

**Worcester Parade
Gloucester
Gloucestershire**
Archaeological Evaluation



for
Gloucester City Homes

CA Project: CR0196
CA Report: CR0196_1

November 2019



Worcester Parade Gloucester Gloucestershire

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: CR0196
CA Report: CR0196_1



Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	19 November 2019	Marino Cardelli	Cliff Bateman			Laurie Coleman
B	21 November 2019	Marino Cardelli	Cliff Bateman	Final	Comments from GCH	Laurie Coleman

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.....	3
3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	4
4. METHODOLOGY	5
5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3).....	6
6. THE FINDS	6
7. DISCUSSION.....	8
9. CA PROJECT TEAM.....	8
10. REFERENCES.....	9
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	11
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS.....	12
APPENDIX C: LEVELS OF PRINCIPAL DEPOSITS.....	12
APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM	13

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
Fig. 2 Test-pit location plan showing identified deposits (1:200)
Fig. 3 Representative section (1:20) and photographs



SUMMARY

Project Name:	Worcester Parade
Location:	Gloucester, Gloucestershire
NGR:	383474 219038
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	28-29 October 2019
Planning Reference:	Gloucester City Council ref: 19/00820/FUL
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Museum of Gloucester
Site Code:	CAWORP19

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in October 2019 at Worcester Parade, Gloucester. Four test-pits were excavated.

Evidence of former agricultural/cultivations soils, predominately containing Roman ceramics, was identified sealing the natural substrate within each test-pit. These deposits were in turn overlain by later garden/cultivation soils that are broadly contemporary with the 19th-century development of Worcester Parade.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In October 2019 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Gloucester City Homes at Worcester Parade, Gloucester Gloucestershire (centred at NGR: 383474 219038; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application made to Gloucester City Council (GCC) for residential development with associated parking and services (GCC planning reference 19/00820/FUL).
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out following a recommendation from Andrew Armstrong, Gloucester City Archaeologist, the archaeological advisor to GCC, and a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)* produced by CA (2019a) that was approved by Andrew Armstrong. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation (ClfA 2014)*. It was monitored by Andrew Armstrong, including site visits on 28 October 2019.

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area comprises two parcels of land, each approximately 0.2ha in extent and presently in use as private garages, on opposite sides of Worcester Parade close to its junction with Sweetbriar Street, Gloucester. The site lies at approximately 13m AOD and is broadly level.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Mudstone associated with Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation (BGS 2019). Natural deposits of mid grey-brown clay with occasional sand and gravel inclusions were encountered during the current works.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has previously been assessed in a Heritage Desk-Based Assessment (CA 2019b). The assessment noted that the site lies within an area of high potential for un-recorded archaeological remains associated with Roman extra-mural settlement and agricultural activity as well as continued agricultural usage during the medieval and post-medieval periods (ibid.).

- 2.2 The assessment identified no known archaeological remains of prehistoric origin within, or in close proximity to, the site and also noted that there is little evidence for prehistoric activity more widely in Gloucester (ibid.).
- 2.3 Evidence for Roman activity within Gloucester, including within the immediate site environs, is abundant. A Roman Legionary fortress at Kingsholm was constructed approximately 280m to the north-west of the site in the late AD 40s (Atkins 1986; Holbrook 2010). This fortress was abandoned during the AD 60s at the same time as a new fortress was established close to the modern city centre. The conversion of this second fortress into a *colonia*, a settlement for retired soldiers, is likely to date to the late 1st century AD (Hurst 1986).
- 2.4 The Roman city (Glevum) was located approximately 475m to the south-west of the proposed development area. A Roman road (Margary 1973, road 180) that connected the military forts at Gloucester (Glevum) and Birmingham (Metchley) lies c.30m to the west of the current site. Evidence for Roman roadside settlement and for industrial activities, such as the kilns revealed c.150m to the north west of the site, has previously been identified in the immediate area (CA 2019b).
- 2.5 Subsequent to the Roman period there is only limited evidence for settlement in the immediate area, although a timber building with clay floors from which a single sherd of Saxon pottery was recorded c.150m to the south-east of the current site (ibid.).
- 2.6 Cartographic sources suggest that the proposed development area was associated with agricultural use during the medieval and post-medieval periods. In 1822 Worcester Street was added to the city's road system with subsequent development adjacent to the road. Such development in the area expanded further with the construction of the St Marks Church in 1845-7 and the residential terraces along Worcester Parade.

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 (MHCLG 2019).

