

**12 TOWER STREET  
CIRENCESTER  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

*For*

**BEAR CONSTRUCTION  
COTSWOLDS LTD**

*on behalf of*

**MRS P. AMBROSE**

CA PROJECT: 2858  
CA REPORT: 09086


JUNE 2009



12 TOWER STREET  
CIRENCESTER  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

CA PROJECT: 2858  
CA REPORT: 09086

prepared by	Alistair Barber, Senior Project Officer
date	28 May 2009
checked by	Richard Young, Project Manager
date	29 May 2009
approved by	Mark Collard, Head of Contracts
signed	
date	1 June 2009
issue	01

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

Fig. 2 The site, showing location of groundworks (1:200)

**SUMMARY**

**Project Name:** 12 Tower Street  
**Location:** Cirencester, Gloucestershire  
**NGR:** SP 0250 0170  
**Type:** Watching Brief  
**Date:** 18 May 2009  
**Planning Reference:** 08/02302/FUL  
**Location of Archive:** To be deposited with Corinium Museum  
**Site Code:** CTS 09

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the replacement of an existing single storey rear extension.

No features or deposits pre-dating the modern period were observed during groundworks, which were limited to a maximum depth of 0.3m. The modern features observed consisted of soil and hardcore layers, wall footings and paved areas. The absence of archaeological deposits reflects the shallow depth of the intrusive groundworks.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In May 2009 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Bear Construction Cotswolds Ltd, on behalf of Mrs P. Ambrose, at 12 Tower Street, Cirencester, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SP0250 0170; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent for the demolition of an existing single storey rear extension and the erection of a replacement single storey rear extension (Cotswold District Council Planning ref: 08/02302/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 (2009) and approved by Mr Charles Parry, Senior Archaeological Officer, 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 for Archaeologists (2008), *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Gloucestershire* (GCC 1995) and the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991).

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The site lies immediately south-east of the centre of Cirencester. The property itself fronts onto Tower Street on its south-western side and is bounded on all remaining sides by domestic properties and their associated gardens (Fig. 2). The site slopes gently from south-west to north-east and lies at approximately 110m AOD. The groundworks extended across an area approximately 26m<sup>2</sup> in size.
- 1.4 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Kellaway Sandstone Deposits of the mid Jurassic era overlain by limestone gravels (First Terrace Deposits) of the Quaternary Period (BGS 1998). The groundworks did not reach natural geology.

### ***Archaeological background***

- 1.5 The site lies immediately south-east of the centre of the Roman town of *Corinium* and immediately north-east of the line of Ermin Street which ran north-west/south-

east through the town. The original line of Ermin Street (coded as Street A) is immediately to the south-east of the modern alignment of Tower Street and the site therefore lies within *Insula I*, the location of the Roman Forum (Holbrook and Salvatore 1998).

- 1.6 Excavations at the Police Station to the north-west of the site revealed the metallised surface of Ermin Street and a silted up drainage ditch dug alongside it (Wacher 1963). To the south-east of Tower Street excavations at Leaholme identified phases of road resurfacing on Roman Street F which ran north-east/south-west across Ermin Street. Here the road, which contained a timber-lined drain, was found to run between flanking colonnades. A ditch running alongside the north-eastern side of the road contained a human skeleton (McWhirr et al 1982). Excavations at 28 Tower Street in 2004 established the survival of compact gravel courtyard surfacing probably associated with the Roman Forum at 1.03m below present ground level (bpgl) (CA 2004).

### **Objectives**

- 1.7 The objectives of the watching brief were, with the resources available, to preserve by record archaeological deposits, the presence of which are attested to above, within groundworks associated with the proposed work and to ensure the agreed scheme was adhered to.

