

**9 ST PETER'S ROAD  
CIRENCESTER  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

*For*

**CLASSIC WINDOWS AND  
CONSERVATORIES LIMITED**

*on behalf of*

**MRS WHEELER**

CA PROJECT: 2438  
CA REPORT: 08039


FEBRUARY 2008



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prepared by	Jonathan Webster, Project Officer
date	29 February 2008
checked by	Richard Young, Project manager
date	3 March 2008
approved by	Simon Cox, Head of Fieldwork
signed	
date	4 March 2008
issue	01

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## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** 9 St Peter's Road  
**Location:** Cirencester, Gloucestershire  
**NGR:** SP 02235 01655  
**Type:** Evaluation  
**Date:** 20th December 2007  
**SMC:** HSD 9/2/9795  
**Location of Archive:** Corinium Museum  
**Site Code:** PET 07

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in December 2007 at the request of Classic Windows and Conservatories Limited on behalf of Mrs Wheeler at 9 St Peter's Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire. A single test pit was excavated.

Probable Roman demolition debris was encountered at a depth of 0.67m below the modern ground surface (108.8m AOD). This debris was sealed by 'dark earth' and redeposited mortar.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In December 2007 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Classic Windows and Conservatories Limited on behalf of Mrs Wheeler at 9 St Peter's Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SP 02235 01655; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application for the construction of a new conservatory to the rear of the property. The site falls within a Scheduled Ancient Monument area (monument no. 361 *Corinium* Roman Town), and as such any works will also require Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC). The evaluation of the site was carried out under Class 7 of the Ancient Monuments (Class Consents) Order 1994 (ref: HSD 9/2/9795).
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological evaluation (CA 2007) that was approved by Lucy Bourne, Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments, English Heritage and Charles Parry, Senior Archaeological Officer, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC), archaeological advisor to Cotswold District Council. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (2001), the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Gloucestershire* (GCC 1995) and the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991).
- The site***
- 1.3 The test pit was located to the immediate rear of 9 St Peter's Road, Cirencester. The area is currently part of the rear garden of 9 St Peter's Road, Cirencester and is bounded to the north by domestic buildings, with a church hall to the east (Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 110m AOD.
- 1.4 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Forest Marble of the Middle Jurassic Era (BGS 1946). However, this was not encountered during the evaluation.

### ***Archaeological background***

- 1.5 A Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) search was undertaken for the area immediately around the site. Previous investigations have identified Roman street metalling at various locations in the vicinity of St Peter's Road. Extrapolation of this data suggests that the proposed development area lies within Insula XXb of the Roman town of Corinium. A number of high status Roman buildings are recorded from modern archaeological excavations within the immediate area. Of particular relevance was the identification in 1964 of a Roman building containing at least three mosaics within the grounds of Ashcroft House to the east of the site. Further evidence of buildings has also been revealed nearby (Reece and Walker 1991).
- 1.6 A Roman bath suite has previously been identified to the north in close proximity to (although not necessarily associated with) nine pieces of worked, carved and sculptured stone. The later included reliefs of the Triad of Deae Matres, statuettes, an inscribed alter and columns (Haverfield 1920, 176-184). Mosaics were also revealed in 1891 during the laying out of the Roman Catholic Church immediately to the east of the current site.
- 1.7 An archaeological evaluation at 24 St Peter's Road was undertaken by CA in February 2007. Probable Roman demolition debris was encountered at a depth of 0.63m below the present ground level (109.26m AOD) immediately sealed by 'dark earth' and garden deposits (CA 2007a). Work by CA at 30 St Peter's Road located probable Roman demolition at a depth of 0.44m below the present ground level (109.09m AOD). This debris was sealed by modern material suggesting that at this site the 'dark earth' frequently found in Cirencester has been removed by modern activity (CA 2003). A watching brief by CA during the excavation of foundations at 11 St Peter's Road, which lies immediately to the west of the current site, did not encounter any in situ Roman material (CA 2002). The foundations were excavated to a depth of 0.8m (108.93m AOD). The only deposits encountered were modern make-up layers. Work at 18 St Peter's Road by CA in October 2007 located probable Roman demolition debris at a depth of c. 0.7m below the present ground level (109.20m AOD) (CA 2007b).
- 1.8 The area lies close to what was the administrative boundary of the medieval township, then formed by the Querns Lane and Lewis Lane road alignment (Slater

1976, 103), and by the mid sixteenth century formed part of an extensive open area known as Ayshecroft (Slater 1976).

