

**197 AND 199 BARNWOOD ROAD,
GLOUCESTER,
GLOUCESTERSHIRE.**

NGR: 386233.217994

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

March 2019
Report No. 1289



ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY, MANAGEMENT & FIELD SERVICES

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Quality Assurance

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SUMMARY

Between 11th and 13th March 2019 Foundations Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief at 197 and 199 Barnwood Road, Gloucester, Gloucestershire (NGR: 386233.217994). The project was commissioned by Simon Kingscote.

The watching brief comprised monitoring of groundworks associated with the construction of a residential dwelling.

The watching brief identified natural gravel situated under Modern dumped layers, as well as numerous Modern services. The site was likely to have been previously stripped although, not necessarily heavily truncated below the top of the natural. No archaeological features, finds or deposits were present within the monitored 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.

CBM

Ceramic Building Material.

Medieval

The period between AD 1066 and 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 between AD 1500 and AD 1900.

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.

Roman

The period traditionally dated AD 43 until AD 410.

Saxon

The period between AD 410 and AD 1066.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents the findings of an archaeological watching brief, undertaken by Foundations Archaeology between 11th and 13th March 2019 at 197 and 199 Barnwood Road, Gloucester, Gloucestershire (NGR: 386233.217994). The project was commissioned by Simon Kingscote.
- 1.2 The watching brief was conducted in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), prepared by Foundations Archaeology (2017) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (Cifa) *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014).
- 1.3 The code of conduct of the Cifa was adhered to throughout.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Planning permission (17/00164/FUL) was granted for the erection of a single detached residential dwelling between No's. 197 and 199 Barnwood Road, Gloucester. In accordance with the principles of NPPF12, a condition for an archaeological watching brief was attached to the planning permission.
- 2.2 The site is located on the eastern side of Gloucester, immediately north of Barnwood Road, approximately 200m northeast of Barnwood Park. The surrounding topography is generally flat, at approximately 27m AOD and the underlying geology comprises *Charmouth Mudstone Formation* – mudstone, overlaid by *Cheltenham Sand and Gravel* - sand and gravel (BGS Online Viewer).
- 2.3 The site is located just over 3km to the east of the Roman colonia of *Glevum*. Barnwood itself is within an area of known Roman activity. The site also fronts on to Ermin Way, the Roman road which linked the 1st century fort of Kingsholm to Cirencester (*Corinium*) and Caerleon. During Roman times cemeteries were often located along the route of major roads.
- 2.4 In 1998 Foundations Archaeology undertook an excavation at Well's Bridge, Barnwood between 700 and 900m to the north of the study area, which revealed a Romano-British cemetery with 2nd century cremations, including a high status cremation contained within a lead cylinder, which was in turn placed in a limestone sarcophagus, as well as 3rd and 4th century inhumations. Further excavations closer to the site at 167 Barnwood Road by Cotswold Archaeology in 2013 and 2014 revealed three phases of Roman archaeology. The first phase was dated to the 1st century AD and comprised quarry pits and a special pit deposit with military associations. The second phase consisted of a roadside enclosure, whilst the third and final phase comprised a funerary enclosure, with a centrally placed square structure and a pit containing a lead ossuary, similar to the one found at Well's Bridge.

- 2.5 The site, therefore, contained the potential for the presence of archaeological remains, predominately dating to the Roman period, with a high potential for Roman burials and related evidence. This did not prejudice the works against evidence relating to other periods.

3 AIMS

- 3.1 The aims of the archaeological monitoring and recording are to gather high-quality data from the direct observation of archaeological deposits, as well as to ensure that significant archaeological remains are identified and appropriately mitigated.
- 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) where possible, to recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence and recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 Intrusive groundworks were monitored and recorded, in order to identify archaeological finds and deposits. The groundworks were carried out under the constant supervision of the archaeologist. Plant was suitable for the task and was equipped with a toothless grading bucket.
- 4.2 The planning permission provided for the excavation of service trenches; however, in the event, these were not required, as existing services were utilised for the new building.
- 4.3 All excavation and recording work was undertaken in accordance with the WSI and the Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 3: Excavation Manual.
- 4.4 Modern artefacts were noted and then discarded on site. Modern services were recorded as part of the site archive, but are not detailed in this report.

