

Land to the rear of 32 Dollar Street Cirencester Gloucestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
Dollar Street Partnership

CA Project: 6821
CA Report: 18745

January 2019



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Summary

Project Name:	Land to the rear of 32 Dollar Street
Location:	Cirencester, Gloucestershire
NGR:	402181 202316
Type:	Watching Brief
Date:	17-18 December 2018
Planning Reference:	Cotswold District Council ref: 15/03910/FUL; condition 5)
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Corinium Museum
Site Code:	DLSC 18

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with an extension to the rear of 32 Dollar Street, Cirencester.

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 December 2018 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for The Dollar Street Partnership on land to the rear of 32 Dollar Street, Cirencester, Gloucestershire (centred at NGR: 402181 202316; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to planning consent for the change to residential usage and the construction of an extension to the rear of 32 Dollar Street as granted by Cotswold District Council (CDC; planning ref 15/03910/FUL, Condition 5). Charles Parry, Archaeologist, Gloucestershire County Council and the archaeological advisor to CDC, recommended an archaeological watching brief should be maintained during all associated groundworks.
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2018) and approved by CDC acting on the advice of the archaeological advisor to CDC. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 2014).

The site

- 1.3 The site comprises the grounds to the rear of the Grade II* listed properties at 30-32 Dollar Street. It currently forms part of a gravelled carpark and lies at approximately 110m AOD.
- 1.4 The underlying solid bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Forest Marble Formation of the Jurassic period overlain by Quaternary river terrace sand and gravel deposits (BGS 2018). The natural substrate was not encountered during the current works.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The proposed development lies in an area of high archaeological potential immediately outwith the Scheduled Monument of *Corinium Roman Town* (National Monument 1003426, formerly Gloucestershire Monument 361).
- 2.2 A detailed account of the archaeological context of the site has been presented in a preceding Archaeological Desk-based Assessment (BaRAS 2014) and within an Archaeological Impact and Mitigation Statement (CA 2017).

- 2.3 In summary, the assessment noted that the site is located within the Roman town of *Corinium Dobunnorum*, which underlies much of present-day Cirencester. Although no features or deposits of Roman date have previously been recorded within the site this most probably reflects the relatively shallow nature of archaeological interventions previously undertaken within the immediate vicinity (Hoyle 1990).
- 2.4 Dollar Street follows the line of Roman Ermin Street which ran immediately west of the site to exit *Corinium* at the North (Gloucester) Gate at the junction of modern Dollar Street/Gloucester Street/Spitalgate Lane. The current site may also include surviving elements of the northern circuit of the Roman town defences, based upon observations in 1964 some 50m to the east near Hakeburn Road, and/or contain deposits and features associated with occupation within insula XXVI of the Roman town (Holbrook 1998, BaRAS 2014).
- 2.5 The site lies approximately 300m north-west of the Anglo-Saxon and medieval urban core (Gerrard 1994a, 1994b). No Anglo-Saxon/early medieval activity is known within the site. The earliest evidence encountered during previous evaluation trenching comprised deposits, and a possible cut feature of unknown function, dated to the 12th to 13th centuries AD (Hoyle 1990). The site may have been located within the north-west corner of the abbey grounds, beyond Cirencester Abbey's inner precinct (BaRAS 2014, Wilkinson and McWhirr 1998).
- 2.6 During the post-medieval period the site appears likely to have contained domestic dwellings fronting Dollar Street, with gardens to the rear. The extant Georgian houses at 30-32 Dollar Street most probably replaced earlier timber-framed buildings. Park House (No. 30) was built in 1725 whilst Dollar Street House (No 32) was built in the late 18th century. Late 19th and 20th-century cartographic sources indicate that the footprint of the proposed extension was previously built upon and formed part of 32 Dollar Street. Such evidence perhaps explains the omission of the footprint of the proposed new build from the scheduling.
- 2.7 Previous archaeological investigations within the site itself comprise an evaluation and subsequent watching brief undertaken in 1989-90 (Hoyle 1990) with a second watching brief in 1991 (Hoyle 1994). The eight trenches excavated throughout the site in 1989 include three (Trenches 1, 4 and 7) located in close proximity to the footprint of the proposed new extension (see Fig. 2 for locations and extent).

