

Land at Centre Severn Barnwood, Gloucester Gloucestershire

Archaeological Evaluation



for
TDP (Property Developments) Ltd

on behalf of
Peveril Securities Ltd

CA Project: 5932 [AppC2]
CA Report: 16608

November 2016



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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land at Centre Severn
Location:	Barnwood, Gloucester, Gloucestershire
NGR:	SO 861 189
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	25-27 October 2016
Planning Reference:	14/01035/OUT
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with the Museum of Gloucester
Accession Number:	GLRCM: 216.21
Site Code:	CSBG16

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in October 2016 at Land at Centre Severn, Barnwood, Gloucester, Gloucestershire. Five trenches were excavated.

The evaluation identified a possible palaeochannel at the southern of the evaluation area. A single sherd of Romano-British pottery was recovered from the eastern extent of the site within the made ground deposit.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In October 2016 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for TDP (Property Development) Ltd, on behalf of Peveril Securities Ltd, at Land at Centre Severn, Barnwood, Gloucester, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SO 861 189; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken as part of a series of works to fulfil Condition 9 attached to planning permission for development of the site granted by Gloucester City Council (GCC; planning ref: 14/01035/OUT). The scope of the archaeological works was determined following consultation with Andrew Armstrong, City Archaeologist, GCC.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI; CA 2016a) and subsequent *Work Specific Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSWSI; CA 2016b) approved by Andrew Armstrong,. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). It was monitored by Andrew Armstrong.

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 7ha in extent. The site comprises scrub land bounded to the east by the A417, to the south by the A40, to the west by the Unilever Gloucester site and to the north by the Birmingham to Gloucester Railway. The site lies between 25m and 30m AOD, sloping gently from the north-west to the south-east.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as mudstone of the Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation (undifferentiated) - Mudstone of the Jurassic and Triassic Periods (BGS 2016). The natural geological substrate (comprising clayey sand, sandy gravel and clay) was encountered at between 0.5m and 0.8m below present ground level (bpgl).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The planning application area has been subject to desk-based assessment (WSP 2014), an archaeological evaluation (CA 2014) and archaeological watching brief (CA 2016c). Immediately to the east of the planning application area a desk-based assessment (Foundations Archaeology 1998a), geophysical survey (GeoQuest

Associates 1998) and archaeological evaluation (Foundations Archaeology 1998b) have previously been undertaken. The following is a summary of those documents.

- 2.2 The desk-based assessment of the planning application area noted only limited prehistoric activity within its defined study area but highlighted evidence of Roman settlement immediately to the east, including the remains of a substantial building. Known medieval and post-medieval remains within the planning application area vicinity comprised mainly agricultural features (WSP 2014).
- 2.3 The desk-based assessment of land immediately east of the planning application area (Foundations Archaeology 1998a) suggested a high potential for prehistoric activity. Subsequent geophysical survey (GeoQuest Associates 1998) identified anomalies which trial trenching demonstrated to represent Romano-British boundary ditches, quarry pits and part of an enclosed cemetery (Foundations Archaeology 1998b).
- 2.4 An archaeological evaluation undertaken on the northern and central parts of the planning application area identified a series of predominantly north-west/south-east-aligned ditches containing 2nd to 4th-century AD pottery, together with a hearth and two inhumation burials. A Mesolithic or Neolithic worked flint scraper recovered from a ditch, on the same alignment as those of proven Roman date, is likely to be residual (CA 2014). Evidence of medieval and/or later agricultural practice was identified throughout the planning application area in the form of predominantly north-east/south-west-aligned plough furrows and associated post-medieval/early modern land drains. Several undated features were also noted (CA 2014).
- 2.5 A watching brief undertaken on the northern and central parts of planning application area identified two furrows in the central area of the site and recovered fragments of Romano British pottery from the subsoil (CA 2016c).

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 with *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014), the evaluation has been

designed to be minimally intrusive and minimally destructive to archaeological remains. The information gathered 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 5 trenches, each 40m long and 1.8m in width, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). The position of Trench 2 had to be altered in the field due to the presence of buried services and substantial tree stumps. 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 All 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* and 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 under accession number GLRCM: 2016.21, along with the site archive. 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 2-4)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendix A.
- 5.2 A similar stratigraphic sequence was observed in all trenches. The natural geological substrate of sandy gravels and clay was typically encountered in all the trenches at a depth of 0.48m to 0.78m below present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain by modern made ground or car park materials in the southern half of Trenches 1-3, and topsoil in the northern half of Trenches 1-3 and Trenches 4 and 5.
- 5.3 The remains of a small number of heavily truncated ceramic field drains and services were identified within Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 5. A number of geological features were identified within Trenches 1-4, which were noted to be shallow on preliminary excavation.
- 5.4 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see archaeological background above), the evaluation identified no archaeological remains and only residual artefactual evidence.
- 6.2 The visible truncation of modern services and shallow nature of geological features suggests that the evaluated area had been subject to recent ground reduction, likely associated with the extant car park. As such, it is highly likely that archaeological deposits (if present prior to the car park construction) will have been removed or significantly truncated.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Jay Wood, assisted by Ashley Strutt, Emma Powell and Mike McClean. The report was written by Jay Wood. The archive has been

compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Ian Barnes MCIfA.