5 RESULTS

- 5.1 The monitored foundation trench is shown in Figure 2. The trench was 0.80m wide and up to 1.26m in depth and was cut into the top of natural beige to dark

orange gravel. Frequent Modern disturbance, in the form of services and dumped layers, was present across the investigated area. A total of three representative sections were recorded, as detailed below.

5.2 SECTION 001

5.2.1 This part of the trench was excavated to a depth of 1.26m (25.37m AOD) below Modern ground. The top of the natural gravel was present 1.04m (26.41m AOD) above the base of the trench. This was directly overlaid by a Modern dump layer (1001), which consisted of light pink pea-grit and stone, up to 0.22m thick.

5.3 SECTION 002

5.3.1 The trench was excavated to a depth of 1.18m (25.37m AOD) below Modern ground. The top of the natural gravel was present 0.74m (26.11m AOD) above the base of the trench. The natural was directly overlaid by a dark brown sand silt clay layer (1002), up to 0.19m thick, which contained frequent charcoal flecks as well as 19th – 20th century transfer printed pottery. This was sealed by a layer of variable grey orange brown firm sand clay (1003), up to 0.25m thick, which contained frequent charcoal flecks, occasional brick fragments and other Modern artefacts. Layer (1003) was partly overlaid by layer (1001) at the west.

5.4 SECTION 003

5.4.1 The trench at this location was excavated to a depth of 1.18m (25.51m AOD) below Modern ground. The top of the natural gravel was present 0.79m (26.30m AOD) above the base of the trench. It was sealed by a brown clay sand subsoil (1004), up to 0.15m thick, which contained frequent stones. The subsoil was overlaid by a layer of dark brown clay sand (1005), up to 0.24m thick.

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

6 DISCUSSION

6.1 The majority of the monitored area was devoid of subsoils or buried former topsoil, with the natural gravels directly overlaid by Modern deposits. This suggested that the site had previously been stripped down to substrate levels; however, the occurrence of a small area of intact subsoil (1004), in the vicinity of section 003, suggested that the site was unlikely to have suffered a high degree of truncation below the level of the top of the natural gravel.

6.2 The lack of archaeological features and finds within the trench is therefore likely to reflect a genuine lack of archaeological activity in the immediate vicinity of the monitored area.

7 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 The watching brief identified natural gravel situated under Modern dumped layers, as well as numerous Modern services. The site was likely to have been previously stripped although, not necessarily heavily truncated below the top of the natural. No archaeological features, finds or deposits were present within the monitored area.
- 7.2 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology but will be deposited in due course with Gloucester City Museum. A short note will be submitted for publication in the relevant local archaeological journal and an OASIS form will also be submitted to ADS.

