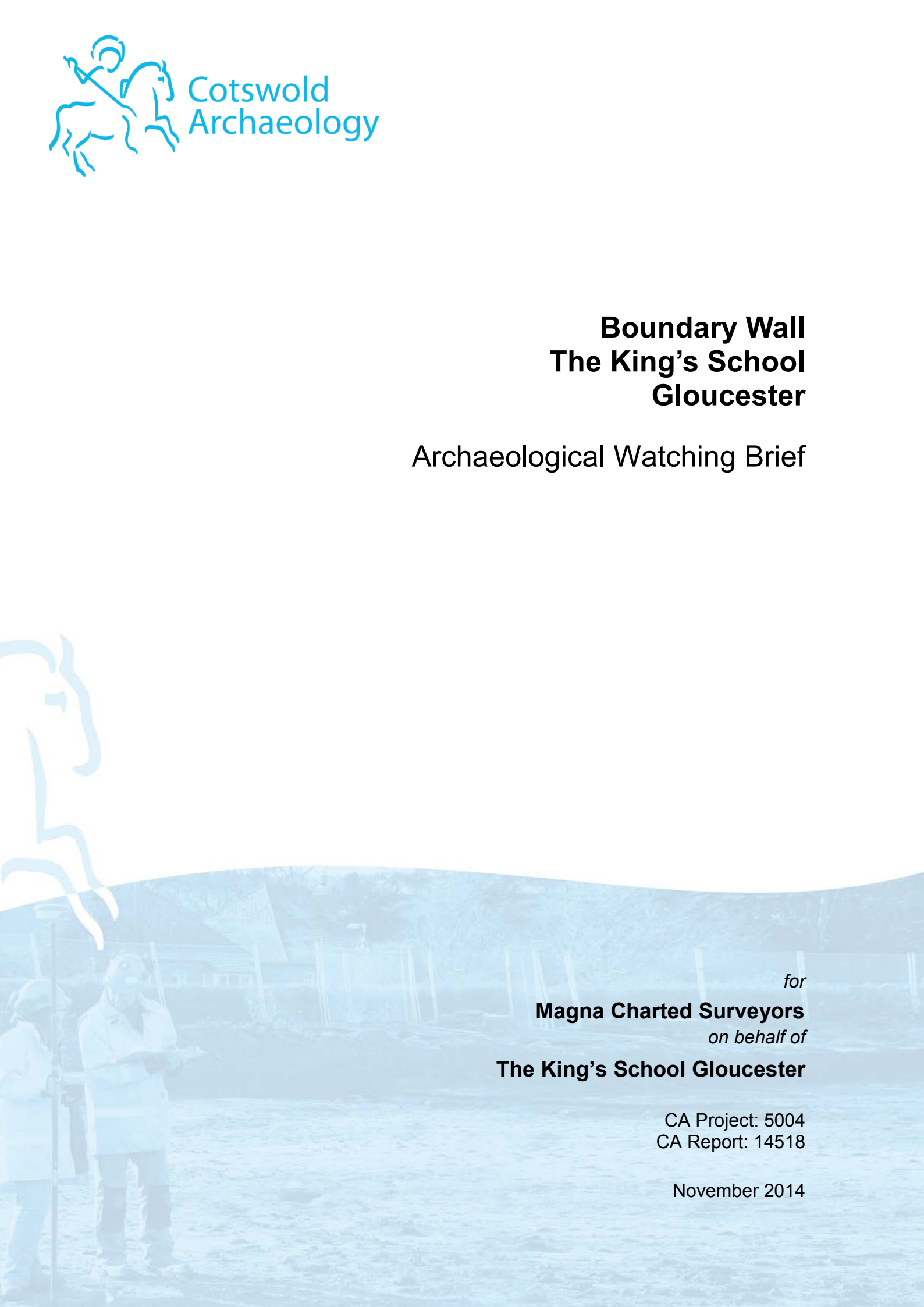


**Boundary Wall
The King's School
Gloucester**

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
Magna Chartered Surveyors
on behalf of
The King's School Gloucester


CA Project: 5004
CA Report: 14518

November 2014

Boundary Wall
The King's School
Gloucester

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 5004
CA Report: 14518

prepared by	David Kenyon
date	10 November 2014
checked by	Laurent Coleman, Principal Fieldwork Manager
date	10 November 2014
approved by	Cliff Bateman, Principal Fieldwork Manager
signed	
date	10 November 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 41 Burners Lane South Kiln Farm Milton Keynes MK11 3HA t. 01908 564660	Andover Stanley House Walworth Road Andover, Hampshire SP10 5LH t. 01264 347630
e. enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk		

