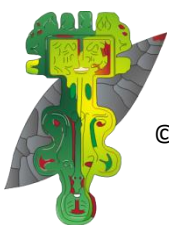
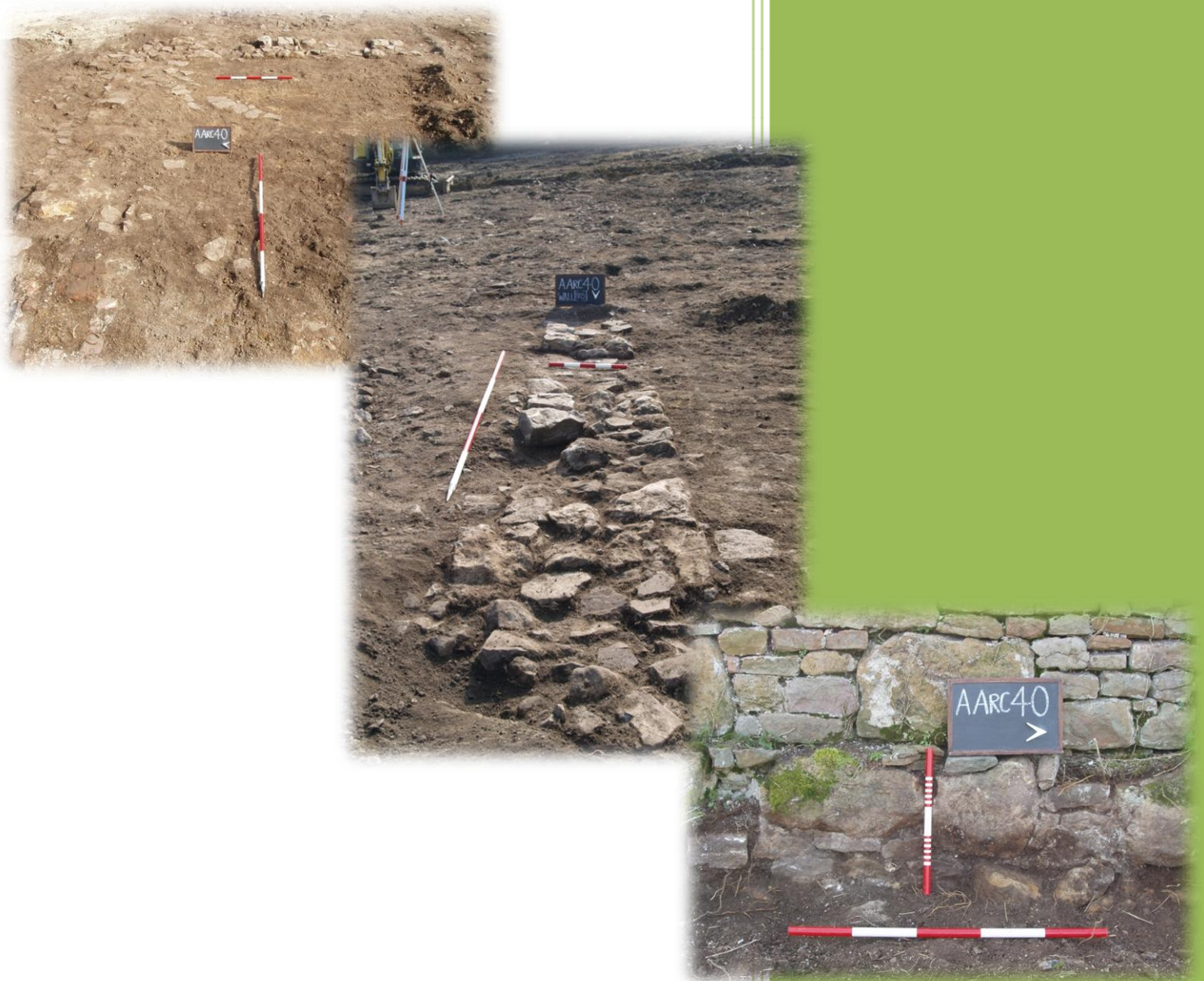


