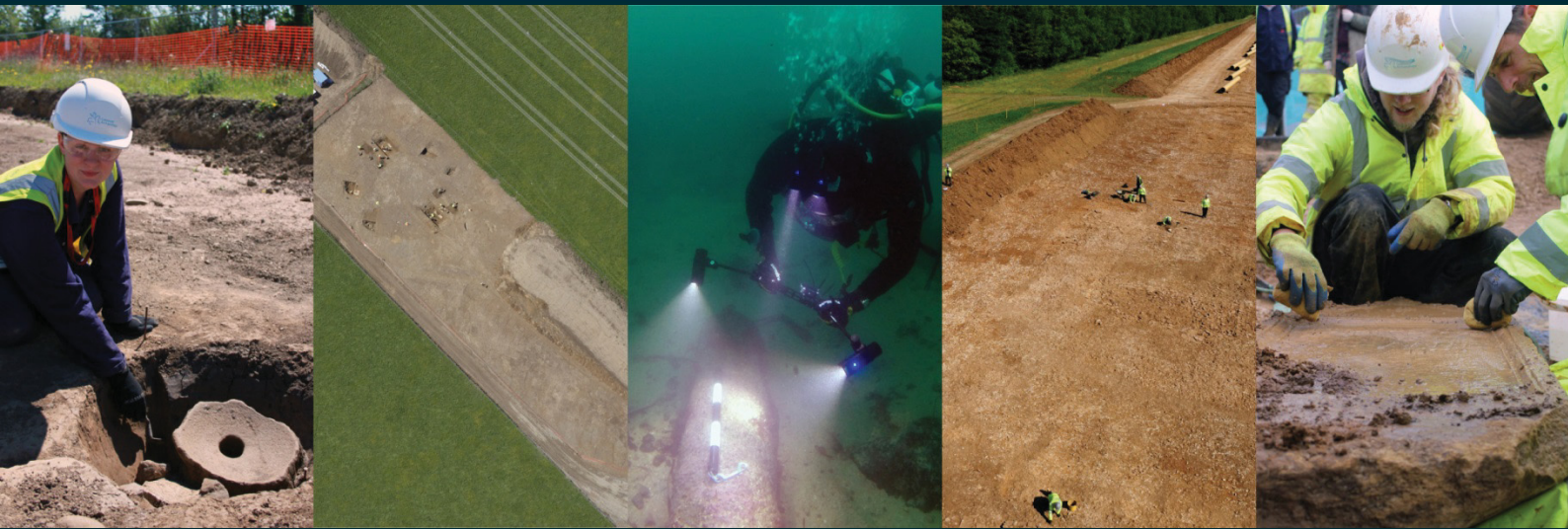


Land to the rear of the Tall Ships
Public House
Southgate Street, Gloucester
Gloucestershire



for
County to County
Property Group

CA Project: 5978
CA Report: 16409

August 2016



Land to the rear of the Tall Ships Public House, Southgate Street, Gloucester Gloucestershire

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 5978
CA Report: 16409



Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	03/08/16	Peter Searle		Internal review		Cliff Bateman

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land to the rear of the Tall Ships Public House
Location:	Southgate Street, Gloucester, Gloucestershire
NGR:	SO 82850 18159
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	20-21 July 2016
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with the Museum of Gloucester
Accession Number:	GLRCM: 2016.28.
Site Code:	Tall 16

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in July 2016 on land to the rear of the Tall Ships Public House, Southgate Street, Gloucester. One trench was excavated.

A thin deposit containing Late Roman ceramics was identified immediately sealing alluvial clays. This was in turn sealed by medieval and/or post-medieval cultivation soils that were subsequently cut by (now demolished) later 19th-century buildings.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In July 2016 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for County to County Property Group on land to the rear of the Tall Ships Public House, Southgate Street, Gloucester, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SO 82850 18159; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application for the proposed development of the site. The archaeological works were recommended by Andrew Armstrong, City Archaeologist, the archaeological advisor to Gloucester City Council (GCC).
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a *brief* for archaeological evaluation (GCC 2016) and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2016) and approved by Andrew Armstrong. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). It was monitored by Andrew Armstrong, including site visits on 20th and 21st July.

