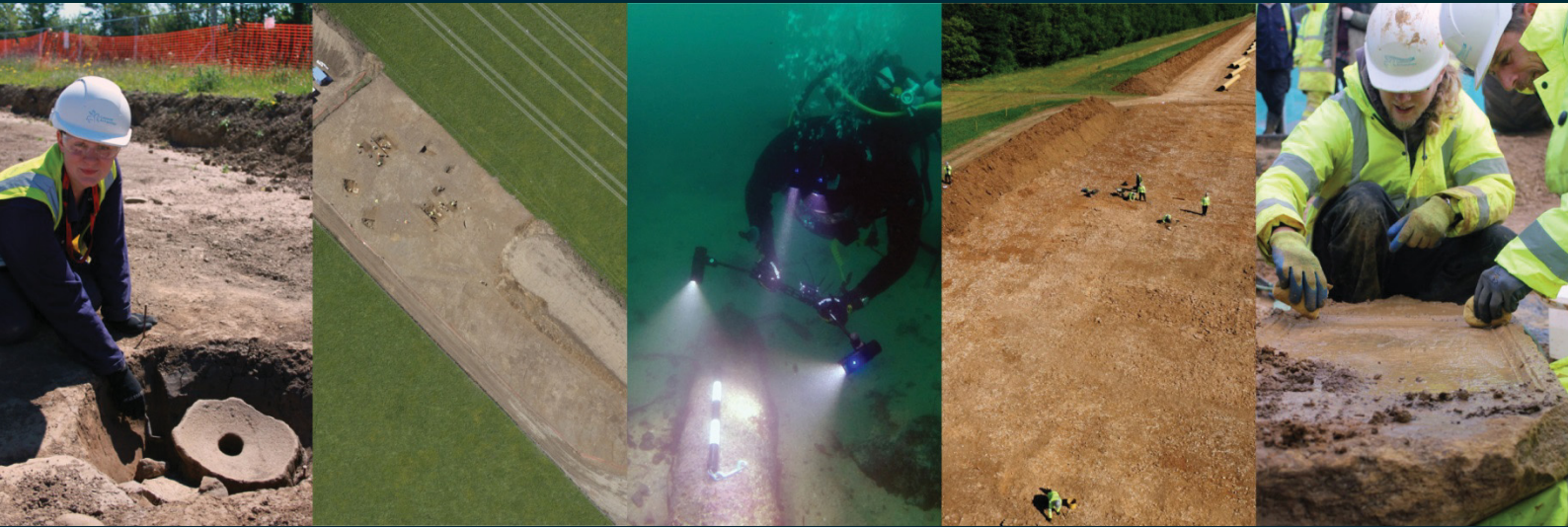


## 2, 2A, 2B Mill House and 2-8 Church Road Bishop's Cleeve Gloucestershire



for  
Blackwater Securities Ltd

CA Project: 4473  
CA Report: 16472

August 2016



2, 2A, 2B Mill House and 2-8 Church Road  
 Bishop's Cleeve  
 Gloucestershire

## Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 4473  
 CA Report: 16472



Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	23-08-16	Marino Cardelli		Internal review		Cliff Bateman

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## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	2, 2A, 2B Mill House and 2-8 Church Road
<b>Location:</b>	Bishop's Cleeve, Gloucestershire
<b>NGR:</b>	SP 0190 2815
<b>Type:</b>	Watching Brief
<b>Date:</b>	7-8 October 2013 and 4-21 July 2016
<b>Planning Reference:</b>	TBC/12/00704/FUL; condition 10
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	The Wilson, Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum
<b>Site Code:</b>	MHC13

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in October 2013 and in July 2016 during groundworks associated with a proposed mixed-use development at 2, 2A, 2B Mill House and 2-8 Church Road, Bishop's Cleeve Gloucestershire.

A single pit containing three sherds of medieval pottery was identified during the groundworks. No further archaeological features were observed, and evidence of modern truncation and/or dumping immediately sealing the natural substrate was revealed throughout the site.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In October 2013 and July 2016 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Blackwater Securities Ltd at 2, 2A, 2B Mill House and 2-8 Church Road, Bishop's Cleeve, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SP 0190 2815; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to planning consent granted by Tewkesbury Borough Council (TBC) for a proposed mixed-use development including extensions and alterations to an existing building and the erection of two retail units and six flats (planning ref: TBC/12/00704/FUL; condition 10).
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2013) that was approved by TBC acting on the advice of Charles Parry, Archaeologist, Gloucestershire County Council, the archaeological advisor to TBC. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014). It was monitored by Charles Parry.

