

Archaeological monitoring of construction work at

Manor Farm
Quedgeley
GLOUCESTERSHIRE

For Mr S Atkinson
(Entec UK Ltd)



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Archaeology Service
Environment Directorate

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Site address: Manor Farm, Quedegley, Gloucestershire
OS NGR: 381496 213666
Site type: Watching Brief
Client: Mr S Atkinson (Entec UK)
SMC ref: Area 1 (Moat overflow) HSD 9/2/9104
Area 2 (Well-Moat) HSD 9/2/9391
GSMR No: 29657
Date of fieldwork: 21/5/2007; 6/9/2007; 5-7/12/07 and 13/12/07
Recipient museum: Gloucester
Archived finds: No
Author: Nick Witchell
Date of Report: January 2008

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Summary

The scheme was subject to a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording on the advice of the Senior Archaeological Officer, Gloucestershire County Council and under a condition attached to the Scheduled Monument Consent (HSD 9/2/9104) for the required works. The archaeological monitoring recorded the probable original cut of the moat prior to its infilling and alteration to a pond. No other significant archaeological features or deposits, within the area impacted by the groundwork.

1 Introduction

1.1 Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service (GCCAS) were commissioned by Mr Simon Atkinson (Entec UK Ltd), to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring during the groundworks associated with a scheme to redirect drainage and control groundwater infiltration from an extant well associated with a scheduled moated site (SM 13805) at Manor Farm, Quedgeley, Gloucestershire (OS NGR 381496 213666).

1.2 In view of the importance of the Manor Farm moated site (SM 13805), the Historic Environment Manager of Gloucester City Council recommended that all intrusive groundworks were observed and archaeologically recorded. Entec UK Ltd obtained two Scheduled Monument Consents, one for the work to redirect the drainage [Area 1 Moat overflow (HSD 9/2/9104)] and one for the scheme to control the level of a well [Area 2 Well-Moat (HSD 9/2/9391).] The moat itself is a Scheduled Monument (SM 13805), although the Farm house and associated buildings are excluded from the scheduling, the ground beneath the uncellared buildings is included.

1.3 The required archaeological works were outlined in the '*Brief for Archaeological Recording*' issued by the Historic Environment manager and detailed in the written scheme of investigation for the archaeological works (Stratford 2007), which supported the application for Scheduled Monument Consent (HSD 9/2/9104). The work was also carried out in accordance with *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*, produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 2001). The Archaeology service is an institute of Field Archaeologists, Registered Organisation (IFA RAO 42).

1.4 Richard Macpherson Barrett Assistant project officer undertook the archaeological monitoring on the 21 May 2007: Nick Witchell, Archaeological Assistant undertook the archaeological monitoring on 6th September 2007, 5-7th and the 13th December 2007 Jo Vallender (GCCAS Senior Project Officer) managed the project.

2 Site location (see Figure 1)

The site is located within the area formerly known as RAF Quedgeley, c.4.5km southwest of Gloucester city centre, in which a major residential and commercial development (Quedgeley Urban Village) is currently being constructed. Located in the centre of the site is the moated site of Manor Farm GSMR 4154. The development is geologically located predominantly on Blue Lias clay and Charmouth Mudstone overlain by bands of Cheltenham sand and gravel (BGS 2005).

3 Archaeological background

3.1 The following information was taken from the written scheme of investigation (Stratford 2007), and draws from the information provided by the staff of Gloucestershire County Council Sites and Monuments Record (GSMR).

3.2 The Scheduled Monument of Manor Farm Moat (SAM 13805; GSMR 4154) comprises a rectangular four-armed moat, three arms of which remain visible, enclosing an island c.80m by c.50m. The moat is 9m wide at its widest point and c.4m deep. There is a slight internal and external bank c.0.3m in height running along the length the eastern side. The southeastern arm has been filled, possibly intentionally during the construction of the present farm buildings, and survives as a buried feature. A causeway, possibly on the original site, crosses the middle of the southwestern side. This part of the moat has been enlarged at the eastern end to form a pond c.24m in width. The central portion of the present house which is a Grade II Listed Building dates to the 15th century, the north wing to the 16th century, and the south wing to 1811 (GSMR 3841). The present house and farm buildings are excluded from the scheduling although the ground beneath the un-cellared parts (the two wings and the outbuildings) of the house and the farm buildings is included.

