Cotswold Archaeology

Gloucestershire Archives Extension
Alvin Street, Gloucester
Gloucestershire

Archaeological Evaluation

for
Gloucestershire County Council

CA Project: 5409
CA Report: 15270

June 2015

Andover Cirencester Exeter Milton Keynes

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Gloucestershire Archives Extension
Location:	Alvin Street, Gloucester, Gloucestershire
NGR:	SO 8350 1889
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	14-19 May 2015
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery
Site Code:	GARC 15

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May 2015 at Gloucestershire Archives, Alvin Street, Gloucester, Gloucestershire. Three trenches were excavated.

A buried soil horizon, pre-dating observed Roman activity, was identified immediately sealing the natural substrate within Trenches 1 and 3. Within Trench 1 this was sealed by gravel and mortar deposits from which a heavily corroded Roman coin provisionally dated to the 1st to 2nd centuries was recovered. The surfaces were subsequently cut by a ditch from which late 3rd to 4th-century pottery was recovered. Further later Roman activity, a large east-west aligned ditch and probable quarry pits, were identified within Trench 2. Pits 307 and 309 identified within Trench 3 remain undated, although a Roman date is probable given both the buried soil horizon.

A broadly analogous sequence of cultivation deposits, comprising two identifiable soil horizons, was revealed in all three trenches immediately sealing the identified Roman features and deposits. Ditches identified cutting the cultivation soils within Trench 1 most probably represent post-medieval plot divisions or drainage. It is uncertain whether these are associated with Wheeler's Nursery or earlier agricultural activity. No evidence for the Civil War defensive line or the Alvin Iron Works was identified during the evaluation.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In May 2015 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) at Gloucestershire Archives, Alvin Street, Gloucester, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SO 8350 1889; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application for the demolition of two HORSA huts and the construction of three new strong rooms and a meeting/training room.

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2015a) that was approved by Toby Catchpole, Heritage Team Leader, GCC. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014), *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 Toby Catchpole, including site visits on 14, 18 and 19 May 2015.

The site

1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 0.8ha in extent and comprises the existing Gloucestershire Archives buildings (formerly Kingsholm School) and associated car park. It is bound to the north, east and west by residential and commercial development and to the south by a railway embankment. The site lies at approximately 14m AOD and drops away slightly to the west.

1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Blue Lias and Charmouth Mudstone Formations, sedimentary bedrocks formed in the Jurassic and Triassic periods. These are overlain by superficial deposits of Cheltenham Sand and Gravel, formed in the Quaternary period (British Geological Survey, accessed: May 2015). A sandy clay natural substrate was encountered in each of the trenches.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The proposed development site has been subject to a preceding Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (CA 2015b). It is not intended to fully reprise this report here, but the following is a summary of its conclusions.

2.2 The assessment noted that no designated heritage assets are currently recorded within the proposed development site. However, the site is located within an area of archaeological potential to the north-east of Gloucester's Roman and medieval defences, between two major Roman roads – Worcester Street and London Road (ibid). Recent archaeological trenching at 1 Alvin Street, immediately east of the proposed development site, identified Roman features including a Roman soil horizon, postholes, pits, ditches, a wall, a metalled surface, and at least one grave; another grave was excavated in proximity to 1 Alvin Street in 1988 (Cook et al. 2015).

2.3 During the early medieval and medieval periods, it is probable that the proposed development area remained within the agricultural hinterland of the post-Roman settlement at Gloucester. There is no evidence for early medieval settlement in the immediate area, and although medieval remains have been identified in proximity to the current site, the nature of these remains, such as pits and ditches, is more suggestive of extra-urban agricultural activity (CA 2015b).

2.4 The site lies within close proximity to, but most probably outwith, the postulated alignment of Gloucester's Civil War defences associated with the 1643 siege of the city. During the 19th century, the site formed the grounds of the Alvin Iron Works and Wheeler's Gardens/Nursery. It became the site of Kingsholm School in the early 20th century and has been used to house the Gloucestershire Archives since the 1970s (ibid.).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 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 *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014). This information will enable GCC 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).

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of three trenches in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Trenches 1 and 2 measured 12m and 8m in length respectively and were both 1.8m in width. Trench 3 measured 2.4m in length and 2m in width. The trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual*.

4.2 All trenches were 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*.

4.3 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.* No deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.

4.4 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 Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix E, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-5)

5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A, B and C. Details of

the relative heights of the principal deposits and features, expressed as metres Above Ordnance Datum (m AOD), appear in Appendix D.

Trench 1 (Figs 2 & 3)

5.2 Natural substrate 128 was encountered at a depth of 1.4m below present ground level (bpgl), sealed by a sterile grey-brown sandy clay buried soil horizon, 120, measuring 0.18m in thickness. This was in turn overlain in the north-western extent of the trench by a 0.13m thick layer of re-deposited natural sand, 115. In the south-eastern part of the trench, buried soil horizon 120 was overlain by a thin, compacted layer of sand, gravel and mortar, 123, from which a 1st to 2nd-century Roman coin was recovered, and also by a thin layer of gravel, 121. Overlaying deposit 123 was sand and gravel deposit 124, most probably a continuation of deposit 121. Deposit 121/124 was cut by ditch 119, which measured 3.66m in width, 0.22m in depth and was aligned northeast/southwest. It contained single clay-silt fill 118 from which late 3rd to 4th-century pottery, as well as stone and ceramic building material, was recovered.

5.3 In the north-western part of the trench, sand deposit 115 was overlain by undated clay layer 114. In the centre of the trench deposits 115 and 121 were cut by ditch 117. The ditch measured 0.88m in width, at least 0.44m in depth and contained sandy clay fill 116 from which post-medieval pottery dating from the mid-16th to 18th centuries, as well as residual Roman ceramics, was recovered.

5.4 The foregoing features and deposits were overlain by a 0.28m thick cultivation soil, 109, from which 19th-century pottery, as well as residual Roman ceramics, was recovered. Deposit 109 was itself sealed by a further cultivation soil, 108. In the north-western extent of the trench, cultivation soil 108 was cut by ditches 111 and 113, whilst in the south-eastern part of the trench it was cut by drain 126.

5.5 Fill 110 within ditch 111 was partially sealed by makeup layer 105 for former brick surface 101. Drain fill 125 and ditch fill 112 were overlain by make up layer 104 for the current tarmac surface, 100. Several modern service trenches were also encountered within Trench 1.

Trench 2 (Figs 2 & 4)

5.6 Natural substrate 215 was encountered within Trench 2 at a typical depth of 1m bpgl. The natural sandy clay was cut by a series of pits within the south-eastern extent of the trench and by a large ditch to the north-west.

