

Desk Based Assessment

43-53 St Catherine Street
Gloucester

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1. Non Technical Summary

The following conclusions can be drawn from this Desk Based Assessment:

- This specific study area lies within an area of high archaeological sensitivity.
- Lying on the southern periphery of the Roman extra-mural settlement of Kingsholm, there is considerable evidence of Roman activity in the immediate locality, including metallised surfaces and various ditch and pit features containing pottery dating from the late 1st-2nd centuries AD.
- Documentary records dating back to the 14th century show that present day St Catherine Street was an established medieval extra-mural roadway - then called Watering Street - and significant archaeological evidence of medieval occupation has been found towards the W end of the street.
- Cartographic evidence indicates that St Catherine Street was extensively built up during the 17th and 18th centuries, several houses being shown with enclosed gardens to the rear situated along the S side of St Catherine Street.
- By 1780, the study area was occupied by a long rectangular structure with an extension at the W end with a garden or orchard to the rear. The southern boundary (of the study area) appears to have been altered by the creation of a landscape park laid out as an adjunct to Paddock House between 1758 and 1780.
- By the early 1840s, the long rectangular building occupying the footprint of the study area was substantially reconstructed. Cawston's map of 1843 shows a large square structure at the W end which can be identified as the 'Queen's Head Inn', first recorded in 1830, while immediately adjoining the inn to the S were four small terraced houses, occupied as artisans' dwellings.
- The topography of the study area was further altered by the construction of the railway in the late 1840s, the western part of the study area undergoing further changes with the demolition and rebuilding of the 'Queen's Head Inn' and associated outbuildings towards the end of the 19th century. The four terraced houses occupying the E end of the site in 1843 were subsequently demolished in the early 1970s and replaced by the present commercial premises.
- The extensive development of the site during the 19th-20th centuries is likely to have significantly disturbed earlier medieval and post-medieval stratified deposits with the consequence that Roman deposits and features are to be found at a relatively shallow depth (less than 1m below existing ground level).

2. Introduction

Border Archaeology was instructed by Mark Broady, Esq of Markey Builders (Gloucester) Ltd. to undertake a Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) with regard to the proposed development at Nos. 43-53 St Catherine Street, Gloucester

Copies of this report will be sent to Markey Builders, Gloucester City Council and the regional Sites and Monuments Record in due course.

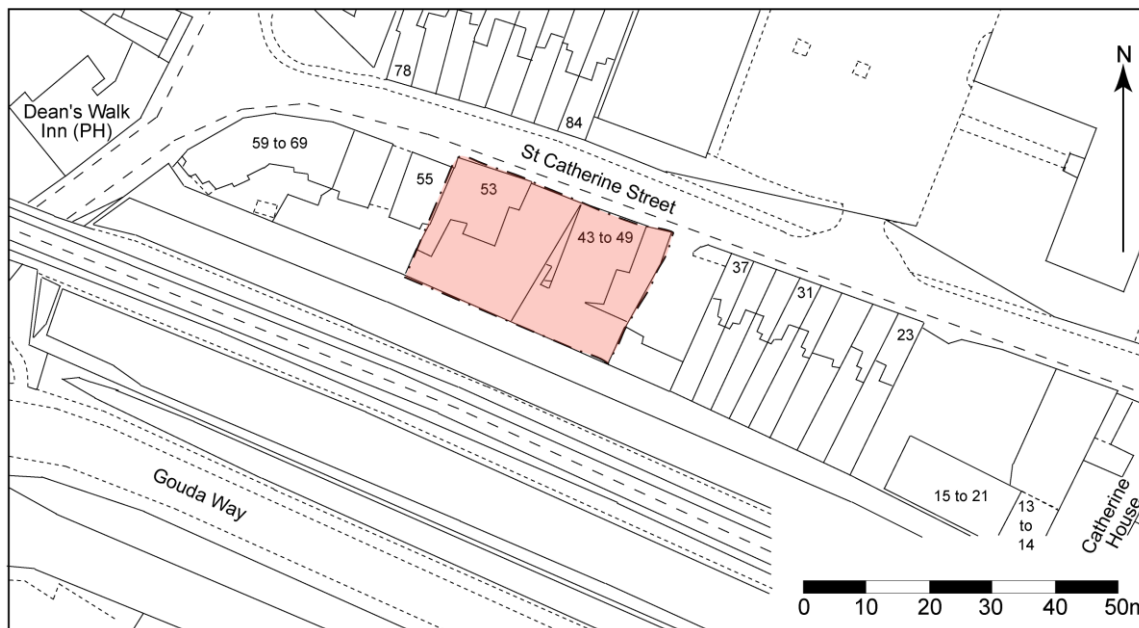


Fig. 1 Site Location Map showing extent of the development area

2.1 Soils & Geology

The study area lies within a heavily urbanized and industrialized suburb of Gloucester, and has not been surveyed in the Soil Survey of England and Wales. Consequently, no information is available regarding the geology of the specific study area

3. Methodology

3.1 Desk-Based Assessment

3.1.1 Research Aims

The purpose of this assessment is to identify any known or potential archaeological resources within the study area and to establish their character, extent, quality and importance in a local, regional and national context.

