

T H A M E S V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

S O U T H W E S T

**Kendal Road Baptist Church, Gloucester,
Gloucestershire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Nick Dawson and Andrew Weale

Site Code: KRG16/204

(SO 8518 1954)

**Kendal Road Baptist Church,
Kendal Road, Gloucester**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
For Kendal Road Baptist Church**

by Nick Dawson and Andrew Weale
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code KRG 16/204

January 2017

Summary

Site name: Kendal Road Baptist Church, Gloucester

Grid reference: SO 8518 1954

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 28th to 29th October 2016

Project manager: Andy Weale

Site supervisor: Nick Dawson

Site code: KRG 16/204

Summary of results: The watching brief examined the digging of test pits and boreholes on the site. However, no artefacts nor deposits of archaeological interest were encountered.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at TVAS, South West in Taunton and will be deposited with Gloucester City Museum or with the Archaeology Data Service in due course.

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

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| Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 06.01.17 Steve Preston ✓ 06.01.17 |
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Kendal Road Baptist Church, Kendal Road, Gloucester **An Archaeological Watching Brief**

by Nick Dawson and Andrew Weale

Report 16/204

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Kendal Road Baptist Church, Kendal, Gloucester GL2 0NB (NGR. SO 8518 1953) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Stephen Vaughan of Integrated Architecture: Heath Avery Astam, St. Nicholas House 47 London Road, Gloucester, GL1 3HF, on behalf of the Kendal Road Baptist Church., Kendal Road Gloucester.

Planning permission (14/00036/FUL) has been granted by Gloucester City Council for the demolition of the existing hall, internal alterations, construction of a new hall and creation of a new exit at the church. The planning permission is subject to a condition (6) relating to archaeology that requires archaeological monitoring and recording (a 'watching brief') during ground works.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the Gloucester City Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Andrew Armstrong, City Archaeologist for Gloucester City Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Nick Dawson, on 28th and 29th of October 2016 and the site code is KRG 16/204.

The archive is presently held at TVAS South West in Taunton and will be deposited with the Gloucester City Museum or Archaeology Data Service in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located in Longlevens to the north-east of the city centre (Fig. 1). Kendal Road itself forms the south and the western boundaries of the site whilst the north and eastern back onto residential properties (Fig. 2). It is situated in a flat area of land at 18m above Ordnance Datum and the underlying geology is of blue lias and Charmouth Mudstone formation, but with Quaternary sand and gravel nearby (BGS 1972). The site is currently occupied by church buildings.

Archaeological background

The development site is located in an area of some archaeological potential. Roman and prehistoric finds have been identified in the wider vicinity. A Palaeolithic handaxe is recorded c.60m west of the site and Roman finds have been recovered both to the north and the south.

Gloucester was founded as a Roman fortress in the AD60s and was established as a *Colonia* in the late 1st or early 2nd century. The city was a substantial urban settlement in the 2nd to 4th centuries with large public buildings and walls. By the late 7th century Gloucester lay within the Anglo-Saxon sub-kingdom of the Hwicce, part of the larger kingdom of Mercia. Historic records suggest that the Priory of St Peter (Gloucester Cathedral) was founded at this time.

By the start of the 10th century Gloucester appears to have been re-established as an urban centre, a new street pattern was created and St Oswald's Minster was established in the north-west of the city, probably on the instructions of Aethelred of Mercia and his wife Aethelflaed (the daughter of Alfred the Great) and may well have been their burial place. During this period Gloucester was essentially the capital city of English Mercia, outside Danelaw. The relative importance of Gloucester declined during the course of the 10th and 11th centuries. After the Norman Conquest a 'motte and bailey' castle was built in the south-west corner of the city replaced by a later stone castle.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the works. It was proposed that the new foundations would be built on piles that would involve the drilling of 24 piling holes, each 0.3m in diameter. These were all to be observed, as were three test pits to locate utilities (Fig 3).

Results

At the time of the watching brief the demolition of the previous structure had been carried out.

Test pits

TP1 (Fig. 3; Pl. 1)

Test pit 1 was excavated to locate an electrical service and went to a depth of 0.40m. The stratigraphy comprised 0.1m of garden soil (50) above c. 0.3m of brown sandy gravel subsoil (52). From the spoil heap one fragment of

ceramic utility pipe and one fragment of modern ceramic were retrieved. Natural geology was not observed and no archaeological features were present.

TP 2 (Fig. 3)

Test pit 2 was excavated to locate a plastic gas pipe and the stratigraphy observed was very similar to that in TP1, with 0.15m garden topsoil (50) above 0.20m of subsoil (52). Natural geology was not observed and no archaeological features or finds were present.