5.7 Pit 207 measured at least 2.9m in diameter, 0.85m in depth and contained grey-brown clay silt 206 from which 3rd to 4th-century pottery was recovered. Pits 209 and 211 were at least 1m diameter and contained undated fills 208 and 210 respectively.

5.7 Ditch 214 was aligned east/west aligned ditch 214, measured at least 3.35m in width and was excavated to a depth of 1m before the rapid ingress of groundwater made further excavation impractical. Two fills were identified within the ditch; lower fill 213, and upper fill 212, both of which contained 3rd to 4th-century pottery, as well as presumably residual high status imported 1st to 2nd-century pottery.

5.8 Upper ditch fill 212 and pit fills 206, 208 and 210 were sealed by former cultivation soil 205 (equivalent to deposit 109 within Trench 1). It was similarly sealed by a further cultivation soil, 204 (equivalent to deposit 108 within Trench 1). This was in turn was overlain by a former brick surface, 201 which itself was sealed by the current tarmac surface 200 (equivalent to deposits 101 and 100 respectively within Trench 1).

Trench 3 (Figs 2 & 5)

5.9 The natural substrate within Trench 3 was revealed at a depth of 1.38m bpgl. It was sealed by buried soil horizon 310, most probably equivalent to deposit 120 with Trench 1, from which an undated fragment of fired clay was recovered. It was cut by two undated pits or postholes, 307 and 309.

5.10 Pit fills 306 and 308 were sealed by a probable levelling deposit 304, comprising re-deposited natural clayey sands, measuring 0.35m in thickness. This was covered by cultivation soil 303 which was in turn sealed by an upper cultivation soil, 302 (this sequence correlates with the cultivation soils revealed within Trenches 1 and 2). Modern pottery was recovered from deposit 302. This was sealed by a modern make up layer, 301, for current tarmac surface 300.

6. THE FINDS

6.1 Artefactual material was hand-recovered from nine deposits (ditch and pit fills, cultivation soil, buried soil and a possible surface) during the evaluation. The recovered material dates to the Roman, medieval and post-medieval/modern periods. Quantities of the artefact types recovered are given in Appendix B. The pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric and also includes vessel form/rim morphology and any evidence for use in the form of carbonised/other residues. Pottery fabric codes are equated to the Gloucester pottery type series (Ireland 1983; Vince 1983) where possible. Where applicable, National Roman Fabric Reference Collection codes are also given in Appendix B (Tomber and Dore 1998).

Pottery

Roman

6.2 A total of 91 sherds (3853g) of Roman pottery was recovered from six deposits. The Roman pottery recovered from cultivation soil 109 and from fill 116 within ditch 117 occur with later-dated material. Consequently, only that recovered from fill 118 within ditch 119, fills 212 and 213 of ditch 214, and fill 206 of pit 207 appear to be stratified. Condition (in terms of edge abrasion and surface survival) is mostly good to very good, with burnish preserved on much of the Severn Valley ware (TF11B) and slip on the Oxford Red-slipped ware (TF12A). Sooting was noted on one sherd from ditch fill 213, and limescale on single sherds from ditch fills 118 and 212. Ditch fills 212 and 213 included large and/or joining pottery sherds and the overall good condition of the assemblage is reflected in the average sherd weight of 42g (33g if the large sherd of Gaulish amphora (TF10) from ditch fill 213 is excluded), which is high for a Roman group. The stratified Roman pottery constitutes a mixture of types dating to the 1st to 2nd and the 3rd to 4th centuries. The good condition of the fragments of high status and imported 1st to 2nd-century pottery suggest that they were curated until the 3rd to 4th centuries when they were finally deposited along with more common local 3rd to 4th century wares.

6.3 The samian (11 sherds) is all central Gaulish (Lezoux type; TF8) in origin and therefore dateable to the 2nd century. Where closer dating is possible, based on vessel form, most are from the period after AD 150/160 (see Table 1 below; Webster 1996, 2–3; 38–43; 51–5).

Source	Form	Classification	Date	Context
Central Gaul	Cup	Drag. 27	Early to mid 2nd century	213
Central Gaul	Bowl	Drag. 31	Mid to late 2nd century	212
Central Gaul	Bowl	Drag. 38	Mid to late 2nd century	212
Central Gaul	Mortarium	Drag. 43/45	Late 2nd century	213

Table 1

6.4 Baetican (Spanish) and Gaulish amphorae (TF10) are represented by sherds from ditch fills 212 and 213, in addition to a sherd of amphora of uncertain type (TF10) from ditch fill 118. All are dateable to the mid 1st to mid 3rd centuries. Other continental imports, in the form of single bodysherds, include Central Gaulish colour coated ware from ditch fill 118 and Moselkeramik black-slipped ware from ditch fill 213. The former dates to the mid-1st to early 2nd centuries, whilst the latter is of late 2nd to mid-3rd century date and features trailed white barbotine decoration over the slip (Tyers 1996, 138; 140).

6.5 A total of 19 sherds of Dorset Black-burnished ware (TF4) was recorded in three deposits. This type of pottery was manufactured near Poole in Dorset and when found beyond that county typically dates to the 2nd to 4th centuries (Davies *et al*. 1994, 107). The majority of forms identified here, however, are representative of later Roman production: (Seager Smith and Davies) Type 3 everted rim jars (late 3rd to 4th centuries) from ditch fills 118 and 214; a Type 20 plain rim dish (late 2nd to 4th centuries) from ditch fill 118; and a Type 25 conical flanged bowl (mid 3rd to 4th centuries) from ditch fill 214 (Seager Smith and Davies 1993, 230–4). Ditch fills 212 and 213 produced a total of 12 sherds in a local, wheelthrown, grey-firing fabric (TF5) imitating Black-burnished ware, including an almost complete miniature jar from fill 212.

6.6 Sherds from regionally imported mortaria were represented by Oxford Whiteware (TF9A) from ditch fill 212 and Mancetter Hartshill (TF9D) from ditch fill 213. The Oxford mortarium is a (Young) Type M17, dateable to the mid to late 3rd century (Young 1977, 72). The Mancetter Hartshill mortarium is a hammerhead type, which was produced from *c*. 160 onwards (Tyers 1996, 123). Also from the Oxford potteries are a rouletted base sherd from a vessel from pit fill 206 and a rimsherd from a Young Type C45 or C55 bowl from ditch fill 213, both in Oxford red-slipped ware (TF12A) and dating to the mid 3rd to 4th centuries (Young 1977, 158–63).

