

Harlequins Centre Paul Street Exeter

Archaeological Addendum Report



for:
Curlew Alternatives Property LP

CA Project: EX0158
CA Report: EX0158_1

August 2020



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Cirencester Building 11 Kemble Enterprise Park Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 6BQ t. 01285 771 022	Milton Keynes Unit 8, The IO Centre Fingle Drive Stonebridge Milton Keynes Buckinghamshire MK13 0AT t. 01908 564 660	Andover Stanley House Walworth Road Andover Hampshire SP10 5LH t. 01264 347 630	Exeter Unit 1, Clyst Units Cofton Road Marsh Barton Exeter EX2 8QW t. 01392 573 970	Suffolk Unit 5, Plot 11 Maitland Road Lion Barn Industrial Estate Needham Market Suffolk IP6 8NZ t. 01449 900 120
e. enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk				

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SUMMARY

Project name: Harlequins Centre
Location: Paul Street, Exeter, Devon
NGR: 291870 092785

Cotswold Archaeology have previously carried out a programme of archaeological works at the Harlequins Centre, Paul Street, Exeter, Devon. This programme of works comprised a review of archives produced during previous archaeological investigations at the site and a trial trench evaluation.

Subsequent to these works, a programme of Ground Investigation (GI) works was undertaken at the site. The present report briefly summarises the GI works in the light of the previous archaeological works.

The GI works recorded the natural substrate at depths of 0.55m below present ground level (bpgl) to 4.5m bpgl. The depth of the natural substrate within the site appeared to vary relatively abruptly, both between GI holes and when compared to the previous archaeological works at the site. This may indicate differing levels of truncation within the site.

The natural substrate was generally overlain by a made ground deposit, which ranged in thickness from 0.45m to 2.98m. Post-medieval/modern artefacts were present within this layer. The provenance of the made ground is uncertain, although it is possible that it originated at least partially as Roman rampart material. It is known that an earthen rampart was raised behind/inside the Roman Exeter city wall (which runs along the northern site boundary); similar deposits recorded during the previous archaeological evaluation were interpreted as rampart material which had slumped inwards/been redeposited at a later date.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Cotswold Archaeology (CA) have previously carried out a programme of archaeological works at the Harlequins Centre, Paul Street, Exeter, Devon (centred at NGR: 291870 092785; Fig. 1). This programme of works comprised a review of archives produced during previous archaeological investigations at the site (CA 2019a) and a trial trench evaluation (CA 2019b).
- 1.2. Subsequent to these works, a programme of Ground Investigation (GI) works was undertaken at the site (Tweedie Evans Consulting 2019 & 2020; shown on Figs. 2 and 3 of the present report). With the agreement of Andrew Pye (Principal Project Manager (Heritage), Exeter City Council), archaeological monitoring was not maintained during the GI works. The present report briefly summarises the GI works in the light of the previous archaeological works.
- 1.3. The present report is an addendum to the previous CA reports outlined above, which should be referred to for full planning and archaeological backgrounds to the site.

2. METHODOLOGY

- 2.1. The GI fieldwork comprised the excavation of boreholes, dynamic sample holes and trial trenches. Figure 2 shows the GI works locations in relation to the previous archaeological investigations at the site. Figure 3 shows the GI works locations in relation to the proposed development.

3. RESULTS

- 3.1. Appendix A gives brief details of the depth at which the natural geological substrate was exposed in each of the GI holes, as well as the nature of the deposits sealing the natural substrate.

Natural substrate

- 3.2. The natural substrate generally comprised orange-brown gravelly clay. It was exposed at depths ranging from 0.55m below present ground level (bpgl) (DS6) to 4.5m bpgl (BH101). Figure 4 shows the depths at which the natural substrate was recorded in the GI works.

