

**Chester Street Gas Main Replacement  
Cirencester  
Gloucestershire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

*for*

**Grontmij**

*on behalf of*

**Wales and West Utilities**


CA Project: 4690  
CA Report: 14438

September 2014

# Chester Street Gas Main Replacement Cirencester Gloucestershire

## Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 4690  
CA Report: 14438

prepared by	Peter Busby, Project Supervisor
date	1 September 2014
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date	1 September 2014
approved by	Simon Cox, Head of Fieldwork
signed	
date	23 September 2014
issue	01

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## CONTENTS

SUMMARY .....	2
1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
<i>The site</i> .....	3
<i>Archaeological background</i> .....	3
<i>Archaeological objectives</i> .....	4
<i>Methodology</i> .....	4
2. RESULTS (FIG 2) .....	5
3. DISCUSSION.....	5
4. CA PROJECT TEAM.....	5
5. REFERENCES.....	6
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS .....	7
APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM.....	8

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
- Fig. 2 Plan of observed groundworks (1:1250).



## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Chester Street Gas Main Replacement  
**Location:** Cirencester, Gloucestershire  
**NGR:** SP 0271 0160  
**Type:** Watching Brief  
**Date:** 13 January - 17 February 2014  
**SMC:** S00073381  
**Location of Archive:** To be deposited with Corinium Museum  
**Site Code:** CHSC14

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundwork associated with the replacement of the gas main along Chester Street, Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

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



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In January and February 2014 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Grontmij on behalf of Wales and West Utilities at Chester Street, Cirencester gas replacement route (centred on NGR: SP 0271 0160; Fig. 1). The gas main replacement was required by the Health and Safety Executive and Ofgem to update and rationalise the gas main network. Given the works were likely to impact upon buried archaeological remains (including areas of a Scheduled Monument, see Fig. 2), following consultation with English Heritage and Charles Parry (Archaeologist for Gloucestershire County Council), an archaeological watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) for the works (SMC ref. S00073381). The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the groundworks.
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the SMC and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2014) and approved by Melanie Barge, Inspector of Ancient Monuments, English Heritage (South West region) and Mr Parry. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2009), the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Gloucestershire* (GCC 1996), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991), the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006).

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The gas main replacement route (hereafter 'the route') lies in the south-central part of modern Cirencester, specifically Chester Street and Chester Crescent. The route lies on level ground, at approximately 110m AOD.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Cornbrash Formation - Limestone and Forest Marble Formation - Mudstone of the Jurassic Period with Superficial deposits of River Terrace gravel (BGS 2014).

### ***Archaeological background***

- 1.5 The following is a summary of archaeological assessment and investigation which has occurred in the area surrounding the route.

- 1.6 The route lies within the walls of the Roman Town of *Corinium Dobunorum* which was the *civitas*, or tribal capital, of the *Dobunni* from the late 1st century AD (Holbrook 1998, 57). Specifically, it lies to the south-east of the forum and basilica within Insula VI including elements within the Scheduled Monument of Corinium Roman Town (SM GTC 361). Archaeological investigations undertaken at the adjacent Admiral's Walk (within St. Michael's Park) identified a large Roman public building that comprised broad ranges around at least three sides of a central courtyard with a portico fronting Ermin Street (Street F) to the north-west. The building sealed deposits associated with the military occupation prior to the establishment of the Roman town.
- 1.7 To the west of the route, recent archaeological evaluation at 28 Chester Street had identified what was considered to be a level of Roman activity c.2m beneath the existing ground level (CA 2006).

### ***Archaeological objectives***

- 1.8 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.

### ***Methodology***

- 1.9 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2013). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising excavations for the installation of the replacement gas main (Fig. 2).
- 1.10 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2013).

- 1.11 The archive and artefacts from the watching brief are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the site archive will be deposited with the 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.

## 2. RESULTS (FIG. 2)

- 2.1 The natural geological substrate was not exposed by the groundworks. The typical stratigraphic sequence observed comprised a buried soil horizon (103, not excavated), overlain by made ground/levelling layers (102, typically 0.16m in depth) which were in turn overlain by modern road surfaces (101, typically 0.11m in depth).
- 2.2 The buried soil horizon may be of archaeological interest however given nature of the groundworks, the limited area of hand excavation provided no opportunity for archaeological characterisation. Outside of this, no features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material was recovered.

## 3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see *archaeological background* above), the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. Given the known survival of archaeological remains c.2m below present ground level in the nearby area (such as those recorded at 28 Chester Street), the absence of archaeological deposits is likely attributable to be limited area and depth of observed groundworks.

## 4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Peter Busby. The report was written by Peter Busby. The illustrations were prepared by Aleksandra Osinska. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neil. The project was managed for CA by Ian Barnes.

