

border archaeology

unearth the past....resolve the future

Commercial Archaeology

Working throughout England and Wales



Report Specification:

Compilation:

William Logan BA PgDip

Artwork:

William Logan BA PgDip

Editing:

George Children MA MfA

Final Edit & Approval:

Neil Shurety Dip.M G M Inst M

Report Ref:

BA1335GRC

Grid Reference:

NGR: SO 94237 22996

Date:

April 25th 2014

Cover: View of ground works with gasworks building to the south

Border Archaeology Regional Offices

Midlands & North (Head Office)

Chapel Walk, Burgess Street, Leominster,
Herefordshire, HR6 8DE

T: 01568 610101

E: midlandsandnorth@borderarchaeology.com

West & South West

Park House, 10 Park Street, Bristol, BS1 5HX

T: 0117 907 4735

E: westandsouthwest@borderarchaeology.com

East

Luminous House, 300 South Row, Milton Keynes, MK9 2FR

T: 01908 933765

E: east@borderarchaeology.com

South & South East

Basepoint Business Centre, Winnal Valley Road
Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 0LD

T: 01962 832777

E: southandsoutheast@borderarchaeology.com

Midlands & North

01568 610101

West & South West

0117 907 4735

East

01908 933765

South & South East

01962 832777

Contents

1	Executive Summary	5
2	Introduction	6
2.1	Site Description	6
3	Historical & Archaeological Background	7
4	Methodology	7
4.1	Recording.....	8
5	Results.....	8
6	Conclusion.....	12
6.1	Phase 1- Modern demolition.....	12
6.2	Phase 2- Post-Second World War landscaping	12
6.3	Phase 3- Late 19 th - to mid-20 th -century occupation	12
6.4	Phase 4 - Mid to late post-medieval occupation	13
7	Context Register	15

1 Executive Summary

Border Archaeology carried out Archaeological Observation of ground-works between November 14th and 22nd 2013 at 2 Gloucester Road Cheltenham prior to construction of an extra-care assisted-living facility comprising 54 apartments, two guest/staff bedsits & communal residents' facilities.

The site was reduced to a consistent level of 54.2m AOD, which necessitated removal of up to 1.5m of material at its south-western extent.

Modern demolition material was found to overlie post-Second World War landscaping deposits, which, in turn, overlay late post-medieval (c. 1800-1900) subsoil or clean garden soil. A number of late post-medieval buildings and a well were revealed at this level. A series of pits were also revealed, including several dumps of bottle glass. These features were probably associated with the wine and spirits warehouse or the brewery which previously occupied the site and which were damaged during air-raid attacks in 1940 and subsequently demolished. No earlier features were revealed at this level.

A second stage of ground-works carried out between February 3rd and 27th 2014 saw the site level further reduced and also involved the excavation of pile-pits and the former cellar. Reduction was again carried out to a constant level with up to 1m of material removed across the reduced area and between 1m and 2.5m in the pile-pits and cellar excavated at this reduced depth.

Natural sands were attained at a depth of approximately 53.80m AOD, although these were truncated in the vicinity of the former cellar. Overlying this was a thick disturbed sand layer, probably representing a late post-medieval soil horizon.

A single feature was revealed during this stage of the ground-works: a deep pit in the southern portion of the site, which was filled with bottle glass. This was contemporary with two pits filled with similar material found during the initial ground-works stage.

2 Introduction

Border Archaeology was instructed by Markey Developments to carry out a programme of Archaeological Observation in respect of a planning application for an extra-care assisted-living facility comprising 54 apartments, two guest/staff bedsits & communal residents' facilities at 2 Gloucester Road Cheltenham Gloucestershire (NGR: SO 94237 22996) (Planning Ref. 12/00637/FUL) (fig. 1).

Copies of this report will be submitted to the client, Charles Parry Esq Archaeologist Gloucestershire County Council and to the Gloucestershire HER.



Fig 1: Site location (marked in red)

2.1 Site Description

Cheltenham is recorded as an unsurveyed area by the Soil Survey of England and Wales (1983). The surrounding area is characterised by typical calcareous pelosols of the Evesham 2 series (411b), which consist of slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils, with some slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged non-calcareous clayey and fine loamy or fine silty over clayey soils. The underlying geology consists of Jurassic and Cretaceous clay (SSEW 1983).

