

The Little Monk
Park Lane
Prestbury
Gloucestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
Mr Andrew Smith

on behalf of
Mr and Mrs A Beardmore

CA Project: 5942
CA Report: 16568

October 2016



The Little Monk
Park Lane
Prestbury
Gloucestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 5942
CA Report: 16568



Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	24 October 2016	Peter Busby	Steven Sheldon	Draft		Cliff Bateman

This report is confidential to the client. Cotswold Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability to any third party to whom this report, or any part of it, is made known. Any such party relies upon this report entirely at their own risk. No part of this report may be reproduced by any means without permission.

CONTENTS

SUMMARY	2
1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	4
3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	5
4. METHODOLOGY	5
5. RESULTS (FIG. 2)	5
6. DISCUSSION.....	6
7. CA PROJECT TEAM.....	6
8. REFERENCES.....	7
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	8
APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM.....	9

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)

Fig. 2 The site, showing location of groundworks (1:100)



SUMMARY

Project Name: The Little Monk, Park Lane
Location: Prestbury, Gloucestershire
NGR: SO 9666 2458
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 3-4 October 2016
Planning Reference: 13/01187/FUL
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum: The Wilson
Site Code: TLM 16

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of an extension to The Little Monk, Park Lane, Prestbury, Gloucestershire.

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



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In October 2016 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Mr Andrew Smith, on behalf of Mr and Mrs A Beardmore, at The Little Monk, Park Lane, Prestbury, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SO 9666 2458; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to planning consent for the construction of two storey and single storey extensions of the existing property (Cheltenham Borough Council (CBC); Planning ref: 13/01187/FUL, condition 4).
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2016) and approved by Charles Parry, Archaeologist, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC), archaeological advisor to CBC. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014) and the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Gloucestershire* (GCC 1996).

The site

- 1.3 The development area is approximately 0.2ha in extent and comprises a residential property and its associated grounds. The site is bounded to the north and north-east by grassland and to the south-east, south and west by further residential properties and gardens. The site lies at approximately 77m AOD and is broadly level.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Charmouth Mudstone Formation – Mudstone, of the Jurassic period. Superficial deposits are recorded as Cheltenham Sand and Gravel of the Quaternary period (BGS 16). The natural substrate, comprising mixed orange brown sands and gravels, was identified throughout the areas of observed groundworks.



2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The development area lies approximately 500m to the north-west of the historic core of Prestbury. Archaeological interest in the site arises primarily from its location immediately adjacent to the scheduled earthwork remains of a medieval moated manor site (National Monument: 31923). A number of archaeological investigations have taken place within the scheduled monument (Parry 1992), within the site itself (Parry 1993) and at a number of nearby properties (Hicks 1999; CAT 2000; CgMs 2007).
- 2.2 The earthworks themselves comprise two adjoining rectangular, moated enclosures oriented north-west/south-east; both of which were originally surrounded by a continuous earthen bank. The southern part of both enclosures, and the east side of the eastern-most enclosure, lie under and immediately around houses built between 1900 and the 1960s. These include The Little Monk property itself, which lies in the south-east of the western enclosure.
- 2.3 Excavations undertaken within the western enclosure revealed evidence of a substantial medieval house, and suggested that it comprised several phases of construction. Pottery retrieved from these excavations would suggest occupation dating from at least the 11th century to the 16th century (O'Neil 1956). Documentary evidence would suggest that it is the Manor House at Prestbury of the Bishops of Hereford and was held *'until 1560, when during a vacancy of the see, Prestbury Manor was taken by the Queen and retained by the Crown'* (VCH Vol. 8, 72).
- 2.4 Previous archaeological excavation within the development area itself, relating to the construction of a previous extension to The Little Monk, identified no deposits of archaeological significance, although some residual medieval pottery was recovered (Parry 1993).



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, comprising ground reduction prior to the excavation of foundation and service trenches (Area 1) and the excavation of a footing trench (Area 2) (see Fig. 2 for locations and extent). Non-archaeologically significant deposits were removed by the contactors under archaeological supervision. Where mechanical excavators were used, these were equipped with a toothless bucket.

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 from the watching brief are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum: The Wilson. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIG. 2)

5.1 In Area 1, natural substrate 104, comprising mixed orange-brown sands and gravels, was revealed at an average depth of 0.57m below present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain by silt clay subsoil, 103, typically measuring 0.21m in



thickness. Towards the centre of Area 1 the subsoil was cut by a modern service trench, the backfill of which was sealed by topsoil, 102. The topsoil was in turn overlain by gravel bedding, 101, for modern flagstone surface 100.

