



3 – 5 Queen Street Cirencester Gloucestershire

Archaeological Evaluation



for Cliffe Property Investment Ltd

CA Project: 6161 CA Report: 17074

February 2017



3 - 5 Queen Street Cirencester Gloucestershire

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 6161 CA Report: 17074











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А	23 February 2017	Alistair Barber	lan Barnes	Draft	Client comment	Clifford Batemen	

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SUMMARY

Project Name: 3 - 5 Queen Street

Location: Cirencester, Gloucestershire

NGR: SP 02840 01275

Type: Evaluation

Date: 2-3 February 2017

Planning Reference: 16/01883/FUL

Location of Archive: To be deposited with Corinium Museum

Site Code: QSC 17

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February 2017 at 3 - 5 Queen Street, Cirencester, Gloucestershire. Two trenches were excavated.

Surfaces of Roman date, likely to be associated with a portico on the southern side of Ermin Street separating *insula* VIII and IX and a yard surface, were encountered at the limit of excavation in both trenches. These were overlain by successive soil horizons of post-Roman date.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In February 2017 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Cliffe Property Investment Ltd at 3 5 Queen Street, Cirencester, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SP 02840 01275; Fig. 1).
- 1.2 A planning application has been made to Cotswold District Council (CDC) for a proposed extension to the rear of the property (CDC ref. 16/01883/FUL). In order to determine what impact the development would have on any archaeological assets present, evaluation trenching was recommended by Charles Parry (Archaeologist, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC)), the archaeological advisor to CDC. The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2017) and approved by Charles Parry. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014) and was monitored by Mr Parry, including a site visit on 3rd February 2017.

The site

- 1.3 The site is located on the north-western side of Queen Street, within the south-eastern part of Cirencester (Fig. 1). The proposed development area is approximately 300m² in extent, and comprises a garden to the rear of the property. The site, which is surrounded on all sides by residential development, lies between 107.25m to 107.5m AOD, with ground level dropping away to the south-east extent of the garden area as a result of modern landscaping.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Forest Marble Formation Mudstone. Overlying superficial deposits consist of river terrace deposits formed during the Quaternary period (BGS 2017). The natural geological substrate was not encountered within either trench.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The following is a brief summary of the results of a recent Desk-Based Assessment undertaken for the site (CA 2016).
- 2.2 The assessment noted that the site is located within the Roman town of *Corinium*, which underlies much of present-day Cirencester. Although no assets of Roman

date have previously been recorded within the site itself, numerous investigations in its immediate vicinity (including evaluations, excavations and/or watching briefs at numbers 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 20, 29 and 30 Church Street) have identified a large number of Roman heritage assets and find-spots within a 100m radius of the site. These include the remains of well-appointed Roman buildings, and also of the town wall defences and Silchester Gate approximately 100m south-east of the site (ibid.).

- In particular, previous archaeological investigations have identified that Ermin Street (which separated *insula* VIII, within which the site formerly lay, from *insula* IX to its north-east) passed either very close to, or through, the site. Its course has previously been projected as running north-east of, but close to, the north-eastern site boundary (Holbrook 1998; Fig. 2). Archaeological investigations at the former Foresters Arms public house, approximately 20m south-east of the site, project the line of Ermin Street through the site itself and revealed at least 15 successive, highly-compacted, limestone street surfaces and a 1st century AD roadside structure, possibly a portico (Evans 2008). Archaeological excavation at the Bingham Hall, approximately 100m to the north-west of the site, also revealed a portico and street surfaces (Havard and Watts 2008). This work also suggests the line of Ermin Street runs through part of the current site.
- 2.4 The site lies approximately 900m south-east of the Anglo-Saxon and medieval urban core (Gerrard 1994a, 1994b). The Watermoor area is not well documented in the medieval and early post-medieval periods, although landuse in this area probably included cultivated ground (extensive nurseries/allotments being recorded further north, around Lewis Lane/Querns Lane, from 18th and 19th-century cartographic sources). The 19th century saw a huge expansion of residential housing in Cirencester, with development along Watermoor Road and Stepstairs Lane after 1826, with building plots for sale in Church Street by 1868 (Gerrard & Viner 1994).

