

DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT
OF
GLEBE LAND,
SLIMBRIDGE,
GLOUCESTERSHIRE

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Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt

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Desk-based assessment of Glebe Land, Slimbridge, Gloucestershire

By Tom Vaughan

Part 1 Project summary

A desk-based assessment was undertaken of Glebe Land at Slimbridge, Gloucestershire (NGR: SO 7408 0356). It was undertaken on behalf of the Church of England (Diocese of Gloucester), which intends to establish a woodland burial ground for which a planning application would be submitted. The aims of this assessment have been to summarise the character and extent of any features of the historic environment identifiable through desk-based assessment, to indicate their significance and the impact of the proposed development, and, where appropriate, to identify mitigation measures.

The study area comprises five fields to the immediate north-east of the village, adjacent to the moated Old Rectory site, a scheduled ancient monument thought to be the location of the medieval manor, and the parish church of St John which has early 13th century elements. Extant ridge and furrow earthworks occupy most of these fields, their open S-shape indicating a possible earlier medieval origin. The orientation of the ridges also suggests that the site was made up of more, smaller fields prior to the earliest cartographic source of 1803. Three possible enclosures have also been identified from aerial photographs, two of which appear to pre-date the ridge and furrow agricultural regime. Investigations within the site, immediately to the north-west of the old Rectory, have also identified remains of Roman and early Saxon settlement activity, argued to indicate that earlier occupation lay to the west of the present village church.

Part 2 Detailed report

1. Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

A desk-based assessment was undertaken of Glebe Land at Slimbridge in Gloucestershire (NGR: SO 7408 0356). It was undertaken on behalf of the Church of England (Diocese of Gloucester), which intends to establish a woodland burial ground. It is considered by the Charles Parry (Planning Archaeologist, Gloucestershire County Council) to have the potential to affect an archaeological site.

1.2 Project parameters

The project conforms to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological desk-based assessment* (IFA 1999), Planning Policy Guidance Notes 15 '*Planning and the Historic Environment*', and 16 '*Archaeology and Planning*' (PPG15 and PPG16 respectively), and relevant EIA guidance and legislation.

The project also conforms to a brief prepared by Gloucestershire County Council (GCC 1996/2000) and for which a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (HEAS 2005).

1.3 Aims

The aims of this assessment were to summarise the character and extent of any identified features of the historic environment, indicate their significance, the impact of the proposed development, and, where appropriate, to identify mitigation measures,

2. Methods

2.1 Study area

The study area comprised the site (Fig. 1), though features of the historic environment were also considered within 500m of the site.

2.2 Documentary search

Prior to fieldwork commencing a search was made of the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR; Figure 2, and Appendix 1), County Records Office, and Local Studies Library. The following sources are relevant to the study area:

Cartographic sources

- 1803 Slimbridge Inclosure Award and Map C, 27th July, GRO Q/RI 129
- 1861 Plan of the Parish of Slimbridge in the County of Gloucestershire, Thomas Lloyd, land surveyor, Wolverhampton, GRO D650/15 Acc. No. 7300
- 1884 1st edition Ordnance Survey, scale 25⁰⁰⁰:1 mile, Gloucestershire (Eastern & Western Divisions) sheet XLVIII.3

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- 1886 1st edition Ordnance Survey, scale 6³:1 mile, Gloucestershire sheet XLVIII
 - 1903 Ordnance Survey, scale 25³:1 mile, Gloucestershire sheet XLVIII.7
 - 1903 Ordnance Survey, scale 25³:1 mile, Gloucestershire sheet XLVIII.3
 - 1921 Ordnance Survey, scale 25³:1 mile, Gloucestershire sheet XLVIII.7
 - 1922 Ordnance Survey, scale 25³:1 mile, Gloucestershire sheet XLVIII.3
 - 1964 A Simplified Geological map of the south west of England, The Changing Earth, TWW, based on Geological Survey, GRO MA 157
 - 1984 Ordnance Survey, scale 1:50,000, Landranger sheet 162: Gloucester and Forest of Dean area

Aerial photographs

- NMR: RAF/CPE/UK/2098 #3285, dated 28th May 1947
- NMR: RAF/CPE/UK/2098 #3286, dated 28th May 1947
- NMR: RAF/CPE/UK/2098 #4361, dated 28th May 1947
- NMR: RAF/CPE/UK/2098 #4362, dated 28th May 1947
- NMR: OS/64030 #033, dated 16th May 1964
- NMR: OS/64030 #034, dated 16th May 1964
- NMR: OS/71301 #070, dated 24th June 1971
- NMR: OS/71301 #071, dated 24th June 1971

Documentary sources

- Anon, 1868 *The National Gazetteer of Great Britain and Ireland*
- Bashford, L, 1999 *An archaeological evaluation on land at Glebelands, Slimbridge, Gloucestershire*, Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service, unpublished report dated November 1999, **Glos 20591**
- Bazeley, W, 1881/2 *Slymbridge Church*, 324-332 in *Trans Bristol Gloucestershire Archaeol Soc*, **VI**
- Carter, J E, 1845 *Notes, Historical & Architectural on the Church of St John the Evangelist, Slymbridge, Gloucestershire with some remarks on decorative colouring*, Society of Architects, Bristol, GRO ROL F5/SLI
- Mills, A D, 1998 *Oxford Dictionary of English Place-names*, 2nd edition
- National Gazetteer 1868
- Verey, D, 1976 *The Buildings Of England: Gloucestershire: the Vale and the Forest of Dean*.

- Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1983 *Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales*

The following sources have also been cited in this assessment:

- DoE, 1990 *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16)*, Department of the Environment
- DoE, 1995 *Planning Policy Guidance Note 15: Archaeology and the historic Environment (PPG 15)*, Department of the Environment
- GCC, 1996/2000 *Brief for a desk-based assessment*, Archaeology Service, Archaeology Service, Environment Department, Gloucestershire County Council unpublished document
- HEAS, 2005 *Proposal for an archaeological desk-based assessment of Glebe Land, Slimbridge, Gloucestershire*, Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 7th January 2005, **P2688**
- IFA 1999 *Standard and guidance for archaeological desk-based assessment*, Institute of Field Archaeologists

2.3 Other methods

A site visit was undertaken on 24th February 2005, and field observations recorded during this visit are presented in Figure 3.

2.4 Results

The results are mapped on Figure 2 and the details of individual features of the historic environment are given in Appendix 1. SMR references have been used throughout this assessment.

2.5 Impact assessment criteria

The criteria cited in Table 1 have been used.

