

**Gas Service to the Community Centre
The Waterloo
Cirencester
Gloucestershire**
Archaeological Watching Brief



for
Wales and West Utilities Ltd

CA Project: CR0102
CA Report: CR0102_1

November 2019



Gas Service to the Community Centre The Waterloo Cirencester Gloucestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: CR0102
CA Report: CR0102_1



Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	15 November 2019	Monica Fombellida	Alex Thomson	HE Issue		Cliff Bateman

This report is confidential to the client. Cotswold Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability to any third party to whom this report, or any part of it, is made known. Any such party relies upon this report entirely at their own risk. No part of this report may be reproduced by any means without permission.

CONTENTS

SUMMARY	2
1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	4
3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	6
4. METHODOLOGY	6
5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3).....	6
6. DISCUSSION.....	7
7. CA PROJECT TEAM.....	7
8. REFERENCES.....	7
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	9
APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM.....	9

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)

Fig. 2 The site, showing area of observed groundworks and extent of Scheduled Monument (1:1000 & 1:200)

Fig. 3 Trench 1: Photographs



SUMMARY

Project Name: Gas Service to the Community Centre, The Waterloo
Location: Cirencester, Gloucestershire
NGR: 402546 202092
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 19 October 2019
SMC: S00220314
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Corinium Museum
Site Code: CAGSW19

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in October 2019 during groundworks associated with the installation of a new gas service to The Community Centre, The Waterloo, Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and no artefactual material was recovered.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In October 2019 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Wales and West Utilities Ltd (WWU) at The Community Centre, the Waterloo, Cirencester, Gloucestershire (centred at NGR: 402546 202092; Fig. 1), during groundworks associated with the installation of a new gas service. As these works had the potential to impact upon archaeological remains that form part of a Scheduled Monument encompassing part of *Corinium* Roman Town (Historic England (HE), ref. 1003426; see Fig. 2), Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) for the works was issued by HE on 6 August 2019, under reference: S00220314, conditional on a programme of archaeological work.

1.2 An archaeological watching brief during intrusive groundworks was recommended following the conclusions of a preceding *Archaeological Impact and Mitigation Statement* (AIMS; CA 2019a), which highlighted the archaeological sensitivity of the area of groundworks, and through consultation with Mel Barge, Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Historic England (HE). The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (CA 2019b) and followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014).

The site

1.3 The site measured approximately 450m² in extent and comprised the hardstanding surfaces and garden areas surrounding the Community Centre. The site lies at approximately 108m AOD and was broadly level.

1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as mudstone of the Forest Marble Formation formed during the Jurassic Period (BGS 2019), which is overlain by superficial gravel River Terrace deposits of the Quaternary Period (*ibid.*). The natural geological substrate was not identified during the course of the observed groundworks.



2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site itself has not been subject to archaeological assessment, however the nearby Waterloo Car Park has previously been the subject of a Desk-Based Assessment (DBA, CAT 1998a) and two phases of archaeological evaluation (CAT 1998b; CA 2019c). Furthermore, extensive archaeological studies have been undertaken for much of Cirencester. The following is a summary of the available information for the site.
- 2.2 The Roman town of *Corinium Dobunorum* was an important provincial civitas capital, the 2nd largest in Roman Britain, the extent of which underlies much of present-day Cirencester. Significant Roman structures and deposits have been recorded in the area (*i.e.* McWhirr 1986; Holbrook 1994) and the site lies within the Scheduled Monument of Roman Corinium (HE ref. 1003426). The site lies within insula XVI of the Roman town and the street between this insula and insula XVII (Street K) is considered to lie to the west of the study area (Holbrook 1998). This street was observed in 1974-5 approximately 90m to the south of the current site, where it was approximately 12m wide with a sequence of metalling 2m thick (Zeepvat 1979, 67).
- 2.3 One of the most significant factors governing archaeological activity within the site is the proximity of the River Churn (CAT 1998a). The river is currently divided into two channels, the Inner and Outer Churn. The former runs *c.* 60m to the north-east of the site and is thought to represent the approximate line of the pre- Roman course of the river. However, with the establishment of the town defences in the mid-2nd century, (at least part of) the river was diverted to run outside the eastern section of the town wall. It has previously been unclear when the Inner Churn was established on its current course, although the preceding evaluation points to a date within the Roman period (CAT 1998b, 7). As such, there is a possibility of waterlogged deposits dating to the Roman period surviving within the site, as seen in nearby excavation works (CAT 1998a, 10).
- 2.4 During the course of a preceding evaluation a level horizon of alluvial clay was sealed by Roman urban stratigraphy, including walls, surfaces and occupation deposits (CAT 1998b). A Roman demolition layer was also identified during evaluation trenching in 2019 (CA 2019c). The top of the Roman features/deposits

