

**Cirencester Primary School
Victoria Road
Cirencester
Gloucestershire**

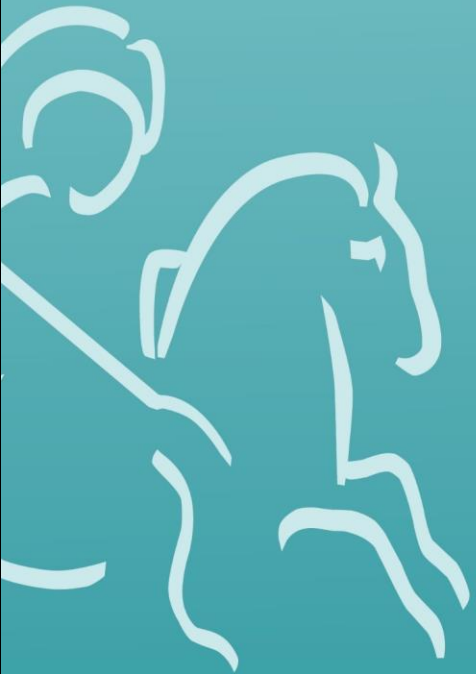
Archaeological Watching Brief



for:
Gloucestershire County Council

CA Project: CR0084
CA Report: CR0084_1

February 2023



**Cirencester Primary School
Victoria Road
Cirencester
Gloucestershire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: CR0084
CA Report: CR0084_1

Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	9 November 2022	Kinga Werner	Monica Fombellida	Draft	Curator Comment	Steven Sheldon
B	23 February 2023	Kinga Werner	Monica Fombellida	Final	-	Alex Thomson

This report is confidential to the client. Cotswold Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability to any third party to whom this report, or any part of it, is made known. Any such party relies upon this report entirely at their own risk. No part of this report may be reproduced by any means without permission.

Cirencester Building 11 Kemble Enterprise Park Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 6BQ t. 01285 771 022	Milton Keynes Unit 8, The IO Centre Fingle Drive, Stonebridge Milton Keynes Buckinghamshire MK13 0AT t. 01908 564 660	Andover Stanley House Walworth Road Andover Hampshire SP10 5LH t. 01264 347 630	Suffolk Unit 5, Plot 11 Maitland Road Lion Barn Industrial Estate Needham Market Suffolk IP6 8NZ t. 01449 900 120
e. enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk			

CONTENTS

SUMMARY	2
1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	4
3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	5
4. METHODOLOGY.....	6
5. RESULTS.....	6
6. THE FINDS	9
7. DISCUSSION.....	11
8. CA PROJECT TEAM.....	11
9. REFERENCES.....	12
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	13
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS.....	17
APPENDIX C: LEVELS OF PRINCIPAL DEPOSITS AND STRUCTURES	17
APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM	18

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
- Fig. 2 The site, showing monitored groundworks (1:500)
- Fig. 3 Trench 5: photograph
- Fig. 4 Trench 7: photographs
- Fig. 5 Trenches 8 and 9: photographs
- Fig. 6 Trenches 16 and 18: photographs
- Fig. 7 Fence: photographs

SUMMARY

Project name:	Cirencester Primary School
Location:	Victoria Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire
NGR:	40288 20149
Type:	Watching brief
Date:	July to August 2019 and January to February 2021
Planning reference:	GCC ref: 18/0027/CWR3MJ
SMC:	S00197322
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Corinium Museum and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS)
Site Code:	CACIPS19

In July and August 2019 and January and February 2021, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with refurbishment works at Cirencester Primary School, Victoria Road, Cirencester.

The watching brief identified a surface, of currently indeterminate function but predating a probable 'dark-earth' deposit within a trench excavated in the north-western part of the site. Probable 'dark-earth' deposits were also identified in two further trenches excavated in this part of the site.

No further features or deposits predating the modern period were identified during the current works.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In July to August 2019 and January to February 2021, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Cirencester Primary School, Victoria Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire (centred at NGR: 40288 20149, Fig. 1). This watching brief was undertaken for Gloucestershire County Council (GCC)
- 1.2. GCC has granted planning permission for a series of refurbishments comprising; the provision of a new single storey school hall, removal of an existing hall, nursery and reception block, removal of an unused metal clad Nissen Hut, provision of new play areas and areas of covered play, as well as reconfiguration and refurbishment of the existing drainage (GCC planning ref: 18/0027/CWR3MJ).
- 1.3. The archaeological works were recommended by Melanie Barge, Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Historic England (HE) in conjunction with Charles Parry, Archaeologist, Gloucestershire County Council. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CA (2018) and approved by HE and GCC. Further ground works were required to enable the installation of a new fence that did not form part of the original planning permission and was not covered by the preceding WSI (CA 2018). Following consultations between CA, HE and GCC it was agreed that a further WSI would be prepared to support this work. This was produced in 2020 (CA 2020) and was approved by both Melanie Barge and Charles Parry.
- 1.4. The watching brief was also in line with *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014; updated October 2020), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* (Historic England 2015).

The site

- 1.5. The site is located on the eastern side of Victoria Road in the centre of Cirencester. It comprises the primary school grounds, including the principal school buildings arranged around a central courtyard area, a range of ancillary buildings and associated facilities, surfaced playgrounds, car-parking, lawns and areas of soft landscaping. The site lies at approximately 109m AOD and slopes gently from east to west.

