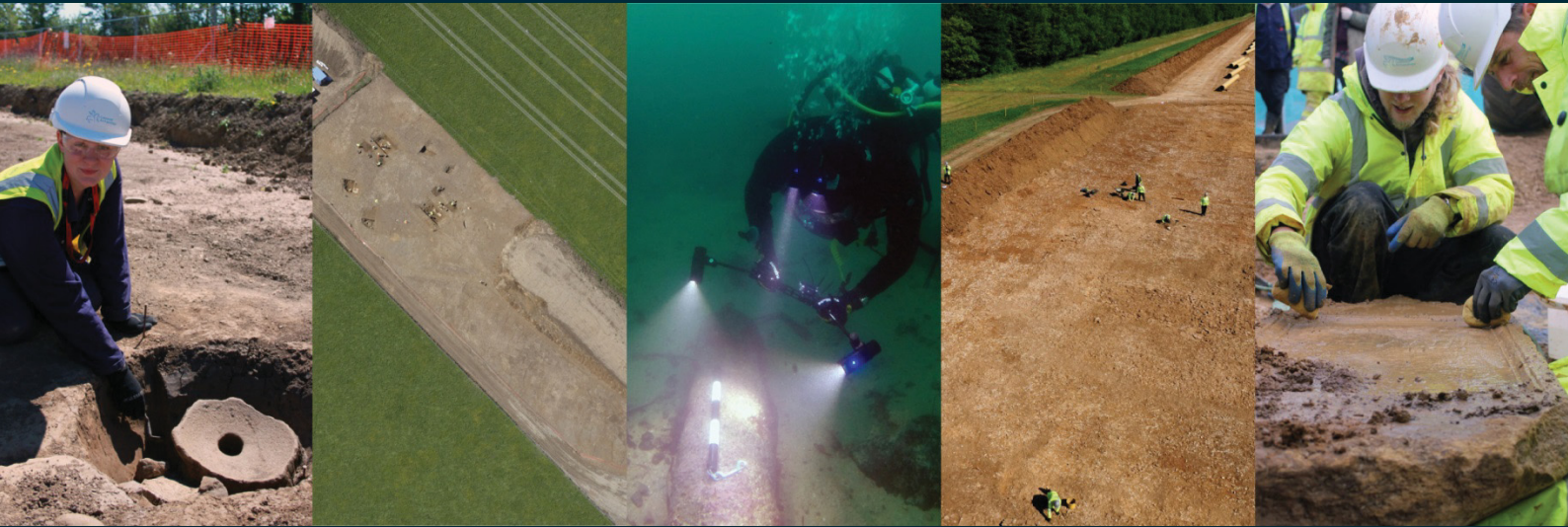


Telecoms Cabin Gloucester RFC, Kingsholm Gloucester

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
Landways Management Ltd

CA Project: 6413
CA Report: 17707

December 2017



Telecoms Cabin Gloucester RFC, Kingsholm Gloucester

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A	December 2017	D Sausins	C Bateman	Internal review		C Bateman

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Telecoms Cabin, Gloucester RFC
Location: Kingsholm, Gloucester
NGR: 383460 219300
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 8 November - 13 December 2017
Planning Reference: Gloucester City Council ref: 17/00940/FUL; Condition 3
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Museum of Gloucester
Site Code: GRFC 17

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a new telecoms cabin and associated services trenches at Gloucester RFC, Kingsholm, Gloucester.

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



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Between November and December 2017 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Landways Management Ltd at Gloucester RFC, Kingsholm, Gloucester (centred at NGR: 383460 219300; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to planning consent granted by Gloucester City Council (GCC) for the construction of a new telecoms cabin and associated groundworks (GCC ref: 17/00940/FUL; Condition 3). The work was recommended by Andrew Armstrong, City Archaeologist, GCC.
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2017) and approved by GCC acting on the advice of Andrew Armstrong. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014). It was monitored by Andrew Armstrong.

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area comprises a hardstanding area adjacent to existing car parking facilities at Kingsholm Stadium, immediately to the south-west of the West Stand. The site lies at approximately 12m AOD.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation (undifferentiated)- Mudstone of the Jurassic and Triassic eras with no overlying superficial deposits (BGS 2017). The natural substrate was not encountered during the current works.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The development site is located immediately to the south of the 1st-century AD Kingsholm Roman Fortress whilst the projected course of a Roman road runs northwest/south-east under the main grandstand (South Stand) and pitch (Garrod & Heighway 1984). A watching brief undertaken at the north-east corner of the stadium in 1988 identified a ditch and associated metalled surface that may form part of the outer defences of the fortress. Other previous archaeological investigations within the stadium have revealed features associated with the Roman occupation of Kingsholm, such as an occupation surface (GCCAS 1994), and refuse pits and a

1st-century AD kiln, which was recorded and preserved *in situ* underneath the East Stand (110 Archaeology 2004).