3.1.2 Research Methods

The research carried out for this DBA consisted of the following elements:

3.1.2.1 *Evaluation and study of archaeological databases*

The Gloucester City Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) held at Gloucester Museum and the National Monuments Record (NMR) at Swindon were both consulted, and lists were obtained of all known archaeological sites, listed buildings and scheduled ancient monuments in the study area, and any relevant backup files.

3.1.2.2 *Evaluation and study of cartographic and other pictorial evidence*

A detailed map regression analysis of the study area was carried out, examining all available editions of the Ordnance Survey (from the 19th century to the present), 17th-19th c. historic maps of the city of Gloucester and its suburbs (including Hall & Pinnell's map of 1780 and Cawston's 1843 map of Gloucester). This information was obtained from the Gloucestershire Record Office and the Gloucestershire County Library.

3.1.2.3 *Evaluation and study of primary written evidence*

Original written and cartographic records relating to the study area were consulted at the Gloucestershire City Library and the Gloucestershire Record Office.

3.1.2.4 *Evaluation and study of secondary (published) sources*

All published works relating to sites and structures of archaeological and historical interest within the study area were evaluated, including published and unpublished archaeological reports, local and county histories and appropriate archaeological and historical journals, including the *Victoria County History of Gloucester*, *Glevensis*, the *Proceedings of the Cotswold Naturalists Field Club* and the *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society*.

3.1.2.4 *Site Visit*

A site visit was carried out on August 23rd 2007 by Neil Shurety and Stephen Priestley to assess the potential for extant archaeology on the site. Due to access restrictions, it was not possible to inspect the area to the rear of the existing buildings but a contextual interpretation of the locality was made.

4. Historical and Archaeological Background

4.1 Roman

The site is located to the N of the Roman *colonia* (urban settlement for veteran legionaries) of 'Glevum', founded in about 67 AD, and on the southern edge of the extensive Roman civilian settlement of Kingsholm, associated with the establishment of an early Roman legionary fortress in about 49 AD to protect a strategic crossing of the Severn, as part of the military campaign to suppress the Silures tribe in South Wales.

The study area is located approximately 200m S of the fortress, the site of which was excavated in the early 1970s. Excavations revealed two distinct phases of timber buildings, the first consisting of a fort for auxiliary troops, probably located in the vicinity of Kingsholm Close, while the second consisted of a larger fortress probably built for legionary units, extending from the site of the modern Kingsholm Rugby Ground up to Sandhurst Road and eastward from Deans Way to Kingsholm Road (Hurst, 1985).

Significant archaeological evidence of Roman occupation has been found along St Catherine Street, which seems to have formed a southern outlier of the Kingsholm civilian settlement and has been designated as lying within the Kingsholm area of principal archaeological interest as defined in the City of Gloucester Local Plan (1991).

Archaeological watching briefs carried out to the E and NE of the site have revealed evidence of Roman metalled surfaces, pitting and ditch features containing pottery dating from the late 1st-2nd centuries AD. Evidence of possible Roman pitting was identified during an evaluation carried out in 1997 at No.55 St Catherine Street, immediately to the W of the study area, while further evidence of Roman occupation has been found at Nos. 4-8 Deans Walk at the NW end of the street.

4.2 Medieval (5th-16th centuries)

The origins of present-day St Catherine Street, on its present alignment, can be traced back to the late Anglo-Saxon period. Documentary evidence suggests that there had been limited extra-mural development to the N of the walled borough during this period extending northwards towards the pre-Conquest royal palace of Kingsholm, which was established on the site of the former Roman fortress during the 10th century.

Medieval records, the earliest dating back to 1350, refer to St Catherine Street as 'Watering Street', running from the 'Blind Gate' near the precinct of St Peter's Abbey round to the Alvin Gate. The name 'Watering Street' was derived from a place called 'The Wateringstead' which was situated on the Old Severn and was used in the 14th century by the townspeople of Gloucester for collecting water from the river (Herbert, 1988, 66).

