

**74 AND 76 LONDON ROAD
GLOUCESTER
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

For

BUTLER SILCOCK

on behalf of

CRADLE DEVELOPMENTS LTD


CA PROJECT: 3316
CA REPORT: 11002

JANUARY 2011

74 AND 76 LONDON ROAD
GLOUCESTER
GLOUCESTERSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CA PROJECT: 3316
CA REPORT: 11002

prepared by	Diarmuid ó Seaneachain, Project Supervisor
date	4 January 2011
checked by	Laurent Coleman, Project Manager
date	14 January 2011
approved by	Simon Cox, Head of Fieldwork
signed	
date	14 January 2011
issue	01

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.

CONTENTS

SUMMARY	2
1. INTRODUCTION	3
2. RESULTS (FIGS 1-2)	6
3. DISCUSSION.....	7
4. CA PROJECT TEAM	7
5. REFERENCES	7
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	9
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS	9
APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM.....	10

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
Fig. 2 Trench location plan (1:500)

SUMMARY

Project Name: 74 and 76 London Road
Location: Gloucester, Gloucestershire
NGR: SO 8401 1885
Type: Evaluation
Date: 20-22 December 2010
Location of Archive: Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery
Accession Number: GLRCM: 2010.27
Site Code: LOB 10

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in December 2010 at 74 and 76 London Road, Gloucester, Gloucestershire. Two test pits were excavated.

Excavation of the two test pits to a depth of 1m below current ground level revealed post-medieval/modern cultivation soils.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In December 2010 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Butler Silcock on behalf of Cradle Developments Ltd at 74 and 76 London Road, Gloucester, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SO 8401 1885; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application that has been submitted to Gloucester City Council for the development of four houses and the conversion of the coach house at 74 and 76 London Road, Gloucester, Gloucestershire.

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment, Evaluation and Historic Buildings Appraisal: York House, 76 London Road and Hyde Lane, Gloucester* by Jonathan Smith, Historic Environment Manager, Gloucester City Council Heritage Service (GCCHS 2010) and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2010a) and approved by Jonathan Smith. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2008), the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Gloucestershire* (GCC 1995), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide (EH 2006).

The site

1.3 The proposed development area is located on the southern side of London Road, in the northern part of Gloucester approximately 900m east of the city centre (Fig. 1). The site is bounded to the north by London Road, to the east by Hyde Lane, to the south by Royal Lane, and to the west by England's Glory public house and associated car park. The site lies at approximately 17m AOD.

1.4 The proposed development area encloses an area of approximately 0.4ha, and comprises the York public house (76 London Road) and 74 London Road. To the south of York House there is a small garden and a small former stable block.

1.5 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Blue Lias formation and Charmouth mudstone formation of the Rhaetian to Pliensbachian period (BGS 2010). The natural substrate was not encountered during the evaluation.

Archaeological background

- 1.6 The archaeological background is summarised in a desk-based assessment and historic building appraisal prepared by CA (2010b). Extensive Roman deposits have been recorded in the site vicinity, including burials with Wotton cemetery located to the north-east of Roman Gloucester. Roman burials have been recorded in the vicinity of the site, on either side of the Roman road, which passed immediately north of the site. The identification of Roman inhumations in the site vicinity suggested potential for late Roman burials to be present. However, a number of previous archaeological interventions in the site vicinity identified no archaeological deposits, suggesting the distribution of Roman burials may be sporadic.
- 1.7 The site was situated within the medieval agricultural landscape adjacent to London Road, outside of the Saxon and medieval town of Gloucester. There are no recorded Saxon remains within the study area. The site continued to form part of the agricultural hinterland of Gloucester until the 19th century, when residential development expanded along London Road.
- 1.8 York House and an outbuilding to its rear date from the 1830s, although further extensions to the rear date from the late 20th century. Internally, York House has seen considerable modification through its conversion and use as a public house. The ground floor has been considerably altered. On the top floor the original condition is almost unaltered.
- 1.9 The former stable to the south of York House is traditionally-built and is first recorded on the 1886 First Edition Ordnance Survey map. The stable is in relatively poor condition. The buildings within the yard to the south of York House were constructed in the late 20th century.