Table 1: Significance Criteria for Cultural Heritage Issues

<p>Severe Adverse: Loss of integrity of nationally important archaeology/cultural heritage including Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Grade I/II* registered parks and gardens and registered battlefields. Demolition of a Grade I/II* Listed Building. Dramatic adverse change in the setting or visual amenity of the feature/site.</p>
<p>Major Adverse: Land take resulting in the degradation of a cultural heritage site of national importance and/or extensive change to the setting or visual amenity of such a site e.g. intrusion into the setting of a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Loss of integrity of sites of archaeological interest of regional value, or Grade II registered parks and gardens, e.g. a dramatic change in the setting or visual amenity of a regionally important site such as a Conservation Area. Widespread adverse effects on the setting or structure of a Grade I/II* Listed Building. Demolition of a Grade II Listed Building.</p>

<p>Moderate Adverse: Land take resulting in the degradation of a cultural heritage site of regional importance and/or extensive change to the setting or visual amenity of such a site. Extensive change to the setting or structure of a Grade II Listed Building. Demolition of a locally listed or other historically important building. Encroachment upon a Conservation Area, historic parkland or other historic landscapes where the quality of the setting or its amenity would be noticeably impaired. Slight change to the setting or structure of a Grade I/II* listed building. Removal of a historically important hedgerow (after the Hedgerows Regulations).</p>
<p>Minor Adverse: Loss of integrity of an area where archaeological features/areas of local importance have been identified. Slight change to the setting or structure of a Grade II Listed Building. Limited encroachment upon a Conservation Area or historic parkland or other historic landscape where intrusive views are created or slight effects upon its integrity would result.</p>
<p>Not Significant: Landscape or ecological planting on an area where locally important archaeological features have been identified but impacts are thought to have no long term effect on the resource. Removal of common hedgerows and limited damage to important hedgerows where no replacement proposed.</p>
<p>Minor Beneficial: Perceptible improvement in the setting or structure of a Grade II listed building, Conservation Area or Grade II historic parkland. Improved management of locally/regionally important archaeological site.</p>
<p>Moderate Beneficial: Perceptible improvement in the setting or structure of a Grade I/II* listed building, Conservation Area or Grade I/II* historic parkland. Improved management of nationally important archaeological site.</p>

2.6 The methods in retrospect

The methods adopted allow a high degree of confidence that the aims of the assessment have been achieved.

3. Archaeological and historical context

3.1 Topography

Slimbridge is a large parish of *c* 1377ha, approximately 6.4km north west of Dursley and 17.7km south of Gloucester. It lies on the south-east bank of the tidal River Severn within the Archdeaconry of Gloucester and the Deanery of Dursley (Carter 1845, 9).

The study area occupies *c* 14.5ha off St John's Road on the north-east side of the village, immediately adjacent to the church and old rectory. It is a largely flat area, at a height of *c* 12-14m AOD, above the fluvial floodplain which lies to the north and east. It comprises 5 fields, all under pasture and bounded by hedges, generally with associated ditches. The site has been divided into four areas for ease of description and corresponding with a development programme proposed by the client (Fig 3):

Area A Field 0561, a small rectangular plot, bisected by a diagonal path with possible traces of north-east to south-west ridge and furrow earthworks on the south-east side (although these may be the result of previous evaluation work: Bashford 1999).

Area B Field 2077, a large sub-rectangular plot, bisected by three footpaths, with well-defined ridge and furrow earthworks, mainly aligned north-west to south-east, and north-

east to south-west to the north side; also contains a shallow, largely silted pond on the north-west side, fed by a linear ditch to the south-east.

Area C Fields 3754 and 4067, two plots: to the north-east an enclosed rectangular field with traces of ridge and furrow earthworks aligned north-west to south-east; to the south a larger irregular field bisected by two paths, that along the south boundary is tarmac; defined ridge and furrow earthworks aligned north-west to south-east; south-east corner is separated by linear ditches feeding into a small pond; a wide shallow bank aligned north-south defines the western corner.

Area D Field 1949, a sub-rectangular field with a tarmac path along the south boundary and defined ridge and furrow earthworks aligned north-east to south-west to the west, and north-west to south-east to the east.

3.2 **Geology**

The underlying geology of the area comprises Jurassic Liassic and Rhaetic clay (Geological Map 1964).

3.3 **Historic environment**

3.3.1 **Prehistoric and Roman**

There are no recorded finds or site of prehistoric date within the vicinity.

The present A38 lies along the alignment of the former Roman road between *Glevum* (Gloucester) and *Aquae Sulis* (Bath), and this passes just 1.2km to the south-east of the site. It is recorded that in 1831 a Roman ‘substation or villa’ was uncovered at *Little Cheston Field*, near the village of Cambridge to the north-east. Remains included a burial, foundations, a stone floor and five copper alloy coins of Carausius (AD 286-93) to Constantine (AD 306-37) (Carter 1845, 23-4).

Investigations undertaken in 1999 in the southern half of Area A revealed evidence of Roman occupation. This included gullies of possible roundhouses, a drainage ditch, pit and posthole, associated with material of 2nd-4th century AD date (GSMR 20591, Fig 2; Bashford 1999). An undated ditch and possible pit observed during investigations at Ty-Taig adjacent may also relate to this activity (GSMR 22334, Fig 2).

3.3.2 **Sub-Roman to Anglo-Saxon**

The aforementioned investigations within Area A also revealed features of possible 5th century date, in the form of a floor surface and associated gully ditch which continues the alignment of 19th century churchyard boundary (*ibid*).

No other remains of this period have been recorded within the vicinity.

3.3.3 **Medieval**

The village is variously documented as *Heslinbruge* (1086), *Slimbrugia* (c 1153), *Slimbruge*, *Slimbrug*, and *Slymbridge*. The name is thought to derive from the Old English *slim* + *brycg*, meaning ‘bridge or causeway over a muddy place’ (Mills 1998, 316; Carter 1845, 10).

The village is documented in the Domesday Survey of 1086, ‘Ipse Rogerius habet de terra hujus manerii in Heslinbruge 1 hid. ad Hirslege 1 hid.’, as part of Berkeley Manor, along with Gossington and Hurst. There is no mention of a church until 1146, when Roger, Lord

Berkeley, gave the Benedictine monks at Stanley St Leonard the advowsons of Cowley, Arlington, Slimbridge and Uley, along with the tithes, lands and all appurtenances (Carter 1845, 11, 16 and 32)

The parish church of St John the Evangelist, adjacent to the study area, has been described as ‘... probably the best example in the county of Early Gothic style of the 13th century’ (Verey 1976, 339). The nave and arcades date from *c* 1200-1240, and the west tower, spire and chancel windows were added before 1300. Other features in the chancel and the sacristy are of 14th century construction. Markings of Norman date were allegedly uncovered during renovations in 1845, but this was later disputed. It is worth noting that the parish rector, John Stokesley, went on to become Bishop of London and acted as Henry VIII’s agent to Rome in 1530 during his plea to divorce his first wife Catherine of Aragon (Carter 1845, 20-1 and 31; Bazeley 1881-2, 325; Verey 1976, 339-340; Bashford 1999, 3).