Documentary records show that there was intensive occupation along St Catherine Street during the late medieval period. The whole of 'Watering Street' formed part of the landed endowment of St Oswald's Minster, an Anglo-Saxon religious house founded by Ethelfleda of Mercia, daughter of King Alfred, shortly before c.900 and subsequently re-founded as a priory of Augustinian canons in 1152-53 (Herbert, 1988, 289). A survey of the estates belonging to St Oswald's, taken in 1536 shortly before its dissolution by Henry VIII, reveals that most of its landed property was located along 'Watering Street',

and comprised 28 houses and eight cottages with associated gardens (Herbert, 1988, 66-67).

Archaeological investigations undertaken at Nos. 4-8 Deans Walk and at the junction of St Catherine Street and Deans Way have confirmed the potential for the survival of significant evidence for medieval occupation towards the W end of St Catherine Street

At Nos. 4-8 Deans Walk, the remains of a masonry wall of 12th-13th century date bounded by clay floor surfaces were identified during a watching brief carried out in 1977 (SMR Record no. 647), while in 1979, excavations of a service trench at the junction of St Catherine Street and Deans Way revealed a series of successive stone wall footings fronting onto a sunken road alignment, ranging in date from the 13th century through to the post-medieval period and exceeding 2m in depth (SMR Record No. 695; Garrod, 1980, 27).

4.3 Post-medieval (16th century to present)

Cartographic evidence, specifically John Speed's Map of Gloucester (1611) and Johannes Kip's 'Bird's Eye View' of Gloucester dated 1712 show that the S side of St Catherine Street was fairly intensively occupied by the 17th-18th centuries, with rows of small houses located along the street frontage with small enclosed gardens or orcharding to the rear, to the S of which was a large expanse of largely unenclosed meadow.

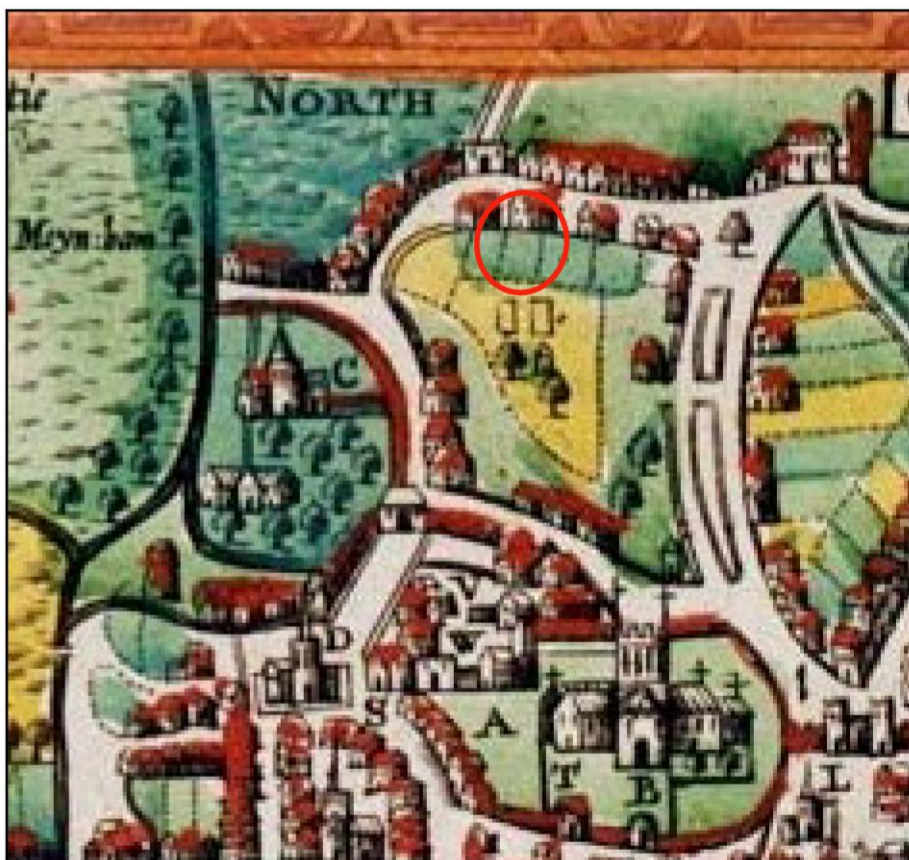


Plate 1: Detail from John Speed's Map of Gloucester (1611) showing houses along St Catherine Street (then called Watering Street) in vicinity of study area

During the mid-18th century, the topography of the area immediately S of St Catherine Street underwent significant changes, with the purchase of the Paddock House estate by John Pitt Esq. in 1758. At some point between 1758 and 1780, Pitt laid out a small landscape park between St Catherine Street to the N and his residence, Paddock House located on College Wall (later Pitt Street) to the S, resulting in the demolition of a number of houses along the S side of St Catherine Street (Herbert, 1988, 162).