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* (CIfA 2014). This information will enable CDC 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 two trenches, each approximately 1.2m by 1.2m in size, in the locations shown on Fig. 2. Both 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 Both trenches were excavated by hand to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon. 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 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.
- 4.4 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 Corinium Museum, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix E, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-4)

5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts, finds and palaeoenvironmental remains are to be found in Appendices A, B and C respectively. Details of the relative heights of the principal deposits and features expressed as metres Above Ordnance Datum (m AOD) appear in Appendix D.

Trench 1 (Figs 2 & 3)

- A flat, relatively smooth, compact surface 105, comprised of crushed limestone, sands and gravels, was noted at the limit of excavation. It was overlain by an accumulation of charcoal-flecked silts 106, 0.05m in thickness, which were in turn sealed by crushed-limestone surface 107 (surveyed at 106.57m AOD, or approximately 1m bpgl). Surface 107 contained two large fragments of 3rd to 4th-century Roman pottery.
- An overlying silt-clay soil, 104, was in turn overlain by successive garden soils (103, 102 and 101), which were sealed by modern gravel surface 100. Garden soils 101 and 103 contained post-medieval and modern pottery.

Trench 2 (Figs 2 & 4)

- A flat, compact, stony clay-sand surface, 207, was recorded at the limit of excavation of this trench, from which a range of mid 3rd to 4th-century Roman artefacts were recovered. It was overlain by sand, mortar and gravel make-up layer 206, which was interpreted as the base for firm, level, stony clay-sand surface 205 (at 106.59m AOD; approximately 0.87m bpgl). An overlying deposit of fragmentary limestone 204 might represent demolition debris (surveyed at 106.59m AOD, or 0.66m bpgl).
- A subsequent clay-silt soil 203, which contained a range of artefactual material dating from the Roman to modern periods, was in turn overlain by successive garden soils 202, 201 and 200. Garden soil 201 also contained a wide range of artefactual material dating from the Roman to modern periods.

6. THE FINDS

6.1 Artefactual material was hand-recovered from six deposits (surfaces and soil horizons). The recovered material dates to the Roman and post-medieval/modern periods. The pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric. Recording also included a note of any evidence for use in the form of carbonised/other residues, although none was apparent. Roman fabric codes, in parenthesis in the text, are equated to the Cirencester pottery type series as defined

by Rigby (1982). Where applicable, National Roman Fabric Reference Collection codes are also given in Appendix B (Tomber and Dore 1998). Post-medieval/modern pottery codes correspond to the Cirencester pottery type series codes as defined by Ireland (1998).

Pottery: Roman

Roman pottery totalled nine sherds (253g) from three deposits. The average sherd weight, 28g, is high for a Roman group and indicates a very low level of fragmentation. In terms of edge abrasion and surface preservation, condition ranged from moderate to very good. Four sherds were retrieved in a locally made imitation Black-burnished ware (102-104) which is found in Cirencester during the third and fourth centuries (Cooper 1998, 335–7). Included was a conical flanged bowl, a form dating to the mid 3rd century to 4th centuries AD (*ibid.*, 334). Surface 207 produced a rimsherd from a mortarium in Oxford White-slipped ware (83) and a bodysherd in Oxford Red-slipped ware: both ware types are dateable to the mid 3rd to 4th centuries (Young 1977, 122–4). Similar dating applies to a rimsherd from a (Young) Type P24 bowl, in Oxford Parchment ware (155) from surface 107.

Post-medieval/modern

Pottery from this date range totalled 13 sherds (164g). The average sherd weight, at 13g, is rather low for pottery of this date, indicating a well broken-up assemblage. Otherwise, however, condition was mostly good to very good. The post-medieval period is represented by one sherd of glazed earthenware (243), of mid 16th to 18th century date, from soil horizon 201. The remaining pottery, dating to the 18th to 20th centuries, comprises refined whiteware (RWH), some of which was transfer-printed (214), transfer-printed Pearlware (214), mocha ware (MOC), black-glazed earthenware (243) and unglazed earthenware of 'flowerpot' type (252).

Ceramic building material

- A total of eight fragments (733g) of ceramic building material of Roman date were recovered in moderate to good condition. Several were identifiable as tile but narrower classification was not possible.
- 6.5 Ceramic building material of post-medieval/modern date comprised: a brick fragment in poor condition; and two unabraded fragments of glazed wall tile.

