

**23-25 and 27-29 Commercial Road  
Gloucester  
Gloucestershire**

*Archaeological Watching Brief*

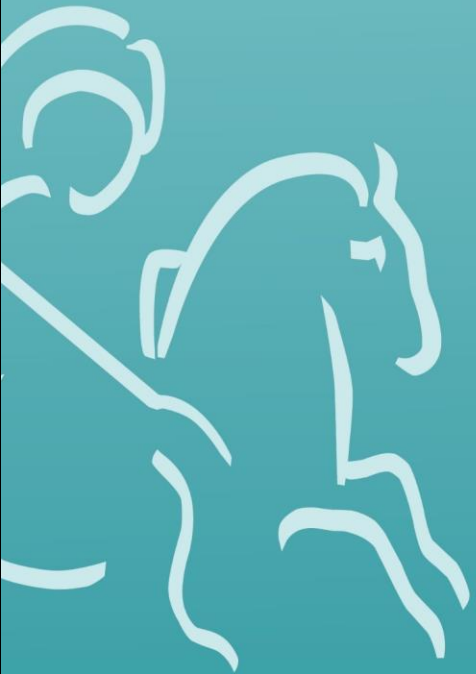


*for:*  
CMS

*on behalf of:*  
Ladybellegate Estates Ltd

CA Project: CR0111  
CA Report: CR0111\_1

October 2023



# 23-25 and 27-29 Commercial Road Gloucester Gloucestershire

## *Archaeological Watching Brief*

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CA Report: CR0111\_1

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

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## SUMMARY

<b>Project name:</b>	23-25 and 27-29 Commercial Road
<b>Location:</b>	Commercial Road, Gloucester, Gloucestershire
<b>NGR:</b>	382898 218388
<b>Type:</b>	Watching brief
<b>Date:</b>	1 March – 28 November 2021
<b>Planning reference:</b>	18/01260/FUL
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with Museum of Gloucester and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS)
<b>Site Code:</b>	CGL21

Between March and November 2021, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with development at 23-25 and 27-29 Commercial Road, Gloucester, Gloucestershire.

The watching brief identified a number of archaeological features, primarily comprising multiple phases of substantial ditches, immediately outwith the line of the Roman and medieval city walls of Gloucester.

Two of the identified ditches correlate closely with the alignment of the Roman defences along the south-western circuit of the town and it is possible that they represent an associated defensive ditch.

Despite the preponderance of Roman artefacts recovered from a number of the other ditches identified during the watching brief, for the most part this material appears to represent residual material within later medieval features. Evidence from the current works, along with a preceding archaeological evaluation and a geotechnical borehole suggests that one of these ditches may represent part of a substantial defensive ditch associated with a medieval motte and bailey castle previously identified to the north of the current site.

No evidence of 17th-century civil war defences, thought to run through the site, were identified during the current works.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Between March and November 2021, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at 23-25 and 27-29 Commercial Road, Gloucester, Gloucestershire (centred at NGR: 382898 218388; Fig. 1). This watching brief was undertaken for CMS, who were acting on behalf of Ladybellegate Estates Ltd.
- 1.2. Gloucester City Council (GCC) has granted planning permission for the extension and alteration to the existing buildings to create 12 No. small restaurant units (planning ref: 18/01260/FUL). Condition 3 of this planning permission required the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with an approved WSI.
- 1.3. The scope of this watching brief was defined by Andrew Armstrong, Archaeologist, GCC. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CA (2021) that was approved by Mr. Armstrong.
- 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 development area is approximately 800m<sup>2</sup> in extent and comprises the existing Commercial Road properties themselves, as well as adjacent areas of hardstanding to the south-west. The site is bounded by Commercial Road to the north, other properties fronting Commercial Road to the east and west and by Gloucester Docks to the south. The site lies at approximately 16m AOD and is broadly level.
- 1.6. The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation (undifferentiated) – Mudstone of the Jurassic and Triassic Periods (BGS 2023). No superficial deposits are noted (*ibid.*), although alluvial deposits sealing the natural Lias clays were identified during a borehole survey undertaken in advance of the current works.

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## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The proposed development area has previously been subject to an Archaeological and Historic Building Assessment (CA 2016a), archaeological evaluation (CA 2016b) and an archaeological watching brief (CA 2018). It is not intended to fully reprise these reports here, but the following is a summary of their conclusions:
- 2.2. There is currently no substantive evidence to suggest pre-Roman settlement in the central area of Gloucester and the site lies away from any area of superficial geological, typically terrace gravels and/or Cheltenham Sands, on which prehistoric activity is typically attested within the Severn floodplain (CA 2016a).
- 2.3. The site lies immediately outwith the southern defences of the Roman city of Gloucester (*Glevum*), and is located approximately 50m west of Southgate Street, one of the principal approaches to the city. Previous archaeological investigations at 106 Southgate Street (60m to the south-east) confirmed the presence of a contemporary suburb flanking Southgate Street, including the excavated remains of a *mansio* (posting hostel) immediately outside the south gate, and the foundations of further buildings and an oven (*ibid.*).
- 2.4. A limited amount of Roman activity has previously been identified within the area now covered by Gloucester Docks (including the current site), although there are records of Roman cremation burials being recovered during construction of the dock basins (*ibid.*). The site is located in an area of known Late Roman period alluvial and tidal flat deposits and it is possible that these deposits may seal earlier Roman archaeological horizons, should they be present (*ibid.*).
- 2.5. Gloucester appears to have been largely abandoned following the Roman withdrawal in the early 5th century AD and it is likely that alluvium and tidal flat deposits continued to be deposited to the south of the Roman defences throughout much of the early medieval period (*ibid.*).
- 2.6. Extra-mural settlement along Southgate Street appears to have become re-established during the 10th-century, with evidence for a number of timber buildings of this date being identified adjacent to a re-metalled Southgate Street during the investigations at 106 Southgate Street (*ibid.*). Following the Norman Conquest, a motte and bailey castle was constructed to the north of Commercial Road, adjacent to the current site. A large ditch recorded during previous archaeological works at

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Blackfriars and also to the west of Ladybellegate Street has been interpreted as the defensive ditch associated with this castle although its southern-most course currently remains undetermined. Extrapolation of the known course of this ditch, particularly given its close proximity within Blackfriars, suggests that it may pass through, or adjacent to, the current site. The motte and bailey was replaced by a new castle in the early 12th-century that was constructed further to the west in the area now occupied by Gloucester Prison (ibid.).

- 2.7. Throughout the medieval period the city developed throughout the area formerly occupied by the Roman *colonia* and also continued to expand beyond its walls along the principal routes into the town, including Southgate Street. The area to the west of Southgate Street, in which the current site is located, is believed to have lain within an orchard belonging to Gloucester Castle. However, the land alongside Southgate Street itself was acquired by Llanthony Priory in 1137 and was further developed as an extra-mural suburb. Evidence of this extra-mural suburb, including tenement boundaries and buildings as well as burials associated with the extra-mural chapel of St Owen, was identified during archaeological investigations at Southgate Gallery (ibid.).
- 2.8. The site appears to have mostly lain outside of the line of the Civil War defences that in the vicinity of the nearby Southgate Bastion has been shown to be c. 10m in width and c. 4m deep, but within an area in which a glacis (defensive earthwork) had been created before 1646 (ibid.).
- 2.9. Historic mapping shows the site and its immediate area as open ground throughout the post-medieval period until the expansion of the Docks during the early 19th-century and the construction of the current properties fronting Commercial Road in 1840s. These properties span the considerable difference in level between Commercial Road and the docks. From Commercial Road these properties appear as two storey buildings with subterranean basements. However, from the rear it is evident that the buildings were constructed from the reduced ground surface associated with the newly constructed Docks, with a series of brick vaulted sub-basements being accessed directly from the revised ground levels.
- 2.10. A preceding programme of archaeological works completed at the site in May 2016 (comprising an archaeological evaluation and a subsequent watching brief) identified two archaeological features that, despite truncation from probable 19th-century

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activity, most probably represented medieval and/or post-medieval ditches or pits (CA 2016b). A subsequent archaeological watching brief in 2017 did not identify any archaeological deposits pre-dating the modern period (CA 2018).

### 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 (Trenches 1 to 8 inclusive). These works comprised the machine excavation of foundation and service trenches and the reduction of ground levels across the site, including within the extant sub-basements beneath the retained properties along the Commercial Road frontage (see Fig. 2 for locations and extent). All machining was undertaken by mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket conducted under archaeological supervision.

4.2. Archaeological features/deposits were investigated, planned, and recorded in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*. It should be noted that the majority of the identified archaeological features were excavated solely to the required formation levels to enable the development. As a consequence only two features were fully excavated to their full depth.

4.3. Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential, and samples were taken in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*. Three samples were recovered from Trench 8 (see Section 7 and Appendix C )

4.4. Artefacts were processed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.

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- 4.5. CA will make arrangements with Museum of Gloucester 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 with the palaeoenvironmental evidence (environmental samples and animal bone) being presented in Section 7 and Appendix C.
- 5.2. Alluvial deposits, 106, 205, 305, and 805, comprising silty clays and sandy silts were revealed at an average depth of 0.75m below present ground level (bpgl; 11m AOD) in Trenches 1-3 and 8. These were overlain by modern levelling deposits comprising sandy silts, clay and stones, averaging 0.6m in thickness, which were sealed in turn by 0.15m of concrete hardstanding.
- 5.3. Groundworks within the vaulted sub-basements of 27-29 Commercial Road (Trenches 4-7) revealed alluvial clays at an average depth of 0.4m (between 11.20m and 11.42m AOD) below the modern basement floors. These deposits were overlain by silty clay and/or sand levelling deposits, measuring approximately 0.2m in thickness, for brick surfacing that was in turn covered by modern concrete floors.

### Trenches 1-3 (Fig. 2)

- 5.4. Three trenches, each measuring c. 3.5m in length and 0.6m in width, were excavated in the south-eastern part of the site to confirm the location of a post-medieval culvert that had been identified during the preceding evaluation. The arched top of the red brick structure (105/204/304) was exposed in all three trenches, typically at a depth of 0.9m below the existing modern ground surface.