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Boundary Wall, King's School
Location: Gloucester
NGR: SO 8310 1888
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 24 July 2014
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery
Accession Number: TBC
Site Code: BWK 2014

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during the rebuilding and repair of a stone boundary wall. During the course of these works an earlier wall foundation, partially in line with the wall to be rebuilt, was identified. Archaeological recording of the exposed remains was undertaken. No artefactual material was recovered.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In July 2014 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at the request of Magna Chartered Surveyors, on behalf of The King's School Gloucester, at a site located at The King's School (centred on NGR: SO 8310 1888; Fig. 1). Listed Building Consent (ref. 13/00017/LBC) for the rebuilding and repair of stone boundary wall had been granted by Gloucester City Council. During the course of these works an earlier wall foundation, partially in line with the wall to be rebuilt, was identified. Charlotte Lewis, Principal Conservation Design Officer, Gloucester City Council (GCC) requested that archaeological recording of the exposed remains should be undertaken.
- 1.2 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2014), which was then approved by Andrew Armstrong, City Archaeologist, GCC. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2009), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991), and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006).

The site

- 1.3 The site (an historic boundary garden wall) lies between the Old Palace and Millers Green, forming the boundary between the King's School site and a public right of way. The portion of the wall to be replaced was c. 2.3m in height, 0.4m in section and 4m in length, see Fig. 2 for location and extent.
- 1.4 The site was on broadly level ground at a height of approximately 14m AOD. The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation (undifferentiated) of the Jurassic and Triassic periods (BGS 2014). The natural substrate was not identified during the groundworks.

Archaeological background

- 1.5 The site lies within the vicinity of Gloucester Cathedral, which stands 80m to the south. Immediately to the north of the site is the former Abbots Lodging, a building

rebuilt in 1862 but including earlier elements, now occupied by King's School. The potential therefore existed for medieval finds and deposits associated with the Cathedral precincts to be present on the site. The site is also a short distance outside the projected boundary of the former Roman town of Gloucester, a corner of the town defences is suggested to have been located approximately 80m to the south-east, thus finds associated with the Roman period were also a possibility. (Heighway 1999, 15)

Archaeological objectives

1.6 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

1.7 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2014). An archaeologist visited the site after the contractor's excavations had been completed, and cleaned and recorded all exposed archaeological features. These principally consisted of a length of limestone wall footing (Figs. 3 and 4).

1.8 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2013).

1.9 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner site archive will be deposited at Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery. 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 (FIGS 2-4)

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the watching brief results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendix A.
- 2.2 A section of the standing post-medieval wall at the site approximately 4m in length had been removed and a trench excavated along the line of the foot of the wall. This trench was approximately 3.4m in length and up to 0.6m wide. At the base of the trench a deposit of pale yellow sandy material, 007, containing limestone and mortar fragments was uncovered. This was interpreted as a levelling deposit placed within the construction cut, 008, of an earlier wall. Due to the limited width of the trench the full extent of this cut was not observed and natural deposits were not encountered.
- 2.3 Standing on top of this levelling layer were a series of large dressed limestone blocks up to 0.5m in width forming a length of wall foundation (006), up to 0.5m high, which extended beyond the ends of the trench. This footing appeared to follow a broadly similar alignment to the existing standing wall. The south-western face of this wall was dressed to a vertical face, with lower blocks forming a shallow protruding plinth 0.05m wide and 0.05m high along the base. The north-eastern face of the wall was not visible within the trench, but portions of rubble wall-core were visible and the structure appeared to be at least 0.5m in width.
- 2.4 The remainder of the trench was filled with dark yellow sandy clay deposit 005 interpreted as the original backfill of construction cut 008 for wall 006. Both the earlier wall, 006, and the backfill of the construction cut, 005, were overlain by a layer of sand and mortar fragments, 004, up to 0.1m thick, interpreted as a bedding layer for the construction of the existing standing wall, 003.
- 2.5 Abutting standing wall 003 and forming the south-western edge of the trench was a layer of tarmac, 002, associated with the modern right of way past the site. On the north-eastern side of the standing wall, and partially sealing earlier wall 006 was modern garden soil 001, up to 0.2m thick, associated with the Abbot's Lodging gardens.
- 2.6 No pottery or other artefactual material was recovered during the course of the work.



