

**Metz Way Triangle (West)  
Gloucester  
Gloucestershire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**



*for*  
**Heritage Collective LLP**  
*on behalf of*  
**Rydor Commercials**


CA Project: 4989  
CA Report: 14386

August 2014

Metz Way Triangle (West)  
Gloucester  
Gloucestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 4989  
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date	29 August 2014
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date	29 August 2014
issue	01

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## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Metz Way Triangle (West)  
**Location:** Gloucester, Gloucestershire  
**NGR:** SO 8469 1804  
**Type:** Watching Brief  
**Date:** 16 to 23 July 2014  
**Planning Reference:** 11/00902/OUT  
**Location of Archive:** Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery  
**Site Code:** MTZ 14

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the excavation of a storm drain at Metz Way Triangle (West) Gloucester.

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 July 2014 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Heritage Collective LLP, on behalf of Rydor Commercials, at Metz Way Triangle (West), Gloucester, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SO 8469 1804; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to planning consent for a hybrid development at the site (Gloucester City Council planning ref: 11/00902/OUT; Condition No. 26). 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 Heritage Collective LLP (2013) that was approved by Andrew Armstrong, City Archaeologist, Gloucester City Council. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2009), 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 site, which totals approximately 7.25ha, lies close to the centre of Gloucester. It is bordered on its south-western side by Metz Way and to the north and south-east by extant railway lines (Fig. 2). Existing ground level within the site rises from approximately 21m AOD at the western edge to 23m AOD in the centre before falling gently to 19m AOD in the eastern half. Extensive dumps of modern material within the eastern part of the site stand approximately 4m higher than the surrounding ground level.

1.4 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation of the Rhaetian to the Pliensbachian Age (BGS 2014). Where the natural substrate was encountered on site it comprised dark bluish grey silty clay with carbonate and fossil inclusions.



### **Archaeological background**

- 1.5 Two preceding archaeological Desk-Based Assessments of the site have been undertaken (MOLAS 2008, Heritage Collective 2011). These identified no prehistoric features or artefact findspots within the site itself, with a single findspot of a Bronze Age spearhead at Coney Hill Cemetery approximately 550m to the south-east of the site. The development area lies outside of the defensive circuit of Roman *Glevum* but close to the line of the section of Ermin Street which ran between Cirencester and Kingsholm fort and the subsequent Roman *colonia*. A road-side Roman cemetery at Wooton Pitch has previously been identified approximately 800m north of the site, and two lead coffins and human remains were excavated approximately 100m and 140m north-west of the site respectively. In addition, remains of two first-century AD buildings, interpreted as part of a villa, have been recorded at Coney Hill and archaeological excavations approximately 300m north-west of the current site recorded large quantities of leather and seeds of Roman date (MOLAS 2008, Heritage Collective 2011).
- 1.6 The site lies beyond the city walls of Anglo-Saxon and medieval Gloucester, and no artefacts or features of Anglo-Saxon or medieval date have been recorded within the site or its immediate vicinity. Medieval ridge and furrow cultivation has been recorded 0.5km west of the site, suggesting that the development area was agricultural land during this period. Indeed, the desk-based assessments identified that the site appears to have remained as open fields until the late 18th or early 19th century.
- 1.7 A tramway, built in 1811, between Gloucester Docks and Cheltenham ran through the site before turning southward to Eastgate Street. Ordnance Survey (OS) map coverage of 1882-3 depicts the current site as being enclosed by railway lines, with sidings entering the triangle of land from the north-west corner, and containing several associated buildings. The subsequent 1901 OS map shows an extension to the sidings in the north-western part of the site, with associated buildings within a rectangular enclosure. The OS map of 1924 notes 'Allotment Gardens' within the current site, but maps from 1954 and 1956 show a gradual increase in the number of railway buildings at the site. Metz Way was constructed during the early 1990s (MOLA 2008, Heritage Collective 2011).
- 1.8 Archaeological evaluation at the site in 2011 comprised the excavation of six trenches and four boreholes, the latter to better understand the depth and nature of

made ground identified at the site (Wessex Archaeology 2011). No archaeological features pre-dating the 19th-century were identified. The trenches recorded possible buried topsoil and subsoil deposits within the site, as well as made ground varying in depth between 0.9m and 1.55m below present ground level (bpgl). The boreholes also recorded significant depths of made ground, ranging in depth from 2.5m to 4.8m bpgl, overlying the natural clay.

