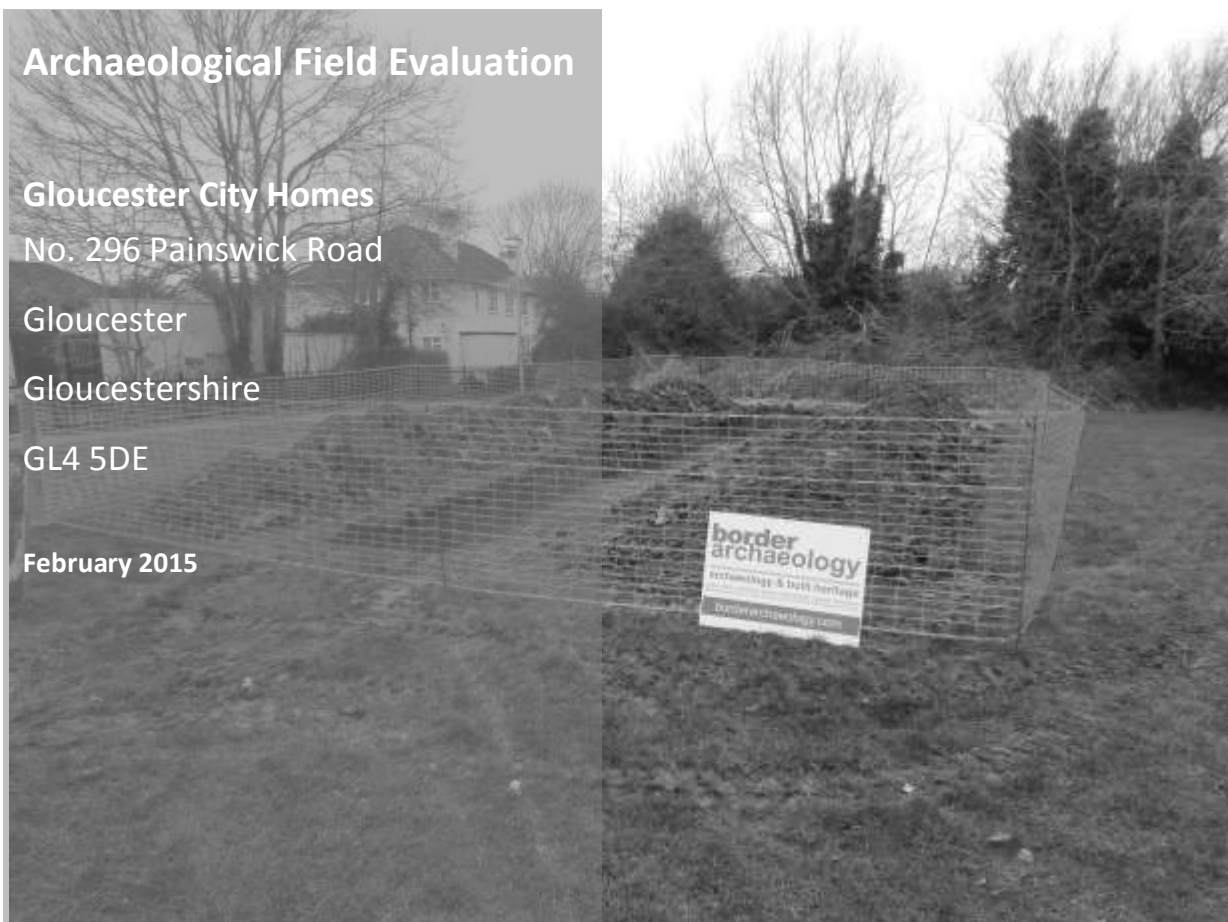


Archaeological Field Evaluation

Gloucester City Homes
No. 296 Painswick Road
Gloucester
Gloucestershire
GL4 5DE

February 2015



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Cover: View of the site looking northeast

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Contents:

1	Executive Summary	1
2	Introduction.....	2
3	Aim	3
4	Methodology	3
5	Site description.....	5
6	Results	5
	6.1 Trench 1.....	5
	6.2 Trench 2.....	7
	6.3 Trench 3.....	9
7	Conclusions	11
8	Copyright.....	13
9	Bibliography	13

1 Executive summary

This report details the results of the programme of Archaeological Field Evaluation undertaken by Border Archaeology at No. 296 Painswick Road Matson Gloucester on behalf of Gloucester City Council.