The site

- 1.3 The site is adjacent to Gloucester Docks and is located within the former medieval suburbs of Gloucester. It comprises a small brownfield site formed by part of the rear garden of the adjacent Nos. 140 and 142, Southgate Street. It is bounded to the north-east by a semi-pedestrianised road and car park, and elsewhere by post-medieval and modern buildings.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation (undifferentiated) of the Jurassic and Triassic periods (BGS 2016). No information was available concerning the superficial deposits. A sandy clay substrate was encountered during the current works.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site has been subject to a previous Heritage Desk-based Assessment (CA 2016). A summary of the archaeological evidence is presented below, for detailed information reference should be made to the assessment.

- 2.2 There is no evidence for substantial pre-Roman settlement in the central Gloucester area. Roman occupation at Gloucester began in the late AD40s with the construction of a short-lived legionary fortress at Kingsholm, c.1.5km to the north of Gloucester Docks. Following the abandonment of this early fortress, around AD65-70, a new fort was constructed in the location of the present-day city centre. By the end of the 1st century AD, the later fortress had become a *colonia*, a settlement for veteran soldiers (ibid.).
- 2.3 The current site lies approximately 200m south of the civic defences associated with the later fort and *colonia* within a contemporary suburb flanking the former Roman road between Gloucester and Sea Mills (modern day Southgate Street). A Roman cemetery is recorded c.135m north-east of the site with evidence for further burials recorded c.150m to the north-east, along with floor surfaces and stratified deposits. Undated cists found in the 19th century and containing urns and cremations are recorded c.125m north of the site (ibid.).
- 2.4 Comparatively little Roman activity has been identified within the area now covered by Gloucester Docks, although late or post-Roman 'dark-earth' type deposits and land-surface deposits, as well as ditches and gullies, were identified during evaluation trenching and watching briefs c.20m north-east of the current site (ibid.). In addition, two ring intaglios of unknown provenance (GHER reference number 22190) have previously been recovered in the immediate vicinity (ibid.).
- 2.5 The build-up of alluvium previously identified adjacent to Southgate Street suggests that by the end of the Roman period this area had become unsuitable for habitation due to flooding, possibly indicating that the River Severn once extended closer to the line of Southgate Street than it does today. This evidence also accords with available geological data that records the proposed development area as lying on the eastern edge of an area characterised by tidal-flat deposits (BGS 2016).
- 2.6 Following the end of the Roman period, the town of Gloucester appears to have been largely abandoned with the identification of a layer of 'dark-earth' overlying Roman deposits within numerous archaeological investigations throughout the city. In the area to the south of the old Roman defences, in which the current site lies, it is possible that the build-up of alluvium and tidal-flat deposits continued throughout much of the early medieval period (CA 2016).

- 2.7 The medieval southern defences of the City of Gloucester followed the line of, and in many parts incorporated, elements of the former Roman wall. Extramural settlement along Southgate Street appears to have become re-established during the 10th century occupying much the same area as the preceding Roman suburbs (ibid.). Archaeological investigations immediately to the north-east of the current site recorded evidence relating to the medieval development of these suburbs. An undated ditch (possibly a burgage plot boundary), post-holes and gullies represent suburban settlement during this period. Later medieval and post-medieval cultivation soils were also recorded, suggesting that settlement may have been associated with agricultural subsistence, probably comprising burgage plots and small holdings (ibid.).
- 2.8 The land to the north-east of the proposed development area continued to be occupied during the early post-medieval period, with remains of post-medieval and modern buildings, including cellars recorded. Two medieval inhumations, and evidence for structures, recorded approximately 140m to the north-east, may be associated with the former Church of St Owen which was located in this vicinity and subsequently destroyed during the Civil War (ibid.).
- 2.9 Immediately prior to the Siege of Gloucester in 1643, the suburbs of Gloucester were deliberately razed. The Grade II Listed Whitesmiths Arms and Nos. 83- 85 Southgate Street retain remnants of 16th-century timber framing which survived the demolition (ibid.).
- 2.10 Gloucester was formerly one of the most important ports in England, lying at the highest tidal reach, and formerly the lowest road crossing, of the River Seven. Between 1782 and 1790 the main basin of Gloucester Docks was constructed to take barge traffic that was using the newly-cut Gloucester to Berkeley Canal. From the 1830s, and especially following the repeal of the Corn Laws in 1846, Gloucester developed as the main corn importing port in south-west England, requiring the construction of a range of warehouses within the dock area to support the trade. This was followed, in 1849, by the construction of the new Victoria Basin to the east of the main basin. All of the Listed Buildings within the dock area were constructed during this period of rapid growth. The docks were serviced firstly by a tram-road that ran immediately north/north east of the site, with associated sidings being recorded immediately north, and north-west of the proposed development area (ibid.).

