



**Shire Hall
Quay Street, Gloucester
Gloucestershire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

for

Wilson Associates (Consulting) Limited


CA Project: 4776
CA Report: 14213

May 2014

Shire Hall
Quay Street, Gloucester
Gloucestershire

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date	23 May 2014
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signed	
date	3 March 2015
issue	01

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Fig. 2 The site, showing location of groundworks (1:1000)



SUMMARY

Project Name: Shire Hall
Location: Quay Street, Gloucester, Gloucestershire
NGR: SO 82951 18668
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 8 March 2014
Location of Archive: to be deposited with Gloucester City Museum
Site Code: SHIG14

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during the excavation of ten boreholes and one test pit at Shire Hall, Gloucester.

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



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In March 2014 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Wilson Associates (Consulting) Limited at Shire Hall, Quay Street, Gloucester, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SO 82951 18668; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken on a geotechnical site investigation consisting of boreholes and a trial pit. The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the investigation.
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2014) and approved by Charles Parry (Archaeologist, Gloucestershire County Council). The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2009), *fieldwork in Gloucestershire* (GCC 1995) and 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 investigations were located in the grounds of Shire Hall within the historic core of Gloucester. The site lies at approximately 11m AOD. The site covered approximately 0.8 hectares.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Formation Mudstone of the Jurassic and Triassic eras and the site lies on the eastern edge of the Superficial Quaternary Tidal Flat deposits of clay, silt and sand of the River Severn (BGS 2014).

Archaeological background

- 1.5 The archaeological potential of Shire Hall and its grounds was investigated as part of a desk-based assessment (CA 2013), the conclusions of which are summarised below:
- 1.6 The site lies outside the Roman city of Gloucester, to the west of the Roman city wall and defences. The outer defensive ditches are thought to lie around 20m east of the site. Nearby archaeological investigations have established the possible

construction of a Roman river frontage and quay in the 1st century AD, which may have run through the centre of the site. In the later 2nd/3rd century this river frontage was realigned further to the west, in the western part of the site. There is a potential for Roman remains associated with these quays (including the quays themselves and associated early structures and extra-mural settlement) within the site, potentially from depths of 4–6m below the current ground level.

- 1.7 Any such Roman remains would have been constructed upon pre-Roman deposits of alluvium. Following the end of the Roman period the results of nearby investigations also indicate that further alluvium was deposited in the post-Roman period following inundation beyond the established Roman river frontage. Deposits of alluvium are recorded from around 2m below ground level within the site, and it is likely that the upper levels of this represent such post-Roman inundation and silting.
- 1.8 The medieval Gloucester castle was situated to the south of the site, largely within the current location of Gloucester Prison. The southern portion of the site lay within the outer bailey of the castle, defined by the northern curtain wall which would have also run through the site. Both the inner and outer castle gates and drawbridges are also thought to have been located within the site, as well as the two outer castle ditches. Medieval remains may occur within the site from depths of 1-2m below ground level.

Archaeological objectives

- 1.7 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 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

- 1.8 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2014). An archaeologist was present during the drilling of boreholes and associated gas wells and the excavation of a trial pit (Fig. 2).

1.9 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2013).

1.10 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Gloucester City Museum. 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)

2.1 The excavations consisted of 10 boreholes and one hand dug test pit excavated up to 4m below present ground level (bpgl). The natural geological substrate (1006) consisting of clay was only seen in borehole 10 at a depth of 2.54m bpgl; this was overlain by a series of made ground and silty-sand clays some of which were interpreted as alluvial in nature. The upper level of these varied in depth below modern ground level These in turn were overlain by a modern make up/bedding layer up to 0.7m thick that was sealed by 0.1m of tarmac

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 The watching brief identified no clear archaeological remains within the boreholes or test pit, but the nature of the investigation obviously limits the value that can be put on this. The varying depths of 'made ground' above the alluvium may be deposits of archaeological origin and while differentiation between deposits with the sequence was possible, suggesting sequential deposition, the absence of dating makes any further discussion impossible. The boreholes confirmed the existence of alluvium across the area of investigation. Other riverine deposits of clays, silts and gravels from the former river channel were also identifiable within and at the base of the sequence.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Jon Pick. The report was written by Luke Brannlund. The illustrations were prepared by Leo Heatley. The archive has been compiled by

Luke Brannlund, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Ian Barnes.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2014 *Geology of Britain Viewer*

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> accessed 18 February 2014

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 *Shire Hall, Gloucester: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013 *Shire Hall, Gloucester: Heritage Desk-Based Assessment.*

