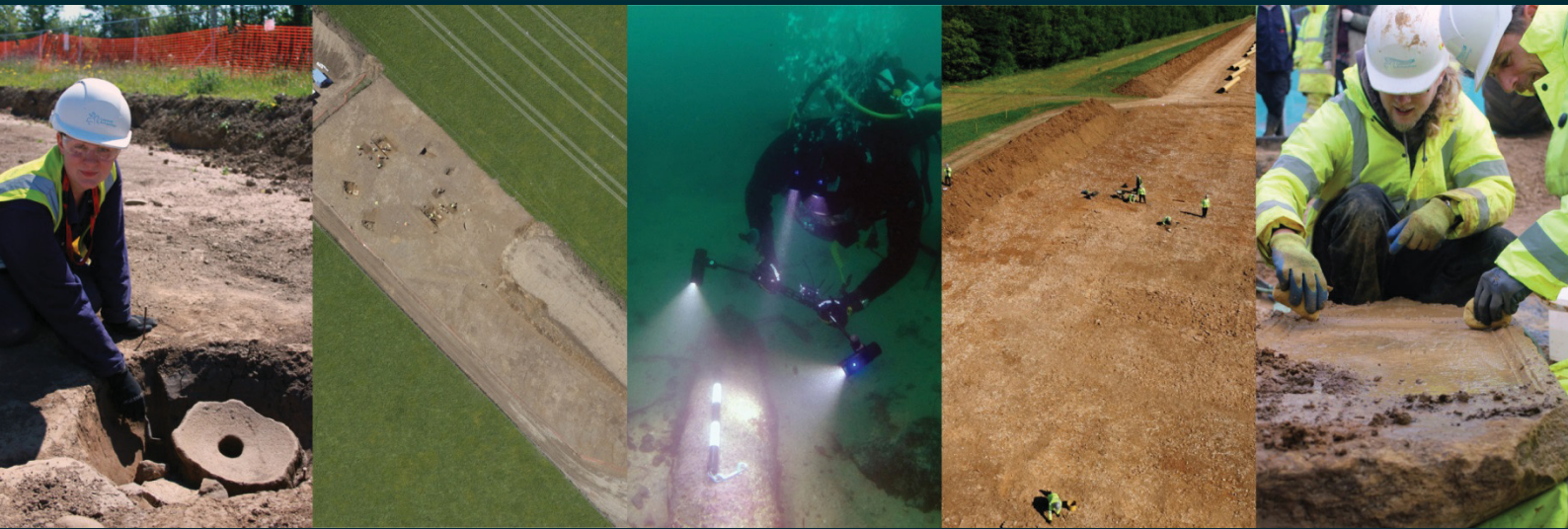


The Old Rectory Cranham Gloucestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
Mr & Mrs I. Wotherspoon

CA Project: 5656
CA Report: 16314

September 2016



The Old Rectory
Cranham
Gloucestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief

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A		Alex Thomson		Internal review		

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	The Old Rectory
Location:	Cranham, Gloucestershire
NGR:	SO 8912 1243
Type:	Watching Brief
Date:	2 June, 11 and 31 August 2016
Planning Reference:	Stroud District Council 15/1644/HHold
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Museum in the Park, Stroud
Site Code:	ORCC 16

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a single storey and a two storey extension to a residential property at The Old Rectory, Cranham, Gloucestershire.

A series of probable limestone quarry pits, dating from the medieval period through to the late 19th century, were recorded. The various phases of extraction are most probably contemporary with the construction and remodelling of both the adjacent 12th-century church and the 17th-century rectory.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In June and August 2016 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Mr and Mrs Wotherspoon at The Old Rectory, Cranham, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SO 8912 1243; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to planning consent, granted by Stroud District Council (SDC), for the construction of a two storey and a single storey extension to an existing property (SDC planning reference: S.15/1644/HHold, condition 3).
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2015) and approved by SDC following advice from Charles Parry, Archaeologist, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC), the archaeological advisor to SDC. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014). It was monitored by Charles Parry.