ranged between depths of 0.68m (TP3) and 1.57m (TP6) below present ground level (bpgl; *ibid.*).

- 2.5 Little is known of the early post-Roman period in Cirencester, although it has been assumed that the basic foci of activity remained broadly the same (*ibid.*) and it is thought that the site lies outside of the main settlement areas of the Anglo-Saxon town (Darvill and Gerrard 1994, 89). The latest Roman/earliest post-Roman deposits in Cirencester, as in many other Roman towns, generally consist of a layer of 'dark earth'. This material was recorded in two of the test-pits (TPs 2 & 3) during the preceding evaluation (CAT 1998b). Post-Roman 'dark earth' deposits were also identified during the 2019 evaluation in the northern half of the Waterloo Car Park, c. 50m south-east of the current site (CA 2019c).
- 2.6 During the medieval period, Cirencester was an important commercial, economic, political and religious centre. The site lies within the township, to the rear of medieval tenements on Dyer Street. As such, no medieval settlement remains are anticipated within the site, although some robbing of Roman structures and a medieval surface were recorded during the evaluation to the south-east (CAT 1998b). During the medieval period water from the Outer Churn was drawn into a new channel, breaching the north-western defences of the Roman town, to feed the Abbey fishponds. This new watercourse then drained southwards as the Inner Churn in a channel which is still largely extant. It is this channel which runs to the north-east of the site (*ibid.*).
- 2.7 There is only limited evidence of the land use and development of the study area during the late medieval and early post-medieval period. However, a 1795 town map by Richard Hall & Son shows the site as an open field (*ibid.*). Cultivation soils were recorded throughout the preceding evaluation test-pits (CAT 1998b). This picture is seen on mapping throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries, until the development of area and the construction of the car park in the mid-20th century.



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 groundworks associated with the installation of the new gas service;
- 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 2019b). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising the excavation of two trenches for the new gas service, measuring roughly 4.1m and 0.62m in length and 0.45m in width (see Fig. 2).

4.2 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.

4.3 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the archives 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 2-3)

5.1 This section provides an overview of the watching brief results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendix A. The earliest identified deposit, which extended beyond the formation depth of the 0.45m bogl, consisted of clay-silt made-ground 106, which measured up to 0.18m in thickness. This was cut



by modern service 103 and sealed by 0.14m of clay-silt topsoil 105 and a total of 0.1m of levelling modern material 102 and surfacing 101.

- 5.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the course of the groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual was recovered.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the site (see Archaeological Background above), the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. The absence of archaeological deposits is most probably due to the limited depth of excavation throughout the observed groundworks (up to 0.45m); Roman archaeological deposits known to survive nearby have been identified at depths of at least 0.68m below present ground level (CA 2019a, 7).

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Hazel O'Neill. The report was written by Monica Fombellida. The illustrations were prepared by Amy Wright. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Alex Thomson.

8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2019 *Geology of Britain Viewer* http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 15 November 2019

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 *Woolmarket Car Park, The Waterloo, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Programme of Archaeological Works*. CA typescript report **14159**

CA 2019a *Gas Service to the Community Centre, The Waterloo, Cirencester, Gloucestershire. Archaeological Impact and Mitigation Statement*.

