



**Gloucestershire**  
COUNTY COUNCIL

*An Archaeological Evaluation at*

**The Old Chapel  
Horton Road  
Gloucester**

For M. E. Wynn and Co. Ltd.



*Nathan Thomas  
Archaeology Service*

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## Details

Site address: The Old Chapel, Horton Road, Gloucester  
Report Title: An Archaeological Evaluation at The Old Chapel, Horton Road, Gloucester  
OS NGR: 384356 218433  
Site type: Evaluation  
Client: M E Wynn & Co. Ltd  
GHER No: 42962  
Planning Ref: Pre-application  
Date of fieldwork: 14<sup>th</sup> March 2012  
Date of report: 15<sup>th</sup> March 2012  
Author: Nathan Thomas  
Recipient museum: Gloucester City Museum  
Accession number: GLRCM 2012.6  
Archived finds: No

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## **Summary**

Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service (GCCAS) was commissioned by M E Wynn & Co. Ltd to carry out an archaeological evaluation at The Old Chapel, Horton Road, Gloucester, in advance of a planning application to develop the site. The proposed development includes the refurbishment of the interior of the chapel and the addition of a three-storey extension to the northwest of the chapel building. A desk-based assessment for the site indicated the potential for post-medieval burials associated with the Horton Road Hospital within the proposed extension area. A single trench, 10.5m in length and 1.3m in width, was machine excavated using a mechanical excavator with toothless bucket. The archaeological evaluation did not record any archaeological features within the trench excavated.

## **1 Introduction**

**1.1** Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service (GCCAS) was commissioned by M E Wynn & Co. Ltd to carry out an archaeological evaluation at The Old Chapel, Horton Road, Gloucester, in advance of a planning application to develop the site. The proposed development includes the refurbishment of the interior of the chapel and the addition of a three-storey extension to the northwest of the chapel building.

**1.2** The evaluation was conducted in accordance with the brief issued by the Principal Conservation and Design Officer of Gloucester City Council (Lewis 2012). Specific requirements for the evaluation were detailed in the project design (Thomas 2012a). The work was also carried out in accordance with the 'Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation' produced by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008). GCCAS is an Institute for Archaeologists Registered Organisation (IfA RO 42).

**1.3** The evaluation was carried out on the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2012 by Andrew Walsh and Nathan Thomas. The project was managed by Paul Nichols.

## **2 Site location**

**2.1** The Old Chapel is located on the west side of Horton Road, 1.2km east of Gloucester city centre within the area of Wotton and is centred on OS NGR 384356 218433. The Old Chapel lies within a small parcel of land covering an area of c.0.28 hectares and is bounded to the south and west by modern residential apartments and by Harescombe Drive and Horton Road to the north and east respectively (Figure 1).

**2.2** The underlying geology of the proposed development area is blue Lias clays and mudstone of the Charmouth formation overlain by Cheltenham sands and gravels (BGS 2012). The proposed development area is situated on a terrace of land at a height of approximately 24m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

## **3 Archaeological, historical and cartographic background**

**3.1** Information regarding the historical and archaeological background of the study area and its immediate surroundings has been reported in the desk-based assessment (DBA) and will not be repeated here in full (Thomas 2012b).

**3.2** The DBA concluded that there is a low potential for the survival of Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval remains within the proposed development area. However, there is potential for post-medieval burials associated with the Horton Road Hospital, based on the extent of the burial grounds depicted in the historic documentation. There is no evidence available for the number of potential burials or any record of burials being exhumed prior to the chapel construction. Disturbance from grave digging activities is also likely to have had a negative impact on the survival of any earlier archaeological deposits.

## **4 Purpose of the evaluation**

**4.1** The purpose of the evaluation was "to gain information about the archaeological resource ... including its presence or absence, character and extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and relative quality, in order to make an assessment of its worth in the appropriate context, leading to: the formulation of a strategy for the preservation or management of those remains; and/or the formulation of an appropriate response or mitigation strategy to planning applications or other proposals which may affect adversely such archaeological remains, or enhance them; and/or the formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research." (IfA 2008).