- 2.11 The earliest available cartographic source to depict the site in detail is Hall and Pinnell's map of 1780 which shows the site situated within an area of allotments/small plots, immediately south of an unnamed road. Causton's map of Gloucester, dating to 1843, indicates the site had largely remained unchanged, although there does appear to be a small building depicted centrally within the proposed development area (ibid.).
- 2.12 By the compilation of the 1886 Ordnance Survey (OS) First Edition map the site is depicted as heavily developed, comprising at least seven buildings. In addition tram-roads are shown immediately to the north-west, and further buildings, including the former *Albion Mills*, surround much of the site (see Fig. 2). Two buildings in the western-most half of the site had expanded and merged by the time of the 1902 OS Second Edition map. An Ordnance Survey map of 1964-1973 depicts the site almost entirely occupied by two buildings, one of which is labelled as a garage (ibid.).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objective of the evaluation was 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 *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014), the evaluation was designed to be minimally intrusive and minimally destructive to archaeological remains. The information gathered 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 evaluation comprised a single trench, measuring 18m in length and 1.8m in width, that was excavated in the location shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). The trench was, with the agreement of Andrew Armstrong, moved from its original proposed location due to ground contamination.

- 4.2 The trench was excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machining was conducted under archaeological supervision and ceased when the first archaeological horizon or natural substrate was revealed (whichever was encountered first). With the agreement of Andrew Armstrong, two machine excavated sondages were dug through deposits 106 and 117 to confirm the depth of, and to assess the likelihood of archaeological features cut in to, the natural substrate.
- 4.3 Following machining, all archaeological features revealed were planned and recorded in accordance with Technical Manual 1 *Fieldwork Recording Manual*. Each context was recorded on a pro-forma context sheet by written and measured description; principal deposits were recorded electronically using Leica and drawn sections (scale 1:10). Where detailed feature planning was undertaken using GPS this was carried out in accordance with Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual*. Photographs (digital colour) were taken as appropriate. All finds were bagged separately and related to the context record. All artefacts were recovered and retained for processing and analysis in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.4 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* 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*.
- 4.5 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 the Museum of Gloucester under accession number GLRCM: 2016.28 along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix D, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-6)

- 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 and B respectively.

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

- 5.2 The natural sandy clay substrate, 118, was encountered within the two machine excavated sondages at a depth of 1.9m below present ground level (bpgl). It was overlain by alluvial clays 119 that were approximately 0.15m deep. This was in turn sealed by deposit 117 from which Roman pottery dated to the 3rd to 4th century AD was recovered. The top of this Roman layer was revealed at 1.6m bpgl (Figs 2 and 4).
- 5.3 Sealing deposit 117 was reworked alluvial deposit 106 from which a single sherd of mid-12th century to the 15th century pottery was recovered. This was subsequently overlain by buried soil 105 that produced no finds.
- 5.4 Cutting deposit 105 towards the south eastern end of the trench was construction cut 107 for north–south aligned stone wall 108. No dating material was retrieved from this structure (Figs 2 and 4). A probable robber trench, 110, revealed perpendicular to wall 108 most probably represents a contemporary east-west return to wall 108. Parallel to the robber trench was brick structure 113. No datable material was retrieved from infilling 114 of its associated foundation trench 112 (Figs 2 and 4).
- 5.5 Brick footing 116 was observed in the centre of the trench and was subsequently cut by concrete post-setting 115. At the north-western extent of the trench, northeast/southwest aligned brick wall 103 was identified, butted to the west by mortared make-up layer 102 for a presumed surface. Overlying these features were modern make-up layers 101 and 104, the latter being topped by concrete slab 100.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1 Artefactual material was hand-recovered from three deposits (101, 106 and 117). The recovered material dates to the Roman, medieval and post-medieval/modern periods. Quantities of the artefact types recorded are given in Appendix B. The pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric. Fabric codes, given in parenthesis in the text, are equated to the Gloucester type series (Vince

unpublished). Where applicable, National Roman Fabric Reference Collection codes are also given in Appendix B (Tomber and Dore 1998).

