

Pond, Swale and Eastern Canal Wall Llanthony Secunda Priory Llanthony Road, Gloucester

Archaeological Evaluation



for
Llanthony Secunda Priory Trust

CA Project: 5833
CA Report: 16272

July 2016



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Llanthony Secunda Priory
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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Pond, Swale and Eastern Canal Wall, Llanthony Secunda Priory
Location:	Llanthony Road, Gloucester
NGR:	SO 8238 1799
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	16-18 May 2016
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with the Museum of Gloucester
Accession Number:	GLRCM: 2016.18
Site Code:	SPLG 16

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May 2016 at Llanthony Secunda Priory, Llanthony Road, Gloucester. A total of five trenches was excavated.

The evaluation identified an undated, though possibly medieval, metalled surface in Trench H1.

Two probable beaten earth floor layers, of possible medieval date, were identified in Trench H2. The latest of these was overlain by a stone surface or path and was cut by a number of pits of 19th-century date. A further probable beaten earth floor layer was identified in Trench H3, which although undated, could again be of medieval date. The presence of a former structure associated with this layer was suggested by a robber cut and a probable posthole. A later, post-medieval, metalled surface sealed the robber cut, posthole and beaten earth floor within the trench.

The construction of the Eastern Canal Wall (in this location) was found to post-date a deposit of 13th to 16th-century date.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In May 2016 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Llanthony Secunda Priory Trust at Llanthony Secunda Priory, Llanthony Road, Gloucester (centred on NGR: SO 8238 1799; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to investigate the area of the proposed extension on the eastern side of the existing pond in the western part of the site, that of the proposed surface water attenuation swale in the eastern part of the site and that of the proposed access through the Eastern Canal Wall on the eastern edge of the site. Historic England are grant funding the proposed works which will proceed under a Section 17 agreement; Scheduled Monument Consent was not required.

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) for archaeological evaluation produced by CA (2016a) and approved by Andrew Armstrong, City Archaeologist, Gloucester City Council and Mel Barge, Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Historic England. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). It was monitored by Andrew Armstrong and Mel Barge, including site visits on 17 and 18 May.

The site

1.3 The site lies to the south of Gloucester city centre, lying between Llanthony Road to the west and the Sharpness Ship Canal to the east. To the north of the site is the Gloucester College campus and to the south are the site of a public house, and an area of open space programmed for development. The site itself is level, mainly laid to grass, with some areas of hardstanding, and a pond on the western side near to Llanthony Road. Along Llanthony Road, the site is bounded by lengths of wall (West Precinct Wall), of varying degrees of survival, within which are the restored remains of the West Gatehouse for the Priory, probably dating to c. 1500. Along the north side is a much rebuilt wall (Outer range North) of post-medieval date, with the paved floors and footings of a range (North West Range) of buildings against it. To the east of this are the roofless remains of a Tithe barn of probable early 16th-century date. Within the eastern part of the site is low wall parallel to the canal (Eastern Canal Wall) which is substantially post-medieval in construction. The south-eastern boundary is formed by a largely demolished structure which is apparently late medieval in date. West of this, along the southern boundary (South Precinct Wall) is the Brick Range, a roofless brick-built shell, originally built c. 1500 but modified in

the post-medieval period. To the north and west of the Brick Range are fragments of stone and brick-faced walls comprising the Cart Shed. The Victorian Farmhouse lies in the centre of the site and is thought to date to around 1870 or slightly earlier, and is built on the footprint of a section of the Medieval Range between The Outer Court and The Great Court of the priory. The Medieval Range as it is known lies to the north of the farmhouse and it is likely that it was originally longer to the north and south. It is two storey, with rubblestone walls at ground level and timber framed construction above. Its use is unknown but it could have been part of high status guest accommodation for visitors to the Priory, possibly constructed c. 1500. It was used for agricultural purposes after the Dissolution.

- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Blue Lias formation and Charmouth Mudstone formation of the Lower Jurassic period overlain by tidal flat deposits (sand, silt and clay) of the quaternary period (BGS 2016).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A number of reports and publications have been prepared detailing the evidence for the history of the site have been prepared for the site (Hughes 2003; Hughes and Rhodes 2003; Watts and Hughes 2004; Morriss 2009) and reference should be made to those for the detailed historical background.

- 2.2 In summary, taken from Watts and Hughes 2004, the Augustinian priory of Llanthony in Gloucester was founded in 1136 as a cell of the mother church, Llanthony Prima at Llanthony in Monmouthshire, at a time when the Welsh borders were in turmoil and the prior and canons required a refuge. The church at Llanthony Secunda was begun in May 1136 and was consecrated in September 1137. When peace returned to the borders, successive priors remained in Gloucester. The two communities separated in 1205 after which Llanthony Secunda flourished, amassing property within Gloucester, while the mother church became impoverished. Llanthony Secunda eventually absorbed its Welsh parent in 1481.

- 2.3 In 1301 the church, including four towers, was gutted by fire. The west front was rebuilt with twin towers flanking a great window of three stepped lancets. Most of the fabric surviving above ground today dates from the end of the 15th century when the then prior, Henry Deane, proceeded to reconstruct both church and precinct,



including the outer gatehouse. He also enlarged the south and west ranges of the inner court. By this time Llanthony Secunda was the richest Augustinian house in England, and entertained the court of Henry VII in 1500 and 1501. The priory was dissolved in 1538.

- 2.4 In 1540 the priory site was sold for £723 to Arthur Porter, JP for the County of Gloucestershire and former under-steward to the priory. Part of the priory church remained in use as the parish church. This was probably the nave; elsewhere, where part of a dissolved monastic church was retained for local worship, the chancel was usually removed to prevent restoration of the monastery. As part of his lease, Porter was required to keep and pay for a chaplain, his wages being deducted from the priory rent.
- 2.5 In 1559, the site was described as a 'capital messuage' indicating that part of the site was then in use as a dwelling house. Three generations of the Porter family used the priory as their country house until 1615 when the property passed through marriage to Sir John (later Lord Viscount) Scudamore, although Sir Arthur and Lady Ann Porter continued to live there until their deaths in 1630 and 1632 respectively. Parts of the priory were then leased out to a succession of tenants including, in 1634, an Edward Spencer, yeoman, of Gloucester. The Scudamores also retained part of the property, which appears to have flourished right up to the outbreak of the Civil War.
- 2.6 Llanthony suffered damage from both Royalists and Parliamentarians during the Civil War. Lord Viscount Scudamore, a fervent Royalist, was taken prisoner when Hereford fell in April 1643, after which his properties were plundered. The damage inflicted by the Parliamentarians was compounded by Royalists during the siege of Gloucester in August 1643, when Llanthony served as a base for the besieging forces. From the shelter of the priory walls and buildings, the Royalist troops bombarded the city with bullets and received similar punishment. One account tells of cannon fire from the Barbican that landed at Llanthony and 'made the stones of the wall fly about their ears...'
- 2.7 Writing in about 1660, Lord Scudamore stated that the parochial church at Llanthony had been 'utterly demolished' and rather than rebuild it he decided to upgrade the church in the adjoining parish of Hempsted where a new rectory was finished in 1671. The damage and loss of revenue occasioned by the Civil War also signalled

