

**LAND TO THE REAR OF 19 MARKET PLACE,
TETBURY,
GLOUCESTERSHIRE.**

NGR: ST 891 931

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

November 2016
Report No. 1143



ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY, MANAGEMENT & FIELD SERVICES

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Quality Assurance

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SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken between 30th September and 6th October 2014 on land to the rear of 19 Market Place, Tetbury, Gloucestershire (NGR: ST 891 931). The archaeological works were undertaken during excavations required for the construction of a new residential development. The project was commissioned by Tom Pitman of Chipping Investments Ltd.

No archaeological features, deposits or finds were present within the excavated area.

Context (101) appeared to be a disturbed deposit, which contained late Post-medieval material. This was possibly related to the construction of previous properties within the site area.

The presence of an undisturbed area of possible subsoil at the easternmost edge of the watched area would indicate that, although no archaeology was identified and that there was a high degree of Post-medieval and Modern disturbance throughout the site, it is possible that there are isolated islands of preserved stratigraphy with archaeological potential within the study area.

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.

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.

Post-medieval

The period from *c.* AD 1500 onwards.

Prehistoric

The period prior to the Roman invasion of AD 43. Traditionally sub divided into; *Palaeolithic* – *c.* 500,000 BC to *c.* 12,000 BC; *Mesolithic* – *c.* 12,000 BC to *c.* 4,500 BC; *Neolithic* – *c.* 4,500 BC to *c.* 2,000 BC; *Bronze Age* – *c.* 2,000 BC to *c.* 800 BC; *Iron Age* – *c.* 800 BC to AD 43.

Romano-British

Term used to define the fusion of indigenous Iron Age traditions with invasive Roman culture. Traditionally dated AD 43 to *c.* AD 410.

Saxon

The period between AD 410 and AD 1066.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken between 30th September and 6th October 2014 on land to the rear of 19 Market Place, Tetbury, Gloucestershire (NGR: ST 891 931). The archaeological works were undertaken during excavations required for the construction of a new residential development. The project was commissioned by Tom Pitman of Chipping Investments Ltd.
- 1.2 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Foundations Archaeology (2014). The WSI was produced in line with *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*, issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (2014).
- 1.3 This document presents the findings of the archaeological watching brief.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Planning permission (**14/00125/FUL**) had been granted for the construction of a new residential development on land to the rear of 19 Market Place. A condition for archaeological monitoring during the groundworks was attached to the planning permission.
- 2.2 The site lies in an area of known archaeological potential. An Iron Age hillfort, which was mostly levelled in AD 1799, was located on the southern edge of Tetbury, approximately 220m south of the site. The earthworks have also been interpreted as a Roman military station, Saxon *Burh* defences and a Norman castle. A number of Roman coins have been found in and around Tetbury but no other Roman remains are known from the town.
- 2.3 Tetbury was located in a strategic position on the boundary between the Saxon territories of the *Hwicce* and the West Saxons. There is documentary evidence for Saxon activity in and around Tetbury, but no physical evidence is recorded. It has also been suggested that a Saxon Minster may have stood near to the location of St Mary's Church. The earliest secure mention of the town dates from a Saxon charter of AD 903; two earlier charters are known but are believed to be spurious.
- 2.4 A Norman castle is purported to have been built on the site of the Iron Age hillfort in AD 1144, but this is generally discounted. A Cistercian abbey is believed to have been founded at Tetbury in c. 1148 and it has been suggested that domestic buildings from the abbey could be traced to properties on the east side of The Chipping. The Chipping itself, located immediately to the north of the site, was the location of the Medieval market granted in the early 13th century, which was moved to its present location in Market Place during the 16th century. The Medieval manor house was located to the northwest of The Chipping. The site is therefore located in an area of significant

archaeological potential, positioned between the church to the south and the market and manor house to the north.