The site

- 1.3 The development area comprises the grounds of The Old Rectory, Cranham. It is bound by the burial ground associated with St James's Church to the west, by further residential properties to the south and east, and by an un-named road and agricultural land to the north. The site lies at approximately 187m AOD.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology is mapped as Lias Group and Inferior Oolite Group (undifferentiated) limestone, of the Jurassic and Triassic eras (BGS 2016). No superficial geological deposits are recorded within the site (ibid.). Throughout the observed groundworks, the natural substrate comprising limestone brash and brownish-red clay overlying limestone was recorded.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The development area lies in an area of archaeological significance adjacent to the Church of St James, a Grade II* listed building (List Entry 1156148). Cranham itself is first mentioned in the third quarter of the 12th century, formerly being part of Brimpsfield parish (Smith 1964, 157-9). St James's Church was founded in the late 12th century, mostly probably as a chapel, with subsequent alterations and

enlargement in the 15th and 16th centuries, and again during the mid to late 19th century (Verrey and Brooks 1999, 304).

2.2 The Old Rectory is believed to be early 17th-century in date, but was almost completely remodelled in 1892 (ibid., 305).

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 2015). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks associated with ground reduction and the initial excavation of foundation trenches (see Fig. 2 for location and extent). A subsequent change to the foundation design for the eastern-most extension, from traditional strip footings to a rafted design, was necessitated by the identification of a series of deep, probable quarry pits (see section 5 below). As a result, the initial ground reduction was of sufficient depth for the new rafted foundation.

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 Museum in the Park, Stroud, 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 This section provides an overview of the watching brief results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B respectively.

Trench 1 (Fig. 2)

5.2 The natural limestone substrate, 1003, was typically encountered 0.4m below present ground level (bpgl). It was sealed by subsoil 1002 and topsoil 1001 that had been overlain by gravel hardstanding 1000. The only feature identified was modern surface water drain 1004 running across the northern part of the trench.

Trench 2 (Figs 2 & 3)

5.3 Natural limestone substrate was revealed between 0.4m and 0.7m bpgl. At the southern extent of the trench it was sealed by subsoil, 2017, and former topsoil 2016 but was more typically directly overlain modern dumped/landscaping deposits. These were in turn sealed by modern topsoil, 2001 and 2005.

5.4 A series of presumed quarry pits/scoops were identified throughout Trench 2, although the possibility that some, if not all, may represent former garden features associated with the Rectory cannot be overlooked. Undated pit 2019 was located in the south-western corner of the trench cutting subsoil 2017. Although only its eastern extent was exposed, it had vertical sides and was at least 1m in depth. Approximately 2m to the north a further probable pit, 2023, was revealed cutting the natural substrate. It was square in plan and contained fill 2022, from which a single sherd of 12th to 14th-century pottery was recovered.

5.6 Pits 2019 and 2023 had both subsequently been cut by pit 2012 which was oval in plan. Its northern extent appeared to respect the line of the southern wall of the existing east wing of the Old Rectory suggesting that it was most probably in use during or after the current building was extensively renovated in 1892. The pit was 4.4m wide by at least 3.25m wide and trial excavation for the proposed footings revealed it to a depth in excess of 2.85m bpgl. It contained fill upper 2011 that comprised a number of soil and limestone rubble fills, which gave the impression of

dumped fills, from which a sherd of, presumably residual, 16th to 17th-century pottery was recovered. Due to the depth and poor stability of the sondage it was not possible to investigate this fill in detail.

5.7 To the east, pit 2015 cut former topsoil 2016. It was at least 3.9m in length, 3.6m in width and in excess of 1.25m deep (only the initial 0.2m is visible on Fig. 3). It contained at least three fills, 2013, 2014 and 2021 that appeared to have represent the deliberate infilling of the feature. Sherds of 13th to 14th-century pottery were retrieved from fill 2014 but, despite their large size, these are most probably residual in nature.

5.8 In the north of the trench, and also cut by modern services, was a further shallow pit/feature, 2025 that contained undated fill 2024.

6. THE FINDS

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

Pottery

6.2 A total of 11 sherds (499g) of pottery were recorded from five deposits (Appendix B). Two sherds of bung-hole cisterns were recorded; one occurring in Minety ware (**TF 44**) from quarry pit 2015 (fill 2014) and one occurring in a sand and limestone-tempered fabric recorded from quarry pit 2023 (fill 2022). A total of six sherds of Worcester cooking pot (**TF 91**) were recorded from the same deposit, dateable from the mid 13th to mid 14th century.

