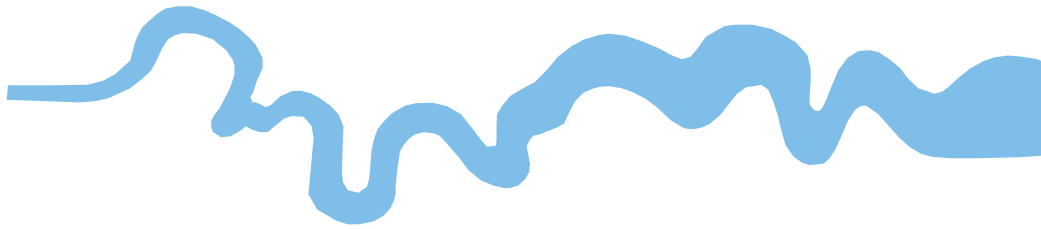


**T V A S**



**SOUTH WEST**

**Greenacre, Spring Lane,  
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by Mariusz Paszkiewicz**

**Site Code: GPG23/165**

**(SO 9677 2458)**

# **Greenacre, Spring Lane, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
for Armour Heritage Limited**

by Mariusz Paszkiewicz

TVAS South West

Site Code GPG 23/165

**September 2023**

## Summary

**Site name:** Greenacre, Spring Lane, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire

**Grid reference:** SO 9677 2458

**Site activity:** evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 12th August 2023

**Project manager:** Agata Socha-Paszkiwicz

**Site supervisor:** Mariusz Paszkiewicz

**Site code:** GPG 23/165

**Area of site:** 0.11 ha

**Summary of results:** The evaluation was carried out as intended, with the only feature recorded being an undated drystone wall. Map evidence suggests it may predate the enlargement of the moat in the later 19th/early 20th century.

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at TVAS South West, Taunton and will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service in due course.

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[www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp](http://www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp).*

|   |
|---|
| Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 03.10.23<br>Steve Preston ✓ 03.10.23 |
|---|

# Greenacre, Spring Lane, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire Archaeological Evaluation

by Mariusz Paszkiewicz

Report 23/165

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Greenacre, Spring Lane, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire (SO 9677 2458) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Sue Farr of Armour Heritage Limited, Foghamshire Timber Yard, Foghamshire Lane, Trudoxhill, Frome, Somerset, BA11 5DG on behalf of the client.

A planning application will be submitted to Cheltenham Borough Council for the development of the 0.11ha parcel of land. The results of a field evaluation have been requested to inform potential development on the land with regard to the site's archaeological potential and to help formulate a mitigation strategy as necessary'.

This is in accordance with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2023), and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification (Farr 2023) approved by Ms Rachel Foster of Gloucestershire County Archaeological Service, the archaeological adviser to Cheltenham Borough Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Agata Socha-Paszkiewicz and Mariusz Paszkiewicz on 12th August 2023 and the site code is GPG 23/165. The archive is presently held at TVAS South West, Taunton and will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service in due course.

## Location, topography and geology

The site is located on northern edge of village Prestbury immediately to the north-east of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire (Fig. 1). The site is a rectangular plot of land of 0.11ha and comprises a house, garage and garden. The site is bounded to the south by a residential area, directly to the west of a Scheduled Monument of Prestbury Moat, moated site (NHLE entry 1018448), to the north by pasture fields and to the east by Spring Lane (Fig. 2). The elevation of the site varies between 76m and 74m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) and the underlying geology is mapped as Charmouth Mudstone Formation, with no recorded superficial deposits (BGS 2017).

## **Archaeological background**

The site's archaeological background has been highlighted in the written scheme of investigation (Farr 2023). The manor of Prestbury is mentioned in Domesday Book (1086) as being held by Robert, Bishop of Hereford. It was assessed at 30 hides. In demesne were 3 ploughs; and the population of 18 villans and 5 bordars had 9 ploughs. There was also a priest, and one radknight (a knight with specific services duties, usually including riding as escort to the lord) with 2 ploughs (William and Martin 2002, 453). The manor also drew in the rent from one burgess in Wichcombe (18 pence) and there is an unusual notation for 11 slave and female slaves (not usually differentiated); there were 20 acres of meadow and half a square league of woodland. The village of Sevenhampton also belonged to Prestbury and actually accounted for 20 of the total 30 hides (the population is enumerated separately). In total (including Sevenhampton) the manor was worth £12 in 1066 (when it was also the Bishop's land) and £16 in 1086.

