

**10 Corinium Gate
Cirencester
Gloucestershire**

Archaeological Watching Brief



for

Mr D. Cox


CA Project: 3507
CA Report: 13031

April 2013

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Cirencester
Gloucestershire

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CA Project: 3507
CA Report: 13031

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date	28 January 2013
checked by	Simon Cox, Head of Fieldwork
date	11 April 2013
approved by	Simon Cox, Head of Fieldwork
signed	
date	11 April 2013
issue	01

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	10 Corinium Gate
Location:	Cirencester, Gloucestershire
NGR:	SP 0279 0213
Type:	Watching Brief
Date:	21 February 2012 to January 2013
SMC:	S00017714
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Corinium Museum
Site Code:	COG 12

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of two single storey extensions to the rear elevation of the property, along with associated hard paving, at 10 Corinium Gate, Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

Probable Roman rampart layers, associated with the defensive circuit exposed previously during the evaluation of the site and at 18 Corinium Gate, were revealed directly beneath modern deposits. A small segment of *in situ* limestone surface or wall was also exposed. This may be the remains of a possible *Ascensus* or stone covering at the rear of the rampart. Alternatively it may form part of a possible internal tower, similar to that seen c. 130m to the north-west within the 'Abbey Grounds'.

No further significant archaeological finds or deposits were recorded.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In January 2013 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Mr D Cox at 10 Corinium Gate, Cirencester, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SP 0279 0213; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a requirement of the Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) granted by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (ref. S00017714; dated 11 August 2011 and amended 18 September 2012) for the construction of two single storey extensions to the rear elevation of the current property, along with associated hard paving. 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 the SMC and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2012) and approved by Emma Woodhouse, Casework Assistant, English Heritage, variation agreed by Louise Jenks, Casework Officer, English Heritage. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (IfA 2009), the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Gloucestershire* (Gloucestershire County Council 1996), 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 site is located on the northern edge of Cirencester and comprises a patio and terraced garden to the rear of the existing residential property. The property fronts Corinium Gate to the south-west and is bounded by the River Churn to the rear (north-east) and by residential properties to the north-west and south-east (Fig. 2). The rear garden lies at approximately 111m AOD, although the house and patio sit within an artificial terrace cut into the pre-existing ground (see Fig. 2 for location and extent).

1.4 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as the Forest Marble Formation of the Bathonian geological era, with alluvium present to the south-west of the site (BGS 2013). The geological substrate was not encountered during the watching brief.

Archaeological background

- 1.5 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). In particular, it lies close to the line of the Roman town defences. To the north-west of the property these defences survive to a height of 2.5m with the associated Roman town wall being backed by a broad, flat-topped rampart typically 11.5m wide.
- 1.6 A number of archaeological investigations have been undertaken on the Roman defensive circuit in the immediate vicinity of the site (see Wachter 1961, Brown and McWhirr 1966, Cullen 1970 and CAT 1990). Of particular relevance are Trenches AB I, II and III excavated across the defensive circuit in, or adjacent to, 10 Corinium Gate immediately prior to development in the 1960s (Salvatore and Wachter 1998, 84–7). More modern archaeological investigations undertaken within the immediate area include those at 18 Corinium Gate in 1999, 2000 and 2006 which revealed evidence of *in situ* Roman rampart material that was in places heavily disturbed by modern service runs (CAT 1999; CA 2000 and CA 2006).
- 1.7 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at the current site in December 2010 to inform the proposals for development and to assist in designing foundations to minimise impact on significant buried archaeological deposits or structures (CA 2011a). Two trenches were excavated; each exposing Roman rampart deposits directly beneath modern topsoil and patio layers, although due to modern truncation the depth of the archaeological deposits varied between 110.10m AOD in the footprint of the proposed Dining Room extension within the existing patio area and 110.72m AOD in the footprint of the Master Bedroom on the higher garden area. The rampart material comprised silty clay layers from which 2nd to 3rd-century AD Roman pottery and tile, as well as animal bone, was recovered. The results are comparable to those previously obtained at 18 Corinium Gate (see 1.6 above).

