

**BINGHAM HALL  
KING STREET  
CIRENCESTER  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

*For*

**THE BINGHAM HALL TRUST**


CA PROJECT: 3347  
CA REPORT: 11057

FEBRUARY 2011

THE BINGHAM HALL  
KING STREET  
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CA PROJECT: 3347  
CA REPORT: 11057

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date	28 January 2011
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date	18 February 2011
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signed	
date	23 February 2011
issue	01

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- Fig. 2 Plan showing area of intrusive groundworks (1:250)

## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Bingham Hall  
**Location:** King Street, Cirencester, Gloucestershire  
**NGR:** SP 02785 01360  
**Type:** Watching Brief  
**Date:** 27 January 2011  
**Planning Reference:** 08/03451//FUL  
**Location of Archive:** To be deposited with Corinium Museum

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a single story linked extension at Bingham Hall, King Street, Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

Intrusive groundworks did not exceed the depth of topsoil. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In January 2011 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for The Bingham Hall Trust at Bingham Hall, King Street, Cirencester, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SP 02785 01360; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to planning consent for a single storey linked extension built on a reinforced concrete raft foundation (Planning ref: 08/03451//FUL). The objective of the watching brief was to record any archaeological remains exposed during the development.
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out at the request of Mr Charles Parry, Senior Archaeological Officer, Gloucestershire County Council, and with a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2011) and approved by Cotswold District Council acting on the advice of Charles Parry. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (IfA 2008), the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Gloucestershire* (GCC 1995), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991), the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006). It was monitored by Charles Parry.

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The site lies to the rear of the existing Bingham Hall at approximately 108m AOD, sloping slightly upwards from the north-west to the south-east. Prior to development the area was laid to lawn.
- 1.4 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Forest Marble Formation of the Middle Jurassic with superficial gravel river terrace deposits (BGS 2011). The natural substrate was not reached within any of the excavations.

### ***Archaeological background***

- 1.5 The development area lies within Insula IX of the Roman town of *Corinium Dobunorum*, the *civitas* or tribal capital of the *Dubonni*. Although it lies outside of the notification areas of the Scheduled Monument, *Corinium Roman Town* (Glos SM

361), a number of important archaeological deposits and features have been recorded both within and close to the proposed development area.

- 1.6 In 1908, part of a Roman building (Building IX,3, McWhirr, 1986, 193) and a north to south orientated Roman street, presumed to be Ermin Street, were revealed during construction work for the Bingham Hall (see Fig. 2 for location and extent) . In 1929 a mosaic was uncovered 12m north-east of the Bingham Hall. Excavations undertaken in 1958 between the Bingham Hall and Victoria Road, again revealed the mosaic, along with structural remains of at least one further building (Building IX, 4, McWhirr, 1986, 193). The building contained a polygonal structure, broadly interpreted as a heated *triclinium*, and a twin apsed room, interpreted as a *caldarium* of a small domestic bath house (Holbrook, 1994).
- 1.7 It has been suggested (*ibid*) that the arrangements of the rooms within Building IX,3 may represent a winged corridor house, sited adjacent to Ermin Street. Although it remains unclear whether Building IX,3 and Building IX,4 are part of the same domestic complex, broad comparisons may be drawn with the building at Woolaston, Gloucestershire where an octagonal room lay to the rear of a corridorred façade.
- 1.8 Archaeological evaluation (2000) and subsequent excavation (2002) within the grounds of Bingham Hall recorded street metalling and a road side ditch associated with Ermin Street. Adjacent to the roadside ditch, evidence for a portico and for buildings was also revealed (Havard and Watts 2008).
- 1.9 No evidence of medieval activity is recorded within the general vicinity of the study area, and it is suggested the study area lay outside of the township boundary of medieval Cirencester (Slater, 1976).
- 1.10 Within the post-medieval period, cartographic evidence from the Cirencester Tithe Map (1838) indicates the development area was contained within the nurseries and orchards which filled the southern half of the town (Gerrard, 1994). The Ordnance Survey First Edition map of 1875 illustrates the study area as part of the grounds of Watermoor House.

## **Methodology**

- 1.11 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2011). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks consisting of excavations for a reinforced concrete raft foundation (Fig. 2). Excavation was both by hand and by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless bucket typically to a depth of 0.2m below the present ground level (bpgl), although five small areas were excavated to depths of 0.4 bpgl (see Fig. 2 for locations and extent)
- 1.12 The location of groundworks was planned by hand and levels acquired from Leica GPS survey data.
- 1.13 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Corinium Museum, Cirencester. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## **2. RESULTS (FIG. 2)**

- 2.1 The groundworks penetrated only into the topsoil present across the site, from which frequent inclusions of modern brick and stone rubble were recovered.
- 2.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

## **3. DISCUSSION**

- 3.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see archaeological background above), the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. Excavations did not extend beyond the depth of topsoil and no other deposits were observed.

