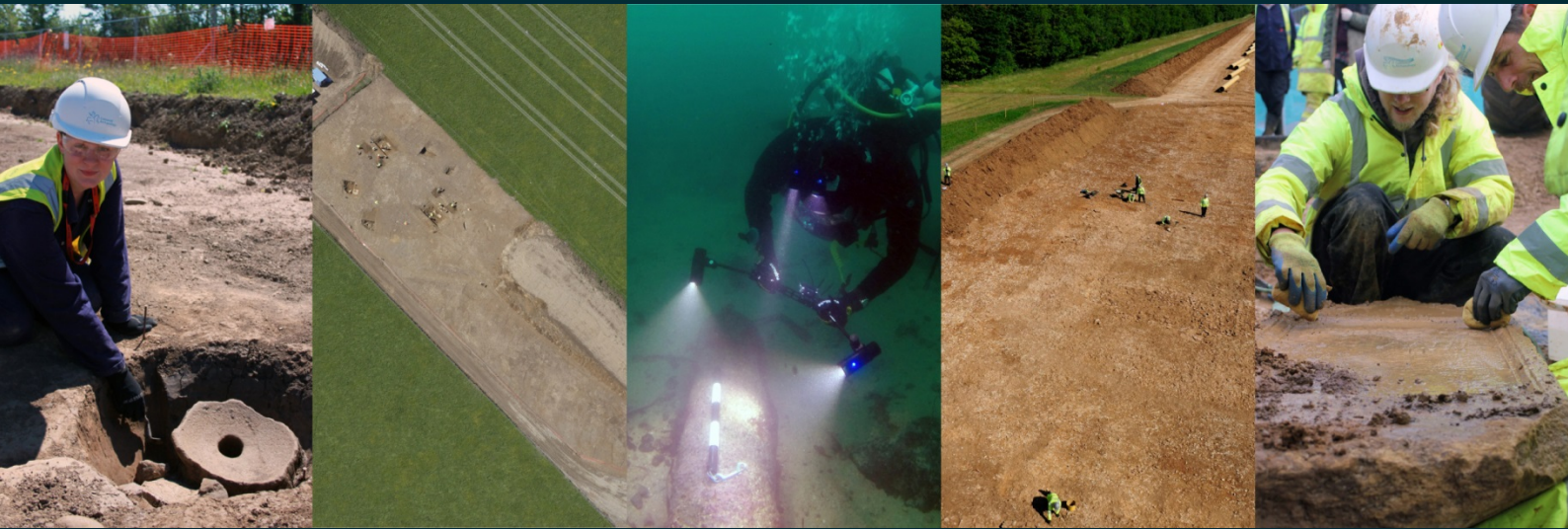


# Puck Mill House Frampton Mansell Gloucestershire

## *Archaeological Watching Brief*



for  
KJS Construction Ltd

on behalf of  
Mr J Heath

CA Project: 6792  
CA Report: 6792\_1

May 2019



Puck Mill House  
Frampton Mansell  
Gloucestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 6792  
CA Report: 6792\_1



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Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	17 March 2019	Sara-Jayne Boughton	Alex Thomson	Final		Cliff Bateman

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## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	Puck Mill House
<b>Location:</b>	Frampton Mansell, Gloucestershire
<b>NGR:</b>	392208 202963
<b>Type:</b>	Watching Brief
<b>Date:</b>	25 February - 1 March 2019
<b>Planning Reference:</b>	SDC ref: S.18/1095/HHOLD
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	to be deposited with the Museum in the Park, Stroud
<b>Site Code:</b>	PUCK 19

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken between 25 February and 1 March 2019 by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a single storey extension and garage at Puck Mill House, Frampton Mansell, Gloucestershire.

The mill race and associated structures relating to the 19th-century Puck Mill were identified.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Between 25 February and 1 March 2019 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for KJS Construction Ltd, on behalf of Mr J. Heath, at Puck Mill House, Frampton Mansell, Gloucestershire (centred at NGR: 392208 202963; 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 single storey extension and garage (SDC Planning ref: S.18/1095/HHOLD, Condition 7).
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2018) and approved by SDC, acting on the advice of Charles Parry, Archaeologist, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC). The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014).