Archaeological objectives

- 1.8 The objectives of the archaeological works were:
- to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks;



- at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

Methodology

- 1.9 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2011b). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks, including the excavation of foundations and service trenches (Fig. 2).
- 1.10 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.11 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 Corinium Museum, 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 2-6)

Trenches 3 and 4 (Figs 2, 3 & 4)

- 2.1 A similar stratigraphic sequence was encountered within Trenches 3 and 4. The earliest deposits encountered were mid yellow-brown sandy silt layers 302/307/308 and 402, which contained moderate amounts of small limestone fragments. Although these layers remain undated they are likely to have formed part of the Roman rampart. These were cut by modern services and directly overlain by modern topsoil/overburden.

Trench 5 (Figs 2 & 5)

- 2.2 The earliest deposit encountered was an undated limestone surface or wall, 503, with a cement or mortar bond. This was only revealed in plan during the excavation to a depth of 0.13m, with a visible width of 0.9m. It was heavily truncated by a modern service trench and was sealed by garden soils.



Trench 6 (Fig. 2)

- 2.3 Trench 6 was excavated wholly within the backfill of a modern service trench sealed by topsoil and turf.

Trench 7 (Figs 2 & 6)

- 2.4 Trench 7 was excavated wholly within the backfill (702) of previous evaluation Trench AB I (Salvatore and Wachter 1998, Fig. 55). Backfill 702, which contained brick, Roman tile, glass and bone (Appendix B) was overlain by levelling (701) and topsoil (700) layers.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The earliest layers in Trenches 3 and 4 (302/307/308 and 402), although undated are comparable with the rampart layers associated with the Roman defensive circuit previously exposed during the evaluation of the site (CA 2011a) and at 18 Corinium Gate (CA 2000 and 2006). The 2nd to 3rd-century AD date of the pottery recovered from the previous evaluation of the site suggests that the exposed rampart deposits relate to the remodelling of the ramparts during the insertion of the masonry wall in c. AD 240–270 (Salvatore and Wachter 1998, 98).
- 3.2 At 18 Corinium Gate the top of the rampart was exposed at 111.84m AOD, 0.1m below the ground level. On the current site, the rampart was exposed during evaluation at 110.1m AOD in Trench 1 and 110.72m AOD in Trench 2. The watching brief revealed rampart layers at 111.09m AOD in Trench 3. The difference in the levels of the rampart deposits between No. 18 and No. 10 may reflect a combination of topographical variations and modern truncation and in each case, the top of the Roman rampart lay no deeper than 0.29m below the present ground level.
- 3.3 Within Trench 5, a small segment of *in situ* limestone surface or wall was exposed at the south-eastern end of the trench. This may be the remains of a possible *Ascensus* or stone covering at the rear of the rampart. Alternatively it is aligned at right angles to the Roman town defences and may form part of a possible internal tower, similar to that seen c. 130m to the north-west within the 'Abbey Grounds' (Salvatore and Wachter 1998, 84-87 and Fig. 47). However, due to the very limited exposure further interpretation is not possible.



- 3.4 Based on the evidence from the watching brief (Trench 7) the mapped location of Trench AB I and the external tower located within Trench AB II are now considered to lie c. 3m to the south-east (Salvatore and Wachter 1998, 98).

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Mark Brett, Chiz Harward, Jamie Wright, Diarmuid O'Seaneachain and Tom Weavill, assisted by Roy Poulter. The report was written by Stuart Joyce. The illustrations were prepared by Jon Bennett. The archive has been compiled by Jonathan Hart, and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2013 Geology of Britain Viewer online resource at <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?pub=FMB> accessed 28 January 2013

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2000 *18 Corinium Gate, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Excavation and Watching Brief*. CA typescript report **001158**

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2006 *18 Corinium Gate, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief*. CA typescript report **06063**

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011a *10 Corinium Gate, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation*, CA Report No. **11001**

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011b *10 Corinium Gate, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

Salvatore, J. P., and Wachter, J. S. 1998 'The Town Defences' in N. Holbrook (ed) *Cirencester Excavations V: Cirencester, The Roman Town Defences, Public Buildings and Shops*. Kemble, Cotswold Archaeological Trust



