

**5 PROSPECT PLACE  
CIRENCESTER  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

*For*

**MR MARTIN PORTUS**

CA PROJECT: 2729  
CA REPORT: 08216


NOVEMBER 2008



5 PROSPECT PLACE  
CIRENCESTER  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

CA PROJECT: 2729  
CA REPORT: 08216

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date	5 November 2008
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date	6 November 2008
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signed	
date	7 November 2008
issue	01

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## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)

Fig. 2 The site, showing location of groundworks (1:500)

## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** 5 Prospect Place  
**Location:** Cirencester, Gloucestershire  
**NGR:** SP 0294 0143  
**Type:** Watching Brief  
**Date:** 20 October 2008  
**Planning Reference:** 05/02228/FUL  
**Location of Archive:** To be deposited with Corinium Museum  
**Site Code:** PRO 08

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a conservatory at 5 Prospect Place, Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

The site was evaluated in 2005 when Roman demolition debris was identified at a depth of 0.85m below present ground level. The groundworks associated with the construction of the conservatory were limited to a depth of 0.35m and as a consequence no features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no artefactual material was recovered.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In October 2008 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Mr Martin Portus at 5 Prospect Place, Cirencester, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SP 0294 0143; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent for the construction of a new pitched roof over an existing extension, the erection of a porch and conservatory, the relocation of the garden shed and the erection of a replacement fence (Planning ref: 05/02228/FUL). The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the development.

1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2008) and approved by Mr Charles Parry, Senior Archaeological Advisor, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC), archaeological advisor to Cotswold District Council. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (2001), the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Fieldwork in Gloucestershire* (GCC 1996) and the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991).

### ***The site***

1.3 The area of groundworks lies in the back garden of the property which itself stands at the northern end of a narrow driveway leading off Prospect Place. The property is within a residential area and is bounded to the south, east and west by properties and their gardens and to the north by Cirencester Junior School (Fig. 2).

1.4 The site is approximately 0.5ha in area and is residential, containing a house with a garden to the rear and gravelled driveway at the front.

1.5 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Kellaways Sandstone Deposit of the mid Jurassic era overlain by limestone gravel First Terrace Deposits of the Quaternary Period (BGS 1998). The groundworks did not reach natural geology.

### **Archaeological background**

- 2.2 The site lies within the southern part of the Roman town of *Corinium (insula IX or X)*, and a short distance to the north-east of Ermin Street, one of the principal thoroughfares. Previous archaeological investigation has revealed substantial building remains to the north and north-west of the site, for example in 1922 at what is now 93 Victoria Road (McWhirr 1986) and at Bingham Hall in 1908 (*ibid* 191-94). At the first of these sites mosaic pavements were found no more than four feet below the garden surface (CA 2008).
- 2.3 An archaeological evaluation of the site in 2005 by Archaeology and Planning Solutions (APS) revealed Roman demolition debris at a depth of 0.85m below the present ground level (bpgl) (105.87m AOD). This was sealed by a black soil deposit containing pottery of 3rd and 4th century AD date. This deposit also contained ceramic roof tile and tesserae and it was suggested that the demolition debris was associated with a well-appointed building (APS 2005, 1). An evaluation 33m to the south-west of the site at 15 Prospect Place by CA (CA 2002) revealed Roman demolition debris at a depth of 0.60m below the present ground level (106.16m AOD), overlain by a cultivation soil that was in turn sealed by modern make-up and concrete slabs.

### **Methodology**

- 1.7 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2008). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising the excavation of a foundation trench for the new conservatory (Fig. 2).
- 1.8 Written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.9 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with 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**

- 2.1 The groundworks comprised the removal of the dark brown clay silt topsoil 1000 to an average depth of 0.35m. Topsoil 1000 was cut by modern service trench 1001 and modern construction cut 1004. Construction cut 1004 contained concrete plinth 1006 set on bedding layer 1005.
- 2.2 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 The watching brief identified no archaeological remains during the excavation of the conservatory foundations, which had a maximum depth of 0.35m below present ground level. The absence of archaeological deposits is consistent with the results of the evaluation undertaken in 2005, when Roman demolition debris was identified at a depth of 0.85m below present ground level.

## **4. CA PROJECT TEAM**

Fieldwork was undertaken by Philippa Mitcheson, Project Supervisor who also wrote the report and compiled the archive, which was prepared for deposition by Kathryn Price. The illustrations were prepared by Rachel Kershaw. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

## **5. REFERENCES**

- APS (Archaeological and Planning Solutions) 2005 *5 Prospect Place, Cirencester, Gloucestershire. Archaeological Evaluation.*
- BGS (British Geological Survey) 1998 *Geological survey of Great Britain, Solid and Drift Edition, Cirencester, Sheet 235.*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008 *5 Prospect Place, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

CAT (Cotswold Archaeological Trust) 2002 15, *Prospect Place, Cirencester, Gloucestershire. Archaeological Evaluation*. CAT Report No. **02072**

McWhirr, A D. 1986 *Houses in Roman Cirencester*. Cirencester Excavations III.