2011

Results of an Archaeological Watching Brief
On Land Adjacent to St James' Church, Charfield, South Gloucestershire



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Absolute Archaeology
Paul Martin BSc, AIFA
Sam Driscoll BA, MA, PIFA

Archaeological Watching Brief Undertaken By: Paul Martin BSc (Hons), AIFA &
Sam Driscoll BA, PIFA
Project Managed by: Paul Martin BSc (Hons), AIFA
Ref: AArc 40/11/WB

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Note

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General chronological table

Period	Date	Information
Prehistoric	800000 – 43 AD	Generalised period from the earliest human activity in Britain (Happisburgh) to the conquest of Britain by Claudius.
Palaeolithic	800000 - 10000 BC	Mobile groups, ephemeral habitation evidence, stone tool technology. Material evidence found predominantly in caves. Earliest evidence for hominins in Britain is at Happisburgh and Pakefield in Norfolk dating to the Early Pleistocene c.800,000 BP.
Mesolithic	10000 – 4000 BC	Period of major transformation in the European environment and landscape after the end of the last Ice Age. Mobile hunter-gatherer communities, sophisticated tool technology and some semi-permanent settlement, particularly along the east coast of England and in Ireland.
Neolithic	4000 – 2350 BC	Emergence of monumental architecture, such as long barrows and causewayed enclosures. Movement towards more complex society and sedentary lifestyles.
Bronze Age	2350 – 800 BC	Introduction of Bronze, construction of barrows/tumuli for the dead in the early stages replaced by a lack of monuments and the preponderance toward hoard deposition.
Iron Age	800 BC– 43 AD	Introduction of Iron and the return of monumental architecture in the form of hillforts, tribal boundaries and the introduction of coinage.
Romano-British	43-410 AD	Romano-British period including the emergence of villas and Roman infrastructure.

Anglo-Saxon	410 – 1066 AD	Post-Roman period including Saxon invasions and the arrival of Christianity.
Medieval	1066 – 1650 AD	Medieval period in Britain including Tudor activity, with arbitrary cut off point of 1650 AD.
Post-Medieval	1650 – 1900 AD	Period of rapid industrial development and changes to the English landscape.
Modern	1900 – 1950 AD	Including WWI, WWII and Cold War archaeology.

**Land Adjacent to St James' Church, Charfield,
South Gloucestershire**

**Results of an
Archaeological Watching Brief**

**On Behalf of
Charfield Parish Council**

**By
Absolute Archaeology**

NGR ST 71900 91100

Site Code AARC 40

**Authors:
Paul Martin BSc, AIFA
and Sam Driscoll BA, MA, PIFA**

15th June 2011

Summary

Absolute Archaeology was commissioned by Ms H Saunders (Clerk for Charfield Parish Council) to carry out an archaeological watching brief on 'Land Adjacent to St James' Church, Churchend Lane, Charfield, South Gloucestershire', in conjunction with the redevelopment of agricultural land, in order to establish a new burial ground for Charfield Parish (South Gloucestershire Planning Ref PT10/0060/F). The archaeological monitoring targeted landscaping works to establish a parking area in the NW corner of the site. The work was carried out on the 7th & 8th March 2011. The area targeted was previously the subject of an archaeological trench evaluation, carried out by Absolute Archaeology in November 2009, in which the footings of a post-medieval barn were revealed (Driscoll and Martin 2009: 4-8).

An area totalling circa 52m² was excavated, revealing the late 18th - 19th century post medieval footings, previously identified by Absolute Archaeology. The features located in Trench 2 during the previous evaluation are outside the development area, and were therefore not subject to the watching brief. No further features were recorded as a result of the watching brief. All features have been left in situ and will be preserved by the current development scheme.