- 1.9 A preceding archaeological watching brief undertaken in advance of development throughout much of the eastern extent of the site identified no features or deposits of archaeological interest (CA 2013). It did however confirm that extensive dumps of modern material had raised the modern ground surface approximately 4m higher than the surrounding ground level (ibid.).

### ***Archaeological objectives***

- 1.9 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***

- 1.10 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (Heritage Collective LLP 2013). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising the excavation of a drainage trench (Area 20; see Fig. 2 for location and extent).
- 1.11 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.12 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the site archive will be deposited with Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery. 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 (FIG 2)

- 2.1 The excavation for the drainage trench was undertaken to a depth exceeding 3m below the present ground level (bpgl). Although the natural clay was observed at varying depths bpgl, significantly it was revealed at a consistent depth of between 21.07m AOD and 21.28m AOD. It was immediately sealed by modern make-up deposits.

## 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. It is noteworthy that where the natural clays were previously identified approximately 30m to the north of the current workings (within Areas 9 & 10 during the 2013 watching brief) they were revealed at 24.8m AOD. Such evidence suggests that the area subject to the current works has been severely truncated, most probably during previous groundworks for the railway and indeed for the railway building that was previously located in this area.

## 4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Rebecca Riley and Dan Sausins. The report was written by Cliff Bateman. The illustrations were prepared by Jon Bennett and Lucy Martin. The archive has been compiled by Rebecca Riley, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neil. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.

## 5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) *Geology of Britain Viewer* [http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology\\_viewer\\_google/googleviewer.html](http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html) Accessed 20 November 2012

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013 *Metz Way Railway Triangle, Gloucester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief*. CA typescript report **13553**



HeritageCollective LLP 2013 *Metz Way Triangle (West), Gloucester, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

HeritageCollective LLP 2011 *Heritage Statement and Archaeological Desk Based Assessment. Metz Way Railway Triangle, Gloucester, Gloucestershire.*

MOLAS 2008 *Metz Way, Gloucester GL4. Archaeological desk-based assessment.*

WA (Wessex Archaeology) 2011 *Land at Metz Way, Gloucester, GL4 6SW. Archaeological Evaluation and Borehole Report. Report reference: 79060.02f*



## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Area	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
20	2001	Layer	modern make up	crushed limestone consolidation			up to 1.5	
20	2002	Layer	surface	tarmacadam surface			0.1	
20	2003	Deposit	redeposited clay	dark black-grey silty clay containing modern building rubble			0.5+	
20	2004	Deposit	redeposited clay	mid blue-grey silty clay containing modern building rubble and plastics			0.7	
20	2005	Deposit	redeposited clay	dark black-grey silty clay containing modern building rubble			0.5	
20	2006	Natural	natural substrate	mid bluish grey silty clay with carbonate inclusions and common orange flecks			1.5m+	

**APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Metz Way Triangle (West), Gloucester	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the excavation of a storm drain at Metz Way Triangle (West) Gloucester.  No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.	
Project dates	116 to 23 July 2014	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (MOLAS 2008) Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (HeritageCollective LLP 2011) Archaeological Evaluation and Borehole Survey (Wessex Archaeology 2011) Archaeological Watching Brief (Cotswold Archaeology 2013)	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Metz Way Triangle (West), Gloucester, Gloucestershire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	7.25ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SO 8469 1804	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	N/A	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Rebecca Riley and Dan Sausins	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	Gloucester City Museum	Trench recording forms, Levels register, Photographic registers
Digital	Gloucester City Museum	Digital photos, survey data, CAD plan
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 <i>Metz Way Triangle (West), Gloucester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report <b>14386</b>		



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Metz Way Triangle (West), Gloucester