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 0.3ha in extent and comprises Puck Mill House and gardens. It is bounded to the north and west by the (disused) Thames and Severn Canal, to the east by a residential property and to the south by an access trackway. The site lies at approximately 170m AOD, and slopes gently downwards from north to south.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Limestone of the Birdlip Formation formed during the Jurassic Period (BGS 2019). The natural geological substrate encountered during the watching brief consisted of yellow-brown silty-clay.

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site lies approximately 350m north of the village of Frampton Mansell which was recorded in the Domesday Book as Moises Frampton. An area of ridge and furrow earthworks of probable medieval/post-medieval date is visible on historic aerial photographs c. 450m to the south-west of the site (Pastscape monument: 1514068). Several Grade II listed buildings of mid-17th to mid-18th-century date survive within the village including the Church of St Luke (Gloucestershire Historic Environment

Record (GHER): 8183), the Manor House (GHER: 43416), Manor Farmhouse (GHER: 41373) and The Crown Inn (GHER: 43183).

2.2 Archaeological interest in the site primarily arises from its use as a mill from the 16th century onwards. The Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record (HER) notes that a grist mill was first recorded at the site in 1572 but that by 1708 the mill had moved over to textile production with a fulling mill, dyehouse and presshouse. At the start of the 19th century the mill had returned to use as a grist mill before operating as a silk mill in the middle of the 19th century. After this time it appears to have fallen out of use and was partially demolished before being used as a cottage by the time of the Ordnance Survey County Map of c. 1880, although a number of mill buildings and a culvert/leat are still depicted within the site on the 1888 OS First Edition map.

### **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 2018). An archaeologist was present during all intrusive groundworks comprising ground reduction in the areas of the proposed new garage, with deeper foundation trenching to the east and west (Trench 1), and excavation of the footprint of the proposed extension adjacent to the north-west extent of Puck Mill House (Trench 2; see Fig. 2 for location and extent).

- 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 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 2-7)

- 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. The general stratigraphic sequence was broadly uniform. The natural geological substrate identified during the course of the groundworks was recorded in all trenches and was cut by post-medieval stone structures which were overlain by made-ground and/or subsoil deposits, which were in turn sealed by topsoil.

### 5.2 *Trench 1 (Figs 2-7)*

North/south aligned wall 110 was identified in the north-western corner of Trench 1 (Figs. 2 and 3). Constructed of limestone blocks, it measured at least 1.7m in length, 0.6m in width and survived to a height of at least 0.8m; it extended beyond the current works to the north. To the west of this wall, east/west aligned wall 103 was recorded. It was of similar construction to wall 110 and measured 4.1m in length, 0.6m in width and at least 0.26m in height (Figs. 2, 3 and 7). To the south of wall 103, an alignment of three square postholes (104, 105 and 106) was identified (Figs. 2, 3 and 7). These postholes typically measured 0.15m in length, 0.15m in width and 0.3m in depth and were probably of modern date.

- 5.3 Within the southern extent of the trench, east/west aligned channel 115 was identified (Figs 2-5). It measured at least 7.5m in length, 3.16m in width and 0.85m in depth and extended south-east and west beyond the limit of the observed groundworks. It contained clay lining 114/117 to north, from which nine sherds of 18th to 20th century pottery were recovered. Overlying clay lining 117 and butting clay lining 114 Wall/culvert 111 was constructed of ashlar-cut limestone. It measured 0.56m in width, at least 0.63m in height and was east/west aligned along the length

of channel 115 before a north/south return was observed of up to 2m in length along the western edge of the trench. Channel 115 was finally backfilled by rubble deposits 112 and 116.

5.4 Within the east of the trench, rectangular stone structure 118 was identified. It comprised four walls (118, 107, 113 and 115) constructed of roughly dressed limestone blocks and measured 1.6m in length, 1.5m in width and at least 2.4m in depth, and was infilled by rubble deposit 108. An integrated culvert was recorded at the base of Wall 107, which formed the northern wall of the structure.

5.5 All observed features were sealed by clay silt subsoil 102, which was in turn overlain by gravel 101 and topsoil 100

#### 5.6 **Trench 2 (Figs 2-3)**

In the easternmost segment of Trench 2, partially preserved structure 202, comprising two courses of rough limestone blocks was observed. It measured approximately 1.2m in length, running on a north/south alignment (parallel to the edge of the current Puck Mill House), and was at least 0.6m in depth. It was subsequently covered by concrete underpinning 201.