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 It was initially proposed that the evaluation would comprise the excavation of a single trench on the western side of Worcester Parade, with two test-pits to the east. In the event, and with the approval of Andrew Armstrong, the fieldwork comprised the excavation of four test-pits in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Test-pits 1 and 3 were each 3m in length and 2m in width, and test-pits 2 and 4 each measured 2m by 2m. The test-pits were set out manually avoiding buried services and their locations were subsequently surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual*.
- 4.2 All test-pits 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* but 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 they will be deposited with Museum of Gloucester, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix D, 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, finds and levels of principal deposits are to be found in Appendices A, B and C respectively.

5.2 The natural geological substrate was broadly similar throughout site and consisted of mid grey-brown clay with occasional sand and gravel inclusions that was revealed at an approximate depth of 1.8m below present ground level (bpgl).

Test-pits 1 & 3 (Figs 2 & 3)

5.3 Test-pits 1 and 3 were located on the western side of Worcester Parade. The natural substrate was identified between 1.8m and 2.07m below the modern ground surface (9.06m AOD to 9.44m AOD). It was sealed by up to 0.5m of brown-grey clay, 105/305, from which Roman pottery was retrieved. This was in turn overlain by redeposited dark grey-black clay 104/304, typically 0.6m to 0.8m in thickness, from which post-medieval/modern artefacts (not retained) were recovered. This was subsequently overlain by a modern granular sub base, 0.5m thick, for the tarmacadam surfacing.

Test-pits 2 & 4 (Figs 2 & 3)

5.4 Test-pits 2 and 4 were located on the eastern side of Worcester Parade. The natural substrate was identified approximately 1.6m below the modern ground surface (9.72m AOD to 9.84m AOD). It was sealed by up to 0.5m of brown-grey clay, 204/404, from which Roman and post-medieval pottery, as well as a fragment from a ceramic medieval roof tile, was retrieved. This was in turn overlain by redeposited dark grey-black clay 203/403, typically 0.4m to 0.6m in thickness, from which post-medieval/modern artefacts were recovered. This was subsequently overlain by a modern granular sub base, 0.45m thick, for the tarmacadam surfacing.

6. THE FINDS

6.1 Artefactual material was hand-recovered from four deposits (buried soil and a make-up layer). The recovered material dates to the Roman, medieval and post-medieval/modern 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 (<http://glospot.potsherd.net/docs/intro>).

National Roman Fabric Reference Collection codes are also given in Appendix B, where applicable (Tomber and Dore 1998).

Pottery: Roman

- 6.2 A total of 18 sherds (354g) of Roman pottery was retrieved. The average sherd weight of 19.7g is relatively high for a group of this date and indicates a relatively low degree of fragmentation. In terms of abrasion and surface preservation, condition is relatively good, particularly for the sherds from buried soil deposit 305. Most of the represented fabrics are of local manufacture, including Severn Valley (oxidised) ware (TF11B) and local micaceous ware (TF11A). Severn Valley ware was manufactured throughout the Romano-British period, however, a rimsherd from buried soil deposit 305 derives from a Webster Group I (Type 61) bowl which is datable to the mid 1st to 2nd centuries (Webster 1976, 34–5). The local micaceous ware, which is present as both oxidised and reduced sherds, dates to the late 1st to mid 2nd centuries (<http://glospot.potsherd.net/tf/TF11A>). A rimsherd from a jar with an everted rim in Southeast Dorset Black-burnished ware (TF4), which dates to the 2nd to 4th centuries when found outside the manufacturing zone (Davies *et al.* 1994, 107), was also recorded from buried soil deposit 305. This deposit produced the only continental import, an unfeatured bodysherd of central Gaulish samian (TF8A), which would have been imported to Britain during the 2nd century (Webster 1996, 2–3).

Pottery: Post-medieval/modern

- 6.3 Pottery from this date range totals seven sherds (128g). The represented fabrics are all common types and include unsourced glazed earthenware (TF50, of late 16th to 18th century date), pearlware (TF69, late 18th to mid 19th century), refined whiteware (TF69, late 18th to 19th century) and yellow ware (TF55, 19th to 20th century).



Ceramic building material

- 6.4 Two fragments (446g) of (glazed) ridge tile, of probable medieval date, were recorded from buried soil deposit 404. A fragment (4g) of ceramic building material from make-up layer 403 is too fragmentary to allow dating or classification.

