

**Crypt School
Podsmead Road
Gloucester**

Archaeological Watching Brief

for
DSC Consultants


CA Project: 5005
CA Report: 14563

December 2014

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Gloucester

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date	4 December 2014
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date	10 December 2014
issue	01

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Fig. 2 The site, showing location of observed groundworks (1:2000)



SUMMARY

Project Name:	Crypt School
Location:	Podsmead Road, Gloucester
NGR:	SO 8281 1577
Type:	Watching Brief
Date:	13-20 November 2014
Planning Reference:	14/00026/FUL
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery
Site Code:	CRY 14

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a two storey teaching block at Crypt School, Podsmead Road, Gloucester.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and no artefactual material was recovered.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In November 2014 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for DSC Consultants at Crypt School, Podsmead Road, Gloucester (centred on NGR: SO 8281 1577; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to planning consent granted by Gloucester City Council (GCC) for the construction of a two storey teaching block (Planning ref: 14/00029/FUL, condition 5).
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2014) and approved by GCC acting on the advice of Andrew Armstrong, Gloucester City Archaeologist. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2009), the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Gloucestershire* (GCC 1995), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006). It was monitored by Andrew Armstrong.

The site

- 1.3 Crypt School lies close to the junction of Cole Avenue and Podsmead Road within the southern suburb of Podsmead, approximately 3km from the historic core of Gloucester. The proposed new teaching block is located on playing fields immediately to the north-west of the existing school buildings. The site lies at approximately 25m AOD and is broadly level.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Blue Lias and Charmouth Mudstone Formations of the Jurassic and Triassic Periods with no superficial deposits being recorded (BGS 2014). Yellow and grey clays were encountered during the groundworks.

Archaeological background

- 1.5 Although an archaeological evaluation within the school grounds in 2001 identified no archaeological features or deposits (Gloucester City Historic Environment Record (HER) 1496), stray finds including Roman coins (HER 1173, 1179 and 1193) have

previously been recovered in Podsmead. An undated pit or possible ditch has also been identified approximately 500m north-west of the current site.

- 1.6 Cartographic evidence indicates that the proposed development area was agricultural in nature in the late 19th century and remained so, with the exception of the construction of a railway branch line in the early 20th century, until construction of the current Crypt School between 1939 and 1943.

Archaeological objectives

- 1.7 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

- 1.8 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2014). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising excavation of foundations and service trenches to a depth of 0.7m below present ground level (bpgl) (Trench 1) and the excavation of an attenuation tank to the east of the building to a depth of 1m bpgl (Trench 2) (Fig. 2).
- 1.9 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2013).
- 1.10 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with 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 (FIG 2)

- 2.1 Within both trenches the natural geological substrate, comprising yellow-grey clay, was encountered at a depth of 0.6m bpgl. This was overlain by subsoil measuring 0.4m in thickness, which was in turn sealed by 0.2m of topsoil.
- 2.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material was recovered.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see archaeological background above), the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. The absence of archaeological deposits may indicate that any remains either do not extend as far as or were not exposed by the development.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Tom Weavill, Alex Thomson, Jon Pick and Luke Brannlund. The report was written by Tom Weavill. The illustrations were prepared by Rosanna Price. The archive has been compiled by Tom Weavill, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2014 Geology of Britain Viewer http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 24 July 2014

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 *Crypt School, Podsmead Road, Gloucester: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

