

**THE FORMER ARKENSIDE HOTEL
LEWIS LANE
CIRENCESTER
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

For

P. H. GILLINGHAM GROUP LIMITED


CA PROJECT: 3047
CA REPORT: 10215

DECEMBER 2010

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CA PROJECT: 3047
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prepared by	Stuart Joyce, Project Officer
date	8 December 2020
checked by	Laurent Coleman, Project Manager
date	8 December 2010
approved by	Simon Cox, Head of Fieldwork
signed	
date	8 December 2010
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Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)

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

SUMMARY

Project Name: The Former Arkenside Hotel
Location: Lewis Lane, Cirencester, Gloucestershire
NGR: SP 0265 0182
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 4-7 and 18 October 2010
Planning Reference: 07/00901/FUL
SMC: HSD 9/2/9505
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Corinium Museum
Site Code: ARH 10

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of site access and temporary car parking at the Former Arkenside Hotel, Lewis Lane, Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material period was recovered. A modern pit was identified.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In October 2010 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for P. H. Gillingham Group Ltd at the Former Arkenside Hotel, Lewis Lane, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SP 0265 0182; Fig. 1).
- 1.2 The site lies within the area of Scheduled Monument Glos. 361 (Corinium Roman Town). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil conditions (nos ii and iii) attached to a letter (ref HSD 9/2/9505 dated 29 August 2007 from Miss Ann Middleton on behalf of the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), and acting on the advice of Ms Lucy Bourne, Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments, English Heritage) granting Scheduled Monument Consent for development of two blocks of terraced houses at the front and rear of the site. The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the first phase of development comprising the construction of site access and temporary car parking.
- 1.3 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with an *Archaeological Impact Assessment and Strategy for Monitoring and Mitigation of Proposed Development* prepared by Oxford Archaeology (amended by Cotswold Archaeology) (2007) and with an appended detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2007). The *Archaeological Impact Assessment and Strategy for Monitoring and Mitigation of Proposed Development* was submitted with the application for Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC). The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (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 2* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006).

The site

- 1.4 The site is bounded to the north-west by Lewis Lane and on the remaining sides by residential properties (Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 110m AOD, with the ground sloping gently downwards to the south-east.

- 1.5 The site (c. 1,600 m² in area) comprised the demolished remains of the Arkenside Hotel, primarily the exposed remains of the cellar, and associated gardens.
- 1.6 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Kellaways Formation (sandstone, siltstone and mudstone) of the Callovian era. The superficial geology is mapped as River Terrace Deposits 1 (gravel) of the Quaternary era (BGS 2010). The natural substrate was not encountered during the archaeological watching brief.

Archaeological background

- 1.7 The archaeological and historical background is outlined in the *Archaeological Impact Assessment and Strategy for Monitoring and Mitigation of Proposed Development* prepared by Oxford Archaeology (amended by Cotswold Archaeology) (2007) and can be summarised as follows:
- 1.8 Desk-based assessment concluded that the archaeological potential for Roman activity at the site was very high. Part of a Roman house was identified at the southern edge of a property in The Avenue during 1964-7. Prior to the 19th century the site lay to the south-east of the built-up area of the town. Two semi-detached houses which were built in 1859 were subsequently amalgamated and, with later additions, comprised the Arkenside Hotel (OA 2004).
- 1.9 Ground Probing Radar (GPR) survey and archaeological evaluation of the site were subsequently undertaken. The GPR survey identified a number of anomalies including former surfaces, two linear features and a possible ditch/pit to the north-west of the cellar of the hotel; structural foundations in the cellar; and anomalies representing walls and a ditch to the south-east of the hotel (OA 2006).
- 1.10 The archaeological evaluation identified the upper horizon of probable Roman demolition deposits together with a two-colour tessellated pavement with a simple geometric design (Trench 14). Probable Roman deposits were identified at 109m AOD to north-west of the hotel and between 108m and 108.5m under the floor of the cellar and elsewhere within the site. Post-Roman 'dark earth' deposits were identified in the central and southern parts of the site, but elsewhere had been disturbed by medieval and post-medieval cultivation. The anomalies identified during the GPR survey did not clearly correspond to features identified during the archaeological evaluation (OA 2006).

