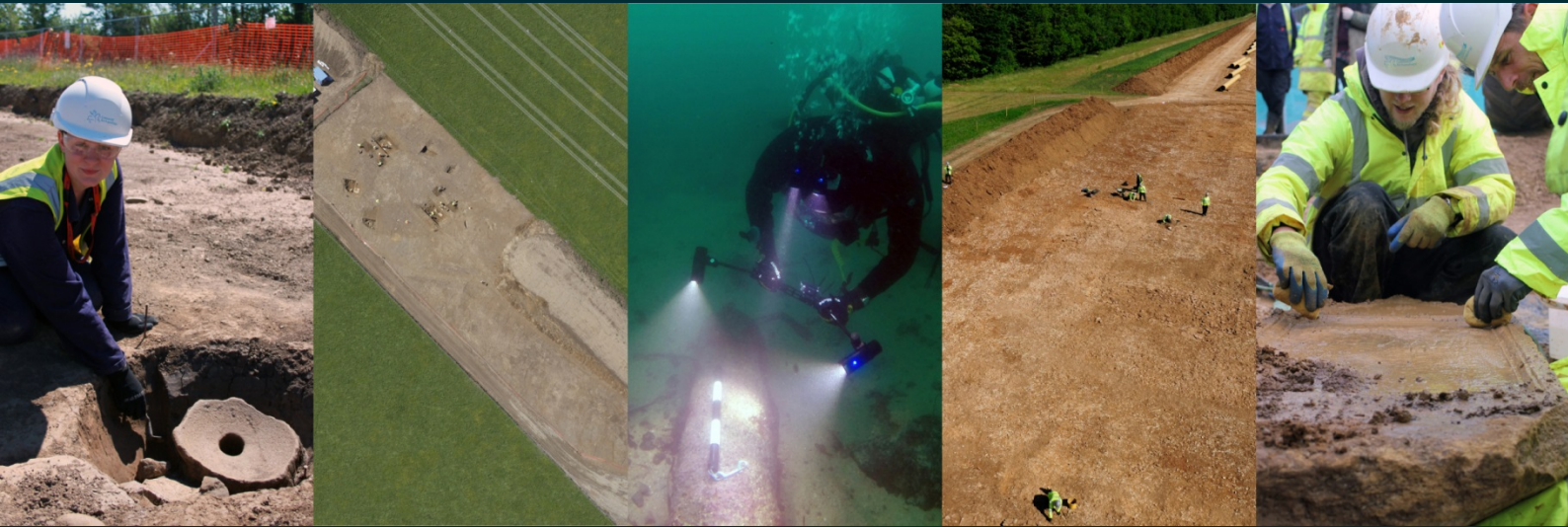


87-91 Southgate Street (RAOB Club)
Gloucester
Gloucestershire
Archaeological Evaluation



for
Gloucester Regen Capital Ltd

CA Project: 6357
CA Report: 17511

September 2017



87-91 Southgate Street (RAOB Club)
 Gloucester
 Gloucestershire

Archaeological Evaluation

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Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	01/09/2017	D Sausins	C Bateman		Internal Review	C Bateman

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Summary

Project Name:	87-91 Southgate Street
Location:	Gloucester, Gloucestershire
NGR:	382879 218119
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	24-25 August 2017
Planning Reference:	Gloucester City Council ref: 17/00658/OUT
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Museum of Gloucester
Site Code:	LMA 17

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in August 2017 at 87-91 Southgate Street, Gloucester, Gloucestershire. One trench was excavated.

