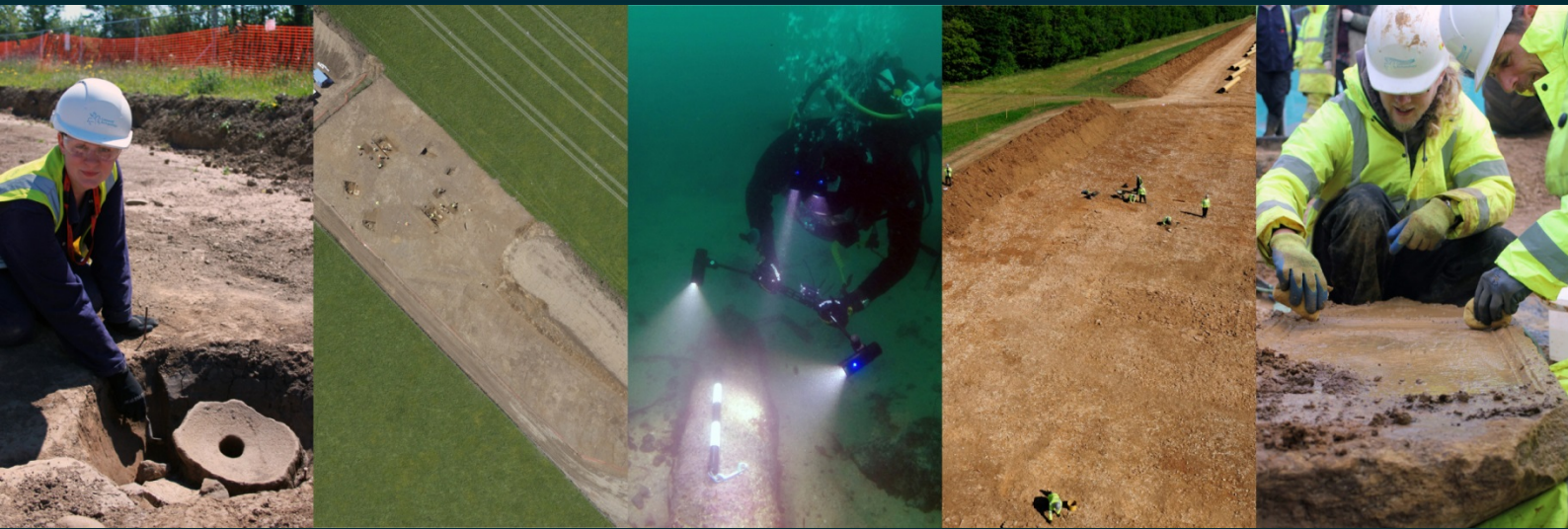


Tuffley Resource Centre Grange Road Gloucester

Archaeological Evaluation



for
MELT Homes

CA Project: 5983
CA Report: 16439

August 2016



Tuffley Resource Centre
Grange Road
Gloucester

Archaeological Evaluation

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CA Report: 16439



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A	18 August 2016	Peter Busby	Steven Sheldon	Final LPA Issue		Cliff Bateman

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Tuffley Resource Centre
Location:	Grange Road, Gloucester
NGR:	SO 83130 14261
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	1-2 August 2016
Planning Reference:	15/01524/OUT
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with the Museum of Gloucester
Accession Number:	GLRCM: 2016.29
Site Code:	TUF 16

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in August 2016 at Tuffley Resource Centre, Grange Road, Gloucester. A total of three trenches were excavated. In addition, four site investigation trial pits were also monitored during the course of the current works.

A ditch, containing a fragment of post-medieval ceramic building material, was identified in the centre of the site (Trench 1). Its location correlates to a plot/property boundary depicted on the 1840 Tithe Map of the Parish of Gloucester St Mary de Lode (Tuffley). The fill of this ditch was cut by a modern pit. Two postholes, one of which contained material of post-medieval/modern date, were also identified in Trench 1.

Evidence of modern truncation of the underlying natural substrate was identified in Trenches 2 and 3 and within all of the monitored site investigation trial pits.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In August 2016 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for MELT Homes at Tuffley Resource Centre, Grange Road, Gloucester (centred on NGR: SO 83130 14261; Fig. 1). Outline planning permission for residential development and associated infrastructure has been granted by Gloucester City Council (GCC), conditional on a programme of archaeological work being completed (planning ref: 15/01524/OUT, condition 4). Following consultation between CA and Andrew Armstrong, City Archaeologist, GCC, it was determined that this would comprise archaeological trial trench evaluation.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2016) and approved by Mr Armstrong. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014).

