1 CORINIUM GATE, CIRENCESTER, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

NGR: SP 0279 0201

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

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SUMMARY

Site Name: 1 Corinium Gate, Cirencester, Gloucestershire.
Grid Reference: SP 0279 0201
Site Activity: Archaeological Watching Brief
Date of Project: August to October 2012
Project Manager: Roy King
Site Supervisor: Jack Crennell
Site Code: CGC12

Summary of Results: The archaeological works comprised the monitoring of groundworks associated with an extension to 1 Corinium Gate, Cirencester. The work was commissioned by Jonathan Reglar on behalf of the clients, Jim and Marie Kennedy.

No archaeological deposits or artefactual evidence was present within the watched area. However the groundworks did not penetrate below the garden soils/made ground to reveal any underlying deposits. Therefore this negative result cannot be taken as reflection of the sites archaeological potential.

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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.

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.

Roman

The period traditionally dated AD43 until AD 410.

Post- Medieval

The period after AD 1600.

Modern

The period after AD 1900.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Between August and October 2012 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at 1 Corinium Gate, Cirencester, Gloucestershire at NGR: SP 0279 0201 (Figure 1). The work was commissioned by Jonathan Reglar on behalf of the clients Jim and Marie Kennedy.

1.2 The project involved the observation of the groundworks associated with the construction of an extension to the existing house and the erection of a new garage. A programme of archaeological works was required in accordance with the principals of NPPF (2012), the *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (IfA 2008) and the archaeological policies of Gloucestershire County Council and Cotswold District Council.

1.3 The works were undertaken in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Foundations Archaeology (2012) in response to guidance issued by Gloucestershire County Council (2012). The project was undertaken in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* issued by the Institute for Field Archaeologists (2008) and *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 project involves the proposed redevelopment of 1 Corinium Gate, Cirencester at NGR: SP 0279 0201. The application site consists of a house constructed in the 1960's with surrounding gardens and approached by a tarmac drive. The proposed redevelopment comprises the demolition and replacement of the northern part of the house and the construction of a single-storey garage in part of the garden directly south of the house. The site partly falls within the Scheduled Monument of Corinium Roman Town (Gloucestershire 361).

2.2 The geology of the site is recorded as alluvial deposits associated with the River Churn overlying the Forest Marble Mudstone Formation (www.bgs.ac.uk). To the west the site is bounded by the Inner Churn, to the north by the neighbouring property, to the east by Corinium Gate and to the south by London Road.

2.3 The site has been subject to an archaeological desk-based assessment (Thomas 2012), which states that well preserved archaeological deposits of Roman date can be expected to survive within the application site. Roman archaeology was identified at a depth of 0.77m below ground level (107.56m AOD) in an archaeological test pit directly to the north at 3 Corinium Gate. In this instance, it

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is likely that the application site is, at least partly, located over Street B (The Fosse Way) as it approaches the Verulamium Gate.

2.4 A watercourse which was a former outlet from the lake in the Abbey Grounds is also known to cross the site from north to south. This man-made channel is in itself of archaeological significance, although it would have cut through earlier Roman archaeology. Nineteenth century cartographic sources also indicate that the buried remains of a lodge are located within the south-western corner of the site (although outside of the footprint of the proposed works).

2.5 The foundation trenches for the new external walls of the proposed extension (Figure 2), of which the northern and eastern parts are situated within a Scheduled Monument, were excavated to a maximum depth of 0.76m deep and were located within ground that has been disturbed by the construction of the existing house foundations and it's service trenches. No internal excavations were required as the new floor will be raised above the existing floor level. The assessment concludes that it is highly unlikely that any significant archaeology will be exposed during groundworks for the proposed extension. The foundations of the garage, of which the north-eastern part is situated within the Scheduled Monument, were placed directly on top of the existing topsoil and no significant archaeology will be exposed.

2.6 The development area therefore clearly contains 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 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.

3.2 These aims were to be achieved by the pursuit of the objectives as stated in the Written Scheme of Investigation (2012).

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 and recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 The groundworks were partly undertaken by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket and partly through hand excavation, working under constant archaeological supervision.

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 first phase of monitored groundworks comprised the removal of a modern garden wall and the reduction of an area of topsoil (101) within the footprint of the proposed garage (Figure 2). An area of 7.1m x 6.0m was reduced to a maximum depth of 0.20m below ground level to allow the slab for the new garage to be built. This area was dug solely through topsoil (101), apart from the western corner of the plot, which was excavated through 0.08m of concrete and 0.10m of underlying hardcore and gravel. No archaeological finds or features were present in this phase of the groundworks.