Further building activity seems to have taken place along St Catherine Street during the early 19th century, contemporary with the substantial growth of suburban settlement to the N of the old walled borough, with the construction of small-scale artisan housing and several public houses, including the 'Queen's Head Inn' (No. 53 St Catherine Street) which is first recorded in 1830 (Pigot's 1830 Trade Directory of Gloucestershire).

The arrival of the railway in the late 1840s, running parallel with and immediately S of St Catherine Street, significantly impacted on the topography of the surrounding area. The landscape park laid out in the mid 18th century was completely swept away and several houses were demolished and property boundaries encroached upon as a result of the construction of the railway.

Towards the end of the 19th century, further building activity took place towards the W end of St Catherine Street, including the demolition and reconstruction of the 'Queen's Head Inn'. The topography of the study area thereafter remained largely unchanged until the 1960s-70s, when much of the existing 19th century streetscape along St Catherine Street was swept away and replaced by commercial premises, light-industrial factories and workshops.

5. Site Specific Analysis (including Map Regression)

Archaeological evidence of Roman, medieval and post-medieval occupation has been identified in the immediate vicinity of the study area at Nos. 43-53 St Catherine Street.

In 1979, archaeological observation of three trial holes on the site of a new factory immediately to the NE of the study area revealed four successive fine metalled surfaces of Roman date at a depth of 1.1m overlying natural deposits, to the N of which a pit containing a post hole cut into natural was found and further northwards, at a depth of 3m, a silted up ditch feature was found containing pottery dating from the late 1st-2nd century AD. (SMR Record No. 688)

To the E of the study area, further evidence of Roman occupation a metre deep has been found during the archaeological observation of foundation trenching dug for the rebuilding of kitchens to the rear of Nos. 29-35 St Catherine Street in 1982 (SMR Record No. 771). The remains of a Roman metalled surface was found at a depth of 0.79m consisting of small Lias and Oolitic stones, fragments of tegulae, Bunter pebbles and gravel embedded in spreads of redeposited mortar and painted wall plaster, together with some pottery of 2nd century date. Truncating the metalled horizon to the rear of No. 35 was a series of 19th century make-up levels. A linear or pit feature of 2nd century date was also identified, extending across the excavated area (Garrod, 1983, 34).

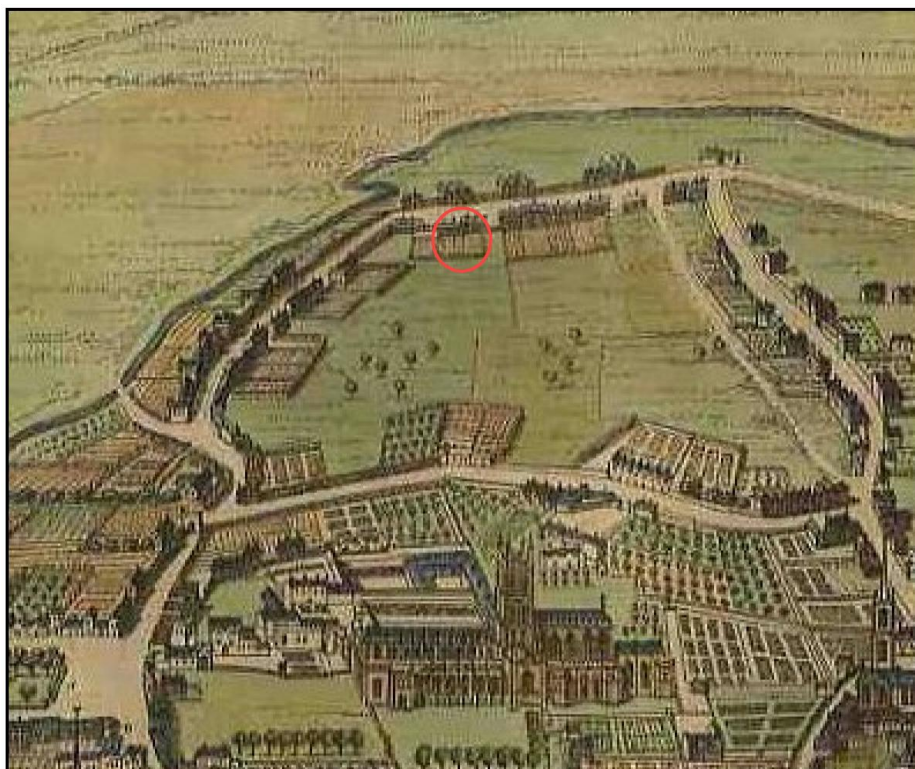
Further evidence of Roman occupation was found during the excavation of sewerage trenching in 1983 opposite Nos. 35-37 St Catherine Street, consisting of a large