A series of later medieval/early post-medieval deposits was identified sealing the natural clay substrate. The uppermost deposit was truncated by at least two phases of building with the earliest phase represented by a stone-built structure with later additions of brick-built walls and surfaces. These were in turn sealed by modern demolition deposits and two phases of concrete surfaces.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In August 2017 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Gloucester Regen Capital Ltd at 87-97 Southgate Street, Gloucester, Gloucestershire (centred at NGR: 382879 218119; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken in support of an outline planning application to Gloucester City Council (GCC) for residential development following demolition of the existing structures (planning reference: 17/00658/OUT). The archaeological works was recommended by Andrew Armstrong, Gloucester City Archaeologist, the archaeological advisor to GCC.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a *brief* for an archaeological evaluation (GCC 2017) prepared by Andrew Armstrong, and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2017a) that was 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 24 and 25 August 2017.

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area comprises the former RAOB Club and grounds. The associated buildings are currently extant, although planning permission has previously been granted for their demolition to ground level (GCC planning reference 16/00421/FUL).
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Mudstone associated with the Charmouth Mudstone Formation of the Jurassic Period (BGS 2017). Blue-grey clay was identified during the evaluation.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The proposed development area is located in an area of archaeological potential. 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 the current site. 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 (CA 2016).
- 2.2 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 leading from Gloucester to Sea Mills (Road 541 Margary 1973; modern Southgate Street). A Roman cemetery is recorded c.150m to the north-east of the current site, along with floor surfaces and stratified deposits. Undated cists containing urns and cremations were revealed c.125m north of the site during development of Gloucester Docks in the 19th century (ibid.). Archaeological recording at Albion House, approximately 60m north of the current site, revealed a Roman substantial roadside ditch adjacent to Southgate Street, as well as two later Roman inhumations (FA 2016).
- 2.3 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.50m north-east of the current site (CA 2016). In addition, two ring intaglios of unknown provenance (GHER reference number 22190) have previously been recovered in the immediate vicinity (ibid.).
- 2.4 The medieval southern defences of the City of Gloucester followed the line, and in many parts incorporated elements of the former Roman defensive circuit. Extramural settlement along Southgate Street appears to have become re-established during the 10th century occupying much the same area as the preceding Roman suburb (ibid.). Archaeological investigations immediately to the north-west of the current site recorded evidence relating to the medieval development of the suburb. An undated ditch, most probably indicative of 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.). In addition, the recent archaeological recording at Albion House identified numerous dispersed pits and postholes representative of medieval to post-medieval activity. A substantial medieval or later ditch suggestive of a further property boundary was also identified (FA 2016).
- 2.5 Immediately prior to the Siege of Gloucester in 1643, the suburbs of Gloucester were deliberately razed. The adjacent Grade II Listed Whitesmiths Arms and Nos.

83-85 Southgate Street retain remnants of 15th/16th-century timber framing which survived the demolition (ibid.). It is probable that 87 Southgate Street also dates to that period but has been much more extensively altered in the succeeding centuries (CA 2017b).

- 2.6 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 a row of properties fronting Southgate Street (see CA 2107b, Fig.5, p16). Little had changed prior to the compilation of Causton's map of Gloucester dating to 1843 (ibid, Fig. 6, p17). The 1884 First Edition Ordnance Survey map shows the buildings of nos. 87-91 in excellent detail, showing the location of the pump and paths within the garden area (ibid, Fig. 8, p19). The site remained unaltered until 1988 when 89-91 Southgate Street were demolished prior to construction of the extant club buildings (ibid.).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation are 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 a single trench, measuring 5m in length and 1.8m in width, in the location shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). The trench was 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 trench was 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 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 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 2-4)

- 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 Natural substrate 136, comprising blue-grey clay with white flecking, was identified at approximately 1.1m below present ground level (bpgl) within a hand excavated sondage. It was sealed by deposits 129 and 126, totalling 0.5m in depth, from which later medieval/early post-medieval pottery, window glass and ceramic building material (CBM) was recovered in association with residual Roman artefacts. The latest of these deposits, 126, was sealed by approximately 0.15m of further re-worked soils (recorded as deposits 114, 115 and 119) from which mid 16th to 18th-century pottery and CBM, as well as residual Roman pottery was recovered.
- 5.3 Re-worked soils 114/115 were cut by foundation trench 130 for wall 111, which formed the south-west corner of a structure within the trench. It was constructed of roughly dressed limestone blocks, of which only two courses survived, measured 0.6m in width and continued beyond the limits of the trench.
- 5.4 Lime-mortar screed 117, most probably representative of a bedding deposit for a now removed floor or surface, remained unexcavated. Stratigraphically it is broadly