- 2.2 Following the abandonment of the Kingsholm Fortress in the late 1st century AD, the Kingsholm area was given over to agriculture, before being utilised as part of the later Roman cemetery to the north of Roman civilian settlement at Gloucester (Heighway 2012, 64). The current site is located within, or close to, the conjectured limits of the cemetery. Nearby discoveries have included two inhumations associated with early Roman pottery recorded during construction of Bijou Court in 1969 (Gloucester Historic Environment Record (HER) No. 109), one inhumation and a possible metaled surface at 86 Kingsholm Road (HER 1457), nine inhumations and 1st century pits at 82 Kingsholm Road (HER 787), 58 1st and 4th century inhumations at 76 Kingsholm Road (Heighway 2012, 66) and inhumations and other bones at 46-50 Denmark Road (HER 1634). The cemetery extended northwards to include the Coppice Corner site, where groundworks associated with the construction of Gambier Parry Gardens recorded over 300 burials (complete with family plots and a possible shrine) and 17 cremations dating from the early 2nd to 4th centuries AD, the latter concentrated in the eastern part of the cemetery (Heighway 2012, 67-72).
- 2.3 In the 11th century a Saxon palace was thought to have been constructed at Kingsholm Close, approximately 250m north of the site (*ibid.*, 69; HER 1607), which was replaced by a stone-built manor house by the late 13th century. Documentary evidence refers to a trackway, Dean's Walk (HER 1526), leading south towards Gloucester from the manor and also to the 12th century St Thomas Chapel (HER1657) located close to where Dean's Walk crossed the River Twyver. The exact location of the chapel is unknown; it is possible that it is located within, or adjacent to, Kingsholm Stadium, although Heighway locates it further south and west than the current proposed area of groundworks (Heighway 2012, 68 Fig. 3).
- 2.4 In the post-medieval period outworks of the civil war defences (HER 877) are believed to have been located in the vicinity of the current site and there is the potential that such features are located within the area of proposed groundworks.
- 2.5 In 1891, Gloucester Rugby Football Club purchased land at Kingsholm from the Castle Grim Estate to enable construction of a rugby and athletics ground. In 1892, a house and associated buildings in the middle of the site were demolished, the

ground was levelled, fencing installed and a pavilion and further spectator areas constructed.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks;
- at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2017). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising the excavation of a foundation raft for the new telecoms cabin, measuring 8m by 5.5m, and a series of associated service trenches (see Fig. 2 for locations and extent).

4.2 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.

4.3 The archive and artefacts from the watching brief are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Gloucester Museum, along with the site archive. 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 2-5)

Telecoms cabin foundation

- 5.1 The earliest deposit encountered was yellow-brown sandy silts 103, identified at approximately 1m bpgl and at least 0.25m in depth from which a late 16th- to late 19th-century clay tobacco pipe bowl was recovered. It was sealed by dark brown sandy silt 102, from which a late 17th- to early 18th-century clay tobacco pipe bowl was recovered. The latter measured approximately 0.25m in depth and was in turn overlain by a series of re-worked brown-black sandy silt 101 which measured approximately 0.4m in thickness. Deposit 101 contained three conical ceramic kiln spacers, as well as modern concrete fragments, and was subsequently sealed by modern limestone chipping and gravel surfacing 100 (see Fig. 3).

Cable trenches and chambers

- 5.2 The earliest deposit encountered was a sequence of re-worked agricultural soils, equivalent to deposit 101 revealed within the excavations for the cabin foundation, identified between 0.2m and 0.4m bpgl (see Fig. 5). In all instances these deposits were immediately sealed/truncated by modern disturbance associated with the current surfacing and/or existing service runs. Following discussions with Andrew Armstrong (GCC), it was agreed that due to the shallow, disturbed nature of these groundworks, the majority of these new cable runs would not be archaeologically monitored.
- 5.3 Excavations for an inspection chamber (Trench 3) over an existing cable duct were undertaken to a depth of 0.7m below present ground level (bpgl) further exposing deposit 101 throughout (see Fig. 2 for location and extent and Fig. 4).

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1 Artefactual material was hand-recovered from three layers. The recovered material all dates to the post-medieval period and quantities of the artefact types recorded are given in Appendix B.