3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 It would appear that the current post-medieval wall forming the site was pre-dated by an earlier structure. The substantial size and dressed face of the earlier wall, 006, raises the possibility that this may have formed part of a building, or a very substantial boundary wall. As no artefactual material was recovered from the construction cut of the earlier wall it is not possible to postulate an exact date for this.
- 3.2 The layout of the medieval Abbey precincts was investigated by Carolyn Heighway in 1999 (Heighway 1999. 15). According to her map, the site lies in the vicinity of the former Abbots Lodging complex on the north side of the precinct, constructed around 1320, and demolished in the 19th century. This was replaced by the current 'Abbots Lodging' building which incorporates architectural elements of the earlier structure. Her plan depicts a medieval wall running on the alignment of the site, with a corner immediately to the south-east of the excavated area. This wall is shown on historic maps from as early as 1796 (Heighway 1999, 24) but no evidence for its medieval origin has been identified. It is possible that the earlier wall identified during these works may be associated with this wall.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by David Kenyon. The report was written by David Kenyon. The illustrations were prepared by Aleksandra Osinska. The archive has been compiled by David Kenyon, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Laurent Coleman.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2014 <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>
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Geological Survey of Great Britain (England and Wales), Sheet 234, Gloucester, Scale 1:50,000

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 *Boundary Wall, King's School, Gloucester: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

Heighway, C, 1999 *Gloucester Cathedral and Precinct an Archaeological Assessment*
(Gloucester Cathedral unpub. typescript report)

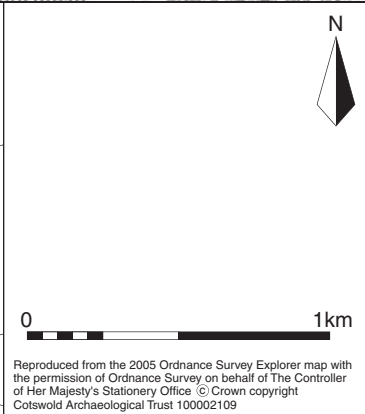
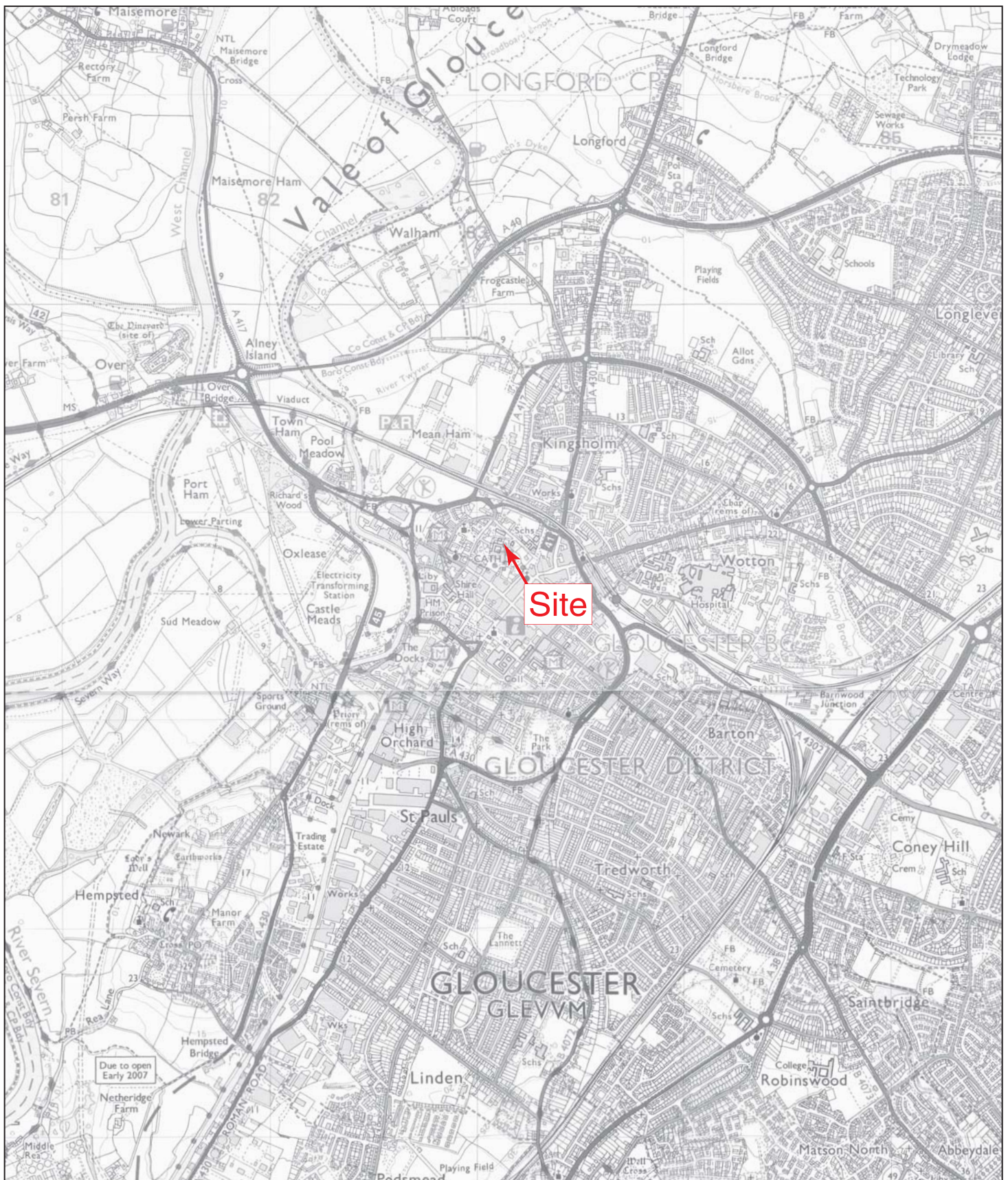