2.8 In summary the archaeological works previously undertaken the immediate vicinity confirm that:

- The natural geological substrate was not reached at the limit of excavation within the 1989 evaluation trenches.
- Roman deposits and any overlying Anglo-Saxon deposits, if present, were also not reached at the limit of excavation within the evaluation trenches.
- Medieval deposits, potentially including garden soils and/or ditch fills, appear to have been identified within Trench 8 (Hoyle 1990) and Trench 2 (CA 2007b) at approximately 109.5m AOD.
- Post-medieval and modern deposits, including garden soils, paved yard surfacing, walling and dump deposits, have been encountered within the uppermost 1.1m bpgl, including deposits of 17th-century AD and later date.

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 2018). An archaeologist was present during all intrusive groundworks comprising the hand and mechanical excavation of a shallow rafted foundation, measuring 5.3m in length, 2.7m in width and a maximum of 0.47m in depth, to the rear of 32 Dollar Street (see Fig. 2 for location 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*. No artefacts or environmental samples were retrieved during the watching brief.
- 4.3 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Corinium Museum. 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)

- 5.1 The earliest deposit encountered during the current works comprised a clayey silt, 102, identified 0.2m below the present ground level (bpgl). It contained modern brick fragments, 19th/20th century ceramics and 1970's chocolate wrappers (none of which was retained) and was cut by a modern electrical service trench associated with the existing carpark lighting. It was overlain by modern gravel and crushed stone surfacing 101. No construction trench associated with the extant, external wall of 32 Dollar Street was observed cutting either of the two identified deposits.
- 5.2 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.

6. DISCUSSION

- 8.1 As a consequence of the shallow foundation design adopted for the development the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. Rather, the intrusive groundworks were founded within deposits associated with the current car park and the former gardens to 30-32 Dollar Street.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Peter Busby. The report was written by Peter Busby. The illustrations were prepared by Tom Brown. The archive has been compiled by



Peter Busby, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.

8. REFERENCES

BaRAS 2014 *Nos 30-32 Dollar Street, Cirencester, Gloucestershire. Archaeological Desk-based Assessment. Bristol and Region Archaeological Services Report 3135/2014*