-
- 1.6. The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Forest Marble Formation, Mudstone of the Jurassic era with superficial deposits comprising River Terrace deposits of the Quaternary Period (BGS 2022).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The proposed development lies in an area of high archaeological potential, reflected in the designation of the majority of the school site, particularly the associated playing field to the east, as part of the Scheduled Monument of *Corinium Roman Town* (National Monument 1003426, formerly Gloucestershire Monument 361).
- 2.2. The site has been the subject of a Desk-Based Assessment (DBA, CA 2016a), a trial trench evaluation (CA 2016b), an Archaeological Impact and Mitigation Statement (AIMS, CA 2018) and two archaeological watching briefs (CA 2021). What follows is a succinct narrative of the results of these reports.
- 2.3. Little evidence for prehistoric occupation is recorded within Cirencester. The remains of possible prehistoric barrows survive at Tar Barrow to the north-east of the town. To the south-east this barrow is located the site of Kingshill North, where rare evidence for occupation from the Neolithic through until the later Iron Age was recorded (CA 2016a).
- 2.4. Cirencester (*Corinium Dobunnorum*) was first established as a Roman military centre with the construction of a fort at Leaholme in c. 45-50 AD. The fort was short-lived and seems to have been abandoned c. 75 AD. Subsequently, the area developed into an urban centre, eventually becoming the civitas capital, the administrative and political centre of the Dobunni tribal area. The establishment of the street grid and construction of the town's major public buildings took place during the late 1st/early 2nd century (CA 2016a).
- 2.5. The current site is located within Insula X of the Roman town, with the northern part of the adjacent playing fields extending into Insula XI. Insula X is the south-easternmost of the identified insulae, defined to the west by hypothesised intramural Street D, to the north by Street G, and to the east by the line of the town defences (CA 2016a). The Roman street, comprising limestone metalling and a timber plank-lined drain, was observed immediately north-west of the current site during archaeological excavations in 1963 (Holbrook and Pamment 1998, 28).

-
- 2.6. Substantial remains of Romano-British buildings and other settlement activity have been recorded within Insula X, including within the site itself. To date, seven main structures/buildings have been hypothesised (Buildings X.1 to X.7). More recently, one of these, X.7 within the playing fields to the east of the site, has come to be considered an unlikely structure and is now thought more likely to represent a post-medieval water meadow. Doubt has also been cast on the locations, though not necessarily the existence, of X.5 and X.6, both of which were only roughly planned on the basis of outlines (soil marks) revealed subsequent to 1960s ploughing within the playing field adjacent to the River Churn. Recent evaluation has identified another probable building within the site, adjacent to Street D (CA 2016a).
- 2.7. An archaeological evaluation undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in 2016 at the current site revealed two sections of Roman wall, indicative of two separate buildings, and spreads of Roman demolition debris were identified throughout the proposed development area at depths of between 0.4m and 0.9m below the present ground level (bpgl). All were sealed by reworked 'dark earth' that was in turn overlain by modern deposits and hardstanding (CA 2016b).
- 2.8. During an archaeological watching brief, undertaken groundworks for a soakaway, a mortar and metalled limestone surface was identified 0.73m below bpgl. This is potentially Roman Intramural Street D which was predicted within this area. Demolition deposits were also identified at 0.95m bpgl. Both the surface and the demolition deposits were sealed by 'dark earth' deposits which were in turn overlain by topsoil (CA 2021).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. The general objectives of the watching brief were:
- to monitor the development groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record any significant buried archaeological deposits/features thus revealed;
 - at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated project archive and a report setting out the watching brief results and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1. The watching brief comprised the observation by a competent archaeologist of all intrusive groundworks associated with the proposed development (Fig. 2). This consisted of the excavation of foundations for a new building, service trenches and a new fence line.
- 4.2. Archaeological features/deposits were investigated, planned and recorded in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3. Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*. No deposits were identified that required sampling.
- 4.4. Artefacts were processed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.5. CA will make arrangements with Corinium Museum for the deposition of the project archive and, subject to agreement with the legal landowner(s), the artefact collection. A digital archive will also be prepared and deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). The archives (museum and digital) will be prepared and deposited in accordance with *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (ClfA 2014; updated October 2020).
- 4.6. A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix D, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS

- 5.1. This section provides an overview of the watching brief results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are given in Appendix A. Details of the artefactual material recovered from the site are given in Section 6 and Appendix B. Details of the relative heights of the principal deposits expressed as metres Above Ordnance Datum (m AOD) are given in Appendix C.

Trenches 7 to 9, 12, 18 and 23 to 25 (Figs. 2, 4, 5 & 6)

- 5.2. These trenches were located in the north-western part of the site and lay mostly outside of the limits of the Scheduled Monument. The trenches were excavated for

the foundation of the new building (Trench 7), removal of former concrete stairs (Trench 25) and services runs.

- 5.3. The natural geological substrate, comprising light yellow brown to light orange brown sandy clay, was encountered in Trenches 7, 9 and 18 at a depth of between 0.7m and 0.82m below present ground level (bpgl).
- 5.4. In Trench 7 the natural substrate was overlain by limestone surface 703, recorded towards the south-eastern extent of the trench and measuring 2.2m in length and 0.7m in width (see Figs. 2 and 4). The surface appeared to continue beyond the southern limit of the trench.
- 5.5. In Trench 9 the natural was sealed by made ground 908, measuring 0.15m in thickness and consisting of light orange brown silt clay (Fig. 5). A single sherd of pottery, broadly dated to the Roman Period, was recovered from this deposit.
- 5.6. 'Dark earth' deposits 702/907/1803 were observed sealing surface 703 in Trench 7, made ground in Trench 9 and the natural substrate in Trench 18. These deposits were observed at an average depth of 0.6m bpgl (see Appendix C) and measured c. 0.3m in thickness. The 'dark earth' deposit was also recorded in Trench 24 at the limit of excavation. In each of these trenches the 'dark earth' deposit was sealed by modern made ground layers.
- 5.7. A total of 18 pottery sherds of late 3rd to 4th Century AD date and a clay tobacco pipe stem dated to the late 16th to 19th century was recovered from 'dark earth' deposit 702 in Trench 7. A further shapeless fragment of ceramic building material (CBM) broadly dating to the Roman British period was recovered from 'dark earth' deposit 1803 in Trench 18.
- 5.8. In Trench 12 the earliest deposit recorded was yellow brown silt clay 1203 measuring 0.2m in thickness, which was interpreted as a buried soil. A retouched flint flake of Early Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date, a tegula fragment and a sherd of pottery of broad Roman date were recovered from this deposit.
- 5.9. In Trenches 8, 23 and 25 the earliest deposits recorded were made ground deposits 801, 2301 and 2501 respectively. Deposit 801 measured 0.72m in thickness were observed at the western end of Trench 8; however, only the surface of deposit 2501 was exposed in Trench 25 due to the depth of groundworks undertaken.

