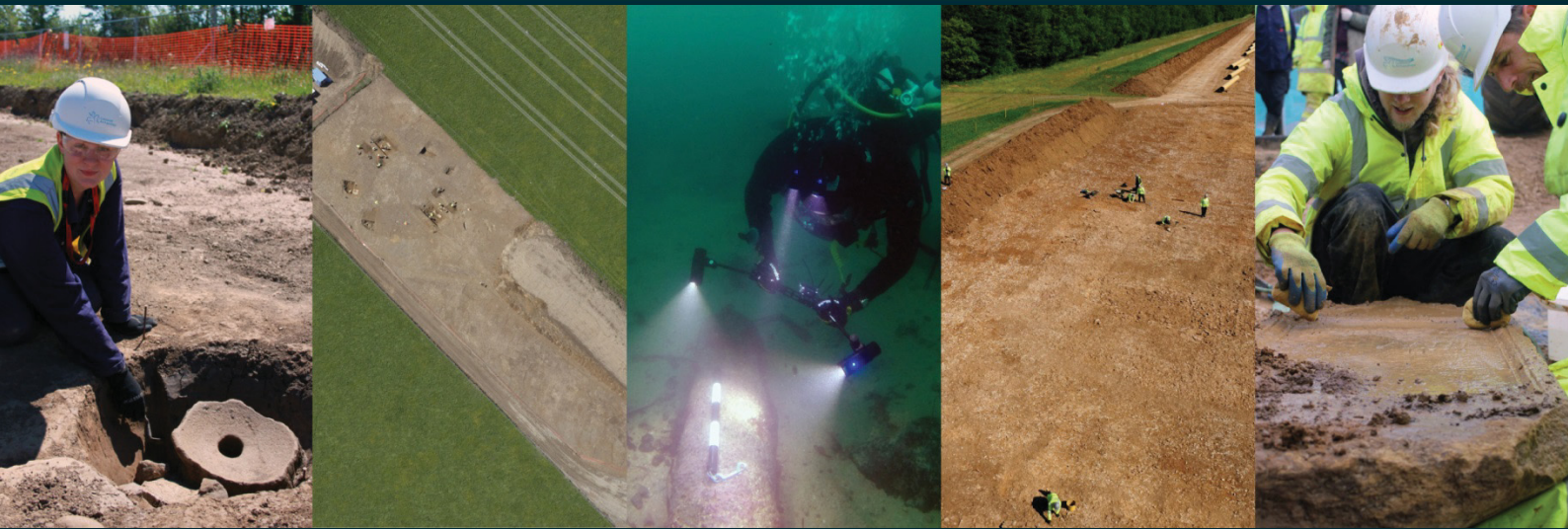


Former Woolworths Service Yard West Way, Cirencester Gloucestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
Wildmoor Properties

CA Project: 5473
CA Report: 15331

June 2015



Former Woolworths Service Yard
 West Way
 Cirencester
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Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	16 June 2015	Tom Weavill	Cliff Bateman	Internal review		Simon Cox

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Former Woolworths Service Yard
Location:	West Way, Cirencester, Gloucestershire
NGR:	SP 402342 201993
Type:	Watching Brief
Date:	8th, 15 & 16 June 2015
Planning Reference:	13/02500/FUL
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Corinium Museum
Site Code:	WOO 15

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of two new ground floor retail units, incorporating an additional existing retail unit, at the site of the former Woolworths service yard, West Way, Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

The upper part of a disturbed 'dark-earth' deposit was revealed in the eastern part of the site, from which post-medieval/modern ceramic building material (CBM) and a small amount of animal bone were recovered. Roman pottery, presumably residual in nature, had been recovered from the same deposit during a previous watching brief within the development area. No other archaeological features or deposits were observed during the groundworks.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In June 2015 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Wildmoor Properties at the site of the former Woolworths service yard, West Way, Cirencester, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SP 402342 201993; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to planning consent for the construction of two new ground floor retail units, incorporating an additional existing retail unit, fronting West Way with residential properties above (Planning ref: 13/02500/FUL: Condition 6).
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2015) and approved by Cotswold District Council (CDC) acting on the advice of Charles Parry, Archaeologist, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC). The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014), the *Statement of standards and practices appropriate for archaeological fieldwork in Gloucestershire* (GCC 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* (EH 2006). It was monitored by Charles Parry.