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### Trenches 4-7 (Figs 2, 4 & 5)

- 5.5. Trenches 4-7 were excavated within the existing vaulted sub-basements beneath 27-29 Commercial Road. Three distinct and separate ditch alignments and two pits were identified cutting the alluvial clays, with the latest fills of these features being sealed by deposits associated with the basement floors.
- 5.6. The earliest of the recorded features, north-east/south-west aligned ditch 706/715 (Ditch A), was identified along the north-western side of Trench 7. It measured at least 4.1m in length, 0.9m in width, 0.23m in depth and contained two fills, 707/714 and 708/713, that were devoid of finds. It was cut by pit 704/709 and ditch 712.
- 5.7. Ditch 712 formed part of ditch sequence 415/516/605/712 (Ditch B) revealed along the northern extent of each of the basements on a north-west/south-east alignment. The fills of this ditch were artefactually sterile. It had been recut as ditch 413/513/607/724 that measured at least 2.3m in width (Trench 7) and at least 0.8m in depth (Trench 6). This later ditch also contained a series of distinct, if typically sterile, fills. However, three sherds of pottery of a 2nd to 4th-century AD date and a fragment of Roman tile, were recovered from fill 611 within ditch 607 suggesting a Roman date for this ditch sequence.
- 5.8. Pit 704/709 was identified in the south-western extent of Trench 7. It measured approximately 2m in diameter and at least 0.22m in depth. It contained a single fill 705/710 from which medieval pottery dating the 11th-13th century, as well as residual Roman pottery and ceramic building material (CBM), was recovered.
- 5.9. Pit 418 (Fig. 5, Section BB) was identified in the north-east corner of Trench 4. It measured at least 2.2m in diameter, at least 0.36m in depth and contained two fills. Medieval ceramics dating the 12th-14th century, as well as residual Roman pottery and CBM, were recovered from upper fill 416. The upper fill of pit 418, 416, was cut by ditch 411/422 (Fig. 5, Section BB).
- 5.10. A further ditch sequence, 411/422/519/615 (Ditch C; see Fig. 5, sections AA and BB), was identified along the southern limit of Trenches 4, 5 and 6 (and subsequently within Trench 8 where it was recorded as ditch 811/820/825/844/846; see *Paragraph 5.13* below) aligned broadly east/west. Here it measured at least 5.8m in width, at least 0.3m in depth, and contained a sequence of at least five fills. Roman pottery and CBM



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was recovered from fills 406, 408, 409 and 410 within ditch 411 but, given this ditch cuts medieval pit 418, these artefacts are considered residual in a later feature.

### Trench 8 (Figs 2, 6 & 7)

- 5.11. Ditch 835 (Fig. 6, section EE) was stratigraphically the earliest feature observed in Trench 8. It measured at least 1.4m in width and 0.76m in depth, was aligned north-west/south-east and contained at least two fills, 817 and 834, from which Roman CBM was recovered. It had been truncated by, or most probably recut as, ditch 816/818/822. The latter measured 4.5m in width, at least 0.81m in depth and contained at least four fills, from which 12th to 14th-century pottery sherds, and residual Roman pottery, CBM and a small fragment of *opus signinum* were recovered.
- 5.12. Pit/ditch terminal 809 (Fig. 6, Section DD) was identified cutting the latest fill of ditch 816/818/822 at the western limit of Trench 8. It measured 3.9m in width, at least 0.95m in depth and contained at least three fills, 806, 807 and 808. Medieval pottery dating from the 11th to 14th-century, in addition to residual Roman pottery and CBM, were retrieved from these fills. An environmental sample, <800>, recovered from the latest of these fills, 806, contained a moderately small amount of charred cereal grains indicative of a dump of domestic hearth waste material.
- 5.13. Ditch 811/820/825/844/846 aligned with Ditch C that had previously been identified in Trenches 4, 5 and 6 (see *Paragraph 5.10* above) and terminated within Trench 8. It truncated ditch 816/818/822 and had previously been recorded during the preceding evaluation as ditch 111. It was aligned broadly east/west and measured up to 11.4m in width (including the northern extent identified in Trenches 4, 5 and 6) and at least 0.9m in depth. It contained a sequence of up to five exposed fills from which medieval pottery, in addition to quantities of residual Roman material, was recovered. Such evidence compliments the findings from ditch 111 during the preceding evaluation. Two samples, <801> and <802>, recovered from ditch fills 851 and 852 respectively contained only limited environmental evidence that is likely to be representative of wind-blown/dispersed waste material.
- 5.14. A probable pit, 841, was partially exposed cutting the lower fills of ditch 844 in the centre of Trench 8. It measured 1.7m in length, at least 0.9m in width, 0.9m in depth and contained a single undated fill, 840, that was sealed by the upper fills of ditch 844.

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## 6. THE FINDS

- 6.1. Artefactual material dating to the Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods was hand-recovered from 20 deposits (the fills of a culvert and fills of pits and ditches). Quantities of the artefact types are given in Appendix B and the pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric. Recording also included form/rim morphology. The fabric codes (in parenthesis in the text) are equated to the online Gloucester pottery type series (<http://glospot.potsherd.net/table/roman>) where possible. Where applicable, National Roman Fabric Reference Collection codes are also given in Appendix B (Tomber and Dore 1998).

### Pottery: Roman

- 6.2. A total of 52 sherds Roman pottery (1000g) was recovered from 14 deposits. A proportion of this has been retrieved in association with medieval pottery and is clearly residual (Appendix B). In addition, for some deposits where the latest-dated material was Roman, it is likely on stratigraphical grounds that this material is redeposited and the deposit post-dates the Roman period (Trench 4 deposits 406, 409, 410 and 421 and Trench 8 deposits 808 and 821). With less certainty the Roman material from Trench 8 deposits 812, 817, 823 and 834 may also be redeposited. Most common is Severn Valley (oxidised) ware (TF11b), which was produced throughout the Roman period. Rimsherds from two flanged bowls with internal lips were recovered, from fill 611 of ditch 607 and fill 824 of ditch 822. A charcoal-tempered variant of Severn Valley ware (TF17), in use from the mid 1st to 2nd centuries, is also represented. Other local fabrics are local micaceous ware (TF11a, late 1st to 2nd century) and local colour-coated ware (TF12d, 3rd to 4th century). The most common regional import is Southeast Dorset Black-burnished ware (TF4), which dates to the 2nd to 4th centuries when found outside the manufacturing zone (Davies et al. 1994, 107). Rimsherds from more closely datable Seager Smith and Davies Type 25 conical flanged bowls/dishes (mid 3rd to 4th century) were recorded from fill 806 of pit/ditch terminus 809 and fill 821 of ditch 820 (Seager Smith and Davies 1993, 234–5), although the example from ditch terminus 809 is residual. The Oxford potteries are represented by base sherds from mortaria in Oxford Red-slipped ware (TF9x) from fill 823 of ditch 822 and in Oxford White-slipped ware (TF9w) from fill 408 of ditch 411, both of which are datable to the mid 3rd to 4th century (Young 1977, 122–4). However, the sherd in ditch 411 has been redeposited. Continental imports consist of Gaulish samian and a rimsherd from a mortarium in North Gaulish whiteware (TF9v, mid to late 1st century) – the latter residual in fill 806 of ditch terminus 809. The samian is from central Gaulish

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production centres Lezoux and Les Martres-de-Veyre (TF8a), which exported to Britain during the 2nd century (Webster 1996, 2–3). Included is a rimsherd from a Drag. 27 cup, also from ditch terminus fill 806.

#### **Pottery: medieval**

- 6.3. A total of 14 sherds of medieval pottery was recorded from six deposits. The represented fabrics are all commonly found in Gloucestershire. They consist of Cotswold oolitic limestone-tempered ware (TF41B) which dates to the 11th to 13th centuries, Malvernian unglazed ware (TF40, 12th to 14th century) and handmade Minety ware (TF44, mid 12th to mid 13th century). Included are rimsherds from a jar with a flat rim and a jar with a developed, everted rim, both presenting in fabric TF41, from fill 827 of ditch 825.

#### **Ceramic Building Material (CBM)**

- 6.4. A total of 53 fragments (3782g) of Roman CBM was retrieved from 14 deposits. The majority are too fragmentary for further classification. However, a small number are identifiable as tegula (three – flanged roofing tile), imbrex (three – curved roofing tile) and brick (one). Two post-medieval bricks were also recovered – a fragment from fill 408 of ditch 411 and a complete example from culvert 304. The complete example is unfrogged and particularly thick, measuring 9 x 4.25 x 3.5". It probably dates to the 19th century.

#### **Other finds**

- 6.5. Three heavily corroded, fragmentary iron nails (38g) were recorded. Nails of this type, with shafts with square or rectangular cross-sections, were in use from the Roman to post-medieval periods and are not closely datable. All were recovered in association with finds of both Roman and medieval/post-medieval date.
- 6.6. Fill 812 of ditch 816 produced a fragment of opus signinum (18g), which is a type of waterproof Roman mortar mostly used in flooring.

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## 7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

### Animal bone

- 7.1. Animal bone amounting to 88 fragments (1179g) was recovered via hand excavation and the processing of bulk soil samples from the fills of six ditches and one pit. The material was highly fragmented but very well preserved, making possible the identification of cattle (*Bos taurus*), sheep/goat (*Ovis aries/Capra hircus*), pig (*Sus scrofa* sp.), horse (*Equus caballus*), and dog (*Canis familiaris*). A limited amount of bird, fish and amphibian bone was also recovered but was too fragmentary for a species identification. Where damage was present and re-fitting was possible, those fragments were counted as a single bone.

### Plant macrofossils

- 7.2. Three environmental samples (24 litres of soil) were processed from deposits identified in Trench 8 to evaluate the preservation of palaeoenvironmental remains and with the intention of recovering environmental evidence of industrial or domestic activity. In addition, it was hoped that the assessment of samples 801 and 802 may aid in dating their respective feature. The samples were processed by standard flotation procedures (CA Technical Manual No. 2).
- 7.3. Preliminary identifications of plant macrofossils are noted in Table 1, following nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary et al (2012) for cereals. The presence of mollusc shells has also been recorded, following nomenclature according to Anderson (2005) and habitat preferences according to Kerney (1999) and Davies (2008).
- 7.4. The flots varied in size from small to large with low to high numbers of rooty material and uncharred seeds. The charred material comprised varying levels of preservation. Due to the poor to moderate preservation levels, it was difficult to identify many of the charred cereal grains to species, but where possible this was achieved. Much of the charcoal was impregnated with silt residue which inhibited further wood species identification.