- 2.5 Numerous archaeological investigations have taken place in the vicinity, which included an evaluation at 19 Market Place (HER 21240) in 2002 which revealed a Post-medieval pit, a well, a foundation wall and stone cobbled and flagged surfaces.
- 2.6 Investigations at The Priory include excavations in 1994, which revealed a stone cellar / undercroft. This was followed by watching brief on the same site in 1995, which revealed that the cellar may have been part of a more extensive network and identified a stone-lined vault north of the undercroft. Evaluation in 2000 revealed residual Medieval pottery, Post-medieval levelling layers, a wall and a cobbled surface. Two Post-medieval wells and a 19th century outbuilding were also recorded during a 2001-2 watching brief.
- 2.7 St Mary's Church, c. 200m south of the site, was built in AD 1781 on the site of a Medieval church, remains of which were identified during a watching brief in 1992, along with burial vaults and other features.
- 2.8 Medieval cesspits have also been located beneath the cellar floor of The Talbot Hotel, c. 40m east of the site. A number of investigations have also taken place in Gumstool Hill to the east/northeast of the site. These have revealed a Medieval dry stone wall, a layer of stone and mortar residue over Post-medieval cultivation soils, stone and mortar residue from a Victorian mortuary and the remains of a late Victorian stone building overlying Victorian garden soils, which was cut by stone culverts dated to c. 1862. A total of two dry stone culverts and a pit of Medieval / Post-medieval origin, all cut into a possible demolition layer, were located during a 2005 watching brief at 53 Long Street.
- 2.9 A number of negative archaeological investigations have also taken place in the vicinity.
- 2.10 A survey of the manor and borough in AD 1594 recorded Gumstool Street (also known as Cirencester Street), Silver Street, Church Street and Chipping Croft Lane, which broadly enclose on three sides the block of land within which the site lies. Historic Ordnance Survey mapping between 1882 and 1921 shows the site as largely developed, with several buildings set to the rear of properties fronting onto Chipping Lane and Market Place. The Ordnance Survey plan of 1972 shows the location of the coach station which was subsequently constructed within the site area. The station is believed to have closed in the 1980's and many of the associated buildings have since been demolished.
- 2.11 The underlying geology is recorded as *Forest Marble Formation - Limestone*, with no superficial deposits (www.bgs.ac.uk).
- 2.12 The proposals therefore had the potential to impact on archaeological finds or features predominately dated from the Medieval and Post-medieval periods.

This did not prejudice the evaluation work against the recovery of finds or features of other dates.

3 AIMS

3.1 The aims of the archaeological recording were to gather high quality data from the direct observation of archaeological deposits.

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 in order to identify any archaeological finds, features or deposits. Groundworks were carried out under the constant supervision of the archaeologist. All excavations on site were carried out manually. Archaeological mitigation would be required should archaeological deposits be encountered. In the event that significant remains were discovered, work would cease and the archaeological advisor to Cotswold District Council would be notified in order that an assessment of the remains and suitable provision for their recording or preservation could be made.

4.2 All archaeological investigation and recording was undertaken in accordance with the methodologies detailed in the WSI and the Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 3: Excavation Manual.

5 RESULTS

5.1 The foundations for the new builds were 1.5m wide and were excavated to a depth of between 0.8m and 2.4m below the Modern ground surface. The natural deposits of limestone and mudstone were identified within the monitored trenches, at a depth of between 0.8m to 1.65m below the Modern ground level.

5.2 Across the majority of the site, the natural substrates were sealed beneath a loose, mixed deposit of dark brown sandy silt (101), which contained frequent large fragments of limestone. The deposit contained late Post-medieval

evidence in the form of chinaware, CBM/brick, slate, salt-glazed pipe and glass fragments. A localised deposit of large limestone fragments in a loose dark brown sand silt matrix (102), which sealed the natural substrates was identified in the eastern corner of the site. This was present for an area approximately 5m in diameter, a depth of up to 0.68m and may represent an isolated area of intact subsoils. This deposit was in turn sealed by (101). Context (101) was sealed by a layer of demolition rubble (100), up to 0.20m thick. This demolition deposit was present across the entire site.

- 5.3 A number of short truncated sections of Modern brick wall cuts were present within deposit (101).
- 5.4 No archaeological features, deposits or finds, which predated the late Post-medieval period, were present within the excavated area.