6.7 The most common local pottery type, with 24 sherds, is Severn Valley oxidised ware (TF11B). It was recovered from pit fill 206 and ditch fills 118, 212 and 213. This ware type is broadly Roman in date and is very commonly found in Gloucester. More narrowly dateable forms include: a (Webster) Type 10 storage jar with a bifid rim, dating to the 3rd to 4th centuries, from pit fill 206; and a Type 32 wide-mouthed neck jar from ditch fill 213, of 4th century date (Webster 1976, 24–5; 28–30). A bodysherd from ditch fill 213 features burnished loop decoration. Greywares, oxidised fabrics and fine whitewares, of broad Roman date, are also represented. Forms include: a necked jar in a burnished greyware fabric from ditch fill 212; and a flanged bowl in an oxidised fabric from ditch fill 118.

Post-medieval/modern

6.8 A total of eight sherds of post-medieval/modern pottery (140g) was recorded in cultivation soils 109 and 302, and ditch fill 116. Condition ranges from poor to good and the average sherd weight of 18g indicates a moderately fragmented assemblage.

6.9 Fabrics include: glazed earthenware (TF50) of mid 16th to 18th century date; Tin-glazed earthenware (TF62), manufactured during the late 17th and 18th centuries; refined whitewares with both painted and transfer-printed decoration (late 18th to 19th centuries); and flower pot type unglazed earthenware (19th to 20th centuries).

Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

6.10 Ceramic building material of Roman date, totalling 28 fragments (4.723kg), was retrieved from ditch fills 118, 212 and 213. It's condition is generally good. Classifiable fragments are: imbrex and tegula from fill 118; brick and tegula from fill 212; and tegula, imbrex and other tile from fill 213.

6.11 A fragment of flat tile of late medieval/post-medieval date was recovered from cultivation soil 302 and a brick fragment of post-medieval date from cultivation soil 109.

Other finds

6.12 A heavily corroded and encrusted copper alloy coin (Ra. 2) was retrieved from possible surface 123. Although neither face is visible, the diameter and thickness enable identification as a possible *as* or *dupondius* of 1st or 2nd century date.

6.13 A moderately corroded, rod-like copper alloy fragment (Ra. 1) was recorded in ditch fill 118. It is likely to be part of a hairpin or brooch pin of Roman date. A heavily corroded iron nail was also recovered from this context.

6.14 Ditch fills 118, 212 and 213 produced a total of nine fragments (2.215kg) of sandstone roofing tile, which was commonly used during the Roman period.

6.15 Cultivation soil 109 produced five clay tobacco pipe fragments: two bowls and three stem fragments. One of the stem fragments was relief stamped "Samual/Acton/Brosly". Clay pipe manufacture began in Broseley, Shropshire in the mid 17th century, largely as a cottage industry. A pipe featuring an identical stamp was recovered from St. Ebbe's, Oxford (Oswald 1984, 257–9). A small-sized, footed bowl conforms to Gloucestershire Type 1, dating to *c*. 1600–40 (Peacey 1979, 46–7). The second bowl is probably of the same form but is lacking its foot.

6.16 Cultivation soil 109 produced the head of a bone toothbrush. This form, with bristles secured within drilled perforations and secured by copper wire (as evidenced by grooves and green staining on the underside), is dateable after *c*. 1780 and throughout the 19th century.

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Animal Bone

7.1 A total of 147 fragments (7660g) of animal bone were recovered in association with artefacts dating to the Roman period, from the fills of ditches 119 and 214 (Appendix C). For the purpose of this report, the bones were identified to species and skeletal element using an osteological reference collection (Cotswold Archaeology Ltd) as well as standard reference literature (Schmid 1972, Hillson 1996), and quantified by fragment count and weight. Where modern breakage was observed and re-fitting was possible, those fragments were recorded as a single bone.

7.2 The bone was very well preserved, but highly fragmented, rendering 53% of the assemblage unidentifiable beyond the level of 'large' or 'medium mammal'. However, it was possible to identify the remains of cattle (Bos taurus), sheep/goat (Ovis aries/Capra hircus), and pig (Sus scrofa domesticus). Of the three major domestic species, the bones of cattle dominate with sheep/goat and pig making only

a minor contribution to the assemblage. However, all three species are represented by both meat rich and meat poor skeletal elements. Butchery marks were observed indicative of the preparation of a carcass, of individual cuts of meat and much of the bone shows historical fractures that may indicate marrow extraction. This is highly indicative of domestic refuse, comprising both butchery and food waste, with beef clearly being the favoured dietary choice.

7.3 The remains of horse (Equus callabus), chicken (Gallus gallus) and hare (Lepus timidus) were also identified, all of which are to be expected in assemblages of this period (Baker and Worley, 2014). However, due to the absence of observable butchery marks, it has not been possible to confirm whether any of these species were exploited as food animals.

8. DISCUSSION

8.1 The earliest deposit encountered during the current works was buried soil horizon 120 within Trench 1 that pre-dates the laying of Roman surface(s) 121/123/124 and the excavation of later Roman ditch 119 (see below). A similar buried soil, 310, was also identified within Trench 3, raising the possibility that a prehistoric/early Roman land surface survives throughout the current site. A similar buried soil horizon, there attributed to the Roman period, was recorded during archaeological works at 1 Alvin Street (Cooke et al. 2015).

Roman

8.2 Gravel and mortar deposits 121, 123 and 124 identified within Trench 1 may represent the remnants of a yard surface or trackway. The only dateable material retrieved from these deposits was a heavily corroded Roman coin (from surface 123) that is provisionally dated to the 1st to 2nd centuries. The function of these surfaces remains undetermined, although they may represent evidence of extra-mural settlement in this area. No physical evidence for associated buildings was identified during the current works but the recovery of ceramic and stone building materials, albeit from later contexts, does hint at the possibility of early Roman structures in the immediate vicinity. The surfaces were subsequently cut by shallow, or most probably heavily truncated, Roman ditch 119 from which late 3rd to 4th-century pottery was recovered.

8.3 Evidence for later Roman activity, broadly contemporary with ditch 119, includes east/west aligned ditch 214 and pit 206 within Trench 2. Although pits 209 and 211 remained undated, the similarity of their fills to that observed in pit 206, coupled with all of the identified pits being sealed by a later cultivation soil, suggests that a later Roman date may be offered for all of this activity. The function of these pits remains uncertain, but given the sterile nature of their fills it is possible that they were quarry pits, possibly for sand or gravel extraction. Evidence for Roman quarrying of the local sands and gravels has previously been evidenced in the Kingsholm area within the Civil Service Playing Fields (CA 2014).