Any enquiries should be addressed to:

Absolute Archaeology, 51 St Mary's Gardens, Hilperton Marsh, Trowbridge, Wiltshire,
BA14 7PH

Telephone: 07825550271

Email: sam.driscoll@absolutearchaeology.co.uk

Website: www.absolutearchaeology.co.uk

Maps

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Abbreviations

aOD

Above Ordnance Datum; used to express a given height above mean sea level.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Absolute Archaeology was commissioned by Ms H Saunders, (Clerk for Charfield Parish Council) to carry out an archaeological watching brief, in conjunction with the development of Charfield new burial ground, Charfield, South Gloucestershire. The monitoring was carried out over a period of two days, from the 7th- 8th March 2011. The work was carried out in response to Condition 6 of the Decision Notice issued by South Gloucestershire Council (March 2010), in relation to the plans for the '*change of use of land from agricultural land to land for use as a burial ground*' (South Gloucestershire Council Planning Application Reference PT10/0060/F).

The programme of archaeological monitoring was carried out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation, submitted by Absolute Archaeology and approved by South Gloucestershire Council, January 2011. The watching brief applied to all groundwork and ground disturbance activities undertaken in order to establish a hard standing, entrance gates and associated landscaping and does not relate to subsequent ground disturbance associated with the intended use of the site (i.e. grave digging activity). The Watching Brief targeted archaeologically sensitive areas, as identified by the evaluation, carried out by Absolute Archaeology from November 2009 (Driscoll & Martin, 2009).

This report sets out the results of the archaeological watching brief carried out in conjunction with the above development of 'Land Adjacent to St James' Church, Charfield, South Gloucestershire, GL12 8LJ. An area measuring 52m² was carefully stripped of overlying topsoil by a mini-digger with a grading bucket, to reveal the wall footings [105] and [805], and internal flooring (804) of the post medieval barn identified in the evaluation carried out by Absolute Archaeology in November 2009. The target area was cleaned by hand, photographed and additional masonry recorded.

1.1. Geology, Hydrology & Topography

The area under investigation is split between Triassic Keuper Marl and Tea Green Marl, which are all part of the Mercian Mudstone Group (BGS; Green 1992, 76).

The site is located on high ground comprising the south-western slope of the Little Avon Valley. The Little Avon River runs roughly S-N 1.2 km east of the site, making the county's eastern boundary. The Cotswold escarpment can be viewed to the east of the development area.

A pond (now removed by landscaping) was located within the current boundary of the site, in the vicinity of the well (now boarded up). Two more ponds are noted close to the site, one 70m to the north and the second located 140m to the ESE. A small tributary of the Little Avon River can be seen flowing less than 200m ESE of the site.

The site slopes from 80m-c.73m aOD to the ENE.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL/HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Romano-British activity has been identified in the form of a Roman road less than 700m from the site, running roughly NNE/SSW through the study area. No further archaeology has been identified from this period to date, but the presence of the road suggests the potential for contemporary settlement within immediate vicinity.

Significant archaeological activity within the study area is predominantly focussed around the medieval settlement of Charfield. The site is adjacent to the 13th century church of St James and is likely to be situated within the vicinity of the early medieval settlement of Charfield. Within a 1km radius of the development area is located the medieval deer park and manorial lands of Carleet.

The study area contains numerous listed monuments and buildings. The closest to the site being various mid-late 18th century chest tombs located within St James' churchyard. The location of listed buildings, including the 16th century Rectory building (now Rectory Manor Cottages), have no direct relevance to the development of the site.

Study of the 1839 Tithe map revealed the location of two large rectangular buildings within the area for development. It is proposed that the identification and interpretation of these buildings should form the primary focus of the trial excavation along with

investigation of the sites potential location within the early medieval settlement of Charfield.

3. METHODOLOGY

An area measuring 7m x 7.4m was stripped by mechanical digger to reveal the walls and internal features exposed during the trench evaluation carried out by Absolute Archaeology, November 2009 (Driscoll et al, 2011). The area was cleaned by hand, to enable the recording of features not previously revealed during the evaluation of the site. The excavation of service trenches was also monitored. All spoil was monitored for artefacts during the mechanical excavation.

