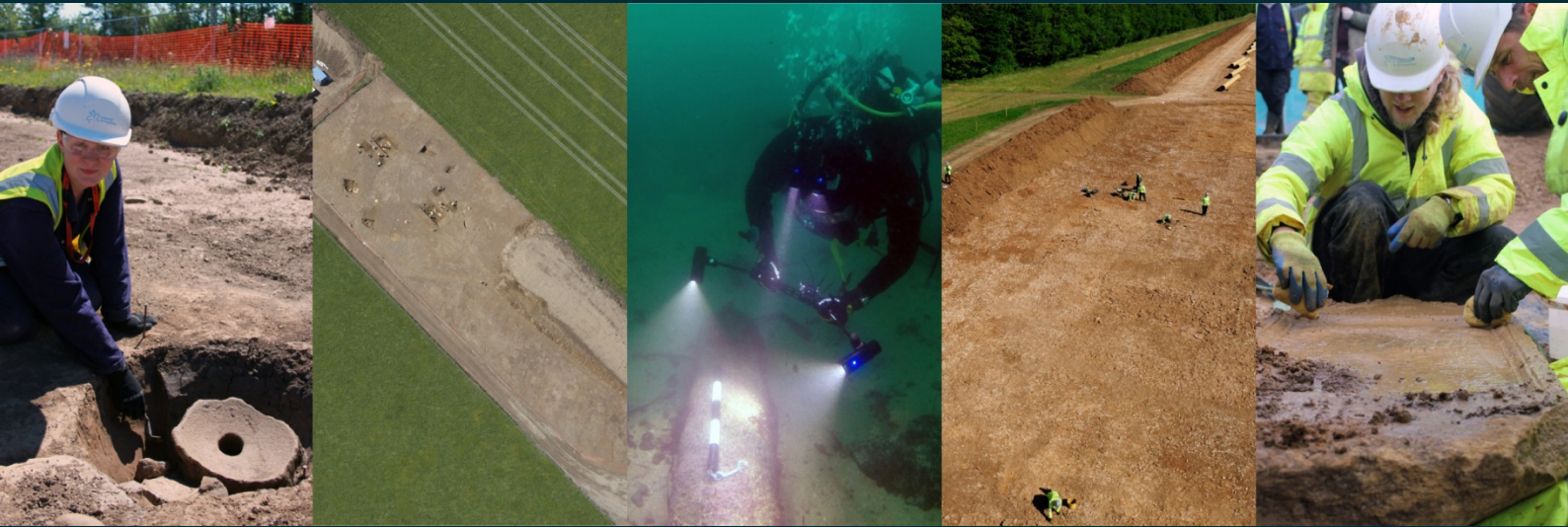


**Bodmin Jail  
Bodmin  
Cornwall**

*Archaeological Watching Brief*



for  
Twelve Architects Ltd

on behalf of  
Manillo Development Ltd

CA Project: 880137

CA Report: 16434b

September 2016



Bodmin Jail  
 Bodmin  
 Cornwall

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 880137  
 CA Report: 16434b



Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	1 September 2016	Martin Gillard	Derek Evans	Internal review	–	Derek Evans

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## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	Bodmin Jail
<b>Location:</b>	Bodmin, Cornwall
<b>NGR:</b>	SX 0649 6744
<b>Type:</b>	Watching Brief
<b>Date:</b>	1–9 August 2016
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with the Royal Cornwall Museum
<b>Site Code:</b>	BOD 16

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during ground investigation works at Bodmin Jail, Cornwall.

The monitored groundworks demonstrated that the ground at the site has been extensively truncated, presumably during the demolition of the Old Bodmin Gaol and the construction of the New Bodmin Gaol in the 1850s. In only two cases were features/deposits clearly pre-dating the truncation episode recorded: a possible ditch and one instance of buried topsoil and subsoil horizons. There were no other indications of earlier features, although the limited nature of the observed groundworks means that the survival of any such features at the site cannot be ruled out.

