

**Gloucestershire Deaf Association Phase II
Colin Road, Barnwood
Gloucester**

Archaeological Evaluation



for
Mark Holland Group Ltd


CA Project: 5066
CA Report: 14453

October 2014

Gloucestershire Deaf Association Phase II
Colin Road, Barnwood
Gloucester

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 5066
CA Report: 14453

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date	6 October 2014
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date	8 October 2014
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signed	
date	9 October 2014
issue	01

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Gloucestershire Deaf Association Phase II
Location:	Colin Road, Barnwood, Gloucester
NGR:	SO 8565 1825
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	29 September 2014
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery
Site Code:	GDA 14
Planning Reference:	GCC/14/00275/FUL, condition 6

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in September 2014 at Gloucestershire Deaf Association, Colin Road, Barnwood, Gloucester. One trench was excavated.

A quarry pit, or series of quarry scoops, was revealed. It contained Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age pottery, although it is probable that this material is residual in a later feature associated with gravel extraction for the repair and maintenance of adjacent Ermin Street/Barnwood Road.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In September 2014 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Mark Holland Group Ltd at Gloucestershire Deaf Association, Colin Road, Barnwood, Gloucester (centred on NGR: SO 8565 1825; Fig. 1). This second phase of evaluation was undertaken as a condition of planning permission granted by Gloucester City Council (ref: GCC/14/00275/FUL, condition 6).

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2014a) and approved by Andrew Armstrong Gloucester City Archaeologist. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2009), the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Gloucestershire* (GCC 1996), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006). It was monitored by Andrew Armstrong, including a site visit on 29 September 2014.

The site

1.3 The site is located at the junction of Grove Crescent, Colin Road and Barnwood Road, Barnwood, Gloucester. It comprises an extant, former school building with a tarmacadam car park to the east and a grassed area to the west.

1.4 The bedrock geology of the site comprises Blue Lias and Charmouth Mudstone formations overlain by superficial deposits of Cheltenham Sand and Gravel deposits (BGS 2014). Natural gravels were encountered in the excavated trench.

Archaeological background

1.5 The development area is sited in an area of high archaeological potential. Palaeolithic material has been recorded in the gravels within the Barnwood district and faunal material dating from the Pleistocene has been recorded during gravel working c.100m to the south-east of the site (Gloucester City Historic Environment Record (HER) 57).

1.6 There is little evidence for later prehistoric activity within the immediate area excepting the recovery of two surface finds; a Mesolithic tranchet axe head and a

Neolithic flint implement. More broadly, there is little evidence of prehistoric activity within Gloucester, although it has been suggested that the first Roman fortress (see below) was situated close to a significant Iron Age settlement (Timby 1999, 38).

- 1.7 Roman occupation at Gloucester (*Glevum*) began with a legionary fortress built at Kingsholm in the late AD 40s. The fortress was abandoned during the AD 60s and a new fortress, and subsequent Colonia, was established close to the present city centre (Hurst 1988, 50). The current site is located approximately 2.5km east of *Glevum*.
- 1.8 The line of a Roman road, Ermin Street, is preserved as Barnwood Road (Simmonds et al, 2008, 1) and ran from Silchester to Cirencester and then on to the fort at Kingsholm rather than later *Glevum* (ibid.). A watching brief in 1986 recorded a section through Barnwood Road approximately 100m to the east of the current site revealing a series of street levels to a depth of 1.8m (HER 1236; (Garrod, 1984, 19). Although undated, it is possible that the lower levels represented the surface(s) of the Roman road.
- 1.9 Numerous records of Roman activity have previously been recorded within Barnwood, principally adjacent to Barnwood Road. Archaeological watching briefs have recorded pits and ditches as well as coins and pottery. A watching brief at 126 Barnwood Road, 250m east of the current site, recorded a section of wall and various other features suggestive of a Roman building to the south of Ermin Street (HER 1582).
- 1.10 Evidence for Roman cremations and inhumations burials has also been identified adjacent to Barnwood Road (HER 48, 1120, 1907, 1243, 1248 and 1738). Ongoing archaeological excavations at 167 Barnwood Road by CA identified a Roman cremation burial within a lead vessel situated within an enclosure and associated features. Quarry pits dating from the mid 1st century AD, medieval and post-medieval periods were also recorded at this site (CA in prep).
- 1.11 Early medieval settlement at Barnwood was heavily influenced by the survival of Roman Ermin Street, which doubtless remained an important thoroughfare throughout the medieval period (Herbert 1988, 410). The parish name suggests that it was once wooded, although by the 17th century the land was entirely cultivated as open fields or was grassland (ibid, 411).