contemporary with wall 111. Bedding deposit 117 to the west of the trench and re-worked soils 114/115/119 to the east were cut by foundation trenches associated with a series of brick walls. These wall (104, 105, 107, 109, 110 and 112) were constructed of un-frogged red bricks bonded with a yellow sandy mortar and were aligned either parallel or perpendicular to Southgate Street. The brick walls respected stone wall 111, suggesting that the latter may have remained extant whilst interior alterations were undertaken to the associated building. Evidence from the hand excavated sondage suggests that brick wall 112, and most probably by implication all of the identified brick walls, comprised a stepped foundation that was founded on the natural lias clays.

5.5 Brick wall 112 and stone wall 111 were abutted by red brick surface 113. The surface, which extended beyond the confines of the trench, measured at least 1.2m in length, 0.65m in width and was sealed by occupation layer 124 from which two sherds of late 17th to 18th-century pottery were recovered. The latter was itself sealed by compacted lime-mortar surface 125 (n.i.).

5.6 All of the identified structures were sealed by demolition deposits (recorded as 116 and 118) from which fragments of clay tobacco pipe stem and a London Dock Company button (Ra.1) dating to the 19th century were recovered. These deposits were in turn sealed by levelling layer 106 for concrete screed 103, measuring 0.3 thick, onto which tiled floor surface 101 was founded. The latter was in turn overlain by modern concrete yard surface 100.

6. THE FINDS

6.1 Artefactual material was hand-recovered from five deposits. The recovered material dates to the Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods. Quantities of the artefact types are given in Appendix B. The pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric. Pottery fabric codes (in parenthesis in the text) are equated to the Gloucester pottery type series (Vince unpublished) where possible. Where applicable, National Roman Fabric Reference Collection codes are also given in Appendix B (Tomber and Dore 1998).

Pottery: Roman

- 6.2 A total of seven unfeatured bodysherds (58g) of Roman pottery was recovered. Represented fabrics were Severn Valley (oxidised) ware (TF11b), which is broadly Roman in date, and Southeast Dorset Black-burnished ware (TF4). The latter ware type was manufactured near Poole and typically dates to the 2nd to 4th centuries when found outside Dorset. However, all of the Roman pottery was residual in medieval or later deposits/features.

Medieval

- 6.3 A rimsherd (4g) from a vessel in Cotswold Oolitic limestone-tempered ware (TF41), in a moderately abraded condition, was retrieved from layer 129. This type of pottery dates to the 11th to 13th centuries.

Late medieval/post-medieval

- 6.4 Pottery of this date totalled 11 sherds (186g). From earlier in the period were Malvernian oxidised glazed ware (TF52, 14th to 16th centuries) and Cistercian ware (TF60, 16th to 17th centuries). Also represented were glazed earthenware (TF50, mid 16th to 18th centuries) and Westerwald stoneware (TF94, late 17th to 18th centuries). The latter ware type was exported from Germany.

Ceramic building material

- 6.5 Roman ceramic building material comprised 12 unclassifiable fragments, all redeposited and in a heavily abraded condition.
- 6.6 A total of five fragments of late medieval/post-medieval ceramic building material was also recovered. These were slightly abraded but were too fragmentary for further classification.

Other finds

- 6.7 Two very thin fragments of brown-coloured window glass (<1g), from layer 126, are likely to be medieval in date.
- 6.8 An iron nail, of uncertain date, was recorded from re-worked layer 114.
- 6.9 A copper alloy button (Ra. 1) of 19th century date was retrieved from demolition deposit 116. It featured the words "London Dock Company" around the edge, with a

ship in the centre. The same deposit also produced 20 fragments of clay tobacco pipe stem, which are all broadly dateable to the late 16th to late 19th centuries.