Archaeological field evaluation previously carried out by Border Archaeology in 2008 revealed natural sands overlying fine limestone gravels. These natural sands were seen to fall away from a level of 53.5m AOD at the southern extent of the site to 52.4m at the N. Some 0.75m of archaeological deposition lay above this level, although a number of features were found to be cut some depth into the natural (BA 2008).

3 Historical & Archaeological Background

Archaeological trial-trenching opened in 2008 (Trench 3) revealed evidence for medieval occupation comprising a ditch aligned NE-SW, which contained sherds of medieval pottery. The ditch appeared to follow a similar alignment to two narrow strips of property shown on the Cheltenham enclosure map of 1804, which were subsequently removed during construction of the White Hart Inn shortly before 1820.

The full extent and nature of the feature was difficult to fully determine, partly due to the restricted width of the evaluation trench and partly to later intrusion into the area around the ditch. However, based on the artefactual evidence, it appeared to be a boundary ditch of medieval origin, possibly relating to a burgage plot, in which case, the medieval pattern of land tenure evidently extended further to the W than previously supposed, possibly up to the line of present-day Gloucester Road, which appears to have marked a long-established boundary, as shown on the 1804 map.

This ditch appeared to have been widened at some point and gradually backfilled before construction of a brick wall foundation identifiable with the eastern wall of an outbuilding first shown on Merrett's plan of Cheltenham dated 1834. This wall and other features identified in Trenches 2 and 3 of the evaluation appeared to relate to several phases of mid -to -late 19th -century activity, when the range of outbuildings to the S of the White Hart Inn and the wines and spirits warehouse known as Dobell's Wine Vaults was constructed and enlarged.

The low brick wall aligned NW-SE identified within Trench 4 appeared to represent a garden wall associated with landscape gardens which were laid out immediately S and W of the White Hart Inn sometime between 1820 and 1834. Within Trench 1, evidence of two ceramic tiled surfaces was identified relating to paved yards to the rear of two, mid-19th -century terrace cottages at the E end of Stoneville Street, which were destroyed by German bombing in December 1940.

It should be noted that the depth of archaeology revealed appeared to preclude the likelihood of any remains surviving beneath the cellarage of the existing building, which extended to a depth of at least 2.2m.

4 Methodology

Archaeological observation was carried out in accordance with *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008 - updated 22nd Nov 2013). Border Archaeology adheres to the *IfA Code of conduct* (2013 – updated 20th March 2014) and *Code of approved practice for the regulation of contractual arrangements in archaeology* (2008 – updated 20th March 2014).

4.1 Recording

Full written, graphic and photographic records were made in accordance with Border Archaeology's *Archaeological Field Recording Manual* (2014). Records included:

- A *pro-forma* context record for each stratigraphic unit
- Plans of excavated areas showing: the extent of the area (tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid and located on a 1:2500 plan), the extent of all stratigraphic units, and appropriate detail within stratigraphic units.
- A photographic record of all stratigraphic units, in addition to a representative photographic record of the progress of the archaeological work. The record was made using a high-resolution digital camera and comprised photographs of archaeological features and appropriate groups of features and structures. Included in each photograph was an appropriate scale and all photographic records were indexed and cross-referenced to written site records. Details concerning subject and direction of view are contained in a photographic register, indexed by frame number.

Selected finds have been retained and these have been cleaned, labelled and stored according to *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IfA 2008 – updated 22nd November 2013) and *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson & Neal 2001). None has been identified as requiring specialist analysis or post-excavation treatment

No deposits suitable for the recovery of environmental or artefactual materials were identified during the course of the programme of work.

5 Results

The initial ground-works comprised a reduction of the entire site to a level of 54.2m. The northern extent of the site had already been reduced to this level following the demolition of the 1960s motor factor building and backfilling of cellars. Approximately 1m to 1.5m of material was removed across the remainder of the site in order to attain this level.