### Trench 8

- 7.5. Upper-most fill 806 (sample 800) of medieval pit/ditch terminal 809 contained a moderately small amount of charred cereal grains, including those of wheat (*Triticum* sp.). A small number of vetch/wild pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.) seeds were observed within the assemblage alongside a large quantity of charcoal fragments. A moderately

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large amount of mollusc shells was noted and include those of the open country species *Helicella itala*, *Pupilla muscorum* and *Vallonia* sp., the intermediate species *Trochulus hispidus* and the shade-loving species *Aegopinella* sp. A single *Anisus leucostoma* shell was observed and this is a species that is indicative of seasonal flooding and desiccation. The charred remains from this assemblage are indicative of a dump of domestic hearth waste material.

- 7.6. Samples 801 and 802 from ditch 811/820/825/844/846 (fills 851 and 852 respectively) contained no charred plant remains, with sample 801 producing a very small number of charcoal fragments. These assemblages are likely to be representative of wind-blown/dispersed waste material.

### **Summary**

- 7.7. The environmental assemblage, together with the animal and fish bone, recovered from ditch 809 suggests that some domestic settlement activity, such as food preparation, took place in the vicinity of Trench 8 during the medieval period. The molluscan assemblage recovered from medieval pit 809 appears to indicate that the area was made up of a well-established open landscape with areas of longer grass near or within the ditch. There is also an indication of some occasional seasonal flooding at this time.
- 7.8. Due to the paucity of environmental remains recovered from samples 801 and 802 it is not possible to determine a potential date for ditch 811/820/825/844/846.

## **8. DISCUSSION**

- 8.1. The archaeological watching brief has confirmed the presence of archaeological features primarily comprising multiple phases of large, wide ditches immediately outwith the line of the Roman and medieval city walls of Gloucester.
- 8.2. The absence of former *in-situ* topsoil and subsoil deposits, coupled with the disturbed nature of the upper surface of the alluvial clays through which all of the identified archaeological features were cut, indicates that the ground levels within the development area have previously been reduced. As previously discussed in the preceding evaluation report (CA 2016b), the cause, and indeed the depth, of this truncation is likely to relate to the expansion of Gloucester Docks during the early part of the 19th-century and/or the construction of Nos 23-25 or 27-29 Commercial Road in the late 1840s (see *Archaeological Background* above).

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- 8.3. Despite the preponderance of Roman artefacts recovered during the current, and indeed previous, archaeological works within the site, for the most part this material must be viewed as being residual. Nonetheless, it is tempting to assign ditches 706/715 (Ditch A) and particularly ditch sequence 415/516/605/712 and its associated recut 413/513/607/724 (Ditch B), to the Roman period. The Ditch B sequence correlates closely with the alignment of the Roman defences along the south-western circuit of the town and it is probable that they represent an associated defensive ditch. However, what does remain undetermined is whether this ditch sequence is associated with the initial defences for the fort and its early development as a *Colonia* or are representative of the defences later incarnation from the later 2nd century AD onwards. Hurst (1986) notes that the original, military, defensive ditch was for the most part infilled prior to construction of the first stone wall in the 2nd century AD when the associated ditch was typically sited further beyond the wall. It is therefore possible that ditch sequence Ditch B is associated with the original military/*colonia* defences and, if such an interpretation is accepted, then ditch 835 and its recut 816/818/822, may represent the later Roman defensive ditch, with the limited number of the medieval ceramics recovered from within its fill being intrusive.
- 8.4. Such an interpretation may be granted further credence if pit/ditch terminal 809 and ditch 811/820/825/844/846 (Ditch C) are assumed to represent the medieval re-establishment of this defensive ditch circuit. Dating material recovered during the current works suggests a 11th to 14th date for the upper fills of Ditch C. This correlates with the evidence recovered during the preceding evaluation but it is noteworthy that exclusively Roman artefacts were recovered from the earliest fills within this ditch alignment during the evaluation trenching, perhaps hinting at a Roman precursor. Evidence recovered from a geotechnical borehole drilled in Trial Pit 2 during the evaluation suggested that Ditch C was at least 3.4m in depth, and therefore of a requisite dimension to function as a defensive feature, although frustratingly no further datable material was retrieved from its lower fills during these preceding works (CA 2016b).
- 8.5. Whilst the above interpretations are plausible it remains possible, albeit unproven, that Ditch C may represent the defensive ditch associated with the Norman motte and bailey castle. The latter has previously been identified north of the current site (see *Archaeological Background* above) and extrapolation of its course suggests that it may pass through, or in close proximity to, the current site (see Fig. 3). Although

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somewhat problematic, the inclusion of Roman and later medieval artefacts from such a ditch should not completely preclude such an interpretation.

8.6. The identification of medieval pits 418 and 704/709 is noteworthy although little further interpretation can justifiably be offered as to their original function, except to note that they were most probably sited between the medieval town wall and its associated defensive ditch. However, the possibility that they are slightly earlier and therefore associated with the Norman castle cannot be wholly dismissed.

8.7. The complete absence of features, and particularly of artefacts, contemporary with the 17th-century civil war defences is somewhat surprising. Evidence for the re-establishment of the city's defensive circuit, amplified by saps and bastions, has previously been identified 60m to the east of the current site at the Bank of England and Southgate Gallery sites (Atkins 1990, 3-7). However, no such evidence was encountered during the current, or indeed previous phases of, works on the current site which raises the possibility that the development area is sited within the area of the documented rampart or glacis in front of the town wall, and that any associated defensive ditch may survive further to the south (Rhodes 2014, 171). The absence of later medieval and, in particular, the early post-medieval horizons perhaps suggests that they were truncated during the early 19th-century expansion of the Docks and/or the construction of No 27-29 Commercial Road in the late 1840s.

## 9. CA PROJECT TEAM

9.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Christian Day and Liam Wilson, assisted by Phoebe Burrows, Megan Reid and Louie Parfitt. This report was written by Christian Day and Cliff Bateman. The finds and biological evidence reports were written by Jacky Sommerville and Andy Clarke respectively, with the palaeoenvironmental analysis being compiled by Emma Aitken. The report illustrations were prepared by CA illustrator. The project archive has been compiled by Christian Day and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Laurent Coleman and Steven Sheldon.



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## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Area	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Tarmac	Light grey tarmac, hard	>3.5	>0.6	0.1	
1	101	Deposit		Modern	Light pinkish grey gravel, loose: backfill of modern service trench	>0.6	>1.1	0.65	
1	102	Layer		Made ground	Black sandy silt, loose with lenses of gravel and sand and occasional CBM inclusions	>3.1	>0.6	0.38	
1	103	Layer		Made ground	Large angular stones in a mid greyish brown clayey silt matrix, loose	>2.1	>0.6	0.3	
1	104	Fill	107	Construction cut backfill	Mid greenish grey silty clay, compact	>0.6	1.3	>0.32	
1	105	Structure	107	Culvert	Red brick culvert, arched, aligned E/W; 10 courses exposed with yellow sandy mortar	>0.6	1.1	>0.22	Post-med
1	106	Layer		Natural substrate	Light greenish grey silty clay with occasional yellow sand patches, compact	>1.9	>0.6	-	
1	107	Cut		Construction cut	Construction cut for culvert 105 with steep, straight sides	>0.6	1.3	>0.32	
2	200	Layer		Concrete	Light grey concrete, reinforced	>3.3	>0.6	0.15	
2	201	Layer		Made ground	Black sandy silt, loose with lenses of gravel and sand and occasional CBM inclusions	>3.3	>0.6	0.35	
2	202	Layer		Made ground	Large angular stones in a mid greyish brown clayey silt matrix, loose	>3.3	>0.6	0.25	
2	203	Fill	206	Construction cut backfill	Mid greenish grey silty clay, compact	>0.6	1.45	>0.43	
2	204	Structure	206	Culvert	Red brick culvert, arched, aligned ENE/WSW; 11 courses exposed with yellow sandy mortar	>0.6	1.25	>0.26	Post-med
2	205	Layer		Natural substrate	Light greenish grey silty clay with occasional yellow sand patches, compact	>3.3	>0.6	-	
2	206	Cut		Construction cut	Construction cut for culvert 204 with steep, straight sides	>0.6	1.45	>0.43	
3	300	Layer		Concrete	Light grey concrete, reinforced	3.4	>0.6	0.1	
3	301	Layer		Made ground	Black sandy silt, loose with lenses of gravel and sand and occasional CBM inclusions	3.4	>0.6	0.26	
3	302	Layer		Made ground	Large angular stones in a mid greyish brown clayey silt matrix, loose	3.4	>0.6	0.24	
3	303	Fill	306	Construction cut backfill	Mid greenish grey silty clay, compact	>0.6	1.45	>0.43	
3	304	Structure	306	Culvert	Red brick culvert, arched, aligned ENE/WSW; 9 courses exposed with yellow sandy mortar	>0.6	1.2	>0.22	Post-med
3	305	Layer		Natural substrate	Light greenish grey silty clay with occasional yellow sand patches, compact	>3.4	>0.6	-	
3	306	Cut		Construction cut	Construction cut for culvert 204 with steep, straight sides	>0.6	1.45	>0.43	