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were present within the excavated area.
- 6.2 Context (101) appeared to be a disturbed deposit, which contained late Post-medieval material. This was possibly related to the construction of previous properties within the site area.
- 6.3 The presence of an undisturbed area of possible subsoil at the easternmost edge of the watched area would indicate that, although no archaeology was present and that there was a high degree of Post-medieval and Modern disturbance throughout the site, it is possible that there are isolated islands of preserved stratigraphy with archaeological potential within the study area.
- 6.4 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology, but will be deposited within 12 months with Stroud Museum. A short note will be submitted for publication in the relevant local journal and an OASIS form will also be submitted to ADS.

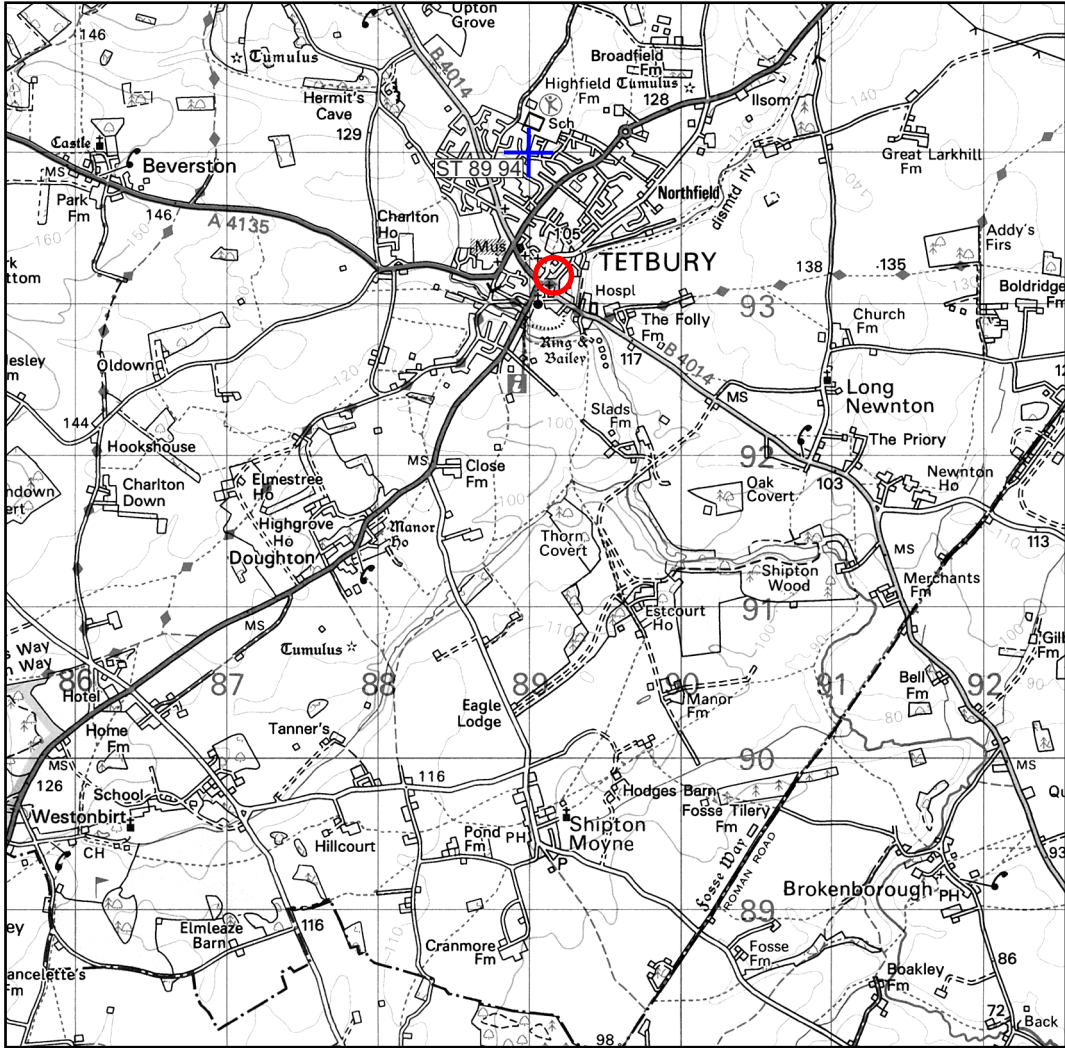
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8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Site Code: MPT14

Accession Code:

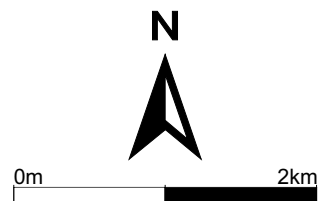
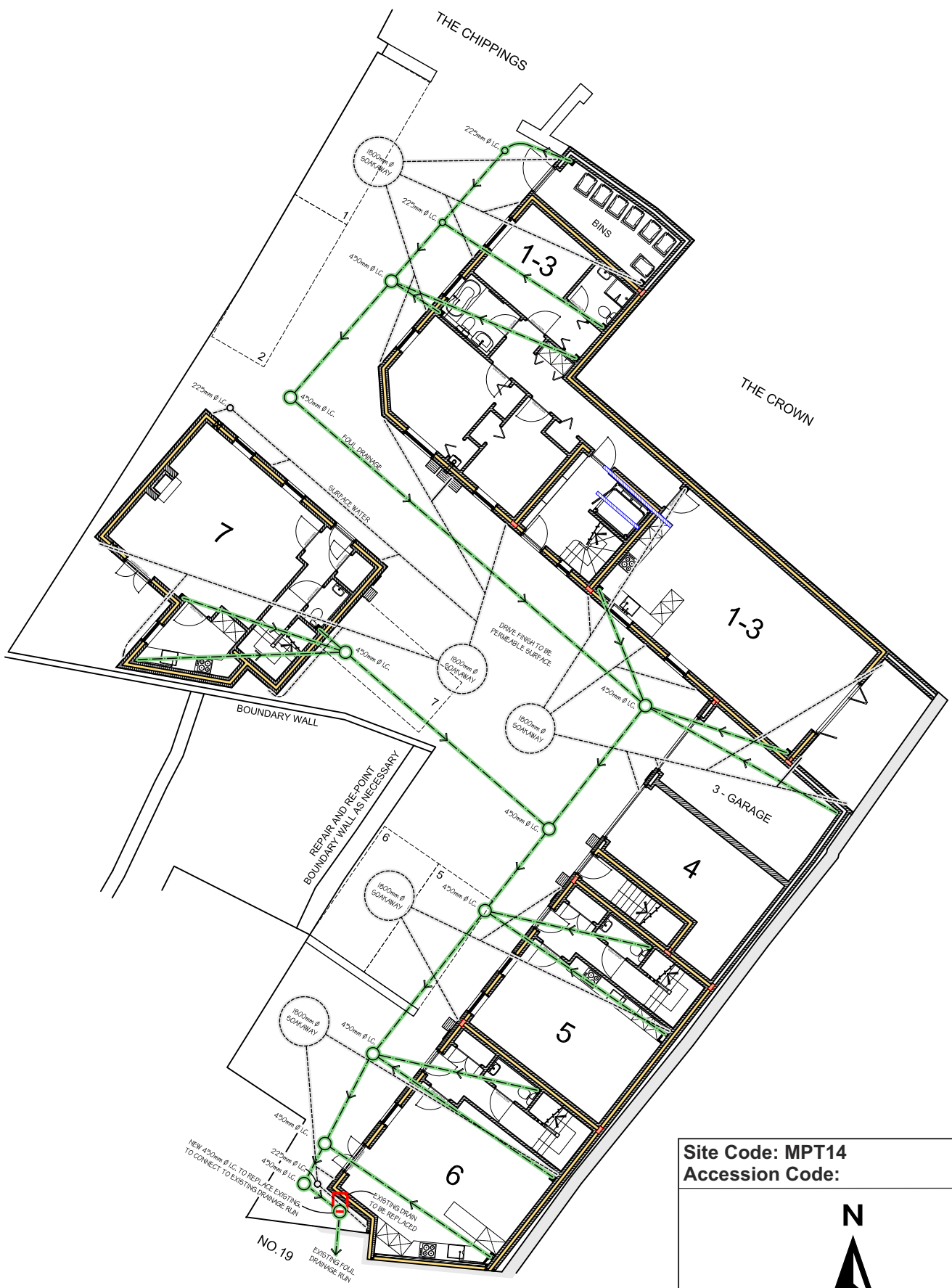


FIGURE 1: Site Location



Site Code: MPT14
 Accession Code:



— Modern Wall Foundation



FIGURE 2: Watching Brief Area