The uppermost deposit comprised post-2008 demolition rubble (120) extending across the area of the former 1960s building and filling the cellarage. Underlying this, across the site to the S of the former building, was (121), a sandy silt deposit up to 1m thick containing a substantial proportion of CBM and demolition rubble. Physically underlying (121) was (122), a mid-brown silty sand with evidence of frequent charcoal content and root disturbance, which measured 1m in thickness at the southern extent of excavation.

Several late post-medieval pits were identified cut from (122). These included two pits filled with bottle glass ([103] & [107]), which were located at the southern extent of the site, and [105], [113] & [115], which were filled with demolition rubble.

A 19th -century wall complex (111) was revealed oriented NE-SW/NW SE at the eastern extent of the reduced area. A brick-lined well (110) was revealed immediately to the NE of (111); this was probably broadly contemporary with the wall complex. A brick cellar (116) oriented NW-SE but on a different orientation to (111) measuring 6m × 3.8m was revealed at this level in the western extent of the site. The cellar was filled with bottle glass (119).

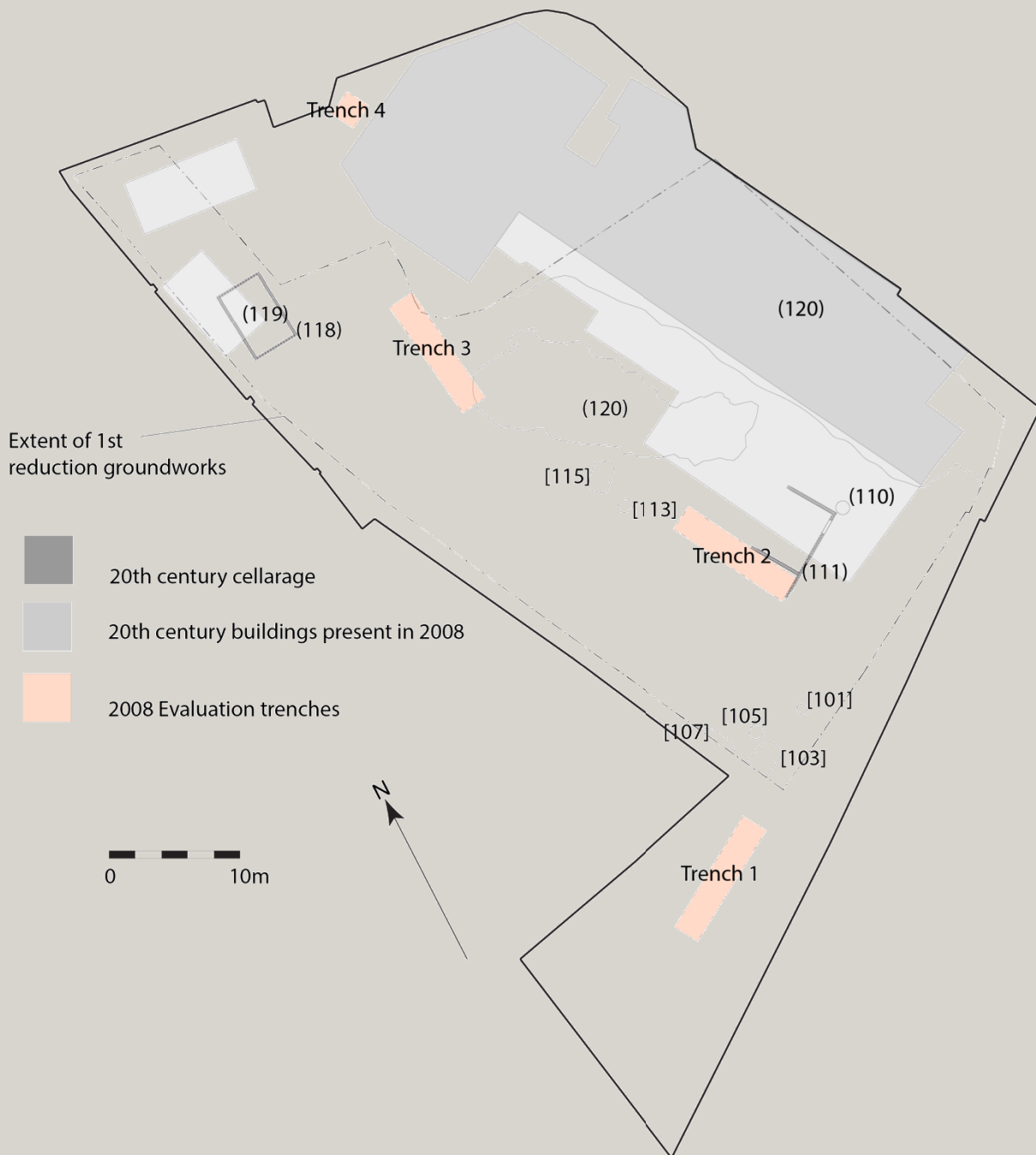


Fig 2: Plan showing extent of ground-works during the initial reduction of the site, the location of features revealed during the course of this work and the location of intrusive elements on the site including the post-Second World War cellar complex and the 2008 evaluation trenches