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No	Context	Type	Fill of	Context Interpretation	Context Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
1	001	D	-	Modern Garden soil	Dark brown sandy silt, frequent limestone fragments, roots	3.5m	Extends beyond trench	0.2m
1	002	D	-	Modern tarmac road surface	Dark grey tarmac	3.5m	Extends beyond trench	0.1m
1	003	D	-	Post-medieval Wall	Limestone wall with irregular ashlar facing and rubble core	Extends beyond trench	0.5m	2.3m high
1	004	D	008	Bedding layer for wall (003)	Pale yellow sand and mortar	Extends beyond trench	0.3m	<0.1m
1	005	D	008	Backfill of construction cut	Dark yellow sandy clay with limestone and mortar fragments	Extends beyond trench	0.3m	0.3m
1	006	D	008	Limestone wall footing	Large limestone ashlar blocks up to 0.5m dressed on SW side	Extends beyond trench	>0.5m	0.6m
1	007	D	008	Bedding layer for wall (006)	Pale yellow mortar, sand and limestone fragments	Extends beyond trench	Extends beyond trench	Not excavated
1	008	C	-	Construction cut for wall (006)	Not revealed	Not excavated		

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Boundary Wall, The King's School Gloucester	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during the rebuilding and repair of a stone boundary wall. During the course of these works an earlier wall foundation, partially in line with the wall to be rebuilt, was identified. Archaeological recording of the exposed remains was undertaken. No artefactual material was recovered.	
Project dates	24 July 2014	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	King's School Gloucester	
Study area	c.4m ²	
Site co-ordinates	SO 8310 1888	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	None	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Laurent Coleman	
Project Supervisor	David Kenyon	
MONUMENT TYPE	Wall	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	Gloucester City Museum	Site Archive, Typescript Report
Digital	Gloucester City Museum	Digital Photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 <i>Boundary Wall, King's School, Gloucester: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report 14518		



