

**POTTERS POND
WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

For

THE NASH PARTNERSHIP

CA PROJECT: 2567
CA REPORT: 08083

APRIL 2008




**COTSWOLD
ARCHAEOLOGY**

POTTERS POND
WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE
GLOUCESTERSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CA PROJECT: 2567
CA REPORT: 08083

prepared by	Ray Holt, Project Officer
date	11 April 2008
checked by	Richard Young, Project Manager
date	17 April 2008
approved by	Simon Cox, Head of Fieldwork
signed	
date	21 April 2008
issue	01

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. RESULTS (FIGS 2-4)	5
3. DISCUSSION.....	7
4. CA PROJECT TEAM	8
5. REFERENCES	8
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	9
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS	11
APPENDIX C: LEVELS OF PRINCIPAL DEPOSITS AND STRUCTURES	11
APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM.....	12

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
Fig. 2 Trench location plan (1:1000)
Fig. 3 Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 4 showing archaeological features (1:250)
Fig. 4 Trench 2; Walls 2009, 2010, 2013 and 2014

SUMMARY

Project Name: Potters Pond
Location: Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire
NGR: ST 7610 9340
Type: Evaluation
Date: 25-28 March 2008
Planning Reference: S.07/2768/FUL
Location of Archive: To be deposited with the Museum in the Park, Stroud
Site Code: POP 08

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in March 2008 at the request of the Nash Partnership at Potters Pond, Wotton-under-Edge. Six trenches were excavated.

Remnants of five walls were recorded in the northern part of the site. These have been interpreted as being related to 19th century mill buildings and 20th century printing works known to have stood on the site. The walls were sealed by dump deposits containing industrial waste and demolition rubble. Redeposited silts and clays to the south contained modern artefacts and represented terracing and the reduction of former ground levels prior to the construction of the modern factory that currently occupies the site. Two undated drainage ditches were also recorded.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In March 2008 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for the Nash Partnership at Potters Pond, Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: ST 7610 9340; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken prior to the determination of a planning application by Stroud District Council (SDC) for the redevelopment of the site (Ref. S.07/2768/FUL). The programme of archaeological evaluation was recommended by Mr Charles Parry, Senior Archaeological Officer, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC), the archaeological advisor to SDC.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2008) and approved by Mr Parry, Senior Archaeological Officer, GCC. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (2001), the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Gloucestershire* (GCC 1995), and the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991). It was monitored by Mr Parry.

The site

- 1.3 The site is approximately 0.85ha in area, and is currently occupied by 20th-century factory buildings (Fig. 2). The site lies to the south-east of Coombe Road at approximately 68m AOD, with ground level dropping away slightly to the south.
- 1.4 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Middle Lias clay of the Jurassic Era (BGS 1970). Natural clay deposits were encountered in trenches 1, 2 and 5 between 1.1m and 1.3m below present ground level.

Archaeological background

- 1.5 An archaeological desk-based assessment for the site was prepared in February 2007 (CA 2007). The main points of this report are summarised below. It has been suggested that the earliest medieval settlement of Wotton-under-Edge may have been nearby, focused to the west of the site around the church and manor house. The church and manor house cover the top of a steep bluff, while the site lies at the base of this slope, and it would appear probable that this early settlement was

confined to the top of the hill. If settlement did extend further down the hill towards the site itself, any associated remains are likely to have been severely impacted upon by the construction of the extant 20th-century factory buildings. The construction of these post-medieval structures involved the cutting of a terrace into the side of the hill and the reduction of former ground levels.

- 1.6 From the medieval period onwards Wotton-under-Edge became closely associated with the cloth industry. This industry was based on a series of mills along the course of the Little Avon and its tributary, the Tiley Brook, including the site area. In 1600 more than half the able bodied male population was involved in the industry, and by the 1800s around 30 mills were working in the area. This industry became particularly associated with the production of cloth for military uniforms and thus experienced hard times after the close of the wars with France in 1815. After that period the cloth trade declined and many of these mills were demolished or put to other uses.
- 1.7 A range of historic maps of the site area are available, and from these it was possible to establish the sequence of building on the site itself (CA 2007). There was a potential for the survival of below ground features associated with the 19th-century Britannia Mill and what may be the larger Neal's Mill to the north of the site, as well as the 18th-century Moore's Mill to the south. The discovery of buried dye-vats in Britannia Mill in the 1940s is evidence of the possible survival of such features.

