

**Blockley Village Shop  
Bell Lane  
Blockley  
Gloucestershire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

*for*

**Randell Burton Architects Ltd**

*on behalf of*

**Blockley Cooperative Association Ltd**


CA Project: 4155  
CA Report: 14044

November 2014

Blockley Village Shop  
 Bell Lane  
 Blockley  
 Gloucestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 4155  
 CA Report: 14044

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date	3 November 2014
issue	01

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## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	Blockley Village Shop, Bell Lane
<b>Location:</b>	Blockley, Gloucestershire
<b>NGR:</b>	SP 1642 3497
<b>Type:</b>	Watching Brief
<b>Date:</b>	9 January to 21 March 2014
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with Corinium Museum
<b>Site Code:</b>	BLO 13

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the demolition of public conveniences and the construction of a new village shop complex at Blockley Village Shop, Bell Lane, Blockley, Gloucestershire.

Excepting a post-medieval or modern culvert, no features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Between January and March 2014 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Randell Burton Architects Ltd, on behalf of the Blockley Co-operative Association Ltd, at Blockley Village Shop, Bell Lane, Blockley, Gloucestershire (centred at NGR: SP 1642 3497). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil Condition 10 of the planning consent for the demolition of public conveniences and the construction of a new village shop and café as granted by Cotswold District Council (CDC: planning application ref: 11/02439/FUL). 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 detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2013) and approved by CDC) acting on the advice of Charles Parry, Archaeologist, Gloucestershire County Council, the archaeological advisor to CDC. 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 1996), 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 was 200m<sup>2</sup> in area and lay within the Blockley Conservation Area. It comprised a public convenience building, with a small garden to the rear, surrounded by a dry-stone wall. The village post office lies immediately to the south-west, while the Parish Church and churchyard of St Peter and St Paul lie immediately to the south. A former mill-pond and silk mill lie to the east of the site, with Bell Lane to the north and west. The site lies and at approximately 145m AOD, sloping downwards towards the mill pond to the east.

1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Dyrham Formation interbedded siltstone and mudstone of the Jurassic era with no overlying superficial deposits (BGS 2014). The natural geological blue-grey clay substrate was observed in some areas of the groundworks.

### ***Archaeological background***

- 1.5 The site has previously been subject to a desk-based assessment (CA 2011a) and an archaeological evaluation (CA 2011b), the results of which are summarised below.
- 1.6 Prehistoric evidence is limited to a flint scatter discovered 390m to the south of the site, at Blockley Park Farm. Roman evidence is similarly scarce; the Fosse Way Roman road (5km to the east of the site) being the nearest significant feature (CA 2011a, 10).
- 1.7 Blockley was recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086, although the settlement is likely earlier in origin (Hilton and Rahtz 1966, 75), as illustrated by the eight Saxon inhumations excavated 70m south-west of the site (CA 2011a, 10). In the post-medieval period the site formed part of the lands of the silk mill to the east, with the mill-pond leat running through it.
- 1.8 The evaluation of the site revealed an alluvial deposit, sealed by a modern make-up that had been cut by a possible drainage trench or pipe trench (CA 2011b).

### ***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 2013). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising the excavation of service trenches, foundations and the monitoring of piling activities (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* (2013).
- 1.12 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 site archive will be deposited with the appropriate museum. 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 (FIGS. 2-3)

- 2.1 Detailed context descriptions are outlined below in Appendix A.
- 2.2 The programme of archaeological works covered a variety of intrusive excavations relating to the construction of the village shop and related works. Trenches 2 and 3 were excavated to determine the course of a known culvert and to divert it. Trenches 4 and 5 were excavated within the proposed building footprint. Trenches were typically 1m deep below present ground level (bpgl) however Trench 5 was excavated to a depth of 2.2m bpgl.
- 2.3 The natural geological substrate was only exposed in Trenches 2 and 5 and consisted of blue-grey clay with patches of limestone brash (203, 508 and 509). This was overlain by alluvial deposits and made ground (301, 400, 501) that were in turn overlain made ground and modern surfaces.
- 2.4 In Trenches 4 and 5, the observed made ground was cut by modern features (included pipework, a steel tank and a silt trap). In Trench 2, where no made ground was recorded, the modern features cut directly into the natural substrate. A stone culvert (204, 406, 505) ran through each of these trenches (Fig. 3).

### ***The finds***

- 2.6 All of the recovered material (including 19th century pottery, porcelain and associated animal bone) was recovered from modern contexts (see Appendix B). With regard to the faunal remains recovered, while it was possible to identify that all elements related to sheep/goat (*Ovis aries/Capra hircus*) limb bones, the material

was in a very poor state of preservation which precluded any analysis. As such, none of the material will be retained.