The site

- 1.3 The development area is approximately 0.5ha in extent and comprises the buildings of the former Tuffley Resource Centre as well as associated tarmac car parks, access roads and grassed areas. The site is bounded to the north by residential properties fronting on to Bisley Road, to the east by the A4173 Stroud Road, to the south by Grange Road and to the west by a school playing field. The site lies at approximately 28m AOD and is broadly level.
- 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). The natural substrate, comprising compact mottled yellow-grey silt clay, was identified in all of the excavated trenches.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site itself and a wider study area have been subject to an archaeological desk based assessment in association with a previous planning application (OA 2014). The following is a summary of this assessment:

Prehistoric

- 2.2 No evidence of prehistoric activity has been identified within the development site itself and there are no recorded settlement sites of definitive prehistoric date within the wider study area. Evidence of prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the current site is limited to a small number of chance finds including; a group of Neolithic flint arrowheads recovered from Robinswood Hill, c. 1km to the north-east of the current site and a quantity of unstratified Iron Age pottery recovered during archaeological works at RAF Quedgeley, c. 885m to the west of the current site

Roman

- 2.3 The development area is located approximately 4.5km to the south of the Roman City of Gloucester (*Glevum*) and approximately 1.5km to the east of the nearest known Roman road. The nearest known Roman settlement in the area comprises a farmstead dating to the 1st-century AD, identified during archaeological fieldwork at RAF Quedgeley.

Medieval

- 2.4 The development area is located between the medieval settlements of Tuffley and Whaddon and is likely to have remained as woodland during the medieval period. Archaeological fieldwork undertaken within the wider study area has identified limited evidence of medieval activity. Including; a medieval pit recorded c. 250m to the south-east of the current site and a quantity of 12th-century pottery recorded at St Mary's Church, c. 575m to the south of the current site.

Post-medieval/Modern

- 2.5 The Stroud Road, which forms the eastern boundary of the development area, dates to the early 17th-century and linked the two post-medieval industrial centres of Gloucester and Stroud. In the early 18th-century Tuffley remained heavily wooded, although much of the land of the hamlets was in open fields and common riverine meadows. The sites location, next to a stream, suggests that it was potentially such a meadow by this period.
- 2.6 The 1840 Tithe Map of the Parish of Gloucester St Mary de Lode (Tuffley) shows the site occupying parts of five plots, three of which contained buildings (listed as cottages in the accompanying apportionment). The northern boundary of the site had been established by this date and a stream is shown running through the southern part of the site itself. The land use of the current site appears to remain

essentially unchanged throughout the 19th-century. However, the cottages within the site appear to have been removed by the early 20th-century as they are no longer depicted on the 1902 Ordnance Survey (OS) map.

- 2.7 Whaddon School was opened on the site in 1905. The school buildings reached their present layout and extent by the late 1960s. The current southern boundary of the site was established at this time, with the stream being diverted beneath the school grounds and the road boundary moving southwards.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation were 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* (ClfA 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). Trench 1 measured 27.5m in length and 1.8m in width, Trench 2 measured 15 in length and 1.8m in width and Trench 3 measured 14.5m in length and 1.8m in width. Trench 1 was reduced in length and part of Trench 2 remained unexcavated due to the presence of modern services. Four site investigation trial pits were also monitored during the course of the evaluation and their locations are also shown on Fig. 2. The evaluation 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 The three archaeological 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 from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with the Museum of Gloucester under accession number GLRCM: 2016.29. 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.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2 & 3)

- 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.
- 5.2 In Trench 1 the natural substrate was encountered at a typical depth of 0.82m below present ground level (bpgl). It was overlain across the south-western parts of the trench by subsoil, averaging 0.4m in thickness. Across the north-eastern third of the trench an irregular modern feature was observed cutting in to the natural substrate. The fill of this feature was sealed by a modern make-up/levelling deposit which was, in turn, sealed by a bedding layer for the existing tarmac surface.
- 5.3 In Trenches 2 and 3 and Trial Pits 4-7 a broadly comparable stratigraphic sequence was observed. The natural substrate was encountered at a depth of between 0.31m and 1.25m bpgl. Its surface showed signs of being heavily disturbed by modern activity. The natural substrate was directly overlain by modern make-up/levelling deposits, all of which contained modern material including tarmac, metal, concrete and CBM. These deposits were sealed by topsoil and turf.