- *The aim of the archaeological field evaluation was to locate, identify and record any surviving archaeological remains likely to be impacted by development of the site.*
- *Three trenches were excavated varying in depth between 0.61m and 0.77m to determine the extent of surviving archaeology within the impact area.*
- *Excavation revealed the remains of two small sections of 20th –century wall foundation trenches relating to a former property on the site.*
- *No archaeological finds or deposits were encountered during the evaluation.*

2 Introduction

Border Archaeology was instructed by Gloucester City Council to carry out a programme of Archaeological Field Evaluation at No. 296 Painswick Road Matson Gloucester (NGR: SO 85364 15738 – centre) (*fig. 1*). The work was carried out in February 2015.



Fig. 1: Trench location plan

Copies of this report will be submitted to Gloucester City Council, Andrew Armstrong Esq City Archaeologist (CA) Gloucester City Council and the Gloucester City Historic Environment Record (HER).

3 Aim

The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to determine, as far as was reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains likely to be threatened by the proposed development, and to fully record their character, date, location and preservation enabling an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context, as appropriate (ClfA 2014, 4).

4 Methodology

All archaeological site works within the study area were undertaken in accordance with accepted standards of professional and ethical guidance, including *Management of Projects in the Historic Environment* (EH 2006) and *Standard and Guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). Border Archaeology adheres to the *ClfA Code of conduct* (2014) and *Regulations for professional conduct* (2015).

Trenches were opened by machine using a toothless bucket. Trench layout as set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (BA 2015) required modification due to physical constraints and to the presence of extensive undergrowth and the encroachment of shrub vegetation from one area into the other. Thus, whilst Trench 1 (the linear trench as shown in the WSI) was opened in its designated location, its length was reduced from 22m to 15m, as this part of the site was too restricted to accommodate the full 22m of trenching.

The L-shaped trench shown to the N of Trench 1 in the WSI was excavated as two smaller trenches, due to there being an insufficient working area for the machine. The first of the smaller trenches, Trench 2, was aligned NE-SW whilst the second, Trench 3, ran NW-SE. Thus, whilst the trenches were excavated within the designated location, they were separated by a distance of approximately 1m.

Trench 1 measured 15m (NW-SE) × 1.8m (NE-SW), Trench 2 measured 8m (ENE-WSW) × 1.8m (NW-SE) and Trench 3 measured 10m (NW-SE) × 1.8m (NE-SW).

Written and photographic records were made in accordance with Border Archaeology's *Archaeological Field Recording Manual* (2014). These comprised 1) a written record of each stratigraphic unit using a numbered *pro-forma* context sheet and 2) a photographic record compiled using a high-resolution digital camera, with each photograph containing an appropriate scale; all photographs were indexed and cross-referenced to written site records and details of subject and direction of view were recorded in a photographic register, indexed by frame number.

5 Site description

The proposed development site is located at a height of approximately 35.6m AOD within the medieval settlement of Matson, approximately 3.5km SE of Gloucester city centre, and lies adjacent to the line of the Portway Roman road close to the point at which it divides and follows the route of the medieval Painswick Road.

The site occupies land which rises steeply to the SE to reach the summit of Robinswood Hill at c. 198 m AOD and is situated approximately 200m E of a known focus of Roman, Saxon and medieval settlement activity around Rectory Road.

Due to its urban location, this area has not been surveyed by the Soil Survey of England and Wales (SSEW 1983). However the British Geological Survey records the underlying geology of the study area as comprising Lower Lias clays of the Jurassic period (Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 234) (BGS, 2014).

6 Results

6.1 Trench 1

The trench measured 15m (NW-SE) × 1.8m (NE-SW) with a maximum depth of 0.77m.

Item	Context No.	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Provisional Dating
					Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	(101)	Layer	Topsoil	Soft, dark brown clayey silt; occasional small stones; extended trench wide, maximum thickness 0.13m. Overlies (102)						Modern
2	(102)	Layer	Subsoil	Soft, mid bluish-grey clay; extended trench wide, maximum thickness 0.06m. Underlies (101), overlies (103)						Modern
3	(103)	Layer	Landscaping layer	Soft, mid greyish-brown clayey silt; extended trench wide, maximum thickness 0.14m. Underlies (102), overlies (104)						Modern
4	(104)	Layer	Colluvium	Firm, light yellowish-brown clay; extended trench wide, maximum thickness 0.24m. Underlies (103), overlies (105)						Modern
5	(105)	Layer	Natural geology	Firm, mottled light yellowish-brown & light bluish-grey clay; extended trench wide, maximum thickness 0.07m to limit of excavation. Underlies (104)						N/A



Plate 1: Trench 1, view to the NE

6.2 Trench 2

The trench measured 8m (ENE-WSW) × 1.8m (NNW-SSE) with a maximum depth of 0.61m.