6.3 A single sherd of Cistercian ware (**TF 60**), dateable to the 16th and 17th centuries was recorded from quarry pit 2012 (fill 2011). A tankard base sherd, occurring in a white salt-glazed stoneware fabric (**TF 67**) was recorded from quarry pit/dump 2025 (fill 2024), dateable to the 18th century. A sherd of glazed earthenware bowl (**TF 50**) was recorded from dump deposit 2003, dateable from the mid 16th to 18th centuries.

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Animal Bone

- 7.1 A single animal bone (157g) was recovered from deposit 2022, the unexcavated fill of quarry pit 2023. The bone was well preserved and identified as the lower portion of a cow (*Bos taurus*) humerus. No butchery marks were observed to suggest an origin in domestic waste and no further useful interpretative data beyond species identification was available.

8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1 The series of probable quarry pits revealed within the footprint of the eastern extension are noteworthy, but accurately dating these features is frustrated by the small assemblage of recovered artefacts, the possibility of the finds being residual in later contexts, and the subsequent landscaping of the former Rectory grounds. Nonetheless, the various phases of extraction are most probably contemporary with the construction and various phases of remodelling of both the adjacent 12th-century church and the 17th-century rectory (see section 2 above).
- 8.2 Both stratigraphically and artefactually, pit 2023 is the earliest of the identified features. A single sherd of 12th-14th-century was retrieved from the surface of its fill, 2022, although it must be noted that feature was not excavated as it was identified at the formation level of the proposed development. Such a date would suggest that the pit may be broadly contemporary with the foundation of the adjacent Church of St James. It remains unproven, but possible that artefactually undated pit 2019 may also be medieval in date.
- 8.2 Medieval pottery was also retrieved from fill 2014 within pit 2015. Although it is tempting to suggest that the infilling of this pit is contemporary with this pottery, it clearly cut through buried topsoil 2016 and the possibility that these ceramics are residual cannot be overlooked. That said, the date of the subsequent landscaping (deposits 2001 and 2005 for example) that buried the former ground surface also remains undetermined, although it would seem that the latter most probably date either from the initial construction of the Rectory in the 17th century, or during the documented remodelling of the property in 1892. Pit 2012 that cut landscaping deposit 2012 contained 16th-17th century pottery but respected the extended east

wing of the current building suggesting that it contemporary or later than this 19th-century extension. A similar date is offered for pit/feature 2025 revealed at the northern extent of the site.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Peter Busby, Alex Thomson and Peter Searle. The report was written by Peter Busby and Alex Thomson. The finds and biological evidence reports were written by Katie Marsden and Andy Clarke respectively. The illustrations were prepared by Rosanna Price. The archive has been compiled by Peter Busby, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.