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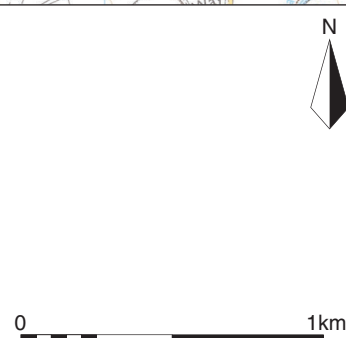
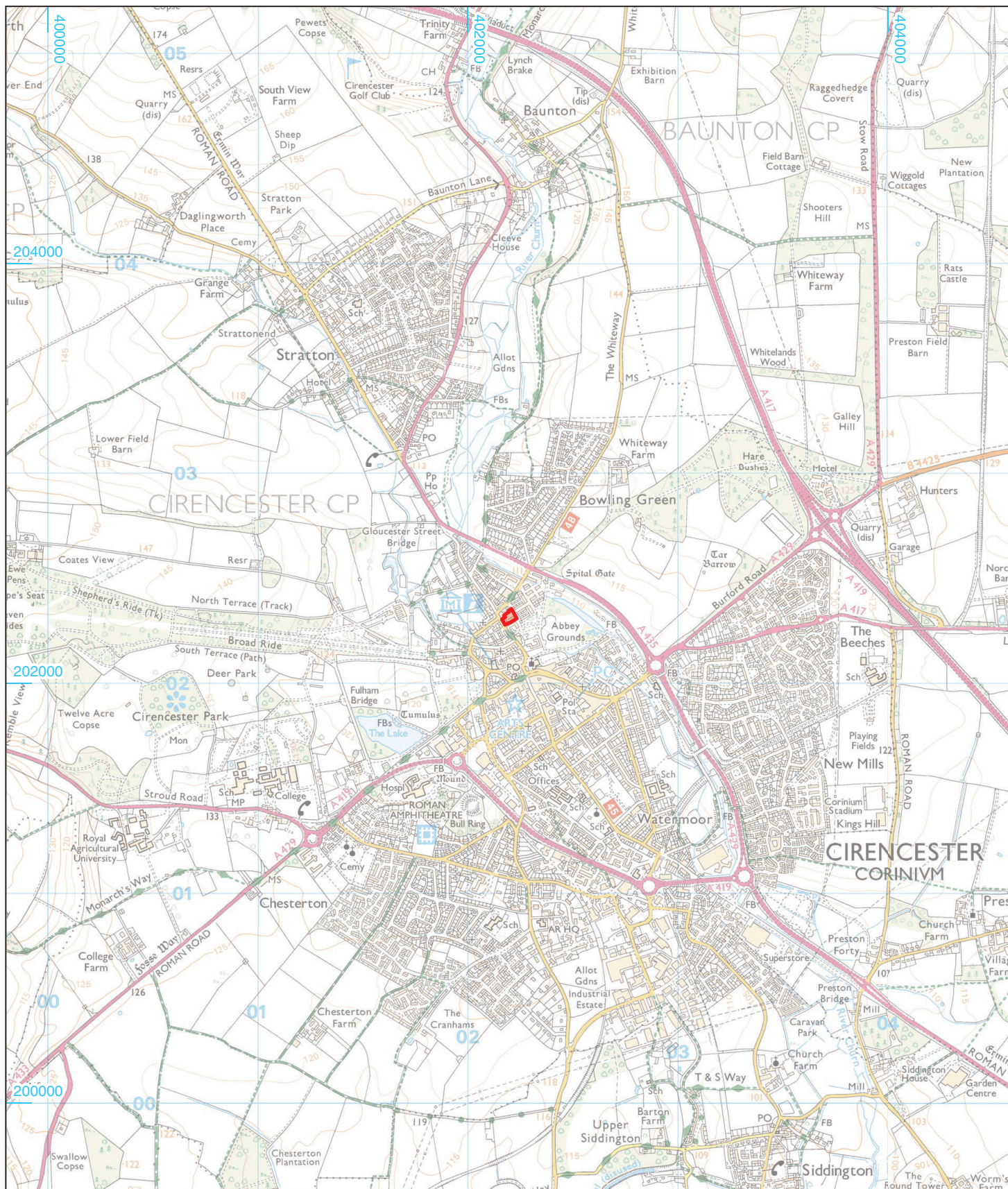


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)
1	100	Layer	Car park surface	Crushed light yellow limestone capped by 0.1mm of 10mm gravel	>5.3	>2.7	0.2
1	101	Layer	dump	Mixed very dark brown clay silt with 15% limestone gravel, 1% angular limestone cobbles/boulders and orange/red brick fragments	>5.3	>2.7	0.27

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land to the rear of 32 Dollar Street	
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with an extension to the rear of 32 Dollar Street, Cirencester.</p> <p>No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the groundworks and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.</p>	
Project dates	17-18 December 2018	
Project type	Watching brief	
Previous work	<p>Field evaluation: Hoyle, J 1990 <i>Archaeological evaluation at Dollar Street, Cirencester in June and July 1989</i>. Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Section</p> <p>Watching Brief: Hoyle, J 1994 <i>Report on a watching brief at Dollar Street House, Cirencester, Gloucestershire</i>. Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Section</p>	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Dollar Street, Cirencester, Gloucestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	15m ²	
Site co-ordinates	402181 202316	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	None	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Peter Busby	
Project Supervisor	Cliff Bateman	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive	Content
Paper	Corinium Museum, Cirencester	Trench sheet
Digital	Corinium Museum, Cirencester	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2018 <i>Land to the rear of 32 Dollar Street, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i>. CA typescript report 18745</p>		