5.2 The second phase of groundworks involved the excavation of a footing trench for the front wall of the new extension to the house (Figure 2). The trench was roughly northwest southeast aligned, was 6.2m long and 0.50m to 0.60m wide. The trench was solely excavated through made up ground down to a maximum depth of 0.76m from the modern ground surface. The trench was excavated deeper than anticipated, in order to expose the electricity feed and the gas main, which were reached at depths of 0.4m and 0.5m respectively.

5.3 The footing trench consisted of a layer of dark brown clay silt (105) which contained brick fragments and concrete at a depth of between 0.63m and 0.76m. This was overlain by a thick layer of concrete (104), which encased the services for the house and was between 0.3m and 0.5m thick; this was in turn sealed by a layer of sand and gravel (103), which was 0.17m deep. This was overlain by the tarmac drive (102), which was 0.06m deep. No archaeological features or deposits were present within the footing trench.

6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 No Medieval or Roman layers or deposits were encountered within the watched area as the groundworks did not penetrate through the modern make up layers,

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although it is possible that archaeologically significant deposits still survive at a greater depth.

6.2 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology, but will be deposited within 12 months with the Corinium Museum, Cirencester. A short note will be submitted for publication in the relevant local archaeological journal and an OASIS form will also be submitted to ADS.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

English Heritage (London Region), *Archaeological guidance Paper 4: Archaeological Watching Briefs.*

Foundations Archaeology 2012, *1 Corinium Gate, Cirencester: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief.*

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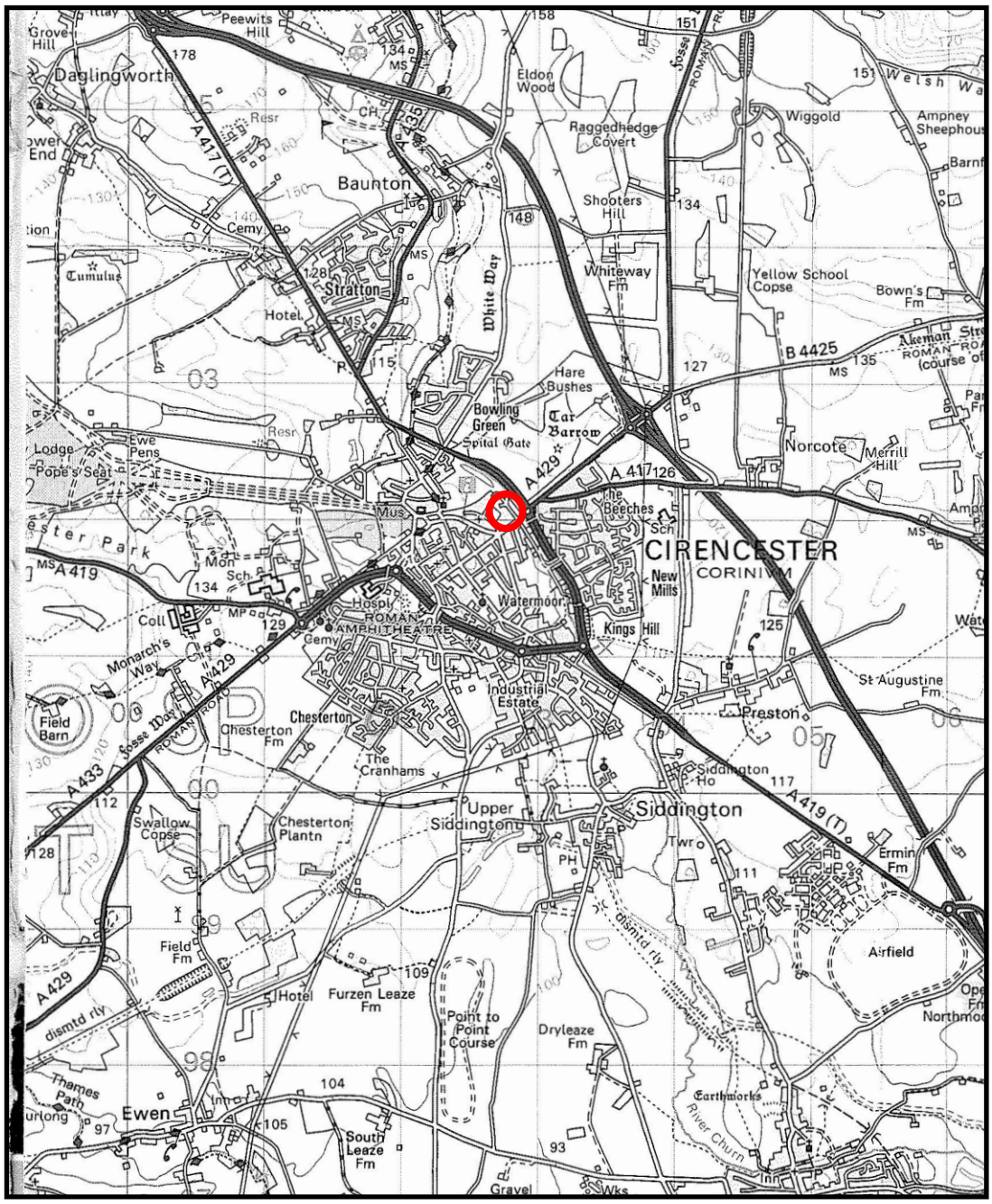
IfA 2008, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*. Institute for Field Archaeologists.