- 5.4 No archaeological features or deposits were identified in Trenches 2 and 3 or in Trial Pits 4-7.

Trench 1 (Figs 2 & 3)

- 5.5 North-west/south-east aligned ditch 105 was identified towards the centre of the trench. It cut the subsoil, had a shallow 'U'-shaped profile and contained a single fill, 104, from which a fragment of post-medieval ceramic building material (CBM) was recovered. The fill of this ditch was cut by small sub-oval pit 114, from which quantities of animal bone, modern glass, plastic, and wood were recovered.
- 5.6 Posthole 112 (Fig. 2, section BB) was identified in the north-eastern third of the trench. It had a flat base and steeply sloping sides and contained a single fill, 111, from which two fragments of post-medieval/modern CBM and a fragment of fired clay were recovered. Its fill, and the surrounding natural substrate, were truncated by modern feature 113.
- 5.7 Posthole 108 (Fig. 2, section AA) was identified cutting the subsoil in the south-western third of the trench. It contained a single undated fill, 107, and had a concave base and steeply sloping sides.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1 Artefactual material from the evaluation was recovered from two deposits (ditch fill 104 and posthole fill 112) and is all of post-medieval/modern date. Quantities of the artefact types recorded are given in Appendix B.

Ceramic building material

- 6.2 A total of three fragments of ceramic building material (82g) were recovered from ditch 105 (fill 104) and posthole 112 (fill 111). All are in a quite abraded condition and only the fragment from ditch 105 was sufficiently substantial to allow further classification as a brick. In view of the relatively recent dating of the recovered finds, none of this material will be retained.



7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1 The evaluation has identified a small number of archaeological features within the development area. These features were confined to Trench 1.
- 7.2 Ditch 105, identified cutting the subsoil in Trench 1, contained a fragment of post-medieval CBM and corresponds closely to a property/plot boundary depicted on the 1840 Tithe Map (see *archaeological background* above). The boundary is shown on all later editions of OS mapping until 1974-1975, after which it is no longer depicted. Pit 114 was identified cutting the fill of this ditch and is therefore considered to be of late 20th-century date.
- 7.3 Post-medieval/modern posthole 112 was also identified in Trench 1. Posthole 108, identified to the south west, remained artefactually undated but is likely to be broadly contemporary (i.e. post-medieval/modern) as it was shown to cut the subsoil within the trench.
- 7.4 The disturbed nature of the upper surface of the identified natural substrate within Trenches 2 and 3 and Trial Pits 4-7 suggests that the northern and southern margins of the site have been truncated. In Trenches 2 and 3 this truncation may relate to the construction and/or later expansion of Whaddon School whereas in Trial Pits 4-7, the truncation may relate to the relocation of Grange Road and the diversion of the stream in this part of site during the 1960s (see *archaeological background* above).



8. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Peter Busby, assisted by Gary Baddeley. The report was written by Peter Busby. The finds report was written by Jacky Sommerville. The illustrations were prepared by Sam O'Leary. The archive has been compiled by Peter Busby, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Steven Sheldon.

9. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2015 *Geology of Britain Viewer* http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 3 August 2016

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 *Tuffley Resources Centre, Grange Road, Gloucester: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

OA (Oxford Archaeology) 2014 *Tuffley Resources Centre, Grange Road, Gloucester: Archaeological Desk Based Assessment, OA Job No. 6066*

