

**34 St Peter's Road  
Cirencester  
Gloucestershire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

DRAFT

*for*

**The Environmental Dimension Partnership**

*on behalf of*

**Mr Edward Briggs**


CA Project: 3595  
CA Report: 11306

January 2012

34 St Peter's Road  
Cirencester  
Gloucestershire

## Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 3595  
CA Report: 11306

prepared by	Alexandra Webster, Project Supervisor
date	26 January 2012
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date	26 January 2012
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signed	
date	30 January 2012
issue	01

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## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** 34 St Peter's Road  
**Location:** Cirencester, Gloucestershire  
**NGR:** SP 0217 0166  
**Type:** Watching Brief  
**Date:** 18-19 October 2011  
**SMC:** S00018716  
**Location of Archive:** To be deposited with Corinium Museum  
**Site Code:** SAI11

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the demolition of an existing extension and erection of a single storey extension at 34 St Peter's Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In October 2011 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for The Environmental Dimension Partnership at 34 St Peter's Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SP 0217 0166; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to Scheduled Monument Consent for the demolition of an existing extension and erection of a single storey extension (ref: S00018716). The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the development.
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2011a) and approved by Melanie Barge, Inspector of Ancient Monuments, English Heritage South-West Region. 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* (Gloucestershire County Council 1995), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006).

### **The site**

- 1.3 The development area is approximately 50m<sup>2</sup> and comprised an existing extension and an area of hard-standing to the rear of the property. The property fronts St Peter's Road on its south-eastern side and is bounded on all remaining sides by domestic properties and their associated gardens. The site is roughly flat and lies at approximately 100m AOD. The underlying geology of the area is mapped as Forest Marble of the Middle Jurassic Period (BGS 1946). The geological substrate was not encountered during the watching brief.

### **Archaeological Background**

- 1.4 The development area is sited in an area of high archaeological potential that falls within a notification area of Scheduled Monument Glos. 361 (*Corinium* Roman Town). Previous archaeological investigations have identified Roman street metalling at various locations in the vicinity of St Peter's Road. Extrapolation of this data suggests that the proposed development area lies within *Insula* XXb of the

Roman town of Corinium. A number of high status Roman buildings are recorded from modern archaeological excavations within the immediate area. Of particular relevance was the identification in 1964 of a Roman building containing at least three mosaics within the grounds of Ashcroft House. Further evidence of buildings has been revealed c. 80m north (Reece 1976) and c. 180m to the south (Walker 1991) of the site.

- 1.5 A Roman bath suite has previously been identified 65m to the east in close proximity to (although not necessarily associated with) nine pieces of worked, carved and sculptured stone. The later included reliefs of the Triad of Deae Matres, statuettes, an inscribed altar and columns (Haverfield 1920, 176-184). Mosaics were also revealed in 1891 during the laying out of the Roman Catholic Church (c. 50m to the south-east).
- 1.6 An archaeological evaluation at 24 St Peter's Road was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February 2007 under Class 7 of the Ancient Monuments (Class Consents) Order 1994. Probable Roman demolition debris was encountered at a depth of 0.63m below the present ground level (109.26m AOD) immediately sealed by 'dark earth' and garden deposits (CA 2007).
- 1.7 Archaeological evaluation and subsequent watching brief at 30 St Peter's Road in 2003 identified Roman demolition rubble 0.44m below the present ground level (bpgl) at 109.09m AOD, immediately sealed by modern deposits (CA 2003a and b).
- 1.8 The study area lay within the administrative boundary of the medieval township, then formed by the Querns Lane and Lewis Lane road alignment (Slater 1976, 103), and by the mid sixteenth century formed part of an extensive open area known as Ayshecroft (Slater 1976, fig 6.7).
- 1.9 Ashcroft Road, Ashcroft Gardens and Ashcroft Villas (now St Peter's Road) were developed in the late nineteenth century and are first depicted on the 1902 Ordnance Survey map.
- 1.10 A preceding archaeological evaluation at the site identified no features or deposits pre dating the late post-medieval/modern period (CA 2011b).

