City Bank Road
Cirencester, Gloucestershire

Archaeological Excavation and Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

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On behalf of	Thames Water Utilities Ltd (Reading)
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County	Gloucestershire
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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Cappagh Contractors Construction Ltd, on behalf of Thames Water Utilities Ltd to undertake and archaeological excavation and archaeological monitoring and recording during sewage works at City Bank Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 403149, 201249.

The archaeological works were undertaken between 29 October 2024 and 22 January 2025 and identified a limited number of archaeological features and deposits within the site; these were encountered across all six of the excavated trenches.

The uncovered features comprised ditches, pits, surfaces, made ground, levelling deposits, stone dumps, soakaways and drains, representing three periods of activity, Neolithic, post-medieval and modern. In addition, a number of artefactually sterile alluvial deposits post-dating the Neolithic activity and pre-dating the post-medieval activity were identified.

Neolithic

The Neolithic activity was evidenced by a ditch and pit revealed at the eastern margin of the site. The fill of the ditch contained 202 pieces of worked flint indicative of in situ, or at least proximate, knapping. Although lacking in securely diagnostic tool forms, the flint indicates a broad Neolithic date for the feature. The southeastern side of the ditch was truncated by a pit from which was recovered a single undiagnostic flint flake. Both pit and ditch were sealed by a thick layer of alluvium, perhaps suggesting they are broadly contemporary.

Post-medieval

Post-medieval features and deposits were encountered in Trench 5 and relate to the use of the site prior to the construction of the current residential property. The features and deposits consisted of a possible stone surface, its bedding layer and a possible associated construction cut, a trampled layer above the stone surface, two stone rubble spreads/dumps, a ditch and a possible recut of said ditch.

Modern

The modern features and services revealed by the archaeological monitoring and recording relate to the current residential property occupying the site. These consisted of a concrete surface, its associated bedding layer, the backfill of an extant manhole, drains, two rubbish pits, a soakaway, a flint gravel drive surface and its associated bedding and make-up layers, a landscaping cut of uncertain function with hardcore infill, and a modern levelling deposit.

Undated

Similar thick alluvial deposits were encountered in all six trenches, although these all remain artefactually undated. However, the alluvium is clearly stratigraphically later than the Neolithic activity and is truncated by post-medieval and modern features. The alluvial deposits clearly indicate the historic waterlogged nature of the site and included several stone dumps interpreted as possible stabilisation horizons due to the marshy nature of location.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Cappagh Contractors Construction Ltd, in particular Melvin Hicks, for commissioning the archaeological watching brief on behalf of Thames Water Utilities Ltd. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments for Historic England (South West Region), who monitored the project for Historic England, and to Cappagh Contractors Construction Ltd for their cooperation and help on site.

City Bank Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire

Archaeological Excavation and Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Cappagh Contractors Construction Ltd, on behalf of Thames Water Utilities Ltd, to undertake archaeological excavation and archaeological monitoring and recording during sewage works which required an excavation for an overflow tank, two connecting pipelines and three non-return valves. The monitored works were centred on NGR 403149, 201249, at City Bank Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire (Fig. 1).

1.1.2 The archaeological excavation and archaeological monitoring and recording were carried out in compliance with Scheduled Monument Consent granted for the works (ref: S00244974).

1.1.3 Consultation with Kate Iles, Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments for Historic England (South West Region) on 24 June 2024 confirmed the following methodologies would be employed;

- Overflow tank approx. 3m x 6m and 1-1.5m deep. Archaeological excavation to depth and detailed sampling strategy;
- Northern connecting pipeline. 1m wide and 1m depth. Archaeological excavation to depth and detailed sampling strategy;
- Southern connecting pipeline. 1m wide and 1m depth. Archaeological watching brief to depth with contingency for excavation and sampling as above; and
- Non-return valves. Less than 1m depth. Archaeological watching brief to depth with contingency for excavation and sampling as above.

1.1.4 The archaeological excavation and archaeological monitoring and recording were undertaken in accordance with an archaeological project design (APD) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed (Wessex Archaeology 2024). The Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments for Historic England approved the APD, on behalf of Historic England, prior to the fieldwork.

1.1.5 The archaeological excavation and archaeological monitoring and recording were undertaken between 29 October 2024 and 22 January 2025.

1.2 Scope of the report

1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the results of the archaeological excavation and archaeological monitoring and recording, to interpret the results within their local or regional context (or otherwise), and to assess their potential to address the aims outlined in the APD,

thereby making available information about the archaeological resource (a preservation by record).

1.3 Location, topography and geology

1.3.1 The archaeological excavation and archaeological monitoring and recording were located on a 0.19 ha parcel of land located in south-east Cirencester, Gloucestershire, in the area surrounding two houses on City Bank Road. The majority of the Site falls within the garden of The Hatches, with the south-western portion of the Site falling within The Gables.

1.3.2 Cirencester lies at the foot of the south-east facing slopes of the Cotswold hills, along the banks of the River Churn. St John Baptist parish church and the marketplace occupy a high point in the town at 115 m aOD, 1.17 km north-west of the Site, with the rest of the town falling away gently to a low of 105 m aOD around 350 m south-east of the Site and rising more moderately on the north-eastern side of the river, up to 125 m aOD, 750 m north-east of the Site.

1.3.3 The Site itself lies at 106m aOD over flat ground. It is located on an area of land surrounded by two arms of the river, both running approximately north-west/south-east, 20 m east of the Site and 40 m to the west.

1.3.4 The bedrock geology is mapped as Forest Marble Formation mudstone, between the limestone hills to the north-west and the clay vales to the south-east. The entire Site is located over an area mapped with superficial deposits of alluvial clay, silt, sand and gravel (British Geological Society 2024). A more detailed assessment of the geological profile of the Site is included in the Archaeological Impact and Mitigation Statement (Wessex Archaeology 2023a).

Location within the Scheduled Monument

1.3.5 The Site lies at the south-eastern edge of *Corinium* (NHLE 1003426), immediately south of the Roman town wall as mapped by nearby excavations and 215 m north-east of the Silchester Gate. The Site lies almost entirely within the Scheduled Monument, except for a 6 m strip of land across its south-eastern edge. Based on previous archaeological excavations in the area surrounding the Site, it is understood to have occupied an area of marshland, outside the town defences, possibly containing either natural or artificial water channels.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background was assessed in a prior Archaeological Impact and Mitigation Statement (AI&MS: Wessex Archaeology 2023a), which considered the recorded historic environment resource within a 0.5 km study area of the proposed development. A summary of the results is presented below, with relevant entry numbers from the Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record (GHER) and the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) included. Additional sources of information are referenced, as appropriate.

2.2 Designated heritage assets

Scheduled Monument

2.2.1 The Site lies at the south-eastern end of the *Corinium Roman Town* Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1003426). *Corinium* or *Corinium Dobunnorum* was a major Roman town, surrounded by a town wall and earthwork complex from at least the 2nd century.

2.2.2 The Scheduled Monument has been designated in a piecemeal fashion, with areas scheduled as and when archaeological remains have been identified. It is split across 30 different areas, covering 48.95 ha of an approximate 100 ha area which would have fallen within the town walls (with evidence for cemeteries and extra-mural settlements beyond).

2.2.3 The section which the Site falls within is the south-easternmost of these designated areas, and the second largest, at 13.25 ha. The northern end of this section appears to have been relatively heavily developed, with excavated evidence for a series of structures, however, the southern end appears to have been more open, or at least to have contained less archaeologically visible structures. The excavated remains within this area, closest to the Site, include water channels and causeways, pointing to management of the River Churn, and a series of elements relating to multiple phases of construction for the earthworks and masonry forming the south-eastern corner of the town wall. The Site itself falls just outside of the mapped route of the wall, with part of the surviving earth rampart still visible along the northern edge of the Site. The area outside (south-east) of the town wall likely consisted of undeveloped marshland during at least the Romano-British period.

Listed Buildings

2.2.4 There are a total of nine Grade II Listed Buildings within the Study Area, none of which are on or in close proximity to the Site. None of these are expected to have any direct impact on the archaeological potential of the Site, other than highlighting the presence of an urban community in the surrounding area from at least the later 16th century onwards.

Conservation Area

2.2.5 The Site lies just outside of the Cirencester South Conservation Area. This corresponds with the southern part of the historic core of the town and in part derives its significance from its archaeological interest, which largely corresponds to the archaeological interest of the *Corinium* Scheduled Monument, with the additional interest in the semi-rural development of the area surrounding the Site between the post-medieval and modern periods.

2.3 Previous investigations in the vicinity of the development

Overview

2.3.1 The GHER records a total of 239 previous archaeological investigations within the 500 m Study Area surrounding the development, consisting of:

- 28 desk-based assessments;
- 6 geophysical surveys;
- 125 watching briefs;
- 66 evaluations;
- 28 excavations;

- 1 augering survey;
- 2 modern findspots;
- and 2 antiquarian investigations.

2.3.2 Both intrusive and non-intrusive investigations have concentrated in the north-western and eastern ends of the Study Area. These investigations have focused on the southern end of the most densely occupied area of the Roman city and an area of extra-mural settlement at Kingshill South, respectively.

2.3.3 The Kingshill South investigations represent the only large-scale programme of modern archaeological works undertaken across a previously undeveloped area within the Study Area (GHER 28688, 28455, 47490). This was prompted by modern residential development, in close proximity to an area of Romano-British settlement already recorded through rescue excavations in the 1970s (52686).

2.3.4 The majority of the archaeological investigations undertaken within the Study Area consist of small-scale watching briefs and evaluations, in addition to reactive recording exercises during construction works, prior to the legislative establishment of a commercial archaeological system. Whilst this does means that there is a relatively large amount of information to assess the overall archaeological resource of the area, it also means that the interpretation of these results can be fragmented.

Immediate Site context

2.3.5 Four previous archaeological investigations have been undertaken within the current Site, though none of these cover the locations of the proposed works.

2.3.6 Two of these consist of archaeological investigations, undertaken within the footprint of the existing building at The Hatches. The first consisted of a hand-excavated 1.5 m by 1.5 m test-pit, excavated to a maximum depth of 1.72 m below ground level, 20 m west of the Site (47603). The second is unrecorded in the GHER but consisted of a watching brief during the excavation of foundation trenches over a small area immediately surrounding the previous test pit, down to a maximum depth of 0.6 m below ground level (Hood 2015). Both investigations recorded alluvial deposits, with the former also encountering a possible paleochannel at its base, containing Romano-British ceramic building material.

2.3.7 The remaining two previous investigations consist of excavations into the Roman town wall (28588, 28596). These, combined with a third excavation, 12 m north-east of the Site (28074), allow for an assessment of the nature and extent of the archaeological remains of the town walls in the immediate context of the Site. However, they have not been able to create a complete picture of the layout of any external ditches, which could potentially run through to Site.

2.3.8 Additionally, historic mapping, aerial photography and evaluation works undertaken on both sides of the river have also helped to reveal the presence of water-management features across the area immediately outside of the Roman walls (28602, 20248). These date to both the Romano-British period and to between the post-medieval and modern periods.

2.4 Archaeological and historical context (pre and post Romano-British)

Later prehistoric (4,000 BC – AD 43)

2.4.1 Archaeological evidence for activity within the Study Area dating between the Neolithic and Iron Age is much scarcer than for the following Romano-British period. The main settlement evidence comes from Bronze Age and Iron Age features identified on the far side of the river, during the Kingshill South investigations. However, this may at least in part be due to extensive truncation within urban areas during the Romano-British and modern periods.

2.4.2 Although no later prehistoric features have been identified during the excavations undertaken in the immediate vicinity of the Site, undated lithics and Iron Age artefacts, including brooches and a spearhead, were identified in redeposited Romano-British layers during excavations to the immediate north-east of the Site (28074 / Rennie 1957).

2.4.3 Several features of interest were identified on the opposite side of the river during a 1977 investigation. These consisted of three palisade trenches, possibly dating to the Late Iron Age or very Early Romano-British period (30920), indicating some sort of enclosed site immediately adjoining the River Churn prior to the establishment of *Corinium*. Although the Site most likely lies outside of this palisaded area, it highlights the potential for Late Iron Age features to be present within the Site.

2.4.4 It should be noted that alluvial layers mapped across the Site have yielded Romano British dating material during two test-pit investigations (47603, 17243). Any prehistoric features present within the Site would likely have been sealed beneath these alluvial layers.

Post-Roman/early medieval (AD 410–1066)

2.4.5 Archaeological evidence of post-Roman/early medieval activity within the Study Area is characteristically minimal. Multiple investigations in the urban centre of *Corinium*, in the north-western part of the study area, have recorded deposits of ‘dark earth’, sometimes up to 0.9 m deep. These deposits often overly Romano-British demolition layers and include heavily abraded Romano-British pottery, in some cases datable to the 3rd century. Whilst these deposits lack precise dating evidence, they do conform to the usual interpretation of early medieval urban abandonment and eventual cultivation of these areas.

2.4.6 These deposits have been notably absent from the excavations in the immediate proximity of the Site (28074, 28596, 28588, 28594). Whilst the evident collapse and robbing of the Roman town wall recorded in these investigations may have dated to this period, the alluvial deposits recorded at The Hatches (47603) would suggest that waterlogging and regular flooding precluded the cultivation thought to produce ‘dark earth’ deposits. Although not closely dated, environmental samples taken from the upper fills of the town wall’s outer ditch at 28588, indicate that the area consisted of heavily grazed but regularly flooded grassland in the post-Roman period (Wacher and Pamment Salvatore 1998, 55).

2.4.7 By the end of the period, the Site most likely sat within the holdings of the St Mary Cirencester Rectory, centred on Abbey Grounds, *c.* 1.2 km to the north-west (McWhirr 1998, 5). Known to have had an early medieval predecessor, Domesday records that the abbey had holdings of meadow in the 11th century, likely located along the banks of the River Churn and potentially including the Site.

Medieval and post-medieval (AD 1066-1800)

2.4.8 There is some evidence for water management features dating to the medieval period within the Study Area (GHER 28604, 33292), though these appear to concentrate on preventing

flooding of the settled area to the north-west and draining the zone of arable cultivation on the slightly higher ground to the north-east.

2.4.9 Whilst the level of activity on the Site during the medieval and early post-medieval periods is not currently known, analysis of aerial photography has identified a series of man-made water channels, used to create an area of water meadow, dating from approximately the 18th century onwards (GHER 28686). The Site sits at the north-western end of the water meadows, which run alongside the River Churn and beyond the south-eastern edge of the Study Area.

2.4.10 The NMP has mapped the individual features making up the water meadow (Historic England monument number 1464556). This includes north-west/south-east linear channels running through the eastern edge of the Site, south-west/north-east linear channels running through the centre of the Site and a group of sinuous channels running from the centre to the southern corner of the Site. One of these linear channels runs through the centre of the area of the proposed overflow tank and another through the proposed connecting pipeline running south-east of it. The sinuous channels running from the centre of the Site also cross the proposed connecting pipeline and non-return valve in the southern corner of the Site.

19th century and modern (AD 1800–present day)

2.4.11 Historic mapping and aerial photography allow for a confident interpretation of the use of the Site since the 19th century. The Site is continually depicted in OS mapping as an open area of grassland or meadow, several of the larger water meadow channels mapped by the NMP continue in use, though none which cross any areas of proposed development. Aerial photography shows this to have continued to be the case through to the extension of neighbouring residential area up City Bank Road and the construction of The Hatches towards the end of the 20th century (Historic England: raf_58_8390_v_0120, EPW061818, Google Earth – 1945). From this point onwards, the Site appears to have remained in use as a garden lawn (Google Earth 1999, 2005, 2006, 2009, 2014, 2019, 2019, 2021).

2.4.12 Additionally, nothing recorded within the GHER or the Defence of Britain database indicates the presence of any modern military features which may not have appeared on mapping or aerial photography.

2.5 Archaeological and historical context (Romano-British AD 43–410)

2.5.1 The Site is located within a Scheduled Monument that designates the south-eastern part of the Roman town of *Corinium Dobunnorum* (NHLE 1003426). The settlement is thought to have originated from an auxiliary fort, established shortly before 50 AD, which then evolved into a *vicus*, or small town. The population grew exponentially, and by the second century the town had become the second largest in Britain, surpassed only by *Londinium*. It was an important administrative centre, acting as *civitas* to the *Dobunni* tribal group.

2.5.2 The Site lies just outside of the south-eastern town defences, the route of which is well understood and still partially survives as an earthwork along the northern Site boundary. In this area, the defences consist of two main phases, the construction of an earth rampart (GHER 28630), later supplemented by a masonry wall (400) with the addition of external towers and outer ditches (although different slots excavated through the defences also highlight additional phases and a variable uptake across the town). A large part of the earth rampart still survives in this area, giving City Bank Road its name, and some masonry elements of the wall apparently still stood above ground into the late 19th century (Rennie 1957, 207). Whilst it is clear that the Site lies outside the route of the rampart and the wall,

it may have been crossed by the route of one or more outer ditches or natural water channels feeding into the River Churn.