All recording was carried out using Absolute Archaeology's recording system, which includes written, drawn and photographic records. The archive has been prepared using the site code AArc40.

4. RESULTS

In order to maintain continuity, the context numbers given to features identified during the trench evaluation (2009) have been maintained. Therefore all context references in the text and diagrams can be matched accordingly to the previous trench evaluation report.

The upper layers (100) & (800) measuring <150mm in depth, comprise a soft loamy topsoil. In both trenches this layer can be seen to seal a 19th century demolition layer, (101) & (801), comprising a friable clayey loam, with frequent small to medium, broken limestone fragments (10%) and moderate crushed lime mortar (5%). The layer, measuring <150mm in depth, contained 18th- 19th century pottery sherds, along with clay pipe stems (not retained).

Layer (101) sealed a rough patchy floor surface, consisting of an area of red brick [102] with thick lime mortar bedding material and patches of yellowish white lime mortar surface material, (103) and (104). Five complete bricks plus one clipped brick were revealed, laid in a rough tessellated stretcher design. The bricks, which are well worn,

appear to make up part of a rough floor surface, consisting of a combination of materials, pointing to prolonged use, necessitating frequent repair. The recent investigation of the site has revealed an extended patch of floor surface, measuring 1.1m x 500mm. The surface comprises complete and clipped bricks, set into the floor, with mortar and stone patching. To the SSE of the trench, the floor surface becomes more basic. Patches of a yellowish white mortared surface (104) remain, forming a floor with exposed areas of bedrock, which appear to have been utilised in the design. The layer comprises patches of loamy clay, with fragments of irregular stone and occasional stone tile.

The upper courses of the load bearing wall [105] located, running WSW-ENE to the NNW of Trench 1, did not survive, however occasional foundation stones were identified in line with the previously identified masonry and at a right angle to the SSE-NNW wall, which is recorded as the return (shaded dark grey, Fig 2). Wall [105] runs parallel to the brick floor surface, and is interpreted as the outer wall of a barn, similar in form and size to those identified in the Desk Based Assessment (Driscoll 2009). The single course of masonry revealed consists of the two outer leaves of dressed limestone, with a rubble limestone core bonded by patchy thick yellowish white lime mortar. The upper course measured 700mm in width and survived to a length of 1.1m. The construction appears to be cut into the natural sandstone (106). To the NNW, a large block of Ashlar sandstone abuts the outer wall. The masonry ends at this point and it is suggested that there may have been an entrance to the building in this location.

The upper course of the load bearing wall [805], which was located orientated NNW-SSE and at right angles to [105] was further revealed during the watching brief (courses shaded dark and light grey, Fig 2). The continuation of the wall was measured to a length of 4m, with a recorded width of 700mm. The location, orientation, material and width of the wall confirm that this is likely to represent the return of [105] and the remains of the ENE facing outer barn wall. However, the corner of the building has been cut by recent landscaping of the site, as identified in the trench evaluation (Driscoll, et al 2001: 9). This area of the site was seen to comprise a redeposited layer of gley clay (801), which characterised the main stratigraphy across the site.

Hand cleaning of the internal area of the structure revealed what appears to be the remains of a drainage channel, orientated SSW-NNE (shaded light brown, Fig 2). Flat sandstone fragments have been placed to form an apparent conduit, leading to the corner of the structure. This feature was originally interpreted as part of a rough flag stone floor [804] during the trench evaluation. However, the extended view of the area favours the interpretation of the feature as a drain associated with the barn.