-
- 5.10. All of the aforementioned deposits were sealed by modern structures, including stairs, manholes and the tarmac for the former patio.

Trenches 10, 11, 13-17 and 19-22 (Fig. 2 and 6)

- 5.11. These trenches were excavated inside the nursery building, located within the north-eastern part of the site and to its south, within the Scheduled Monument (see Fig. 2).
- 5.12. The natural substrate was not encountered during the monitored groundworks in this area, due to the shallow nature of the groundworks undertaken.
- 5.13. In the trenches excavated inside the nursery building (Trenches 10, 11, 15-17, 20 and 21) the earliest deposits encountered formed parts of the foundations for the nursery building itself, which were abutted by 0.1m in thickness of blue grey silt clay mixed ground, that may be related to the construction of the nursery. This made ground was, in turn, sealed by 0.3m in thickness of gravel make-up for concrete surface, measuring an average of 0.25m in thickness.
- 5.14. In Trenches 13 and 14, excavated to the south of the nursery building, the earliest deposits recorded were modern deposits and structures associated with the tarmac path, modern services and the footings of the nursery building.

Trenches 5, 6 and 67 (Figs 2 and 3)

- 5.15. These trenches were excavated in the south-eastern part of the site and comprised the removal of made ground to a maximum depth of 0.35m bpgl in Trench 5 (Fig. 3) and the removal of topsoil to a maximum depth of 0.6m bpgl in Trench 6.
- 5.16. Service Trench 67 was excavated across a tarmac road into the school and across the existing playing fields. The earliest deposit encountered within this trench was dark grey-brown clay made ground, which was covered by mid brown silt topsoil, in the playground area, and by the yellow gravel make-up for tarmac surface in the area of the road.

Fence line (Figs. 2 and 7)

- 5.17. Postholes for two areas of new fencing were excavated towards the north-eastern (Trenches 27-61) and south-eastern (Trenches 68-92) parts of the site respectively. The postholes measured 0.3m in diameter and 0.3m in depth. The natural substrate was not observed during the monitoring excavation of post-holes and no deposits pre-dating the modern period were identified. The deposits recorded comprised

topsoil and subsoil in the playground areas, and made ground and make-up for tarmac surfaces in areas of hardstanding.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1. Artefactual material consisting of pottery, ceramic building material, clay tobacco pipe, copper alloy and flint was recovered by hand from five deposits. Recording of this material was undertaken directly to an Excel spreadsheet, from which Appendix B, Table 1 is taken. The artefacts have been recorded by deposit and fragment/item count, weight, type and morphological characteristics according to each find category. The recording undertaken is in accordance with the *CIfA finds Toolkit* (CIfA 2021)

Pottery

- 6.2. A total of 35 sherds, weighing 472g, was recovered from four layers consisting of made ground, 'dark earth' and buried soil. The majority (26 sherds, 395g) of the pottery dates to the Roman period with the remainder (nine sherds, 77g) of post-medieval/Modern date. The assemblage is well broken-up, mostly comprising smaller and unfeatured sherds. Codes for pottery fabrics referred to in the report are defined in Appendix B. Where appropriate, these correspond to those of Cirencester Fabric Type series (summarized in Cooper 1998, 325; Wilkinson and McWhirr 1998, 103–19).

Roman

- 6.3. A total of 26 sherds (395g) of pottery dating to the Roman period was recorded. The assemblage is made up largely of coarsewares, which include three greyware fabrics; fine sandy (Fabric 17/98, five sherds, 67g), micaceous (GWM, four sherds, 87g) and gritty (Fabric 117, one sherd, 10g), a local/North Wiltshire black sandy fabric (Fabric 5, two sherds, 11g) and a single sherd (15g) of Severn Valley Ware (Fabric 106-9). Dating for this material is broad, within the later 1st to 4th century AD range.
- 6.4. Eight sherds (185g) of Southeast Dorset Black Burnished ware (Fabric 74, 185g), of 2nd to 4th-century date, were recorded in 'dark earth' layer 702 and a single sherd of an 'imitation' Black Burnished ware (Fabric 102–4, 3g) was recovered from made ground layer 701. Two sherds of Oxford red-slipped mortarium (Fabric 83, 6g) were recovered from "dark earth" layer 702 and date from the mid-3rd to 4th century AD.

-
- 6.5. A total of two samian bodysherds (11g), both occurring in Central Gaulish (Lezoux) fabric (154A-C) dating to the 2nd century AD, were recovered from 'dark earth' layer 702.

Post-medieval/Modern

- 6.6. Nine sherds (77g) of pottery were recorded in made ground layer 701. These include two sherds of unglazed earthenware (flowerpot) (F252, 55g), a local fabric present from the late 18th century. The remaining sherds were recorded in refined whitewares (7 sherds, 22g) including five sherds (4g) of transfer printed ware (F214), and all dating to the late 18th or 19th centuries.

Ceramic Building Material

- 6.7. Three fragments of ceramic building material were recorded. Two fragments from 'dark earth' layer 702 and buried soil layer 1203 are identifiable as flanged roof tiles (tegula) of Roman type. A single featureless fragment in a hard, sandy orange fabric typical of Roman material was also recorded in 'dark earth' layer 1803.

Clay Tobacco Pipe

- 6.8. A single fragment of clay tobacco pipe, weighing 3g, was recovered from 'dark earth' layer 702. The plain stem can be broadly dated from the late 16th–late 19th centuries.

Metal: Copper Alloy

- 6.9. A single coin (1g), recorded from made ground layer 701, is in a poor condition and corrosion makes it almost illegible. It is identifiable as a copy of a *nummus* probably of the period c. 330–341 AD, its reverse design showing two standing soldiers with standards (Reece and James 2000, 34–7).

Flint

- 6.10. A single retouched flake was recovered from buried soil layer 1203. It has a fine nibbled retouched left dorsal edge and evidence of platform preparation, which is suggestive of Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date, although it is residual.

Summary

- 6.11. A small artefactual assemblage was recorded from the evaluation. Pottery was the most abundant category, although all is likely to be redeposited from within garden soil, 'dark earth' and made ground deposits. The majority dates to the Roman period,

its range comparable to previously recorded assemblages from Cirencester, comprising a mix of local, regional and imported fabrics. The recovered worked flint also indicates some, probably low-intensity, prehistoric activity in the area.