Previous investigations of the south-eastern town defences

2.5.3 A number of archaeological investigations undertaken along the route of the south-eastern defences allow for a relatively detailed attempt at reconstructing their form and route. Running north-east to south-west, the investigations most relevant to the assessment of the Site's relationship with these defences are:

- **28074**: A trench excavated in 1952 through the rampart, 12 m north-east of the Site. The main trench extended 6 m from the outer face of the wall, with an additional trench of an unrecorded size located a further 0.3 m away (Rennie 1957, 207.). Neither encountered any clear evidence of an outer ditch, though it did note what appeared to be gentle slope down to the south in the underlying natural gravel substrate (likely River Terrace deposits) (*ibid.* 207-9). At the outer edge of the main trench, the natural gravel lay approximately 2 m below ground level, overlain by 0.3 m of modern topsoil and 1.7 m of wall collapse (*ibid.*). Although the stratigraphy of the second trench reportedly matched the first, it seems unlikely that the wall collapse would have extended much beyond the first trench, with the bulk of the stratigraphy more likely consisting of alluvium.

- **28596**: A series of works undertaken as part of the construction of The Hatches and its access road. This involved a topsoil strip of approximately 100 m along the current line of City Bank Road, into the Site and across part of the rampart to the immediate north. Following the unearthing of masonry at various points, at a depth of approximately 1 m, six trenches were excavated within and to the immediate north of the Site (Brown and McWhirr 1969, 229, Wacher & Pamment Salvatore 1998, 56). Unfortunately, neither the interim report nor the later collective assessment of these investigations includes a detailed record of the stratigraphy, though masonry remains in the south-west corner of the largest trench have been interpreted as the probable remains of a polygonal outer tower (28645, Wacher & Pamment Salvatore 1998, 56).

- **28588**: A trench, located across the north-western Site boundary excavated in 1962 (later re-excavated as part of 28596, though with no reported additional findings) providing a cross-section through the town defences. In addition to the rampart and wall, this uncovered two phases of outer ditches (26849), both of which extended beyond the outer edge of the trench, 4.4 m from the base of the wall (Wacher & Pamment Salvatore 1998, 55). The larger first phase of ditch predated the masonry wall and immediately abutted the earth rampart. The shallower second phase, likely contemporary to the wall, was separated from its base by a 3 m berm (*ibid*.). At the outer edge of the trench, the base of the deeper (and earlier) ditch lay at approximately 2 m below ground level, below 1.6 m of ditch fills and wall collapse and 0.4 m of modern topsoil and turf (*ibid*. 54, Wacher 1963, 22-4).

- **28594**: A group of irregularly shaped trenches excavated in 1966 into the rampart, 50 m south-west of the Site. These only encountered evidence for the earlier phase of the defences, with no evidence for a masonry wall (Brown and McWhirr 1967, 191-3). An outer ditch was encountered immediately at the base of the rampart, with no evidence of a berm or a second phase, although the full width and depth were not investigated (*ibid.*).

Outer ditches

2.5.4 The collective evidence of these investigations indicates that there was a non-uniform approach to the development of the south-eastern town defences, including the cutting of two phases of the outer ditch. Whilst there is clear evidence for both phases of ditch in the north-western corner of the Site, the excavation to the north-east (28074) indicates that they either terminated or deviated from this course. Mollusc samples indicate that at least the first phase of outer ditch contained initially contained flowing water, likely indicating that it connected to the river churn, somewhere to the north-east of the Site (Wacher and Pamment Salvatore 1998, 55).

External towers

2.5.5 There is also evidence for an external tower or bastion to be present within the Site. This comes from two *in situ* courses of masonry, projecting from the outer face of the wall to the immediate north of the Site (28645) and continuing beyond the extent of the excavation trench (28596) (Wacher and Pamment Salvatore 1998, 56).

2.5.6 Other excavated examples of external towers in Cirencester protrude between 3.55 m and 6 m from the external face of the wall (Wacher and Pamment Salvatore 1998, 63, 77, 88). The Site lies 1.6 m away from the inner face of the wall at the point where the tower is located, with the centre of the northern proposed pipeline located 3.5 m from it. Even at the lower end of the scale, it is likely that buried elements of this tower are present within part of the area of the proposed development.

2.5.7 Intervals between external towers in Cirencester have varied greatly, with most neighbouring examples located between 52 m and 63 m apart (*ibid.* 88). However, other examples have been suggested at only 28 m apart (28642), and without large-scale excavation along the route of the wall, more regular intervals cannot be ruled out. Consequently, although the Site likely contains elements of only one tower, it is possible that buried elements of other examples could be present elsewhere along the northern edge of the Site.

Stratigraphy south-east of the defences

2.5.8 Further south-east of the archaeological remains of the town defences, previous archaeological investigations allow for a prediction of the likely stratigraphy present across the centre and south-east of the Site. The test-pit previously excavated within the Site (47603) identified the natural gravel substrate (likely River Terrace deposits) at 1.36 m below ground level, overlain by two layers of alluvium, 1 m deep in total and 0.36 m of modern deposits (Lang 2014).

2.5.9 Within the base of the test pit, excavated to a maximum of 1.72 m, was a silty deposit within what was interpreted as a paleochannel, although an archaeological origin was not ruled out (*ibid.* 14-5). This contained fragments of animal bone, charcoal and a single water-rounded fragment of CBM, indicating a Romano-British or later date for the deposit (*ibid.*).

2.5.10 Three test pits excavated in 1996 between 25 m and 50 m south-west of the Site showed similar results (17243). The natural gravel substrate (again likely River Terrace deposits) was located between 0.88 m and 1.09 m below ground level (this did not slope in any one obvious direction), overlain by alluvial deposits containing abraded Romano-British pottery, ceramic building material, animal bone and charcoal (Cotswold Archaeology 1996, 12). The investigation identified no traces of any archaeological features and analysis of the environmental samples and finds evidence indicated that the area was covered by

marshland during the Romano-British period, and potentially regularly utilised for rubbish dumping (*ibid.*).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

3.1.1 With reference to the relevant CIfA standards (CIfA 2023a, 2023b, 2023c &2023d), the general aims (or purpose) of the excavation are to examine, record and interpret the archaeological resource within the specified area or site, and to disseminate the results, in accordance with methods and research objectives defined in the approved project design.

3.2 Research Questions

3.3 Introduction

3.3.1 In accordance with the aims of this statement a series of research questions are included in the following sections: *Thematic/ period research aims*, *Regional (SWARF) research aims* and *Research questions (site specific)*. These draw from the *Research Strategy for the Roman-Period Historic Environment* (English Heritage 2012) and the *South West Archaeological Research Framework: Research Strategy* (Grove and Croft 2012) and have been informed by the known and potential archaeological resource.

3.3.2 Due to the relatively small footprint of the proposed works, the research questions are proportionate and tailored to the known and most likely archaeological resource present within the Site and its immediate surroundings.

3.4 Thematic/ period research aims

3.4.1 The themes and research topics within the national period framework (English Heritage 2012) provide a broad scale framework, largely to direct English Heritage's (now Historic England) corporate objectives, to which small scale works can only offer limited input. However, the results from the proposed works do have some potential to contribute to wider themes.

Research Topic 4 – Landscape context of known sites:

- *Identification of landscapes associated with known sites*

- *Paleoenvironmental and geoarchaeological approaches to landscape* (English Heritage 2012, 21)

3.4.2 The fills present within the outer ditches of the Roman defences may contain deposits suitable for environmental sampling. The potential for these to provide ecofactual information about the nature of the surrounding landscape during and after the lifetime of the Roman defences should be explored.

3.4.3 It has also been identified that there is a possibility for River Terrace deposits with a Palaeolithic and geoarchaeological interest to be disturbed as part of the proposed works. If these deposits are present within the excavated areas, they should be subject to geoarchaeological investigation to help to establish the nature and chronology of their deposition and recover any artefactual evidence.

Research Topic 6 – Iron Age to Roman:

- *Develop data sets that allow a more nuanced understanding of the changes to, and continuity in the archaeological record in the first centuries BC and AD* (*ibid.* 22)

3.4.4 A Late Iron Age presence has been identified in the area immediately surrounding the Site, both in the form of archaeological features and reworked artefactual evidence. Investigation of the Site may be able to further our understanding of how the landscape surrounding Corinium changed during the transition from the Iron Age to the Romano-British period. This could potentially be the case if earlier features have been sealed beneath the alluvial layers present within the Site, which are thought to date from and after the Romano-British period.

Research Topic 8 – Roman to Post Roman:

- *Investigating the evidence for and character of change in the 4th century, with a particular emphasis on urban data sets*
- *Recognising, capturing and understanding 5th century data (ibid. 22)*

3.4.5 Dating evidence to create a secure chronology for deposits for the post-Roman / early medieval period have so far been absent within and in the area surrounding the Site, although ditch fills associated with the Roman defences could contain environmental evidence of the Post Roman landscape. Consequently, the potential for investigation to address this research aim would likely be limited to a general assessment of paleoenvironmental and geoarchaeological deposits post-dating the Romano-British period, though likely without precise dating evidence.

3.5 Regional (SWARF) research aims

Research Aim 35: Improve our understanding of early Roman urban settlement (Grove and Croft 2012, 19)

3.5.1 The Site's primary archaeological interest in relation to the Romano British period is the potential for the presence of elements of the Roman town's defences, in particular, the later phases of external towers and outer ditches, rather than the earlier earth rampart. However, considering the non-uniform sequence of construction along the south-eastern stretch of defences, there is potential for earlier phases of development to be present within the Site.

3.5.2 Recording of any features present should seek to clarify the form and chronology of any elements of the town defences present.

Research Aim 18d: Analysis of colluvial and alluvial sequences (Grove and Croft 2012, 27)

3.5.3 Alluvial stratigraphy over 1 m in depth is expected to be present within the Site, dating from at least the Romano-British period onwards, in addition to the possible presence of paleochannels, as was tentatively identified during test-pitting at The Hatches (Lang 2014). The potential for dating material to be present within the alluvial deposits likely to be disturbed should be explored.

3.6 Research questions (site specific)

Q1 – To what extent has the course of the River Churn been impacted or altered by the development of the Roman town (Corinium)?

3.6.1 Significant sections of the River Churn are thought to have been diverted during the second century in order to both drain the south-eastern part of the town and to supplement the town

defences. Any archaeological works undertaken on the Site should aim to identify and record evidence for Romano-British features (namely the outer ditches) to have contained waterborne sediments derived from the River Churn, including the potential for artificial water channels to be present within the Site.

Q2 – What is the form and chronological sequence of the town defences in the south-eastern corner of the Roman town?

3.6.2 The Site is located to the immediate south-east of the Roman town wall and is expected to contain elements of two phases of the outer ditch, in addition to wall collapse and potentially elements of an outer tower/bastion. Previous archaeological investigations within and either side of the Site have shown a non-uniform chronological development of the town defences in this area, with a variable uptake of multiple elements. Investigation within the Site could help to further map the form and extent of these various elements of the town defences and to collect dating evidence.

3.6.3 Of principal interest is whether the ditches terminate within the Site or diverge from the base of the rampart and whether they connect to one or more natural water channels feeding into the River Churn. Additionally, if any such ditches are present, environmental sampling should be undertaken to establish the likelihood of permanent flooding or waterlogging through connection to the river.

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methodology set out within the APD (Wessex Archaeology 2024) and in general compliance with CIfA standards and guidance (CIfA 2023a–d). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

Archaeological excavation

4.2.1 The excavation areas were set out using a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), in the approximate positions proposed in the APD (Figure 1).

4.2.2 The overflow tank (Tr 4), measuring approximately 6 m in length and 4 m wide, and the northern connecting pipeline (Tr 5), measuring 25 m in length and 0.5 m wide were excavated in level spits using a 360º excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist. Machine excavation proceeded until either the archaeological horizon or the natural geology was exposed.

4.2.3 Due to its depth and rapid water ingress, the overflow tank (Tr 4) was excavated in stages utilising steel trench boxes to support the trench sides and a pump to constantly remove the water.

4.2.4 Where necessary, the surface of archaeological deposits was cleaned by hand. A sample of archaeological features and deposits was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the excavation.

4.2.5 Spoil from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. Artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, although those from features of modern date (19th century or later) were recorded on site and not retained.

4.2.6 Areas completed to the satisfaction of the client and Historic England were left open on completion. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.

Archaeological monitoring and recording

4.2.7 The watching brief monitored the excavation of the southern connecting pipeline (Tr 3), measuring 25 m in length and 0.7 m in width, and the non-return valves (Tr's 1, 2 & 6), each measuring 2 m in length and 2 m in width.

4.2.8 Due to their depth and rapid water ingress, the non-return valves (Tr's 1, 2 & 6) were excavated utilising steel trench sheets to support the trench sides where necessary and a pump to remove the water.

4.2.9 The attending archaeologist monitored all mechanical excavations within the specified area. Where necessary, the surfaces of uncovered archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand to aid visual definition. A sample of archaeological features and deposits was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the project aims.

4.2.10 Spoil from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. Artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, although those from features of modern date (19th century or later) were recorded on site and not retained.

Recording

4.2.11 All exposed archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete record of excavated features and deposits was made, including plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections) and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid.

4.2.12 A Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service surveyed the location of archaeological features. All survey data is recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSTN15and OSGM15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.

4.2.13 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 16 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

4.3 Finds and environmental strategies

4.3.1 Strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of finds and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the APD (Wessex Archaeology 2024). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014a), *Environmental Archaeology. A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011) and CIfA's (n.d. a) *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting* (Type 1: Description).

4.4 Monitoring

4.4.1 The Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments monitored the archaeological excavation and archaeological monitoring and recording on behalf of Historic England. Any variations

to the APD, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with the client and the Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments.

5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Archaeological features and deposits were encountered in all six excavated trenches, indicating limited archaeological remains are present within the site.

5.1.2 The uncovered features comprised ditches, pits, surfaces, made ground, levelling deposits, stone dumps, soakaways and drains, representing three periods of activity, Neolithic, post-medieval and modern.

5.1.3 Alluvial deposits of probable late prehistoric or Roman date were encountered in all six trenches, although remain artefactually undated.

5.1.4 The modern features and services relate to the current residential property occupying the site.

5.1.5 The following section presents the results of the archaeological monitoring and recording with archaeological features and deposits discussed by trench.

5.1.6 Detailed descriptions of individual contexts are provided in the trench summary tables (Appendix 1). Figure 1 shows all archaeological features recorded within the trenches, Figures 2 and 3 provide detail of Trenches 1 and 5 respectively.

5.2 Non-return valves (Trenches 1, 2 & 6)

5.2.1 Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken during the excavation of three-square pits for the insertion of new non-return valves in the locations shown on Figure 1 (Tr's 1, 2 & 6). Archaeological features consisting of a ditch and a pit were revealed in Trench 1 and modern drains were observed in Trenches 1, 2 and 6.

Trench 1

5.2.2 Trench 1 was located in the northeast portion of the site (Figure 1), measured 2 m x 2 m in plan and was excavated to a depth of 1.7 m. A simple stratigraphic sequence of horizontally laid deposits was encountered. A ditch and pit of possible Neolithic date were revealed towards the base of the sequence sealed by an alluvial deposit, and a modern drain was observed cut from the base of the topsoil (Figure 2).

5.2.3 The stratigraphically earliest deposit encountered in Trench 1, natural substrate 1011, consisting of yellowish brown sandy silty clay, containing stone and gravels was revealed at 1.5 m below ground level (bgl). This was overlain by a 0.7 m thick alluvial layer, 1006, consisting of mid yellow brown silty clay, containing sparse subangular stone and gravels. An 0.26 m thick layer, 1003, overlay the alluvial deposit, and due to its evident mixed nature has been interpreted as disturbance and consisted of a similar mid yellow brown silty clay, with sparse subangular stone and gravels (Figure 4a, Section 3). Both the alluvial layer and overlying disturbance were artefactually sterile and remain undated.

5.2.4 A dark yellow brown clay silt subsoil, 1002, sealed deposit 1003, and measured 0.29 m in thickness. The subsoil was in turn sealed by a dark greyish brown clay silt topsoil, 1001, measuring 0.25 m in thickness (Figure 4a, Section 3).

5.2.5 A northwest-southeast aligned ditch 1007 was encountered along the northern edge of the trench, sealed beneath alluvial deposit 1006 discussed above (Figures 2, 5 & Figure 4a, Section 3). The ditch measured in excess of 0.63 m in width (continuing beyond the northern trench limit), 0.34 m in depth and contained a sandy silty clay fill, 1008, from which was recovered 202 pieces of worked flint indicative of in situ, or at least proximate, knapping. Although lacking in securely diagnostic tool forms, the flint indicates a broad Neolithic date for the ditch.