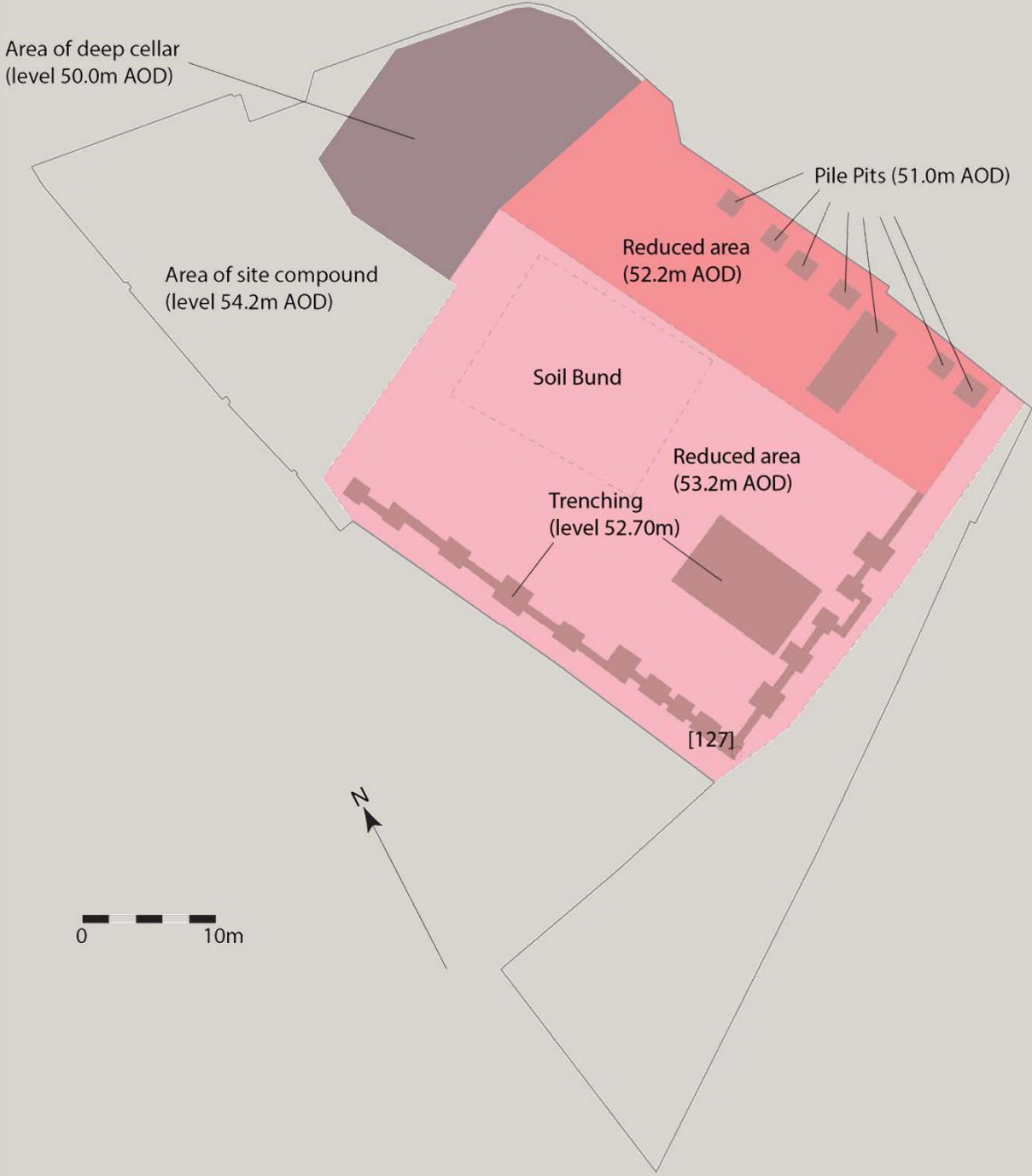


Fig 3: Plan showing extent of ground works during the second reduction of the site, the location of a mid-20th -century bottle dump [127] and the levels attained during this stage of the works

Underlying (122) was (123), a site-wide sand deposit, exhibiting frequent bio-turbation, probably caused by tree-rooting. A single feature [101] was revealed cutting (123), comprising a small sub-rectangular pit extending 1.75m × 0.7m × 0.46m backfilled with a greyish