Pottery: Roman

- 6.2 Roman pottery totals nine sherds (59g) from two deposits. Its condition, in terms of surface preservation and edge abrasion, ranges from poor to very good. Two sherds of Severn Valley oxidised ware (TF11B), from layer 117, include a rimsherd from a jar with a bifid (“pulley”) rim. Severn Valley ware was manufactured throughout the Romano-British period and is commonly found in Gloucester, however, this type of jar is more closely dateable to the 3rd to 4th centuries (Webster 1976, 24–5).
- 6.3 Layer 117 also produced two sherds of southeast Dorset Black-burnished ware (TF4). This type of pottery was manufactured near Poole in Dorset: when found outside the county it typically dates to the 2nd to 4th centuries (Davies *et al.* 1994, 107). However, a rimsherd from a (Seager Smith and Davies) Type 20 plain rim dish allows slightly closer dating, to the late 2nd to 4th centuries (*ibid.*, 222–3).
- 6.4 A bodysherd of samian, also from layer 117, was identified as Central Gaulish in origin. This manufacturing centre exported to Britain during the 2nd century (Webster 1996, 2–3).
- 6.5 Pottery of broad Roman date included three sherds of fine, oxidised fabric (TF20) and a rimsherd from a jar in a sandy greyware fabric (TF20). One sherd was recovered from deposit 117, the remaining two sherds are residual being recovered alongside a medieval ceramic within deposit 106. All are most likely of relatively local manufacture.

Medieval

- 6.6 The only pottery of this date is a base sherd from a vessel in Minety ware (TF44), which was produced in north Wiltshire from the mid 12th to late 15th centuries (Vince unpublished). This was retrieved from reworked alluvial layer 106.

Ceramic building material

- 6.7 A heavily abraded fragment of ceramic building material of probable Roman date (17g) was recorded from layer 117. A fragment of pan tile (48g), in good condition, was retrieved from make-up layer 101. This type of tile was in use from the late 17th to 19th centuries.

Other finds

- 6.8 Make-up layer 101 produced a fragmentary iron object which was too heavily corroded for classification or dating. Also recovered from make-up layer 101 was a fragment from a brick-like object of modern date, made of moulded plaster.

7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1 The earliest datable activity is indicated by the recovery of late Roman pottery from deposit 117, although it remains undetermined whether it is directly associated with the former Roman suburbs recorded in the immediate area. The possibility that deposit 117 represents further evidence for the later Roman/early medieval inundation of the area by the River Severn cannot be ignored.
- 7.2 Sealing deposit 117 was a reworked alluvial soil, 106, that most probably derives from agricultural or horticultural activity. A similar interpretation is offered for overlying deposit 105. The recovery of one sherd of medieval pottery from deposit 106 suggests that these two deposits may represent activity within the backlands of medieval and/or post-medieval properties fronting Southgate Street. Similar evidence for such activity has previously been identified in the immediate area (see section 2.7 above) and is further supported by 18th and 19th-century cartographic sources that indicate the site comprised allotments/small horticultural plots. No direct evidence for the razing of the suburbs during the 1643 Siege of Gloucester was identified.
- 7.3 Walls 103, 108 and 116, as well as surface 102 and structure 113, were all founded through cultivation soil 105. All, with the exception of wall 116, correlate closely with buildings depicted on the 1886 OS First Edition map (see Fig. 2 inset). Wall 116 probably represents a 20th century property boundary that was later replaced by a fenceline associated with post setting 115.

8. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Tim Havard, assisted by Peter Searle. The report was written by Peter Searle. The finds evidence report was written by Jacky Sommerville. The illustrations were prepared by Rosanna Price. The archive has

been compiled by Peter Searle, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman

9. REFERENCES

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer	Layer	Concrete slab	9	>1.8	0.08	
1	101	Layer	deposit	Modern make-up layer	9	>1.8	0.1	modern
1	102	Layer	Sub-base	Mortar base for surface	>4.1	>1.8		
1	103	Wall	Wall	N-S aligned brick wall	>2	0.23	>0.07	
1	104	Layer	Sub-base	Base for 100	>16	>1.8	0.2	
1	105	Layer	Buried soil	Mid-dark grey brown sand silt	>12	>1.8	0.6	
1	106	Layer	Re-worked alluvium	Mid brown green silt clay	>14	>1.8	0.45	MC12-C15
1	107	Cut	Cut	E-W aligned construction cut for wall 108	>0.65	>0.6	0.4	
1	108	Wall	Wall	E-W aligned limestone wall	>0.65	>0.6	0.4	
1	109	Fill	Backfill of 107	Construction cut backfill		0.25	0.27	
1	110	Cut	Robber cut	Robber cut for return of wall 108	>2.7	0.35	0.32	
1	111	Fill	Backfill of 110	Light brown rubble-rich fill	>2.7	0.35	0.32	
1	112	Cut	Cut	Construction cut for structure 113	>2.7	1.2		
1	113	Wall	Brick Structure	Possible drain	3.2	1.1	0.2	
1	114	Fill	Backfill	Construction cut backfill	>2	0.2		
1	115	Wall	Post setting	Brick and concrete post setting	0.85	0.6	0.34	
1	116	Wall	Footing	Brick wall footing	1.06	0.34	0.07	
1	117	Layer	Layer	Light brown yellow sand clay	>1.2	>0.6	0.08	C3-C4
1	118	Layer	Natural	Light brown yellow sand clay				
1	119	Layer	Alluvium	Mid yellow sand clay	>1.2	>0.6	0.14	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code/ NRFRC*	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
101	Post-medieval ceramic building material	Pan tile		1	48	Modern
	Modern moulded plaster			1	166	
	Iron	Object		1	55	
106	Roman pottery	Fine oxidised fabric	TF20	2	<1	MC12-C15
	Medieval pottery	Minety ware	TF44	1	17	
117	Roman pottery	Dorset Black-burnished ware	TF4/ DOR BB1	2	24	C3-C4
	Roman pottery	Severn Valley (oxidised) ware	TF11B/ SVW OX2	2	30	
	Roman pottery	Central Gaulish samian	TF8/ LEZ SA	1	1	
	Roman pottery	Greyware	TF20	1	4	
	Roman pottery	Oxidised fabric	TF20	1	<1	
	Roman ceramic building material	Fragment		1	17	

* National Roman Fabric Reference Collection codes in bold

APPENDIX C: LEVELS OF PRINCIPAL DEPOSITS AND STRUCTURES

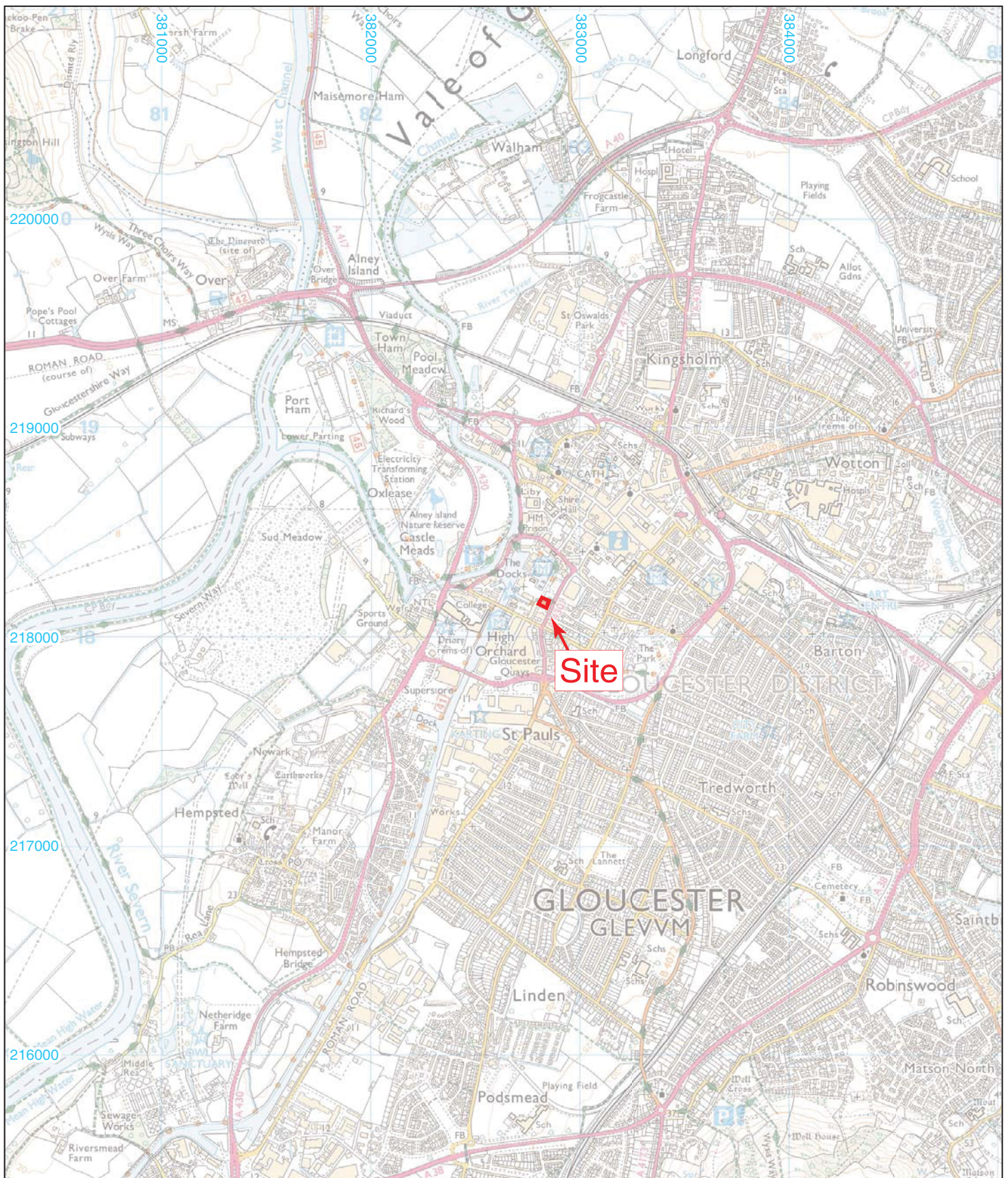
Levels are expressed as metres below current ground level and as metres Above Ordnance Datum (AOD), calculated using a Leica GPS.

