

23 Querns Lane Cirencester Gloucestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
Abberley Design Ltd

on behalf of
Mr & Mrs King

CA Project: CR0226
CA Report: CR0226_1

December 2019



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A	26.11.2019	Paolo Guarino	Cliff Bateman	Final		Laurie Coleman

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	23 Querns Lane
Location:	Cirencester, Gloucestershire
NGR:	402284 201600
Type:	Watching Brief
Date:	4 November 2019
Planning Reference:	Cotswold District Council 19/02506/FUL, condition 5
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Corinium Museum, Cirencester
Site Code:	CAQUEC19

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a two-storey extension at 23 Querns Lane, Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

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



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In November 2019 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Abberley Design Ltd, on behalf of Mr and Mrs King, at 23 Querns Lane, Cirencester, Gloucestershire (centred at NGR: 402284 201600 Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to planning consent for a two-storey extension and alterations to the existing property that was granted by Cotswold District Council (CDC, ref: 19/02506/FUL, condition 5).
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a recommendation by Charles Parry, Archaeologist, Gloucester County Council Archaeology Service (GCCAS), the archaeological advisor to CDC, and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2019a) that was approved by the CDC acting on the advice of Charles Parry. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014). It was monitored by Charles Parry.

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 0.04ha and comprises a residential property, temporary ancillary structures and its associated grounds. The site is bound to the north-west by Querns Lane and to the south, east and west by further residential properties and their associated grounds. The site is broadly level and lies at approximately 99m AOD.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as mudstone of the Forest Marble Formation and limestone of the Cornbrash Formation, both formed during the Jurassic Period. Superficial gravel River Terrace Deposits of the Quaternary Period are also recorded (BGS 2019).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Archaeological interest in the site arises primarily from its location within the Roman civitas capital of *Corinium Dobunorum*, parts of which are today protected as a Scheduled Monument (National Monument 1003426; see Fig. 2 for location and extent). The site lies in *insula III* of the Roman town, just inside the defensive circuit. The Fosse Way runs along the north-western side of the site, the route of which is now broadly followed by Querns Lane. The site lies to the south-west of the historic

core of the Anglo-Saxon and later medieval town, and there is no recorded post-Roman development in the area until the 19th century (CA 2019b).

- 2.2 Previous archaeological works in the surrounding area have revealed the preserved remains of Roman buildings and streets. An evaluation undertaken at Burgess' Yard, c. 50m to the south of the current site, identified evidence of Roman buildings, streets and defences (CAT 1992). Archaeological works (including evaluation and watching brief), undertaken within the current site and immediately to the south and south-east (CAT 1999 and 2001) identified well-preserved Late Roman deposits at depths of between 0.35m and 1.12m below the modern ground surface. These were typically overlain by post-Roman 'dark-earth' deposits. A test-pit excavated within the current site boundary (TP1) during these works identified *in-situ* Roman deposits at a depth of 0.8m below the present ground level (bpgl; see Fig. 2 for location).
- 2.3 An evaluation undertaken in 2004 at 25-27 Querns Lane, c. 12m to the west of the current site, revealed Roman demolition deposits, possible Roman structures and surfaces at depths of approximately 1.1m to 1.5m bpgl (CA 2004).
- 2.4 An evaluation undertaken in 2018 at 21 Querns Lane, c. 25m north-east of the site, also revealed Roman demolition deposits from a depth of approximately 0.65m bpgl, a wall of possible Roman date at 0.76m bpgl, as well as post-Roman robber trenching and post-Roman 'dark-earth' or cultivation soil deposits (CA 2018a).
- 2.5 At 42 Querns Lane, c.30m north-east of the site, a Roman wall, gravel surfacing and demolition material between 1.2m and 1.5m below the present ground level. A post-Roman robber cut, most probably targeting a Roman wall, was also identified, sealed by reworked 'dark-earth'/post-Roman agricultural soils (CA 2018b).
- 2.6 An archaeological evaluation (T1) undertaken within the current site in May 2019 identified a probable consolidation layer for a Roman floor and demolition material at 1m bpgl (CA 2019b; see Fig. 2 for test-pit location). A post-Roman robber cut, most probably targeting a Roman wall, was also identified and was sealed by post-Roman cultivation soils (*ibid.*).



