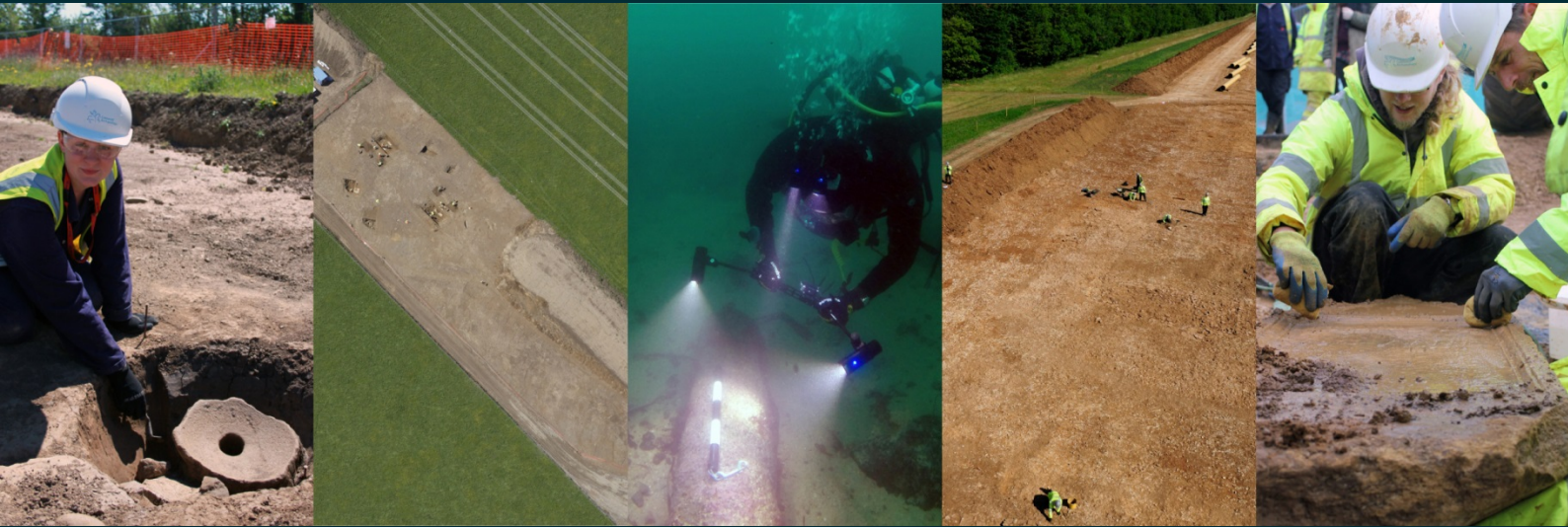


Land at St Aldate's Church Finlay Road Gloucester

Archaeological Evaluation



for
J Harper and Sons Ltd

CA Project: 6227
CA Report: 17369

July 2017



Land at St Aldate's Church
 Finlay Road
 Gloucester

Archaeological Evaluation

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Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	5 July 2017	Daniel Sausins	Steven Sheldon	Final LPA Issue		Cliff Bateman

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land at St Aldate's Church
Location:	Finlay Road, Gloucester
NGR:	384320 216430
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	21-22 June 2017
Planning Reference:	Gloucester City Council Planning ref: 14/00449/FUL
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with The Museum of Gloucester
Accession Number:	GLRCM: 2017.004
Site Code:	STA 17

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in June 2017 at St Aldate's Church, Finlay Road, Gloucester. A total of four trenches was excavated.

Evidence of agricultural practice, comprising the ploughed out remains of probable medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation, was identified throughout the site. Two post-medieval ditches, also seemingly relating to agricultural land management, drainage or division were identified in the western part of the site and, due to their broadly similar alignment, may be associated with the identified ridge and furrow field system.

No further features or deposits of archaeological interest were identified during the course of the evaluation.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In June 2017 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for J Harper and Sons Ltd on land at St Aldate's Church, Finlay Road, Gloucester (centred on NGR: 384320 216430; Fig. 1). Planning permission for residential development with associated infrastructure, access and parking has been granted by Gloucester City Council (GCC), conditional on a programme of archaeological work being completed (GCC planning ref: 14/00449/FUL; condition 12). Following consultation between CA and Andrew Armstrong, City Archaeologist, GCC, it was determined that this would initially comprise archaeological trial-trench evaluation.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2017) and approved by Mr Armstrong. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014).