Archaeological objectives

- 1.8 The objectives of the evaluation are to provide data on the date, character, quality, survival and extent of the archaeological deposits within the application area in order that an informed decision on their importance in a local, regional or national context can be made. This information will assist Stroud District Council in making an informed judgement on the significance of the archaeological resource, and the likely impact upon it of the proposed development and will clarify whether any remains are of sufficient importance to warrant consideration for preservation *in situ*, or alternatively form the basis of mitigation measures that may seek to limit damage to significant remains.

Methodology

- 1.9 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of six trenches (Fig. 2): Trench 1 measured 10m in length and 1.8m wide, Trench 2 measured 20m in length and 1.8m wide, Trench 3 measured 7.2m in length and 1.8m wide, Trench 4 measured 9.3m in length and 1.8m wide, Trench 5 measured 15m in length and 1.8m wide and Trench 6 was 5m in length and 2m wide. The locations of trenches 2, 3 and 4 were altered slightly, and trenches 3 and 4 shortened, from those agreed in the WSI due to the presence of buried services, with the approval of Mr Parry, Senior Archaeological Officer, GCC.
- 1.10 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.11 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* (2003) and no deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of Finds Immediately After Excavation* (1995).
- 1.12 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation 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 D, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-4)

- 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. Details of the relative heights of the principal deposits and features expressed as metres Above Ordnance Datum (m AOD) appear in Appendix C.

- 2.2 Trenches 3, 5 and 6 contained no archaeological features. Modern tarmac and concrete surfaces and associated bedding layers overlaid a series of re-deposited silts and clays containing modern artefacts. Natural deposits were identified in trenches 1, 2 and 5 between 1.1m and 1.3m below present ground level.

Trench 1 (Figs 2 & 3)

- 2.3 The earliest deposit encountered in trench 1 consisted of sandy silt 1016 and has been interpreted as the natural horizon. This deposit was cut by wall 1008. Although undated wall 1008 appears to lie broadly on the same alignment as the now demolished Britannia Mill depicted on the 1882 Ordnance Survey map (Figs 2 & 3) and probably represents a remnant of this structure. A series of dump deposits containing demolition rubble and industrial waste post-date the wall and were in turn sealed by modern concrete surfaces.

Trench 2 (Figs 2-4)

- 2.4 Clay deposit 2017 formed the natural horizon in trench 2. Curving wall 2013 represented the earliest archaeological feature identified. Constructed from roughly hewn limestone blocks and only partially mortared it was in turn cut by wall 2010 to the north-west. The unbonded rough limestone blocks of wall 2010 probably formed one side of a substantial structure. Brick walls 2009 and 2014 post-date the above features and probably form part of a single structure. Wall 2009 was built directly over wall 2010 and used the lower courses of wall 2010 as a foundation. A series of dump deposits containing demolition rubble and industrial waste post dated the walls and were in turn sealed by a buried topsoil horizon 2002 and a modern concrete yard surface.

Trench 4 (Figs 2 & 3)

- 2.5 A redeposited silty clay 4008 formed the earliest deposit encountered in trench 4. Although undated similar deposits in trenches 5 and 6 (layers 5003 and 6005 respectively) contained modern artefacts and layer 2008 is probably contemporary. It was cut by two E/W aligned drainage ditches 4004 and 4006, both containing fills of gravel, rich in charcoal and cinders. All the above deposits were sealed by two layers of modern concrete and their associated bedding layers.

