

# Urban Archaeology

*...define, record, remove...*



## **52 Kingsholm Road, Gloucester**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

**For Dan Ponting**

**on behalf of Warrior Investments Ltd**

Chiz Harward BA MCIfA

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## Archaeological Watching Brief Report

# 52 Kingsholm Road, Gloucester

Client: Dan Ponting on behalf of Warrior Investments Ltd  
Local Authority: Gloucester City Council  
Planning ref: 18/01254/FUL  
NGR: SO 8351 1931  
Project no: UA206  
Author: Chiz Harward BA MCIfA  
Doc Ref: UA206\_wb\_report\_v1  
Date: March 5th 2019  
Site Code: KIN19  
Oasis ID: urbanarc1-343547

*Front cover: view of the excavated area, looking west; 0.5m scale*

### **Urban Archaeology**

A trading name of Charles Harward BA MCIfA

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## Non Technical Summary

Urban Archaeology was commissioned by Dan Ponting on behalf of Warrior Investments Ltd to carry out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with a new extension at 52 Kingsholm Road, Gloucester. The watching brief took place during February 2019.

The watching brief consisted of the excavation of an area measuring 7.4 by 4.6m to 12.28m OD with a perimeter trench extending down to 12.13m OD. Modern ground level adjacent to the excavation was at 12.71m OD.

Natural ground was not observed during the watching brief. Across the excavated area a dark grey loamy deposit was exposed, this is probably a post-medieval cultivation soil or reworked 'Dark Earth' deposit predating the construction of the current property. Pottery from the deposit dates to the Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods. Later activity was restricted to truncation for the former extension and associated drainage.

The results of the watching brief have met the aims of ensuring that an adequate archaeological record has been made of the remains disturbed, exposed or destroyed by the groundworks. The groundworks were largely confined within modern made ground, with limited truncation of post-medieval cultivation soils/Dark Earth. The results of the watching brief are of local significance only and no further work is recommended on the site archive.

# 1 Introduction and planning background

1.1 On February 27th and 28th 2019 Urban Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief for Dan Ponting on behalf of Warrior Investments Ltd, 52 Kingsholm Road, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, GL1 3BH, SO 8351 1931 during the demolition and replacement of the existing single storey rear extension (Fig. 1).

1.2 The watching brief was required to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent for the construction of an extension to the rear of the existing building (planning ref. 18/01254/FUL):

#### *Condition 4*

*No development or groundworks shall take place within the application site until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The approved development shall then be carried out in accordance with the agreed scheme of investigation.*

#### *Reason*

*To make provision for a programme of archaeological mitigation, so as to record and advance understanding of any heritage assets which will be lost, in accordance with paragraph 199 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2018) and Policy SD8 of the Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Joint Core Strategy (Adopted December 2017).*

1.3 The architect's drawings outlined the proposed works, which were to replace the existing extension with a new, larger extension which would require excavation of the new footprint (Homeplan Drafting Services, 2018).

1.4 A detailed methodology for the archaeological watching brief of the site was set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Harward 2019) which was approved by Andrew Armstrong, City Archaeologist. The fieldwork followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (ClfA 2014a), and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006).

# 2 Site background

2.1 The site is two storey domestic dwelling with basement on the east side of Kingsholm Road. The property has an existing kitchen and bathroom extension at the rear of the property, with a garden to the rear. The area of the site is relatively flat and lies at approximately 12m AOD.

2.2 The solid geology beneath the site is mapped as Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation; superficial deposits of Cheltenham Sand and Gravel are mapped at the site (British Geological Survey 2019).

