

Archaeological watching brief  
at  
Chipping Campden School,  
Cider Mill Lane,  
Chipping Campden  
Gloucestershire



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## **Archaeological watching brief at Chipping Campden School, Gloucestershire**

Graham Arnold (project leader)

With contributions by Rob Hedge

### **Summary**

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Chipping Campden School, Cider Mill Lane, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire (NGR SP 15561 39774). It was undertaken on behalf of S & C Slatter Ltd (the Client) who were constructing an artificial turf pitch with floodlighting and associated retaining walls at the school. Permission for the development (planning ref: 09/01475/FUL) was granted by Cotswold District Council subject to conditions including a programme of archaeological works and a brief setting out the requirement for an archaeological watching brief was produced by Gloucestershire County Council.

The site lies close to a Scheduled Monument known as Campden House, the remains of a 17<sup>th</sup> Century building with associated gardens and outbuildings which was destroyed during the Civil War. Crop mark evidence of a prehistoric and/or Roman ring-ditch or enclosure has been noted to the northeast of the site. A geophysical survey (Stratascan 2009) was carried out prior to the geotechnical test pits and topsoil strip. The results provided weak evidence for archaeological activity in the form of two positive anomalies and evidence for ridge and furrow.

The watching brief comprised monitoring of geotechnical test pits associated with the development and the topsoil and subsoil strip in the footprint of the pitch. A series of post-medieval and modern drainage ditches were recorded which were interpreted as agricultural features but no features of archaeological significance were recorded.

## Report

### 1 Background

#### 1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Chipping Campden School, Cider Mill Lane, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire (NGR SP 15561 39774). It was commissioned by S & C Slatter Ltd, who were granted planning permission from Cotswold District Council for the constructing of an artificial turf pitch with floodlighting and associated retaining walls at Chipping Campden School. Permission (planning ref: 09/01475/FUL) was granted subject to conditions including a programme of archaeological works.

The proposed development site was considered to include potential heritage assets, the significance of which may have been affected by the application. A brief setting out the requirement for an archaeological watching brief was produced by Gloucestershire County Council (GCC 2010)

The project conforms to a brief for which a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (WA 2014). The project also conforms to the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014).

The Worcestershire Archaeology reference for this project is P3781.

### 2 Aims

The aim of the watching brief was to observe and record archaeological deposits, and to determine their extent, state of preservation, date and type, as far as reasonably possible.

### 3 Methods

#### 3.1 Personnel

The project was undertaken by Graham Arnold (BA MSc) and who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2009 and 2008 respectively, and has been practicing archaeology since 2002. Michael Nicholson (BSc) assisted with fieldwork. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Rogers (MSc). Illustrations were prepared by Laura Templeton (CMIfA). Robert Hedge provided comment on the artefactual assemblage.

#### 3.2 Documentary research

Prior to fieldwork commencing a search was made of the Historic Environment Record (HER).

No archaeological features are known to be recorded within the site.

#### 3.3 List of sources consulted

##### *Documentary sources*

Published and grey literature sources are listed in the bibliography.

#### 3.4 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed specification has been prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2014).

Fieldwork was undertaken between 12 January and 30 January 2015.

An area amounting to just over 1 hectare in area was stripped under archaeological supervision. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2.

The works comprised monitoring of five geotechnical pits to test the drainage potential of the site (Plate 2), followed by archaeological supervision of the site strip for the pitch (Plate 3). The turf and topsoil was removed from the total footprint of the pitch. Further excavation was monitored down to natural strata levels in the west of the site (Plate 8), in preparation for a cut and fill methodology, using the subsoil to level the current slope in the east.

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Deposits considered not to be significant were removed using a 360° tracked excavator, employing a toothless bucket and under archaeological supervision. Clean surfaces were inspected and selected deposits were excavated to retrieve artefactual material and environmental samples, if appropriate, as well as to determine their nature. Deposits were recorded according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012).

### **3.5 Structural analysis**

All fieldwork records were checked and cross-referenced. Analysis was effected through a combination of structural, artefactual and ecofactual evidence, allied to the information derived from other sources.