## 6. THE FINDS

6.1 Artefactual material was hand-recovered from one deposit, clay lining fill 117. The recovered material dates to the modern period. The pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric. The pottery fabric code (in parenthesis in the text) is equated to the online Gloucester pottery type series (Potsherd 2019).

### *Pottery*

6.2 Clay lining 117 within channel 115 produced nine sherds from a vessel in 'mocha' ware (TF69), which dates to the late 18th to 20th centuries.

## 8. DISCUSSION

8.1 The structures and features revealed in Trench 1 correlate closely to the 19th century sluice associated with the silk mill buildings and the original course of the



River Frome depicted on the historic mapping (see archaeological background above; Fig 3).

- 8.2 Channel 115 correlates to the course of the river mill race and 'sluice' depicted on the First Edition OS map mapping. Wall/culvert 111, with its north/south return likely represents the formal canalisation of the river to form the mill race as it ran from west to east. Structure 118 is probably also related to the management of the water through the mill and may have been used for managing overflow or powering a mill wheel.
- 8.3 Walls 103 and 110 are most probably remnants of the mill buildings eastern extent and/or its associated structures, which appears as a substantial four-storey structure on a photograph of c.1900-1912 prior to its demolition in the 20th century (Fig 8).
- 8.4 Wall 202 adjacent to the existing Puck Mill House may relate to the earlier footprint of the building. Cartographic sources suggest that Puck Mill House previously extended further to the west than the current standing building and Wall 202 is likely contemporary with this before this extent was removed and concrete underpinning was required for the remaining western walls of the current structure.
- 8.5 Deposits 112, 116 and 108 likely relate to the deliberate infilling of the mill race and may, at least in part, be derived from the demolition of the mill building.

## 9. CA PROJECT TEAM

The fieldwork was undertaken by Noel Boothroyd. The report was written by Noel Boothroyd and Sara-Jayne Boughton. The finds report was written by Jacky Sommerville. The illustrations were prepared by Marta Perlinska. The archive has been compiled, and prepared for deposition, by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Alex Thomson.

## 10. REFERENCES

- BGS (British Geological Survey) 2018 *Geology of Britain Viewer*  
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 29 October 2018

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2018 *Puck Mill House, Frampton Mansell, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

Oakridge Community Archives 2019 *Puck Mill Area*,  
<http://oakridgecommunityarchives.org/items/show/630>. Accessed March 4, 2019