- 1.11 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the demolition of the 19th-century Arkenside Hotel; this recorded the structure of the building including the cellar. Following completion of the demolition works the cellar (c. 1.8m in depth) lined with ashlar and rubble walling and its base covered with stone paving slabs (except in the areas of the trial trenches) was left open (OA (amended by CA) 2007, 5-7).
- 1.12 The development will comprise two blocks of terraced houses at the front and rear of the site. The houses will be built on raft foundations to minimise the impact to the significant archaeological remains. The formation level for the front (north-western) block will be 109.3m AOD and the formation level for the rear (south-eastern) block will be 109.1m AOD thus preserving a buffer of at least 300mm above the underlying Roman deposits. All services have been designed to be located above the level of the significant archaeological remains where possible (OA (amended by CA) 2007, 8-9).

Methodology

- 1.13 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (OA (amended by CA) 2007, Appendix 4). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising the construction of site access and temporary car parking (Fig. 2). The maximum depth of excavation was 0.3m below present ground level (bpgl). The cellar was also backfilled with compacted granular fill material (as per ALP Architects drawing number 584-PL 28).
- 1.14 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.15 The site archive from the watching brief 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 (FIG. 2)

- 2.1 Dark grey/brown topsoil 206 was identified at c. 0.30m below present ground level. In the vicinity of the Lewis Lane entrance this was overlain by a make-up layer, 203, for concrete surface 202. This was truncated by modern pit 204 (of unknown depth) and a modern garden feature was also identified.
- 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 within the area of observed groundworks. This was due to the shallow depth (0.3m bpgl, c. 109.7m AOD) of the groundworks which had been designed not to intrude into the known archaeological remains located at c. 108m to 109m AOD. The topsoil deposits identified during the watching brief corresponded to the post-medieval cultivation soil identified across much of the site during the evaluation.
- 3.2 The known archaeological remains within the site have therefore been preserved *in situ*. Archaeological watching brief will also be undertaken during further construction works and archaeological excavation will be undertaken where significant archaeological deposits are identified during the watching brief and/or are known to be impacted upon, for example the drainage trench on the Lewis Lane frontage (Oxford Archaeology (amended by Cotswold Archaeology) 2007).

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Kelly Saunders, Jamie Wright and Stuart Joyce. The report was written by Stuart Joyce. The illustrations were prepared by Lorna Gray. The archive has been compiled by Stuart Joyce, and prepared for deposition by Kathryn Price. The project was managed for CA by Laurent Coleman.

5. REFERENCES

BGS 2010 http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html accessed 23 November 2010

OA (Oxford Archaeology) 2004 *The Arkenside Hotel, Lewis Lane, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*

OA (Oxford Archaeology) 2006 *The Arkenside Hotel, Lewis Lane, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological evaluation report*

OA (Oxford Archaeology) (amended by CA (Cotswold Archaeology)) 2007 *Archaeological Impact Assessment and Strategy for Monitoring and Mitigation of Proposed Development*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