silt (102) containing glass, clay pipe and occasional small pieces of coke, suggesting a mid to late 19th-century date.

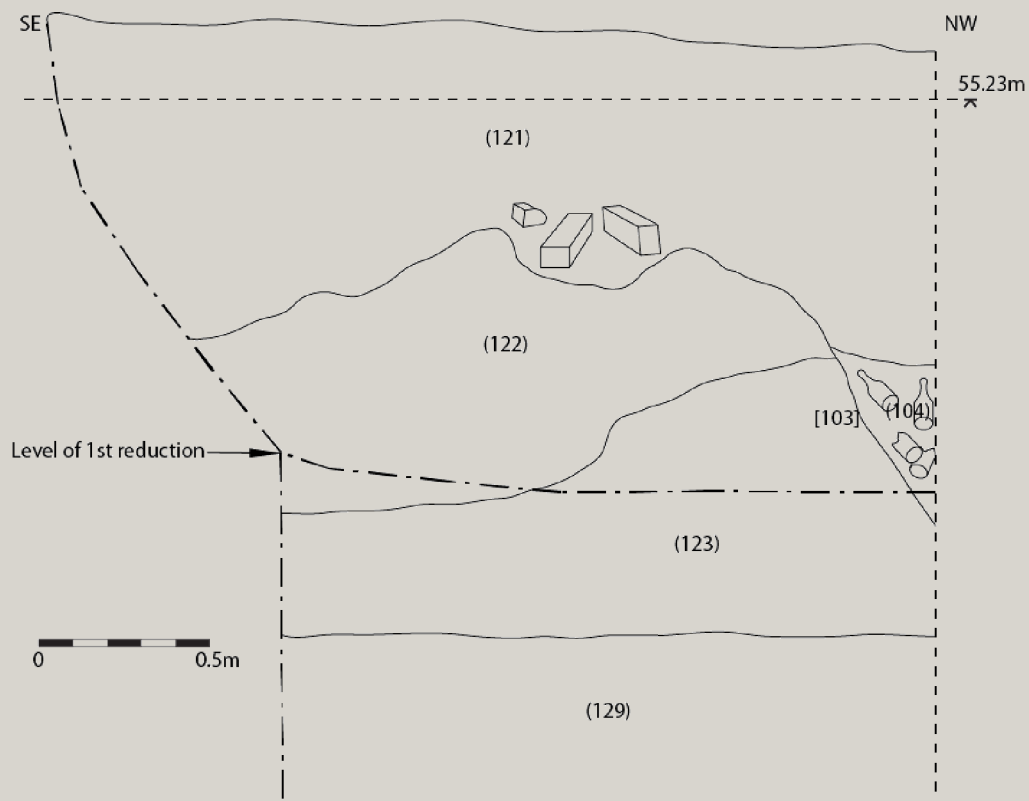


Fig 4: Sample section (NE-facing) from the southern extent of the site showing the post-Second World War landscaping deposits (121) overlying a bottle dump [103], mid to late post-medieval garden/cultivation soils (122) and disturbed and natural sands (123) and (129)

6 Conclusion

The ground works revealed four phases of development.