5.2 In Area 2 the natural substrate, 202, was revealed at an average depth of 0.5m bpgl. It was overlain by silt clay subsoil, 201, typically measuring 0.4m in thickness which was in turn overlain by topsoil.

5.3 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material was recovered.

6. DISCUSSION

6.1 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 structural remains associated with the medieval moated manor site either do not extend as far as, or were not exposed by the development.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Peter Busby. The report was written by Peter Busby. The illustrations were prepared by Tilia Cammegh. The archive has been compiled by Peter Busby, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Steven Sheldon.



8. REFERENCES

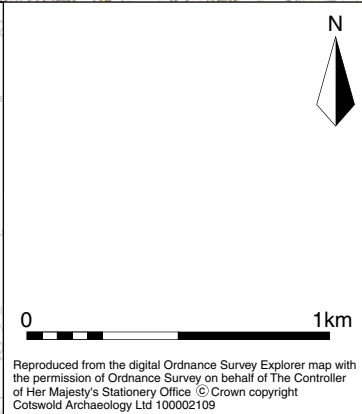
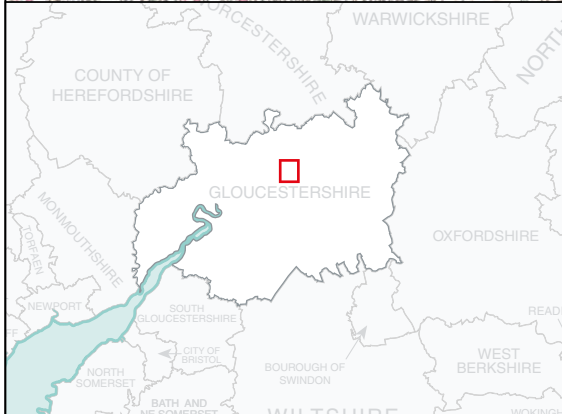
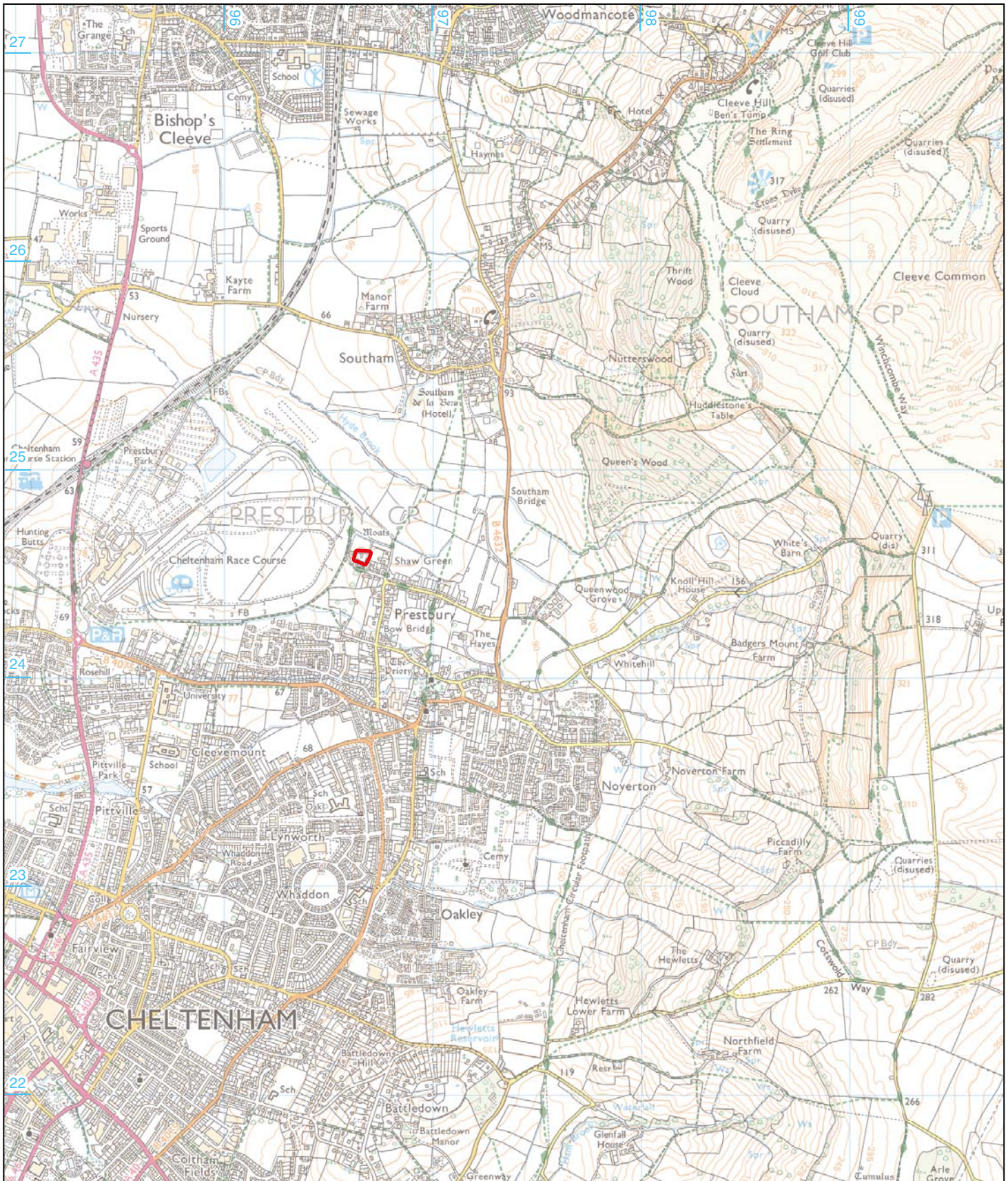
- BGS (British Geological Survey) 2016 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 24 October 2016
- CAT (Cotswold Archaeological Trust) 2000 *Gable Cottage, Park Lane, Prestbury, Gloucestershire: archaeological watching brief* CA typescript report **001238**
- CgMs 2007 *Archaeological Watching Brief Report: Kennan House, Prestbury, Gloucestershire.*
- Hicks, D. 1999 *An archaeological watching brief at Craignethan, Park Lane, Prestbury, Gloucestershire.* Gloucestershire County Council, Archaeology Section
- Parry, C. 1992 *Report on an Archaeological Evaluation undertaken within the Eastern Enclosure of Prestbury Moat, Gloucestershire.* Gloucestershire County Council, Archaeology Section
- Parry, C. 1993 *Little Monk, Park Lane, Prestbury, Gloucestershire: Report on Archaeological Excavation undertaken September 1993.* Gloucestershire County Council, Archaeology Section
- Victoria County History (VCH) 1968 *Gloucestershire (Vol. 8)*, VCH, London