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Animal Bone

- 7.1 Ten fragments (120g) of animal bone were recovered from layers 114 and 129 dating respectively to the medieval and late medieval/early post-medieval periods. The bone was moderately well preserved, fragmentary and displayed clear signs of having been gnawed by dogs.
- 7.2 The only identifiable material came from deposit 114 where four fragments (70g) of cattle (*Bos taurus*) and one fragment (7g) of sheep/goat (*Ovis aries*) bone were recovered. Of note among these is a fragment of cattle horn core which displays a clear chop mark. This could only have occurred when removing the horn from the skull and is suggestive of the waste from horn working.

8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1 The earliest deposits encountered were a sequence of silty clays, typically totalling 0.6m in depth, revealed sealing the natural substrate (deposits 129, 126 and 114/115/119). These deposits all contained later medieval and early post-medieval artefacts as well as residual Roman material. The apparent re-worked nature of these deposits suggests that they may represent agricultural or horticultural activity as has previously been identified in the Southgate Street area. However, the close proximity of these deposits, within 5m, to Southgate Street, is intriguing as it may be suspected that they should have been located beneath Roman and/or medieval properties fronting the street, unless neither suburb extended this far to the south (see CA 2017b, section 3.7 for discussion on the extent of the medieval suburb). Alternatively, it may be proposed that the deposits immediately post-date the razing of the southern suburbs in 1643 and represent a period of cultivation prior to subsequent re-development of the area in the later 17th or 18th century.
- 8.2 At least two distinct phases of development were identified during the evaluation, and represent development within 89 Southgate Street. The earliest phase was represented by the corner of a stone wall and/or a probable floor/surface bedding

layer (111 and 117 respectively). No dateable material was recovered from either phase of these structures, although both were stratigraphically later than deposits 114/115/119 and therefore at least early post-medieval in origin. The bedding layer was truncated by the same brick built walls that butted against stone wall 111. It remains undetermined whether the construction of the numerous brick walls represents remodelling of an extant structure or whether a complete new build.

- 8.3 Consultation of available cartographic sources indicates that the identified walls are all internal features within 87 Southgate Street. The 1796 Hall and Pinnell Map of Gloucester is the first to show the application area in detail. Between 1796 and the compilation of the 1884 OS Map, the cartographic sources show minimal change to the building footprints.
- 8.4 Further internal remodelling, presumably in the early/mid 20th century, is evidenced by the levelling for tiled floor 101. Modern concrete surface 100 represents the external yard constructed following demolition of 89-91 Southgate Street in 1988.
- 8.5 No evidence for *in-situ* Roman or medieval activity, and in particular any structures fronting Southgate Street, were revealed during the current works.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Daniel Sausins, assisted by Richard Scurr. The report was written by Daniel Sausins. The finds and biological evidence reports were written by Jacky Sommerville and Andrew Clarke respectively. The illustrations were prepared by Charlotte Paxman. The archive has been compiled by Daniel Sausins, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.

10. REFERENCES

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CA 2017b *87-91 Southgate Street, Gloucester. Built Heritage Assessment* CA Report No. **17482**

FA (Foundations Archaeology) 2016 *Albion House, 77 Southgate Street, Gloucester. Archaeological Evaluation (Phases 2 and 3), Mitigation (Phase 4) and Watching Brief (Phase 5)*