-
- 3.3. The natural substrate lay deepest (3m bpgl +) in an area towards the south-western end of the site (BH101, DS8, DS9, BH5). A further area of deep-lying natural substrate was recorded in the north-eastern part of the site (DS2).
- 3.4. The natural substrate lay 3.55m bpgl in DS8; this was immediately adjacent to Trench 16 of the 1982–85 archaeological works, wherein the natural substrate was recorded at 2.4m bpgl. This appears to indicate abrupt changes in the level of the natural substrate at the site.
- 3.5. In the north-central area of the site, the natural substrate was generally recorded at depths of 2m–3m bpgl. BH103 (natural substrate at 2.45m bpgl) was immediately adjacent to 2019 archaeological evaluation trench T2; the natural substrate lay 1.25m bpgl in T2 (which corresponds better to the also-adjacent BH102 – see below). DS12 (natural substrate at 2.5m bpgl) was immediately adjacent to Trench 15 of the 1982–85 works, which reached a depth of 2m bpgl without exposing the natural substrate. BH2 (natural substrate at 2.4m bpgl) was adjacent to Trench 2 of the 1982–5 archaeological works, wherein the natural substrate was recorded at 3.1m bpgl.
- 3.6. The natural substrate was generally recorded at 1m–2m bpgl in the central area of the site. BH0102 (natural substrate at 1.35m bpgl) was immediately adjacent to 2019 archaeological evaluation trench T2 (natural substrate at 1.25m bpgl).
- 3.7. There were few locations where the natural substrate was recorded at less than 1m bpgl; these were all to the south-west of site centre (BH104, DS6, DS7).

Made ground

- 3.8. The natural substrate was sealed by made ground deposits in all of the GI holes. In most cases, the deposit directly sealing the natural was recorded as brown gravelly clay with inclusions of coal, glass, pottery, tile, slate and brick. This layer ranged in thickness from 0.45m (BH104) to 2.98m (DS8). In DS6, DS7 and DS13, the natural substrate was sealed by modern gravel.

4. DISCUSSION

- 4.1. The GI works recorded the natural substrate at depths of 0.55m bpgl to 4.5m bpgl. The depth of the natural substrate within the site appeared to vary relatively

abruptly, both between GI holes and when compared to the previous archaeological works at the site. This may indicate differing levels of truncation within the site.

4.2. Generally, the natural substrate was overlain by a made ground deposit comprising brown gravelly clay, which ranged in thickness from 0.45m to 2.98m. Inclusions of coal, glass, pottery, tile, slate and brick were recorded within this layer (and plastic and terram, in some locations), which indicates that it is post-medieval/modern in date. There was no evidence for surviving topsoil/subsoil deposits. The presence of made ground layers sealing the natural substrate is indicative of widespread ground disturbance at the site.

4.3. The provenance of the made ground is uncertain, although it is possible that it originated at least partially as Roman rampart material. T1 of the 2019 archaeological evaluation recorded a deep deposit of red/brown sandy clay; this was present from 0.74m bpgl to below the base of the trench (2m bpgl). A similar deposit was recorded in the north-western part of 2019 T2, where it was present from 0.6m bpgl to beyond the base of the trench (1.85m bpgl). The 2019 evaluation recorded the presence of Roman pottery and roof tile in this material, as well as fragments of post-medieval and modern ceramic building material. Similar deposits were also recorded during the previous archaeological works at the site. It is known that an earthen rampart was raised behind/inside the Roman city wall (which runs along the northern site boundary) in the period AD 160–AD 200; the red/brown clayey deposits recorded during the archaeological evaluation were interpreted as rampart material which had slumped inwards/been redeposited at a later date (hence the presence of later artefacts within it).

5. REFERENCES

Cotswold Archaeology 2019a *Harlequins Centre, Paul Street, Exeter: Historic Archive Review* CA typescript report no. **880400.1**

Cotswold Archaeology 2019b *Harlequins Centre, Paul Street, Exeter: Archaeological Evaluation* CA typescript report no. **8880385_1**

Tweedie Evans Consulting 2019 *Paul Street, Exeter: Preliminary Geoenvironmental and Geotechnical Assessment*

Tweedie Evans Consulting 2020 *Paul Street, Exeter: Geoenvironmental Assessment*

APPENDIX A: GI WORKS SUMMARY

Rotary cores

BH101: Red-brown gravelly clay @ 4.5m bpgl. Sealed by brown clayey gravel containing asbestos, coal, slate and brick (2.5m thick).

BH102: Orange-brown clay @ 1.35m bpgl; sealed by dark brown sandy clay containing slate and brick inclusions (0.75m thick).

BH103: Weathered siltstone @ 2.45m bpgl; sealed by red-brown gravelly clay containing brick and coal inclusions (0.85m thick).

BH104: Orange-brown clay @ 0.9m bpgl. Sealed by orange-brown gravelly clay containing slate, brick and coal inclusions (0.45m thick).

BH105: Orange-brown clay @ 2.2m bpgl. Sealed by brown gravelly clay with slate, brick and coal inclusions (1.5m thick).

BH106: Orange-brown gravelly clay @ 2.5m bpgl. Sealed by red-brown gravelly clay with slate, brick and coal inclusions (1.6m thick).

