

**GAS MAIN REPLACEMENT  
BRISTOL ROAD  
CIRENCESTER  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

*For*

**MORRISON UTILITY SERVICES**


CA PROJECT: 3329  
CA REPORT: 11005

FEBRUARY 2011

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CA REPORT: 11005

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date	14 February 2011
checked by	Richard Young, Project Manager
date	14 February 2011
approved by	Simon Cox, Head of Contracts
signed	
date	21 February 2011
issue	01

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## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Gas Main Replacement  
**Location:** Bristol Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire  
**NGR:** SP 0306 0104  
**Type:** Watching Brief  
**Date:** 15-16 December 2010  
**Location of Archive:** To be deposited with Corinium Museum, Cirencester  
**Site Code:** BRG 10

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the replacement of a gas main at Bristol Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

Two trenches were excavated, the first wholly within the area disturbed by the existing service trench. The second, whilst within the width of the existing service trench, extended deeper than the original cut, revealing a deposit which is potentially alluvium associated with the nearby River Churn.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In December 2010 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Morrison Utility Services at Bristol Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SP 0306 0104; Fig. 1). The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the groundworks.

1.2 The site lies within an area of known archaeological potential (*Corinium* Roman Town) and therefore a request for archaeological monitoring was issued by Mr Charles Parry, Senior Archaeological Officer Gloucestershire County Council (GCC). The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2010) and approved by Mr Parry. 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 GCC 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* (English Heritage 2006).

### ***The site***

1.3 The site is located within the south of Cirencester, and comprises two trenches either side of the A419, one (T2) within the carriageway of Watermoor road to the north, and one (T1) within the carriageway of Siddington Road to the south (Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 104m AOD.

1.4 The underlying solid geology of the area is recorded as Forest Marble Formation deposits (mudstone with beds of shell detrital ooidal limestone) of the Bathonian period of the Middle Jurassic Era, and drift First Terrace Deposits of the Quaternary period (BGS 1998).

### ***Archaeological background***

1.5 The site lies in an area of considerable archaeological interest, being situated approximately 125m south of the defensive circuit of Roman *Corinium*, close to the

projected alignment of the Roman Road of Ermin Street, which ran south-eastwards from the Silchester Gate (Hargreaves 1998). Eighteenth-century and later discoveries of Early Roman burials south of the town and extending along Ermin Street have also identified the presence of a Roman cemetery within the vicinity of the site (Holbrook 1994).

### ***Methodology***

- 1.6 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2010). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks which comprised the insertion of a new pipe into the existing main from two access trenches (Fig. 2). The trenches (T1 and T2) were 5.4m by 1m, and 3.5m by 1.1m respectively.
- 1.7 Written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.8 The archive is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Corinium Museum, Cirencester. 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 Both trenches were excavated within an area previously disturbed by the insertion of the existing gas main and other associated services. Within Trench 1 the works did not exceed either the width or the depth of the pre-existing disturbance, and therefore only modern deposits were recorded. Within Trench 2 however the works, despite staying within the width of pre-existing disturbance, penetrated deeper than the modern service trench, and a 0.3m thickness of deposit 204, an undated light brown grey clay silt, was recorded.

### 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 observed groundworks. This is because the two trenches were excavated within the width of the existing disturbance and as such would not have disturbed any *in situ* archaeology.
- 3.2 Trench 2, however penetrated lower than the depth of the original trench into deposit 204 at approximately 103.38m AOD. This consisted of a light brown grey clay silt. An evaluation at 157 Watermoor Road immediately to the north revealed 0.3m of a clean silty clay overlying the natural gravels at approximately 104m AOD, interpreted as alluvial deposits from the River Churn, 20m to the north-west (Holbrook 2008, 132). It seems likely that deposit 204 also represents this alluvium, as although it is at a greater depth, the land in this area does fall away to the south

### 4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Alexandra Wilkinson. The report was written by Diarmuid Ó Seaneachain. The illustrations were prepared by Jon Bennett. The archive has been compiled by Alexandra Wilkinson and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

### 5. REFERENCES

- BGS (British Geological Survey) 1998 *Geological Survey of England and Wales. Sheet 235. Cirencester. 1:50,000 series. Soild and Drift*
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2010 *Gas Main Replacement, Bristol Street, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

Hargreaves, G.H, 1998 The Roman Road Network in the vicinity of Cirencester, in *Holbrook, N (Ed), Cirencester. The Roman Town Defences, Public Buildings and Shops. Cirencester. Cotswold Archaeological Trust Ltd.*

Holbrook, N, 1994 Corinium Dobunorum: Roman Civitas Capital And Provincial Capital, in Darvill, T, & Gerrard, C (eds) *Cirencester: Town and Landscape. An Urban Archaeological Assessment.*

Holbrook N. (ed) 2008 *Excavations and Observations in Roman Cirencester 1998-2007*, Cotswold Archaeology



**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

Trench 1 Present ground level: 104m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Turf/toposil			0.08	
101	Layer	Tarmac road surface			0.08	
102	Layer	Light yellowish-brown gravel and rubble including concrete			0.4	
103	Cut	Cut for gas main trench			0.7	
104	Fill	Dark grey sand backfill of cut 103				
105	Layer	Light yellowish-brown sandy clay			0.4	
106	Cut	Cut of service				
107	Fill	Light grey gravely sand backfill of cut 106				

