

**LAND TO THE EAST OF INNSWORTH LANE,
GLOUCESTER**

NGR: SO 8555 2065

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF**

June 2012

Report No. 804

Quality Assurance

This Document has been compiled and authorised in accordance with AMS's Quality Procedures (BS EN ISO 9001: 2000)

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SUMMARY

Site Name: Land to the East of Innsworth Lane, Gloucester

Grid Reference: NGR SO 8555 2065

Site Activity: Archaeological Watching Brief

Date and Duration of Project: 6th - 9th September 2004

Project Manager: Roy King

Site Supervisor: Diana Mayer

Site Code: ILG04

A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken between 6th and 9th November 2004 on land east of Innsworth Lane, Gloucester (centred on NGR: SO 8555 2065). The project was commissioned by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants (JSAC).

A planning condition stipulating a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was required by Gloucestershire County Council in accordance with PPG16 (DoE 1990). It was proposed to construct sports pitches and a changing room on the site (Planning Reference 01/00861/COU).

A surface collection survey had been undertaken on the site on 5th July 2004. The survey indicated little pre-19th century activity within the vicinity of the study area and no significant artefact concentrations were present.

No archaeological features or deposits were identified within the monitored areas, although natural was only exposed within part of the site. The presence of intact subsoils suggests an absence of, rather than a subsequent loss of archaeology. Therefore the site was deemed to be of low archaeological potential.

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 circa 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

Saxon

The period from circa AD 410 to AD 1066.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document sets out the results of an archaeological watching brief on land east of Innsworth Lane, Gloucester (centred on NGR: SO 8555 2065). The project was commissioned by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants (JSAC) and undertaken between 6th and 9th November 2004. The work was undertaken in response to a condition of planning permission required by Gloucestershire County Council in accordance with PPG16 (DoE 1990).
- 1.2 It was proposed to construct sports pitches and a changing room (Planning Reference 01/00861/COU). This work follows on from an archaeological surface collection survey undertaken on 5th July 2004 (Foundations, 2004), prior to the commencement of groundworks.
- 1.3 The works were undertaken in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Foundations Archaeology (2004) in response to a brief issued by Phil Greateorex of Gloucester City Council (2004). The project was undertaken in accordance with the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994, revised 2001), Archaeological Guidance Paper 4: Archaeological Watching Briefs: (guidelines) issued by English Heritage (London Region).
- 1.4 This report constitutes the results of the archaeological monitoring.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The study area was located on an area of undeveloped land lying between the A40 to the north and Horsbere Brook to the south. To the west of the study area lay a surge valve overflow unit and a road, while to the east were open fields. The site is situated in Innsworth parish on the northern edge of Gloucester and is essentially surrounded by 20th century modern built environment. The proposed development area had previously been topsoil stripped and was currently under scrub at the time of the project.
- 2.2 In 1990 a desk-based assessment was carried out by Gloucester City Council Archaeology Service on a proposed road corridor of the A417, between the M5 and the A40. The proposed development area is within this corridor. This work indicated areas of archaeological interest ranging in date from the Romano-British period through to the present day.
- 2.3 An archaeological surface collection survey was undertaken on the site on the 5th July 2004 prior to the commencement of ground works (Foundations, 2004). This work recovered a small percentage of artefactual material pre-dating the 19th century. This included two sherds of 13th/14th century pottery and two sherds of Roman pottery from the field walking. This seems to indicate stray finds as opposed to evidence of nearby settlement. The vast majority of artefactual material recovered from the survey area was of 19th to late 20th century date. The survey indicated little pre-19th century

activity within the vicinity of the study area and no significant artefact concentrations were present.

2.4 The archaeological focus of the project was therefore multi-period.

3 AIMS

3.1 The aims of the archaeological monitoring 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; as well as to make recommendations for management of the resource, including further archaeological works if necessary.

3.2 These aims were to be achieved by the pursuit of the objectives as stated in the Written Scheme of Investigation.

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

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

iii) To recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence which will attempt to determine the complexity of the horizontal and vertical stratigraphy present, and to recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples.

iv) To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence and the forms in which such evidence may be present.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 All ground-works, which comprised levelling and terracing were monitored and recorded under the direct supervision of a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist in order to identify archaeological finds and deposits. Machine excavation with a toothless bucket was undertaken to remove overburden of no archaeological significance, with any archaeological features to be excavated by hand.

4.2 Spoil tips were scanned for unstratified finds across the entire study area.

4.3 Any significant archaeological deposits and/or features within the study area were to be manually cleaned, investigated and recorded in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation.