Trial trenches

TT1: Weathered siltstone @ 2.1m bpgl. Sealed by dark brown gravelly clay with slate, bone, brick, metal pipe and geotextile inclusions (1.1m thick).

TT2: Weathered siltstone @ 1.95m bpgl. Sealed by dark brown gravelly clay with slate, bone, brick, metal pipe and geotextile inclusions (1m thick).

Rotary boreholes

BH2: Brown gravelly clay @ 2.4m bpgl. Sealed by orange-brown sandy clay made ground with coal, slate brick and wood inclusions (1.3m thick).

BH3: Weathered Crackington Formation Clay @ 2.5m bpgl. Sealed by red-brown gravelly clay made ground with modern inclusions, including plastic and concrete (1.4m thick).

BH4: Orange-brown gravelly clay @ 2m bpgl. Sealed by dark brown gravelly clay with coal, slate and brick inclusions (1.45m thick).

BH5: Crackington Formation siltstone @ 3m bpgl. Sealed by red-brown silty clay made ground with brick and wood inclusions (1.8m thick).

Dynamic sample holes

DS1(b): Weathered Crackington Formation Clay @ 2.4m bpgl. Sealed by brown gravelly clay made ground with coal and brick inclusions (1.8m thick).

DS2: Red-brown gravelly clay @ 3.35m bpgl. Sealed by orange-red gravelly clay made ground with coal, slate and brick inclusions (0.75m thick).

DS3: Orange-brown gravelly clay @ 1.95m bpgl. Sealed by brown gravelly clay made ground with coal, glass pottery, tile, slate, brick inclusions (0.95m thick).

DS4: Orange-brown gravelly clay @ 1.65m bpgl. Sealed by brown gravelly clay made ground with coal, slate and brick inclusions (0.75m thick).

DS5: Orange-brown gravelly clay @ 1.9m bpgl. Sealed by brown gravelly clay made ground with modern inclusions (coal, glass, pottery, tile, slate and brick). 1.1m thick.

DS6: Crackington Formation siltstone @ 0.55m bpgl. Sealed by gravel made ground (0.45m thick).

DS7: Crackington Formation siltstone @ 0.65m bpgl. Sealed by gravel made ground (0.5m thick).

DS8: Crackington Formation siltstone @ 3.55m bpgl. Sealed by brown gravelly clay made ground with post-med/modern inclusions (slate, brick, ceramics, coal, ash, glass); 2.98m thick.

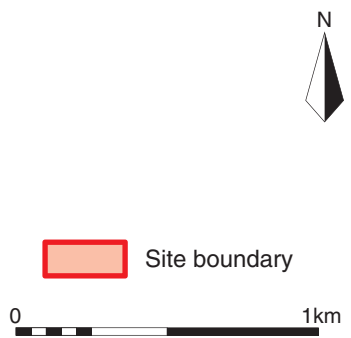
DS9: Orange-brown gravelly clay @ 4.2m bpgl. Sealed by redeposited natural made ground with brick inclusions (2.1m thick).

DS10: Orange gravelly clay @ 2.15m bpgl. Sealed by orange-brown gravelly clay made ground with coal, slate and brick inclusions (0.95m thick).

DS11: Brown gravelly clay @ 2.95m bpgl. Sealed by red-brown gravelly clay made ground with brick inclusions (1.2m thick).

DS12: Orange sandy clay @ 2.5m bpgl. Sealed by brown gravelly clay made ground with slate, brick, coal, ash, glass inclusions (1.1m thick).

DS13: Excavated to 0.3m depth; contained modern gravel/sand made ground.



