

**LAND ADJACENT TO 29-32
LAVENDER LANE
TRINITY ROAD
CIRENCESTER
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

For

BM3 ARCHITECTURE

on behalf of

CIRENCESTER HOUSING SOCIETY LTD

CA PROJECT: 2903
CA REPORT: 09121


JULY 2009



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CA PROJECT: 2903
CA REPORT: 09121

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date	22 July 2009
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date	23 July 2009
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date	23 July 2009
issue	01

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Land adjacent to 29-32 Lavender Lane
Location: Trinity Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire
NGR: ST 0238 0135
Type: Evaluation
Date: 10 July 2009
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Corinium Museum, Cirencester
Site Code: LLT09

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in July 2009 on land adjacent to 29-32 Lavender Lane, Trinity Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire. One trench was excavated.

A thin soil horizon, of Roman or later date, was overlain by a probable medieval deposit comprising limestone fragments. Post-medieval and modern dump deposits were also recorded.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In July 2009 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for BM3 Architecture, on behalf of Cirencester Housing Society Ltd, on land adjacent to 29-32 Lavender Lane, Trinity Road, Cirencester (centred on NGR: ST 0238 0135; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application to Cotswold District Council for construction of a two-storey extension to an existing block of flats.

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with an email (dated 22 June 2009) outlining the requirement for an archaeological evaluation issued by Charles Parry, Senior Archaeological Officer, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) and with a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2009) that was approved by Charles Parry (GCC). The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2008), the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Gloucestershire* issued by Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Section (1995), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MORPHE) (English Heritage 2006).

The site

1.3 The proposed development area comprises an area of lawn and trees immediately south of the existing block of flats at 29-32 Lavender Lane (Fig. 2).

1.4 The site is relatively flat at its south-western end but slopes gently downward to the north-east and lies at between 106m and 107m AOD. The underlying geology of the area is mapped as Forest Marble overlain by Mudstone with beds of shell detrital ooidal limestone of the Great Oolite group of the Middle Jurassic (BGS 1998).

Archaeological background

1.5 Research indicates that the site is located in an area of high archaeological potential. In particular, it lies approximately 70m beyond the south-western defences of the Roman town of *Corinium*, and 250m to the south-east of the Bath Gate and its associated cemetery (Hancocks *et al* 2008).

- 1.6 The site lies between the former canal basin and the former railway lines and was subject to housing development in the mid and late twentieth century (Gerrard and Viner 1994)
- 1.7 Two trenches were excavated in 2007 by Cotswold Archaeology between 33-36 and 37-40 Lavender Lane, approximately 30m to the north-west of the present site. No archaeological features were identified (CA 2007).

Archaeological objectives

- 1.8 The objectives of the evaluation were to establish the character, quality, date and extent of any archaeological remains or deposits surviving within the site. This information will assist Cotswold District Council in making an informed judgement on the significance of the archaeological resource, and the likely impact upon it of the proposed development.

Methodology

- 1.9 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of one trench, measuring approximately 6.2m in length and 1.5m in width, in the location shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). The location and dimensions of the trench were altered slightly from that agreed in the WSI, with the permission of Charles Parry, due to the presence of tree cover as well as machine access and spoil storage requirements.
- 1.10 The trench was excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.11 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* (2003). No deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of Finds Immediately After Excavation* (1995).
- 1.12 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will

be deposited with Corinium Museum, along with the site archive. 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 (FIG 2-3)

2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B respectively.

Trench 1 (Figs 2 & 3)

2.2 The natural geological substrate 106, consisting of weathered limestone brash, was encountered at depths of up to 1.6m below present ground level (bpgl). It was directly overlain by a clayey-soil 105, 0.1m to 0.25m in thickness, containing two small, abraded, sherds of 2nd-century AD pottery.

2.3 At the northern end of the trench this soil horizon was overlain by a 0.15m thick deposit 104, only partially exposed, of limestone fragments in a silty clay matrix. This deposit contained abraded, residual sherds of Roman pottery and a tile fragment, one animal bone fragment, a fragment of probable roof tile and part of a Minety ware tile of 14th to 15th-century date. This medieval deposit was sealed by a clay soil 103, 0.2m in thickness, containing two residual, abraded, sherds of mid 3rd to 4th-century AD pottery. This was in turn overlain by a sandy clay deposit 102, which contained charcoal and coal fragments and which was cut by a modern pit 107. The fill of this pit contained modern building material, and was overlain by a modern dump deposit 101 and modern topsoil 100.

