1542	C13-C14
4011	Medieval pottery: Unglazed sandy cooking pot; glazed jug fabric; glazed quartz-tempered fabric	9	265	C13-C15
4012	Medieval pottery: Unglazed sandy cooking pot; glazed jug fabric	9	373	C13-C14
4013	Medieval pottery: Unglazed sandy cooking pot	1	12	C12-C14
4015	Medieval pottery: Unglazed sandy cooking pot; Early glazed sandy ware; Local sandy ware; glazed jug fabric	10	188	C13-C14

Context	Description	Count	Weight(g)	Spot-date
	Medieval ceramic building material	1	43	
4016	Medieval pottery: Unglazed sandy cooking pot; Local sandy ware; glazed jug fabric	10	206	C13-C14
	Medieval ceramic building material	1	20	

APPENDIX C: LEVELS OF PRINCIPAL DEPOSITS AND STRUCTURES

Levels are expressed as metres below current ground level and as metres Above Ordnance Datum (AOD).

	Trench 1		Trench 2
Current ground level	0.00m (51.31m)	Current ground level	0.00m (51.23m)
Top of wall 1002	0.3m (51.01m)	Top of wall 2018	0.29m (50.94m)
Natural substrate	n/a	Top of surface 2017	0.56m (50.67m)
Limit of excavation	0.53m (50.78m)	Top of surface 2011	0.69m (50.54m)
		Top of buried topsoil 2006	0.65m (50.77m)
		Top of buried subsoil 2007	1.18m (50.20m)
		Natural substrate	1.3m (49.64m)
		Limit of excavation	1.3m (49.64m)

	Trench 3		Trench 4
Current ground level	0.00m (51.22m)	Current ground level	0.00m (51.42m)
Top of wall 3005	0.9m (50.32m)	Top of well 4015	0.2m (50.80m)
Top of deposit 3013	1.27m (49.95m)	Top of pit 4006	0.82 (50.55m)
Natural substrate	n/a	Natural substrate northern end of trench	0.2m (50.80m)
Limit of excavation	1.47m (49.75m)	Limit of excavation	1.2m (50.22m)

	Trench 5
Current ground level	0.00m (51.30m)
Top of buried topsoil 5001	0.6m (50.70m)
Top of buried subsoil	1.15m (50.15m)
Possible natural substrate	1.3m (50.00m)
Limit of excavation	1.3m (50.00m)

Upper figures are depth below modern ground level; lower figures in parentheses are metres AOD.

APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land to the Rear of Holy Cross Almshouses, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire: Archaeological Evaluation	
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in January 2014 at Land to the Rear of Holy Cross Almshouses, Shrewsbury, Shropshire. A total of five trenches were excavated. The evaluation identified pits and a well of medieval date likely to be associated with medieval occupation of the Horsefair. Additionally, surfaces and a wall footing of a possible medieval date and other structural features dating from the 17th century or later through to the modern period were identified.	
Project dates	13 – 17 January 2014	
Project type	Archaeological evaluation	
Previous work	Desk-based archaeological study and Heritage Impact Assessment: Richard K Morriss & Associates 2013	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Land to the Rear of Holy Cross Almshouses, Shrewsbury, Shropshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	1.1ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SJ 4980 1259	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	n/a	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Laurent Coleman	
Project Supervisor	Tim Havard	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content
Physical	Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery/ E.00584 (2014)	Animal bone, ceramics
Paper	Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery/ E.00584 (2014)	Context sheets, trench recording sheets, permatrace drawings
Digital	Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery/ E.00584 (2014)	Digital photos, survey data
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 <i>Land to the Rear of Holy Cross Almshouses, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 14001		



Cirencester 01285 771022
Milton Keynes 01908 218320
Andover 01264 347630
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

