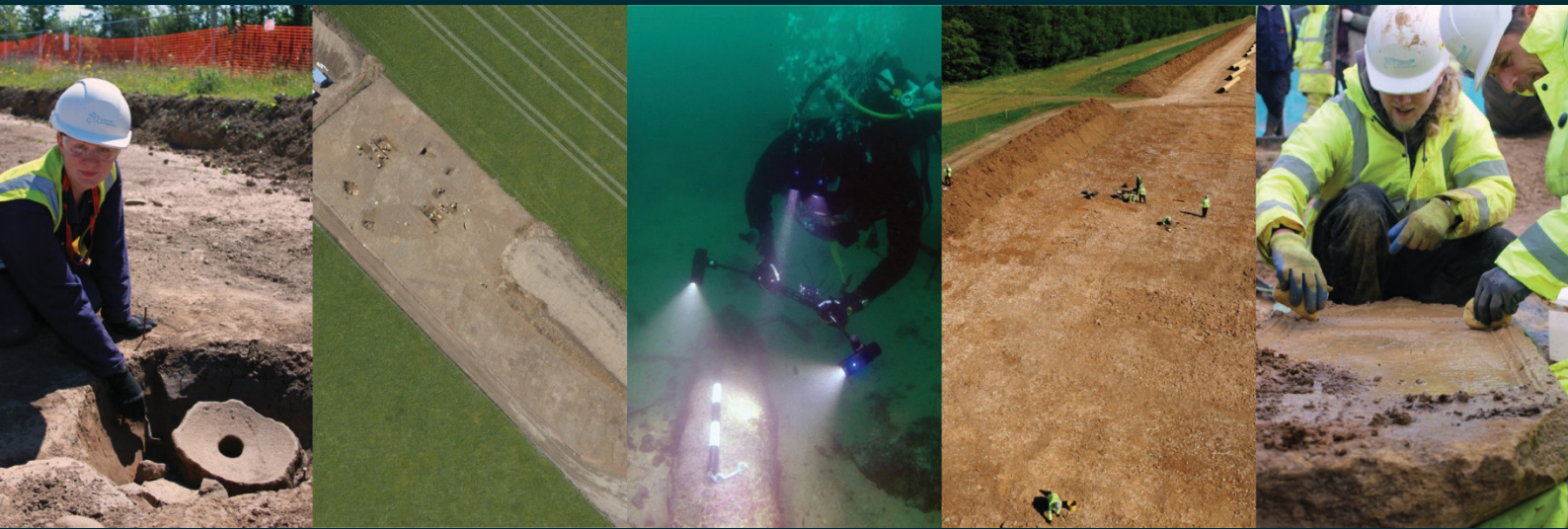


**New Car Park
Cirencester Hospital
Cirencester
Gloucestershire**

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
Dowager Countess
Bathurst Estate

CA Project: 5393
CA Report: 16036

February 2016



New Car Park Cirencester Hospital Cirencester Gloucestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief

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Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	21 January 2016	Christopher Leonard	Cliff Bateman	Internal review		Simon Cox

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	New Car Park
Location:	Cirencester Hospital, Cirencester, Gloucestershire
NGR:	SP 0183 0159
Type:	Watching Brief
Date:	6–10 August 2015
Planning Reference:	14/02602/FUL
SMC:	S00077046
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Corinium Museum
Site Code:	HCP 15

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a new car park at Cirencester Hospital, Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

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



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In August 2015 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Dowager Countess Bathurst Estate at Cirencester Hospital, Cirencester, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SP 0183 0159; Fig. 1).
- 1.2 Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC ref; S00077046, granted 24 April 2015) and planning permission (planning reference: 14/02602/FUL, condition 3) for the change of use to create a car park were granted by Historic England (HE) and Cotswold District Council (CDC) respectively, conditional on a programme of archaeological work being undertaken.
- 1.3 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2015) and approved by HE and CDC, the latter acting on the advice of Charles Parry, Archaeologist, Gloucestershire County Council. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014), 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).

The site

- 1.4 Cirencester Hospital is situated on the south-western outskirts of Cirencester. It is bound to the north and west by the A429 Cirencester Bypass, to the south by housing and to the east by open ground. The proposed new car park is sited at the northern extent of the hospital grounds.
- 1.5 The underlying geology of the area is mapped as Forest Marble Limestone of the Jurassic Period with no overlying superficial deposits (BGS 2016). Limestone brash was encountered during the current groundworks.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The development area lies in an area of archaeological significance within part of a Scheduled Monument; *Long barrow and Roman amphitheatre* and cemetery (National Monument 1003320; see Fig. 1). The site is located outwith the defensive circuit of the Roman town of *Corinium*. The hospital grounds contain the former

alignment of the Fosse Way in an area where Roman burials associated with the Bath Gate Cemetery have previously been identified (McWhirr et al 1982).