The Finds Evidence

2.4 Artefactual material comprising quantities of pottery, ceramic building material, worked stone, coal and clinker was recovered from four separate deposits (Appendix B).

2.5 Pottery of Roman date was recovered from three deposits. Abraded sherds of greyware and oxidised ware from stone spread 104 are demonstrably residual, recovered in association with a fragment of (medieval) Minety ware-type roof tile. Two sherds of Central Gaulish samian, the only material recovered from deposit

105, dates to the 2nd century AD. Pottery from deposit 103 consisted of two sherds of Oxfordshire red slip ware dating to the mid 3rd to 4th centuries AD.

- 2.6 Quantities of ceramic building material were recovered from deposit 104. These included residual fragments of Roman brick, a fragment of medieval Minety ware-type tile and a fragment of worked sandstone, likely to have formed part of a roof tile.
- 2.7 A fragment of animal bone, identifiable only as cow-sized, was recovered from stone spread 104.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The evaluation identified a thin soil horizon, containing two small and very abraded sherds of 2nd-century AD pottery, directly overlying the natural limestone brash at depths of between 1.05m and 1.6m below the modern ground surface (105.4m AOD). The nature of this deposit remains uncertain from the limited view afforded by trial trenching, but it may represent a Roman or later soil horizon. This was overlain by a deposit comprising limestone fragments, and containing small amounts of abraded Roman pottery and a tile fragment of 14th to 15th-century date. The full extent and function of this deposit also remains uncertain, due to its limited exposure within the trench. This probable medieval deposit was sealed by a soil horizon, containing only residual Roman pottery, which was in turn overlain by a dump deposit containing coal and clinker likely to be associated with the 19th-century railway which formerly ran to the south-west of the site. Dump deposits associated with landscaping of the site after construction of modern housing were also noted.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Alistair Barber, assisted by Andy Loader. The report was written by Alistair Barber. The finds report was compiled by Dr Sylvia Warman and Victoria Taylor. The illustrations were prepared by Lorna Gray. The archive has been compiled by Alistair Barber, and prepared for deposition by Victoria Taylor. 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. *Solid and Drift*. 1:50,000

CA 2007 *Lavender Lane/Trinity Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire. Archaeological Evaluation*. CA typescript report no **07003**

CA 2009 *Land adjacent to 29-32 Lavender Lane, Trinity Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire. Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological evaluation*

Gerrard, C and Viner, L 1994 'Cirencester: a Medium-Sized Market town in the post-medieval period', in Darvill, T and Gerrard, C, *Cirencester: Town and Landscape. An urban archaeological assessment*, Cotswold Archaeological Trust Ltd, Cirencester

Hancocks, A, Watts, M and Holbrook, N, 2008 'Excavation and Watching Brief at Cotswold District Council Offices, Trinity Road, 2001-2', in Holbrook, N, *Excavations and Observations in Roman Cirencester 1998-2007*. Cirencester Excavations **VI**, 93-108, Cotswold Archaeology, Cirencester

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**Trench 1**

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Deposit	Modern topsoil: grey-brown sandy-clay			0.3	
101	Deposit	Modern dump deposit: yellow calcareous gravels with metal, wood and plastic fragments			0.1-0.35m	
102	Deposit	Grey-brown sandy-clay with small charcoal, coal and clinker fragments			0.2	
103	Deposit	Medieval or later soil horizon: mid brown stony sandy-clay			0.2	MC3-C4
104	Deposit	Medieval or later stone spread: moderately compact deposit of thin fragmentary limestone, typically 0.1m x 0.1m x 0.01m in size			0.15	C14-15
105	Deposit	Roman or later soil horizon: mid brown gritty sandy-clay			0.15	C2
106	Deposit	Natural geological substrate: limestone brash				
107	Cut	Modern intrusion: vertical-side cut with flat base.		1	1.7	
108	Deposit	Fill of 107: clay soil with modern plaster, plastic fragments and electrical cable.		1	1.7	