The remains of several stone-built walls were recorded in the central, southern and eastern areas of the site. All of these structures relate either to standing walls or to former walls depicted on 19th/20th-century plans.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In August 2016, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Bodmin Jail, Cornwall (centred at NGR: SX 0649 6744; Fig. 1). This work was commissioned by Twelve Architects Ltd, on behalf of Manillo Development Ltd.
- 1.2 Proposals are being prepared for the redevelopment of the jail site. The archaeological watching brief was maintained during ground investigation works undertaken in order to confirm the sub-surface ground conditions and thereby inform the development proposals. The scope of the watching brief was agreed with the Cornwall Council Historic Environment Service (CCHES).
- 1.3 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2016a) and approved by CCHES. The watching brief was also in accordance with *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (Historic England 2015).

### ***The site***

- 1.4 Bodmin Jail is located within the northern boundary of Bodmin town (Fig. 1). The site is currently occupied by the jail buildings and associated yards and car parking areas.
- 1.5 The underlying geology of the site is mapped as Bedruthan Formation sandstone, siltstone and mudstone, of the Devonian Period. No superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2016). Where the natural substrate was exposed by the observed groundworks, it comprised mudstone in a clay silt matrix.

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The following section presents a brief summary of the site's archaeological background. A desk-based heritage assessment of the site has been prepared by CA (2016b), and this should be referred to for a full archaeological background.

2.2 The Old Bodmin Gaol opened at the site in 1779. In the mid-1850s, Old Bodmin Gaol was demolished and the New Bodmin Gaol was constructed. The New Gaol's layout changed little until closure in 1927. Several of the surviving historic jail buildings are Grade II listed.

### 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objectives of the programme of archaeological recording were to:

- monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record any significant buried archaeological deposits thus revealed; and
- produce an integrated project archive and a report setting out the project results and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

### 4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The watching brief fieldwork followed the methodology set out in the WSI (CA 2016a). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks, which comprised the excavation of nine machine-dug trial pits (MDTPs), five hand-dug trial pits (HDTPs) and four boreholes (BHs) (Fig. 2). The BHs were 0.1m in diameter. The HDTPs were 0.3m–0.5m in diameter; they were excavated to 0.75m–1.25m in depth. The MDTPs were 2.5m–5m in length and 0.5m–1.5m in width; they were excavated to 1.2m–4.5m in depth.

4.2 Written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA *Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*. Due to the depth and instability of the trial pits, all records were made from the ground surface.

4.3 The watching brief site archive will be held by CA at their office in Exeter until such time as all archaeological works at the site have been confirmed as completed. CA will then prepare a combined project archive. CA will make arrangements with the Royal Cornwall Museum for the deposition of the archive and, subject to agreement with the legal landowner, the artefact collection (if any). A digital archive will be prepared and submitted to the appropriate Trusted Digital Repository (the Archaeological Data Service (ADS)).

4.4 A summary of information from this project, as set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## 5. RESULTS

5.1 This section provides an overview of the watching brief results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts can be found in Appendix A. The locations of recorded structures and features are shown on Figure 2.

5.2 Several of the trial pits in the central, southern and eastern areas of the site exposed walls. These walls were all constructed of fairly well coursed and faced mudstone/sandstone bonded with lime mortar.

### BH01

5.3 Natural mudstone 011 was exposed 1.4m below the present ground level (bpgl). It was sealed by rubble deposit 010.

### BH02

5.4 Natural mudstone 021 was exposed 3.9m bpgl. It was sealed by rubble deposit 020.

### BH03

5.5 Natural mudstone 031 was exposed 5.4m bpgl. It was sealed by rubble deposit 030.

### BH05

5.6 The ground level in this area of the site had clearly been built up, and was higher than that of the surrounding areas. Natural mudstone 051 was exposed in BH05 at a depth of 8.3m bpgl. It was sealed by rubble deposit 050.

### HDTP01

5.7 This trial pit was excavated to a depth of 1.2m bpgl. The top of wall 101 was exposed 0.3m bpgl; its base lay 1.1m bpgl, but due to the depth and small size of



the trial pit, it was not possible to determine what the wall was founded upon. Wall 101 was sealed by rubble deposit 100.