**4.2** The specific aims of the evaluation were:

- To determine the presence/absence of remains from the Roman, medieval and Anglo-Saxon periods.
- To determine the presence/absence of burials from the post-medieval period, from the burial ground of the Horton Road Hospital, inside the footprint of the proposed extension.

## **5 Methodology**

**5.1** A single trench was machine excavated, using a mechanical excavator with toothless bucket, to the top of the natural substrate. In the project design (Thomas 2012a) a single trench 10m in length was proposed. Due to the presence of an electric cable located at the north end of the proposed trench location, the trench was located 0.8m further to the south. In total, 10.5m of 1.3m wide trench was excavated, representing approximately 5% of the area of the proposed extension. The evaluation trench was located entirely within the footprint of the proposed extension and targeted an area thought to be part of the 1843 burial ground.

**5.2** All deposits were recorded on pro-forma context sheets and a photographic record of the trench was made. Site and trench location plans, based on the Ordnance Survey maps were prepared. Levels above Ordnance Datum (aOD) were recorded for the trench as required in the brief.

**5.3** The site archive will be temporarily stored at Shire Hall, Gloucester under a unique site code, GHER 42962, issued by Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record Officer. It is intended that the archive will be deposited with the Gloucester City Museum under accession number GLRCM 2012.6. The archive will be composed of primary site record sheets, drawings and photographs, and will also contain a copy of both the DBA and evaluation reports. All digital data produced during the works will also be included

## **6 Results of the evaluation (Figure 2, Plates 1 and 2)**

**6.1** The results of the evaluation are outlined below, with the deposits discussed in stratigraphic order starting with the earliest. Cut numbers are shown in square brackets [] all other context numbers are shown in round brackets ().

**6.2** The evaluation trench (Trench 1) was located on the western side of the chapel building within the gravelled parking bays of the former car park. The trench measured 10.5m in length and was oriented approximately north to south, parallel with the chapel. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.85m below ground level (BGL).

**6.3** The base of the trench was recorded at a height of 22.04m (south) and 22.08m (north) aOD. The top of the trench was recorded at a height of 22.69m (south) and 22.93m (north) aOD.

**6.4** The earliest deposit encountered was a bluish-green clay (deposit 102). Deposit (102) was present at a depth of between 0.5m – 0.6m BGL. At the north end of the trench this equates to 22.33m aOD. At the south end of the trench, 22.19m aOD. Deposit (102) was interpreted as the natural undisturbed Lias clay geology. Above (102) was a mottled yellowish green clay with common flecking of charcoal and small fragments of ceramic building material throughout (deposit 101). Deposit (101) measured 0.24m – 0.4m in depth and was interpreted as a disturbed layer, perhaps associated with landscaping and terracing works conducted during the chapel's construction. Overlying (101) and sealing the trench was a layer of hardcore material (deposit 100). Deposit (100) measured 0.25m in depth and was interpreted as a hardcore layer introduced to form the parking bays of the car park.

## **7 Conclusion**

**7.1** The archaeological evaluation did not record any archaeological features within the trench excavated. It is likely that the extent of the burial ground depicted in the historic mapping, and identified within the DBA to overlap with the proposed extension (Thomas 2012b), is either inaccurate or may indicate the full extent of the burial ground that may not have been fully utilised. The results accord with the archaeological evaluation conducted at the Horton Road Hospital to the north of the proposed development (Donel 1999), where significant landscaping works associated with the hospital were identified, due to the absence of both a topsoil and subsoil across most of the area investigated.

## 8 References

- BGS 2012 British Geological Survey data held on County Council GIS
- Donel, L 1999 Horton Road Hospital, *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society* 117, 180
- IfA 2008 *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation*
- Lewis, C 2012 Brief for Archaeological Evaluation, The Old Chapel, Horton Road, Gloucester. Unpublished Gloucester City Council typescript report.
- Thomas, N 2012a An Archaeological Evaluation at The Old Chapel, Horton Road, Gloucester. Written Scheme of Investigation. Unpublished GCCAS typescript report
- Thomas, N 2012b An Archaeological Desk-based Assessment and Historic Building Appraisal at The Old Chapel, Horton Road, Gloucester. Unpublished GCCAS typescript report.