Potsherd 2019 <http://glospot.potsherd.net/docs/intro> Accessed 7 March 2019



## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

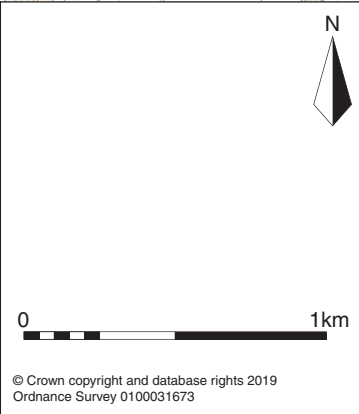
Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown clayey silt, frequent sand and gravel	11.8	3.7	0.7	
1	101	Layer		Garden gravel	Light orange-brown sand and gravel	11.8	2.9	0.2	
1	102	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow-grey silty clay, moderate angular limestone gravel to cobbles	11.8	2.9	0.6	
1	103	Str		Wall	W/E aligned stone wall	4.1	0.6	>0.26	
1	104	Cut		Posthole	Square in plan, with vertical sloping sides and flat base.	0.15	0.15	0.3	
1	105	Cut		Posthole	Square in plan, with vertical sloping sides and flat base.	0.15	0.15	0.25	
1	106	Cut		Posthole	Square in plan, with vertical sloping sides and flat base.	0.15	0.15	0.3	
1	107	Str		Wall	W/E aligned stone wall, part of sluice 118	2.2	0.8	>2.4	
1	108	Fill	109	Demolition backfill	Brick and stone rubble in dark grey-brown clayey silt	2.2	2.2	>2.4	
1	109	Cut		Construction cut for structure 118	Rectangular cut seen in plan only	>2.2	>2.2	>2.4	
1	110	Str		Wall	Ashlar stepped foundation	>1.7	>0.6	0.8	
1	111	Str		Wall/culvert	Ashlar wall and culvert	7.1	0.56	>0.63	
1	112	Fill	115	Lower fill of blocked river	Mid orange-brown silty clay with gravel to boulder rubble	>0.6	3.5	>1.2	
1	113	Str		Wall	N/S aligned stone wall, part of sluice 118	1.6	>0.1	>2.4	
1	114	Fill	115	Clay lining	Mid yellow clay lining	7.1	0.47	0.85	
1	115	Cut		Channel	W/E aligned linear cut	7.1		0.85	
1	116	Fill	115	Demolition backfill	Brick and stone rubble in dark grey-brown silty clay, same as 108	7.1	>2.3	0.85	
1	117	Fill	115	Clay lining	Mid yellow clay underneath wall 111 (same as 114)	>2.3	>0.3	>0.2	C19
1	118	Str		Wall	Limestone wall used to form chamber along with walls 107, 115	>1.6	>1.5	>2.4	
1	119	Cut		Demolition activity	Roughly square cut	1.6	1.2	2.2	
1	120	Fill	119	Demolition rubble	Brick rubble	1.6	1.2	2.2	
1	121	Layer		Natural substrate	Mid yellow brown gravelly silty clay	11.8	3.2	>0.6	
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Loose silt and rubble	2.9	2	0.2	
2	201	Str		Underpinning	Concrete	2.9	1	0.7	
2	202	Str		Foundation	Stone blocks below 201 seen in section only	1.2		0.6	
2	203	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown clayey silt with frequent gravel to cobbles	1.5	0.8	0.4	
2	204	Layer		Natural substrate	Mid yellow brown gravelly silty clay	1.5	0.8	>0.9	

**APPENDIX B: THE FINDS**

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
117	Modern pottery	Mocha ware	TF69	9	91	C19

**APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Puck Mill House, Frampton Mansell, Gloucestershire	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a single storey extension and garage at Puck Mill House, Frampton Mansell, Gloucestershire. The mill race of the 19th century Puck silk mill, along with associated structures, were identified.	
Project dates	25 February - 1 March 2019	
Project type	Watching brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	None	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Puck Mill House, Frampton Mansell, Gloucestershire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	0.3ha	
Site co-ordinates	392208 202963	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	None	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Alex Thomson	
Project Supervisor	Noel Boothroyd	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>		
	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>		
	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Museum in the Park, Stroud	Ceramics
Paper	Museum in the Park, Stroud	Trench and context sheets, photo register
Digital	Museum in the Park, Stroud	Digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2019 <i>Puck Mill House, Frampton Mansell, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report <b>6792_1</b>		