The present rectory lies to the north of a moat, which is purported to be the site of the medieval manor house of Slimbridge (SAM 28838; GSMR 5259). The manor was granted in 1153 and occupied by Thomas, the second Lord of Berkeley in 1297. In 1368 it was recorded as comprising one capital messuage and one garden, without mention of a moat. The building here was demolished in the early 19th century during the construction of the present rectory.

No finds of medieval date were recovered during the 1999 evaluation in Area A, which has been interpreted to indicate that settlement did not extend into this plot nor was it cultivated during this period.

The ridge and furrow earthworks extant in Areas B, C (and D) are also visible on aerial photographs (Fig 7). Their open S-shaped form, which is also portrayed in fields to the north-east, is indicative of earlier medieval open-field strip farming (pers comm Derek Hurst). Their varying orientation within Areas B and D also suggests that these fields may have been subdivided in the medieval period. Earthwork enclosures visible from aerial photographs alongside the north-south bank on the west side of Area C have been interpreted as the site of a homestead or barn (Fig 6). The smaller, to the north, is clearly defined, while the two larger, to the south, have subsequently been subjected to strip cultivation. A small rectangular enclosure to the south-east has been postulated as house foundations or a pond (GSMR 5261). Beyond the study area 400m north around Newhouse Farm additional earthwork enclosures have also been identified as possible house platforms (GSMR 4109).

3.3.4 Post-medieval/modern

The present rectory was built *c* 1813-1822, to the north of the earlier moated parsonage and possible manor house. The parsonage is first documented in correspondence of 1643, at the height of the Civil War (GRO PA 298/3; GSMR 5259). The earliest mention of the moat is from 1681. In its present form it comprises an open ditch, in-filled to the south-east, defining an area of *c* 65m by 30m. Other buildings of note within the vicinity include Hurst Farmhouse to the south-west, of mainly 17th century construction, which was demolished in 1970; and Gossington Hall to the south, an early 18th century brick house (Carter 1845, 20; Verey 1976, 339-340).

With specific regard to the study area the earliest cartographic source at a useful scale dates from 1803 (Inclosure Map, Fig 4). This indicates the study area to comprise seven fields immediately to the north-east of the village, off Kingston Lane. They are depicted with hedged boundaries, while the parsonage adjacent is moated with a further watercourse to the north. The plots are described in the accompanying award:

553	Pasture	Rev. Charles Walker	Glebe	2a 0r 17p
557	Home ground	Rev. Charles Walker	Parsonage	1a 1r 9p

558	1 st Allotment	Rev. Charles Walker	Glebe	5a 0r 31p
558a	part of Ley Meadow	Elizabeth Phillimore	Lifehold	0a 3r 1p
559	2 nd Allotment	Rev. Charles Walker	Glebe	7a 2r 38p
583	4 th Allotment	Elizabeth Phillimore	Lifehold	4a 1r 3p
584	3 rd Allotment	Elizabeth Phillimore	Lifehold	12a 1r 21p
585	Home meadow or orchard	Elizabeth Phillimore	Lifehold	6a 0r 16p

The early 19th century censuses reveal the changing population levels of the parish, probably reflecting the changing economic circumstances of the area (Carter 1845, 9-10):

1801	770
1811	794
1821	807
1831	923
1841	865 comprising 444 males and 421 females

The Parish Map of 1861 indicates a small number of alterations in the layout of the fields (Fig 5). Most notably the two Glebe fields in Area B have been amalgamated into one (plot 387); and the small triangular plot of Ley Meadow in Area C has been incorporated into the 3rd Allotment (plot 375), which has itself been subdivided to the south-east (plot 374). The existing ponds to the north-west side of Area B and to the south-east of Area C are depicted. In addition the footpaths, which criss-cross the study area, are recorded for the first time and roughly follow their present alignments. The old parsonage within the moat has been demolished, and replaced by the rectory to the north (plot 383), which was built *c* 1813-20 (Carter 1845, 20; Verey 1976, 339-340). The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1886 and subsequent editions indicate only minimal changes to the study area, primarily in the presence of trees along the boundaries (Fig 6).

The National Gazetteer of 1868, describes Slimbridge and Cambridge as follows:

‘SLIMBRIDGE, (or Slymbridge), a parish in the upper division of Berkeley hundred, county Gloucester, 4 miles N.W. of Dursley. Stonehouse is its post town. The parish, which is of large extent, is bounded on the N. by the river Severn, and is intersected by the Gloucester and Berkeley canal and the Gloucester and Bristol rail-road. The inhabitants are chiefly engaged in agriculture. The manufacture of iron was formerly carried on, but has been discontinued, and the site of the works is now occupied by a saw-mill. The living is a rectory in the diocese of Gloucester and Bristol, value £601, in the patronage of Magdalen College, Oxford. The church, dedicated to St. John the Evangelist, has a lofty spire. The parochial charities produce about £5 per annum. There is a place of worship for Independents.’

‘CAMBRIDGE, a hamlet in the parish of Slimbridge, hundred of Berkeley, in the county of Gloucester, 3 miles to the N. of Dursley. It was the scene of a battle in the reign of Edward the Elder between the Saxons and the Danes.’ (National Gazetteer 1868)

3.4 Statutory and other designations

The moated Old Rectory adjacent to the site is a scheduled ancient monument (Appendix 1: SMR 5259; SAM 28838). It is probably the site of the medieval manor of Slimbridge, and featured in the English Civil War (1641-9).

4. **Potential impacts**

The cultural heritage features, which have been identified in the course of this assessment, are: remains of Roman and early Saxon settlement in Area A; extant medieval ridge and furrow earthworks in Areas B, C and D (Fig 3); and three enclosures, probably pre-dating the ridge and furrow, in Area C (Fig 3). Development of the site as a woodland burial ground with associated car parking may be considered to have a *moderately adverse affect* on these features of the cultural heritage (cf Table 1), with the proviso that this assessment of potential impact is subject to the detailed methods statement of any proposals being drawn up. The proposed changes would also alter the landscape around the moated Old Rectory site (a scheduled ancient monument) next to St John's church.

5. **Mitigation**

In order to further mitigate the impacts identified above, the following actions are recommended in the light of the information available about the proposed development:

A Confirmation of the design of groundworks to preserve *in situ* the archaeological remains previously evaluated.

