

**84 GAMBIER PARRY GARDENS,
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

NGR: SO 8366 1979 (Centred)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

October 2012

Report No. 840

Quality Assurance

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SUMMARY

On the 25th July 2012 Foundations Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief on land at 84 Gambier Parry Gardens, Gloucester (NGR: SO 8366 1979 centred). The work was commissioned by Mr L. Chandler.

Planning permission was granted by Gloucester City Council for the erection of a two storey extension at the above property. The proposed development site is located within an area of previously known Roman period settlement and burial activity. Human burials, pits and ditches, as well as small finds, of Roman date were identified during excavations in the area in 1983 and a watching brief was therefore required as a condition of planning consent.

No archaeological finds or features were identified within the monitored area, and the absence of any surviving subsoil suggests that the natural deposits may have been subjected to a degree of truncation, probably related to previous landscaping works, but also potentially during the 1983 excavations.

GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Archaeology

For the purpose of this project archaeology is taken to mean the study of past human societies through their material remains from prehistoric times to the modern era. No rigid upper date limit has been set, but AD 1900 is used as a general cut-off point.

CBM

Ceramic Building Material

Medieval

The period between the Norman Conquest (AD 1066) and *c.* AD 1500.

Natural

In archaeological terms this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site.

NGR

National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid.

OD

Ordnance datum; used to express a given height above sea-level.

OS

Ordnance Survey

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In July 2012 Foundations Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief on land at 84 Gambier Parry Gardens, Gloucester at NGR: SO 8366 1979 (Figure 1). The work was commissioned by Mr L. Chandler.
- 1.2 Foundations Archaeology is certified to BS EN ISO 9001: 2008 for quality assurance in the provision of archaeological services. The company is a Registered Organisation with the Institute for Archaeologists and subscribes to that organisation's Code of Conduct. All relevant IfA Codes of Practice were adhered to throughout the course of the project.
- 1.3 This report constitutes the results of the archaeological works. The project was undertaken in accordance with the Brief issued by Gloucester City Archaeologist and the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (rev. 2008).

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Planning permission (Ref. No. **12/00482/FUL**) has been granted by Gloucester City Council for the erection of a two-storey side extension at 84 Gambier Parry Gardens.
- 2.2 In accordance with the general principles of *National Planning Policy Framework 2012* (NPPF) and the archaeological policies of Gloucester City Council, a program of archaeological mitigation was required as a condition of planning permission.
- 2.3 The development site is located within an area of previously known Roman period settlement and burial activity. Human burials, pits and ditches, as well as small finds, of Roman date were identified during excavations in the area in 1983. The brief noted that there was a high potential for similar archaeological material to survive within the footprint of the proposed development.
- 2.4 The development area therefore contained the potential for the preservation of archaeological deposits, predominately associated with the Roman period. This did not prejudice the watching brief against features and finds relating to other periods.

3 AIMS

- 3.1 The aims of the archaeological watching brief were to gather high quality data from the direct observation of archaeological deposits in order to provide sufficient information to establish the nature, extent, preservation and potential of any surviving archaeological remains.

3.2 These aims were achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:

i) to define and identify the nature of archaeological deposits on site, and date these where possible;

ii) to attempt to characterize the nature of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning of features present on the site;

iii) where possible to recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence and recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 All intrusive groundworks were monitored and recorded (Figure 3). The groundworks were carried out under the direct observation of an experienced archaeologist. Plant was suitable for the task and was equipped with a toothless grading bucket.

4.2 Archaeological hand-excavation and recording was to be undertaken if significant archaeological deposits were encountered. In the event that unexpected significant archaeological remains were discovered, groundworks would cease, and the archaeological representatives of Gloucester City Council would have been notified in order that an assessment of the remains and suitable provision for their recording or preservation could be made.

4.3 Any human remains which may have been encountered would initially be left *in situ* and reported to the appropriate authorities. If removal was necessary this would comply with the relevant regulations and current archaeological best-practice.

4.4 All excavation and recording was undertaken in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation.

5 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

5.1 The footings measured 0.55m wide by 1.50m in depth and are illustrated on Figure 3. Natural deposits were encountered at a depth of 0.25m and consisted of a soft dark brown silty sand (103) up to 0.30m thick. This deposit overlaid further banded layers of natural sand which were observed up to a total depth of 0.95m. The natural was directly overlain by a layer of concrete (102) which was 0.20m thick. This was in turn overlain by a concrete paved surface (101).

5.2 It was clear that the site had been previously stripped for the laying of the paved surface, possibly during the original construction of the house but also potentially during the archaeological excavation works undertaken in 1983. No

subsoils were present and it is therefore possible that the natural deposits had been also been subjected to some degree of truncation.