CA report **13068**



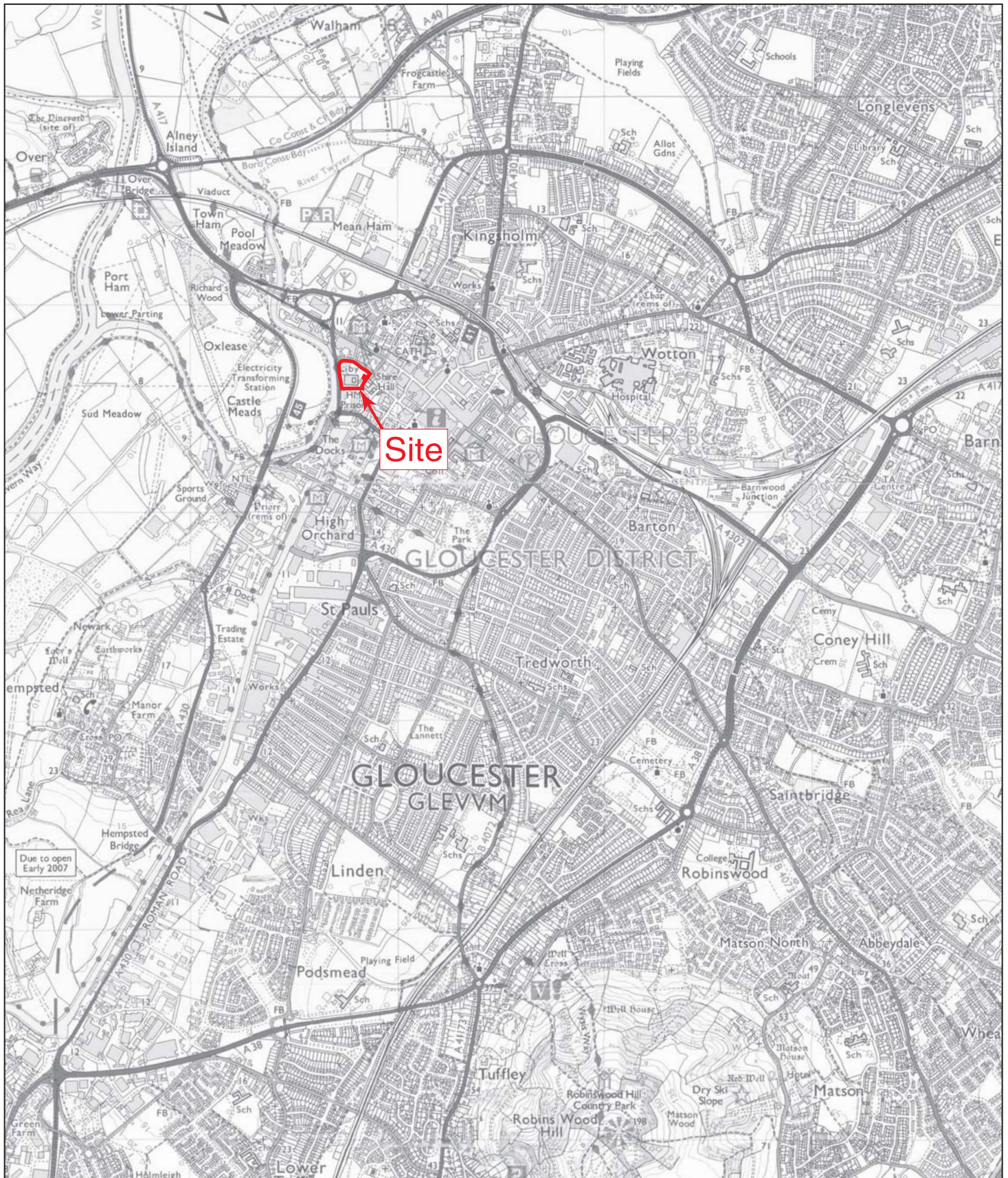
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	Depth/thickness (m)
1	100	Layer	Car park	Tarmac	0.1
1	101	Layer	Car park sub-base	Limestone ballast	0.7
1	102	Layer	Alluvium	Soft grey sand clay	1.05
1	103	Layer	Alluvium	Dark grey sand clay	>2.05
2	200	Layer	Car park	Tarmac	0.12
2	201	Layer	Car park sub-base	Limestone ballast	0.38
2	202	Layer	Layer	Fine red brown gravel	0.3
2	203	Layer	Make-up or demolition layer	Grey sand clay with 15% limestone fragments and 10% CBM fragments	0.4
2	204	Layer	Layer	Soft brown yellow sand clay	0.35
2	205	Layer	Layer	Dark grey black sand clay with 5% slag	0.2
2	206	Layer	Alluvium	Soft grey sand clay	>2.15
3	300	Layer	Top soil	Brown sand clay	0.25
3	301	Layer	Layer	Red brown sand clay with 15% CBM (including whole bricks) and <1% plastic	0.35
3	302	Layer	Make-up or demolition layer	Grey sand clay with 15% limestone fragments and 10% CBM fragments	0.86
3	303	Layer	Layer	Dark grey black sand clay with 10% heat affected stone and 10% lime and brick inclusions	0.7
3	304	Layer	Layer	Grey sandy clay gravel with 10% CBM fragments and 5% limestone fragments	0.2
3	305	Layer	Alluvium	Soft light brown silt clay	0.34
3	306	Layer	Alluvium	Soft grey sand clay	>2.3
4	400	Layer	Top soil	Brown sand clay	0.15
4	401	Layer	Layer	Light brown sand clay with frequent limestone gravel	0.35
4	402	Layer	Layer	Fine red brown gravel	0.15
4	403	Layer	Layer	Brick rubble and brown sand clay with 10% gravel and cobbles	0.45
4	404	Layer	Limestone block	Limestone block bore hole abandoned at 1.1m	
5	500	Layer	Car park	Tarmac	0.3
5	501	Layer	Car park sub-base	Sandy gravel	0.19
5	502	Layer	Layer	Grey brown sand gravel with 15% brick and limestone fragments and 5% heat affected stone	0.76
5	503	Layer	Layer	Limestone cobbles with yellow brown clay sand and 5% CBM fragments	0.3
5	504	Layer	Layer	Grey sandy clay gravel with 10% CBM fragments and 5% limestone fragments	1.0
5	505	Layer	Alluvium	Soft light brown silt clay	1.33
5	506	Layer	Layer	Dark grey sand clay	>0.02
6	600	Layer	Top soil	Brown sand clay	0.54
6	601	Layer	Layer	Brick rubble and brown sand clay with 10% gravel and cobbles	>0.46
7	700	Layer	Car park	Tarmac	0.1
7	701	Layer	Car park sub-base	Limestone ballast	0.63
7	702	Layer	Make-up or demolition layer	Grey sand clay with 15% limestone fragments and 10% CBM fragments	0.67
7	703	Layer	Layer	Grey brown sand clay with 10% brick and limestone fragments	0.2
7	704	Layer	Layer	Black silty sand grit, similar to 205	0.1
7	705	Layer	Layer	Light brown gravelly sand	0.25
7	706	Layer	Layer	Soft dark grey black gravelly clay	0.79
7	707	Layer	Layer	Soft grey sand clay	0.16