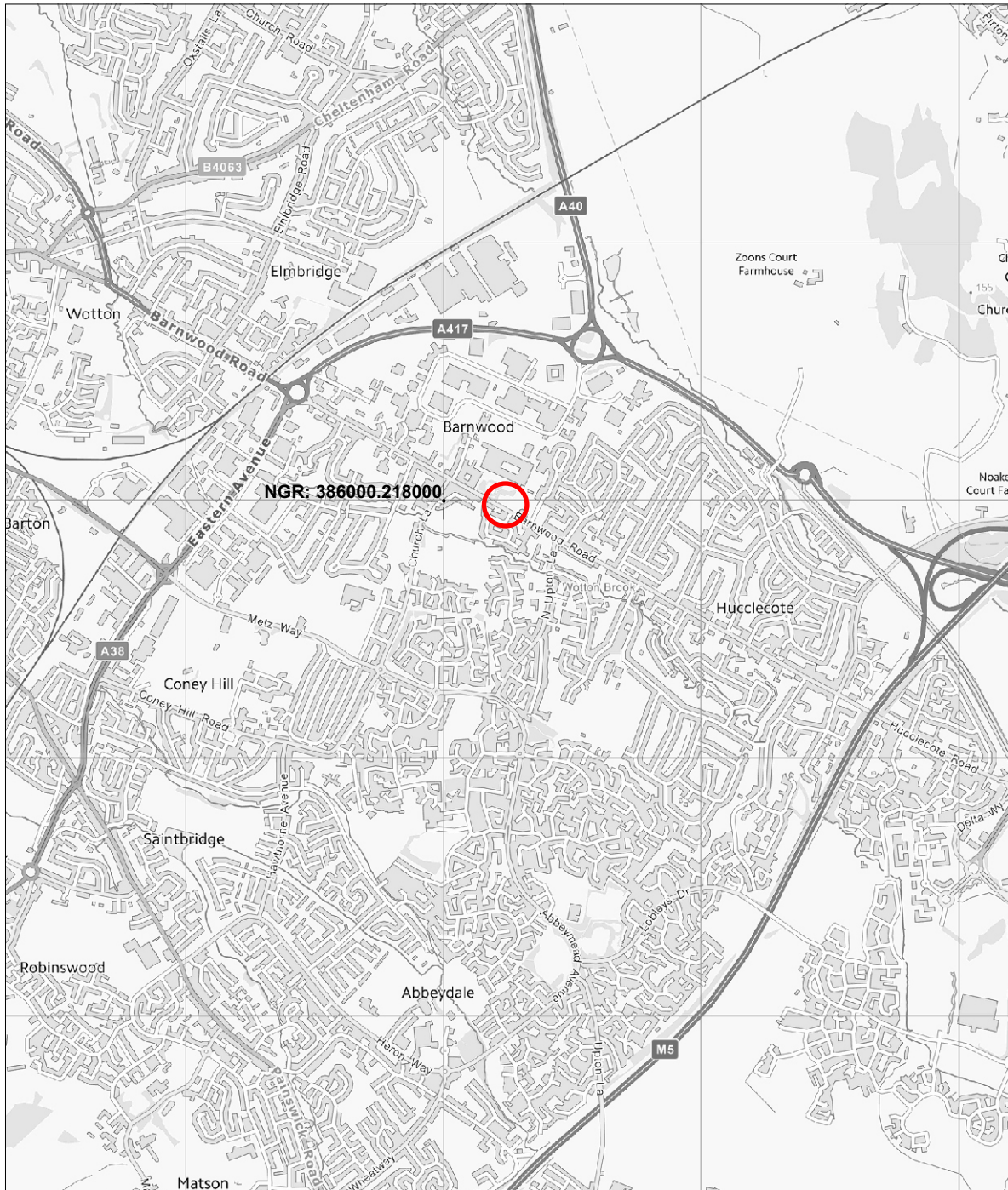
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9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Foundations Archaeology would like to thank Andrew Armstrong of Gloucester City Council and Simon Kingscote for their help during the course of the project.