The Finds

- 2.6 Five sherds of pottery were recovered from two deposits (Appendix B).
- 2.7 Pottery present consists of post-medieval and later types including hand-painted and plain china, and mottled brown glazed earthenware. The earliest pottery present consists of the mottled brown glazed earthenware, which dates to the 18th or 19th centuries. The china sherds probably date to the 19th or 20th centuries. The material recovered is considered of minimal archaeological significance.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Two phases of activity were identified: undated and modern. These were represented by ditches, walls, dump deposits and redeposited material. All were covered by modern yard surfaces related to the site's use as a factory in the 20th century.
- 3.2 Comparable natural deposits 1016, 2017 and 5004 were identified in trenches 1, 2 and 5 respectively between 1.1m and 1.3m below present ground surface.
- 3.3 The undated features consisted of walls 1008, 2009, 2010, 2013, 2014 and ditches 4004 and 4006. Although undated walls 1008, 2010 and 2013 probably form part of the mill buildings formerly occupying the site depicted on the Ordnance Survey map of 1882. Similarly walls 2009 and 2014 may represent later additions to part of the mill buildings or alternatively the remnants of buildings visible on an aerial photograph of 1947, interpreted as possible wartime printing sheds (CA 2007, 14). Undated dump deposits overlying the above walls probably represent levelling of the area. Ditches 4004 and 4006 probably characterize drainage of the site prior to the construction of the factory.
- 3.4 Modern deposits included the redeposited silts and clays 5003, 6004 and 6005, which are probably indicative of terracing of the southern portion of the site prior to the construction of the 20th century factory buildings. Redeposited material 4008 in trench 4 is probably contemporary with the terracing phase of activity. Also

encountered were buried topsoil 2002 in trench 2 and tarmac and concrete yard surfaces over the whole of the investigation area.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Ray Holt, assisted by Andy Donald and Rob Elliot. The report was written by Ray Holt. The illustrations were prepared by Jemma Elliot. The archive has been compiled by Ray Holt, and prepared for deposition by Kathryn Price. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1970 *Geological Survey of England and Wales Sheet 251 Malmesbury Solid and drift edition 1:63,360*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2007 *Potters Pond, Wotton-Under-Edge: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*, unpublished CA typescript report

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008 *Potters Pond, Wotton-Under-Edge: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1000	Layer	Concrete			0.12	Modern
1001	Layer	Hardcore below 1000			0.1	Modern
1002	Layer	Concrete below 1001			0.1 to 0.4	Modern
1003	Layer	Bedding layer for 1002			0.2	Modern
1004	Layer	Dump deposit of cinders and brick rubble below 1003			0.3	
1005	Layer	Dump deposit of mortar below 1004			0.1	
1006	Layer	Dump deposit of clay and cinders below 1005			0.8	
1007	Deposit	Dump deposit of limestone within 1006		0.7	0.4	
1008	Wall	North-east to south-west aligned wall. Rough cut limestone blocks measuring up to 0.3m x 0.3m x 0.15m and partly faced to the south-east with brick measuring 230mm x 115mm x 70mm. Seven courses visible bonded with light grey lime mortar with charcoal inclusions	At least 1.8	0.9 at base	At least 1.04	
1009	Layer	Bedding layer for 1002, same as 1003			0.2	Modern
1010	Layer	Dump deposit of cinders and charcoal below 1009			0.12	
1011	Layer	Dump deposit of mortar below 1010			0.05	
1012	Layer	Dump deposit of silty clay below 1011			0.3	
1013	Layer	Dump deposit of silty clay below 1012			0.15	
1014	Layer	Dump deposit silty clay below 1013			0.3	
1015	Layer	Dump deposit silty clay below 1006			0.2	
1016	Layer	Natural sandy silt	n/a	n/a	n/a	

Trench 2

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
2000	Layer	Concrete			0.3 to 0.8	Modern
2001	Layer	Hardcore below 2000			0.24	Modern
2002	Layer	Buried topsoil below 2001			0.26	Modern
2003	Layer	Dump deposit of mortar and brick fragments below 2002			0.52	
2004	Layer	Dump deposit of sandy silt and brick rubble below 2003			0.38	
2005	Layer	Dump deposit of sandy silt and brick rubble below 2004			0.64	
2006	Layer	Dump deposit of sandy silt and brick rubble below 2005			0.42	
2007	Layer	Dump deposit of mortar and silty clay below 2006			At least 0.16	
2008	Layer	Dump deposit of silty clay against wall 2010 and below 2006			At least 0.2	
2009	Wall	North-west to south-east aligned wall. Lime mortar bonded brick measuring 230mm x 115mm x 70mm. Four courses surviving, lowest course header bonded, upper courses Flemish bonded. Built directly on top of wall 2010	2.7		0.3	
2010	Wall	North-west to south-east aligned wall. Unbonded rough cut limestone blocks measuring up to 0.35m	3.1		0.34	