Other finds

- 6.5 A fragment of clay tobacco pipe stem (6g) from make-up layer 403 features a spur and a portion of decorated bowl. This is most likely of 19th century date.

7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1 The evaluation results indicate the survival of buried soils (105, 204, 305, 404), interpreted as agricultural/cultivation soils, approximately 1m below the modern ground surface throughout the proposed development area (typically at 10.10m AOD in the east of the site and at 9.7m AOD in the west). Roman pottery was exclusively recovered from these deposits within the western test-pits (105 and 305) but a mixed assemblage, including medieval roof tile and a sherd of post-medieval pottery, was recovered from those in the east. Such evidence accords with the preceding desk-based assessment's interpretation that the site lay within the agricultural hinterland beyond the main areas of Roman extra-mural settlement and that such agrarian activity continued into the medieval and early post-medieval period.

- 7.2 Evidence for later post-medieval/modern activity was limited to layers of probable garden soil (104, 203, 304, 403) sealing the earlier soil horizons. Such activity is broadly contemporary with the construction and subsequent occupation of Worcester Parade in the 19th century. These deposits were sealed by modern levelling and tarmacadam associated with the construction of the extant garage blocks.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Marino Cardelli, assisted by Annabel Johns. The report was written by Marino Cardelli. The finds report was written by Jacky Sommerville. The illustrations were prepared by Amy Wright. The archive has been

compiled by Marino Cardelli, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.

10. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2015 *Geology of Britain Viewer* http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 31 October 2019

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2019a *Worcester Parade, Gloucester, Gloucestershire Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation* CA Project **CR0196**

CA 2019b *Worcester Parade, Gloucester, Gloucestershire Heritage Assessment* CA Project: **CR0024** CA Report: **CR0024_1**

Davies, B., Richardson, B. and Tomber, R. 1994 *The archaeology of Roman London Volume 5: A dated corpus of early Roman pottery from the City of London*. CBA Research Report **98**. London. Museum of London and Council for British Archaeology

Frere C.C., Hassell M.W.C. and Tomlin R.S.O. 1990. *Roman Britain in 1989 in Britannia*, Vol.21, Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies

Garrod P. 1988a. *Minor Site Report, Plan and Sections for watching brief at 2 Kingsholm Road, Gloucester*, Gloucester City Archaeological Unit

Garrod P. 1988b. *Annual Review of Minor Development sites in Gloucester 1988 in Glevensis* Vol. 23, Gloucester and District Archaeological Research Group

Garrod P. 1988c. *Archaeology in Gloucester 1988 in Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society*, Vol. 127, Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society

Hurst, H. 1986 *Gloucester: The Roman and Later Defences*. Gloucester Archaeological Publications.

Margary, I. 1973. *Roman Roads in Britain*, John Baker London

MHCLG (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government) 2019 *National Planning Policy Framework*

Tomber, R. and Dore, J. 1998 *The National Roman Fabric Reference Collection: A Handbook*. MOLaS Monograph **2**. London

Webster, P.V. 1976 'Severn Valley Ware: A Preliminary Study', *TBGAS*. **94**, 18–46

Webster, P. 1996 *Roman Samian Pottery in Britain*. Practical Handbook in Archaeology **13**

<http://glospot.potsherd.net/docs/intro> Viewed 6 November 2019



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer	Tarmac	Tarmac	>3	>2	0.1	modern
1	101	Layer	Bedding	Medium orange brown sub angular gravels	>3	>2	0.08	modern
1	102	Layer	Tarmac	Second layer of soft tarmac	>3	>2	0.12	modern
1	103	Layer	Sub base	Friable loose light yellow sub-circular sandy gravel, granular sub base for tarmac	>3	>2	0.78	modern
1	104	Layer	Make-up	Dark greyish black clay mixed with CBM and charcoal	>3	>2	0.4	C16-18
1	105	Layer	Buried soil	Dark brown grey clay with patches of orange sand.	>3	>2	0.59	RB
1	106	Layer	Natural	Natural substrate: mid grey brown clay with sand and gravel patches	>3	>2		
2	200	Layer	Tarmac	Tarmac	>2	>2	0.06	modern
2	201	Layer	Bedding	Same as 101	>2	>2	0.11	modern
2	202	Layer	Sub base	Same as 103	>2	>2	0.35	modern
2	203	Layer	Make-up	Same as 104	>2	>2	0.66	C16-18
2	204	Layer	Buried soil	Same as 105	>2	>2	0.42	RB
4	205	Layer	Natural	Natural substrate: mid grey brown clay with sand and gravel patches	>2	>2		
3	300	Layer	Tarmac		>3	>2	0.06	modern
3	301	Layer	Bedding	Same as 101	>3	>2	0.08	modern
3	302	Layer	Tarmac	Second layer of soft tarmac	>3	>2	0.11	modern
3	303	Layer	Sub base	Same as 103	>3	>2	0.64	modern
3	304	Layer	Make-up	Same as 104	>3	>2	0.61	C16-18
3	305	Layer	Buried soil	Same as 105	>3	>2	0.30	RB
3	306	Layer	Natural	Natural substrate: mid grey brown clay with sand and gravel patches	>3	>2		
4	400	Layer	Tarmac	Tarmac	>2	>2	0.05	modern
4	401	Layer	Bedding	Same as 101	>2	>2	0.05	modern
4	402	Layer	Sub base	Same as 103	>2	>2	0.4	modern
4	403	Layer	Make-up	Same as 104	>2	>2	0.45	C16-18
4	404	Layer	Buried soil	Same as 105	>2	>2	0.61	RB
4	405	Layer	Natural	Natural substrate: mid grey brown clay with sand and gravel patches	>2	>2		

