

**ST CYRIAC'S CHURCH
LACOCK
WILTSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

For

ANDREW TOWNSEND ARCHITECTS

on behalf of

LACOCK PCC

CA PROJECT: 2221
CA REPORT: 07169

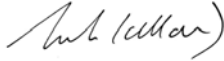
NOVEMBER 2007



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CA PROJECT: 2221
CA REPORT: 07169

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SUMMARY

Project Name: St Cyriac's Church
Location: Lacock, Wiltshire
NGR: ST 9171 6857
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 8 May to 18 September 2007
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Devizes Museum
Site Code: SCL 07

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with improvements to the drainage system of the church.

Probable *in situ* graveyard soils were identified in two areas, but no intact burials were encountered within these deposits. Where small quantities of disarticulated human bone were disturbed, they were reinterred during the course of the groundworks.

The only archaeological feature identified during the course of the works was a limestone wall of probable post-medieval date located to the east of the church. This wall may have pre-dated the 19th and 20th-century additions and alterations made to the church and may have been contemporary with the 17th-century dwelling, part of which was incorporated into the south transept of the church.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In May to September 2007 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Andrew Townsend Architects (ATA) on behalf of the Lacock Parochial Church Council (PCC) at St Cyriac's Church, Lacock, Wiltshire (centred on NGR: ST 9171 6857; Fig. 1).
- 1.2 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken to monitor any disturbance of deposits associated with the graveyard of the church during the improvement and replacement of drainage pipes. The objective of the archaeological watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the development.
- 1.3 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the *Brief for Archaeological Consultant* (ATA 2006), and with a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2006). The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (2001), the *Standards for Archaeological Assessment and Field Evaluation in Wiltshire* (Wiltshire County Council 1995), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England* (English Heritage 2005).

The site

- 1.4 The site comprised the churchyard associated with the medieval parish church of St Cyriac's, which is situated near the centre of Lacock village. The site is bounded to the south, west and north by residential properties and to the east by the grounds of Lacock Abbey (Fig. 2).
- 1.5 The geology of the area is mapped as First Terrace River Gravels of the Pleistocene and Recent eras (BGS 1965). The natural substrate was not reached during the course of the observed works.

Archaeological background

- 1.6 The church is mostly 15th-century with some significant 19th to 20th-century rebuilding of the chancel and transepts. It is constructed in limestone ashlar and rubblework with stone slate and lead sheet roof coverings; lead and cast-iron goods drain to open brick drainage channels, which connect to below-ground drainage via gullies (ATA 2006). A two-storey 17th-century house has been incorporated into the west of the south transept, and is now the vestry (English Heritage 2007).

Methodology

- 1.7 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2006). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks, including the excavation for the installation of new drains, catch pits and inspection chambers around the church and across the churchyard. All below-ground works were excavated by hand by the building contractors (Fig. 2).
- 1.8 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007). All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of Finds Immediately After Excavation* (1995).
- 1.9 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 archive will be deposited with Devizes museum. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3)

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B respectively.

- 2.2 Graveyard soils, 103 and 604, comprising sandy clays containing numerous fragments of disarticulated human bone were identified within trenches 1 and 6. Deposit 103 was overlain by a rubble deposit, 102, from which a single sherd of pottery dating to the 13th to 14th centuries AD was recovered. This deposit was in turn, covered by a modern gravel path, 101, and topsoil, 100. Deposit 604 was overlain by subsoil layers, 603 and 602, and topsoil, 601. Clay layers, 403 and 503, together with topsoil and subsoil deposits were identified within trenches 3, 4 and 5.
- 2.3 Limestone wall 201 was identified 0.2m below the present ground level (bpgl) within trench 2, to the east of the church. It was orientated north/south and comprised regular, roughly dressed blocks, some of which had been discoloured through heating (Fig. 3). The blocks were bonded with a buff mortar, some of which had adhered to a human skull. These human skeletal remains were left *in situ*. The remains of a possible perpendicular wall, orientated east/west, were situated mid-way along the exposed length of wall 201. The walls were overlain by deposit 202, which comprised limestone and plaster demolition rubble together with human bone fragments, several sherds of 19th to 20th-century pottery and clay pipe fragments dating to the 17th century. Deposit 202 was, in turn, covered by topsoil 200.

The Finds

- 2.4 Pottery, clay tobacco pipes, ceramic building material, glass, worked stone, painted wall plaster, animal bone and metalwork were recovered from five contexts (Appendix B). The majority of the artefacts dated to the post-medieval and modern periods. Sherds of pottery dating to medieval period were also recovered, but were generally residual.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The drainage trenches only appeared to impact upon potentially *in situ* graveyard soils within trenches 1 and 6, however, no intact burials were encountered in these areas. Where small quantities of disarticulated human bone were disturbed, they were reinterred during the course of the groundworks.