### **3.6 Artefact and Environmental methodology,**

#### **3.6.1 Artefact recovery policy**

Artefacts encountered in the topsoil and related to post-medieval and later activity including glass, porcelain and modern cbm fragments were noted but not retained. Subsoil finds and ditch fill finds were retained for further analysis.

No significant environmental deposits were observed during the works.

### **3.7 Statement of confidence in the methods and results**

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

## **4 The application site**

### **4.1 Topography, geology and archaeological context**

Chipping Campden School lies on the north eastern edge of Chipping Campden a small market town on the western edge of the Cotswolds. The turf pitch lies to the north of the main school buildings within playing fields sloping from the northwest to the southeast.

The underlying geology consists of Lias material of the Marlstone Rock Formation, a Limestone, Ferruginous, Sedimentary Bedrock and the Dyrham Formation of Siltstone and Mudstone. No superficial deposits were listed (BGS 2015). The overlying soils are known as Banbury soils which are ferritic brown earths. These consist of well drained brashy fine and coarse loamy ferruginous soils over ironstone (Soil Survey of England and Wales, Sheet 3, Midland and Western England). The current ground level is at approximately 154.00m AOD.

No archaeological features are recorded within the site. Campden House (GHER 2758) and formal garden (GHER 27394), a scheduled monument with and associated medieval cultivation works is situated southeast of the study area. St James Church also lies to the south of the study area and is a Grade I listed building.

To the north-east of the study site, a desk based assessment (HER 45740) highlighted prehistoric and/or Roman remains, in the form of a crop mark of a ring-ditch or enclosure. An archaeological evaluation (GHER 46626) to the northwest of the site carried out in 2014 found evidence of post-medieval field boundary ditches. No evidence of medieval or later settlement was recorded on the site.

The development site has been the subject of a geophysical survey, which suggested that the potential for archaeology there is quite low (Stratascan 2009; GHER 33544) although some scattered anomalies indicated some potential for discrete features and deposits to be present.

### **4.2 Current land-use**

The site is currently a grassed school playing field with a football pitch. This is being replaced with an artificial surface, with associated retaining walls and floodlighting.

## 5 Structural analysis

The trenches and features recorded are shown in Fig 2. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1.

### 5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits

The geological deposits observed consisted of a mudstone compact yellow clay and friable sandy clay with occasional patches of blue green silt and clay mottling. A number of land drains and other linear features relating to land drainage were cut into this stratum. The natural ground was recorded at approximately 153.40m AOD.

### 5.1.2 Phase 2: Post-medieval deposits

Two shallow, narrow drainage ditches [705 and 708] with blocks of limestone set into the base to assist with water drainage were recorded running downhill on a northwest - southeast alignment, following the natural gradient of the slope. These were 0.30m in depth and 1 metre in width (Figure 2 + 3 and plates 4 -7).

### 5.1.3 Phase 3: modern deposits

A consistent soil profile was observed with a frequently disturbed topsoil and sterile subsoil. A series of ceramic land drains were also observed over the site running in a northwest to southeast alignment, on a similar layout to ditches [705] and [708]. Artefactual material found in the topsoil of a post-medieval and later date, including glass and porcelain was noted but not retained.

## 5.2 Artefact analysis, by Rob Hedge

The stratified finds from the site were recovered from two contexts, and were of post-medieval date. They comprised:

- a single abraded 24g body sherd of 18<sup>th</sup> century post-medieval orange ware (Worcs fabric 90), and a single base sherd of 18<sup>th</sup> century black-glazed red sandy ware (Worcs fabric 78.1) weighing 20g, from context (701);
- a small, very abraded fragment of post-medieval CBM from context (703).

The finds are typical of residual post-medieval domestic refuse.

## 6 Synthesis

All of the features recorded during the watching brief relate to agricultural drainage and were probably laid before the site became playing fields. The results confirm the evidence of the geophysical survey of the site which highlighted a number of linear features, thought to be ridge and furrow or drainage ditches running northeast to southwest across site. The areas where two positive anomalies were recorded during the geophysical survey were not subject to intrusive ground works and no other similar features were encountered.

No features or deposits of archaeological significance were uncovered.



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## 7 Publication summary

Worcestershire Archaeology has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, Worcestershire Archaeology 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.