		x 0.23m. Two courses visible				
2011	Deposit	Backfill of foundation cut 2012		0.1 to 0.5		
2012	Cut	Foundation cut for wall 2013	3.75	0.6		
2013	Wall	Curvilinear wall. Rough cut limestone blocks measuring up to 0.5m x 0.4m x 0.2m. Unbonded at western extent, lime mortar bonding at eastern extent. One course visible. Overlain by wall 2014	3.75	0.6		
2014	Wall	'T' shaped wall, north-west to south-east and north-east to south-west aligned. Lime mortar bonded brick measuring 230mm x 115mm x 70mm. Two courses surviving, header bonded.	3.7 NW-SE, 1.8 NW-SW	0.23		
2015	Cut	Foundation cut for wall 2010				
2016	Deposit	Backfill of foundation cut 2015		0.02		
2017	Layer	Clay natural	n/a	n/a	n/a	

Trench 3

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
3000	Layer	Concrete			0.2	Modern
3001	Layer	Concrete below 3000			0.2	Modern
3002	Layer	Bedding layer for 3001			0.25	Modern
3003	Layer	Redeposited silty clay			At least 0.8	

Trench 4

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
4000	Layer	Concrete			0.2	Modern
4001	Layer	Bedding layer for 4000			0.2	Modern
4002	Layer	Concrete			0.15	Modern
4003	Layer	Bedding layer for 4002			0.4	Modern
4004	Cut	Ditch	1.6	0.6	0.2	
4005	Fill	Fill of 4004	1.6	0.6	0.2	
4006	Cut	Ditch	1.6	1.9	0.35	
4007	Fill	Fill of 4006	1.6	1.9	0.35	
4008	Layer	Redeposited silty clay			At least 0.45	

Trench 5

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
5000	Layer	Tarmac			0.08	Modern
5001	Layer	Bedding layer for 5000			0.05	Modern
5002	Layer	Bedding layer for 5000 below 5001			0.2	Modern
5003	Layer	Redeposited silt, contained modern pottery			0.8	Modern
5004	Layer	Clay natural	n/a	n/a	n/a	

Trench 6

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
6000	Layer	Tarmac			0.15	Modern
6001	Layer	Bedding layer for 6000			0.05	Modern
6002	Layer	Bedding layer for 6000 below 6001			0.15	Modern
6003	Layer	Bedding layer for 6000			0.2	Modern
6004	Layer	Redeposited clay below 6002 and 6003			0.6	Modern
6005	Layer	Redeposited silty clay below 6004, contained modern pottery			0.85	Modern

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Artefact type	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
5003	Post-medieval pottery: mottled brown glazed earthenware	1	3	C19-C20
	Modern pottery; hand painted china, white china	2	7	
6005	Modern pottery: hand painted china, white china	2	44	C19-C20

APPENDIX C: LEVELS OF PRINCIPAL DEPOSITS AND STRUCTURES

Levels are expressed as metres below current ground level and as metres Above Ordnance Datum (AOD), calculated using spot heights located around the periphery of the factory building (68.74m, 68.94m, 69.08, 69.58m and 70.03m AOD).

	Trench 1	Trench 2	Trench 3	Trench 4	Trench 5	Trench 6
Current ground level	0.00m (66.91m)	0.00m (68.70m)	0.00m (67.32m to 68.71m)	0.00m (67.60m to 67.86m)	0.00m (67.32m to 67.41m)	0.00m (67.18m)
Top of archaeological features	0.20m (66.71m)	0.92m (67.78m)	n/a	0.82m (67.96m)	n/a	n/a
Limit of excavation	1.40m (65.51m)	1.79m (66.89m)	1.21m to 1.45m (66.11m to 67.26m)	1.30m (66.48m)	1.18m (66.23m)	1.55m (65.63m)

Upper figures are depth below modern ground level; lower figures in parentheses are metres AOD.

APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Potters Pond, Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in March 2008 at the request of the Nash Partnership at Potters Pond, Wotton-under-Edge. Six trenches were excavated.</p> <p>Remnants of five walls were recorded in the northern part of the site. These have been interpreted as being related to 19th century mill buildings and 20th century printing works known to have stood on the site. The walls were sealed by dump deposits containing industrial waste and demolition rubble. Redeposited silts and clays to the south contained modern artefacts and represented terracing and the reduction of former ground levels prior to the construction of the modern factory that currently occupies the site. Two undated drainage ditches were also recorded.</p>	
Project dates	25-28 March 2008	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Field evaluation	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2007 <i>Potters Pond, Wotton-Under-Edge: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment</i> , unpublished CA typescript report	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Potters Pond, Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.85ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	ST 7610 9340	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Gloucestershire County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Ray Holt	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Museum in the Park, Stroud	Ceramics
Paper	Museum in the Park, Stroud	Pro forma recording forms
Digital	Museum in the Park, Stroud	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008 <i>Potters Pond, Wotton-Under-Edge: Archaeological Evaluation</i> CA Report No. 08083		



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

**Potters Pond, Wotton-under-Edge,
Gloucestershire**

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

DRAWN BY

JE

SCALE

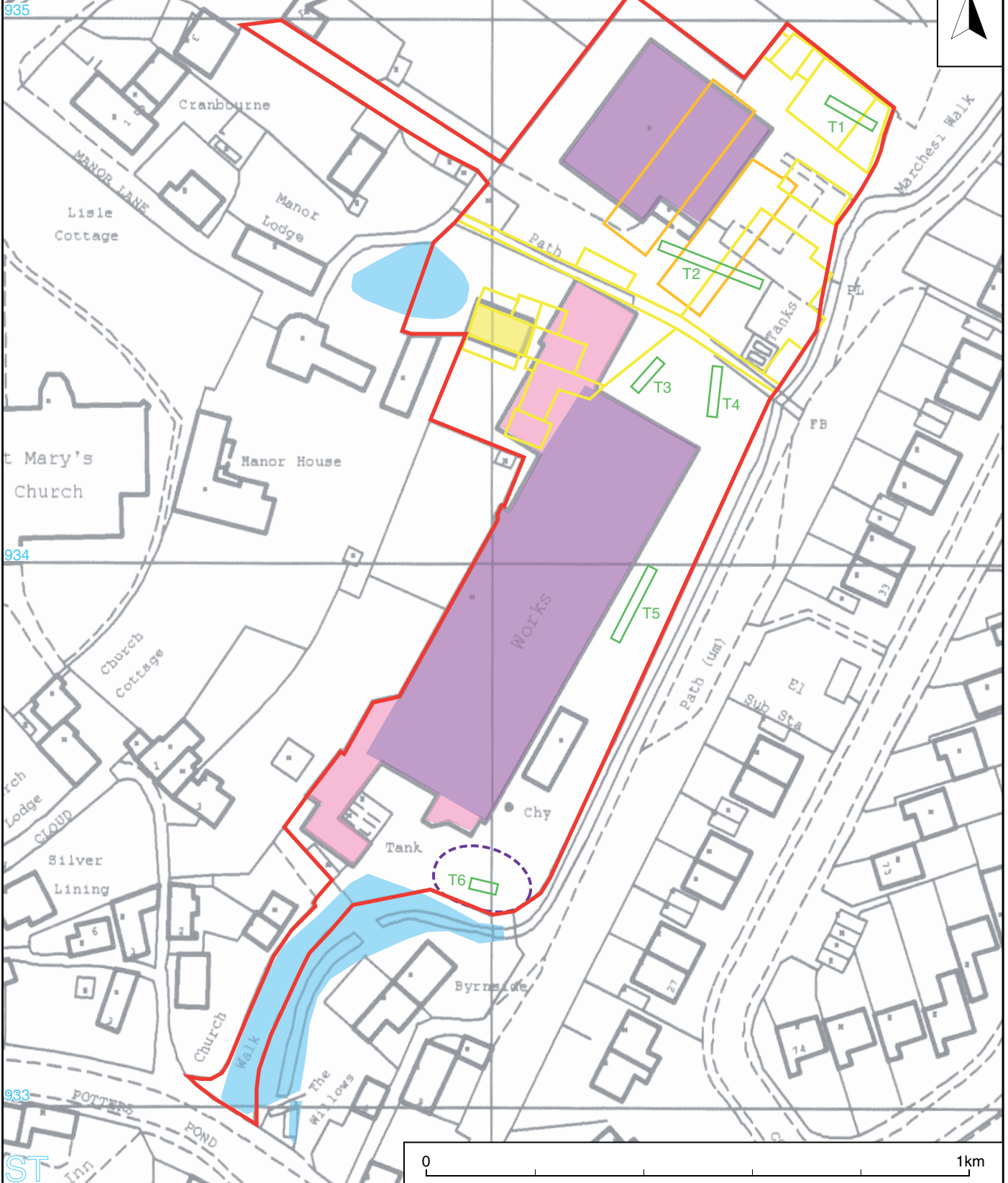
1:25,000@A4

PROJECT NO.