6.1 Phase 1- Modern demolition

This was represented by a single context (120), comprising a wide-ranging rubble spread extending across the north-eastern extent of the site in the vicinity of the 1960s building on the Tewkesbury Road/High Street frontage, which was demolished post-2008 (*fig. 2*).

6.2 Phase 2- Post-Second World War landscaping

This was represented by (121), a sandy silt deposit extending across the south-eastern extent of the site to a maximum thickness of 1m and containing frequent building rubble (*fig. 4*). The deposit became markedly thinner towards the centre of the excavated area and was not present at the N, having apparently been truncated by the construction of the post-Second World War cellared warehouse.

6.3 Phase 3- Late 19th- to mid-20th -century occupation

Substantial development of the site occurred during this period. Its south-eastern extent, which had been orchards in 1860, had been developed by 1880, when the terraced properties along Stoneville Street were constructed. N of this, in the area to the S of the public house, was a complex of houses, outbuildings and subdivisions, probably gardens or yards. This pattern was retained until the 1940s, although the site was impacted by construction of the railway embankment along its eastern edge in 1906.

The remains of several structures from this phase of development were identified during the reduction of the site. These included a brick-lined well (110) in the eastern portion of the site, which had been capped and equipped with a pump. A building (111) on a NE-SW orientation was also associated with this phase of development. Building (111) comprised a double skin of brick along the external faces of the building, with single-skin stack-bonded internal walls. A cement threshold was revealed on the eastern elevation.

A brick-lined cellar (118) was revealed in the western portion of the site. Its NW-SE alignment differed from that of the building further to the E and comprised part of a building facing onto a courtyard, accessible from the northern end of Gloucester Road. The structure revealed a stack bond with a double skin on the end walls to make up the width. The bricks themselves differed from those identified elsewhere on the site; they were, for example, markedly narrower and thicker than those used in the construction of (110) and (111). Cellar (118) was filled with a dump of bottle glass (119), which included a number of intact vessels, and confirmed that this structure formed part of Dobell's Wine Vaults.



Plate 1: View W of post-Second World War bottle dump [103], filled by (104), in the southern extent of the site

Three further bottle dumps ([103], [107] & [127]) were identified at the southern extent of the site (*Plate 1; figs. 2 & 4*). The glass was of a similar type to that revealed within (118), suggesting that it was dumped as part of the same event. It is likely that it was dumped after the site was bombed during the Second World War. Several buildings on the Wine Vaults site were known to have been destroyed and it is likely that those adjoining Stoneville Street would have incurred substantial damage.

6.4 Phase 4 - Mid to late post-medieval occupation

A single feature predating the development of the site was revealed during the initial reduction. This comprised a sub-rectangular pit [101] in the southern extent of the site filled by a greyish silty sand containing frequent clay pipe stems and fragments of coke (102) (*Plate 2; fig. 2*). This feature probably represented either a tree-planting hole or a sand-extraction pit, which had been backfilled during the mid-19th century



Plate 2: View N of post-medieval pit [101] in southern extent of site



Plate 3: View SSE of pile-pit trenching along the SW extent of site, showing the depths attained during the second stage of ground works

