

**42A ASHCROFT ROAD
CIRENCESTER
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

For

SIMON ALLEN

CA PROJECT: 2835
CA REPORT: 09056


APRIL 2009



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CIRENCESTER
GLOUCESTERSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

CA PROJECT: 2835
CA REPORT: 09056

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date	15 April 2009
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date	20 April 2009
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signed	
date	5 May 2009
issue	01

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Summary

Project Name: 42a Ashcroft Road
Location: Cirencester, Gloucestershire
NGR: SP 0221 0178
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 31 March 2009
Planning Reference: 08/03711/FUL
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Corinium Museum
Site Code: ASH 09

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the demolition of a workshop and the erection of a single storey annexe.

No features or deposits pre-dating the modern period were observed during groundworks, which were limited to a depth of 0.68m. The modern features observed consisted of a layer of hardstanding and a concrete-lined tank. The absence of archaeological deposits is most likely due to the shallow depth of the intrusive groundworks.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In March 2009 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Mr Clive Froggett on behalf of Mr Simon Allen at 42a Ashcroft Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SP 0221 0178; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent for the demolition of a workshop and the erection of a single storey annexe (Cotswold District Council Planning ref: 08/03711/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 of Field 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 is located within a row of terraced houses in the western part of Cirencester. To the north of the site is a car park, the property itself fronts onto Ashcroft Road on its south-eastern side and is bounded on all remaining sides by domestic properties and their associated gardens (Fig. 2). The site is flat and lies at approximately 111m AOD. The site encloses an area of 104m².
- 1.4 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

- 1.5 The site lies within the eastern part of the Roman town of *Corinium*. The site lies directly over the Roman Street L (Holbrook and Salvatore 1998, 21) which ran to the north of and almost parallel to the present course of Ashcroft Road. Street L formed

the north-western boundary of *insula XXa and XXb* in this part of the Roman town. The site lies immediately to the west of the junction of Street L with the north/south street that divided the two *insulae*. Previous archaeological investigation has revealed the remains of Street L to the west of the site at 52-54 Ashcroft Road (CAT 2000). At this site the uppermost metalled surface of the road was found c. 1m below present ground level (bpgl) at 109.5m AOD.

Methodology

- 1.6 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2009). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising the removal of the existing workshop foundations and the excavation of a foundation trench for the concrete base of the single storey annexe (Fig. 2).
- 1.7 Written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.8 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 D, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS

- 2.1 The earliest deposit encountered was a soil and rubble deposit 1011 constituting the former ground level, onto which the foundations for the current extension (1017 and 1018) were built. Set into deposit 1011 was an area of hardstanding 1019 which may have related to the workshop that was demolished as part of these works. Set into both 1011 and 1019 was a concrete-lined tank 1007 and associated services. These deposits were covered by garden soil layer 1002 except in the north of the trench where deposit 1011 was covered by tarmac path, 1006 and 1010.
- 2.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, finds of Roman date were recovered from hardstanding 1019, but are considered to be residual within this context.

The Finds

- 2.3 Small quantities of Roman pottery, ceramic building material, oyster shell and an iron nail were recovered from hardstanding 1019 (Appendix B).
- 2.4 One small sherd (1g) of Roman pottery of abraded Gaulish samian ware was recovered. The vessel form could not be identified, and dating within the mid 1st to late 2nd centuries AD range is suggested on the basis of the ware type alone.
- 2.5 Four fragments of ceramic building material (130g) were recovered, consisting of one piece of *imbrex* roofing tile and three undated fragments of brick or tile.
- 2.6 An iron nail was not closely dateable, although its form would be consistent with Roman examples (Manning 1985)

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see archaeological background above), the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. The absence of archaeological deposits is most likely due to the shallow depth of the intrusive groundworks, which did not penetrate beyond 0.68m below the present ground level (110.04m AOD).

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Stuart Joyce. The report was written by Stuart Joyce. The finds report was written by Teresa Gilmore. The illustrations were prepared by Lorna Gray. The archive has been compiled by Stuart Joyce, 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) 2007 *42a Ashcroft Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

CAT (Cotswold Archaeological Trust) 2000 *52-54 Ashcroft Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief.* Unpublished CA Report **001200**

Holbrook, N (ed), 1998 *Cirencester, The Roman Town Defences, Public Buildings and Shops.*

Holbrook, N. and Salvatore, J.P. 1998 'The Street System' in Holbrook, N. (ed.) 1998

Manning, W.H. 1985 *Catalogue of the Romano-British Iron Tools, Fittings and Weapons in the British Museum* British Museum Publications Ltd

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**Trench 1**

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1001	Deposit	Ornamental loose stone			0.10	
1002	Deposit	Garden soil – dark brown sandy silt			0.20	
1003	Deposit	Plastic drain		0.42		
1004	Cut	Cut for plastic drain1004		0.44		
1005	Deposit	Ornamental pea grit layer			80mm	
1006	Deposit	Tarmac pathway			80mm	
1007	Wall	Concrete wall of septic tank		0.18		
1008	Void					
1009	Cut	Cut for septic tank 1009		0.22		
1010	Deposit	Gravel bedding layer for tarmac 1006			80mm	
1011	Deposit	Former land surface – modern			-	
1012	Deposit	Backfill of 1007		1.24	-	
1013	Cut	Cut for modern sewer pipe.			0.30	
1014	Pipe	Fill of 1013 salt glazed pipe			0.18	
1015	Deposit	Concrete fill of 1013	0.25	0.70		
1016	Deposit	Backfill of 1013		0.30		
1017	Deposit	Concrete floor of current extension			0.20	
1018	Deposit	Concrete foundation of current extension			0.12	
1019	Deposit	Hardstanding		2.0		
1020	Cut	Cut for 1019		2.0		

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Artefact type	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
1019	Roman pottery: samian	1	4	C1-C2 AD
	Ceramic building material: imbrex, misc.	4	130	
	Oyster shell	1	4	
	Iron nail: Manning type 1b	1	9	

APPENDIX C: LEVELS OF PRINCIPAL DEPOSITS AND STRUCTURES

Levels are expressed as metres below current ground level and as metres Above Ordnance Datum (AOD), calculated using the benchmark located at 64 Cricklade Street, Cirencester, Gloucestershire (110.90m AOD).

	Trench 1
Current ground level	0.00m (110.72m)
Top of former land surface	0.28m (110.44m)
Limit of excavation	0.68m (110.04m)

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

APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	42a Ashcroft Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the demolition of a workshop and the erection of a single storey annexe.</p> <p>No features or deposits pre-dating the modern period were observed during groundworks, which were limited to a depth of 0.68m. The modern features observed consisted of a layer of hardstanding and a concrete lined tank. The absence of archaeological deposits is most likely due to the shallow depth of the intrusive groundworks.</p>	
Project dates	31 March 2009	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	42a Ashcroft Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	104m ²	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SP 0221 0178	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Gloucestershire County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Stuart Joyce	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Corinium Museum	Pottery, CBM, Shell, Fe object.
Paper	Corinium Museum	WSI, pro forma registers, recording forms and photographs.
Digital	Corinium Museum	Digital photographs.
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009 <i>42a Ashcroft Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i>. CA typescript report 09056</p>		

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COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY



PROJECT TITLE
**42a Ashcroft Road, Cirencester
 Gloucestershire**

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
LG	1:25,000@A4	2835	1



SP

-  site
-  area of observed groundworks



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

42a Ashcroft Road, Cirencester
Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

**The site, showing location of
groundworks**

DRAWN BY

LG

SCALE

1:250@A4

PROJECT NO.

2835

FIGURE NO.

2