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)	Spot-date
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Turf and topsoil				
3	301	Layer		Rampart	Rampart: stoney dump in sandy silt matrix				
3	302	Layer		Rampart	Yellow brown sandy silt				
3	303	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey sandy silt				
3	304	Fill	305	Garden soil	Dark grey sandy silt				
3	305	Cut		Bedding trench	Cut of bedding trench				
3	306	Layer		Made ground	Modern redeposited made ground, dark grey sandy silt with occ brick and concrete fragments				
3	307	Layer		Rampart	Yellow brown silty clay				
3	308	Layer		Rampart	Yellow brown clay with common limestone inclusions				
4	401	Deposit		Overburden	Yellow brown sandy clay			0.02	
4	402	Deposit		Rampart	Yellow brown clay with red brown lenses, occ. limestone. Redeposited natural.			0.15	
4	403	Cut		Cut of modern feature	Modern feature probably associated with construction of present house			0.15	
4	404	Fill	403	Lower fill	Brown clay			0.15	
4	405	Fill	403	Upper fill	Grey brown clay			0.15	
4	406	Cut		Garden feature	Garden feature/bedding trench			0.15	
4	407	Fill	406	Garden soil	Brown grey clay			0.15	
5	500	Layer		Ornamental gravel	Modern yellow sandy gravel. Ornamental garden feature			0.05	
5	501	Layer		Garden soil	Dark grey brown organic rich sandy silt			0.5	
5	502	Layer		Backfill	Yellow brown sandy clay. Backfill of service trench			0.62	
5	503	Masonry		Wall/Layer	Rough cut limestone with cement mortar.		0.9		
5	504	Fill		Backfill	Same as 502			0.9	
6	600	Deposit		Topsoil	Topsoil and turf			0.11	
6	601	Fill	603	Backfill	Yellow grey sand				
6	602	Deposit		Overburden	Dark brown clay silt			0.5	
6	603	Cut		Service trench	Cut of modern service trench				
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Modern topsoil				
7	701	Layer		Levelling	Clay sand gravel with limestone fragments			0.15	
7	702	Deposit		Backfill	Backfill of 1960's evaluation Trench AB I			<0.35	Modern

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

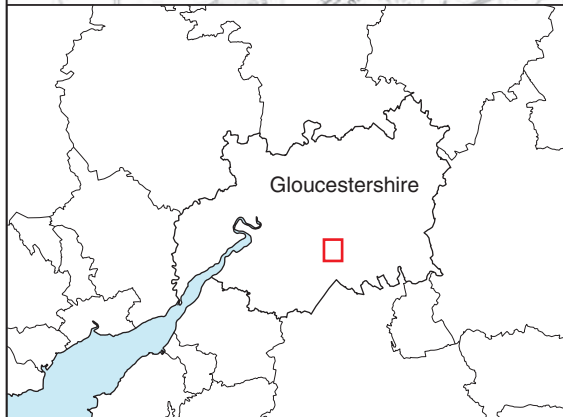
The assemblage was retrieved from a single deposit (702) and no pottery sherds were recovered. The deposit is dated to the 19th or 20th century, based on the presence of a fragment of modern engineering brick. The remaining finds from the deposit consisted of the flange from a Roman *Tegula*, a flat piece of Roman tile, and animal bone fragments. A piece of multi coloured twisted glass was also recorded and may be a stem fragment from a post-medieval, or later, drinking glass.

Appendix B

Context	Description	Ct.	Wt.	Date
702	Ceramic building material: Roman tegula; flat tile; engineering brick	3	222	Modern
	Glass: coloured fragment	1	8	
	Bone: animal	2	50	