5.2.6 An oval pit, 1009, truncated the eastern side of ditch 1007 and measured 1.15 m in width and 0.3 m in depth (Figures 2 & 5). The pit had moderate sloping sides, a flat base and contained a sandy silty clay fill, 1010, from which was recovered a single undiagnostic flint flake (Figure 4a, Section 2). Both pit 1009 and ditch 1007 were sealed by alluvial deposit 1006 discussed above, perhaps suggesting they are broadly contemporary.

5.2.7 A modern drain, 1004, was observed cut from the base of topsoil 1001. The drain was aligned broadly northeast-southwest (Figure 2), had vertical sides and measured in excess of 1.45 m in depth.

Trench 2

5.2.8 Trench 2 was located in the eastern portion of the site (Figure 1), measured 2 m x 2 m in plan and was excavated to a depth of 1.6 m. A simple stratigraphic sequence of horizontally laid deposits was encountered, and a modern drain was observed cut from the base of the topsoil.

5.2.9 The natural substrate, 2006, consisting of a mid-yellowish brown sandy silty clay and containing abundant subrounded to subangular stone and gravel was encountered at 0.9 m bgl. This was overlain by a 0.56 m thick alluvial layer, 2003, consisting of a mid-yellow brown sandy silt clay, containing sparse subangular stone and gravel. The alluvial layer was sealed by a clayey silt subsoil 2002, which was in turn overlain by clayey silt topsoil 2001 (Figure 4b, Section 4).

5.2.10 A modern drain, 2004, was observed cut from the base of topsoil 2001. The drain was aligned broadly northeast-southwest, had vertical sides and measured in excess of 0.96 m in depth (Figure 6).

Trench 6

5.2.11 Trench 2 was located in the southern portion of the site (Figure 1), measured 2 m x 2 m in plan and was excavated to a depth of 1.0 m. A simple stratigraphic sequence of horizontally laid deposits was encountered, and a modern drain was observed cut from the base of the topsoil.

5.2.12 The stratigraphically earliest deposit encountered in Trench 6 consisted of a light brown silty clay, 6002, containing brick, stone and concrete. Interpreted as modern made ground, the layer measured in excess of 0.77 m in thickness and was in turn sealed by a 0.23 m thick topsoil 6001. No natural deposits were encountered within Trench 6.

5.2.13 A modern drain, 6003, was observed cut from the base of topsoil 6001, through made ground 6002. The drain was aligned broadly northeast-southwest, had vertical sides and measured in excess of 0.77 m in depth.

5.3 Southern connecting pipeline (Trench 3)

5.3.1 Trench 3 was located in the southwestern portion of the site (Figure 1), measured 25 m in length, an average of 0.7 m in width and was excavated to a depth of 0.9 m. A simple stratigraphic sequence of horizontally laid deposits was encountered, and no cut archaeological features were encountered.

5.3.2 The stratigraphically earliest deposit encountered in Trench 3 consisted of a layer of dumped stone, 3004 (Figure 7). Measuring up to 0.3 m thick, the layer has been interpreted as a probable stabilisation surface due to the marshy nature of location. The stone layer was revealed encompassed within the lower portion of alluvial layer 3003.

5.3.3 Alluvium 3003 consisted of a light brown, heavy silty clay containing frequent molluscs, rare stone inclusions and measured 0.6 m in thickness. The alluvial layer was sealed by a silty clay subsoil 3002 measuring 0.07 m thick, which was in turn overlain by 0.23 m of silty clay topsoil 3001 from which was recovered one sherd of modern pottery (Figure 4b, Section 5). No natural deposits were encountered.

5.4 Overflow tank (Trench 4)

5.4.1 Trench 4 was located in the easternmost portion of the site (Figure 1), measured 6 m in length, 4 m in width and was excavated to a depth of 2.76 m. Due to its depth and rapid water ingress, the trench was excavated in stages utilising steel trench boxes to support the trench sides and a pump to constantly remove the water (Figure 8). A simple stratigraphic sequence of horizontally laid deposits was encountered, and no cut archaeological features were encountered.

5.4.2 The natural substrate consisting of a light brown riverine stone and gravel layer, 4007, was encountered at 1.98 m bgl. A number of distinct lenses, 4008, 4009 and 4010 were recorded within the natural deposit suggesting shifting depositional and post-depositional conditions (Figure 4b, Section 6).

5.4.3 The natural deposits were overlain by a 0.94 m thick light greyish brown silty clay alluvial deposit, 4006. A deliberate dump of unworked stone blocks, 4011, was noted in the bottom 0.28 m of the alluvial deposit, interpreted as a probable stabilisation surface due to the marshy nature of location (Figure 9).

5.4.4 The alluvial layer, 4006, contained three horse bones and was sealed by a silty clay subsoil 4005 measuring 0.43 m thick, which was in turn overlain by 0.1 m of sandy silt topsoil 4004.

5.4.5 Overlying topsoil 4004, a 0.25 m thick silty clay made ground deposit, 4003, was recorded, probably representing recent landscaping. The made ground was sealed by a bedding layer containing modern brick, 4002, for the current flint gravel drive surface 4001 (Figure 4b, Section 6).

5.5 Northern connecting pipeline (Trench 5)

5.5.1 Trench 5 was located adjacent and parallel to the northwestern site boundary (Figure 1), measured 25 m in length, an average of 0.5 m in width and was excavated to a depth of up to 1.1 m although the majority of the trench was much shallower.

5.5.2 No natural deposits were encountered in Trench 5 due to the shallow nature of the works. A simple stratigraphic sequence of horizontally laid deposits was encountered although their survival was intermittent due to heavy truncation by the features discussed below. The stratigraphically earliest deposit revealed comprised silty clay/sandy clay alluvial deposit,

5012/5032, at between 0.28m to 0.45 m bgl. The alluvium was sealed by a subsoil, 5002/5017/5023/5024/5031 (Figure 4c, Section 9), of varying thickness (due to differing levels of truncation) and no evidence of a surviving topsoil was encountered.

5.5.3 A sequence of surfaces, bedding deposits, soakaways, levelling deposits and construction/landscaping cuts relating to the modern residential use of the site were encountered. In addition, a number of cut features including two pits and a ditch, surfaces, and a number of stone rubble deposits were also recorded and are also of probable post-medieval or earlier date (Figure 3).

5.5.4 At least two phases of activity are represented, with features/deposits both being sealed by subsoil and others cutting through the subsoil. The limited artefact assemblage suggests that those sealed by the subsoil are post-medieval or earlier in date whereas those above/cutting the subsoil are modern. However, due to the limited finds recovery, several features were artefactually sterile and remain otherwise undated.

Post-medieval or earlier

5.5.5 A number of features and deposits related to post-medieval and earlier occupation of the site were encountered in Trench 5. These consisted of a possible stone surface 5006, its bedding layer and a possible associated construction cut (5007 & 5010 respectively), a trampled layer (5005) above the stone surface, two stone rubble spreads/dumps (5011 & 5025), and a ditch 5030 and possible recut 5027 (Figure 3). All were sealed by the subsoil horizon and relate to the use of the site prior to the construction of the current residential property.

5.5.6 Stone surface 5006 was revealed in the eastern portion of Trench 5 immediately below the subsoil horizon (Figures 3, 4c, Section 7 & Figures 10 & 11). The surface was constructed of very compacted limestone brash from which was recovered two sherds of post-medieval pottery and measured 50 mm thick and survived to 1.2 m in width.

5.5.7 The surface overlay a substantial bedding deposit 5007 consisting of a stone rubble rich sandy silt measuring in excess of 0.4 m in thickness from which was recovered undiagnostic fragments of fired clay (Figure 4c, Section 7). The bedding deposit lay within a deliberate construction cut, 5010 and was wider than the overlying stone surface. Measuring 3 m in width, this suggests the stone surface would have continued further to the west (Figure 3).

5.5.8 Overlying the stone surface and the exposed western portion of the bedding deposit was revealed a very compacted silty clay layer, 5005, containing occasional stone fragments. Interpreted as a trampled layer or rudimentary surface, the deposit measured 80 mm in thickness and 3 m in width and presumably superseded the stone surface (Figures 3, 4c, Section 7 & Figure 11).

5.5.9 Two deliberate dumps of stone rubble, 5011 and 5025, were identified in Trench 5 and have been interpreted as possible stabilisation horizons due to the marshy nature of location (Figure 3). Rubble spread 5011 was revealed adjacent to the current property, measured 5 m in length and in excess of 0.2 m in thickness. Rubble spread 5025 was revealed further to the southwest, measured 2.15 m in width and in excess of 0.28 m in thickness (Figure 4c, Section 9). The origin of the stone used is uncertain, that in 5025 containing unworked fragments only, whereas 5011 contained both unworked fragments and worked blocks that presumably came from the demolition of a nearby building or structure, perhaps the Roman town defensive wall (Figure 12).

5.5.10 Ditch 5030 and recut 5027 were revealed at the southern end of Trench 5, were aligned broadly northwest-southeast, and measured 1.8 m and 2.5 m in width respectively (Figure 3). Both measured in excess of 0.55 m in depth, contained silty clay and sandy silt fills, with the fill, 5029, of ditch 5030 being noticeably stonier in composition. No dateable artefacts were recovered from either ditch, however, the eastern edge of ditch 5030 was overlain by subsoil and both were sealed by a modern levelling deposit, 5020, suggesting a post-medieval or earlier date for the features (Figure 4c, Section 9).

5.5.11 The ditches potentially relate to a series of man-made water channels identified from aerial photographs, used to create an area of water meadow, dating from approximately the 18th century onwards (GHER 28686). The Site sits at the north-western end of the water meadows, which run alongside the River Churn.

Modern

5.5.12 A number of features and deposits related to the current residential occupation of the site were encountered in Trench 5. These consisted of concrete surface 5003, its associated bedding layer 5004, the backfill of an extant manhole 5001, rubbish pits 5009 and 5022, soakaway 5018, flint gravel drive surface 5014 and its associated bedding and make-up layers 5015/5016/5028, a landscaping cut of uncertain function and hardcore infill 5033/5019, and a modern levelling deposit 5020 (Figures 3 and 4c, Sections 7, 8 & 9). All were above/cutting the subsoil horizon and relate to the current use of the site as a residential property. Full context descriptions can be found in Appendix 1.

6 FINDS EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 A small number of finds, weighing 580 g, were recovered. The flint is considered to be of Neolithic date, while all the other finds are post-medieval or later. The artefacts comprise a range of different materials that have all been cleaned and quantified by material type within each context; this information is summarised within Table 1. The finds are in a good condition, displaying relatively low levels of abrasion and were collected from a stone surface, ditch and pit features as well as from the principal deposits.

Table 1 Summary of finds by feature and context (number and weight in grammes)

Feature	Ctxt No	Animal bone	Fired clay	Flint	Pottery
Ditch 1007	1008	-/-	-/-	202/173	-/-
Pit 1009	1010	-/-	-/-	1/1	-/-
Topsoil 3001	3001	1/26	-/-	-/-	1/8
Alluvial deposit 4006	4006	7/327	-/-	-/-	-/-
Surface 5006	5006	1/2	-/-	-/-	2/34
Layer 5007	5007	-/-	2/9	-/-	-/-
	Total	**9/355**	**2/9**	**203/174**	**3/42**

6.2 Pottery

6.2.1 The assemblage has been quantified by ware type within each context (count and weight in grammes). Where possible, the pottery has been described using common ware names

that are well-known across the region. The level of recording corresponds with the 'basic record' put forward by nationally recognised standards (Barclay et al. 2016, section 2.4.5).

6.2.2 Two basal sherds of Ashton Keynes-type ware from North Wiltshire were recovered from surface 5006. These are post-medieval in date. A single modern piece from a refined whiteware cup was collected from topsoil 3001.

6.3 Fired clay

6.3.1 Two undiagnostic fragments were collected from deposit 5007. The larger piece has a flat surface. Both are covered in a calcareous concretion.

6.4 Flint

6.4.1 An assemblage of worked flint totalling 203 pieces was recovered, all but one collected from ditch 1007. The raw material has clearly been sourced directly from chalkland, the nearest of which lies approximately 30 km to the southeast. The assemblage is, without exception, patinated a white or cream colour but is in a condition consistently fresh enough to imply little disturbance since its initial deposition.

6.4.2 The material from ditch 1007 is very much dominated by debitage, with just two undiagnostic retouched pieces included. These are both fragmentary, miscellaneous examples which retain only minimal regions of retouch; one is a small broken flake with abrupt, converging retouch (probably aimed at producing a piercer), and the other a thick flake with abrupt, blunting retouch along the proximal left edge. Microdebitage dominates the assemblage (68 %) and provides evidence for in situ, or at least proximate, knapping; most results from core trimming/abrasion, but two pieces retain fine regions of retouch and reflect the sharpening of tools. Flakes are the most numerous forms of blank (47 pieces); most have been detached with a hard (probably stone) hammer, but some, particularly including the smaller core trimming flakes, are the result of a soft (probably antler) hammer mode. Almost 50 % of the flakes, and all the blades/bladelets, are broken; the otherwise fresh condition of the flint indicates that this is almost certainly due to fracturing during manufacture. A total of 12 pieces are both worked and burnt.

6.4.3 A small number of blades/bladelets are also present (seven and one respectively), and these have all been detached with a soft hammer and show some signs of platform abrasion, a treatment designed to ensure accurate and reliable blank removals. Several flakes also have laminar, unidirectional dorsal scars that suggest they derive from cores which have produced at least some blades. No cores were recovered, but the flint appears likely to derive from just one or two nodules, and one of the blades and the larger miscellaneously retouched piece derive from cores with opposed platforms. This is also a common feature of purposeful blade technologies and is designed to control core shape and enable corrections to be made.

6.4.4 Although lacking in securely diagnostic tool forms, these technological traits indicate a broad Neolithic date for this group of material. The apparent coherence of the assemblage, although including no refits, suggests it has not moved far from a proximate region of knapping activity, and the dominance of debitage (including microdebitage) suggests the material represents the disposal of industrial waste.

6.4.5 A single undiagnostic flake was recovered from pit 1009. This is a tiny, blade-like flake which probably results from core trimming.

6.5 Animal bone

6.5.1 Animal bone was recovered from 3 contexts. The costal end of a cattle rib came from topsoil 3001, three horse bones from alluvial deposit 4006 and a small fragment of sheep-sized long bone shaft from surface 5006. The horse bones are all from the right hindquarter, they comprise the distal shaft of the femur, recently broken, a complete metacarpal and first phalanx. Based on the length of the metacarpal the horse has an estimated withers height of 13.2 hands and would therefore be classified as a pony.

6.6 Recommendations for Analysis

6.6.1 All the artefacts have been identified and recorded to an adequate level for the project archive. For this reason, no further examination of the material is considered necessary at this stage.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 A total of four bulk environmental (flotation) samples were taken from a ditch, pit and alluvium (Table 2). These features and deposits sampled are currently undated.

7.1.2 A range of samples were collected during the evaluation and the mitigation following a site-specific sampling strategy (Wessex Archaeology 2024).

Table 2 Sample summary

Area	No. of samples	Volume (litres)	Feature types
Trench 1	2	39	Ditch, pit
Trench 2	1	21	Alluvium
Trench 3	1	36	Alluvium
Totals	4	96	-

7.2 Aims and methods

7.2.1 The aim of this assessment is to determine the nature and significance of the environmental remains preserved at the site, and their potential to address the project aims. This assessment has been undertaken in accordance with Historic England's guidelines outlined in *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-Excavation* (English Heritage 2011). Appropriate recommendations for further work are provided.

7.2.2 The site-specific sampling strategy recommended sampling for waterlogged, charred and mineral-replaced plant remains, as well as wood charcoal and molluscs (Wessex Archaeology 2024). In particular, priorities for sampling including waterborne deposits (molluscs) and dump deposits (charcoal, plant remains). It was recommended not to sample the post-medieval and modern water meadow channels.

Sample processing

7.2.3 The size of the flotation samples varied between 10 and 36 litres, with an average volume of approximately 24 litres. The samples were processed by standard methods on a Siraf-type tank (0.25 mm flot mesh, 1 mm residue mesh). Once processed the residues were dried in a low temperature oven and the flots were air dried. The coarse residue fractions

(>4 mm) were sorted by eye for artefactual and environmental remains before being discarded. Any environmental material extracted from the coarse residue fractions was added to flots (e.g., charcoal). The fine residue fractions (1–4 mm) were retained for examination alongside the flots.

Charred plant remains and charcoal

7.2.4 A stereomicroscope (x32 magnification) was used to examine the flots for charred and uncharred plant macrofossils, charcoal, molluscs and other environmental remains. The fine residue fractions were examined alongside the flots. Material extracted from the fine residue fractions was added to the flots. The presence of other material in the samples was noted where appropriate (e.g., modern rootlets, modern seeds, earthworm eggs). Shells of the blind snail (*Cecilioides acicula*) were considered a potential indicator of recent contamination in the deposits sampled since this burrowing species is thought to have been introduced in the medieval period (Pelling *et al.* 2015).