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## 8 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, David Smith and Alex Maddocks of S & C Slatter Ltd and Charles Parry, (Senior Archaeological Officer, Gloucestershire County Council).

## 9 Bibliography

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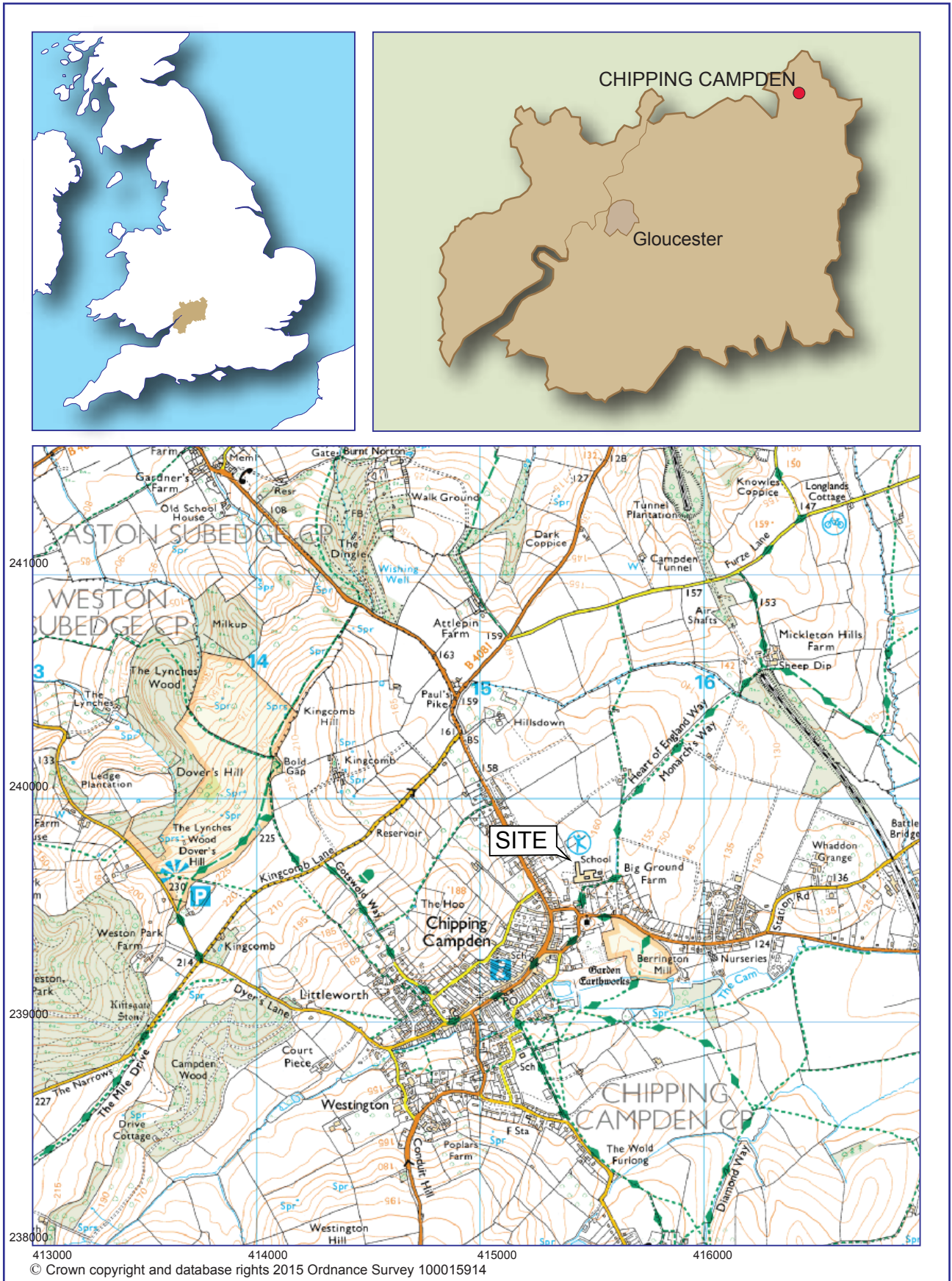