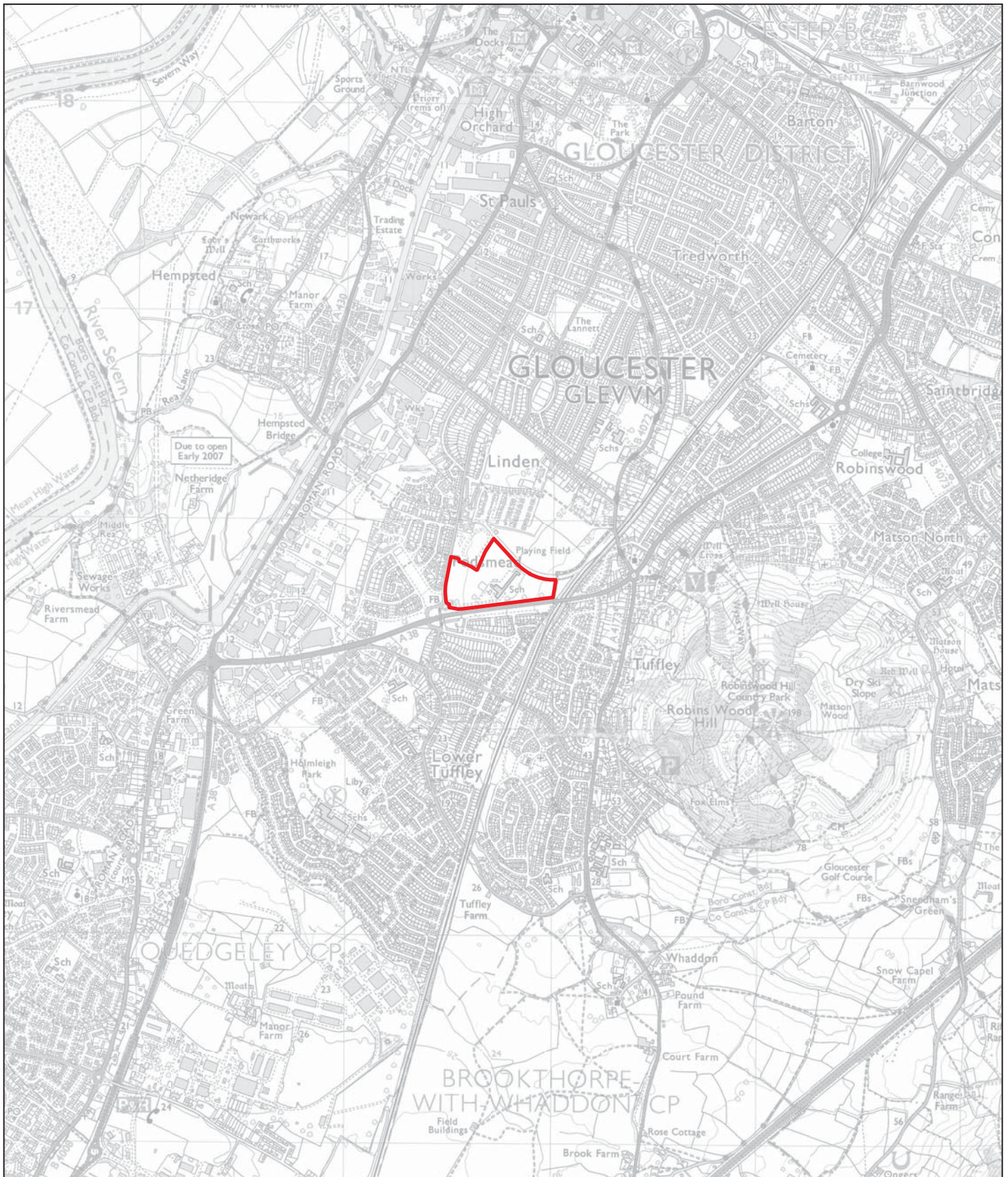


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Thickness (m)
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown silty clay	>45.6	>22.6	0.2
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	light grey brown silty clay	>45.6	>22.6	0.4
1	102	Layer		Natural substrate	Yellow and grey clay			
1	103	Cut		Service trenches	Generic cut number for modern service trenches			
1	104	Fill	103	Fill of service trenches	Black and reddish brown silty clay			
2	103	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown silty clay	>7	>7	0.2
2	104	Layer		Subsoil	light grey brown silty clay	>7	>7	0.4
2	105	Layer		Natural substrate	Yellow and grey clay			

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Crypt School, Podsmead Road, Gloucester	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a two storey teaching block at Crypt School, Podsmead Road, Gloucester. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and no artefactual material was recovered.	
Project dates	13-15 & 17-20 November 2014	
Project type	Watching brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Crypt School, Podsmead Road, Gloucester	
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.07ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SO 8281 1577	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	None	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Tom Weavill, Alex Thomson, Jon Pick, Luke Brannlund	
MONUMENT TYPE		
None		
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
None		
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content
Physical	N/A	None
Paper	Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery	Trench sheets, photo register
Digital	Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 <i>Crypt School, Podsmead Road, Gloucester: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report 14563		