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 0.03ha in extent and comprises a former retail service yard area bounded by commercial properties to the north, west and east and by West Way to the south. The site lies at approximately 111m AOD and is flat.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Kellways Formation sandstone, siltstone and mudstone of the Jurassic period overlain by superficial deposits of river terrace gravel (BGS 2015). The natural geological substrate was not encountered during the current groundworks.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site lies outside of the boundary of the Scheduled Monument of *Corinium Roman Town* (National Monument 1003426) however there still remains the potential for Roman features to be present within the site. Roman demolition

deposits have previously been identified at a depth of 2.5m below present ground level (bpgl), sealed by 'dark-earth' deposits, immediately to the east of the development area (CA 2007).

- 2.2 Previous monitoring of three geotechnical trenches within the current site (Trenches 1 to 3, see Fig. 2 for locations and extent) confirmed the presence of a 'dark-earth' deposit between 0.27m and 0.32m below the existing ground surface, which was immediately sealed by the hardstanding for the former service yard (CA 2013).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 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.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2015). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising the excavations for a raft and ground beam foundation (Trench 4) and a drainage run (Trench 5). The majority of the drainage run was excavated through the modern backfill of an existing service trench (Fig. 2).

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

- 4.3 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Corinium 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.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3)

- 5.1 The foundation trenches (Trench 4) were excavated to a maximum depth of 0.1m. The trenches did not penetrate below the former concrete surfaces, 400, associated with the former Woolworths service yard.
- 5.2 Excavations for the drainage run (Trench 5), largely contained within an existing service trench, were undertaken to a maximum depth of 0.9m bpgl. The earliest deposit encountered was the upper part of probable post-Roman 'dark-earth' 501 revealed at an average depth of 0.3m bpgl. It contained post-medieval/modern ceramic building material (CBM) fragments and animal bone (not retained). Deposit 501 and the backfill, 502, of the existing service trench were both overlain by modern gravel make up and concrete surface 500.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 Whilst 'dark-earth' deposit 501 produced only post-medieval/modern CBM fragments during the current watching brief, Roman pottery was recovered from the same deposit during the preceding monitoring of geotechnical trenches (CA 2013; Trenches 1 to 3 inclusive). However, given the presence of post-medieval/modern artefacts it is probable that the upper part of this 'dark-earth' deposit has been recently reworked/disturbed, most probably during the construction of the former service yard. Deposits of this type have been found in Roman towns across Britain, but their origins are still not fully understood. The 'dark-earth' is thought to be an amalgam of early medieval cultivation soil, decayed wooden structures and animal and vegetable remains (Darvill and Gerrard 1994).
- 6.2 Excepting 'dark-earth' deposit 501 the watching brief identified no further archaeological remains. Roman demolition deposits have previously been encountered immediately to the east of the current site at a depth of between 1.5m and 2.5m bpgl directly overlain by a 'dark-earth' deposit (CA 2007). Whilst there is a strong possibility that such remains extend into the development area, the shallow

nature of the current groundworks meant that the overlying 'dark-earth' deposit was not penetrated deep enough to expose any Roman remains.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Tom Weavill and Steve Sheldon. The report was written by Tom Weavill. The illustrations were prepared by Leo Heatley. 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.

8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2015 Geology of Britain Viewer http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 15 June 2015

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2007 *Corn Hall and King's Head, Market Place, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation*, CA Report No. **07098**

CA 2013 *Woolworths Service Yard, West Way, Cirencester, Gloucestershire*, Fieldwork Summary.