The full extent of the building was not revealed; however wall [105] clearly continues further to the WSW and is likely to have extended to the edge of Churchend Lane. Although the early maps of the site do not provide a clear illustration of the 19th century layout, it appears from both the Tithe map (1839) and the estate map (1823-1839) that that contemporary buildings were orientated NNW-SSE and ran alongside Churchend Lane (see Fig 5). It seems sensible to suggest that the modern site boundary wall is located in the region of the WSW facing barn wall, and it is a further possibility that the structure may survive in the lower courses, or that the masonry used to construct the wall incorporates reused materials, following the demolition of the barn. Evidence for this may be suggested from a comparison of the mortar bonding the lower courses of the site boundary wall, with that noted remaining on masonry within the matrix of foundations [101] and [108]. A hard thick lime mortar bond was noted throughout, raising the potential for a relationship between the structure and the lower courses of the boundary wall. However, this is unconfirmed at this stage.

With reference to the length of the building, the previous archaeological evaluation of the site revealed evidence of rough floor surfaces, c. 12m to the SSE of wall [105]. The floor surfaces comprise the same materials noted adjacent to wall [105] and, although potentially belonging to a separate building, it is more likely that they represent a continuation of the same structure.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1.** The results of the archaeological watching brief support the initial findings, resulting from the archaeological evaluation of the site in 2009. No archaeological layers, features, deposits or finds were identified that predated the late 18th century/early 19th century. As

a result of the watching brief, we were able to enhance existing information on the nature of the site. Evidence supports cartographic sources, which appear to locate the 19th century buildings alongside Churchend Lane. Furthermore, it is possible that wall [105] is related to the footings of the existing boundary wall that runs parallel to the road. The location of the feature identified within the development area and the position of the boundary wall appear to match the building shown in the 1839 Tithe map and support the theory that the footings were once part of a roadside agricultural barn. The undulating natural bedrock geology (Triassic sandstones) was used to good effect, being incorporated into the footings for the building. Although all material recorded in the spoil was dated to the 19th-20th century, the potential for the structure to date to the late 18th century cannot be ruled out on this data alone. However, no evidence of earlier activity was recovered from this area of the site.

6. REFERENCES

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7. FIGURES

Figure 1: Site Location (Not to Scale)