	Trench 1
Current ground level	0.00m (12.7m)
Top of 19th century structures	0.3m (12.4m)
Top of medieval cultivation soils (106)	0.96m (11.74m)
Top of Roman layer (117)	1.41m (11.29m)
Top of natural substrate (118)	1.6m (11.1)

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

APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land to the rear of the Tall Ships Public House.	
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in July 2016 on land to the rear of the Tall Ships Public House, Southgate Street, Gloucester. One trench was excavated. A thin deposit containing Late Roman ceramics was identified immediately sealing alluvial clays. This was in turn sealed by medieval and/or post-medieval cultivation soils that were subsequently cut by (now demolished) later 19th-century buildings.	
Project dates	20-21 July 2016	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	Heritage Desk-Based Assessment (CA 2016)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Land to the rear of the Tall Ships Public House, Southgate Street, Gloucester, Gloucestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	625m ²	
Site co-ordinates	SO 8285 1815	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Gloucester City Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Tim Havard	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Museum of Gloucester Accession No. GLRCM: 2016.28.	Pottery, CBM
Paper	Museum of Gloucester Accession No. GLRCM: 2016.28.	Trench sheet, context sheets, Permatrace drawings, photo registers.
Digital	Museum of Gloucester Accession No. GLRCM: 2016.28.	Database, digital photos.
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016: <i>Land to the rear of the Tall Ships Public House, Gloucester Docks, Gloucester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 16409		



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PROJECT TITLE
 Land to the rear of the Tall Ships Public House, Gloucester, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan



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DRAWN BY	SO/RP	PROJECT NO.	5978	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	LM	DATE	26.07.16	1
APPROVED BY	CMB	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	



- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- sondage
- archaeological feature
- deposit
- structural feature
- modern
- A B section location



Tall Ships
Public House

Southgate Evangelical Church



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PROJECT TITLE
 Land to the rear of the Tall Ships Public House, Gloucester, Gloucestershire