The site

- 1.3 The development area is approximately 0.5ha in extent and comprises a former rectory and church hall as well as associated tarmac car parks, access roads and grassed areas. The site is bounded to the north-west by the A38 (Finlay Road), to the north-east by the grounds of St Aldate's Church, to the south-east by Reservoir Road and to the south-west by residential properties fronting Kingsley Road. The site lies at approximately 30m AOD and is broadly level.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation (undifferentiated) of the Jurassic and Triassic periods (BGS 2017). The natural substrate, comprising compact orange-yellow silt clay, was identified in all of the excavated trenches.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site has previously been the subject of a Heritage Statement (CHHC 2014) which has subsequently been reviewed and updated (CA 2016). The following is a brief summary of these assessments, along with any other publically available information pertinent to the site.

- 2.2 There is little evidence of prehistoric activity in the area surrounding the site; however a Neolithic flint axe has previously been recorded at Finlay Road, c. 150m to the south of the current site (CA 2011).
- 2.3 A late Romano-British settlement was excavated in 1975 during development of the Heron housing estate, c. 1km to the north-east of the current site. The excavations revealed enclosures, ditches, stone-lined postholes, gravel metalling and inhumation burials. Further excavations, undertaken in 1981, revealed evidence of 1st to 2nd-century AD structures, a stone-lined well and further Roman inhumation burials (*ibid.*).
- 2.4 There is no evidence of medieval settlement within the site itself, although it is situated in the hinterland of medieval Gloucester (CHHC 2014). During the medieval period the surrounding area was characterised by small settlements, typically located adjacent to main roads and surrounded by agricultural land (GCC 2011).
- 2.5 The 1884 First Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map shows the site occupied by a single undivided field. The site itself remain essentially unchanged on all subsequent editions of the OS mapping until 1928 when a church hall is shown occupying the north-eastern part of the site. The hall was constructed following the closure of a redundant 13th-century church dedicated to St Aldate in Gloucester city centre and served as a place of worship until the construction of the current St Aldate's Church in 1964 (CHHC 2014, CA 2016). A rectory/vicarage was constructed in the north-western part of the site in 1929-30 and is depicted on all editions of OS mapping from 1936 onwards.

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 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 four trenches in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Trenches 1 and 2 measured 15m in length and 1.8m in width. Trenches 3 and 4 measured 30m in length and 1.8m in width. Trenches 2 and 3 were moved slightly from their original position, as set out in the WSI, due to the presence of trees and services. The 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 The 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*. 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: 2017.004), 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.



4. 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 The natural substrate, comprising compact orange-yellow silt clay, was encountered at a depth of between 0.34m and 0.91m below present ground level (bpgl). In all of the excavated trenches the natural substrate was cut by a series of evenly spaced, north-east/south-west aligned plough furrows. These measured up to 1.46m in width and had a maximum depth of 0.12m. A fragment of clay tobacco pipe stem was recovered from fill 106 of furrow 105, identified in Trench 1 and a single sherd of pottery of 14th to 16th-century date was recovered from fill 305 of furrow 304, identified in Trench 3. The remaining furrows were artefactually undated. The fills of the furrows were sealed by between 0.14m and 0.45m thickness of subsoil which was subsequently sealed by between 0.2m and 0.46m thickness of topsoil. Across the south-eastern parts of Trenches 1 and 2 the topsoil was sealed by a tarmacadam driveway providing access to the former church hall.

Trench 2 (Figs 2 & 3)

- 5.3 Broadly parallel north-east/south-west aligned ditches 205 (Fig. 3, section AA) and 208 (Fig. 3, section BB) were identified cutting the natural substrate towards the western end of the trench. Ditch 205 had an irregular steep-sided profile and contained a single fill, 204, from which two fragments of post-medieval ceramic building material (CBM) were recovered. Ditch 208 had an irregular profile and contained two fills, 206 and 207. Its earliest fill, 207, contained a single sherd of pottery of 18th to 19th-century date as well as two fragments of post-medieval CBM.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1 Artefactual material, dating to the late medieval or post-medieval/modern period, was hand-recovered from four deposits (ditch and furrow fills). 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 type series (Vince unpublished).

