

National Waterways Museum  
Llanthony Warehouse  
Gloucester  
Gloucestershire



for  
Canal & River Trust

CA Project: 6449  
CA Report: 18052

April 2018



National Waterways Museum  
Llanthony Warehouse  
Gloucester  
Gloucestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 6449  
CA Report: 18052

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A	February 2018	A Donald		Internal review		Cliff Bateman

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## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	National Waterways Museum
<b>Location:</b>	Llanthony Warehouse, Gloucester
<b>NGR:</b>	382691 218176
<b>Type:</b>	Watching Brief
<b>Date:</b>	23-24 January 2018
<b>Planning Reference:</b>	GCC ref 17/00999/FUL
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	Museum of Gloucester
<b>Accession Number:</b>	GLRCM: 2018.06
<b>Site Code:</b>	NWVG18

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of an external extension to the National Waterways Museum, Llanthony Warehouse, Gloucester.

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



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In January 2018 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Canal & River Trust at National Waterways Museum, Llanthony Warehouse, Gloucester (centred at NGR: 382691 218176; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to planning consent granted by Gloucester City Council (GCC) for alterations to the existing museum building and the construction of a new external extension. Andrew Armstrong, City Archaeologist, GCC had recommended an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the development, secured by a condition (No. 7) attached to planning permission 17/00999/FUL.
- 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 development area is located within the commercial area of Gloucester Docks and comprises the current National Waterways Museum Gloucester in Llanthony Warehouse and surrounding land. The site lies at approximately 16m AOD and is level (Fig. 2).
- 1.4 The footprint of the new extension is approximately 60m<sup>2</sup> in extent and is currently used as paved external area adjacent to the museum, south west of the current main entrance.
- 1.5 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Blue Lias Formation And Charmouth Mudstone Formation (undifferentiated) – Mudstone of the Jurassic and Triassic Periods with no overlying superficial deposits (BGS 2017). The natural substrate was not exposed during the current works.

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site lies away from an area of superficial geological drift deposits of terrace gravels associated with the River Severn or Cheltenham Sands on which prehistoric

activity is typically attested within the Severn floodplain (CA 2016a). Despite a general paucity of prehistoric archaeology in the central area of Gloucester, pre-Roman postholes, ditches and a possible ground surface were identified during the Gloscat redevelopment project approximately 450m north-east of the site (L. Coleman *pers. comm.*; CA 2016b).

- 2.2 The site lies to the south of the Roman city of Gloucester (*Glevum*) and is located to the west of Southgate Street, one of the principal approaches to the city. Previous archaeological investigations at the Southgate Gallery site confirmed the presence of a contemporary suburb flanking Southgate Street including the excavated remains of a *mansio* (posting hostel) immediately outside the south gate, and the foundations of further buildings and an oven (*ibid.*).
- 2.3 Little Roman activity has been identified within the area now covered by Gloucester Docks, including within the current site, although there are records of Roman cremation burials being recovered during construction of the dock basins (*ibid.*). The site is located in an area of known Late Roman period alluvial and tidal flat deposits and it is possible that these deposits may seal earlier Roman archaeological horizons, should they be present (*ibid.*).
- 2.4 Gloucester appears to have been largely abandoned following the Roman withdrawal in the early 5th century and it is likely that alluvium and tidal flat deposits continued to be deposited to the south of the Roman defences throughout much of the early medieval period (*ibid.*).
- 2.5 Extra-mural settlement along Southgate Street appears to have become re-established during the 10th century, with evidence for a number of timber buildings of this date being identified beside a newly metalled Southgate Street during investigations at Southgate Gallery (*ibid.*). Following the Norman Conquest, a motte and bailey castle was rapidly constructed approximately 400m north of the site. This was replaced by the construction of a new castle in the early 12th century in the area now occupied by Gloucester Prison (*ibid.*).
- 2.6 Throughout the medieval period the city grew in size to fill the area formerly occupied by the Roman *colonia* and also continued to expand beyond its walls along the principal routes into the town, including Southgate Street (*ibid.*). The site, along with much of the area of Gloucester Docks would have fallen under the ownership of

Llanthony Priory throughout much of the medieval period. The priory, located approximately 350m south-west of the site, was consecrated in 1137 and flourished throughout the medieval period until its dissolution in 1538 (CA 2017).