### **Methodology**

- 1.8 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2009). The new single storey extension was constructed upon a reinforced concrete raft, measuring approximately 5.8m by 4.5m, founded directly upon the extant footings of the demolished former extension. An archaeologist was present during the sole intrusive groundworks, comprising the excavation of a narrow service trench for new drainage (Fig. 2).
- 1.9 Written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.10 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. The site archive will be deposited with Corinium Museum. A summary of information

from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## **2. RESULTS**

- 2.1 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and only artefacts of modern date (not retained) were noted. The earliest deposits encountered, at the limit of excavation, were stony-clay soil layers 3 and 4, containing fragmentary modern brick and slate. A brick and fragmentary limestone deposit 5 above soil 4 provided edge support to an extant north-east/south-west aligned brick-built garden path 6, and soils 3 and 4 were both overlain by modern hardcore/make-up layers 2 and 1 which, together with a hardcore layer 8, were associated with the demolished former single-storey rear extension.

## **3. DISCUSSION**

- 3.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area the watching brief identified no archaeological remains pre-dating the modern period within the area of observed groundworks. The absence of archaeological deposits reflects the shallow depth of the intrusive groundworks, which did not penetrate beyond 0.3m below the present ground level (approximately 110m AOD).

## **4. CA PROJECT TEAM**

Fieldwork was undertaken by Alistair Barber. The report was written by Alistair Barber. The illustrations were prepared by Rachael Kershaw. The archive has been compiled by Alistair Barber, and prepared for deposition by Victoria Taylor. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

## 5. REFERENCES

- BGS (British Geological Survey) 1998 *Geological survey of Great Britain, Solid and Drift Edition, Cirencester, Sheet 235*
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2004 *28 Tower Street, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation*. CA Typescript Report **04195**
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2007 *12 Tower Street, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*
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- McWhirr, A, Viner, L, & Wells, C, 1982 *Romano-British Cemeteries at Cirencester*, Cirencester Excavation Committee II, Cirencester Excavation Committee
- Wacher, J. S. 1963 'Cirencester 1962: third interim report', *Antiq J*, **43**, 15-26



## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

### Service trench

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1	Deposit	Modern gritty-sand deposit, containing fragmentary modern brick and slate			0.1	
2	Deposit	Modern gravel deposit with charcoal, ash and clinker			0.15	
3	Deposit	Modern clay soil with fragmentary modern brick			0.05m+	
4	Deposit	Modern clay soil with fragmentary modern brick			n/k	
5	Structure	Limestone slab and modern red brick edge-support to extant garden path 006	1.1	0.2	n/k	
6	Structure	Modern brick-built garden path		0.45	0.1	
7	Structure	Modern wall-footing: limestone fragments with lime mortar		0.5		
8	Deposit	Modern gritty-sand deposit, containing fragmentary modern brick and slate			n/k	
9	Structure	Modern concrete base for former extension/outbuildings	2.8	1.85	0.25	
10	Structure	Modern concrete path		1	0.1	

**APPENDIX B: LEVELS OF PRINCIPAL DEPOSITS AND STRUCTURES**

Levels are expressed as metres below current ground level and as metres Above Ordnance Datum (AOD), calculated using a spot-height on the corner of Tower Street and Lewis Lane, Cirencester, Gloucestershire (110.90m AOD).