Other finds

- 6.6 Surface 207 produced a fragment from the handle of a rectangular bottle in natural coloured (pale green) glass. This type of vessel was in use during the mid 2nd century (Price and Cottam 1998, 200–1).
- 6.7 Soil horizon 201 produced a fragment of clay tobacco pipe stem, broadly dateable to the late 16th to late 19th centuries.
- Three fragments from a worked bone domino were recovered from soil horizon 203.

 Two joining fragments displayed three dimples across one face and the other fragment retained a small copper pin, probably for attachment to a wooden base.

 This item is dateable to the 18th to 19th centuries.
- 6.9 A tap and a latch of modern date, made of copper alloy, were recorded from soil horizon 201.
- 6.10 Soil horizon 201 also produced six iron objects: four nails, a latch and an unclassifiable fragment. A further three iron nails were retrieved from Roman-dated surface 207.

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Animal Bone

7.1 Twelve fragments of animal bone (330g) were recovered from layers 201, 203 and 207. The bone was highly fragmented but well preserved enabling the identification of cattle (*Bos taurus*), sheep/goat (*Ovis aries/Capra hircus*), pig (*Sus scrofa sp.*) and hare (*Lepus timidus*).

Roman

7.2 A total of five fragments (44g) were recovered from surface layer 207. Of these, the only identifiable bone was a metapodial (a bone of the foot) of a pig. No cut and/or chop marks suggestive of an origin in butchery waste were present and no useful interpretative data beyond species identification, could be obtained.

Modern

7.3 A further seven fragments (286g) were recovered from soil horizon layers 201 and 203 in association with material dating to the modern era. Cattle, sheep/goat and hare were identified.

8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1 The evaluation identified a sequence of late Roman deposits, including possible street or yard surfaces, and subsequent post-Roman soils.
- 8.2 Roman remains have been encountered at the limit of excavation within Trenches 1 and 2, corroborating the conclusions of the preceding desk-based assessment (CA 2016) which suggested a high potential for Roman remains, associated with Ermin Street and/or adjacent buildings within insula VIII. The restricted exposure of the crushed-limestone surface 105 and surface 107 exposed in Trench 1, and of surfaces 207 and 205 in Trench 2, precludes certainty as to their nature. However, their form appears consistent with metalled layers noted south-east of the site at the former Foresters Arms public house (Evans 2008) and to the north-west at the Bingham Hall (Havard and Watts 2008). Projecting the alignment of Ermin Street and the portico on its southern side from these two excavations suggests the portico runs through the eastern side of the 3-5 Queen Street site itself. This projected alignment would suggest the surface in Trench 1 represents part of a yard surface, whilst the surface in Trench 2 may be part of the portico associated with Ermin Street. The pottery assemblage from the Foresters Arms evaluation is unfortunately limited, and as such there is limited scope to determine if the lack of post depositional damage to pottery recovered from surface 207 is significant, though the dating for the two assemblages overlap in the 2nd to 3rd centuries. In addition, silt layer 106 appeared similar to coarse, oolite-rich, silts encountered elsewhere within the centre of Roman Corinium: the accepted interpretation of these deposits is of an accumulation of eroded, powdered, street metalling which had washed off adjacent inter-insulae streets. Based on the available evidence, it is also possible that the crushed limestone deposits encountered in both Trenches 1 and 2 represent external surfaces immediately adjacent to Ermin Street which were subject to inundation from roadwash, also seen in the investigation at the Foresters Arms (Evans 2008).

- 8.3 No demolition debris was encountered within Trench 1, where Roman stone surface 107 was directly overlain by an undated, but post-Roman, soil 104. A fragmentary limestone and soil deposit 204 within Trench 2 was of uncertain character, but conceivably identifies post-Roman demolition debris. The absence of Anglo-Saxon or medieval finds or definite occupation deposits may reflect the distance between the site and the Saxon and medieval urban core.
- 8.4 Overlying medieval and post-medieval/modern soils noted in both trenches suggest an agricultural use of the site during these periods. The formation processes responsible for such soil horizons are still inadequately understood, but the southern part of Cirencester was under arable/market garden cultivation well into the post-medieval period, and much post-medieval allotment cultivation and stone-robbing has occurred across the town. The 1838 Cirencester tithe map shows the site as probable common land at that time, and the 1875 Ordnance Survey first edition map depicts it as part of the gardens of Ashley Terrace, at that time a row of terraced houses on the corner of New Road and Cricklade Road (now Queen Street and Watermoor Road; CA 2016).