### 3 Archaeological and historical background

- 3.1 There is currently limited evidence for prehistoric activity within Gloucester. The site lies to the east of the Roman Road which runs on the line of Kingsholm Road (HER 8090), and probably lies to the south of the 1st century Kingsholm Roman fortress (Garrod & Heighway 1984). Archaeological investigations within the northeastern corner of Kingsholm Rugby Stadium have identified a ditch and associated metalled surface that may form part of the outer defences of the fortress. Elsewhere within the stadium investigations have revealed Roman features including an occupation surface (GCCAS 1994). At the East Stand refuse pits and a 1st-century AD kiln, which was preserved *in situ*, were revealed (110 Archaeology 2004).
- 3.2 In the later 1st century the Kingsholm Fortress was abandoned in favour of a new site at Gloucester (*Glevum*). The Kingsholm area was then used for agriculture before becoming part of the extensive Roman cemetery which developed to the north of Gloucester (Heighway 2012, 64). The current site is believed to be located within the cemetery and Roman burials have been found within 50m to the north of the site (information from HER 38476):
- 3.3 At 64–66 Kingsholm Road, Gloucester, two Roman inhumations were found during building works and led to limited investigations by the Gloucester Museum. The investigations showed the graves had been disturbed on a previous occasion when the houses were built. Both graves were very shallow and cut through brown soil into the natural sand. The grave nearer the road had been lined with packed earth from the original excavation. This grave was more or less parallel with Kingsholm Road, with the head lying towards the north. No grave goods remained "in situ" though a large number of sherds of a Holfheim type flagon were scattered in the vicinity. The second burial was found at the extreme eastern end of the site and had been almost entirely cut away by the contractor's trench. A small exploratory trench was dug to the east of the burial parallel to the road, which recorded an east-west aligned foundation trench of the former cottages and the bowl of a late medieval clay pipe. On the south side of the site a large partial rectangular pit was recorded, measuring 14 feet east-west. The feature was not fully excavated but much Roman and a scatter of later pottery was recovered from the upper levels. The Roman pottery assemblage was of 1st to 4th century in date and included local and imported wares. Several sherds of medieval pottery were also recorded.
- 3.4 A partial inhumation, presumed to be Roman in date, was discovered on the south side of Vine Terrace, Gloucester in 1965. The leg bones of the inhumation were found during the digging of a gully-hole.
- 3.5 In 1973 a Roman inhumation was found and reported by the house owner of 15 Sebert Street, Gloucester, during the digging of foundations for a building extension. The skeleton lay extended with its head to the west. The grave was cut 90cms below the modern surface and 20cms below the surface of a layer of red sand underlying brown loam. The grave was lined with Oolite slabs almost 20cms square. One nail was found with the burial.

- 3.6 In 1985 a watching brief on the construction of four houses 60m east of the site found possible evidence of Roman occupation, and several unstratified 3rd–4th century coins, a trumpet brooch and rectangular belt plate; no burials were seen. Building sill slots were supposedly found in the recreation ground to the east in 1943 (information supplied by Andrew Armstrong).
- 3.7 Following the Roman period the cemetery fell out of the use, and site appears to have reverted to agricultural use. To the west of the site in the 11th century a Saxon palace was thought to have been constructed at Kingsholm Close, (HER 1607), which was replaced by a stone-built manor house by the late 13th century.
- 3.8 In the post-medieval period outworks of the civil war defences (HER 877) are believed to have been located to the north of the site. The 1780 City of Gloucester map shows the site within an area of orchard, immediately north of a building on the east side of Kingsholm Road, the turnpike road from Gloucester to Norton (HER 41800). An enclosure award map of 1799 shows that the site lay in fields south of Gallows Lane (now Denmark Road) and east of Snaky Lane in an area of agricultural land (Heighway 2012, Fig. 3). The site is part of a terrace of four houses built immediately north of the White Hart public house. Inspection of historic mapping shows that the site was built on by the 1884 Ordnance Survey six inch to the mile map (OS 1884).

## 4 Aims of the watching brief

- 4.1 The objectives of the watching brief are to record, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains that will be exposed or destroyed by the proposed development. Attention will be given to sites and remains of all periods (including evidence of past environments).

## 5 Methodology

- 5.1 All work was carried out in accordance with the relevant *Standards and Guidance* produced by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a–d).
- 5.2 The watching brief took place on 27th and 28th February 2019 and was carried out on groundworks associated with the construction of a new raft for the extension which measured 7.4m by 4.6m (Fig. 2). The new floor required excavation to c400mm below finished floor level, with an additional perimeter thickening of c150mm.
- 5.3 The proposed soakaway was not required. No excavation was required for the new foul drainage run as this was above the level of the extension formation level.

- 5.4 Archaeological recording work was carried out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (Harward 2019) and the methodologies described and referred to in that document.
- 5.5 The Site Code for the archaeological work is KIN19.

## 6 Results

- 6.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation and watching brief results; summaries of the recorded contexts, and a Harris matrix are to be found in Appendices 1 and 2.
- 6.2 A homogenous deposit of friable dark grey sandy clay silt with frequent inclusions of charcoal and clinker (2) was exposed over the footprint of the extension at a maximum depth of 12.13m OD (Front cover, Fig. 3). The deposit contained Roman, medieval and post-medieval pottery. The deposit was sealed by a layer of modern made ground (1) associated with the construction of the former extension and its drainage. Modern ground level to the rear of the extension is at 12.71m OD.

