

Site details

Site address: Catio Winfield Hospital, Gloucester
OS NGR: 383430 220190
Site type: Watching Brief
Clients: Mr D Shrimpton (Hall Needham Associates)
GSMR No: 29084
Planning ref: 03/01335/FUL
Date of fieldwork: 14th, 15th & 30th April 2007
Recipient museum: Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery
Archived finds: No
Author: Edmund Stratford
Date of Report: August 2007

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Summary

Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service (GCCAS) were commissioned by Mr D Shrimpton of Hall Needham Associates to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring, during the groundworks associated with the construction of an extension to the rear of the existing building at Capio Winfield Hospital, Gloucester, Gloucestershire (OS NGR 383430 220190).

On the advice of Phil Greatorex, Historic Environment Officer of Gloucester City Council, the scheme was subject to a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording under a condition attached to the planning permission (03/01335/FUL). The archaeological monitoring recorded no significant archaeological features or deposits, within the area impacted by the groundworks for the development.

1 Introduction

1.1 Gloucestershire County Council Archaeological Service (GCCAS) were commissioned by Mr D Shrimpton of Hall Needham Associates, to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring during the groundworks associated with the construction of an extension to the rear of the existing building at Capio Winfield Hospital, Gloucester, Gloucestershire (OS NGR 383430 220190). The archaeological monitoring was carried out as a condition attached to planning permission (03/01335/FUL), as requested by Phil Greatorex, Historic Environment Officer of Gloucester City Council.

1.2 The required archaeological works were outlined in the 'Brief for a Controlled Archaeological Watching Brief' issued by Phil Greatorex, Historic Environment Officer of Gloucester City Council and detailed in the project design (Hickling 2007). Archaeological recording on site was carried out in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists 'Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief' (IFA 2001).

1.3 Edmund Stratford, Senior Archaeological Assistant (GCCAS) undertook the archaeological monitoring on 14th, 15th and 30th April 2007. Jo Vallender (GCCAS Senior Project Officer) managed the project.

2 Site location (see Figure 1)

The Capio Winfield Hospital is located 1.7km north of Gloucester city centre, on the western side of the Tewkesbury Road (A38) at OS NGR 383430 220190. The site is geologically located on the river terrace gravels of the River Severn (BGS 2006), at a height of 10-11m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD).

3 Archaeological background

3.1 The following information was taken from the project design (Hickling 2007), and draws from the information provided by the staff of Gloucestershire County Council Sites and Monuments Record (GSMR).

3.2 Prehistoric

A small amount of prehistoric evidence has come to light within the immediate area of the development, but nothing to suggest settlement.

One flint blade (GSMR 5777) was found in 1984 during a redevelopment 190m to the northeast of the development site and in 1922, two flint axes (GSMR 28324) were found 200m south of the development area.

3.3 Romano-British

There is extensive evidence of Romano-British activity in this area. The Tewkesbury Road (GSMR 8090) is the Roman Road between Birmingham and Gloucester (Margary's RR180).

During development in 1984, 190m to the northeast of the present development area, a pit, Romano-British pot sherds and late Roman coins were recorded (GSMR 5778).

A first century Roman coin has also been recorded 180m south of the development area (GSMR 7166).

Part of a human femur was discovered during construction of the Gloucester Northern Bypass, 110m northwest of the development area (GSMR 9690). This was assumed to have come from a disturbed Romano-British burial.

In addition, a soil layer containing Romano-British pottery (GSMR 9729) has been recorded 270m southwest of the development area.

During the construction of the Winfield Medical centre, seven coins of 1st to 4th century date, a stud of 1st century military type, a bronze brooch, another brooch, fragments of 2nd century pottery and a bronze round-headed pin were discovered.

3.4 Post-Roman

There is no physical evidence of any post-Roman activity within the area, but this is probably indicative of the nature of the evidence rather than the total absence of activity during this period.

3.5 Medieval

The cartographic evidence suggests that the site was part of an openfield, with possible settlement to the east along the Tewkesbury Road during the medieval period.

A large number of medieval and later coins and metal items (GSMR 5779), have been recovered during development work, 190m northeast of the present development area, suggesting possible occupation.