10. REFERENCES

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	1000	Layer		Yard sub-base	Light yellow brown silt sand	>8.5	2.5	0.08	Modern
1	1001	Layer		Buried topsoil	Dark grey brown clay silt	>8.5	2.5	0.2	
1	1002	Layer		Subsoil	Red brown sand clay silt with limestone gravel/cobbles	>8.5	2.5	0.13	
1	1003	Layer		Natural	Light yellow brown limestone brash	>8.5	2.5	>0.7	
1	1004	Cut		Modern drainage trench	NE/SW linear in plan	>5	0.4	0.3	Modern
1	1005	Fill	1004	Fill of drainage trench	Mixed grey brown sand silt	>5	0.4	0.3	
2	2001	Layer		Topsoil	Black clay silt with 5% fine limestone gravel	>5.5	>3	1	
2	2002	Layer		Dump	Dark brown clay silt with 75% limestone rubble and 5% white lime rubble	1.09	-	0.14	
2	2003	Layer		Dump	Dark grey brown clay silt with 15% charcoal flecks	1.1	-	0.06	MC16-C18
2	2004	Layer		Dump	Light brown silt clay with 75% builders/demolition rubble	1.3	-	0.09	
2	2005	Layer		Topsoil	As 2001	>5.5	>3	0.3	
2	2006	Fill	2009	Construction trench/flower bed fill	Dark grey brown/black clay silt	-	0.84	0.64	
2	2007	Structure	2009	Wall	Concrete blocks set in light brown cement mortar faced by a dry stone limestone wall	-	0.36	0.74	
2	2008	Structure	2009	Wall foundation	Light brown cement mortar	-	0.46	0.006	
2	2009	Cut		Construction trench/flower bed	E/W linear with a steep sloping and stepped S side and flat base. No N side	-	1.08	0.16	
2	2010	Layer		Surface	Compact layer of limestone gravel	1.04	-	0.04	
2	2011	Fill	2012	Quarry pit fill	Dark grey brown/grey brown clay silt with 50% angular limestone cobbles/boulders	4.4	>3.25	>2.85	C16-C17
2	2012	Cut		Quarry pit	Sub oval cut in plan protruding from W baulk of trench with vertical sides, base not observed	4.4	>3.25	>2.85	
2	2013	Fill	2015	Upper quarry pit fill	Mottled olive brown/yellow brown clay silt with 1% limestone gravel/cobbles and <1% charcoal flecks	>2.75	-	0.22	
2	2014	Fill	2015	Quarry pit fill	Olive brown/grey brown sand silt with 15% angular limestone gravel/cobbles and <1% charcoal flecks	>3.9	>3.5	>1.15	C13-C14
2	2015	Cut		Quarry pit	Sub-triangular in plan with rounded corners and near vertical sides, base not observed	>3.9	>3.6	>1.25	
2	2016	Layer		Relict soil	Olive brown sand silt with 1% limestone gravel/cobbles	>3.5	>0.55	0.21	
2	2017	Layer		Subsoil	Light olive brown sand silt with 33% limestone gravel and 5% small angular limestone cobbles	1.4	-	0.16	
2	2018	Fill		Quarry pit fill	Orange brown sand silt with 33%	>1.8	>1.6	>0.92	

					limestone gravel/cobbles				
2	2019	Cut		Quarry pit	Only the eastern vertical side is within the trench, base not observed	>1.8	>1.6	>0.92	
2	2020	Layer		Natural	Light yellow brown limestone brash	>17	>6.75	>1	
2	2021	Fill	2015	Lower quarry pit fill	Light yellow/brown yellow sand silt with 15% limestone gravel/cobbles	>3.9	>3.6	>0.2	
2	2022	Fill	2023	Quarry pit fill	Orange brown silt clay with 33% limestone gravel/cobbles	1.5	1.2	-	C12-C14
2	2023	Cut		Quarry pit	Square in plan with slightly rounded corners, sides and base not seen	1.5	1.2	-	
2	2024	Fill	2025	Quarry pit fill/dump	Brown/dark brown clay silt with 25% angular limestone gravel and cobbles	>6.5	>4.5	-	C18
2	2025	Cut		? quarry pit	Only the southern extent is present on site, base and sides not observed	>6.5	>4.5	-	