- the end of Llanthony House as a gentleman's residence. Although apparently still standing in 1662, there is no mention of the house in 1670 and it must have been demolished by then. At the end of that year the property was leased to John Clissold except for the churchyard and 'all the old walls and ruinous buildings'. The impression gained is that stone was being cleared from the site and either sold or used on elsewhere on the estate.
- 2.8 Sometime after 1670 the property was given over to farming entirely and the timber-studded range was converted into a farmhouse. Little is known of the property in the 18th century as the accounts from Hempsted parish do not survive for that period. However, descriptions of Llanthony written by Archdeacon John Furney, who visited in 1717, provide important details from both his own observations and those of older people who recalled the substantial ruins of the church and cloister. These included one Welch Thomas, who in his teens had been stationed at Llanthony under Captain Morgan during the Siege of Gloucester (see below).
- 2.9 There is no doubt from Furney's accounts and from other sources that by the 18th century there was little left of the church and cloisters. For example, writing in 1727 Matthew Gibson noted that 'of the conventual church not one stone is left upon another that is not thrown down. All of the buildings belonging to the priory are likewise destroyed, except some of the meanest offices. Neither remain there any marks of its former greatness except the west and south gates...'
- 2.10 The earliest known maps to accurately depict the layout of the priory date from the last quarter of the 18th century (Watts and Hughes 2004; Figs 2 and 3). By this time, the ruins of the priory church and cloisters were not considered a feature worth recording.
- 2.11 In the 1790s, work began on the construction of the Gloucester and Berkeley Canal (now the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal), the line of which cut straight through the priory precinct (Watts and Hughes 2004; Fig. 3). Construction involved cutting to a depth of 14 feet and piling the earth on the banks to a height not exceeding 6 feet. Little is known of the impact on the remains of the priory, although it was recorded that 'many large stones were found in excavating for the canal but unfortunately no care was taken to preserve any record of them'. The construction of the banks produced a grassy verge with towpath running along it, between four and six feet above the level of the farmland adjacent.

- 2.12 The canal remained in this state for nearly 50 years, but with the advent of the railway and the need for an outlet for the coal from the Forest of Dean, a proposal was put forward by the Gloucester and Dean Railway Company for a railway link and a large dock to be constructed in Sizes Meadow (formerly Llanthony Orchard). The cost of this undertaking soon led to the abandonment of the dock proposal in favour of a railway yard and new quay constructed by widening the canal along the Llanthony frontage. This was achieved by digging a trench parallel to the canal in which the new quay wall was built, while the original bank was left in place. The railway line from Over to the new quay was completed in 1854 (Watts and Hughes 2004; Fig. 4).
- 2.13 During the works, the Gloucester Journal reported finds of 'two stone coffins lying east and west on the spot on which the chapel is supposed to have stood', and also reported encaustic tiles and fragments of stone arches, windows and doorways, together with human bone. Further observations of monastic remains were made by John Clarke (see below).
- 2.14 Although the construction of the canal wharves and railway dominated the development of the site in the 19th century, gradual 'modernisation' of the farmstead took place throughout the century. The accommodation was redesigned, probably between 1855 and 1860, to create the present Victorian farmhouse and various sheds were constructed and ponds created. Llanthony Abbey Farm (as it became known) continued to be owned by descendants of the Scudamores until 1898 when it was sold to J. M. Collett, chemical manufacturer, who intended to build a factory there. However, the farm was appropriated by the Great Western Railway in 1906. In the 20th century, various enterprises leased the farm including horn manufacturers and the Gloucester City Rifle Club. The importance of the upstanding remains of the priory was officially recognised in 1949 when the site of Llanthony Abbey Farm was protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Gloucestershire no. 337). Gloucester City Council purchased the site from British Railways in 1974. It was transferred to Llanthony Secunda Priory Trust in 2009.
- 2.15 While the standing buildings described above give some indication of the layout of the later medieval priory, much remains to be discovered relating to the medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains of The Great Court and The Outer Court of the priory. Within the site, as currently defined for this project, only a limited

number of targeted archaeological investigations have been carried out - to identify the footprint of the West Gatehouse, investigation of some features close to the Tithe barn, and a medieval culvert running across the southern part of the site possibly associated with the leat of the Priory Mill – possible remnants of which have been encountered further east, on the opposite bank of the Sharpness Canal.

- 2.16 A number of archaeological investigations have been carried out in advance of development to the north and south of the Trust's site. The most extensive of these were carried out by Oxford Archaeology (OA) to the north on the site of the new Gloucester College in 2006 following earlier evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology in 2003 and 2005 (CA 2003; Fig. 1 Trenches C1-4). The OA fieldwork comprised area excavation to the east and investigation in the areas of the pier bases for the new college to the west (Allen *et al* 2014). The results are summarised below:
- 2.17 Burials dating to the 12th to 14th centuries were identified in the eastern part of the site, confirming that the area had been within a monastic graveyard. A large malting kiln or corndrier was located to the west, together with medieval pits containing domestic refuse and quarry pits. The evidence suggested that the area lay outside the claustral complex. Later in the medieval period (late 13th or early 14th centuries) a ditch was cut across the site. The fill included elements derived from table waste and the identification of drains and ovens in the vicinity suggested that the area lay in close proximity to a refectory or guest range.
- 2.18 The northern end of an aisled two-storey range was identified to the south of the ovens. This range was probably of later 14th or 15th-century date. A wardrobe was added later in the 15th century and the building probably continued in use until the dissolution.
- 2.19 To the west, ranges of buildings on either side of a north/south orientated track were found to be massively constructed. These two ranges represented a gatehouse, with vehicular and pedestrian entrances to the north and a single opening to the south, possibly corresponding to the Great Gate recorded in 1717. Further redevelopment of the buildings was identified, including post-Dissolution re-modelling, but all of the buildings within the excavation area appeared to have been demolished by the later part of the 17th century.

- 2.20 Other archaeological works were carried out to the south of the site, in areas of new development and consisted mainly of evaluation trenching and watching briefs (Fig. 2, TE1 to E3; TB1 to B6; T1 to T8) which demonstrated the amount of build-up of material relating to and following construction of the canal in the late 18th century, with only limited evidence for the medieval period, although some information about the pre-medieval and later topography around the Sudbrook which ran to the south of the priory was recovered (CA 2003, CA 2011a; CA 2011b; CA 2011c; CA 2012). The most extensive works were a programme of strip and map carried out in 2008 following the discovery of medieval and post-medieval structural remains in an evaluation trench (CA 2015a; Fig. 1, Trench B6 excavation). Only limited intrusive investigation was carried out before the site was backfilled, but it appears that the remains may be the structures of a southern medieval gateway (the South Gate) to the Priory, with stone buildings and areas of metalling and paving.
- 2.21 Within the current site, trenches associated with drainage works were excavated to the north of the Brick Range in 1987 by Malcolm Atkin (Fig. 2) and the West Gatehouse was also investigated at this time. The results of these investigations have not been published but the results of the latter will be incorporated into this document. The Brick Range itself has also been investigated through the excavation of three test pits (CA 2009; Fig. 1, TP1 to TP3). These established that the extant remains of the late medieval brick building, probably representing early 16th-century stables, were constructed upon the foundations of an earlier structure which probably dates to the 13th to 14th centuries. The fieldwork also identified deposits associated with both phases of construction, including a mortar floor which is likely to relate to the earlier ecclesiastical building, as well as deposits associated with the later, secular use of the site.
- 2.22 Subsequently, to inform the development of proposals for the site, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in September and October 2014 (CA 2015b; Fig. 2 T901 to T910). A total of ten trenches was excavated. Following the evaluation, an archaeological watching brief was completed during the excavation of seven contamination testing trial pits (ibid; Fig 2. T911 to T917).
- 2.23 Three evaluation trenches (Fig. 2, T901 to T903) were excavated in the area of the standing remains of the late medieval structure known as the Brick Range one trench had to be abandoned due to contaminated material found during excavation. The two other trenches demonstrated a complex history of construction and repair

for the building. The late medieval brick building currently standing appears to have been constructed on earlier stone footings with associated deposits dating to the 13th to 15th centuries. Within the western part of the building the earliest floor surface was covered by a 17th/18th century make-up deposit overlain by a substantial burnt deposit with large amounts of sandstone roof tile, suggesting a major destructive fire in the later post-medieval period. The current floor surface over this, made mainly of reused bricks, was apparently laid in the early 20th century.

