

# LAND AT TREVONE HOUSE, DENMARK ROAD, GLOUCESTER

NGR: SO 8415 1920

## Results of an Archaeological Trench Evaluation

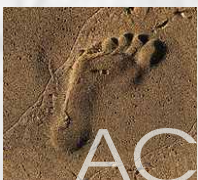
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and  
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On behalf of:  
CgMs Consulting

Report No: ACD1062/2/0

Date: January 2015



AC archaeology

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(NGR SO 8415 1920)

## Results of an archaeological trench evaluation

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## Summary

*An archaeological trench evaluation was carried out by AC archaeology during January 2015 on land at Trevone House, Denmark Road, Gloucester (NGR SO 8415 1920). The site is located alongside Ermin Street Roman road, the alignment of which is followed by Denmark Road. The evaluation comprised the machine excavation of a single 19m long x 1.6m wide trench, which established evidence for a modern demolition layer and terracing, possibly associated with a former building once located immediately to the east of the site. No evidence for Romano-British activity was present.*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological trench evaluation on land at Trevone House, Denmark Road, Gloucester (NGR SO 8415 1920), was carried out by AC archaeology on 15th January 2015. It was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of clients, following consultation with the Archaeology Officer, Gloucester City Council.
- 1.2 The site is located to the north of Denmark Road in what are currently the grounds of Trevone House. It is situated on generally level ground at 20m above Ordnance Datum, with the underlying solid geology comprising Blue Lias and Charmouth Mudstone, overlain by superficial deposits of Cheltenham Clays, Sands and Gravels.

### 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site is situated on the northern verge of the Ermin Street Roman road, the alignment of which is closely followed by the modern Denmark Road, leading west to the Roman fortress at Kingsholm, which was established in the mid-1st century AD. Substantial evidence of Roman settlement and funerary activity has been identified in the wider locality of the site, probably associated with a civil settlement attached to the fortress at Kingsholm, extending east along the alignment of Ermin Street.
- 2.2 No archaeological or documentary evidence of medieval settlement in the immediate vicinity of the site has been identified. It is likely that the area was under cultivation throughout the Middle Ages and well into the post-medieval period.
- 2.3 It was not until the late 19th/early 20th century that the present-day topography of the immediate area was established, with the construction of numerous detached and semi-detached houses stretching along the entirety of Denmark Road and adjoining streets. The existing Trevone House dates from the 1960s.

### 3. AIMS

- 3.1 The principal aim of the evaluation was to establish the presence or absence, extent, depth, character and date of any archaeological features, deposits or finds within the site, with particular reference to any roadside Roman military, industrial, settlement or funerary activity. The results of the work, as set out in this report, will be reviewed and used to inform any subsequent mitigation.

## 4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' guidelines, *Standards and Guidance for Field Evaluation* (2009), as well as a Written Scheme of Investigation (Valentin 2015) approved by the Gloucester City Archaeology Officer prior to commencement on site. The work comprised the machine excavation of a single 19m long x 1.6m trench in a position previously agreed between the City Archaeology Officer and CgMs Consulting. This was positioned using a Leica Net rover GPS, with sub-1cm accuracy. The location of the trench is shown on Fig. 1.
- 4.2 All soil removal was undertaken under the control and direction of the Site Archaeologist. Topsoil and overburden were removed by mechanical excavator using a wide toothless bucket, and ceased at the level at which natural subsoil was exposed.
- 4.3 All archaeological deposits revealed were recorded using the standard AC archaeology *pro forma* recording system, comprising written, graphic and photographic records, and in accordance with AC archaeology's *General Site Recording Manual, Version 2*. Detailed sections were produced at 1:20 and all site levels relate to metres above Ordnance Datum (mOD).

## 5. RESULTS

- 5.1 The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.10m below ground level into clay natural subsoil (context 102). The overlying layer sequence comprised 0.25-0.40m of topsoil (100) directly above a light yellow to brown clay natural subsoil (102). In the southwest part of the trench, at a depth of 0.25m, was a demolition layer (101), composed of a 0.60m thick grey clay containing frequent red brick fragments and rounded stones, directly overlying the natural subsoil and sealed by the topsoil. This extended for 3.20m towards the northeast before petering out within an artificial sloping of the natural subsoil.