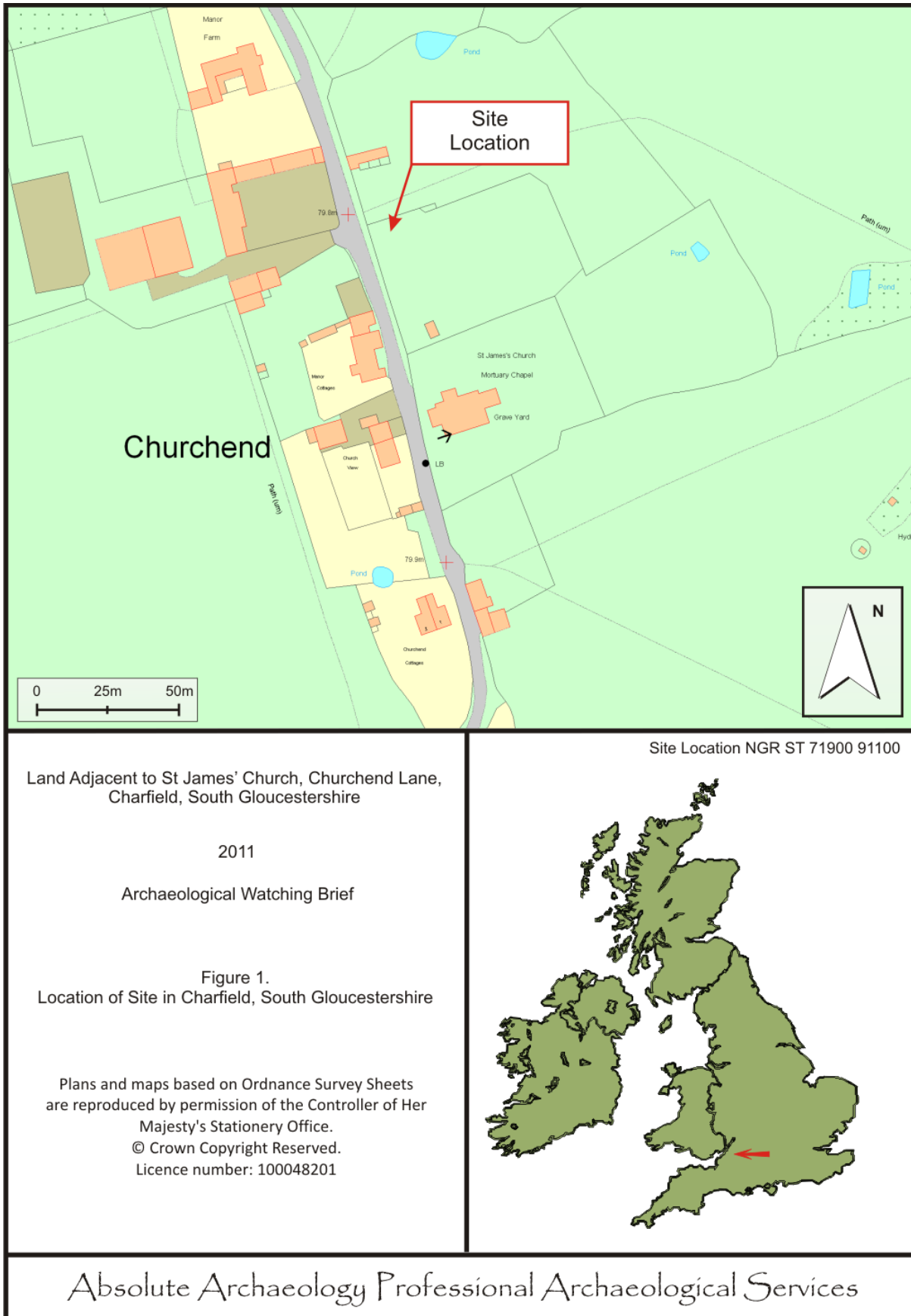


Figure 2: Position of Trench, with location of Walls Outlined (Scale 1:500)



Figure 3 Trench Plan (Scale 1:50)