5 RESULTS

- 5.1 The study area sloped from north-east to south-west towards the river. The ground-works involved terracing the site to provide a level surface. Natural was only exposed at the north eastern end of site, which consisted of a mid yellow plastic clay (103) at an approximate depth of 0.35m. This was overlain by a mid brown friable silt clay subsoil (102) approximately 0.20m thick. This was then sealed by a dark brown friable clay silt topsoil (101) up to 0.15m thick. The material stripped from the north eastern end was used to build up the south western area, which was only topsoil stripped.

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 No archaeological features or deposits were identified within the monitored areas, although natural was only exposed within part of the site. The presence of intact subsoils suggests an absence of, rather than a subsequent loss of archaeology. Therefore the site was deemed to be of low archaeological potential.

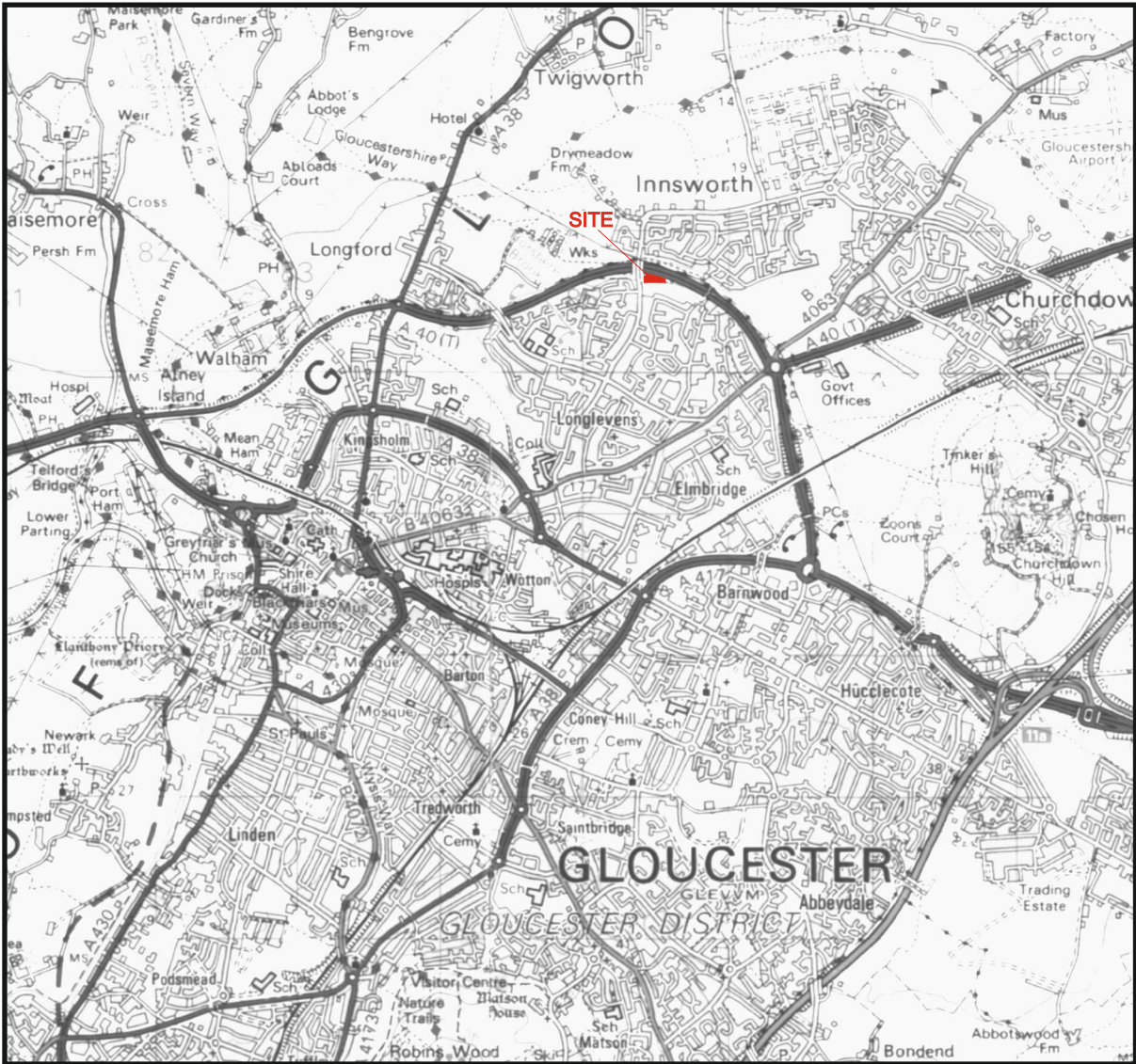
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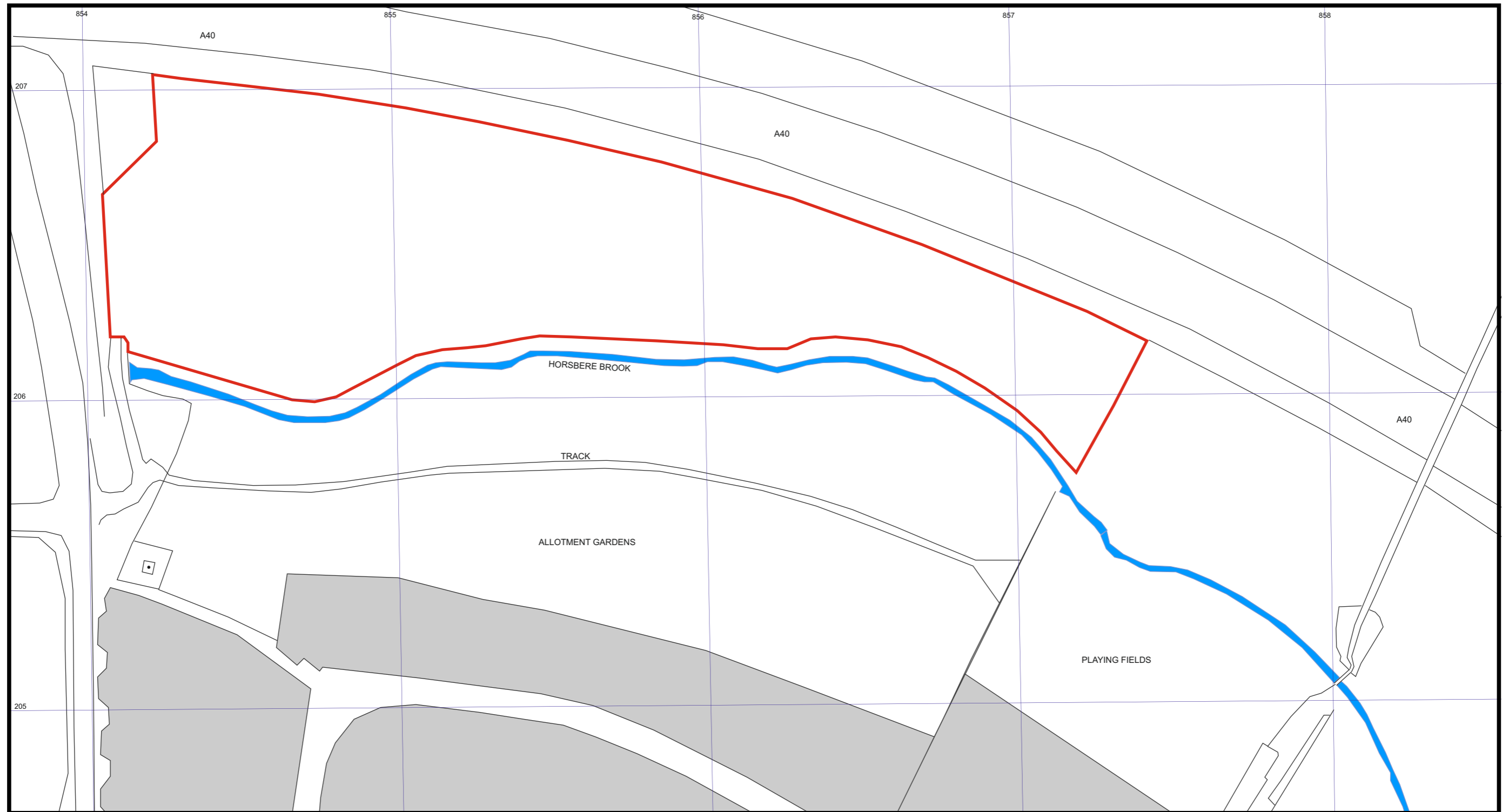
8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Foundations Archaeology would like to thank John Samuels Archaeological Consultants for their help and co-operation during the course of the project.



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FIGURE 1: Site Location



© Crown Copyright
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Site Code: ILG04
Accession Code:

N

0m 50m

FIGURE 1: Site Location