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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	Surface	Concrete			0.25	
1	101	Layer	Surface	Lino tiles				
1	102	Layer	Bonding material	Black pitch/tar				
1	103	Layer	Floor screed	Sand/cement			0.3	
1	104	Structure	Wall	Single course of brick and stone	>0.5	0.3		
1	105	Structure	Wall	Two courses brickwork, light sandy mortar	1.7	0.24		
1	106	Deposit	Demolition rubble	Loose dark brown			0.15	
1	107	Structure	Drain cover	Bricks on edge, light yellow mortar	0.45		0.35	
1	108	Structure		Two bricks	0.25	0.2		
1	109	Structure	Wall	Two courses header and stretcher brickwork	1.8	0.23		
1	110	Structure	Wall	Single course brickwork with light grey yellow mortar	>0.5	>0.4	0.1	
1	111	Structure	Wall	Rubble cored limestone	2.4	0.6		
1	112	Structure	Foundation wall	Brick with light grey yellow sandy mortar	135	0.25	0.49	
1	113	Structure	Surface	Bricks on the flat, no bonding	1.2	0.65		
1	114	Deposit	Occupation Layer	Dark grey brown silt clay with rare inclusions of coal, shell and CBM	0.81	0.75	0.12	MC16-C18
1	115	Deposit	Occupation Layer	Dark grey brown silt clay with rare inclusions of coal, shell and CBM				
1	116	Deposit	Demolition deposit	Mid brown grey silt clay with abundant clay pipe stems			0.2	C19
1	117	Layer	Base layer for floor	Light yellow mortar with occasional CBM				
1	118	Deposit	Demolition deposit	Mid brown grey silt clay with abundant clay pipe stems				
1	119	Deposit	Occupation Layer	Dark grey brown silt clay with rare inclusions of coal, shell and CBM				
1	120	Cut	Construction cut for 109					
1	121	Fill	Fill of 120	Dark brown black silt inclusions of mortar and CBM				
1	122	Cut	Construction cut for 105, 107 and 108					
1	123	Fill	Fill of 122	Dark brown black grit silt inclusions of mortar and CBM				
1	124	Layer	Trample layer	Brown clay silt			0.1	LC17-C18
1	125	Layer	Surface	White lime mortar			0.12	
1	126	Layer	Occupation layer	Dark grey brown silt clay with rare inclusions of shell, CBM and mortar	0.81	0.72	0.4	C14-C16
1	127	Cut	Construction cut for 112	Linear with vertical sides and flat base	0.72	0.11	0.52	
1	128	Fill	Fill of 127	Dark orange brown silt clay with occasional	0.72	0.11	0.52	

				mortar inclusions				
1	129	Layer	Occupation deposit	Mid-dark orange brown silt clay	0.8	0.72	0.07	C11-C13
1	130	Cut	Construction cut for 111					
1	131	Layer	Natural substrate	Blue lias clay				
1	132	Cut	Construction cut for 104					

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code/ NRFRC*	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
114	Roman pottery	Severn Valley (oxidised) ware	TF11b/ SVW OX2	4	19	MC16-C18
	Post-medieval pottery	Malvernian oxidised glazed ware	TF52	1	10	
	Post-medieval pottery	Cistercian type ware	TF60	2	16	
	Post-medieval pottery	Glazed earthenware	TF50	3	3	
	Roman ceramic building material	Fragment		10	165	
	Late medieval/post-medieval ceramic building material	Fragment		4	19	
	Iron	Nail		1	14	
116	Clay tobacco pipe	Stem		20	34	C19
	Copper alloy button			1	10	
124	Post-medieval pottery	Westerwald stoneware	TF94	2	7	LC17-C18
126	Roman pottery	Severn Valley (oxidised) ware	TF11b/ SVW OX2	2	36	C14-C16
	Post-medieval pottery	Malvernian oxidised glazed ware	TF52	3	150	
	Roman ceramic building material	Fragment		2	51	
	Late medieval/post-medieval ceramic building material	Fragment		1	27	
	Medieval glass	Window		2	<1	
129	Roman pottery	Southeast Dorset Black-burnished ware	TF4/ DOR BB1	1	3	C11-C13
	Medieval pottery	Cotswold oolitic limestone-tempered ware	TF41	1	4	