3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 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.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2019a). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising the hand and mechanical excavation of a shallow rafted foundation, typically 0.25m in depth with deeper groundworks penetrating to 0.38m in depth around the foundation perimeter (see Fig. 2).

4.2 No archaeological deposits were encountered but written, graphic and photographic records were compiled of the observed deposit, in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.

4.3 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and 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.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3)

5.1 The observed groundworks, measuring 5.4m in length, 3.8m in width, were excavated to a maximum depth of 0.38m and were wholly contained within the modern topsoil. Consequently, no features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 As a consequence of the shallow foundation design adopted for the development the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. Rather the intrusive groundworks were founded within modern topsoil above the Roman and later 'dark-earth' deposits that were identified during the preceding evaluation.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Hazel O'Neil. The report was written by Paolo Guarino. The illustrations were prepared by Amy Wright. The archive has been compiled by Hazel O'Neill, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.

8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2019 *Geology of Britain Viewer*
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 26 November 2019

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2004 *25-27 Querns Lane, Cirencester: Archaeological Evaluation*, CA Report No. **04103**

CA 2018a *21 Querns Lane, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation*, Report no. **18201**

CA 2018b *42 Querns Lane, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation*. CA typescript report **18491**

CA 2019a *23 Querns Lane, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

CA 2019b *23 Querns Lane, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation*, Report no. **CR0089_1**



CAT (Cotswold Archaeological Trust) 1992 *Burgess' Yard, Querns Road, Cirencester: Archaeological Evaluation*, CAT Report No. **9276**

CAT 1999 *Land off Querns Lane, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, Archaeological Evaluation*, CAT Report No. **98973**

CAT 2001 *Land off Querns Lane, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, Archaeological Monitoring and Recording*, CAT Report No. **001219**