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

9.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Alistair Barber, assisted by Matt Coman. The report was written by Alistair Barber. The finds and biological evidence reports were written by Jacky Sommerville and Andrew Clarke respectively. The illustrations were prepared by Lesley Davidson. The archive has been compiled by Alistair Barber, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Ian Barnes.

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Туре	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Modern surface	Yellow calcareous gravels	>1.35	>1.15	0.05	
1	101	Layer		Soil horizon	Dark grey-brown stony sand-silt	>1.3	>1.15	0.33	LC18-C19
1	102	Layer		Soil horizon	Light grey-brown clay-silt	>1.3	>1.15	0.21	
1	103	Layer		Soil horizon	Grey-brown silt-clay	>1.3	>1.15	0.2	C19
1	104	Layer		Soil horizon	Dark grey-brown to black silt- clay	>1.3	>1.15	0.41	
1	105	Layer		Surface	Cream-yellow sands, gravels and fragmentary limestone	>0.8	>0.5		
1	106	Layer		Silts	Dark grey silt with charcoal flecks	>0.8	>0.5	0.05	
1	107	Layer		Surface	Yellow-white crushed limestone.	>1.3	>1.15	0.12	C3-C4
2	200	Layer		Soil horizon	Yellow-brown clay-silt	>1.2	>1.2	0.16	
2	201	Layer		Soil horizon	Dark grey-brown charcoal-flecked sand-silt	>1.2	>1.2	0.12	C19-C20
2	202	Layer		Soil horizon	Dark brown clay-silt	>1.2	>1.2	0.45	
2	203	Layer		Soil horizon	Dark-brown stony-silt	>1.2	>1.2	0.42	C19-C20
2	204	Layer		?demolition debris	Dark grey-brown fragmentary limestone and clay-silt	>0.44	>0.36	0.24	
2	205	Layer		Surface	Orange-yellow stony clay-sand	>0.75	>0.5	0.14	
2	206	Layer		Make-up	Dark yellow sands and gravels	>1.2	>0.25	>0.05	
2	207	Layer		Surface	Grey-green stony clay-sand	>1.2	>0.95	>0.05	MC3-C4

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code/ NRFRC*	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
101	Post-medieval/modern pottery	Transfer-printed refined whiteware	214	1	26	LC18-C19
103	Post-medieval/modern pottery	Transfer-printed pearlware	214	1	10	C19
	Modern pottery	Mocha ware	MOC	1	5	
107	Roman pottery	Imitation Black-burnished ware	102-104	2	49	C3-C4
	Roman pottery	Oxford parchment ware	155/ OXF PA	1	45	
201	Post-medieval pottery	Glazed earthenware	243	1	7	C19-C20
	Post-medieval/modern pottery	Black-glazed earthenware	242	1	13	
	Post-medieval/modern pottery	Refined whiteware	RWH	3	30	
	Post-medieval/modern pottery	Transfer-printed refined whiteware	214	2	7	
	Modern pottery	Flowerpot	252	1	57	
	Roman ceramic building material	Fragment		1	43	
	Modern ceramic building material	Glazed wall tile		2	28	
	Post-medieval/modern glass	Bottle		7	37	
	Clay tobacco pipe	Stem		1	1	
	Iron	Nails, latch, object		6	449	
	Copper alloy	Latch, tap		2	246	
203	Roman pottery	Imitation Black-burnished ware	102-104	1	30	C19-C20
	Post-medieval/modern pottery	Transfer-printed refined whiteware	214	1	2	
	Modern pottery	Flowerpot	252	1	7	
	Roman ceramic building material	Fragment		5	411	
	Post-medieval ceramic building material	Fragment		1	100	
	Clay tobacco pipe	Stem		1	5	
	Worked bone/copper Mortar	Domino		3	2 3	
207	Roman pottery	Imitation Black-burnished ware	102-104	2	36	MC3-C4
	Roman pottery	Oxford Red-slipped ware	83/ OXF RS	1	6	
	Roman pottery	Oxford white-slipped ware	84/OXF WS	1	69	
	Roman pottery Roman ceramic building material	Greyware Fragment	98	1 2	18 279	
* NI=4:	Roman glass Iron	Bottle Nail		1	49 56	

^{*} National Roman Fabric Reference Collection codes in bold

APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Tables: Identified animal species by fragment count (NISP) and weight and context.