The site is located immediately west of the Scheduled 'Moated Site 570m west of Laxton Meadow Farm' which reaches right up to the boundary of Greenacre. The scheduled area comprises two adjoining rectangular, moated enclosures oriented N-W to S-E; both were originally surrounded by a continuous earthen bank. The southern part of both enclosures and the east side of the eastern area lie under and immediately around houses built between about 1900 and the 1960s. The manor of Prestbury belonged to the Bishops of Hereford by the later ninth century, and it is possible that there may have been a house on the site from that date, although the earliest excavated evidence dates from the 11th century. Excavations undertaken within the western enclosure in 1937 and 1951 revealed the foundations of the medieval manor house in the centre of the area. Finds indicated that the main period of occupation was from the 12th century through to the 17th century, when the building is known to have fallen into ruin (O'Neil 1956). Documentary sources also indicate that the eastern enclosure contained 'the stable for carts next the gate, the ox-house, the great stable, the pig sty, the sow house, three barns and the fishpond.

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the evaluation was to provide further information on the archaeological resource within the site, including the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality, date and state of preservation of any buried archaeological remains that might be affected by the proposed redevelopment.

Specific aims of the project are:

to clarify the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the site that may be impacted by development;

to identify, within the constraints of evaluation, the date, character, condition and depth of any surviving remains within the site;

to assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits; and

to produce a report which will present the results of the evaluation in such detail to allow an informed decision to be made concerning the site's archaeological potential.

The potential and significance of any such deposits located were to be assessed according to research priorities such as those set out by Historic England (2017) or any more local or thematic research priorities as necessary (Webster 2008).

A single trench was to be opened, measuring approximately 10m long and 1.8m wide. The trench was to be excavated mechanically under constant archaeological supervision to expose the top of the archaeologically relevant horizon or the natural geology. Where archaeological features were certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools. Sufficient of any archaeological features and deposits exposed were to be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims outlined above but without compromising the integrity of any features or deposits which might warrant preservation *in situ*, or might better be excavated under conditions pertaining full excavation. A programme of environmental sampling was to take place where sufficiently well stratified subsoil deposits were located. Metal detectors were used to enhance the recovery of metal finds (without success).

## **Results**

### Trench 1

The single trench (Figs 2 and 3; Pls 1 and 2) was aligned north-west to south east and was 11.2m long, 1.6m width and from 0.40 to 0.70m deep. The trench was re-orientated to avoid a mains drain and live cable. The natural geology was not reached at approximately 1.5m from the north-east end of the trench to avoid damage to the main roots of the nearby mature tree. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.24m of dark grey brown silty sand topsoil (50) above 0.11m of red brown silty clay made ground (51) overlying brown silty clay with frequent roughly hewn limestone, a drystone wall collapse deposit (52). All sat on a natural light yellow brown mudstone. At 9.7m from the trench's west end the foundation trench (1) of the wall (53) was located. It was running almost S - N and was 0.60m wide and 0.42m deep (up to three stone courses).

The only find recovered from the trench or the spoil heap was a single sherd of mid-20th-century creamware pottery from collapse 52.

## Conclusion

The evaluation has successfully investigated the site as intended. Despite the high archaeological potential given the site's location adjacent to the scheduled moated enclosure, investigation revealed only a single feature, an undated drystone wall. Relying on a find of a sherd of cream ware recovered from the collapse deposit the wall was made redundant sometime in 1960s during the construction of existing house and landscaping of its garden. On the basis of these results, the site is considered to have low archaeological potential, however the wall may be related to the manor farm buildings indicated in documentary sources.

Map regression (Pls 3 and 4) shows the site lay within the eastern moated and banked enclosure on the 1903 (Second Edition) Ordnance Survey, but this was markedly not present on the First Edition (1887) when only the western of the two moated enclosures was shown (and annotated 'Moat' as an antiquity). The houses to the south are shown by 1923, by when the eastern 'moat' has also changed appearance, but there is nothing on the site that corresponds to the drystone wall on any of these maps. The location of the wall can be seen to be roughly where O'Neil mapped the eastern moat (a feature which only appeared between 1887 and 1903) so it is probable that it predates 1903 and was removed when the eastern 'moat' was added (Fig. 4).