Thomas 2012, *1 Corinium Gate, Cirencester: Archaeological Assessment.*

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Foundations Archaeology would like to thank the clients Mr and Mrs Kennedy, Jonathan Reglar and Charles Parry of Gloucestershire County Council for their help and co-operation during the course of the project.



Site Code: CGC12
Accession Code:

N

FIGURE 1: Site Location

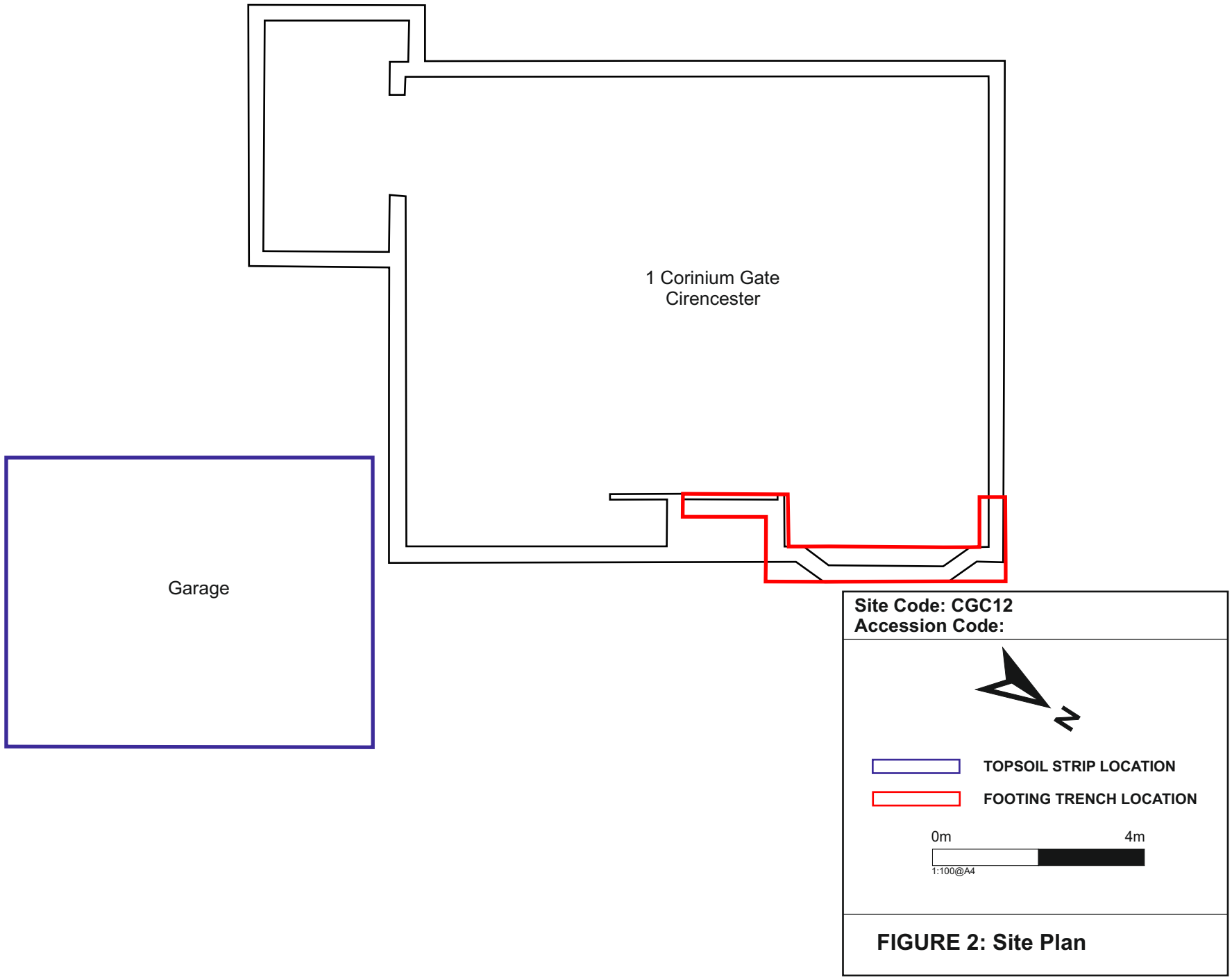


FIGURE 2: Site Plan