

# Gloucester Royal Hospital Gloucester

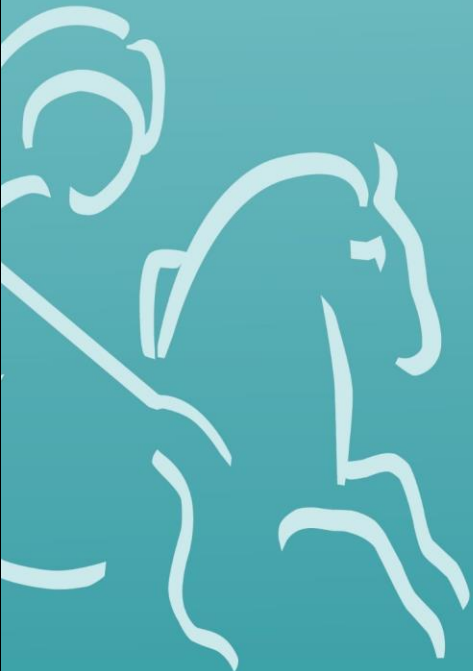
*Archaeological Excavation*



*for:*  
Kier Regional Building (Western  
& Wales)

CA Project: CR0717  
CA Report: CR0717\_1

January 2022



# Gloucester Royal Hospital Gloucester

## *Archaeological Excavation*

CA Project: CR0717  
CA Report: CR0717\_1

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## SUMMARY

<b>Project name:</b>	Gloucester Royal Hospital
<b>Location:</b>	Gloucester
<b>NGR:</b>	384148 218590
<b>Type:</b>	Excavation
<b>Date:</b>	27 September to 22 October 2021
<b>Planning reference:</b>	GCC ref: 20/00594/FUL
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with Museum of Gloucester and Data Service (ADS)
<b>Site Code:</b>	GLVH21

In September 2021, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological excavation at Gloucester Royal Hospital, Gloucester, in relation to groundworks associated with the extensions to the existing Emergency Department (ED).

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed, and no artefactual material was recovered. Widespread truncation of the natural substrate was recorded in all areas of the site.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Between September/October 2021, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological excavation at Gloucester Royal Hospital, Gloucester (centred at NGR: 384148 218590; Fig. 1). The excavation was undertaken for Kier Regional Building (Western & Wales).
- 1.2. Gloucester City Council (GCC) has granted planning permission for two proposed extensions to the existing Emergency Department (ED; GCC planning ref: 20/00594/FUL). Condition 13 of this planning permission requires the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with an approved *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI).
- 1.3. The scope of this excavation was defined by Andrew Armstrong, City Archaeologist, Gloucester City Council, in a *Brief* (GCC 2020). The works undertaken differs from those outlined in the WSI (CA 2021). The early monitoring on deep excavations across the site (*Watching brief* (WB) part of the works agreed in the WSI) found evidence for deep truncation through the natural. It was agreed with Andrew Armstrong, that the second part of the works agreed in the WSI (*Strip, map and sample excavation*) and the continuation of the WB was not required further on.
- 1.4. The excavation was also undertaken in line with *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (ClfA 2014; updated October 2020), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* (Historic England 2015).

### The site

- 1.5. The proposed development site (eastern extension) is approximately 944m<sup>2</sup> in extent. It lies to the south and east of the existing Gloucester Royal Hospital buildings and is currently occupied by pedestrian and vehicular access to the ED. The site is flat and lies at c. 18m AOD.
- 1.6. The underlying bedrock geology of the site is mapped as Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation (undifferentiated), which formed in the Jurassic and Triassic Periods (BGS 2022).

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## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. Development at Gloucester City Hospital has been extensive but relatively few formal archaeological investigations have been undertaken and the archaeological potential is therefore unclear.

2.2. Previous programmes of Ground Investigation (GI) works undertaken on the site indicate the top of the natural substrate is located at c. 1.1m below present ground level (bpgl; Jubb 2020). It is currently anticipated that modern deposits (existing surface, make up deposits etc) will extend to a depth of 0.6m bpgl. Below this depth buried soil horizons may be anticipated, although modern disturbance is also likely to be identified; it should be noted that there is a large number of underground services within the building footprint

## 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1. The general objectives of the archaeological excavation were to:

- identify, investigate and record any significant buried archaeological deposits/features at the site prior to their destruction by the proposed development;
- recover and analyse any artefactual evidence;
- sample and analyse environmental remains to create a better understanding of past land use and economy;
- report on and publish the archaeological results at a level appropriate to their significance; and
- compile a stable, ordered, accessible project archive.