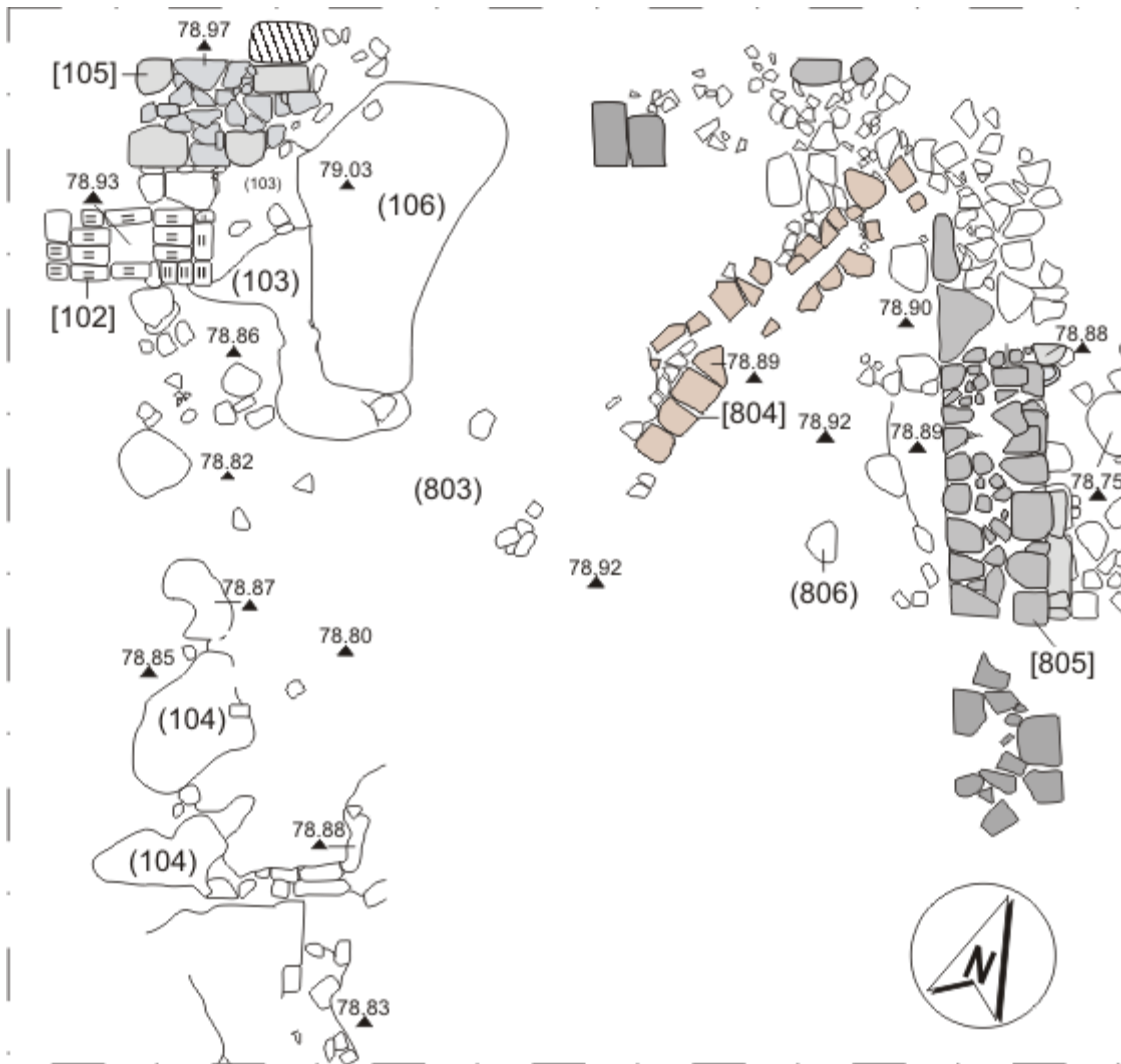
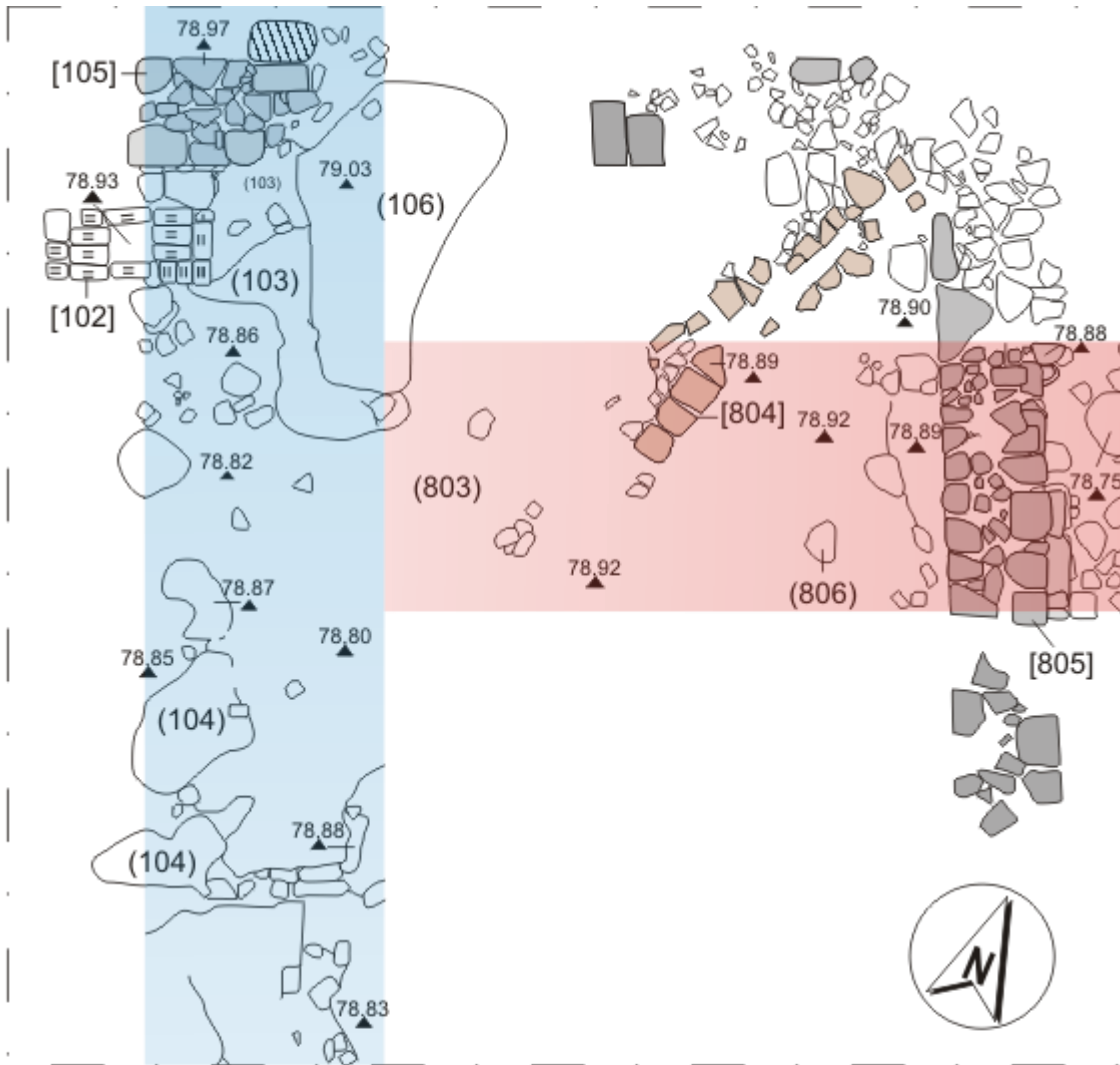


