

Land at 77 Bristol Road Quedgeley Gloucester

Archaeological Evaluation



for
GTB Homes Ltd

CA Project: 6783
CA Report: 18674

November 2018



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 Gloucester

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A	12 November 2018	Alex Thomson	Cliff Bateman	Draft	QA	Martin Watts

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land at 77 Bristol Road
Location:	Quedgeley, Gloucester
NGR:	381109 214920
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	31 October – 1 November 2018
Planning Reference:	GCC Ref: 18/01031/FUL
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with The Museum of Gloucester
Site Code:	BRQ 18

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in October and November 2018 on land at 77 Bristol Road, Quedgeley, Gloucester. Two trenches were excavated.

A Roman gully and pit were identified within the eastern extent of the site. A post-medieval pond, correlating with historic cartographic sources, was also recorded in the western part of the proposed development area.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In October and November 2018 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for GTB Hones Ltd on land at 77 Bristol Road, Quedgeley, Gloucester (centred at NGR: 381109 214920; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application made to Gloucester City Council (GCC; ref. 18/01031/FUL) for the demolition of an existing dwelling and the construction of two multi-storey apartment blocks and associated works.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a recommendation for archaeological evaluation made by Andrew Armstrong, City Archaeologist, GCC, and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2018) and 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 0.07ha and comprises a former residential property and garden, including a small pond in the south-west of the site. It is bounded to the north by further residential properties, to the south and east by commercial properties and to the west by Bristol Road. The site lies at approximately 18m AOD and is broadly flat.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation, sedimentary bedrock formed in the Jurassic and Triassic Periods, no superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2018). The natural substrate was identified throughout the evaluated area and consisted of sandy clay.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Archaeological interest in the site principally derives from the results of previous archaeological fieldwork undertaken within the vicinity. A section of the *Glevum* (Gloucester) to *Abonae* (Sea Mills) Roman road was tentatively identified approximately 600m south-west of the site during an archaeological evaluation in 1994 (Sermon 1995) and the current site is located directly along the projected line of this road. Geophysical survey and subsequent trial trenching at Quedgeley

Recreation Ground, c. 290m south-west of the current site, further revealed a stone surface associated with a corroded coin of possible 2nd to 3rd-century AD date, which was interpreted as the eastern edge of the road (Greatorex 2003). However, at 104-112 Bristol Road, c. 200m south-west of the current site, an evaluation undertaken to test the existence of the Roman road identified no remains of Roman date (CA 2013).

- 2.2 The site also lies approximately 150m to the north-west of a known Iron Age and Roman settlement, provisionally interpreted as a villa complex or large farmstead, at Olympus Business Park (Sermon 1995), and 550m north-east of undated ditches, a posthole and beamslot identified during an evaluation adjacent to the Tesco supermarket bordering Sevenvale Drive (AOC 2009).
- 2.3 An evaluation undertaken at 71-73 Bristol Road, immediately to the north of the site, in 2002 identified three ditches and a pit dating to the 12th to 13th centuries. The ditches were interpreted as boundaries at the rear of medieval plots fronting onto Bristol Road (CA 2002).
- 2.4 Recent archaeological investigations just to the north of the site have found evidence of medieval archaeological remains (Andrew Armstrong, pers. comm.).
- 2.5 Historic cartographic sources show the site as an orchard, with an associated pond, in the late 19th century. The current building was constructed between the compilation of the 1924 and the 1936 OS mapping.

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* (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 two trenches in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Trench 1 was split into two sections due to on-site constraints and services, with Trenches 1A and 1B measuring a total length of 16.5m; Trench 2 measured 20m in length. Both trenches measured 1.6m in width. 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 Both 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, 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 2-3)

- 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 geological substrate was identified within both of the excavated trenches and consisted of clays and sandy-clays that were revealed at a typical depth of 0.44m below present ground level (bpgl). This was typically overlain by subsoil,

measuring an average thickness of 0.17m, which was in-turn sealed by levelling material, topsoil and modern surfacing.