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Ordnance Survey 0100031673

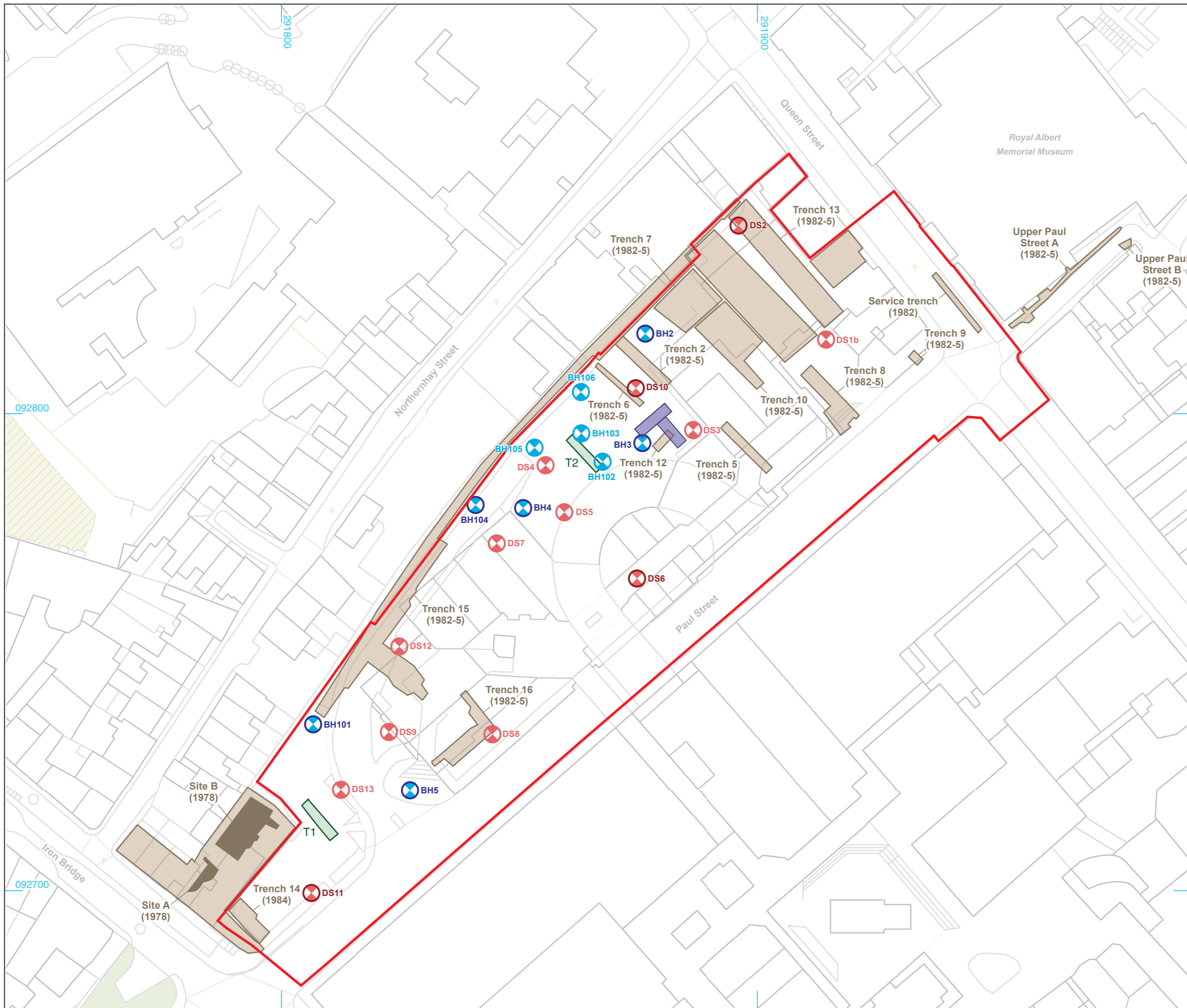


Cotswold Archaeology
 Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 573970
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 Harlequins Centre, Paul Street,
 Exeter, Devon

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	EX0158	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	AO	DATE	06.08.20	
APPROVED BY	DE	SCALE	A4 1:25,000	1



- Site boundary
- Previous archaeological investigations
- Evaluation trench (Cotswold Archaeology, 2019)
- Tweedie Evans Consulting (2020)**
- Evaluation trench
- X Borehole
- X Borehole with installation
- X Dynamic sample hole
- X Dynamic sample hole with installation