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The site lies within the historic core of the village immediately to the south of Church Road. It formerly comprised car parking and open ground bounded to the north by shops fronting Church Road, and to the south and west by Tesco's car park and access road. To the east lies a small area of public open space. The underlying geology of the area comprises Charmouth Mudstone Formation overlain by superficial deposits of Cheltenham Sand and Gravel (BGS 2016). The geological substrate identified during the watching brief comprised yellow-orange silty sands.

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Numerous archaeological investigations have been made and reported on at Bishop's Cleeve over the last decade, with evidence for Iron Age, Romano-British, Late Saxon and medieval activity having been recorded (Cullen and Hancocks 2007). The current site lies to the south of Gilder's Paddock and 21 Church Road, where evidence for Iron Age, Romano-British and medieval occupation was identified in 1989/90 (Parry 1999) and 2004 (Cullen and Hancocks 2007). Further evidence of occupation is attested immediately to the south of the current site, now

the site of Tesco (Lovell *et al.* 2007), and to the west at Home Farm (Barber and Walker 1998) and Stoke Road (Enright and Watts 2002).

### 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 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.

### 4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2016) An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks, predominately foundation trenches, for the three areas of new build (Fig. 2; Areas 1, 2, 3).

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

4.3 The archive and artefacts from the watching brief 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 Wilson Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum along with the site archive. 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.

### 5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3)

5.1 The natural geological substrate, comprising yellow-orange silty sands, was revealed within Areas 1 and 2 at a typical depth of 0.6m below present ground level (bpgl). Within Area 3, the natural sands were identified solely in the south-eastern corner of the new build at a depth of 0.95m bpgl, the remainder of the groundworks

in this area being founded above the natural substrate. In all instances the natural sands were immediately sealed by modern made-ground deposits containing plastics and building waste.

- 5.2 Within Area 2 the natural sands were cut by pit 1703. The full extent of the pit was not revealed, but extended outwith the area of current groundworks. The pit, presumed to be circular in plan, measured approximately 1.6m in diameter and 0.6m in depth. It had moderate sides, concave base and contained two silt fills, 1704 and 1705. Three sherds of 11th to 13th-century pottery were recovered from lower fill 1704.

## 6. THE FINDS

- 6.1 Artefactual material recovered during the watching brief is listed in Appendix B and discussed further below. Gloucester type series codes have been applied to the pottery (Vince 1983).

### Pottery

- 6.2 A total of three sherds (21g) of pottery were recorded from fill 1704 within pit 1705 (Appendix B). The unfeathered bodysherds occur in an oolitic limestone-tempered fabric (TF41B) and dated from the 11th to 13th/earlier 14th century (Dalwood and Edwards 2004).

### Other finds

- 6.3 A single formless fragment fired clay, for which original function is uncertain, was also recorded from fill 1704.

## 7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1 The presence of made ground deposits containing plastics, bricks and modern glass immediately sealing the natural substrate, suggests the site has previously been truncated, most probably during construction of the retail units fronting Church Road immediately to the north. However, the survival of pit 1703 does suggest that the modern truncation was not of sufficient depth to remove all, presumably locally deep, archaeological features.



7.2 The pottery recovered from pit 1703 is dated to the 11th to 13th century. Broadly contemporary activity, comprising a series of pits and a later cultivation layer, was previously identified immediately to the north of the current site during archaeological excavations at 21 Church Street (Cullen and Hancocks 2007) and also at Stoke Road (Enright and Watts 2002). In both instances the pits were interpreted as being typical of domestic waste disposal to the rear of medieval property plots. A similar interpretation is offered for the current pit, particularly given its location 25m south of Church Road and therefore beyond any contemporary buildings that would have fronted the southern extent of Church Road in the medieval period.

## 8. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Marino Cardelli, Charlotte Haines, Sian Reynish and Sikko van der Brug. The report was written by Marino Cardelli. The finds report was written by Katie Marsden. The illustrations were prepared by Lesley Davidson. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.