backfilled pit or ditch feature cutting natural deposits to a depth of 1.5m, which was in turn sealed by a surface of compacted Oolite and Lias stone fragments, overlying which was a metalled street level of probable medieval date, 1m below the level of the existing roadway (SMR Record No. 781; Garrod, 1984, 48).

A significant amount of recent archaeological work, including two evaluations and several watching briefs, has been carried out on the adjacent property immediately to the W of the study area, at Mason's Yard, No. 55 St Catherine Street. The results of a watching brief undertaken in 1975 to the rear of No.55 revealed evidence of considerable post-medieval landscaping, comprising up to 1m of made up ground containing 18th century pottery (SMR Record No. 720).

Significantly, limited trial trenching in 1997 revealed evidence of stratified archaeological remains at a depth of 0.5m, consisting of a large pit (1m diameter) of possible Roman date which was cut into natural deposits, an orange/yellow gravel identified at a depth of 1.9-2m below the existing ground surface (SMR Record No. 1052; Donel, 1997).

However, the results of a further evaluation carried out in 1999 to the rear of No. 55 proved negative, as did a subsequent watching brief carried out a year later (SMR Record Nos. 1423, 1454).



**Plate 2: Detail from Johannes Kip's engraved 'Bird's Eye View' of Gloucester dated 1712
(Reproduced by courtesy of the Gloucestershire Record Office)**

Cartographic and documentary evidence for the specific study area indicate that the both the street frontage and area to the rear of present-day Nos. 43-53 St Catherine Street were intensively occupied at least since the early 17th century and probably well before that date. Speed's map of Gloucester dated 1611 shows several houses with enclosed

gardens to the rear along the S side of St Catherine Street (then called Watering Street) in the approximate location of the study area at Nos. 43-53 (**Plate 1**).

Johannes Kip's 'Bird's Eye View' of Gloucester (**Plate 2**), published in 1712, provides a somewhat more detailed representation of building activity along St Catherine Street, showing a long, two storey building with two chimneystacks, apparently of half timbered construction, with a smaller, single storey structure attached to the W end and a rectangular garden enclosure extending to the S, beyond which are open fields. The 1712 map shows a small piece of open ground separating this group of houses from a long row of cottages continuing eastwards along the S side of St Catherine Street.

Hall & Pinnell's 1780 map of Gloucester (**Figure 2**) provides the first topographically detailed representation of the study area and shows that the topography of the study area underwent some significant changes during the 18th century. The 1780 map shows the study area occupied by a long rectangular structure with an extension at the W end, projecting to the S and a garden or orchard to the rear.

The rectangular garden enclosure to the rear shown in 1712 had been considerably altered and encroached upon by 1780 with the establishment of a crescent-shaped plantation of trees and an ornamental pond feature immediately to the S. The long row of cottages to the E shown on Kip's map of 1712 had been demolished by 1780 and is shown as open ground with a small oval plantation of trees to the S of the street frontage.



Figure 2: Detail from Hall and Pinnell's map of Gloucester (1780)
(Reproduced by courtesy of Gloucestershire Records Office)

Hall and Pinnell's map marks the whole area lying to the S of St Catherine Street as forming part of the Paddock House estate, which had been acquired by John Pitt Esq. in 1758. The 1780 map shows that Pitt had laid out a small landscaped park between St Catherine Street to the N and his residence, Paddock House located on College Wall (later Pitt Street) to the S.