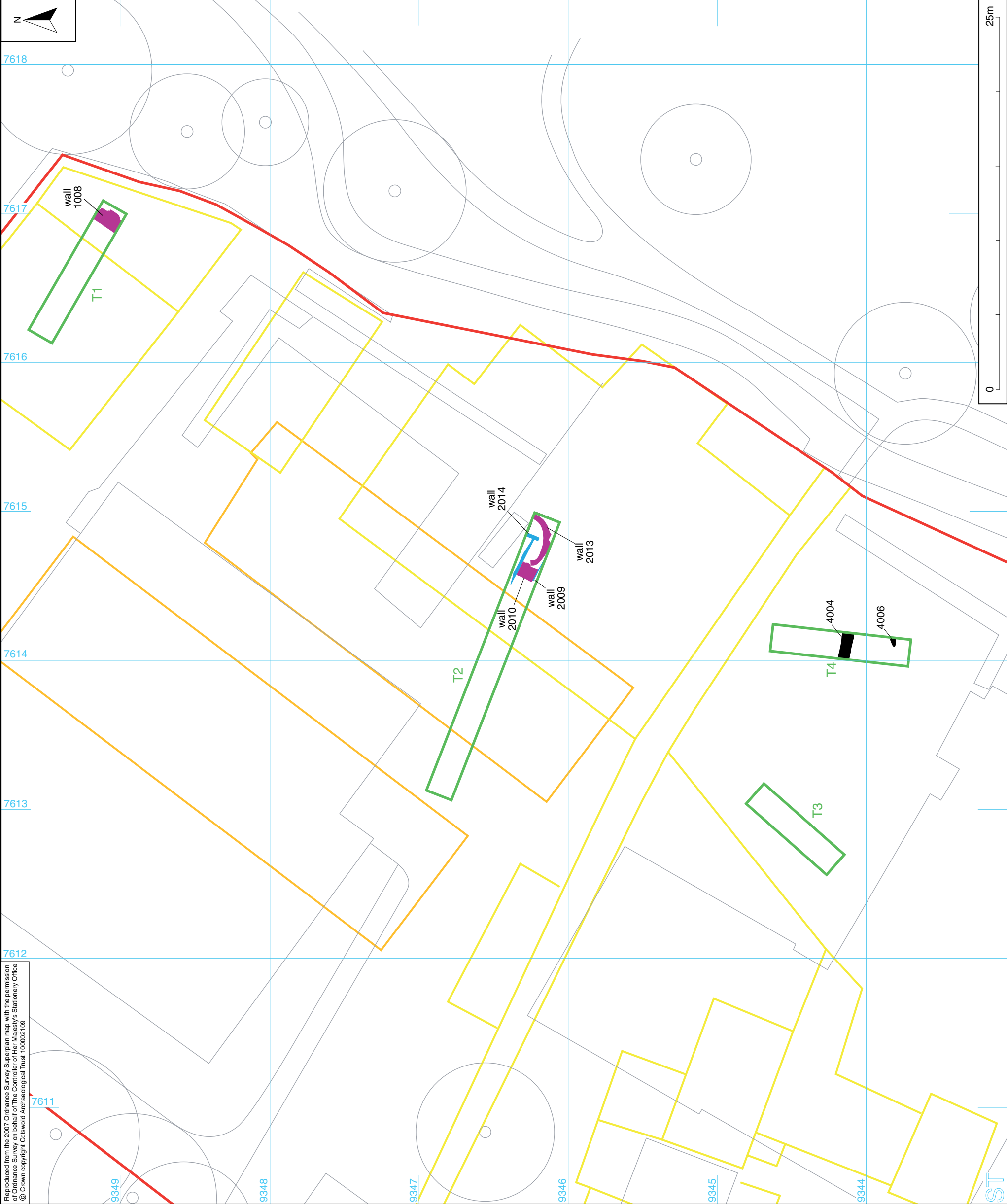
2567

FIGURE NO.

