

**10 HAKEBURN ROAD,
CIRENCESTER,
GLOUCESTERSHIRE.**

NGR: SP 022 023

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

September 2014
Report No. 999



ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY, MANAGEMENT & FIELD SERVICES

**10 HAKEBURN ROAD,
CIRENCESTER,
GLOUCESTERSHIRE.**

NGR: SP 022 023

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

September 2014

Report No. 999

Quality Assurance

This Document has been compiled and authorised in accordance with AMS's Quality Procedures (BS EN ISO 9001: 2008)

Author: T. Michaels BSc AlfA

Date: 18th September 2014

Approved: R. King BA MifA

QA Checked: D. King BA MifA

This report has been compiled with all reasonable skill care and attention to detail within the terms of the project as specified by the client and within the general terms and conditions of Archaeological Management Services Ltd trading as Foundations Archaeology but no explicit warranty is provided for information and opinions stated. AMS Ltd accepts no responsibility whatsoever to third parties to whom this report or any part thereof is made known. Any such party relies on this report at their own risk. Copyright of this document is retained by AMS Ltd, but unlimited licence to reproduce it in whole or part is granted to the client and/or their agents and/or assignees on payment of invoice.

CONTENTS

List of Illustrations

Summary

Glossary

- 1 INTRODUCTION
- 2 PROJECT BACKGROUND
- 3 AIMS
- 4 METHODOLOGY
- 5 RESULTS
- 6 CONCLUSION
- 7 BIBLIOGRAPHY
- 8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1: Site Location

Figure 2: Watched Area

SUMMARY

On the 5th September 2014 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological monitoring during groundworks associated with the construction of an extension to 10 Hakeburn Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire (NGR: SP 022 023). The work was commissioned by Joanne Harrison.

The archaeological monitoring comprised the reduction of an area (approximately 2.8m by 2.7m) to the southwest of the existing house and the excavation of a service trench along the northwest edge of the house.

No layers, finds or deposits of Roman date were encountered within the watched area. The groundworks did not penetrate through the Modern/Post-medieval layers and it is possible that archaeologically significant deposits may survive at a greater depth. Therefore the negative result of this watching brief cannot be taken as a reflection of the archaeological potential for this site.

No archaeological features were present within the monitored areas.

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 between AD 43 and *circa* AD 410.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On the 5th September 2014 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological monitoring during the construction of an extension to 10 Hakeburn Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire (NGR: SP 022 023). The work was commissioned by Joanne Harrison.
- 1.2 The project was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by Foundations Archaeology (2014), which complies with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (2008) and the standard conditions from the Gloucestershire Archaeology Service.
- 1.3 This document presents the findings of the archaeological monitoring.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The project involved the construction of an extension to 10 Hakeburn Road, Cirencester.
- 2.2 The site is located within the extent of *Corinium* Roman Town Scheduled Monument (SM Ref. 1003426). A desk-based study (Foundations Archaeology 2012) has indicated that there is a high probability that significant Roman remains are present within the site. These are likely to comprise elements of the Roman town defences, including the remains of walls, towers, defensive ditches/berms and other related features. The relevant archaeological evidence indicates that these deposits are, in places, located 0.60m below Modern ground.
- 2.3 There is also a moderate potential for the presence of Medieval deposits, such as barns and outbuildings, or other features relating to agricultural activity.
- 2.4 The proposed works involved ground disturbance associated with the demolition of the extant garage, as well as the construction of the new-build foundations; although the removal of the garage footings will not exceed the formation level of the new foundation slab, which itself, did not penetrate to a depth greater than 0.35m below Modern ground.
- 2.5 The site is located within the Scheduled Monument of *Corinium Roman Town*. Scheduled Monument Consent was required prior to the commencement of groundworks and was granted on 20th June 2014 under reference S00085371.
- 2.6 The archaeological potential of the site was therefore high for deposits and features of Roman date and moderate for deposits and features of Medieval date. This did not prejudice the watching brief against the recovery of finds or features 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 below.
- i) to define and identify the nature of the 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) where possible, to recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence and recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The groundworks comprised the reduction of an area within the footprint of the new build and a service trench along the northwest and southwest edge of the existing house (Figure 2).
- 4.2 All excavation was undertaken by mini digger equipped with a toothless grading bucket, under constant archaeological observation. Where potential archaeological features or deposits were present, they were to be manually investigated and, if necessary, recorded in accordance with the WSI. Spoil tips were scanned for unstratified finds. All recovered archaeological artefacts were allocated a context reference number and retained. Modern artefacts were noted and discarded.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Reduced Area

- 5.1.1 The reduced area was roughly rectangular, with a basic footprint of 2.73m by 2.88m (Figure 2) and was excavated down to 300mm below modern ground level. The natural substrate was not revealed at this depth.
- 5.1.2 The lowest deposit present within the reduced area was a 0.13m thick brown plastic clay silt (102), which contained occasional flecks of charcoal, large

fragments of modern CBM, Cotswold stone and modern debris including plastic items. This deposit was sealed by a yellow/beige sand and gravel bedding layer (101), up to 0.09m thick. A layer of paving slabs (100), approximately 0.10m thick, were laid onto the bedding layer. No archaeological finds or features were present within the reduced area.

5.2 **Service Trench**

5.2.1 The service trench as aligned southwest-northeast, it was 2.66m long, 0.70m wide, with a small area to the southwest of 1.24m by 0.74m and was excavated to a depth of 0.20m from the modern ground surface.