2.2 Previous archaeological works undertaken within the hospital grounds identified evidence of Roman quarries, although no burials were encountered (Wilkinson 1984, Hoyle 1992, 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 excavation of two service trenches and fifteen drainage sumps in the locations shown on the attached plan (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 watching brief 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 2–5)

- 5.1 The natural geological substrate, comprising limestone brash, was encountered at a typical depth of 1m below present ground level (bpgl) within the two service trenches. This was covered by a layer, up to 0.35m thick, of brown silt subsoil, which was in turn sealed by a dark silt layer, 0.2m thick, which appeared to represent a buried topsoil. This layer was subsequently sealed by 0.6m of modern levelling deposits, comprising a stony made ground layer that formed the bedding for a hardstanding surface laid prior to construction of the car park.
- 5.2 The fifteen drainage sump pits were excavated either along the course of, or immediately adjacent to, the two service trenches (see Fig. 2) revealing a similar stratigraphic sequence throughout (a typical example, sump pit 6, can be seen in Fig. 5).
- 5.3 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.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see archaeological background above), the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. Given the results of previous archaeological investigations on site, the lack of observed archaeology is most likely due to the limited scope of the investigation.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Greg Crees. The report was written by Christopher Leonard and the illustrations were prepared by Rosanna Price. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.



8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2016 *Geology of Britain Viewer*
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TBGAS 110, 216

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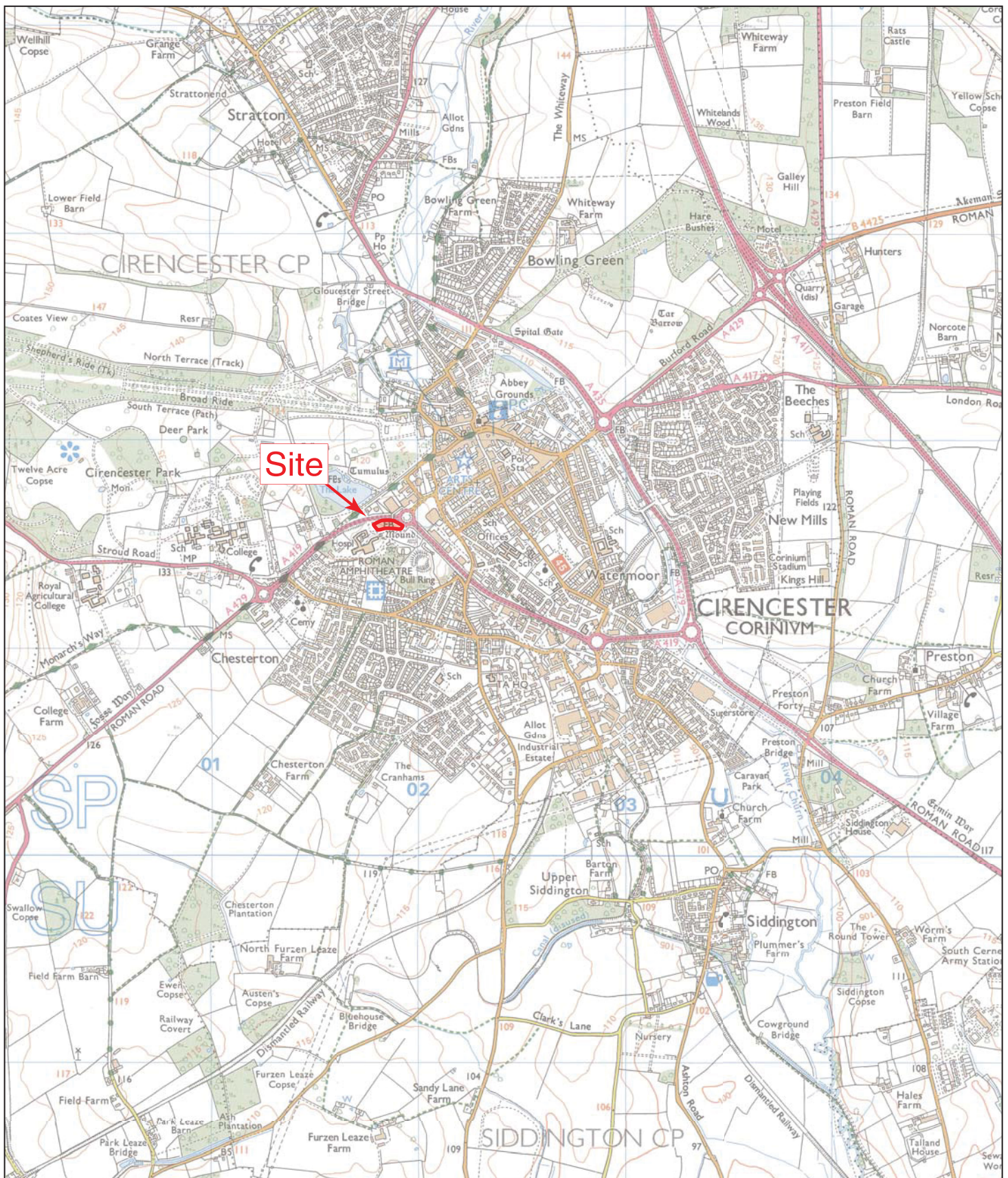