TP 3 (Fig. 3; Pl. 2)

Test pit 3 was excavated to reveal the location of the same gas pipe as TP2 and was positioned within the area of demolition for the previous building. As a result the stratigraphy altered slightly. The top 0.30m consisted of a yellow sandy made ground layer (51) overlying 0.12m of subsoil (52). From the spoil heap, another fragment of ceramic utility pipe was retrieved. Natural geology was not observed within TP3 and no archaeological features were present.

Piling

Pile Holes 1-10, 14-20 Fig 3 and Pls 3 and 4

Those piling holes, within the area of now demolished previous structure, revealed a stratigraphy of yellow sandy made ground (51) above subsoil (52) and then onto a blue clay, mudstone natural geology. No deposits of archaeological interest nor artefacts were encountered

Pile Holes 11-13, 21-24 Figs 3

These were located within the front lawn area and revealed a stratigraphy a stratigraphy of garden topsoil (50) overlying the subsoil (52) and blue clay, mudstone natural geology. No deposits of archaeological interest nor artefacts were encountered

Finds

Pottery by Andrew Weale

A single sherd of pottery with a hard orange fabric with buff orange exterior and interior surfaces, weighing 14g was recovered from topsoil (50) in TP1. This appears to be modern terracotta.

Modern Ceramic pipe by Andrew Weale

Two pieces of glazed ceramic pipe came from the topsoil (50), one from TP1 and a second from TP3. The sherd from TP1 (267g) had a dark brown freckly glaze and that from TP3 (123g) was similar although the glaze was an orangey brown. Both appeared to come from waste or raw water pipes of late 19th to 20th (or even 21st) century date.

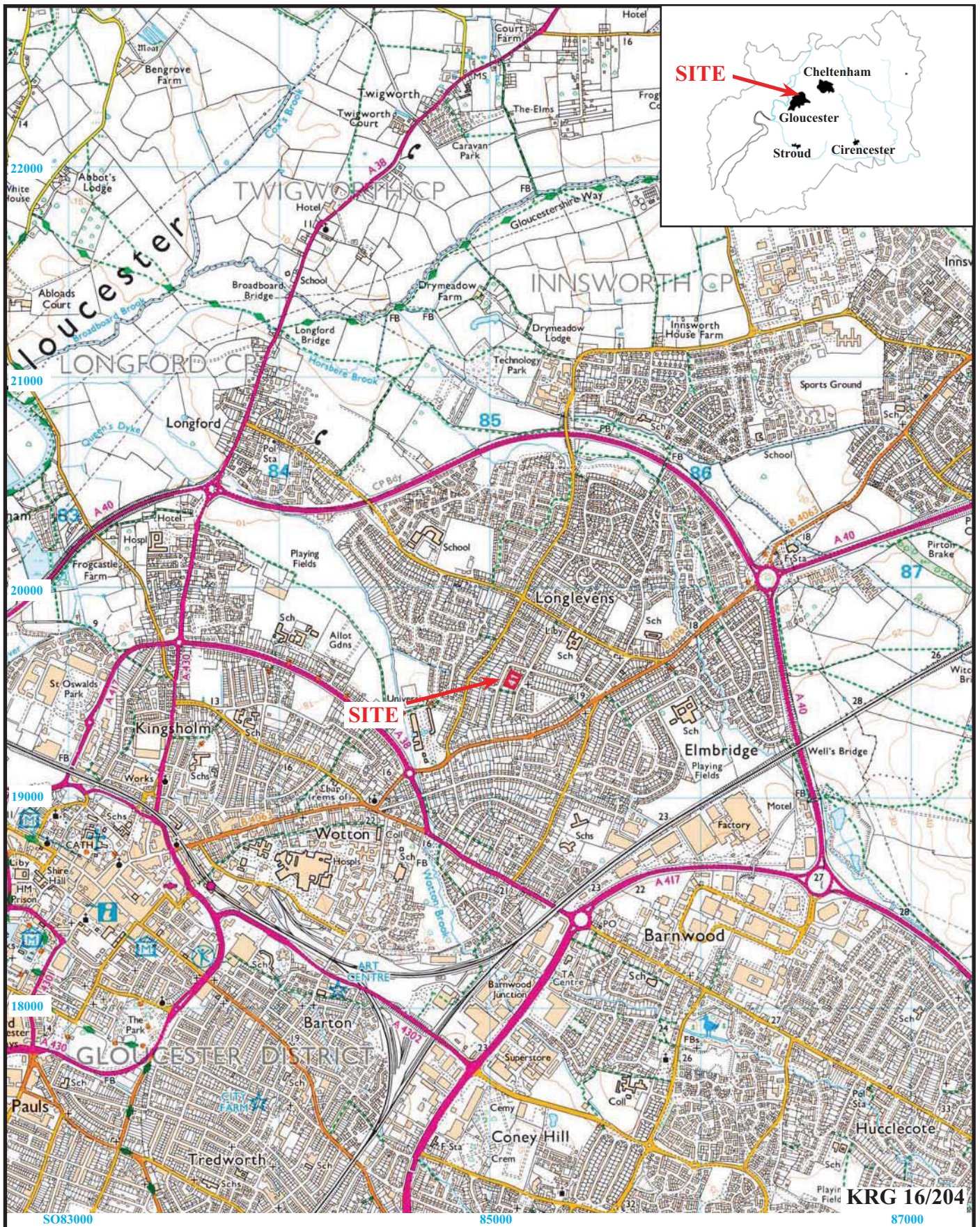
These modern finds will be discarded.