4	400	Layer		Concrete floor	Light grey concrete floor	9.2	4.85	0.08	
4	401	Structure		Brick floor	Red brick floor surface of basement/vault with light greyish yellow mortar	9.2	4.85	0.1	Post-med
4	402	Layer		Levelling deposit	Dark grey silty clay, friable with orange sand and CBM inclusions	9.2	4.85	0.2	
4	403	Structure	405	Wall footing	Red brick footing for basement/vault wall with light grey mortar	>9.2	>0.1	0.3	Post-med
4	404	Structure	405	Wall foundation	Yellowish brown gravel and mortar foundation for wall footing 403	>9.2	>0.4	0.3	
4	405	Cut		Construction cut	Linear with vertical sides; construction cut for wall foundation 404 and footing 403	>9.2	>0.4	0.3	
4	406	Fill	411	5th fill of ditch	Mid brown clayey silt, compact with frequent limestone and sand inclusions	>1.0	>1.7	0.22	RB
4	407	Fill	411	4th fill of ditch	Dark brownish grey silty clay, compact with occasional stone inclusions	>1.0	>1.22	0.27	
4	408	Fill	411	3rd fill of ditch	Dark grey silty clay, compact with occasional stone inclusions	>1.0	>1.78	0.2	Post-med
4	409	Fill	411	2nd fill of ditch	Light grey silty clay, compact with occasional stone inclusions	>1.0	0.68	>0.3	C2-C4
4	410	Fill	411	1st fill of ditch	Dark grey silty clay, compact	>1.0	>1.46	>0.3	RB
4	411	Cut		Cut of ditch	WNW/ESE aligned linear with moderate, stepped side	>4.5	>5.8	>0.3	
4	412	Fill	413	Fill of ditch	Dark grey clayey silt, friable with occasional CBM and stone inclusions	>2.1	>0.5	-	
4	413	Cut		Cut of ditch	NW/SE aligned linear; recut of 415, same as 513	>2.1	>0.5	-	
4	414	Fill	415	Fill of ditch	Light brownish orange silty clay, compact	>3.4	>0.65	-	
4	415	Cut		Cut of ditch	NW/SE aligned linear; recut by 413, same as 516	>3.4	>0.65	-	
4	416	Fill	418	2nd fill of pit	Mid bluish grey silty clay, compact	>0.76	>0.48	0.26	MC12-C14
4	417	Fill	418	1st fill of pit	Dark grey silty clay with occasional stone inclusions	>0.76	>0.48	>0.16	
4	418	Cut		Cut of pit	Circular partially exposed feature, with steep sides; cut by ditch 422	>0.76	>0.48	>0.36	
4	419	Fill	422	3rd fill of ditch	Dark brownish grey silty clay, compact	>0.8	0.36	0.12	
4	420	Fill	422	2nd fill of ditch	Mid brownish orange, silty clay with sandy gravel, friable	>0.8	0.36	0.1	
4	421	Fill	422	1st fill of ditch	Mid brownish grey silty clay, compact	>0.8	0.36	>0.3	RB
4	422	Cut		Cut of ditch	WNW/ESE aligned linear with steep side	>3.5	>3.4	>0.3	
4	423	Layer		Alluvial layer	Mid greyish brown clay, compact; natural alluvial deposit	>4.1	>3.7	-	
5	500	Layer		Concrete floor	Light grey concrete floor	>9.2	>4.85	0.08	
5	501	Structure		Brick floor	Red brick floor surface of basement/vault with light greyish yellow mortar	>9.2	>4.85	0.1	Post-med
5	502	Layer		Levelling deposit	Dark grey silty clay, friable with orange sand and CBM inclusions	>9.2	>4.85	0.2	
5	503	Fill	506	Fill of construction cut	Dark grey silty clay, compact	>9.2	>0.3	0.2	

5	504	Structure	506	Wall footing	Red brick footing for basement/vault wall with light grey mortar	>9.2	>0.1	0.35	Post-med
5	505	Structure	506	Wall foundation	Yellowish brown gravel and mortar foundation for wall footing 504	>9.2	>0.3	0.44	
5	506	Cut		Construction cut	Linear with vertical sides; construction cut for wall foundation 505 and footing 504	>9.2	>0.3	0.63	
5	507	Fill	513	6th fill of ditch	Dark grey silty clay, compact with occasional limestone, charcoal and CBM inclusions	>0.72	>0.88	0.22	
5	508	Fill	513	5th fill of ditch	Mid brownish grey silty clay, compact with occasional stone inclusions	>0.72	1.24	0.24	
5	509	Fill	513	4th fill of ditch	Dark greenish grey silty clay, compact with frequent stone inclusions	>0.72	>0.31	0.13	
5	510	Fill	513	3rd fill of ditch	Dark grey silty clay, compact with occasional stone inclusions	>0.72	>0.92	0.42	
5	511	Fill	513	2nd fill of ditch	Mid reddish brown silty clay, compact with occasional stone inclusions	>0.72	0.61	0.16	
5	512	Fill	513	1st fill of ditch	Mid grey clay, compact	>0.72	0.81	0.15	
5	513	Cut		Cut of ditch	NW/SE aligned linear with steep side and flat base; recut of 516	>3.9	>2.4	0.64	
5	514	Fill	516	2nd fill of ditch	Mid brownish grey silty clay, compact with occasional limestone/mortar inclusions	>0.72	0.62	0.09	
5	515	Fill	516	1st fill of ditch	Mid brownish grey clay, compact	>0.72	0.95	0.34	
5	516	Cut		Cut of ditch	NW/SE aligned linear with steep side and flat base; recut by 513	>3.9	>0.7	0.34	
5	517	Layer		Alluvial layer	Mid greyish brown clay, compact; natural alluvial deposit	>9.2	>4.85	-	
5	518	Fill	519	Fill of ditch	Mid brown clayey silt, compact with frequent limestone and sand inclusions	>4.85	>3.1	-	
5	519	Cut		Cut of ditch	WNW/ESE aligned linear; same as 411	>4.85	>3.1	-	
6	600	Layer		Concrete floor	Light grey concrete floor	9.2	4.85	0.05	
6	601	Structure		Brick floor	Red brick floor surface of basement/vault with light greyish yellow mortar	9.2	4.85	0.11	Post-med
6	602	Layer		Levelling deposit	Dark grey silty clay, friable with orange sand and CBM inclusions	9.2	4.85	0.1	
6	603	Structure	612	Wall footing	Red brick footing for basement/vault wall with light grey mortar	>9.2	>0.07	0.48	Post-med
6	604	Structure	612	Wall foundation	Yellowish brown gravel and mortar foundation for wall footing 603	>9.2	>0.3	0.22	
6	605	Cut		Cut of ditch	NW/SE aligned linear with steep side and flat base; recut by 607	>9.2	1.64	0.74	
6	606	Fill	605	Fill of ditch	Mid brownish grey silty clay, compact	>9.2	1.64	0.74	
6	607	Cut		Cut of ditch	NW/SE aligned linear with moderately sloping side; recut of 605	>9.2	>3.2	>0.8	
6	608	Fill	607	4th fill of ditch	Dark greyish brown silty clay, compact	>0.45	0.61	0.08	

6	609	Fill	607	3rd fill of ditch	Light grey clayey silt, compact with frequent rubble inclusions	>0.45	1.62	0.62	
6	610	Fill	607	2nd fill of ditch	Dark grey silty clay, compact	>0.45	1.94	>0.24	
6	611	Fill	607	1st fill of ditch	Mid brownish grey silty clay, compact with rare stones	>0.45	>2.52	>0.63	C2-C4
6	612	Cut		Construction cut	Linear with vertical sides; construction cut for wall foundation 604 and footing 603	>9.2	>0.3	>0.3	
6	613	Layer		Alluvial layer	Mid greyish brown clay, compact; natural alluvial deposit	>7.1	>4.85	-	
6	614	Fill	615	Fill of ditch	Mid brown clayey silt, compact with frequent limestone and sand inclusions	>1.1	>0.75	-	
6	615	Cut		Cut of ditch	WNW/ESE aligned linear; same as 411	>1.1	>0.75	-	
7	700	Layer		Concrete floor	Light grey concrete floor	9.2	4.85	0.08	
7	701	Structure		Brick floor	Red brick floor surface of basement/vault with light greyish yellow mortar	9.2	4.85	0.1	Post-med
7	702	Layer		Levelling deposit	Mid yellowish grey sand with patches of dark grey clay, friable with occasional stone inclusions	9.2	4.85	0.3	
7	703	Structure	717	Wall footing	Red brick footing for basement/vault wall with light grey mortar	>9.2	>0.07	>0.16	Post-med
7	704	Cut		Cut of pit	Sub-oval feature with moderately sloping sides and flat base	2.18	>1.98	0.22	
7	705	Fill	704	Fill of pit	Mid greenish grey silty clay, compact with frequent stone inclusions	2.18	>1.98	0.22	C11-C13
7	706	Cut		Cut of ditch	NE/SW aligned linear with gently sloping side and concave base	>4.1	>0.9	0.23	
7	707	Fill	706	1st fill of ditch	Dark brownish grey silty clay, friable with frequent stone inclusions	>0.45	>0.43	0.11	
7	708	Fill	706	2nd fill of ditch	Mid greenish brown silty clay, compact with occasional stone inclusions	>0.45	>0.43	0.13	
7	709	Cut		Cut of pit	Sub-oval feature with moderately sloping sides and flat base	>0.68	>0.21	0.16	
7	710	Fill	709	Fill of pit	Mid greenish grey silty clay, compact with frequent stone inclusions	>0.68	>0.21	0.16	
7	711	Fill	712	Fill of ditch	Large irregular limestone blocks in a dark grey silty clay matrix, with occasional CBM inclusions	>0.51	0.83	>0.47	
7	712	Cut		Cut of ditch	NW/SE aligned linear with steeply sloping sides; recut of 725	>4.85	0.83	>0.47	
7	713	Fill	715	2nd fill of ditch	Mid greenish brown silty clay, compact with occasional stone inclusions	>0.27	>0.28	0.08	
7	714	Fill	715	1st fill of ditch	Dark brownish grey silty clay, friable with frequent stone inclusions	>0.28	>0.45	0.14	
7	715	Cut		Cut of ditch	NE/SW aligned linear with moderately sloping side and flat base	>0.28	>0.45	0.14	
7	716	Structure	717	Wall foundation	Yellowish brown gravel and mortar foundation for wall footing 703	>9.2	>0.3	0.35	