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Area	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
1	100	Deposit		Modern paving	Flagstone patio surface	>10	>3.75	0.17
1	101	Deposit		Modern gravel and sand bedding for surface 100	Light grey yellow gravel and sand	>10	>3.75	0.05
1	102	Layer		Topsoil	Mid-dark grey brown silt clay with occasional rounded pebble inclusions	>10	>3.75	0.14
1	103	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silt clay	>10	>3.75	0.21
1	104	Layer		Natural substrate	Mixed orange brown sands and gravels	>10	>3.75	>0.4
1	105	Layer		Topsoil	Mid-dark grey brown silt clay with occasional rounded pebble inclusions	>2	>0.7	0.24
1	106	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silt clay	>2	>0.7	0.26
1	107	Layer		Natural substrate	Mixed orange brown sands and gravels	>2	>0.7	>0.8

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	The Little Monk, Park Lane, Prestbury, Gloucestershire	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of an extension to an existing building at The Little Monk, Park Lane, Prestbury, Gloucestershire. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material was recovered.	
Project dates	3-4 October 2016	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	Archaeological Excavation (Parry 1993)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	The Little Monk, Park Lane, Prestbury, Gloucestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.2ha	
Site co-ordinates	SO 9666 2458	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Steven Sheldon	
Project Supervisor	Peter Busby	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum: The Wilson	N/A
Paper	Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum: The Wilson	Trench recording forms, photographic registers
Digital	Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum: The Wilson	Digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 <i>The Little Monk, Park Lane, Prestbury, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report 16568		