- 1.12 The 1838 Barnwood Tithe map depicts the current site as a small pasture field adjacent to the Barnwood Road (apportionment 84). By the compilation of the 1885 Ordnance Survey First Edition map, the site contained a school and associated playground. A trackway leading from Barnwood Road to Barnwood Vicarage is also depicted on this mapping immediately west of the school building. The date for the construction of the vicarage remains undetermined although it is not depicted on the 1838 Tithe map. The school building is still extant, with the former playground to the east now be utilised as a car park.
- 1.13 A preceding archaeological evaluation, comprising three trenches, undertaken at the current site in February 2014 revealed an undated pit and ditch and a probable post-medieval quarry pit and trackway (CA 2014b; see Fig. 2 within this report for the location of the excavated trenches).

Archaeological objectives

- 1.14 The objectives of the evaluation are to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality, in accordance with the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2009). This information will enable Gloucester City Council to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

Methodology

- 1.15 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of a single trench (Trench 4), measuring 20m in length x 1.85m in width, in the car park to the east of the extant building (Fig 2). The trench was set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual* (2012).
- 1.16 The trench was excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological

deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2013).

- 1.17 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) but no deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation* (1995).
- 1.18 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 will be deposited with Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery, 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 & 3)

- 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 respectively.

Trench 4 (Figs. 2 & 3)

- 2.2 The natural gravel substrate, 403, was encountered 0.6m below present ground level (bpgl). It was cut by a pit, or series of pits, 404, comprising a number of irregular scoops that were broadly aligned north-west/south-east (Fig 3; section AA). It contained homogenous yellow-brown silty sand fill 405 from which Late prehistoric pottery and animal bone were recovered. Modern deposit 406 was revealed sealing the natural gravel at the north-eastern extent of the trench, but elsewhere the natural substrate and quarry pit fill 405 were sealed by modern layer 402. This was subsequently sealed by modern aggregate levelling for tarmacadam car park surface 400.

The finds

- 2.3 Finds recovered during the evaluation included pottery and ceramic building material. Codings for post-medieval fabrics given in parenthesis in the text and Appendix B correspond to the Gloucester pottery type series codes as defined by Vince (unpublished).

Pottery: Late prehistoric

- 2.4 Quarry pit fill 405 produced seven sherds of pottery in fine, sand-tempered fabrics (five of which were oxidised and two reduced), and eight unfeathered bodysherds in a quartzite-and-limestone tempered fabric. The oxidised, sandy sherds included a rimsherd possibly from a carinated bowl and a basesherd from a vessel with a pedestal base. The fabrics and forms represented suggest a date range from the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age for the pottery from this feature.

Post-medieval/modern

- 2.5 A total of four sherds of post-medieval/modern pottery was recovered from deposits 402 and 406.

Ceramic building material

- 2.6 A total of three fragments of ceramic roof tile of post-medieval/modern date was recorded from deposits 402 and 406.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The pit, or series of pits, identified cutting the natural gravels in Trench 4 is most probably a quarry pit. Evidence of such quarrying activity has previously been recorded within the immediate area, most recently at 167 Barnwood Road (CA in prep), and also at the current site during the previous phase of archaeological evaluation (pits 103 and 205 within Trenches 1 and 2 respectively). Indeed, quarry pit 404 was identified on a similar alignment to undated pit 205 and may represent the same feature (see Fig. 2).
- 3.2 It remains unproven, although probable, that the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age pottery is residual in nature and that the quarry pit is later in origin. However, the date for the quarrying activity remains undetermined and any attempt to date it is further compounded by overlying deposit, 402, solely containing 19th-century artefacts.
- 3.3 The quarrying is most probably associated with repairs and maintenance to nearby Ermin Street/Barnwood Road. As previously noted at 167 Barnwood Road such activity was undertaken throughout the Roman, medieval and post-medieval

periods. Indeed, evidence for post-medieval quarrying (pit 103) was identified during the preceding archaeological works at the site.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Jonathan Orellana, assisted by Robert Reichert. The report was written by Jonathan Orellana and the finds report compiled by Jacky Sommerville. The illustrations were prepared by Aleksandra Osinska. The archive has been compiled by Jonathan Orellana and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.

5. REFERENCES

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
4	400	Layer		tarmac surface	tarmac	20	1.85	0.07m	modern
4	401	Layer		make up layer	grey and red gravel and small stones	20	1.85	0.3	modern
4	402	Layer		deposit	dark greyish brown sandy clay with frequent charcoal	20	1.85	0.31	C19
4	403	Layer		natural substrate	mid greyish orange sandy gravel	20	1.85		
4	404	Cut		quarry pit	NW/SE aligned, irregular sides, uneven base	>1.85	2.4	0.48	
4	405	Fill	404	fill of quarry pit	mid yellowish brown silty sand	>1.85	2.4	0.48	LBA-EIA
4	406	Layer		deposit	mid greyish brown silty sand with frequent modern CBM	8.5	1.85	0.33	C18