7.2.5 Plant remains were identified through comparison with modern reference material held by Wessex Archaeology and relevant literature (Cappers *et al*. 2006). Selected charcoal fragments were identified through examination of the transverse, tangential longitudinal, and radial longitudinal sections at up to 400x magnification. Identifications were undertaken through comparison with Wessex Archaeology's reference collection and identification keys (Gale and Cutler 2000; Hather 2000; Schweingruber 1990).

7.2.6 Nomenclature follows Stace (2021) for wild taxa and Zohary *et al*. (2012) for cereal remains (using traditional names). For simplicity, the term 'seed' is used to refer to different types of plant macrofossil (e.g., achene, fruit etc.), unless otherwise specified.

Molluscs

7.2.7 Terrestrial and freshwater molluscs were assessed from three of the samples. The flots were examined using a Leica MS5 stereomicroscope at magnifications of up to x40. The mollusc remains were rapidly scanned for the presence of taxa and to assess their preservation. Nomenclature follows Anderson (2005). Identifications were aided by Kerney and Cameron (1979). Ecological information was retrieved from Evans (1972) and Kerney (1999).

7.2.8 All remains were recorded semi-quantitatively on an abundance scale: C = <5 ('Trace'), B = 5–10 ('Rare'), A = 10–30 ('Occasional'), A* = 30–100 ('Frequent'), A** = 100–500 ('Common'), A*** = >500 ('Abundant'). The abundance scale is based on an estimation of the number of minimum numbers of individuals (MNI) for each plant part, except where counts of fragments are explicitly stated.

7.3 Results

7.3.1 The environmental assessment data are presented in Appendix 2, Tables 4 & 5. Environmental evidence preserved at the site comprises charred plant remains, charcoal and terrestrial/freshwater molluscs.

Types of environment evidence

Charred plant remains

7.3.2 The flots are generally small in size and they contain low to high concentrations of modern rootlets, modern seeds and other indicators of recent contamination (e.g., *Cecilioides acicula*, earthworm eggs and insect eggs). This suggests that some of the environmental material in the samples is likely to have been re-worked through the soil profiles. Other material recorded includes small animal bone (rodents, amphibians, fish), coal and

clinker/cinder. The coal and clinker/cinder fragments are generally small (<10 mm), and they are likely to have been reworked through bioturbation (e.g., earthworms, *Cecilioides acicula*).

Charcoal

7.3.3 Charcoal is present in very low concentrations in all of the samples and the fragments are typically very small (<4 mm) and poorly preserved. Mineral-coating observed in the charcoal fragments is likely to have been caused by fluctuating water-levels during burial. The charcoal fragments from two of the samples were assessed.

Molluscs

7.3.4 Molluscs were assessed from the two alluvial deposits (2003, 3003) and ditch 1007. There were only trace quantities of terrestrial molluscs in the sample from pit 1009.

Summary by Trench

Trench 1

7.3.5 Charred fragments of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell are common (>100 fragments) in the sample from ditch 1007, although the fragments are quite small. Other charred plant remains include extremely poorly preserved cereal grains (Triticeae). Uncharred bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) seeds are present. As these samples came from shallow deposits – on a site where waterlogging was possible (Wessex Archaeology 2024) – it is possible that these seeds, being 'woody' are the remnants of a dewatered plant assemblage that deteriorated due to periodic wetting and drying, although they could also be intrusive. Charcoal remains include a few fragments of oak (*Quercus* sp.) and other unidentified taxa (diffuse porous). The mollusc assemblage from ditch 1007 was fairly fragmented and dominated by terrestrial species. These comprise mainly of eurytopic *Trochulus hispidus.* Open country taxa such as *Vallonia* sp., *Vertigo* sp., and *Pupilla muscorum* are present in smaller numbers, as are the shells of *Carychium minimum,* a species preferring shady/moist environments. Three poorly preserved freshwater mollusc shells from the Planorbidae family are present but could not be identified to species.

7.3.6 The sample from pit fill 1009 contained trace quantities of charcoal (>2 mm) and hazel nutshell fragments.

Trench 2

7.3.7 The sample from alluvium 2003 contains trace quantities of charcoal (>2 mm), a wheat (*Triticum* sp.) glume base, an indeterminate cereal grain and hazel nutshell. The molluscs in this sample are dominated by terrestrial molluscs that mainly derive from eurytopic taxa including *Trochulus hispidus*, *Cochlicopa* sp., *Punctum pygmaeum*, and open country taxa such as *Vallonia* sp., and *Vertigo* sp.. The freshwater mollusc taxa include those from a range of habitats: *Gyraulus albas* (eurytopic), *Anisus leucostoma* (slum), *Planorbis planorbis* (ditches and slow-moving streams) and *Succinea* sp. (marsh). Ostracods are also present.

Trench 3

7.3.8 The sample from alluvium 3003 contains trace quantities of charred barley (*Hordeum* sp.) grains, seeds of bedstraws (*Galium* sp.) and rare occurrences of charred amorphous material. This sample also includes charcoal fragments from oak, beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and other unidentified taxa (diffuse porous). The sample produced a large, and mainly well-preserved assemblage of terrestrial and freshwater molluscs. In comparison, the assemblages from layer 2003 and ditch 1007 were smaller, less diverse and not as well-preserved. Despite the difference in shell numbers, there is a broad overlap in taxa and

habitat groups. The sample produced roughly similar numbers of terrestrial and freshwater species. The terrestrial taxa generally relate to shady and moist habitats, common indicators include Zonitideae (incl. *Vitrea* sp., *Oxychilus* sp., *Nesovitria* sp., *Aegopinella nitidula*, etc.), *Discus rotundatus*, *Euconulus fulvus,* and *Carychium minimum.* Other terrestrial taxa present are eurytopic, and not indicative of a specific habitat type (e.g., *Trochulus hispidus* and *Cochlicopa* sp.). Very small numbers of the open country species *Vallonia* sp. are also present. Freshwater taxa include *Valvata piscinalis, Ancylus fluviatilis, Bithynia tentaculata* and *Pisidium* sp.. Ditch and marsh species such as *Bathyomphalus contortus, Valvata cristata* and Succineidae are also present. Small numbers of the slum species *Anisus leucostoma* were noted which tolerate conditions of poor oxygenation and periodic drought. Ostracods are also present.

7.4 Environmental conclusions

7.4.1 A range of different types of environmental evidence were recovered in the samples, including charred plant remains, wood charcoal and terrestrial/freshwater molluscs.

7.4.2 The sample from ditch 1007 contains a significant quantity of charred hazel nutshell fragments, accompanied by large quantities of flint debitage. This may be evidence of Neolithic consumption of wild foods (Stevens and Fuller 2012; Wilkinson and Straker 2007). However, the hazel nutshell fragments (and flint debitage) could have been fluvially re-worked, and they may have been re-deposited into a later feature. The small mollusc assemblage from the ditch suggests a dry and open, but well-vegetated environment, possibly located away from the main floodplain area. Small quantities of hazel nutshell fragments were also observed in the sample from pit 1009.

7.4.3 In the samples from the alluvium, the charred plant remains, and charcoal fragments probably reflect re-worked settlement waste (e.g., crop-processing debris, fuel waste). The diversity of the mollusc assemblage from the alluvial layers is indicative of the varied environment of a floodplain. This can include habitats ranging from closely grazed open pasture to areas prone to seasonal flooding, and permanently flowing water channels and streams. (Robinson 2017). Notably, these samples were different in composition to the sample from ditch 1007, suggesting that these features are not contemporary.

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Summary

8.1.1 The archaeological works identified a limited number of archaeological features and deposits within the site; these were encountered across all six of the excavated trenches (Figures 1 - 3).

8.1.2 The uncovered features comprised ditches, pits, surfaces, made ground, levelling deposits, stone dumps, soakaways and drains, representing three periods of activity, Neolithic, post-medieval and modern.

8.1.3 The features and deposits have been dated utilising recovered artefacts, stratigraphic relationships and by association. However, a number of artefactually sterile alluvial deposits post-dating the Neolithic activity and pre-dating the post-medieval activity remain effectively undated. It should be noted that alluvial layers mapped across the Site have yielded Romano British dating material during two previous test-pit investigations (47603, 17243).

Neolithic

8.1.4 The Neolithic activity was evidenced by a ditch and pit revealed at the eastern margin of the site in Trench 1. The fill of the ditch contained 202 pieces of worked flint indicative of in situ, or at least proximate, knapping. Although lacking in securely diagnostic tool forms, the flint indicates a broad Neolithic date for the feature. A significant quantity of charred hazel nutshell fragments accompanied the flint debitage and may be evidence of Neolithic consumption of wild foods.

8.1.5 The southeastern side of the ditch was truncated by a pit from which was recovered a single undiagnostic flint flake and small quantities of hazel nutshell fragments. Both pit and ditch were sealed by a thick layer of alluvium, perhaps suggesting they are broadly contemporary.

8.1.6 Similar alluvial deposits were encountered in all six trenches, although these all remain artefactually undated. However, the alluvium is clearly later than the Neolithic activity and is truncated elsewhere on site by post-medieval features.

Post-medieval

8.1.7 Post-medieval features and deposits were encountered in Trench 5. All were sealed by the subsoil horizon, overlie or were cut into the alluvium discussed above and relate to the use of the site prior to the construction of the current residential property.

8.1.8 The features and deposits consisted of a possible stone surface, its bedding layer and a possible associated construction cut, a trampled layer above the stone surface, two stone rubble spreads/dumps, a ditch and a possible recut of said ditch.

8.1.9 The ditches potentially relate to a series of man-made water channels identified from aerial photographs, used to create an area of water meadow, dating from approximately the 18th century onwards (GHER 28686). The Site sits at the north-western end of the water meadows, which run alongside the River Churn.

8.1.10 The stone rubble dumps contained both unworked fragments and worked blocks that presumably came from the demolition of a nearby building or structure, perhaps the Roman town defensive wall.

8.1.11 The function of the stone surface remains uncertain, its full extent was not ascertained within the limited confines of the works. Its construction was probably in response to the marshy nature of the locale and the trampled layer above the surface suggests continued use over an extended period.

8.1.12 Where artefacts were recovered, these were limited in number and of post-medieval date. However, many of these features and deposits were devoid of datable artefacts and although they share the same broad stratigraphic relationship with the subsoil and alluvium could be either post-medieval or potentially earlier in date.

Modern

8.1.13 The modern features and services revealed by the archaeological monitoring and recording relate to the residential property built in the late 20th century that currently occupies the site.

8.1.14 These consisted of a concrete surface, its associated bedding layer, the backfill of an extant manhole, drains, two rubbish pits, a soakaway, a flint gravel drive surface and its associated bedding and make-up layers, a landscaping cut of uncertain function with hardcore infill, and a modern levelling deposit. All stratigraphically cut the subsoil horizon and relate to the current use of the site as a residential property.

Undated

8.1.15 Thick alluvial deposits consistent with a river floodplain environment were encountered in all six trenches, although these all remain artefactually undated. The alluvium is clearly stratigraphically later than the Neolithic activity in Trench 1 and is truncated elsewhere on site by post-medieval (Trench 5) and modern features (Trenches 5, 2, 5 & 6). A Roman date for the alluvial deposits is attested to by previous test-pit investigations at the Site.

8.1.16 The alluvial deposits are indicative of the varied environment of a floodplain and included several stone dumps interpreted as possible stabilisation horizons due to the marshy nature of location. Significant sections of the River Churn are thought to have been diverted during the second century AD in order to both drain the south-eastern part of the Roman town and to supplement the town defences.

8.2 Discussion

8.2.1 The archaeological works have established that there is a reasonable potential for archaeology to survive, with features and deposits of Neolithic, post-medieval and modern origin represented, along with several features and deposits which remain undated. The recorded features and deposits comprised ditches, pits, surfaces, made ground, levelling deposits, stone dumps, soakaways, drains and alluvium.

8.2.2 A potential Neolithic ditch and pit were revealed in the eastern portion of the site and is a regionally significant find. Archaeological evidence for prehistoric activity is much scarcer than for the following Romano-British period in the locale. The main prehistoric settlement evidence comes from Bronze Age and Iron Age features identified on the far side of the river. However, this may at least in part be due to extensive truncation within urban areas during the Romano-British and modern periods.

8.2.3 The Site is located to the immediate south-east of the Roman town wall and was expected to potentially contain elements of the outer ditch, evidence of wall collapse or possibly elements of an outer tower/bastion. However, no archaeological features of confirmed Roman date were revealed during the archaeological works.

8.2.4 The lack of Roman features aligns with previous archaeological investigations within the locale, which have shown a non-uniform chronological development of the town defences in this area, with a variable uptake of the multiple represented elements.

8.2.5 It can be suggested that either the limited nature of the works (both in extent and in the case of Trench 5, depth) either failed to identify existing features, or more likely, no Roman town defences were present.

8.2.6 The extensive alluvial deposits revealed across the site are indicative of the varied environment of a floodplain and included several stone dumps interpreted as possible stabilisation horizons. This demonstrates the very marshy nature of the location in the Roman period which may have precluded the need for, or the ability to dig, a defensive ditch in this setting.

8.2.7 The post-medieval use of the site it attested to by ditches potentially relating to an area of water meadow dating from approximately the 18th century onwards, stone rubble dumps from the demolition of a nearby building or structure, perhaps the Roman town defensive wall and a stone surface of uncertain function.

8.2.8 The modern use of the site relates to the current residential property built in the late 20th century.

Environmental potential

8.2.9 The environmental assemblage recovered from the mitigation offers limited potential for further analysis. Charred plant remains, except for hazel nutshells, were only present as trace finds and cereals were poorly preserved. There is very low potential to undertake further work on the charcoal assemblage since the samples contain low concentrations of fragments which are poorly preserved. The molluscs have been assessed to a sufficient level of detail to characterise the assemblage; further analysis would be unlikely to significantly enhance the data.

8.2.10 The hazel nutshell fragments from ditch 1007 could be suitable for radiocarbon dating, although there is a possibility that these remains have been re-worked. A further radiocarbon date could be obtained on a cereal grain or charcoal from this feature.

Environmental recommendations

8.2.11 No further analysis is recommended on the assemblage of charred plant remains, charcoal or molluscs. The assessment has effectively characterised the environmental evidence from the site. However, radiocarbon dating is recommended to examine the chronology of ditch 1007.

8.2.12 The results of this assessment should be updated once final phasing has been established for the site through radiocarbon dating. A summary of the results should be included in any subsequent reports.

Scientific dating

8.2.13 It is recommended that a total of two samples be submitted (**Table 3**) for radiocarbon dating from ditch 1007 to determine if this feature dates to the Neolithic period (or if contains material of Neolithic date). The material selected for radiocarbon dating will include a fragment of hazel nutshell and a charred cereal grain. If the cereal grain is of insufficient weight, a short-life sample of charcoal will instead be selected for radiocarbon dating. There is a possibility that inconsistent radiocarbon dates will be obtained on the material dated.

Table 3 Radiocarbon dating recommendations

Area	Phasing	Feature Type	Feature	Context	Sample Code	Material	No of samples
Trench 1	unknown	Ditch	1007	1008	275872_1	Hazel nutshell and Triticeae grain	x 2

Finds potential

8.2.14 All the artefacts have been identified and recorded to an adequate level for the project archive. For this reason, no further examination of the material is considered necessary at this stage.

9 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 Museum

9.1.1 The archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury and Bristol. Corinium Museum has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project,

and an accession number will be obtained on deposition. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner to transfer title of all finds to the museum.

9.2 Preparation of the archive

Physical archive

9.2.1 The physical archive will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Corinium Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (Brown 2011; CIfA 2014b; SMA 1995).

9.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site/accession code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:

- 1 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type
- 1 files/document cases of paper records and A3/A4 graphics

Digital archive

9.2.3 The digital archive, which comprises born-digital data (e.g., site records, survey data, databases and spreadsheets, photographs and reports), will be deposited with a Trusted Digital Repository, in this instance the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), to ensure its long-term curation. Digital data will be prepared following ADS guidelines (ADS 2013 and online guidance) and accompanied by metadata.

9.2.4 Full details of the collection, processing and documentation of digital data are given in the project data management plan (DMP; Appendix 3).

9.3 Selection strategy

9.3.1 It is widely accepted that not all the records and materials (artefacts and ecofacts) collected or created during an archaeological project require preservation in perpetuity. These records and materials will be subject to selection to establish what will be retained for long-term curation, with the aim of ensuring that all elements selected for retention are appropriate to establish the significance of the project and support future research, outreach, engagement, display and learning activities (i.e., the retained archive should fulfil the requirements of both future researchers and the receiving museum).

9.3.2 The selection strategy, which details the project-specific selection process, is underpinned by national guidelines on selection and retention (Brown 2011, section 4) and generic selection policies (SMA 1993; Wessex Archaeology's internal selection policy) and follows CIfA's (n.d. b) *Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives*. It should be agreed by all stakeholders (e.g., Wessex Archaeology's specialists, external specialists, local authority, museum) and fully documented in the project archive.