3.3 In 1998, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Past Historic in connection with the replacement of a sewer pipe and septic tank within the site. The lip of the moat was observed cut into natural clay. All other deposits were recorded as post-medieval or modern. One sherd of 18th century pottery was found. All other finds were modern.

3.4 Immediately southeast of the proposed development area lies the site of the former National Shell Filling Factory (GSMR 27499). The factory was an important link in a chain of gun ammunition filling factories established throughout Britain from the summer of 1915. Over 17 million shells and cartridges were filled at the site until operations ceased in November 1918. Later the site was to form part of RAF Quedgeley.

The factory was served by a branch line of Midland Railway (GSMR 11269/28), which was linked by a loop of railway running behind Manor Farm directly to the northwest of the proposed development area. The line of the track can still be observed on modern aerial photographs.

3.5 In 2001, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology (GSMR 19837) in connection with the proposal to redevelop the RAF Quedgeley site. Fifty-five trenches were excavated. Three archaeological sites were identified during the course of the evaluation. A 1st century farmstead consisting of large ditches and gullies was identified to the northwest and west of Manor Farm. No domestic refuse was recovered from these features indicating that the main area of domestic settlement was not nearby.

An early 11th century medieval open field system with drainage channels was identified within the northern portion of the Quedgeley RAF site. Many of these ditches and gullies had been re-cut for reuse in the 16th century, with later ridge and furrow also evident across the area.

The eastern half of the Quedgeley RAF site had been extensively disturbed by modern activity, mostly between 1915 and 1995. Finds from the area included 1st century to 11th century pottery. The animal bone assemblage included fragments of cattle, horse, pig, sheep/goat and one goose bone. Other finds included a triangular Roman loom weight and a fragment of Roman flue tile.

Limited evidence of Iron Age activity was identified, sealed beneath nearly 1m of modern and post-medieval deposits at the eastern edge of the enterprise park.

4 Purpose of the monitoring

In the IFA document referred to at 1.2 above:

“The definition of an archaeological watching brief is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is the possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive.”

“The purpose of a watching brief is to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works” (IFA 2001).

5 Methodology

5.1 The authorised groundwork for the development as outlined in the scheduled monument consent, comprised: Area 1 (Moat overflow) HSD 9/2/9104: The creation of an outfall weir in the northeast corner of the moat, on a concrete base 3m by 0.6m and the laying of a land drain connecting the outfall weir with existing drainage channels beyond the extent of the SAM. The authorised groundwork also outlined the blocking of the existing outfall.

Area 2 (Well-Moat) HSD 9/2/9391- Excavation of a 0.50m trench to allow the installation of a gravity drain between an existing well and the southern arm of the moat (now a pond), this included a 1.60m by 1.40m box excavation for a valve chamber to allow excess water to be pumped out.

5.2 All excavations were carried out using a machine with a toothless bucket.

5.3 The site archive is presently stored at Shire Hall, Gloucester under a unique site code, GSMR 29657 issued by the County Sites and Monuments Record Officer. It is intended that it will eventually be deposited with the Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery for long-term storage.

6 Results

6.1 The results of the archaeological monitoring are outlined below, with the deposits discussed in stratigraphic order starting with the earliest. All deposit and fill numbers are shown in rounded brackets () and cut numbers are shown in square brackets [].

6.2 Area 1 – Northeastern part of moat (Figure 2).

The excavation by machine of a 25.30 m long pipe trench measuring 0.40m in width, was observed.

The natural clay deposits (103) were encountered 0.62m below the surface, these were overlain by a brown silty clay soil (102) 0.22m in depth, and this is representative of an earlier ground level.

Layer (102) was sealed by a shallow deposit of clay (101) 0.12m in depth, with post medieval artefacts (not retained). Deposit (101) was interpreted as up cast from the excavation of the moat and was sealed by 0.18m of topsoil/plough soil.

6.2.1 The excavation of a box trench to allow for construction of an outfall weir, was observed near the northeast corner of the moat. The trench measured 3m in length and 1.35m in width and was excavated to a depth of 1.30m below the existing ground level.