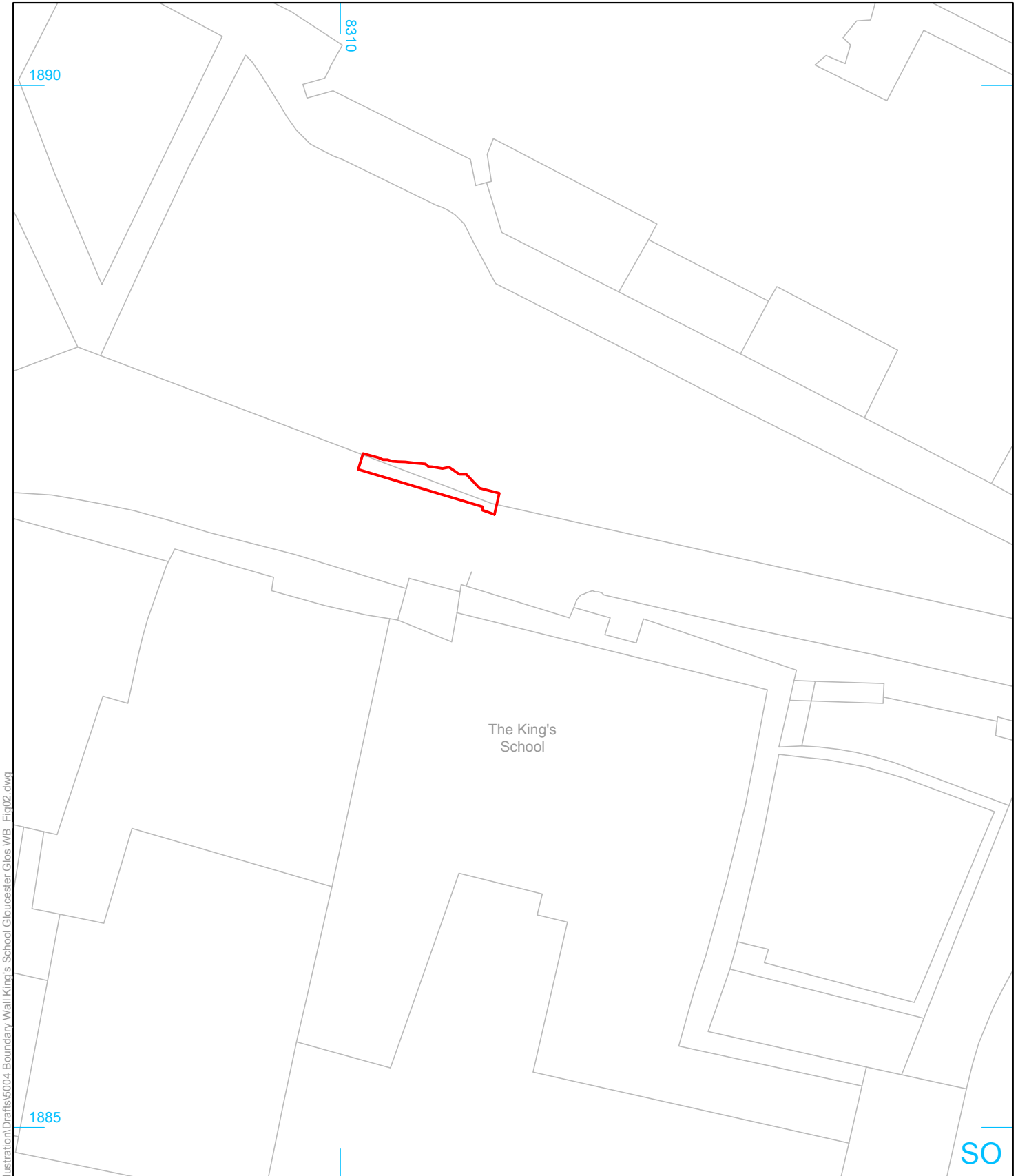

Cotswold Archaeology
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Andover 01264 347630
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk


PROJECT TITLE
 Boundary Wall, The King's School, Gloucester

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

PROJECT NO. 5004	DATE 29/10/2014	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY AO	REVISION 00	
APPROVED BY JB	SCALE@A4 1:25,000	1

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 area of observed groundworks