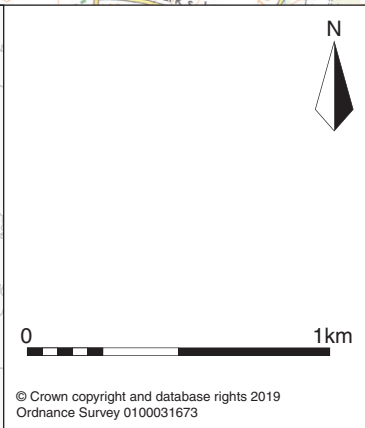
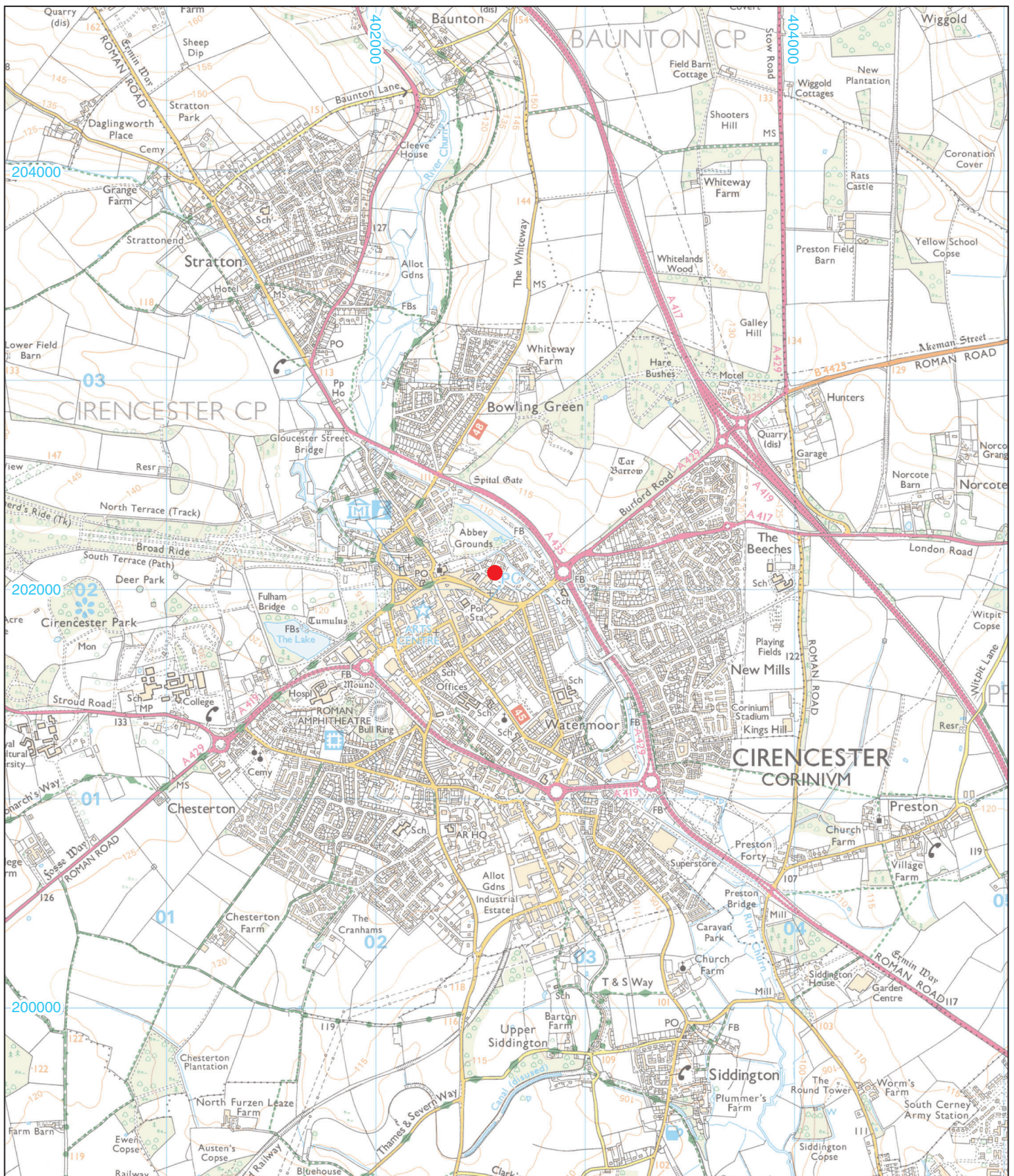
- CA 2019b *Gas Service to the Community Centre, The Waterloo, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*
- CA 2019c *Waterloo Car Park, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Watching Brief*. CA typescript report **6836_1**
- CAT (Cotswold Archaeological Trust) 1995 *Abbey Grounds and The Waterloo, Cirencester: Archaeological Watching Brief*
- CAT 1998a *Waterloo Car-Park, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Assessment*, CAT Report No. **98879**
- CAT 1998b *Waterloo Car-Park, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation*, CAT Report No. **98925**
- Darvill, T. and Gerrard, C. 1994 *Cirencester: Town and Landscape. An Urban Archaeological Assessment*.
- Holbrook, N. 1994 'Corinium Dobunorum: Roman Civitas Capital and Roman Provincial Capital', in Darvill, T.C. and Gerrard, C. (eds.) 1994, 7-86
- Holbrook, N. 1998 'Cirencester: The Roman Town Defences, Public Buildings and Shops', *Cirencester Excavations V*
- McWhirr, A. 1986 'Houses in Roman Cirencester,' *Cirencester Excavations III*, Cirencester Excavation Committee
- Wacher, J. and McWhirr, A. 1982 'Early Roman Occupation at Cirencester', *Cirencester Excavations I*, Cirencester Excavation Committee
- Zeepvat, R.J. 1979 'Observations in Dyer Street and Market Place, Cirencester, in 1849, 1878 and 1974/5', in *Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society Transactions*, Vol **XCVII**, 65-73