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
1	100	Layer	Surface	Modern hardstanding	0.2
1	101	Layer	Made ground	Mid orange brown sandy silt with frequent stones	0.35
1	102	Layer	Buried topsoil	Dark orange brown clay silt with occasional stones	0.2
1	103	Layer	Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty clay with occasional stones	0.3
1	104	Layer	Natural substrate	Limestone brash	
2	200	Layer	Surface	Same as 100	0.2
2	201	Layer	Made ground	Same as 101	0.4
2	202	Layer	Buried topsoil	Same as 102	0.22
2	203	Layer	Subsoil	Same as 103	0.35
2	204	Layer	Natural substrate	Same as 104	

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	New Car Park, Cirencester Hospital, Cirencester, Gloucestershire	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with installation of a new car park at Cirencester Hospital, Cirencester, Gloucestershire. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.	
Project dates	6–10 August 2015	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	Field evaluation (CA 2013)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Cirencester Hospital, Cirencester, Gloucestershire	
Study area		
Site co-ordinates	SP 0183 0159	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator		
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Greg Crees	
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	Corinium Museum	Trench forms, site drawings etc.
Digital	Corinium Museum	Database, digital photos etc.
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 <i>New Car Park, Cirencester Hospital, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 16036		



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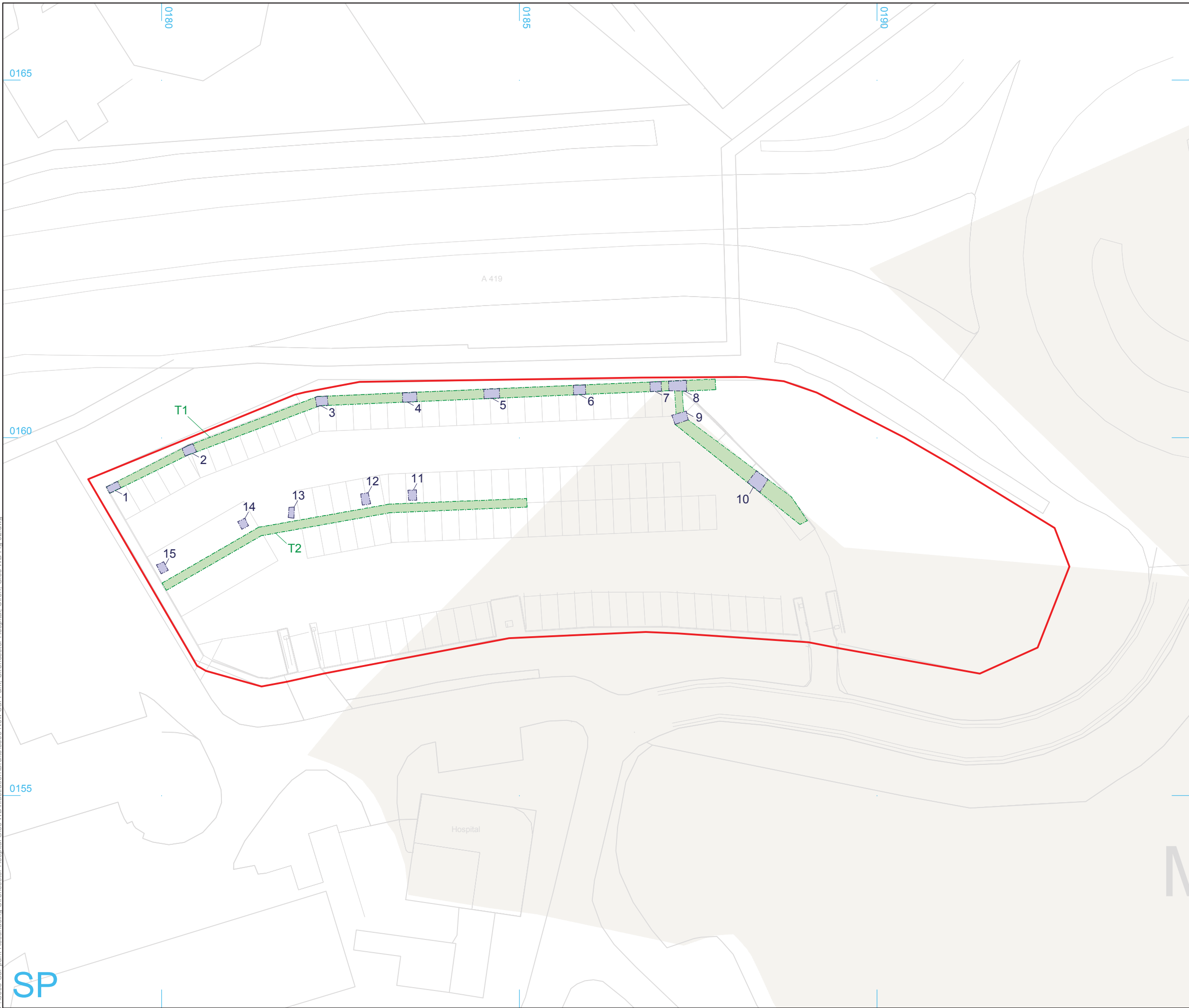
PROJECT TITLE
 New Car Park, Cirencester Hospital,
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FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