- 2.24 Three evaluation trenches were excavated within the standing buildings known as the Medieval Range and one outside, immediately to the north of the standing buildings of the range (Fig. 2, T907 to T910), within the Medieval Range North. The internal trenches showed a complex history of construction and alteration, with identification a possible earlier phase of the medieval building and associated surfaces at 1m below modern floor level, overlain by later medieval and post-medieval structures of the standing building, make-up and floor surfaces; the current floor surfaces all appear to be post-medieval or modern in date. The external trench (Medieval Range North) contained remains of structures and surfaces relating to the post-medieval use of the site as a farm overlying the stone footings of a probable medieval wall footing with two possible phases, confirming that the Medieval Range previously extended to the north of its current extent.
- 2.25 Three evaluation trenches (Fig. 2, T904 to T906) were excavated within an open area west of the standing medieval and later buildings of the priory (the southern part of The Outer Court). Two of these trenches encountered deep modern infill deposits to a depth of more than 3.1m below ground level, perhaps infilling a large cut feature. A stone wall footing of possible medieval date was also found.
- 2.26 During the archaeological watching brief, undertaken in March 2015, seven trial pits were excavated to investigate possible contamination within the site. One of these trial pits (T913) revealed a wall foundation within the Brick Range.
- 2.27 Additional to the evaluation a detailed historic building assessment of the structures of the medieval range and the stables was carried out by Cotswold Archaeology (CA 2015c). Two buildings were assessed: The timber and stone range (the Medieval Range) north of and including the Victorian farmhouse, and the Brick Range. The Medieval Range was extremely complex, but in essence a ground floor of stone, of

medieval origin, but with many phases of alteration and repair, supported a late 15th- to early 16th-century, timber-framed upper floor. The existing building is a remnant of a range that was as long again to the north, truncated in the 1870s, and before 1853 extended at least as far south as the present farmhouse does. The upper floor is constructed in a way that indicates it was jettied, but contradicting this is the fact that the current ground floor is wider than the upper storey, not narrower. It is tentatively suggested that the jettied section may come from somewhere else and the rest of the building constructed to match, although there are still unexplained anomalies. The two storey Brick Range, is conventionally dated to the early 16th century. It too has undergone much alteration. It is currently unroofed. A recent assessment of the building by Oxford Archaeology was reviewed (OA 2014). The general conclusions of this report are accepted, with some minor revisions and comments and added information from the recent evaluation excavations by Cotswold Archaeology (CA 2015b). The dating of this range to the early 16th century and its significance as an exceptionally early brick building (in the West Country) are confirmed.

- 2.28 The West Precinct Wall (South) (Listed building ref. 1271696) is located to the south of the West Gate House and is the remains of a battlemented precinct wall of late medieval date. There are numerous patch repairs and it is constructed of dark red hand-made brick with traces of surviving patterns of grey-glazed and burnt brick headers in the form of lozenges, at least one roadside cross and some chequer work. Much of the wall top is modern and there are a number of internal buttresses (Llanthony Secunda Priory Trust 2015).
- 2.29 Excavation conducted around the western gatehouse, c. 20m to the north of the current trenches, suggested medieval remains survived at approximately 0.7m below modern surface level. It was thought that a nineteenth-century cottage constructed next to the gatehouse had removed most of the medieval stratigraphy.
- 2.30 Archaeological evaluation adjacent to the West Precinct Wall (South) identified various phases of construction and/or reconstruction of the wall (CA 2016b). The three buttresses were found to have been constructed on an offset section of the wall. This may represent an earlier attempt to repair/support the wall but the identification of a perpendicular wall foundation may also suggest that a broadly contemporary building may have been located in this part of the site.

- 2.31 The southern end of the Eastern Canal Wall has recently been investigated to the south of the current site. In this location the construction of the wall was found of post-medieval date (CA 2016c). Historic Building Recording In the location of the proposed access through the Eastern Canal Wall, identified elements of the wall which are thought to be pre-Dissolution (Phase 2). These were thought to be overlain by Phase 3 (post-Dissolution) elements (CA 2016d).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation were 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 *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014), the evaluation was designed to be minimally intrusive and minimally destructive to archaeological remains. The information gathered will enable Historic England and Gloucester City 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).

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of five trenches in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Trench H1 measured 15m in length and 1.6m in width, Trenches H2 and H3 both measured 7.5m in length and 1.6m in width whilst Trenches H4 and H5 both measured 2.4m in length and 2.4m in width. Trench H3 was not fully excavated to the uppermost horizon of archaeological significance due to the presence of ground contaminants in a modern levelling deposit in the western half of the trench. Trenches H4 and H5 were intended to be excavated to either the base of the Eastern Canal Wall, the uppermost archaeological horizon or 1.2m below present ground level, whichever was encountered first. 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*.

- 4.2 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*.
- 4.3 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*. No deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.4 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 the Museum of Gloucester under accession number GLRCM: 2016.18, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix E, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-7)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts, finds and the biological evidence are to be found in Appendices A, B and C respectively. Details of the relative heights of the principal deposits and features expressed as metres Above Ordnance Datum (m AOD) appear in Appendix D.

Trench H1 (Figs 2 & 3)

- 5.2 A metalled surface, 103, comprising tightly packed small stones and pebbles was identified at 1.1m below present ground level (bpgl). This was sealed by buried soil horizon 102 which was c. 0.1m thick. Further investigation of these deposits was prevented by the rapid ingress of groundwater into the trench. Possible evidence for hydrocarbon contamination was identified on the surface of the water. The location and height of surface 103 were recorded but the full extent of the surface was not

established and the deposit was not investigated further, in consultation with Andrew Armstrong and Mel Barge.

- 5.3 Layer 102 was sealed by a modern levelling layer 101 which was in turn sealed by the existing topsoil 101.

Trench H2 (Figs 2 & 4)

- 5.4 Layer 207 comprised compacted mid brown silty gravel with crushed mortar inclusions and was c. 0.24m thick. The exact function of this layer remains unclear due to the limited view afforded by the evaluation trenching, however it may represent a beaten earth floor. It was sealed by a similar layer, 206, which consisted of compacted mid brown silty clay with frequent crushed mortar inclusions, this was identified across the whole of the base of Trench H2 (except where cut by later features) and was again interpreted as a beaten earth floor. This deposit, very similar to deposit 304 in Trench H3, was cut by a sub-circular pit 205 which measured 0.28m in depth and contained a single silty clay fill 204 (Fig. 4, Section AA) from which two sherds of later medieval or post-medieval pottery and a small quantity of other artefactual material broadly datable to the 19th century was recovered. Pits, 209, 211 and 213 lay in the south-eastern part of the trench and were not subject to excavation.

- 5.5 Probable beaten earth floor 206 was overlain by elements of a stone surface or path, 208. This comprised a single course of flat stone fragments which was identified at the north-western end of the trench.