- 3.2 The only archaeological feature identified during the course of the works was limestone wall 201 identified to the east of the church. The overlying demolition deposit, 202, contained 19th to 20th-century pottery suggesting that the wall may have pre-dated the 19th and 20th-century additions and alterations made to the church and may have been contemporary with the 17th-century dwelling, part of which was incorporated into the south transept of the church.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Kate Cullen, Samantha Thorogood and Kelly Saunders. The report was written by Kate Cullen. The illustrations were prepared by Jemma Elliott. The finds were catalogued and described by Teresa Gilmore and Sylvia Warman. The archive has been compiled by Kate Cullen and Kelly Saunders, and prepared for deposition by Kathryn Price. The project was managed for CA by Laurent Coleman and Mary Alexander.

5. REFERENCES

ATA (Andrew Townsend Architects) 2006 *Repairs to St Cyriac's Church, Lacock, Wiltshire: Brief for Archaeological consultant*

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1965 *Geological Survey of England and Wales*, Sheet 265 Bath, 1:50,000

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2006 *St Cyriac's Church, Lacock, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

English Heritage 2007 <http://www.imagesofengland.org.uk> (IoE Reference No: 315487)

MacCarthy, M. R. 1976 'The Medieval Kilns on Nash Hill, Lacock, Wiltshire' *Wiltshire Archaeol. Natur. Hist. Mag.* **69**, 97-160

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**Trench 1**

No.	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Topsoil	0.12	
101	Layer	Gravel path	0.24	
102	Layer	Mixed rubble deposit	0.17	C13-C14
103	Layer	Graveyard soil. Dark brown sandy clay.	0.4	

Trench 2

No.	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Spot-date
200	Layer	Topsoil	0.2	
201	Layer	Limestone wall. N/S aligned, buff mortar bonding. 2.1m in length and at least 0.4m in width	>0.2	Post-med
202	Layer	Rubble demolition deposit	>0.25	C19-C20

Trench 3

No.	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Spot-date
300	Layer	Topsoil	0.11	
301	Layer	Red drainage bricks	0.1	
302	Layer	Subsoil. Mid yellowish brown sandy clay	0.29	

Trench 4

No.	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Spot-date
401	Layer	Topsoil	0.12	
402	Layer	Subsoil. Mid yellowish brown silty clay	0.15	
403	Layer	Light brown silty clay with abundant limestone fragments	0.15	C18-C19

Trench 5

No.	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Spot-date
501	Layer	Topsoil	0.2	
502	Layer	Subsoil. Mid yellowish brown silty clay	0.1	
503	Layer	Mid brown silty clay with abundant limestone fragments	0.3	C18-C19

Trench 6

No.	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Spot-date
601	Layer	Topsoil	0.16	
602	Layer	Subsoil. mid brown clay silt	0.34	
603	Layer	Subsoil. Mid yellowish brown sandy clay	0.33	
604	Layer	Probable graveyard soil. Mid brown silty clay	0.83m+	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Pottery, clay tobacco pipes, ceramic building material, glass, worked stone, painted wall plaster, animal bone and metalwork were recovered from five contexts (see concordance).

The majority of pottery present is post-medieval or later in date. The medieval pottery comprised Lacock/Nash Hill and Minety types. The majority of this material was residual within later contexts 202, 403, 503. This material was also residual material in most contexts. The post-medieval/modern pottery types present consist of yellow slipwares, creamwares, glazed earthenwares, transfer-printed china, porcelain, Rhenish stoneware, English? salt-glazed stonewares, Somerset scraffito earthenware, Westerwald stoneware and 'agate' ware.

Ceramic building material was present in three contexts 202, 403 and 503 and consists of handmade brick fragments, roof tile and decorated floor tiles. The decorated floor tiles are almost certainly Lacock/Nash Hill products, datable to the late 13th or 14th centuries. Two fragments with worn and unidentifiable decoration belong to square tiles, which have been scored diagonally and broken to form triangular tiles. The third fragment belongs to a square mosaic type displaying similar characteristics of Group II tiles 7-10 (McCarthy 1976, 136). All tile fragments feature circular, knife-cut keying.

Clay tobacco pipes were recovered from two contexts, 202 and 503. A bowl is present from 202 with a stamp on the heel, reading RICH GREE- LAND, a pipemaker based in Marlborough and operating c. 1660-80. Pipe stems were present in 503, one displaying a stamp, IO- BVC- ---, most likely attributable to John Buckland, another Marlborough pipemaker and working c. 1660. The clay tobacco pipes are most likely residual, being present alongside later post-medieval pottery.