- 2.7 Early cartographic representations of Gloucester, although focused on the city itself, indicate that development was largely contained within the limits of the city walls. Much of the land beyond the city walls continued to form the agricultural hinterland, although ribbons of extra-mural settlement along the major routes into the city, including Southgate Street, can be seen to have expanded and become increasingly formalised (*ibid.*).
- 2.8 An archaeological evaluation at 23-25 & 27-29 Commercial Road, approximately 300m north-east of the site revealed possible medieval pits or ditches (CA 2016c).
- 2.9 Historic mapping shows the site and its immediate area as open ground throughout the early post-medieval period until the expansion of the Docks during the early 19th century (NLS 2017).

### **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 watching brief was observed by a competent archaeologist during the intrusive groundworks. Non-archaeologically significant deposits were removed by the contractors using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless bucket. The



previous glass lobby and canopy had already been removed prior to archaeological attendance.

- 4.2 The archive is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. It will be deposited to Gloucester City Museum under the museum accession number GLRCM: 2018.06. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## 5. RESULTS (FIGS 3-4)

- 5.1 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

- 5.2 The earliest deposit encountered was levelling horizon 103, comprising modern building rubble within a silty clay matrix, which was exposed 0.35m below the present ground level (bpgl) and extended to the required formation level at 0.6m bpgl. Deposit 103 was subsequently cut by two modern service trenches, both running north-east to south-west and therefore aligned broadly parallel to the front of the existing building. Due south of the existing doorway, a redundant modern manhole had been infilled with concrete. This was incorporated into layer of concrete screed, 102, approximately 0.15m in depth on which modern pavements 101 were founded.

## 6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see archaeological background above) no archaeological deposits or features were observed within the area of observed groundworks. The absence of archaeological deposits may indicate that structural remains either do not extend as far as or were not exposed by the development, or that they may have been removed during previous development.





## 7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Andrew Donald. The report was written by Andrew Donald. The illustrations were prepared by Rosanna Price. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Clifford Bateman

## 8. REFERENCES

- BGS (British Geological Survey) 2015 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 5 February 2015
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016a *23-25 and 27-29 Commercial Road, Gloucester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological and Historical Building Assessment*, CA Report No. **15761**
- CA 2016b *Greyfriars Site, Gloscat Redevelopment Project, Gloucester: Fieldwork Summary*. Unpublished report
- CA 2016c *23-25 and 27-29 Commercial Road, Gloucester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation*. CA Report No **16245**

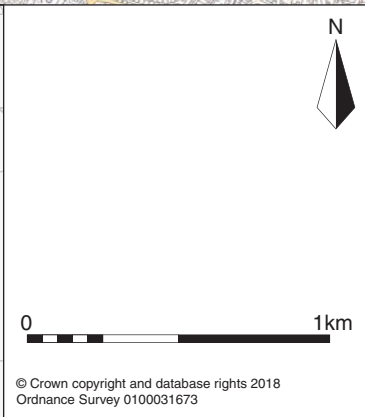
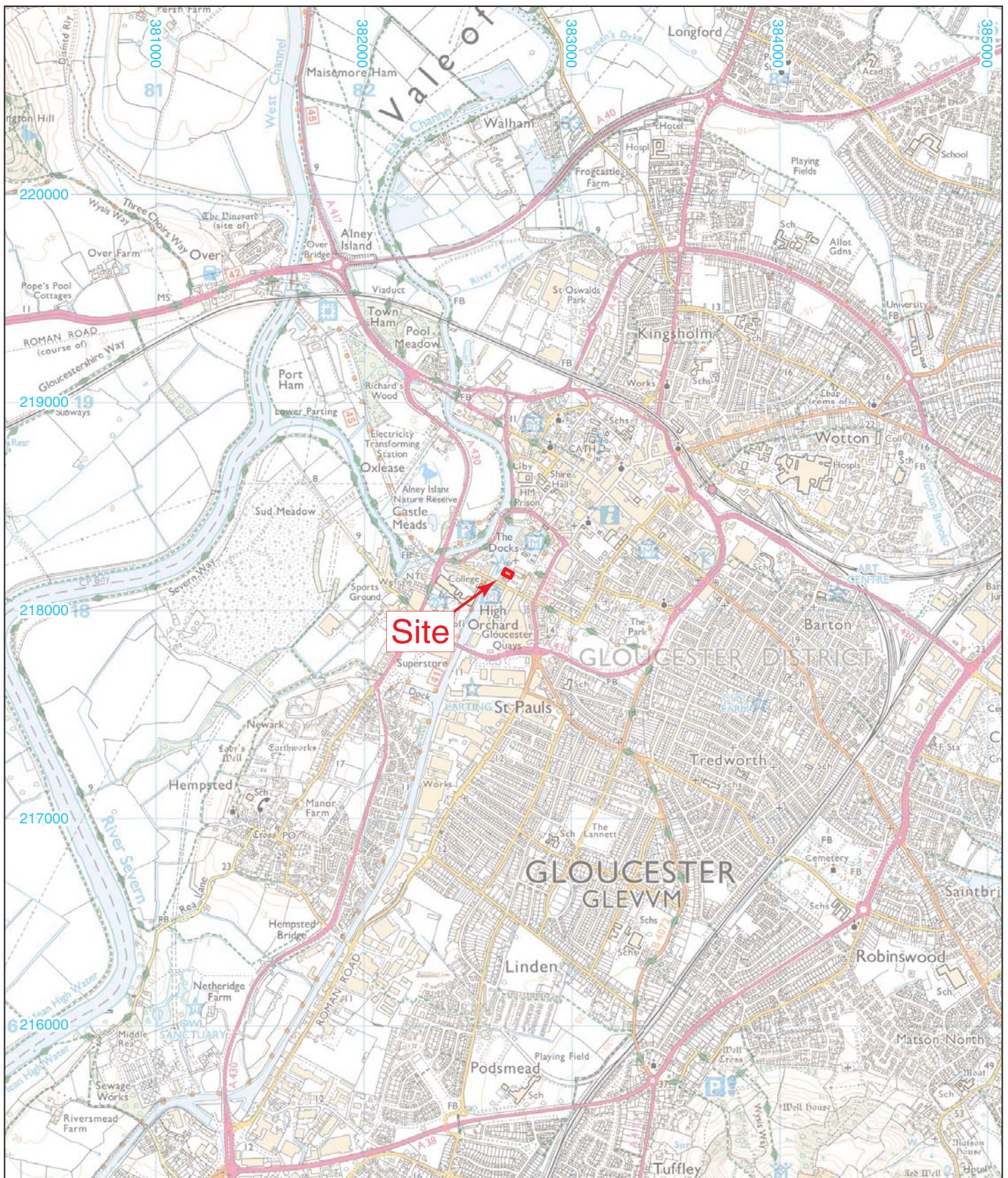