## References

- BGS, 2017, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 217, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- CIFA, 2020, *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Reading
- Farr, S, 2023, 'Greenacre, Spring Lane, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Field Evaluation', Armour Heritage project **AH1809**, Frome
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- NPPF, 2023, *National Planning Policy Framework (revised)*, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, London
- O'Neil, H E 1956, 'Prestbury Moat', *Trans Bristol Gloucestershire Archaeol Soc* **75**, 5–34
- Webster, C J (ed), 2008, *The Archaeology of South-West England; South-West Archaeological Research Framework Resources Assessment and Research Agenda*, Somerset County Council, Taunton
- Williams, A and Martin, G H, 2002, *Domesday Book, a complete translation*, London

**APPENDIX 1: Trench details.**

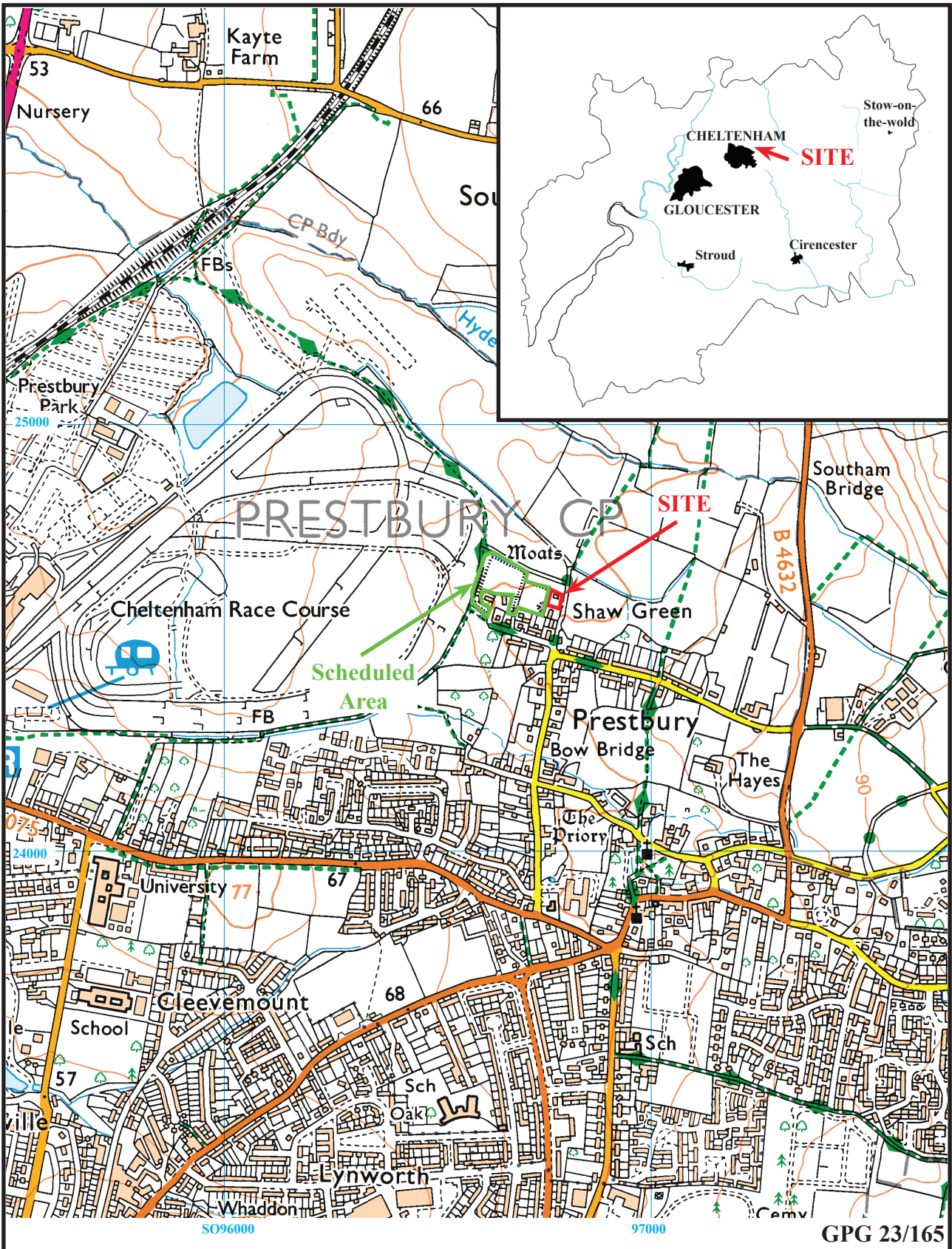
|   | <i>Length (m)</i> | <i>Breadth (m)</i> | <i>Depth (m)</i> | <i>Comment</i>  |
|---|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|---|
| 1 | 11.20             | 1.86               | 0.40-0.70        | 0-0.24m Topsoil; 0.24-0.35m Made Ground (54); 0.35-0.47m Collapse (52); 0.47+ Light yellow brown mudstone- natural geology; Dry wall foundation trench 1. <b>[Pls. 1 and 2]</b> |