Natural clay deposits (203) were first encountered 0.74m below the ground level (at a height of 24.20m AOD). Overlying the natural was (202) a band of dark brown silty clay with gravel inclusions, averaging 0.14m in depth, which was interpreted as the ground level prior to construction of the moat (the same deposit as (102)). Overlying (202) was a 0.56m deep deposit of redeposited clay (201), which was interpreted as either banking or up cast from the excavation of the moat. Deposit (201) was sealed by a very shallow layer of topsoil. No other archaeological features were observed.

6.3 Area 2 – Southwestern part of the moat (Figure 3 + 4).

A trench, measuring 31m in length by 0.50m width was excavated to a depth of between 0.90-1.10m below ground level, using the natural NE to SW slope of the ground to provide the height drop required for the engineering work.

The natural clay deposits (1015) were the earliest encountered along the majority of the trench. (see section Figure 4).

The natural was cut by [104], located 3.30m northeast of the boundary wall surrounding the moat/pond, this is interpreted as being the original cut of the moat, which has undergone significant alteration on the southeast end. Cut [104] was filled by (1005), a mixed backfill, containing red brick and post medieval pottery (not retained).

Two discreet features were identified cutting the natural clay/gravel:

A large undated posthole or garden feature [1007] was observed in the eastern section of the trench, measuring 0.54m in depth and 0.39m in width. Cut [107] was filled by (1008) a mid brown silty clay; from which no dating evidence was recovered. Fill (1008) was sealed by a subsoil or garden soil deposit (1001).

A possible posthole [1009] was observed in the eastern section of the trench. The feature measured 0.31m in depth and 0.18m in width and was filled by (1010) a dark brown silty clay fill with no observed inclusions and no dating evidence. Post hole [1009] was sealed by deposit (1013), a light grey clay deposit with 10-20% building rubble (brick/mortar/CBM).

The earliest deposit encountered between 16 and 20m northeast of the boundary wall was a redeposited/disturbed clay (1012) with infrequent CBM and red brick inclusions; this appeared to be within a cut through the natural clay [1011], but may be representative of groundwork or landscaping associated with the manor house. Deposit (1012) was sealed by a modern gravel deposit laid with the lawn (1014) and a mixed levelling layer (1006).

6.3.1 A 1.60m by 1.40m box trench was excavated along the line of the trench to a depth of 1.10m below ground level. Natural gravel deposits (1015) were revealed 0.98m below ground level and was sealed by a 0.38m deep deposit of grey-brown clay (1016), interpreted as an earlier subsoil/agricultural soil. Deposit (1016) was in turn sealed by a mixed deposit of dark grey clay 0.32m in depth, similar to (1012). (1016) was sealed by (1014), the modern gravel associated with the lawn.

7 Conclusion

7.1 The archaeological monitoring recorded what was interpreted as the original cut of the moat, in Area 2, prior to its infilling and alteration into a pond. No other significant archaeological remains were revealed

7.2 The monitored groundworks fulfilled the conditions of the Scheduled Monument Consents (HSD 9/2/9104) and (HSD 9/2/9391) the work did not result in damage to the monument or ground disturbance other than that expressly authorised in the consent.

8 References

- | | | |
|-------------|------|---|
| BGS | 2006 | Digital data held by Gloucestershire County Council corporate GIS. |
| Stratford,E | 2006 | <i>Archaeological Monitoring construction work at Manor farm Quedgeley Gloucestershire . Written Scheme of Investigation.</i> GCCAS Typescript. |
| IFA | 2001 | Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief. |
| OS | 2006 | Ordnance Survey, OS digital data held on GCC corporate GIS. |