8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2015 *Geology of Britain Viewer*
http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 28
October 2016

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 *Land at Centre Severn, Barnwood, Gloucester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation* CA Report No. **14210**

CA 2016a *Land at Centre Severn, Barnwood, Gloucester, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

CA 2016b *Land at Centre Severn, Barnwood, Gloucester, Gloucestershire: Work Specific Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

CA 2016c *Land at Centre Severn, Barnwood, Gloucester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief*, CA typescript report **16475**

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

Foundations Archaeology 1998a *Land Adjacent to Walls Factory, Barnwood, Gloucester: Archaeological Assessment*

Foundations Archaeology 1998b *Land Adjacent to Walls Factory, Barnwood, Gloucester: Archaeological Evaluation*

GeoQuest Associates Ltd 1998 *Land Adjacent to Walls Factory, Barnwood, Gloucester: Geophysical Survey*

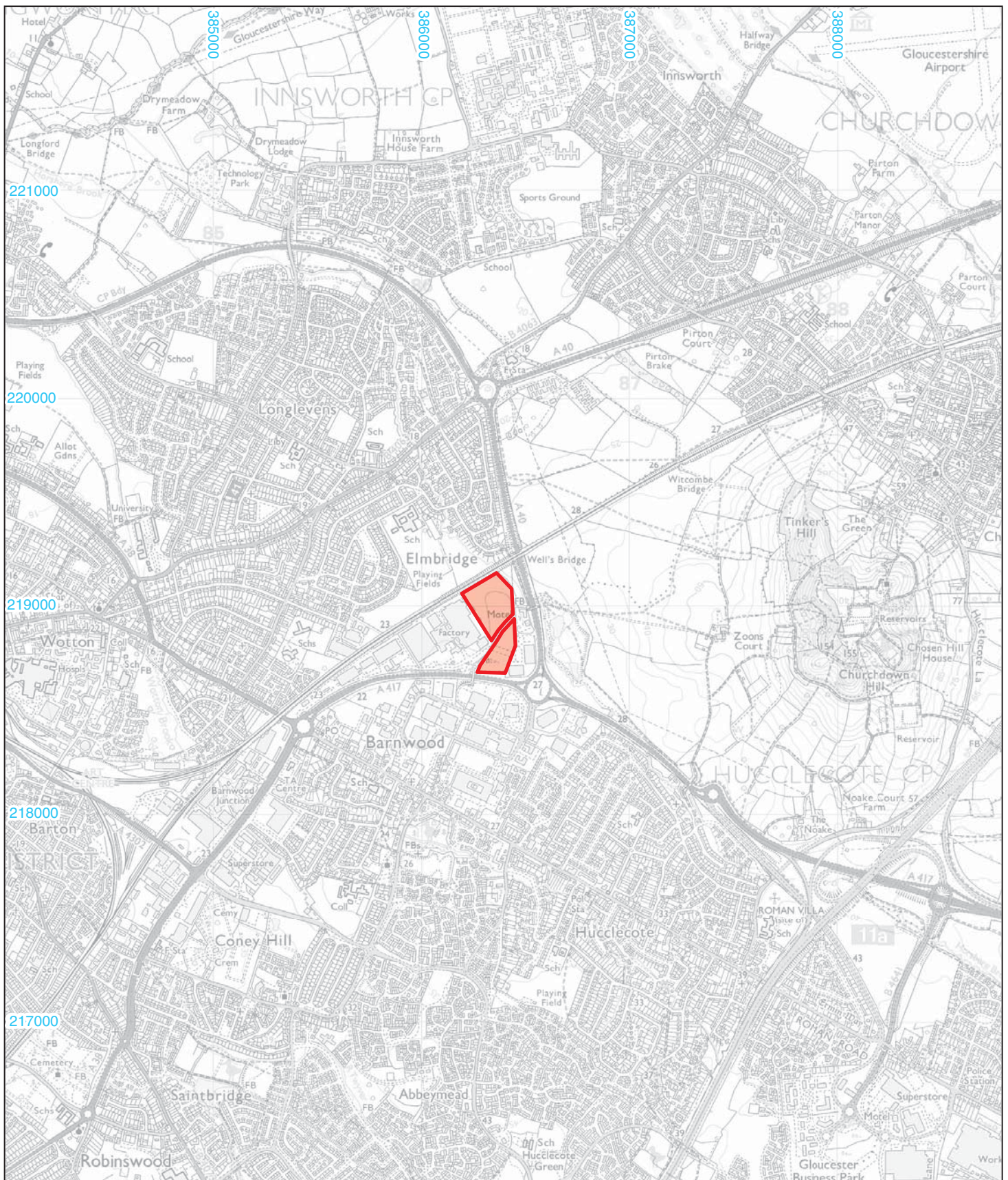
WSP 2014 *Barnwood, Gloucester: Archaeological Desk Based Assessment*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
1	1000	Layer		topsoil	mid grey brown sandy silt	>25.5	>1.8	0.32
1	1001	Layer		car park surface	tarmac	>14.5	>1.8	0.13
1	1002	Layer		sub-base	mid pink red hardcore	>14.5	>1.8	0.22
1	1003	Layer		made ground	mixed mid yellow brown and brown yellow sandy clay, occasional modern CBM, common small and medium stone	>40	>1.8	0.35
1	1004	Layer		natural substrate	mixed yellow-brown sandy gravel, orange brown sandy gravel and mid blue-grey clay	>40	>1.8	>0.05
2	2000	Layer		topsoil	mid grey brown sandy silt	>26	>1.8	0.22
2	2001	Layer		car park surface	tarmac	>14	>1.8	0.13
2	2002	Layer		sub-base	mid pink red hardcore	>14	>1.8	0.2
2	2003	Layer		made ground	mixed mid yellow brown and brown yellow sandy clay, occasional modern CBM, common small and medium stone	>40	>1.8	0.3
2	2004	Cut		palaeochannel	NW/SE alignment, irregular in plan, shallow sides	>1.8	0.8	0.23
2	2005	Fill		fill of palaeochannel	mid grey brown sand silt	>1.8	0.8	0.23
2	2006	Layer		natural substrate	mixed yellow-brown sandy gravel, orange brown sandy gravel and mid blue-grey clay	>40	>1.8	>0.03
3	3000	Layer		topsoil	mid grey brown sandy silt	>25.8	>1.8	0.34
3	3001	Layer		car park surface	tarmac	>14.2	>1.8	0.13
3	3002	Layer		sub-base	mid pink red hardcore	>14.2	>1.8	0.2
3	3003	Layer		made ground	mixed mid yellow brown and brown yellow sandy clay, occasional modern CBM, common small and medium stone	>40	>1.8	0.4
3	3004	Layer		natural substrate	mixed yellow-brown sandy gravel, orange brown sandy gravel and mid blue-grey clay	>40	>1.8	>0.07
4	4000	Layer		topsoil	mid grey brown sandy silt	>40	>1.8	0.3
4	4001	Layer		made ground	mixed mid yellow brown and brown yellow sandy clay, occasional modern CBM, common small and medium stone	>40	>1.8	0.45
4	4002	Layer		natural substrate	mixed yellow-brown sandy gravel, orange brown sandy gravel and mid blue-grey clay	>40	>1.8	>0.05
5	5000	Layer		topsoil	mid grey brown sandy silt	>40	>1.8	0.25
5	5001	Layer		made ground	mixed mid yellow brown and brown yellow sandy clay, occasional modern CBM, common small and medium stone	>40	>1.8	0.26
5	5002	Layer		natural substrate	mixed yellow-brown sandy gravel, orange brown sandy gravel and mid blue-grey clay	>40	>1.8	>0.06