9.3.3 Detailed selection proposals for the archive, comprising finds, environmental material and site records (analogue and digital), are made in the project-specific selection strategy (Appendix 4).

9.4 Security copy

9.4.1 In line with current best practice (e.g., Brown 2011), on completion of the project, a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file.

9.5 OASIS

9.5.1 An OASIS (online access to the index of archaeological investigations) record (http://oasis.ac.uk) has been initiated, with key fields completed (Appendix 5). A.pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by the Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments on behalf of Historic England. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) ArchSearch catalogue.

10 COPYRIGHT

10.1 Archive and report copyright

10.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*.

10.1.2 Digital copies of the final report will be made available to the Historic Environment Record (HER) through OASIS (online access to the index of archaeological investigations). Geospatial/survey data forming part of the digital archive will be supplied, on request, to the HER.

10.2 Third party data copyright

10.2.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g., Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Context summary

Trench No 1	Length 2 m	Width 2 m	Depth 1.7 m

Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1001		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown clay silt with rare 0.5 - 2cm sub-rounded to sub-angular stone gravels. heavy rooting.	0.00–0.25
1002		Subsoil	Dark yellow brown clay silt with rare 0.5 - 2cm sub-rounded to sub-angular stone gravels. heavy rooting.	0.25–0.54
1003		Disturbance	Mid yellow brown, silty clay, sparse 0.5-5cm sub-angular stone gravels.	0.54-0.80
1004	1005	Drain	Modern cut of 1960's drain	0.25–1.50
1005	1004	Deliberate backfill	Backfill of 1960's drain	0.25–1.7+
1006		Alluvial deposit	Alluvium layer. mid yellow brown, silty clay, sparse 0.5-5cm sub-angular stone gravels	0.80-1.50
1007	1008	Ditch	Linear ditch aligned northwest-southeast with moderate, concave sides and a concave base. Length: 1.00 m. Width: 0.63 m. Depth: 0.3 m. Truncated by adjacent pit 1009.	1.50-1.80
1008	1007	Secondary fill	Mid greyish brown sandy silty clay with occasionally 15%, ≥0.5cm rounded stone inclusions	1.50-1.80
1009	1010	Pit	Oval pit with moderate, concave sides and a flat base. Length: 1.04 m. Width: 1.15 m. Depth: 0.3 m.	1.50-1.80
1010	1009	Secondary fill	Mid brown sandy silty clay with occasional >10% sub-angular	1.50-1.80
1011		Natural	Mid yellowish brown, sandy silty clay, abundant sub-rounded to sub-angular ≥ 3cm stone gravels	1.50–1.70+

Trench No 2	Length 2 m	Width 2 m	Depth 1.60 m

Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
2001		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown clay silt with rare 0.5 - 2cm sub-rounded to sub-angular stone gravels. heavy rooting.	0.00–0.26
2002		Subsoil	Dark yellow brown clay silt with rare 0.5 - 2cm sub-rounded to sub-angular stone gravels. heavy rooting.	0.26–0.34

2003		Alluvium	Alluvium. mid yellow brown, sandy silt clay, sparse sub-angular 0.5-2cm stone gravels.	0.34–0.90
2004	2005	Drain	Modern cut of 1960's drain	0.26–1.20+
2005	2004	Deliberate backfill	Backfill of 1960's drain	0.26–1.20+
2006		Natural	Mid yellowish brown, sandy silty clay, abundant sub-rounded to sub-angular ≥ 3cm stone gravels	0.90–1.30+

Trench No 3	**Length 25 m**	**Width 0.70 m**	**Depth 0.90 m**

Context Number	**Fill Of/Filled With**	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
3001		Topsoil	Dark grey, silty light clay, some stone- none over 0.1m	0 - 0.23
3002		Subsoil	Light thin grey silty clay layer, some stone - none over 0.07m	0.23 – 0.3
3003		Alluvium	Alluvium. light brown, heavy clay and silt content - frequent molluscs, very rare stone	0.3 - 0.90
3004		Deliberate dump	Layer of dumped stone at the base of alluvium 3003. Probable stabilisation surface due to marshy nature of location.	0.90+

Trench No 4	**Length 6 m**	**Width 4 m**	**Depth 2.76 m**

Context Number	**Fill Of/Filled With**	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
4001		Modern gravel drive surface	Flint gravel	0 – 0.05
4002		Modern levelling deposit	Mix of dark grey silty loam, brick and stone	0.05 – 0.25
4003		Made ground	Dark greyish brown silty clay containing occasional small stone inclusions. Possibly imported or redeposited.	0.25 – 0.51
4004		Buried topsoil horizon	Dark reddish grey sandy silt	0.51 – 0.61
4005		Buried subsoil horizon	Dark brown silty clay	0.61 – 1.04
4006		Alluvial layer	Light greyish brown silty clay	1.04 – 1.98
4007		Natural	Light brown riverine stone and gravel layer	1.98 – 2.76+
4008		Natural	Distinct iron panned lens within 4007	
4009		Natural	Distinct dark greyish black lens within 4007	
4010		Natural	Distinct lens of smaller pale light brown gravel within 4007	

4011		Deliberate dump	Layer of dumped stone within alluvium 4006 (towards base of the deposit). Probable stabilisation surface due to marshy nature of location.	1.70 – 1.98

Trench No 5	**Length 25 m**	**Width 0.50 m**	**Depth 1.10 m max**

Context Number	**Fill Of/Filled With**	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
5001		Deliberate backfill	Modern backfill to the northwestern edge of extant manhole outside the excavation. Dark blackish grey sandy clay containing stone and modern brick.	0.12 – 0.57
5002		Subsoil	Light greyish black silty clay with stone. Average 0.34 m thickness. Cut through by modern manhole.	0.1 – 0.44
5003		Concrete	Grey concrete surface related to adjacent property. 3.4 m in length	0 – 0.09
5004		Bedding layer	Bedding layer beneath part of concrete surface 5003. Light tan sandy chip stone. Overlies 5001 and 5002.	0.09 – 0.13
5005	5010	Trample	Light mottled grey compacted silty clay with occasional stone overlying surface 5006. Overlain by subsoil 5002.	0.44 - 0.65
5006	5010	Surface	Light grey and tan cornbrash. Hard tamped stone surface overlying 5007. Visible length of surface = 1.2 m. Contained animal bone and p-med pottery.	0.65 – 0.70
5007	5010	Bedding deposit	Bedding for surface 5006. Light brownish grey sandy silt with stone. Layer of jumbled cornbrash stone with small fragments of fired clay appearing towards base. No associated cut visible and full extent unknown – visible length 1.91 m, in excess 0.4 m thick.	0.70- 1.1+
5008	5009	Deliberate backfill	Backfill of modern rubbish pit beneath concrete surface 5003.	0.1+
5009	5008	Pit	Cut of modern rubbish pit beneath concrete surface 5003.	0.1+
5010	5005, 5006, 5007	Possible construction cut	Cut of uncertain function with moderate, concave sides and an unknown base. Appears to contain the limits of bedding 5007 and surface 5006. Depth: 0.36 m+.	0.65-1.1

5011		Structural stone tumble/rubble	Light brown sandy clay with stone. Stone tumble layer, often larger stones and some facing stones. The makeup of the stones and distribution appears to signify a tumble from a wall immediately to the north. Whether these stones have been redistributed later is a possibility as it might be that they have been used either as hardcore or a levelling layer. Abuts natural 5012 to its west, although trench and section are not clear enough to show whether this is an abutting or is within a cut.	0.24+
5012		Alluvial deposit?	Light tan sandy stoney clay. Small amounts of brick noted in upper surface (not recovered) suggests the upper surface may have been disturbed by modern construction of the property. Visible length 3.6 m, 0.6 m+ in depth.	0.28 – 0.88+
5013	5018	Fill	Fill of modern soakaway. Grey gravel with brick, stone and concrete.	0.04 – 0.54+
5014		Modern gravel drive surface	Extant flint gravel drive surface.	0 – 0.04
5015		Levelling deposit	Levelling deposit for modern gravel drive surface 5014. Very light brown sandy silt with stone, rubble, brick	0.04 – 0.12
5016		Levelling deposit	Levelling deposit for modern gravel drive surface 5014, overlain by 5015. Pale light tan sandy scree with occasional stone.	0.12 – 0.2
5017		Subsoil	Subsoil beneath drive levelling deposit 5016. Dark grey silty clay with occasional stone.	0.2 – 0.82+
5018	5013	Soakaway	Modern soakaway beneath gravel drive surface with moderate, concave sides and an unknown base. Depth: 0.50 m. Cuts deposits 5015, 5016, 5017 to its west and 5012 to its east.	0.04 – 0.54+
5019	5033	Modern hardcore	Light pale brown scree with modern hardcore brick, concrete and stone	0.04 – 0.28
5020		Modern levelling deposit	Light brown silty clay with brick, stone, concrete. Seals pit 5022 and ditches 5027 & 5030.	0.22 – 0.53
5021	5022	Fill	Fill of pit. Dark grey silty clay with stone	0.2 – 0.61

5022	5021	Pit	Pit with moderate, concave sides and a concave base. Depth: 0.41 m. Only portion visible within trench. Potentially modern. Cuts through subsoil 5023	0.2 – 0.61
5023		Subsoil	Possible subsoil beneath modern hardcore 5019. Light greyish brown silty clay with occasional stone. Same as 5024.	0.21 – 0.75+
5024		Subsoil	Possible subsoil beneath modern hardcore 5019. Light greyish brown silty clay with occasional stone. Same as 5023.	0.24 – 0.50
5025		Stone tumble/rubble	Greyish brown silty clay with frequent stone, looking akin to tumble material and banked slightly falling off towards its NE end. Lack of depth to trench makes it difficult to objectively identify this context and how it interplays with its surroundings. Stones within not bonded and with no dressed stone.	0.47 – 0.75
5026	5027	Fill	Ditch fill. Mid brown silty clay with infrequent small stones	0.3 – 0.73
5027	5026	Ditch	Linear feature aligned NW-SE, uncertain function, with shallow, concave sides and an unknown base. Depth: 0.43 m. Possible recut of ditch 5030.	0.3 – 0.73
5028		Levelling deposit	Levelling deposit beneath modern gravel drive surface. Mottled grey green silty clay with infrequent small stones. Overlies modern levelling deposit 5020.	0.04 – 0.22
5029	5030	Fill	Fill of ditch. Dark brown sandy silt with frequent large stone, none dressed, many around 0.3m	0.53 – 0.81
5030	5029	Ditch	Ditch aligned SE-NW with shallow, concave sides and an unknown base. Depth: 0.28 m.	0.53 – 0.81
5031		Subsoil?	Light brown sandy silt with frequent small stones	0.37 – 0.6
5032		Alluvial deposit?	Dark brown silty clay with occasional small stones	0.6 – 0.9+
5033	5019	Modern landscaping cut	Cut of uncertain function, probably modern landscaping containing hardcore 5019. Shallow, concave sides and a sloping base. Depth: 0.24 m.	0.04 – 0.28

Trench No 6	**Length 2 m**	**Width 2 m**	**Depth 1.00 m**
Context Number	**Fill Of/Filled With**	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**

6001		Topsoil	Dark grey, silty light clay, some stone- none over 0.1m	0.23
6002		Made ground	Modern made ground. Light brown silty clay with brick, stone, concrete. Full depth of deposit not ascertained.	0.23 - 1.00+
6003	6004	Drain	Modern cut of 1960's drain	0.23–1.00+
6004	6003	Deliberate backfill	Backfill of 1960's drain	0.23–1.00+

Appendix 2 Environmental Data

Table 4 Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

Abundance scale: C = <5 ('Trace'), B = 5–10 ('Rare'), A = 10–30 ('Occasional'), A* = 30–100 ('Frequent'), A** = 100–500 ('Common'), A*** = >500 ('Abundant').
E = earthworm eggs, CAM = charred amorphous remains

Feature Type	Feature	Context	Sample Code	Sample vol. (l)	Flot vol. (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Charred plant remains				Charcoal		Other	Waterlogged	
							Grain	Chaff	Other	Notes	Charcoal vol. >2mm (ml)	Notes		Seeds	Notes
Ditch	1007	1008	275872_1	29	20	uncharred seeds, roots (70%) leaf fragments, E, *Cecilioides acicula*	C	-	A*	Triticeae, *Corylus avellana* shell fragments	1	*Quercus* sp. stemwood, other taxa (diffuse porous); Poor condition	-	C	*Rubus fruticosus* agg.
Pit	1010	1009	275872_2	10	10	modern roots (95%), *Cecilioides acicula*	-	-	C	*Corylus avellana* shell fragments	<1	-	-	-	
Alluvium	-	2003	275872_3	21	20	woody roots, E, insect eggs (A*), *Cecilioides acicula*	C	C	C	Triticeae, *Triticum* sp. glume base, *Corylus avellana* shell fragments	<1	-	-	-	

Feature Type	Feature	Context	Sample Code	Sample vol. (l)	Flot vol. (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Charred plant remains				Charcoal		Other	Waterlogged	
							Grain	Chaff	Other	Notes	Charcoal vol. >2mm (ml)	Notes		Seeds	Notes
Alluvium	-	3003	275872_4	36	75	E, modern roots (5%), modern leaves, insect capsules (A*), *Cecilioides acicula*	C	-	B	*Hordeum* sp. fragment, *Corylus avellana* shell fragments (C), CAM (B), *Galium* sp. (C)	2.5	Small fragments, mainly <4 mm inc. stemwood and twigs; *Fagus sylvatica*, *Quercus* sp., other (diffuse porous); Poor to moderate condition	Amphibian/ small animal bone, coal and clinker/cinder (C)	-	

Table 5 Assessment of the molluscs

Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs; Moll-f = aquatic molluscs

Feature Type	Feature	Context	Sample Code	Sample vol. (l)	Notes
Ditch	1007	1008	275872_1	29	**Moll-t** - *Trochulus hispidus*, *Valloina* sp., *Vertigo* sp., *Pupilla muscorum*, *Carychium minimum, Cecilioides acicula*. **Moll-f** – Planorbidae
Alluvium	-	2003	275872_3	21	**Moll-t** - *Trochulus hispidus* (dominant), *Cochlicopa* sp., *Vallonia* sp., Zonitideae (incl. *Aegopinella* sp.), *Punctum pygmaeum*, *Vertigo* sp., *Cecilioides acicula*; **Moll-f** - Planorbidae (incl. *Gyraulus albus*, *Anisus leucostoma*, *Planorbis planorbis*), cf. *Succinea* sp.
Alluvium	-	3003	275872_4	36	**Moll-t** - *Trochulus hispidus* (dominant), *Cochlicopa* sp., *Discus rotundatus*, *Carychium minimum*, *Vallonia* sp., *Euconulus fulvus*, Zonitideae (incl. *Vitrea* sp., *Oxychilus* sp., *Nesovitria* sp., *Aegopinella nitidula*), Limacidae, *Cecilioides acicula*; **Moll-f** - Planorbidae (incl. Bathyomphalus contortus, *Anisus leucostoma, Planorbis* spp.), *Valvata piscinalis*, *Valvata cristata*, *Ancylus fluviatilis*, *Bithynia tentaculata* (plus opercula), Sphaeriidae (incl. *Pisidium* sp.), Succineidae (*Oxyloma/Succinea*)

Appendix 3 Data management plan

DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN

Section 1: Project administration/details

Project name
City Bank Road, Cirencester
Wessex Archaeology project number(s)
• 275871 (WSI), 275872 (Fieldwork)
External references
• OASIS ID(s): wessexar1-526939 • Local Planning Authority and planning reference(s): Cotswold District Council – permitted development • Museum and accession number: Corinium Museum. Accession number applied after deposition, museum notified on 10th June 2024
Project description
Wessex Archaeology has been commissioned by Cappagh Contractors Construction Ltd (the Client), on behalf of Thames Water Utilities Ltd, to undertake and archaeological excavation and archaeological monitoring and recording during proposed sewage works at City Bank Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, centred on National Grid Reference 403149, 201249. The sewage works require an excavation for an overflow tank, two connecting pipelines and three non-return valves. Excavation for the overflow tank will be approximately 3 m by 6 m and 1-1.5 m deep and is expected to encounter remains of the outer ditches of the Roman town defences and of post-medieval to modern water meadow channels. There is also a potential for River Terrace deposits to be encountered at lower levels. Excavation for the connecting pipelines is expected to be less than 1 m in width and depth. The northern connecting pipeline is expected to encounter archaeological remains of the second phase of the outer ditch and possibly an outer tower at lower depths. The southern connecting pipeline is expected to encounter archaeological remains of post-medieval to modern water meadow channels. Excavation for the non-return valves is expected to be less than 1 m in width and depth, mostly involving exposing both the existing pipelines and the disturbed ground around them. However, there will likely be some small levels of excavation of undisturbed ground. Excavation for the northernmost of the three valves could encounter evidence for the upper fills of the outer ditch of the Roman town defences. Consultation with the Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments for Historic England (South West Region) on 24 June 2024 confirmed the following methodologies to be employed; •Overflow tank approx. 3m x 6m and 1-1.5m deep. Archaeological excavation to depth and detailed sampling strategy; •Northern connecting pipeline. 1m wide and 1m depth. Archaeological excavation to depth and detailed sampling strategy; •Southern connecting pipeline. 1m wide and 1m depth. Archaeological watching brief to depth with contingency for excavation and sampling as above; and •Non-return valves. Less than 1m depth. Archaeological watching brief to depth with contingency for excavation and sampling as above. Scheduled Monument Consent has been granted for the works (ref: S00244974). Wessex Archaeology has also produced an Archaeological Impact and Mitigation Statement (Wessex Archaeology 2023), the findings of which have informed this WSI.

