

**20 CHURCH STREET
CIRENCESTER
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

For

PETER ALFORD

CA PROJECT: 2738
CA REPORT: 08237


DECEMBER 2008



20 CHURCH STREET
CIRENCESTER
GLOUCESTERSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

CA PROJECT: 2738
CA REPORT: 08237

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date	3 December 2008
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date	15 January 2009
approved by	Mark Collard, Head of Contracts
signed	
date	16 January 2009
issue	01

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CONTENTS

SUMMARY.....	2
1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
2. RESULTS	5
3. DISCUSSION.....	5
4. CA PROJECT TEAM.....	5
5. REFERENCES.....	5
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS.....	7
APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM.....	8

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

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

Fig. 2 The site, showing location of groundworks (1:250)

SUMMARY

Project Name: 20 Church Street
Location: Cirencester, Gloucestershire
NGR: SP 0282 0128
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 18 November 2008
Planning Reference: 08/00888/FUL
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Corinium Museum
Site Code: HCH 08

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a single-storey extension to the rear of the property.

A re-worked post-Roman 'dark earth' deposit was identified. No artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In November 2008 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Peter Alford at 20 Church Street, Cirencester, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SP 0282 0128; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent for the construction of a single-storey extension to the current property (Planning ref: 08/00888/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 Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2008a) and approved by Cotswold District Council (CDC) acting on the advice of Charles Parry, Senior Archaeological Officer, Gloucestershire Council (GCC), the archaeological advisor to CDC. 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 Archaeological Field Work in Gloucestershire* (GCC 1996) and the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991).
- The site**
- 1.3 The site is located within a row of terraced houses within the southern part of Cirencester. The property fronts onto Church Street on its north-western side and is bounded on all its remaining sides by domestic properties and their associated gardens (Fig. 2). The site is flat and lies at approximately 107m AOD.
- 1.4 The development comprises an area of 4.5m² and comprised an area of hard standing to the rear of the property.
- 1.5 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Kellaways Sand of the Middle Jurassic era, overlain by limestone gravel First Terrace Deposits of the River Churn (BGS 1998). However, these deposits were not encountered during the watching brief.

Archaeological background

- 1.6 The site falls between (and therefore outside) notification areas of Scheduled Ancient Monument Glos. 361 (*Corinium* Roman Town). However, research indicates that the development is sited in an area of high archaeological potential. In particular, it lies within the Roman town of *Corinium* (*insula* VIII), between Ermin Street and the street bounding the south-western side of the *insula* (Streets A and C; Holbrook and Pamment Salvatore 1998, Fig. 7).
- 1.7 Within Church Street a single inhumation burial was identified during the excavation of a service trench (McWhirr *et al.* 1982). Finds recovered from the vicinity of the burial dated to the 3rd to 4th centuries AD. Archaeological evaluation to the rear of 8 Church Street identified Roman deposits overlain by 0.65m of 'dark earth' deposits and 0.2m of modern overburden (CAT 1999). Sculptured stone, coins and pottery have also been found in the vicinity of the site (OS 1875).
- 1.8 Archaeological evaluation within the proposed development area identified an *in situ* Roman deposit, a probable floor surface, 0.53m below the present ground level (bpgl), 106.63m AOD. This was in turn sealed by a re-worked post-Roman 'dark-earth' deposit (CA 2008b).

Methodology

- 1.9 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2008a). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks, which comprised hand excavation for the foundations of the proposed single-storey extension (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* (2007).
- 1.11 The archive from the watching brief are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. No finds were retrieved during the watching brief and the documentary 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 (FIGS 2)

- 2.1 The earliest deposit encountered was a post-Roman 'dark earth' deposit 102. This deposit was 0.32m thick and was sealed by modern deposits 0.18m thick.
- 2.2 No other 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 Excavation to the maximum depth of impact (0.5m bpgl) encountered a post-Roman 'dark earth' deposit. A 'dark earth' deposit was also identified during the evaluation and the finds recovered from this deposit indicated that it had been re-worked (CA 2008b). The *in situ* Roman deposits identified during the evaluation (at a depth of 0.53m bpgl) were not encountered during the groundworks.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken and the report written by Neil Wright. The illustrations were prepared by Rachael Kershaw. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Teresa Gilmore. The project was managed for CA by Laurent Coleman.

5. REFERENCES

- BGS (British Geological Survey) 1998 *Geological Survey of England and Wales*, Sheet 235: Cirencester, 1:50,000
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008a *20 Church Street, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008b *20 Church Street, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation*, CA typescript report **08084**

Holbrook, N. and Pamment Salvatore, J. 1998 'The Street System' in N. Holbrook (ed) *Cirencester: The Roman Town Defences, Public Buildings And Shops*. Cirencester Excavations V, 19-34

McWhirr, A. Viner, L. and Wells C. 1982 *Romano-British Cemeteries at Cirencester*. *Cirencester Excavations II*, fiche D04, Cirencester Excavation Committee: Cirencester

CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

1875 1st Edition OS 25" series, map sheet 51

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

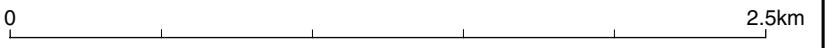
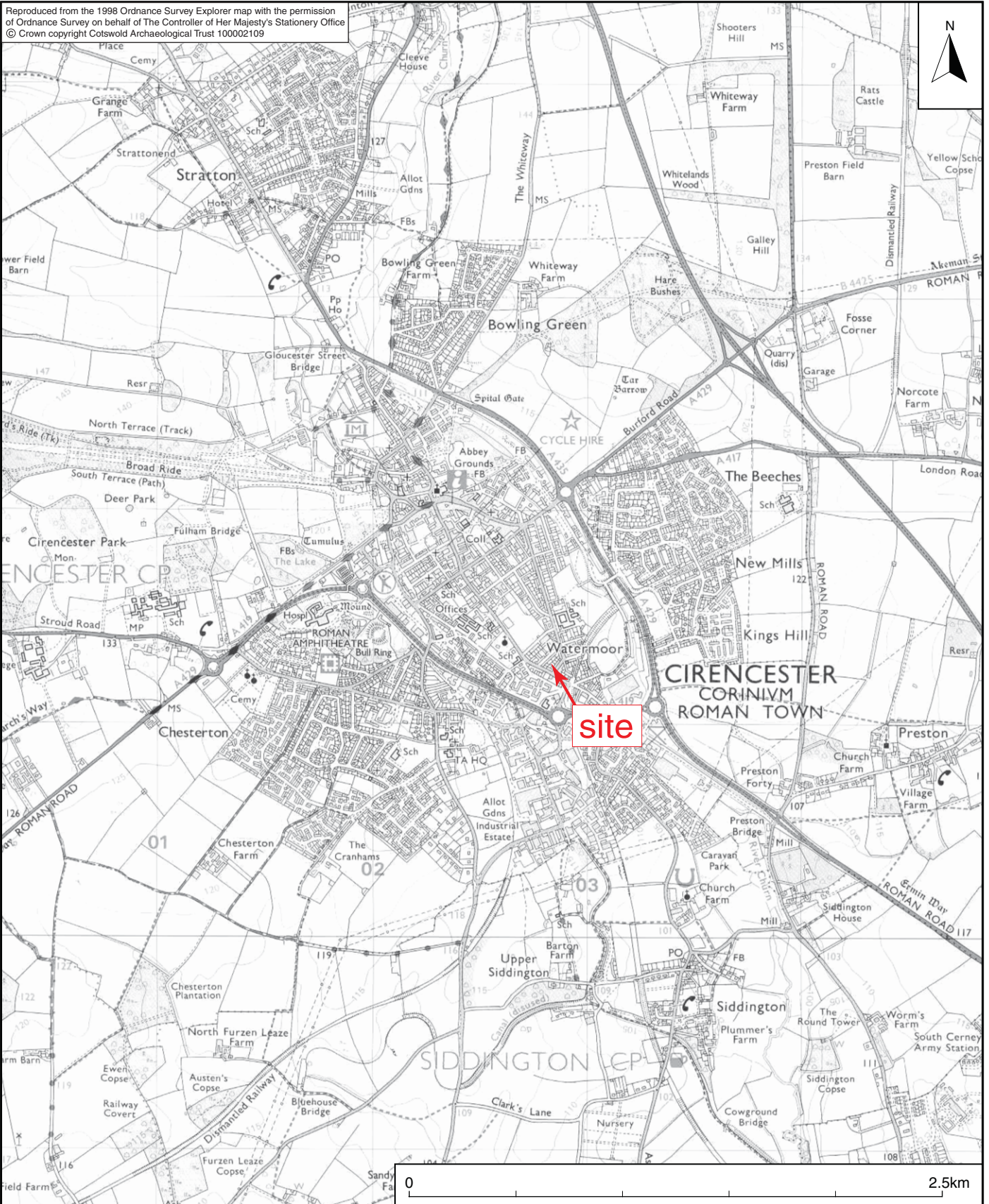
Area of groundworks

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Concrete			0.10	Modern
101	Layer	Hardcore below 100			0.10	Modern
102	Layer	'Dark earth'/cultivation deposit. Dark brown, sandy, clay silt			>0.32	Post-Roman

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	20 Church Street, Cirencester, Gloucestershire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a single-storey extension to the rear of the property.</p> <p>A re-worked post-Roman 'dark earth' deposit was identified. No artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.</p>	
Project dates	18 November 2008	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	Evaluation (CA 2008b)	
Future work	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	20 Church Street, Cirencester, Gloucestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)		
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SP 0282 0128	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator		
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Laurent Coleman	
Project Supervisor	Neil Wright	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical		None
Paper	Corinium Museum	Recording sheets, b/w photos, colour slides and registers.
Digital	Corinium Museum	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008b <i>20 Church Street, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i>, CA typescript report 08084</p> <p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008c <i>20 Church Street, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i>, CA typescript report 08237</p>		

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 **COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

PROJECT TITLE
**20 Church Street, Cirencester
 Gloucestershire**

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
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CHURCH STREET

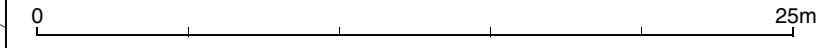
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SP



-  site
-  area of groundworks



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

20 Church Street, Cirencester
Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

**The site, showing location of
groundworks**

DRAWN BY

RK

SCALE

1:250@A4

PROJECT NO.

2738

FIGURE NO.

2