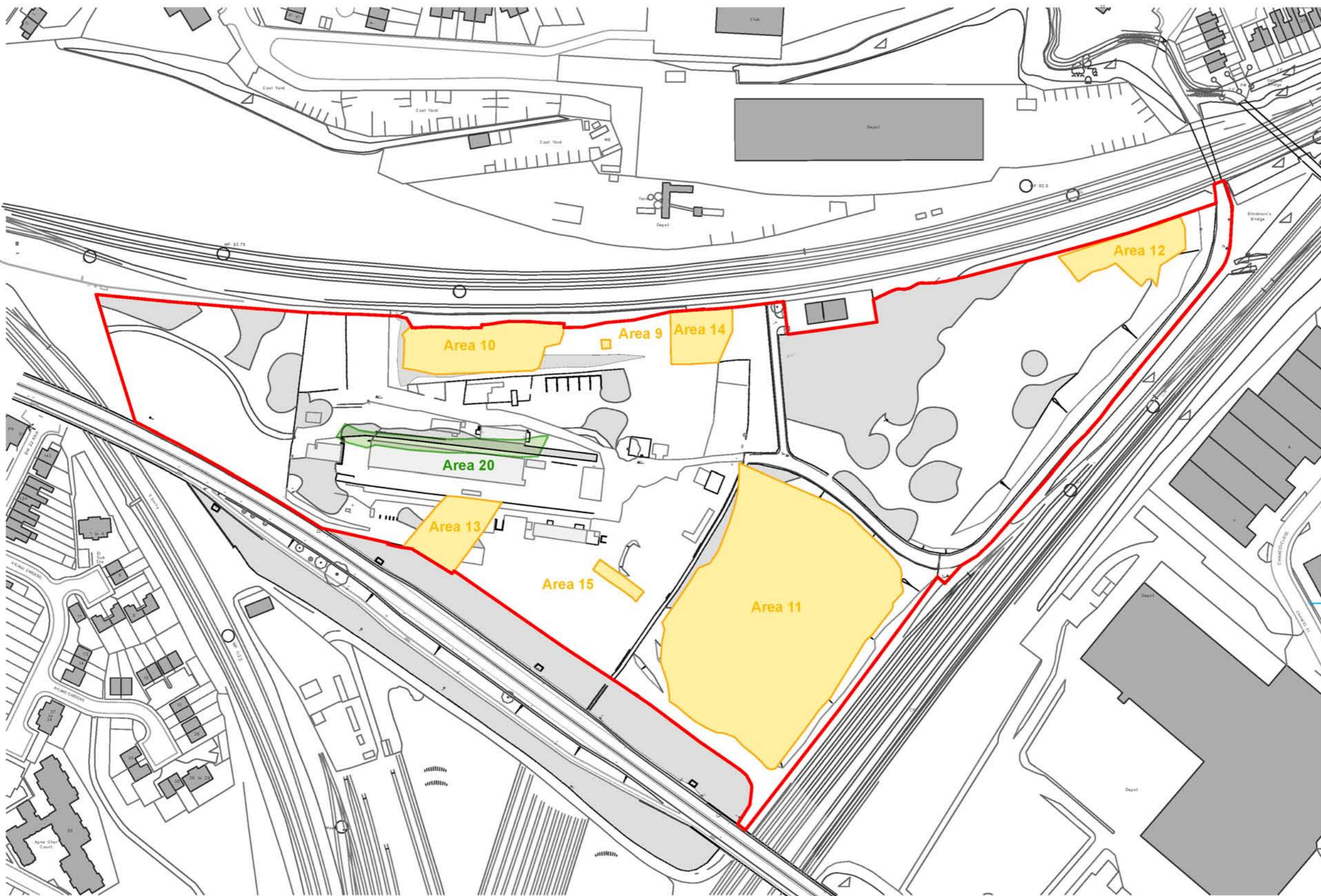
**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan

<b>PROJECT NO.</b> 4989	<b>DATE</b> 26-08-2014	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
<b>DRAWN BY</b> JB	<b>REVISION</b> 00	<b>1</b>
<b>APPROVED BY</b> LM	<b>SCALE@A4</b> 1:25,000	

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Extent of digital mapping



- site
- observed groundworks
- observed groundworks 2012-2013



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PROJECT TITLE  
**Metz Way Triangle (West), Gloucester**

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

PROJECT NO.	4989	DATE	26-08-2014	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	LM/JB	REVISION	00	<b>2</b>
APPROVED BY	LM	SCALE@A3	1:2000	

Extent of digital mapping



3



4

3 Looking north-east, working shot of Area 20

4 Looking south-east, Area 20



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FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

PROJECT NO. 4989 DATE 26-08-2014  
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FIGURE NO.

3 & 4