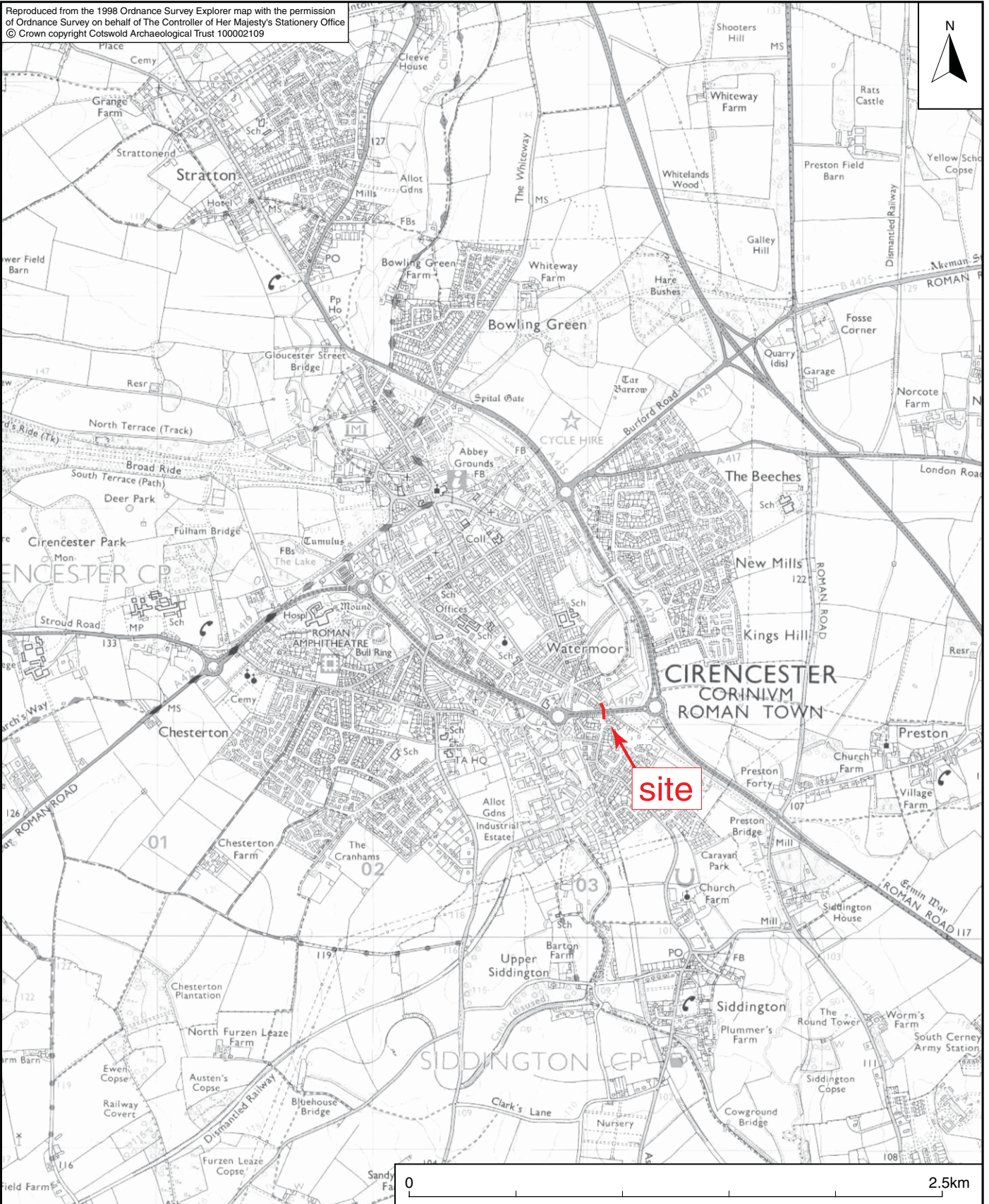
Trench 2 Present ground level: 103.98m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
200	Layer	Tarmac road surface			0.2	
201	Layer/fill	Modern brownish-yellow gravel: fill of cut 203				
202	Layer	Light grey sandy gravel with occasional large stone blocks: make-up layer for road			0.5m	
203	Cut	Cut for gas main service trench				
204	Layer	Light brownish-grey clayey silt			>0.3m	

**APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Gas Main Replacement, Bristol Steet, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief	
Short description (250 words maximum)	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the replacement of a gas main at Bristol Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire.</p> <p>Two trenches were excavated, the first wholly within the area disturbed by the existing service trench. The second, whilst within the width of the existing service trench, extended deeper than the original cut, revealing a deposit which is potentially alluvium associated with the nearby River Churn.</p>	
Project dates	15-16 December 2011	
Project type	Watching brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Bristol Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	9.25m <sup>2</sup>	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	NGR: SP 0306 0104	
<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	Alexandra Wilkinson	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	n/a	n/a
Paper	Corinium Museum	Context records, site location plan, trench location plans, day sheets, photo register
Digital	Corinium Museum	Project background, reports
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2010 <i>Gas Main Replacement, Bristol Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> CA typescript report no. <b>11005</b>		

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**COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

PROJECT TITLE

**Gas Main Replacement, Bristol Road  
Cirencester, Gloucestershire**

FIGURE TITLE

**Site location plan**

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SCALE

1:25,000@A4

PROJECT NO.

3329

FIGURE NO.

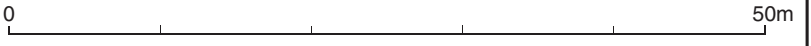
**1**



031



SP



- observed groundworks
- projected area of Roman cemetery (after Holbrook 2008)
- project course of Roman road



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

Gas Main Replacement, Bristol Road Cirencester, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

**The site, showing location of observed groundworks**

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1:500@A4

PROJECT NO.

3329

FIGURE NO.

**2**