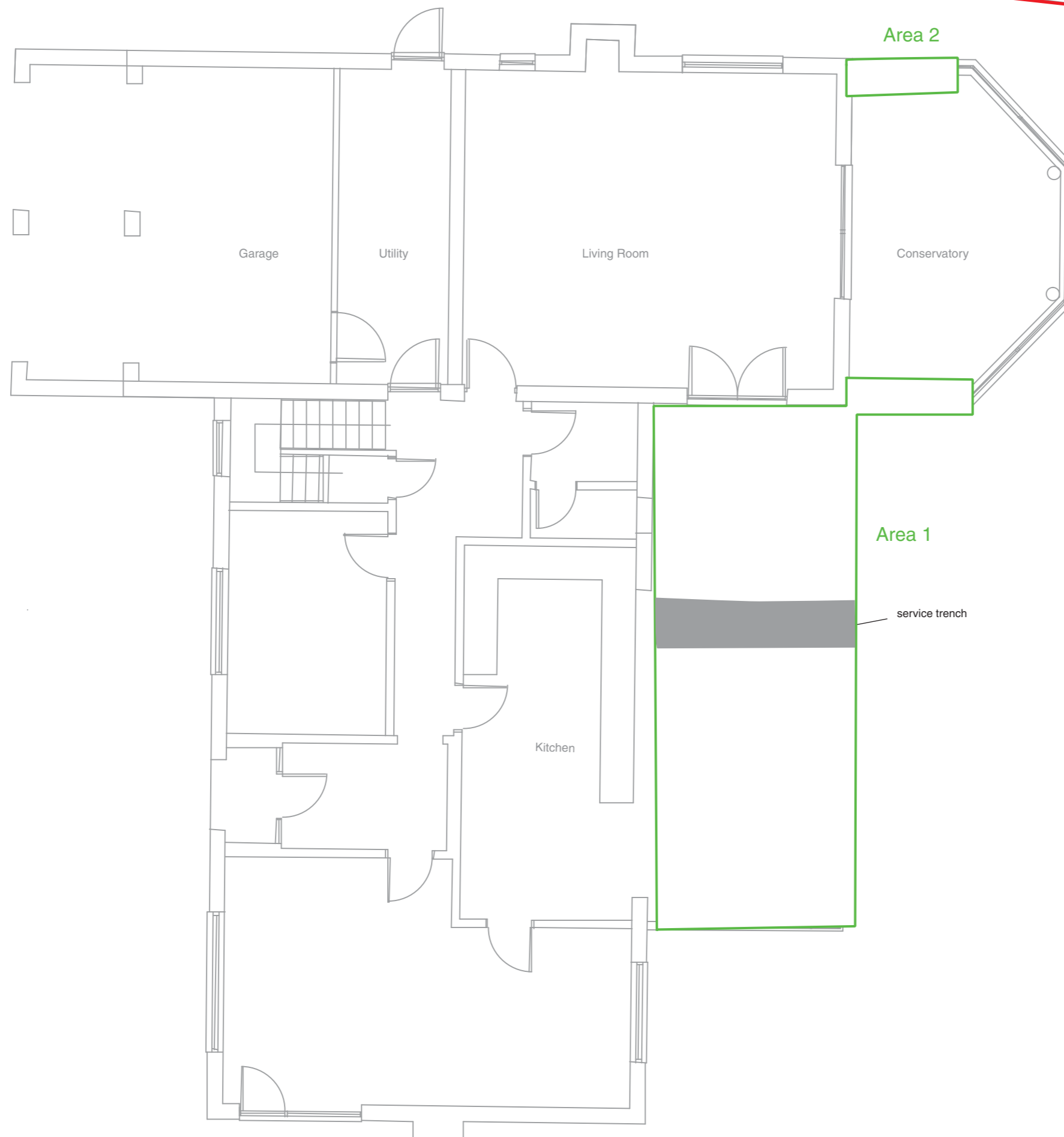
Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 826185
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 The Little Monk, Park Lane, Prestbury
 Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY	TC	PROJECT NO.	5942	FIGURE NO.	1
CHECKED BY	LM	DATE	11/10/2016		
APPROVED BY	PB	SCALE	@A4 1:25,000		

Reproduced from the digital Ordnance Survey Explorer map with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright Cotswold Archaeology Ltd 100002109



- site
- area of observed groundworks
- modern




Cotswold Archaeology
 Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 826185
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
The Little Monk, Park Lane, Prestbury Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
The site, showing the location of groundworks

DRAWN BY	TC	PROJECT NO.	5942	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	LM	DATE	11/10/16	2
APPROVED BY	PB	SCALE @A3	1:100	

Andover Office

Stanley House
Walworth Road
Andover
Hampshire
SP10 5LH

t: 01264 347630

Cirencester Office

Building 11
Kemble Enterprise Park
Cirencester
Gloucestershire
GL7 6BQ

t: 01285 771022

Exeter Office

Unit 53
Basepoint Business Centre
Yeoford Way
Marsh Barton Trading Estate
Exeter
EX2 8LB

t: 01392 826185

Milton Keynes Office

41 Burners Lane South
Kiln Farm
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire
MK11 3HA

t: 01908 564660