## 4. METHODOLOGY

4.1. The excavation comprised the monitoring of the excavation of eight trenches for services and foundations in the location shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2).

4.2. The excavation areas were set out on OS National Grid co-ordinates using Leica GPS. Overburden was stripped from the excavation areas by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket, except where hardstanding and surfacing were present. All machining was conducted under archaeological supervision to the top of the natural substrate.

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- 4.3. Features/deposits were investigated, planned and recorded in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
  - 4.4. Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential, but no deposits were identified that required sampling.
  - 4.5. CA will make arrangements with Museum of Gloucester for the deposition of the project archive. A digital archive will also be prepared and deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). The archives (museum and digital) will be prepared and deposited in accordance with *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (ClfA 2014; updated October 2020), *Gloucestershire Archaeological Archives Standards and guidelines* (Samantha Paul 2021).
  - 4.6. A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## 5. RESULTS

- 5.1. This section provides an overview of the results of the excavation. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are given in Appendix A.
- 5.2. A similar stratigraphic sequence was observed across the site. The natural geological substrate was identified in Trenches 3 and 5-8, at an average depth 0.9 m bpgl. This was directly overlain by made ground deposits, measuring c. 0.3m in thickness, which were in turn sealed by 0.4m of modern levelling layers and surfacing.
- 5.3. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed, and no artefactual material was recovered.

## 6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1. Despite the archaeological potential of the site (see *Archaeological Background*), the excavation identified no archaeological remains within the excavation areas.
- 6.2. The sequence of deposits identified, with the natural substrate directly overlain by modern deposits, suggests that the area has been disturbed during previous groundworks; with the natural horizon likely truncated by the construction of the extant hospital buildings and installation of associated services.

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## 7. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 7.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Liam Wilson, Mark Brett, and Anthony Beechey. This report was written by Monica Fombellida. The report illustrations were prepared by Helena Munoz-Mojado. The project archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill, Archives Officer. The project was managed for CA by Laurie Coleman and Monica Fombellida.

## 8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2022 Geology of Britain Viewer

<https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/geology-of-britain-viewer/> Accessed 21 January 2022

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2021 *Gloucester Royal Hospital, Gloucester: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Excavation.*

GCC (Gloucester City Council) 2020 20/00594/FUL – *Gloucester Royal Hospital: Brief for an Archaeological Excavation*

Jubb 2020 *Gloucestershire Royal Hospital: Ground Investigation Review*

Webster, C. 2007 *The Archaeology of South West England: South West Archaeological Research Framework Resource Assessment and Research Agenda*



## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Areas	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
1	100	layer		Tarmac	Tarmac surface			0.2
1	101	layer		Made ground	Brown-grey angular stones	1.42	0.6	0.4
1	102	layer		Made ground	Mid red angular stones	3.8	0.6	0.38
1	103	layer		Cement	Cement surface	2	0.6	0.2
1	104	cut		Modern service	Steep sides	0.6	0.7	0.7
1	105	fill	104	Backfill	Mid grey angular stones	0.6	0.7	0.7
1	106	cut		Modern service	Steep sides	0.6	1.1	0.4
1	107	fill	106	Backfill	Dark grey angular stones	0.6	1.1	0.4
1	108	layer		Made ground	Dark brown-grey clay.			0.52
1	109	layer		Made ground	Mid red pea gravel	1.72	0.6	0.2
2	200	layer		Tarmac	Tarmac surface	1.5	1.5	0.2
2	201	layer		Made ground	Brown-grey angular stones	1.5	1.5	0.15
2	202	layer		Made ground	Blue-grey angular stones	1.5	1.5	0.2
2	203	layer		Made ground	Green-grey clay	1.5	1.5	0.4
2	204	layer		Fill	Bright yellow-orange sand. Fill of services trench	0.5	0.5	0.25
3	300	layer		Tarmac	Tarmac surface	5	1.5	0.15
3	301	layer		Made ground	Brown-grey angular stones	5	1.5	0.2
3	302	layer		Made ground	Blue Grey stone levelling	5	1.5	0.2
3	303	layer		Made ground	Green-grey clay	5	1.5	0.3
3	304	layer		Made ground	Blue grey clay	5	1.5	0.1
4	400	layer		Cement	Cement surface	5	0.6	0.11
4	401	layer		Made ground	Brown-yellow sand	5	0.6	0.1
4	402	cut		Modern service	Sheer sides	0.6	1.52	0.2
4	403	fill	402	fill	Bright yellow sand	0.6	1.52	0.2
4	404	Str.		Modern service	Redbrick drain culvert	0.6	1.6	
4	405	layer		Made ground	Red-brown angular gravel	1.45	0.6	0.25
4	406	layer		Made ground	Blue- grey gravel	1.45	0.6	0.35
4	407	layer		Made ground	Red-brown angular gravel	1.45	0.6	0.4
5	500	layer		Tarmac	Tarmac surface	1.5	1.5	0.2
5	501	layer		Made ground	Brown-yellow angular gravel	1.5	1.5	0.3
5	502	cut		Modern service	Sheer sided	1.5	1	0.7
5	503	fill	502	fill	Red angular gravel	1.5	1	0.7
5	504	layer		Made ground	Red-yellow gravel and sand	1.5	0.5	0.1
5	505	layer		Made ground	Red angular gravel	1.5	0.5	0.3
5	506	layer		Made ground	Yellow- brown clay	1.5	0.5	0.1
5	507	layer		Natural	Blue clay	1.5	0.5	0.2
6	600	layer		Tarmac	Tarmac surface	4	3	0.22
6	601	layer		Made ground	Red-yellow sand and gravel	4	3	0.43
6	602	cut		Modern service	Modern drain	4	1.2	0.9
6	603	fill	602	fill	Grey clay with CBM inclusions	4	1.2	0.9
6	604	layer		Made ground	Grey and orange clay and sand. Possible alluvial deposit	4	1.2	0.7
6	605	layer		Natural	Blue clay	4	1.2	0.2

