



Archaeological Field Evaluation

For:

Gloucester City Homes

Concerning:

Land adjacent to Edward

Massey Gardens

Garnall's Road

Matson

Gloucester

GL4 6JB

June 2017

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Cover: View southeast showing Trench 1 under excavation

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1 Executive Summary

Border Archaeology Ltd (BA) was instructed by Gloucester City Homes to carry out a programme of Archaeological Field Evaluation of land adjacent to Edward Massey Gardens Garnalls Road Matson Gloucester GL4 6JB.

The aim of the project was to determine 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 the character of any such remains.

No deposits or features of archaeological significance were present on the site. It was apparent that the area had been much landscaped, presumably during construction of the surrounding housing estate. No finds of any date were present; while this may confirm that the site lay at some distance from any areas of archaeological activity, it is also possible that the degree of truncation evident on the site has removed any evidence that may have been present.

2 Introduction

Border Archaeology Ltd (BA) was instructed by Gloucester City Homes to carry out a programme of Archaeological Field Evaluation of land adjacent to Edward Massey Gardens Garnalls Road Matson Gloucester GL4 6JB (NGR: SO85392 15369) (Planning ref. 16/01583/FUL) (*fig. 1*) relating to the proposed construction of 12 two-bedroom flats and three one-bedroom flats, together with provision of 21 parking spaces with associated hard and soft landscaping.

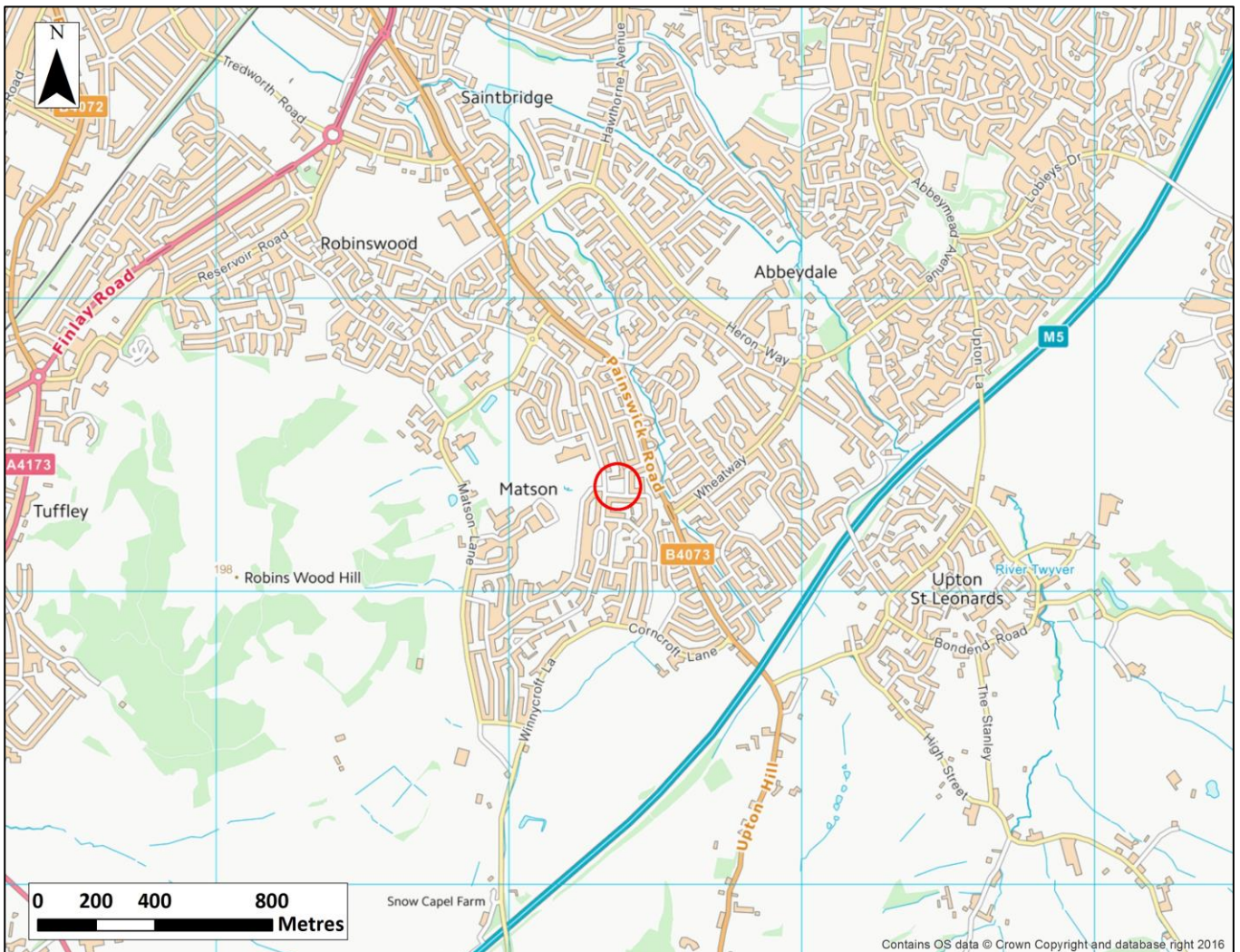


Fig. 1: Plan showing site location

The proposed development is located at the junction of Garnalls Road and St Peter's Road within the medieval settlement of Matson. The site lies adjacent to Painswick Road approximately 4km SE of Gloucester city centre and roughly 500m SSW of the known focus of Roman, Saxon and medieval settlement activity around Rectory Road Matson. The eastern slopes of Robinswood Hill lie approximately 750m to the W of the site, with the Portway running to the E.