## 7 The Finds

### The ceramic assemblage

Paul Blinkhorn

- 7.1 The pottery assemblage comprised 7 sherds with a total weight of 749g. It all occurred in a single context, (2), and consisted of a mixture of Roman, medieval and post-medieval wares. The Roman pottery was classified using the coding system of the National Roman Fabric Series (Tomber and Dore 1998), while the medieval and later fabrics were recorded using the Gloucester City type-series codes (eg. Vince 1984). The following fabric types were noted:

#### *Roman*

- BAT AM:** **Baetican Dressel 20 Amphora**, 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> century. 1 sherd, 646g.  
**SVW OX:** **Severn Valley Oxidized Ware**, 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> century. 1 sherd, 19g.  
**WIL RE:** **Grey Sandy Ware**, 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> century. 2 sherds, 27g.

#### *Medieval and Later*

- TF44:** **Minety-type Ware**, early/mid 12<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> century. 1 sherd, 12g.  
**TF80:** **Ashton Keynes-type Earthenware**, 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century. 2 sherds, 45g.

- 7.2 The range of fabric types is typical of sites in the city. The whole assemblage consisted of plain bodysherds other than the two sherds of TF80, which were from the rim and base of internally-glazed bowls, a common product of the tradition, and the sherd of BAT AM, which was a largely complete handle. Most of the pottery was abraded to some degree which is to be expected given the nature of the stratum in which it occurred.

### 7.3 Finds catalogue

Context	Description	Count	Weight (g)	Spot date
2	Pottery	7	749	17 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> century

Table 1: Finds catalogue

## 10 Conclusions and statement of significance

- 10.1 The watching brief consisted of the excavation of an area measuring 7.4 by 4.6m to 12.28m OD with a perimeter trench extending down to 12.13m OD. Modern ground level adjacent to the excavation was at 12.71m OD.
- 10.2 Natural ground was not observed during the watching brief. Across the excavated area a dark grey loamy deposit was exposed, this is probably a post-medieval cultivation soil or reworked 'Dark Earth' deposit predating the construction of the current property. Pottery from the deposit dates to the Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods. Later activity was restricted to truncation for the former extension and associated drainage.
- 10.9 The results of the watching brief have met the aims of ensuring that an adequate archaeological record has been made of the remains disturbed, exposed or destroyed by the groundworks. The results are of local significance only and no further work is recommended on the site archive.



## 11 Acknowledgements

- 11.1 The author would like to thank Dan Ponting for commissioning the work and for his help in providing information on the scheme, Andrew Armstrong for his advice and assistance during the watching brief, and the site team for carrying all the buckets. The watching brief was carried out by the author, the pottery report was by Paul Blinkhorn.

## 12 Archive

- 12.1 The site code KIN19 has been allocated to the excavation.
- 12.2 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by Urban Archaeology at their offices in Stroud. The site archive will comprise all retained artefacts, written, drawn and photographic records and will be deposited with Gloucester Museum and/or the Archaeology Data Service (ADS).
- 12.3 The archive will be prepared in accordance with Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (UKIC 1990), specifically complying with Gloucestershire Museums Service and OASIS/ADS guidelines. The archive will be presented to the receiving archive repository within six months of the completion of the fieldwork (unless alternative arrangements have been agreed in writing with the City Archaeologist). The archive will then become publicly accessible.
- 12.4 A copy of this report and a summary of information from this project will be submitted to the OASIS database of archaeological publications (urbanarc1-343547; Appendix 4). A further copy of the report will be submitted to Gloucestershire HER. Shape files of the watching brief trench location will also be submitted to the HER.

# 13 Bibliography

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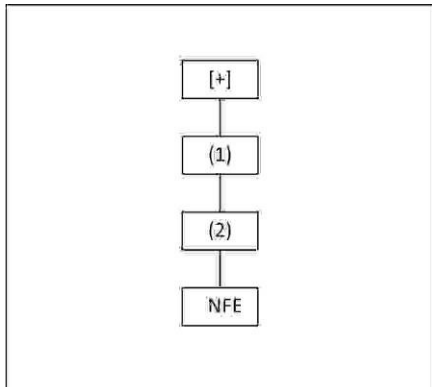
## Appendix 1 Context Register

Context no	Type	Description
1	Deposit	Modern made ground
2	Deposit	Dark Earth/cultivation soil across site