Pottery: Late medieval/post-medieval

- 6.2 Two sherds of pottery (25g) were recorded from this date range. A rimsherd from a large vessel in Malvernian oxidised glazed ware (TF52), of 14th to 16th-century date was recovered in a slightly abraded condition from fill 305 of furrow 304. An unabraded bodysherd in a brown-glazed earthenware fabric, dating to the 18th to 19th-centuries, was retrieved from fill 207 of ditch 208.

Ceramic building material

- 6.3 A total of five fragments of ceramic building material were recovered from ditch 205 (fill 204) and ditch 208 (fill 207). Those from ditch 208 were in a relatively unabraded condition and one was identifiable as deriving from a post-medieval nib tile. The remaining fragments were too heavily abraded for further classification.

Other finds

- 6.4 Fill 106 of furrow 105 produced a fragment of clay tobacco pipe stem, which is broadly dateable to the late 16th to late 19th centuries.

7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1 The evaluation has identified a small number of archaeological features within the development area.
- 7.2 Evidence of agricultural activity, comprising the ploughed out remains of a ridge and furrow field system, was identified in all of the excavated trenches. Late medieval/post-medieval artefactual material was recovered from both furrow 105, identified in Trench 1 and furrow 304, identified in Trench 3.
- 7.3 Post-medieval ditches 205 and 208, identified in Trench 2, appear to relate to land management, drainage or division and may be associated with the identified ridge and furrow field system due to their broadly similar alignment. Neither ditch appears to correlate to any field boundary depicted by available historic mapping suggesting that the field system in the area was changed prior to the production of the 1884 First Edition OS map, presumably as a result of enclosure during the 18th or 19th-centuries.

7.4 Overall, the results of the evaluation support the findings of the preceding heritage statement (CHHC 2014) that suggested that the development area was likely to have remained in agricultural usage from at least the medieval period onwards.

8. CA PROJECT TEAM

8.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Daniel Sausins, assisted by Nathan Chinchin and Jessica Stevens. The report was written by Daniel Sausins. The finds report was written by Jacky Sommerville. The illustrations were prepared by Lesley Davidson. The archive has been compiled by Daniel Sausins, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Steven Sheldon.

9. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2017 *Geology of Britain Viewer* http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 29 March 2017

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011 *Gloucester Academy, Matson, Gloucester: Archaeological Evaluation*. CA typescript report: **12109**

CA 2016 *Land at the Church and Rectory of St Aldate's Church, Finlay Road, Gloucester: Review of Heritage and Settings Assessment*. CA typescript report: **16175**

CA 2017 *Land at St Aldate's Church, Finlay Road, Gloucester: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

CHHC (Castle House Heritage Consulting) 2014 *Heritage Statement in Respect of land at Church of St Aldate, Finlay Road, Gloucester*. Report No. **JB/13/78**

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

GCC (Gloucestershire County Council) 2011 *An Archaeological Desk-based Assessment and Building Appraisal at Gloucester Academy, Cotteswold Road, Gloucester*

Vince, A. G. *Guide to the Pottery of Gloucester*. Unpublished type fabric series.