B Trial trench evaluation due to the existence of settlement activity adjacent and the potential of ridge and furrow to mask earlier activity.

C Trial trench evaluation to test the nature of the identified enclosures, due to the existence of settlement activity adjacent and the potential of ridge and furrow to mask earlier activity.

D Trial trench evaluation due to the existence of settlement activity adjacent and the potential of ridge and furrow to mask earlier activity.

The scope and specification of any mitigation works should firstly be agreed with the English Heritage Regional Inspector and Charles Parry (Gloucestershire County Council Senior Archaeological Officer).

Any site investigation works or watching briefs required, would be concluded by production of an archaeological report (and appropriate publication) to be deposited for public consultation with the Sites and Monuments Record and a project archive to be deposited at a local museum.

6. **Residual effects**

Implementation of the mitigation proposed above should ensure that there are no residual effects on the historic environment and archaeological resource from the proposed development. Mitigation should ensure that adverse impacts are restricted in scope to *not significant*.

The historic environment is a non-renewable resource and therefore cannot be directly replaced. However, mitigation through recording and investigation also produces an important research dividend that can be used for the better understanding of the county's history and contribute to local and regional research agendas.

7. **Publication summary**

The Service has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, the Service intends to use this summary as the basis for publication through local or regional journals. The client is requested to consider the content of this section as being acceptable for such publication.

A desk-based assessment was undertaken on behalf of the Church of England (Diocese of Gloucester) of Glebe Land at Slimbridge in Gloucestershire (NGR: SO 740 035). The study area comprised five fields to the immediate north-east of the village, adjacent to the moated Old Rectory site (a scheduled ancient monument) thought to be the location of the medieval manor, and to the parish church of St Johns which has early 13th century elements. Extant ridge and furrow earthworks occupies most of these fields, their open S-shape indicating a possible earlier medieval origin. Their orientation also suggests that the site was made up of more, smaller fields prior to the earliest cartographic source of 1801. Three possible enclosures were identified from aerial photographs, two of which appeared to predate the ridge and furrow agriculture. Previous investigations within the site, immediately to the north-west of the old Rectory, have also identified remains of Roman and early Saxon settlement activity, argued to indicate that earlier occupation lay to the west of the present village church.

8. **Acknowledgements**

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project: Kirsty Joyce, Francesca Tolond, and Juliet Watkins (Church of England - Diocese of Gloucester), and Charles Parry (Senior Archaeological Officer, Gloucestershire County Council).

9. **Personnel**

The assessment was undertaken by Tom Vaughan, and the project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Derek Hurst. Illustrations were prepared by Carolyn Hunt.

Appendix 1 Features of the historic environment registered with the SMR (those within the study area are indicated in bold)

AREA:	4109
NAME:	DMV type earthworks NW of Newhouse Farm
STATUS:	
GRID REF:	374400 204350
PARISH:	SLIMBRIDGE
MAP SHEET:	SO70SW
DESCRIPTION:	Rectangular enclosure(s) adjacent to ridge and furrow and irregularities on the opposite side of Ryall's Lane from Pillhead footbridge {1} Earthworks visible on 1947 AP - the "irregularities" are probable house platforms enclosures at SO74400435 have encroached upon or are overlain by ridge and furrow; enclosures at SO74410440 are adjacent to the ridge and furrow.{pers comm S Brown}

AREA:	5257
NAME:	Canal at Cambridge
STATUS:	
GRID REF:	373900 205100
PARISH:	SLIMBRIDGE
MAP SHEET:	SO70NW
DESCRIPTION:	(5271/1-2) - When the Glos & Berkeley canal was built, the River Cam was made navigable. (862). The Cambridge Arm was cut to serve both as a branch canal and a feeder from the Cam. It is still a feeder but has long been disused as a canal. An isolated section comprising the former basin at Cambridge can still be seen near the A38 road. (124) (4627). (527/3) - Lock at junction with Gloucester and Sharpness canal.

AREA:	5259
NAME:	Moat at Slimbridge
STATUS:	SAM28838
GRID REF:	374080 203570
PARISH:	SLIMBRIDGE
MAP SHEET:	SO70SW
DESCRIPTION:	<p>A moat surrounding the vicarage garden at Slimbridge, said to be the site of the manor house, described as water-filled in 1966.{1}</p> <p>The moat is generally well preserved with revetted sides 1.6m above water level and has the appearance of being restored possibly in the C18? {6}.</p> <p>There is now no trace of the S side, although there are plans to excavate and restore it. The platform is now a garden, littered with brick and stone fragments but no trace of building foundations.{2}</p> <p>The area adjoining the road and drive were sold for building in 1974.</p> <p>W side of moat visible on 1947 AP {4} waterfilled - rest of moat is masked by trees in garden.{pers comm S Brown}</p> <p>A ball 257mm diameter was found when cleaning a di tch draining the moat, in 1860. P ossibly Saxon. Orna mented with astroidal patterns. Information from Rev. White of Rectory.{7}</p> <p>Scheduled as SAM28838 09/12/96 - Description:</p> <p>The monument includes a moated site lying in the valley of the River Severn. The moated site forms part of the garden of Slimbridge Rectory, adjacent to the churchyard on the E side of Slimbridge village.</p> <p>The moated site, aligned NW-SE includes a central, uneven oblong island c.65m long and 30m wide surrounded by a moat. The moat now takes the form of an open ditch except on the SE side, where it is infilled. The moat is 1.25m deep and varies in width from c.5.8m to c.10m. The site, said to be the location of a medieval manor house, is associated with the occupation of Slimbridge Rectory and church by Parliamentarian troops in the Civil War. The Rector at that time, Mr N Richardson, was imprisoned in Gloucester under suspicion of being a Royalist spy, and later was returned to Slimbridge where he died. P hysical evidence of the Civil War association is present in the discovery of pistol balls in 1987.</p> <p>The moated site appears to have been landscaped in the C18 as part of the Rectory garden. On the outer edge of the NE arm of the moat is a bank of earth of irregular width and height. This is divided into sections which converge on a wooden bridge across the moat. Corresponding to this, on the same arm of the moat, but on its inner side, is a stone revetment, c.1m high, which is so constructed that it can be seen from the Rectory. A red brick wall with cement capping is set on the stone revetment on the inner side of the moat, and forms the edge of the island on that side. The wall appears to date from a period before the moat was infilled, since it follows the obvious line of its SE corner. Medieval ploughing, showing as ridge and furrow marks, lie close to the moated site in the fields to the N,S and E</p> <p>A number of features within the area are excluded from the scheduling; these are the gravestones, incinerator, the boundary walls of Sweet Charity and a number of garden features, a brick wall, wooden bridge and stone revetment; the ground beneath these is however included (2873).</p> <p>A desk based assessment was undertaken on the site by David Wilson during May 1998. There is evidence for a church at Slimbridge from 1146, and a manor was granted there in 1153. The moat would almost certainly have existed in 1297 when Thomas II, Lord of Berkeley stayed at the manor. In 1368 the extent of the manor was one capital messuage and one garden, but no mention of a moat. The first reference to a moat is from a Terrier from 1681, the second from a letter dated 1705. The building on the moated site was removed between 1818 and 1822 when the new Rectory was built on its current site. The earliest map of the site is from 1759 where the moat is depicted as continuous around the platform. A bridge crosses the western arm of the moat. On the enclosure map the platform appears to be linked to the churchyard by a causeway and the former bridge is not depicted. The OS maps from the 1880s onwards show that this causeway has</p>