### **Methodology**

- 1.11 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2011a). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising the excavation of a reinforced concrete foundation raft with a 400mm thick concrete tie around the perimeter (Fig. 2).
- 1.12 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.13 The archive and artefacts from the watching brief are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. The site archive will be deposited with Corinium Museum, due to the modern date of the finds none of this material will be retained. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## **2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3)**

- 2.1 The earliest deposit encountered was red-brown sandy silt 102, observed at a depth of 0.6m below present ground level (108.35mAOD) and extending beyond the limit of excavation. It contained pottery and glass dating to the 19th century and correlates with deposit 105 revealed during the preceding evaluation (CA 2011b) and it was overlain by grey-brown sandy silt garden soil 101, which was up to 0.55m thick, and also contained 19th century pottery. This was sealed by the concrete foundation slab for the previous extension and the former patio.
- 2.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the current 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. The identified depositional sequence correlated closely with that observed during the preceding evaluation, with 19th century and

later deposits solely being encountered. The absence of archaeological deposits may indicate that structural remains associated with the Roman town of Corinium may have been removed during the construction of St Peter's Road and associated properties in the late 19th century.

#### 4. CA PROJECT TEAM

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

#### 5. REFERENCES

- BGS (British Geological Survey) 1946 *Geological Survey of England and Wales, Sheet 235, Cirencester, 1 inch to 1 mile*
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011a *34 St Peter's Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011b *34 St Peter's Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation CA Report 11106*
- CA 2007 *22 and 24 St Peter's Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*
- CA 2007 *24 St Peter's Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation CA Report 2298*
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2003a *30 St Peter's Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation CA Report No. 03013*
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- Gerrard, C. 1994 'Cyrnceastre: The Early Medieval Period' in Darvill, T. and Gerrard, C. 1994 *Cirencester: Town and Landscape an Urban Archaeological Assessment*. Cotswold Archaeological Trust, Cirencester, 87-97



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Slater, T. 1976 'The town and its regions in the Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods' in A. McWhirr (ed) *Archaeology and History of Cirencester* *BAR* **30**, 81-108

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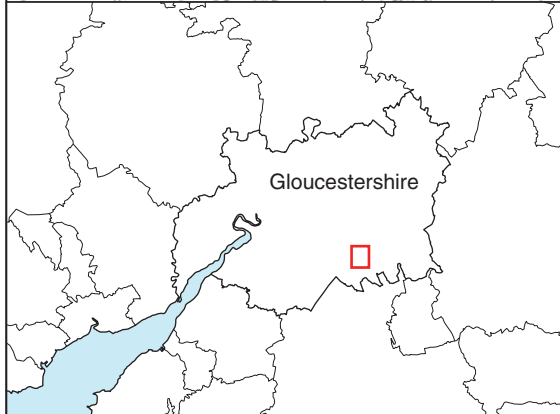
**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

## Trench 1

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Concrete slab foundation			0.1	Modern
101	Layer	Dark greyish brown sandy silt with frequent charcoal flecks and occasional red brick and limestone fragments			>0.55	Modern
102	Layer	Dark reddish brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks and rare red brick fragments			>0.2	Modern

**APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	34 St Peter's Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the demolition of an existing extension and erection of a single storey extension at 34 St Peter's Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.	
Project dates	18-19 October 2011	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	Archaeological Evaluation: Cotswold Archaeology 2011	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	34 St Peter's Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	51m <sup>2</sup>	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SP 0217 0166	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	English Heritage	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Steven Sheldon, Alexandra Webster	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>		
	Scheduled Monument Glos. 361 ( <i>Corinium</i> Roman Town)	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>		
	none	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	Corinium Museum	Trench sheet, photographic registers
Digital	Corinium Museum	Digital photographs
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011 <i>34 St Peter's Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report <b>11306</b>		