Archaeological objectives

- 1.10 The objectives of the evaluation were to establish the character, quality, date and extent of any archaeological remains or deposits surviving within the site. This information will assist Gloucester City Council in making an informed judgement on the significance of the archaeological resource, and the likely impact upon it of the proposed development.

Site-specific objectives were:

- To identify any evidence for Roman activity on the site, and if the nature of any such activity changed through the Roman period
- To identify the presence/absence, and if present the nature, of any Saxon and medieval remains
- To identify the presence and nature of any remains of the Industrial Age (1750-1960)

Methodology

- 1.11 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of two test pits in the locations shown on the attached plan (Figure 2). Both test pits were 1.5m in length and 1.5m in width and were hand-dug to a maximum depth of 1m below present ground level (bpgl). The location of Test pits 1 and 2 was adjusted slightly from the WSI to avoid potential live services and modern surface contamination to the rear of 76 London Road. The test pits were set out using tapes, and surveyed on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using a Leica 1200 series SmartRover GPS in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual* (2009).
- 1.12 Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.13 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* (2003). No deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation* (2010).
- 1.14 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery under accession number GLRCM: 2010.27 along with the site archive. 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 (FIGS 1-2)

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B.

Test pit 1 (Fig. 2)

- 2.2 A layer of silty clay 102 was revealed at 0.47m bpgl. This layer was excavated to a depth of 1m bpgl and contained a range of artefacts including animal bone, clay pipe stem and bowl fragments, a nail and a sherd of bottle glass, all of post-medieval date. This was overlain by a thin layer of silty gravel 101, which was in turn sealed by 0.42m of an organic topsoil 100.

Test pit 2 (Fig. 2)

- 2.3 In Test pit 2 a layer of silty clay 204 was encountered at 0.59m bpgl, this was excavated to a depth of 1m bpgl. Two sherds of transfer-print decorated whiteware pottery of 19th-century date were recovered from this deposit. This was overlain by buried topsoil layer 203 which contained post-medieval/modern pottery, clay pipe fragments and animal bone. This in turn was overlain by brick surface 202 and cut into this was the concrete base, 206, for a modern clothes line pole. This was overlain by a shallow modern topsoil deposit 201 and compact modern gravel surface 200.

The Finds Evidence

- 2.4 Pottery and other finds, mostly of modern date, were recovered from three deposits (Appendix B). None of this material will be retained.
- 2.5 A single sherd of medieval pottery was identified as a residual (re-deposited) find in silty gravel layer 102. Fragments of clay tobacco pipe and glass from this deposit suggest dating no earlier than the 18th century. Further clay pipe fragments, including spurred bowl forms of probable 18th-century or earlier 19th-century date were identified from brick surface 203. Transfer-print decorated whiteware pottery of 19th-century date was recorded from deposit 204.
- 2.6 Animal bones were recovered from deposits 102 and 203, with pig and sheep/goat identified to species and more fragmented material classified by size with sheep-sized and cow-sized categories present. The bones are generally well-preserved. One fragment from deposit 203 has been sawn through presumably during butchery.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 No archaeological evidence for Roman or Saxon settlement remains was identified in the test pits. Evidence for medieval activity was confined to a single sherd of pottery, recovered as a residual find.
- 3.2 The earliest excavated layers in both Test pit 1 and Test pit 2 comprised post-medieval/modern cultivation soils.
- 3.3 The fragmentary remains of the brick surface identified in Test pit 2 probably represent a yard surface extending across the southern portion of the garden plot to the rear of the York House. The size and shape of the bricks which form this surface were found to be identical to those used in the construction of the adjacent 19th-century stable and the surface is likely to be contemporary.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Diarmuid Ó Seaneachain, assisted by Thomas Weavill and Luke Brannlund. The report was written by Diarmuid Ó Seaneachain. The illustrations were prepared by Jon Bennett. The archive has been compiled by Diarmuid Ó Seaneachain and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Laurent Coleman