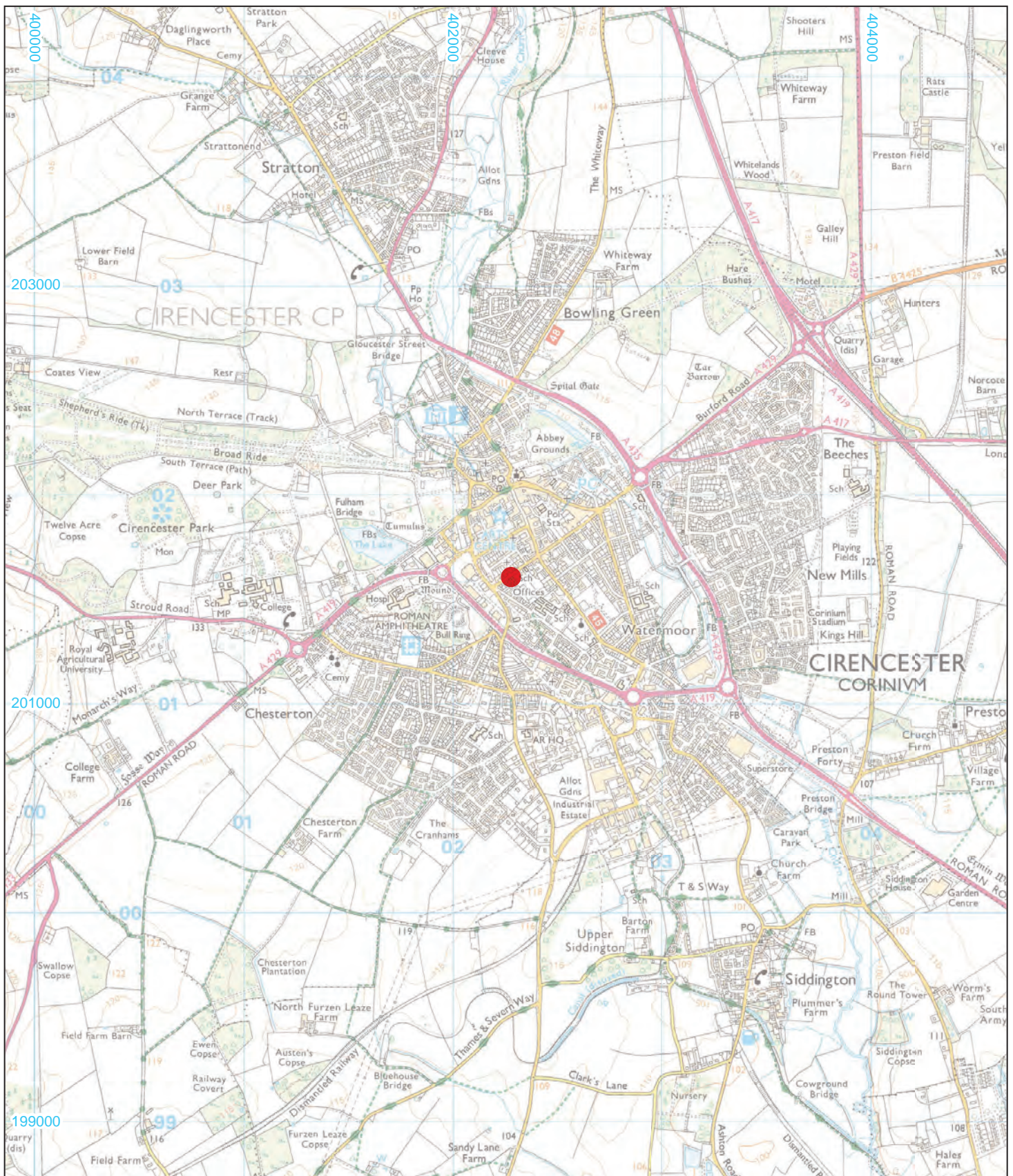


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		topsoil	Very dark brown loamy silt	5.4	3.8	0.38	modern

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS	
Project Name	23 Querns Lane, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, Archaeological Watching Brief
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with construction of a two-storey extension at 23 Querns Lane, Cirencester, Gloucestershire. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered
Project dates	4.11.2019
Project type	Watching Brief
Previous work	Archaeological Evaluation (CA 2019b)
Future work	Unknown
PROJECT LOCATION	
Site Location	23 Querns Lane, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, Archaeological Watching Brief
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.04ha
Site co-ordinates	402284 201600
PROJECT CREATORS	
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology
Project Brief originator	None
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman
Project Supervisor	Hazel O'Neil
MONUMENT TYPE	
None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	
None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	
Intended final location of archive:	Content
Paper	Corinium Museum
Digital	Corinium Museum
	Trench sheet
	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY	
Cotswold Archaeology (CA) 2019 23 Querns Lane, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief. Report no. CR0226_1	