Clay tobacco pipe

- 6.2 Layers 102 and 103 each produced a bowl from a clay tobacco pipe (total 21g). The example from layer 102 accords with Peacey's Type 11, dateable to c. 1690-1720

(Peacey 1979, 48-49). A parallel for that from layer 103 could not be identified and it can be only broadly dated to the late 16th to late 19th centuries.

Ceramic object

- 6.3 Three conical ceramic objects (543g) were retrieved from reworked soils 101. All present in a fine, orange-firing fabric and measure between 53mm and 66mm in height and 71mm to 78mm in diameter at the base. Similar items are known from sites in London and Newark-on-Trent, Nottinghamshire where they are considered to be kiln spacers of post-medieval date, suitable either for pottery or clay tobacco pipe manufacture (finds.org).

7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1 No evidence for either Roman or medieval activity was identified during the current works. The earliest deposit encountered, deposit 103, revealed at a depth of 1m bpgl and identified extending to at least 1.25m bpgl, is of post-medieval origin and was sealed by two further broadly contemporary deposits. Although the possibility that these deposits may be associated with mid 17th-century Civil War defences cannot be wholly discounted, they are most probably derived from the development of the rugby football and athletics ground in the late 19th and also during the early 20th century.
- 7.2 A late 19th-century (1891) specification for ground preparation and associated plans for the formation of the rugby ground indicate that parts of the former Castle Grim Estate, particularly the southern extent closest to the River Twyver, was levelled and associated building demolished prior development of the initial Kingsholm Stadium (see <http://www.gloucesterrugbyheritage.org.uk/documents/planD.pdf> and http://www.gloucesterrugbyheritage.org.uk/documents/ground_prep1.pdf). Such evidence suggests that the area adjacent to the River Twyver was raised by between two and three feet (0.6m to 0.9m). It is therefore probable that the identified deposits (101 to 103 inclusive) are associated with these preparatory works.

8. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Daniel Sausins. The report was written by Daniel Sausins and. The finds report was written by Jacky Sommerville, with the

illustrations being prepared by Rosanna Price. 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.

9. REFERENCES

110 Archaeology 2014 *Archaeological watching brief at Gloucester Rugby Football Club, Kingsholm, Gloucester*

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2017 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 4 October 2017

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer		Consolidation	Grey stone chippings			0.3	
101	Layer		Reworked soil	Dark brown black sandy silt with CBM and concrete			0.4	Post-medieval
102	Layer		Reworked soil	Dark brown sandy silt with limestone fragments			0.25	LC17-EC18
103	Layer		Reworked soil?	Mid – dark yellow brown sandy silt			>0.25	LC16-LC19

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Category	Description	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
101	Ceramic object	Kiln spacer	3	543	Post-medieval
102	Clay tobacco pipe	Bowl	1	14	LC17-EC18
103	Clay tobacco pipe	Bowl	1	7	LC16-LC19

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Telecoms Cabin, Gloucester RFC, Kingsholm, Gloucester	
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a new telecoms cabin and associated services trenches at Gloucester RFC, Kingsholm, Gloucester.</p> <p>No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the post-medieval/modern period was recovered.</p>	
Project dates		
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Gloucester RFC, Kingsholm, Gloucester	
Study area (M ² /ha)	50m ²	
Site co-ordinates	383460 219300	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	None	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Dan Sausins	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Museum of Gloucester	Clay tobacco pipe, kiln spacers
Paper	Museum of Gloucester	Plans, section drawings, trench sheets, context sheets, photo registers
Digital	Museum of Gloucester	Database, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 Telecoms Cabin, Gloucester RFC, Kingsholm, Gloucester: <i>Archaeological Watching Brief</i>. CA typescript report 17707</p>		