Trench 1 (Figs 2-3)

- 5.3 Pond 110 was identified cutting the subsoil at the western end of Trench 1B (Fig. 3); it measured at least 2.25m in length, 1.6m in width and was excavated to a depth of 0.6m. Two fills were recorded in the excavated area of pond 110, with lower fill 109 consisting of humic clayey-silt and upper fill 108 consisting of sterile sandy-clay. One fragment of glazed earthenware pottery, dating to the mid-16th century to 18th century, was recovered from fill 109, along with two fragments of post-medieval ceramic building material (CBM).
- 5.4 The infilled pond 110 was sealed by levelling/dumped deposit 104, which consisted of mixed modern material, including tarmac, asbestos tiles, gravel and soils.

Trench 2 (Figs 2-3)

- 5.5 Gully 208/210 was identified close to the western extent of Trench 2, running on a broadly north/south alignment (Fig. 3, Section AA). It measured 0.38m in width, 0.14m in depth and continued beyond the limits of excavation. It contained clayey-sandy-silt fill 207/209 from which a single fragment of animal bone, but no dateable material, was recovered. It was cut by sub-circular pit 206 (Fig. 3, Section BB), which measured 0.68m in length, 0.62m in width and 0.2m in depth. It contained an upper fill 204 and lower fill 205; four sherds of pottery dating to the 2nd to 4th centuries AD were recovered from fill 204.
- 5.6 A broadly east/west-aligned ceramic field drain was also recorded running the length of the trench, cutting across gully 208/210.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1 Artefactual material was recovered from two deposits and the recovered material dates to the Roman and post-medieval periods. The pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric. Pottery fabric codes (in parenthesis in the text) are equated to the online Gloucester pottery type series (Potsherd 2018). Where applicable, National Roman Fabric Reference Collection codes are also given in Appendix B (Tomber and Dore 1998).

Pottery: Roman

- 6.2 Four sherds (25g) of pottery of Roman date were recovered from fill 204 of pit 206. Of broad Roman date are fine whiteware (TF20) and oxidised (TF20) sherds. A sherd of Southeast Dorset Black-burnished ware (TF4) is dateable to the 2nd to 4th centuries.

Post-medieval

- 6.3 An unfeathered bodysherd (16g) in a glazed earthenware fabric (TF50) of mid 16th to 18th century date was recorded from pond fill 109.

Ceramic building material

- 6.4 Pond fill 109 also produced two unclassifiable fragments (6g) of ceramic building material, most likely of post-medieval date.

7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1 The evaluation has identified only limited archaeological remains within the site. A probably post-medieval pond feature was observed in Trench 1, whilst a small gully and a Roman pit were recorded in Trench 2.
- 7.2 Whilst no evidence of the *Glevum* to *Abonae* Roman road was identified during the evaluation, the Roman pit identified within Trench 2, and the gully that it truncates, most probably relate to the wider corpus of Roman activity known to exist within the vicinity of the proposed development area (as detailed in Section 2 above). These features could relate to 2nd to 4th-century agricultural or settlement activity, although the limited nature of the remains restricts interpretation at this stage.
- 7.3 The pond identified within Trench 1 is probably of post-medieval date, and certainly correlates to a pond illustrated on 19th and 20th-century OS mapping (see Section 2.5 and Fig. 2). A small pond still exists within the south-west of the site and it is likely that the northern part of this pond was backfilled during the mid-20th century, most probably during construction of the current building.

8. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Mark Brett, assisted by Nathan Chinchen. The report was written by Alex Thomson. The finds report was written by Jacky Sommerville. The illustrations were prepared by Tom Brown. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.

9. REFERENCES

AOC 2009 *Site at Bristol Road, Quedgeley, Gloucester: An Archaeological Evaluation Report*. AOC Project No. **30230**