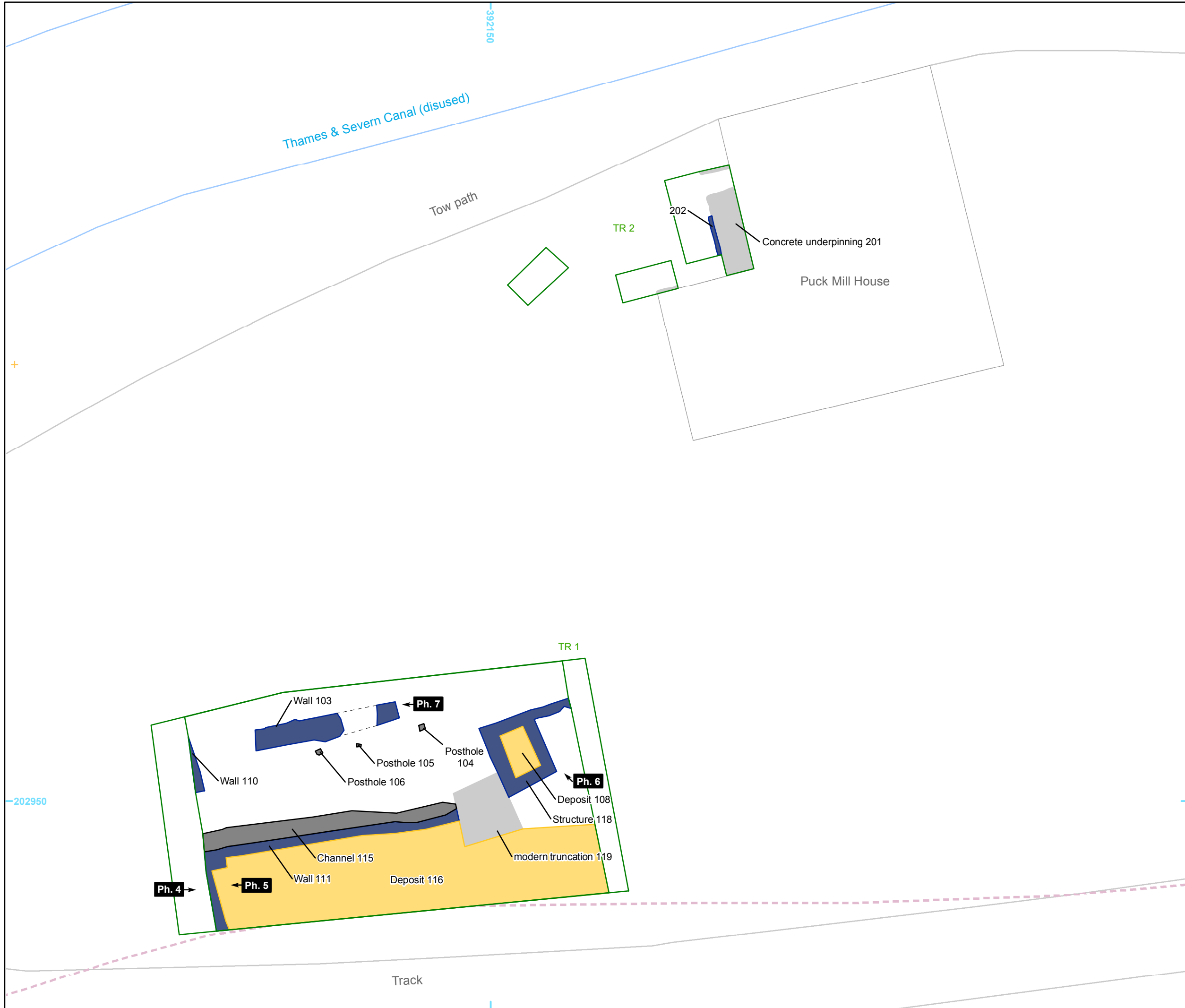

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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Puck Mill House, Frampton Mansell,  
 Gloucestershire

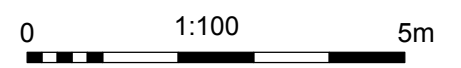
**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan

<b>DRAWN BY</b>	<b>MP</b>	<b>PROJECT NO.</b>	<b>6792</b>	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
<b>CHECKED BY</b>	<b>DJB</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>07/03/19</b>	
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- Watching brief area
- Archaeological feature
- Structure
- Deposit
- Modern feature
- Ph. 7 ↑ Direction of photograph



