

**LAND ADJACENT TO BRISTOL ROAD,
QUEDGELEY, GLOUCESTER
SO 8110 1403**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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Report No. 303



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SUMMARY

In May 2003 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to Bristol Road, Quedgeley, Gloucester at NGR: SO 8110 1403. The project was commissioned by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants on behalf of Robert Hitchins Ltd.

The evaluation comprised the excavation and recording of four trenches with a total of over 90m² across the proposed development area. (Figure 2)

One Victorian/modern rubbish pit was located within Trench 4. No other archaeological features were present within the evaluated area.

The potential of the study area may, therefore, be considered low.

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. (AOD Above Ordnance Datum)

OS

Ordnance Survey.

Post-Medieval

The period from *circa* AD 1500 onwards.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents the findings of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Foundations Archaeology in May 2003 on land adjacent to Bristol Road, Quedgeley, Gloucester at NGR: SO 8110 1403. The project was commissioned by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants on behalf of Robert Hitchins Ltd.
- 1.2 A programme of archaeological works was required prior to determination of planning permission (Planning Reference 03/00089/FUL) in accordance with the principals of Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning (DoE 1990) and the archaeological policies of Gloucester City Council.
- 1.3 This report constitutes the results of the archaeological works. The project was undertaken in accordance with the specification prepared by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants and agreed by the Gloucester City Archaeologist. The fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with IFA *Standards and Guidance on Archaeological Evaluation* (1994, revised 2001).

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The development area lies within the Quedgeley Area of Principal Archaeological interest, as defined in the City of Gloucester Local Plan. The geological sequence of the area occurs at the interface between two soil associations, the Evesham 2 soil association, consisting of Jurassic and Cretaceous clays and the Badsey 2 soil association, consisting of river terrace and lacustrine gravels with well drained calcareous fine loamy soils (Soil Survey of England and Wales: 1983).
- 2.2 The archaeological background is set out in the Specification (JSAC 1062/03/01).
- 2.3 Quedgeley was first recorded on the Gloucester Assize Rolls of 1221 as *Quedsley*. The word is thought to derive from the Old English for 'dirt clearing', or possibly something more specific like dung-hill (Smith 1964).
- 2.4 Quedgeley contains a number of Medieval buildings, which include the Church of St. James, Field Court and Quedgeley Manor Farm; which may have originally been a Medieval hall. In 'Archaeology of Gloucester' (1984) Saville noted that 'in many parts of Gloucestershire the Medieval settlement pattern probably consisted not of villages or hamlets, but of single farmsteads isolated in their own fields'. He also notes that several such sites in Quedgeley were moated.
- 2.5 There are no known archaeological remains within the area of the proposed development. No known intrusive or non-intrusive archaeological work has been conducted on the site, to date.

- 2.6 The main archaeological potential was therefore for Medieval and post-Medieval activity. This did not prejudice the evaluation to the recovery of features of other periods.

3 AIMS

3.1 The aims of the archaeological evaluation 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. In turn this would allow reasonable planning decisions to be taken regarding the archaeological provision for the areas affected by the proposed development.

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 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 project required the excavation of four trenches measuring over 90m² in total. Trench locations are shown on Figure 2. The location of Trenches 3 and 4 were adjusted slightly from the proposed trench locations in order to avoid mature trees.

4.2 Topsoil and non-significant overburden was removed to the top of archaeological deposits or natural, whichever was encountered first. This was achieved with the use of a mechanical excavator with a toothless grading bucket. Thereafter the trenches were cleaned and all additional excavation was conducted by hand.

4.3 All excavation and recording work was undertaken in accordance with the Specification from John Samuels Archaeological Consultants and the Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 3: Excavation Manual.