8.4 The artefacts retrieved during the current works are noteworthy, particularly the assemblage of Roman pottery recovered from ditch 214 which not only contained local and regional wares dating to the 3rd and 4th centuries but also a strong undercurrent of imported and high status wares typical of the 1st to 2nd centuries. The majority of the pottery, including the 1st to 2nd-century ceramics, was in very good condition, suggesting all were deposited together in the 3rd to 4th century rather than the earlier pottery being residual. However, the cause of this possible curation of the earlier artefacts before deposition in the later Roman period remains undetermined.

Post-medieval/modern

8.5 A broadly analogous sequence of cultivation deposits, comprising two identifiable soil horizons, was revealed in all three trenches immediately sealing the identified Roman features and deposits. Such evidence adds credence to the interpretation that the site remained within the agricultural hinterland of Gloucester throughout the post Roman period and was latterly occupied by a nursery. Ditches identified cutting the cultivation soils within Trench 1 most probably represent post-medieval plot divisions or drainage. It is uncertain whether these are associated with Wheeler's Nursery or earlier agricultural activity. No evidence for the Civil War defensive line or the Alvin Iron Works was identified during the evaluation.

Undated

8.6 Pits 307 and 309 identified within Trench 3 remain undated. However, a Roman date can be tentatively attributed to them as they cut the early buried soil horizon, 310, and are sealed beneath sandy clay layer 304 and the post-medieval cultivation soils. Layer 304 also remained undated and may equally be associated with Roman

activity, the post-medieval development of the site, or possibly even an alluvial deposit originating from the flooding of the nearby River Twyver.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Tom Weavill, assisted by Peter Busby. The report was written by Tom Weavill. The finds and biological evidence reports were written by Jacky Sommerville and Andy Clarke respectively. The illustrations were prepared by Rosanna Price. The archive has been compiled by Tom Weavill, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Car park surface	Tarmac	>12	>1.8	0.1	
1	101	Layer		Surface	Former schoolyard surface	2	>1.8	0.16	
1	102	Fill	103	Service trench fill	Brick rubble and road stone. Contains iron pipe	>3.8	0.6	0.3	
1	103	Cut		Service trench	Service trench	>3.8	0.6	0.3	
1	104	Layer		Surface	Disturbed brick surface	9	>1.8	0.24	
1	105	Layer		Make up for 104	Black silt clay with lime mortar frags	0.3	>1.8	0.06	
1	106	Fill		Service trench fill	Dark brown clay silt	>1.8	0.42	>1.1	
1	107	Cut		Service trench	Service trench	>1.8	0.42	>1.1	
1	108	Layer		Cultivation soil	Grey brown silty clay	>12	>1.8	0.6	
1	109	Layer		Cultivation soil	Dark brown grey with lenses of brown sand and gravel	>12	>1.8	0.28	C19
1	110	Fill	111	Ditch fill	Dark brown clay silt	>1.8	>0.8	0.8	P-med
1	111	Cut		Ditch	Steep sided flat based ditch	>1.8	>0.8	0.8	P-med
1	112	Fill	113	Ditch	Dark brown clay silt	1.4	>1.8	0.58	P-med
1	113	Cut		Ditch	Steep sided flat based ditch	1.4	>1.8	0.58	P-med
1	114	Layer		Levelling layer?	Redeposited natural: light brown blue clay	4.35	>1.8	0.26	
1	115	Layer		Levelling layer?	Redeposited natural: Orange brown silty sand	>1.8	0.66	0.13	
1	116	Fill	117	Ditch fill	Black sandy clay	>1.8	0.8	>0.44	MC16-C18
1	117	Cut		Ditch	Steep sided ditch cut. Not fully excavated.	>1.8	0.8	>0.44	
1	118	Fill	119	Ditch fill	Dark brown black clay silt	>1.8	3.66	0.22	LC3-C4
1	119	Cut		Ditch	Flat based shallow sided ditch. Probably truncated.	>1.8	3.66	0.22	
1	120	Layer		Buried soil	Grey brown sandy clay	>12	>1.8	0.18	
1	121	Layer		Disturbed surface?	Orange brown sandy gravel	1.68	>0.5	0.06	
1	122	VOID							
1	123	Layer		Surface?	Compacted layer of grey/white mortar fragments, sand and gravel.	>1.5	>1.8	0.05	C1-C2
1	124	Layer		Disturbed surface?	Yellow orange sand and gravel	>2	>0.4	0.2	
1	125	Fill	126	Drain fill	Broken plant pots and brick rubble	>1.8	0.73	0.34	
1	126	Cut		French drain	Vertical sided, flat based	>1.8	0.73	0.34	
1	127	VOID							
1	128	Layer		Natural substrate	Yellow orange sandy clay				
2	200	Layer		Car park surface	Same as 100	>8	>1.8	0.1	
2	201	Layer		Surface	Same as 101	>8	>1.8	0.15	
2	202	Fill	203	Service trench fill	Black silty clay	>1.8	0.3	0.5	
2	203	Cut		Service trench	Service trench	>1.8	0.3	0.5	
2	204	Layer		Cultivation soil	Same as 108	>8	>1.8	0.65	
2	205	Layer		Cultivation soil	Dark brown clay silt	>8	>1.8	0.35	
2	206	Fill	207	Pit fill	Grey brown clay silt	>2.9	>1	0.85	C3-C4
2	207	Cut		Pit	Circular, steep sided flat based.	>2.9	>1	0.85	
2	208	Fill	209	Pit fill	Brown clay silt	>0.3	>1.2	>0.2	
2	209	Cut		Pit	Circular? Steep sided. Only partially exposed	>0.3	>1.2	>0.2	
2	210	Fill	211	Pit fill	Grey brown clay silt	>0.6	1.39	>1	

2	211	Cut		Pit	Circular, steep sided	>0.6	1.39	>1	
2	212	Fill	214	Ditch fill	Dark brown silty clay	>1.8	>4	0.6	MC3-C4
2	213	Fill	214	Ditch fill	Light grey brown silt clay	>1.8	>4	>0.3	LC3-C4
2	214	Cut		Ditch	Moderate sided, not fully excavated or exposed.	>1.8	>4	>0.9	
2	215	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 128				