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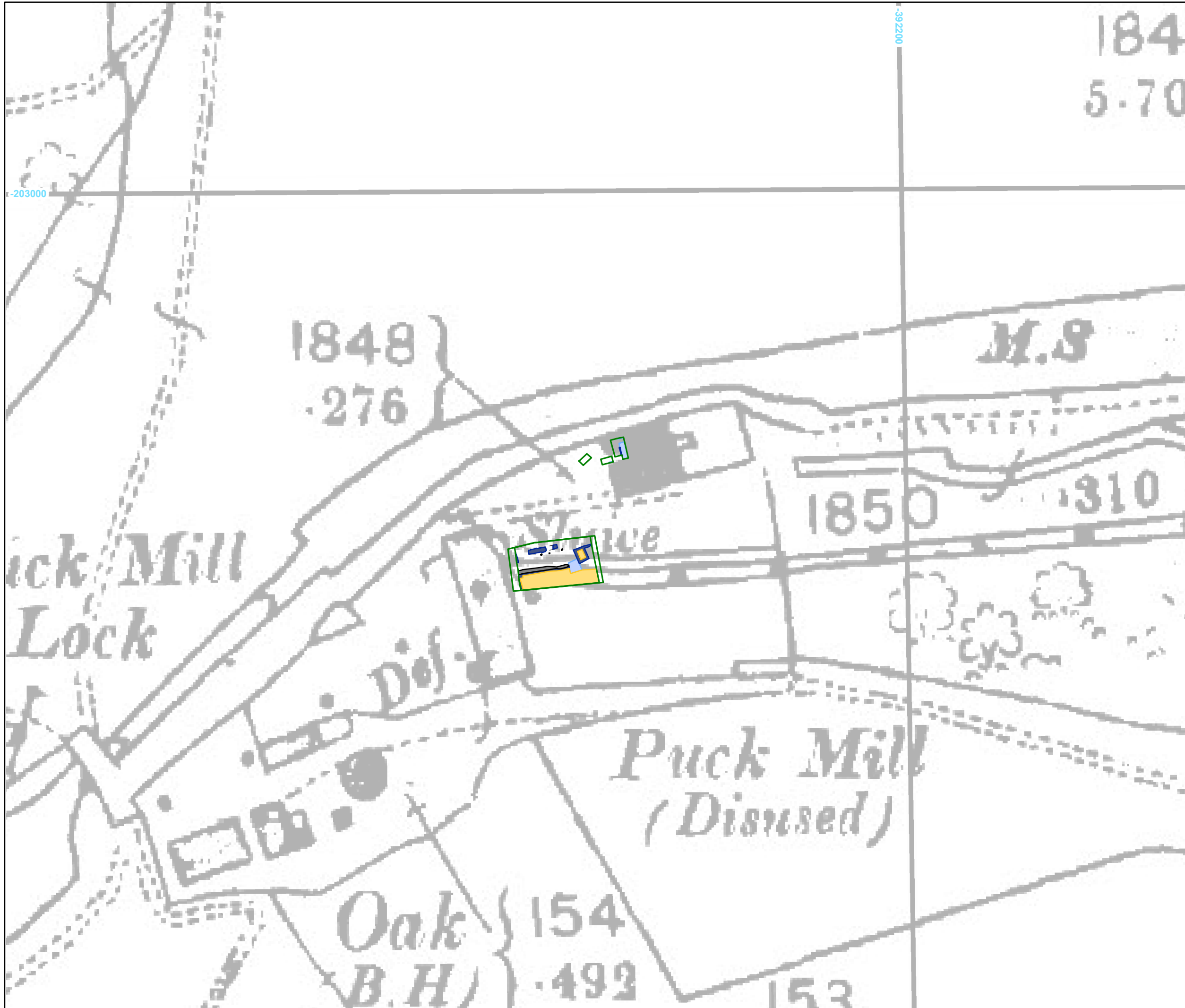
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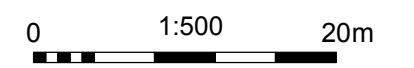
**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Puck Hill House  
 Frampton Mansell, Stroud

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 The site, showing areas of observed groundworks and identified archaeological features

<b>DRAWN BY</b> MP	<b>PROJECT NO</b> 6792	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
<b>CHECKED BY</b> DJB	<b>DATE</b> 04/06/2019	<b>2</b>
<b>APPROVED BY</b> AT	<b>SCALE@A3</b> 1:100	



- Watching brief area
- Archaeological feature
- Structure
- Deposit
- Modern feature



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PROJECT TITLE  
**Puck Hill House**  
**Frampton Mansell, Stroud**

FIGURE TITLE  
**Excavated features overlaid**  
**on an extract from the first**  
**edition OS map, 1884**

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Channel 115, with wall/culvert 111 and clay lining 114, looking east (1m scale)



Wall 111, looking south-west (1m scale)



Structure 118, looking north-west (1m scale)



Wall 103 and postholes 104, 105 and 106, looking west (0.3m scale)





Photograph showing the derelict Puck Mill, centre, c. 1900-1912, looking south-east (Oakridge Community Archives 2019)



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PROJECT TITLE

Puck Mill House, Frampton Mansell,  
Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

**Photograph**

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FIGURE NO.

**8**

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