**Plates**



Plate 1 : Trench 1 looking north (Scales 2 x 1m)



Plate 2 : Trench 1 looking south with electric cable in foreground (Scales 2 x 1m)



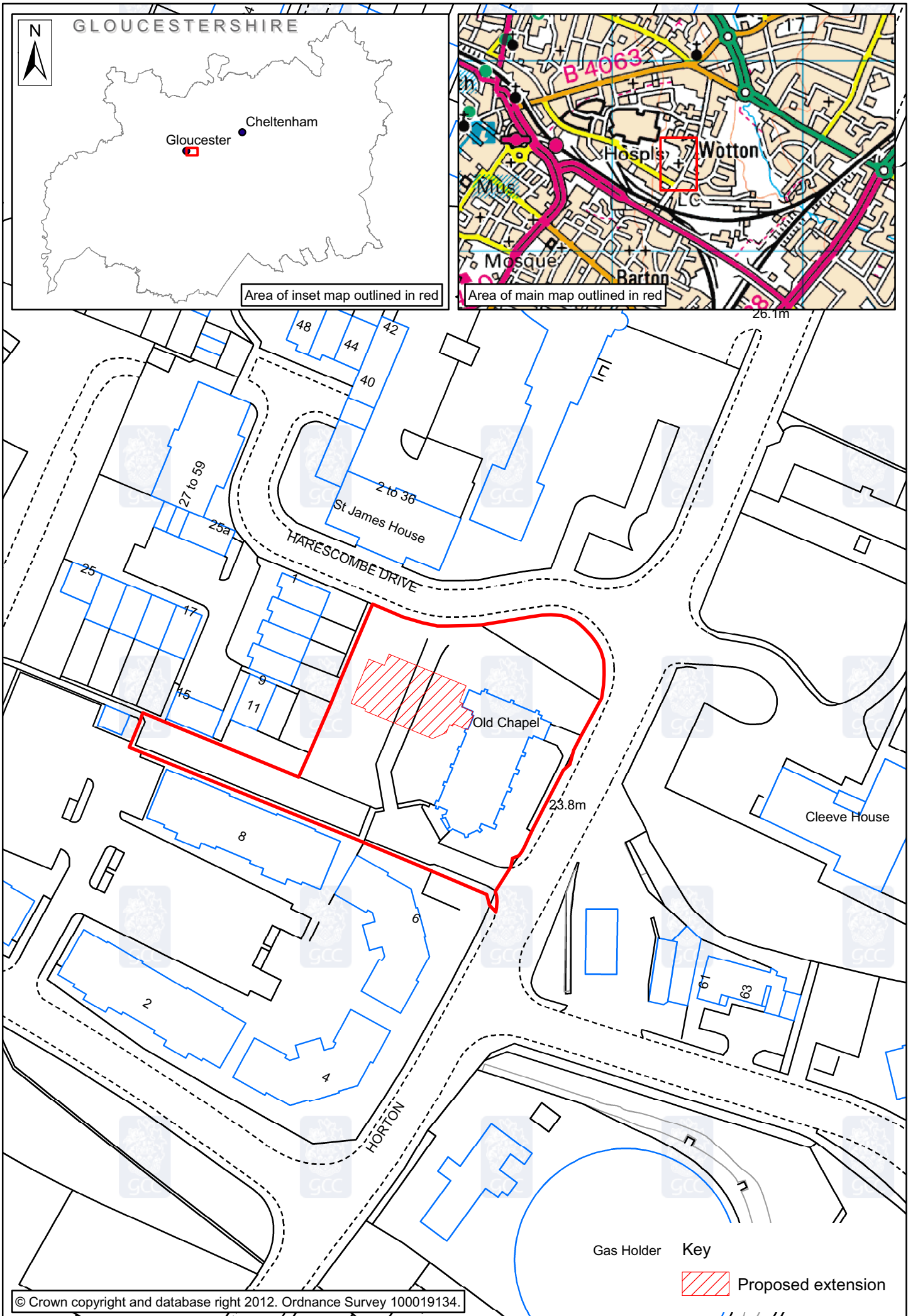


Figure 1: Site location The Old Chapel, proposed development area outlined in red (Scale 1:1000 @ A4)