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2010 *Geology of Britain Viewer* 1:50,000
http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html accessed 10
December 2010

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2010a *74 and 76 London Road, Gloucester, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2010b *74 and 76 London Road, Gloucester: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment and Historic Building Appraisal*, CA typescript report
10216

GCCHS (Gloucester City Council Heritage Service) 2010 *York House, 76 London Road and Hyde Lane, Gloucester: Brief for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment, Evaluation and Historic Building Appraisal*

DRAFT

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Test pit 1

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown organic clay silt			0.42	Modern
101	Layer	Orange-brown silty gravel			0.05	Modern
102	Layer	Yellow-brown silty clay with common gravel and occasional fragments of brick			>0.5	C18-C19

Test pit 2

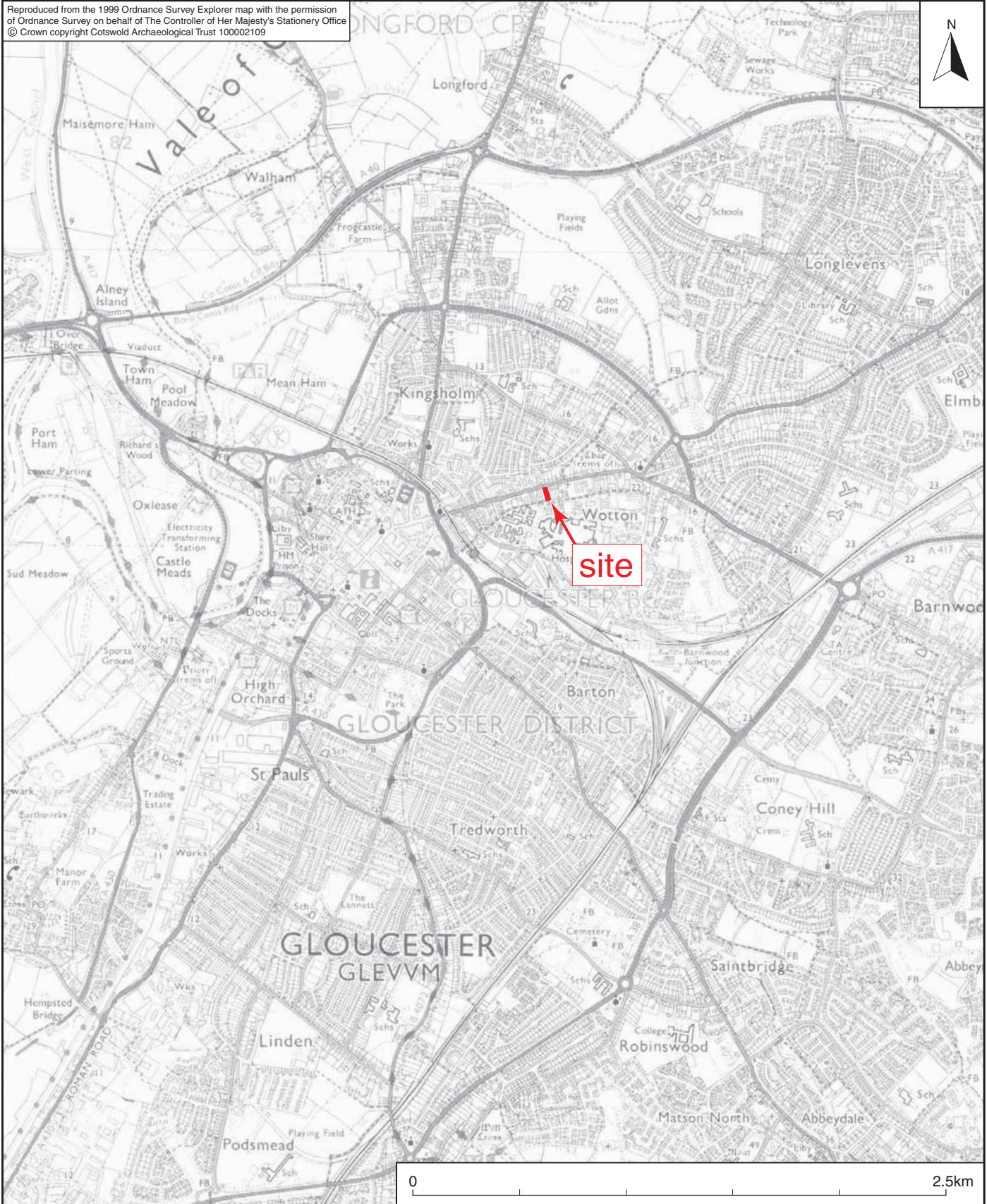
No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