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	10 Corinium Gate, Cirencester, Gloucestershire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of two single storey extensions to the rear elevation of the property, along with associated hard paving, at 10 Corinium Gate, Cirencester, Gloucestershire.</p> <p>Probable Roman rampart layers, associated with the defensive circuit exposed previously during the evaluation of the site and at 18 Corinium Gate, were revealed directly beneath modern deposits. A small segment of <i>in situ</i> limestone surface or wall was also exposed. This may be the remains of a possible <i>Ascensus</i> or stone covering at the rear of the rampart. Alternatively it may form part of a possible internal tower, similar to that seen c. 130m to the north-west within the 'Abbey Grounds'.</p> <p>No further significant archaeological finds or deposits were recorded.</p>	
Project dates	21 January 2012 to January 2013	
Project type	Archaeological Watching Brief	
Previous work	CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011 <i>10 Corinium Gate, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> , CA Report No. 11001	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	10 Corinium Gate, Cirencester, Gloucestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	C. 20m ²	
Site co-ordinates	SP 0279 0213	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Mark Brett, Chiz Harwood and Jamie Wright	
MONUMENT TYPE		
	Rampart. SN, CL, BT	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Corinium Museum	Tile, animal bone, glass
Paper	Corinium Museum	Proforma registers, recording forms and photographs
Digital	Corinium Museum	Digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
	CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013 <i>10 Corinium Gate, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> , CA Report No. 13031	



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PROJECT TITLE
 10 Corinnum Gate
 Cirencester, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

0 1km

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PROJECT NO. 3507 **DATE** 04-02-2013
DRAWN BY JB **REVISION** 00
APPROVED BY PJM **SCALE@A4** 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1



- location of observed groundworks (2013)
- location of CA evaluation trench (2011)
- evaluation trench AB 1 showing archaeological feature (1967)
- area of existing terrace
- projected line of Roman town wall



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**10 Corinium Gate, Cirencester
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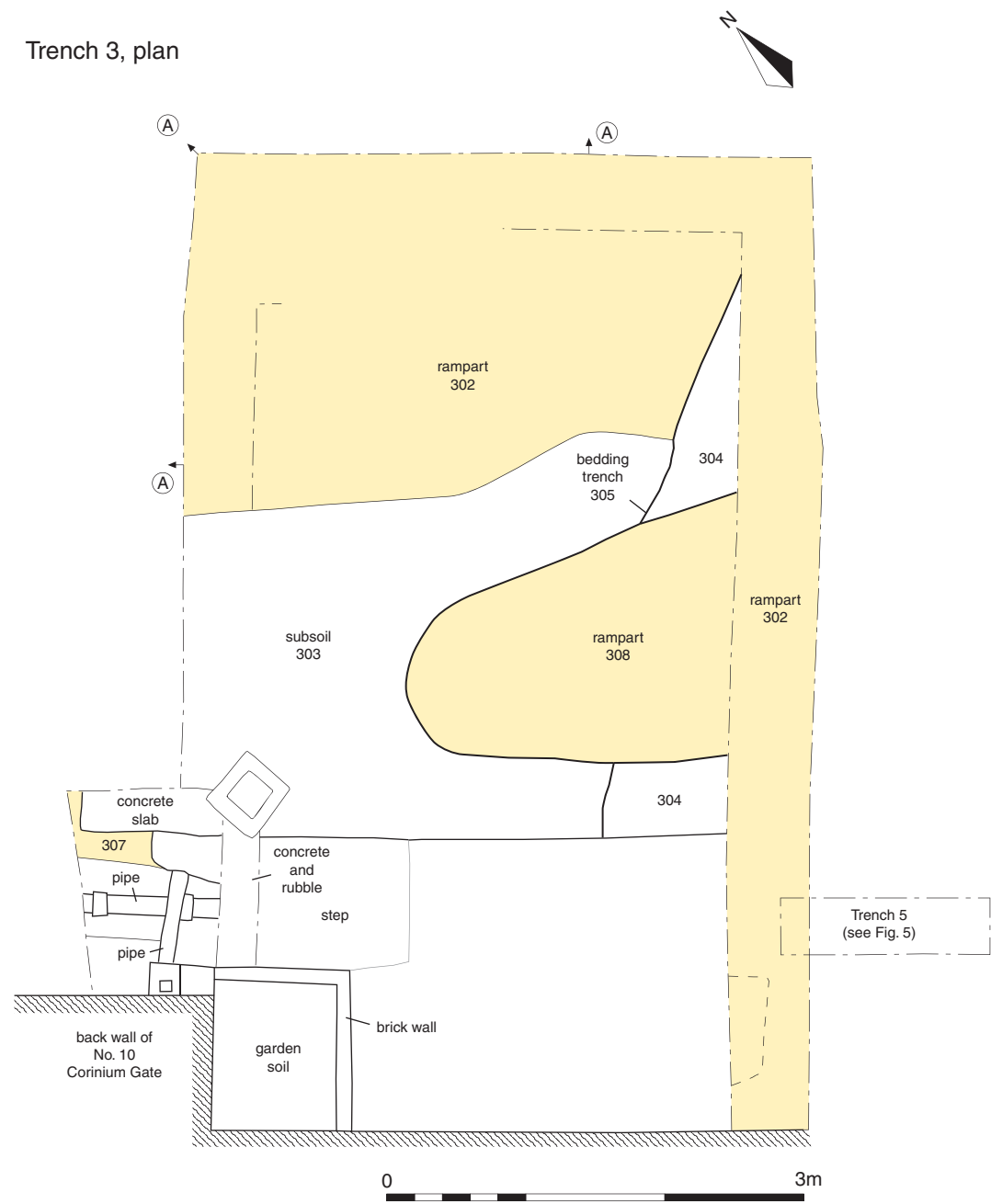
FIGURE TITLE
**The site, showing location of
 groundworks**