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
1	101	Layer	Tarmac Path	Tarmac Path	4.1	0.45	0.05
1	102	Layer	Make-up	Yellow gravel	4.1	0.45	0.05
1	103	Structure	Man-hole	Concrete man-hole	4.1	0.45	>0.35
1	104	Cut	Construction cut	Cut for man-hole	4.1	0.45	>0.35
1	105	Layer	Garden Soil	Dark brown clay-silt	4.1	0.45	0.14
1	106	Layer	Made ground	Mid brown clay-silt with medium size stone inclusions	4.1	0.45	0.18

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Gas Service to the Community Centre, The Waterloo, Cirencester, Gloucestershire	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in October 2019 during groundworks associated with the installation of a new gas service to The Community Centre, The Waterloo, Cirencester, Gloucestershire. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and no artefactual material was recovered.	
Project dates	19-October-2019	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	The Waterloo, Cirencester, Gloucestershire	
Study area	450m ²	
Site co-ordinates	402546 202092	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Historic England	
Project Design originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Alex Thomson	
Project Supervisor	Hazel O'Neill	
MONUMENT TYPE		
	Corinium Roman Town	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive:	Content
Paper	Corinium Museum	Trench recording form
Digital	Corinium Museum	Photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2019 <i>Gas Service to the Community Centre, The Waterloo, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report CR0102_1		