200	Layer	Modern Surface: Greenish grey gravel and sand, firmly compacted.			0.1	Modern
201	Layer	Modern buried topsoil: Dark brown clay silt			0.04	Modern
202	Layer	Red brick surface			0.15	
203	Layer	Old buried topsoil: Dark brown clay silt			0.3	LC18-C19
204	Layer	Yellow-brown silty clay with common gravels and charcoal flecking			>0.45	C19
205	Cut	Cut for the concrete base of a modern clothes line			0.44	
206	Fill	Concrete base of a modern clothes line			0.44	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Description	Count	Weight	Date
102	Medieval pottery: misc sandy jug fabric	1	6	C18-C19
	Clay tobacco pipe: stems; bowl fragment	4	10	
	Bottle glass	1	3	
	Slate	1	56	
	Ceramic building material: brick fragment	1	12	
	Iron nail	1	-	
	Animal bone; cow-sized	1	18	
203	Post-medieval/modern pottery: stoneware; porcelain	2	18	LC18-C19
	Clay tobacco pipe: stems; spurred bowls	5	20	
	Iron object: bar	1	-	
	Bottle glass	1	18	
	Ceramic building material: pantile	1	68	
	Animal bone; pig, sheep/goat, cow-sized, sheep-sized	29	262	
204	Post-medieval/modern pottery: transfer-print decorated refined whiteware	2	30	C19