7	717	Cut		Construction cut	Linear with vertical sides; construction cut for wall foundation 717 and footing 703	>9.2	>0.3	0.35	
7	718	Layer		Alluvial layer	Light greyish brown clay, compact; natural alluvial deposit	>5.5	>4.85	-	
7	719	Fill	724	4th fill of ditch	Light greyish brown silty clay, compact	>4.85	>2.0	0.52	
7	720	Fill	724	2nd fill of ditch	Light brownish grey silty clay, compact with frequent gravel inclusions	>4.85	>1.0	0.2	
7	721	Fill	724	1st fill of ditch	Mid greyish brown silty clay, compact	>0.5	0.7	0.1	
7	722	Fill	724	3rd fill of ditch	Dark grey brown silty clay, compact	>0.5	>1.64	>0.12	
7	723	Fill	725	Fill of ditch	Dark greyish brown silty clay, compact with occasional stone inclusions	>3.4	0.82	>0.38	
7	724	Cut		Cut of ditch	NW/SE aligned linear with moderately sloping sides; recut of 725	>4.85	>2.3	>0.6	
7	725	Cut		Cut of ditch	NW/SE aligned linear with moderately sloping sides; recut by 712 and 725	>3.4	0.82	>0.38	
7	726	Fill	727	Fill of ditch	Mid bluish grey silty clay, compact with occasional CBM inclusions	>0.5	>2.3	>0.4	
7	727	Cut		Cut of ditch	NW/SE aligned truncated linear with steeply sloping side; possible NE side of 816	>0.5	>2.3	>0.4	
7	728	Layer		Natural substrate	Light greyish yellow silty clay, compact	>9.2	>4.85	-	
8	800	Layer		Concrete	Light grey concrete, reinforced	>32.8	>13.1	0.17	
8	801	Layer		Made ground	Black sandy silt, loose with occasional stone inclusions	>32.8	>13.1	0.23-0.62	
8	802	Layer		Levelling deposit	Type 1 gravel in greyish pink sandy silt matrix: levelling deposit below 800	>32.8	>13.1	0.12	
8	803	Layer		Levelling deposit	Large roughly hewn limestone blocks; levelling deposit below 801	>10.4	8.5	0.25	
8	804	Layer		Deposit	Mid brownish grey sandy clay, compact with frequent stone and mortar inclusions; deposit below 801	10.6	4.4	0.24	
8	805	Layer		Natural substrate	Light greyish yellow sandy silt, compact	>32.8	>13.1	-	
8	806	Fill	809	3rd fill of ditch terminus	Mid yellowish grey clayey silt, compact with frequent charcoal inclusions	>2.6	3.9	0.56	C12-C14
8	807	Fill	809	2nd fill of ditch terminus	Light yellowish grey clayey silt, compact with frequent mortar and occasional stone inclusions	>1.15	>1.13	0.23	RB
8	808	Fill	809	1st fill of ditch terminus	Mid grey silty clay, compact with occasional stone inclusions	>1.01	>1.07	>0.34	C11-C13
8	809	Cut		Cut of ditch terminus	WNW/ESE aligned linear terminus with steeply sloping sides	>2.6	3.9	>0.95	
8	810	Fill	811	Fill of ditch terminus	Light greyish yellow silty clay, compact with occasional stone inclusions	>0.34	>0.80	>0.25	C2-C4
8	811	Cut		Cut of ditch terminus	WNW/ESE aligned linear terminus with moderately sloping sides	>24	6.4	>0.25	
8	812	Fill	816	4th fill of ditch	Mid brownish yellow silty clay, compact with	>4.2	>1.6	0.32	RB



					occasional stone and CBM inclusions; possible alluvial deposit				
8	813	Fill	816	3rd fill of ditch	Mid brownish grey silty clay, compact with occasional stone inclusions	>0.50	>2.12	0.23	
8	814	Fill	816	2nd fill of ditch	Mid bluish grey silty clay, compact with occasional CBM fragments	>0.50	>2.4	>0.47	
8	815	Fill	816	1st fill of ditch	Light greyish brown silty clay, compact with occasional CBM fragments	>0.50	0.81	0.42	
8	816	Cut		Cut of ditch	NW/SE aligned linear with vertical sides and flat stepped base	>9.6	>6.1	>0.67	
8	817	Fill	835	2nd fill of ditch	Mid greenish grey silty clay, compact	>9.6	>2.28	>0.74	RB
8	818	Cut		Cut of ditch	NW/SE aligned linear with steeply sloping, stepped side; recut of 816/835 on NE side, same as 822	>6.7	>1.26	>0.81	
8	819	Fill	818	Fill of ditch	Dark greenish grey silty clay, compact with occasional stone inclusions	>6.7	>1.26	>0.81	
8	820	Cut		Cut of ditch	WNW/ESE aligned linear with steeply sloping sides; same as 811 and 825	>24	6.4	>0.9	
8	821	Fill	820	Fill of ditch	Dark greenish grey silty clay, friable with frequent stone and occasional CBM and charcoal inclusions	>4.1	>4.2	0.72	MC3-C4
8	822	Cut		Cut of ditch	NW/SE aligned linear with steeply sloping, stepped side; recut of 816/835 on NE side, same as 818	>6.7	>1.31	>0.41	
8	823	Fill	822	1st fill of ditch	Dark greenish grey silty clay, compact with occasional stone inclusions	>6.7	>1.31	>0.41	MC3-C4
8	824	Fill	822	2nd fill of ditch	Mid brownish yellow silty clay, compact with occasional stone and CBM inclusions	>3.8	>0.53	0.15	C12-C14
8	825	Cut		Cut of ditch terminus	WNW/ESE aligned linear terminus with moderately sloping sides; same as 811/820	>24	6.4	>0.34	
8	826	Fill		1st fill of ditch terminus	Mid yellowish grey silty clay, compact with occasional charcoal inclusions	>1.22	0.46	>0.34	
8	827	Fill		2nd fill of ditch terminus	Dark greenish grey silty clay, compact with occasional stone, CBM and charcoal inclusions	>0.94	>0.64	>0.34	C11-C13
8	828	Structure		Drain	Red brick drain, arched, aligned NNW/SSE, with buff sandy mortar	>5.8	0.45	>0.36	Post-med
8	829	Structure		Drain	Red brick drain, arched, aligned NE/SW, with buff sandy mortar	>3.7	0.45	>0.22	Post-med
8	830	Fill	820	Fill of ditch	Black clayey silt, friable	>2.5	>2.52	>0.2	
8	831	Fill	820	Fill of ditch	Light greenish grey silty clay, compact	>0.5	>2.4	>0.1	
8	832	Fill	820	Fill of ditch	Mid grey silty clay, compact	>0.5	>1.2	>0.2	
8	833	Fill	820	Fill of ditch	Mid greyish blue silty clay, compact with occasional stone inclusions	>0.5	>3.64	>0.1	
8	834	Fill	835	1st fill of ditch	Mid bluish grey silty clay, compact	>0.5	>1.4	>0.46	RB
8	835	Cut		Cut of ditch	NW/SE aligned truncated linear with steeply sloping,	>0.5	>0.4	>0.06	

					stepped side; NE side of 816, recut by 818 and 820				
8	836	Fill	820	Fill of ditch	Mid yellowish brown silty clay, compact with occasional stone inclusions	>2.5	>3.0	0.25	
8	837	Fill	844	Fill of ditch	Dark greyish brown silty clay, friable with frequent stone inclusions	>0.5	>5.4	0.15	
8	838	Fill	844	Fill of ditch	Dark bluish grey silty clay, compact with occasional stone inclusions	>0.5	>3.94	0.52	
8	839	Fill	844	Fill of ditch	Black clayey silt, friable	>0.5	>4.9	0.1	
8	840	Fill	841	Fill of pit	Light greyish brown silty clay, compact with frequent orange sand patches	1.7	>0.9	>0.85	
8	841	Cut		Cut of pit	Sub circular feature, partially exposed with steeply sloping stepped sides	1.7	>0.9	>0.9	
8	842	Fill	844	Fill of ditch	Mid bluish grey silty clay, compact	>0.5	>3.0	>0.54	
8	843	Fill	844	Fill of ditch	Mid greyish yellow silty clay, compact with occasional CBM fragments	>0.5	>0.74	>0.9	
8	844	Cut		Cut of ditch	WNW/ESE aligned linear with steeply sloping stepped side	>0.5	>5.74	>0.9	
8	845	Fill	850	Construction cut backfill	Mid greyish yellow silty clay, compact with occasional CBM fragments	>0.5	>0.35	>0.44	
8	846	Cut		Cut of ditch	WNW/ESE aligned linear with flat base/stepped side	>1.5	>2.0	0.47	
8	847	Fill	850	Construction cut backfill	Light orangey yellow sand and gravel	>4.0	0.71	0.7	
8	848	Structure	850	Wall footing	Red brick footing for standing building wall with grey mortar	>4.0	>0.2	>0.2	Post-med
8	849	Structure	850	Wall foundation	Mid yellowish stone and sand foundation for wall footing 848	>4.0	>0.2	>0.4	
8	850	Cut		Construction cut	Linear with vertical sides; construction cut for wall foundation 849 and footing 848	>4.0	>0.71	0.73	
8	851	Layer	846	3rd fill of ditch	Dark greyish blue silty clay, compact	>1.5	>2.0	0.22	
8	852	Layer	846	2nd fill of ditch	Dark greyish brown clayey silt, compact	>1.5	>2.0	0.2	
8	853	Layer	846	1st fill of ditch	Mid greyish blue silty clay, compact	>1.5	>2.0	0.1	

## APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code/ NRFRC*	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
304	Post-medieval ceramic building material	Brick <803>		1	4745	Post-medieval
406	Roman ceramic building material	Fragment		2	81	RB
408	Roman pottery	Severn Valley (oxidised) ware	TF11b/ <b>SVW OX2</b>	2	41	Post-medieval
	Roman pottery	Oxford White-slipped ware	TF9w/ <b>OXF WS</b>	1	55	
	Roman ceramic building material	Fragment		3	213	
	Post-medieval ceramic building material	Brick		1	217	
	Iron	Nail		1	27	
409	Roman pottery	Southeast Dorset Black-burnished ware	TF4/ <b>DOR BB1</b>	1	3	C2-C4
	Roman pottery	Severn Valley (oxidised) ware	TF11b/ <b>SVW OX2</b>	1	14	
	Roman pottery	Sandy oxidised fabric	OXS	1	8	
410	Roman pottery	Severn Valley (oxidised) ware	TF11b/ <b>SVW OX2</b>	2	51	RB
	Roman ceramic building material	Imbrex		1	99	
416	Roman pottery	Severn Valley (oxidised) ware	TF11b/ <b>SVW OX2</b>	2	29	MC12-C14
	Roman pottery	Central Gaulish samian	TF8a/ <b>LEZ SA2</b>	1	1	
	Medieval pottery	Malvernian unglazed ware	TF40	1	29	
	Medieval pottery	Minety ware	TF44	1	27	
	Roman ceramic building material	Fragment		4	527	
	Iron	Nail		1	3	
421	Roman ceramic building material	Fragment		2	77	RB
611	Roman pottery	Southeast Dorset Black-burnished ware	TF4/ <b>DOR BB1</b>	1	13	C2-C4
	Roman pottery	Severn Valley (oxidised) ware	TF11b/ <b>SVW OX2</b>	2	177	
	Roman ceramic building material	Imbrex		1	115	
705	Roman pottery	Severn Valley (oxidised) ware	TF11b/ <b>SVW OX2</b>	1	11	C11-C13
	Roman pottery	Severn Valley (oxidised) ware - charcoal-tempered variant	TF17	1	57	
	Medieval pottery	Cotswold oolitic limestone-tempered ware	TF41	1	19	
	Roman ceramic building material	Fragment		3	59	
806	Roman pottery	Central Gaulish samian	TF8a/ <b>LEZ SA2</b>	2	5	C12-C14
	Roman pottery	Southeast Dorset Black-burnished ware	TF4/ <b>DOR BB1</b>	4	67	
	Roman pottery	Severn Valley (oxidised) ware	TF11b/ <b>SVW OX2</b>	2	90	
	Roman pottery	Local micaceous ware	TF11a	2	13	
	Roman pottery	North Gaulish whiteware	TF9v/ <b>NOG WH4</b>	1	77	