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code/ NRFRC*	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
105	Roman pottery	Severn Valley (oxidised) ware	TF11B/ SVW OX2	5	137	RB
	Roman pottery	Local micaceous ware	TF11A	4	66	
305	Roman pottery	Central Gaulish samian	TF8A/ LEZ SA2	1	15	C2+
	Roman pottery	Southeast Dorset Black-burnished ware	TF4/ DOR BB1	1	7	
	Roman pottery	Severn Valley (oxidised) ware	TF11B/ SVW OX2	3	57	
	Roman pottery	Local micaceous ware	TF11A	2	43	
403	Post-medieval pottery	Glazed earthenware	TF50	2	60	C19-C20
	Post-medieval/modern pottery	Pearlware	TF69	2	10	
	Post-medieval/modern pottery	Refined whiteware	TF69	1	22	
	Modern pottery	Yellow ware	TF55	1	18	
	Ceramic building material	Fragment		1	4	
	Clay tobacco pipe			1	6	
404	Roman pottery	Severn Valley (oxidised) ware	TF11B/ SVW OX2	1	19	MC16-C18
	Roman pottery	Oxidised fabric	TF20	1	10	
	Post-medieval pottery	Glazed earthenware	TF50	1	18	
	Medieval ceramic building material	Ridge tile		2	446	
	Coal			1	12	

* National Roman Fabric Reference Collection codes in bold (Tomber and Dore 1998)

APPENDIX C: LEVELS OF PRINCIPAL DEPOSITS

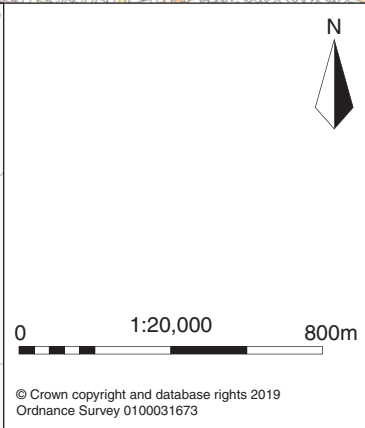
Levels are expressed as metres below current ground level and as metres Above Ordnance Datum (AOD).

	Western test-pits		Eastern test-pits	
	Test-pit 1	Test-pit 3	Test-pit 2	Test-pit 4
Current ground level	0.00 (11.13m)	0.00 (11.24m)	0.00 (11.33m)	0.00 (11.3m)
Top of post-medieval garden soils	1.08m (10.05m)	0.89m (10.35m)	0.52m (10.81m)	0.5m (10.80m)
Top of Roman cultivation deposit	1.48m (9.65m)	1.5m (9.74m)	1.18m (10.15m)	0.95m (10.08m)
Top of natural substrate	2.07m (9.06m)	1.8m (9.44m)	1.61m (9.72m)	1.66m (9.84m)
Limit of excavation	2.5m (8.63m)	1.8m (9.44m)	1.61m (9.72m)	1.56m (9.74m)

Upper figures are depth below modern ground level; lower figures in parentheses are metres AOD.

APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Worcester Parade, Gloucester, Gloucestershire	
Short description	Evidence of former agricultural/cultivations soils, predominately containing Roman ceramics, was identified sealing the natural substrate within each test-pit. These deposits were in turn overlain by later garden/cultivation soils that are broadly contemporary with the 19th-century development of Worcester Parade.	
Project dates	28-29 October 2019	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	DBA (CA 2019)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.4ha	
Site co-ordinates	383474 219038	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	None	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Marino Cardelli	
MONUMENT TYPE		
None		
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
None		
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Museum of Gloucester	Roman and post-medieval pottery, medieval ceramic roof tile
Paper	Museum of Gloucester	Context sheets, matrices
Digital	Museum of Gloucester	Database, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2019 <i>Worcester Parade, Gloucester, Gloucestershire Archaeological Evaluation</i> CA Report CR0196_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
 Worcester Parade, Gloucester

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY AW	PROJECT NO. CR0196	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY DJB	DATE 04.11.19	1
APPROVED BY MC	SCALE@A4 1:20,000	



- Site boundary
- Test pit
- Stepped base within test pit
- Deposit
- A A Section location



© Crown copyright and database rights 2019 Ordnance Survey 0100031673

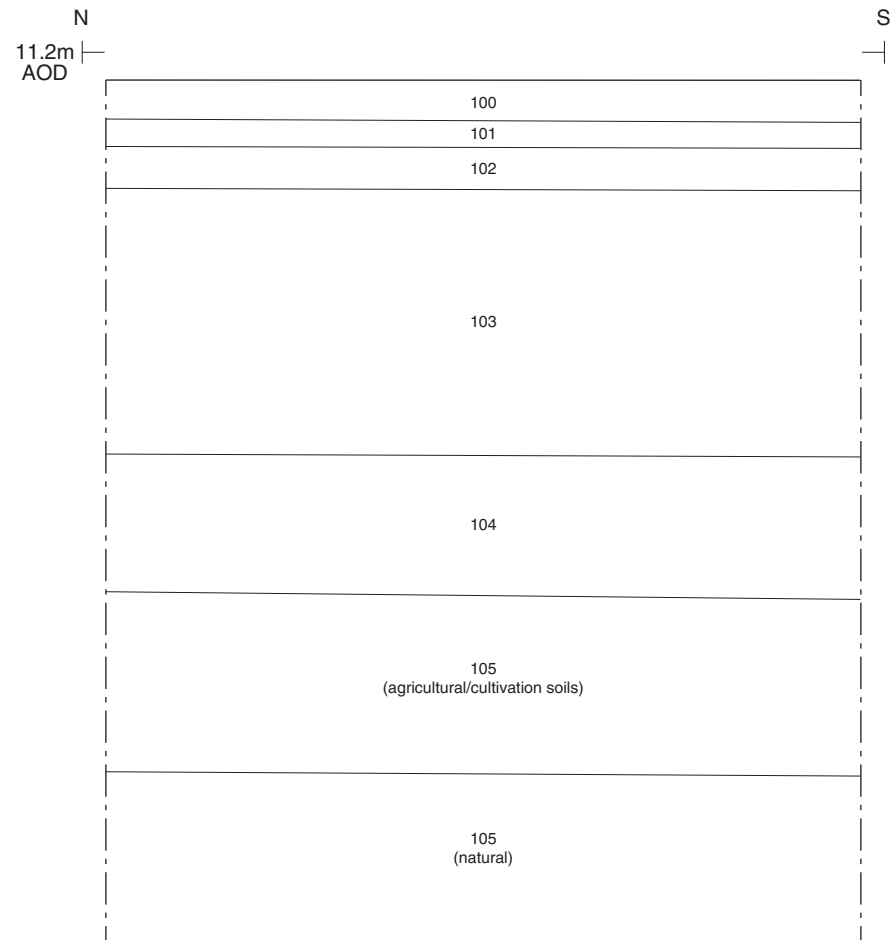
Cotswold Archaeology
 Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 573970
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Suffolk 01449 900120
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
Worcester Parade, Gloucester

FIGURE TITLE
Test pit location plan showing identified cultivation deposits

DRAWN BY	AW	PROJECT NO.	CR0196	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	04.11.19	2
APPROVED BY	MC	SCALE@A3	1:200	

Section AA



Test pit 2, looking west (1m scale)



Test pit 3, looking east (1m scale)


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
 Worcester Parade, Gloucester

FIGURE TITLE
Representative section and photographs

DRAWN BY	AW	PROJECT NO.	CR0196	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	04.11.19	3
APPROVED BY	MC	SCALE@A3	1:20	

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