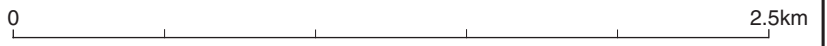
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS**Finds concordance**


Context	Artefact type	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
103	Roman pottery: Oxford red slip ware	2	24	MC3-C4
105	Roman pottery: Central Gaulish samian	2	2	C2
102	Coal	1	1	-
	Clinker	1	1	
104	CBM: Roman brick, Minety ware tile	4	334	C14-C15
	Animal bone: cow sized	1	3	
	Worked stone: sandstone roofing tile fragment	1	193	
	Roman pottery: (North Wilts) greyware and oxidised ware	6	9	

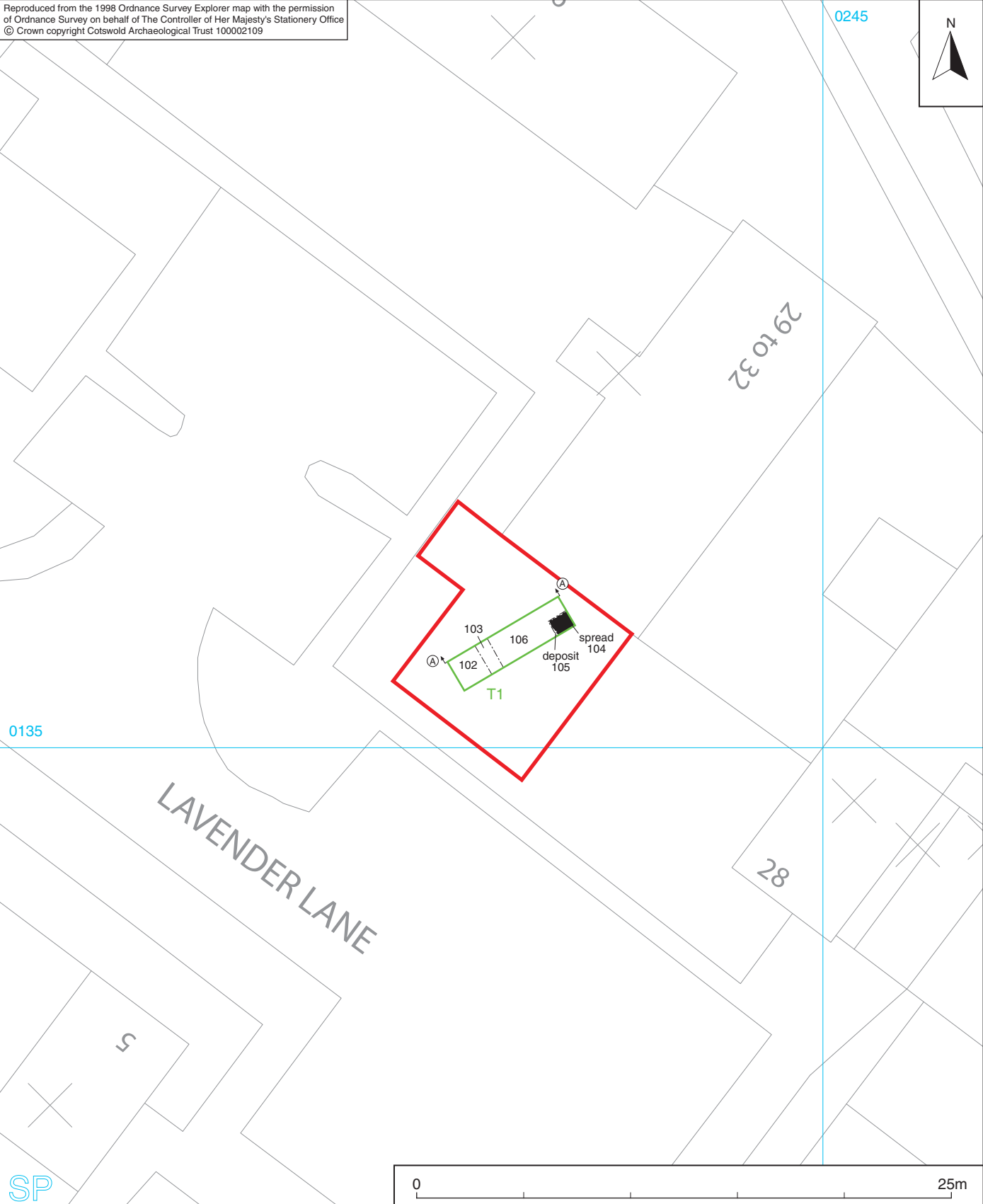
APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	29-32 Lavender Lane, Cirencester, Gloucestershire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in December 2008 on land adjacent to 29-32 Lavender Lane, Trinity Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire. One trench was excavated. A thin soil horizon, of Roman or later date, was overlain by a probable medieval deposit comprising limestone fragments. Post-medieval and modern dump deposits were also recorded.	
Project dates	10 July 2009	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Field Evaluation	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	29-32 Lavender Lane, Cirencester, Gloucestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	80m ²	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	ST 0238 0135	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Laurent Coleman	
Project Supervisor	Alistair Barber	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Corinium Museum	Pottery, ceramic and stone tile, animal bone
Paper	Corinium Museum	Context sheets, trench record sheet, section drawing, plan, black and white photographs and negatives, drawing register, spot dating sheet
Digital	Corinium Museum	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009 <i>Land adjacent to 29-32 Lavender Lane, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 09121		