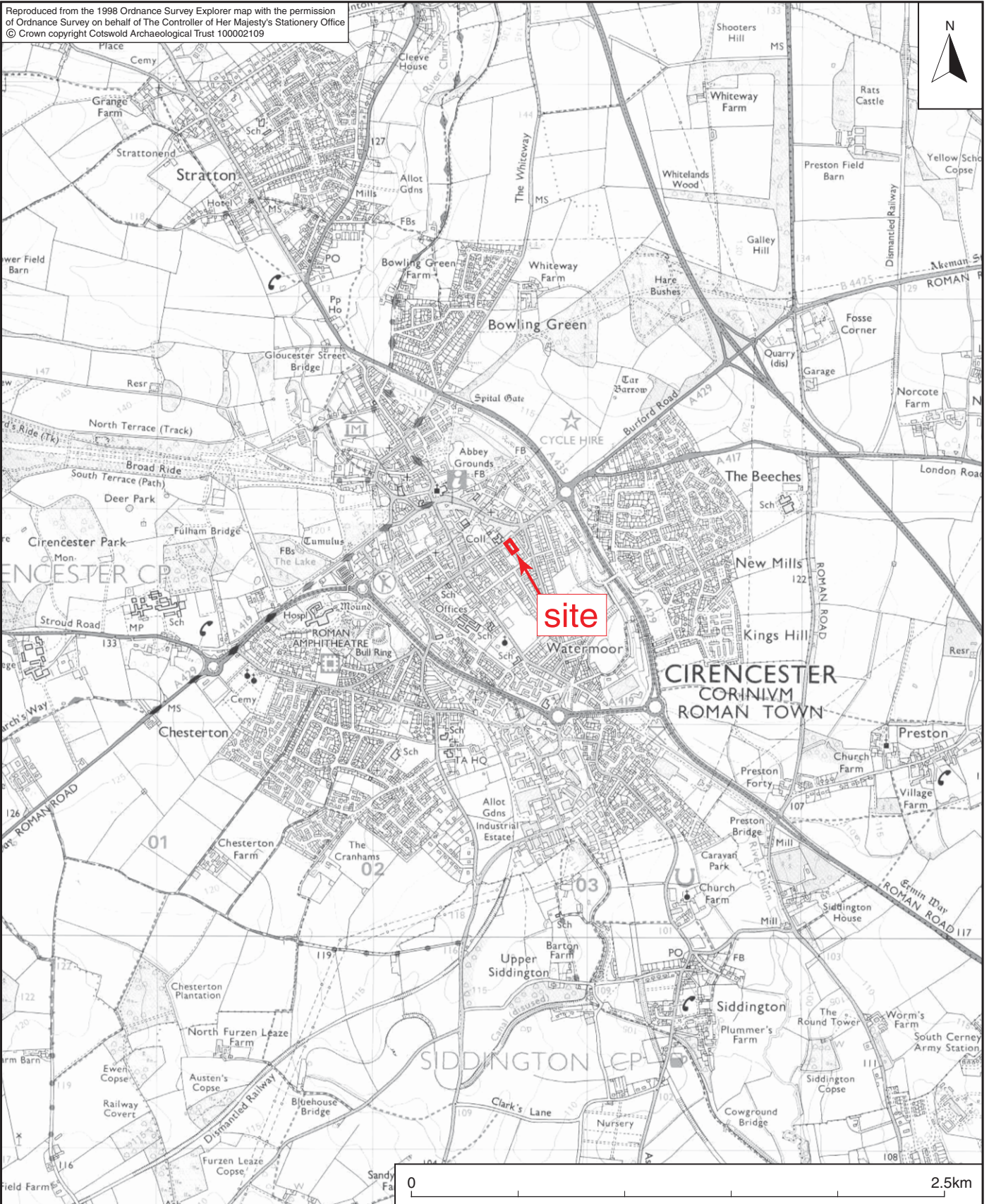
No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
101	Layer	Modern garden surface			0.05m	
200	Layer	Modern concrete			0.25	
201	Layer	Disturbed concrete			0.2	
202	Layer	Modern concrete			0.1	
203	Layer	Hardcore make-up for 202			0.2	
204	Cut	Modern pit cut (cut layer 202)		1.0	>0.3m	
205	Fill	Fill of 204. Rubble backfill.		1.0	>0.3m	
206	Layer	Buried topsoil; dark grey brown silty clay			> 0.05m	

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS	
Project Name	The Former Arkenside Hotel, Lewis Lane, Cirencester, Gloucestershire
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of site access and temporary car parking at the Former Arkenside Hotel, Lewis Lane, Cirencester, Gloucestershire. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material period was recovered. A modern pit was identified.
Project dates	4-7 and 18 October 2010
Project type	Watching brief
Previous work	Desk-Based Assessment (OA 2004), GPR survey and evaluation (OA 2006)
Future work	Unknown
PROJECT LOCATION	
Site Location	The Former Arkenside Hotel, Lewis Lane, Cirencester, Gloucestershire
Study area	1,600 m ²
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SP 0265 0182
PROJECT CREATORS	
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology
Project Brief originator	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology
Project Manager	Laurent Coleman
Project Supervisor	Kelly Saunders, Jamie Wright and Stuart Joyce
MONUMENT TYPE	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None
PROJECT ARCHIVES	
	Intended final location of archive
	Content
Physical	

Paper	Corinium Museum	Context sheets, registers b/w photos
Digital	Corinium Manager	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2010 <i>The Former Arkenside Hotel, Lewis Lane, Cirencester, Gloucestershire</i> CA typescript report 10215		

Reproduced from the 1998 Ordnance Survey Explorer map with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright Cotswold Archaeological Trust 100002109