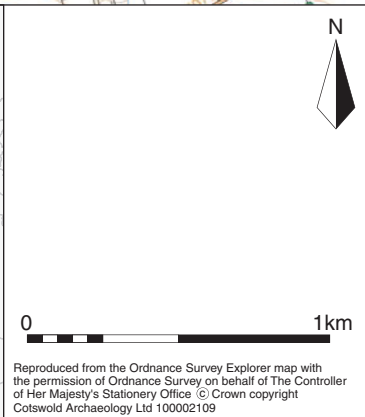
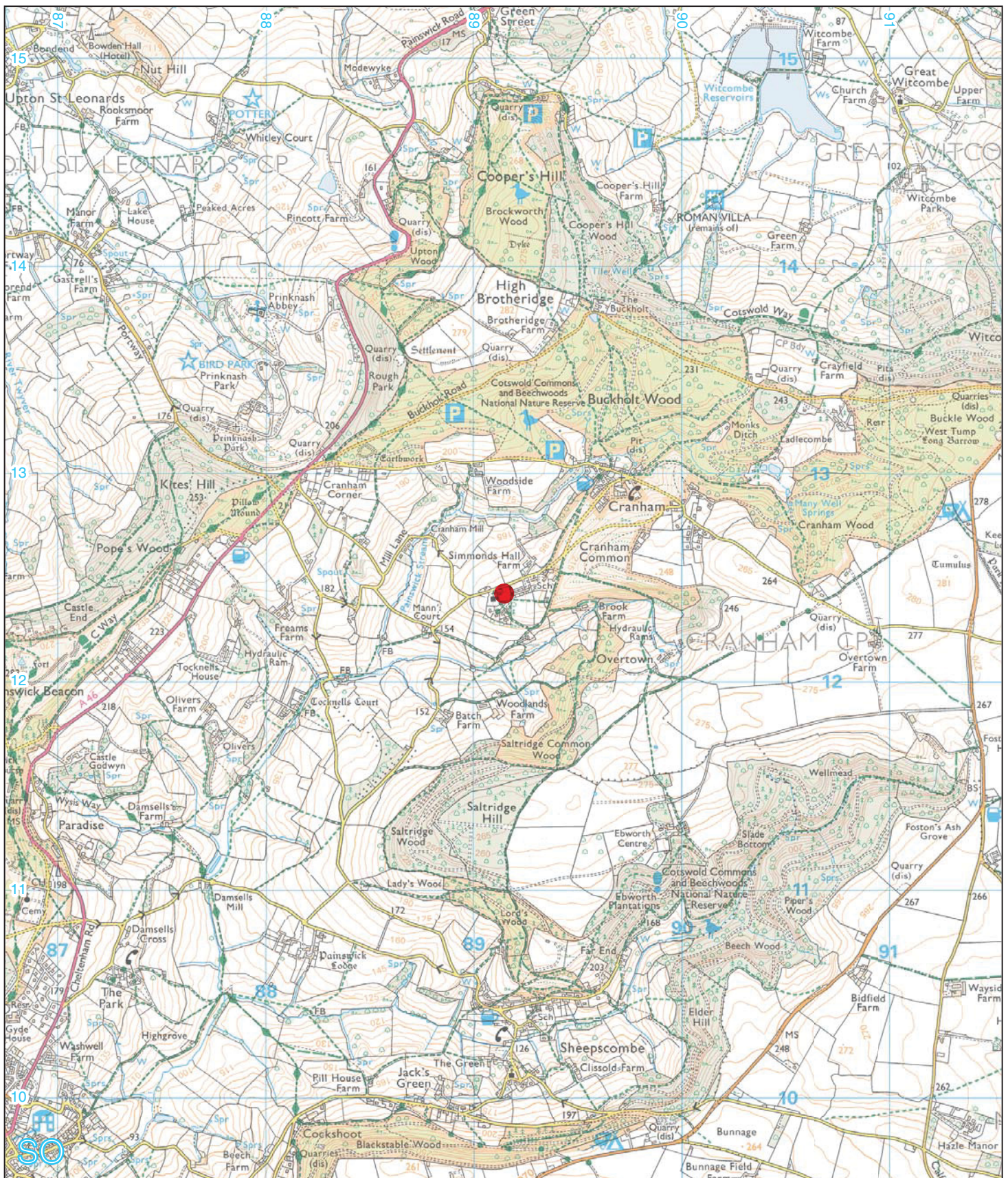
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Class	TF code	Ct.	Wt.(g)	Spot-date
2003	Post-medieval pottery	50	1	151	MC16-C18
2011	Post-medieval pottery	60	1	22	C16-C17
2014	medieval pottery	44	1	37	C13-C14
	medieval pottery	91	6	191	
2022	medieval pottery	43	1	68	C12-C14
2024	Post-medieval pottery	67	1	30	C18

Period	Description	TF Code
medieval	Sand and limestone-tempered fabric	43
	Minety ware	44
	Worcester cooking pot fabric	91
post-medieval	Glazed earthenware	50
	Cistercian ware	60
	White salt-glazed stoneware	67

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	The Old Rectory, Cranham, Gloucestershire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a single storey and a two storey extension to a residential property at The Old Rectory, Cranham, Gloucestershire.</p> <p>A series of probable limestone quarry pits, dating from the medieval period through to the late 19th century, were recorded. The various phases of extraction are most probably contemporary with the construction and remodelling of both the adjacent 12th-century church and the 17th-century rectory.</p>	
Project dates	2 June, 11 and 31 August 2016	
Project type	Archaeological watching brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	The Old Rectory, Cranham, Gloucestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.12ha	
Site co-ordinates	SO 8912 1243	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	N/A	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Peter Busby, Alex Thomson and Peter Searle	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Museum in the Park, Stroud	Pottery and bone
Paper	Museum in the Park, Stroud	Fieldwork recording sheets, typescript report
Digital	Museum in the Park, Stroud	Digital photographs, typescript report
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 <i>The Old Rectory, Cranham, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i>. CA typescript report 16314</p>		