Fill	BOS	O/C	SUS	LEPUS	LM	MM	Total	Weight (g)
				Roman				
207			1		1	3	5	44
				Modern				
201	1	1					2	100
203	2	1		1	1		5	186
Subtotal	3	2		1	1		7	286
Total	3	2	1	1	2	3	12	
Weight	259	19	6	3	23	20	330	

BOS = cattle; O/C = sheep/goat; SUS = pig; Lepus = Hare; LM = cattle size mammal; MM = sheep size mammal

APPENDIX D: LEVELS OF PRINCIPAL DEPOSITS AND STRUCTURES

Levels are expressed as metres below current ground level and as metres Above Ordnance Datum (AOD).

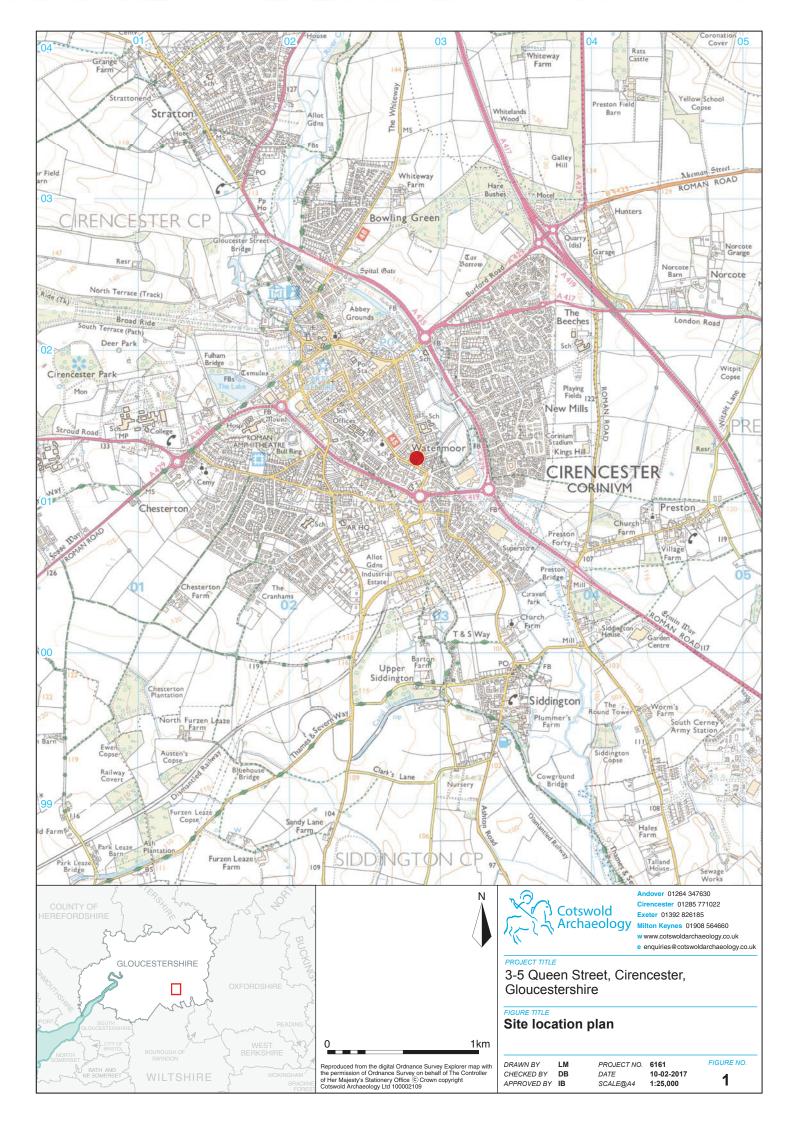
	Trench 1	Trench 2
Current ground level	0.00m	0.00m
	(107.54m)	(107.25m)
Top of Roman deposits	0.97m	0.66m
	(106.57m)	(106.59m)
Limit of excavation	1.02m	0.66m
	(106.52m)	(106.59m)