Conclusion

No archaeological features were observed during the works, and the only finds dated from the 19th to 20th century.

References

BGS, 1972, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 234, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London



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Figure 1. Location of site in Gloucester and in Gloucestershire

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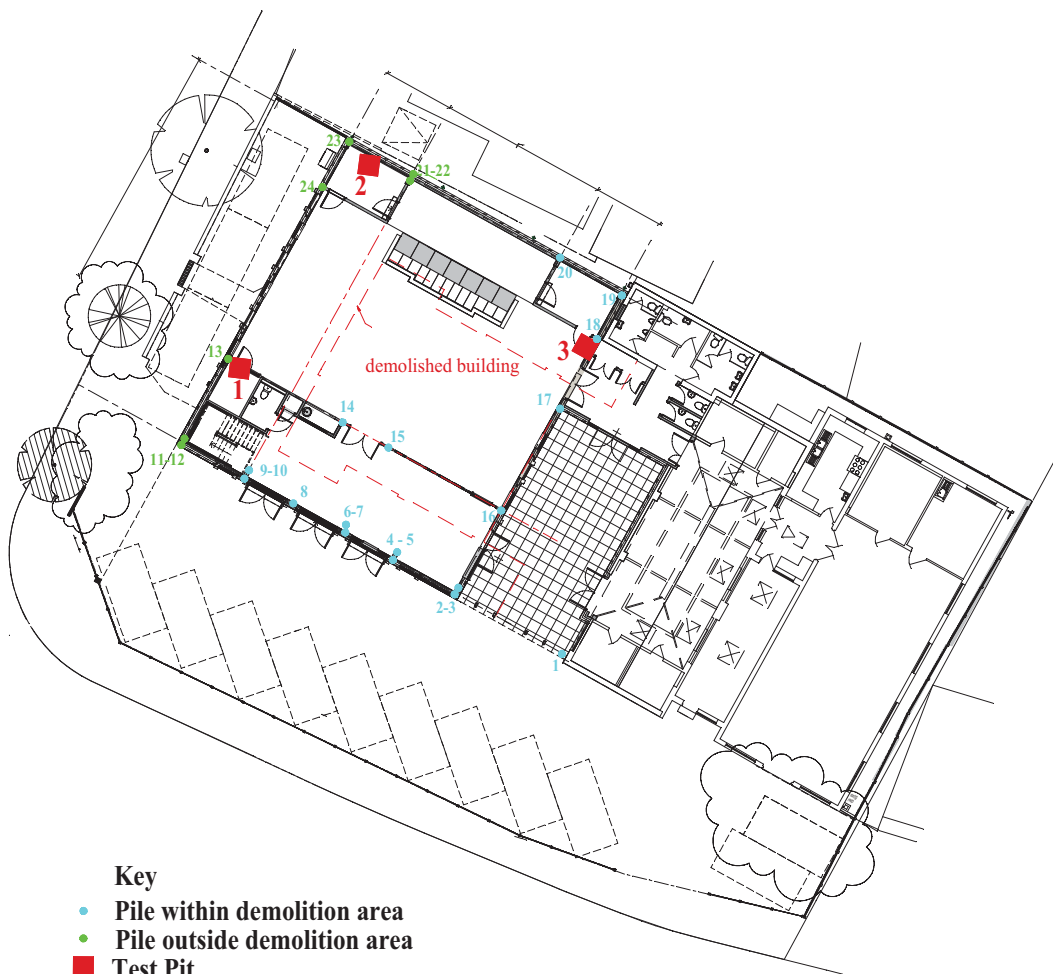
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site on Kendal Road.





- Key**
- Pile within demolition area
 - Pile outside demolition area
 - Test Pit

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Figure 3. Location of Piling Holes and Test Pits





Plate 1. Test pit 1 looking west. Scale: 0.3m



Plate 2. Test pit 3 looking west. Scale: 0.3m

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Plates 1 and 2.