### **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 archaeological either do not extend as far as or were not exposed by the development, or that they may have been removed. The latter appears more likely across parts of the site given the absence of subsoil.

3.2 The culvert is evidence of the most recent phase of water management and was observed as cutting post-medieval or modern deposits.

### **4. CA PROJECT TEAM**

Fieldwork was undertaken by Alex Thomson, Jay Wood, Luke Brannlund and Sian Reynish. The report was written by Alex Thomson and Luke Brannlund. The finds report was completed by Ed McSloy. The illustrations were prepared by Aleksandra Osinska. The archive has been compiled by Luke Brannlund, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Ian Barnes.





## 5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2014 Geology of Britain Viewer [http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology\\_viewer\\_google/googleviewer.html](http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html) Accessed 1 April 2014

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011a *Land at Blockley, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*, CA Report No. **11011**

CA 2011b *Blockley Cooperative, Blockley, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation*. CA Report No. **11137**

CA 2013 *Blockley Village Shop, Bell Lane, Blockley, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

Hilton, R and Rahtz, P 1966 *Upton, Gloucestershire, 1959-1964*, Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society



## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

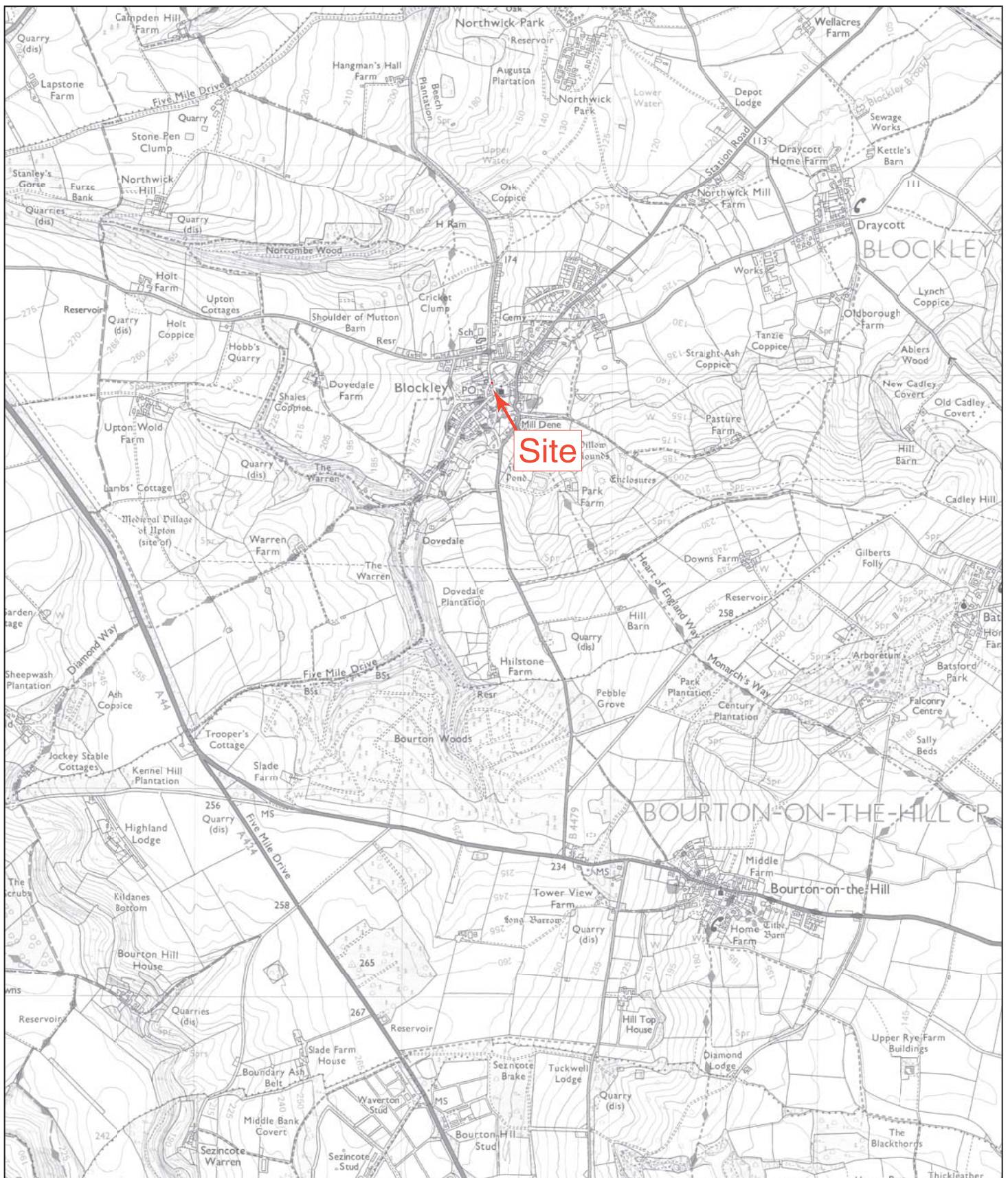
Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot -date
2	200	Layer		Modern tarmac	Tarmac			0.12	
2	201	Layer		Road bedding	Yellow-grey clay silt			0.23	
2	202	Layer		Previous road surface	Tarmac			0.03	
2	203	Layer		Possible natural	Light yellow-grey silt clay and limestone			>0.42	
2	204	Cut		Culvert construction cut	Steep sided linear cut with unexcavated base		>1.3	>1	
2	205	Fill	204	Fill of culvert	Yellow-grey silt clay		>1.3	0.3	
2	206	Masonry		Stone culvert	Limestone built culvert		>1.3	>1	
3	300	Layer		Building gravel	Grey building gravel		>1	0.05	
3	301	Layer		Made ground	Mixed orange-brown clay Sand	>15	>1	0.5	
3	302	Layer		Alluvial deposit	Grey-brown silt clay	>15	>1	>0.3	
3	303	Layer		Previous road surface	Tarmac			0.03	
3	304	Layer		Road bedding	Yellow-grey clay silt			0.21	
3	305	Layer		Modern tarmac	Tarmac			0.13	
3	306	Layer		Possible natural	Light yellow-grey silt clay and limestone			>0.25	
4	400	Layer		Made ground	Mid grey-brown silt clay with brick and stone			0.6	
4	401	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silt clay with stones			0.22	
4	402	Layer		Made ground	Dark yellow-brown clay			0.45	
4	403	Fill	404	Fill of modern feature	Mid grey-brown silt clay with brick and stone	1.3	0.45	0.5	
4	404	Cut		Modern feature	NW-SE modern feature	1.3	0.45	0.5	
4	405	Fill	406	Fill of modern culvert	Mid grey-brown silt clay with brick and stone	2.2	0.7		
4	406	Cut		Modern culvert	E-W linear in plan	2.2	0.7		
5	500	Layer		Made ground	Dark grey-brown silt clay			0.35	
5	501	Layer		Made ground	Limestone			0.9	
5	502	Layer		Topsoil	Mid to dark grey-brown silt clay			0.25	
5	503	Layer		Subsoil	Mid to dark grey-yellow-brown silt clay with bricks			0.5	
5	504	Fill		Fill of culvert trench	Dark grey-brown silt clay	9.4	1.25	1.2	
5	505	Cut		Culvert trench	SW-NE linear in plan	9.4	1.8	1.2	
5	506	Fill		Fill of culvert trench	Steel tank (silt trap)	1.5	1.2	1	
5	507	Fill		Fill of culvert trench	Silt-gravel	1.5	1.2	0.25	
5	508	Layer		Natural	Blue-grey clay with limestone brash patches				
5	509	Layer		Natural	Part of 508				
5	510	Cut		Modern feature	Square in plan not fully excavated	1	1		
5	511	Fill	510	Fill of modern feature	Dark grey-brown silt clay with modern brick and pottery	1	1		

## APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Description	Count	Weight(g)	Date
500	Modern pottery: refined whiteware (transfer-printed); unglazed earthenware (Flowerpot)	7	136	C19
504	Modern pottery: refined whiteware (transfer-printed); unglazed earthenware (Flowerpot); porcelain	14	701	MLC19
	Porcelain object (insulator)	1	14	
	Ceramic pipe (salt-glazed)	1	1142	
506	Post-medieval/modern pottery: refined whiteware (transfer-printed); black-glazed earthenware	2	31	C19
	Ceramic pipe (salt-glazed)	1	10	
	Animal bone: sheep/goat	4	71	

## APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Blockley Village Shop, Bell Lane, Blockley, Gloucestershire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the demolition of public conveniences and the construction of a new village shop complex at Blockley Village Shop, Bell Lane, Blockley, Gloucestershire.</p> <p>A post-medieval or modern culvert was observed. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks.</p>	
Project dates	9 January 2014 – 21 March 2014	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011 <i>Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment</i> CA Report No. <b>11011</b></p> <p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011 <i>Blockley Cooperative, Blockley, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i>. CA typescript report <b>11137</b></p>	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Blockley Village Shop, Bell Lane, Blockley, Gloucestershire	
Study area	200m <sup>2</sup>	
Site co-ordinates	SP 1642 3497	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	None	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ian Barnes	
Project Supervisor	Alex Thomson, Jay Wood, Luke Brannlund and Sian Reynish	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Corinium Museum	none
Paper	Corinium Museum	Trench Recording Form, Photo Registers, Drawings
Digital	Corinium Museum	Database, digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 <i>Blockley Village Shop, Bell Lane, Blockley, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i>. CA typescript report <b>14044</b></p>		