## 9. REFERENCES

Barber, A.J. and Walker, G.T. 1998 'Home Farm, Bishop's Cleeve: Excavation of a Romano-British occupation site 1993-4', *Trans Bristol Gloucestershire Archaeol. Soc.* **116**, 117-39

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## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Area No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	10000	Layer		made-ground soil	Dark brownish grey sandy silt make-up and concrete foundation remains with common tarmac, CMB, glass, plastic etc.	>15	>9	0.30	modern
1	10001	Layer		natural	Natural substrate, mixed light yellow-orange silty friable sand	>15	>9	0.50	
1	10002	Layer		Natural	Natural substrate light brownish yellow sandy gravel, firm	>15	>9	0.25	
1	10003	Layer		Natural	Natural substrate light greyish yellow silty sand, friable	>15	>9	0.25	
1	10004	Cut		Construction cut	Construction cut for concrete slab	>1.4	>1	0.30	Modern
1	10005	Fill	10004	Fill of 10004	Concrete slab	>1.4	>1	0.30	Modern
2	20000	Layer		made-ground soil	Mid dark grey gravelly make up ground with foundation remains, CBM, plastic and modern inclusions	>10	>7	0.30	Modern
2	20001	Layer		Natural	Natural substrate mixed light yellow and orangey brown silty sand, friable, small to med sub rounded.	>10	>7	0.35	
2	20002	Cut		Construction cut	Cut for a ceramic pipe oriented SE/NW possible sewer drain	>2	0.15	0.15	Modern
2	20003	Fill		Fill of 20002	Ceramic pipe	>2	0.10	0.10	Modern
2	20004	Fill		Fill of 20002	Backfill of modern material as CBM, Plastic	>2	0.05	0.05	Modern
2	20005	Cut		Pit	Cut of a modern pit	>1	>1	0.65	Modern
2	20006	Fill		Fill of pit 20005	Mixed dark material with plastic, CBM	>1	>1	0.65	Modern
2	20006	Wall		Structure	Wall footage of pre-existing building Brick wall	>1.60	1.30	0.30	Modern
2	1703	Cut		Pit	Cut of a circular pit, concave sides and base	>1.60	>0.60	0.6	C11-C13
2	1704	Fill	1703	Lower fill	Lower fill of pit 1703 , refuse disposal, sherds of pottery and animal bone recovered	>1	>0.50	0.50	C11-C13
2	1707	Fill	1703	Upper fill	Possible deliberate backfill for levelling event	>1	>0.60	0.10	
2	20007	Layer		Deposit	Large modern deposit, dark brown silty clay matrix with modern material, charcoal and orangey patches of sand	>2	>0.60	0.20	Modern
3	30000	Layer		Surface	Tarmac	>7	>6	0.10	Modern
3	30001	Layer		Made ground soil	Dark brownish red sandy silt make-up and concrete foundation remains with common tarmac, CMB, glass, plastic etc.	>7	>6	>0.50	Modern
3	30002	Layer		Natural	Natural substrate light brownish yellow silty sand in sondage	0.50	0.55	0.95	
3	30003	Wall		Structure	Reinforced concrete foundation related to old building foundation	>3	>0.50	0.60	Modern