- 1.9 Ashcroft Road, Ashcroft Gardens and Ashcroft Villas (now St Peter's Road) were developed in the late 19th century and first depicted on the 1900 Ordnance Survey map.

### ***Archaeological objectives***

- 1.10 The objectives of the evaluation were to establish the character, quality, date and extent of any archaeological remains or deposits surviving within the site. This information will clarify whether any remains are of sufficient importance to warrant consideration for preservation *in situ*, or alternatively form the basis of mitigation measures that may seek to limit damage to significant remains.

### ***Methodology***

- 1.11 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of a single test pit measuring 1.5m by 1.5m (Fig 2).
- 1.12 The trench was excavated by hand to the top of the Roman demolition debris. All archaeological deposits were recorded in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.13 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* (2003), but no deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of Finds Immediately After Excavation* (1995).
- 1.14 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 these will be deposited with Corinium museum, 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.

## **2. RESULTS (FIGS 2 AND 3)**

2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are located in Appendices A and B respectively. Details of the relative heights of the principal deposits and features expressed as metres Above Ordnance Datum (m AOD) appear in Appendix C.

2.2 Roman demolition deposit 105 was revealed at 0.67m below the present ground surface (108.8m AOD). It was sealed by humic 'dark earth' 104, which was covered by a mortar rich band of material 103. Overlying this deposit was a layer of further loose 'dark earth' material 102. This was sealed by a sand bedding layer 101 for the modern concrete paving 100.

### ***The Find Evidence***

2.3 Quantities of pottery, ceramic building material, clay tobacco pipe, metalwork, coal, glass, oyster shell and animal bone were recovered from four layers. Pottery types have been matched to the Cirencester type fabric series (Ireland 1998).

2.4 Roman pottery types were present in all four layers and included Dorset Black Burnished ware, North Wiltshire reduced ware, mica-dusted ware, Baetican (Southern Spanish) amphora, Severn Valley ware, Savernake and white slipped ware. All Roman pottery present displayed signs of abrasion.

2.5 Medieval pottery types were present in layer 104 and consisted of Minety ware and Bristol Redcliffe jug fabric.

2.6 Post-medieval and modern pottery types present included porcelain, hand-painted china, flowerpot, yellow slipware, salt-glazed stoneware and miscellaneous glazed earthenwares.

2.7 Roman ceramic building material was present in all four layers and included brick, tegula (roof tile) and box flue tile (heating system).



### 3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The evaluation indicated that in situ Roman deposits survive at a depth of 0.67m below the modern ground surface (108.80m AOD). Deposit 105 contained two fragments of Roman pottery and appeared to be comparable in nature and date to Roman demolition debris identified during archaeological works carried out in the vicinity of the site. The one fragment of medieval pottery found within deposit 105 is considered to be intrusive. Deposit 105 is comparable to post-Roman 'dark earth' deposits identified elsewhere in the town overlying Roman contexts. Deposits of this type have been found in Roman towns across Britain, but their origins are still not fully understood. The 'dark earth' is thought to be an amalgam of early medieval cultivation soil, decayed wooden structures and animal and vegetable remains. Medieval pottery has been found within these layers, together with Roman material which is probably residual (Gerrard 1994, 93).

### 4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Jonathan Webster. The report was written by Jonathan Webster. The illustrations were prepared by Peter Moore. The archive has been compiled by Jonathan Webster, and prepared for deposition by Kathryn Price. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

### 5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1946 *Geological Survey of England and Wales, Sheet 235, Cirencester, 1 inch to 1 mile*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2002 *11 St Peter's Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Programme of Archaeological Recording Addendum to CA Report 001256*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2003 *30 St Peter's Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation CA Report 03013*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2007a *9 St Peter's Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2007b *18 St Peter's Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation* CA Report **07150**

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2007 *24 St Peter's Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation* CA Report **07016**

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## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