5.2.2 The only deposit encountered within the cut for the service was a dark red brown plastic clay silt (103), which contained fragments of salt-glazed water pipe. No archaeological finds or features were present within the service cut.

6 **CONCLUSION**

6.1 No layers, finds or deposits of Roman date were encountered within the watched area. The groundworks did not penetrate through the Modern/Post-medieval layers and it is possible that archaeologically significant deposits may survive at a greater depth. Therefore the negative result of this watching brief cannot be taken as a reflection of the archaeological potential for this site.

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**

Darvill, T. & Gerrard, C. 1994. *Cirencester: Town and Landscape*.

Foundations Archaeology. 2012. *10 Hakeburn Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Impact Assessment*. Unpublished.

Foundations Archaeology. 2014. *10 Hakeburn Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for a programme of Archaeological Watching Brief*. Unpublished.

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

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Foundations Archaeology would like to thank the client Joanne Harrison, Charles Parry of Gloucestershire County Council, Hugh Beamish of English Heritage and the on-site groundworkers for their help and co-operation during the project.



© Crown Copyright
Reproduced under licence 100015722

Site Code: HRC14

Accession Code:

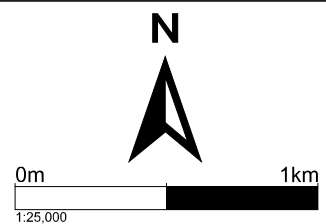
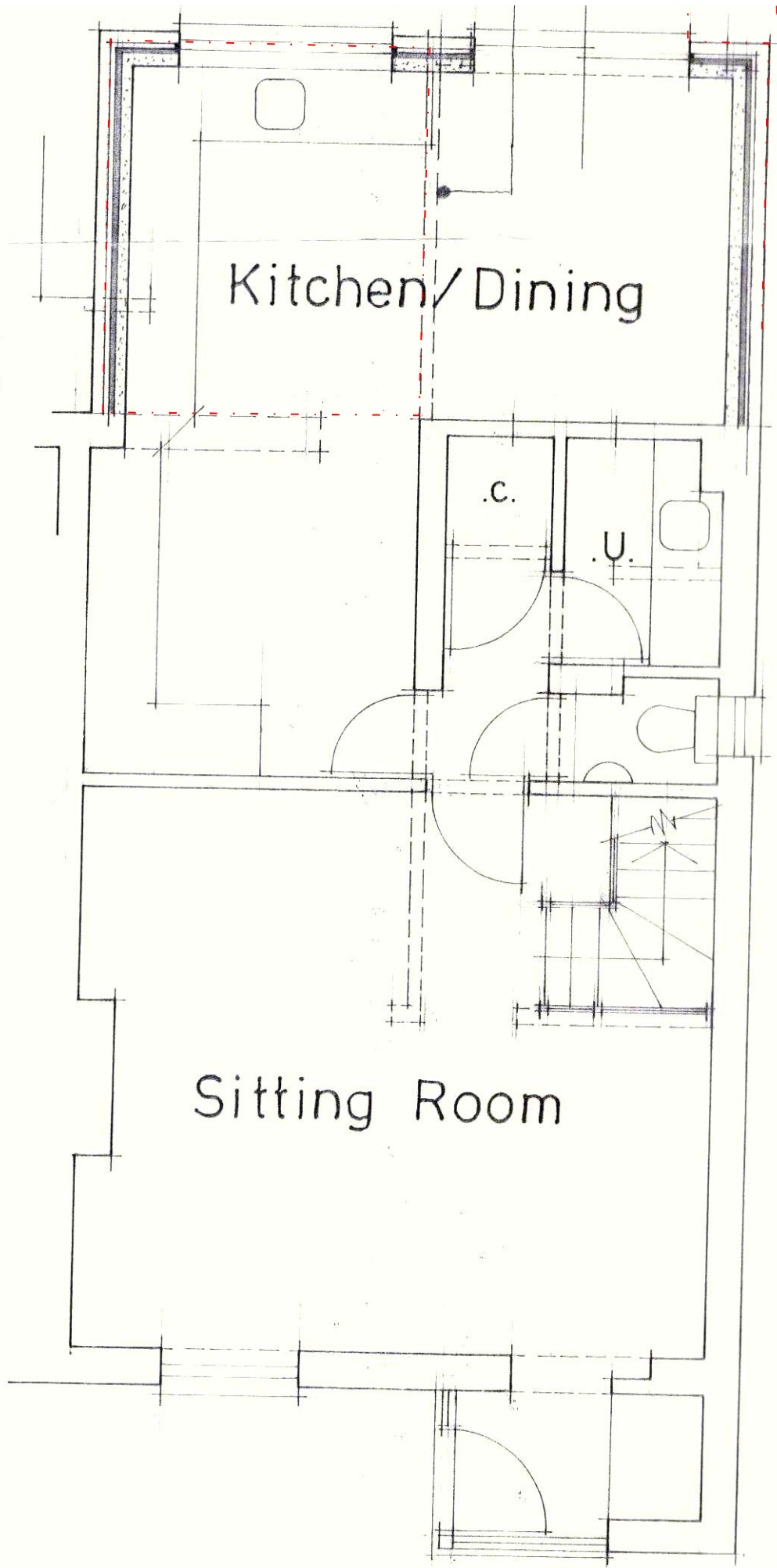


FIGURE 1: Site Location



Location Plan 1:1250



Site Code: HRC14
 Accession Code:

--- Watched Areas

0m 2m
 1:50 SITE PLAN

0m 50m
 1:1,250 LOCATION PLAN

FIGURE 2: Watched Areas