**APPENDIX 2: Feature details**

| <i>Trench</i> | <i>Cut</i> | <i>Fill (s)</i> | <i>Type</i>                | <i>Date</i> | <i>Dating evidence</i> |
|---------------|------------|-----------------|----------------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| 1             |            | 50              | Topsoil                    |             |                        |
| 1             |            | 51              | Made Ground                | Modern      | Stratigraphy           |
| 1             |            | 52              | Collapse                   | Modern      | Pottery                |
| 1             | 1          | 53              | Dry wall foundation trench | Undated     |                        |



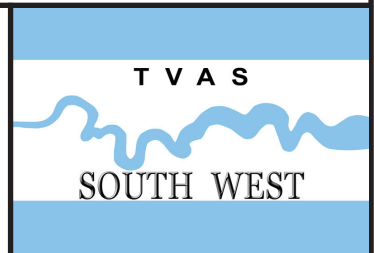




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Figure 1. Location of site within Cheltenham and Gloucestershire.

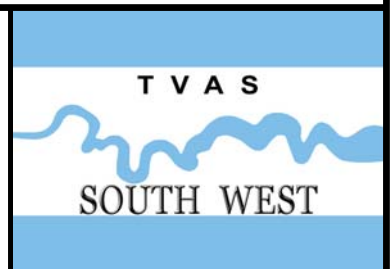
Reproduced under licence from Ordnance Survey Explorer Digital mapping at 1:12500  
Crown Copyright reserved



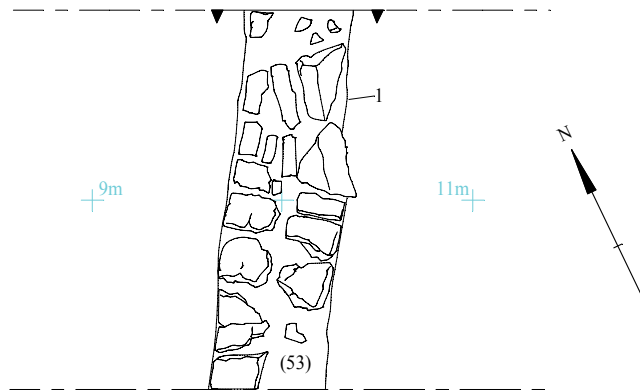


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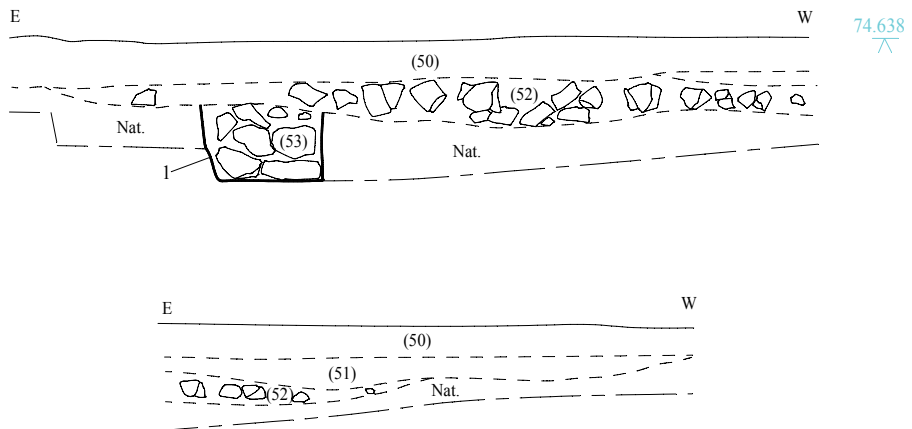
Figure 2. Detailed location of site on Spring Lane, showing location of trench and adjacent earthworks.