On the site of the present hospital, ploughsoil containing occasional sherds of medieval pottery dating from the 12th century (GSMR 14802) has been recorded.

3.6 Other recent archaeological work

Cedar Trust Home, Redland Acre, 35, Tewkesbury Road, Gloucester (GSMR 16621)

Observations were made in new sewer trench extending along the driveway to a depth of 1m below ground level. No archaeological finds or features were identified.

Archaeological desk based assessment, A40 Longford to M50 Gorsley improvement 1990 (GSMR 20236)

A field survey was also undertaken on parts of the route. From this search seven areas of archaeological potential were identified and recommended for different types of action ranging from preservation to no further action.

3.7 Cartographic evidence

The 1799 map of Gloucester (Gwatkin 1992) shows the development area as being within "Corn Westfield", with buildings fronting onto the Tewkesbury Road.

The 1885, 1902, 1923, 1936 and 1970 Ordnance Survey maps (OS 1885, OS 1902, OS 1923, OS 1936 and OS 1970) show the site within the same field as the 1799 map of Gloucester (Gwatkin 1992).

4 Purpose of the monitoring

In the IFA document referred to at 1.2 above:

"The definition of an archaeological watching brief is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is the possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive."

“The purpose of a watching brief is to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works” (IFA 2001).

5 Methodology

5.1 The groundworks for the development were monitored on three site visits between 14th and 30th April 2007. These initially comprised the stripping, by machine, of the tarmac ground surface within an area of approximately 75 square metres (see Figure 2). Further groundworks within the confines of this area comprised the piling of 11 concrete-filled steel piles, and the excavation, by machine, of a series of foundation trenches. The trenches were 0.65m in width and were excavated to an average depth of 0.60m below the existing ground level.

5.2 All deposits were recorded on a pro-forma context sheet. A site location plan indicating north and based on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map (OS 1996) was prepared (see Figure 1). A digital photographic record of the investigations was completed, illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features.

5.3 The site archive is presently stored at Shire Hall, Gloucester under a unique site code, GSMR 29084 issued by the County Sites and Monuments Record Officer. It is intended that it will eventually be deposited with the Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery for long-term storage.

6 Results

6.1 The results of the archaeological monitoring are outlined below, with the deposits discussed in stratigraphic order starting with the earliest. All context numbers are shown in rounded brackets ().

6.2 Throughout the area of groundworks no deposits predating the modern period were encountered. The earliest deposit encountered within the foundation trenches was an orange sand (102), which was excavated into to a maximum depth of 0.20m. This was overlain by a layer of hardcore rubble (101), which measured a maximum of 0.40m in depth. This was in turn sealed by the modern concrete ground surface, which measured a maximum of 0.30m in depth.

7 Conclusions

The archaeological monitoring recorded no significant features or deposits, within the area impacted by the groundworks for the development. It is likely that the deposits encountered relate to the construction of the existing hospital building.

8 References

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|--------------|------|---|
| BGS | 2006 | Digital data held by Gloucestershire County Council |
| Greatorex, P | 2007 | <i>Brief for a Controlled Archaeological Watching Brief.</i> |
| Gwatkin, G | 1992 | Tithe Map of Gloucester 1799. |
| Hickling, S | 2007 | <i>Archaeological Monitoring at Capio Winfield Hospital, Gloucester, Gloucestershire.</i> Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation. GCCAS typescript. |
| IFA | 2001 | <i>Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief.</i> |
| OS | 1885 | <i>Ordnance Survey First Edition County Series map.</i> OS digital data held on Gloucestershire County Council GIS. |
| OS | 1902 | <i>Ordnance Survey Second Edition County Series map.</i> OS digital data held on Gloucestershire County Council GIS. |

OS	1923	<i>Ordnance Survey Third Edition County Series map.</i> OS digital data held on Gloucestershire County Council GIS.
OS	1936	<i>Ordnance Survey,</i> OS digital data held on Gloucestershire County Council GIS.
OS	1970	<i>Ordnance Survey,</i> OS digital data held on Gloucestershire County Council GIS.
OS	1996	<i>Ordnance Survey,</i> OS digital data held on GCC corporate GIS.