- 5.2 No archaeological finds or features were present within the area of the monitored groundworks.

6 ARCHIVE

- 6.1 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology. It comprises:

Digital photographs

Record sheets

Correspondence

Written scheme of Investigation

Risk Assessment and Health and Safety Method statement

- 6.2 The archive has been prepared in accordance with *MoRPHE* (English Heritage 2006) and *Guidelines for the preparation of archaeological archives for long-term storage* (UKIC 1990). It will be deposited with Gloucester Museum within 12 months.
- 6.3 The results of the work will be published in an appropriate journal and an OASIS report will be completed and submitted.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

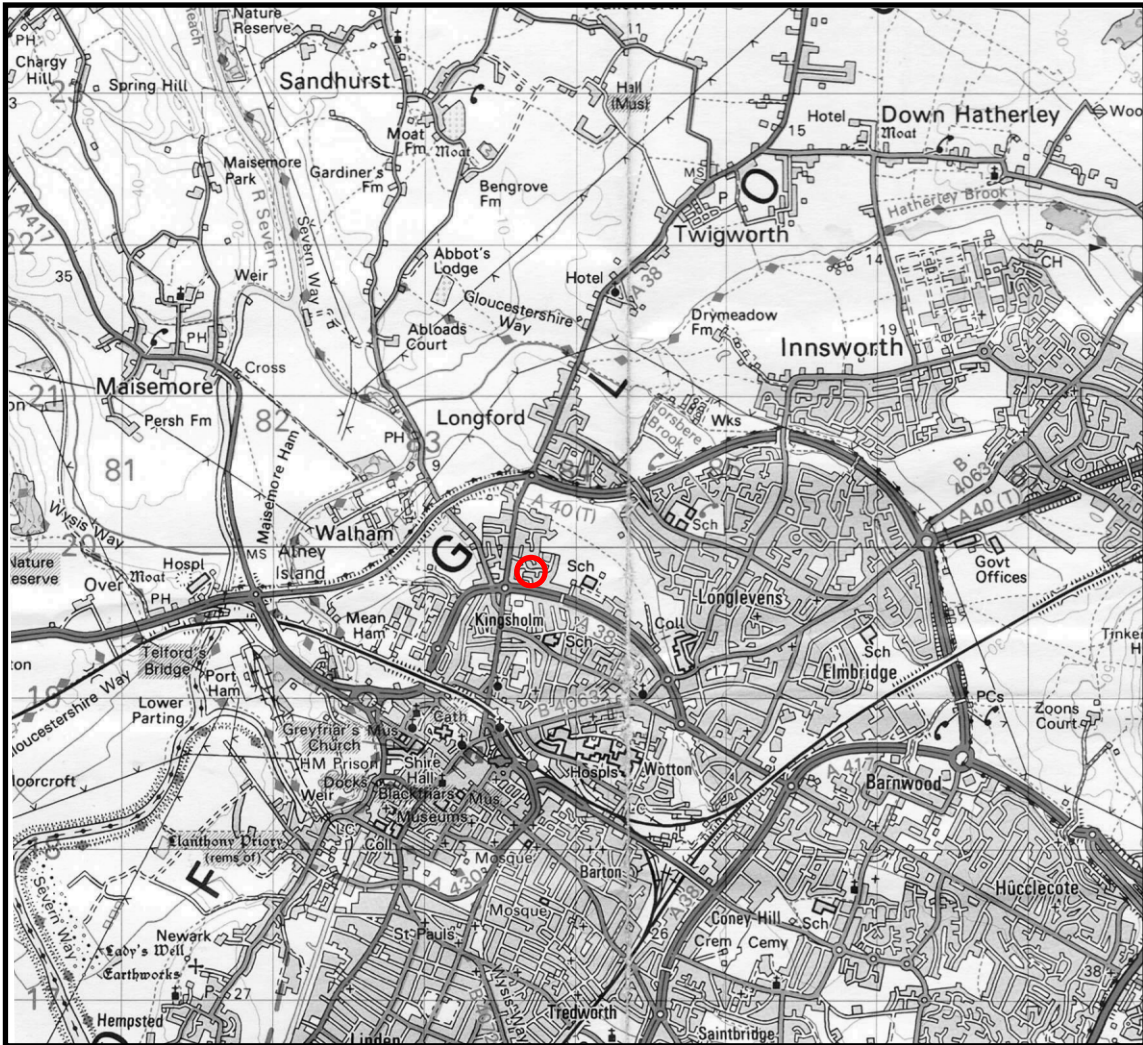
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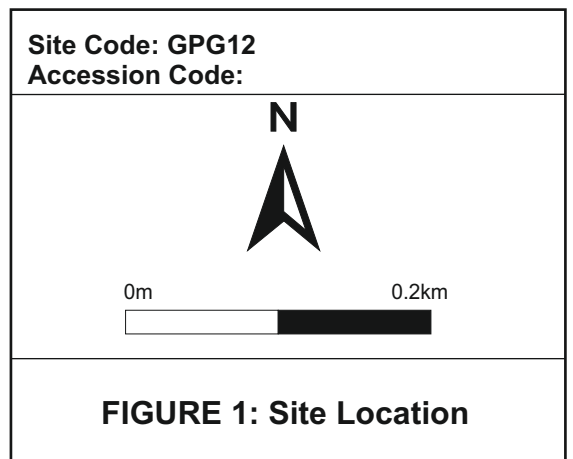
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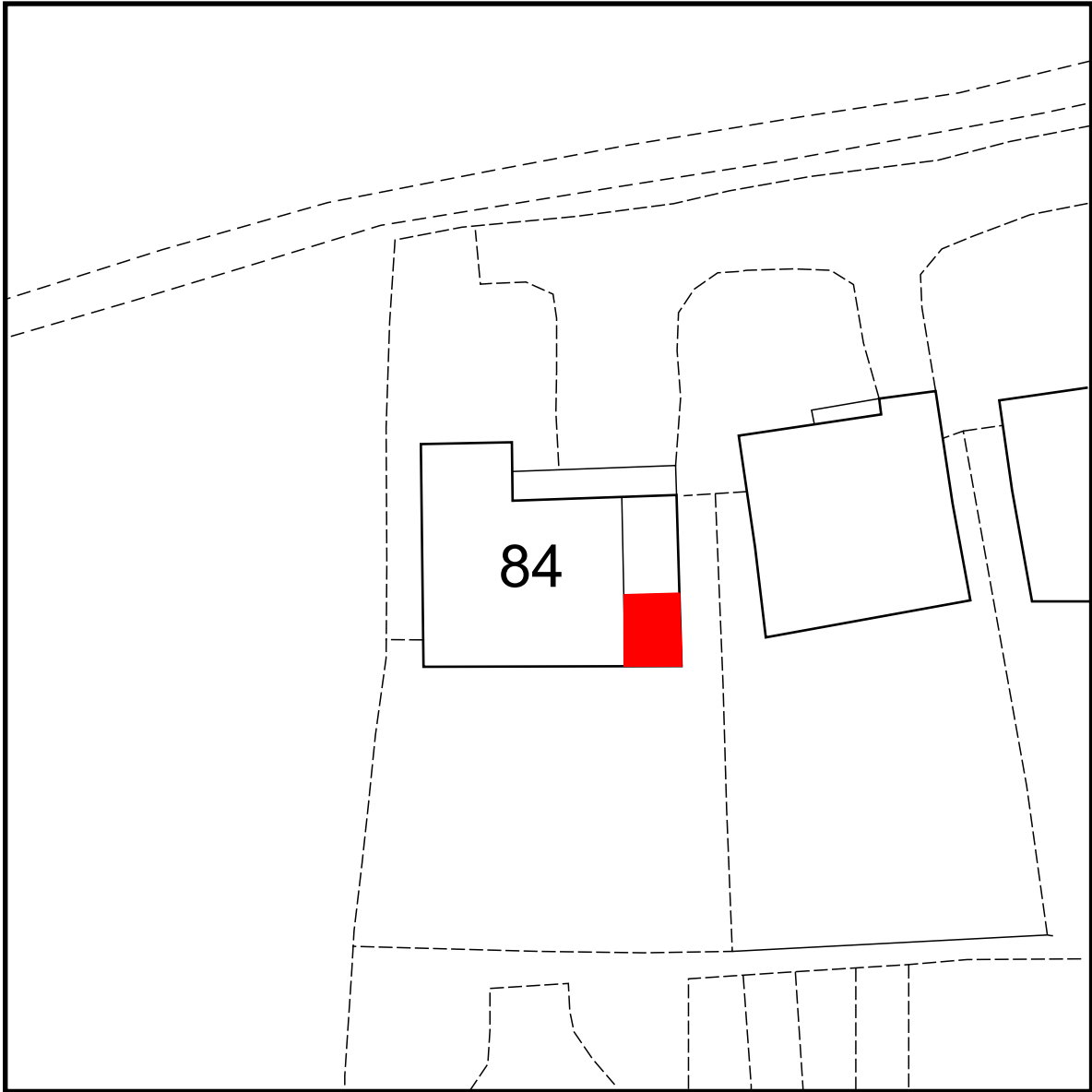
8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Foundations Archaeology would like to thank the landowner, Mr L. Chandler, the Gloucester City Archaeologist, Mr Andrew Armstrong, and the on-site ground-workers for their help and co-operation during the course of this project.