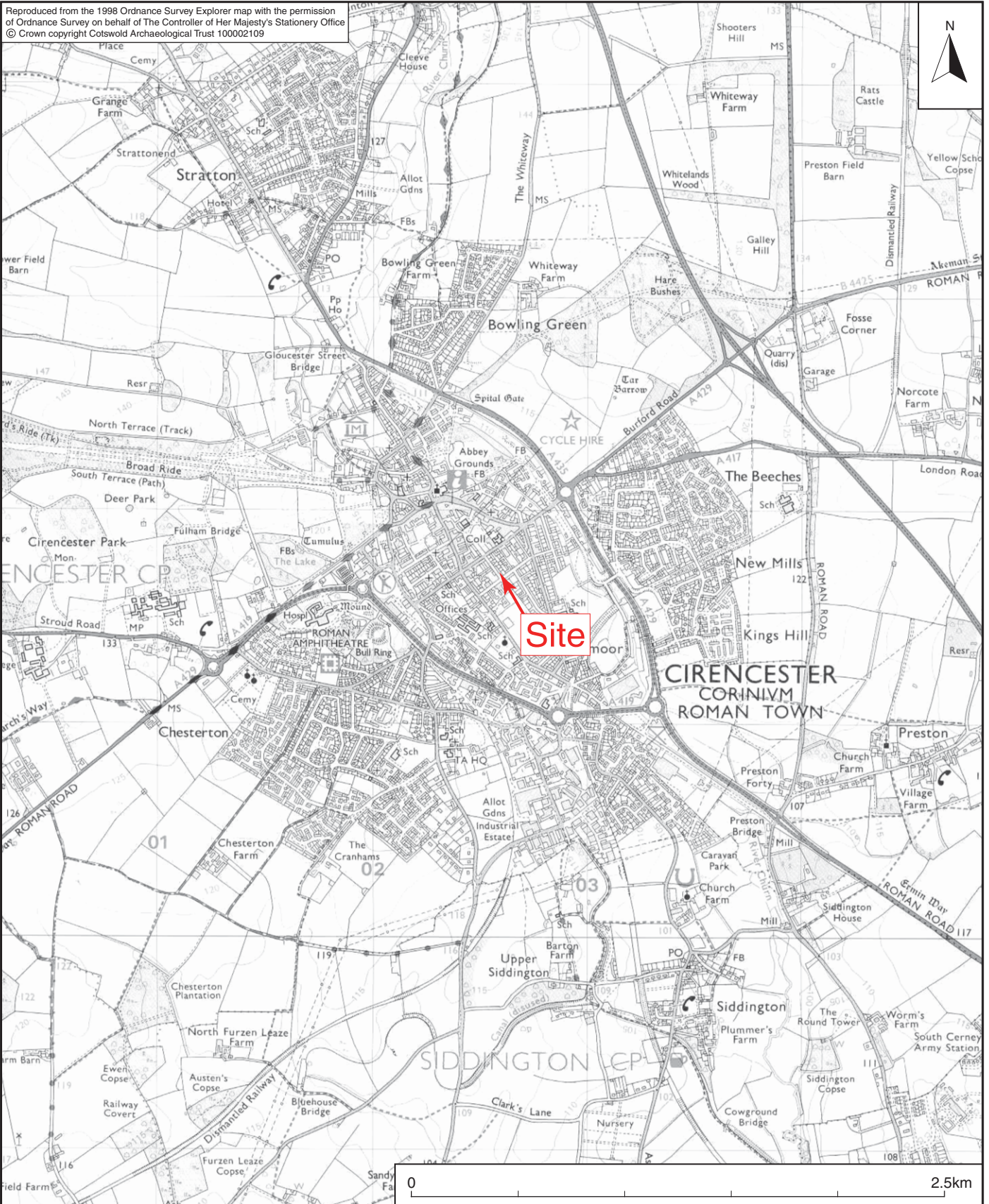
	Trench 1
Current ground level	0.00m (110m)
Limit of excavation	0.3m (109.7m)

Upper figures are depth below modern ground level; lower figures in parentheses are metres AOD.

**APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	12 Tower Street, Cirencester, Gloucestershire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the replacement of an existing single storey rear extension.</p> <p>No features or deposits pre-dating the modern period were observed during groundworks, which were limited to a maximum depth of 0.3m. The modern features observed consisted of soil and hardcore layers, wall footings and paved areas. The absence of archaeological deposits reflects the shallow depth of the intrusive groundworks.</p>	
Project dates	18 May 2009	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	12 Tower Street, Cirencester, Gloucestershire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	100m <sup>2</sup>	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SP 0250 0170	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Gloucestershire County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Alistair Barber	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	Corinium Museum	WSI, Trench Recording Sheet, Colour and B/W photographs, Permatrace drawing, Site Registers.
Digital	Corinium Museum	Digital photographs.
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009 <i>12 Tower Street, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i>. CA typescript report <b>09086</b></p>		