CA 2015 *Former Woolworths Service Yard, West Way, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

Darvill, T. and Gerrard, C. 1994 *Cirencester: Town and Landscape*, Cotswold Archaeological Trust



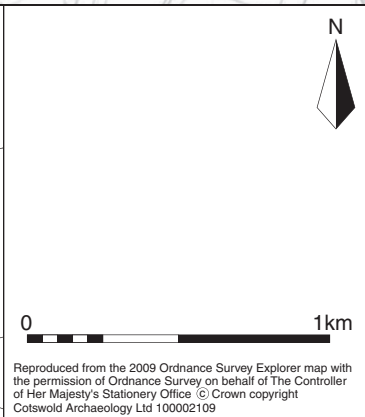
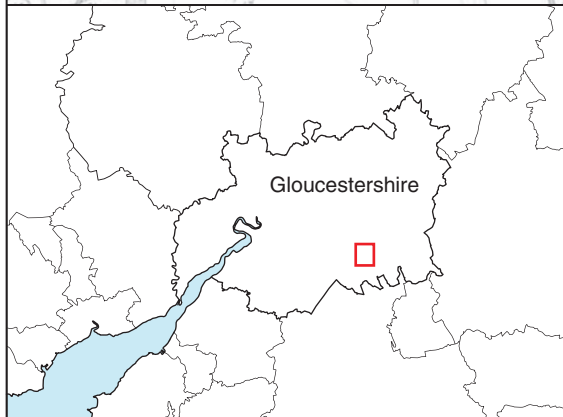
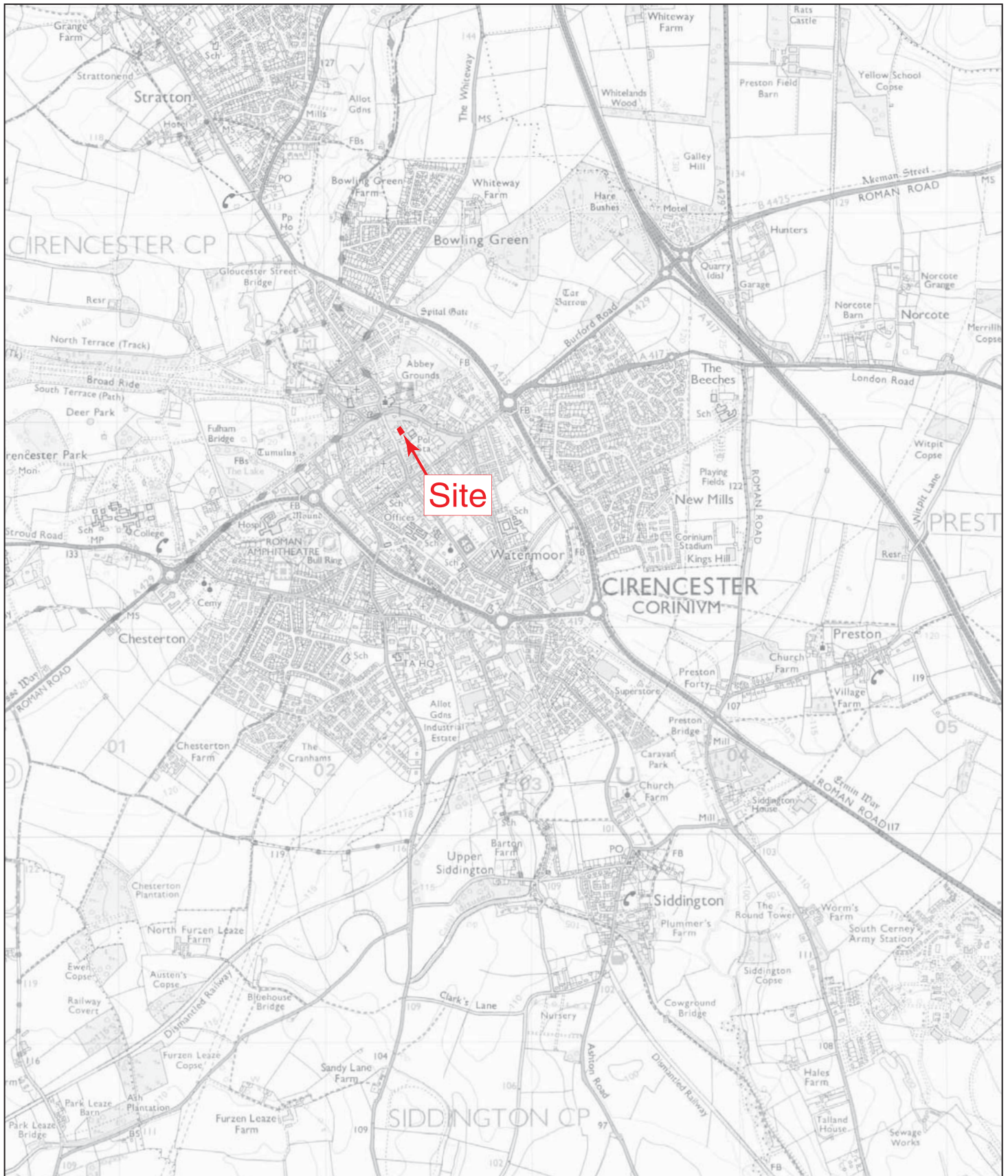
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
4	400	Layer		Concrete slab	Two concrete surfaces and associated grave makeup (gravel makeup not revealed within Trench 4)	>10	>6	>0.1	