#### 4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by David Parry. The report was written by David Parry. The illustrations were prepared by Jon Bennett. The archive has been compiled by David Parry, and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman

#### 5. REFERENCES

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## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

### Trench 1

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Garden topsoil with brick and stone inclusions			>0.4	Modern

## APPENDIX B: LEVELS OF PRINCIPAL DEPOSITS AND STRUCTURES

Levels are expressed as metres below current ground level and as metres Above Ordnance Datum (AOD), acquired from Leica GPS survey data.

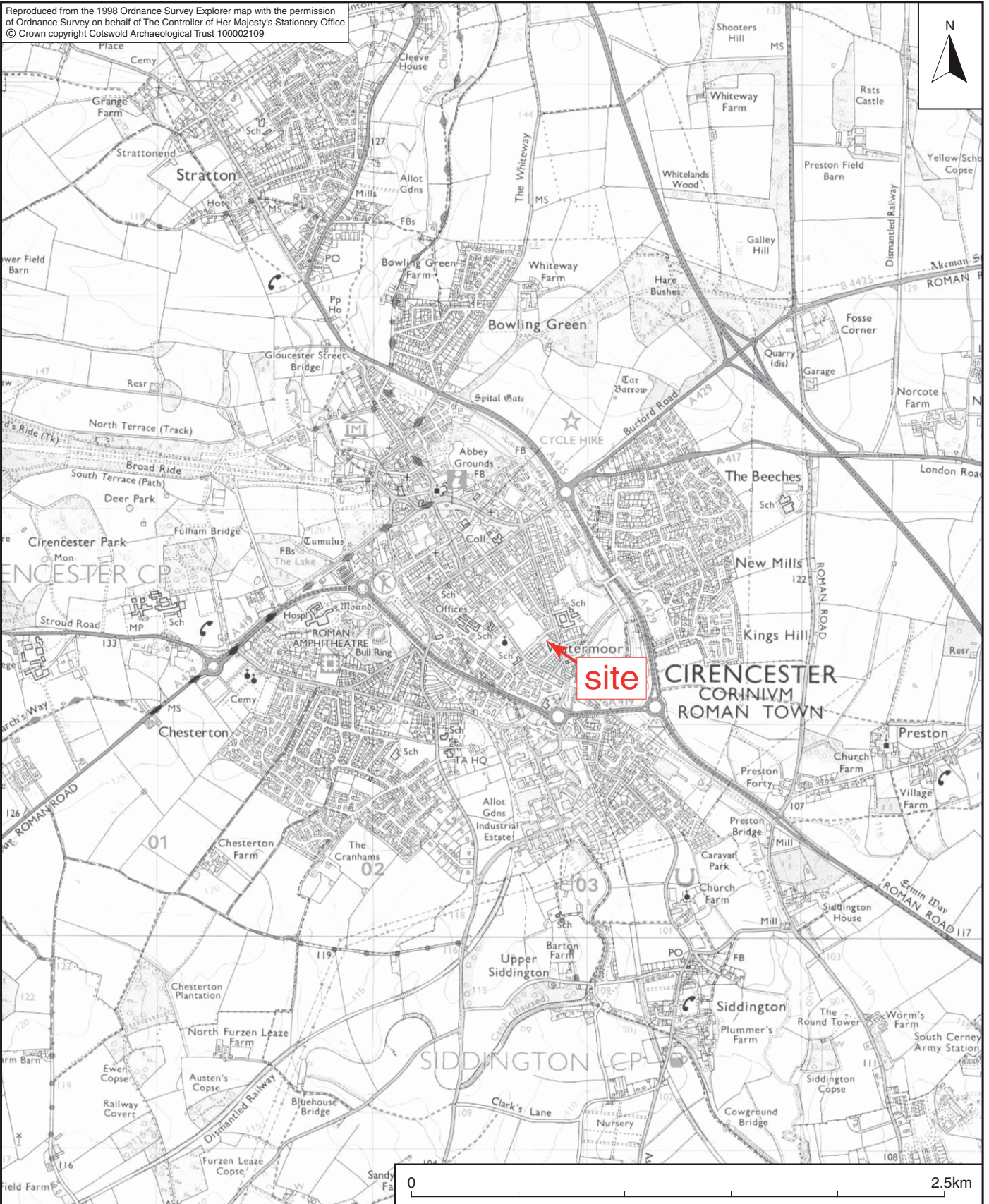
	Trench 1
Current ground level	0.00m (107.85m)
Limit of excavation	0.40m (107.45m)

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

**APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Bingham Hall	
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a single story linked extension at Bingham Hall, King Street, Cirencester, Gloucestershire.</p> <p>Intrusive groundworks did not exceed the depth of topsoil. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.</p>	
Project dates	27 January 2011	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	CA evaluation and excavation (2001 and 2002)	
Future work	None	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	King Street, Cirencester, Gloucestershire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	85m <sup>2</sup>	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SP 02785 01360	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	None provided	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	David Parry	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive (	Content
Physical		None
Paper	Corinium Museum	Trench sheet, photos register, permatrace drawing
Digital	Corinium Museum	Digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011 <i>The Bingham Hall, King Street, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report <b>11057</b>		