Fragments of post-medieval glass were recovered from two contexts, 202 and 503. One fragment of window glass is present from 202 and the remaining fragments of glass consist of bottle glass, most likely dating from 17th to 18th centuries onwards. One fragment of dressed and white washed oolitic limestone from deposit 202 is probably part of a window surround or mullion. A total of 17 items of ironwork were recovered from three contexts, including coffin nails and coffin grips probably dating to the 18th or 19th centuries.

An adult human lower left canine was recovered from 503 and exhibits a calculus buildup on the buccal (cheek-side) surface along the gum line.

Animal bone was recovered from deposits 202 and 503. The species identified were cattle, sheep/goat and pig. The more fragmented bone was identified as sheep-sized limb bone fragments. A cattle skull and horn core fragment from 503 showed signs of butchery.

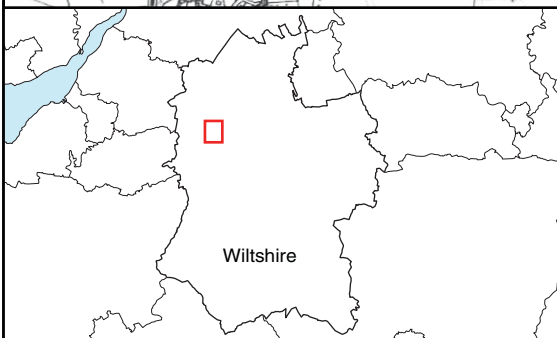
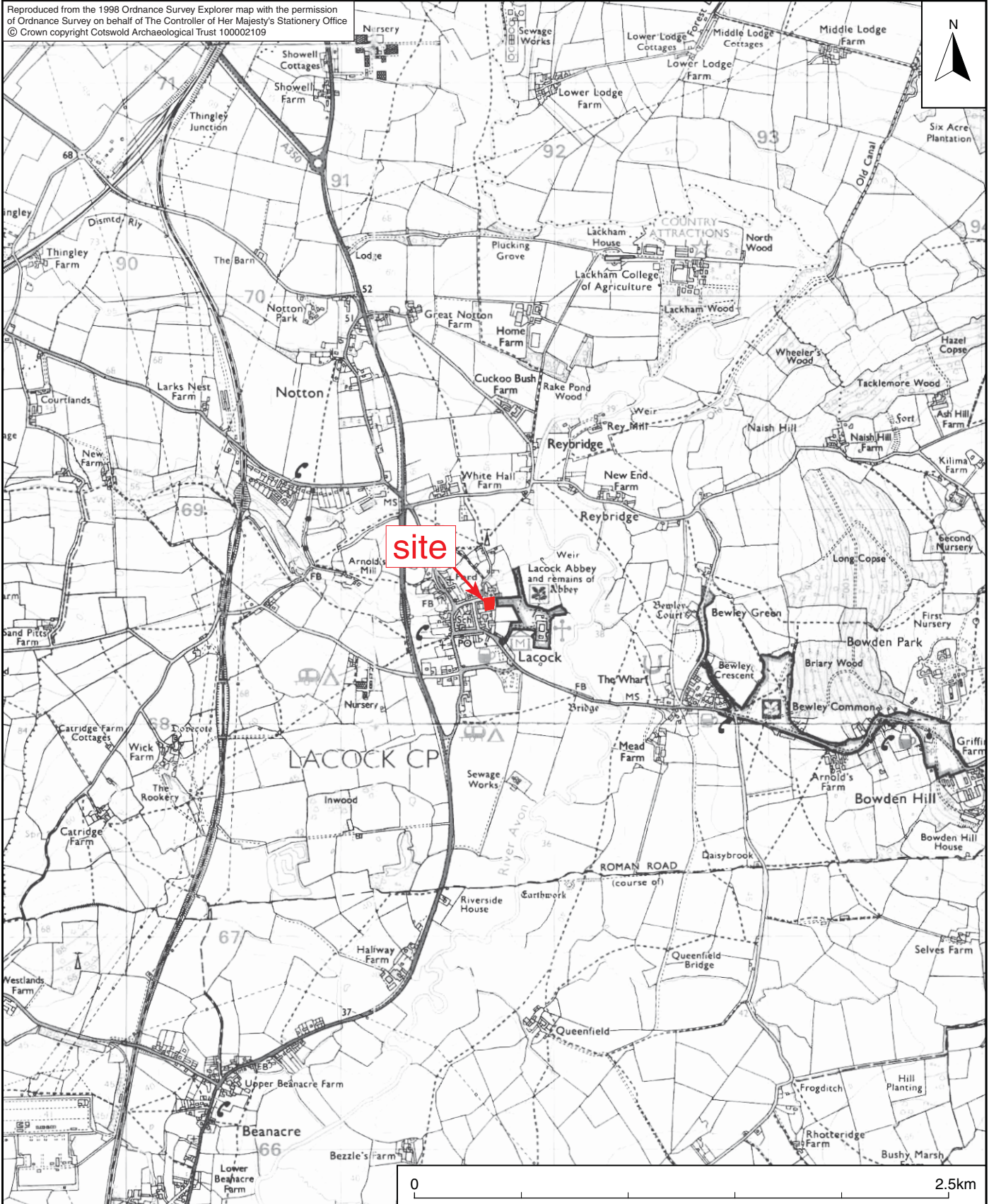
FINDS CONCORDANCE