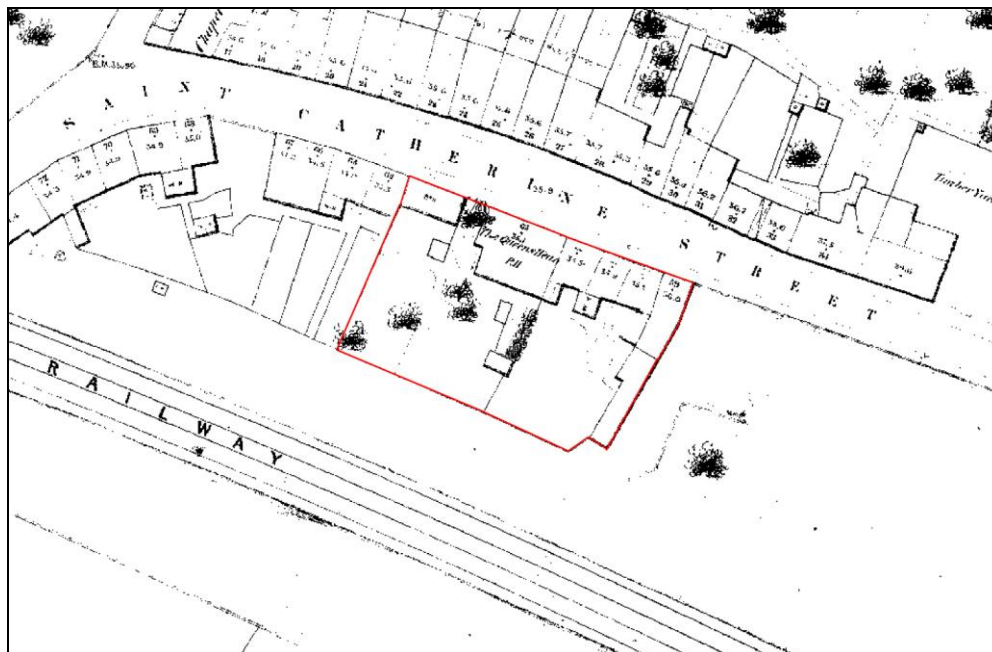
John Pitt's landscape park is still shown as essentially intact on Cawston's map of Gloucester, drawn up in 1843, shortly before the construction of the railway in the late 1840s, although the crescent shaped bank of trees screening the pond feature from the houses immediately to the N had apparently been removed by that date. Cawston's map also reveals that considerable changes had been made to the buildings and the property boundaries in the vicinity of the study area.

Cawston's map (**Figure 3**) shows that the row of buildings shown on the 1780 map had been significantly altered and the rectangular extension at the W end had been rebuilt as a large squarish building, with a separate rectangular outbuilding range immediately to the W, fronting onto St Catherine Street, with a small, freestanding quadrangular structure to the S. The garden enclosure to the rear of the buildings shown in 1780 had also been divided into two separate enclosures; the western enclosure forming a yard immediately to the S and W of the large square building while the eastern enclosure appears to have remained as a garden, with a path running roughly N-S through the middle and a narrow rectangular building shown extending along the E edge of the enclosure.



Figure 3: Detail from Cawston's Map of Gloucester (1843) showing the Queen's Head and adjoining row of houses to the E, predating the construction of the railway (Reproduced by courtesy of the Gloucestershire Records Office)

The large square building shown on Cawston's map is marked on the 1852 Board of Health Plan of Gloucester as the Queen's Head Inn, which is known to have been in existence since 1830 (Pigot's Directory of Gloucestershire), although no documentary references to inn have been found pre-dating the 19th century. The 1852 plan (**Figure 4**) shows that the construction of the railway in the late 1840s had completely swept away the landscape park and ornamental pond shown on the 1780 and 1843 maps.



**Figure 4: Detail from Board of Health Plan of 1852 showing the Queen's Head and adjacent row of houses to the E, bordered by the railway embankment to the S
(Reproduced by courtesy of the Gloucestershire Records Office)**

The row of buildings to the E of the Queen's Head Inn is shown as consisting of four small terraced houses, which were occupied at the time of the 1851 census by a shoemaker, tailor, rail clerk and labourer and their respective families. The 1852 map also depicts the yard adjoining The Queen's Head as planted with several trees and the southern limits of the yard and the adjacent garden behind the four cottages to the E of the Queen's Head are shown as having been altered to form a linear boundary aligned NW-SE respecting the embankment of the new railway, compared to the curvilinear boundary depicted on the earlier maps of 1780 and 1843.

The layout of the Queen's Head and adjoining outbuildings, and the row of terraced houses immediately to the E, appears to have remained essentially intact until the end of the 19th century, although a limited degree of alteration and new building work had taken place as shown on the OS 1st edition 25 inch map of 1881 (Gloucester 25.14) (**Figure 5**).