**Holy Cross Almshouses, Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury, Shropshire**

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

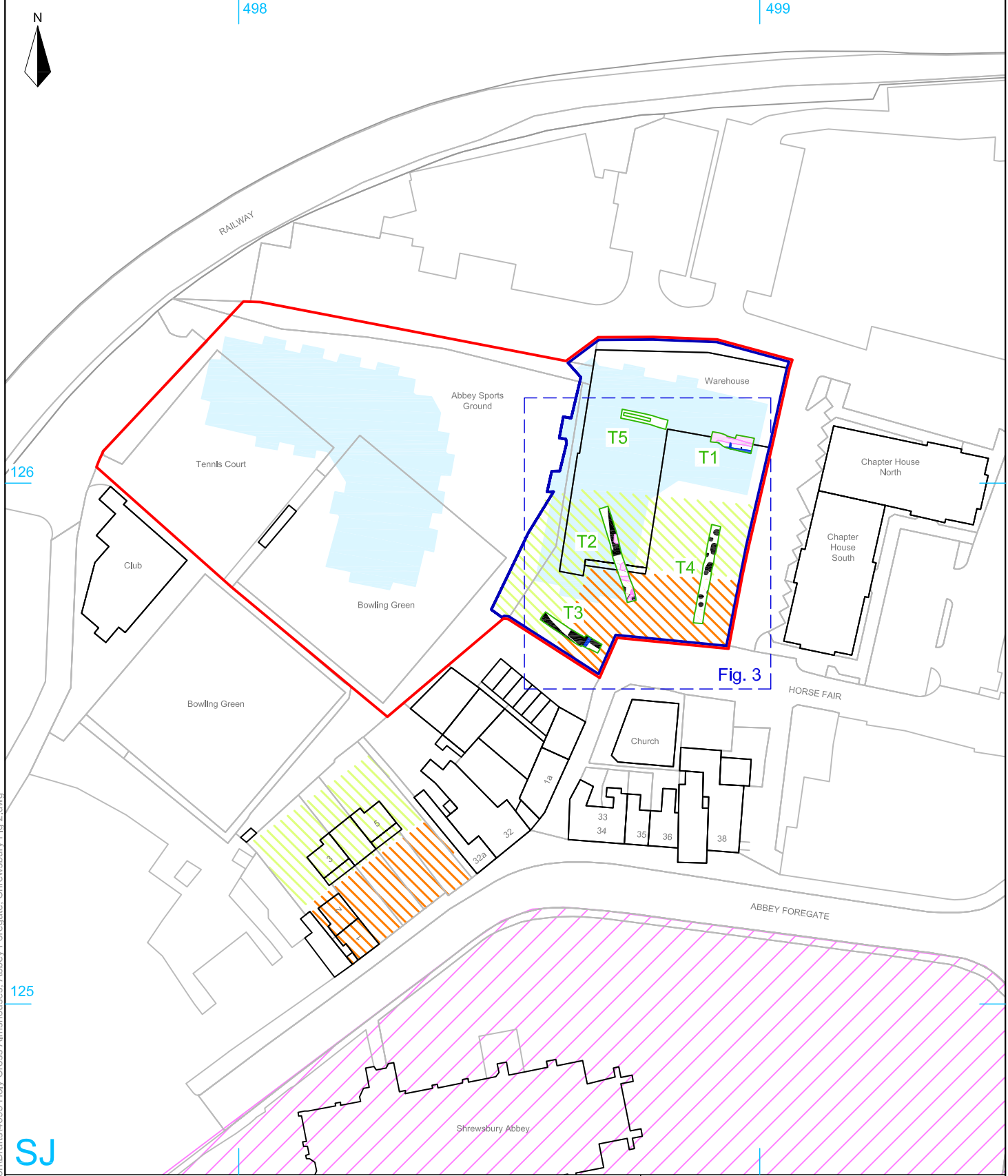
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PROJECT NO. 4695 DATE 27-01-2014
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FIGURE NO.