5	500	Layer		Same as 400	Same as 400	>10	>1.25	0.3	
5	501	Layer		'dark-earth'	Dark brownish grey sandy silt	>10	>1.25	>0.6	
5	502	Fill	503	Fill of service trench	Sand and gravel mixed with redeposited 'dark-earth'	>10	>1.25	>0.9	
5	503	Cut		Service trench	U shaped cut of service trench	>10	>1.25	>0.9	

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Former Woolworths Service Yard, West Way, Cirencester, Gloucestershire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of two new ground floor retail units, incorporating an additional existing retail unit, at the site of the former Woolworths service yard, West Way, Cirencester, Gloucestershire.</p> <p>The upper part of a disturbed 'dark-earth' deposit was revealed in the eastern part of the site, from which post-medieval/modern ceramic building material (CBM) and a small amount of animal bone were recovered. Roman pottery, presumably residual in nature, had been recovered from the same deposit during a previous watching brief within the development area. No other archaeological features or deposits were observed during the groundworks.</p>	
Project dates	15 & 16 June 2015	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	Watching Brief (CA 2013)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Former Woolworths Service Yard, West Way, Cirencester, Gloucestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.03ha	
Site co-ordinates	SP 402342 201993	
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	N/A	N/A
Paper	Corinium Museum	Trench sheets, photo registers
Digital	Corinium Museum	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 <i>Former Woolworths Service Yard, West Way, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i>. CA typescript report 15331</p>		



