



**Blockley Cooperative
Blockley
Gloucestershire**

Archaeological Evaluation

for

The Blockley Cooperative Association Ltd

CA Project: 3417
CA Report: 11137

June 2011

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Gloucestershire

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date	02 June 2011
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date	07 June 2011
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signed	
date	09 June 2011
issue	01

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Blockley Cooperative
Location: High Street, Blockley, Gloucestershire
NGR: SP 1642 3495
Type: Evaluation
Date: 25 May 2011
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Corinium Museum
Site Code: BLK 11

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May 2011 at, High Street, Blockley, Gloucestershire. One trench was excavated.

The evaluation revealed an alluvial deposit, sealed by a modern make-up layer that had been cut by a channel, possibly a drainage trench or pipe trench, which contained fragments of ceramic drain pipe. A later, free-flowing channel containing a modern blue plastic pipe was also located, above which a modern drystone wall was built as part of the extant garden. The water channels and alluvial deposit are interpreted as evidence that the site has been waterlogged and subject to various phases of water management.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In May 2011 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Blockley Cooperative at High Street, Blockley, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SP 1642 3495; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken prior to submission of a planning application for the demolition of an existing public convenience, and erection of a single-storey cooperative store and café.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2011b) and approved by Charles Parry, Senior Archaeological Officer for Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) and archaeological advisor to Cotswold District Council (CDC). The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2008), the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Field Work in Gloucestershire* (GCC 1996), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006).

The site

- 1.3 The site encloses an area of approximately 0.02ha, and comprises a public convenience building with a small garden to the rear, surrounded by a 1.2m high drystone wall. The village post office lies immediately to the south-west, while the church and churchyard of St Peter and St Paul lies immediately to the south. A former millpond and silk mill lie to the east of the site, with Blockley High Street to the north and west. The site also lies within the Blockley Conservation Area (Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 145m AOD.
- 1.4 The underlying solid geology of the area is recorded on the 1:50,000 scale mapping as Whitby Mudstone formation of the Jurassic era; no superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2011). The natural substrate was not encountered during excavation.

Archaeological background

- 1.5 A Desk-Based Assessment has been carried out on the site (CA 2011a). It is not proposed to repeat the findings of this report; however, a summary of its findings are presented below.

- 1.6 Two flint scatters have been found near the site. An Upper Palaeolithic flint scatter with several hundred flints was found 390m south of the site (NMR 765007), and a smaller scatter of prehistoric flint was found 330m south-east of the site (NMR 330647).
- 1.7 The current settlement of Blockley was recorded in the Domesday Survey, although the settlement may have first been established in the early 8th century (Hilton and Rahtz 1996, 75). Eight Saxon inhumations were excavated 70m south-west of the site, outside the current churchyard (HER 6465). There is no further evidence for early medieval settlement in the area, and no evidence that Saxon burials continue towards the site (CA 2011a, 13).
- 1.8 At the time of the Domesday Survey, Blockley was the most valuable manor of the Bishops of Worcester, with 12 mills recorded in the parish (Hilton and Rahtz 1996, 76). The current site lies in a central location within the medieval village, and potentially within the medieval burgage plots associated with the properties along the High Street. In the post-medieval period, the site formed part of the lands of the silk mill to the east, with the mill pond leat running through it.
- 1.9 Four programmes of archaeological work have been carried out in close proximity to the site, although only two yielded features of archaeological significance. A watching brief at Glebe House, 70m south of the site, recorded a medieval wall with associated pottery (CAT 2003). A watching brief at the Crown Inn on the High Street, 190m from the site, recorded a post-medieval posthole and other cut features, which were undated (John Moore Heritage Services 2009-10).

Archaeological objectives

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

Methodology

- 1.11 The *Written Scheme of Investigation* (CA 2011b) required excavation of a single trench measuring 2.8m by 2.5m, located between the Root Protection Areas (RPAs)

of adjacent trees and a safe distance from drystone walls. Tree cover prevented a GPS signal, so the trench was located by offsetting from fixed features on site using hand tapes. The size of the trench was reduced to 2.4m by 1.1m, as shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). This was carried out to maintain a safe distance from the pond to the north (which was larger than had previously been surveyed) and to avoid the foundation of the removed wall, which was resting above a water channel. The trench was extended 0.2m to the south to maximise the area sampled while still avoiding the RPAs. The trench was stepped at the east and west sides by a distance of 0.6m at a depth of 0.6m, in order to comply with guidelines relating to the stability of the dry stone walls (AXA Insurance 2011). An area measuring 0.9m by 1.1m was therefore taken down to the maximum depth of 0.86m. During excavation, the north-west corner of the trench was found to contain a fast-flowing open water channel, which appeared to turn and run beneath dry stone wall 103. Excavation of the wall foundation and deposits below it was abandoned, to avoid contaminating the waterway.