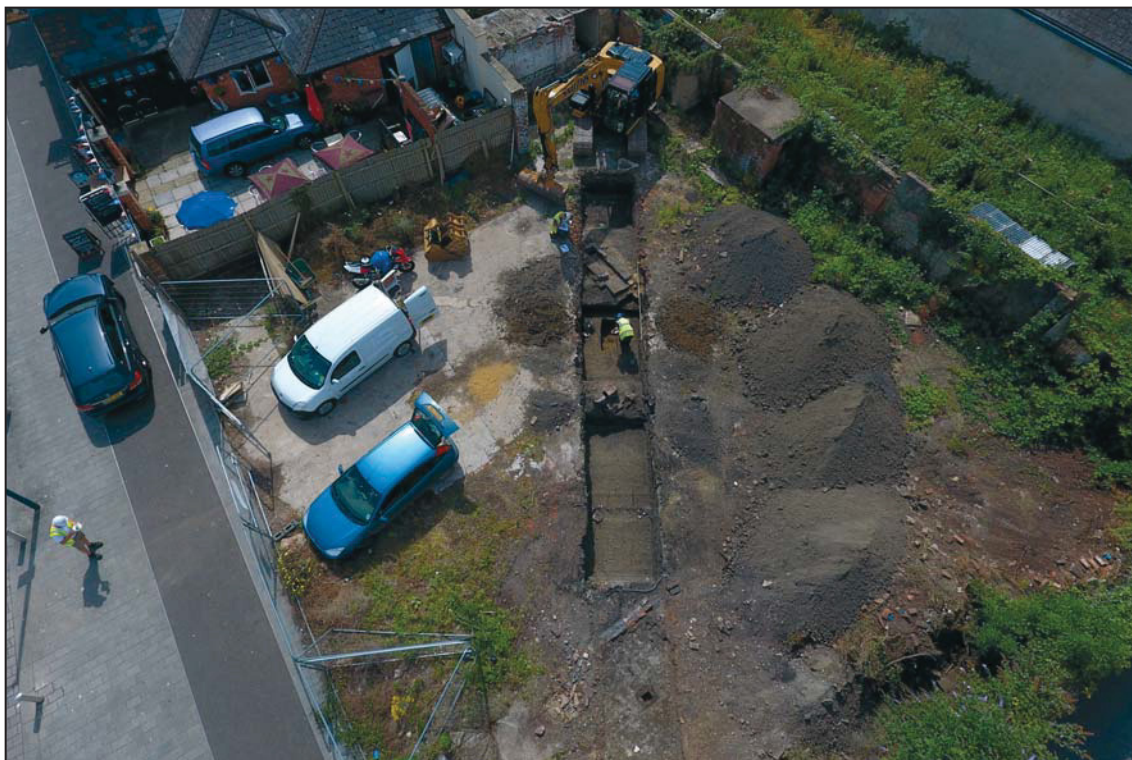
FIGURE TITLE
 Trench location plan, showing identified archaeological features and extract from First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1886 (inset)

DRAWN BY	RP	PROJECT NO.	5978	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	LM	DATE	26.07.16	2
APPROVED BY	CMB	SCALE@A3	1:150	



P:\5978 Tall Ships Gloucester evaluation\Illustration\Drafts\5978 Tall Ships Eval Fig 02.dwg