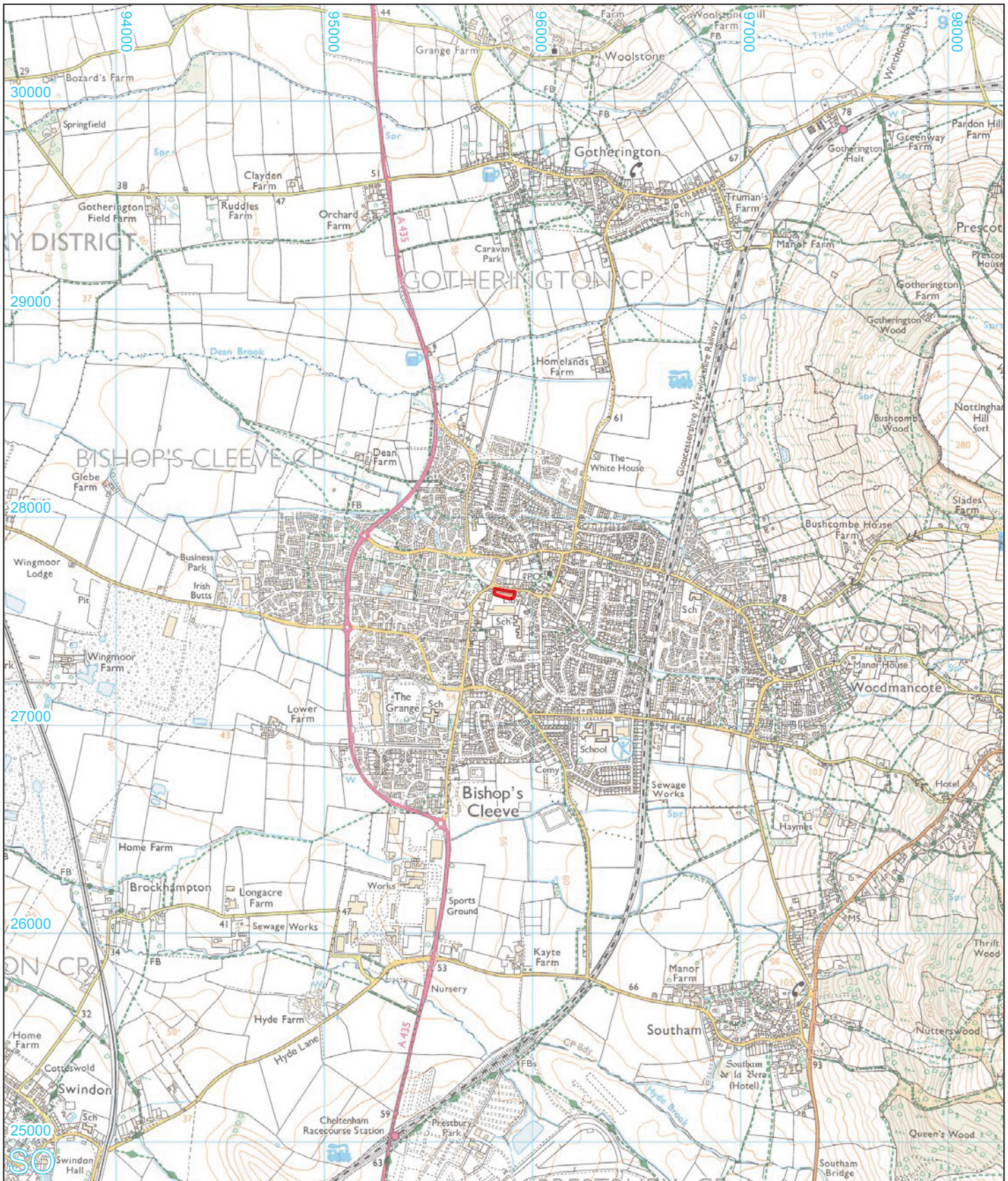
**APPENDIX B: THE FINDS**

<b>Context</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Ct.</b>	<b>Wt.(g)</b>	<b>Spot-date</b>
1704	medieval pottery	TF41B	Cotswold politic limestone-tempered fabric	3	21	C11-C13
	Fired clay			1	5	

**APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	2, 2A, 2B Mill House and 2-8 Church Road, Bishop's Cleeve, Gloucestershire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with a proposed mixed-use development including extensions and alterations to existing building and erection of two retail units at 2, 2A, 2B Mill House and 2-8 Church Road, Bishop's Cleeve Gloucestershire.</p> <p>A single pit containing three sherds of medieval pottery was identified during the groundworks. No further archaeological features were observed, and evidence of modern truncation and/or dumping immediately sealing the natural substrate was revealed throughout the site.</p>	
Project dates	7-8 October 2013 and 4-21 July 2016	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	Not known	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	2, 2A, 2B Mill House and 2-8 Church Road, Bishop's Cleeve, Gloucestershire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)		
Site co-ordinates	SP 0190 2815	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	none	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Marino Ciardelli, Charlotte Haines, Sian Reynish and Sikko van der Brug	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>		
	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>		
	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	The Wilson, Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum	Ceramics, animal bone
Paper	The Wilson, Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum	Context sheets, drawings
Digital	The Wilson, Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum	Database, digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 <i>2, 2A, 2B Mill House and 2-8 Church Road, Bishop's Cleeve, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i>. CA typescript report <b>16472</b></p>		