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No	Context	Type	Fill of	Context Interpretation	Context Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
1A	100	Layer		Modern surface	Tarmac	>4.4	>1.6	0.1	
1A	101	Layer		Buried topsoil	Greyish-brown sandy-clay	>4.4	>1.6	0.15	
1A	102	Layer		Subsoil	Light yellowish-brown sandy-clay	>4.4	>1.6	0.15	
1A	103	Layer		Natural substrate	Light brownish-yellow clay	>4.4	>1.6		
1B	104	Layer		Levelling material	Mixed modern material	>12.1	>1.6	0.32	
1B	105	Layer		Topsoil	Greyish-brown sandy-clay	>12.1	>1.6	0.15	
1B	106	Layer		Subsoil	Light yellowish-brown sandy-clay	>12.1	>1.6	0.2	
1B	107	Layer		Natural substrate	Light brownish-yellow clay	>12.1	>1.6		
1B	108	Fill	110	2nd fill of ?pond	Beige and orange sandy-clay	>2.25	>1.6	0.3	
1B	109	Fill	110	1st fill of ?pond	Dark grey clayey-silt	>2.25	>1.6	>0.3	C16-C18
1B	110	Cut		?Pond	Amorphous pond-type feature	>2.25	>1.6	>0.6	
2	201	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey sandy-silt	>20	>1.6	0.4	
2	202	Layer		Subsoil	Greyish-brown clayey-sandy-silt	>20	>1.6	0.17	
2	203	Layer		Natural substrate	Yellow-orange sandy-clay	>20	>1.6		
2	204	Fill	206	2nd fill of pit	Light brownish-grey clayey-sandy-silt	0.57	0.55	0.15	C2-C4
2	205	Fill	206	1st fill of pit	Light yellowish-grey silty-sand	0.68	0.62	0.09	
2	206	Cut		Pit	Sub-circular cut with steep sides and flat base	0.68	0.62	0.2	
2	207	Fill	208	Fill of gully	Light brownish-grey clayey-sandy-silt	>1.6	0.37	0.13	
2	208	Cut		Gully	N/S aligned linear with gradually sloping sides and concave base	>1.6	0.37	0.13	
2	209	Fill	210	Fill of gully	Light brownish-grey clayey-sandy-silt	>1.6	0.38	0.14	
2	210	Cut		Gully	N/S aligned linear with gradually sloping sides and concave base	>1.6	0.38	0.14	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

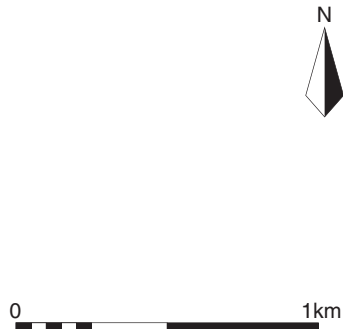
Table 1: Finds concordance

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code/ NRFRC*	Count	Weight	Spot-date
109	Post-medieval pottery Post-medieval ceramic building material	Glazed earthenware Fragment	TF50	1 2	16 6	MC16-C18
204	Roman pottery Roman pottery Roman pottery Fired clay	Southeast Dorset Black- burnished ware Fine whiteware Oxidised fabric	TF4 TF20 TF20	1 1 2 1	14 1 10 13	C2-C4

* National Roman Fabric Reference Collection codes in bold

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land at 77 Bristol Road, Quedgeley, Gloucester	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in October and November 2018 on land at 77 Bristol Road, Quedgeley, Gloucester. Two trenches were excavated.</p> <p>A Roman gully and pit were identified within the east of the site. A post-medieval pond was also recorded in the west of the site, correlating to historic cartographic sources.</p>	
Project dates	31 October – 1 November 2018	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	77 Bristol Road, Quedgeley, Gloucester	
Study area	0.07ha	
Site co-ordinates	381109 214920	
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	Mark Brett	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	The Museum of Gloucester	Ceramics, animal bone
Paper	The Museum of Gloucester	Field recording sheets, permatrace drawings
Digital	The Museum of Gloucester	Typescript report, digital photos, shapefiles
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2018 <i>Land at 77 Bristol Road, Quedgeley, Gloucester: Archaeological Evaluation</i>. CA typescript report 18674</p>		