- 5.6 The above deposits and features were sealed by several successive modern levelling layers, 203, 202 and 201, which were in turn sealed by the existing topsoil, 200.

Trench H3 (Figs 2 & 5)

- 5.7 Limited investigation identified light brown grey sandy silt deposit 307 at the base of the sequence (Fig. 5, Section BB). The upper surface of this deposit coincided with the base of robber trench 305 which also cut deposit 304. The latter comprised compact light pink brown silty clay with frequent crushed mortar inclusions and was very similar in composition to the probable beaten earth floor, 206, identified in Trench H2. Robber trench 305 appeared to be 'L' shaped in plan (therefore possibly representing the corner of a structure); however its south-eastern and south-western

edges were not identified within the trench. It contained a brown green sandy silt and stone backfill 306 from which a small fragment of lead alloy sheet of medieval or post-medieval date was recovered. Probable beaten earth floor 304 was also cut by probable posthole 308 which was immediately adjacent to robber trench 305.

- 5.8 The fill of posthole 308, robber trench fill 306 and layer 304 were sealed by a metallated stone surface 303. This was c. 0.08m thick and consisted of small angular and sub-angular stones in a clay silt matrix. A single sherd of pottery of post-medieval date was recovered from this surface which was sealed by buried topsoil 302, a modern levelling layer 301 and the existing topsoil 300.

Trench H4 (Figs 2 & 6)

- 5.9 The earliest deposit encountered within the trench, 401, comprised mid brown grey sand silt with fragments of irregular stone rubble. A single sherd of glazed pottery of later medieval or post-medieval date was recovered from this deposit which was cut by construction cut 402 for wall footing 404 (Fig. 6, Section CC). Wall footing 404 comprised a single course of roughly squared, un-bonded, stone blocks which was offset by a maximum of 0.05m from wall 405 which sat directly above. Wall 405 consisted of two irregular courses of roughly squared blocks bonded by yellow sandy mortar. It was abutted by the backfill 403 of the construction cut 402 which was sealed by the existing topsoil 400.
- 5.10 The top of wall 405 was overlain by a single course, 406, of flat fragments of stone laid flat, bonded with a light grey white gravel mortar and which measured c. 0.07m in thickness (Fig. 6, Eastern Canal Wall west facing elevation). This course, which continued for approximately 0.7m to the north and south of Trench H4, appeared to represent a break in construction and was overlain by wall 407 which comprised roughly coursed irregularly sized stone blocks bonded with a light grey gritty mortar.

Trench H5 (Figs 2 & 7)

- 5.11 Wall 503, representing the western side of the Eastern Canal Wall was investigated in Trench H5. It was abutted by two layers of modern levelling/made ground and the existing topsoil. Modern artefactual material was observed within these deposits but was not retained. Wall 503 appeared to represent a single phase of construction.

6. THE FINDS

6.1 Artefactual material recovered from the evaluation is listed in Appendix B and discussed further below:

Pottery

6.2 A total of four sherds of pottery, weighing 37g, was recorded from three deposits (Appendix B), dating from the medieval to post-medieval periods. Where possible, Gloucester city type series codes have been applied (Vince 1983)

6.3 A total of three sherds of oxidised Malvernian Chase glazed ware (TF52) were recorded from fill 204 of pit 205 and levelling layer 401. The bodysherds are dateable to the later medieval and post-medieval periods. One sherd of a black glazed earthenware, dating to the post-medieval period (probably after c. 1680/1700) was recorded from metalled surface 303.

Other finds

6.4 One fragment of clay tobacco pipe was recorded from fill 204 of pit 205. It is a small and featureless fragment and so cannot be more closely dated than between the late 16th to 19th centuries.

6.5 Two fragments of glass, dateable to the post-medieval period, one of window glass and one of a bottle, were recorded from fill 204 of pit 205.

6.6 Two iron nails were recorded from fill 204 of pit 205 and from fill 306 of robber trench 305. Both are forged, flat-headed forms, for which only broad dating is possible. One fragment of lead alloy sheet was also recorded from robber cut fill 306, probably a fragment of roofing lead dating from the medieval to post-medieval periods.

6.7 Two fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) were recorded from fill 204 of pit 205. The fragments, one flat tile and one brick, are broadly dateable to the post-medieval or modern periods.



7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Animal Bone

- 7.1 Six fragments of animal bone (72g) were recovered from fill 204 of pit 205 and fill 306 of robber trench 305. The material was fragmented and well preserved, making possible the identification of cattle (*Bos taurus*) and sheep/goat (*Ovis aries/Capra hircus*) from meat-poor skeletal elements. No cut and/or chop marks were observed to suggest an origin in butchery waste. However, as both species have been exploited as domestic animals since the Neolithic their inclusion on a site of this period is to be expected (Baker and Worley, 2014). No further useful interpretative information was obtained.

8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1 Although no evidence was recovered to date metallised surface 103, identified in Trench H1, a medieval date cannot be ruled out for this deposit.
- 8.2 Probable beaten earth floor 206 was undated, but as with surface 103, no evidence was identified to discount a medieval date. It lay approximately 0.6m lower than a very similar deposit in Trench H3 and so was unlikely to have represented the same surface. Layer 206, which may have been superseded by stone surface 208, was extensively disturbed by several pits of likely 19th-century date.
- 8.3 Probable beaten earth floor 304 was also undated but a medieval date cannot be discounted. It seems likely that this surface was internal and butted a wall robbed out by cut 305. The location of a posthole, 308, in the angle formed by the return of the robber trench may have been associated with this wall. The structure suggested by robber trench 305 and posthole 308 appeared to have been demolished in the post-medieval period and replaced by metallised surface 303 with the single sherd of pottery recovered from the surface indicating a late 17th or 18th-century date for this deposit.
- 8.4 The Eastern Canal Wall (Structure E) has been described as being 'clearly multiphase' (CA 2016d, 25) and the evidence identified in Trench H4 has further confirmed this view. A single piece of glazed pottery of medieval or post-medieval (13th to 16th-century) date was recovered from deposit 401 which was cut by construction cut 402 for the earliest phase of wall 404. The Eastern Canal Wall was

thought to be 'probably pre-Dissolution or certainly the same tradition' (*ibid.*, 27). However, it should be noted that the southern end of the Eastern Canal Wall has been found to date to the post-medieval period; it is entirely possible that the wall has been substantially remodelled and parts may date to the pre- and post-Dissolution periods.

- 8.5 Trench H5 confirmed that there is at least 1m depth of post-medieval to modern levelling deposits butting the eastern side of the Eastern Canal Wall. These deposits appear to represent the dumping and levelling of spoil from the construction and/or maintenance of the nearby canal and/or railway sidings. Similar deposits, also seemingly associated with the construction or maintenance of the canal and/or railway sidings, have been identified in a number of previous archaeological investigations in the location of the eastern canal wall (e.g. CA 2003, CA 2016c).

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Tim Havard, assisted by Jess Stevens. The report was written by Tim Havard. The finds and biological evidence reports were written by Katie Marsden and Andy Clarke respectively. The illustrations were prepared by Lucy Martin. The archive has been compiled, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Laurent Coleman and Steve Sheldon.