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PROJECT TITLE
 23 Querns Lane, Cirencester,
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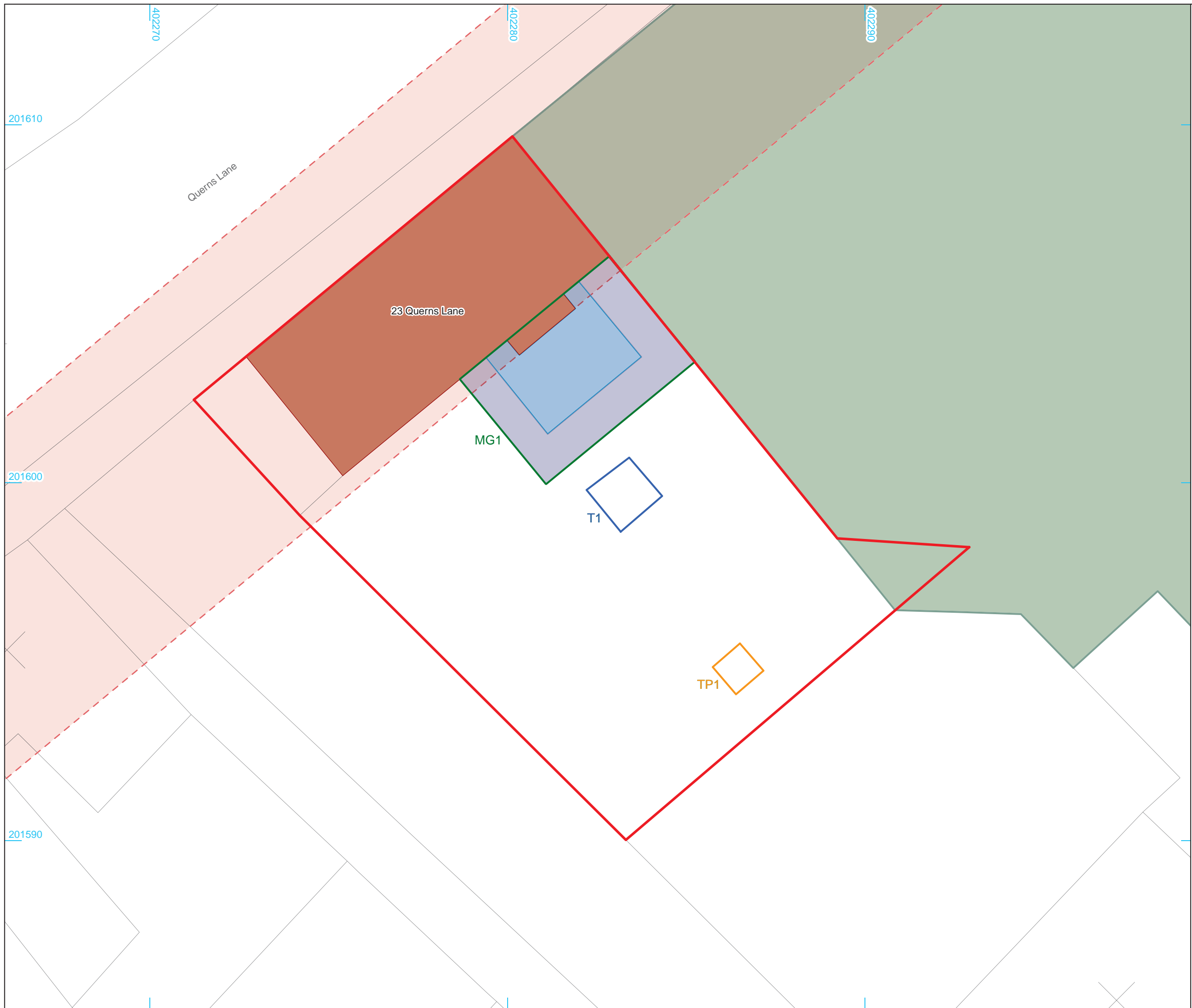
FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan



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 CHECKED BY DJB DATE 28.11.19
 APPROVED BY PG SCALE @A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.
1



- Site boundary
- Scheduled Monument (Corinium Roman Town)
- Roman street (postulated)
- Existing property
- Area of observed groundworks
- Observed groundworks at maximum depth of 0.38m
- Observed groundworks at maximum depth of 0.25m
- Previous evaluation trench (Cotswold Archaeology 2019)
- Previous test pit (Cotswold Archaeology 2018)



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PROJECT TITLE
 23 Querns Lane, Cirencester,
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FIGURE TITLE
 The site, showing location of
 observed groundworks

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Working shot showing extent of observed groundworks, looking east



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PROJECT TITLE

23 Querns Lane, Cirencester,
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FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

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APPROVED BY **PG** SCALE@A4 **NA**

FIGURE NO.

3

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