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

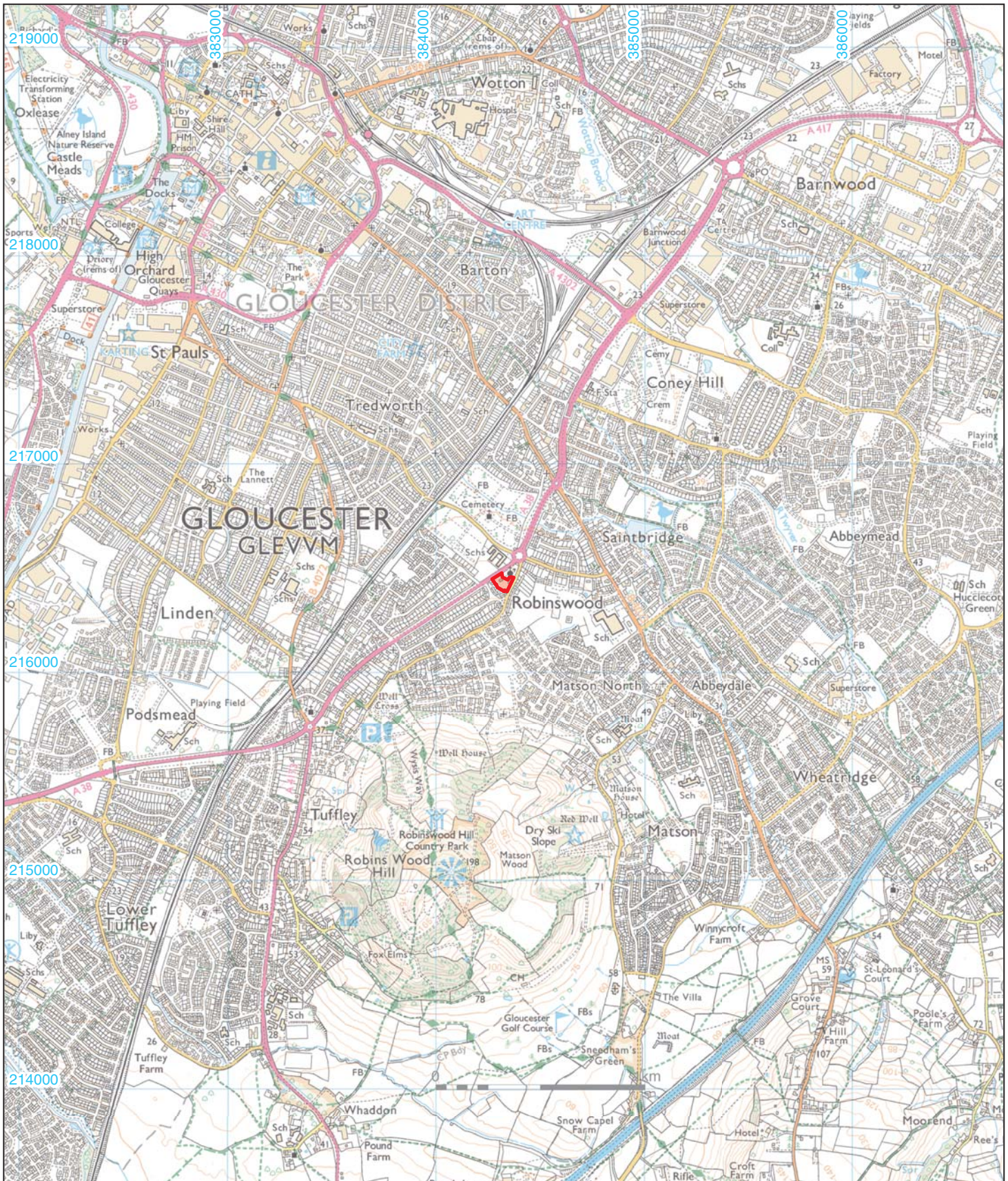
Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silt clay	>15	>1.8	0.22	
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Dark orange-brown silt clay with occasional rounded pebble inclusions	>15	>1.8	0.3	
1	102	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact orange-yellow silt clay	>15	>1.8	>0.35	
1	103	Void		Void	Void	-	-	-	
1	104	Void		Void	Void	-	-	-	
1	105	Cut		Furrow	NE/SW aligned furrow, shallow sides, concave base	>2.0	1.46	0.11	
1	106	Fill	105	Furrow fill	Mid grey-brown silty clay with occasional rounded pebble inclusions	>2.0	1.46	0.11	LC16-LC19
1	107	Layer		Modern access road	Tarmac	>3	>1.8	0.12	
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silt clay	>15	>1.8	0.49	
2	201	Deposit		Modern access road	Tarmac	>4.5	>1.8	0.15	
2	202	Layer		Subsoil	Dark orange-brown silt clay with occasional rounded pebble inclusions	>15	>1.8	0.29	
2	203	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact orange-yellow silt clay	>15	>1.8	>0.1	
2	204	Fill	205	Fill	Single fill of ditch 205. Mid orange-brown sand clay	>1.8	0.68	0.4	Post-medieval
2	205	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned, irregular profile, flat base	>1.8	0.68	0.4	
2	206	Fill	208	Ditch fill	2 nd fill of ditch 208. Mottled light yellow-grey silt sand	>1.0	1.55	0.3	
2	207	Fill	208	Ditch fill	1 st fill of ditch 208. Light orange-grey silt clay	>1.0	1.32	0.17	C18-C19
2	208	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned, moderate sides, flat base	>1.8	1.55	0.48	
3	300	Void		Void	Void	-	-	-	
3	301	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silt clay	>30	>1.8	0.46	
3	302	Layer		Subsoil	Dark orange-brown silt clay with occasional rounded pebble inclusions	>30	>1.8	0.45	
3	303	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact orange-yellow silt clay	>30	>1.8	>0.5	
3	304	Cut		Furrow	NE/SW aligned with shallow sides and uneven base	>2.0	1.4	0.12	
3	305	Fill	304	Fill	Single fill of furrow 304, mid orange-yellow grey clay silt	>2.0	1.4	0.12	C14-C16
4	400	Void		Void	Void	-	-	-	
4	401	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silt clay	>30	>1.8	0.2	
4	402	Layer		Subsoil	Dark orange-brown silt clay with occasional rounded pebble inclusions	>30	>1.8	0.14	
4	403	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact orange-yellow silt clay	>30	>1.8	>0.3	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
106	Ceramic building material Clay tobacco pipe	Fragment Stem		1 1	2 3	LC16-LC19
204	Ceramic building material	Fragment		2	19	Post-medieval
207	Post-medieval/modern pottery Post-medieval ceramic building material	Brown-glazed earthenware Nib tile, fragment	TF50	1 2	7 197	C18-C19
305	Late medieval/Post-medieval pottery	Malvernian oxidised glazed ware	TF52	1	18	C14-C16