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 COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY			
PROJECT TITLE Land adjacent to 29-32 Lavender Lane, Cirencester, Gloucestershire			
FIGURE TITLE Site location plan			
DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
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SP

- site
- evaluation trench showing archaeological features



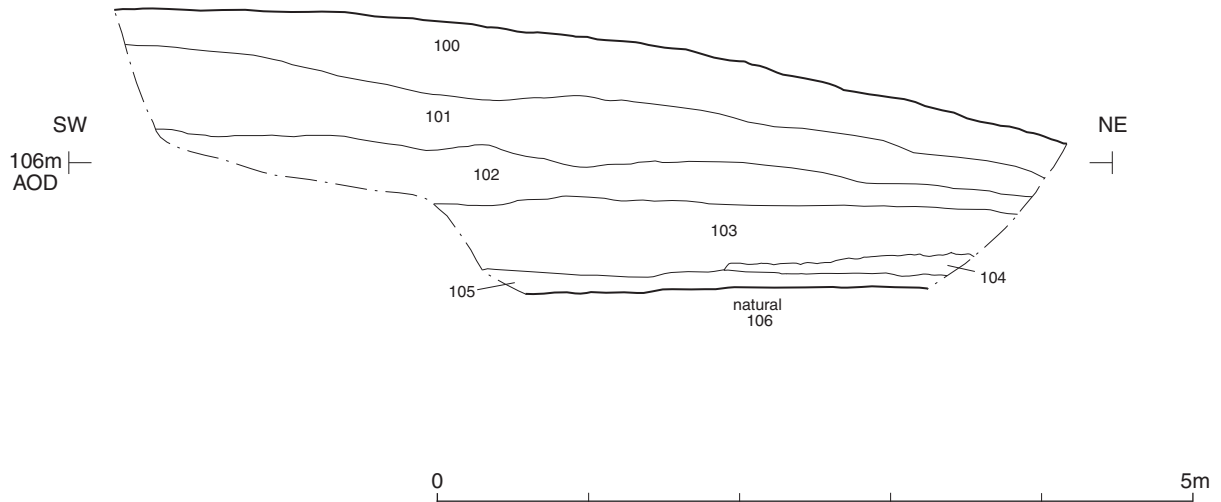
COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE
 Land adjacent to 29-32 Lavender Lane, Cirencester, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan, showing archaeological features

<i>DRAWN BY</i>	<i>SCALE</i>	<i>PROJECT NO.</i>	<i>FIGURE NO.</i>
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Section AA



Trench 1, looking north-east, showing Roman or later deposits 104 and 105



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PROJECT TITLE

Land adjacent to 29-32 Lavender Lane, Cirencester, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 1; Section AA and photograph

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LG

SCALE

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PROJECT NO.

2903

FIGURE NO.

3