0 1km

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DRAWN BY	RP	PROJECT NO.	5393	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	LM	DATE	02.02.16	
APPROVED BY	CMB	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	1



- site boundary
- service trench
- drainage sump
- Scheduled Monument 1003320



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PROJECT TITLE
 New Car Park, Cirencester Hospital,
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FIGURE TITLE
 The site, showing location of
 groundworks

<small>DRAWN BY</small> RP	<small>PROJECT NO.</small> 5393	<small>FIGURE NO.</small>
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P:\5393 Car-park Resurfacing\Cirencester Hospital\Glos WB\Illustration\Drafts\5393 New Car Park_Cirencester Hospital_Ciren_Glos WB Fig 02.dwg





3



4

3 The site, with Trench 2 in foreground, looking north-west

4 Trench 1, looking north-east (1m scales)



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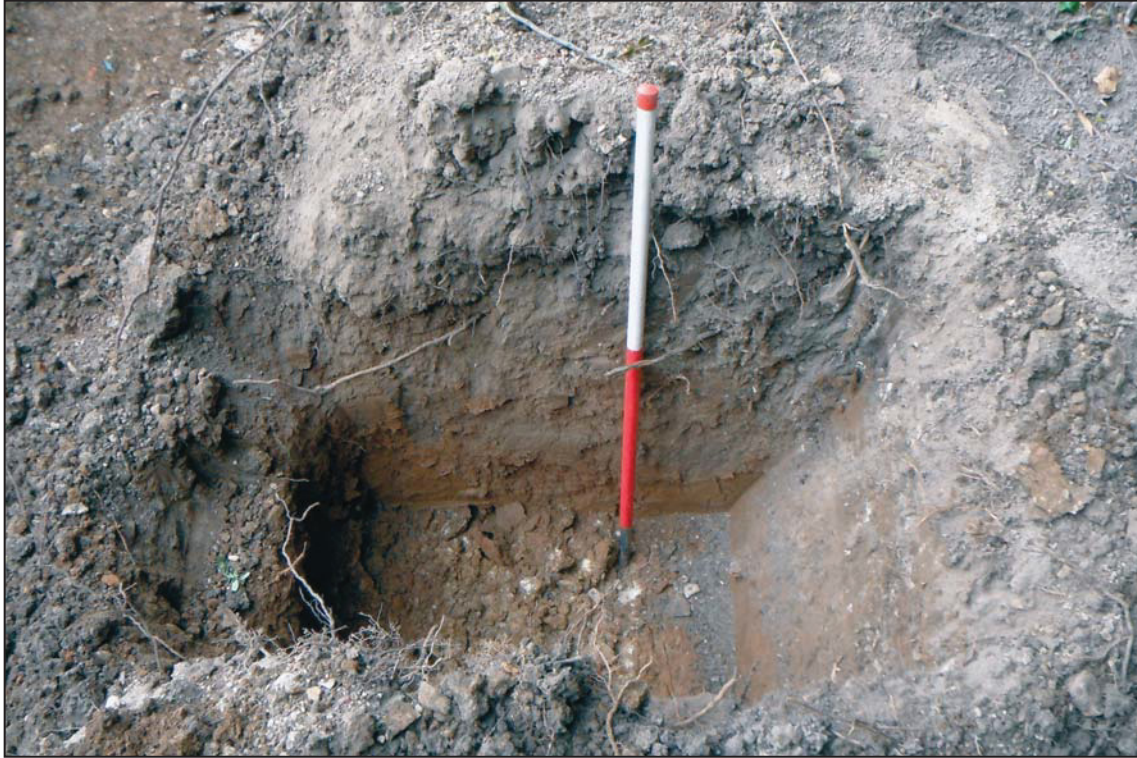
PROJECT TITLE

New Car Park, Cirencester Hospital,
 Cirencester, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

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5

5 East facing section of drainage sump 6, looking west (1m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

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