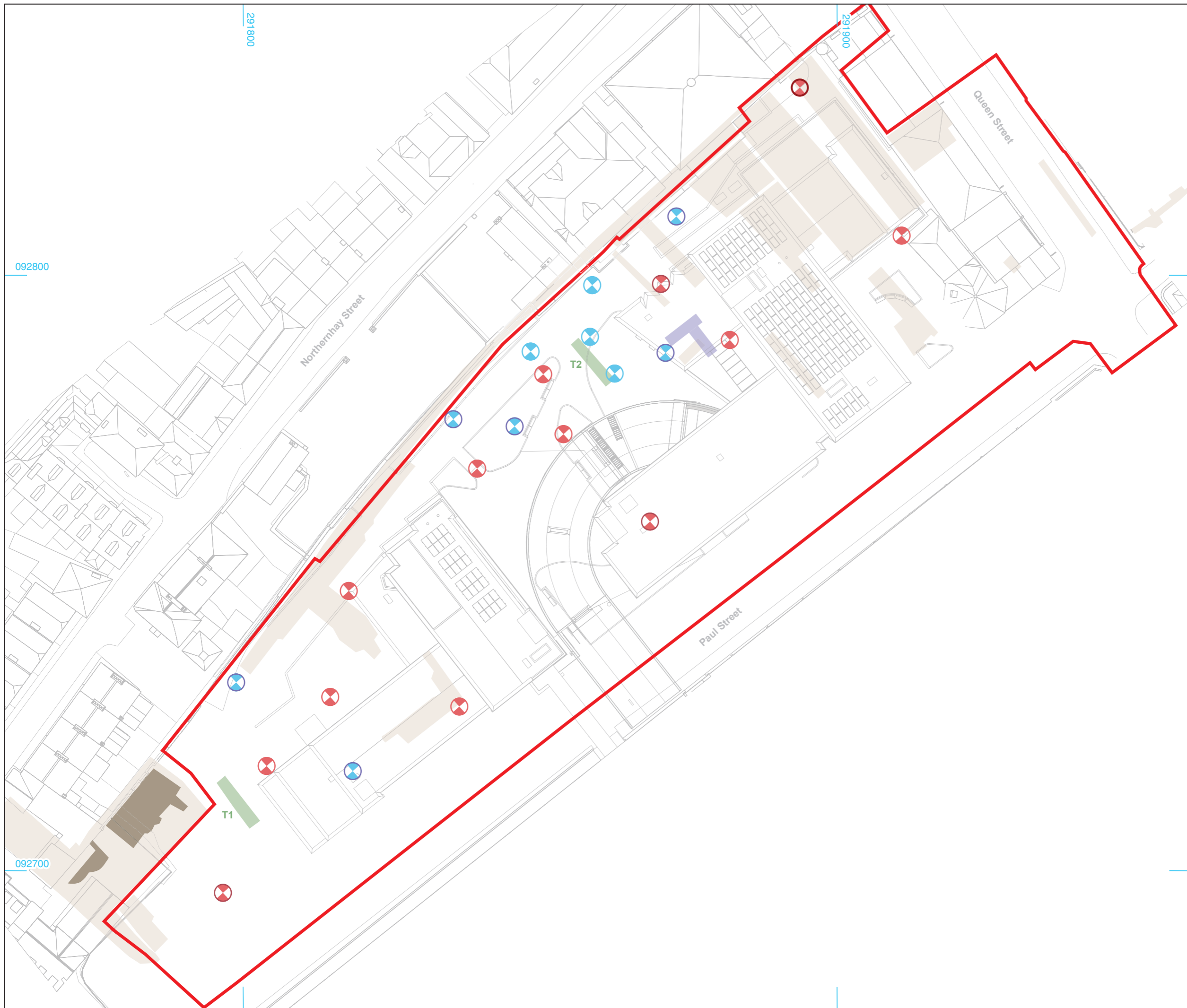
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Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 573970
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

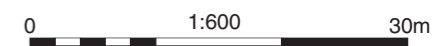
PROJECT TITLE
Harlequins Centre, Paul Street, Exeter, Devon

FIGURE TITLE
GI works in relation to previous archaeological investigations

DRAWN BY	EE/RP	PROJECT NO.	EX0158	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	AO	DATE	10.08.20	2
APPROVED BY	DE	SCALE@A3	1:750	



- Site boundary
- Previous archaeological investigations
- Evaluation trench (Cotswold Archaeology, 2019)
- Tweedie Evans Consulting (2020)**
- Evaluation trench
- + Borehole
- + Borehole with installation
- + Dynamic sample hole
- + Dynamic sample hole with installation