DCLG (Department of Communities and Local Government) 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
1	101	Layer		Tarmac surface	Tarmac	>27.5	>1.8	0.08	
1	102	Layer		Modern bedding layer for surface 101	Mid-light yellow grey sand and gravel	>27.5	>1.8	0.16	
1	103	Layer		Fill of modern feature 113	Dark brown grey silt clay with occasional modern metal and concrete fragments and frequent charcoal and CBM flecks	>5	>1.8	0.4	
1	104	Fill	105	Single fill of ditch 105	Mid blue grey clay with frequent red brick fragments	>6	>1.5	0.08	Post-medieval
1	105	Cut		Ditch	E/W aligned, shallow sloping sides and concave base	>6	>1.5	0.08	
1	106	Fill	114	Fill of pit 114	Mottled mid blue grey and yellow silt clay, contains modern animal burial and frequent glass, plastic and wood	>1	0.95	0.08	
1	107	Fill	108	Single fill of posthole 108	Mid brown grey silt clay with occasional charcoal flecks and wood fragments	0.35	0.31	0.1	
1	108	Cut		Posthole	Sub-circular, steep sides concave base	0.35	0.31	0.1	
1	109	Layer		Subsoil	Light yellow brown clay with occasional charcoal and CBM flecks	>27.5	>1.8	0.4	
1	110	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact mottled yellow grey silt clay	>27.5	>1.7	>0.2	
1	111	Fill	112	Single fill of posthole 112	Mid brown grey silt clay with occasional charcoal flecks and wood fragments	0.41	0.33	0.12	Post-medieval/modern
1	112	Cut		Posthole	Sub-circular, steep sides concave base	0.41	0.33	0.12	
1	113	Cut		Modern feature	Irregular modern feature, partially exposed in plan. Function unknown.	>5	>1.8	0.4	
1	114	Cut		Pit	Sub-oval, vertical sided, flat base.	>1	0.95	0.08	
1	115	Layer		Modern make-up/levelling	Mid brown grey silt clay with occasional modern metal and concrete fragments and frequent charcoal and CBM flecks	>27.5	>1.8	0.18	
2	201	Layer		Topsoil	Grey black silt clay	>15	>1.8	0.17	
2	202	Layer		Modern make-up/levelling	Mid grey brown clay sand with abundant modern CBM, metal and concrete fragments	>15	>1.8	0.14	
2	203	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact mottled yellow grey silt clay	>15	>1.8	>0.3	
3	301	Layer		Topsoil	Grey black silt clay	>14.5	>1.8	0.16	
3	302	Layer		Modern make-up/levelling	Light grey brown clay with occasional grey mortar and charcoal flecks and rare red brick fragments	>14.5	>1.8	0.27	
3	303	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact mottled yellow grey silt clay	>14.6	>1.8	>0.5	
4	401	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown silt clay	>2.5	>0.6	0.1	
4	402	Layer		Modern make-up/levelling	Mid grey brown silt clay with frequent concrete and	>2.5	>0.6	0.73	