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 DRAWN BY JB REVISION 00
 APPROVED BY PJM SCALE@A4 1:250

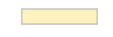
FIGURE NO.
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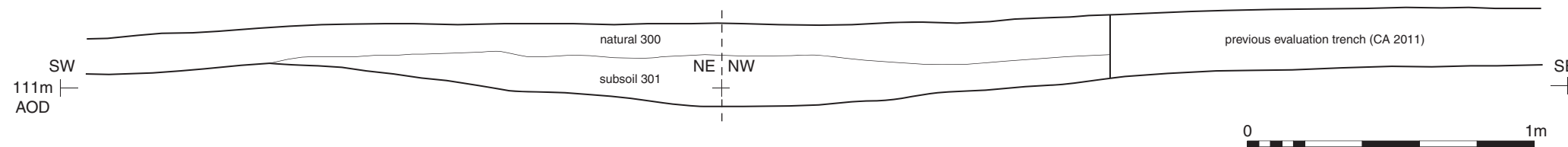
Trench 3, plan



Trench 3, looking south (scales 1m)

 rampart

Trench 3, section AA



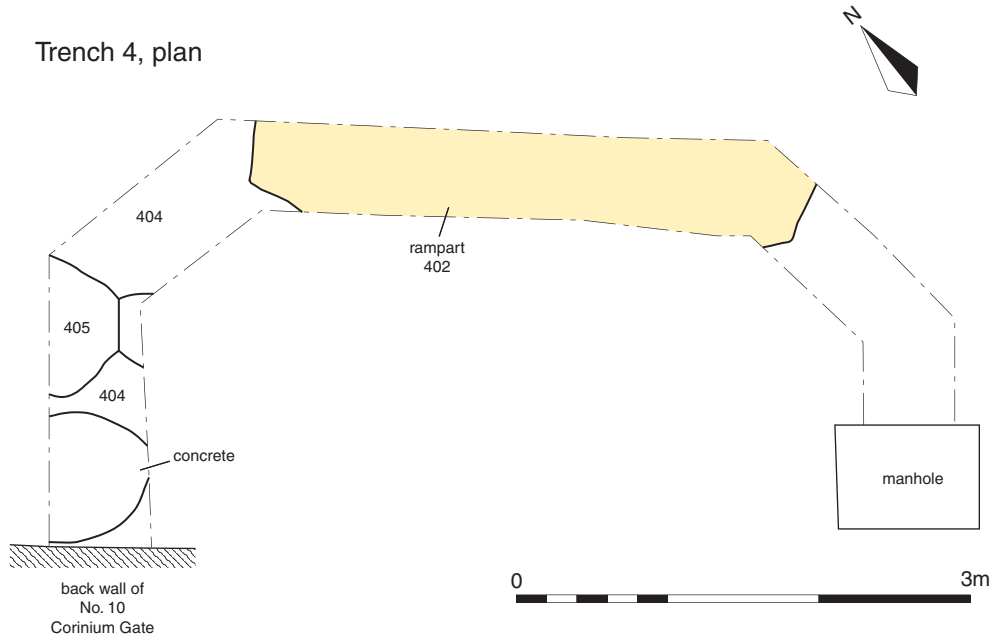
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FIGURE TITLE
Trench 3; plan, section and photograph