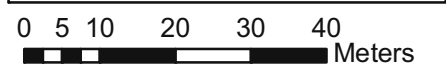
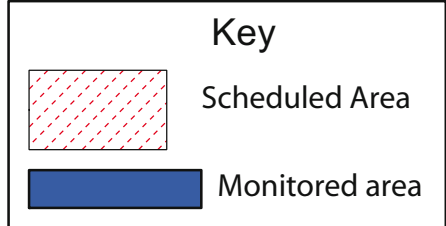
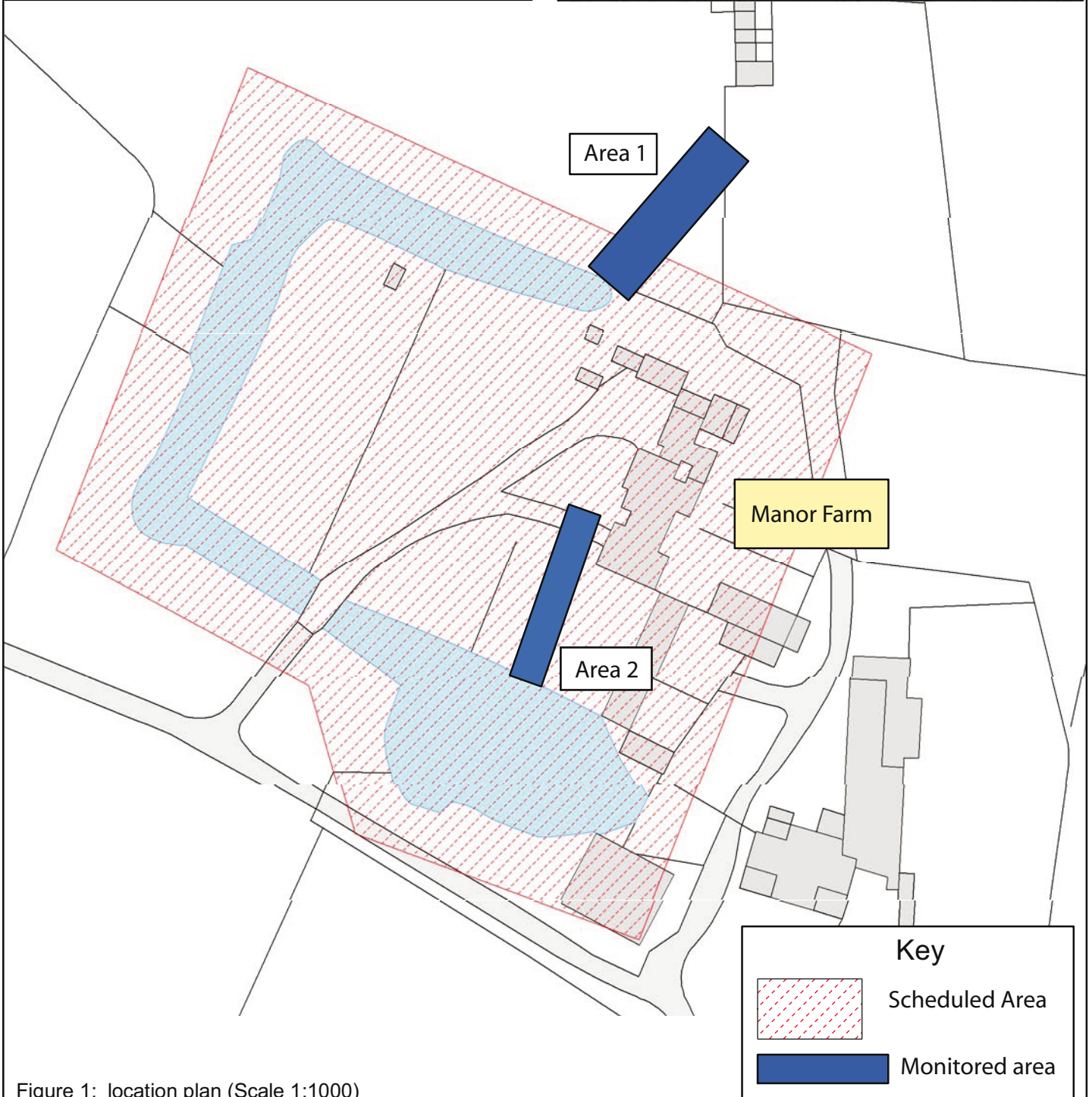
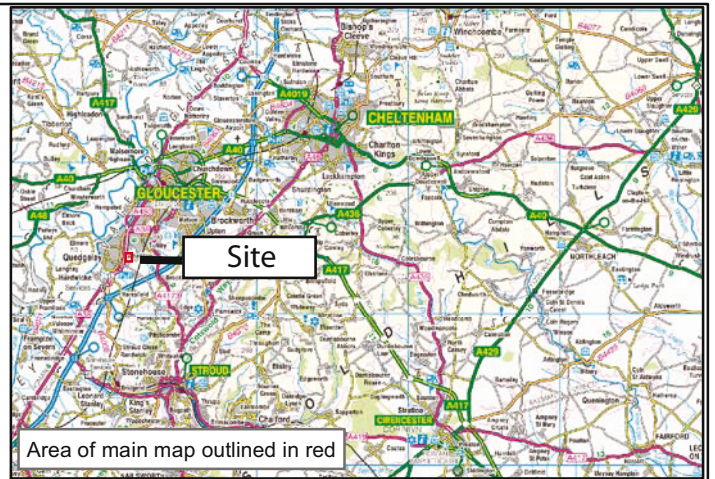
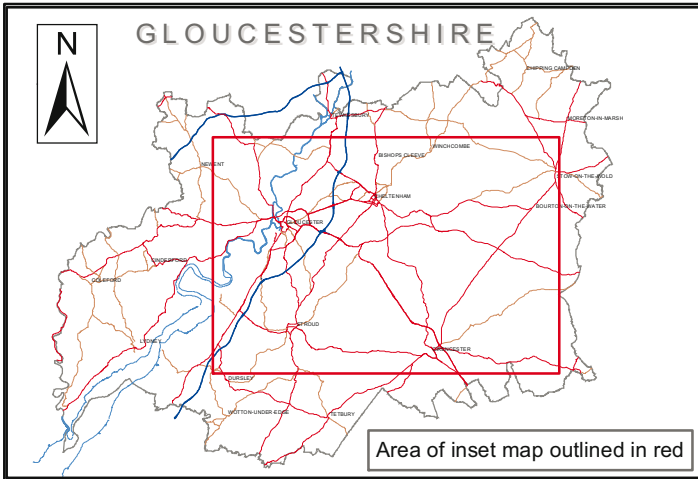