Trench 1



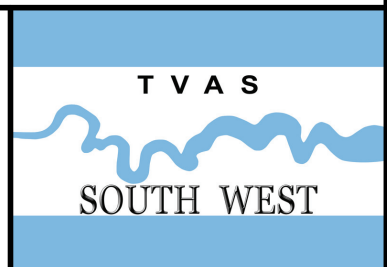
Trench 1

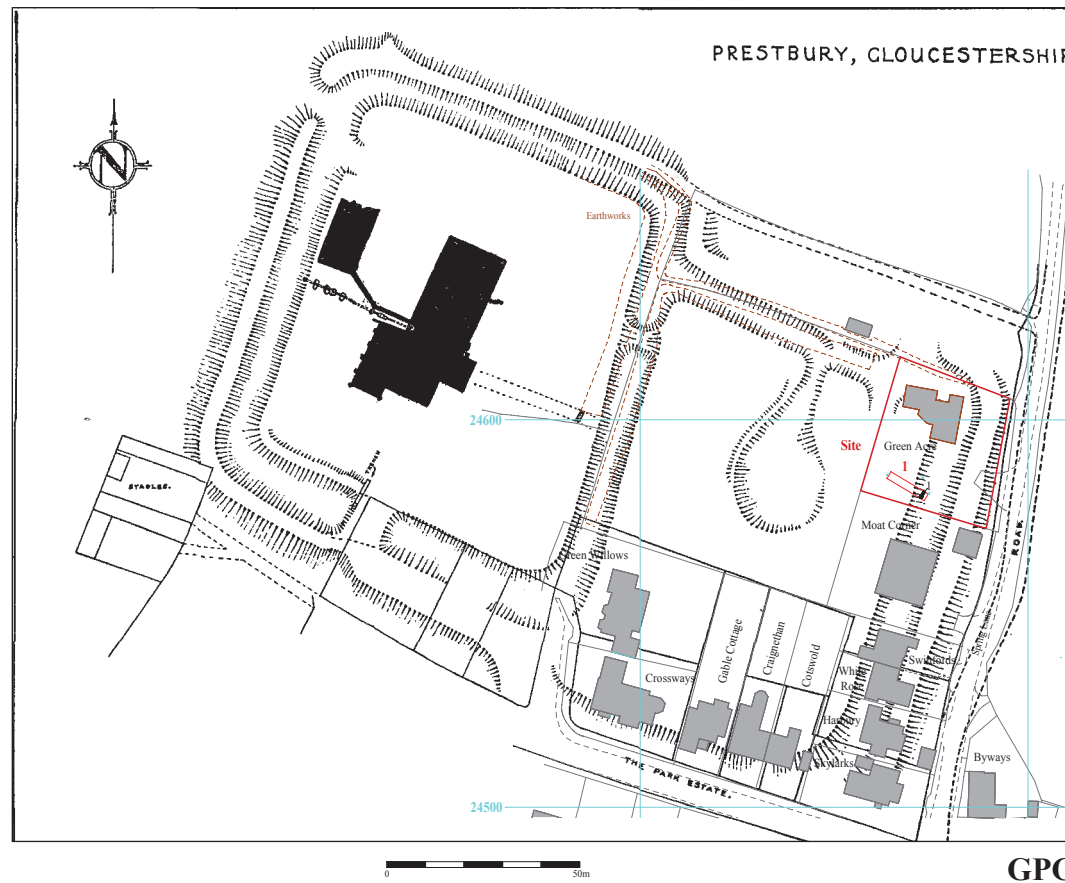
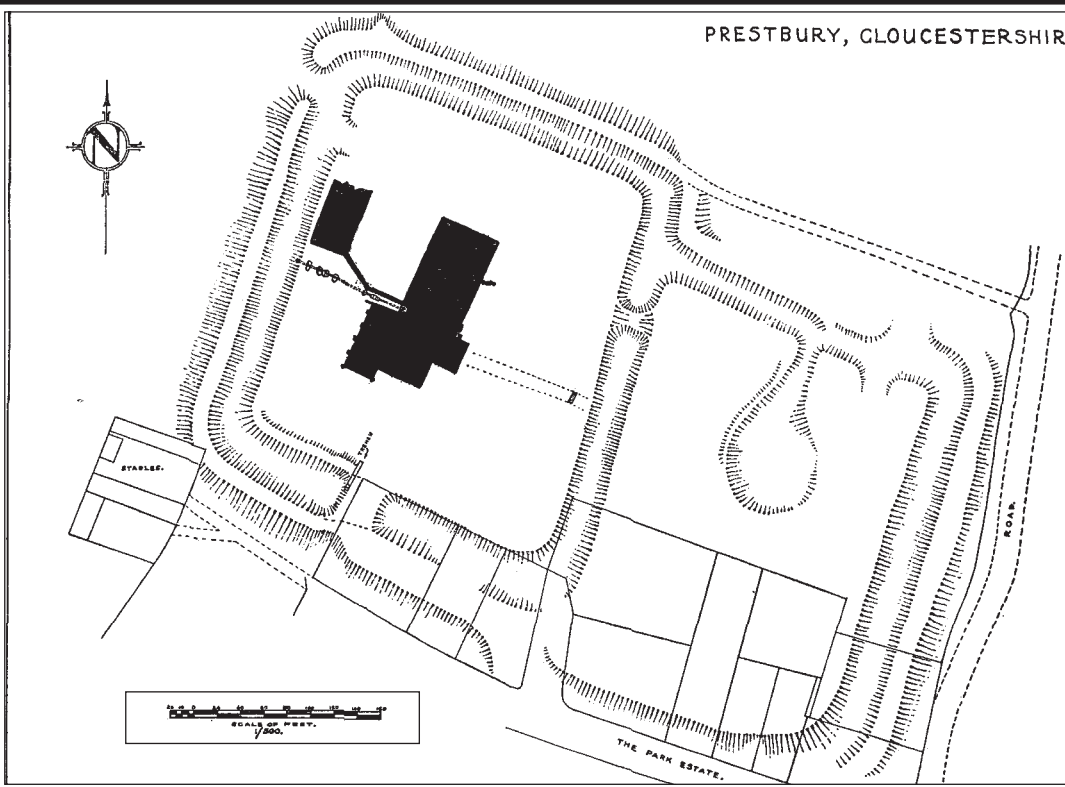