7 Context Register

Context	Description
[101]	Cut; sub rectangular; oriented E-W; rounded corners; extended 1.75m × 0.7m by 0.46m. Break of slope (top) sharp, well defined; sides steeply sloping, undercut on NE side, interface disturbed by root activity; break of slope (base) moderate; base flattish. Filled by (102) Cuts (123)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Cut for C19 tree-planting or sand extraction pit</i>
(102)	Moderate to firmly compact, mid greyish-brown silty sand, frequent roots, occasional coke fragments, moderate small pebbles, glass and clay pipe stems; extended 1.75m × 0.7m × 0.46m. Underlies (123) Fills [101]
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Fill of [101] containing C19 artefacts</i>
[103]	Cut; sub rectangular; oriented NW-SE; sharp and rounded corners (2 visible) extended 1.7m × >2.4m × >0.4m. Break of slope (top) sharp, sides steeply sloping, break of slope (base) & base not excavated. Filled by (104) Cuts (122)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Cut for C20 dump of bottle glass</i>
(104)	Loose broken bottle glass, occasional CBM & pottery; extended 1.7m × >2.4m by >0.4m. Underlies (121) Fills [103]
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Fill of [103] - possibly destroyed goods dumped following bombing raid in 1940</i>
[105]	Cut; sub circular, rounded corners; extended 1m × 1.2m × >0.4m; break of slope (top) sharp, sides steeply sloping, break of slope (base) & base not excavated. Filled by (106) Cuts (122)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Cut for small C20 pit</i>
(106)	Moderately compacted, light greyish sandy silt, mortar and CBM; extended 1m × 1.2m × >0.4m. Underlies (121) Fills [105]
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Fill of [105] - probably a dump of demolition material following bombing raid in 1940</i>
[107]	Cut; sub-circular(?), rounded corners (2 visible); extended 3.3m × >0.7m × >0.38m; break of slope (top) sharp, sides steeply

	sloping, break of slope (base) & base not excavated. Filled by (108) Cuts (122)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Cut for C20 dump of broken bottle glass</i>
(108)	Loose broken bottle glass, CBM & pottery; extended 3.3m × >0.7m × >0.38m. Underlies (121) Fills [107]
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Fill of [107] - probably destroyed goods dumped following bombing raid in 1940</i>
[109]	Cut; circular; extended 1.2m × 1.2m × 4m; break of slope (top) sharp, break of slope (base) & base not excavated. Filled by (110) Cuts (122)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Cut of well (110)</i>
(110)	Masonry; brick; size of materials - B 120mm × T 70mm × L 230mm); laid to courses, running bond, bonding material not determined; extended 1.2m × 1.2m by 4m. Underlies (121) Fills [109]
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Well structure - probably late C19, capped and equipped with a pump</i>
(111)	Masonry; brick; size of materials - B 120mm × T 70mm × L 230mm); oriented NE-SW/NW-SE; constructed from outer wall double skin, laid to courses, running bond, concrete threshold; internal walls stack-bonded, headers visible, sandy yellowish mortar; extended >7.7m × 0.2m × >0.07m (outer wall) >4m × 0.23m × >0.07m (internal walls). Underlies (121) Fills [112]
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>The E elevation and two internal walls forming part of a late C19 building at E of the site</i>
[112]	Cut; rectilinear; oriented NE-SW/NW-SE; corners 90°; extended >7.7m × 0.2m × >0.07m (NE-SW) >4m × 0.23m × >0.07m (NW-SE); break of slope (top) sharp, sides vertical, break of slope (base) & base not excavated. Filled by (111) Cuts (122)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Cut for late C19 wall complex (111)</i>
[113]	Cut; sub-rectangular; oriented E-W; rounded corners; extended 0.8m × 0.48m (not excavated into); break of slope (top) sharp (well defined), break of slope (base) & base not excavated. Filled by (114) Cuts (122)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Cut for C20 pit</i>
(114)	Firm mid grey clayey silt, occasional cement mortar flecking; extended 0.8m × 0.48m (not