- 1.12 The trench was excavated by hand. Excavation ceased at the top of the first significant archaeological horizon. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.13 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* (2003). No deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation* (2010).
- 1.14 Currently, the archive and artefacts from the evaluation are held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner, the artefacts will be deposited with the Corinium Museum, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS (FIG. 2)

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B respectively.
- 2.2 The earliest encountered deposit was alluvial silty sand 107 (not illustrated), which contained gravel inclusions and was revealed in the side of the vertical cut for channel 106. Alluvium 107 was overlain by fine sandy clay make-up layer 102, which contained modern brick fragments and one late medieval pottery sherd. Layer 102 was cut by channel 106, running south-west to north-east and filled by rubble deposit 105, which contained glass, stone roof tile and fragments of glazed drain. This was sealed by rubble dumped deposit 101, which was overlain by topsoil 100, both of which contained post-medieval and modern pottery. The topsoil had been truncated by construction cut 108, which contained bedding layer 104 and dry stone wall foundation 103. During excavation, a fast-flowing channel that appeared to turn and run beneath wall foundation 103, towards the lake to the east of the site, was revealed in the north-west corner of the trench. The channel was unsupported (e.g. by masonry) and contained a blue plastic pipe.

The Finds

- 2.3 Quantities of artefactual material, comprising pottery, bottle glass, metal artefacts, plastic, ceramic building material and a roofing stone, were recovered from four deposits (Appendix B). All the finds derive from deposits dating no earlier than the 20th century and none of the recovered material will be retained.
- 2.4 A single sherd of late medieval pottery, identified as of Malvernian redware type, was recovered from make-up deposit 102, together with a fragment of modern brick. Post-medieval and modern pottery sherds were noted from topsoil 100 and rubble deposit 101. The majority are sherds in refined whiteware with transfer-print decoration.
- 2.5 A roof tile of Cotswolds type shelly limestone was recovered from rubble deposit 105 (fill of channel cut 106). The tile is of 'diamond' shape with a nail hole at its apex, and is possibly a re-deposited Roman example.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The depositional sequence located at the site is dominated by water management activities. Two water channels were located in the trench, and it is known from cartographic sources that a similar, wider channel is to be expected further south (CA 2011a). Furthermore, there is evidence of water-lain deposits, and the water table was found during excavation to be high.
- 3.2 The earliest deposit revealed, alluvial silty sand 107, must have been deposited within a paleochannel, or as a result of sedimentation in a marshy environment, or as a result of flooding events such as transgressions from a nearby body of water, i.e. the nearby millpond or a predecessor of it.
- 3.3 Later, channel 106 was created, running in the direction of the mill pond. Only the southern edge of this channel was located, the rest of it being north of the trench, but its orientation suggests it runs diagonally across the area proposed for the Co-Operative Shop cellar. Channel 106 was infilled during the modern period, and ceramic drain fragments found within its rubble backfill suggest that it is more likely to have been a buried drain or a horizontally truncated culvert, rather than an open channel.
- 3.4 A later phase of water management activity is represented by the still-active watercourse running underneath drystone wall 103, which was used as a culvert for a small modern pipe.
- 3.5 These channels may have been constructed to drain the area so it can be used for occupation may have been excavated to bring water to the adjacent mill pond.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Rebecca Riley, assisted by Hazel O'Neill. The report was written by Rebecca Riley with the artefactual report compiled by Angela Aggujaro. The illustrations were prepared by Jon Bennett. The archive has been compiled by Rebecca Riley, and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Tom Wilson.