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
H1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown grey humic clay silt	>15	>1.6	0.15	
H1	101	Layer		Modern levelling/made ground	Mixed blue grey clay, brick and stone rubble, re-deposited topsoil	>15	>1.6	0.9	
H1	102	Layer		Buried topsoil	Dark black grey humic clay silt	>15	>1.6	0.1	
H1	103	Layer		Metalled surface	Small stones and pebbles (max 0.06m x 0.06m x 0.04m) set in a silty clay matrix	>4.8	>1.6	N/A	
H2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown grey humic clay silt	>7.5	>1.6	0.2	
H2	201	Layer		Modern levelling/made ground	Mixed brown grey silty clay with frequent brick and stone rubble and modern rubbish	>7.5	>1.6	0.2	
H2	202	Layer		Modern levelling/made ground	Mid grey silty clay with occasional CBM and mortar fragments	>7.5	>1.6	0.11	
H2	203	Layer		Modern levelling/made ground	Compacted dark brown black silty clay with occasional crushed mortar	>7.5	>1.6	0.27	
H2	204	Fill	205	Pit fill	Mid brown grey silty clay	>2.4	>1.16	0.28	C19+
H2	205	Cut		Pit cut	Sub-circular in plan, moderately sloped uneven concave sides, uneven base	>2.4	>1.16	0.28	
H2	206	Layer		Floor surface	Compacted mid brown silty with 20% crushed mortar and occasional gravel	>7.5	>1.6	0.22	
H2	207	Layer		Levelling layer	Compacted mid brown silty gravel with moderate crushed mortar inclusions	>1.0 5	>0.5	0.24	
H2	208	Layer		Floor surface	Single course of flat stone pieces (up to 0.4m x 0.26m x 0.03m) laid flat	>1.8	0.52	0.03	
H2	209	Cut		Pit cut	Sub-circular in plan, unexcavated	1.4	>0.63	N/A	
H2	210	Fill	209	Pit fill	Dark grey brown silty clay, unexcavated	1.4	>0.63	N/A	
H2	211	Cut		Pit cut	Sub-circular in plan, unexcavated	0.74	>0.41	N/A	
H2	212	Fill	211	Pit fill	Dark grey brown silty clay, unexcavated	0.74	>0.41	N/A	
H2	213	Cut		Pit cut	Sub-circular in plan, unexcavated	1.09	>0.46	N/A	
H2	214	Fill	213	Pit fill	Dark grey brown silty clay, unexcavated	1.09	>0.46	N/A	
H3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown grey humic clay silt	>7.5	>1.6	0.16	
H3	301	Layer		Modern levelling/made ground	Mixed gravel, re-deposited topsoil and building rubble	>7.5	>1.6	0.16	
H3	302	Layer		Buried topsoil	Dark brown grey humic clay silt, very rare irregular gravel inclusions	>2.5	>1.6	0.32	
H3	303	Layer		Metalled surface	Angular and sub-angular stones (max 0.06m x 0.06m x 0.06m) set in a dark grey clay silt matrix	>3.5	>0.6	0.08	LC17-18
H3	304	Layer		Floor surface	Light pink brown 70% silty clay, 30% crushed mortar	>1.6	>1.5	0.11	
H3	305	Cut		Robber trench	'L'-shaped in plan, steep sides, base not established. Not fully excavated	>1.6	0.76	>0.2	
H3	306	Fill	305	Robber trench fill	Mixed brown green sandy silt, irregular stone and sandy mortar	>1.6	0.76	>0.2	Med/p-med
H3	307	Deposit	305	Deposit	Light brown grey sandy silt with 20% mixed charcoal and ashy material	>0.8	>0.4	N/A	
H3	308	Cut		Posthole	Sub-circular in plan, unexcavated	0.3	0.3	N/A	
H3	309	Fill	308	Posthole fill	Mid brown grey silty clay, unexcavated	0.3	0.3	N/A	
H4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown grey humic clay silt	>2.4	>2.4	0.2	
H4	401	Layer		Levelling layer	Mid brown grey 80% sandy silt, 20% irregular stone	>2.4	>2.4	0.35	C13-16

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
H4	402	Cut		Construction cut for 404	Linear in plan, steeply sloped western side, eastern side not exposed, flat base	>2.4	>0.6	0.41	
H4	403	Fill	402	Backfill of construction cut 402	50% light brown gravel mortar, 50% re-deposited 401	>2.4	>0.6	0.41	
H4	404	Structure		Wall footing	Single course of roughly squared stone blocks, offset by 0.05m. Not bonded.	>2.4	>0.05	0.14	
H4	405	Structure		Wall sat on 404	Two irregular courses of irregularly sized roughly squared blocks bonded with light yellow sandy mortar	>2.4	N/A	0.32	
H4	406	Structure		break in construction of wall	Single course of flat stone pieces (between 0.2m and 0.3m in length) laid flat, bonded with a light grey white gravel mortar	3.7	N/A	0.07	
H4	407	Structure		Wall sat on 406	Roughly coursed irregularly sized stone, bonded with light grey gritty mortar	>2.4	0.6	1.6	
H5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown grey humic clay silt	>2.4	>2.4	0.1	
H5	501	Layer		Modern levelling/made ground	Mixed re-deposited topsoil and stone rubble	>2.4	>2.4	0.4	
H5	502	Layer		Modern levelling/made ground	Mixed orange red compacted and crushed CBM	>2.4	>2.4	>0.4	
H5	503	Structure		Wall	As 407	>2.4	0.6	2.1	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Category	Type	Count	Wt (g)	Spot-date
204	medieval/pmed pottery	Malvern Chase gl. (TF52)	2	23	C19+
	pmed/mod CBM	brick	1	78	
	pmed/mod CBM	flat tile	1	41	
	CTP	stem frag	1	2	
	pmed glass	bottle frag	1	8	
	pmed glass	window	1	11	
	fe obj	nail	1	5	
303	pmed pottery	BG EW	1	9	LC17-C18
306	pb sheet	roofing lead?	1	136	med/pmed
	fe obj	nail	1	18	
401	medieval/pmed pottery	Malvern Chase gl. (TF52)	1	5	C13-C16

Fabric code table:

Period	Fabric Code	Description
medieval/post-medieval	TF52	Malvernian Chased glazed ware
post-medieval	BG EW	brown glazed ew

Codes in bold equate to the Gloucester city (1983) type series

APPENDIX C: THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Identified animal species by fragment count (NISP) and weight and context.

Cut	Fill	BOS	O/C	Ind	Total	Weight (g)
205	204		2	2	4	20
305	306	1	1		2	52
Total		1	3	2	6	
Weight		46	19	7	72	

Bos = cattle; O/C = sheep/goat; Ind - indeterminate

APPENDIX D: LEVELS OF PRINCIPAL DEPOSITS AND STRUCTURES

Levels are expressed as metres below current ground level and as metres Above Ordnance Datum (AOD). Upper figures are depth below modern ground level; lower figures in parentheses are metres AOD.