7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1. The function of undated limestone surface 703, identified in Trench 7, remains unclear given the limited view afforded by the groundworks undertaken, although its rough nature would appear to suggest that it represents part of a courtyard, road or path (perhaps connecting with the Roman Street D; see *Archaeological Background* above) or outside space rather than the interior surface of a building. Whatever the function of this surface, the current works indicate that it is earlier than overlying 'dark earth' deposit 702 within the trench and the possibility that it represents a surface of Roman date cannot therefore be discounted.
- 7.2. Deposits considered likely to represent post-Roman 'dark-earth' were identified at an average of 0.5m bpgl in Trenches 7, 18 and 24 and at 0.85m bpgl in Trench 9 (see Appendix C). Such deposits are typical of Roman towns in Britain and are often interpreted as an amalgam of cultivation soils, decayed wooden structures and animal and vegetable remains.
- 7.3. In Trench 18 the probable 'dark-earth' deposit contained a single fragment of CBM of probable Roman date, whereas in Trench 7 Roman artefacts were found in conjunction with a clay tobacco pipe stem dated to the late 16th to 19th centuries. The presence of this material in Trench 7 suggests that this deposit may have been extensively cultivated and/or reworked over a long period of time in the location of this trench. Similar deposits were recorded during archaeological monitoring of groundworks, adjacent to the western boundary of the current site (CA 2021).
- 7.4. No further features or deposits predating the modern period were identified during the current works.

8. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 8.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Sara-Jayne Boughton, Monica Fombellida, Hazel O'Neill and Kinga Werner. This report was written by Kinga Werner. The finds evidence report was written by Claire Collier. The report illustrations were prepared

by Ryan Wilson. The project archive has been compiled by and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.

9. REFERENCES

- BGS (British Geological Survey) 2022 *BGS Geology Viewer* <https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/bgs-geology-viewer/> Accessed October 2022
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016a *Cirencester Primary School, Victoria Road, Cirencester: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* CA Report No. **16401**
- CA 2016b *Cirencester Primary School, Victoria Road, Cirencester: Archaeological Evaluation* CA Report No. **16488**
- CA 2018 *Cirencester Primary School, Victoria Road, Cirencester: Statement of Archaeological Impact and Mitigation*
- CA 2021 *Cirencester Primary School, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief* CA Report No. **CR0653_1**
- ClfA 2021 ClfA Finds reporting toolkit <https://www.archaeologists.net/reporting-toolkit> (accessed October 2022)
- Cooper, N.J. 1998 'The Supply of Pottery to Roman Cirencester', in Holbrook, N. (ed.) 1998, 324–50
- Holbrook, N. (ed.) 1998 *Cirencester. The Roman Town Defences, Public Buildings and Shops. Cirencester Excavations V.* Cirencester, Cotswold Archaeological Trust Ltd
- Reece, R. and James, S. 2000 *Identifying Roman Coins: a Practical Guide to the Identification of site finds from Britain* London, Spink
- Wilkinson, D. and McWhirr, A. 1998 *Cirencester Anglo-Saxon Church and Medieval Abbey* Cirencester Excavations **IV.** Cirencester, Cotswold Archaeological Trust Ltd

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Tr	Context No.	Type	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
5	500	Layer	Made ground	Mid grey brown friable silt with brick, plastic and metal inclusions	> 1	> 1	0.35	
6	600	Layer	Topsoil	Mid grey brown friable silt with brick inclusions	> 1	> 1	0.6	
7	700	Structure	Surface	Tarmac surface for playground	> 16.3	> 16.4	0.16	
7	701	Layer	Made ground	Mid grey orange silt with ceramic pipe, tarmac pieces inclusions	> 16.3	> 16.4	0.43	LC18+
7	702	Layer	"Dark earth"	Dark brown grey clay silt with CBM inclusions	> 16.3	> 16.4	0.23	LC16-LC19
7	703	Structure	Surface	Surface made of flat limestones with yellow ashy mortar	> 2.2	0.7	>0.1	
7	704	Layer	Natural	Light brown yellow, sand clay	> 16.3	> 16.4	n/a	
8	800	Layer	Surface	Tarmac surface for playground	> 1	1.5	0.8	
8	801	Layer	Made ground	Mid grey orange silt with ceramic pipe, tarmac pieces inclusions	> 1	1.5	0.72	
9	900	Structure	Wall	Former school building, N/S aligned brick wall				
9	901	Structure	Pathway	N/S aligned concrete pathway				
9	902	Structure	Man-hole	Red brick manhole				
9	903	Structure	Wall	Grey concrete capping above stone 904	15	0.6	0.5	
9	904	Structure	Wall	N/S aligned dry stone wall	15	15	15	
9	905	Layer	Made ground	Made ground for tarmac. Dark grey brown, silt clay	> 1	> 1	0.5	
9	906	Layer	Made ground	Dark orange brown, clay silt, below 905	> 1	> 1	0.35	
9	907	Layer	"Dark earth"	Dark brown grey clay silt with CBM inclusions	> 1	> 1	0.3	
9	908	Layer	Made ground	Light orange brown, silt clay	> 1	> 1	0.15	RB
9	909	Layer	Natural	Light orange brown, sandy clay	> 1	> 1	> 0.1	
10	1000	Structure	Concrete surface	Internal concrete surface of former nursery	> 1	> 1	0.24	
10	1001	Layer	Made ground	Grey gravel made ground for 1000	> 1	> 1	0.12	
10	1002	Structure	Wall footings	Former nursery footing wall	> 1	> 1	0.36	
11	1100	Structure	Concrete surface	Internal concrete surface of former nursery	> 1	> 1	0.24	
11	1101	Layer	Made ground	Grey gravel made ground for 1000	> 1	> 1	0.06	
11	1102	Structure	Wall	Former nursery footing wall	> 1	> 1	0.3	
12	1200	Structure	Surface	Tarmac	> 1	> 1	0.12	
12	1201	Layer	Made ground	Mid grey brown, silt clay with CBM inclusions	> 1	> 1	0.3	
12	1202	Layer	Make up	Yellow sand gravel	> 1	> 1	0.1	
12	1203	Layer	Buried soil	Light yellow brown, silt clay with CBM inclusions	> 1	> 1	>0.18	RB
13	1300	Structure	Surface	Tarmac surface	> 0.7	> 0.5	0.07	
13	1301	Layer	Made up	Yellow sand gravel	> 0.7	> 0.5	0.12	
13	1302	Layer	Deposit	Dark brown grey, soft clay silt	> 0.7	> 0.5	0.18	