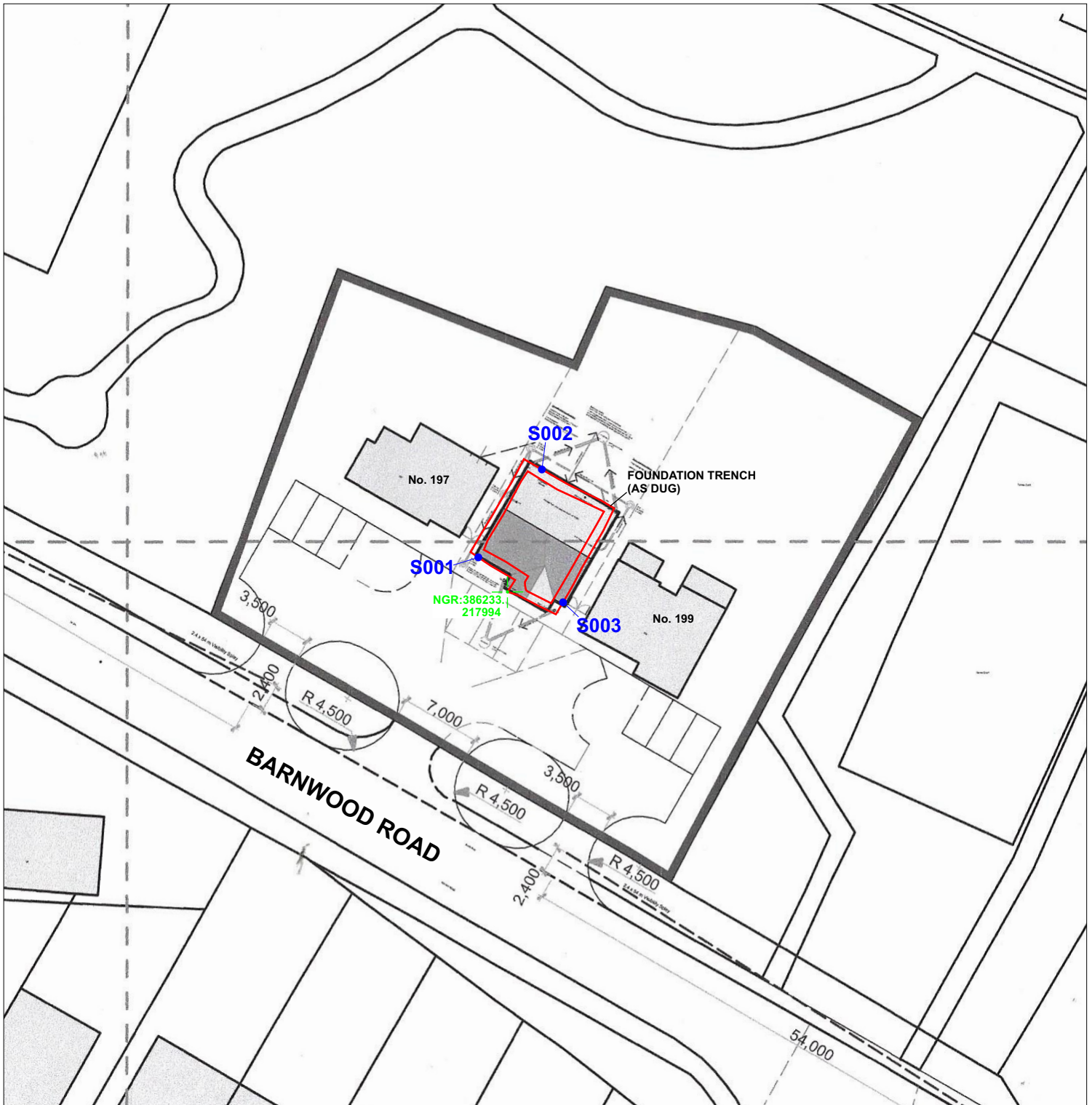


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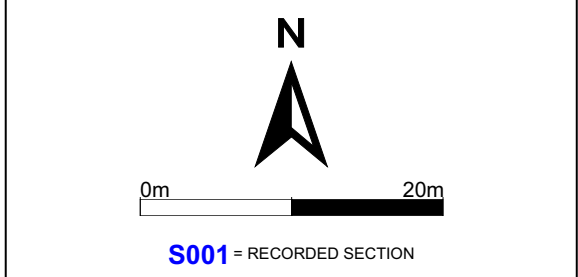
Site Code: BRG17wb

Accession Code:

FIGURE 1: Site Location



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S001 = RECORDED SECTION

FIGURE 2: Site Plan