Figure 1: location plan (Scale 1:1000)

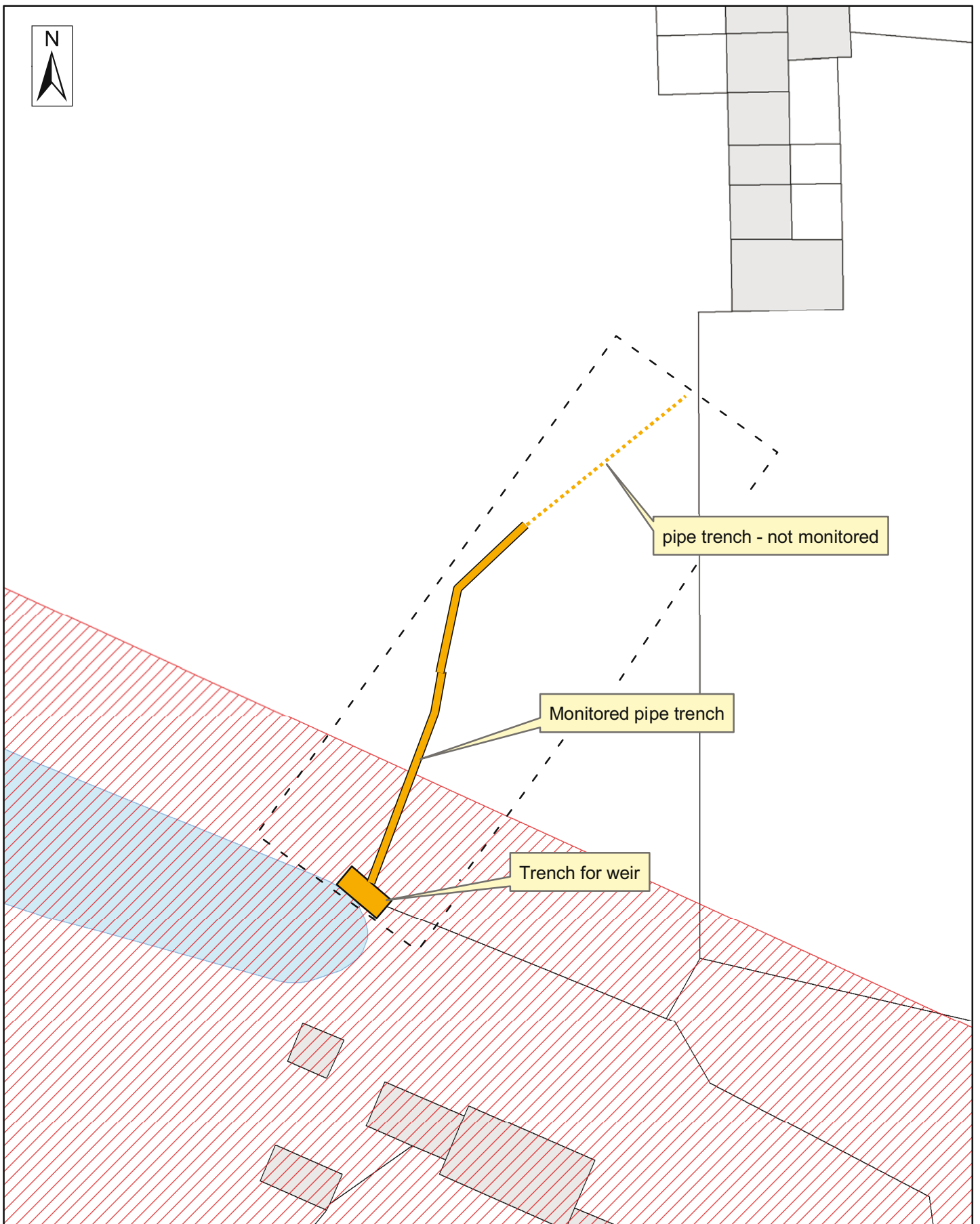


Figure 2 : Area 1(Scale 1:300)