5 RESULTS

- 5.1 All four trenches were excavated within the footprints of the proposed buildings, in an area of open space.
- 5.2 **Trench 1** (9m by 2.80m) was aligned north-south and was excavated onto clay gravels at an average depth of 0.39m (19.25m OD) from the modern ground surface. These deposits were sealed beneath (102), a mid grey brown silt clay subsoil, up to 0.18m thick, which contained occasional CBM flecks. Subsoil (102) was sealed beneath (101), a dark brown humic clay silt topsoil, up to 0.24m thick. No archaeological finds or features were present within this trench.
- 5.3 **Trench 2** (14.50m by 2.30m) was aligned northeast-southwest and was excavated onto clay gravels at an average depth of 0.42m (19.21m OD) from the modern ground surface. These deposits were sealed beneath (203), a mid grey brown silt clay subsoil, up to 0.15m thick, which contained occasional CBM flecks. Subsoil (203) was sealed beneath (202), a dark brown humic clay silt layer, up to 0.20m thick, which most likely represented a buried land surface. This was in turn sealed by (201), a dark brown humic clay silt topsoil, up to 0.10m thick, which contained two sherds of post-Medieval pottery and one fragment of modern land drain. No archaeological features were present within this trench.
- 5.4 **Trench 3** (13.50m by 2.40m) was aligned northeast-southwest and was excavated onto clay gravels at an average depth of 0.44m (19.185m OD) from the modern ground surface. These deposits were sealed beneath (303), a mid grey brown silt clay subsoil, up to 0.20m thick, which contained occasional CBM flecks. Subsoil (303) was sealed beneath (302) a dark brown humic clay silt layer, up to 0.13m thick, which most likely represented a buried land surface. This was in turn sealed by (301), a dark brown humic clay silt topsoil, up to 0.12m thick,. No archaeological finds or features were present within this trench.
- 5.5 **Trench 4** (16.40m by 2.40m) was aligned east-west and was excavated onto clay gravels at an average depth of 0.29m (19.315m OD) from the modern ground surface. These deposits were sealed beneath (402), a mid grey brown silt clay subsoil, up to 0.12m thick, which contained occasional CBM flecks. Subsoil (402) was sealed beneath (401), a dark brown humic clay silt topsoil, up to 0.17m thick.
- 5.6 Contained at the eastern end of the trench, cut through subsoil (402) was rubbish pit [404]. The pit was over 5.50m in diameter and contained a mixed fill of topsoil/subsoil/natural. The pit contained a large quantity of Victorian/modern glass bottles, pottery and bone.