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land at Centre Severn, Barnwood, Gloucester, Gloucestershire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in October 2016 at Land at Centre Severn, Barnwood, Gloucester, Gloucestershire. Five trenches were excavated.</p> <p>The evaluation identified a possible palaeochannel towards the south of the site. A single sherd of Romano-British pottery was recovered from the east of the site within the made ground deposit. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks.</p>	
Project dates	25-27 October 2016	
Project type	Field Evaluation	
Previous work	Geophysical Survey (GeoQuest Associates 1998), Archaeological Assessment (Foundations Archaeology 1998), Field Evaluation (Foundations Archaeology 1998), Desk Based Assessment (WSP 2014), Field Evaluation (CA 2014), Archaeological Watching Brief (CA 2016)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Barnwood, Gloucester, Gloucestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	1.1ha	
Site co-ordinates	S0 864 188	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Gloucester City Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ian Barnes	
Project Supervisor	Jay Wood	
MONUMENT TYPE	none	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	none	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Museum of Gloucester	Ceramics
Paper	Museum of Gloucester	Trench and context sheets, drawings
Digital	Museum of Gloucester	Database and digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 <i>Land at Centre Severn, Barnwood, Gloucester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 16608		



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PROJECT TITLE
 Land at Centre Seven, Barnwood
 Gloucester, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan



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DRAWN BY EE	PROJECT NO. 5932	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY DJB	DATE 22/11/2016	
APPROVED BY IB	SCALE@A4 1:25,000	1



- site
- evaluation trench
- previous 2014 eval trenches
- previous 2016 test pits

- geology
- modern



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PROJECT TITLE
 Land at Centre Seven, Barnwood
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FIGURE TITLE
 Trench location plan

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	5932	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	22/11/2016	2
APPROVED BY	IB	SCALE@A3	1:2000	

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3

3 Trench 5: photograph (x2 1m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	5932	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	22/11/2016	
APPROVED BY	IB	SCALE@A4	N/A	3

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