3	300	Layer		Tarmac	Same as 100	>2.4	>2.4	0.06	
3	301	Layer		Levelling	Gravel and brick rubble	>2.4	>2.4	0.15	
3	302	Layer		Cultivation soil	Dark brown/black clayey silt	>2.4	>2.4	0.37	C19-20
3	303	Layer		Cultivation soil	Mid greyish brown	>2.4	>2.4	0.32	
3	304	Layer		Levelling layer?	Redeposited natural: Yellow/grey clayey sand	>2.4	>2.4	0.35	
3	305	VOID							
3	306	Fill	307	Pit fill	Blue grey/orange brown mottled clayey sand	>0.6	>0.5	0.33	
3	307	Cut		Pit	Sub-circular steep sided, concave base	>0.6	>0.5	0.33	
3	308	Fill	309	Pit fill	Blue grey/orange brown mottled clayey sand	0.41	0.45	0.23	
3	309	Cut		Pit	Sub-circular steep sided, flat base	0.41	0.45	0.23	
3	310	Layer		Buried soil	Blue grey clayey sand	>2.4	>2.4	0.22	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code/ NRFRC*	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
109	Roman pottery	Oxidised fabric	TF20	1	32	C19
	Post-medieval/ modern pottery	Transfer-printed refined whiteware	TF71	2	16	
	Post-medieval/ modern pottery	Tin-glazed earthenware	TF62	1	7	
	Modern pottery	Flower pot	TF63	1	19	
	Post-medieval ceramic building material	Brick		1	434	
	Clay tobacco pipe	Bowls, stems		5	24	
	Worked bone	Toothbrush head		1	3	
116	Roman pottery	Central Gaulish samian	TF8/**LEZ SA2**	1	22	MC16-C18
	Post-medieval pottery	Glazed earthenware	TF50	1	59	
118	Roman pottery	Central Gaulish samian	TF8/**LEZ SA2**	2	10	LC3-C4
	Roman pottery	Amphora	TF10	1	83	
	Roman pottery	Central Gaulish colour coated ware	TF12/ **CNG CC2**	1	0	
	Roman pottery	Dorset Black-burnished ware	TF4/ **DOR BB1**	7	94	
	Roman pottery	Fine, black-firing sand-tempered fabric	TF20	1	40	
	Roman pottery	Sandy, oxidised fabric	TF20	1	7	
	Roman pottery	Severn Valley oxidised ware	TF11B/ **SVW OX2**	2	8	
	Roman pottery	Fine, oxidised fabric	TF20	1	35	
	Roman pottery	Fine whiteware	TF13	1	5	
	Roman ceramic building material	Imbrex, tegula, fragments		9	357	
	Worked stone	Sandstone roof tile		4	367	
	Copper alloy	Pin (Ra. 1)		1	0	
	Iron	Nail		1	9	
	Slag			2	86	
	Shell			3	2	
123	Copper alloy	Coin (Ra. 2)		1	20	C1-C2
206	Roman pottery	Severn Valley oxidised ware	TF11B/ **SVW OX2**	2	70	C3-C4
	Roman pottery	Oxford red-slipped ware	TF12A/ **OXF RS**	1	111	
212	Roman pottery	Central Gaulish samian	TF8/**LEZ SA2**	4	46	MC3-C4
	Roman pottery	Baetican amphora	TF10A/ **BAT AM**	2	96	
	Roman pottery	Dorset Black-burnished ware	TF4/ **DOR BB1**	5	91	
	Roman pottery	Imitation Black-burnished ware	TF5	11	210	
	Roman pottery	Oxford whiteware	TF9A/ **OXF WH**	1	72	
	Roman pottery	Severn Valley oxidised ware	TF11B/ **SVW OX2**	2	53	
	Roman pottery	Greyware	TF20	1	33	
	Roman pottery	Oxidised fabric	TF20	1	20	
	Roman ceramic building material	Tegula, brick		4	1180	
	Worked stone	Sandstone roof tile		3	444	
	Shell			3	88	
213	Roman pottery	Central Gaulish samian	TF8/**LEZ SA2**	4	61	LC3-C4

	Roman pottery	Baetican amphora	TF10A/ **BAT AM**	2	255	
	Roman pottery	Gaulish amphora	TF10/ **GAL AM1**	1	856	
	Roman pottery	Moselkeramik black-slipped ware	TF12/ **MOS BS**	1	8	
	Roman pottery	Dorset Black-burnished ware	TF4/ **DOR BB1**	7	204	
	Roman pottery	Imitation Black-burnished ware	TF5	1	3	
	Roman pottery	Mancetter Hartshill whiteware	TF9D/ **MAH WH**	2	533	
	Roman pottery	Oxford red-slipped ware	TF12A/ **OXF RS**	1	13	
	Roman pottery	Fine whiteware	TF13	2	32	
	Roman pottery	White slipped flagon fabric	TF20	1	4	
	Roman pottery	Severn Valley oxidised ware	TF11B/ **SVW OX2**	18	708	
	Roman pottery	Greyware	TF20	2	38	
	Roman ceramic building material	Tegula, imbrex, tile, fragments		15	3186	
	Worked stone	Sandstone roof tile		2	1404	
	Slag			2	1874	
	Shell			4	151	
302	Post-medieval pottery	Glazed earthenware	TF50	1	21	C19-C20
	Post-medieval/ modern pottery	Refined whiteware with painted decoration	TF71	1	0	
	Modern pottery	Flower pot	TF63	1	18	
	Medieval/post-medieval ceramic building material	Flat tile		1	14	
310	Fired clay			1	3	-

APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Cut	Fill	BOS	O/C	SUS	EQ	LEPUS	GAL	LM	MM	Total	Weight (g)
119	118	17	4			1		43		65	1146
214	212	7	1	3			1	10	6	28	1795
214	213	24	2	3	4		1	15	5	54	4719
Total		**48**	**7**	**6**	**4**	**1**	**2**	**68**	**11**	**147**	
Weight		**4540**	**97**	**1065**	**800**	**1**	**6**	**1109**	**42**	**7660**	

Bos = cattle; O/C = sheep/goat; SUS = pig; EQ = horse; LEPUS = hare; GAL = Chicken; LM = cow sized mammal; MM = sheep sized mammal