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code/ NRFRC*	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
	Medieval pottery	Cotswold oolitic limestone-tempered ware	TF41	6	159	
	Medieval pottery	Malvernian unglazed ware	TF40	1	16	
	Roman ceramic building material	Tegula, imbrex, fragments		11	569	
	Iron	Nail		1	8	
807	Roman pottery	Severn Valley (oxidised) ware	TF11b/ <b>SVW OX2</b>	1	4	RB
808	Roman pottery	Severn Valley (oxidised) ware	TF11b/ <b>SVW OX2</b>	2	44	C11-C13
	Medieval pottery	Cotswold oolitic limestone-tempered ware	TF41	1	7	
	Roman ceramic building material	Fragment		4	195	
810	Roman pottery	Southeast Dorset Black-burnished ware	TF4/ <b>DOR BB1</b>	2	13	C2-C4
	Roman pottery	Local micaceous ware	TF11a	1	3	
812	<i>Opus signinum</i>			1	18	RB
817	Roman ceramic building material	Tegula, fragment		2	542	RB
821	Roman pottery	Central Gaulish samian	TF8a/ <b>LEZ SA2, LMV SA</b>	2	11	MC3-C4
	Roman pottery	Southeast Dorset Black-burnished ware	TF4/ <b>DOR BB1</b>	1	54	
	Roman pottery	Local colour-coated ware	TF12d	1	9	
823	Roman pottery	Southeast Dorset Black-burnished ware	TF4/ <b>DOR BB1</b>	3	14	MC3-C4
	Roman pottery	Oxford Red-slipped ware	TF9x/ <b>OXF RS</b>	1	8	
	Roman pottery	Local micaceous ware	TF11a	3	10	
	Roman ceramic building material	Tegula, fragments		5	486	
	Fired Clay			1	4	
824	Roman pottery	Severn Valley (oxidised) ware	TF11b/ <b>SVW OX2</b>	6	59	C12-C14
	Roman pottery	Severn Valley (oxidised) ware - charcoal-tempered variant	TF17	1	57	
	Medieval pottery	Cotswold oolitic limestone-tempered ware	TF41	1	4	
	Medieval pottery	Malvernian unglazed ware	TF40	1	11	
	Roman ceramic building material	Fragment		10	232	
827	Roman pottery	Severn Valley (oxidised) ware	TF11b/ <b>SVW OX2</b>	1	2	C11-C13
	Medieval pottery	Cotswold oolitic limestone-tempered ware	TF41	1	8	
	Roman ceramic building material	Fragment		4	196	
834	Roman ceramic building material	Brick		1	391	RB

\* National Roman Fabric Reference Collection codes in bold

## APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

**Table 1:** Identified animal species by fragment count (NISP) and weight and context.

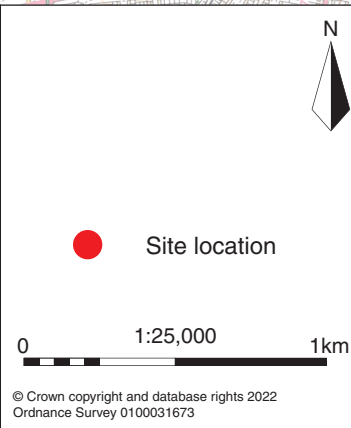
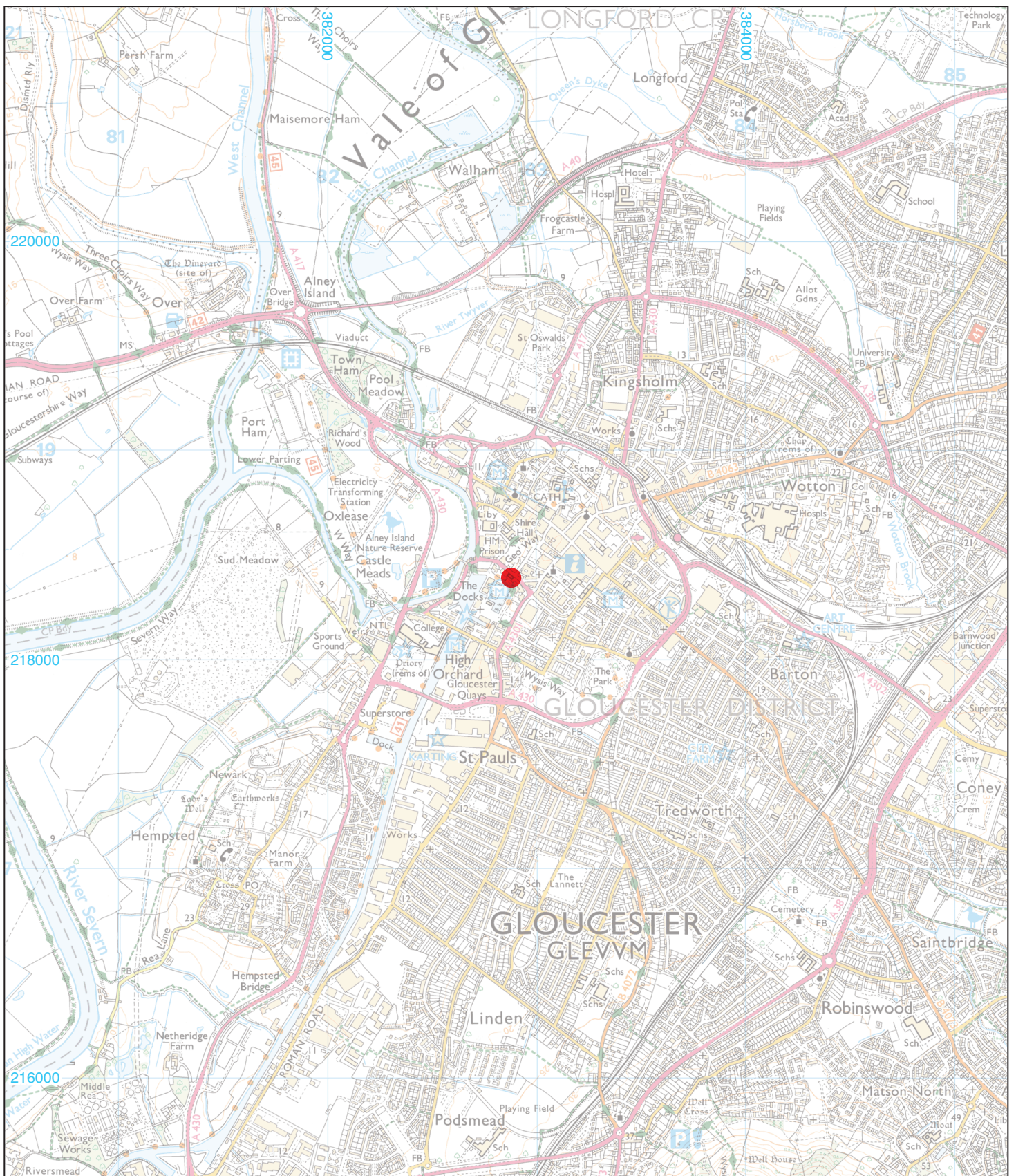
Cut	Fill	BOS	O/C	SUS	EQ	Canis	GAL	F/A	LM	MM	Ind	Total	Weight (g)
411	408	1	1							5		7	73
411	409	2	2							3	3	10	68
411	410	1	1	1			1			1		5	31
418	416		1		1							2	12
607	611									2		2	18
809	806	2	1	2		1	4	15	10	7		42	363
809	807			1						2		3	69
809	808		1							1		2	8
822	823		3						2	1		6	101
822	824			1					1	3		5	58
825	827	1	1									2	37
835	817				2							2	341
<b>Total</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>88</b>	
<b>Weight</b>		<b>135</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1179</b>	

BOS = Cattle; O/C = sheep/goat; SUS = pig; EQ = horse; canis = dog; Gal = galliforms; F/A = fish/amphibian; LM = large sized mammal; MM = medium size mammal; Ind = indeterminate

## APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project name	23-25 and 27-29 Commercial Road, Gloucester, Gloucestershire	
Short description	<p>Between March and November 2021, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with development at 23-25 and 27-29 Commercial Road, Gloucester, Gloucestershire.</p> <p>The watching brief identified a number of archaeological features, primarily comprising multiple phases of substantial ditches, immediately outwith the line of the Roman and medieval city walls of Gloucester.</p> <p>Two of the identified ditches correlate closely with the alignment of the Roman defences along the south-western circuit of the town and it is possible that they represent an associated defensive ditch.</p> <p>Despite the preponderance of Roman artefacts recovered from a number of the other ditches identified during the watching brief, for the most part this material appears to represent residual material within later medieval features. Evidence from the current works, along with a preceding archaeological evaluation and a geotechnical borehole suggests that one of these ditches may represent part of a substantial defensive ditch associated with a medieval motte and bailey castle previously identified to the north of the current site.</p> <p>No evidence of 17th-century civil war defences, thought to run through the site, were identified during the current works.</p>	
Project dates	1 March – 28 November 2021	
Project type	Watching brief	
Previous work	Archaeological and Historic Building Assessment (CA 2016a) Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief (CA 2016b) Archaeological Watching Brief (CA 2018)	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site location	23-25 and 27-29 Commercial Road, Gloucester, Gloucestershire	
Study area (m <sup>2</sup> /ha)	780m <sup>2</sup>	
Site co-ordinates	382898 218388	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator	N/A	
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Laurent Coleman and Steven Sheldon	
Project Supervisor	Christian Day and Liam Wilson	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	<b>Intended final location of archive:</b>	<b>Content:</b>
Physical	Museum of Gloucester	Pottery CBM, Iron objects, animal bone
Paper	Museum of Gloucester	Context sheets, trench recording forms, permatrace drawings, photographic registers, report
Digital	Museum of Gloucester	Digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
Cotswold Archaeology 2022 <i>23-25 and 27-29 Commercial Road, Gloucester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> CA Report No. <b>CR0111_1</b>		