1



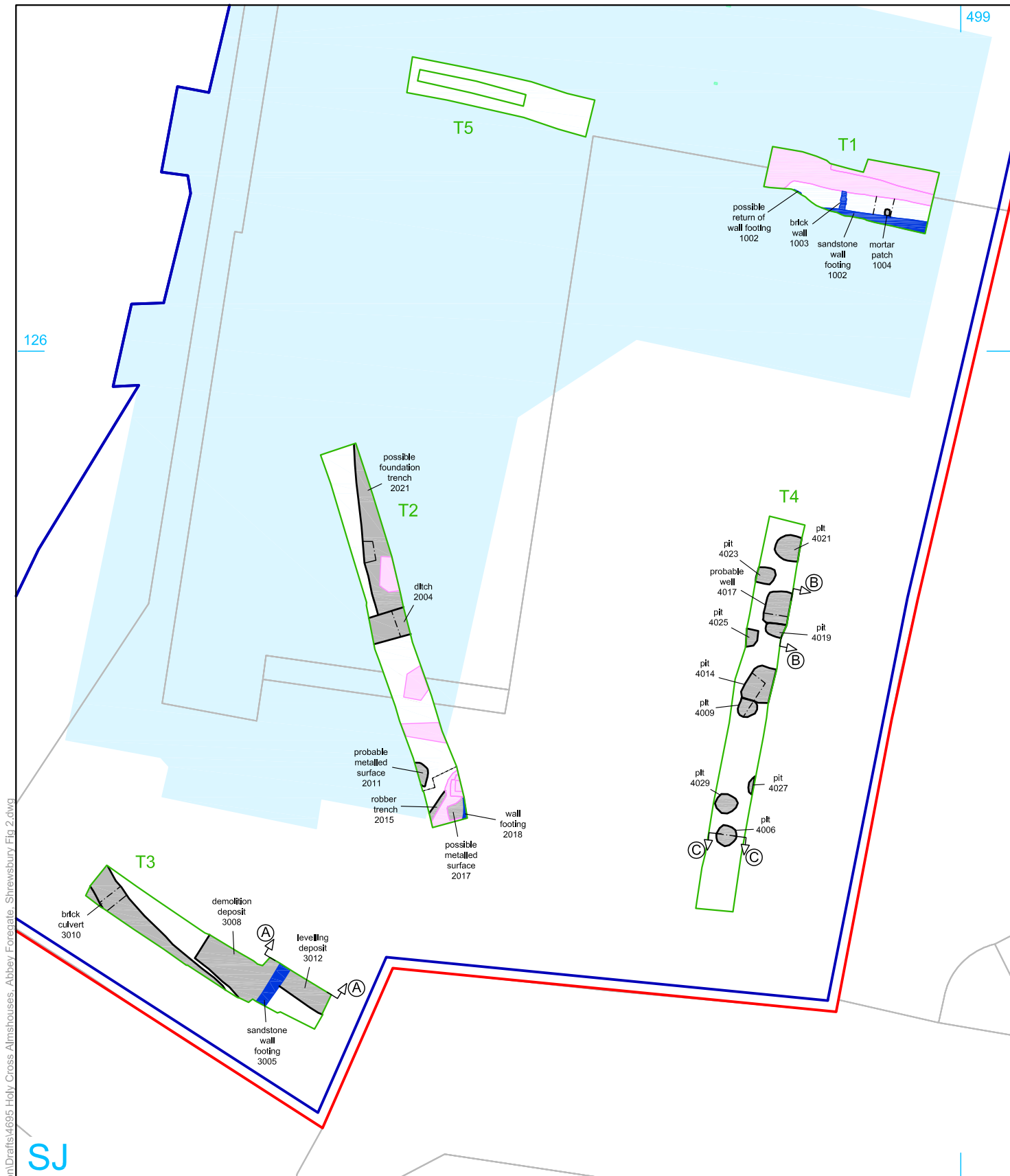
- site
- evaluation area
- evaluation trench
- archaeological feature
- area of high archaeological potential (Morris 2013)
- Scheduled Monument
- proposed development
- area of medium archaeological potential (Morris 2013)

Cotswold Archaeology
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Milton Keynes 01908 218320
 Andover 01264 347630
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 Holy Cross Almshouses, Abbey Foregate
 Shrewsbury, Shropshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Trench location plan, showing
 archaeological features

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Cirencester 01285 771022
Milton Keynes 01908 218320
Andover 01264 347630
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
Holy Cross Almshouses, Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury, Shropshire

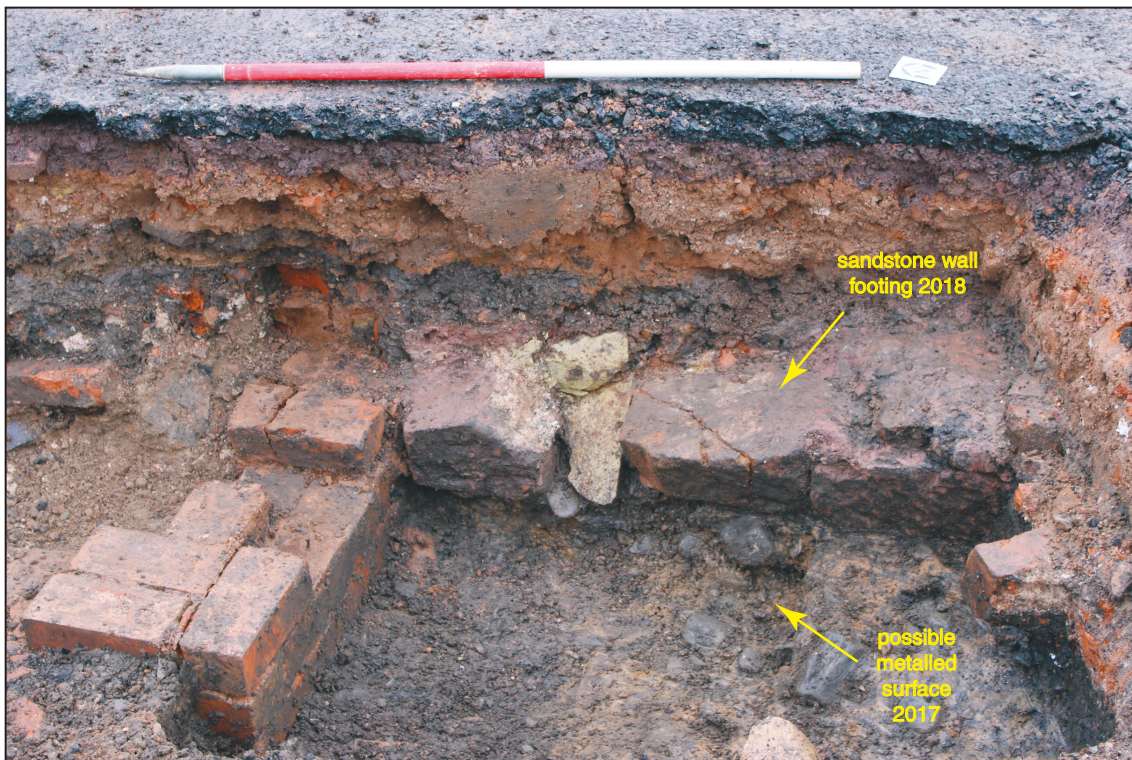
FIGURE TITLE
**Detailed trench plan, showing
archaeological features**