### Trench 1

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Concrete paving slabs			0.03	Modern
101	Layer	Bedding sand for 100			0.03	Modern
102	Layer	Loosely compacted mid blue-brown 'dark earth'			0.16	
103	Layer	Mortar rich deposit			0.21	
104	Layer	Loosely compacted dark blue-brown 'dark earth'			0.23	
105	Layer	Demolition rubble: mid greyish brown silty sand with abundant limestone rubble inclusions			>0.15	Roman

## APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Artefact type	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date	Cirencester TF series			
102	Roman pottery; Black Burnished ware, mica-dusted ware, North Wilts. reduced ware, Spanish amphora	15	190	C19-C20	74 52 98			
	Modern pottery; porcelain, hand-painted china, flowerpot	3	16					
	Ceramic building material; brick	8	498					
	Iron nail	1	6					
	Coal	1	4					
	Oyster shell	15	138					
	Animal bone	8	32					
103	Roman pottery; Severn Valley ware	1	4	C19-C20	106  214			
	Modern pottery; china	2	4					
	Ceramic building material; brick, tegula, box flue	13	938					
	Iron nail	1	22					
	Oyster shell	2	54					
Animal bone	2	32						
104	Roman pottery; North Wilts. reduced ware, Savernake	2	26	C19-C20	98 6 200 215 251			
	Medieval pottery; Minety	1	16					
	Post-medieval and modern pottery; yellow slipware, salt-glazed stoneware, glazed earthenware	6	12					
	Ceramic building material; brick	2	182					
	Clay tobacco pipe; stem	3	8					
	Modern vessel glass	1	2					
	Oyster shell	2	10					
	Animal bone	5	42					
	105	Roman pottery; North Wilts. reduced ware, white slipped ware	2			16	C3-C4	98 262
		Ceramic building material; brick	1					
Animal bone		2	146					
			8					

### APPENDIX C: LEVELS OF PRINCIPAL DEPOSITS AND STRUCTURES

Levels are expressed as metres below current ground level and as metres Above Ordnance Datum (AOD), calculated using the benchmark located at 54 Querns Lane (110.34m AOD).

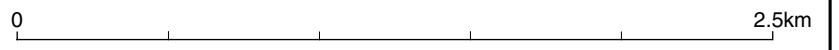
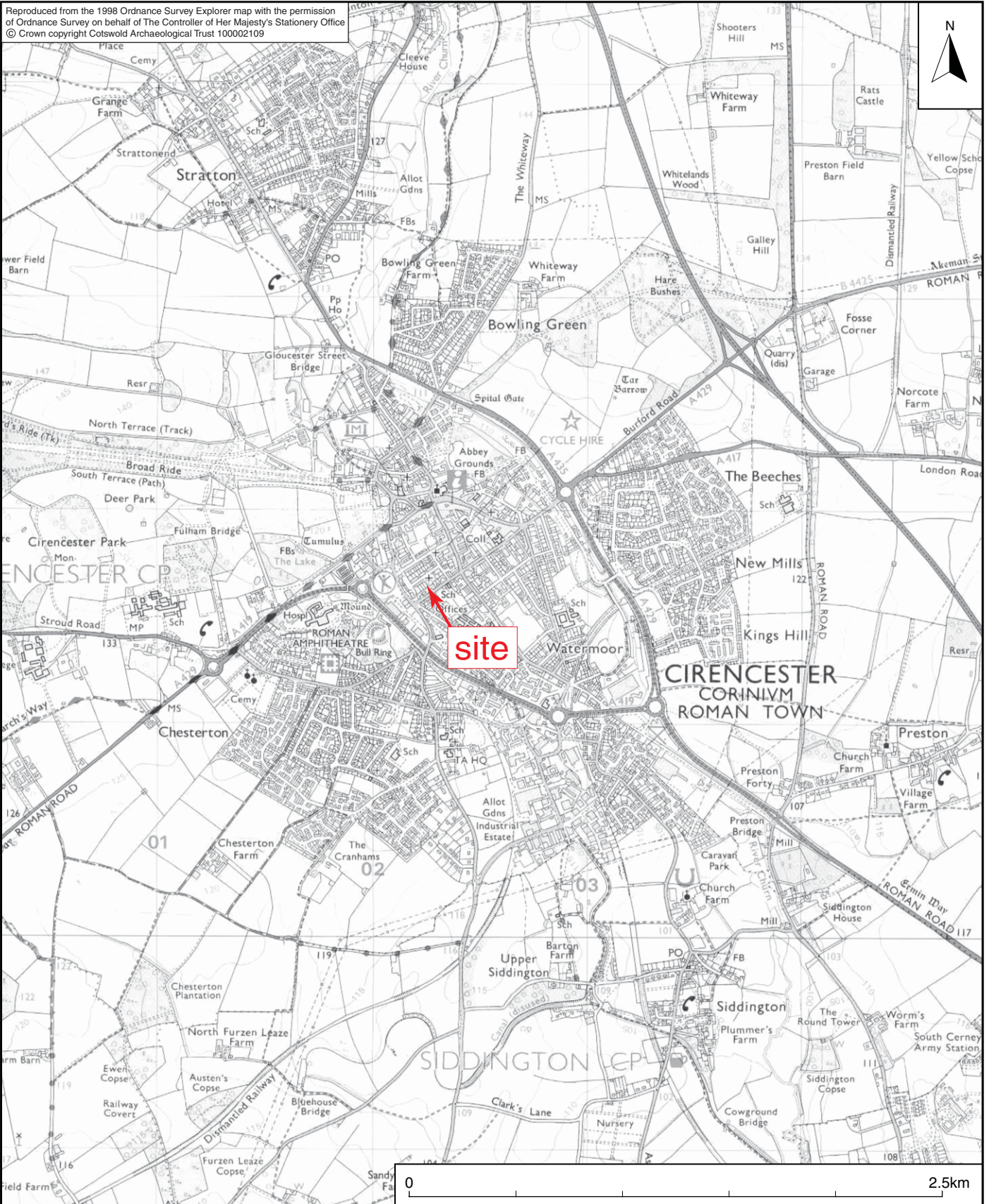
	Trench 1
Current ground level	0.00m (109.47m)
Top of Roman deposits	0.67m (108.80m)
Limit of excavation	0.82m (108.65m)