**Table 1: Summary of results**

| Trench 1 |  | Length<br>19m | Width<br>1.60m                           | Alignment<br>NE-SW |
|----------|--|---------------|--|--------------------|
| Context  | Description  | Depth         | Interpretation                           |                    |
| 100      | Dark brown sandy-loam  | 0-0.25/0.40m  | Topsoil                                  |                    |
| 101      | Grey clay containing frequent amounts of red brick fragments, rounded stones, occasional pottery and animal bone | 0.25-0.85m    | c. 19th century demolition derived layer |                    |
| 102      | Light yellow brown firm clay   | 0.40-0.85m +  | Natural subsoil                          |                    |

## 6. THE FINDS *by Emma Firth*

- 6.1 All finds recovered on site have been retained, cleaned and marked where appropriate. Finds have been marked and packaged using the relevant AC archaeology site code and museum accession code. They have been quantified according to material type within each context and this information is summarised in Table 2 below. The assemblage has been scanned by material type and by context to extract information regarding the range, nature and date of artefacts represented.
- 6.2 Finds were only recovered from demolition layer, context 101, and are all of post-medieval date. They include a copper alloy plain post-medieval belt buckle, thirteen fragments of animal bone, including fragments of cattle and sheep with evidence of butchery by way of cut marks, as well as two pieces of pottery: a single glazed red

earthenware, possibly a Staffordshire-type combed slipware plate sherd with a date range from the late 17th to 18th century. The finds are all of archaeologically low significance and can be discarded upon agreement with the recipient museum and landowner.

**Table 2. Quantification of finds from context 101 (Weight is in grams)**

| Trench | Context | Copper alloy object |    | Animal bone |     | Post-medieval pottery |    |
|--------|---------|---------------------|----|-------------|-----|-----------------------|----|
|        |         | No                  | Wt | No          | Wt  | No                    | Wt |
| 1      | 101     | 1                   | 7  | 13          | 203 | 2                     | 36 |

## 7. COMMENTS

- 7.1 No significant *in situ* archaeological deposits or features were recorded throughout the trench and no evidence for Romano-British activity was identified.
- 7.2 The absence of any associated subsoil would suggest that the direct area of the trench had been the subject of landscaping during the modern period. This landscaping was probably associated with the demolition of a large detached building shown on the 1902 Ordnance Survey map, which was situated immediately to the east of the site. The gently sloping nature of the natural ground down to the south could potentially indicate terracing associated with this phase of demolition.

## 8. ARCHIVE

- 8.1 The paper and digital archive is currently held at the offices of AC archaeology Ltd, at 4 Halthaies Workshops, Bradninch, near Exeter, Devon, EX5 4LQ, under the unique project code of ACD1062. It will be held until the need for any further archaeological work on the site is established and whether Gloucester City Museum wish to accept it.
- 8.2 An online OASIS entry has been completed, using the unique identifier **201126**, which will include a digital copy of this report.