PROJECT NO. 3507	DATE 04-02-2013	FIGURE NO.
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Trench 4, plan



Trench 4, looking south-west (scale 1m)

 rampart



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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 4; plan and photograph

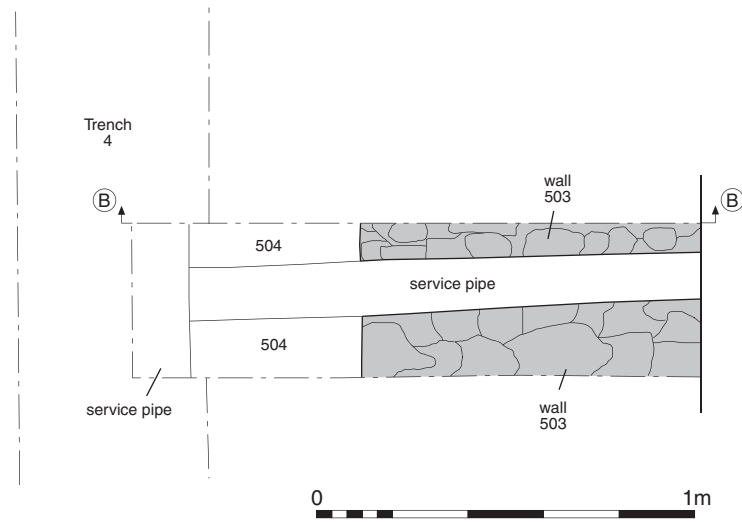
PROJECT NO. 3507 DATE 04-02-2013
 DRAWN BY JB REVISION 00
 APPROVED BY PJM SCALE@A4 1:50

FIGURE NO.

4



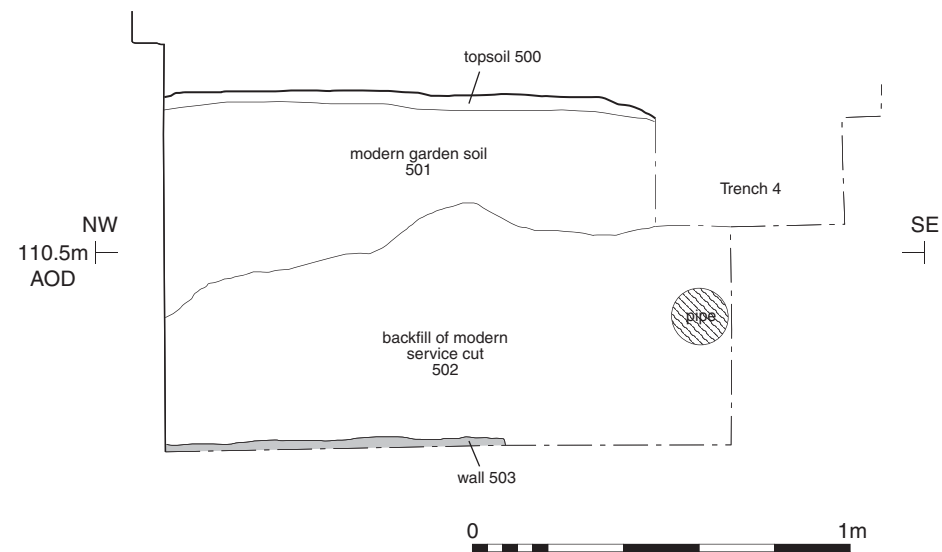
Trench 5, plan



Trench 5, looking west (scales 1m and 0.3m)

█ wall

Trench 5, section BB




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FIGURE TITLE
Trench 5; plan, section and photograph

PROJECT NO.	3507	DATE	04-02-2013	FIGURE NO.
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6

6 Groundworks in Trench 7 (scale 1m)



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FIGURE TITLE
Photograph

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APPROVED BY	PJM	SCALE@A4	N/A		