	Trench H1
Current ground level	0.00m (9.84m)
Top metallised surface 103	1.09m (8.75m)
Limit of excavation	1.15m (8.69m)

	Trench H2
Current ground level	0.00m (10.24m)
Top of stone surface 208	0.88m (9.36m)
Top of pit 205	0.93 (9.31m)
Top of probable beaten earth floor 206	0.94m (9.30m)
Limit of excavation	1.20m (9.04m)

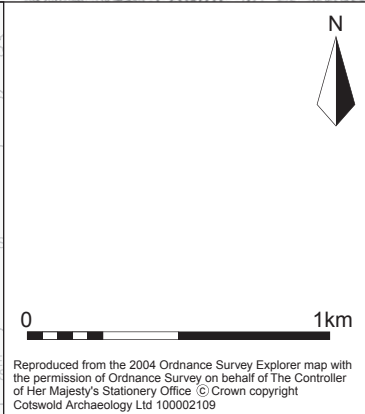
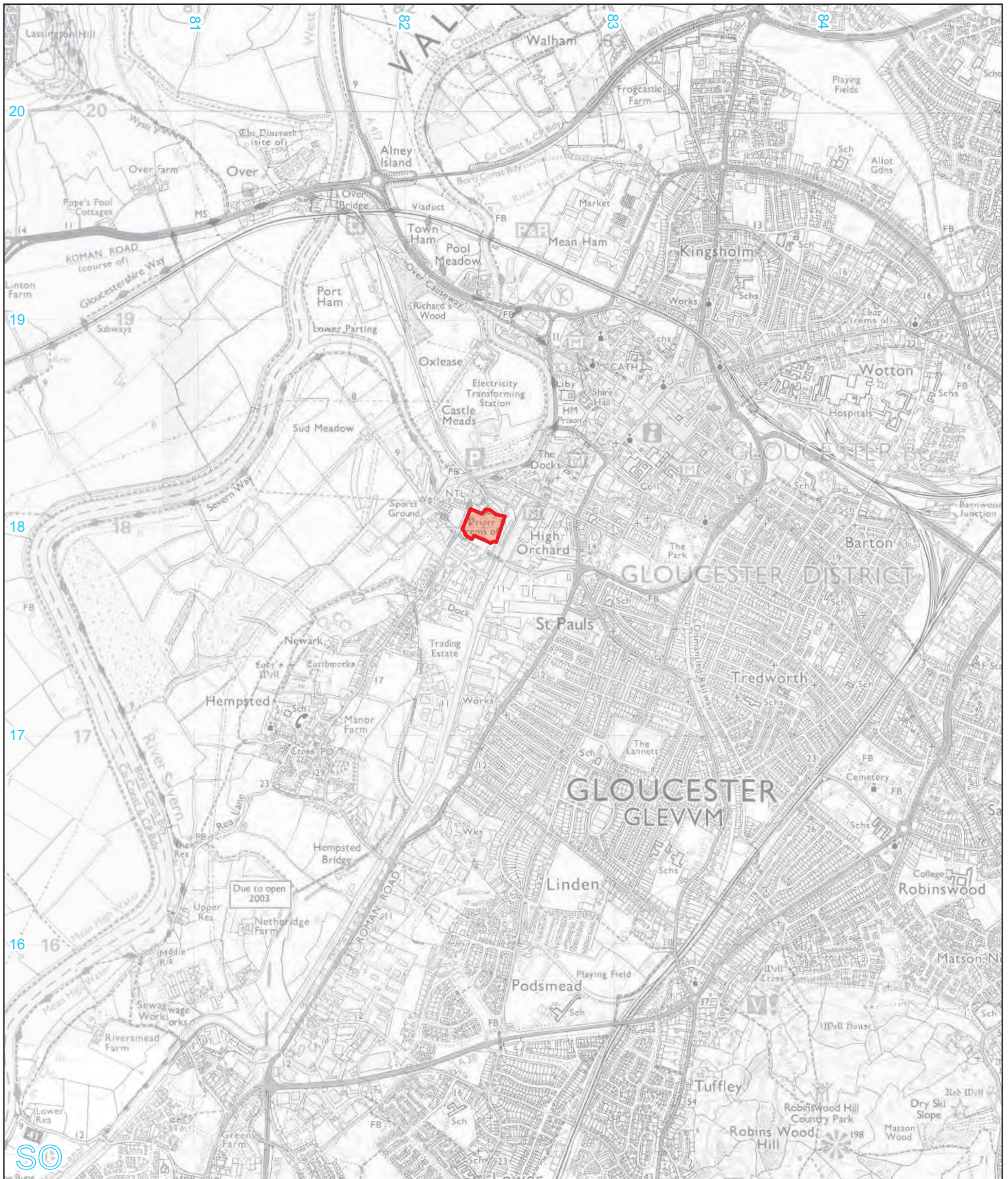
	Trench H3
Current ground level	0.00m (10.20m)
Top of metallised surface 303	0.25m (9.95m)
Top of beaten earth floor 304	0.30m (9.90m)
Top of robber cut backfill 306	0.28m (9.92m)
Limit of excavation	0.4m (9.80m)

	Trench H4
Current ground level	0.00m (10.27m)
Break in construction 406	+0.05m (10.32m)
Top footing 404	0.30m (9.97m)
Limit of excavation	0.55m (9.70m)

	Trench H5
Current ground level	0.00m (11.52m)
Limit of excavation	1.20m (10.32m)

APPENDIX E: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Pond, Swale and Eastern Canal Wall, Llanthony Secunda Priory, Llanthony Road, Gloucester: Archaeological Evaluation	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May 2016 at Llanthony Secunda Priory, Llanthony Road, Gloucester. A total of five trenches was excavated.</p> <p>The evaluation identified an undated, though possibly medieval, metalled surface in Trench H1.</p> <p>Two probable beaten earth floor layers, of possible medieval date, were identified in Trench H2. The latest of these was overlain by a stone surface or path and was cut by a number of pits of 19th-century date. A further probable beaten earth floor layer was identified in Trench H3, which although undated, could again be of medieval date. The presence of a former structure associated with this layer was suggested by a robber cut and a probable posthole. A later, post-medieval, metalled surface sealed the robber cut, posthole and beaten earth floor within the trench.</p> <p>The construction of the Eastern Canal Wall (in this location) was found to post-date a deposit of 13th to 16th-century date.</p>	
Project dates	16–18 May 2016	
Project type	Field Evaluation	
Previous work	Excavation 1986-7, Archaeological evaluation and watching brief (CA 2003-2016), Excavation (Oxford Archaeology 2005)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Llanthony Road, Gloucester, Gloucestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)		
Site co-ordinates	SO 8238 1799	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	N/A	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Laurent Coleman and Steven Sheldon	
Project Supervisor	Tim Havard	
MONUMENT TYPE		
Priory		
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
None		
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content:	
Physical	Gloucester City Museum/ GLRCM : 2016.18	Ceramics, animal bone
Paper	Gloucester City Museum/ GLRCM : 2016.18	Context sheets, permatrace drawings
Digital	Gloucester City Museum/ GLRCM : 2016.18	Digital photos, survey data
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016. <i>Pond, Swale and Eastern Canal Wall, Llanthony Secunda Priory, Llanthony Road, Gloucester: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 16272		