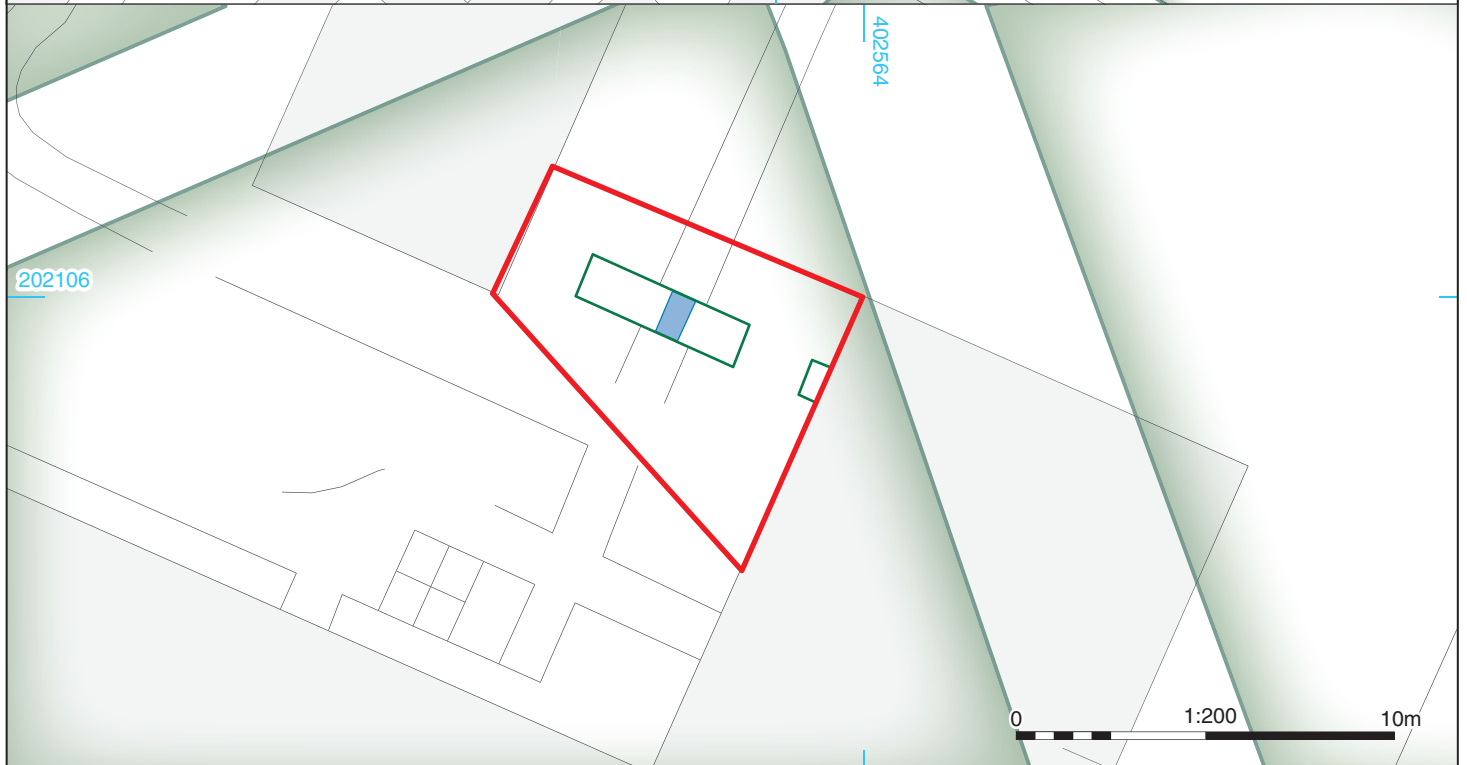
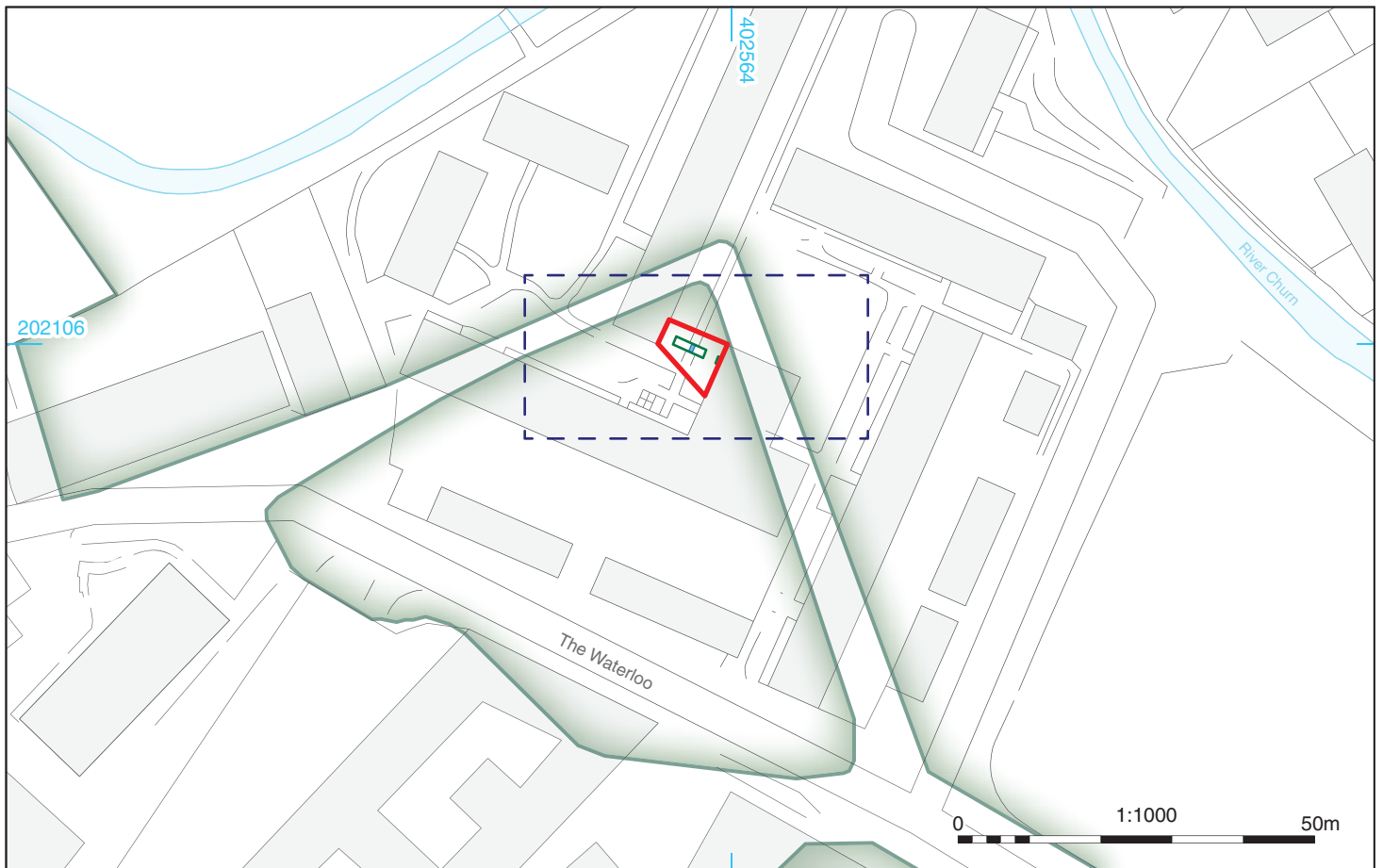
Cotswold Archaeology





Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 573970
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Suffolk 01449 900120
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 Gas Service to the Community Centre, The Waterloo, Cirencester, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY AO **PROJECT NO.** CR0102 **FIGURE NO.**
CHECKED BY AT **DATE** 13/05/2019
APPROVED BY AT **SCALE@A4** 1:25,000 **1**



-  Site boundary
-  Corinium Roman Town Scheduled Monument
-  Area of observed groundworks
-  Modern



Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 573970
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Suffolk 01449 900120
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 Gas Service to the Community Centre,
 The Waterloo, Cirencester, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
 The site, showing area of
 observed groundworks and extent of
 Scheduled Monument

DRAWN BY	AW	PROJECT NO.	CR0102	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	31.10.19	2
APPROVED BY	AT	SCALE@A4	1:1000; 1:200	



Trench 1, looking east



Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 573970
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
Suffolk 01449 900120
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Gas Service to the Community Centre, The Waterloo, Cirencester, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 1 photograph

DRAWN BY AW PROJECT NO. CR0102
CHECKED BY DJB DATE 31.10.19
APPROVED BY AT SCALE@A4 NA

FIGURE NO.

3

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

Suffolk Office

Unit 5, Plot 11, Maitland Road
Lion Barn Industrial Estate
Needham Market
Suffolk
IP6 8NZ

t: 01449 900120

e: enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