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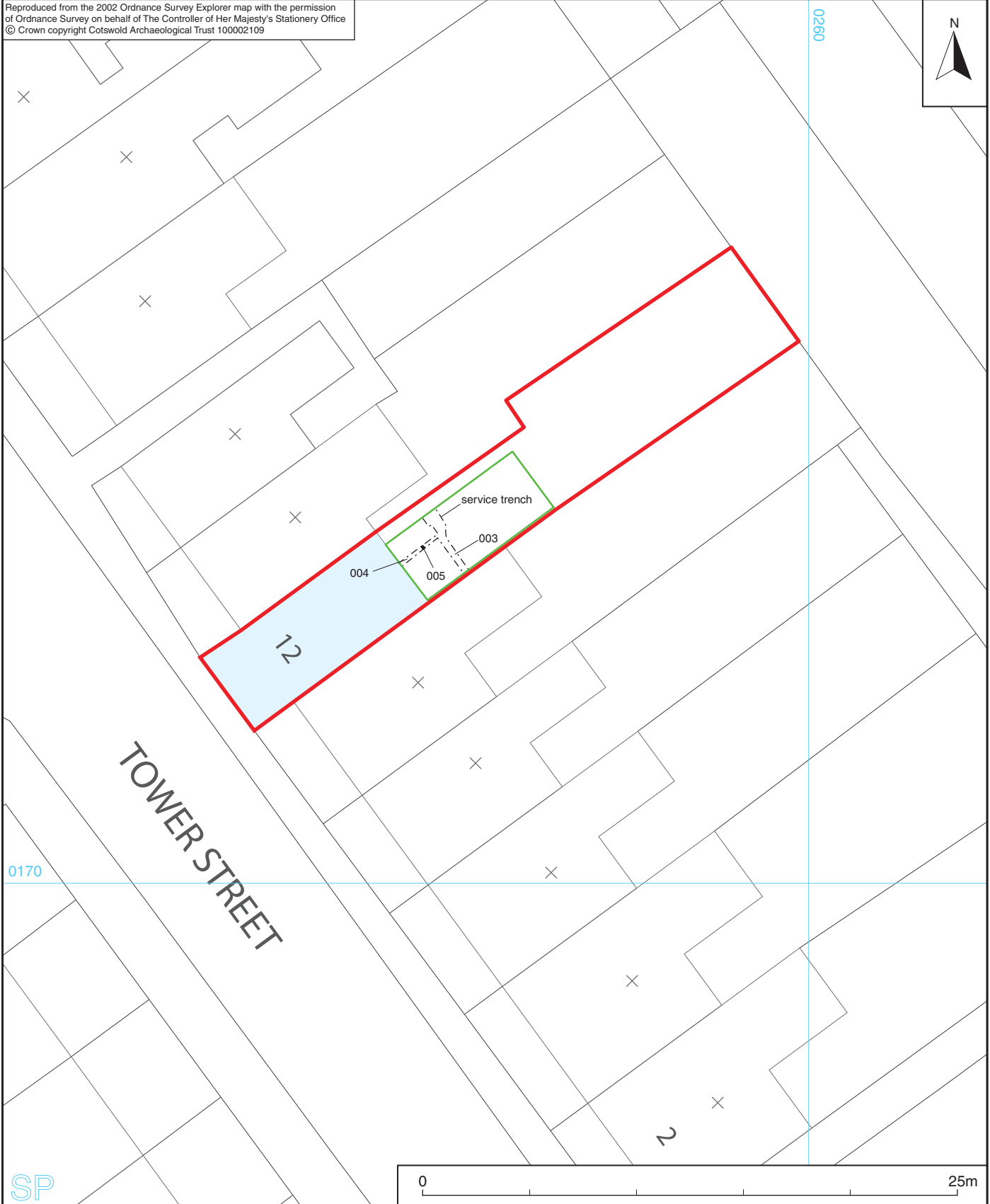


**COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

PROJECT TITLE  
**12 Tower Street, Cirencester  
 Gloucestershire**

FIGURE TITLE  
**Site location plan**

DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
RK	1:25,000@A4	2858	<b>1</b>



- site
- area of groundworks
- archaeological feature
- area of main building



**COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

*PROJECT TITLE*  
**12 Tower Street, Cirencester,  
 Gloucestershire**

*FIGURE TITLE*  
**The site, showing location of  
 groundworks**

<i>DRAWN BY</i>	<i>SCALE</i>	<i>PROJECT NO.</i>	<i>FIGURE NO.</i>
RK	1:250@A4	2858	<b>2</b>