

**GILLINGSTOOL PRIMARY SCHOOL
THORNBURY
SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

For

SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNCIL

CA PROJECT: 2692
CA REPORT: 08232


NOVEMBER 2008



GILLINGSTOOL PRIMARY SCHOOL
THORNBURY
SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CA PROJECT: 2692
CA REPORT: 08232

prepared by	Katharine Aston, Project Supervisor
date	20 November 2008
checked by	Richard Young, Project Manager
date	24 November 2008
approved by	Simon Cox, Head of Fieldwork
signed	
date	27 November 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 (FIG 2)	5
3. DISCUSSION.....	6
4. CA PROJECT TEAM	7
5. 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 Trench location plan showing archaeological features and geophysical survey results (1:1,250)

SUMMARY

Project Name: Gillingstool Primary School
Location: Thornbury, South Gloucestershire
NGR: ST 6406 8988
Type: Evaluation
Date: 27-28 October 2008
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Bristol's Museums, Galleries and Archives
Site Code: GPS 08

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in October 2008 at the request of South Gloucestershire Council at Gillingstool Primary School, Thornbury, South Gloucestershire. Three trenches were excavated.

A number of modern drainage features and make-up layers associated with the construction of the current school playing field were encountered. No archaeological deposits were identified.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In October 2008 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for South Gloucestershire Council (SGC) at Gillingstool Primary School, Thornbury, South Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: ST 6406 8988; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken prior to the determination of an application for the construction of a replacement school.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the *Brief* for archaeological evaluation (SGC 2008) prepared by David Evans, South Gloucestershire Council Planning Officer (HER and Archaeology), and with a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2008a) and approved by Mr Evans. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (2001), and the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991). It was monitored by Mr Evans, including a site visit on 27 October 2008.

The site

- 1.3 The site is bound to the north by Gillingstool Road, to the east and south-east by housing, to the south by Bath Road, and to the west by Rock Street (Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 45m AOD.
- 1.4 The site covers approximately 1.6ha, and comprises the buildings and grounds of the Gillingstool Primary School.
- 1.5 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Lower Old Red Sandstone (Thornbury Beds) of the Silurian era (BGS 1981). The overlying natural substrate of clay was encountered within all of the evaluation trenches.

Archaeological background

- 1.6 A desk-based assessment of the site has been carried out (CA 2008b) and the findings are summarised below. The site lies on the very edge of the assumed medieval borough. No evidence of medieval settlement has been recorded in the site or its immediate vicinity, and there is no evidence that any such activity

extended into the site. The boundary of this borough has potentially been identified as a watercourse which previously ran north-south through the site. Although this watercourse was not observed during a visit to the site, a manhole cover on the approximate alignment of the watercourse suggests it may continue to flow below ground. There may be potential for evidence of the earlier watercourse route in the vicinity of the presumed canalised route.

- 1.7 Historic aerial photographs indicate the presence of straight post-medieval or modern ridge and furrow earthworks within the site prior to the construction of the playing field. These earthworks are no longer extant and no trace was recorded during a site visit to the school. A row of small buildings, probably pigsties or sheds, is recorded within the site on the 1840 Tithe Map of the parish. The extant structures within the site were constructed after 1960.
- 1.8 The site has also been the subject of a geophysical survey (AS 2008). The results revealed a number of positive anomalies of uncertain origin, underground services and areas of magnetic debris and disturbance. The positive anomalies were thought to potentially represent archaeological features, although it was not possible to be confident in that interpretation from the survey results.

Archaeological objectives

- 1.9 The objectives of the evaluation were to establish the character, quality, date and extent of any archaeological remains or deposits surviving within the site. This information will assist South Gloucestershire Council in making an informed judgement on the significance of the archaeological resource, and the likely impact upon it of the proposed development.

Methodology

- 1.10 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of three trenches, each measuring 50m in length and 1.5m in width, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). These trenches were located within the footprint of the proposed development and focused on anomalies highlighted in the geophysical survey. The canalised watercourse and the site of the 19th century buildings were not targeted as they lie outside the proposed footprint.

- 1.11 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).
- 1.12 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), none of which have been retained as they were modern in date.
- 1.13 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Bristol's Museums, Galleries and Archives. 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.

2. RESULTS (FIG. 2)

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; a detailed summary of the recorded contexts is to be found in Appendix A.

Trench 1

- 2.2 A small shallow circular feature 103 was identified within trench 1 cut through the natural clay 102. It did not contain any finds and because of the sterile nature of the fill it been interpreted as a depression filled by residual subsoil. This was sealed by relatively thick layers of subsoil 101 and topsoil 100. These are potentially a build up or dump of material from a housing development to the south of the site.