Item	Context No.	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Provisional Dating
					Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	(201)	Layer	Topsoil	Moderately soft, dark greyish-brown clayey silt; frequent root disturbance; extended trench wide, maximum thickness of 0.26m. Overlies (202)						Modern
2	(202)	Layer	Colluvium	Firm, light yellowish-brown silty clay; extended trench wide, maximum thickness of 0.21m. Underlies (201), overlies (203)						Modern
3	(203)	Layer	Natural geology	Firm, mottled light yellowish-brown & bluish-grey clay; extended trench wide, maximum thickness of 0.13m to limit of excavation. Cut by [204] [206]						N/A
4	[204]	Cut	Foundation cut	Cut; aligned NW-SE; extended 0.8m (NE-SW) x 1.8m (NW-SE). Not excavated. Cuts (203), filled by (205)						C20
5	(205)	Fill	Fill of [204] Demolition/ rubble	Loose, mid grey brown clayey silt; very frequent inclusions of bricks and rubble; extended 0.8m x 1.8m. Underlies (202) fill of [204]						C20
6	[206]	Cut	Foundation cut	Cut; aligned NE-SW; extended 0.40m (NW-SE) × 1.75m (NE-SW). Not excavated. Cuts (203), filled by (207)						C20
7	(207)	Fill	Fill of [206] Demolition/ rubble	Loose brick & rubble; extended 0.4m × 1.75m. Underlies (202), fill of [206]						C20



Plate 2: Trench 2, view to the ENE

6.3 Trench 3

The trench measured 10m (NW-SE) × 1.8m (NE-SW) with a maximum depth of 0.65m.

Item	Context No.	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Provisional Dating
					Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	(301)	Layer	Topsoil	Loose, dark grey brown clayey silt; very frequent root disturbance; extended trench wide, maximum thickness of 0.29m. Overlies (302)						Modern
2	(302)	Layer	Subsoil	Firm, mid yellowish-brown silty clay; extended trench wide, maximum thickness of 0.19m. Underlies (301) overlies (303)						Modern
3	(303)	Layer	Natural geology	Firm, mottled light yellowish-brown & bluish-grey clay; extended trench wide, maximum thickness of 0.14m to the limit of excavation. Underlies (302)						N/A



Plate 3: Trench 3, view to the NW

7 Conclusions

The results of previous fieldwork undertaken within the vicinity of Painswick Road have demonstrated the limits of encountering any surviving archaeological deposits or features (CA 1995; Rowe 2004). The programme of archaeological recording undertaken in 2004 during ground works on land adjacent to Moat Primary School Juniper Avenue produced evidence of the accumulation of colluvium and landscaping activity. No deposits or features predating the 20th century were encountered. Two evaluation trenches excavated in 1995 on land off Rectory road similarly revealed no deposits of archaeological significance.

Three trenches were excavated on the present site (*fig. 1*). Trench 1 was located at the SE end of the site in a grassed area and Trench 2 and Trench 3 were located at the NW extent in an area of dense shrub vegetation. All three trenches confirmed that the survival of archaeological deposits within the evaluation area is very limited.

No archaeology was present in Trench 1 (*Plates 1 & 4, fig. 1*) and the only modern intrusion was a disused service crossing the trench on a NE/SW alignment. The stratigraphic profile consisted of topsoil (101) and subsoil (102) overlying a modern landscaping layer (103) and hill-wash deposit (104). The natural substrate (105) was encountered 0.70m below ground level (BGL).



Plate 4: SW-facing section of Trench 1

The hill-wash deposit (104, 202) was not visible in Trench 3, where subsoil (302) directly overlay natural (303), which was encountered at a depth of 0.65m BGL (*Plate 3*). Trenches 2 and 3 were excavated within the former

boundary of a 20th -century property, which had been demolished some 10 years previously, and this may explain any differences observed within the stratigraphic profile.

Areas of disturbance relating to the foundations of the demolished property were partially visible in both trenches. A foundation scar in Trench 3 crossed the trench on a NE/SW alignment (*Plate 3*). Trench 2 revealed two foundation cuts - [204] and [206] - at the SE end of the trench, both of which were backfilled with demolition rubble (205) and (207), respectively. A modern land drain crossed the trench on a NE/SW alignment (*Plate 5, fig. 1*).



Plate 5: View SE of Trench 2

No archaeological features or deposits were encountered in any of the trenching.

8 Copyright

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