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS	
Project Name	Land at St Aldate's Church, Finlay Road, Gloucester
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in June 2017 at St Aldate's Church, Finlay Road, Gloucester. A total of four trenches was excavated. Evidence of agricultural practice, comprising the ploughed out remains of probable medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation, was identified throughout the site. Two post-medieval ditches, also seemingly relating to agricultural land management, drainage or division were identified in the western part of the site and, due to their broadly similar alignment, may be associated with the identified ridge and furrow field system. No further features or deposits of archaeological interest were identified during the course of the evaluation.
Project dates	21-22 June 2017
Project type	Field Evaluation
Previous work	Heritage Statement (CHHC 2014) Review of Heritage and Settings Assessment (CA 2016)
Future work	Unknown
PROJECT LOCATION	
Site Location	St Aldate's Church, Finlay Road, Gloucester
Study area (M ² /ha)	c. 0.5ha
Site co-ordinates	384320 216430
PROJECT CREATORS	
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology
Project Manager	Steven Sheldon
Project Supervisor	Daniel Sausins
MONUMENT TYPE	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None
PROJECT ARCHIVES	
Physical	Intended final location of archive: Museum of Gloucester Content: Pottery, clay tobacco pipe stem, CBM
Paper	Museum of Gloucester Context sheets, trench sheets, photo registers
Digital	Museum of Gloucester Database, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY	
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 <i>Land at St Aldate's, Finlay Road, Gloucester: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 17369	



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PROJECT TITLE
Land at St Aldate's Church, Finlay Road,
Gloucester

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

DRAWN BY LD	PROJECT NO. 6227	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY DB	DATE 27-06-2017	
APPROVED BY SS	SCALE@A4 1:25,000	1



- site boundary
- archaeological feature (excavated/unexcavated)
- furrow (excavated/unexcavated)
- field drain
- modern



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PROJECT TITLE
 Land at St Aldate's Church, Finlay Road, Gloucester