5. REFERENCES

- AXA Insurance 2011 *Safety in Groundworks and Excavations* ([https://www.axaipartners.co.uk/axabr/axabr/docs/Risk%20Management%20Guides/Safety in Groundworks and Excavations - Your Practical Guide.pdf](https://www.axaipartners.co.uk/axabr/axabr/docs/Risk%20Management%20Guides/Safety%20in%20Groundworks%20and%20Excavations%20Your%20Practical%20Guide.pdf) accessed 24 May 2011)
- BGS (British Geological Survey) 2011 *Geology of Britain Viewer* (http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html accessed 08 June 2011)
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011a *Land at Blockley, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*, CA Report No. **11011**
- CA 2011b *Blockley Cooperative, Blockley, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*
- CAT (Cotswold Archaeological Trust) 2003 *Glebe House, Blockley, Gloucestershire: Programme of Archaeological Recording* CA Report No. **03080**
- Hilton R.H. & Rahtz P.A. 1966 'Upton, Gloucestershire, 1959-1964' *Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Transactions* **85** 70-147
- John Moore Heritage Services 2010 *The Crown Inn, High Street, Blockley*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Garden soil: dark grey sandy silt, heavily rooted	n/k	n/k	0.36	Modern
101	Layer	Make-up deposit for wall 103: mid yellowish-grey sandy silt with very frequent small limestone fragments	n/k	n/k	0.22	Modern
102	Layer	Dumped deposit: light yellow fine, powdery sandy clay	n/k	n/k	0.08	u/k
103	Masonry	Roughly-faced dry stone wall	4.5	0.5	0.1	Modern
104	Layer	Sand, clay and gravel bedding for wall 103	n/k	n/k	0.1	Modern
105	Fill	Fill of 106, stone roof tile, frag. of drain	>1.84	>0.7	>0.33	u/k
106	Cut	Cut of channel running south-west/ north-east	>1.84	>0.7	>0.33	u/k
107	Layer	Alluvial deposit: mid yellowish-grey silty sand with frequent small river gravels			≥0.05	u/k
108	Cut	Construction cut for dry stone wall 103	4.5	0.5	0.33	Modern


APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Description	Ct.	Wt.	Date
100	Post-medieval/modern pottery: refined whiteware, brown glazed earthenware, red glazed earthenware, yellow ware	6	82	C20
	Bottle glass	1	3	
	Plastic	1	1	
101	Bottle glass	2	12	C20
	Post-medieval/modern pottery: refined whiteware	1	4	
	Iron object	1	6	
	Copper Alloy cartridge case	1	5	
102	Ceramic Building Material: press moulding brick	1	248	C20
	Medieval pottery: Malvernian red ware	1	3	
105	Stone (Shelly limestone) roof tile with nail hole	1	1367	C20
	Bottle brown glass	1	51	
	Drain pipe fragment	2	n/a	

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Blockley Cooperative	
Short description (250 words maximum)	The evaluation revealed an alluvial deposit, sealed by a modern make-up layer that had been cut by a channel, possibly a drainage trench or pipe trench, which contained fragments of ceramic drain pipe. A later, free-flowing channel containing a modern blue plastic pipe was also located, above which a modern drystone wall was built as part of the extant garden. The water channels and alluvial deposit are interpreted as evidence that the site has been waterlogged and subject to various phases of water management. While the presence of prehistoric archaeological remains cannot be ruled out, this evaluation suggests that the site was too waterlogged to be attractive for human occupation during historic periods.	
Project dates	25 May 2011	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011 Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment CA Report No. 11011	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Blockley, Gloucestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.02Ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SP 1642 3495	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	N/A	
Project Design (WSI) originator	CA	
Project Manager	Tom Wilson	
Project Supervisor	Rebecca Riley	
MONUMENT TYPE	none	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	none	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Corinium Museum	none
Paper	Corinium Museum	Trench Recording Form, Context sheets, Levels Register, Photo Registers, Drawings, Bulk finds sheet
Digital	Corinium Museum	Database, digital photos, survey data
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011 <i>Blockley Cooperative, Blockley, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 11137		



 COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY			
PROJECT TITLE Blockley Cooperative Blockley, Gloucestershire			
FIGURE TITLE Site location plan			
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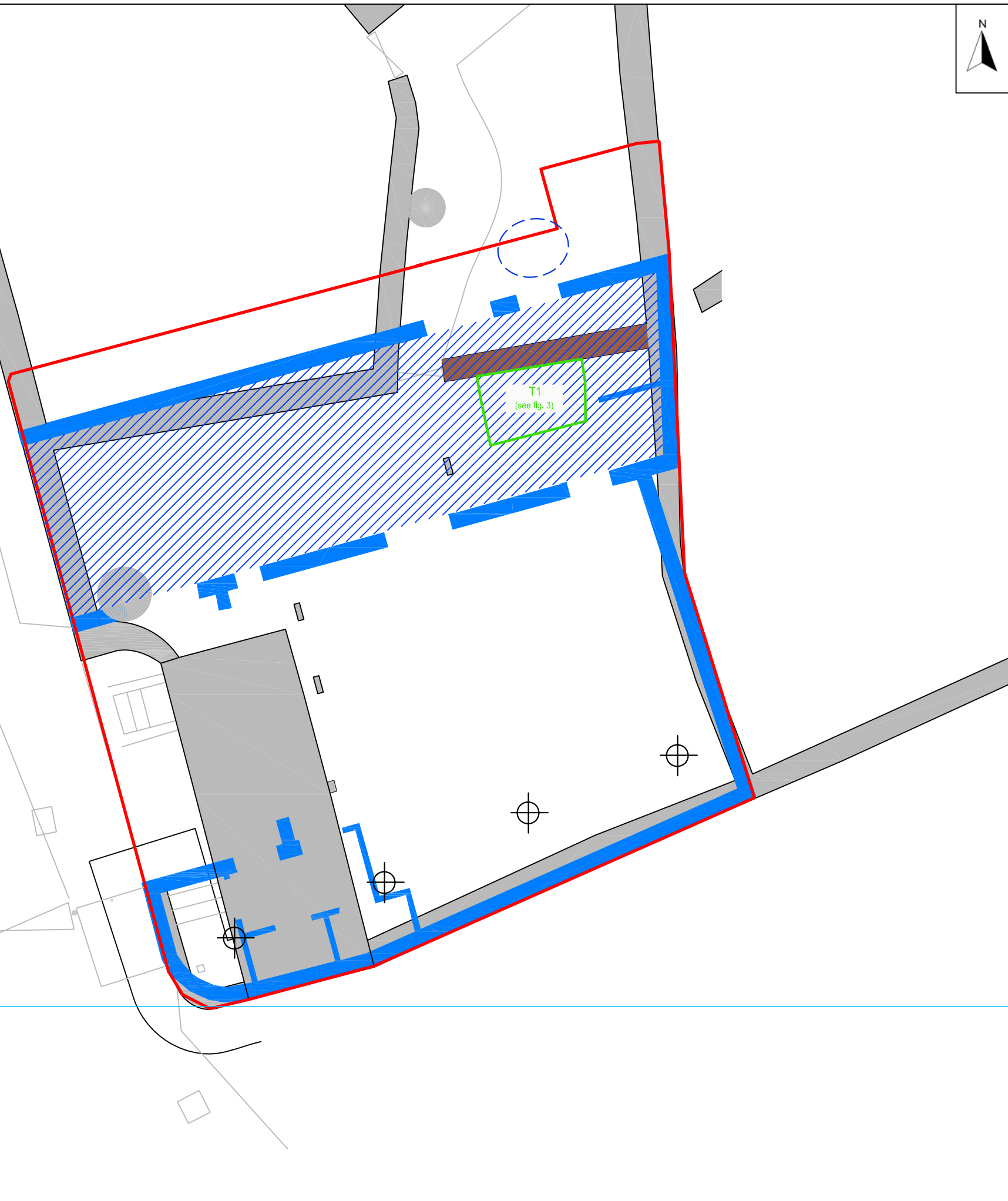
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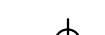




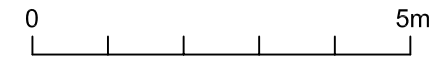
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3495



-  Planning Application Area
-  evaluation trench
-  existing buildings
-  proposed building
-  proposed cellar
-  pile - indicative location
-  pond
-  wall foundation