 site boundary



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 2 - 2b Mill House and 2 - 8 Church Road,  
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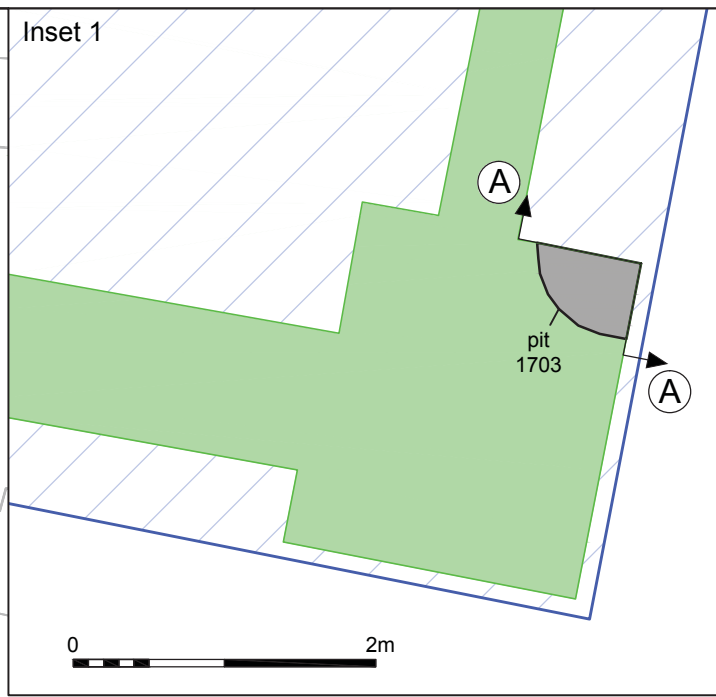
**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan



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<b>APPROVED BY</b>	<b>CB</b>	<b>SCALE@A4</b>	<b>1:25,000</b>		





- site boundary
- area of ground reduction
- excavated area
- archaeological feature
- section location



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
2 - 2b Mill House and 2 - 8 Church Road, Bishop's Cleeve, Gloucestershire

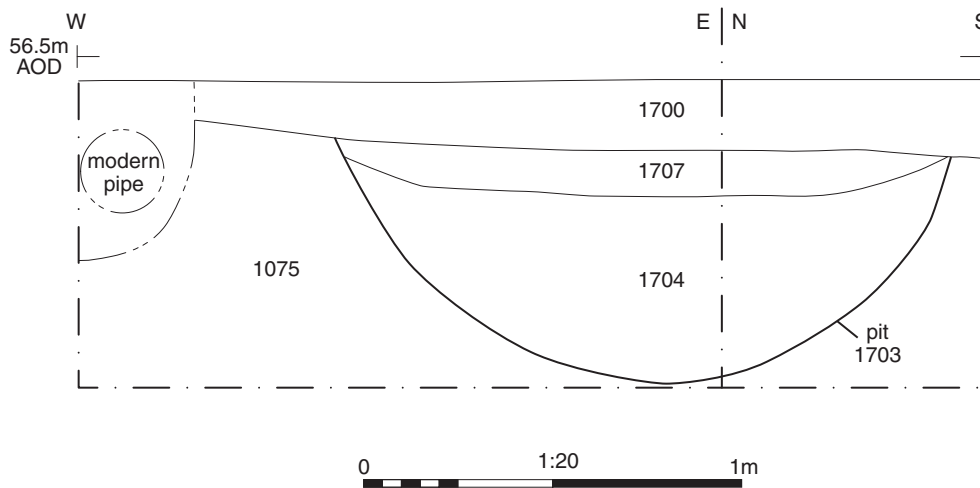
**FIGURE TITLE**  
The site showing location of observed groudworks

DRAWN BY	LD	PROJECT NO.	4473	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DB	DATE	24/08/2016	<b>2</b>
APPROVED BY	CB	SCALE@A3	1:250 & 1:50 (Inset)	

P:\4473 2 - 2A, 2B Mill House & 2-8 Church Road Bishop's Cleeve Glos WB\Illustration\Drafts\4478 Fig. 2.dwg



Section AA



Pit 1703 looking north (1m scale)



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2 - 2b Mill House and 2 - 8 Church Road,  
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FIGURE TITLE

**Pit 1703 section and photograph**

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CHECKED BY	DB	DATE	24/08/2016	<b>3</b>
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4

#### 4 General view of site (Area 2)



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**PROJECT TITLE**

2 - 2b Mill House and 2 - 8 Church Road,  
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**FIGURE TITLE**

**Photograph**

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