Tr	Context No.	Type	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
13	1303	Layer	Deposit	Mid red brown, clay silt with frequent stone inclusions	> 0.7	> 0.5	0.02	
13	1304	Structure	Footings	Red brick footing for nursery building	> 0.7	> 0.5	>0.1	
14	1400	Structure	Surface	Tarmac surface	> 1.5	> 0.6	0.08	
14	1401	Layer	Made up	Yellow sand gravel	> 1.5	> 0.6	0.12	
14	1402	Structure	Drain	Ceramic drain	> 1.5			
14	1403	Deposit	Made ground	Gray clay	> 1.5	> 0.6	>0.14	
14	1404	Structure	Footings	Red brick footing for nursery building				
15	1500	Structure	Surface	Tarmac surface	> 3	> 0.6	0.08	
15	1501	Layer	Made up	Pink sand gravel	> 3	> 0.6	0.08	
15	1502	Structure	Surface	Tarmac surface under 1501	> 3	> 0.6	0.05	
15	1503	Layer	Made up	Yellow sand gravel	> 3	> 0.6	0.23	
15	1504	Layer	Made ground	Blue grey silt clay mixed ground	> 3	> 0.6	0.02	
16	1600	Structure	Surface	Tarmac surface	> 3	> 0.6	0.08	
16	1601	Layer	Made up	Pink sand gravel	> 3	> 0.6	0.07	
16	1602	Structure	Surface	Tarmac surface under 1501	> 3	> 0.6	0.05	
16	1603	Layer	Made up	Yellow sand gravel	> 3	> 0.6	0.2	
16	1604	Layer	Made ground	Blue grey silt clay mixed ground	> 3	> 0.6	0.02	
17	1700	Structure	Surface	Tarmac surface	> 3	> 0.6	0.07	
17	1701	Layer	Made up	Pink sand gravel	> 3	> 0.6	0.14	
17	1702	Structure	Surface	Tarmac surface under 1501	> 3	> 0.6	0.06	
17	1703	Layer	Made up	Yellow sand gravel	> 3	> 0.6	0.18	
17	1704	Layer	Made ground	Blue grey silt clay mixed ground	> 3	> 0.6	0.1	
18	1800	Structure	Surface	Tarmac surface	> 30	> 0.34	0.14	
18	1801	Layer	Made up	Mid grey brown silt clay	> 30	> 0.34	0.21	
18	1802	Layer	Demolition	Brick crushed at the NW end of the trench			0.11	
18	1803	Layer	"Dark earth"	Dark brown grey clay silt with CBM inclusions	> 30	> 0.34	0.39	RB
18	1804	Layer	Natural	Limestone/Brash	> 30	>0.34	> 0.01	
18	1807	Structure	Manhole	Red brick manhole	> 30	> 0.34	0.52	
19	1900	Layer	Topsoil	Mid grey brown, loose clay silt	> 6.9	> 4.7	0.38	
19	1901	Layer	Subsoil	Mid yellow brown clay silt	> 6.9	> 4.7	>0.05	
20	2000	Structure	Surface	Tarmac Surface	> 1.2	> 0.5	0.08	
20	2001	Layer	Made up	Pink sand gravel	> 1.2	> 0.5	0.08	
20	2002	Structure	Surface	Tarmac surface under 1501	> 1.2	> 0.5	0.05	
20	2003	Layer	Made up	Yellow sand gravel	> 1.2	> 0.5	0.15	
21	2100	Structure	Surface	Tarmac Surface	> 1.2	> 0.5	0.08	
21	2101	Layer	Made up	Pink sand gravel	> 1.2	> 0.5	0.08	
21	2102	Structure	Surface	Tarmac surface under 1501	> 1.2	> 0.5	0.05	
21	2103	Layer	Made up	Yellow sand gravel	> 1.2	> 0.5	0.15	
22	2200	Layer	Topsoil	Mid grey brown, loose clay silt	> 7	> 1.2	0.38	
22	2201	Layer	Subsoil	Mid yellow brown clay silt	> 7	> 1.2	>0.05	
23	2300	Structure	Surface	Tarmac Surface	> 3.5	> 0.8	0.2	
23	2301	Layer	Buried soil	Mid grey brown, loose sand silt	> 3.5	> 0.8	0.4	