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1: Finds concordance

Context	Description	Count	Weight(g)	Spot-date
402	Modern pottery: English porcelain	1	6	C19
	Post-medieval/modern ceramic building material: pan tile, nib tile	2	88	
405	Late Prehistoric pottery; fine, black-firing sand-tempered fabric; fine, oxidised sand-tempered fabric; quartzite-and-limestone tempered fabric	15	81	LBA-EIA
406	Post-medieval pottery: North Devon gravel-tempered ware; tin-glazed earthenware; glazed earthenware	3	44	C18
	Post-medieval ceramic building material: flat roof tile	1	29	

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Gloucester Deaf Association Phase II, Colin Road, Barnwood, Gloucester	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in September 2014 at Gloucestershire Deaf Association, Colin Road, Barnwood, Gloucester. One trench was excavated.</p> <p>A quarry pit, or series of quarry scoops, was revealed. It contained Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age pottery, although it is probable that this material is residual in a later feature associated with gravel extraction for the repair and maintenance of adjacent Ermin Street/Barnwood Road.</p>	
Project dates	29 September 2014	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	Evaluation (CA 2014b)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Colin Road, Barnwood, Gloucester	
Study area (M ² /ha)		
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SO 8565 1825	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Gloucester City Council	
Project Brief originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Jonathan Orellana	
MONUMENT TYPE		
	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery	Pottery, animal bone
Paper	Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery	Context sheets, trench sheet, photo register
Digital	Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery	Digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 <i>Gloucestershire Deaf Association Phase II, Colin Road, Barnwood, Gloucester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 14453		



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PROJECT TITLE

Gloucestershire Deaf Association, Phase II
 Colin Road, Barnwood, Gloucester

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

PROJECT NO. 5066 DATE 02-10-2014
 DRAWN BY JB REVISION 00
 APPROVED BY LM SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1



- site
- phase I evaluation trench (CA 2014b)
- phase II evaluation trench
- archaeological feature
- structure
- modern



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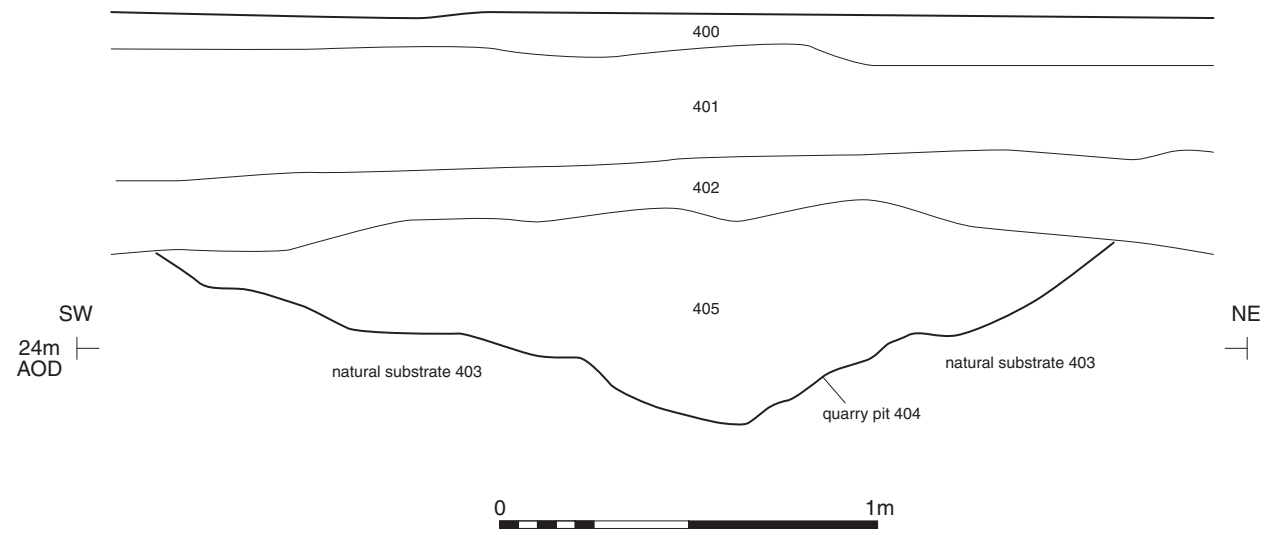
PROJECT TITLE
**Gloucestershire Deaf Association Phase II
 Colin Road, Barnwood, Gloucester**

FIGURE TITLE
**Trench location plan, showing
 archaeological features**

PROJECT NO.	5066	DATE	27-01-2014	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	AO	REVISION	00	2
APPROVED BY	LM	SCALE@A3	1:250	

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Section AA



Quarry pit 404, looking north-west (1m scale)



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