Figure 4 Trench Plan showing Location of 2009 Trench Evaluation (Scale 1:50)





-  = Location of Trench 1 (2009)
-  = Location of Trench 8 (2009)

Figure 5 Detail of damaged Tithe Map (Not to Scale) AD 1839



 = Location of site

8. PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1 Trench One (2009) showing wall [105] and adjacent floor surface, WSW facing view
(Scales 1 x 1m & 1 x 250mm)

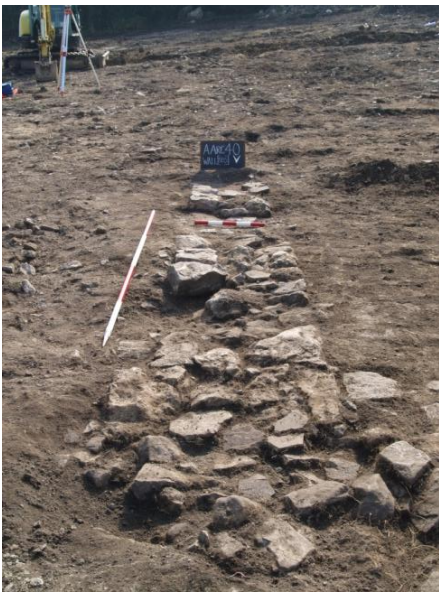


Photo 2 SSE Facing View of Wall [805]

(Scales 1 x 2m & 1 x 500mm)



Photo 3 NE Facing View of Potential Drain Feature (804)

(Scale 1 x 500mm)



Photo 4 ENE Face of Modern Site Boundary Wall
(Scales 1 x 1m & 1 x 500mm)



Photo 5 Trench Two (2009) WSW Facing View of Brick Floor
Surface (Scale 1 x 1m)