1



site	building depicted on map of 1882 - removed	COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT TITLE Potters Pond, Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire FIGURE TITLE Trench location plan	
trench	building visible on aerial photograph of 1947 - removed		
buildings postulated from 1762 map - removed	building visible on aerial photograph of 1968 - extant	DRAWN BY	SCALE
ponds depicted on map of 1882	building visible on aerial photograph of 1992 - extant	JE	1:1000A4
building depicted on map of 1882 - extant		PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
		2567	2



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

Potters Pond, Wooton-Under-Edge
Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 4 showing
archaeological features

DRAWN BY

JE

SCALE

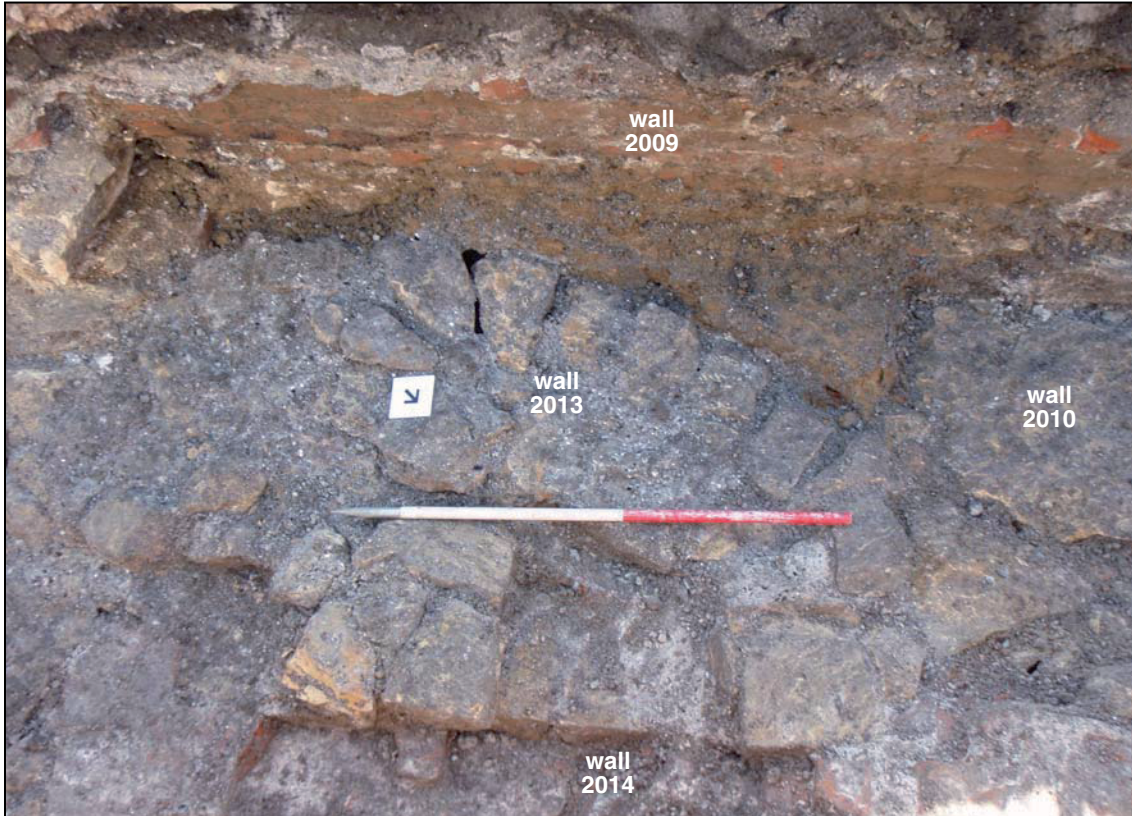
1:250@A3

PROJECT NO.


2567

FIGURE NO.

3



4

4 Trench 2; walls 2009, 2010, 2013 and 2014	 COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY			
	PROJECT TITLE Potters Pond, Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire			
	FIGURE TITLE Photograph			
	DRAWN BY JE	SCALE n/a	PROJECT NO. 2567	FIGURE NO. 4