PROJECT NO. 4695 DATE 27-01-14
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APPROVED BY LM SCALE@A4 1:250

FIGURE NO.
3

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4

4 Possible mettaled surface 2017 and sandstone wall footing 2018, looking east (scale 1m)



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Archaeology**

Cirencester 01285 771022
Milton Keynes 01908 218320
Andover 01264 347630
w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Holy Cross Almshouses, Abbey Foregate
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FIGURE TITLE

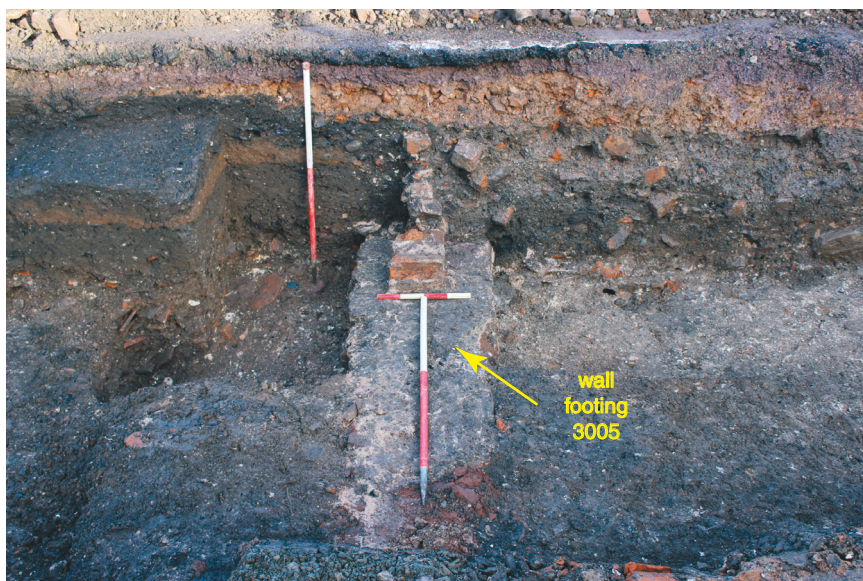
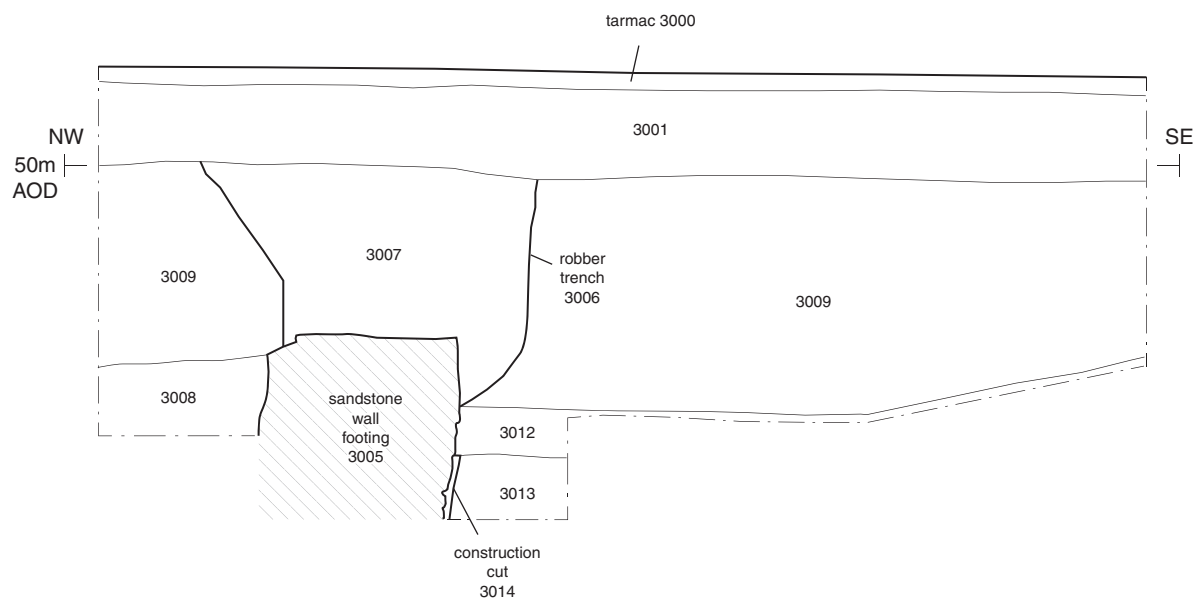
Trench 2, Photograph