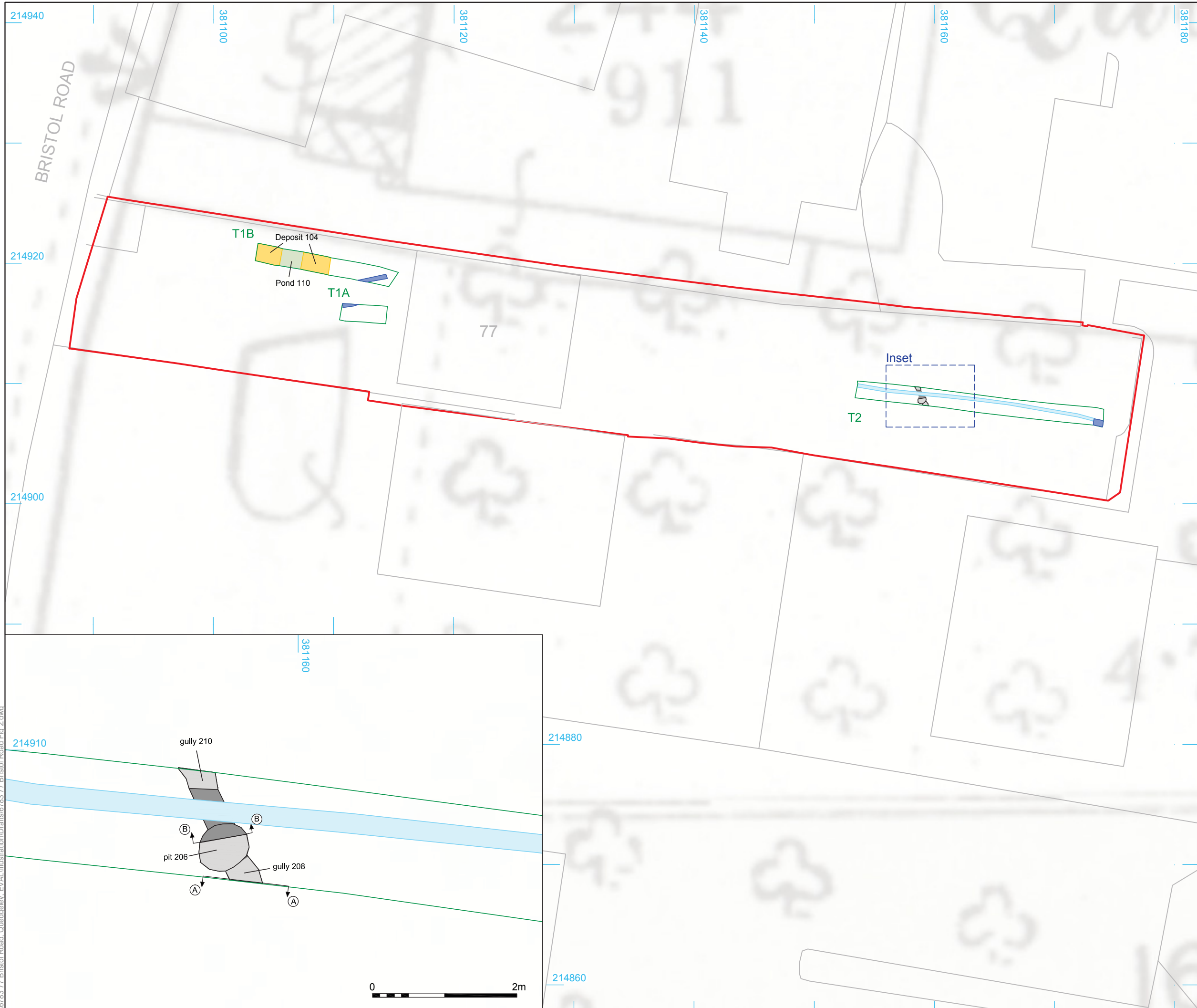
Cotswold Archaeology
 Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 826185
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 77 Bristol Road, Quedgeley, Gloucester

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	07.11.18	
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- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- cut feature (excavated/unexcavated)
- field drain
- modern service
- deposit
- pond
- section location



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 OS 25 inch, 1892 - 1914 mapping reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland

Cotswold Archaeology

Andover	01264 347630
Cirencester	01285 771022
Exeter	01392 826185
Milton Keynes	01908 564660