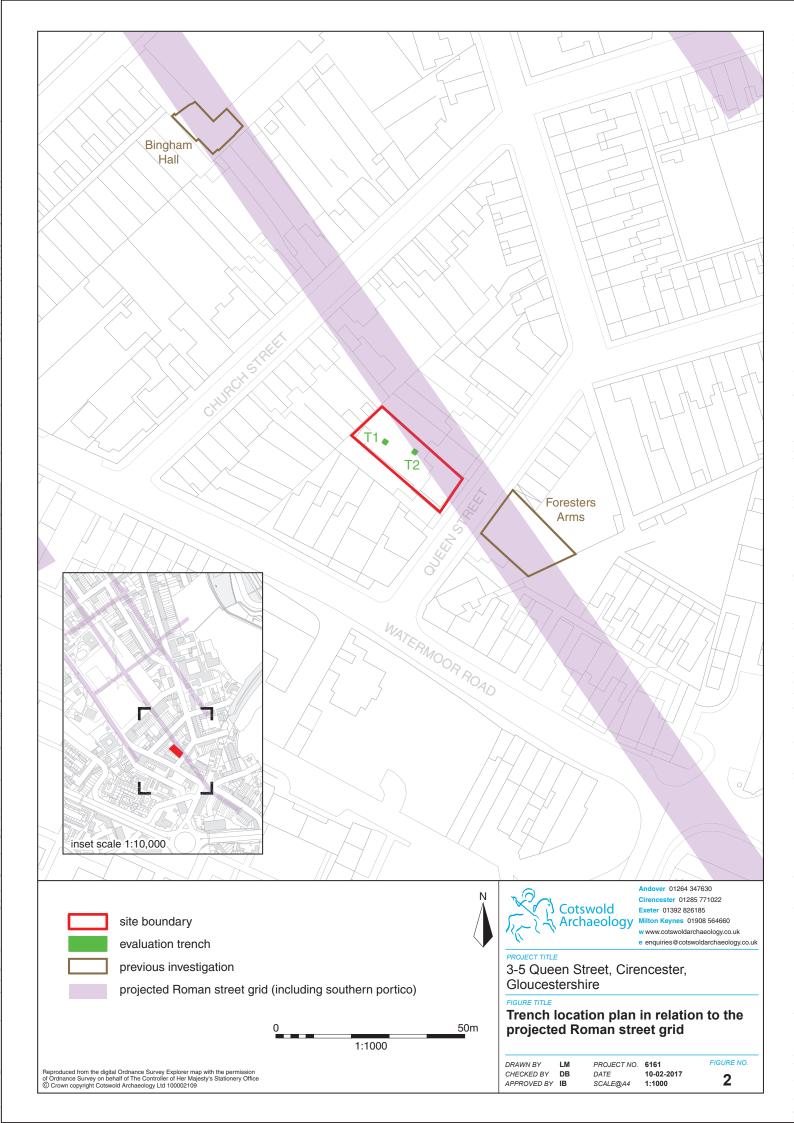
Upper figures are depth below modern ground level; lower figures in parentheses are metres AOD.