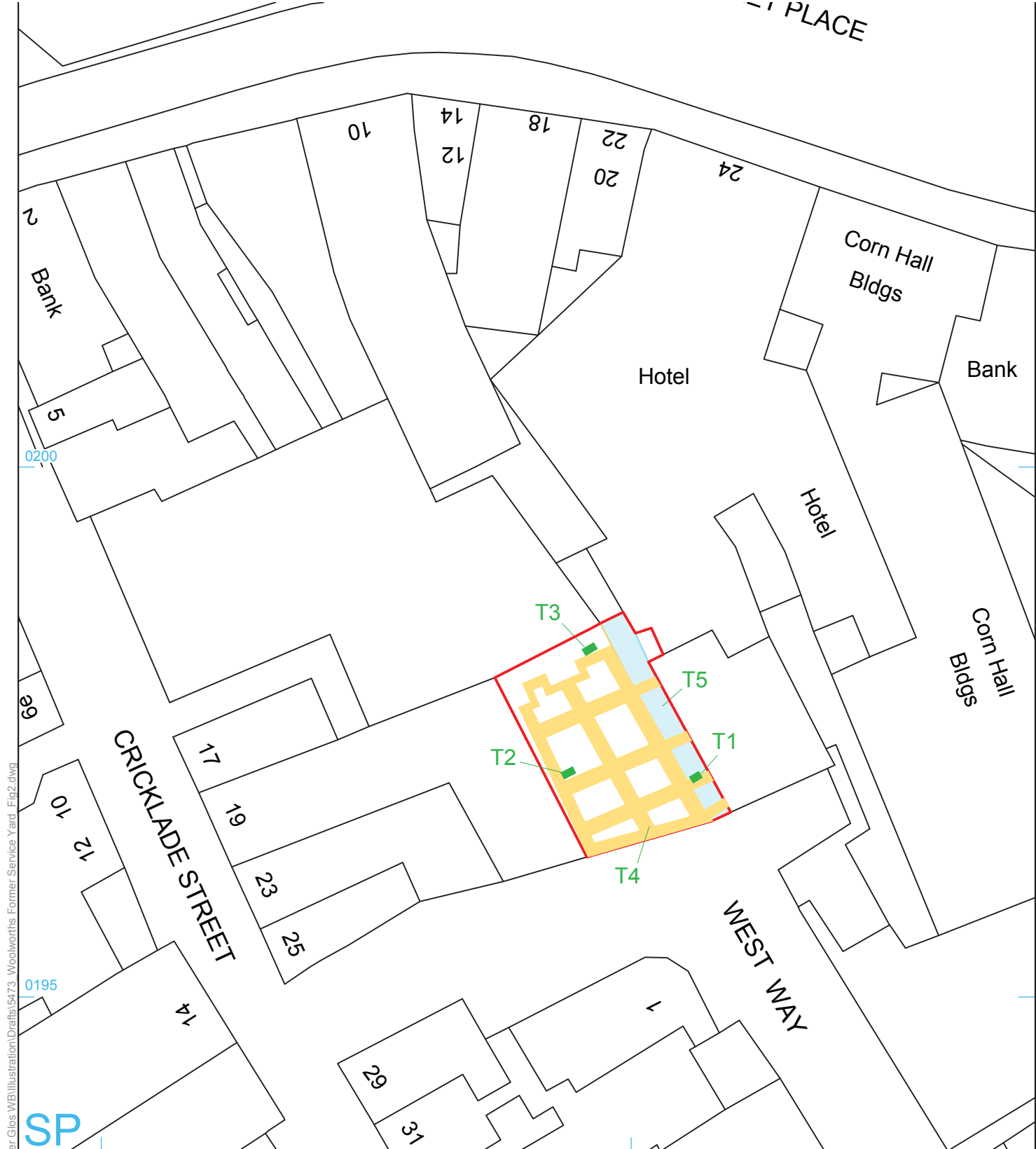

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PROJECT TITLE
 Former Woolworths Service Yard
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FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

DRAWN BY	LJH	PROJECT NO.	5473	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	JB	DATE	17/06/15	
APPROVED BY	CMB	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	1

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- site
- foundation trench (Trench 4)
- service run (Trench 5)
- previous geotechnical test pit (CA 2013)



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PROJECT TITLE
 Former Woolworths Service Yard
 West Way, Cirencester, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
 The site showing location of
 groundworks

DRAWN BY LJH	PROJECT NO. 5473	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY JB	REVISION 01	2
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P:\5473 Former Woolworths Service Yard Cornhall Cirencester Glos WBIllustration\Drafts\5473 Woolworths Former Service Yard Fig2.dwg



a



b



c

- a Trench 4, looking east
- b Trench 5, looking south (0.4m scale)
- c Trench 5, 'dark earth' deposit 501, looking east (0.4m scale)

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