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## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Groundworks 4.2 x 3.5 x 0.35m

NFE – Not fully excavated

No.	Type	Description	Depth (m)
1000	Layer	Topsoil: Brown clay silt	0.35
1001	Cut	Linear cut for 1002 ENE/WSW	NFE
1002	Deposit	Ceramic soakaway pipe, primary fill of 1001	NFE
1003	Deposit	Light brown gravel backfill, secondary fill of 1001	NFE
1004	Cut	Cut for 1006 WNW/ESE	NFE
1005	Deposit	Brown clay silt with rare rubble inclusions fill of 1004	NFE
1006	Deposit	Concrete plinth, upper fill of 1004	0.2

## APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	5 Prospect Place, Cirencester, Gloucestershire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a conservatory at 5 Prospect Place, Cirencester, Gloucestershire. The site was evaluated in 2005 when Roman demolition debris was identified at a depth of 0.85m below present ground level. The groundworks associated with the construction of the conservatory were limited to a depth of 0.35m and as a consequence no features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no artefactual material was recovered.	
Project dates	20 October 2008	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	APS, 2005: Archaeological Evaluation	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	5 Prospect Place, Cirencester, Gloucestershire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)		
Site co-ordinates	SP 0294 0143	
<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	Philippa Mitcheson	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>	Intended final location of archive	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Corinium Museum	N/A
Paper	Corinium Museum	Trench sheets, photographic registers, black and white and colour photographs, plans
Digital	Corinium Museum	Digital photographs
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
APS (Archaeological and Planning Solutions) 2005 <i>5 Prospect Place, Cirencester, Gloucestershire. Archaeological Evaluation.</i> CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008 <i>5 Prospect Place, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i>		



**COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

PROJECT TITLE

**5 Prospect Place, Cirencester  
Gloucestershire**

FIGURE TITLE

**Site location plan**

DRAWN BY

**RK**

SCALE

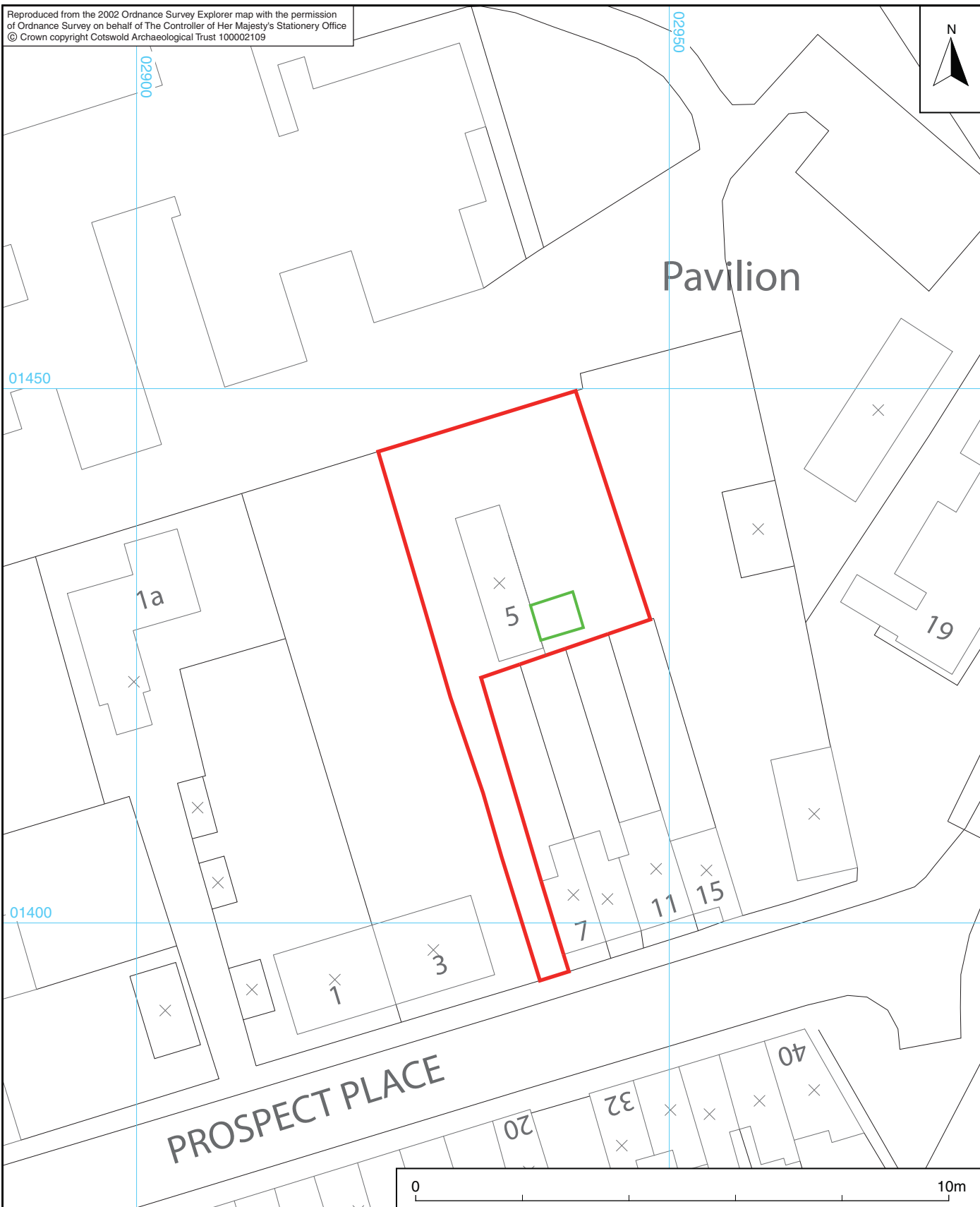
**1:25,000@A4**

PROJECT NO.

**2729**

FIGURE NO.

**1**



- site
- area of groundworks



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

**5 Prospect Place, Cirencester  
Gloucestershire**

FIGURE TITLE

**The site, showing location of  
groundworks**

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SCALE

1:500@A4

PROJECT NO.

2729

FIGURE NO.

**2**