been removed and replaced by a footbridge linking the platform to a field south of the churchyard. Another footbridge has been established across the north-east corner of the moat, leading to the new rectory. The southern arm of the moat has been completely filled in. Finds include two musket balls and one pistol ball recovered in 1988 by the Reverend Eric Charlesworth (4632).

1998 - A resistivity survey was undertaken by Bournemouth University on the site on one day in May 1998. No evidence for regular structures was detected. The western half of the survey appears more significant than the eastern and the lack of any clear features might relate to the fact that the building was levelled and therefore a continuous spread of demolition rubble may be expected on the site (5527).

1999 - A site visit was made by C Parry, GCC Archaeology Service on 08/09/1999 to monitor the cleaning out of the filled in south eastern side of the moat under SMC. The work was undertaken by machine with final cleaning undertaken by volunteers. At the time of the visit the majority of the work was complete and revealed a c. 6m wide by 1.2m deep ditch with gently sloping sides and a flattish base. The southern edge of the ditch was well defined as a weathered gravelly clay natural; the northern side of the ditch had been only defined. Finds were scarce: these included a few sherds of medieval pottery and one C16 coin.(484)

The southern arm of the moat appears to have been infilled in two stages, the first possibly coinciding with the demolition of the building(s) on the platform c.1820, the second in the early C20. Finds consisted mainly of C19-C20 pottery sherds and bottles. Medieval roof tiles, C18 bricks, C17-C18 clay pipe and 4 medieval pottery sherds were also located as well as fragments of human bone, possibly originating from the Civil War, when material was taken from the churchyard to erect a bank on one of the outer edges of the moat. (5512)

AREA: 5261
NAME: Site of homestead
STATUS:
GRID REF: 374270 203640
PARISH: SLIMBRIDGE
MAP SHEET: SO70SW
DESCRIPTION: Enclosures indicative of DMV visible on AP. APs show a 60m by 36m platform which is not under ridge & furrow centred at SO74270364. This may indicate the site of a homestead or barn. Rectangular enclosure surrounded by ridge & furrow which covers two other larger adjacent enclosures. A very small rectangular feature at SO74290359 may be house foundations or pond. Features are c150m from moat & church at Slimbridge. (pers comm S Brown)

AREA: 8387
NAME: Church of St John the Evangelist, Slimbridge
STATUS: LBI
GRID REF: 374040 203560
PARISH: SLIMBRIDGE
MAP SHEET: SO70SW

AREA: 15604
NAME: Negative watching Brief at Slimbridge sewerage system.
STATUS:
GRID REF: 373032 204140
PARISH: SLIMBRIDGE
MAP SHEET: SO70SW
DESCRIPTION: 1994 - A watching brief in connection with the topsoil stripping and trenching of the Slimbridge sewerage improvements in OS parcels 9617, 1214, 2300, 3100 & 4200 (SO7303, SO7304, SO7204) was undertaken by Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service between 14-19/07/1994. The stripped easement was c.4m wide x c.750m long. The trench was c0.4m wide x c.2.5m deep. No features of archaeological significance were observed. (Source Work 2666.)

AREA: 20390
NAME: Cropmarks of enclosures and linear features, south of White House Farm, Dursley Road, Slimbridge.
STATUS:
GRID REF: 374814 202932
PARISH: SLIMBRIDGE
MAP SHEET: SO70SW
DESCRIPTION: Several enclosures and linear features show as cropmarks in a field to the south of White House Farm, Slimbridge. It is possible that they are related to SMR 16675. (3880)