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

**APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	9 St Peter's Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire; Archaeological Evaluation	
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in December 2007 at the request of Classic Windows and Conservatories Limited on behalf of Mrs Wheeler at 9 St Peter's Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire. A single test pit was excavated. Probable Roman demolition debris was encountered at a depth of 0.67m below the modern ground surface (108.8m AOD). This debris was sealed by 'dark earth' and redeposited mortar.	
Project dates	20th December 2007	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Evaluation	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	None	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	9 St Peter's Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	10m <sup>2</sup>	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SP 02235 01655	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	N/A	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Jonathan Webster	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Corinium Museum, Cirencester	Ceramics, animal bone
Paper	Corinium Museum, Cirencester	Context sheets, trench location plan, section drawing, photographs
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008 9 St Peter's Road, Cirencester: <i>Archaeological Evaluation</i> , CA typescript report no. <b>08039</b>		

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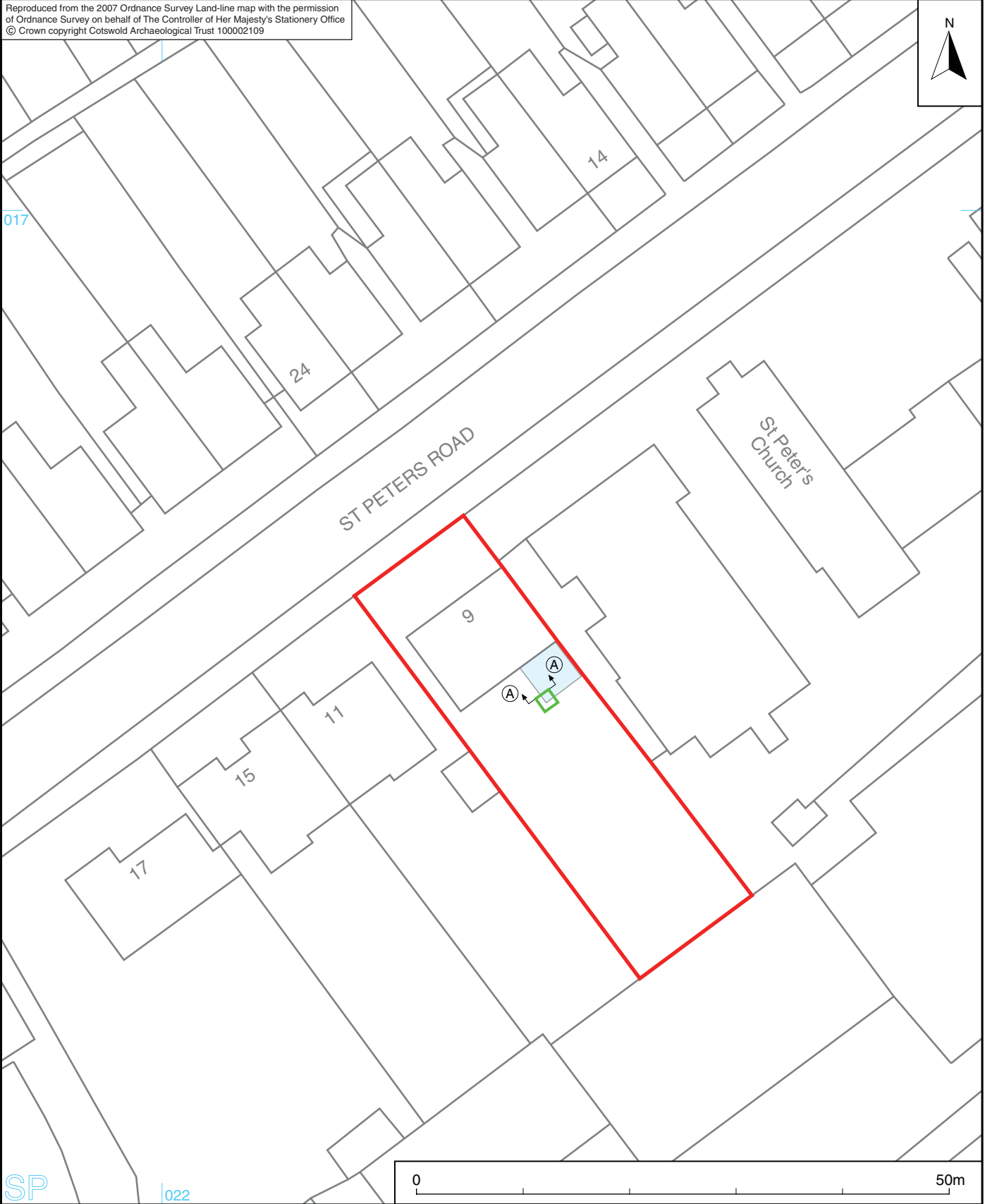
 **COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**




PROJECT TITLE  
**9 St Peter's Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire**

FIGURE TITLE  
**Site location plan**

DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
PJM	1:25,000@A4	2438	<b>1</b>





-  site
-  evaluation trench
-  proposed conservatory



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

9 St Peter's Road, Cirencester,  
Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

**Trench location plan**

DRAWN BY

PJM

SCALE

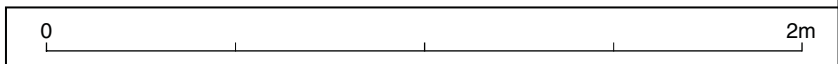
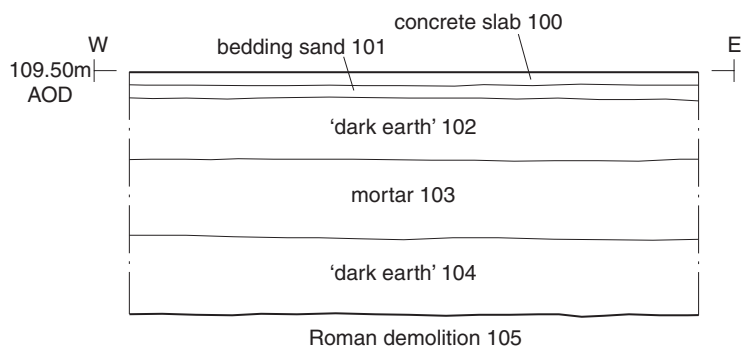
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PROJECT NO.

2438

FIGURE NO.

**2**



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

9 St Peter's Road, Cirencester,  
Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

**Section AA**

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1:20@A4

PROJECT NO.

2438

FIGURE NO.

**3**