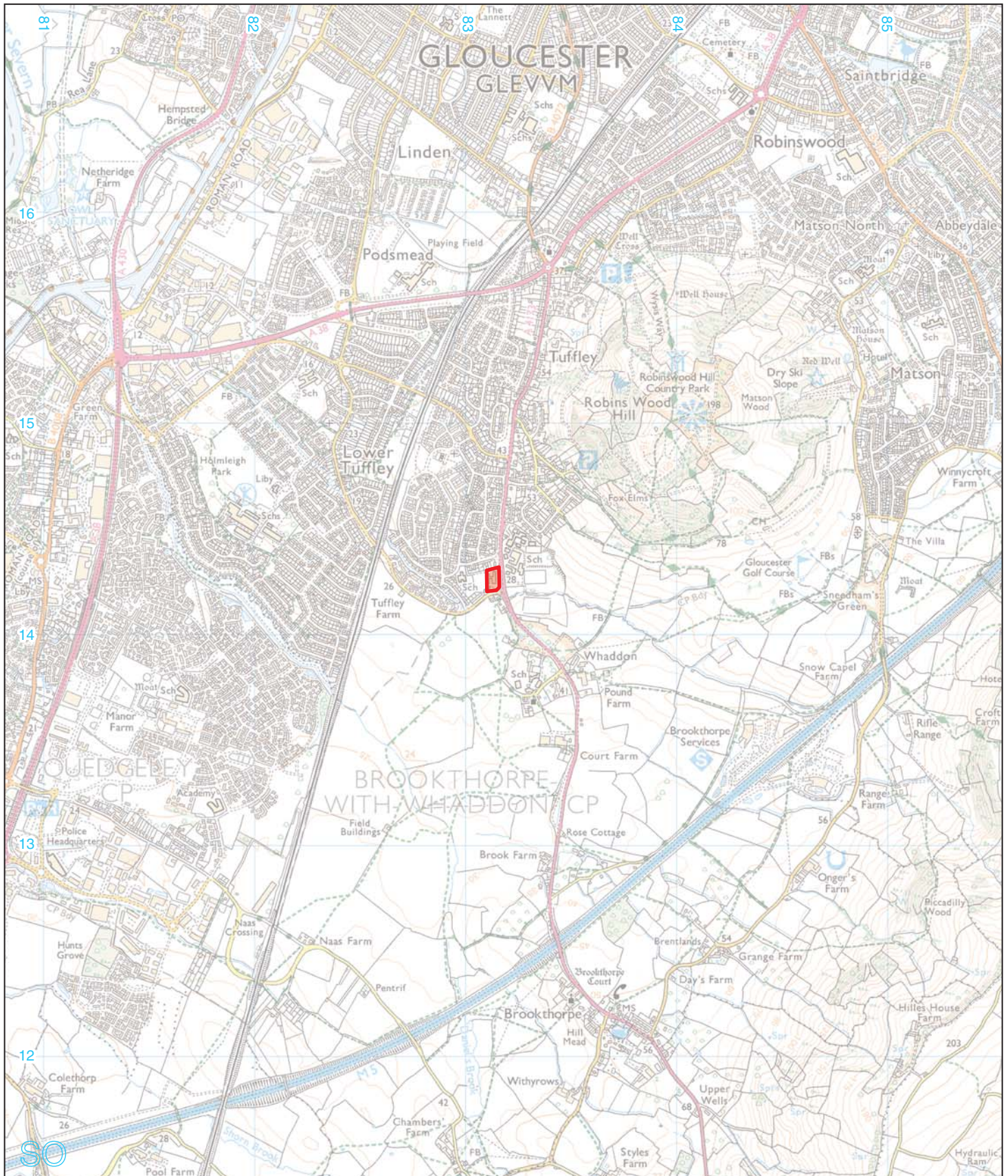
					tarmac fragments				
4	403	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact mottled yellow grey silt clay	>1.7	>0.65	>1.5	
5	501	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown silt clay	>2.2	>0.5	0.1	
5	502	Layer		Modern make-up/levelling	Mid grey brown silt clay with frequent concrete and tarmac fragments	>2.2	>0.5	1.15	
5	503	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact mottled yellow grey silt clay	>2.2	>0.5	>1.3	
6	601	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown silt clay	>1.7	>0.1	0.1	
6	602	Layer		Modern make-up/levelling	Mid grey brown silt clay with frequent concrete and tarmac fragments	>1.7	>0.1	1.1	
6	603	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact mottled yellow grey silt clay	>1.7	>0.1	>1.3	
7	701	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown silt clay	>2.1	>0.5	0.1	
7	702	Layer		Modern make-up/levelling	Mid grey brown silt clay with frequent concrete and tarmac fragments	>2.1	>0.5	0.8	
7	703	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact mottled yellow grey silt clay	>2.1	>0.5	>1.2	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Category	Description	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
104	Post-medieval ceramic building material	Brick	1	69	Post-medieval
111	Post-medieval/modern ceramic building material	Fragment	2	13	Post-medieval/ modern
	Fired clay		1	10	

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Tuffley Resource Centre, Grange Road, Gloucester	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in August 2016 at Tuffley Resource Centre, Grange Road, Gloucester. A total of three trenches were excavated. Four site investigation trial pits were also monitored during the course of the evaluation.</p> <p>A ditch, containing a fragment of post-medieval ceramic building material, was identified in Trench 1 and correlates to a plot/property boundary depicted on the 1840 Tithe Map of the Parish of Gloucester St Mary de Lode (Tuffley). The fill of this ditch was cut by a modern pit. Two postholes, one of which contained material of post-medieval/modern date, were also identified in Trench 1.</p> <p>Evidence of modern truncation of the underlying natural substrate was identified in Trenches 2 and 3 and within all of the monitored site investigation trial pits.</p>	
Project dates	1-2 August 2016	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	DBA (OA 2014)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Tuffley Resource Centre, Grange Road, Gloucester	
Study area	0.5ha	
Site co-ordinates	SO 83130 14261	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Steven Sheldon	
Project Supervisor	Peter Busby	
MONUMENT TYPE		
	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Museum of Gloucester/GLRCM: 2016.29	CBM, fired clay
Paper	Museum of Gloucester/GLRCM: 2016.29	Context and trench recording sheets, permatrace drawings
Digital	Museum of Gloucester/GLRCM: 2016.29	Digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 <i>Tuffley Resource Centre, Grange Road, Gloucester: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 16439		