Client

Commissioned by Cappagh Contractors Construction (London) Ltd

Cappagh House
Waterside Way
Wimbledon
London
SW17 7AB

On behalf of Thames Water Utilities Ltd (Reading)

Clearwater Court
Vastern Road
Reading
RG1 8DB

Project manager

- Fieldwork: Bruce Eaton, Project Manager, Wessex Archaeology
- Post-excavation: Bruce Eaton, Project Manager, Wessex Archaeology

Principal investigator/researcher

- Site director: Max Dampier, Supervisor, Wessex Archaeology
- Principal report writer: Ray Holt, Senior Regional Support Officer, Wessex Archaeology

Data contact person

- Jess Irwin, Senior Archives Officer, Wessex Archaeology

Version control

Issue	*Date*	*Description/summary of revisions*
1	19/07/2024	DMP created
2	25/05/2025	Revised at project reporting stage
3	tbc	Revised at archiving stage

Related documents, data management policies and guidance

Project design/project-specific documentation

- Wessex Archaeology 2024. *City Bank Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire. Archaeological Project Design for Archaeological Excavation and Archaeological Monitoring and Recording.* Unpublished report ref. 275871.01.
- Project-specific Selection Strategy. Unpublished report ref. 275871.02.
- Wessex Archaeology 2023. City Bank Road, Cirencester: Archaeological Impact and Mitigation Statement. WA Document Ref: 252870.01.

Wessex Archaeology guidance, standards, policy and procedures

- Fieldwork/recording manuals
- Survey guide

- Photography guide
- Context/finds/environmental database and software user guides
- Style guide for reporting
- Archive preparation manual
- Project Management System end user manual
- Project Management System project management and accounting manual
- Quality Management System (QMS) policy, manual and process procedures
- Data protection and security policy and procedures (https://www.wessexarch.co.uk/our-privacy-policy)
- Data policies and procedures
- Copyright and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) policy/procedures

External/national standards and guidance

This DMP has been compiled with reference to:

- Archaeology Data Service [ADS] 2013. *Caring for Digital Data in Archaeology: a guide to good practice*. Archaeology Data Service & Digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practice. Oxford: Oxbow Books.
- Archaeology Data Service [ADS] 2023. *Selection and appraisal of data,* https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/help-guidance/how-to-prepare-data/selection-guidance/ (accessed 10/12/2023).
- Brown, D. H. 2011. *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer, and curation* (2nd edition). Reading: Institute of Field Archaeologists/Archaeological Archives Forum.
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists [CIfA] 2014 (revised October 2020). *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*. Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists [CIfA] 2014 (revised October 2020). *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation, and research of archaeological materials*. Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists [CIfA] 2023. *Universal Guidance for Archaeological Excavation*. Reading: CIfA.
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists [CIfA] 2023. *Universal Guidance for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording*. Reading: CIfA.
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists [CIfA] n.d. *Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives*, https://www.archaeologists.net/selection-toolkit (accessed 10/12/2023).
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists [CIfA] n.d. *Toolkit for Managing Digital Data*, https://www.archaeologists.net/digdigital (accessed 10/12/2023).
- Digital Curation Centre [DCC] 2023. *Data Management Plans*, https://www.dcc.ac.uk/resources/data-management-plans (accessed 10/12/2023)
- English Heritage 2012. *MIDAS: the UK Historic Environment Data Standard Version 1.1. Best practice guidelines*. Forum on Information Standards in Heritage (FISH).
- English Heritage 2011. *Environmental Archaeology. A Guide to the Theory, Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (2nd edition). Portsmouth: English Heritage.
- English Heritage [Historic England] 2012. Research Strategy for the Roman-Period Historic Environment. English Heritage Thematic Research Strategies. Available at: https://historicengland.org.uk/content/docs/research/rm-res-strat-1202-v22-pdf/
- Grove, J and Croft, B 2012. *South West Archaeological Research Framework: Research Strategy 2012-2017. Taunton*: Somerset County Council

- Historic England 2015a. *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: the MoRPHE project managers' guide.* Swindon: Historic England.
- Historic England 2015b. *Geoarchaeology. Using Earth Sciences to Understand the Archaeological Record.* Swindon: Historic England
- Historic England 2018. *The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project*. Swindon: Historic England.
- Historic England 2019. *Animal Bones and Archaeology. Recovery to archive.* Swindon: Historic England.
- Historic England 2022. *Radiocarbon Dating and Chronological Modelling: Guidelines and Best Practice.* London: Historic England.
- HM Government 2023. *Explanatory Memorandum to the Treasure Act 1996: Code of Practice* (3rd Revision) 2023
- Forster, M. 2019. *Work Digital/Think Archive. A Guide to Managing Digital Data Generated from Archaeological Investigations*. Historic England, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and DigVentures.
- Historic England 2015. *Digital Image Capture and File Storage*. Swindon: Historic England.
- Paul, S. 2018. Gloucestershire Archaeological Archive Standards: A Countywide Standard for the Creation, Compilation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives in Gloucestershire (revised edition, version 1b)
- Whyte, A. and Wilson, A. 2010. *How to Appraise & Select Research Data for Curation* (revised 15/08/16, v.1.1). Edinburgh: Digital Curation Centre. https://www.dcc.ac.uk/guidance/how-guides/appraise-select-data (accessed 10/12/2023).

Section 2: Data collection/creation

Data to be collected/created

Data types that may be collected/created as part of this project are tabulated below.

Detail on data types/formats/quantities intended for deposition will be added to this DMP as the project progresses; archive quantities will be specified prior to deposition.

Type	*Format*	*Archive quantity*
Digital pro forma site records (context sheets, environmental sample records, trench sheets etc)	PDF (deposited in .pdf and converted to .pdf/a by ADS)	1–5 objects (average size <100 MB; compiled as digital security copies)
Spreadsheets (stratigraphic/contextual data, specialist data tables, metadata tables etc)	MS Excel (.xlsx, deposited in .xlsx and converted to .csv by ADS) and/or .csv	1–5 objects (<50 MB total)
Spatial/survey data	ESRI shapefile (.shp, .shx and .dbf, plus associated files)	1–3 files (<100 MB total)
Site photographs (record, working and condition monitoring)	Raster image file (.jpeg)	42 objects (average size 1 MB)
Digital security copy scans of site permatrace drawings (plan and section drawings)	Raster image file (.tiff or .jpeg)	14 objects (average size <60 MB)
Digital security copy scans of paper site registers/records (context index, finds and	PDF (deposited in .pdf and converted to .pdf/a by ADS)	4 objects (average size <1 MB)

samples registers, photo register, drawing register etc)		
Grey literature/client reports (e.g., Project Design/Written Scheme of Investigation, Post-excavation assessment and Updated Project Design) and individual specialist reports	MS Word (.docx, compiled and converted to .pdf at each issue, final versions deposited in .pdf and converted to .pdf/a by ADS)	1-3 objects (average size <100 MB)
Other specialist data (e.g., x-ray images, radiocarbon dating data and certificates, finds photographs)	Varies (typically doc.x, .xlsx, .csv, .pdf, .svg., png., .jpeg, etc)	tbc prior to deposition

How data will be collected/created

Data standards, collection/creation methods, storage and file naming

Data will be collected/created in accordance with the Project Design and Wessex Archaeology's internal guidance, standards, policies and procedures, as informed by relevant best practice guidance and standards (see Section 1).

Wessex Archaeology uses standardised procedures for:

- data capture through site recording, survey and photography
- data processing and management
- post-excavation (e.g., specialist finds and environmental) data recording
- digital archive preparation (including metadata creation)

Data collected/created during the project will preferentially employ standardised file formats and be version controlled in accordance with Wessex Archaeology's standard procedures.

Standardised project folder structures are used to organise and compartmentalise project-specific data held on Wessex Archaeology's servers.

Standardised file naming conventions, which include unique identifiers, are used for site records and photographs, geospatial/survey data and project/client reports. For example:

- Context record: *WA_ProjectNumber_ContextNumber*_Context_Record.pdf
- Site photographs: *ProjectNumber_CameraNumber_Timestamp_ImageNumber*.jpeg
- Post-excavation assessment report: *ProjectNumber_SiteName*_PXA.docx/.pdf

To facilitate data sharing and promote long-term future re-use, deposition file formats will be of archival standard, open-source and accessible in nature (e.g., standardised, openly documented and, where possible, non-proprietary), following national guidance (see Section 1) and the requirements of the Trusted Digital Repository (see Section 6).

Quality Assurance

Wessex Archaeology is registered as an archaeological organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and fully endorses its *Code of Conduct* and *Regulations for Professional Conduct*.

Wessex Archaeology is an ISO 9001 accredited organisation (certificate number FS 606559), independently audited by the British Standard Institution (BSI), confirming the operation of a Quality Management System that complies with the requirements of ISO 9001:2015 – covering professional archaeological and heritage advice and services.

Project data is subject to quality control/checking at multiple stages, from collection/creation through to preparation of the archive for deposition, in accordance with Wessex Archaeology's Quality Management System (see Section 1).

Devices used in data collection are regularly maintained, calibrated and checked to ensure they are in full working order.

Section 3: Documentation and metadata

Documentation and metadata
Data collected/created as part of the project will preferentially employ standard formats that maximise opportunities for use and re-use (see Section 2). Archived data will be accompanied by metadata in line with Archaeology Data Service (ADS) guidance. The metadata will be created automatically and/or manually during data collection/creation and preparation of the archive for deposition. Where archives are suitable for ADS 'easy' deposition, Collection Level Metadata will be automatically applied on deposition from the associated OASIS record. A Collection Level Metadata Summary will be completed prior to deposition for projects requiring 'bespoke' ADS deposition; this will combine the overarching project details and a register of data types and number of objects included in the archive, along with all other archive components. Metadata tables will be populated using the standard format for each data type as recommended by the ADS. A catalogue documenting the contents of the physical and digital archive will be deposited with the Museum and Trusted Digital Repository (see Section 6). Data documentation will meet the requirements of the Museum and Trusted Digital Repository.

Section 4: Ethics and legal compliance

Management of ethical, copyright and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) issues
Wessex Archaeology has policies and procedures for dealing with personal information that meet the requirements of the *Data Protection Act 2018* (see Section 1). These detail what information Wessex Archaeology collects, the purpose of collecting this data, how it will be processed, stored, transferred and disposed of. Any sensitive data will be handled according to Wessex Archaeology data policy to ensure it is stored and transferred securely. The identity of individuals will be protected in line with the *General Data Protection Regulation* (GDPR). If required, data will be anonymised and redacted. Selection and retention of sensitive data for archival purposes will occur in consultation with the client and other relevant stakeholders. Confidential data will not be selected for archiving and will be handled as per contractual obligations. The full copyright of the project archive will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. Formal agreement to include data from external specialists and contractors is secured on the engagement of the specialist or contractor. The project archive (including project reports) may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g., Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material. Deposit licences will be agreed with the Museum and Trusted Digital Repository (see Section 6) before data is deposited. Permissions and/or licence agreements linked with data sharing (see Section 7) will form part of the project archive.

Section 5: Storage and backup

Data access, storage and backup
Risks to data security are managed in accordance with Wessex Archaeology's data policies and procedures (see Section 1). Wessex Archaeology office networks are secured behind managed firewalls that are upgraded, updated, and reviewed on a regular basis. Access to data is strictly controlled through security rights, authentication complexity protocols and controlled access requests.

Collaboration with external parties, where required, will be enabled via data access and sharing protocols that do not jeopardise data security. External specialists and contractors will be provided only with necessary files/data, using permissions-based access.

Data storage and backup procedures used by Wessex Archaeology to manage and secure working project archives are integral to standard project data collection/creation methods; see details in Section 2.

Wessex Archaeology also implement various levels of backup and disaster recovery. Daily, weekly, monthly and annual backups and data replication are carried out. Wessex Archaeology is Cyber Essentials certificated.

Section 6: Selection and preservation

Data to be retained, shared and/or preserved

Not all digital data will be archived. In order to create a high quality, sustainable, concise and easily intelligible archive, all data will undergo a process of selection prior to deposition, as detailed in the project-specific Selection Strategy (see Section 1).

The Selection Strategy and DMP will be updated at project review points (e.g., at each stage of reporting and before deposition). Each iteration of the Selection Strategy and DMP will be finalised in agreement with the client and other project stakeholders. Where relevant, copies of the Selection Strategy and DMP will be included in project reports as appendices. The final versions of the Selection Strategy and DMP will be included in the deposited archive.

Selection will be informed by the Project Design (see Section 1), defined against the project research aims, regional and national research frameworks, specialist advice and the significance of the project results. The selected contents of the archive will be commensurate with their potential for re-use, future research and public benefit, and subject to any restrictions on data sharing (see Section 7) and considerations of financial and environmental sustainability.

Data selected for archiving will be converted to deposition file formats as required (see Section 2).

The data archive will be ordered, with files named and structured in a logical manner, and accompanied by relevant documentation and metadata, as outlined in Sections 2 and 3.

The project is expected to provide information suitable for inclusion in the Historic Environment Record (HER) (e.g., for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process).

With the agreement of project stakeholders, the data archive for projects with negative archaeological results will consist of the approved report(s) and a limited selection of images, deposited with ADS via OASIS.

Long-term preservation plan for the dataset

The digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), which is a Trusted Digital Repository with Core Trust Seal.

The physical archive will be transferred to the Corinium Museum. Copies of files forming part of the digital archive will also be transferred to the Museum on request.

Approved client/grey literature reports will be made available via OASIS and supplied directly, on request, to the Historic Environment Record (HER).

Contact with intended data repository

The ADS will be contacted prior to deposition of the digital archive where necessary (e.g., for projects requiring ‘bespoke’ deposition).

The Corinium Museum has been contacted to ascertain their requirements for the content and delivery of the archive.

Archiving costs

Archiving costs will be reviewed at appropriate stages during the creation and implementation of the (iterative) Project Design (see Section 1), and quotes obtained from the intended data repository where relevant.

The resources required to implement the archiving strategy agreed with project stakeholders will be subject to contractual arrangements.

Section 7: Data sharing and accessibility

Data sharing plan

The project results will be disseminated through grey literature/client reports and, where appropriate, publication – the format and scope of which will be agreed with the client and other project stakeholders as detailed in the relevant iteration of the Project Design (see Section 1). The location of the project archive will be included in grey literature/client reports and publications.

Subject to stakeholder agreement, the project results may also be shared via a range of accessible media and portals.

The ADS will disseminate the deposited digital archive under its Terms of Use and Access, data sharing guidelines and deposition licence, and the dataset will receive a unique identifier Digital Object Identifier (DOI).

An OASIS form will be completed for each phase of work associated with the project. Alternatively, details relating to individual phases of work will be collated under a single OASIS entry. The location(s) of the archive will be added to OASIS on deposition. Approved versions of client/grey literature reports will be uploaded to the associated OASIS record(s).

Digital copies of approved client/grey literature reports will be made available to the Historic Environment Record (HER) through OASIS. Geospatial/survey data forming part of the digital archive will be supplied, on request, to the HER.

Copies of files forming part of the digital archive will also be transferred to the Museum on request.

Data sharing restrictions

Data sharing will be subject to any restrictions identified in consultation with the client and other project stakeholders, e.g., those linked with client confidentiality, contractual obligations, commercial sensitivities, copyright/Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), legal compliance, ethical issues, security concerns and any other restrictions or sensitivities (see Section 4).

Exclusive use of the data may be required for limited periods where client approval is required, or longer term, dependent on the nature of sensitivities or restrictions identified with project stakeholders. A data sharing agreement (or equivalent) will be adhered to via a deposition licence. Agreed restrictions on data sharing will be documented through updates to the DMP and within the project archive.