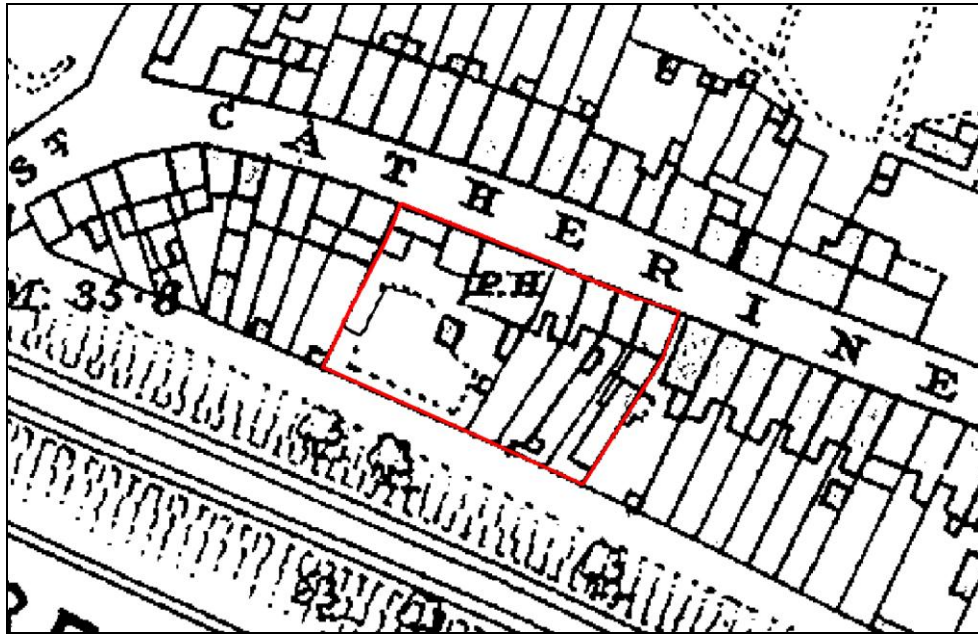


Figure 5: Detail from OS 1st edition 25 inch map of 1881 (Gloucester 25.14)
 (Reproduced by courtesy of the Gloucestershire Records Office)

The 1881 map shows that a rectangular structure had been constructed immediately W of the Queen's Head, connecting it to the outbuilding range further to the W, which also appears to have been altered. The garden to the rear of the four terraced houses to the E of the Queen's Head is shown as having been divided into four narrow yards with outhouses by 1881.

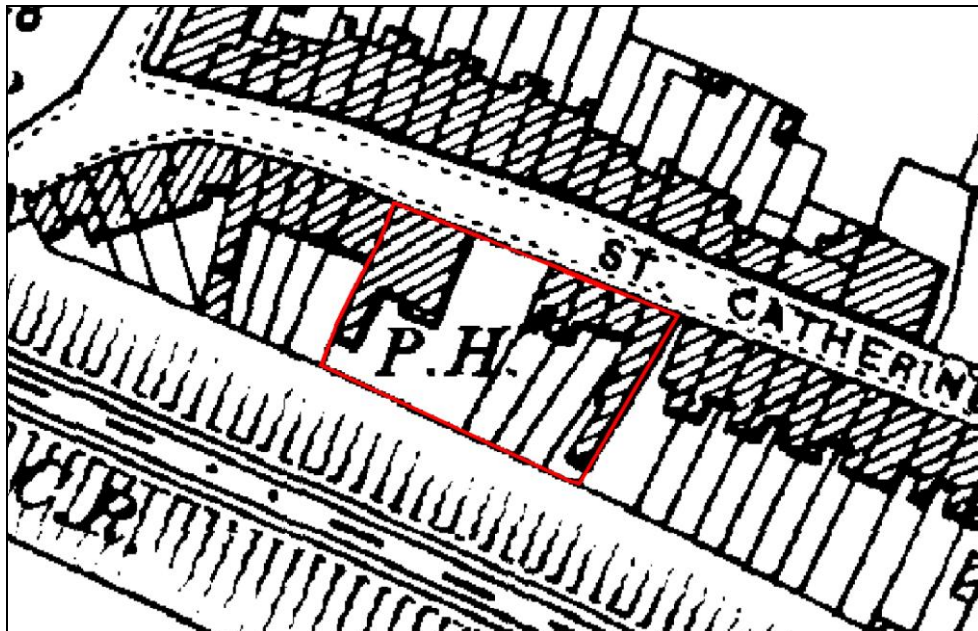


Figure 6: Detail from OS 2nd edition 25 inch map of 1902 (Gloucester 25.14)
 (Reproduced by courtesy of the Gloucestershire Records Office)

At some time between 1881 and 1902, the Queen's Head and adjoining outbuildings as depicted on the OS 1st edition map were completely demolished and rebuilt. The OS 2nd edition 25 inch map of 1902 (**Figure 6**) shows the new Queen's Head, a large rectangular structure with a projecting range to the S, occupying the W half of the yard, with no evidence of additional outbuildings. The row of four terraced houses immediately E of the Queen's Head property is shown as having remained essentially unchanged on the 1902 map.