#### **HDTP02**

5.8 This trial pit was excavated to a depth of 1.2m bpgl. It contained rubble deposit 200 to depth.

#### **HDTP03**

5.9 This trial pit was excavated to a depth of 1.25m bpgl. It contained rubble deposit 300 to depth.

#### **HDTP04**

5.10 This trial pit was excavated to a depth of 1.1m bpgl. It contained rubble deposit 400 to depth.

#### **HDTP05**

5.11 This trial pit was excavated to a depth of 0.75m bpgl. It contained rubble deposit 500 to depth.

#### **MDTP01**

5.12 This trial pit was excavated to a depth of 1.2m bpgl, which was the level at which natural mudstone 1008 was exposed. Founded on this was wall 1006, the upper surface of which was visible at ground level. Wall 1006 was abutted to the west by wall 1007, which was also founded on the natural mudstone; its upper surface was exposed 0.15m bpgl.

5.13 Wall 1006 was abutted on its northern side by sandstone drain 1005 (not shown on Fig. 2); this drain was overlain by cobbled surface 1003 (Fig. 3; not shown on Fig. 2). Surface 1003 was truncated by cut 1002 (not shown on Fig. 2), which extended down to the level of the natural substrate and was filled with rubble deposit 1001.



**MDTP02**

- 5.14 This trial pit was excavated to a depth of 2.3m bpgl. The natural mudstone was not reached. Two abutting walls, 2001 and 2002, were exposed (Fig. 4). The tops of these walls lay 0.25m bpgl; their bases were not reached. They were covered by rubble deposit 2000.

**MDTP03**

- 5.15 This trial pit was excavated to a depth of 2.6m bpgl. The natural mudstone was not reached. Two abutting walls, 3001 and 3002, were exposed (Fig. 5). The top of wall 3002 lay 0.2m bpgl; the top of wall 3001 lay 0.9m bpgl. The bases of these walls were not reached. The walls were covered by two overlying rubble deposits, 3003 and 3000.

**MDTP04**

- 5.16 This trial pit was excavated to a depth of 3m bpgl. It contained three rubble deposits (4002, 4001, 4000) to depth.

**MDTP05**

- 5.17 This trial pit was excavated to a depth of 2.45m bpgl. Natural mudstone 5002 was exposed 2.2m bpgl. A possible ditch or foundation cut, 5003, was observed cutting the eastern end of the natural, but the trial pit was too deep for detailed observations to be made. Cut 5003 and the natural substrate were sealed by overlying rubble deposits 5001 and 5000.

**MDTP06**

- 5.18 This trial pit was excavated to a depth of 3.25m bpgl. The natural substrate was not reached. MDTP06 was excavated against the southern wall of the Naval Prison (60003) and an extant wall running from the corner of the prison block (6004); both of these structures were found to continue down beyond the bottom of the trial pit (Fig. 6). Lying against these walls was rubble deposit 6002, which was sealed in turn by 0.3m of modern concrete and stone chippings (6001 and 6000).

### **MDTP07**

- 5.19 This trial pit was excavated to a depth of 3.1m bpgl. Natural mudstone 7007 was exposed 1.6m bpgl. MDTP07 was excavated against an extant wall (7004; Fig. 7), the foundation of which was found to be cut into the natural. Lying against this wall was 0.85m of redeposited natural layer 7003, which was overlain by the fragmentary remains of slate floor 7002. The trial pit was sealed by 0.6m of rubble 7001 and 7000.

### **MDTP08**

- 5.20 This trial pit was excavated to a depth of 4.5m bpgl. Natural mudstone 8005 was exposed 2.05m bpgs. The natural was overlain by 0.3m of silty clay subsoil 8004, which was sealed in turn by 0.2m of buried topsoil 8003. Wall 8006 lay in the eastern end of the trial pit. The top of this wall was exposed 0.25m bpgl; it was possibly cut into buried topsoil 8003, but this relationship was uncertain. Against wall 8006 and buried topsoil 8003 lay 1.75m of rubble deposit 8002; the fragmentary remains of brick and slate wall 8001 lay on this rubble layer in the north-western end of the trial pit. MDTP08 was sealed by 0.2m of modern rubble and tarmac.