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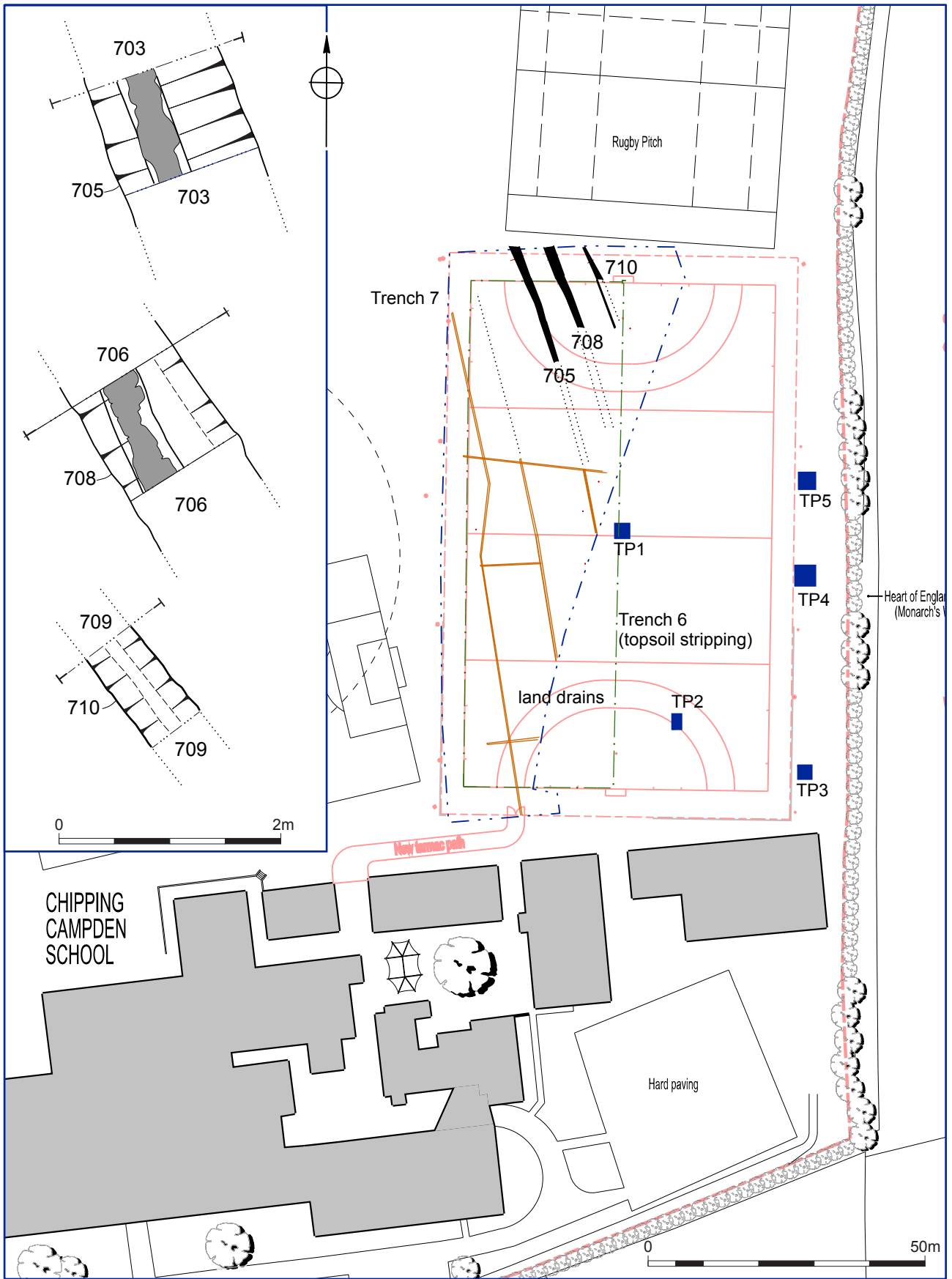
WA 2014 *Proposal for an archaeological watching brief at Chipping Campden School, Cider Mill Lane, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire*, Worcestershire Archaeology, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 3 November 2014, **P3781**