APPENDIX C: THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

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

Context	BOS	O/C	MM	Ind	Total	Weight (g)
114	3	1	4	1	9	96
129				1	1	24
Total	3	1	4	2	10	
Weight	70	7	12	31	120	

BOS = cattle; O/C = sheep/goat; MM = sheep size mammal; Ind = indeterminate fragments

APPENDIX D: LEVELS OF PRINCIPAL DEPOSITS AND STRUCTURES

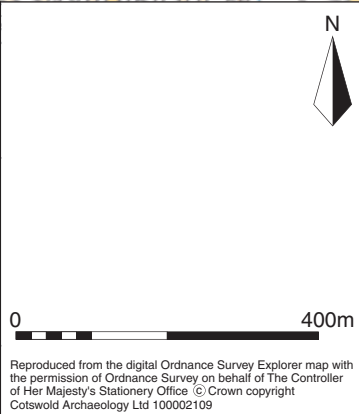
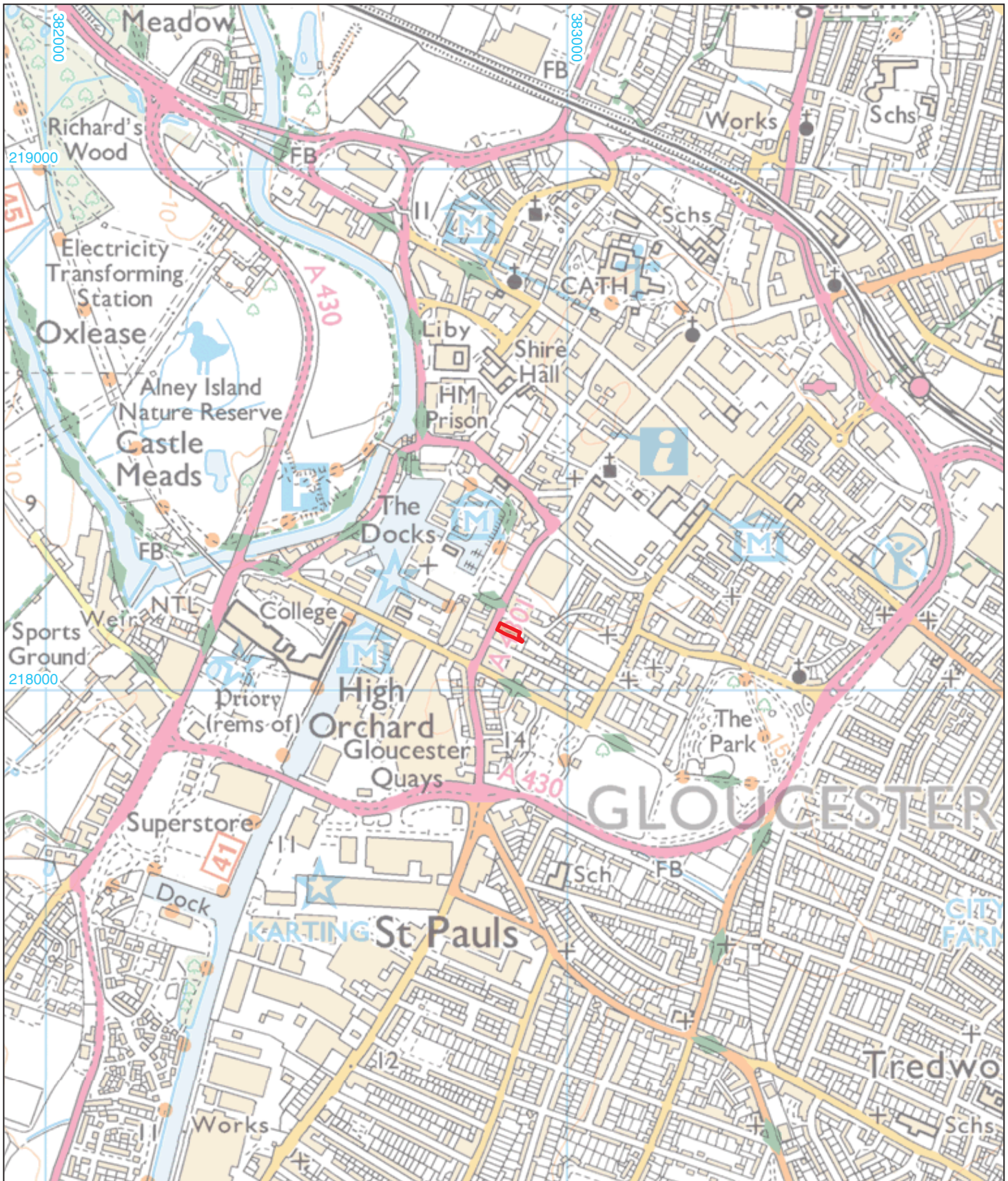
Levels are expressed as metres below current ground level and as metres Above Ordnance Datum (AOD).