**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
1	101	Layer		Paving	Dark grey 'paviours' with a dark mortar	11.7	5.0	0.0 - 0.10
1	102	Layer		Concrete	Grey concrete	50	1.8	0.10 – 0.25
1	103	Layer		Levelling layer	Modern rubble and clay levelling	>1.8	0.8	0.25 – >0.6

**APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	National Waterways Museum, Llanthony Warehouse, Gloucester.	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with National Waterways Museum, Llanthony Warehouse, Gloucester.  No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.	
Project dates	23-24 January 2018	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	Not known	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	National Waterways Museum, Llanthony Warehouse, Gloucester, Gloucestershire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	60m <sup>2</sup>	
Site co-ordinates	382691 218176	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	None	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Clifford Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Andrew Donald	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive:	Content
Paper	Museum of Gloucester Accession Number: GLRCM: 2018.06	Context sheets
Digital	Museum of Gloucester Accession Number: GLRCM: 2018.06	Digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2018 National Waterways Museum, Llanthony Warehouse, Gloucester, Gloucestershire: <i>Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report <b>18052</b>		



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 National Waterways Museum, Llanthony Warehouse, Gloucester, Gloucestershire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan

<b>DRAWN BY</b>	RP	<b>PROJECT NO.</b>	6449	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
<b>CHECKED BY</b>	DJB	<b>DATE</b>	14.02.18	
<b>APPROVED BY</b>	CMB	<b>SCALE@A4</b>	1:25,000	<b>1</b>



- site boundary
- area of observed groundworks



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
**National Waterways Museum, Llanthony Warehouse, Gloucester, Gloucestershire**

**FIGURE TITLE**  
**The site, showing location of groundworks**

<b>DRAWN BY</b>	<b>RP</b>	<b>PROJECT NO.</b>	<b>6449</b>	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
<b>CHECKED BY</b>	<b>DJB</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>14.02.18</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>APPROVED BY</b>	<b>CMB</b>	<b>SCALE@A3</b>	<b>1:500</b>	

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3

North-east facing section, looking south-west (1m scale)



4

Completed excavation, looking south-west



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PROJECT TITLE

National Waterways Museum, Llanthony  
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FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

DRAWN BY	RP	PROJECT NO.	6449	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	14.02.18	<b>3 &amp; 4</b>
APPROVED BY	CMB	SCALE@A4	N/A	

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