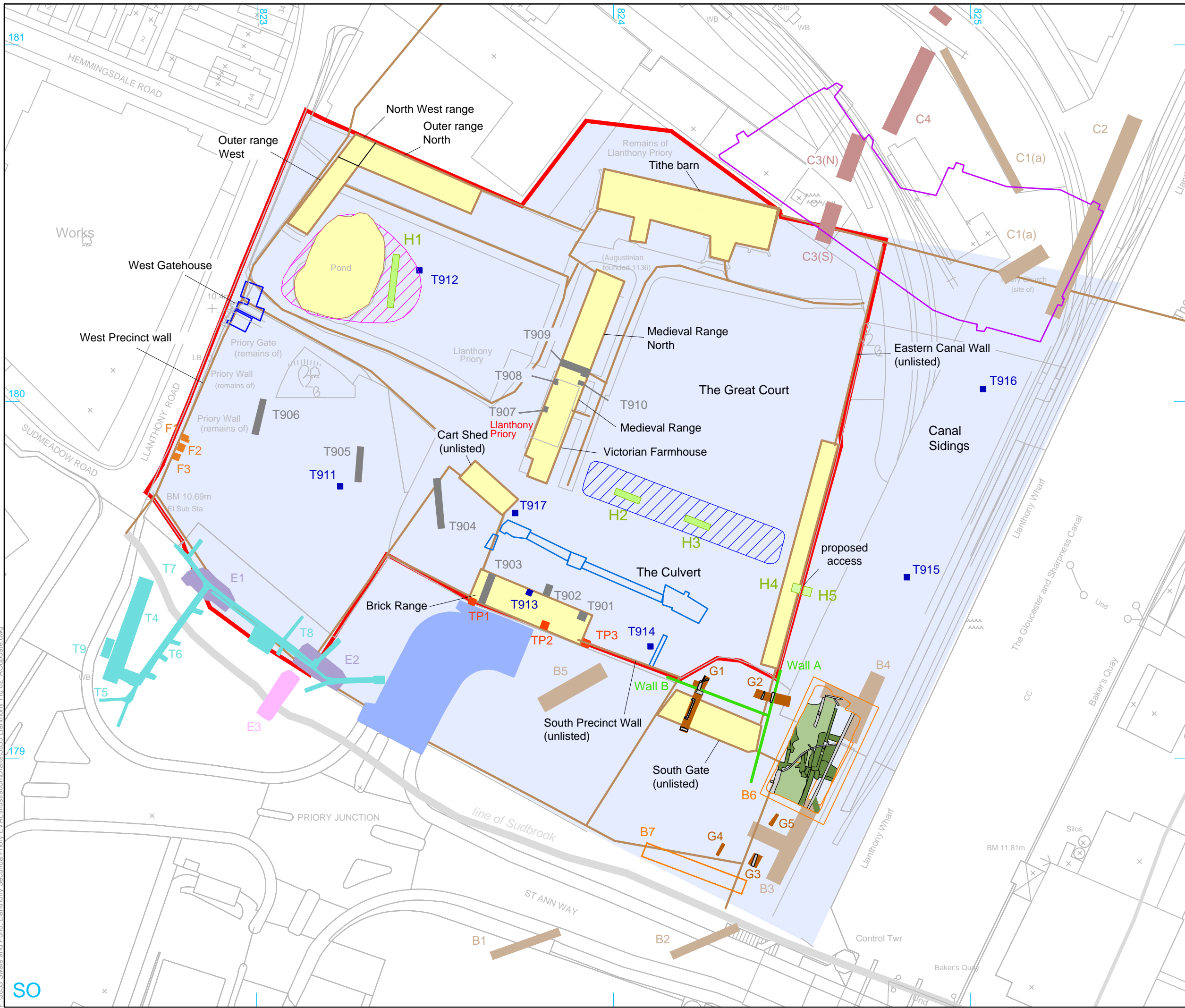
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PROJECT TITLE
 Pond, Swale and Eastern Canal Wall
 Llanthony Secunda Priory, Gloucester
 Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan


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- site boundary
- evaluation trenches
- proposed swale
- proposed pond extension
- CA 2003
- CA 2005
- CA 2009
- CA 2011a
- CA 2011b
- CA 2011c
- CA 2012
- CA 2015a
- Oxford Archaeology 2005 Excavation Area
- 1987 excavations
- 1986 excavation area
- evaluation trench (CA 2014)
- evaluation trench / trial pit (CA 2016c)
- evaluation trench / trial pit (CA 2016b)
- contamination investigation
- trial pit (CA 2015b)
- medieval structure
- medieval surface
- wall
- Scheduled Monument
- postulated layout of priory precinct (after Hughes 2003)
- projected extent of walls



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FIGURE TITLE
 Trench location plan

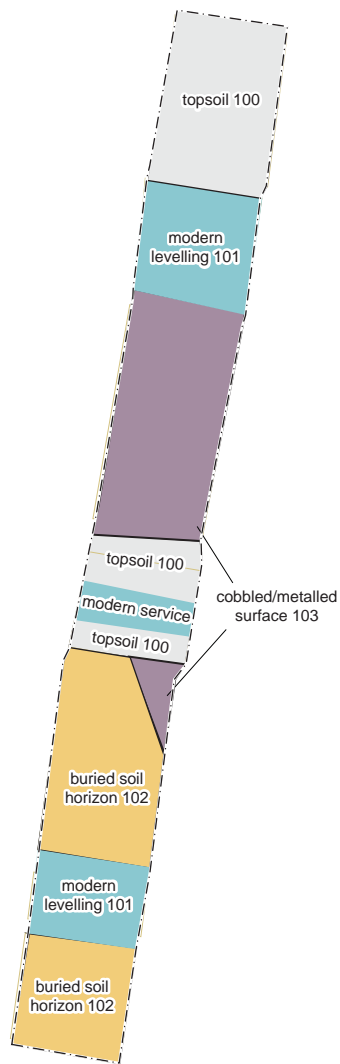
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SO



Trench H1 plan



Trench H1, general view looking north-east (scale 1m)

-  archaeological feature
-  structural feature
-  layer/deposit
-  modern
-  topsoil



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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Trench H1: plan and photograph

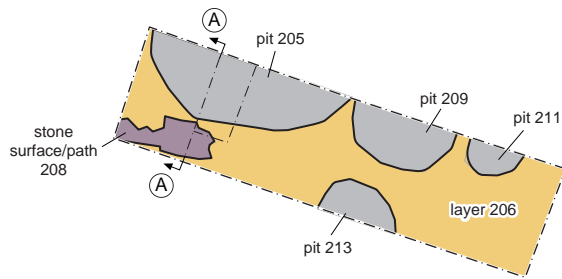
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FIGURE NO.

3



Trench H2 plan

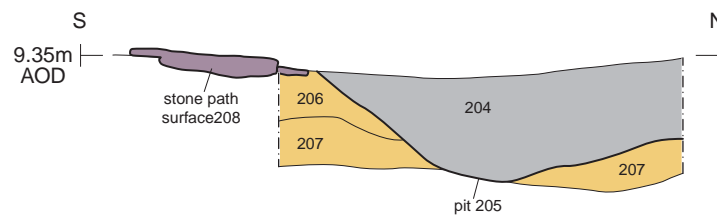


0 5m



Trench H2, pit 205 pre-excitation, looking north-west (scales 1m, 0.4m)

Section AA



0 1m

- archaeological feature
- structural feature
- layer/deposit



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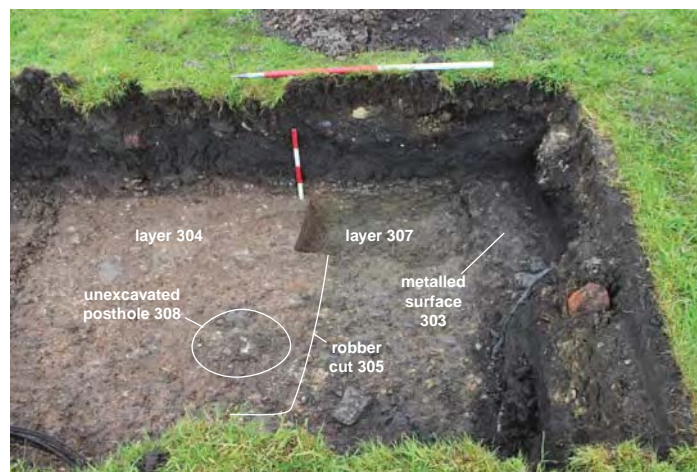
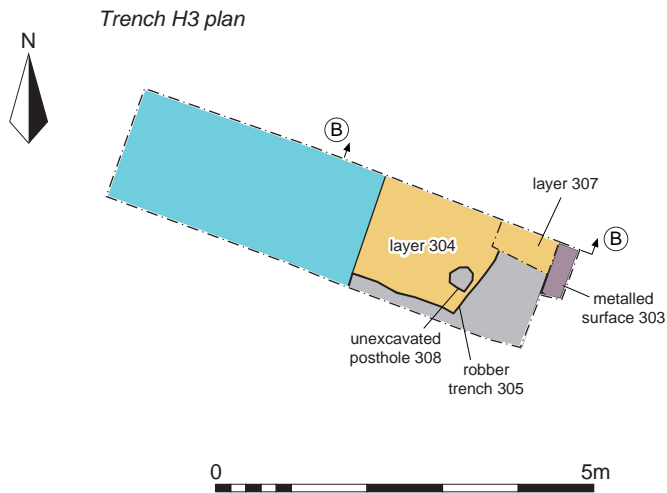
FIGURE TITLE