Tr	Context No.	Type	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
24	2400	Structure	Surface	Grey concrete	> 3.5	> 0.6	0.14	
24	2401	Layer	Buried soil	Mid grey brown, loose sand silt	> 3.5	> 0.6	0.4	
24	2402	Layer	"Black earth"	Dark brown grey clay silt with CBM inclusions	> 3.5	> 0.6	> 0.01	
25	2500	Structure	Stairs	Concrete stairs	> 4	> 1.8	0.33	
25	2501	Layer	Made ground	Mid brown grey loose silt with CBM, cinder and mid size stone inclusions	> 4	> 1.8	> 0.01	
26	2600	Structure	Surface	Former playground tarmac surface	> 4.2	> 0.5	0.08	
26	2601	Layer	Made up	Yellow sand graver	> 4.2	> 0.5	0.18	
26	2602	Layer	Made ground	Dark grey brown silt clay with limestone inclusions	> 4.2	> 0.5	> 0.1	
27 - 31	2700-3100	Layer	Surface	Tarmac	0.3	0.3	0.1	
27 - 31	2701-3101	Layer	Made up	Pink gravel made up for 2700	0.3	0.3	0.13	
27 - 31	2702-3102	Structure	Surface	Tarmac- earlier playground surface	0.3	0.3	0.08	
27 - 31	2703-3103	Layer	Made up	Light yellow gravel made up for 2702	0.3	0.8	0.19	
32	3200	Layer	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown clayey silt	0.3	0.3	0.18	
32	3201	Layer	Subsoil	Mid brown clayey silt	0.3	0.3	0.16	
32	3202	Layer	Deposit	Greyish brown clayey silt contains modern pottery	0.3	0.3	>0.16	
33	3300	Layer	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown clayey silt	0.3	0.3	0.18	
33	3301	Layer	Subsoil	Mid brown clayey silt	0.3	0.3	0.16	
33	3302	Layer	Deposit	Greyish brown clayey silt contains modern pottery	0.3	0.3	>0.16	
34 - 40	3400-4000	Structure	Surface	Tarmac- playground surface	0.3	0.3	0.10	
34 - 40	3401-4001	Layer	Made up	Pink gravel make-up for tarmac	0.3	0.3	0.13	
34 - 40	3402-4002	Structure	Surface	Tarmac- earlier playground surface	0.3	0.3	0.08	
34 - 40	3403-4003	Layer	Made up	Yellow gravel make-up for tarmac	0.3	0.3	>0.19	
41 - 47	4100-4700	Layer	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown clayey silt	0.3	0.3	0.16	
41 - 47	4101-4701	Structure	Surface	Concrete	0.3	0.3	0.06	
41 - 47	4102-4702	Layer	Subsoil	Mid brown clayey silt	0.3	0.3	>0.28	
48 - 54	4800-5400	Layer	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown clayey silt	0.3	0.3	0.15	
48 - 54	4801-5401	Layer	Made up	Gravel and silt	0.3	0.3	0.13	
48 - 54	4802-5402	Layer	Subsoil	Brown clayey silt	0.3	0.3	>0.22	

Tr	Context No.	Type	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
55 - 61	5500-6100	Structure	Surface	Tarmac	0.3	0.3	0.08	
55 - 61	5501-6101	Layer	Made up	Make-up layer for tarmac	0.3	0.3	0.1	
55 - 61	5502-6102	Structure	Surface	Tarmac	0.3	0.3	0.06	
55 - 61	5503-6103	Layer	Made up	Yellow gravel make-up layer	0.3	0.3	0.14	
55 - 61	5504-6104	Layer	Deposit	Mid brown clayey silt containing brick etc.	0.3	0.3	>0.12	
62 - 66	6200-6600	Structure	Surface	Tarmac	0.3	0.3	0.11	
62 - 66	6201-6601	Layer	Deposit	Mix Greyish brown clayey silt contains brick, plastic etc.	0.3	0.3	>0.39	
67	6700	Layer	Surface	Tarmac		0.6		
67	6701	Layer	deposit	Mar standing for 6700		0.6		
67	6702	Layer	Deposit	Dark grey clay		0.6		
67	6703	Layer	Topsoil	Mid brown silt		0.6		
67	6704	Layer	Deposit	Yellow gravel beneath 6703		0.6		
68 - 85	6800-8500	Structure	Surface	Tarmac	0.3	0.3	0.05-0.1	
68 - 85	6801-8501	Layer	Made up	Grey yellow gravel	0.3	0.3	0.2-0.25	
68 - 85	6802-8502	Layer	Deposit	Dark greyish brown clayey silt	0.3	0.3	0.25-0.35	
86 - 92	8600-9200	Layer	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown clayey silt	0.3	0.3	0.15	
86 - 92	8601-9201	Layer	Subsoil	Mid to dark brown clayey silt	0.3	0.3	0.3	
86 - 92	8602-9202	Layer	Deposit	Dark greyish yellow silty clay	0.3	0.3	>0.15	
93 - 96	9300-9600	Layer	Made up	Grey yellow gravel	0.3	0.3	0.25	
93 - 96	9301-9601	Layer	Deposit	Dark greyish brown clayey silt	0.3	0.3	0.35	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1: Finds Concordance

Context	Material	Fabric	Description	Ct.	Wt. (g)	Spot-date
701	Copper al.		Coin. <i>Nummus</i> copy	1	1	LC18+
	RB Pottery	102-4	Late 'Imitation' BB1	1	3	
	PMed/Mod Pottery	F214	Transfer Printed Refined Whiteware	5	4	
	PMed/Mod Pottery	RWW	Refined Whiteware	2	18	
	PMed Pottery	F252	Unglazed earthenware (flowerpot)	2	55	
702	Clay Tobacco Pipe		Stem	1	3	LC3-C4; LC16- LC19
	CBM		Possible tegula, hard, orange sandy	1	97	
	RB Pottery	74	Southeast Dorset Black Burnished Ware	8	185	
	RB Pottery	GWM	Micaceous greyware	4	87	
	RB Pottery	5	Local/North Wiltshire black sandy	2	11	
	RB Pottery	83	Oxford Red Slipped Mortarium	2	6	
	RB Pottery	154A-	Central Gaulish Samian (Lezoux)	2	11	
	RB Pottery	106-9	Severn Valley Ware	1	15	
908	RB Pottery	17/98	Fine, sandy greyware	4	40	RB
1203	CBM		Tegula, orange, sandy, hard	1	421	RB
	Flint		Retouched flake	1	8	RB
	RB Pottery	117	Local gritty greyware	1	10	
	RB Pottery	17/98	Fine, sandy greyware	1	27	
1803	CBM		Hard, orange sandy	1	39	RB

