



**18 and 20 Berkeley Street
Gloucester
Gloucestershire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

for
JP New Homes


CA Project: 4921
CA Report: 15015

January 2015

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Gloucester
Gloucestershire

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CA Project: 4921
CA Report: 15015

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issue	01

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	18 and 20 Berkeley Street
Location:	Gloucester, Gloucestershire
NGR:	SO 8297 1862
Type:	Watching Brief
Date:	5-7 January 2015
Planning Reference:	13/01100/FUL and 13/01102/FUL
Location of Archive:	Gloucester City Museum
Site Code:	BKS 15

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the conversion of basements at 18 and 20 Berkeley Street, Gloucester, Gloucestershire.

Ground reduction within part of the existing cellarage at 20 Berkeley Street revealed that the associated brick walls and flooring were founded upon a deposit containing 18th-century artefacts.

In addition, a surviving stone-built wall may represent the re-use of an earlier structure within the extant building.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In January 2015 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for JP New Homes at 18 and 20 Berkeley Street, Gloucester, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SO 8297 1862; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil conditions (Condition 3 in both instances) attached to planning consent for the conversion of the existing basements into flats (Gloucester City Council Planning ref: 13/01100/FUL and 13/01102/FUL respectively).

1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2014) that was approved by Andrew Armstrong (Gloucester City Archaeologist), the archaeological advisor to Gloucester City Council (GCC). The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2009), the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Gloucestershire* (GCC 1995) 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 Andrew Armstrong, including a site visit on 7 January 2015.

The site

1.3 The proposed development area is located on the western side of Berkeley Street, Gloucester, and is bound by further properties to the north and south, and by the Crown Court and Shire Hall to the west.

1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Redcliffe Sandstone of the Triassic Periods with superficial deposits of clay and silt formed in the Quaternary Period (BGS 2015). No geological deposits were encountered during the current works.

Archaeological background

1.5 Archaeological interest in the site arises from its location within the Roman and medieval areas of Gloucester. In 1969/70 the western extent of the Roman town wall was identified during archaeological excavations at 13-17 Berkeley Street (Hurst 1972; Hurst 1986), with the alignment being subsequently further confirmed during service repairs along Berkeley Street in 1979 (Garrod 1984, intervention 19/79).

The current properties are therefore likely to be located immediately outwith this defensive circuit, possibly on the berm or within the associated ditch (see Garrod 1984, Fig. 21). Immediately within the town defences, evidence for a series of Roman town houses was revealed adjacent to the intervallum road (Hurst 1972).

- 1.6 Evidence of subsequent Saxon activity has also been recorded in the immediate area, including the recovery of a Late Saxon scaramasax sheath (GCC Historic Environment Record (HER) 1741) and the identification of a deposit subsequently cut by 11th-century pits (HER 987).
- 1.7 During, and possibly before, the medieval period, occupation within Gloucester expanded westward towards the River Severn. Berkeley Street, formerly known as Little Smith Street, Broadsmith Street and Catherine Wheel Lane, is recorded by the early 14th century and formed one of the streets within the metal working area of the city that lay between Westgate Street and the castle (Herbert 1988). Medieval, and post-medieval, street surfaces have previously been identified sealing the Roman defensive ditch in the immediate vicinity (HER 219).
- 1.8 The current buildings are late 18th-century in date and are both Grade II listed.

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;
 - 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 (CA 2014), with an archaeologist being present during all intrusive groundworks associated with the proposed conversion of the basements to residential properties. In the event, ground reduction was only required within part of the cellarage (Cellar A) of 20 Berkeley Street (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* (2013).
- 1.12 The archive and artefacts from the watching brief 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 C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-4)

- 2.1 The existing basement at 20 Berkeley Street consists of four separate cellars (A, B, C, and E), three of which are joined to the fourth by a narrow half arched passageway (D). Cellar A consists of a 9.7m long 4.2m wide brick vaulted structure with five internal piers on its northern side and a barrel run (now sealed) that previously opened onto Berkeley Street at its eastern extent. Cellar B consists of a brick vaulted structure with access to Berkeley Street, (now sealed stairs). However, its northern wall, 106, was constructed of rough stonework which contained one course of brick work that may represent an earlier building that was reused during construction of the current cellar (Fig. 4). The floor within Cellar B consisted of rough brick and flagstones. Cellar C is broadly square in plan, contained a flagstone floor and provided the current access from the ground floor. Cellar E consists of a formerly vaulted structure which was later rebuilt with a flat ceiling. Evidence in the form of piers and the base of the slope of the original roof was observed. The floor throughout Cellar E was constructed of brick or tile.