Existing dwellings occupy the N, S and E boundaries and a public footpath runs to the N of the main part of the proposed development. The site is bounded to the E by Garnalls Road and to the S by St Peter's Road, to which terraces and pairs of semidetached two-storey houses create an active frontage. To the N of the site, Edward Massey Gardens shares a boundary with the proposed site.

The site work took place on 4th and 5th April 2017.



Fig. 2: Trench location plan

2.1 Soils & Geology

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 geology of the area as Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation (undifferentiated) (BGS 2017).

3 Methodology

The programme of archaeological work was carried out in accordance with practices set out in *Standards and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014) and *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014). BA adheres to the *ClfA Code of conduct* (2014) and to *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment. The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* (Lee 2015).

The evaluation sought to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusion and assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits.

Three trenches measuring 10m × 1.8m were opened by machine using a wide-blade toothless ditching bucket within the main part of the site. Trench 1 was aligned NE/SW, Trench 2 NW/SE and Trench 3 ENE/WSW (*fig. 2*).

Tarmac and undifferentiated topsoil of recent origin were removed by machine down to the natural clays.

3.1 Recording

Full written, graphic and photographic records were made in accordance with BA's *Archaeological Field Recording Manual* (2017). The written record comprised a *pro-forma* context record for each stratigraphic unit.

In the absence of archaeological features on the site, the drawn record comprised a location plan of the trenches, as excavated, on gridded, archive stable polyester film. Measured sketch plans and sections of trenches were also produced, in addition to a representative photographic record of the progress of the archaeological work.

No archaeological features or deposits were present on the site. No palaeoenvironmental or palaeoeconomic samples were taken.

4 Results

4.1 Trench 1

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	101	-	Deposit	Existing car park surface	Indurated tarmac; 0.16m thick, trench-wide. Overlying (102).	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	102	-	Deposit	Aggregate sub-base for existing car park surface	Red aggregate; 0.20m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (101), overlying (103).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	103	-	Deposit	Natural	Firm natural yellow green clay; white chalky flecks; minimum 0.80m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (102).	-	-	-	-	-	-

4.2 Trench 2

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	201	-	Deposit	Existing car park surface	Indurated tarmac & grey aggregate; 0.20m thick, trench-wide. Overlying (202).	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	202	-	Deposit	Aggregate levelling and sub-base	Varying types of yellow and red stone; <0.26m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (201), overlying (203).	-	-	-	-	-	Rubble, including concrete kerbstones, at SE end

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
											of trench, suggesting levelling work provided a convenient dump for construction waste
3	203	-	Deposit	Natural	Firm yellowish-green clay (very clean) & and firm mottled reddish-brown red/yellow clay (sandstone inclusions); >0.10m deep, trench-wide. Underlying (202).	-	-	-	-	-	-

4.3 Trench 3

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	301	-	Deposit	Existing car park surface	Indurated tarmac; 0.09m thick, trench-wide. Overlying (302)	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	302	-	Deposit	Aggregate levelling and sub-base for existing surface	Red aggregate/soft reddish silt; occasional rounded stones; 0.40m deep, trench-wide. Underlying (301), overlying (303).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	303	-	Deposit	Natural	Firm green waterlogged clay; >0.09m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (302).	-	-	-	-	-	-

5 Discussion

No archaeological features or deposits were present on the site. The topography suggested that the carpark area may have been lowered, presumably during the construction of the estate in the 20th century. This would seem to have removed topsoil and also subsoil deposits, with the natural clay (investigated by *sondage*) (*Plate 1*) lying immediately beneath the tarmac surface and consolidation.

There was some evidence for gleying in Trench 3. Similar deposits were recorded at Winsley Road, some 280m to the N (BA 2015), suggesting that the area may have been subject to waterlogging. Debris, including concrete kerbstones, was present within the modern stone aggregate forming the consolidation for the existing surface in Trench 2, where it seems likely that levelling work provided a convenient dumping ground for construction waste.



Plate 1: Trench 1 view NE showing sondage into natural clay

The site lies at some distance from the area where features from the prehistoric period onwards have been identified. There is also the possibility that occupation of rural sites was never particularly intensive and may have left few traces. The fact that only natural deposits were observed beneath the existing surface could also mean that any shallow or ephemeral archaeological deposits have been truncated during landscaping of the site.

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7 Bibliography

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