0 1km

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PROJECT TITLE

Blockley village shop, Bell Lane, Blockley  
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FIGURE TITLE

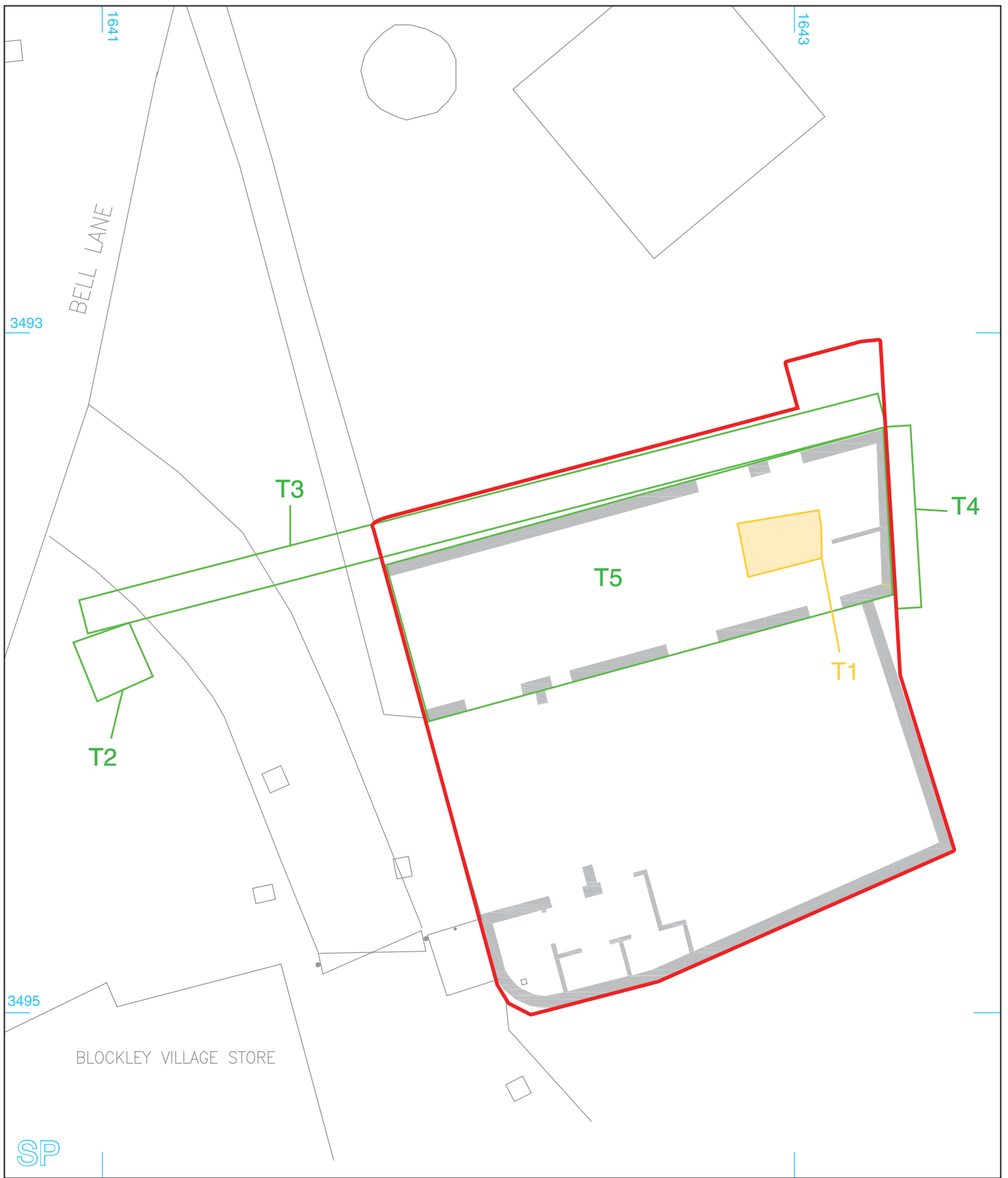
Site location plan

PROJECT NO. 4155  
DRAWN BY AO  
APPROVED BY LM

DATE 3/04/2014  
REVISION 00  
SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1



- site boundary
- observed groundworks
- evaluation trench (CA 2011b)
- building



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**PROJECT TITLE**

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**FIGURE TITLE**

The site, showing location of observed groundworks



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FIGURE NO.

2



3

**3 Stone lined culvert in Trench 2 looking north (1m scale)**



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*PROJECT TITLE*

Blockley village shop, Bell Lane, Blockley  
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*FIGURE TITLE*

**Photograph**

PROJECT NO. 4155 DATE 3/04/2014  
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 APPROVED BY LM SCALE@A4 N/A

*FIGURE NO.*

**3**