### **MDTP09**

- 5.21 This trial pit was excavated to a depth of 3.7m bpgs. The natural substrate was not reached. MDTP09 was excavated against the southern wall of the Main Block of the Civil Prison, 9001, which was found to extend below the base of the trial pit. An opening was visible in the wall at a depth of 3m bpgl. This opening was a deliberately constructed part of the wall; it was approximately 0.25m x 0.25m, with a stone lintel. Rubble deposit 9002 lay against this wall. The trial pit was sealed by 0.1m of modern topsoil 9000.

## **6. DISCUSSION**

- 6.1 The natural mudstone was exposed in eight of the monitored trial pits/boreholes. It generally lay at depths of 1.2m–5.4m bpgl, although it was exposed 8.3m bpgl in BH05 (where the ground level was clearly higher than the adjacent areas of the site). In only one instance (MDTP08) did buried subsoil or topsoil deposits survive; in

all other cases, the natural substrate was sealed directly by deep deposits of rubble which contained modern waste. This indicates that the ground at the site has been extensively truncated, presumably during the demolition of the Old Bodmin Gaol and the construction of the New Bodmin Gaol in the 1850s.

- 6.2 In only two cases were features/deposits clearly pre-dating the truncation episode recorded: MDTP05 contained a possible ditch (5003) and MDTP08 contained buried topsoil and subsoil horizons (8003 and 8004). There were no other indications of earlier features, although the limited nature of the observed groundworks means that the survival of any such features at the site cannot be ruled out.
- 6.3 The remains of several stone-built walls were recorded in the central, southern and eastern areas of the site. All of these structures relate either to standing walls or to former walls depicted on 19th/20th-century plans (see Figure 2 of the DBA; CA 2016b).
- 6.4 The modern artefacts present within the deep rubble deposits recorded in the trial pits/boreholes suggest that these layers originated primarily from the demolition of the later 19th-century structures, rather than from the demolition of the earlier Old Bodmin Jail buildings. It is also likely that some of these deposits originated from the known use of part of the site as a builder's yard in the latter part of the 20th century.

## 7. CA PROJECT TEAM

The watching brief fieldwork was undertaken by Martin Gillard and Simon Sworn. This report was written by Martin Gillard. The report illustrations were prepared by Lesley Davidson. The project archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Jessica Cook. The project was managed for CA by Derek Evans.

## 8. REFERENCES

- BGS (British Geological Survey) 2016 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html> Accessed 27 July 2016



CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016a *Bodmin Jail, Cornwall: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016b *Bodmin Jail, Bodmin, Cornwall: Heritage Desk-Based Assessment* CA Typescript Report **16434**