APPENDIX C: LEVELS OF PRINCIPAL DEPOSITS AND STRUCTURES

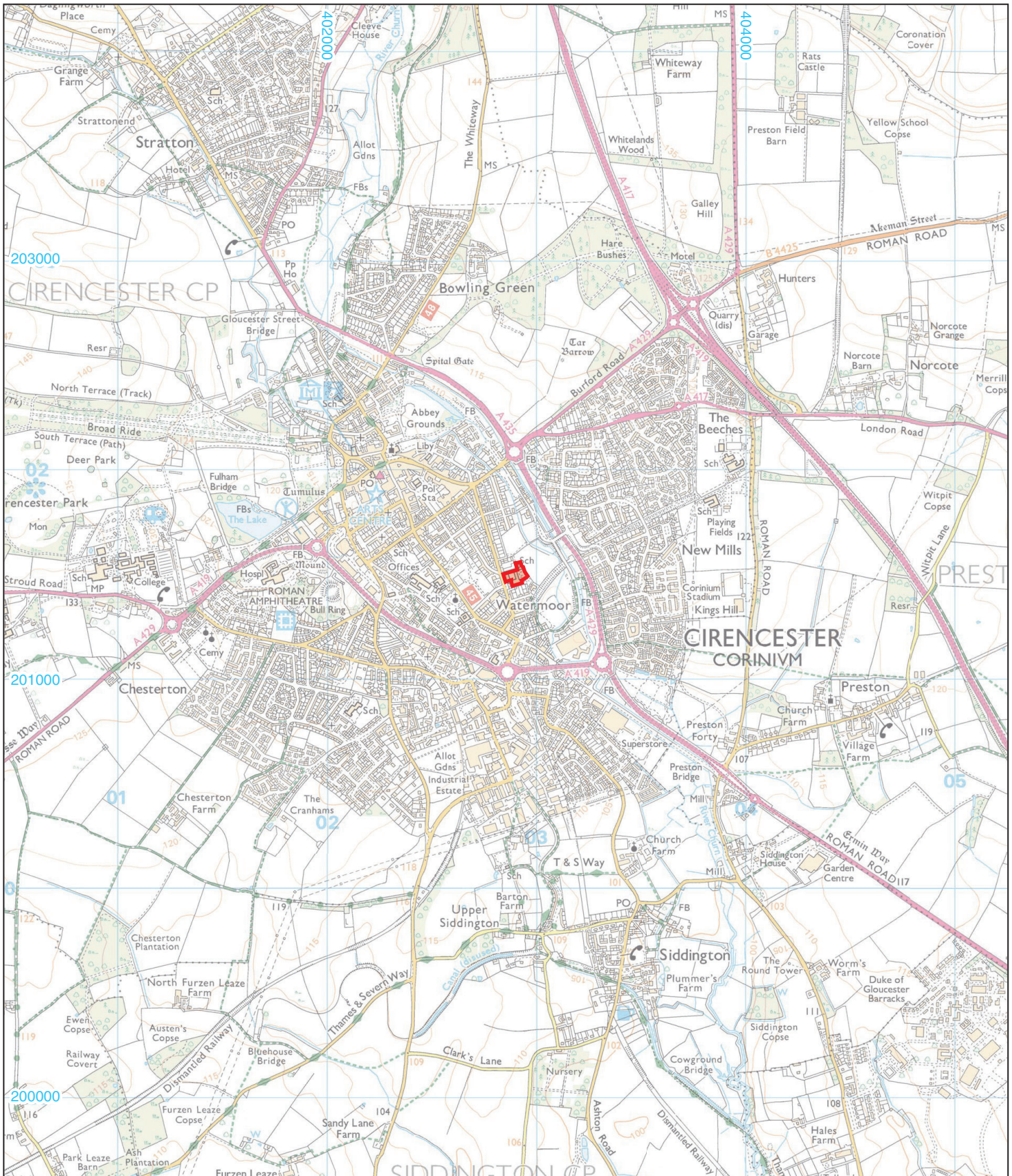
Levels are expressed as metres below current ground level and as metres Above Ordnance Datum (AOD), calculated using the benchmark located at location (0m AOD).

Upper figures are depth below of current ground level; lower figures in parentheses are metres AOD.

	Trench 7	Trench 9	Trench 18	Trench 24
Current ground level	0m (107.12m)	0m (106.30m)	0m (107.19m)	0m (106.57m)
Top of 'dark earth' deposits	0.61m (106.51m)	0.85m (105.45m)	0.46 (106.73m)	0.54m (106.03m)
Top of Roman deposits	0.84m (106.28m)	n/a	n/a	n/a

APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Cirencester Primary School, Victoria Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire	
Short description	<p>In July and August 2019 and January and February 2021, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with refurbishment works at Cirencester Primary School, Victoria Road, Cirencester.</p> <p>The watching brief identified a surface, of currently indeterminate function but predating a probable 'dark-earth' deposit within a trench excavated in the north-western part of the site. Probable 'dark-earth' deposits were also identified in two further trenches excavated in this part of the site.</p> <p>No further features or deposits predating the modern period were identified during the current works.</p>	
Project dates	July to August 2019 and January to February 2021	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	Desk-Based Assessment (CA 2016) Archaeological Evaluation (CA 2016) Watching brief (CA 2021)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Victoria Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire	
Study area (m ² /ha)	1.1ha	
Site co-ordinates	40288 20149	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Sara-Jayne Boughton, Monica Fombellida, Hazel O'Neill and Kinga Werner	
MONUMENT TYPE		
	SM GC 361, HA 1003426	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive:	Content:
Physical	Corinium Museum	Pottery sherds
Paper	Corinium Museum	Context sheets, trench recording sheet, digital photo register
Digital	Corinium Museum	Digital maps, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2023 <i>Cirencester Primary School, Victoria Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief CA typescript report CR0084_1</i>		



 Site boundary



© Crown copyright and database rights 2022
Ordnance Survey 0100031673



Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
Suffolk 01449 900120
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