Table 2 Context register

## Appendix 2 Harris matrix

Harris matrix of KIN19



## Appendix 3 Archive contents

### Digital archive

Type	Number	Comments
Digital photographs	10 images	

Table 3 Digital archive

### Paper archive

Type	Number	Comments
Context sheets	1	
Trench record sheet	1	

Table 4 Paper archive

## Finds archive

Type	Number	Comments
Pottery	7 sherds	Discarded

Table 5 Finds archive

## Appendix 4 OASIS Form

OASIS ID	<b>urbanarc1-343547</b>
PROJECT DETAILS	
Project name	52 Kingsholm Road
Short description of the project	Urban Archaeology was commissioned by Dan Ponting on behalf of Warrior Investments Ltd to carry out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with a new extension at 52 Kingsholm Road, Gloucester. The watching brief took place during February 2019. The watching brief consisted of the excavation of an area measuring 7.4 by 4.6m to 12.28m OD with a perimeter trench extending down to 12.13m OD. Modern ground level adjacent to the excavation was at 12.71m OD. Natural ground was not observed during the watching brief. Across the excavated area a dark grey loamy deposit was exposed, this is probably a post-medieval cultivation soil or reworked 'Dark Earth' deposit predating the construction of the current property. Pottery from the deposit dates to the Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods. Later activity was restricted to truncation for the former extension and associated drainage.
Project dates	Start: 27-02-2019 End: 28-02-2019
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	KIN19 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	UA206 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 2 - In use as a building
Monument type	DARK EARTH Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CERAMICS Roman
Significant Finds	CERAMICS Medieval
Significant Finds	CERAMICS Post Medieval
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Planning condition
PROJECT LOCATION	
Country	England
Site location	GLOUCESTERSHIRE GLOUCESTER GLOUCESTER 52 Kingsholm Road
Postcode	GL1 3BH
Study area	34 Square metres
Site coordinates	SO 8351 1931 51.87167884229 -2.239540961685 51 52 18 N 002 14 22 W Point
PROJECT CREATORS	
Name of Organisation	Urban Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Urban Archaeology
Project director/manager	Chiz Harward
Project supervisor	Chiz Harward

Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Warrior Investments Ltd
PROJECT ARCHIVES	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive notes	
Digital Archive recipient	OASIS
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Gloucester Museum and Art Gallery
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet" ,"Miscellaneous Material"
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	52 Kingsholm Road, Gloucester An Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Harward, C.
Date	2019
Issuer or publisher	Urban Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Stroud
Description	Illustrated typescript report

Table 6 Oasis form

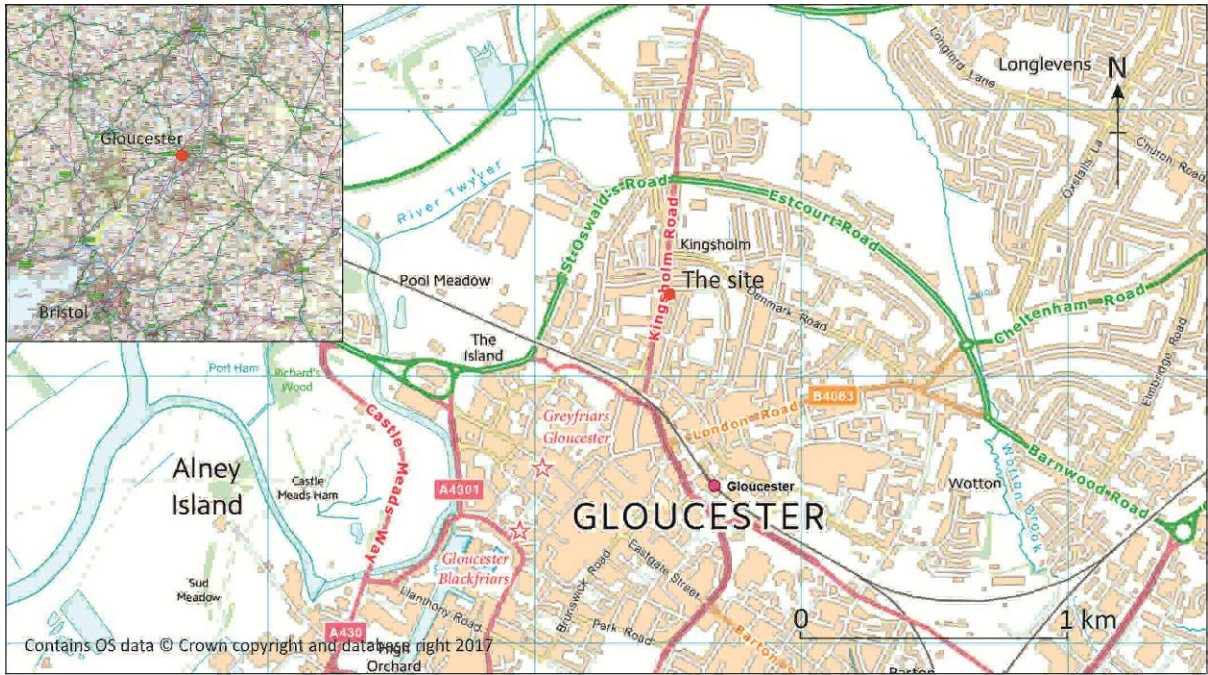


Fig. 1 Site location



Fig. 2 Trench plan





Fig. 3 West face section through cultivation soil/Dark Earth deposit (2); scale 0.5m