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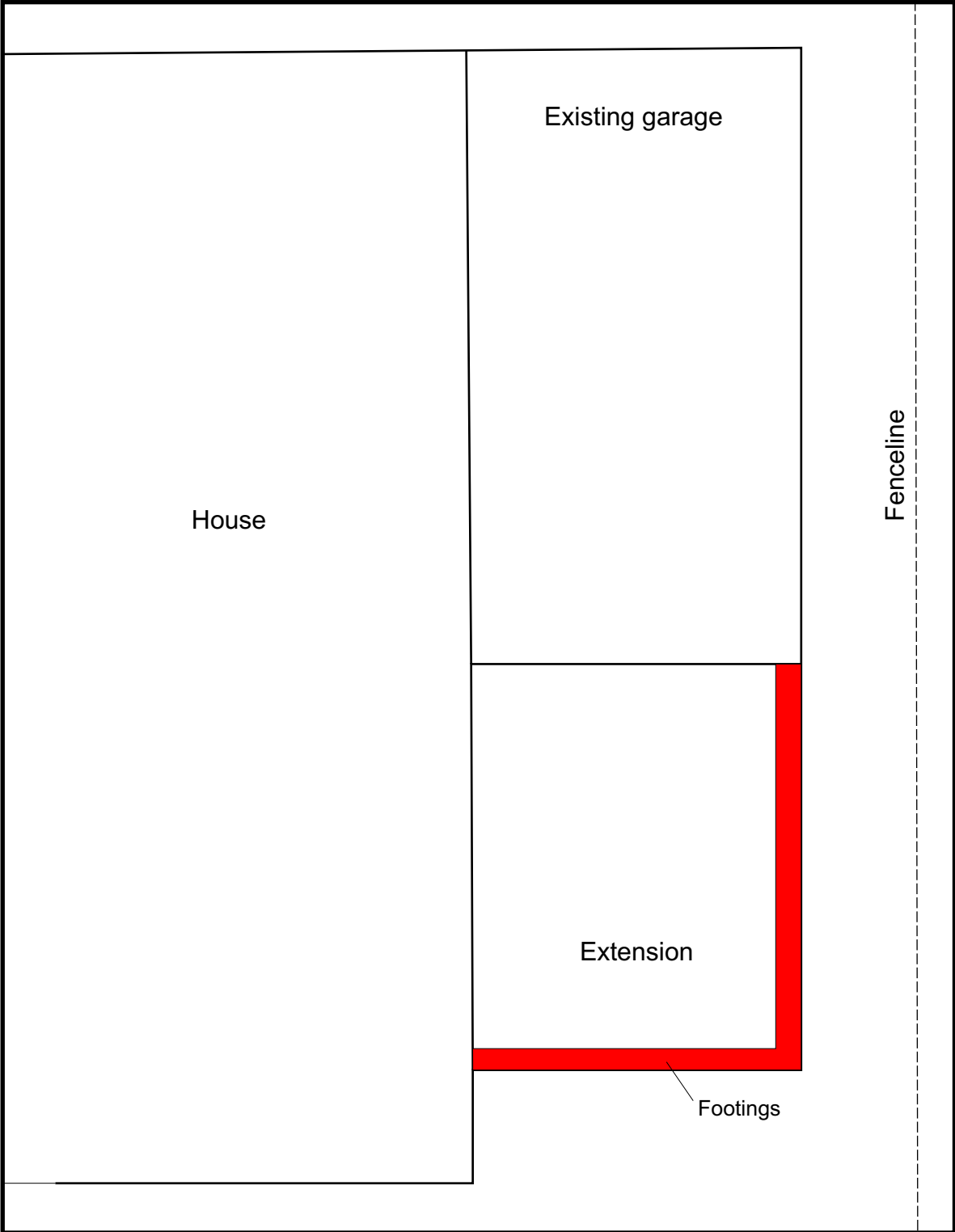


0m

15m



FIGURE 2: Site Location



Site Code: GPG12
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0m 2m

1:50

FIGURE 3: Location of Footings



EAST FACING SHOT: NORTHERN END OF FOOTING



NORTHEAST FACING SHOT: SOUTHEAST CORNER OF FOOTINGS



SOUTH FACING SHOT: WEST END OF FOOTING

Site Code: GPG12
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FIGURE 4: PHOTOGRAPHS