The Queen's Head public house as shown on the OS 2nd edition map of 1902 has remained intact until the present day, consisting of a large two storey gabled house, five bays long (E-W) of brick construction, with a steep gabled roof with dormer windows and two large chimneystacks, and a long rectangular range with catslide roof extending to the rear of the main house (**Plate 3**). It remained in use as a public house until the 1990s and was subsequently converted to use as commercial premises and is now in a derelict state.

The row of four houses to the E of the Queen's Head (Nos. 43, 47, 49 & 51 St Catherine Street) are shown as intact on the OS 3rd edition 25 inch map of 1924 and the OS provisional edition 6 inch map of 1936 but were demolished in the late 1960s-early 1970s and replaced by the present single storey brick building used until recently as commercial premises, with garages erected to the rear.



Plate 3: View looking SW showing the former Queen's Head Inn, rebuilt between 1881 and 1902

6. Conclusion

This desk-based assessment of the site at Nos. 43-53 St Catherine Street, based on a detailed consideration of the available archaeological information and documentary and cartographic sources, has demonstrated that:

- The specific study area, defined as Nos. 43-53 St Catherine Street, Gloucester, is located within an area of high archaeological sensitivity, exhibiting significant evidence of occupation from the Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods.
- The study area lies on the southern fringes of the Roman extra-mural settlement of Kingsholm and considerable evidence of Roman occupation has been found in the immediate vicinity including several metallised surfaces containing pottery dated to the late 1st- 2nd century AD.
- Documentary evidence shows that present day St Catherine Street was a well-established extra-mural roadway by the medieval period, which was then called Watering Street.
- Archaeological evidence of medieval occupation has been identified towards the W end of St Catherine Street, including a series of successive masonry wall footings ranging in date from the 13th century through to the post-medieval period and exceeding 2m in depth
- During the medieval period, the study area formed part of the estates of St Oswald's Minster, an Anglo-Saxon religious house founded c.900, and a survey of the its property taken in 1536 shows that it owned 28 houses and eight cottages along St Catherine Street.
- Maps of Gloucester dated 1611 and 1712 show several houses with enclosed gardens to the rear, situated along the S side of St Catherine Street in the approximate location of the study area.
- Hall & Pinnell's 1780 map of Gloucester shows the study area to be occupied by a long rectangular structure with an extension at the W end, with a garden to the rear. Immediately to the S, a small landscape park was laid out shortly after 1758 by the owner of Paddock House and survived until the late 1840s.
- At some time between 1780 and 1843, the long rectangular building occupying the footprint of the study area was substantially rebuilt. Cawston's map of 1843 shows a large square structure at the W end which may be identified with the 'Queen's Head Inn', first recorded in 1830, to the E of which was a row small terraced houses, occupied as artisans' dwellings.
- The construction of the railway in the late 1840s led to further changes; the southern boundary of the site, shown as curvilinear on Cawston's map of 1843, was altered to run parallel to the line of the railway embankment.
- At some point between 1881 and 1902, the old 'Queen's Head Inn' and associated outbuildings were completely demolished and the present building and yard constructed.

- During the early 1970s, the row of terraced houses which formerly adjoined the 'Queen's Head Inn' was demolished and replaced by the present single storey commercial premises and garage to the rear.
- It is likely that the extensive development of the site during the 19th-20th centuries has significantly disturbed earlier medieval and post-medieval stratified deposits, as a result of which Roman deposits may be found at a relatively shallow level (an evaluation carried out at No. 55 St Catherine Street identified possible Roman pit feature at a depth of 0.5m below existing ground level).

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9. Cartography

(All maps were obtained from Gloucester Sites and Monuments Record and Gloucestershire Records Office unless otherwise stated)

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Hall & Pinnell's Map of Gloucester -1780 (and 2nd edition 1796)

GRO Ref. Q/RI 70 Enclosure Map of Gloucester - 1799

OS 1st edition 1 inch map of Gloucester - 1830

Dawson's Map of Gloucester taken from the Ordnance Survey - 1837

Cawston's Map of Gloucester - 1843

Board of Health Map of Gloucester - 1852

OS 1st edition 25 inch map Gloucestershire 33. 12 - 1881

43-53 St Catherine Street Gloucester



OS 2nd edition 25 inch map Gloucestershire 33. 12 - 1902

Os 3rd edition 25 inch map Gloucestershire 33. 12 - 1924

OS 1st edition 6 inch map Gloucester 33 NW - 1887-90

OS 3rd edition 6 inch map Gloucester 33 NW - 1924