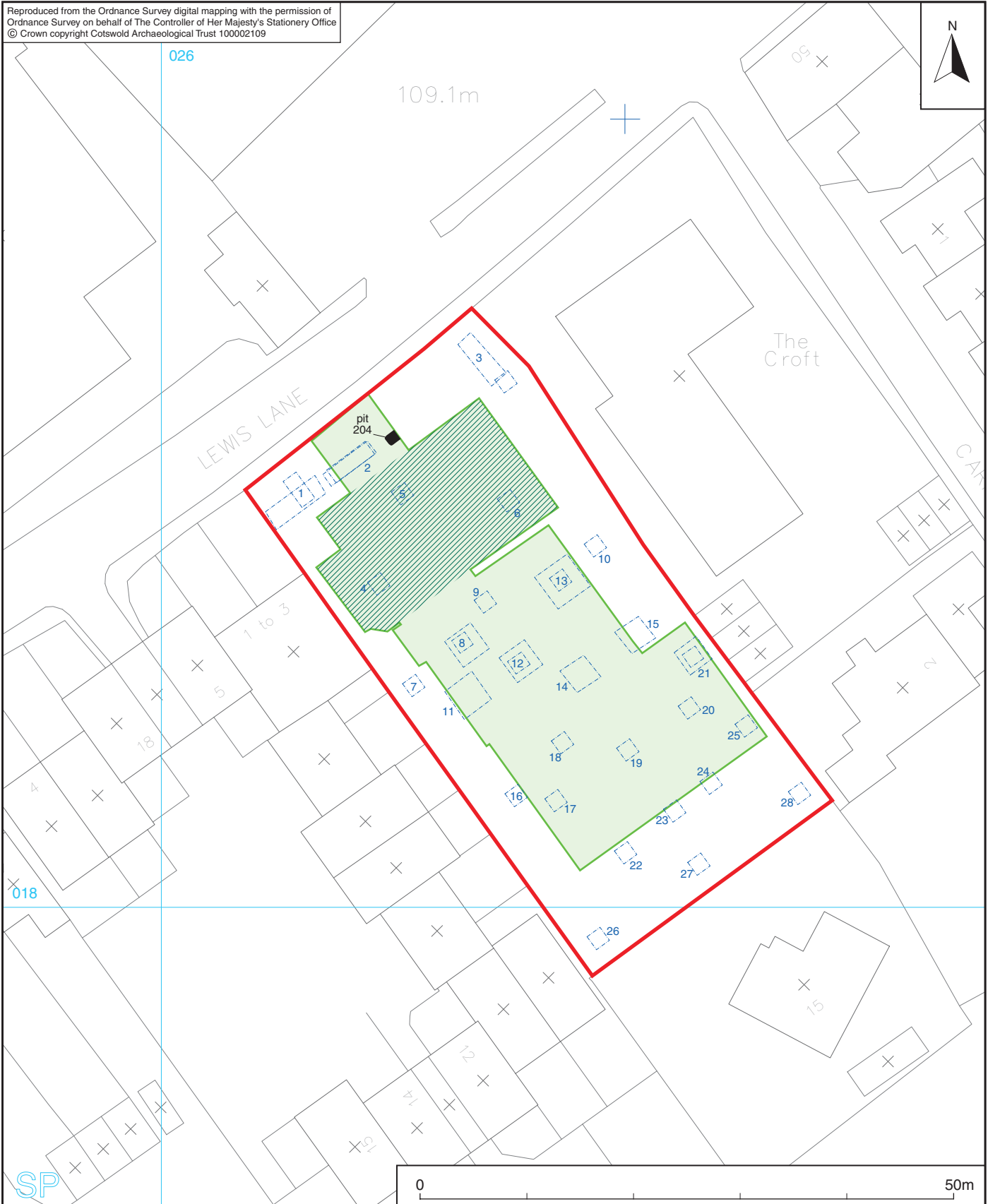


COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE
The Arkenside Hotel, Lewis Lane
Cirencester, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
LG	1:25,000@A4	3047	1



- site
- area of observed groundworks
- cellar
- modern intrusion
- test pit (OA 2006)



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

The Arkenside Hotel, Lewis Lane
 Cirencester, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

**The site, showing location of
 groundworks**

DRAWN BY

LG

SCALE

1:500@A4

PROJECT NO.

3047

FIGURE NO.

2