Context	Artefact type	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
102	Pottery: Lacock/Nash Hill ware	1	12	C13-C14
201	Pottery: post-medieval glazed earthenware	1	44	C17-C18
202	Pottery: Minety, yellow slipware, creamware, transfer-print china, post-medieval glazed earthenware	35	412	C19-C20
	Clay tobacco pipe: stamp RICH GREENLAND	3	20	
	Ceramic building material: brick, floor tile	16	540	
	Glass: vessel, window	5	68	
	Worked stone	2	730	
	Painted wall plaster	8	152	
	Iron objects	8	154	
	Animal bone; sheep-sized	2	4	
403	Pottery: Minety ware, yellow slipware, creamware, salt-glazed stoneware, post medieval glazed earthenware	11	142	C18-C19
	Ceramic building material: brick, roof tile	8	174	
	Iron Nail	1	12	
503	Pottery: cooking pot fabric, Lacock/Nash Hill, Minety ware yellow slipware, post-medieval glazed earthenware, salt-glazed stoneware, Rhenish stoneware, porcelain, Somerset scraffito, creamware, Westerwald, agate ware	102	1506	C18-C19
	Clay tobacco pipe stems: stamp IO- BVC- ---	18	60	
	Ceramic building material: brick, floor tile	10	418	
	Glass: vessel	13	410	
	Iron objects	8	162	
	Animal bone; cattle, sheep/goat, pig, sheep-sized	12	315	
	Human bone: lower left canine	1	1	