Trench H2: plan, section and photograph

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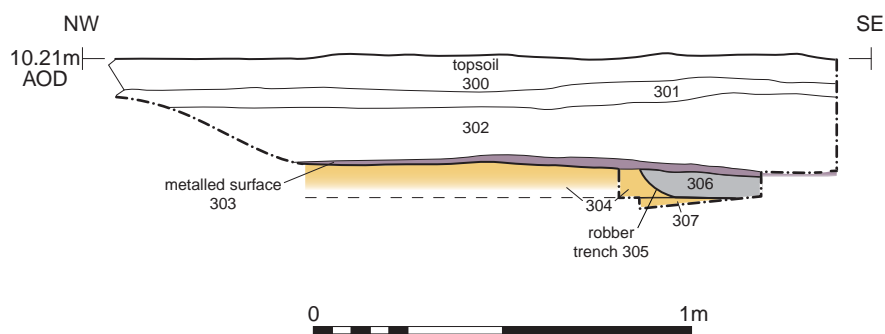
FIGURE NO.

4



Trench H3, south-eastern end, looking north-east (scales 1m, 0.4m)

Section BB



- archaeological feature
- structural feature
- layer/deposit
- modern



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FIGURE TITLE

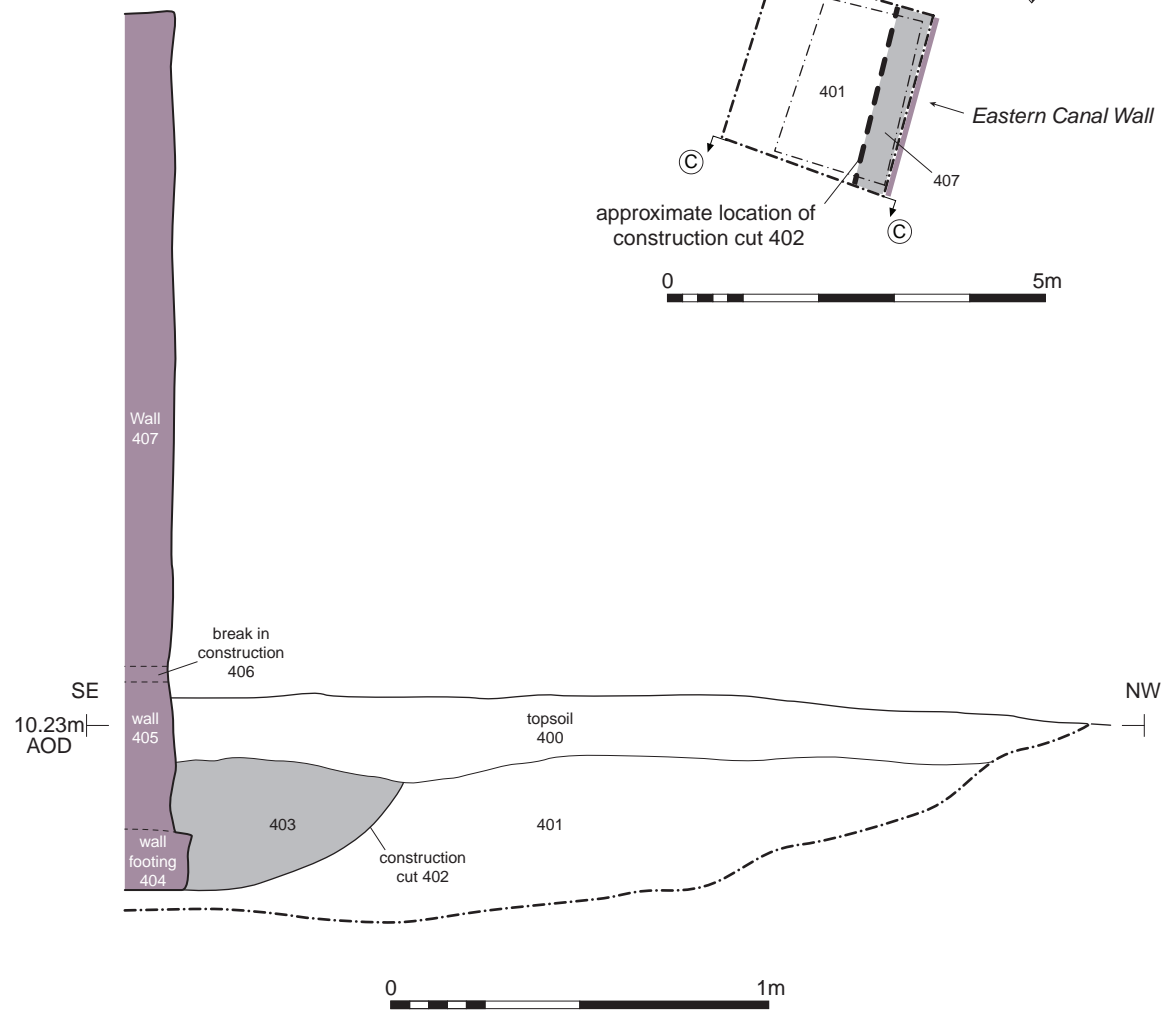
Trench H3: plan, section and photograph

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FIGURE NO.

5

Section CC



Trench H4, looking south-east (scales 1m)

- archaeological feature
- structural feature

Eastern Canal Wall west facing elevation

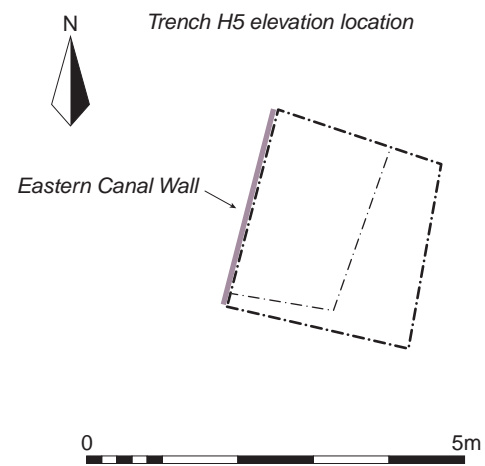


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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
**Trench H4: plan, section, photograph
 and photorectified section of Eastern
 Canal Wall**

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Trench H5, looking south-west (scales 1m)

Eastern Canal Wall east facing elevation




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FIGURE TITLE
Trench H5: plan, photograph and photorectified section of Eastern Canal Wall

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APPROVED BY	TH	SCALE@A3	1:20 & 1:100	7

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