APPENDIX D: LEVELS OF PRINCIPAL DEPOSITS

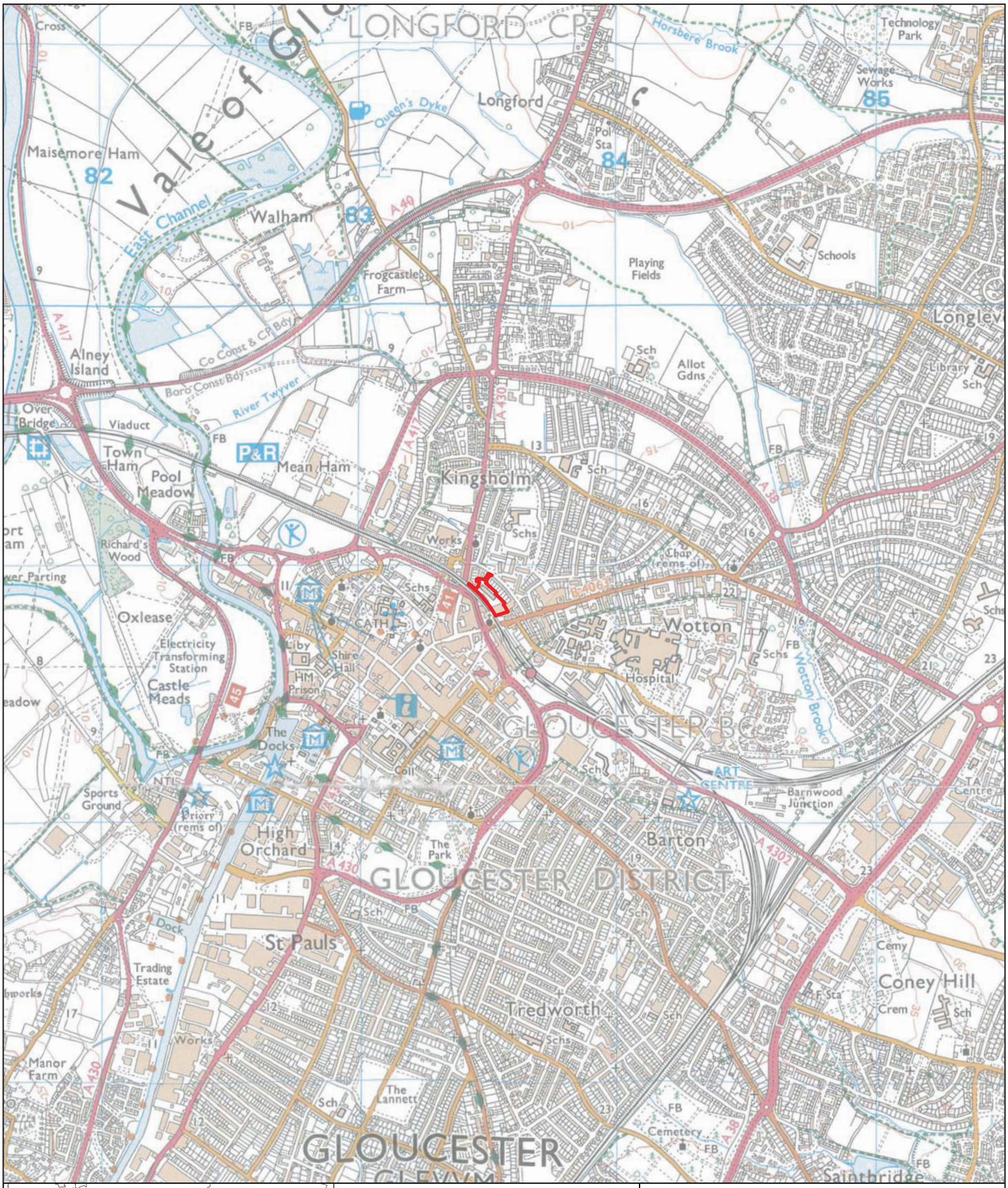
Levels are expressed as metres below current ground level and as metres Above Ordnance Datum (AOD), calculated using Leica GPS survey data.

	Trench 1	Trench 2	Trench 3
Current ground level at highest point	0.00m (13.94m)	0.00m (13.98)	0.00m (13.68m)
Top of archaeological horizon at highest point	1.12m (12.82m)	1.05m (12.93m)	1.11m (12.57)
Top of natural substrate at lowest point	1.54m (12.40m)	1.05m (12.93m)	1.38m (12.30m)

Upper figures are depth below modern ground level; lower figures in parentheses are metres AOD.

APPENDIX E: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Gloucestershire Archives Extension, Alvin Street, Gloucester, Gloucestershire	
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May 2015 at Gloucestershire Archives, Alvin Street, Gloucester, Gloucestershire. Three trenches were excavated. A buried soil horizon, pre-dating observed Roman activity, was identified laying directly on top of the natural substrate within Trench 1 and possibly within Trench 3. This was cut by two undated pits within Trench 3. The purpose of these pits remains uncertain but could potentially be postholes representing a structure in this part of the site. Later Roman activity was confirmed within Trenches 1 and 2, comprising a large north-south aligned ditch and probable quarry pits within Trench 2 and a possible compacted gravel and mortar surface within the south-eastern end of Trench 1. Deposits, comprising redeposited clay and sand natural, were also identified within Trench 1 which may the potential up-cast from the excavation of the ditch within Trench 2. Post-medieval cultivation soils were identified attesting to the sites history within the agricultural hinterland of Gloucester during this period and it's later use as a garden nursery. Several post-medieval ditches were also identified. No evidence for the Civil War defensive line or the Alvin Iron Works was identified during the evaluation.	
Project dates	14-19 May 2015	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	Archaeological desk-based assessment (CA 2015)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Gloucestershire Archives Extension, Alvin Street, Gloucester, Gloucestershire	
Study area (M^2/ha)	0.8ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SO 8350 1889	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	None	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Tom Weavill	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery	Ceramic, metalwork, animal bone
Paper	Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery	Context sheets, trench sheets, photo register
Digital	Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery	Digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 *Gloucestershire Archives Extension, Alvin Street, Gloucester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation.* CA typescript report **15170**		