**Cotswold Archaeology**

Andover 01264 347630  
 Cirencester 01285 771022  
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660  
 Suffolk 01449 900120  
[www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk)  
[enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk)

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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 23-25 and 27-29 Commercial Road,  
 Gloucester, Gloucestershire

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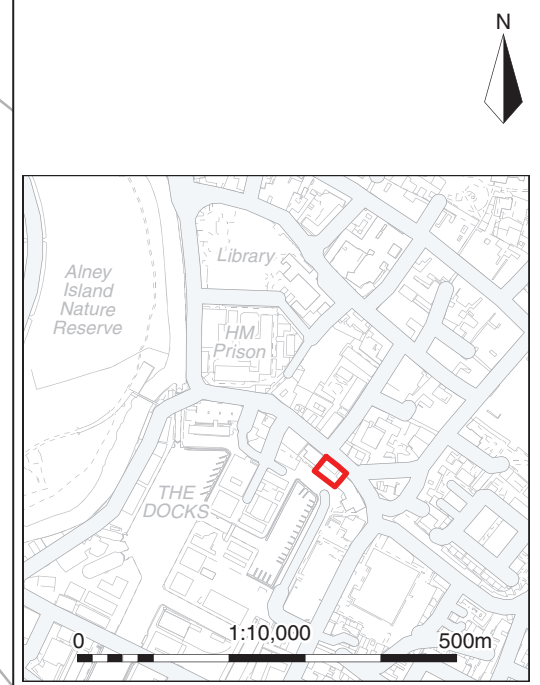
**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan

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<b>CHECKED BY</b>	<b>RP</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>10/02/2022</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>APPROVED BY</b>	<b>SS</b>	<b>SCALE@A4</b>	<b>1:25,000</b>	

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- Site boundary
- Excavated area
- Sondage
- Archaeological feature  
(excavated/unexcavated)
- Previous excavation trench  
(Cotswold Archaeology 2016)
- Previous excavation sondage
- Previous archaeological feature
- Post-medieval / modern structure
- Standing building footprint
- Modern
- Alluvium
- Ⓐ ↕ Ⓐ Section location



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[www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk)  
[enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk)

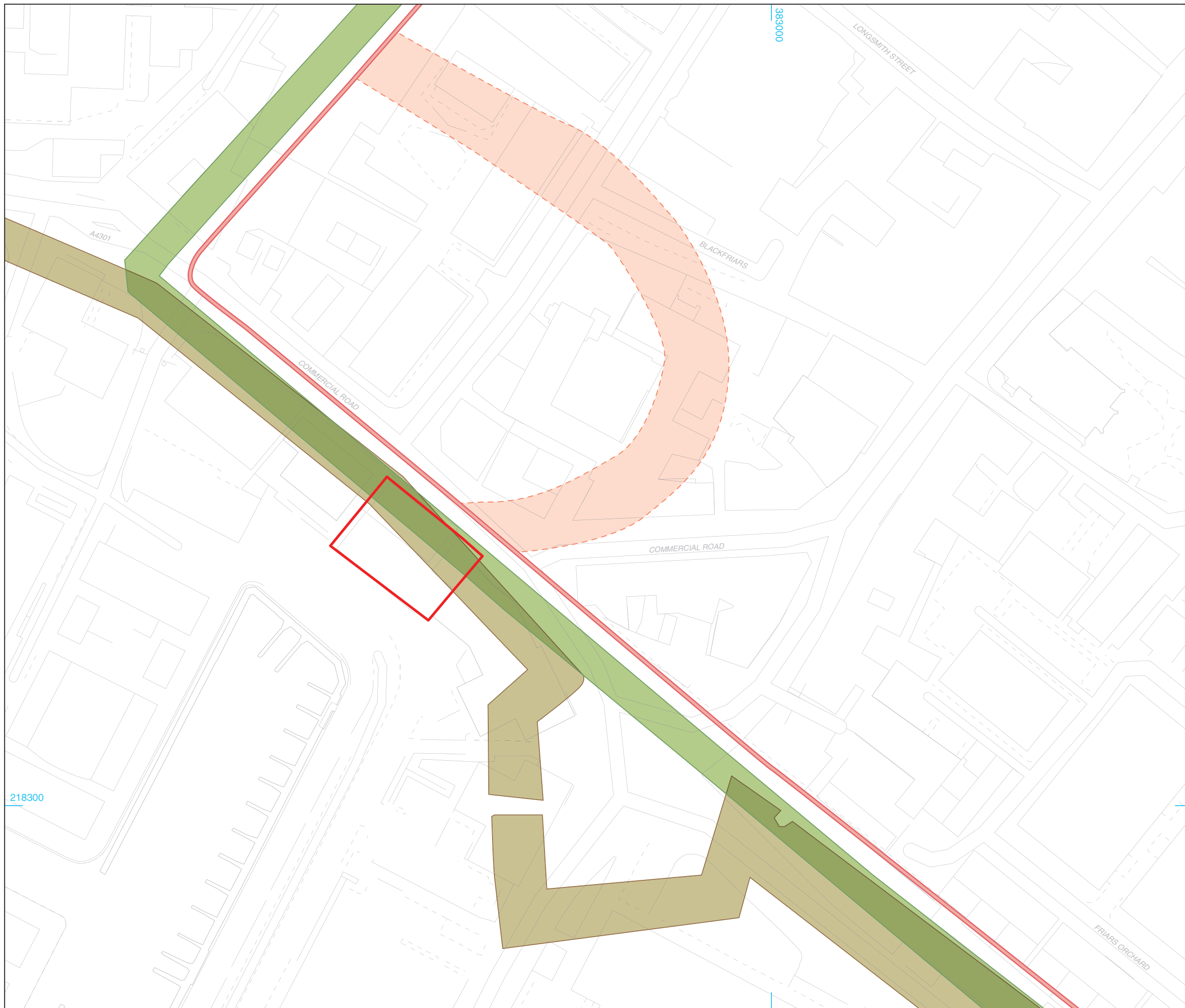
**PROJECT TITLE**  
 23-25 and 27-29 Commercial Road,  
 Gloucester, Gloucestershire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 The site, showing areas of observed  
 groundworks, identified archaeological features,  
 and previous archaeological works

<small>DRAWN BY</small> KM	<small>PROJECT NO.</small> CR0111	<small>FIGURE NO.</small>	
<small>CHECKED BY</small> RP	<small>DATE</small> 03/05/2023		
<small>APPROVED BY</small> SS	<small>SCALE@A3</small> 1:125 & 1:10,000		<b>2</b>

218350

382900



- Site boundary
- Postulated Norman motte and bailey ditch
- Civil War defences (Rhodes 2014)
- Roman and medieval town wall
- Remains of medieval town ditch



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 Milton Keynes 01908 564660  
 Suffolk 01449 900120  
[www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk)  
[enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk)

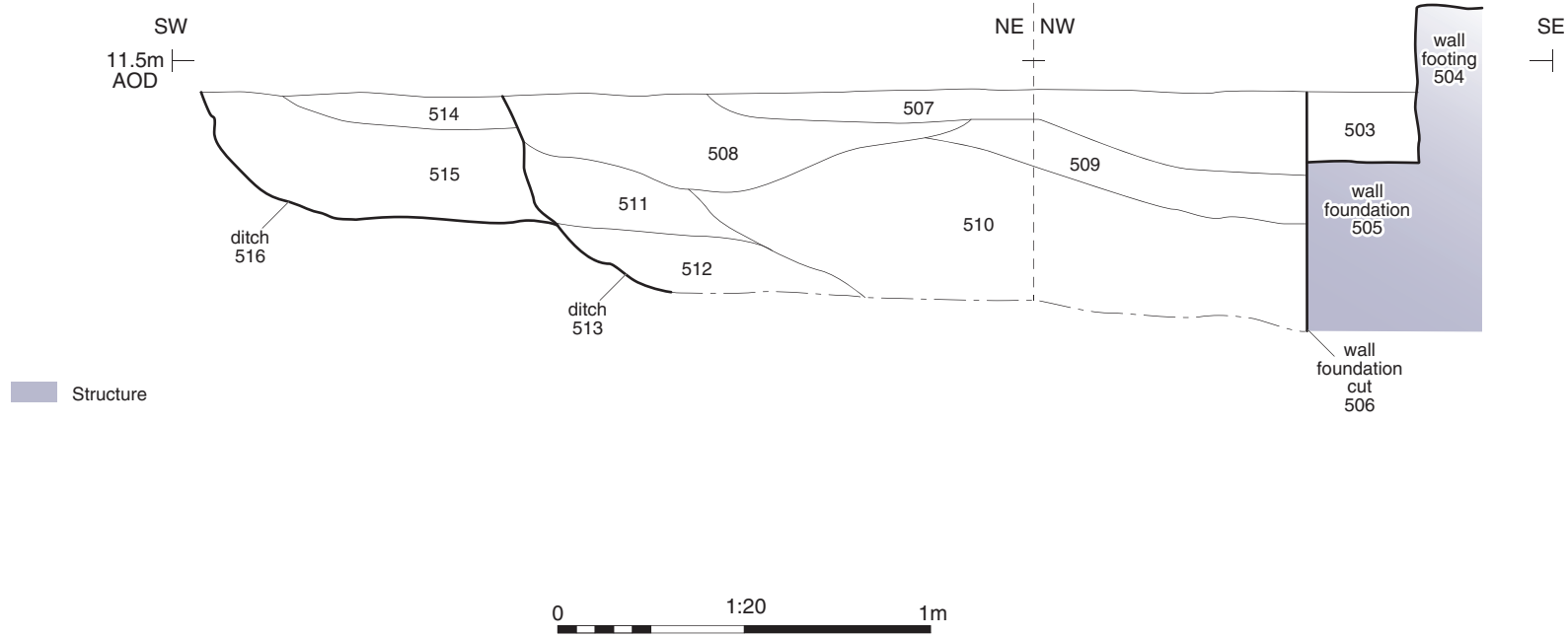
**PROJECT TITLE**  
 23-25 and 27-29 Commercial Road,  
 Gloucester, Gloucestershire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Study area location showing location  
 of historic fortifications