N

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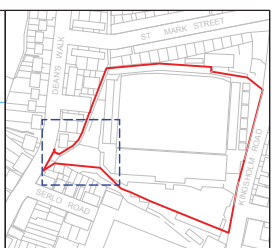
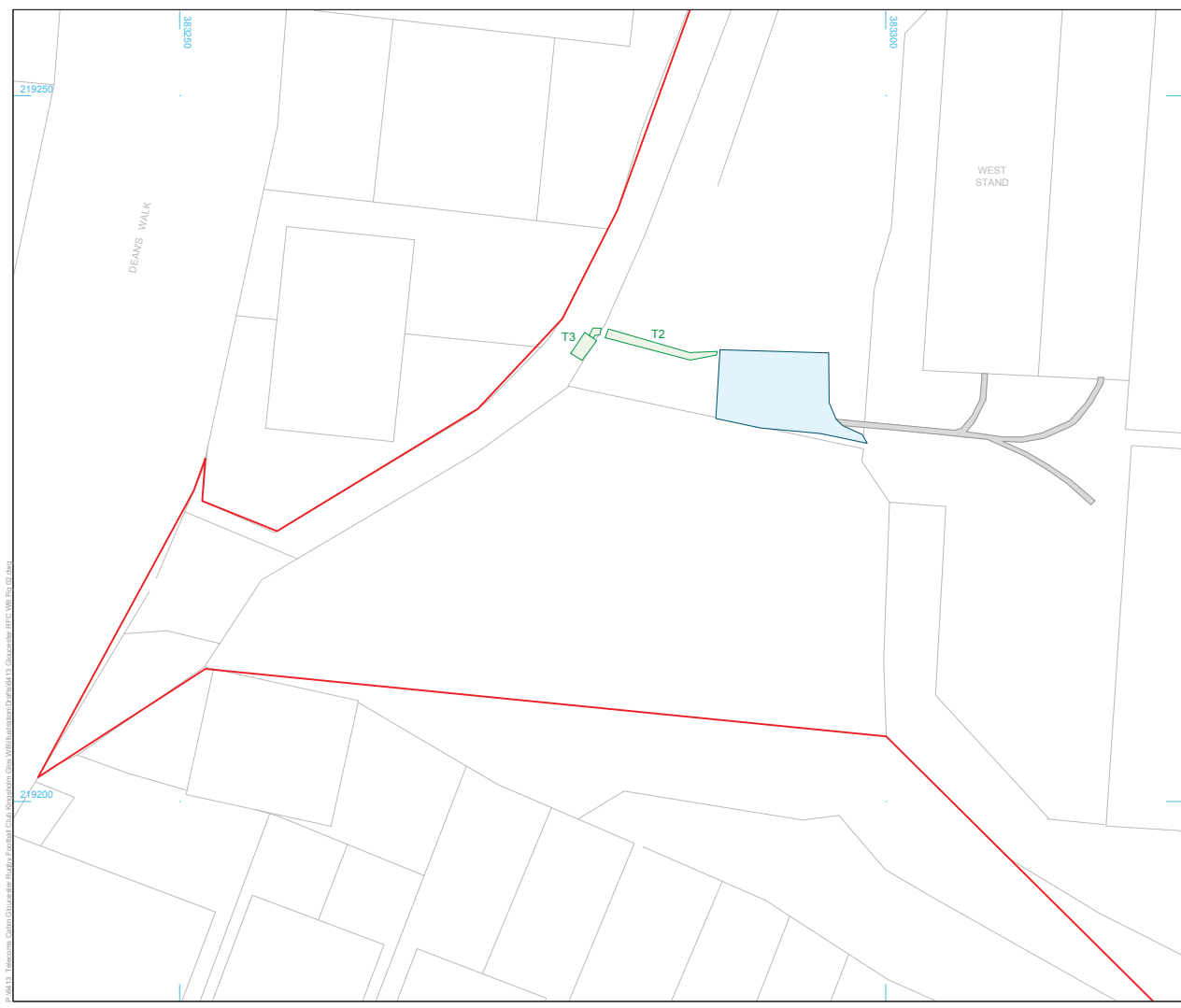
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PROJECT TITLE
 Telecoms Cabin, Gloucester RFC,
 Kingsholm, Gloucester, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY	RP	PROJECT NO.	6413	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	18.12.17	
APPROVED BY	CMB	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	1



N

- site boundary
- Telecom cabin foundation
- cable trench
- cable trench not archaeologically observed

0 10m

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PROJECT TITLE
 Telecoms Cabin, Gloucester RFC, Kingsholm, Gloucester, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
The site, showing location of groundworks

DRAWN BY	RP	PROJECT NO	6413	FIGURE NO	2
CHECKED BY	DMB	DATE	18.12.17		
APPROVED BY	CMB	SCALE	A3 1:250		

P: 6413, Telecoms Cabin Gloucester RFC, Kingsholm, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, Cotswold Archaeology, 18/12/17, 1:250, A3, CMB, RP, DM, DM



3

Telecoms cabin foundation, looking north-west



4

Trench 3, looking east (0.3m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

Telecoms Cabin, Gloucester RFC,
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FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

DRAWN BY	RP	PROJECT NO.	6413	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	18.12.17	3 & 4
APPROVED BY	CMB	SCALE@A4	N/A	



Trench 2, looking north-west



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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

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APPROVED BY CMB SCALE@A4 N/A

FIGURE NO.

5

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