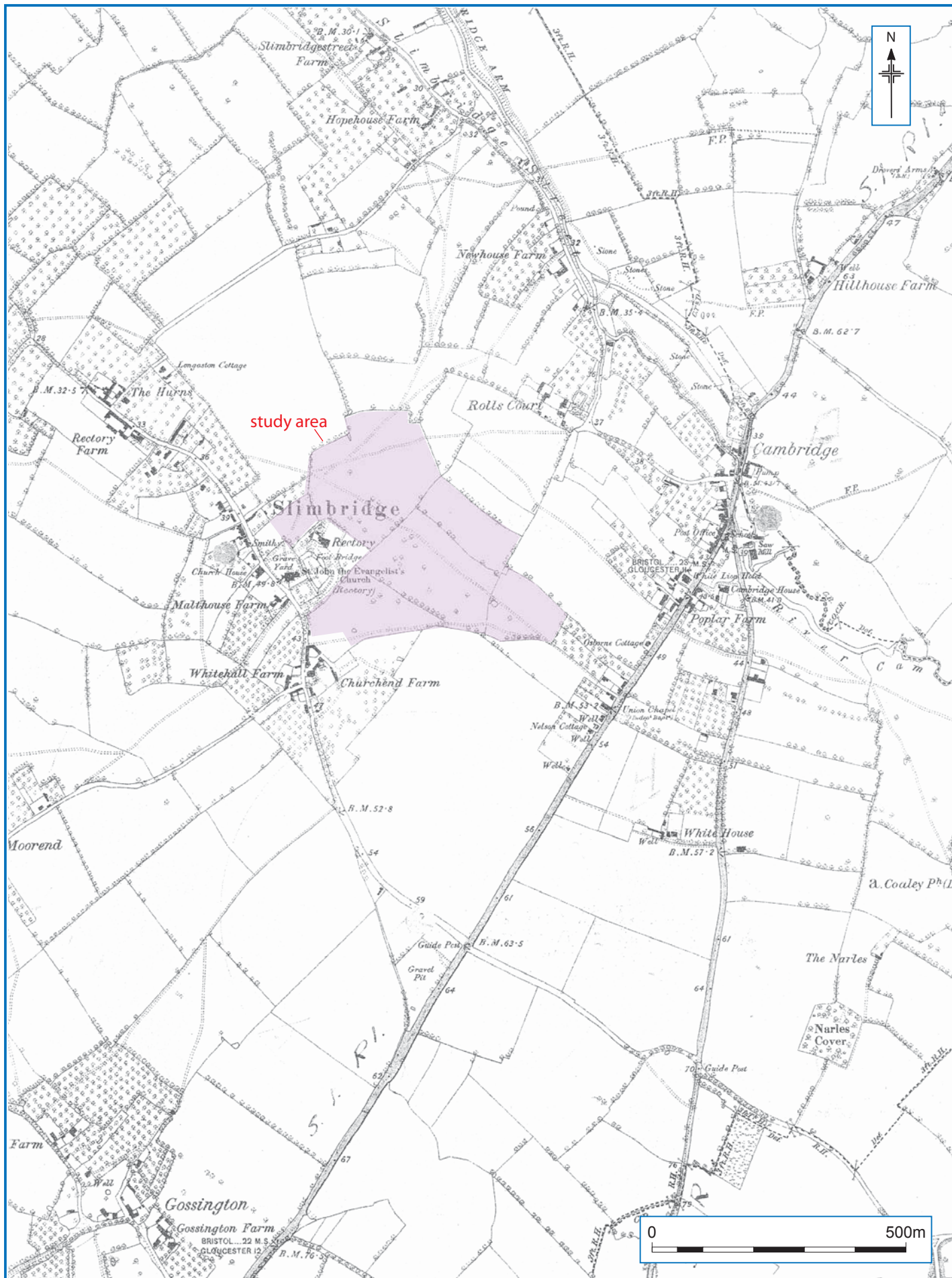
AREA:	20591
NAME:	Modern archaeological evaluation on land at Glebelands, Slimbridge, several ditches and possible ring gullies were located.
STATUS:	
GRID REF:	374050 203660
PARISH:	SLIMBRIDGE
MAP SHEET:	SO70SE
DESCRIPTION:	1999 - An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service on 4-5/11/1999 of land at Glebelands, Slimbridge in relation to an application to extend the burial ground of the Church of St John the Evangelist. Four trenches were excavated and archaeological features were recorded in three of these. In Trench 1, a ditch is interpreted as a drainage ditch and although undated, C2-C4 pottery was found in the trench and the ditch may therefore be Roman in date. Features identified in Trench 2 are thought to be the remains of Roman settlement. They are typical of the type of gullies dug as palisade trenches for roundhouses, and the fill of one is suggestive of deliberate backfilling to support a palisade wall. Associated features identified are a possible pit and posthole. In Trench 4, a deposit of soft silty sand and a possible remnant of a curvilinear feature (recut) bordering this, were initially identified as prehistoric domestic features - a floor surface enclosed by a palisade gully. However the pottery assessment suggests that these may belong to a previously unknown C5 Saxon settlement. 58 sherds from the lower part of a handmade vessel was set into the soft sandy silt deposit and may be C5 in date, (however given the state of knowledge of mid-late Saxon pottery in Gloucestershire, they may be slightly later). A large cut is interpreted as an enclosure ditch, which apparently continues the line of the churchyard boundary on C19 and early C20 maps. {Source Work 5429.}
	The results of the evaluation suggest that archaeological features on this site are restricted to the southern half of the field, the finds and morphology of features and deposits suggest that a small settlement existed on the site from the Romano-British period onwards. After the Saxon period the settlement may have shifted slightly eastwards towards the area now occupied by the church and vicarage. The evaluation has found the first evidence for occupation of Slimbridge prior to the medieval period, other than place name evidence. The medieval village did not extend into the evaluation area, and the lack of ridge and furrow and abraded medieval pottery and animal bone in the topsoil suggests that the area was not cultivated in the medieval period, and that therefore any surviving archaeological features have the potential for being well-preserved. {Source Work 5429.}

AREA:	22334
NAME:	A modern archaeological watching brief at Ty-Taig, Churchend, Slimbridge
STATUS:	
GRID REF:	373990 203630
PARISH:	SLIMBRIDGE
MAP SHEET:	SO70SW
DESCRIPTION:	2003 - On the 20th October Gloucestershire County Council's Archaeology Service carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring during the excavation of a footings trench. A ditch and probable pit were discovered during the work. {Source Work 7526.}



Figure 7

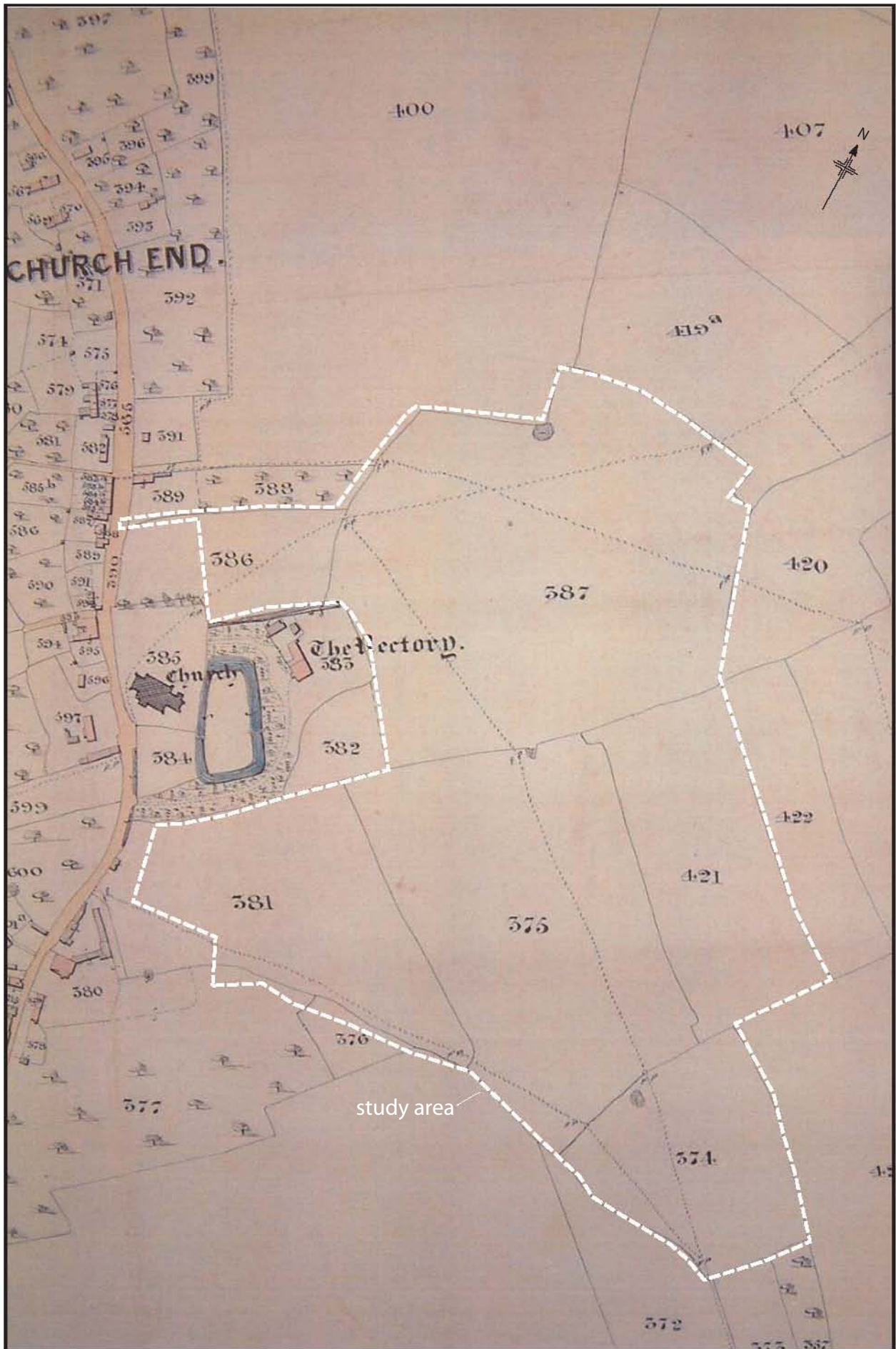
*Aerial photograph, 1947 (English Heritage: NMR, RAF photograph
Film no. RAF/CPE/UK/2098; Frame no. 4362; Date 28th May, 1947)*