Trench 2

- 2.3 Four undated land drains 203, 207, 209 and 211 (not illustrated), were identified within trench 2, all of which were east/west orientated and filled with coarse stone rubble. These were cut into the natural clay 202 and sealed by subsoil 201 which was covered by topsoil 200. In addition to this, two ceramic drains were encountered, which were north-east/south-west orientated. Towards the southern end of the trench a 3.6m wide cut 205 was identified, cutting through the topsoil and subsoil. It contained a limestone drain 214 at the base, which was covered by a rubble deposit 206 containing a high proportion of stone and modern pottery. The rubble 206 probably represents the purposeful filling of a natural depression and to act as a drainage channel prior to the construction of the sports field.

Trench 3

- 2.4 The natural substrate 302 was encountered at approximately 0.75m bpgl, which was covered by subsoil 301. At the western end of trench 3, the subsoil was overlain by buried topsoil 303 and make-up layer 304, which was sealed by topsoil 300. Despite being artefactually sterile 304 appears to be a result of modern landscaping, probably contemporary with the construction of the school playing fields.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 A number of modern drainage features and make-up layers were identified within the evaluation trenches, the latter of which correspond with geophysical anomalies 1 and 4. These all appear to be associated with the construction of the current school playing field. The positive anomalies recorded during the geophysical survey that were not identified during the excavations (2 and 3) appear to represent sandier bands within the natural.
- 3.2 The canalised watercourse and the site of the 19th century buildings were not encountered during the archaeological evaluation as they are located further west, outside of the proposed development footprint.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Ray Holt, assisted by Jessica Cook and Andy Donald. The report was written by Katharine Aston. The illustrations were prepared by Peter Moore and Rachael Kershaw. The archive has been compiled by Katharine Aston, and prepared for deposition by Kathryn Price. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

5. REFERENCES

AS (Archaeological Surveys) 2008 *Gillingstool Primary School, Thornbury, South Gloucestershire, Magnetometer Survey* AS Report **J248**

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1981 *Geological Survey of Britain (England and Wales) Solid and Drift, Sheet 250: Chepstow*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008a *Gillingstool Primary School, Thornbury, South Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008b *Gillingstool Primary School, Thornbury, South Gloucestershire: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*, CA Typescript Report No. **08176**

SGC (South Gloucestershire Council) 2008 *Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Work – Gillingstool Primary School, Thornbury, South Gloucestershire*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1 (Ground level: 44.94m – 45.50m AOD)

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
100	Layer	Topsoil			0.20
101	Layer	Subsoil			0.60
102	Layer	Natural			>0.20
103	Cut	Possible posthole	0.36	0.30	0.15
104	Fill	Fill of 103	0.36	0.30	0.15

Trench 2 (Ground level: 44.59m – 45.00m AOD)

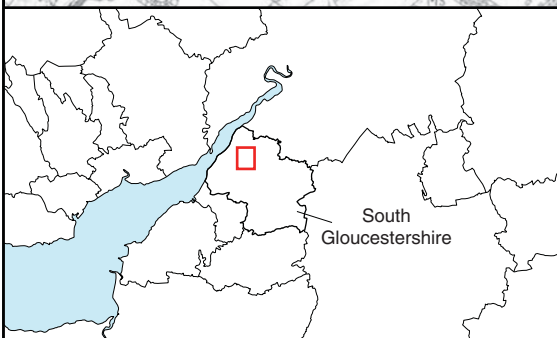
No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
200	Layer	Topsoil			0.30
201	Layer	Subsoil			0.30
202	Layer	Natural			>0.30
203	Cut	Field drain		0.30	
204	Fill	Fill of 203		0.30	
205	Cut	Drainage		3.60	
206	Fill	Rubble fill of 205		3.60	
207	Cut	Field drain		0.30	
208	Fill	Fill of 207		0.30	
209	Cut	Field drain		0.30	
210	Fill	Fill of 209		0.30	
211	Cut	Field drain		0.30	
212	Fill	Fill of 211		0.30	
213	Cut	Field drain		0.50	
214	Fill	Fill of 213		0.50	

Trench 3 (Ground level: 44.55m – 46.49m AOD)


No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
300	Layer	Topsoil			0.30
301	Layer	Subsoil			0.25
302	Layer	Natural			>0.15
303	Layer	Buried topsoil	7.00	>1.50	0.10
304	Deposit	Ground make-up	7.00	>1.50	0.13