6 DISCUSSION

- 6.1 One rubbish pit of modern origin was present within the evaluated area. No other archaeological finds or features were present.
- 6.2 The presence of a buried land surface in Trenches 2 and 3, demonstrates that the area has not been previously stripped but the modern ground level is the result of made up ground. This would have preserved any extant archaeology present within the study area.
- 6.3 The results of the evaluation indicate that although archaeology is present the overall archaeological potential of the site is low.
- 6.5 The project archive will be deposited with Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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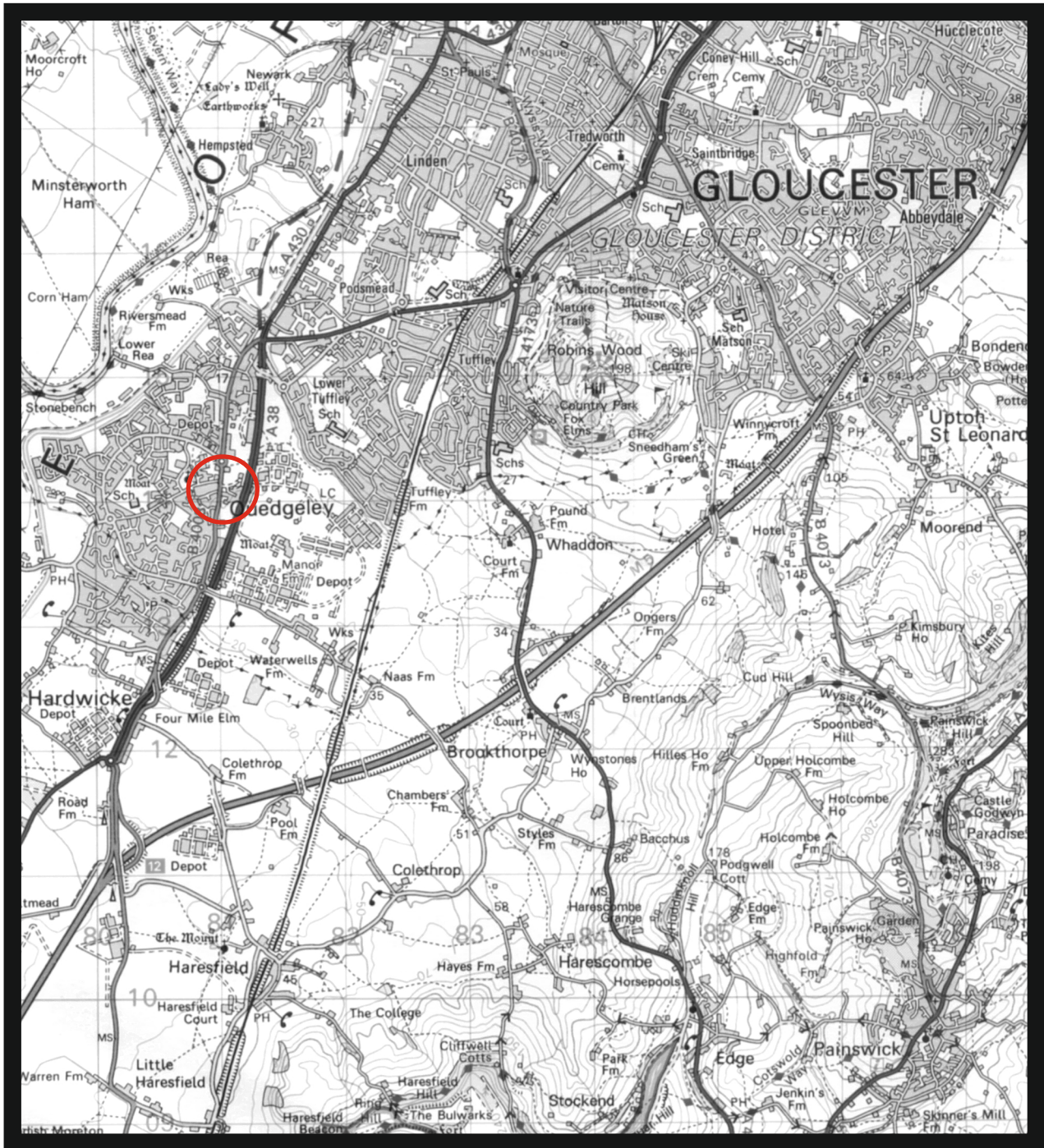
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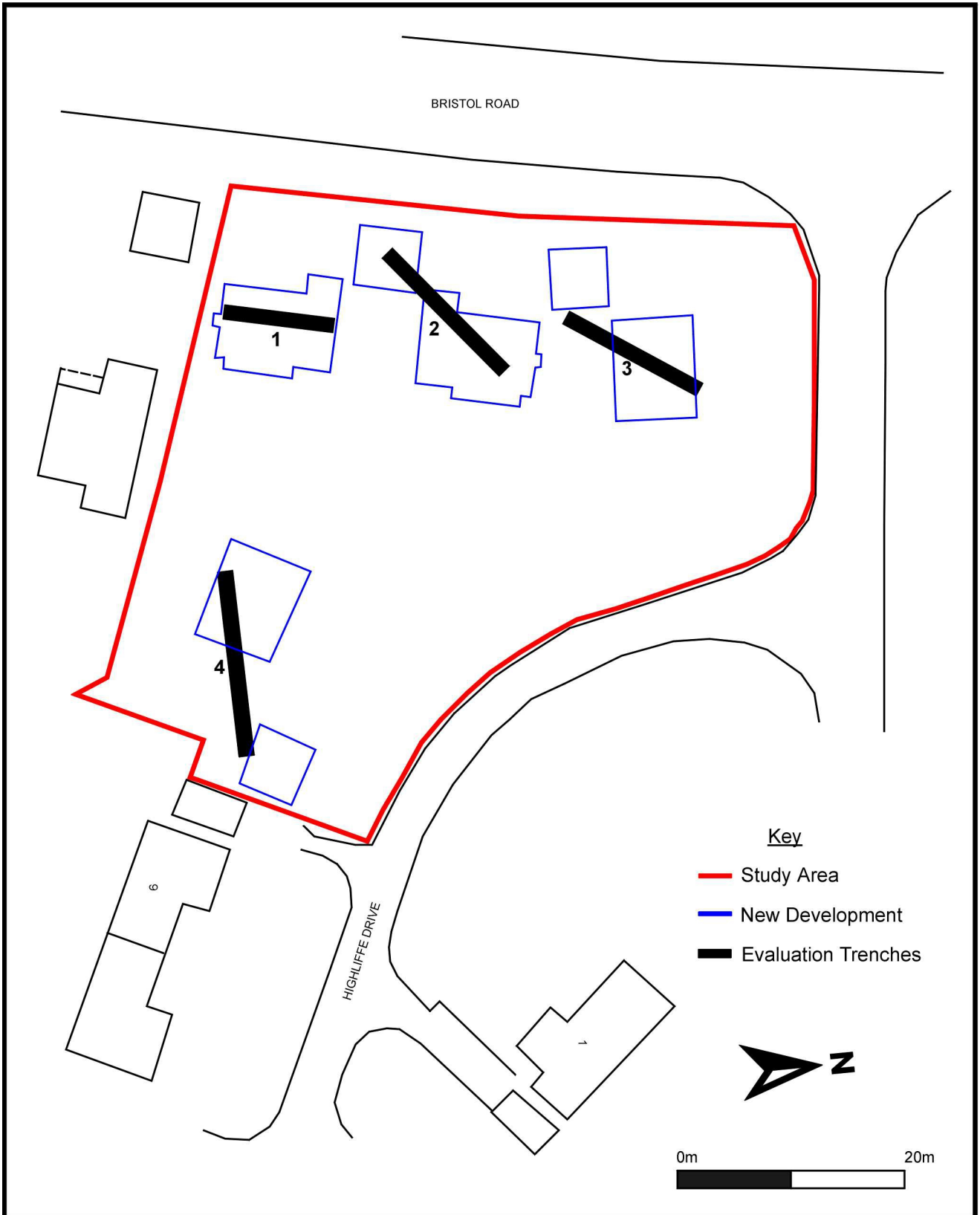
8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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FIGURE 1: Site Location Map



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FIGURE 2: Trench Locations