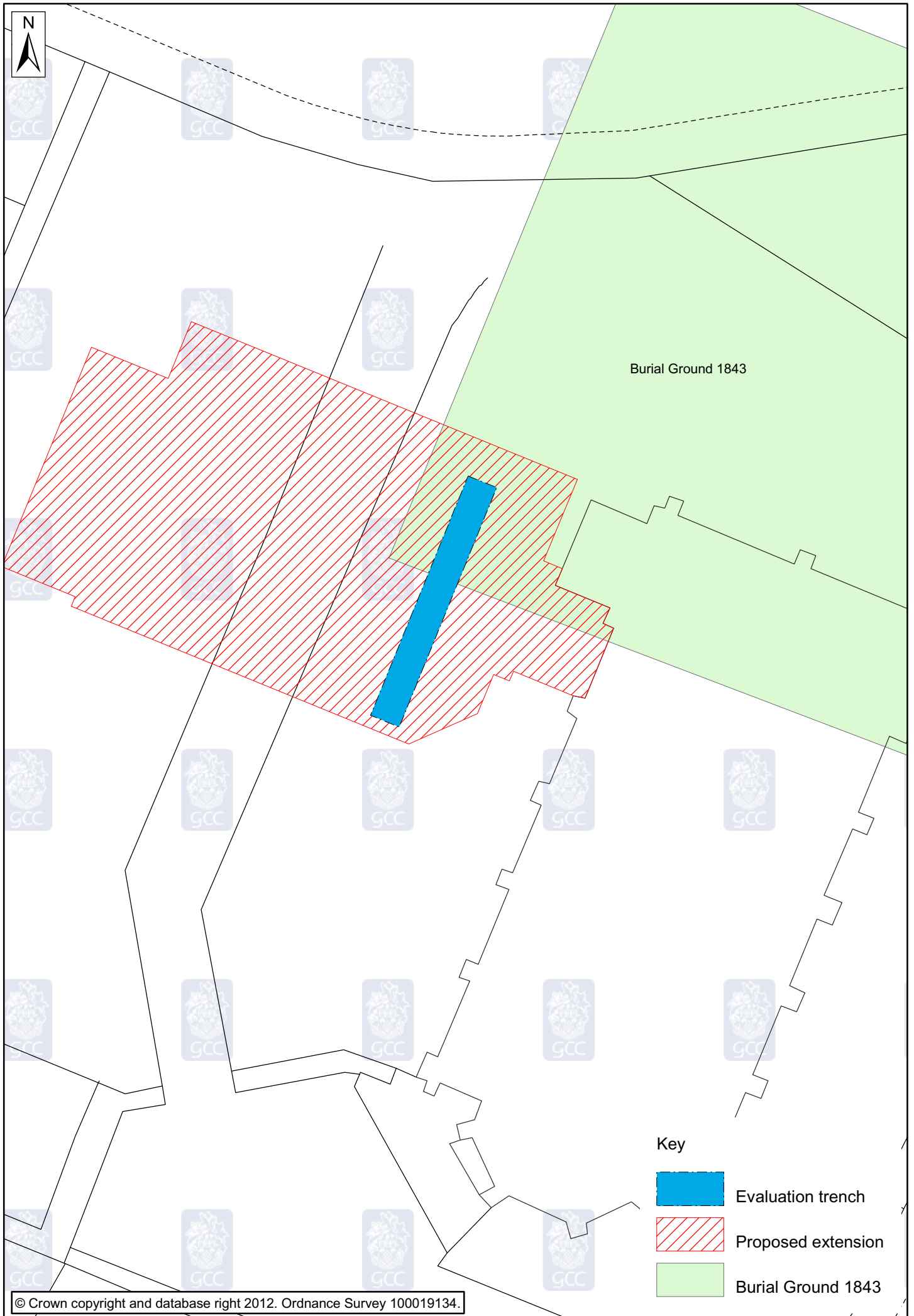


Figure 2 :Evaluation trench location (Scale 1:200 @ A4)