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0 1km

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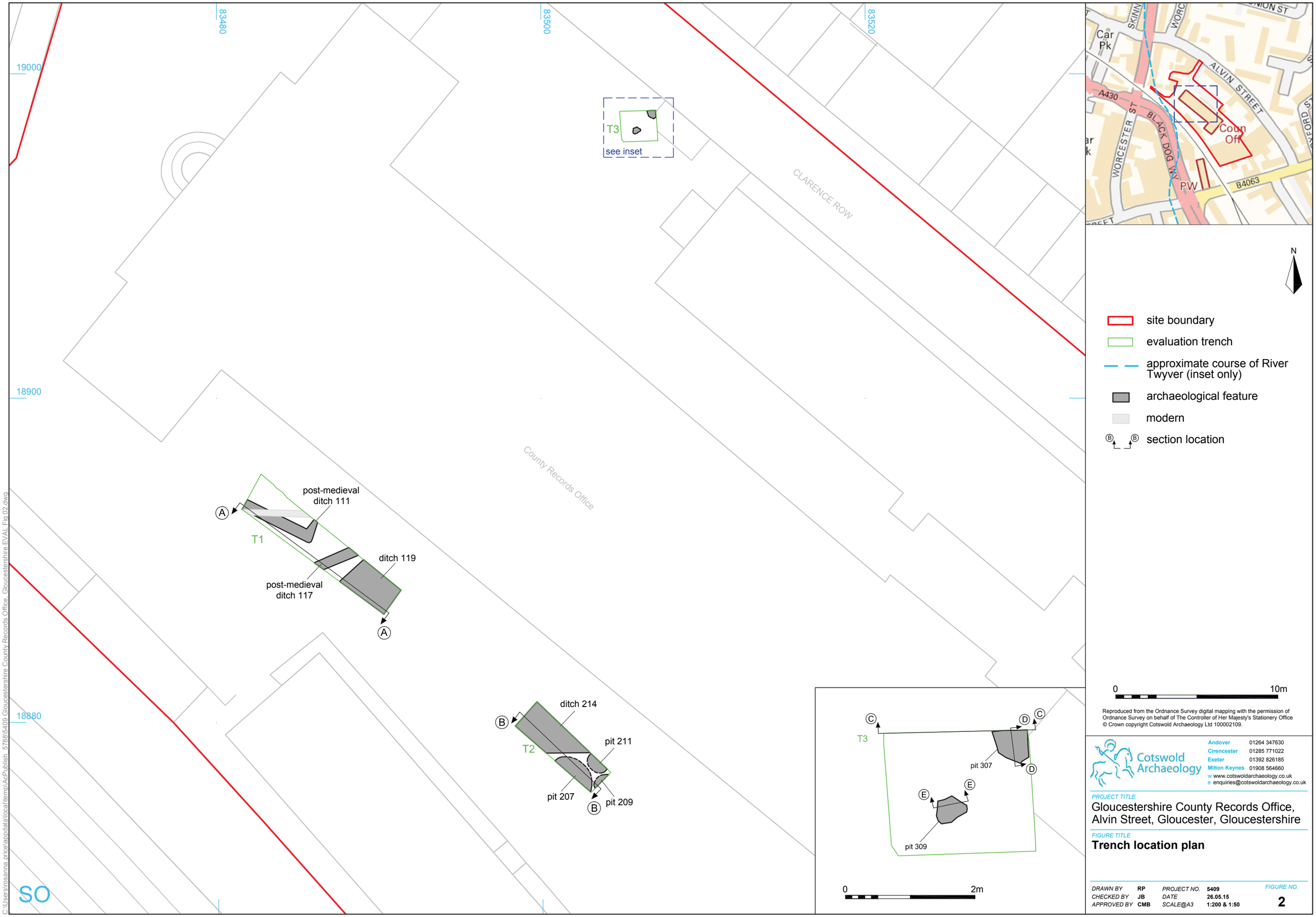
PROJECT TITLE

Gloucestershire County Records Office, Alvin Street, Gloucester, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

DRAWN BY	RP	PROJECT NO.	5329	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	JB	DATE	26.05.15	1
APPROVED BY	CMB	SCALE@A4	1:20,000	



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PROJECT TITLE

Gloucestershire County Records Office, Alvin Street, Gloucester, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Trench location plan

DRAWN BY	**RP**	*PROJECT NO.*	**5409**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**JB**	*DATE*	**26.05.15**	**2**
APPROVED BY	**CMB**	*SCALE@A3*	**1:200 & 1:50**	

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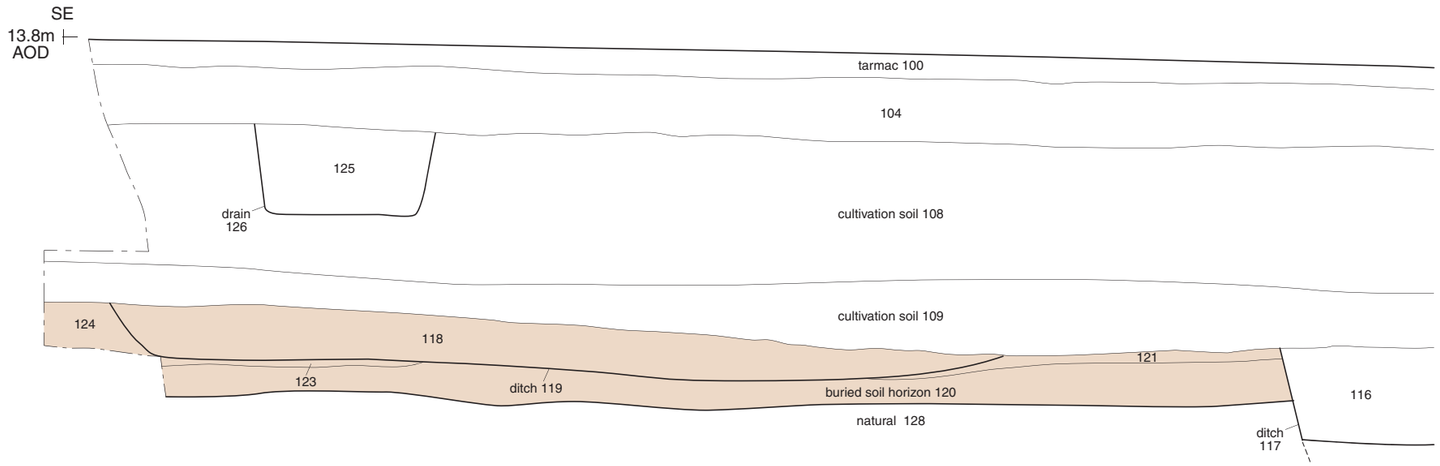
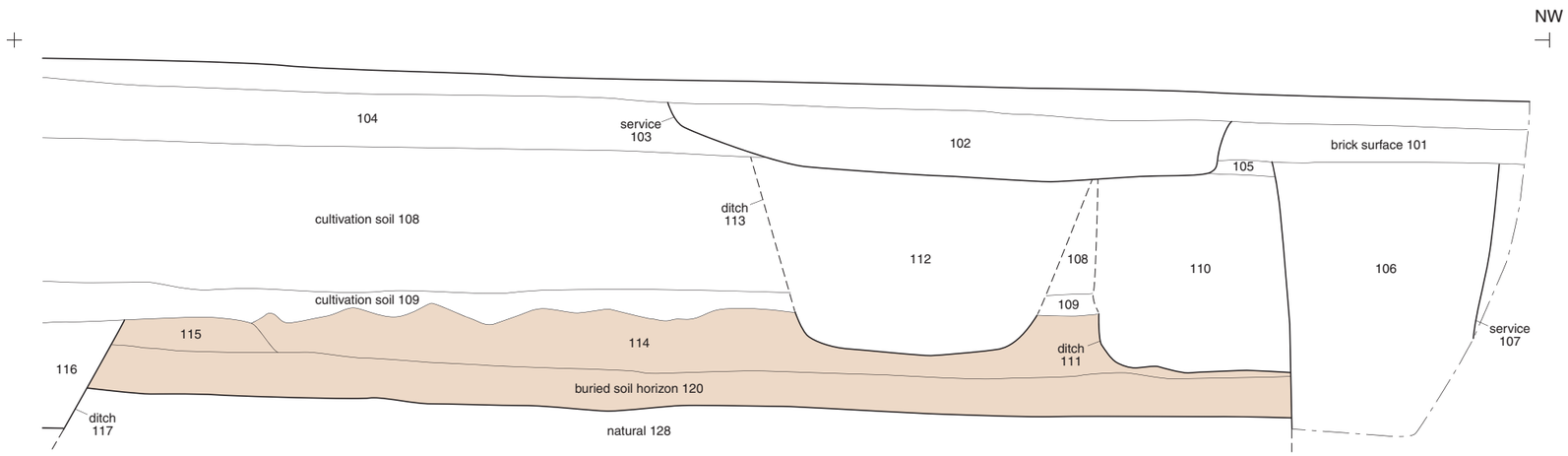
Section AA