Section 8: Responsibilities

Responsibilities

Project team

- Project manager(s): responsible for overseeing all aspects of the project from initiation to completion, including the implementation of the DMP and ensuring it is revised at relevant stages
- Project team members: responsible for data collection/creation, uploading/transfer and quality control (assured by the Project Manager)
- Core members of the project team are detailed in the Project Design (see Section 1)

Organisational-level responsibilities

- Archives team: responsible for preparation (including metadata production) and deposition of the project archive (including implementation of the approved Selection Strategy and DMP)
- Geomatics team: responsible for processing and quality control of geospatial (e.g., survey) and photogrammetric data, and maintenance of data collection equipment (e.g., cameras and survey instruments)
- IT team: responsible for development, maintenance/operation and support of the company's IT infrastructure (including data storage and backup facilities)

Appendix 4 Selection strategy

SELECTION STRATEGY

Project Information

Project name		
City Bank Road, Cirencester		
Project code(s)		
275871, 275872		
Version control		
Issue	***Date***	***Description/summary of revisions***
1	19/07/2024	Selection strategy created
2	09/09/2024	Updated with HE comments Section 3.2
3	23/05/2025	Revised at project reporting stage
4	tbc	Revised at archiving stage
Project management		
Organisation	Wessex Archaeology (WA)	
Project Manager	Fieldwork: Bruce Eaton Post-excavation: tbc	
Archaeological Archive Manager(s)	Jessica Irwin	
Stakeholders		**Date Contacted**
Collecting Institution(s)	Corinium Museum (Caroline Morris) Archaeology Data Service	10/06/2024 N/A
Project Lead / Project Assurance	Lead: Max Dampier Assurance: Bruce Eaton	N/A
Landowner / Developer	Thames Water Utilities Ltd	
Local planning authority (LPA) curatorial service / archaeological advisor	N/A	
Other (external)	Historic England	
Other (internal)	WA Finds Manager (Rachael Seager Smith) WA Environmental Manager (Sander Aerts) WA Geomatics Manager (Chris Breeden) WA finds and environmental specialists (see project design/WSI)	N/A; briefed as part of standard project process
Resources		

Resources required	WA finds and environmental specialists; external finds and environmental specialists (where applicable); WA archives team

Context

This overarching selection strategy document is based on the CIfA (n.d.) *Archives Selection Toolkit* and relates to archaeological project work being undertaken by Wessex Archaeology as defined in the project design/WSI(s).

Relevant standards, policies and guidelines consulted include:

General

- Archaeological Archives Forum [AAF] 2011. *Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (revised edition).
- Society of Museum Archaeologists [SMA] 1993. *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections. London: Society of Museum Archaeologists*.
- Paul, S. 2018. Gloucestershire Archaeological Archive Standards: A Countywide Standard for the Creation, Compilation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives in Gloucestershire (revised edition, version 1b)

Relevant research agendas

- Grove, J and Croft, B 2012. *South West Archaeological Research Framework: Research Strategy 2012-2017.* Taunton: Somerset County Council
- English Heritage 2012. *Research Strategy for the Roman-Period Historic Environment*

Finds

- Barclay, A., Knight, D., Booth, P., Evans, J., Brown, D. H., and Wood, I. 2016. *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology*. PCRG, SGRP and MPRG.
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists [CIfA] 2014 (revised October 2020). *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation, and research of archaeological materials*. Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

Environmental

- English Heritage 2008. *Guidelines for the Curation of Waterlogged Macroscopic Plant and Invertebrate Remains*. Swindon: English Heritage.
- English Heritage 2010. *Waterlogged Wood: guidelines on the recording, sampling, conservation and curation of waterlogged wood*. Swindon: English Heritage.
- English Heritage 2011. *Environmental Archaeology. A Guide to Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (2nd edition). Portsmouth: English Heritage.
- Historic England 2015. *Geoarchaeology: using earth sciences to understand the archaeological record.* Swindon: Historic England.
- Historic England 2018. *Waterlogged Organic Artefacts: guidelines on their recovery, analysis and conservation*. Swindon: Historic England.

Scientific dating

- Historic England 2022. Radiocarbon Dating and Chronological Modelling: Guidelines and Best Practice. London: Historic England.

Research objectives of the project

The research objectives of the project, as stated in the relevant project design/WSI, are to:

Thematic/ period research aims

The themes and research topics within the national period framework (English Heritage 2012) provide a broad scale framework, largely to direct English Heritage's (now Historic England) corporate objectives, to which small scale works can only offer limited input. However, the results from the proposed works do have some potential to contribute to wider themes.

Research Topic 4 – Landscape context of known sites:

• Identification of landscapes associated with known sites

•Paleoenvironmental and geoarchaeological approaches to landscape (English Heritage 2012, 21)

The fills present within the outer ditches of the Roman defences may contain deposits suitable for environmental sampling. The potential for these to provide ecofactual information about the nature of the surrounding landscape during and after the lifetime of the Roman defences should be explored.

It has also been identified that there is a possibility for River Terrace deposits with a Palaeolithic and geoarchaeological interest to be disturbed as part of the proposed works. If these deposits are present within the excavated areas, they should be subject to geoarchaeological investigation to help to establish the nature and chronology of their deposition and recover any artefactual evidence.

Research Topic 6 – Iron Age to Roman:

•Develop data sets that allow a more nuanced understanding of the changes to, and continuity in the archaeological record in the first centuries BC and AD (ibid. 22)

A Late Iron Age presence has been identified in the area immediately surrounding the Site, both in the form of archaeological features and reworked artefactual evidence. Investigation of the Site may be able to further our understanding of how the landscape surrounding Corinium changed during the transition from the Iron Age to the Romano-British period. This could potentially be the case if earlier features have been sealed beneath the alluvial layers present within the Site, which are thought to date from and after the Romano-British period.

Research Topic 8 – Roman to Post Roman:

•Investigating the evidence for and character of change in the 4th century, with a particular emphasis on urban data sets

•Recognising, capturing and understanding 5th century data (ibid. 22)

Dating evidence to create a secure chronology for deposits for the post-Roman / early medieval period have so far been absent within and in the area surrounding the Site, although ditch fills associated with the Roman defences could contain environmental evidence of the Post Roman landscape. Consequently, the potential for investigation to address this research aim would likely be limited to a general assessment of paleoenvironmental and geoarchaeological deposits post-dating the Romano-British period, though likely without precise dating evidence.

<u>Regional (SWARF) research aims</u>

Research Aim 35: Improve our understanding of early Roman urban settlement (Grove and Croft 2012, 19)

The Site's primary archaeological interest in relation to the Romano British period is the potential for the presence of elements of the Roman town's defences, in particular, the later phases of external towers and outer ditches, rather than the earlier earth rampart. However, considering the non-uniform sequence of construction along the south-eastern stretch of defences, there is potential for earlier phases of development to be present within the Site.

Recording of any features present should seek to clarify the form and chronology of any elements of the town defences present.

Research Aim 18d: Analysis of colluvial and alluvial sequences (Grove and Croft 2012, 27)

Alluvial stratigraphy over 1 m in depth is expected to be present within the Site, dating from at least the Romano-British period onwards, in addition to the possible presence of paleochannels, as was tentatively identified during test-pitting at The Hatches (Lang 2014). The potential for dating material to be present within the alluvial deposits likely to be disturbed should be explored.

<u>Research questions (site specific)</u>

Q1 – To what extent has the course of the River Churn been impacted or altered by the development of the Roman town (Corinium)?

Significant sections of the River Churn are thought to have been diverted during the second century in order to both drain the south-eastern part of the town and to supplement the town defences. Any archaeological works undertaken on the Site should aim to identify and record evidence for Romano-British features (namely the outer ditches) to have contained waterborne sediments derived from the River Churn, including the potential for artificial water channels to be present within the Site.

Q2 – What is the form and chronological sequence of the town defences in the south-eastern corner of the Roman town?

The Site is located to the immediate south-east of the Roman town wall and is expected to contain elements of two phases of the outer ditch, in addition to wall collapse and potentially elements of an outer tower/bastion. Previous archaeological investigations within and either side of the Site have shown a non-uniform chronological development of the town defences in this area, with a variable uptake of multiple elements. Investigation within the Site could help to further map the form and extent of these various elements of the town defences and to collect dating evidence.

Of principal interest is whether the ditches terminate within the Site or diverge from the base of the rampart and whether they connect to one or more natural water channels feeding into the River Churn. Additionally, if any such ditches are present, environmental sampling should be undertaken to establish the likelihood of permanent flooding or waterlogging through connection to the river.

Review Points

Consultation with all Stakeholders regarding project-specific selection decisions will be undertaken at a maximum of three project review points:

1. Data gathering: on site, if any unforeseen discovery necessitates an amendment to the proposed collection strategy, or if adjustments are made to any sampling strategy
2. End of data gathering (assessment stage)
3. Archive compilation

Section 1: Digital Data

Stakeholders
WA Project Manager; WA Archives Manager; WA Geomatics Manager; LPA curatorial service / archaeological advisor; ADS
Selection
This document is designed to link to the project data management plan (DMP). To promote long-term future re-use, deposition file formats will be of archival standard, open source and accessible in nature following national guidance and the requirements of the digital repository. Any sensitive data will be handled according to Wessex Archaeology data policy to ensure it is stored and transferred securely. The identity of individuals will be protected in line with GDPR. If required, data will be anonymised and redacted. Selection and retention of sensitive data for archival purposes will occur in consultation with the client and relevant stakeholders. Confidential data will not be selected for archiving and will be handled as per contractual obligation.

Type	Selection strategy	Review points
Site records	Most records will be completed digitally on site (with the exception of registers). All will be selected for deposition.	3
Reports	To include project designs/WSIs, interim reports, client reports and (where possible, subject to copyright restrictions) publication reports. Final versions only will be selected for deposition.	2, 3
Specialist reports	Specialist reports will generally be incorporated in other documents with only minimal editing (reformatting, etc), and will be selected only if the original differs significantly from the incorporated version.	2, 3
Photographic media (site recording)	Substandard and duplicate images will be eliminated; pre-excavation images may not be selected where duplicated by post-excavation shots; working shots will be selected to include only good quality images with potential for re-use and those integral to understanding features, their inter-	2, 3

	relationships and location on site; site condition and reinstatement photos will not be selected.	
Photographic media (objects)	Images of individual or groups of objects, to include those of significance selected for publication and reporting. Substandard and duplicate images will be eliminated; all others will be selected.	3
Photographic media (photogrammetry)	Terrestrial photogrammetry recording will generate orthographic images that will be subject to selection. For those features or finds that are particularly significant, 3D models may be generated and deposited but the constituent photos will only be selected where models have been selected and OBJs are to be deposited, and where re-processing may have some archaeological value (e.g., very significant features, or where the model is less accurate than the surveyed georeference targets or of lower quality and the quality of the original photos is good enough to represent a reasonable chance of better future outcomes).	2, 3
Photographic media (community engagement and other activities)	General shots, promotional videos, etc. None will be selected, unless images are generated that are not duplicated in the main site record, but which have specific archaeological value.	3
Survey data	Site survey data will be used to generate CAD/GIS files for use in post-excavation activities. Shapefiles of both the original tidied survey data, and the final phased drawings will be selected.	2, 3
Databases and spreadsheets	Context, finds and environmental data in linked databases. Final versions will be selected. Any specialist data submitted separately will also be selected.	2, 3
Administrative records	Includes invoices, receipts, timesheets, financial information, email correspondence. None will be selected, with the exception of any correspondence relating directly to the archaeology.	3

De-selected digital data

De-selected data will be stored on WA secured servers on offsite storage locations during the lifetime of the project. This data may also be used for teaching or reference collections by the museum, or by WA unless otherwise required by contractual or copyright obligations.

Amendments

Date	*Amendment*	*Rationale*	*Stakeholders*

Section 2: Documents

Stakeholders
WA Project Manager; WA Archives Manager; Corinium Museum; LPA curatorial service / archaeological advisor
Selection

A security copy of all paper/drawn records will be prepared on completion of the project, in the form of a digital PDF/A file.

Note that information may be redacted to comply with GDPR legislation.

Type	Selection strategy	Review points
Site records	Selected records only will be completed in hard copy on site (registers, some graphics). All will be selected for deposition.	3
Reports	Hard copies of all reports (project designs/WSIs, interim reports, post-excavation assessment reports, publication reports). All will be selected for deposition, with the exception of earlier versions of reports which have been clearly superseded.	2, 3
Specialist reports and data	Specialist reports will generally be incorporated in other documents with no significant editing. Supporting data is more likely to be included in the digital archive, but if supplied in hard copy and not incorporated elsewhere, this will be selected.	2, 3
Photographic media	X-radiographic plates: all will be selected.	3
Working notes	Rough working notes, annotated plans, preliminary versions of matrices etc, will not be selected.	3
Administrative records	Invoices, receipts, timesheets, financial information, hard copy correspondence. None will be selected, with the exception of any hard copy correspondence relating directly to the archaeology.	3

De-selected documents

De-selected sensitive analogue data will be destroyed (shredded) subject to final checking by the WA Archives team with the remainder recycled. Possible exceptions include records retained for business purposes, including promotional material, teaching and internal WA library copies of reports.

Amendments

Date	*Amendment*	*Rationale*	*Stakeholders*

Section 3.1 Materials – Artefacts (bulk and registered finds)

Stakeholders

WA Archives Manager; WA Finds Manager; WA specialists; external specialists (where applicable); receiving Museum; LPA curatorial service / archaeological advisor; landowner

Selection

Human remains are not included in this selection strategy; their recovery and subsequent treatment and curation will be governed by a Ministry of Justice licence(s).

The following selection proposals have been formulated by WA specialists at Review Point 2 (assessment stage). They may be modified further at Review Point 3.

Type	Selection strategy	Review points

Flint	The flint represents an interesting group of material that probably represents a distinct group. This should be retained for future research.	2, 3
Animal bone	All the material should be discarded in consultation with the relevant curator.	2, 3
Fired clay	All the material should be discarded in consultation with the relevant curator.	2, 3
Pottery	All the material should be discarded in consultation with the relevant curator.	2, 3

De-selected material

Consideration will be given to the suitability for use for handling or teaching collections by the museum or Wessex Archaeology, or whether they are of particular interest to the local community. De-selected material will either be returned to the landowner or disposed of. All will be adequately recorded to the appropriate level before de-selection.

Amendments

Date	*Amendment*	*Rationale*	*Stakeholders*

Section 3.2 Materials – Palaeoenvironmental material

Stakeholders

WA Archives Manager; WA Environmental Manager; WA specialists; external specialists (where applicable); receiving Museum; LPA curatorial service / archaeological advisor

Selection

All environmental sampling has been undertaken following a site-specific sampling strategy and/or Wessex Archaeology's in-house guidance, which adheres to the principles outlined in Historic England's guidance (English Heritage 2011 and Historic England 2015a), and as stated in the relevant project designs/WSIs. All environmental samples collected and suitable to address project aims and research objectives, as deemed by WA's Environmental team, have been processed and assessed.

Type	Selection strategy	Review points
Assessed or analysed flots with extracted materials	Assessed flots with extracted materials will be selected. The assemblage has local significance.	2, 3
Charred and waterlogged plant remains	All extracted plant remains will be selected. The assemblage has local significance.	3
Mollusca	All extracted mollusca will be selected. The assemblage has local significance.	3

De-selected material

De-selected material from samples will be disposed of after processing and post-excavation recording. All processed material will be adequately recorded to the appropriate level before de-selection.

Amendments

Date	*Amendment*	*Rationale*	*Stakeholders*

Appendix 5 OASIS summary

OASIS ID (UID)	wessexar1-526939
Project Name	City Bank Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire. Archaeological Excavation and Archaeological Monitoring and Recording
Sitename	City Bank Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire
Sitecode	275871
Project Identifier(s)	275871, 275872
Activity type	Excavation, Watching Brief
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Scheduled monument consent
Organisation Responsible for work	Wessex Archaeology
Project Dates	29-Oct-2024 - 22-Jan-2025
Location	**City Bank Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire** NGR: SP 03149 01249 LL: 51.70996752785984, -1.955824972641543 12 Fig: 403149,201249
Administrative Areas	Country: England County/Local Authority: Gloucestershire Local Authority District: Cotswold Parish: Cirencester
Project Methodology	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Cappagh Contractors Construction Ltd, on behalf of Thames Water Utilities Ltd to undertake and archaeological excavation and archaeological monitoring and recording during sewage works at City Bank Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 403149, 201249. The archaeological works were undertaken between 29 October 2024 and 22 January 2025.
Project Results	The archaeological works were undertaken between 29 October 2024 and 22 January 2025 and identified a limited number of archaeological features and deposits within the site; these were encountered across all six of the excavated trenches. The uncovered features comprised ditches, pits, surfaces, made ground, levelling deposits, stone dumps, soakaways and drains, representing three periods of activity, Neolithic, post-medieval and modern. In addition a number of artefactually sterile alluvial deposits post-dating the Neolithic activity and pre-dating the post-medieval activity were identified. Neolithic The Neolithic activity was evidenced by a ditch and pit revealed at the eastern margin of the site. The fill of the ditch contained 202 pieces of worked flint indicative of in situ, or at least proximate, knapping. Although lacking in securely diagnostic tool forms, the flint indicates a broad Neolithic date for the feature. The southeastern side of the ditch was truncated by a pit from which was recovered a single undiagnostic flint flake. Both pit and ditch were sealed by a thick layer of alluvium, perhaps suggesting they are broadly contemporary. Post-medieval Post-medieval features and deposits were encountered in Trench 5 and relate to the use of the site prior to the construction of the current residential property. The features and deposits consisted of a possible stone surface, its bedding layer and a possible associated construction cut, a trampled layer above the stone surface, two stone rubble spreads/dumps, a ditch and a possible recut of said ditch.