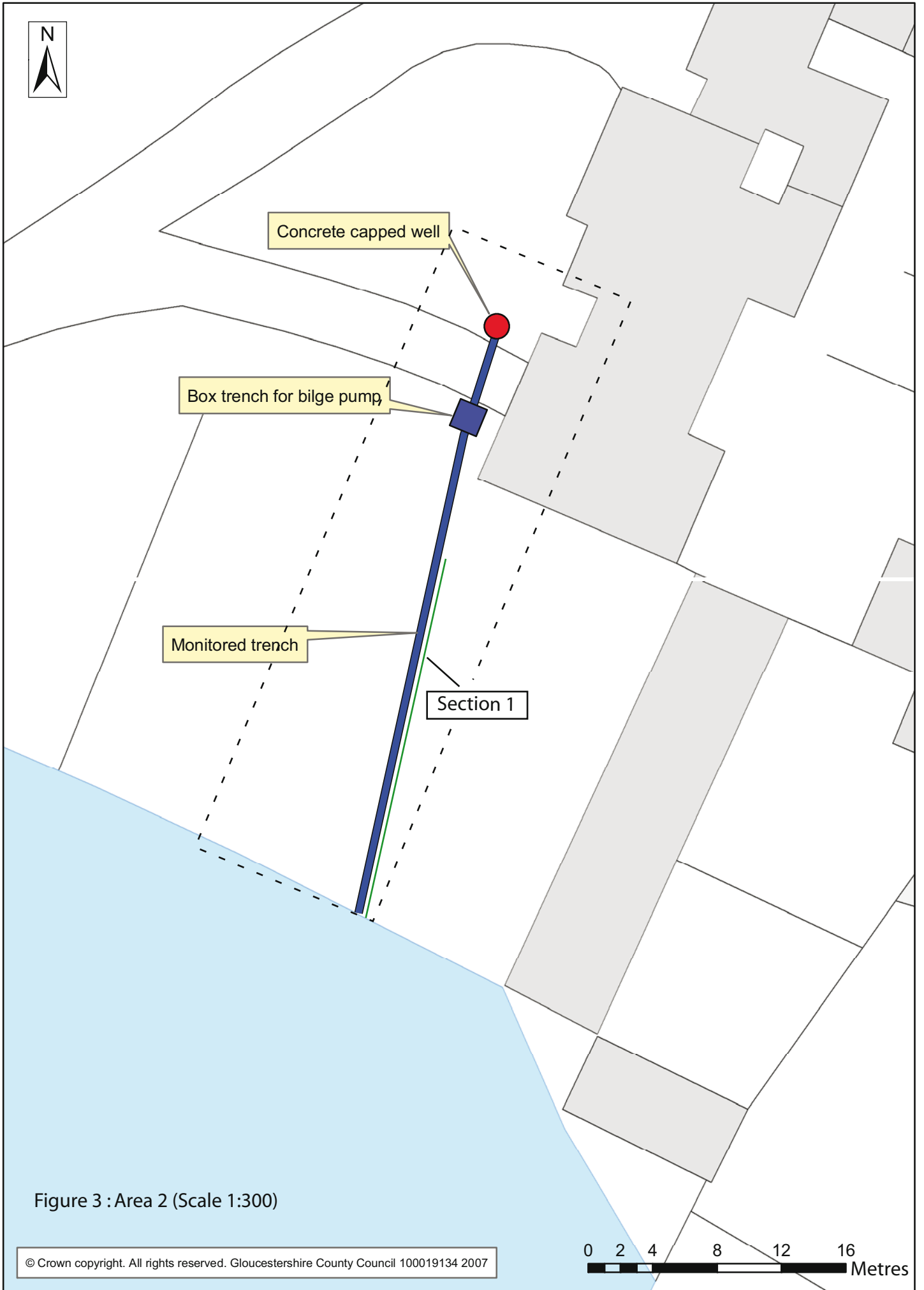
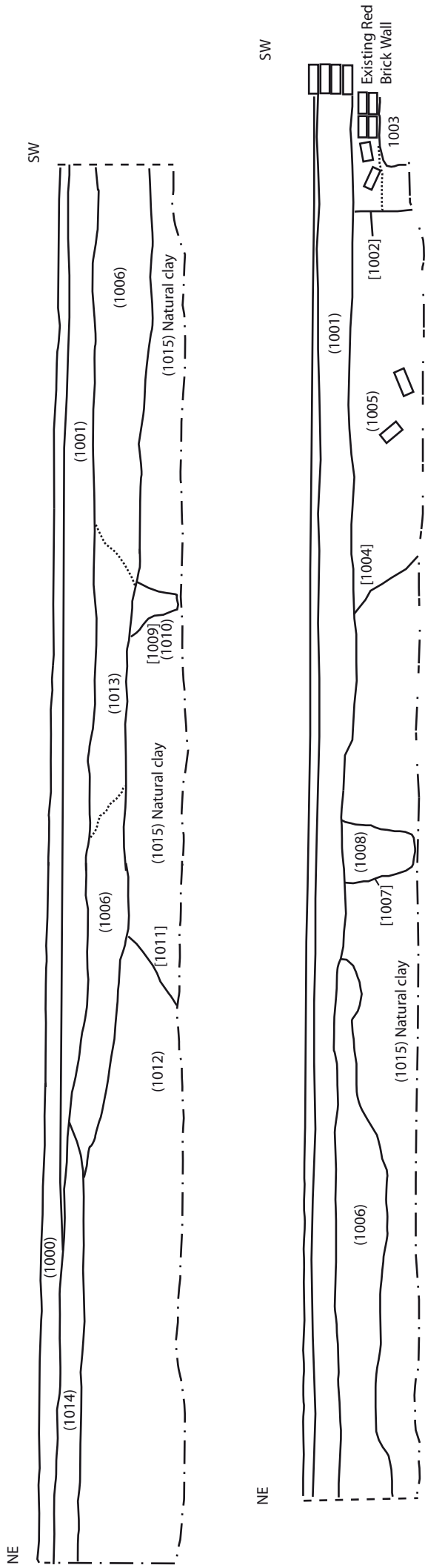


Figure 3 : Area 2 (Scale 1:300)



Context number	Description
(1000)	Garden topsoil
(1001)	Dark grey clayey silt – Garden soil
[1002]	Cut of modern wall
(1003)	Red brick wall (modern) demolished With concrete foundation
[1004]	Cut. Original cut of Moat
(1005)	Redeposited grey-blue clay and soil, with infrequent cut stone and red brick inclusions.
(1006)	Mixed deposit of clay, soil and building waste (Brick/CBM). Imported levelling deposit.
[1007]	Cut of posthole
(1008)	Fill of (1008). Undated, no finds recovered.
[1009]	Cut of feature
(1010)	Fill of [1009]. Undated
[1011]	Cut ?
(1012)	Deposit/backfill of 1011. Mid brown clay with frequent CBM and charcoal inclusions
(1013)	Deposit. Light grey clay; 10-20 % demolition rubble, CBM
(1014)	Modern gravel levelling
(1015)	Blue lias Clay, topped with deposits of gravel.

Figure 4 - NW Facing section (Scale 1:100)