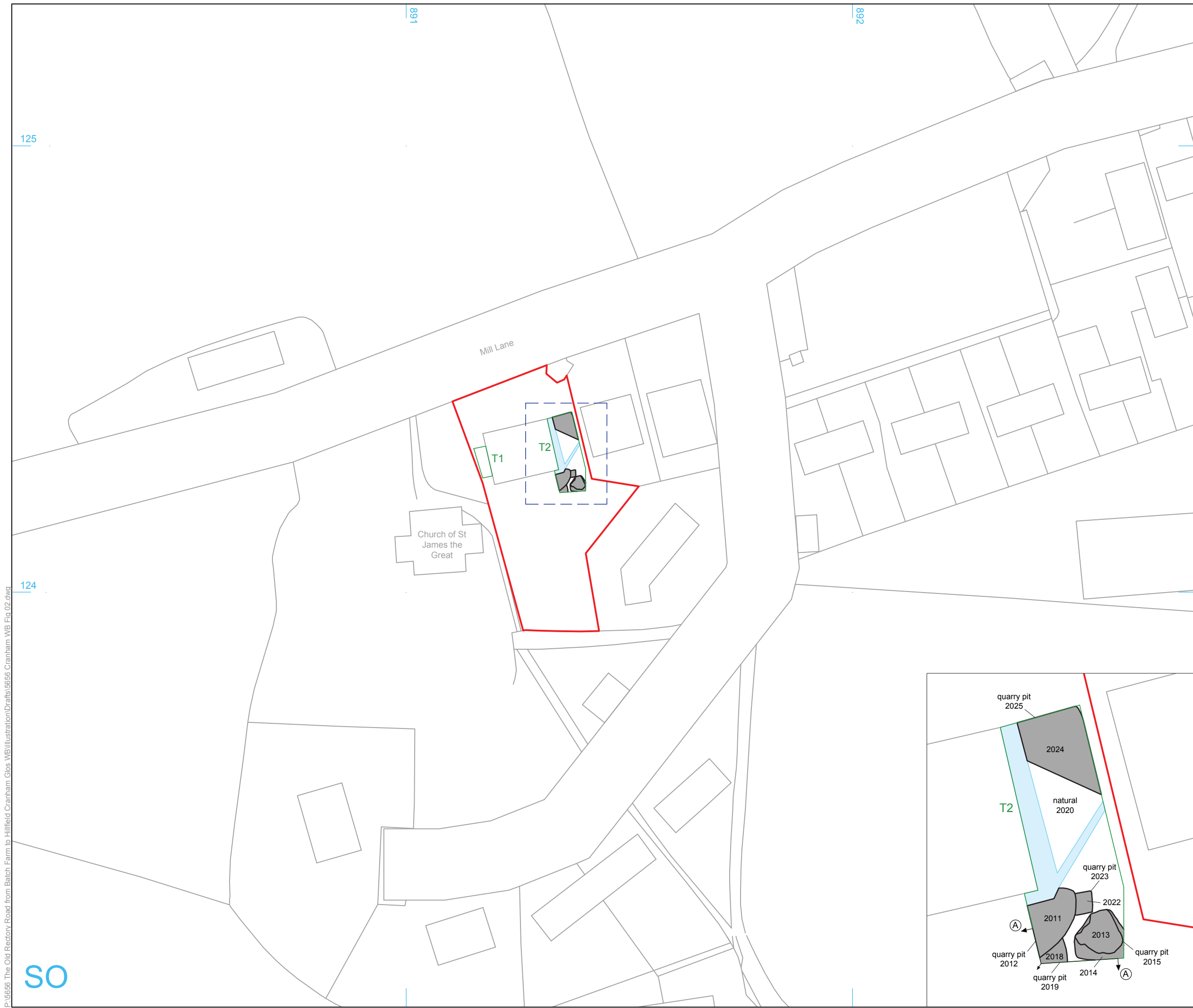


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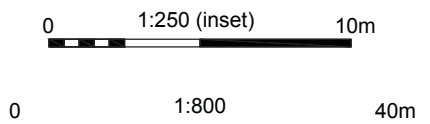
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FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