## 5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) *Geology of Britain Viewer*,  
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 16 December 2013

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2006 *28 Chester Street, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation*, CA Report No. **06033**

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013 *Castle Street Gas Main Replacement, Cirencester: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

Holbrook, N. (ed.) 1998 *Cirencester Excavations V: Cirencester: The Roman Town Defences, Public Buildings and Shops* Cirencester: Cotswold Archaeological Trust



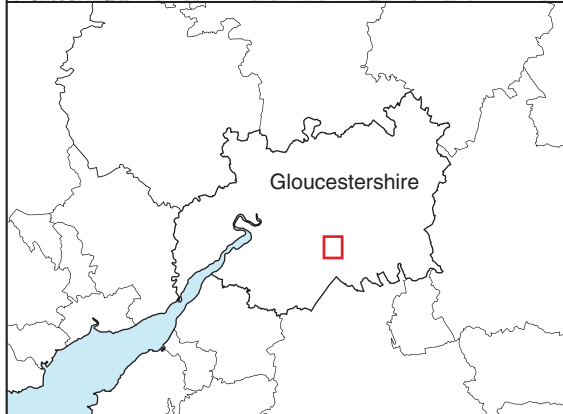
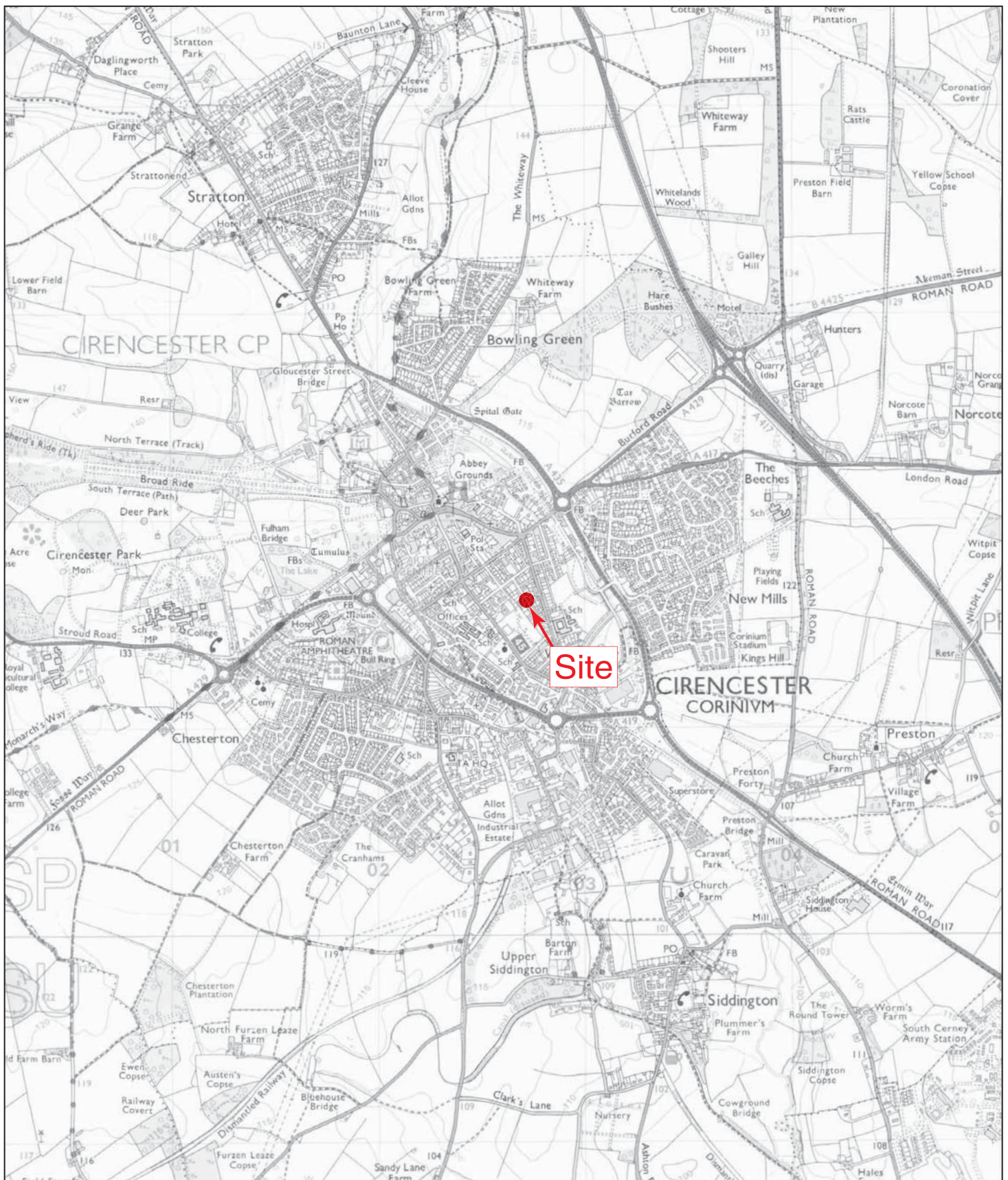


**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
Route	100	Layer		Modern surface	Tarmac			0.9	
Route	101	Layer		Levelling layer	Dark black gravel and stone			0.4	
Route	102	Layer		Made ground	Stone/crushed concrete/CBM			0.4	
Route	103	Layer		Made ground	Dark grey brown sand silt			>0.15	

**APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Chester Street Gas Main Replacement, Cirencester, Gloucestershire	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundwork associated with the replacement of the gas main along Chester Street, Cirencester, Gloucestershire.  No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered	
Project dates	13 January – 17 February 2014	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	N/A	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Chester Street, Cirencester, Gloucestershire	
Study area		
Site co-ordinates	SP 0271 0160	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	N/A	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ian Barnes	
Project Supervisor	Peter Busby	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	Corinium Museum	Context sheets
Digital	Corinium Museum	Digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 <i>Chester Street Gas Main Replacement, Cirencester: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report <b>14438</b>		



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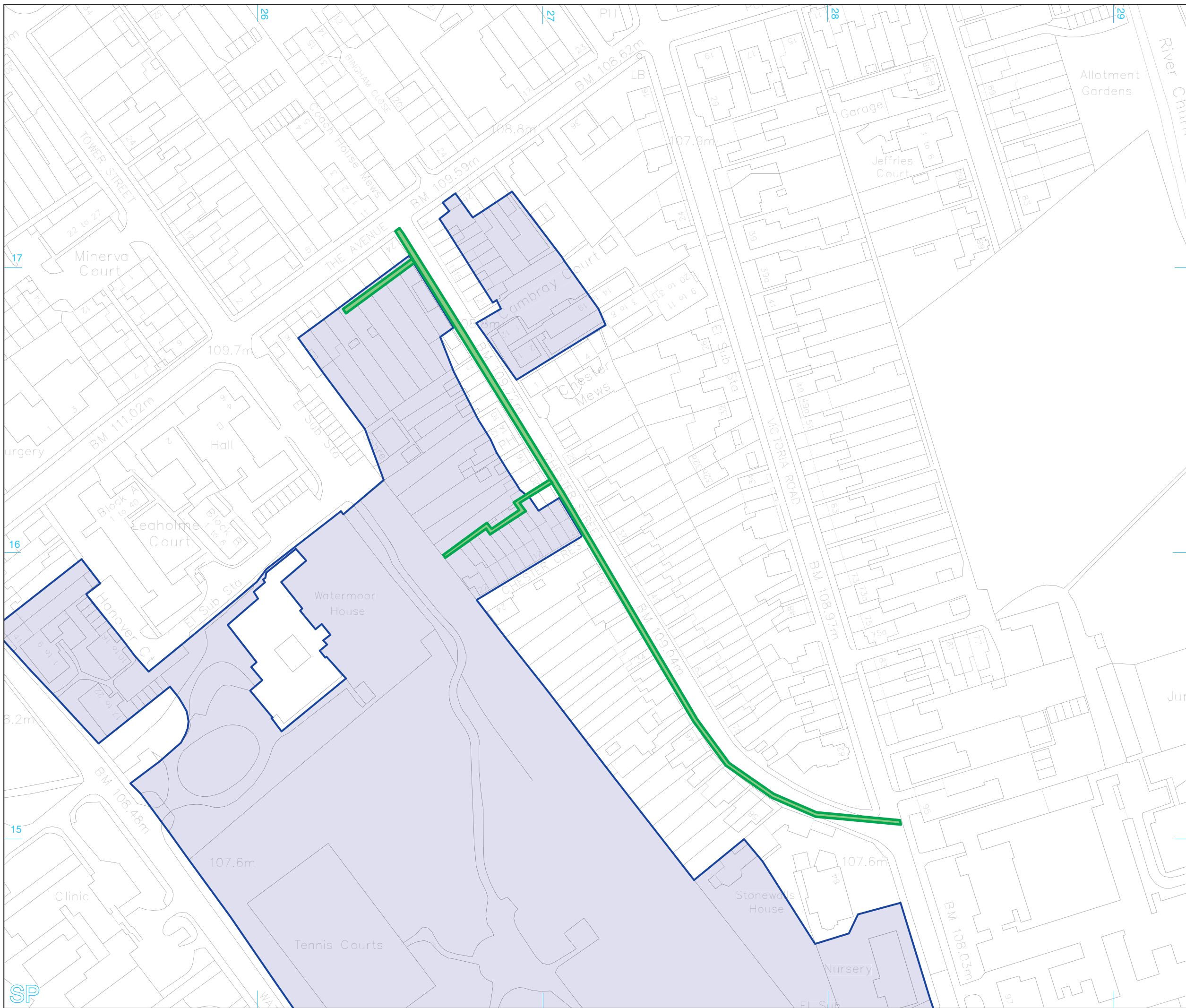
PROJECT TITLE

**Chester Street Gas Main Replacement  
Cirencester, Gloucestershire**

FIGURE TITLE

**Site location plan**

PROJECT NO.	4690	DATE	13/08/2014	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	AO	REVISION	00	<b>1</b>
APPROVED BY	LM	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	



- observed groundworks
- Scheduled Ancient Monument  
GC361



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PROJECT TITLE  
**Chester Street Gas Main Replacement**  
 Cirencester, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE  
**Plan of observed groundworks**

PROJECT NO. 4690	DATE 25/09/2014	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY AO	REVISION 01 RP	<b>2</b>
APPROVED BY LM	SCALE@A3 1:1250	