PROJECT NO. 4695 DATE 27/01/2014
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FIGURE NO.

4

Trench 3, section AA



Trench 3, wall footing 3005, looking north-east (scales 2m and 0.4m)



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Archaeology**

Cirencester 01285 771022
Milton Keynes 01908 218320
Andover 01264 347630
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Holy Cross Almshouses, Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury, Shropshire

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 3: section and photograph

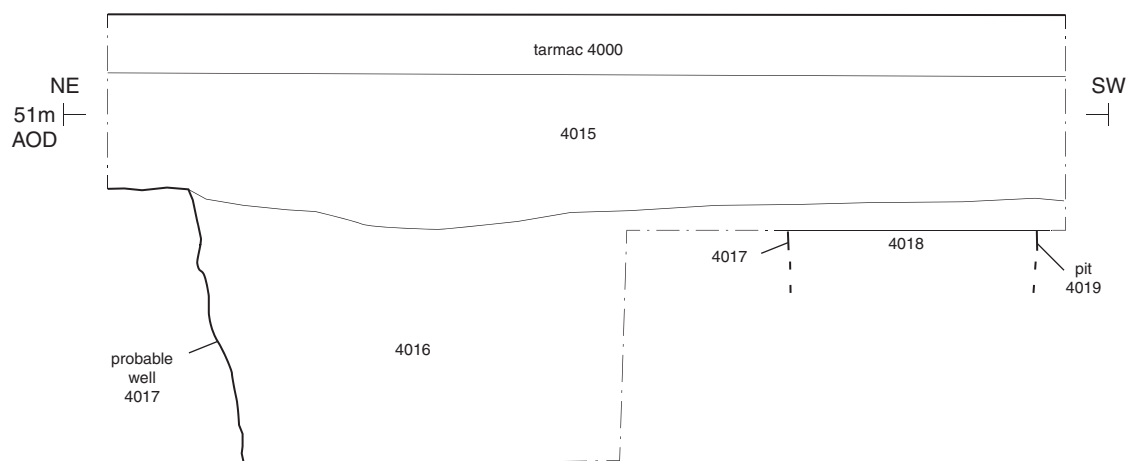
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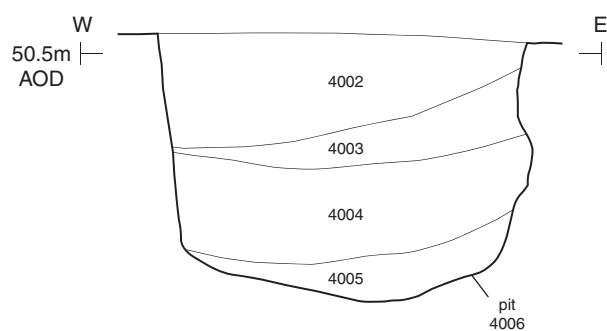
FIGURE NO.

5

Trench 4, section BB



Trench 4, section CC



Trench 4, pit 4006, looking north (scale 0.4m)



Trench 4, probable well 4017, looking east (scale 2m)



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Archaeology**

Cirencester 01285 771022
Milton Keynes 01908 218320
Andover 01264 347630
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 4: sections and photographs

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FIGURE NO.

6