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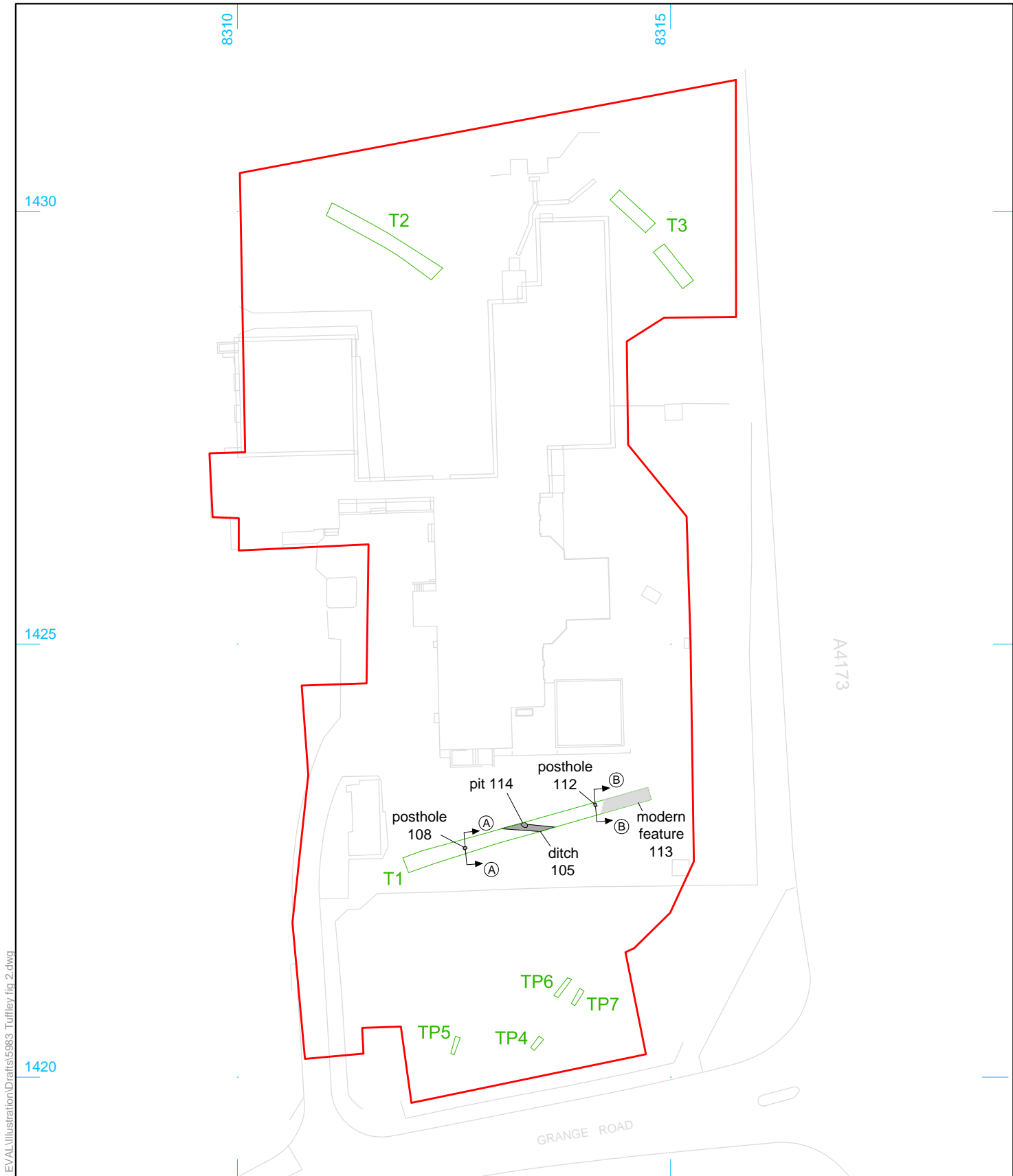
PROJECT TITLE
 Tuffley Resource Centre, Grange Road,
 Gloucester






FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

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-  site boundary
-  evaluation trench/trial pit
-  archaeological feature
-  modern
-  section location



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FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan, showing archaeological features

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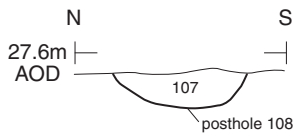


Posthole 108, looking west (0.5m scale)

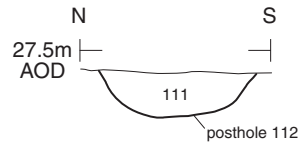


Trench 3, looking north (1m scale)

Section AA



Section BB



Pit 114, looking north-east (0.5m scale)



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



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



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FIGURE TITLE

Sections and photographs

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