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PROJECT TITLE

Crypt School, Podsmead Road,
Gloucester, Gloucestershire

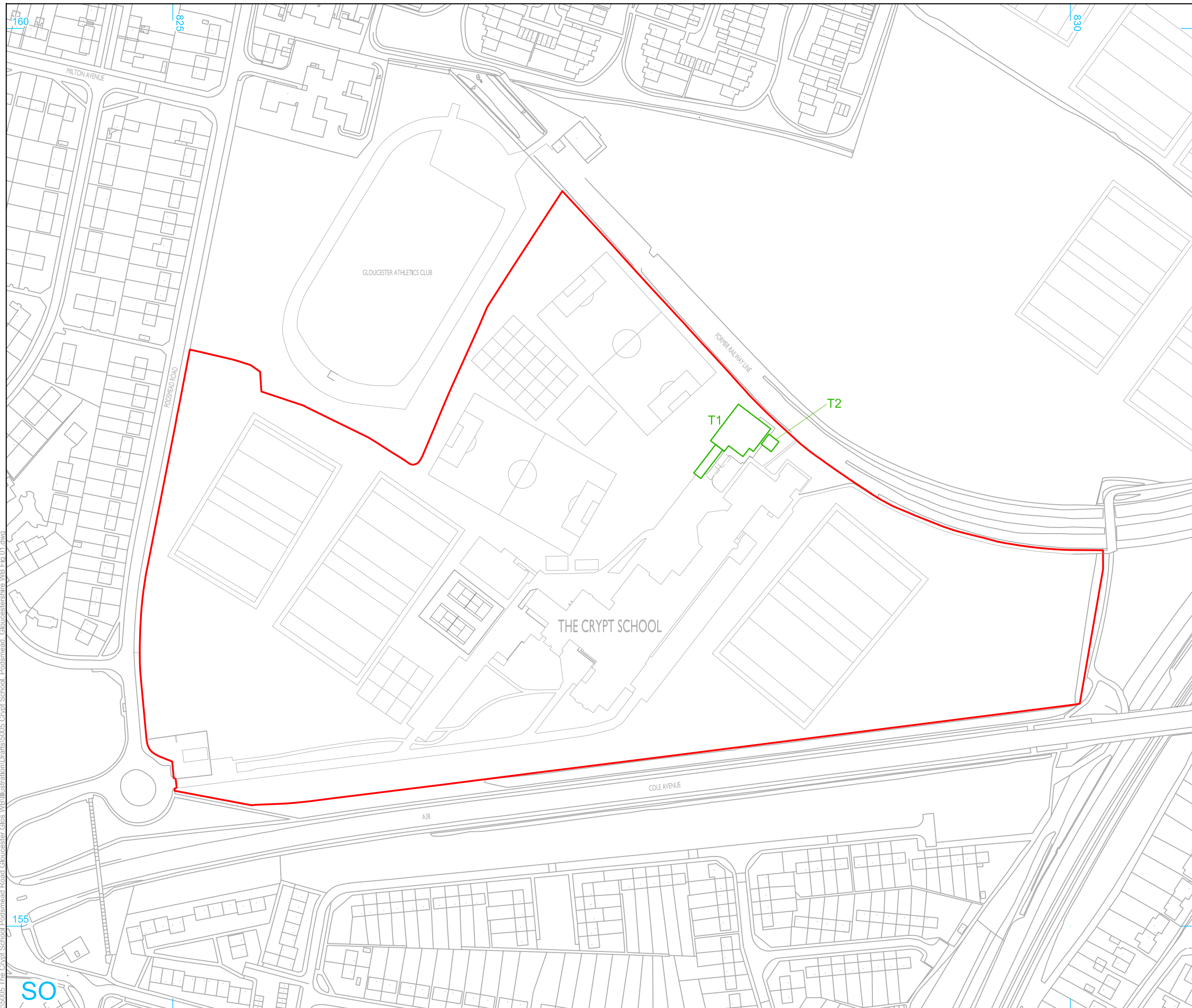
FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

PROJECT NO. 5005 DATE 04.12.14
DRAWN BY RP REVISION 00
APPROVED BY JB SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1



- ▬ site
- ▬ observed groundworks



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PROJECT TITLE
 Crypt School, Podmead Road,
 Gloucester, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
 The site showing location of observed
 groundworks

PROJECT NO. 5005	DATE 04.12.14	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY RP	REVISION 00	2
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