Figure 1: Site location plan (Scale 1:2500)

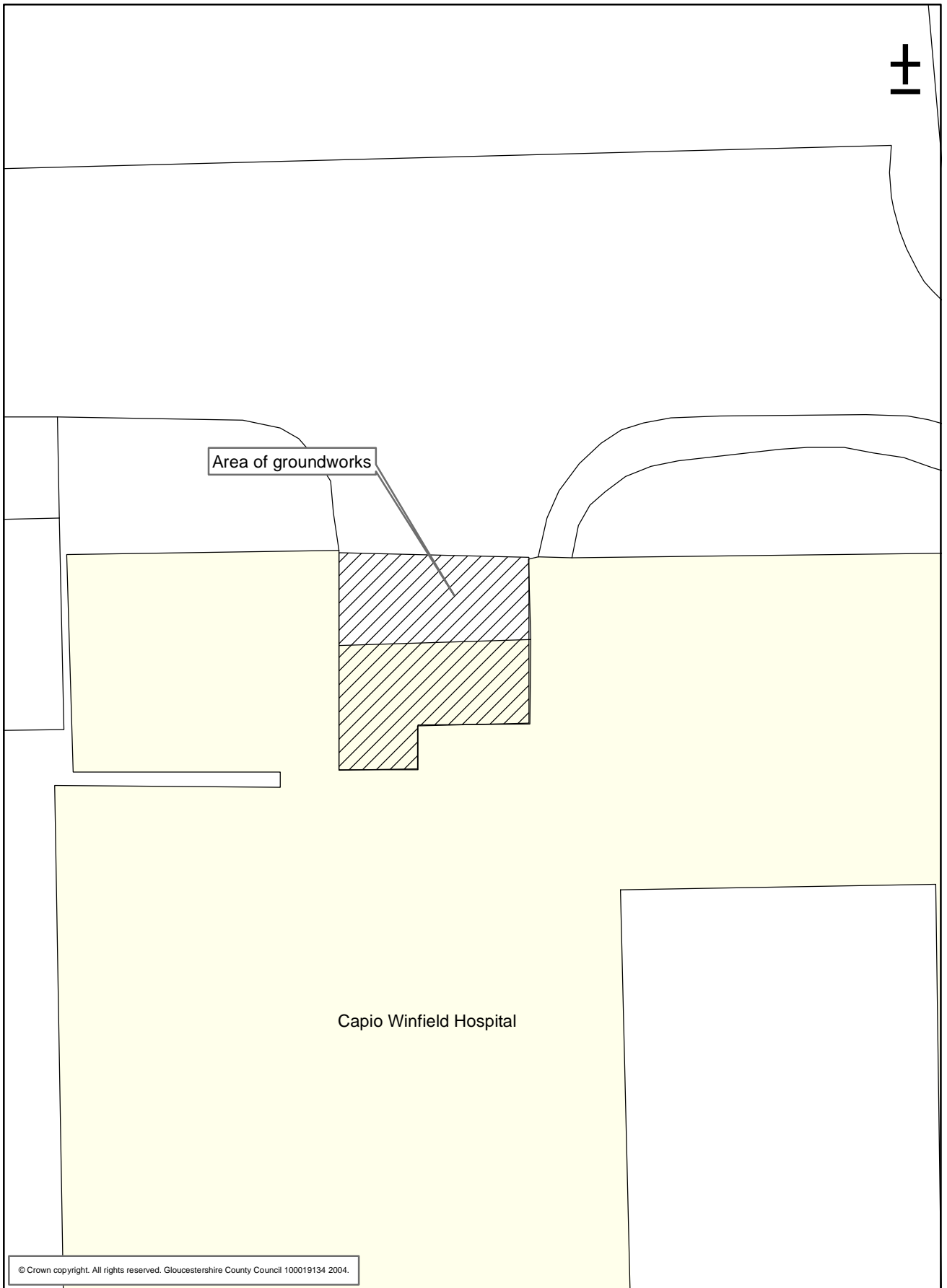


Figure 2: Groundworks location plan (Scale 1:250)