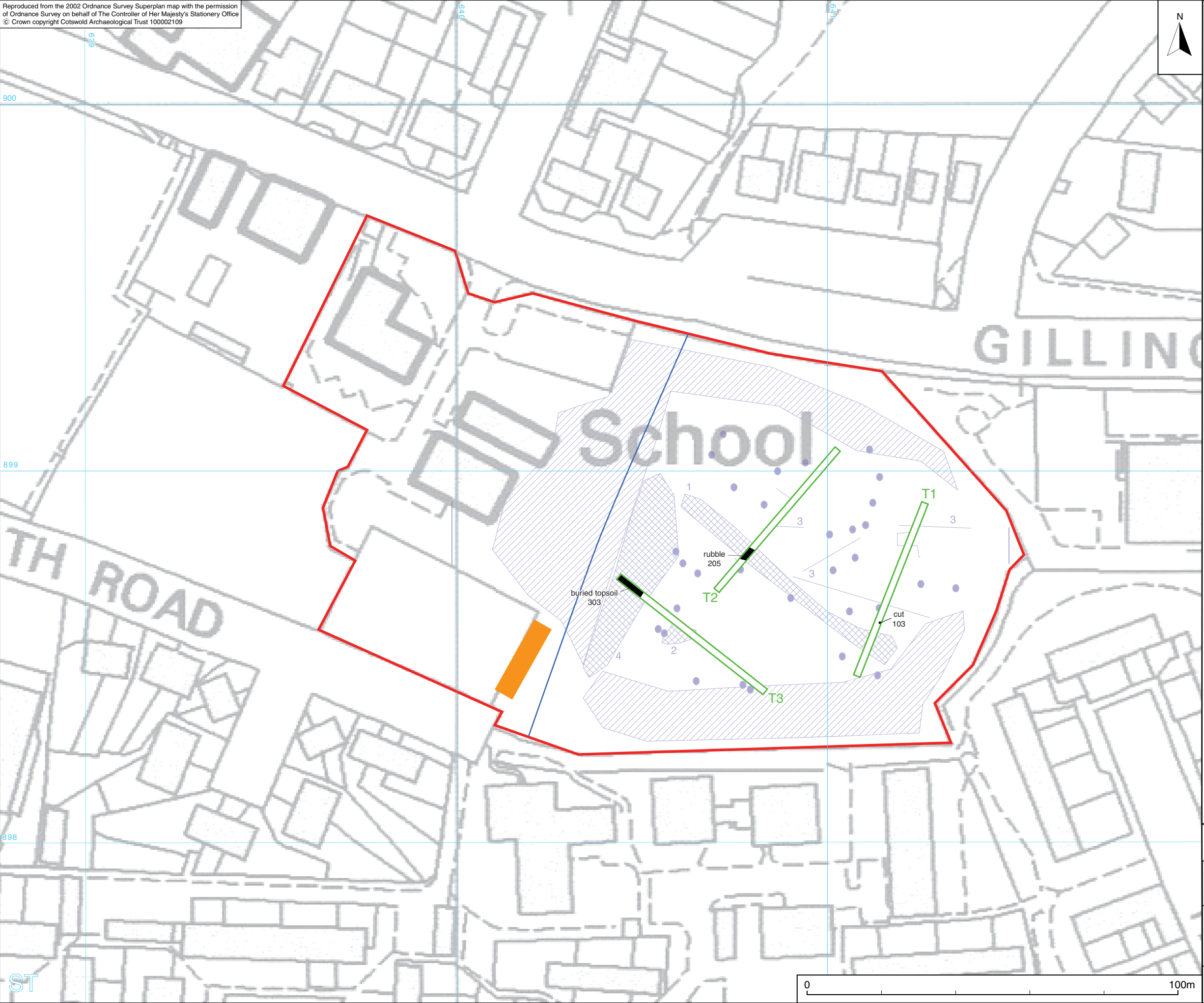
APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Gillingstool Primary School	
Short description (250 words maximum)	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in October 2008 at the request of South Gloucestershire Council at Gillingstool Primary School, Thornbury, South Gloucestershire. Three trenches were excavated.</p> <p>A number of modern features and make-up layers associated with the construction of the current school playing field were encountered. No archaeological deposits were identified.</p>	
Project dates	27-28 October 2008	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Evaluation	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	DBA (CA 2008)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Gillingstool Primary School, Thornbury, South Gloucestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	1.6ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	ST 6406 8988	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	South Gloucestershire Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Ray Holt	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	n/a	n/a
Paper	Bristol's Museums, Galleries and Archives	Trench sheets, context sheets, site registers and drawings, colour and black and white slides
Digital	Bristol's Museums, Galleries and Archives	Digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008 <i>Gillingstool Primary School, Thornbury, South Gloucestershire: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment</i> CA Typescript Report No. 08176</p> <p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008 <i>Gillingstool Primary School, Thornbury, South Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> CA Typescript Report No. 08232</p>		



— site

 COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY			
PROJECT TITLE Gillingstool Primary School Thornbury, South Gloucestershire			
FIGURE TITLE Site Location Plan			
DRAWN BY PJM	SCALE 1:25,000@A4	PROJECT NO. 2692	FIGURE NO. 1



- site
- trenches
- archaeological features
- geophysical anomalies
- canalised watercourse
- pigsties



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE
Gillingstool Primary School
Thornbury, South Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
**Trench location plan showing
archaeological features and
geophysical survey results**

DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
RK	1:1000@A3	2692	2