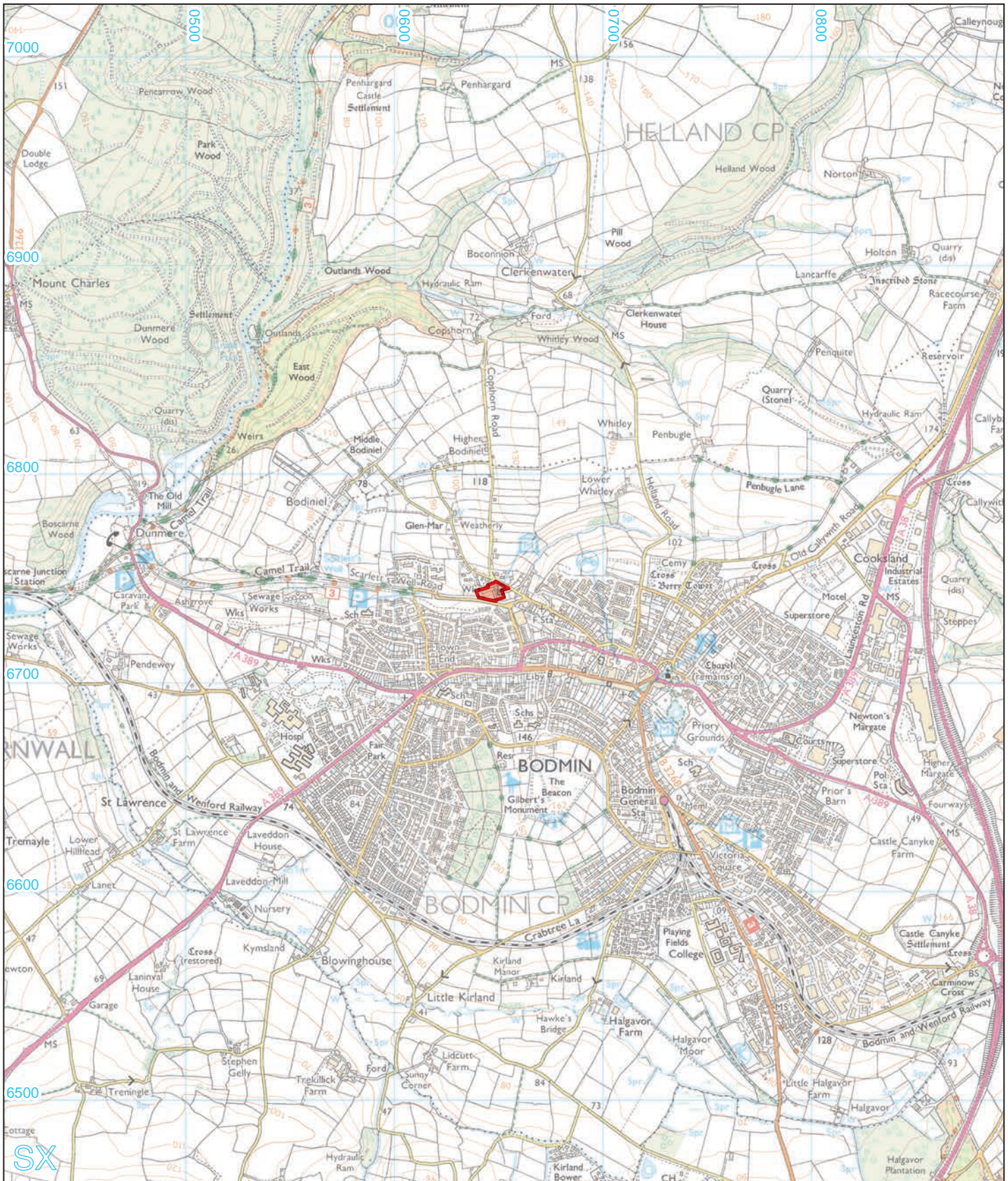
## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