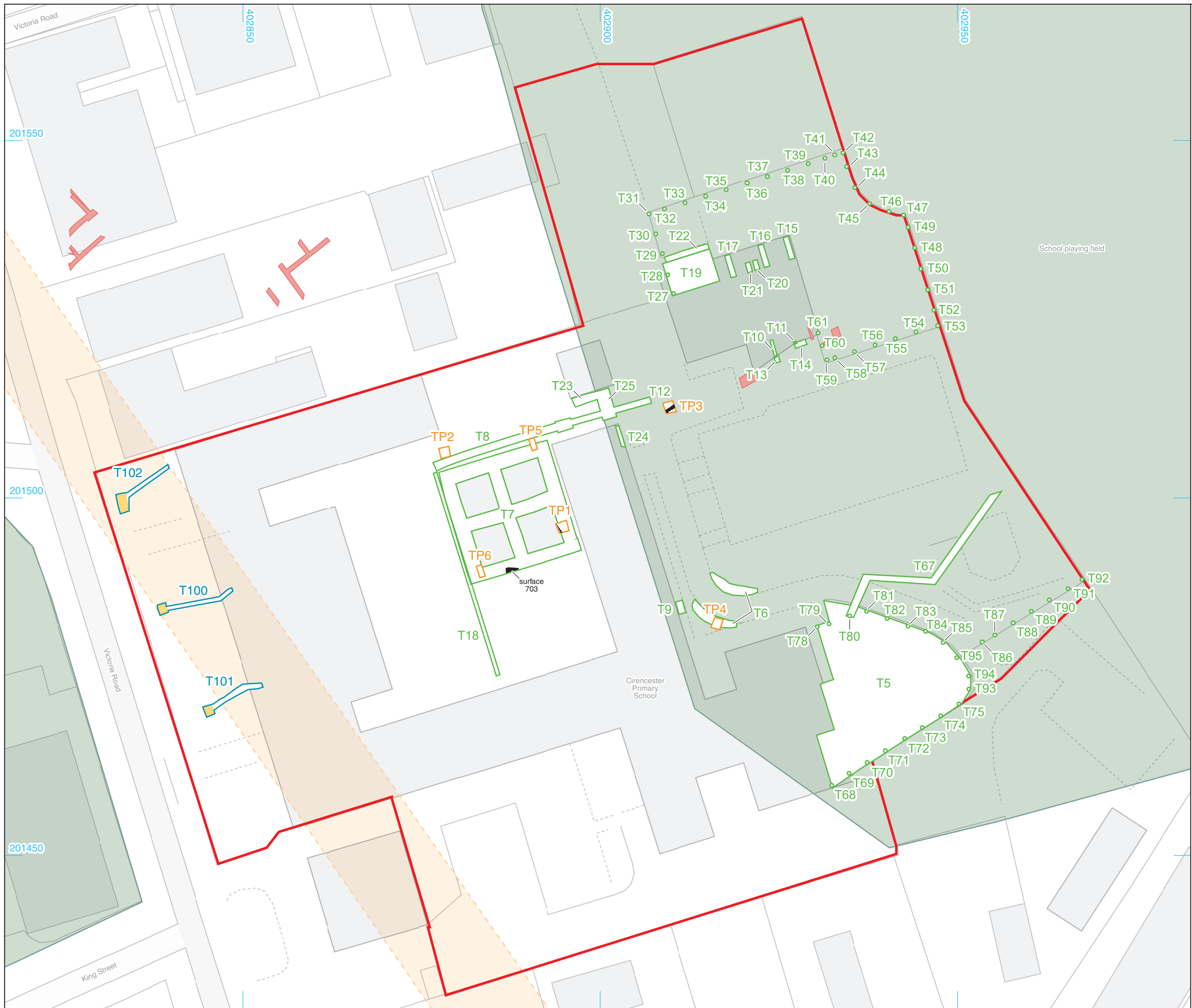
PROJECT TITLE

Cirencester Primary School, Cirencester, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

DRAWN BY	RW	PROJECT NO.	CR0084	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	17/10/2022	1
APPROVED BY	MF	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	



- Site boundary
 - Monitored groundwork
 - Monitored groundwork (CA 2021)
 - Test pit (CA 2016)
 - Archaeological feature
 - Archaeological layer
-
- Scheduled Monument
 - Known Roman wall
 - Projection of Roman street D



© Crown copyright and database rights 2022 Ordnance Survey 0100031673

Cotswold Archaeology
 Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Suffolk 01449 900120
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 Cirencester Primary School, Cirencester,
 Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
 The site, showing monitored
 groundworks

DRAWN BY	RW	PROJECT NO.	CR0084	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	17/10/2022	2
APPROVED BY	MF	SCALE@A3	1:500	



Trench 5, looking north-west (1m scales)



Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
Suffolk 01449 900120
w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Cirencester Primary School, Cirencester,
Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 5: photograph

DRAWN BY RW PROJECT NO. CR0084
CHECKED BY DJB DATE 17/10/2022
APPROVED BY MF SCALE@A4 NA

FIGURE NO.

3



Trench 7, looking north-east



Trench 7, surface 703, looking south-east (1m scale)



Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Suffolk 01449 900120
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Cirencester Primary School, Cirencester,
 Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 7: photographs

DRAWN BY RW PROJECT NO. CR0084
 CHECKED BY DJB DATE 17/10/2022
 APPROVED BY MF SCALE@A4 NA

FIGURE NO.

4



Trench 8, looking east (0.5m scale)



Trench 9, looking south-west (1m scale)



Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Suffolk 01449 900120
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Cirencester Primary School, Cirencester,
 Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Trenches 8 and 9: photographs

DRAWN BY RW PROJECT NO. CR0084
 CHECKED BY DJB DATE 17/10/2022
 APPROVED BY MF SCALE@A4 NA

FIGURE NO.

5



Trench 16, looking east (0.4m scale)



Trench 18, looking north-west



Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Suffolk 01449 900120
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Cirencester Primary School, Cirencester,
 Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Trenches 16 and 18: photographs

DRAWN BY RW PROJECT NO. CR0084
 CHECKED BY DJB DATE 17/10/2022
 APPROVED BY MF SCALE@A4 NA

FIGURE NO.

6



Working photograph



Trench 37, looking east



Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Suffolk 01449 900120
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Cirencester Primary School, Cirencester,
 Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Fence: photographs

DRAWN BY RW PROJECT NO. CR0084
 CHECKED BY DJB DATE 17/10/2022
 APPROVED BY MF SCALE@A4 NA

FIGURE NO.

7

Andover Office

Stanley House
Walworth Road
Andover
Hampshire
SP10 5LH

t: 01264 347630

Cirencester Office

Building 11
Cotswold Business Park
Cirencester
Gloucestershire
GL7 6BQ

t: 01285 771022

Milton Keynes Office

Unit 8 - The IO Centre
Fingle Drive, Stonebridge
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire
MK13 0AT

t: 01908 564660

Suffolk Office

Unit 5, Plot 11, Maitland Road
Lion Barn Industrial Estate
Needham Market
Suffolk
IP6 8NZ

t: 01449 900120

e: enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