SO



3

3 Aerial view of site during the current works



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PROJECT TITLE

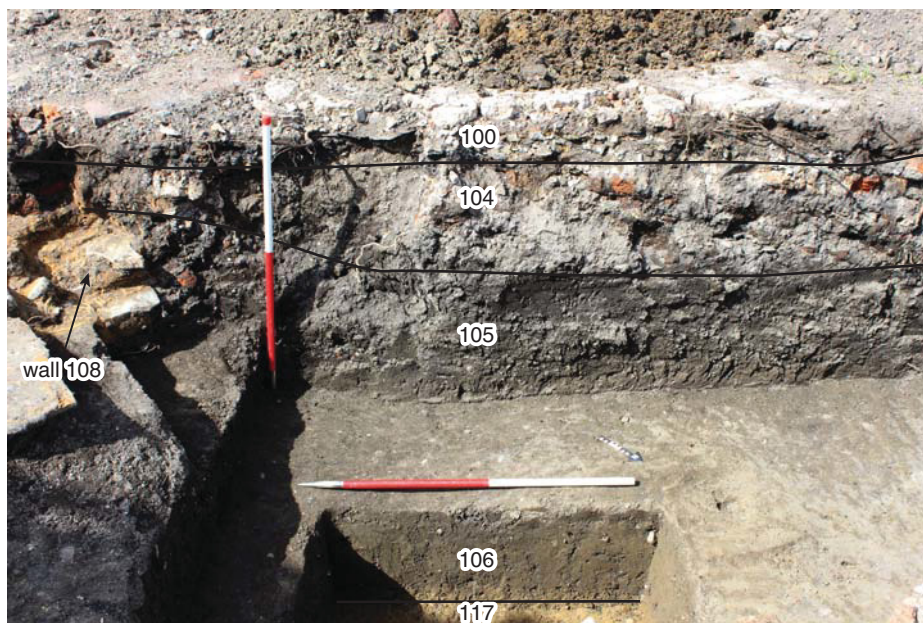
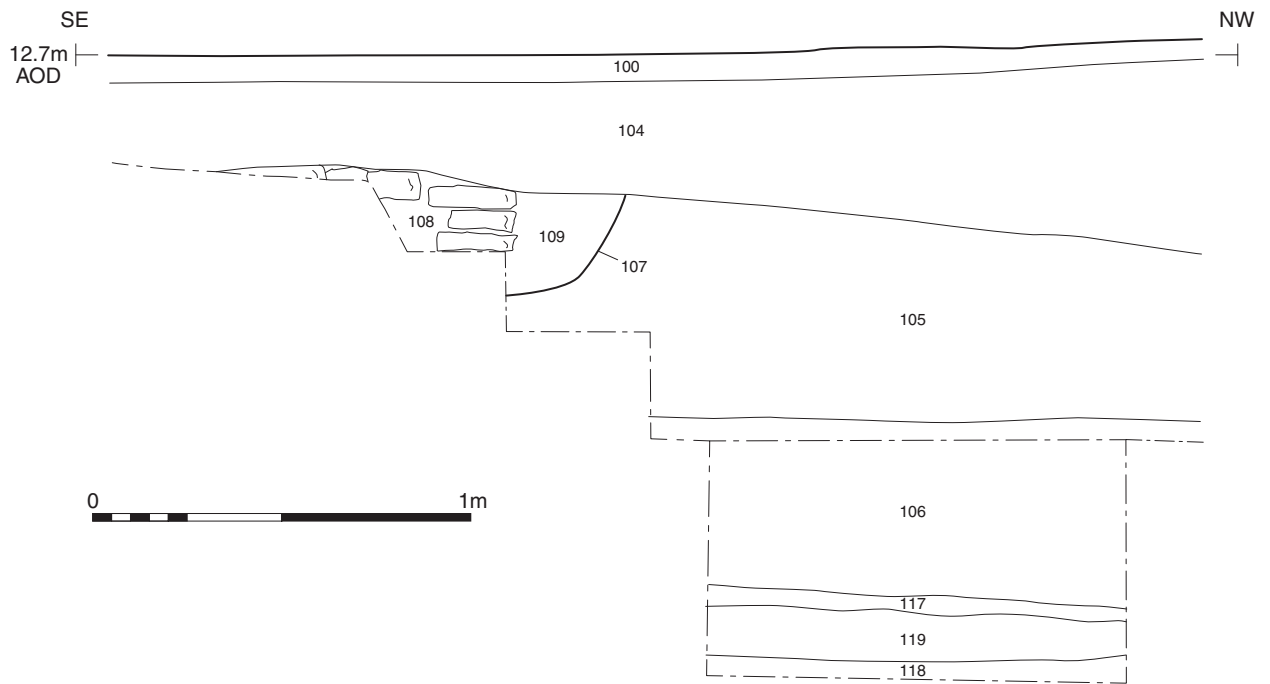
Land to the rear of the Tall Ships Public House, Gloucester, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

<i>DRAWN BY</i>	RP	<i>PROJECT NO.</i>	5978	<i>FIGURE NO.</i>
<i>CHECKED BY</i>	LM	<i>DATE</i>	26.07.16	3
<i>APPROVED BY</i>	CMB	<i>SCALE@A4</i>	N/A	

Section AA



Representative section including wall 108, looking south-west (1m scales)



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PROJECT TITLE

Land to the rear of the Tall Ships Public House, Gloucester, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

North facing section showing stratigraphic relationships and wall 108, and photographs

DRAWN BY	RP	PROJECT NO.	5978	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	LM	DATE	27.07.16	
APPROVED BY	CMB	SCALE@A4	1:20	4



5



6

5 Wall 103 and surface 102, looking west (0.4m and 1m scales)

6 Structure 113 and wall 108, looking east (0.4m and 1m scales)



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PROJECT TITLE

Land to the rear of the Tall Ships Public House, Gloucester, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

DRAWN BY RP PROJECT NO. 5978
 CHECKED BY LM DATE 27.07.16
 APPROVED BY CMB SCALE@A4 N/A

FIGURE NO.

5 & 6

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