**Figures**



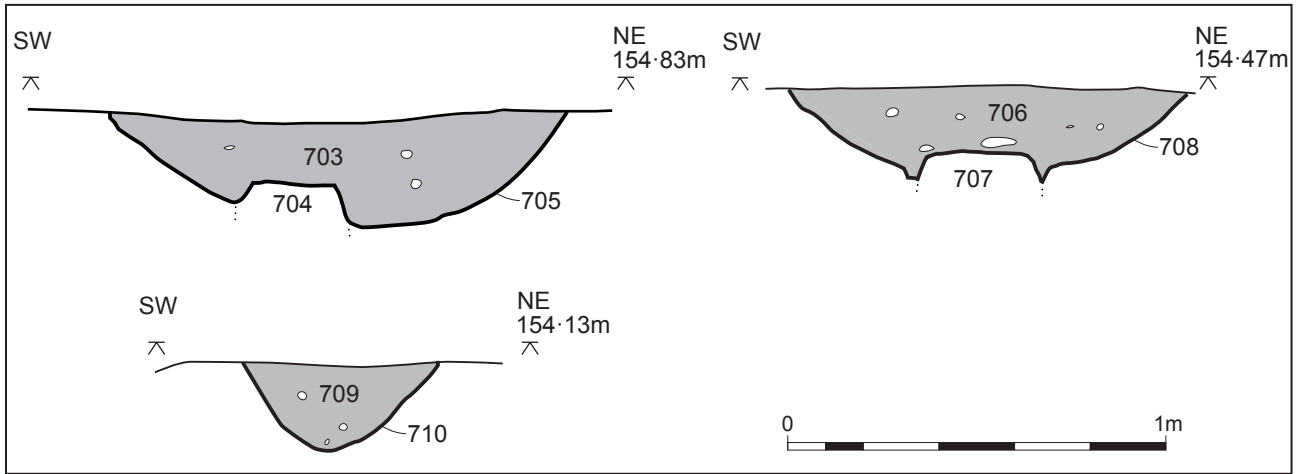
Location of the site

Figure 1



Trench locations and plans of drainage ditches

Figure 2



Sections

Figure 3



## Plates



*Plate 1 The site from the north showing the natural gradient before excavations took place*



*Plate 2 An example of a geotechnical test pit in the south east corner of the site*

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*Plate 3 Initial topsoil strip of area in progress*



*Plate 4 Southeast facing section of drainage ditch 705*





*Plate 5 Plan of drainage ditch 705, showing large limestone channel at base to assist drainage*



*Plate 6 Southeast facing section of drainage ditch 708*

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*Plate 7 Drainage ditch 708 in plan*



*Plate 8 General shot of overall area stripped of topsoil and subsoil looking south east*

## Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

### Trench 1

Site area: Geotechnical pit in centre circle of football pitch

Maximum dimensions: Length: 1.80m Width: 1.80m Depth: 1.30m

Orientation: Square

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
100	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy silty clay with occasional sub-rounded stones and frequent occasional disturbance by modern tarmac and type 1 chippings, glass, porcelain and cbm fragments.	0- 0.30m
101	Subsoil	Mid reddish brown silty clay with occasional – moderate sub angular stones. Sterile.	0.30 – 0.60m
102	Natural	Compact, cohesive yellow clay with occasional blue grey silt mottling	0.60m+

### Trench 2

Site area: Geotechnical pit in right hand corner of southern penalty area

Maximum dimensions: Length: 1.80m Width: 1.80m Depth: 1.20m

Orientation: Square

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
200	Topsoil	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silty clay with occasional sub-rounded stones and frequent occasional disturbance by modern tarmac and type 1 chippings, glass, porcelain and cbm fragments	0- 0.30m
201	Subsoil	Mid reddish brown silty clay with occasional – moderate sub angular stones. Sterile.	0.30 – 0.60m
202	Natural	Compact, cohesive yellow clay with occasional blue grey silt mottling	0.60m+

**Trench 3**

Site area: Geotechnical pit in southeast corner of football pitch - see fig 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 1.60m Width: 1.60m Depth: 1.20m