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Figure 3. Trench plan and section.





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Figure 4. O'Neil's 1951 excavation plan (O'Neil 1956, fig. 1) above and, below, the same with site overlaid (approximate).

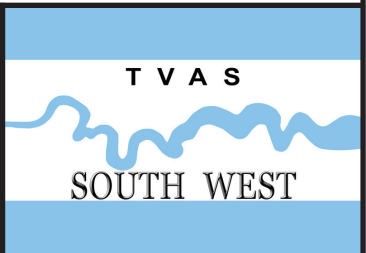






Plate 1. Trench 1, looking South-West, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 2. Foundation of the dry wall 1. Looking West, Scales: 1m and 0.5m.

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**Greenacre, Spring Lane,  
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Plates 1 and 2.





Plate 3. Ordnance Survey First Edition (surveyed 1882-4, published 1887) Glos Sheet xxvi.4



Plate 4. Ordnance Survey Second Edition (revised 1901, published 1903) (reproductions not to same scale)

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**Greenacre, Spring Lane,  
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Archaeological Evaluation  
Plates 3 and 4.

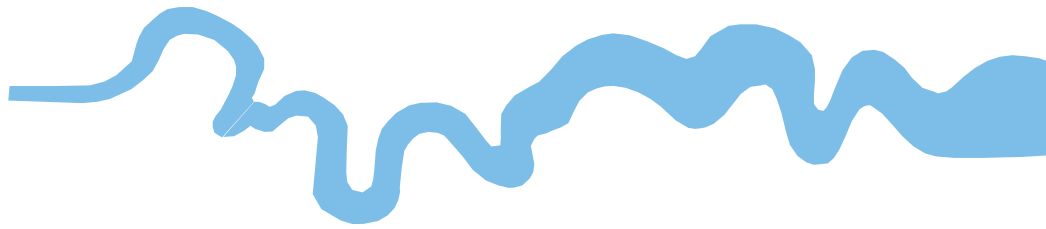


## TIME CHART

|                            | Calendar Years   |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| Modern _____               | AD 1901          |
| Victorian _____            | AD 1837          |
| Post Medieval _____        | AD 1500          |
| Medieval _____             | AD 1066          |
| Saxon _____                | AD 410           |
| Roman _____                | AD 43<br>AD 0 BC |
| Iron Age _____             | 750 BC           |
| <br>                       |                  |
| Bronze Age: Late _____     | 1300 BC          |
| Bronze Age: Middle _____   | 1700 BC          |
| Bronze Age: Early _____    | 2100 BC          |
| <br>                       |                  |
| Neolithic: Late .....      | 3300 BC          |
| Neolithic: Early .....     | 4300 BC          |
| <br>                       |                  |
| Mesolithic: Late .....     | 6000 BC          |
| Mesolithic: Early .....    | 10000 BC         |
| <br>                       |                  |
| Palaeolithic: Upper .....  | 30000 BC         |
| Palaeolithic: Middle ..... | 70000 BC         |
| Palaeolithic: Lower .....  | 2,000,000 BC     |







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