7	700	layer		Tarmac	Tarmac surface	4	3	0.21
7	701	layer		Made layer	Red angular gravel	4	3	0.34
7	702	layer		Made layer	Blue-grey clay and CBM	4	3	0.1
7	703	layer		Made layer	Blue-grey clay. Possible alluvial deposit	4	3	0.3
7	704	layer		Natural	Blue-grey clay	4	3	0.2
8	800	layer		Tarmac	Tarmac layer	25	>1	0.2
8	801	layer		Made layer	Red-yellow type 1 gravel	25	>1	0.45
8	802	layer		Made layer	Blue clay	25	>1	0.35
8	803	cut		Construction cut	Sheer construction cut for hospital.	3.5	1.1	2
8	804	fill	803	fill	Blue-grey redeposited clay	3.5	1.1	2

## APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project name	Gloucester Royal Hospital, Gloucester	
Short description	<p>In September 2021, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological excavation at Gloucester Royal Hospital, Gloucester, in relation to groundworks associated with the extensions to the existing Emergency Department (ED).</p> <p>No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed, and no artefactual material was recovered. Widespread truncation of the natural substrate was recorded in all areas of the site.</p>	
Project dates	27 September- 22 October 2021	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	Unknown	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site location	Gloucester Royal Hospital, Gloucester	
Study area (m <sup>2</sup> /ha)	944 m <sup>2</sup>	
Site co-ordinates	384148 218590	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Gloucester City Council	
Project design (WSI) originator	CA	
Project Manager	Laurie Coleman & Monica Fombellida	
Project Supervisor	Liam Wilson	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)</b>	<b>Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)</b>
Paper	Museum of Gloucester	Context sheets, matrices, Trench sheets
Digital	Museum of Gloucester	Database, digital photos, Geophysical survey
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2022 <i>Gloucester Royal Hospital, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> CA typescript report <b>CR0717_1</b>		

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 Site boundary



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
Gloucester Royal Hospital,  
Gloucestershire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
Site location plan

<b>DRAWN BY</b>	<b>HMM</b>	<b>PROJECT NO.</b>	<b>CR0717</b>	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
<b>CHECKED BY</b>	<b>DJB</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>29/11/2021</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>APPROVED BY</b>	<b>LW</b>	<b>SCALE@A4</b>	<b>1:25,000</b>	





- Site boundary
- Excavated trench
- Modern




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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Gloucester Royal Hospital,  
 Gloucestershire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 The site, showing excavation areas

<b>DRAWN BY</b>	<b>HMM</b>	<b>PROJECT NO.</b>	<b>CR0717</b>	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
<b>CHECKED BY</b>	<b>DJB</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>29/11/2021</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>APPROVED BY</b>	<b>LW</b>	<b>SCALE@A3</b>	<b>1:200</b>	





General view of Trench 6 (1m scale)



General view of Trench 8, looking north (1m scale)