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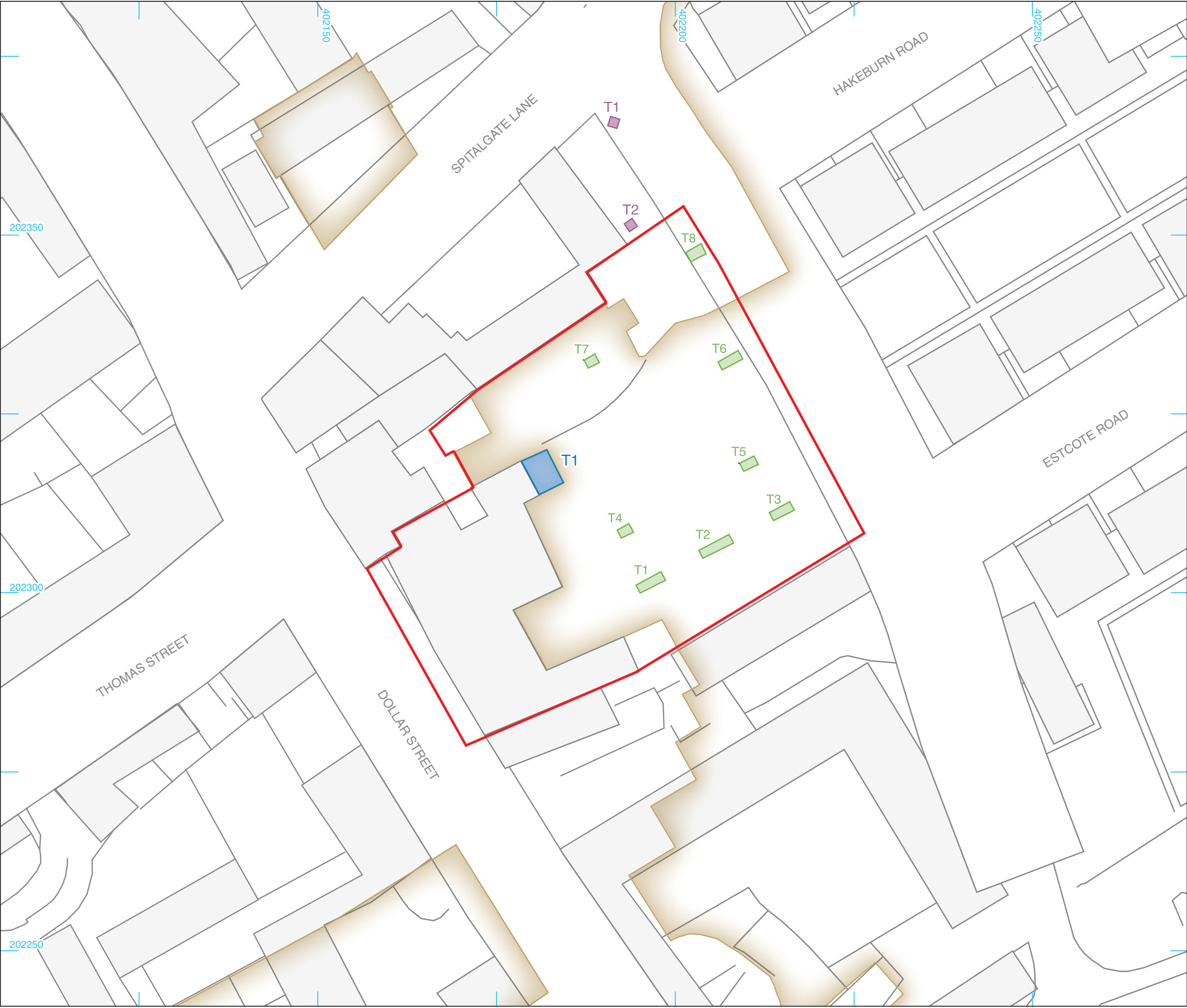
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PROJECT TITLE
30-32 Dollar Street, Cirencester,
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FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

DRAWN BY TB
CHECKED BY DJB
APPROVED BY CMB
PROJECT NO. 6821
DATE 19.12.18
SCALE A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.
1



- site boundary
- scheduled monument
- observed groundworks
- evaluation trench (CA 2007b)
- evaluation trench (Hoyle 1990)

0 1:500 25m

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PROJECT TITLE
30-32 Dollar Street, Cirencester,
Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
The site, showing location of observed
groundworks

DRAWN BY	TBJ/JP	PROJECT NO.	6821	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	11.01.18	2
APPROVED BY	CMB	SCALE	A3 1:500	



3

General view pre-excavation, showing north-east side of adjacent building, looking south (1m scale)



4

Trench 1, looking south-east (1m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

30-32 Dollar Street, Cirencester,
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FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	11.01.19
APPROVED BY	CMB	SCALE@A4	NA

FIGURE NO.

3 & 4

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