7	708	Layer	Layer	Grey sand clay with 5% limestone cobbles	0.85
7	709	Layer	Layer	Light grey gravelly sand clay	0.25
7	710	Layer	Layer	Very wet dark brown silt clay	>1
8	800	Layer	Car park	Tarmac	0.09
8	801	Layer	Car park sub-base	Limestone ballast	0.52
8	802	Layer	Make-up or demolition layer	Grey sand clay with 15% limestone fragments and 10% CBM fragments	0.41
8	803	Layer	Alluvium	Soft, very wet, grey sand clay	>2.9
9	900	Layer	Car park	Tarmac	0.1
9	901	Layer	Car park sub-base	Limestone ballast	0.33
9	902	Layer	Layer	Fire bricks	1.57
9	903	Layer	Layer	Sandy gravel with 15% slag pebbles	0.85
9	904	Layer	Alluvium	Grey silty clay	>1.15
10	1000	Layer	Car park	Tarmac	0.1
10	1001	Layer	Car park sub-base	Limestone ballast	0.2
10	1002	Layer	Make-up or demolition layer	Grey sand clay with 15% limestone fragments/heat affected stones, and 10% CBM fragments	0.97
10	1003	Layer	Alluvium	Grey silty clay, with 5% gravel	0.5
10	1004	Layer	Layer	Black sand clay, very firm	0.56
10	1005	Layer	Layer	Black silt clay, very organic	0.54
10	1006	Layer	? Natural	Light brown clay	>0.46
11	1100	Layer	Car park	Tarmac	0.1
11	1101	Layer	Car park sub-base	Limestone ballast	0.25
11	1102	Layer	Make-up or demolition layer	Grey sand clay with 15% limestone fragments and 10% CBM fragments	1.21
11	1103	Layer	Layer	Grey brown clay with a black gravelly silt clay	1
11	1104	Layer	Layer	Black sand clay, very firm	0.05
11	1105	Layer	Alluvium	Grey brown gravelly clay	>0.4

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Shire Hall	
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during the excavation of 10 boreholes and 1 test pit at Shire Hall, Gloucester. No archaeological features were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.	
Project dates	8 March 2014	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Watching brief	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Shire Hall, Gloucester, Gloucestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.8 ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SO 82951 18668	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator		
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ian Barnes	
Project Supervisor	Jon Pick, Luke Brannlund	
MONUMENT TYPE	none	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	none	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		
Paper	Gloucester City Museum	Borehole recording sheets, Photographic records
Digital	Gloucester City Museum County Archaeological Service	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 <i>Shire Hall, Quay Street, Gloucester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report 14213		



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PROJECT TITLE
 Shire Hall, Gloucester,
 Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

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PROJECT NO. 4776 DATE 27/05/2014
 DRAWN BY LJH REVISION 00
 APPROVED BY LM SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.
1



- ▬ site
- ⊕ borehole
- ▣ testpit



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PROJECT TITLE
Shire Hall, Gloucester, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
The site showing location of groundworks

PROJECT NO. 4776	DATE 27-05-2014	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY LJH	REVISION 00	2
APPROVED BY LM	SCALE@A3 1:1000	

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