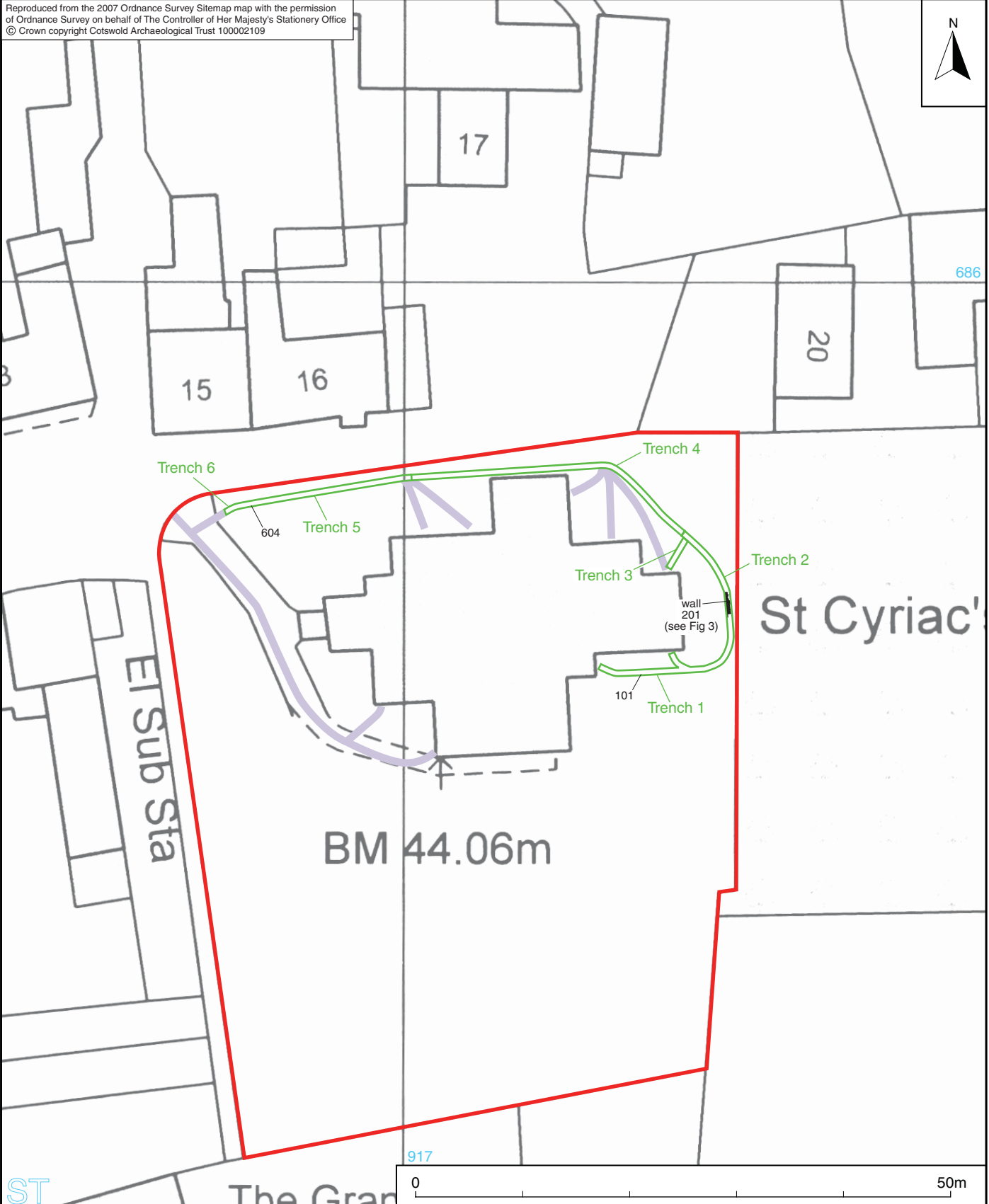
APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	St Cyriac's Church, Lacock, Wiltshire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with improvements to the drainage system of the church.</p> <p>Probable <i>in situ</i> graveyard soils were identified in two areas, but no intact burials were encountered within these deposits. Where small quantities of disarticulated human bone were disturbed, they were reinterred during the course of the groundworks.</p> <p>The only archaeological feature identified during the course of the works was a limestone wall of probable post-medieval date located to the east of the church. This wall may have pre-dated the 19th and 20th-century additions and alterations made to the church and may have been contemporary with the 17th-century dwelling, part of which was incorporated into the south transept of the church.</p>	
Project dates	May-September 2007	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Watching Brief	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	Not known	
Future work	Not known	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	St Cyriac's Church, Lacock, Wiltshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)		
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	ST 9171 6857	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Andrew Townsend Architects	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Laurent Coleman	
Project Supervisor	Kate Cullen	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Devizes Museum	Ceramics, animal bone, glass and iron objects
Paper	Devizes Museum	Trench recording forms, plans
Digital	Devizes Museum	Report, WSI

BIBLIOGRAPHY	
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2007 <i>St Cyriac's Church, Lacock, Wiltshire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i>. CA typescript report 07169</p>	



 COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY			
PROJECT TITLE St Cyriac's Church, Lacock Wiltshire			
FIGURE TITLE Site location plan			
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- site
- groundworks excavated under archaeological supervision showing archaeological feature

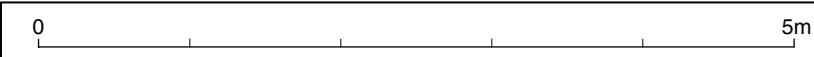
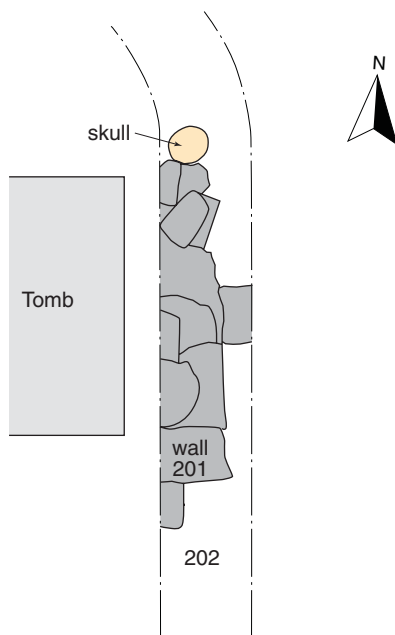


COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE
**St Cyriac's Church, Lacock
 Wiltshire**

FIGURE TITLE
**The site, showing location of
 groundworks**

DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
PJM	1:500@A4	2221	2



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE
**St Cyriac's Church, Lacock
 Wiltshire**

FIGURE TITLE
Trench 2; plan

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PJM	1:50@A4	2221	3