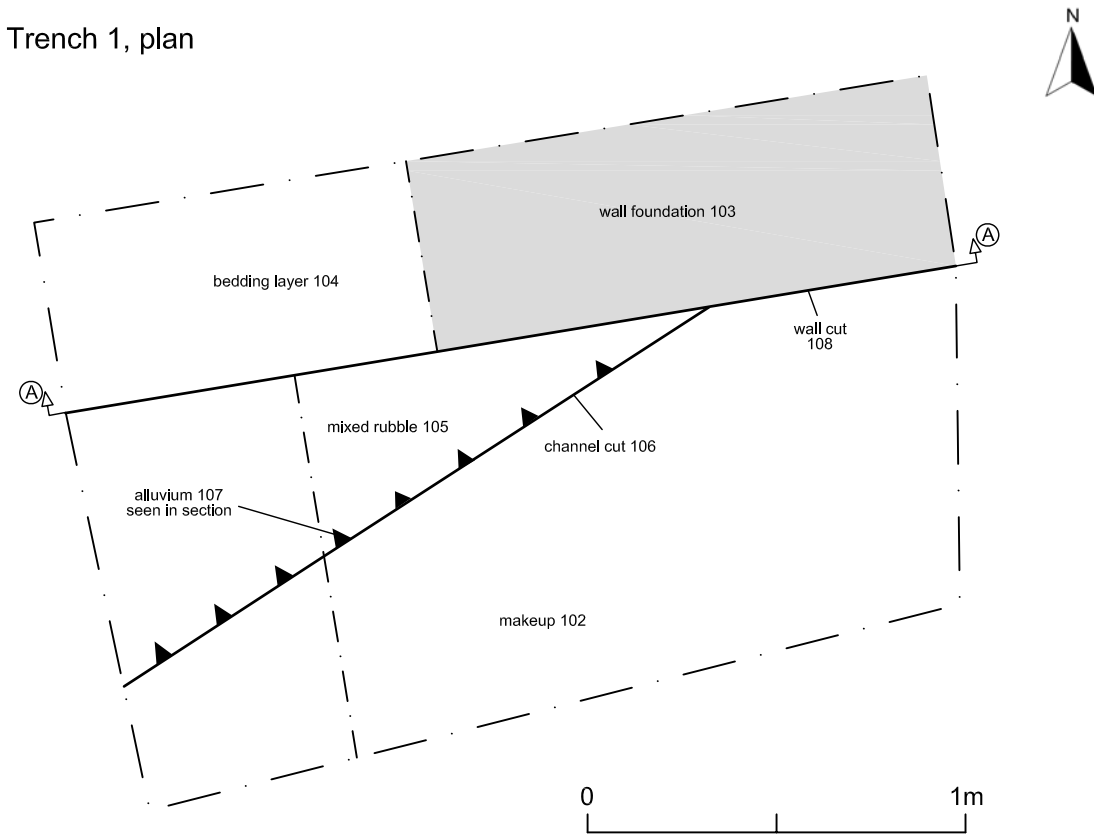


PROJECT TITLE
**Blockley Cooperative, Blockley
Gloucestershire**

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan

DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
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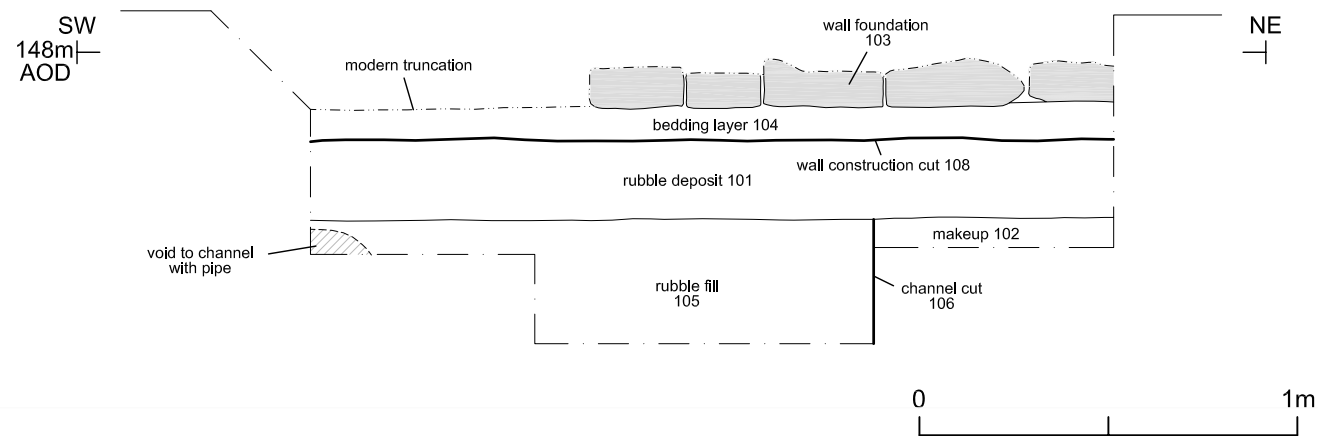
Trench 1, plan



Photograph of trench location, marked by flags, and showing the wall, pond and path, looking north

- · — · — limit of excavation
- - - - - step in excavation
- - - - - truncation
- wall foundation
- feature cut

Trench 1, Section AA



Photograph of Trench 1, looking South-west (scale 1m)



PROJECT TITLE
Blockley Cooperative Evaluation

FIGURE TITLE
Trench 1; Plan, Section and Photographs

DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
J.B	1:20 @ A3	3417	3