FIGURE TITLE
 Trench location plan, showing archaeological features identified

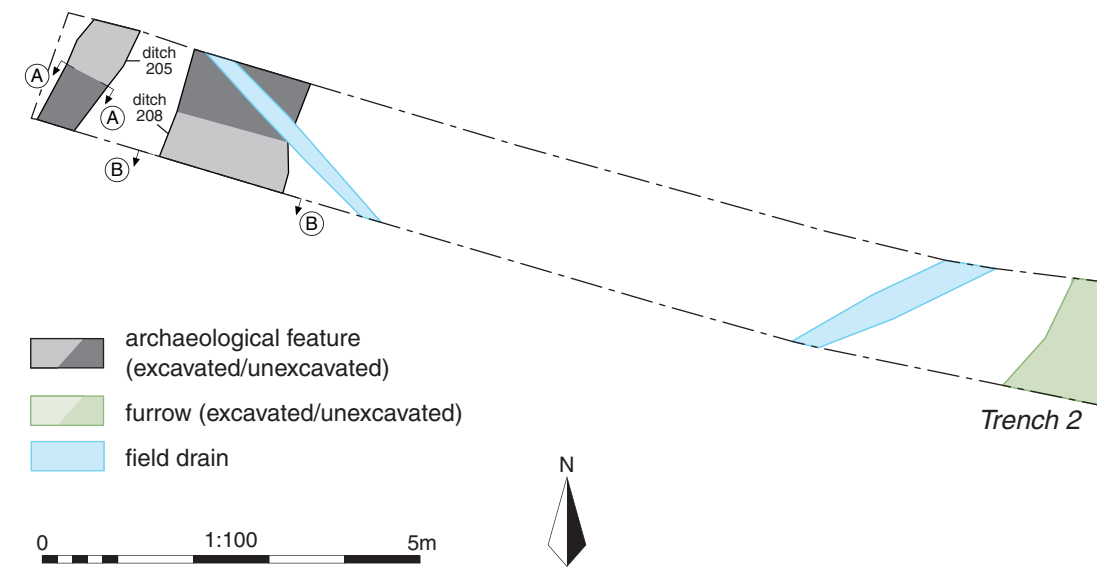
DRAWN BY LD CHECKED BY DB APPROVED BY SS	PROJECT NO. 6227 DATE 27-06-2017 SCALE@A3 1:500	FIGURE NO. 2
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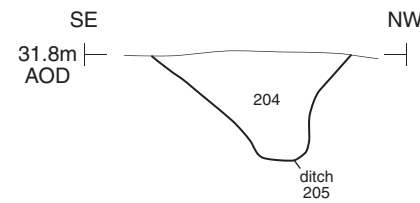
Ditch 205, looking south-west (0.3m scale)



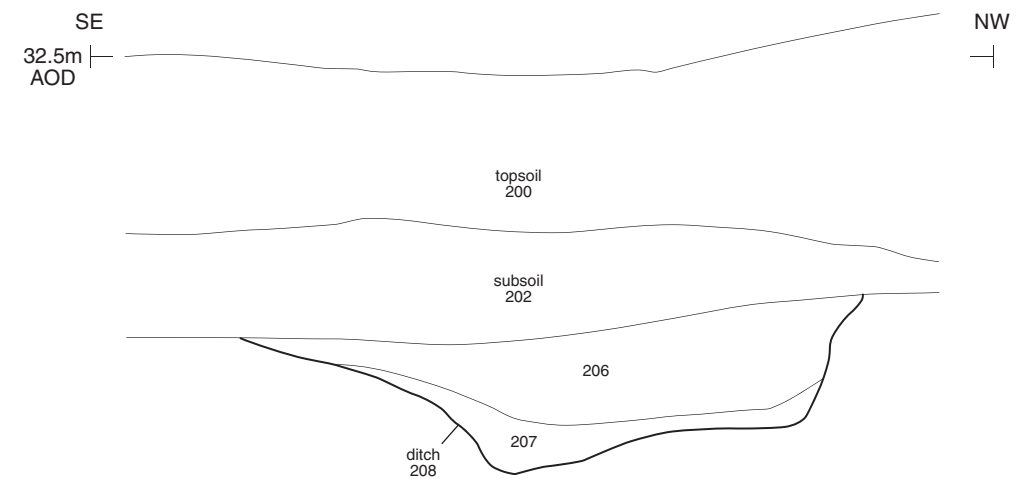
Ditch 208, looking south-west (1m scale)



Section AA



Section BB




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PROJECT TITLE
 Land at St Aldate's Church, Finlay Raod,
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FIGURE TITLE
**Trench 2: plan, sections and
 photographs**

DRAWN BY	LD	PROJECT NO.	6227	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DB	DATE	27-06-2017	3
APPROVED BY	SS	SCALE@A3	1:100; 1:20	

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