Cellar A (Fig. 3)

- 2.2 Intrusive groundworks were restricted to Cellar A, where the existing floor level was typically reduced by 0.3m. Deposit 102 was the earliest deposit encountered, although its full depth was not established during the current works. It contained 18th-century building rubble, pottery, glass and animal bone. The brick cellar walls, 100, were found within deposit 102. Three floor deposits were also observed. Around the entrance to passageway D, fragments of a flagstone floor, 104, up to 0.1m thick were recorded. It appeared to be roughly laid and there was no evidence of associated bedding mortar, rather it was founded directly onto deposit 102. It was sealed by mortar surface 103, consisting yellow-grey mortar 0.08m in depth that

extended throughout much of the cellar. This butted a rough brick surface, 101 approximately 0.15m in depth that was set with mortar.

The finds

- 2.3 Finds recovered during the watching brief include pottery, glass and clay tobacco pipe. Codings given in parenthesis within the text for the post-medieval pottery fabrics correspond to the Gloucester pottery type series codes as defined by Vince (unpublished).

Pottery: post-medieval

- 2.4 Deposit 102 produced a total of 12 sherds of pottery of post-medieval date. Eight sherds were of glazed red earthenware, which is dateable to the mid 16th to 18th centuries, and included rimsherds from a large bowl and a chamberpot. Cistercian ware (TF60), of 16th to 17th century date, is represented by a base sherd from a cup or mug. The remaining three sherds comprised the base of a tankard in White salt-glazed stoneware (TF67), which was produced during the early to mid 18th century (Vince unpublished).

Glass

- 2.5 Twenty-two fragments of dark green coloured glass of post-medieval date, including three bases and four string rims from spirits or wine bottles, were recovered from deposit 102. The string rims indicate dating in the late 17th to early 19th century range.

Clay tobacco pipe

- 2.6 Two fragments of clay tobacco pipe stem, in use from the late 16th to late 19th centuries, were recovered from deposit 102.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The survival of stone wall 106, which formed the northern wall within Cellar B, is noteworthy particularly as the extant building and the remaining cellar walls are all constructed of brick. Such evidence may indicate that the stonework represents an earlier structure that was subsequently incorporated into the existing building. Within Cellar A the brick walls and the surviving floors were constructed upon deposit 102 from which finds dating to the 18th-century were recovered. Three phases of

flooring were identified within the cellar, although these appear to be fragmentary and truncated.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

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

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2014 *Geology of Britain Viewer* http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 29 May 2014

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Vince, A. G. *Guide to the Pottery of Gloucester*. Unpublished type fabric series.



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Struct	Standing building	No 20 Berkeley Street			n/a	
1	101	Struct	Cellar floor	Red brick with mortar			0.15	
1	102	Dep	Cellar infill	Dark black-brown silt			n/a	
1	103	Layer	Mortar surface	Yellow-grey lime mortar			0.08	
1	104	Struct	Fragment of flag stone floor	Broken flag stones			0.1	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Description	Count	Weight(g)	Spot-date
102	Post-medieval/modern pottery: White salt-glazed stoneware; Cistercian ware; glazed red earthenware	12	1178	C18
	Post-medieval glass: bottle	22	1644	
	Clay tobacco pipe: stem	2	13	
	Coal	1	4	