**Cotswold
Archaeology**

Cirencester 01285 771022
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Andover 01264 347630
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
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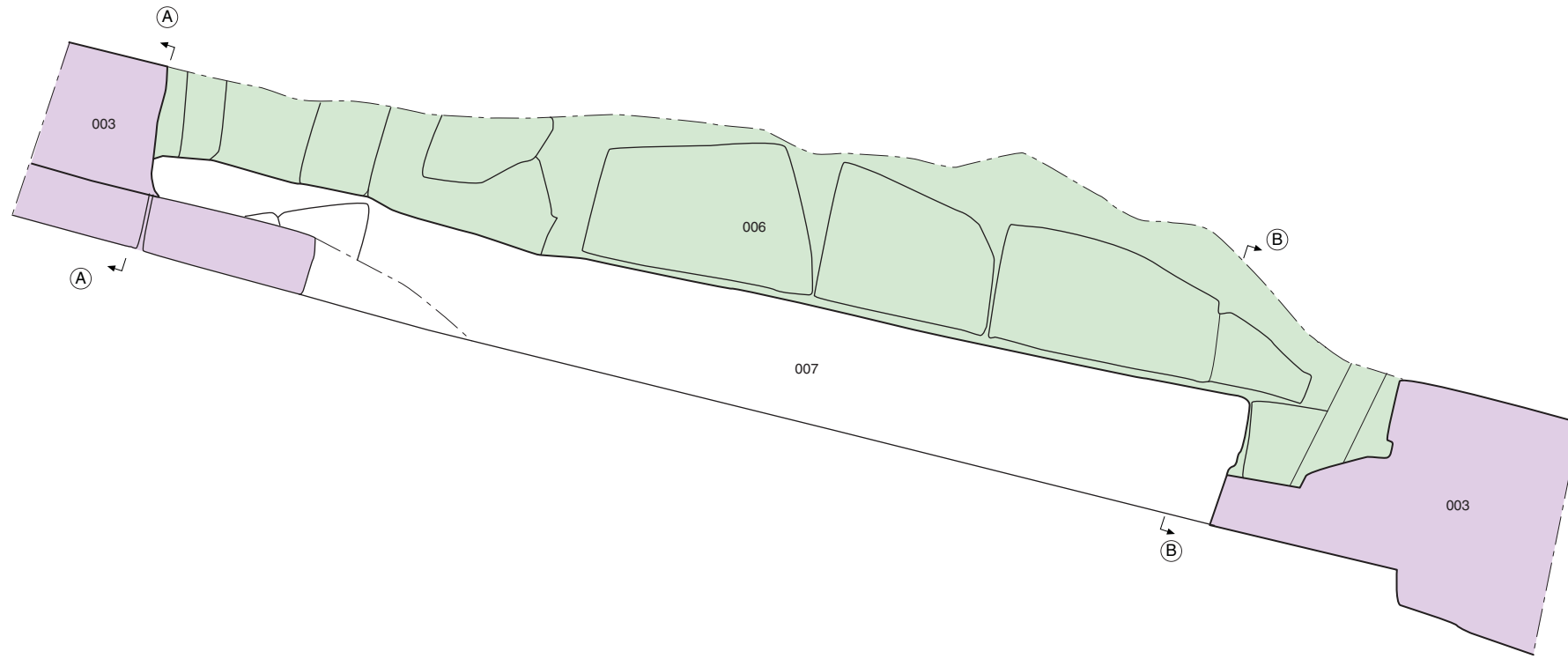
FIGURE TITLE
 The site, showing trench location

PROJECT NO.	5004	DATE	29/10/2014	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	AO	REVISION	00	2
APPROVED BY	JB/ATB	SCALE@A4	1:250	

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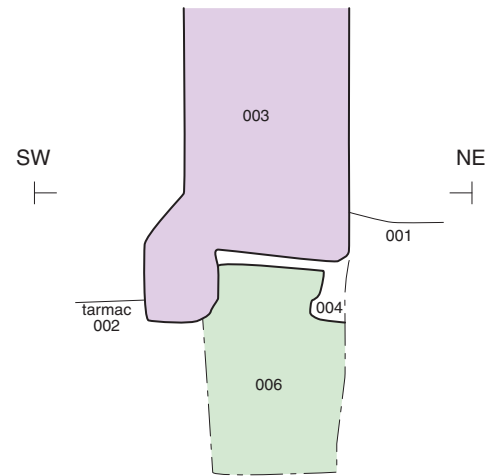
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Trench plan

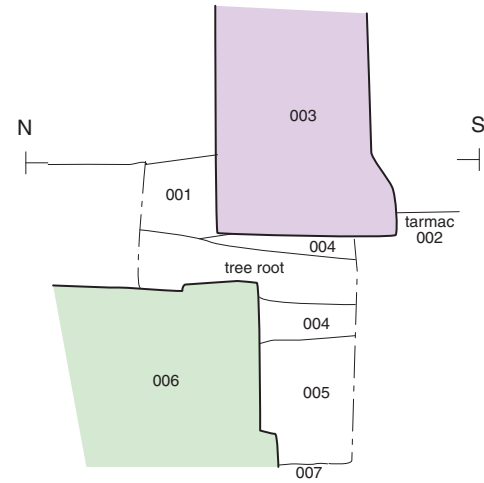


- early wall (006)
- post-medieval wall (003)

Section AA



Section BB



Wall 006, looking south-east (1m scale)



 Cotswold Archaeology
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Andover 01264 347630
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 Boundary Wall, The King's School,
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FIGURE TITLE
**Trench plan, sections and photograph,
 showing wall 006**

PROJECT NO.	5004	DATE	29/10/2014	FIGURE NO.
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APPROVED BY	JB	SCALE@A3	1:20	



4

4 General site area, looking east



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

PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

PROJECT NO.	5004	DATE	29/10/2014	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	AO	REVISION	00	
APPROVED BY	JB	SCALE@A4	N/A	4