0 1km

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**PROJECT TITLE**

34 St Peter's Road, Cirencester  
Gloucestershire

**FIGURE TITLE**

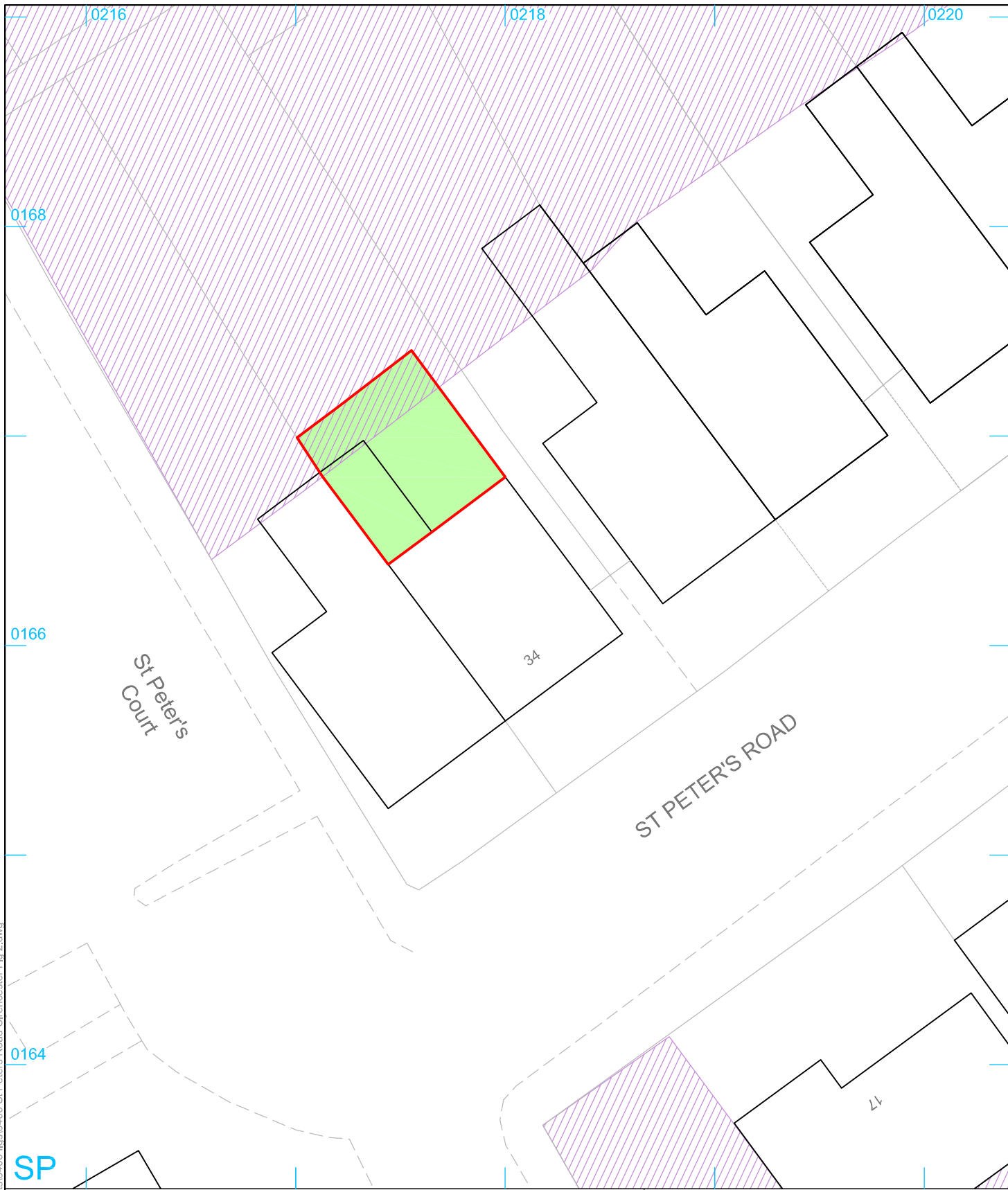
Site location plan

PROJECT NO. 3595 DATE 04-01-2011  
DRAWN BY JB REVISION 00  
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FIGURE NO.

1





- site
- location of observed groundworks
- Scheduled Monument



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 34 St Peters Road, Cirencester  
 Gloucestershire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 The site, showing location of  
 groundworks

PROJECT NO. 3406 DATE 04-01-2011  
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FIGURE NO.  
**2**



P:\3595\34 St Peters Road, Cirencester\WB\Illustration\Drafts\3406 St Peters Road, Cirencester Fig 2.dwg



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*PROJECT TITLE*

**34 St Peters Road, Cirencester  
Gloucestershire**

*FIGURE TITLE*

**The site during groundworks**

PROJECT NO. 3595 DATE 04-01-2011  
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*FIGURE NO.*

**3**