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- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- archaeological feature
- modern service
- section location



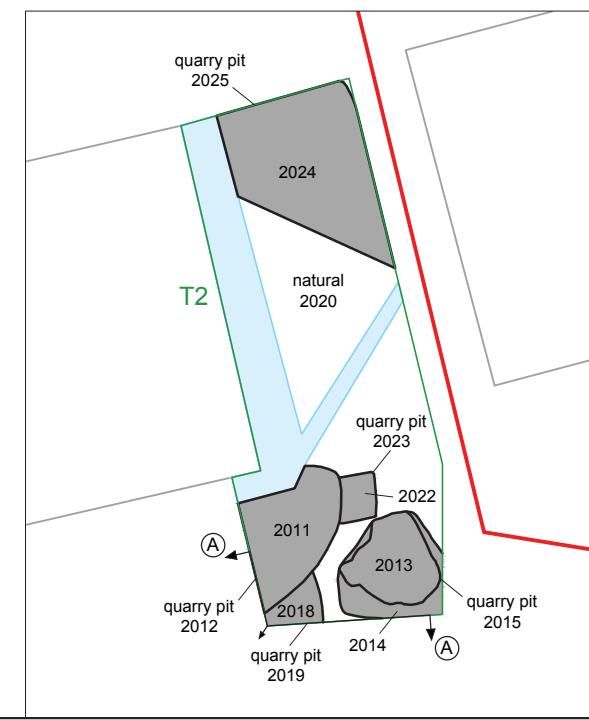
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FIGURE TITLE
The site, showing location of observed groundworks

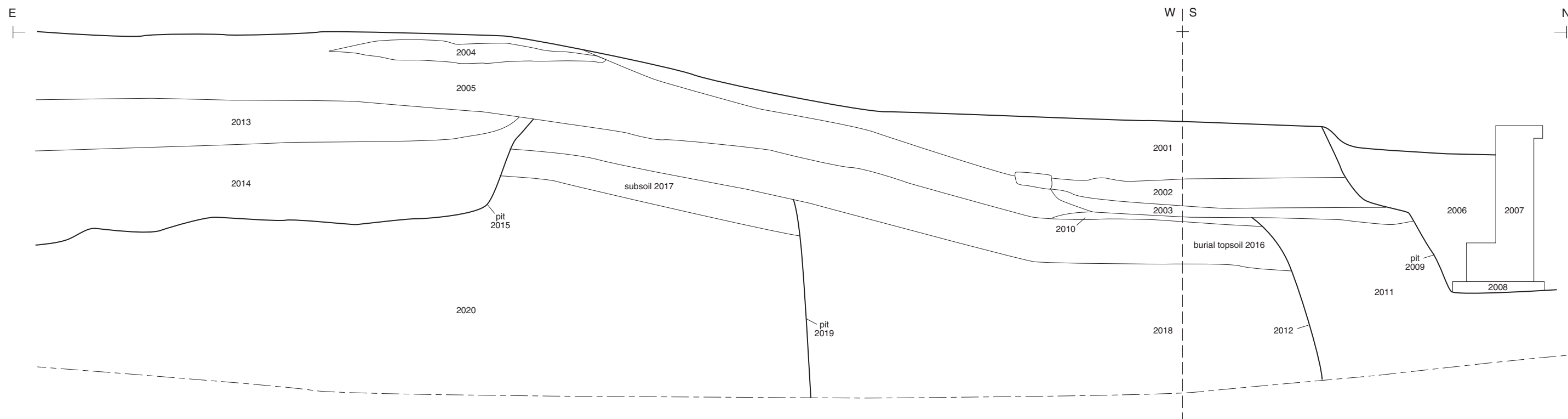


P:\5656 The Old Rectory Road from Batch Farm to Hillfield Cranham Glos WB\Illustration\Drawings\5656 Cranham WB Fig 02.dwg

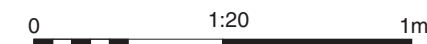
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Section AA



North facing section of Trench 2 (1m scale)




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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
Trench 2; section and photograph

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