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Extract from 1st Edition Ordnance Survey, 1886 (based on 6":1mile)

Figure 6



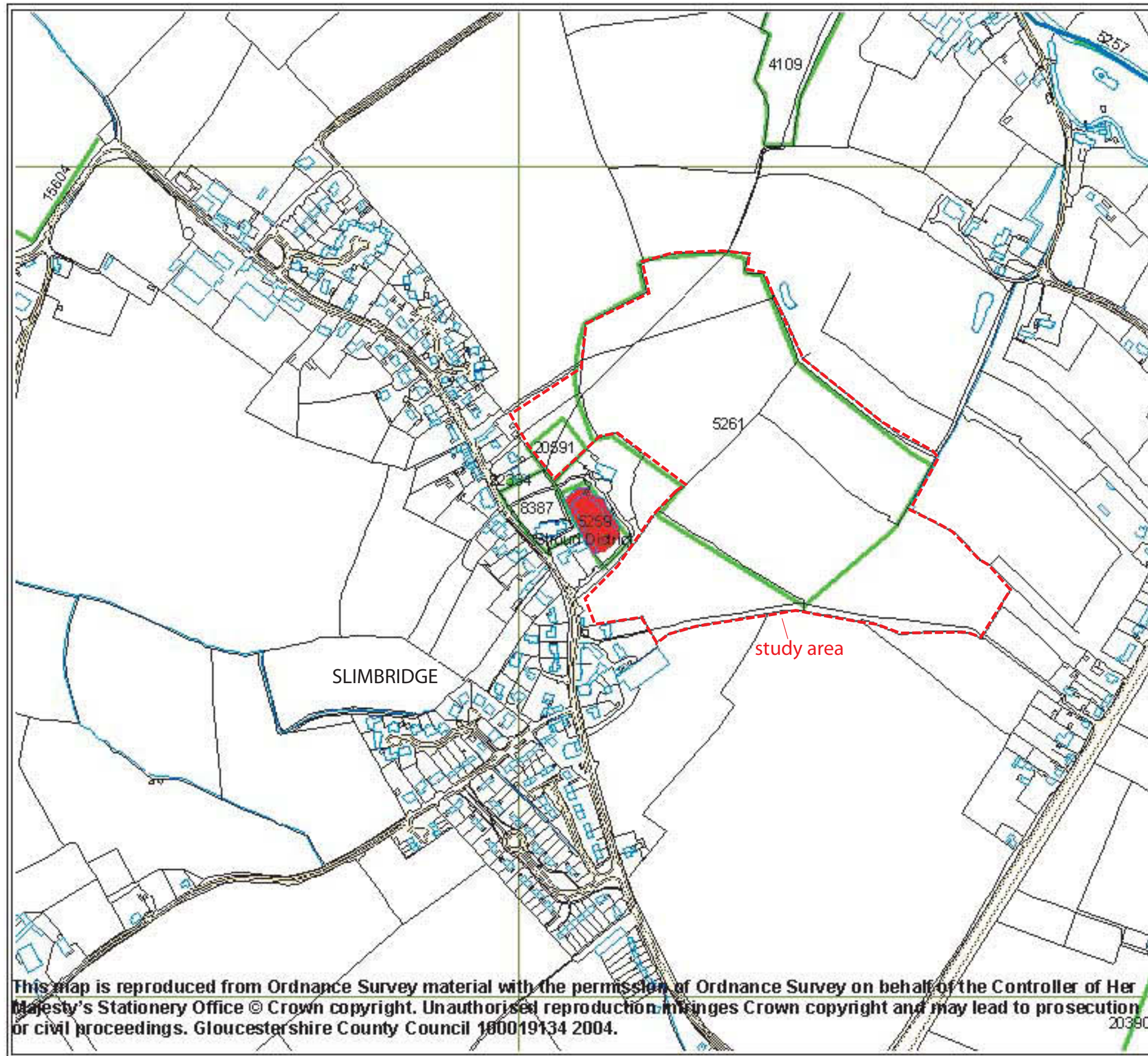
Extract from 1861 Parish Map

Figure 5



Extract from 1803 Enclosure Map
(Study area indicated by white dashed line. Scale corresponding to Fig 5)