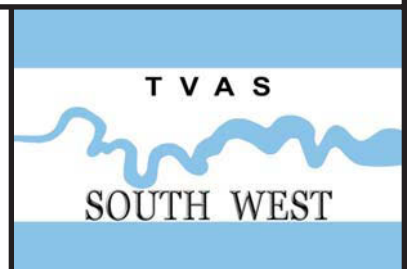




Plate 3. Piling Rig in area of Pile Hole 1

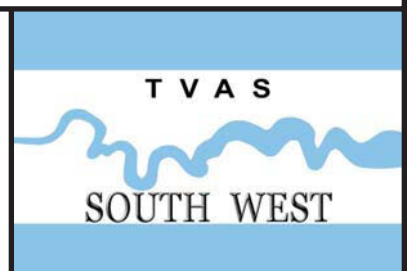


Plate 4. Pile Hole 1

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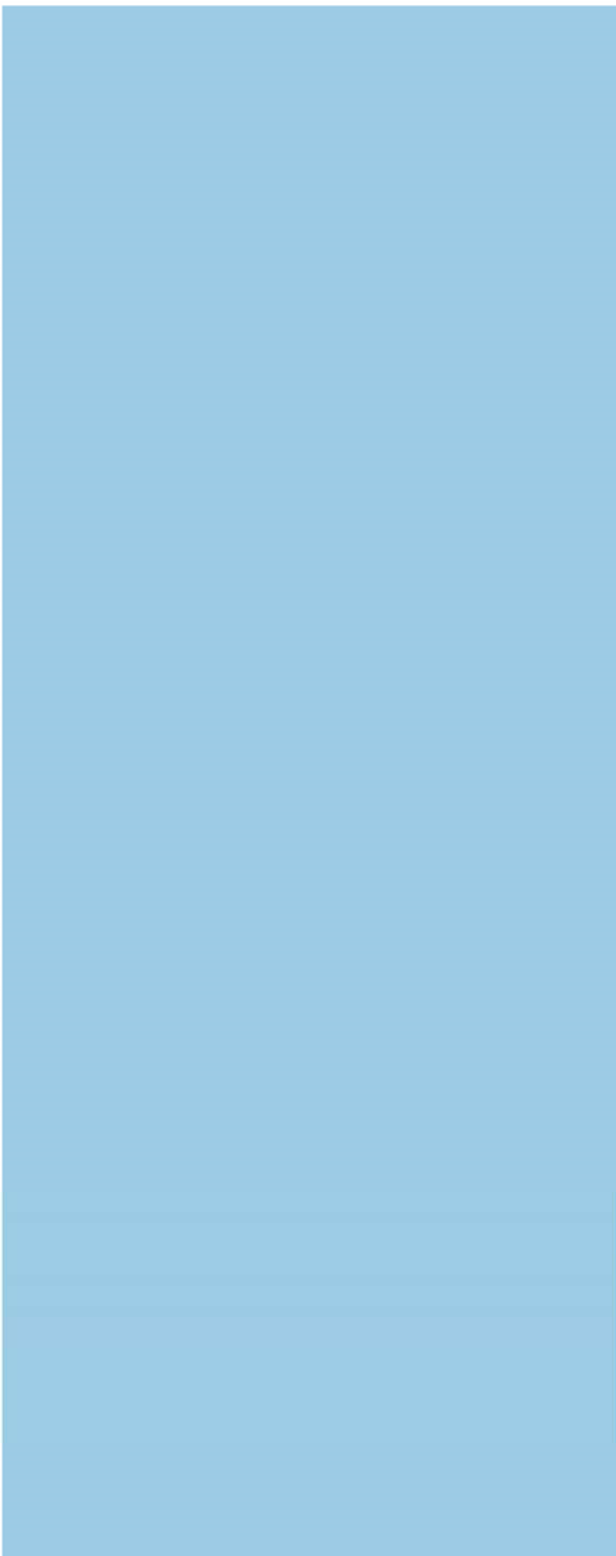
Plates 3 and 4.



TIME CHART

| | Calendar Years |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Modern _____ | AD 1901 |
| Victorian _____ | AD 1837 |
| Post Medieval _____ | AD 1500 |
| Medieval _____ | AD 1066 |
| Saxon _____ | AD 410 |
| Roman _____ | AD 43 |
| Iron Age _____ | BC/AD 750 BC |
| | |
| Bronze Age: Late ----- | 1300 BC |
| Bronze Age: Middle ----- | 1700 BC |
| Bronze Age: Early ----- | 2100 BC |
| | |
| Neolithic: Late | 3300 BC |
| Neolithic: Early | 4300 BC |
| | |
| Mesolithic: Late | 6000 BC |
| Mesolithic: Early | 10000 BC |
| | |
| Palaeolithic: Upper | 30000 BC |
| Palaeolithic: Middle | 70000 BC |
| Palaeolithic: Lower | 2,000,000 BC |





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