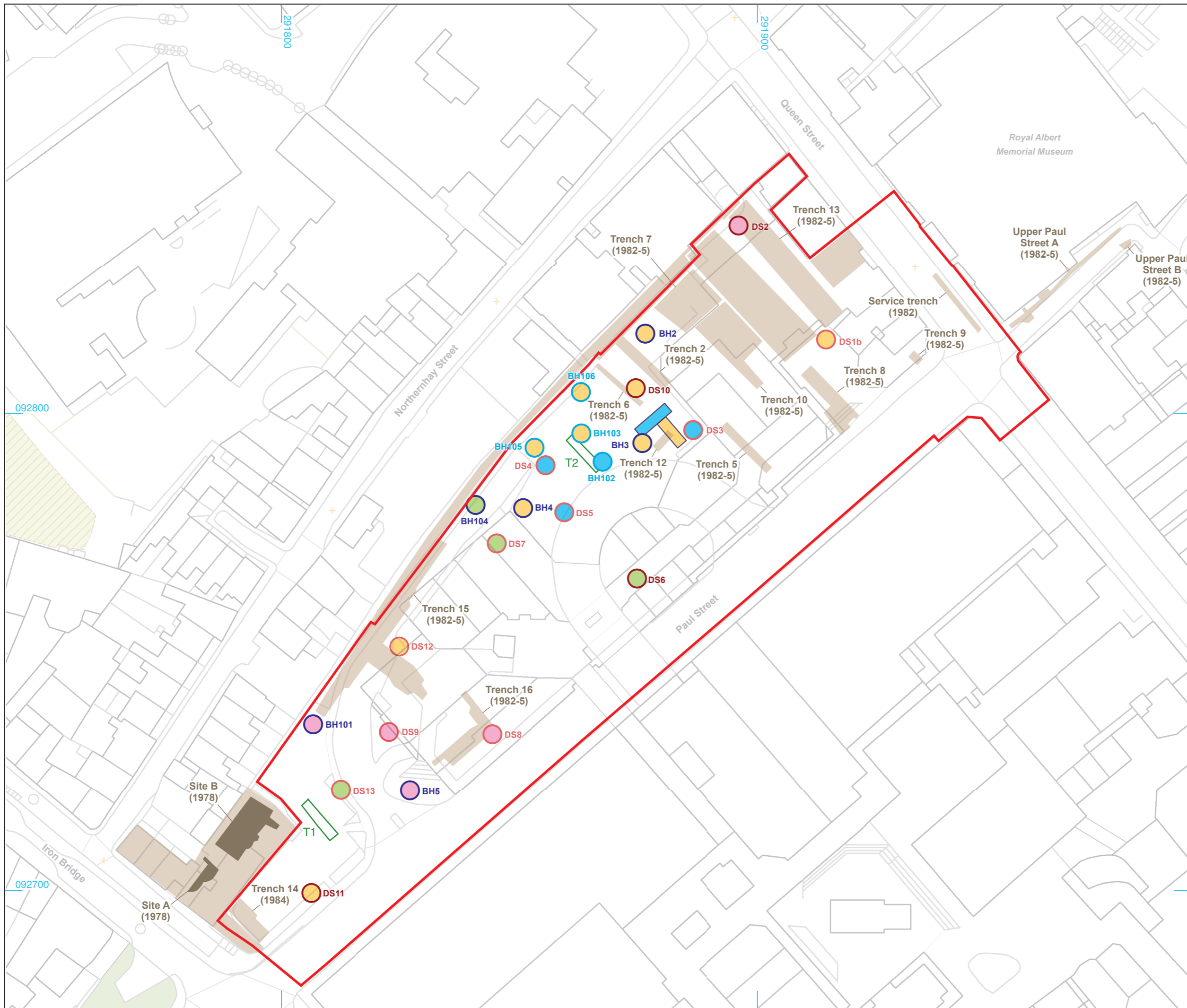
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Cotswold Archaeology
 Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 573970
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
**Harlequins Centre, Paul Street,
 Exeter, Devon**

FIGURE TITLE
**GI works in relation to proposed
 development**

DRAWN BY	EE/RP	PROJECT NO.	EX0158	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	AO	DATE	10.08.20	
APPROVED BY	DE	SCALE@A3	1:600	3



- Site boundary
- Previous archaeological investigations
- Evaluation trench (Cotswold Archaeology, 2019)
- Evaluation trench
- Borehole
- Borehole with installation
- Dynamic sample hole
- Dynamic sample hole with installation

Tweedie Evans Consulting (2020)

- Evaluation trench
- Borehole
- Borehole with installation
- Dynamic sample hole
- Dynamic sample hole with installation

Depth of natural clay (Cm bpgl)

- <1m
- 1 - 1.99m
- 2 - 2.99m
- >3m



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

PROJECT TITLE
 Harlequins Centre, Paul Street,
 Exeter, Devon

FIGURE TITLE
 GI works showing depths of natural
 clay

DRAWN BY	EE/RP	PROJECT NO.	EX0158	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	AO	DATE	11.08.20	4
APPROVED BY	DE	SCALE@A3	1:750	

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