	Modern The modern features and services revealed by the archaeological monitoring and recording relate to the current residential property occupying the site. These consisted of a concrete surface, its associated bedding layer, the backfill of an extant manhole, drains, two rubbish pits, a soakaway, a flint gravel drive surface and its associated bedding and make-up layers, a landscaping cut of uncertain function with hardcore infill, and a modern levelling deposit. Undated Similar thick alluvial deposits were encountered in all six trenches, although these all remain artefactually undated. However, the alluvium is clearly stratigraphically later than the Neolithic activity and is truncated by post-medieval and modern features. The alluvial deposits clearly indicate the historic waterlogged nature of the site and included several stone dumps interpreted as possible stabilisation horizons due to the marshy nature of location.
Keywords	Ditch - NEOLITHIC - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Rubbish Pit - NEOLITHIC - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ditch - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Rubbish Pit - 20TH CENTURY - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Hard Standing - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Soakaway - 20TH CENTURY - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Drain - 20TH CENTURY - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ceramic - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Lithic Implement - NEOLITHIC - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Animal Remains - UNCERTAIN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Animal Remains - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus
Funder	Private or public corporation Cappagh Contractors Construction (London) Ltd
HER	Gloucestershire HER - noRev - LITE
Person Responsible for work	Bruce Eaton
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Physical Archive - to be deposited with Corinium Museum; Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;

Report generated on: 23-05-2025:1210

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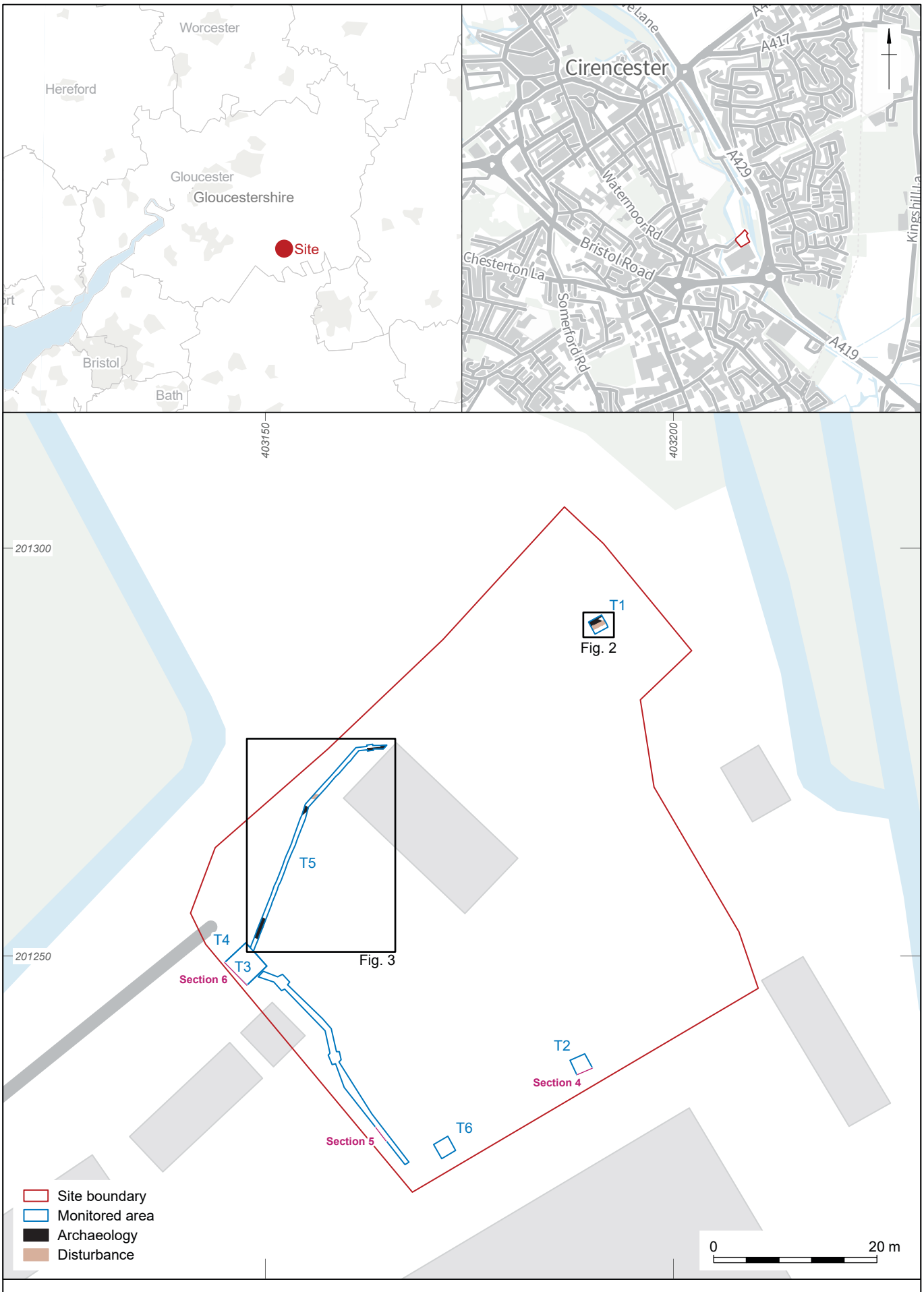

Coordinate system: OSGB 1936 British National Grid

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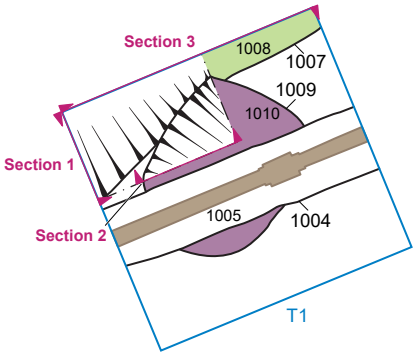
Figure 1. Site location and plan of monitored works



Excavated area
Ditch
Pit
Modern disturbance

0 2 m

Date: 13/05/2025	Created by: MKP	Revision: 0	Scale: 1:50 at A4

Figure 2. Detailed plan of Trench 1

Section 7

5007

5005

5006

5001

Existing manhole

5010

5011

5012

T5

5018

5013

5017

Section 8

continues to the right

5017

T5

5023

5025

Section 9

5027

5026

5029

5030

5032

Excavated area
Sondage
Soakaway
Ditch
Metalled surface
Stone
Modern disturbance

0 2 m

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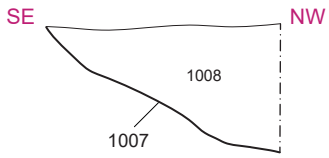
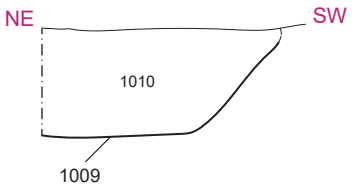
Figure 3. Detailed plan of Trench 5

Section 1 - North-east facing section of ditch 1007



Section 2 - North-west facing section of pit 1009



Section 3 - South-east facing rep sec in Trench 1

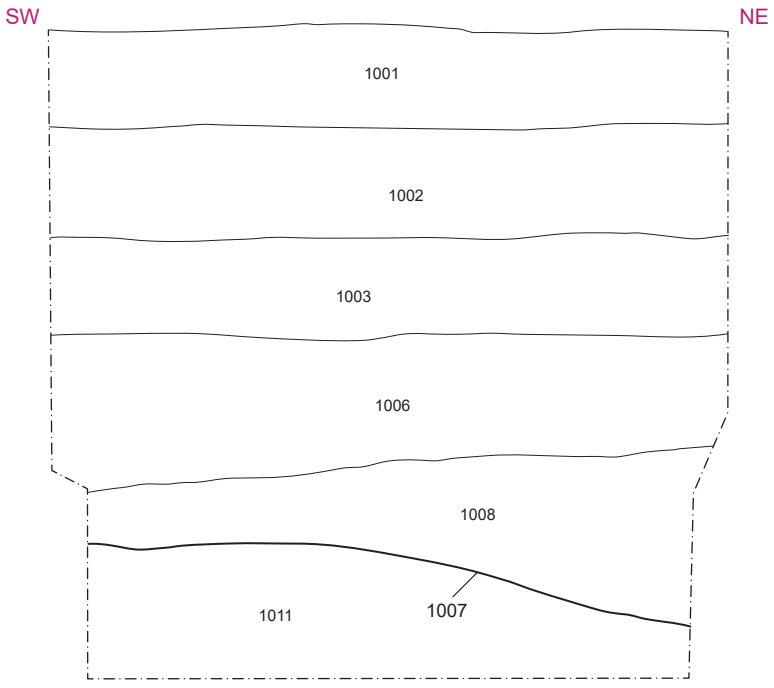


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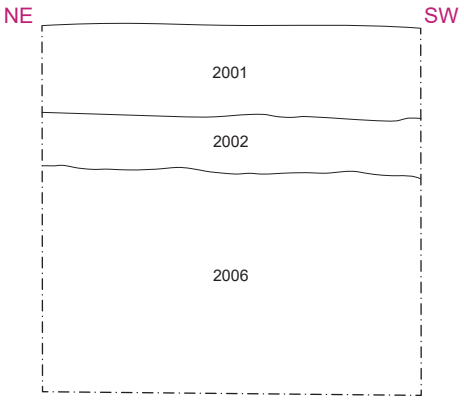
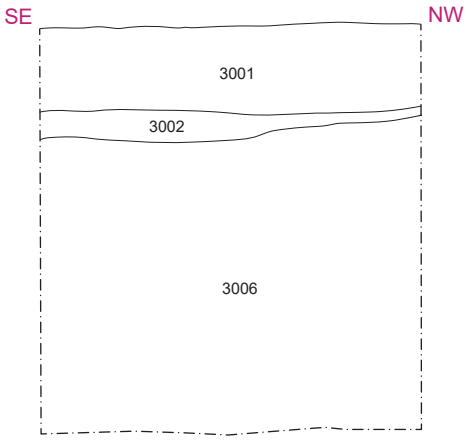
Figure 4a. Trench 1 sections

Section 4 - North-west facing rep sec in Trench 2



Section 5 - North-east facing rep sec in Trench 3



Section 6 - North-east facing rep sec in Trench 4

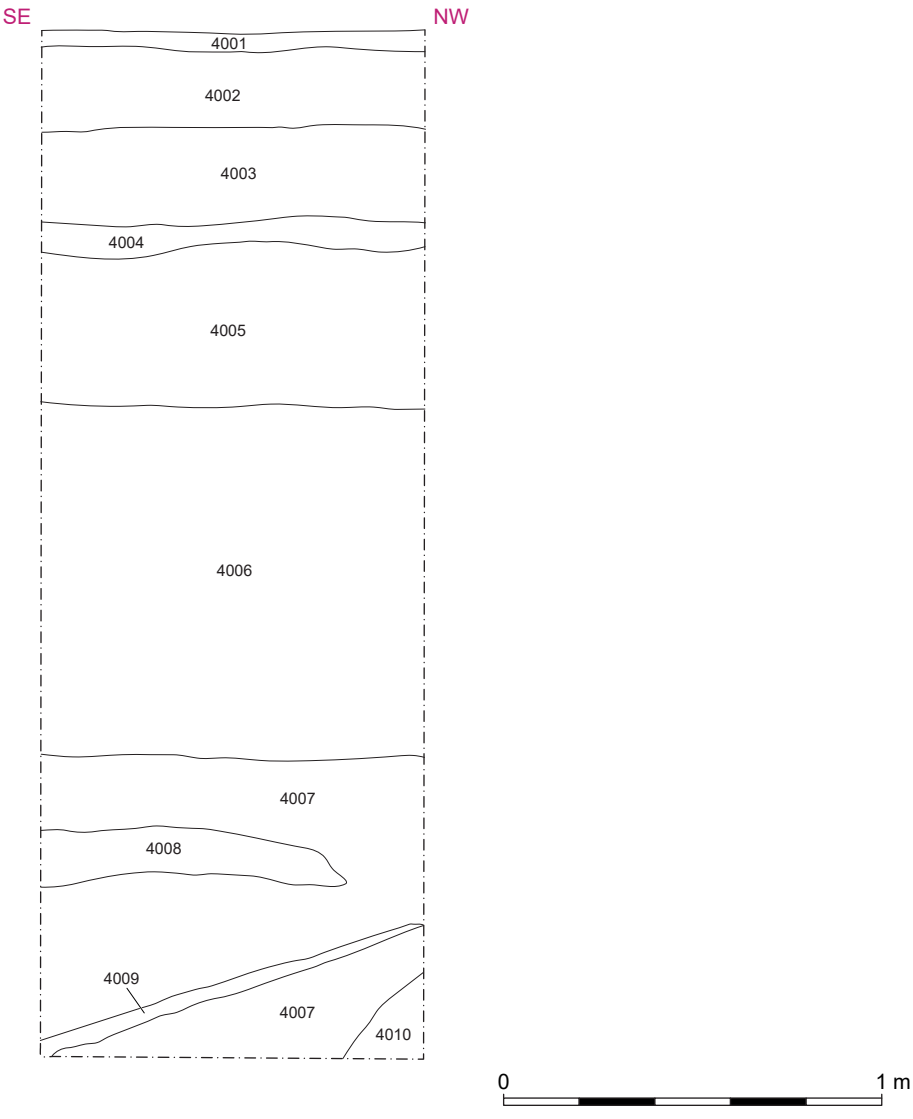


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Figure 4b. Trench 2, 3 and 4 sections

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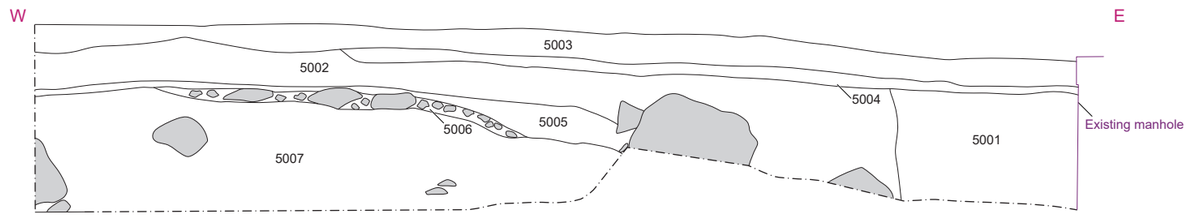
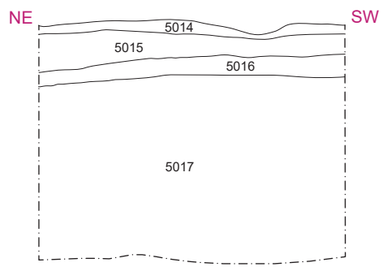
Section 7 - South facing section of layers in Trench 5



Section 8 - North-west facing rep sec in Trench 5



Section 9 - North-west facing section of features 5022, 5027, 5030, 5033

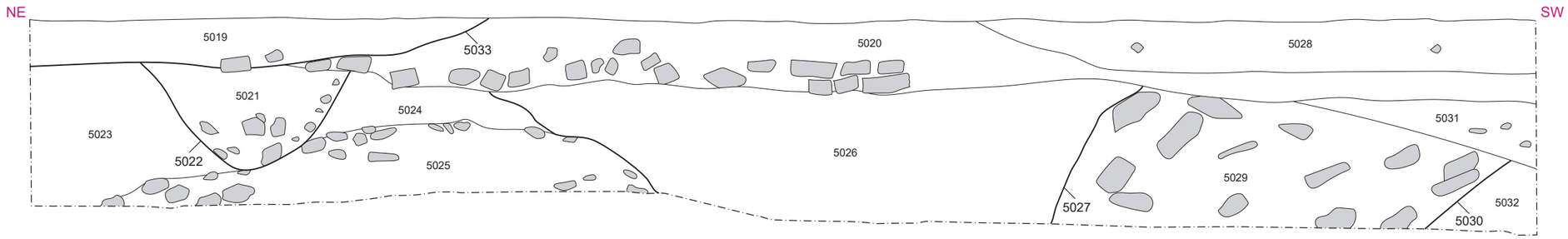


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Figure 4c. Trench 5 sections

Stone
Existing manhole

0 1 m

Figure 5. Trench 1, ditch 1007 and pit 1009, looking south-west, 0.5 m scale

Figure 6. Trench 2 showing high level of groundwater

Figure 7. Trench 3 showing deliberate stone dump 3004, looking south-east

Figure 8. Trench 4 showing high level of groundwater

Figure 9. Trench 4 showing deliberate stone dump 4011, looking north-east

Figure 10. Trench 5, surface 5006, looking south-west, 0.3 m scale

Figure 11. Trench 5, trampled layer 5005 & surface 5006, looking north-east, 0.3 m scale

Figure 12. Trench 5, example of worked stone recovered from rubble deposit 5011

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