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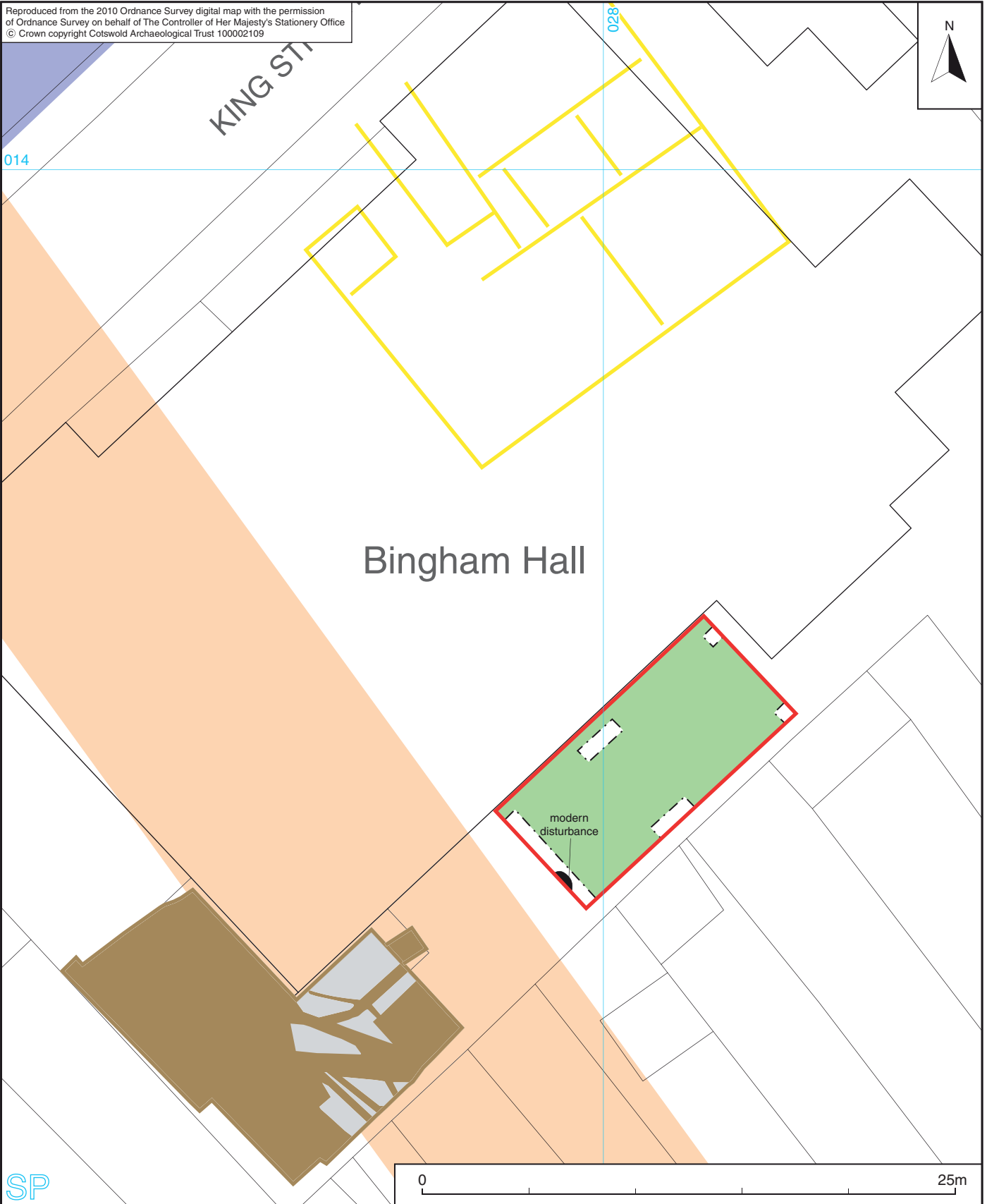


**COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

PROJECT TITLE  
**Bingham Hall, King Street  
 Cirencester, Gloucestershire**

FIGURE TITLE  
**Site location plan**

DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
JB	1:25,000@A4	3347	<b>1</b>



SP

- site
- area of observed groundworks
- foundation pads (excavated to 107.5m AOD)
- area of previous archaeological works showing features (CA 2008)
- Roman buildings (McWhirr, 1986, Building IX.3)
- limit of scheduled monument
- projected course of Roman road



**COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

PROJECT TITLE

**Bingham Hall, King Street  
Cirencester, Gloucestershire**

FIGURE TITLE

**Plan showing area of intrusive  
groundworks**

DRAWN BY

JB

SCALE

1:250@A4

PROJECT NO.

3347

FIGURE NO.

**2**