Figure 4



SO7408 0356
Slimbridge

SMR legend

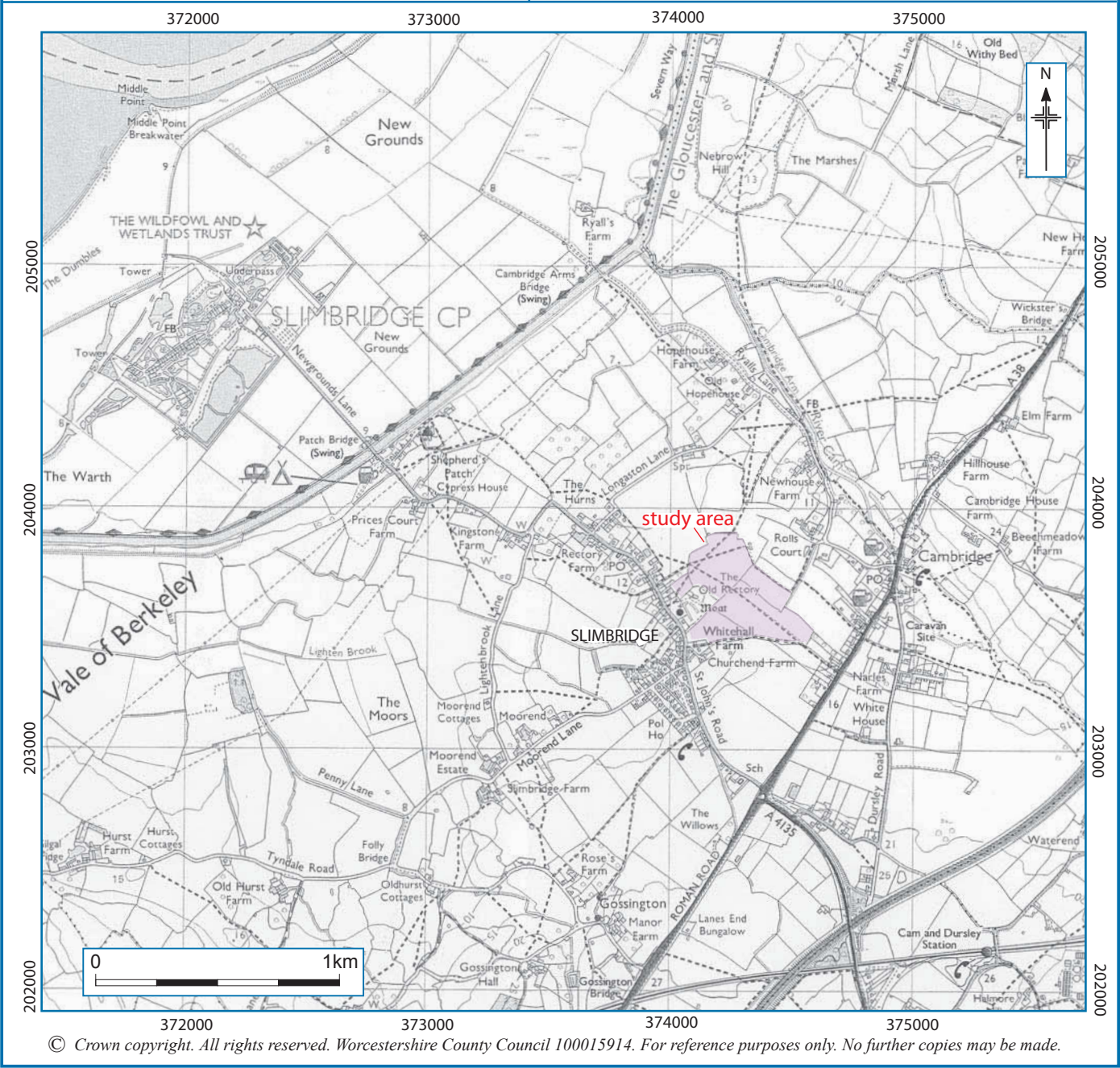
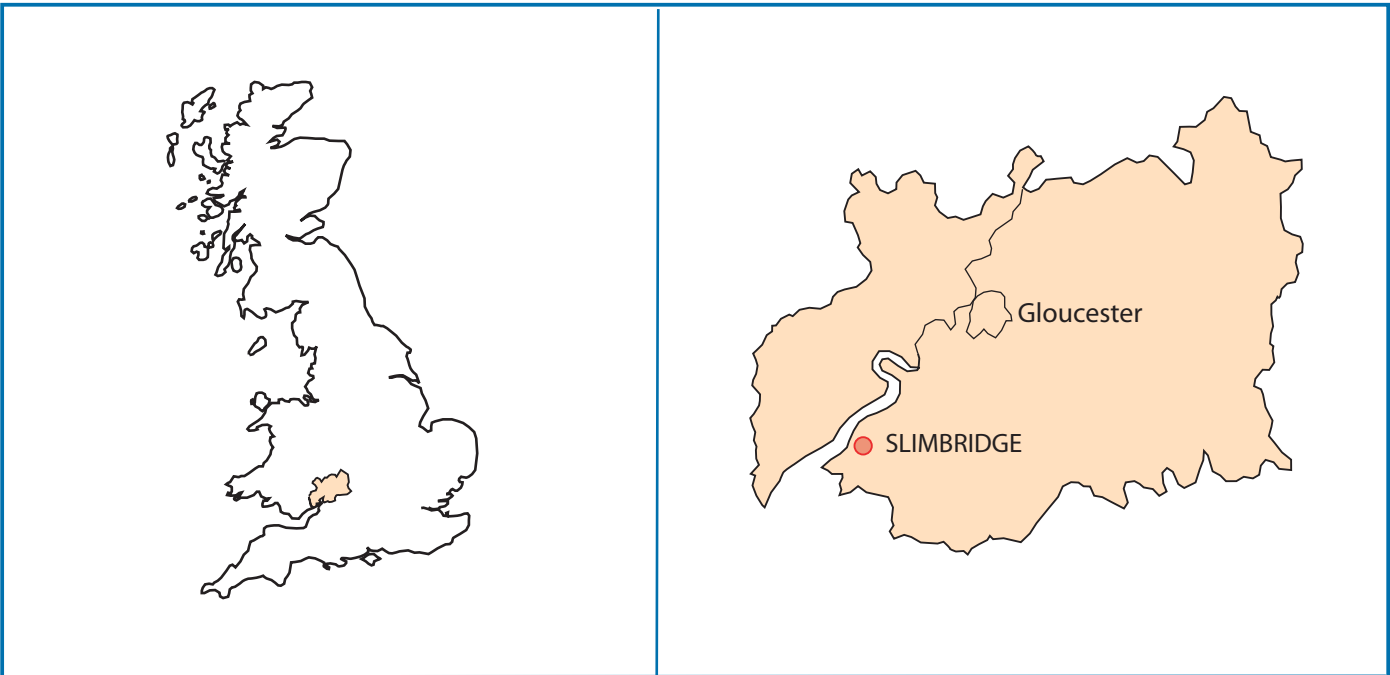
- SMR General
- Scheduled Monuments
- SMR Listed Buildings
- SMR Registered Battlefields
- SMR Registered Parks & Gardens
- SMR Canal records
- SMR Tramway records
- SMR Military records
- SMR Railway records
- SMR Road records
- SMR Romano-British roads

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 SCALE: **1:6,723**
 DATE: 24/02/2005
 DRAWING NO:

Sites in the vicinity

Figure 2



Location of the study area

Figure 1