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	74 and 76 London Road, Gloucester, Gloucestershire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in December 2010 at 74 and 76 London Road, Gloucester. Two test pits were excavated.</p> <p>Excavation of the two test pits to a depth of 1m below current ground level revealed post-medieval/modern cultivation soils.</p>	
Project dates	20-22 December 2010	
Project type	Archaeological Evaluation	
Previous work	Cotswold Archaeology 2010	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	74 and 76 London Road, Gloucester, Gloucestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.4 ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SO 8401 1885	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Jonathan Smith, Historic Environment Manager, Gloucester City Council Heritage Service.	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Laurent Coleman	
Project Supervisor	Diarmuid Ó Seaneachain	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	N/A	Not Retained
Paper	Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery Accession Number GLCM: 2010.27	Trench sheets, context sheets, drawings, drawing register, photographs, slides and registers, bulk finds sheet, WSI, Desk-based assessment
Digital	Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery Accession Number GLCM: 2010.27	Digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2010 <i>74 and 76 London Road, Gloucester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i>. CA typescript report 11002</p>		



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

74 and 76 London Road
Gloucester, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

DRAWN BY

JB

SCALE

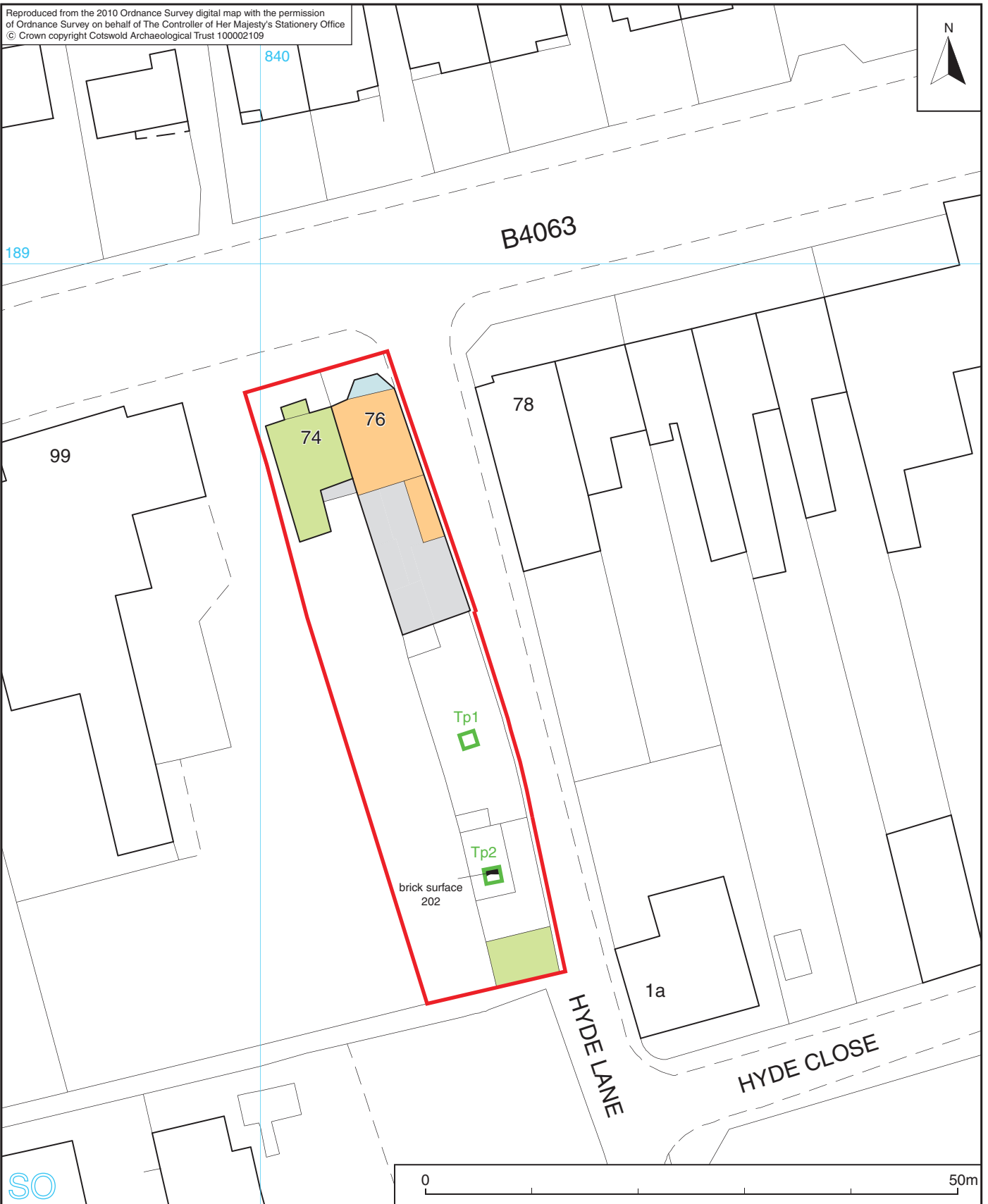
1:25,000@A4

PROJECT NO.

3316

FIGURE NO.

1



site



test pit showing brick surface



building first depicted on 1843 Map of Gloucester



building first depicted on 1886 Ordnance Survey Map



building first depicted on 1902 Ordnance Survey Map



post-1946 building



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

74 and 76 London Road
Gloucester, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Test pit location plan

DRAWN BY

JB

SCALE

1:500@A4

PROJECT NO.

3316

FIGURE NO.

2