Orientation: Square

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
300	Topsoil	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silty clay with occasional sub-rounded stones and frequent occasional disturbance by modern tarmac and type 1 chippings, glass, porcelain and cbm fragments	0- 0.30m
301	Subsoil	Moderately compacted mid reddish brown silty clay with occasional – moderate sub angular stones. Sterile.	0.30 – 0.60m
302	Natural	Friable reddish orange sandy clay / marl.	0.60m+

**Trench 4**

Site area: Geotechnical pit on east side of football pitch - see fig 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 1.60m Width: 1.60m Depth: 1.20m

Orientation: Square

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
400	Topsoil	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silty clay with occasional sub-rounded stones and frequent occasional disturbance by modern tarmac and type 1 chippings, glass, porcelain and cbm fragments	0- 0.30m
401	Subsoil	Moderately compacted mid reddish brown silty clay with occasional – moderate sub angular stones. Sterile.	0.30 – 0.60m
402	Natural	Friable reddish orange sandy clay / marl.	0.60m+

### Trench 5

Site area: Geotechnical pit in southeast corner of football pitch - see fig 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 1.60m Width: 1.60m Depth: 1.20m

Orientation: Square

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
500	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy silty clay with occasional sub-rounded stones and frequent occasional disturbance by modern tarmac and type 1 chippings, glass, porcelain and cbm fragments	0- 0.30m
501	Subsoil	Moderately compacted mid reddish brown silty clay with occasional – moderate sub angular stones. Sterile.	0.30 – 0.60m
502	Natural	Friable reddish orange sandy clay / marl.	0.60m+

### Trench 6

Site area: Topsoil strip of East side of football pitch

Maximum dimensions: Length: 100m Width: 15.00m Depth: 0.30m

Orientation: N - S

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
600	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy silty clay with occasional sub-rounded stones and frequent occasional disturbance by modern tarmac and type 1 chippings, glass, porcelain and cbm fragments	0- 0.30m
601	Subsoil	Moderately compacted mid reddish brown silty clay with occasional – moderate sub angular stones.	0.30m+

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**Trench 7**

Site area: Subsoil strip of west side of football pitch - see fig 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 100m Width: 30.00m Depth: 0.60m max

Orientation: N - S

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
700	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy silty clay with occasional sub-rounded stones and frequent occasional disturbance by modern tarmac and type 1 chippings, glass, porcelain and cbm fragments. Good clarity with (701) subsoil.	0- 0.30m
701	Subsoil	Moderately compacted mid reddish brown silty clay with occasional – moderate sub angular stones.	0.30 – 0.60m
702	Natural	Compact mid brown mudstone / marl with patches of blue green silt and clay seen further down slope on western extent of site strip.	0.60m +
703	Fill of linear	Moderately compact mid brown silty clay deliberately backfilling stone lined drain. Contained one fragment of cbm	0.60 – 0.92
704	Fill of linear	Stones measuring 0.25m x 0.18m x 0.10m deliberately placed at base of channel to assist with drainage	0.82 - 0.92
705	Drainage ditch	Cut for small shallow drainage channel backfilled with stone at base.	0.60 – 0.92
706	Fill of linear	Moderately compact mid brown silty clay deliberately backfilling stone lined drain	0.60 – 0.89m
707	Fill of linear	Stones measuring 0.25m x 0.18m x 0.10m deliberately placed at base of channel to assist with drainage	0.79 -0.89m
708	Drainage ditch	Cut for small shallow drainage channel backfilled with stone at base	0.60 – 0.89m
709	Fill of land drain	Mixed redeposited subsoil and natural backfilling of ceramic land drain	0.60 – 0.72m
710	Cut of land drain	Linear cut of land drain measuring 0.25m wide.	0.60 – 0.72m

## **Appendix 2 Technical information**

### **The archive (site code: P3781)**

The archive consists of:

- 6 Context records AS1
- 1 Field progress reports AS2
- 1 Photographic records AS3
- 85 Digital photographs
- 1 Drawing number catalogues AS4
- 7 Scale drawings
- 7 Trench record sheets AS41
- 1 CD-Rom/DVDs
- 1 Copy of this report (bound hard copy)

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum  
Clarence Street  
Cheltenham  
Gloucestershire  
GL50 3JT

Tel. Cheltenham (01242) 237431

Fax Cheltenham (01242) 262334

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