	excavated into). Underlies (121) Fills [113]
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Backfill of [113]</i>
[115]	Cut; rectangular; oriented N-S; sharp corners; extended 2.25m × 1.5m (not excavated into); break of slope (top) sharp, break of slope (base) & base not excavated. Filled by (116) Cuts (122)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Cut for C20 demolition rubble pit</i>
(116)	Loosely compacted predominantly greyish-brown sandy silt, CBM, stone rubble, wire & glass: extended 1.5m x 2.25m (not excavated into) Underlies (121) Fills [115]
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Fill of C20 demolition rubble pit</i>
[117]	Cut; rectilinear; oriented NW/WNW-SE/ESE; corners 90°; extended 3.8m × 6m (not excavated into); break of slope (top) sharp, sides vertical, break of slope base & base not excavated. Filled by (118) and (119) Cuts (122)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Cut for C19 brick cellar (118)</i>
(118)	Masonry; oriented NW/WNW-SE/ESE' brick – size of materials B 105mm × T 88mm × L 225mm; laid to courses, double skin (on ends of cellar), stack-bonded, sandy yellow mortar; extended 3.8m × 6m (not excavated into). Underlies (119) Fills [117]
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Brick-lined cellar forming part of the brewery and wine vault complex at the W extent of the site, probably falling out of use during or after WWII</i>
(119)	Loose bottle glass and CBM; extended 5.3m × 3.3m (not excavated into). Underlies (121) Overlies (118) Fills [117]
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Fill of cellar (118)</i>
(120)	Loose sandy silt, brick concrete rubble and other building detritus; extended across the NE extent of the site in vicinity of the former post war warehouse. Overlies (121)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Post-2008 demolition rubble spread</i>
(121)	Moderately compacted predominantly mid brown (blackish patches) sandy silt, building rubble & CBM; extended across SE extent of site by 1m. Underlies (120) Overlies (104) (106) (108) (110) (111) (114) (116) and (119)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Post-WWII landscaping layer</i>
(122)	Soft mid brown silty sand, charcoal flecking, root intrusion & pottery; extended across SE

	and centre of site by 1m. Cut by [103] [105] [107] [109] [112] [113] [115] [117] and [127] Overlies (102)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Mid to late post-medieval (though poorly stratified) soil deposit predating late C19 development</i>
(123)	Soft yellow sand, bio-turbated and discoloured in patches; extended site-wide by 1m. Cut by [101]
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Sand deposition, disturbed by root action at interface with (122)</i>
(124)	Soft mid brown sand, charcoal, occasional CBM & mortar flecking; extended 35m × 12m × 0.75m. Underlies (120) Contemporary with (126) Fills [125]
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Modern backfill of 1960s cellar</i>
[125]	Cut; L-shaped; oriented NW-SE; sharp corners; extended 55m × 12m × 3.5m; break of slope (top), sides & break of slope (base) not determined, base flat. Filled by (124) and (126) Cuts (121)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Demolition cut for removal of cellar complex</i>
(126)	Loose, mainly mid brown sand, CBM, concrete, glass; extended 20m × 12m × >3.5m. Underlies (120) Contemporary with (124) Fills [125]
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Modern backfill of N end of 1960s cellar</i>
[127]	Cut; sub-rectangular; extended 1.8m × >1.1m by 2.3m; break of slope (top) sharp, sides vertical, break of slope (base) rounded, base flat. Filled by (128) Cuts (122)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Cut for mid C20 pit filled with bottle glass (128)</i>
(128)	Moderately compacted dark brown slightly clayey silt/glass bottles & CBM; extended 1.8m × >1.1m × 2.3m. Underlies (121) Fills [127]
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Bottle glass fill of C20 pit [127] - possibly dumped following redevelopment of the site</i>
(129)	Soft light yellowish sand, occasional gravelly inclusions; extended site-wide × >1.2m. Underlies (123)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Natural sand deposition</i>

Report title: Archaeological Observation: 2 Gloucester Road Cheltenham Gloucestershire		Report Ref: BA1335GRC	
Report written by	William Logan BA PgDip		
Reported edited by	George Children MA MIfA		
Issue No.	Status	Date	Approved for issue
1	Final	April 2014	Neil Shurety Dip.M G M Inst M

Border Archaeology Regional Offices

Midlands & North (Head Office)

Chapel Walk, Burgess Street,
Leominster, Herefordshire, HR6 8DE

T: 01568 610101

E: midlandsandnorth@borderarchaeology.com

Midlands & North

01568 610101

West & South West

Park House, 10 Park Street, Bristol, BS1 5HX

T: 0117 907 4735

E: westandsouthwest@borderarchaeology.com

West & South West

0117 907 4735

East

Luminous House, 300 South Row,
Milton Keynes, MK9 2FR

T: 01908 933765

E: east@borderarchaeology.com

East

01908 933765

South & South East

Basepoint Business Centre, Winnal Valley Road
Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 0LD

T: 01962 832777

E: southandsoutheast@borderarchaeology.com

South & South East

01962 832777