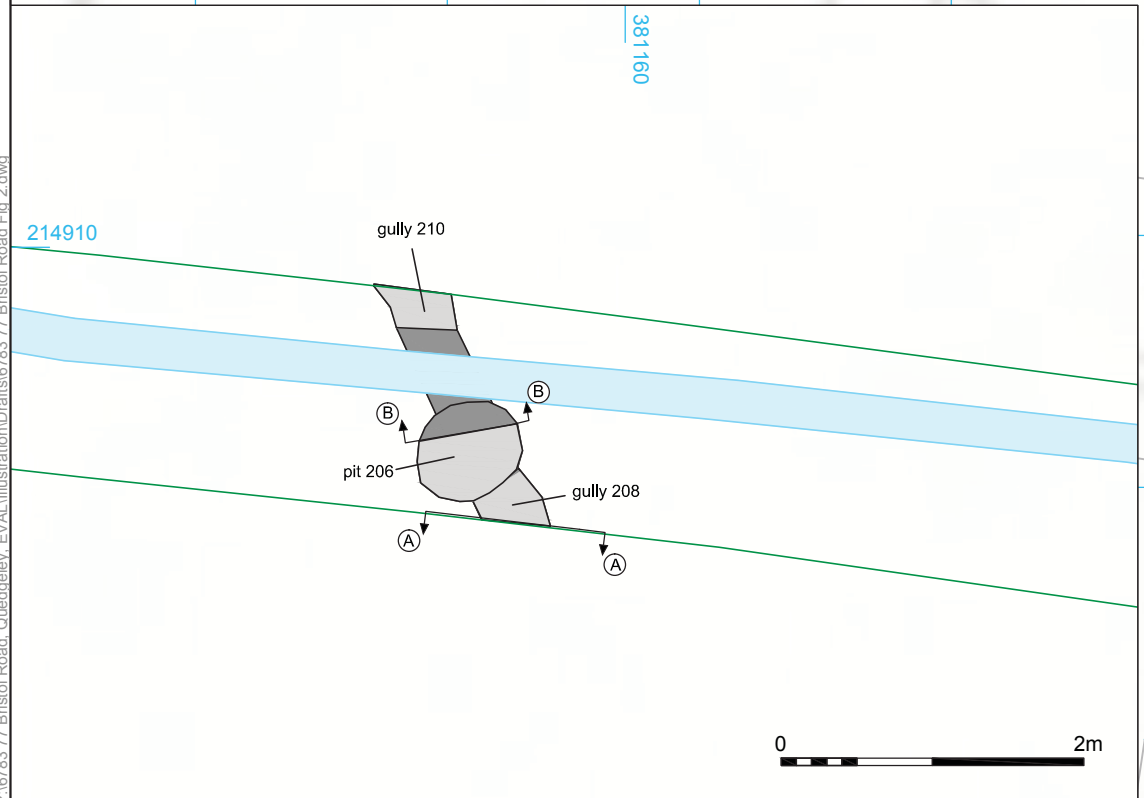
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
 Trench location plan showing archaeological features and OS 25 inch, 1892 - 1914 mapping

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APPROVED BY	CMB	SCALE@A3	1:300 & 1:50	2

P:\6783 77 Bristol Road, Quedgeley, EVAL\Illustration\Drafts\6783 77 Bristol Road Fig 2.dwg





Trench 1b, looking east, showing pond 110



Trench 2, looking east (1m scales)

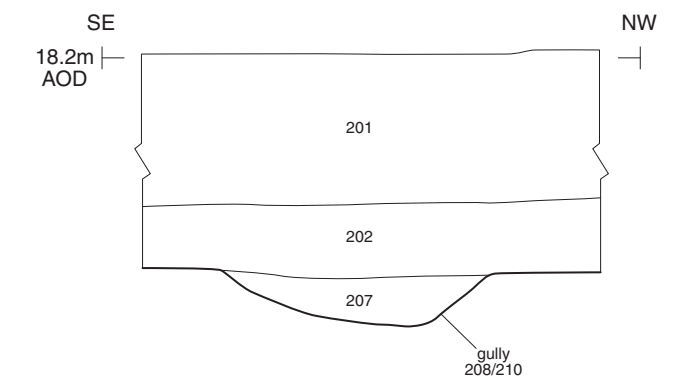


Gully 208/210, looking north-east (0.5m scale)

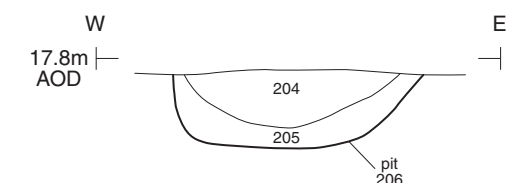


Pit 206, looking north (0.4m scale)

Section AA



Section BB



0 1:20 1m


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
 77 Bristol Road, Quedgeley, Gloucester

FIGURE TITLE
 Photograph & sections

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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 1
Clyst Units
Cofton Road
Marsh Barton
Exeter
EX2 8QW

t: 01392 573970

Milton Keynes Office

Unit 8 - The IO Centre
Fingle Drive
Stonebridge
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire
MK13 0AT

t: 01908 564660

e: enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