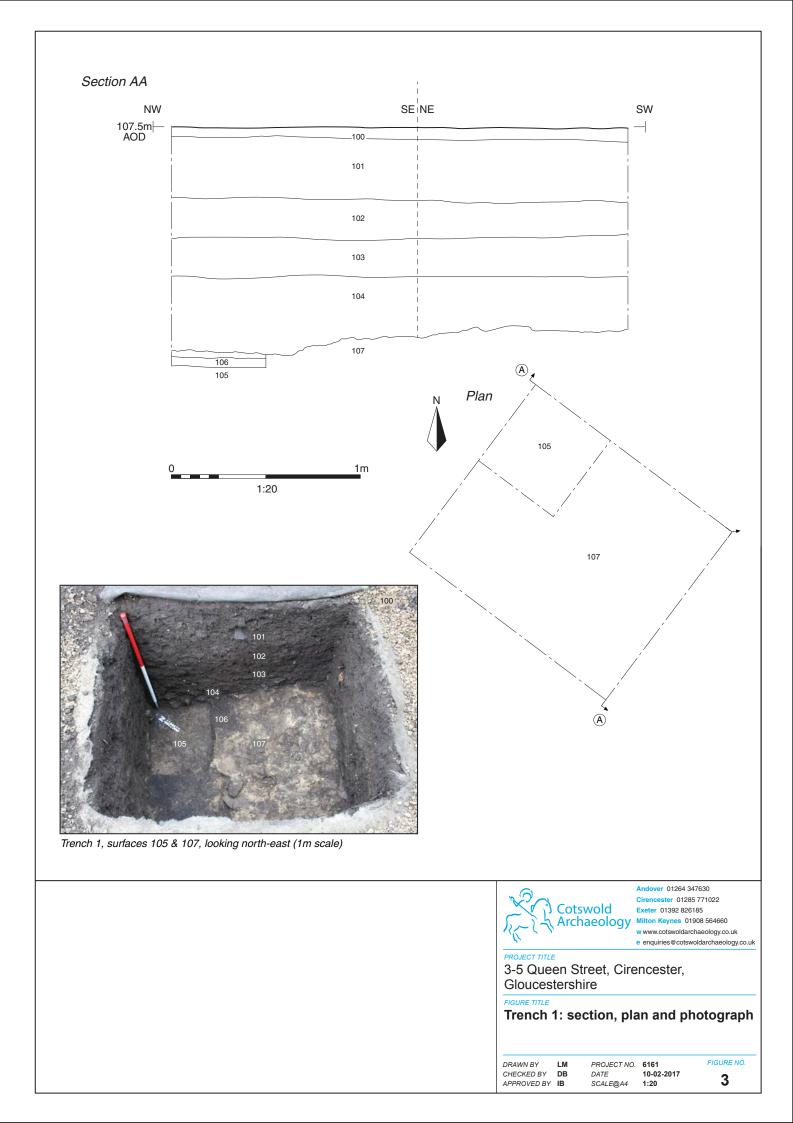
APPENDIX E: OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Name	3 to 5 Queen Street, Cirencester, Glo	oucestershire				
Short description	Archaeology in February 2017 at 3 to	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February 2017 at 3 to 5 Queen Street, Cirencester, Gloucestershire. Two trenches were excavated.				
	Surfaces of Roman date, likely to be the southern side of Ermin Street se a yard surface, were encountered at trenches. These were overlain by su Roman date.	parating <i>insula</i> VIII and IX and the limit of excavation in both				
Project dates	2-3 February 2017					
Project type	Field evaluation					
Previous work	Desk-based Assessment (CA 2016)					
Future work	Unknown					
PROJECT LOCATION						
Site Location	3 to 5 Queen Street, Cirencester, Glo	oucestershire				
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.03ha	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				
Site co-ordinates	SP 02480 01275					
PROJECT CREATORS						
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology					
Project Brief originator	-					
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology					
Project Manager	Ian Barnes					
Project Supervisor	Alistair Barber					
MONUMENT TYPE	Roman surfaces					
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None					
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)				
Physical	Corinium Museum	Ceramics, animal bone				
Paper	Corinium Museum	Trench Record Sheets, Context Sheets, permatrace drawings				
Digital	Corinium Museum	Digital photos				
BIBLIOGRAPHY		, ,				

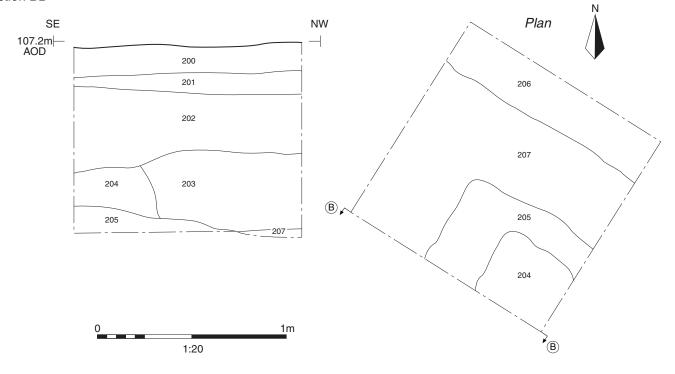
CA typescript report **17074**







Section BB





Trench 2, surfaces 207 & 205, looking south-west (1m scale)



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3-5 Queen Street, Cirencester, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 2: section, plan and photograph

DRAWN BY LM
CHECKED BY DB
APPROVED BY IB

 PROJECT NO.
 6161

 DATE
 10-02-2017

 SCALE@A4
 1:20

FIGURE NO.



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