BH/TP No.	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
BH01	010	Layer	rubble deposit	mid grey brown sandy silt, abundant stone			1.4
BH01	011	Layer	natural substrate	mudstone and silt clay			
BH02	020	Layer	rubble deposit	mid grey brown sandy silt, abundant stone with CBM and clinker			3.9
BH02	021	Layer	natural substrate	mudstone and silt clay			
BH03	020	Layer	rubble deposit	mid grey brown sandy silt, abundant stone with CBM and modern rubbish			5.4
BH03	021	Layer	natural substrate	mudstone and silt clay			
BH05	050	Layer	rubble deposit	mid grey brown sandy silt, abundant stone with CBM and modern rubbish			8.3
BH05	051	Layer	natural substrate	mudstone and silt clay			
HDTP01	100	Layer	rubble deposit	mid grey brown sandy silt, abundant stone with CBM and slate			>1.2
HDTP01	101	Structure	wall	lime-mortar bonded stone wall, runs NNW/SSE	>0.3		0.8m
HDTP02	200	Layer	rubble deposit	mid grey brown sandy silt, abundant stone			>1.2
HDTP03	300	Layer	rubble deposit	mid grey brown sandy silt, abundant stone, modern rubbish			>1.25
HDTP04	400	Layer	rubble deposit	mid grey brown sandy silt, abundant stone, CBM and modern rubbish			>1.2
HDTP05	500	Layer	rubble deposit	mid grey brown sandy silt, abundant stone, CBM and modern rubbish			>0.75
MDTP01	1000	Layer	surface	stone chippings			0.15
MDTP01	1001	Layer	rubble deposit	mid grey brown sandy silt, abundant stone with CBM			1.05
MDTP01	1002	Cut	?ditch	steep-sided and flat-based cut in west of trench	>3.5m	>0.8	1.05
MDTP01	1003	Structure	surface	quartz cobbles set in orange brown lime mortar	>2	>0.5	0.15
MDTP01	1004	Deposit	capping over drain	brown grey firm sandy silt with lime mortar and CBM fragments	>1	>0.5	0.25
MDTP01	1005	Structure	drain	slate cap, unbonded and roughly coursed stone sides	>1	>0.5	0.4
MDTP01	1006	Structure	north wall of stores and offices	lime-mortar bonded stone wall extending above ground, runs ENE/WSW, footing steps out 0.2m	>4.2	>0.8	>1.2
MDTP01	1007	Structure	wall	lime-mortar bonded stone wall, runs E/W	>0.8	0.45	0.8
MDTP01	1008	Layer	natural substrate	mudstone and silt clay			
MDTP02	2000	Layer	rubble deposit	mid grey brown sandy silt, abundant stone, occasional CBM and lime mortar			>2.3
MDTP02	2001	Structure	wall	lime-mortar bonded stone wall, runs NNW/SSE	>0.8	0.55	>2.05
MDTP02	2002	Structure	wall	lime-mortar bonded stone wall, runs ENE/WSW	>3.5	0.55	>2.2
MDTP03	3000	Layer	rubble deposit	pink brown sand silt, abundant stone, occasional CBM, worked stone and coal	>4	>3	1.5
MDTP03	3001	Structure	wall	lime-mortar bonded stone wall, runs WSW/ESE	>1	0.35	>1.7
MDTP03	3002	Structure	wall	lime-mortar bonded stone wall, runs NNW/SSE	>4	0.55	>2.4
MDTP03	3003	Layer	rubble deposit	mid grey brown sandy silt, abundant stone with CBM and crushed lime mortar			>1.1
MDTP04	4000	Layer	rubble deposit	CBM and slate with modern rubbish			0.25

BH/TP No.	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
MDTP04	4001	Layer	rubble deposit	mid brown sandy silt with lime mortar, CBM, slate and clinker			0.15
MDTP04	4002	Layer	rubble deposit	mid grey brown sandy silt, abundant stone with CBM and lime mortar			>2.6
MDTP05	5000	Layer	rubble deposit	brown sand silt with chippings, stone, CBM and slate			0.35
MDTP05	5001	Layer	rubble deposit	light grey brown sandy silt, abundant stone and slate, CBM and lime mortar			1.85
MDTP05	5002	Layer	?weathered natural substrate	mid brown sandy silt with abundant stone			>0.25
MDTP05	5003	Cut	?ditch	cut aligned NNW/SSE	<0.3	<0.3	<0.3
MDTP06	6000	Layer	surface	stone chippings			0.15
MDTP06	6001	Layer	surface	concrete slab			0.15
MDTP06	6002	Layer	rubble deposit	orange brown sand silt, abundant stone with CBM, concrete and modern rubbish			>2.95
MDTP06	6003	Structure	south wall of naval prison	lime-mortar bonded stone wall extending above ground, runs ENE/WSW	>3		>3.25
MDTP06	6004	Structure	wall between terrace and exercise yard	lime-mortar bonded stone wall extending just above ground, runs NNW/SSE	>1	0.6	>3.25
MDTP07	7000	Layer	rubble deposit	rubble with stone, lime mortar, CBM			0.6
MDTP07	7001	Layer	rubble deposit	lime mortar			0.1
MDTP07	7002	Layer	surface	broken pieces of slate laid flat	>4	>1	0.05
MDTP07	7003	Layer	redeposited natural	orange brown sandy silt with abundant stone			1.35
MDTP07	7004	Structure	wall between civil and naval prisons	lime-mortar bonded stone wall, runs ESE/WNW, footing steps out 0.3m	>4	0.6	2.1
MDTP07	7005	Cut	foundation cut for wall 7004	linear along south side of wall 7004, runs ESE/WNW	>4	0.4	0.5
MDTP07	7006	Layer	weathered natural substrate	mid brown sandy silt with abundant stone			0.8
MDTP07	7007	Layer	natural substrate	mudstone and silt clay			>0.7
MDTP08	8000	Layer	yard surface	grey sand silt with rubble and tarmac			0.2
MDTP08	8001	Structure	wall	1-2 courses of brick, stone and slate, very roughly built	1.1	>0.5	0.2
MDTP08	8002	Layer	rubble deposit	light brown sand silt with abundant stone, some CBM, slate and lime mortar			1.75
MDTP08	8003	Layer	?buried topsoil	mid grey brown clay silt, occasional fragments of mortar and coal			0.2
MDTP08	8004	Layer	?subsoil	orange brown silt clay with some gravel			0.3
MDTP08	8005	Layer	weathered natural substrate	light brown grey silt clay with abundant stone			>2.05
MDTP08	8006	Structure	wall	lime-mortar bonded stone wall, runs NW/SE	>0.5	0.6	>2
MDTP09	9000	Layer	topsoil	brown garden soil			0.1
MDTP09	9001	Structure	south wall of civil prison	lime-mortar bonded stone wall extending above ground, runs ENE/WSW	>3.4		>3.7
MDTP09	9002	Layer	redeposited natural and rubble	grey brown sandy silt, abundant stone, slate and lime mortar			>3.6

## APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Bodmin Jail, Bodmin, Cornwall	
Short description	<p>The monitored groundworks demonstrated that the ground at the site has been extensively truncated, presumably during the demolition of the Old Bodmin Gaol and the construction of the New Bodmin Gaol in the 1850s. In only two cases were features/deposits clearly pre-dating the truncation episode recorded: a possible ditch and one instance of buried topsoil and subsoil horizons. There were no other indications of earlier features, although the limited nature of the observed groundworks means that the survival of any such features at the site cannot be ruled out.</p> <p>The remains of several stone-built walls were recorded in the central, southern and eastern areas of the site. All of these structures relate either to standing walls or to former walls depicted on 19th/20th-century plans.</p>	
Project dates	1–9 August 2016	
Project type	Watching brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Bodmin Jail, Bodmin, Cornwall	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	0.82ha	
Site co-ordinates	SX 0649 6744	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	N/A	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Derek Evans	
Project Supervisor	Martin Gillard	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>		
	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>		
	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	Royal Cornwall Museum	Site record forms
Digital	Royal Cornwall Museum	Database, digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
Cotswold Archaeology 2016 <i>Bodmin Jail, Bodmin Cornwall: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> CA typescript report <b>16434b</b>		



 site boundary



0  1km



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Bodmin Jail, Bodmin, Cornwall

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan

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<b>DRAWN BY</b>	<b>LD</b>	<b>PROJECT NO.</b>	<b>880137</b>	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
<b>CHECKED BY</b>	<b>DB</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>23-08-2016</b>	
<b>APPROVED BY</b>	<b>DE</b>	<b>SCALE@A4</b>	<b>1:25,000</b>	<b>1</b>





- site boundary
- machine-dug trial pit
- hand-dug trial pit
- borehole
- archaeological feature
- structure



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
Bodmin Jail, Bodmin, Cornwall

**FIGURE TITLE**  
Monitored groundworks, showing archaeological features

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CHECKED BY	DB	DATE	23/08/2016	2
APPROVED BY	DE	SCALE@A3	1:500	

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3



4

3 MDTP01: cobbles 1003, looking east (0.3m scale)

4 Junction of walls 2001 and 2002, looking north-west (north arrow is 0.15m scale)



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FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

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FIGURE NO.

3 & 4



5



6



7

- 5 MDTP03: walls 3001 and 3002, looking south-east (1m scale)
- 6 MDTP06: junction of walls 6003 and 6004, looking west (4m staff)
- 7 MDTP07: wall 7004, looking north-east (2m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

Bodmin Jail, Bodmin, Cornwall

FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

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FIGURE NO.

5 - 7

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