<small>DRAWN BY</small> KM	<small>PROJECT NO.</small> CR0111	<small>FIGURE NO.</small>
<small>CHECKED BY</small> RP	<small>DATE</small> 14/02/2022	<b>3</b>
<small>APPROVED BY</small> SS	<small>SCALE@A3</small> 1:1000	



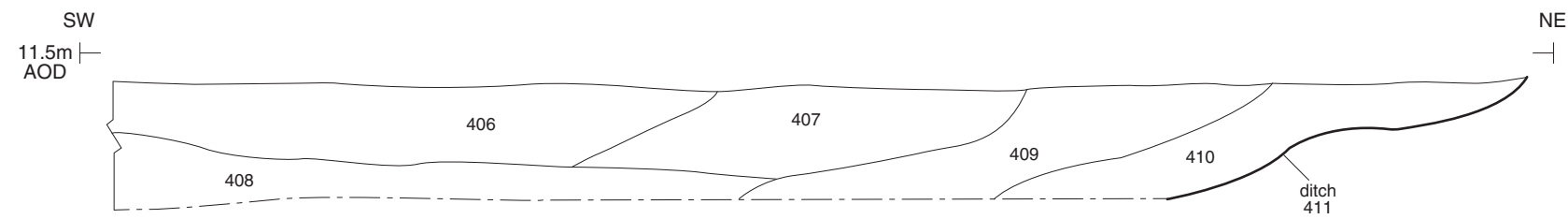
Section CC



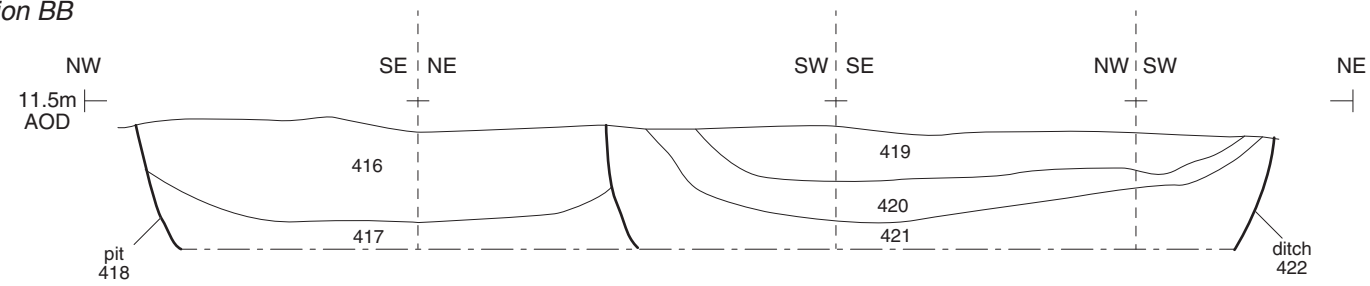
Ditches 513 and 516, looking north-west (scale 1m)



Section AA



Section BB



Ditch 411, looking north-east (scale 1m)



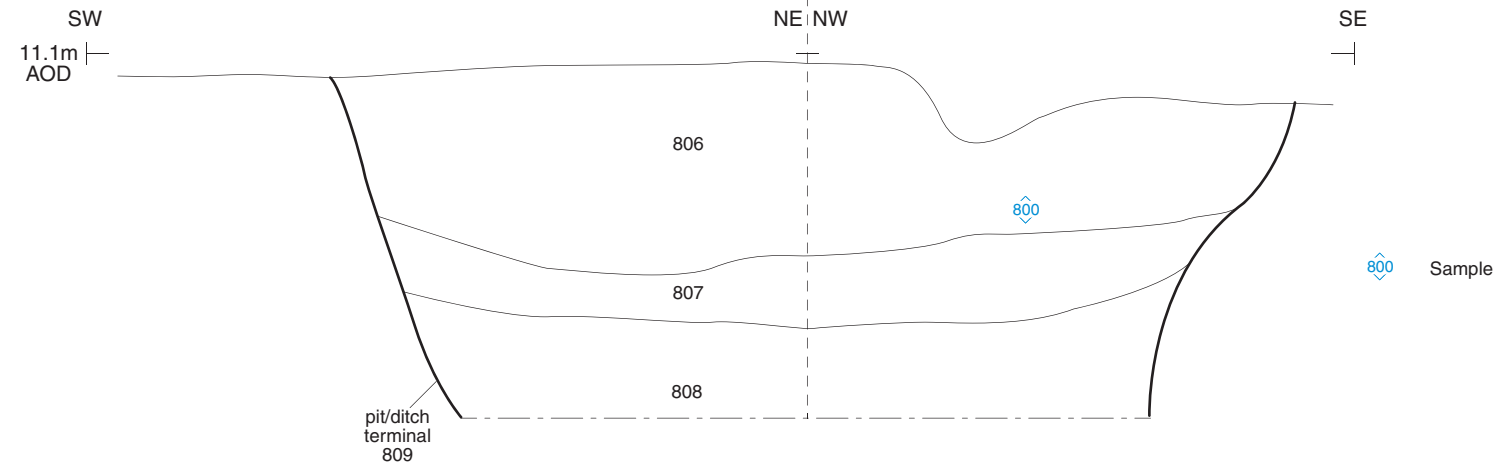
Ditch 411, looking north-west (scale 1m)



Pit 418 and ditch 422, looking north (scale 0.4m)

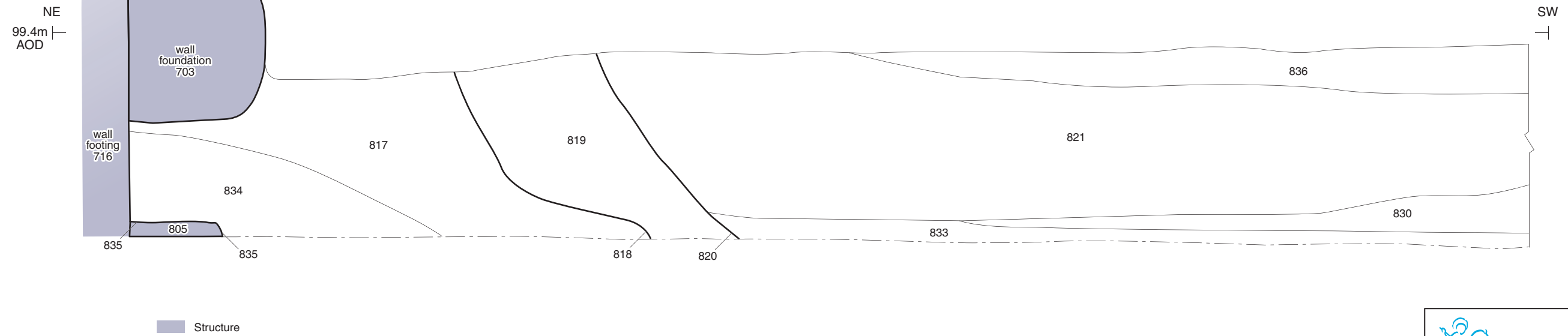


Section DD

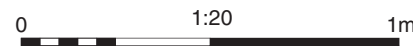


Pit 809, looking north-west (scale 1m)

Section EE



Structure



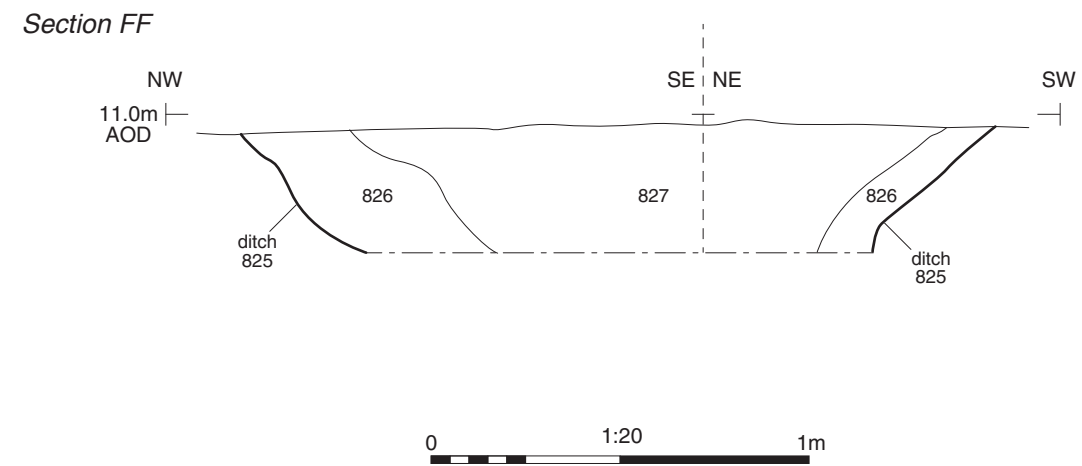
**Cotswold Archaeology**  
 Andover 01264 347630  
 Cirencester 01285 771022  
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660  
 Suffolk 01449 900120  
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk  
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

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FIGURE TITLE  
**Trench 8: sections and photograph**

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CHECKED BY	RP	DATE	03/05/2023	6
APPROVED BY	SS	SCALE	@A3 1:20	





Ditch 825, looking south-east (scale 0.4m)



Trench 8 with ditch 825, looking south-east (scales 1m)



Trench 8, looking north-east (scales 1m)

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Andover 01264 347630  
 Cirencester 01285 771022  
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660  
 Suffolk 01449 900120  
[www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk)  
[enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk)

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FIGURE TITLE  
**Trench 8: section and photographs**

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CHECKED BY	RP	DATE	08/02/2022	7
APPROVED BY	SS	SCALE@A3	1:20	





Culvert 105, looking east (scale 1m)



Rear (dockside) elevation of 27-29 (left) and 23-25 (right) Commercial Road



Trench 6 showing brick vaulted sub-basement and reduced ground levels


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

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FIGURE TITLE  
**Photographs**

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CHECKED BY	RP	DATE	14/02/2022	8
APPROVED BY	SS	SCALE@A3	NA	