## 9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

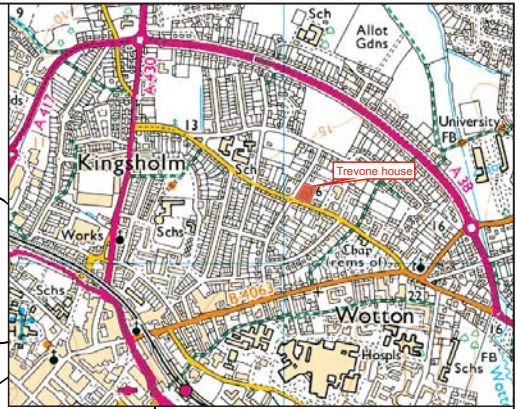
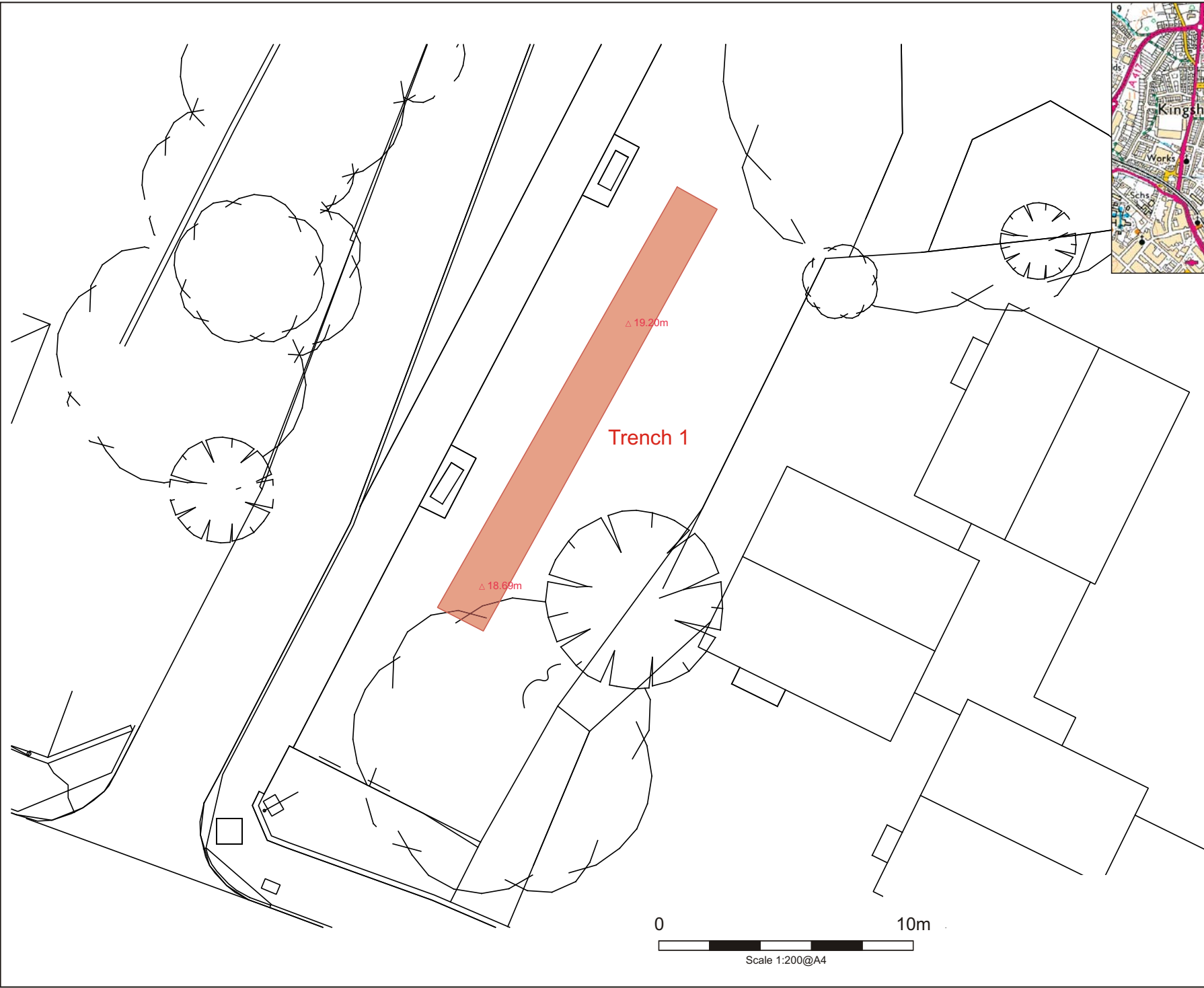
- 9.1 The fieldwork was carried out by Paul Jones and Daniel Brace, with the illustrations for this report prepared by Sarah Cottam. AC archaeology is most grateful to Andrew Armstrong, Gloucester City Archaeology Officer and Will Bedford of CgMs Consulting for their helpful advice on site.

## 10. SOURCES CONSULTED

McWhirr, A., 1981, *Roman Gloucestershire*.

Valentin, J., 2015, *Land at Trevone House, Denmark Road, Gloucester: Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological trial trenching*. Unpublished AC archaeology document, ref. ACD1062/1/0.

Wacher, J., 1976, *The towns of Roman Britain*.



PROJECT  
**Land at Trevone House,  
 Denmark Road,  
 Gloucester**

TITLE  
**Fig. 1: Site and trench  
 location**







Plate 1: General view of Trench 1, view to southwest (scale 1m)



Plate 2: Southwest end of Trench 1, showing demolition layer 101. View to northwest (scale 1m)



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