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	18 and 20 Berkeley Street Gloucester, Gloucestershire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the conversion of basements at 18 and 20 Berkeley Street, Gloucester, Gloucestershire.</p> <p>Ground reduction within part of the existing cellarage at 20 Berkeley Street revealed that the associated brick walls and flooring were founded upon a deposit containing 18th-century artefacts.</p> <p>In addition, a surviving stone-built wall may represent the re-use of an earlier structure within the extant building.</p>	
Project dates	5-7 January 2015	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	None known	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	18 and 20 Berkeley Street Gloucester, Gloucestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	432m ²	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SO 8297 1862	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	None	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Luke Brannlund	
MONUMENT TYPE		
none		
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
none		
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery	Ceramics, animal bone, glass
Paper	Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery	Context sheets, Photographic registers, Trench sheets
Digital		Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 <i>18 and 20 Berkeley Street Gloucester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i>. CA typescript report 15015</p>		



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PROJECT TITLE

18-20 Berkeley Street, Gloucester
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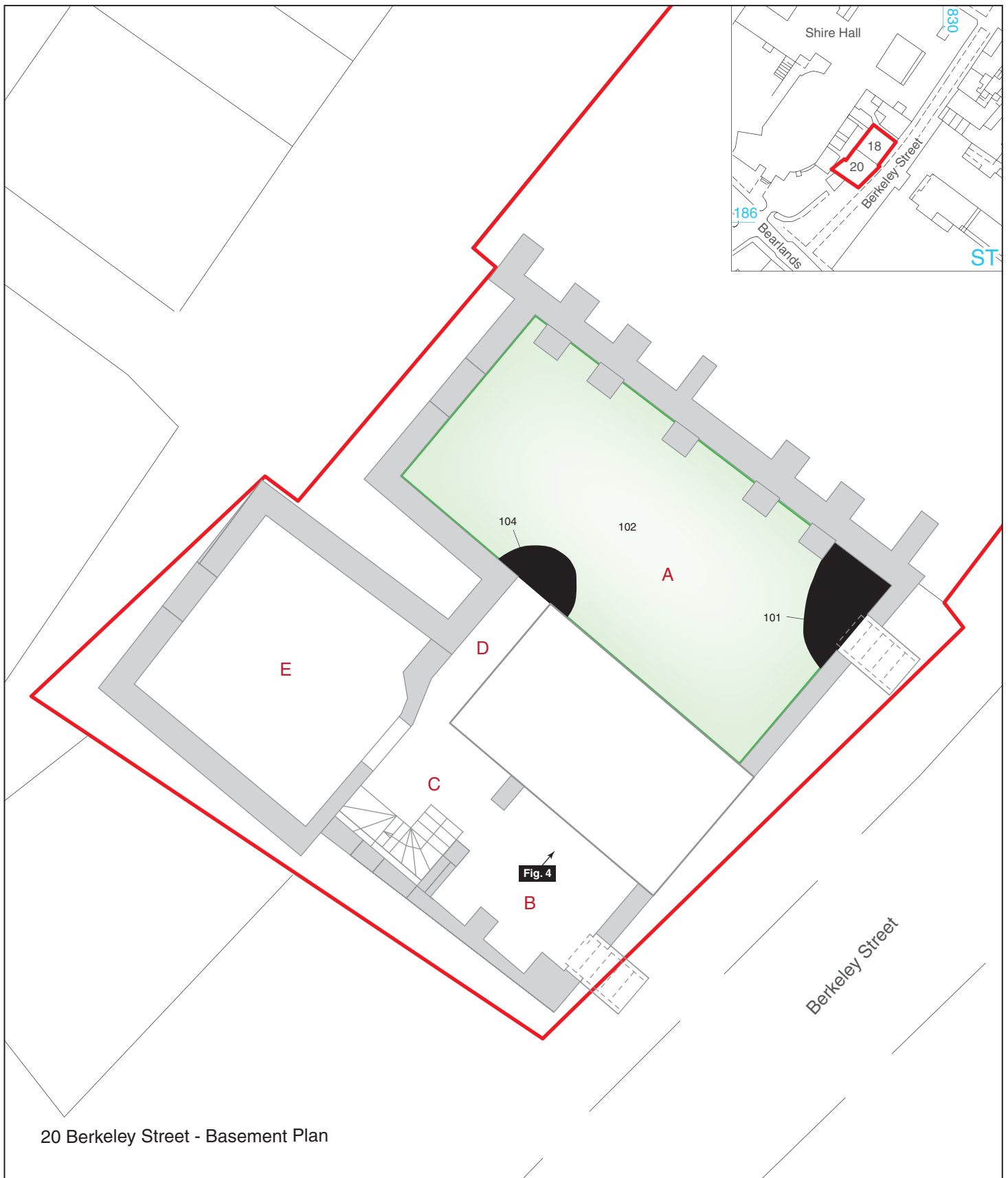
FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan






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FIGURE NO.

1



20 Berkeley Street - Basement Plan

-  site
-  area of observed groundworks
-  archaeological feature
-  building footprint
-  direction of photograph



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FIGURE TITLE

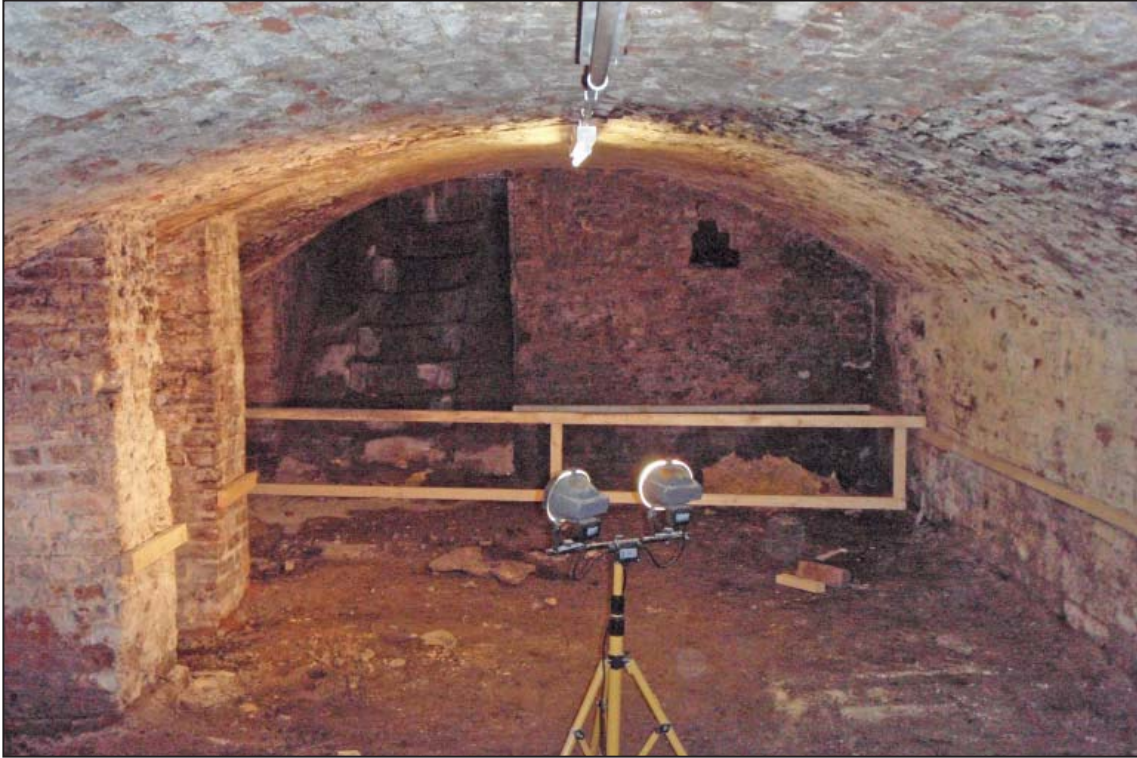
The site, showing location of
 groundworks

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FIGURE NO.

2





3

3 Cellar A, looking east



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FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

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FIGURE NO.

3



4

4 North wall of Cellar B (1m scales)



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FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

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FIGURE NO.

4