Trench 1, south-east end, looking south-west (scale 1m)

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

Trench 1, north-west end, looking south-west (scale 1m)

extent of archaeological deposits

0 1m

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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 1; section and photographs

DRAWN BY	**RP**	*PROJECT NO.*	**5409**	*FIGURE NO.*
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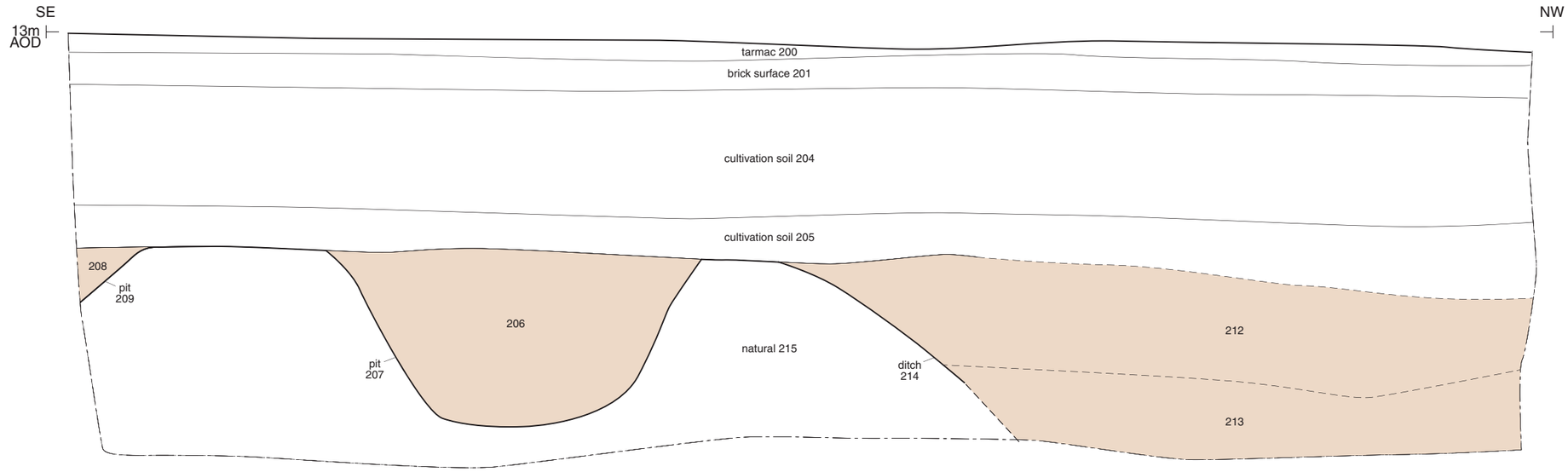
APPROVED BY	**CMB**	*SCALE@A3*	**1:25**	

Section BB



Trench 2, looking south-east (scale 1m)

Trench 2, ditch 214, looking south-west (scale 1m)

Trench 2, pit 207, looking south (scale 1m)

N

extent of archaeological deposits

0 1m

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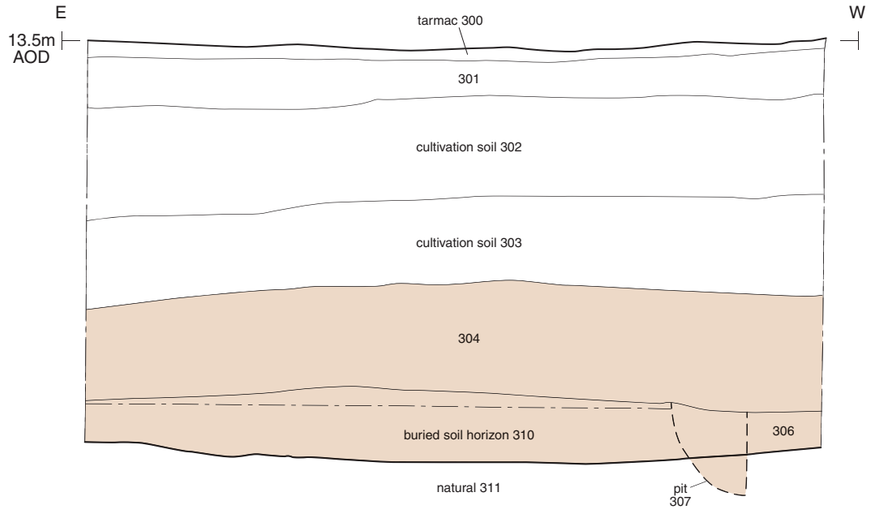
FIGURE TITLE

Trench 2, section and photographs

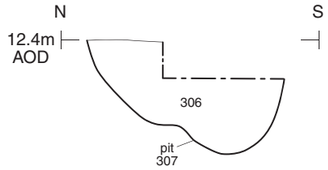
DRAWN BY	**RP**	*PROJECT NO.*	**5409**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**JB**	*DATE*	**26.05.15**	**4**
APPROVED BY	**CMB**	*SCALE@A3*	**1:25**	

Section CC



Trench 3, looking north (scale 1m)

Section DD



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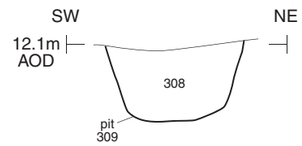

Trench 3, pit 307, looking east (scale 40cm)

Trench 3, pit 309, looking north (scale 40cm)

extent of archaeological deposits

0 1m

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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 3; sections and photographs

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CHECKED BY	**JB**	*DATE*	**26.05.15**	**5**
APPROVED BY	**CMB**	*SCALE@A3*	**1:20**	

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