	Trench 1
Current ground level	0.00m (13.79m)
Top of brick wall 109	0.35m (13.44m)
Top of stone wall 111	0.31m (13.48m)
Top of late medieval/early post-medieval deposit 126	0.57m (13.22m)
Top of natural substrate	1.07m (12.72m)

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

APPENDIX E: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	87-91 Southgate Street, Gloucester, Gloucestershire	
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in August 2017 at 87-91 Southgate Street, Gloucester, Gloucestershire. One trench was excavated. A series of later medieval/early post-medieval deposits was identified sealing the natural clay substrate. The uppermost deposit was truncated by at least two phases of building with the earliest phase represented by a stone-built structure with later additions of brick-built walls and surfaces. These were in turn sealed by modern demolition deposits and two phases of concrete surfaces.	
Project dates	24-25 August 2017	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	Desk Based Assessment (CA 2017)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	87-91 Southgate Street, Gloucester, Gloucestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	>0.1ha	
Site co-ordinates	382879 218119	
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	Daniel Sausins	
MONUMENT TYPE	none	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	none	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Museum of Gloucester	Ceramics, Ceramic building material, metal work, clay pipe
Paper	Museum of Gloucester	Trench sheet, section drawing, context sheets
Digital	Museum of Gloucester	Database, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 <i>87-91 Southgate Street, Gloucester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 17511		




Cotswold Archaeology
 Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 826185
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 87-91 Southgate Street, Gloucester,
 Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY	CP	PROJECT NO.	6357	FIGURE NO.	1
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	06/09/2017		
APPROVED BY	CB	SCALE@A4	1:10,000		

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- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- stone wall
- brick wall
- surface
- deposit
- modern



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 Cotswold Archaeology

Andover	01264 347630
Cirencester	01285 771022
Exeter	01392 826185
Milton Keynes	01908 564660
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk	
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk	

PROJECT TITLE
87-91 Southgate Street, Gloucester,
Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
**Trench location plan showing
identified features**

DRAWN BY	CP	PROJECT NO.	6357	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	06/09/2017	
APPROVED BY	CB	SCALE@A3	1:200 & 1:50	2

P:\6357 RAOB Club 87-91 Southgate Street Gloucester GIS EVAL\Illustration\Drafts\6357 Fig 2_recovered.dwg



General views, looking west (scale 1m)

3



Hand excavated sondage, looking south-east (scale 0.3m)

4

Andover Office

Stanley House
Walworth Road
Andover
Hampshire
SP10 5LH

t: 01264 347630

Cirencester Office

Building 11
Kemble Enterprise Park
Cirencester
Gloucestershire
GL7 6BQ

t: 01285 771022

Exeter Office

Unit 53
Basepoint Business Centre
Yeoford Way
Marsh Barton Trading Estate
Exeter
EX2 8LB

t: 01392 826185

Milton Keynes Office

41 Burners Lane South
Kiln Farm
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire
MK11 3HA

t: 01908 564660