

## Site details

Site address: Cathedral View, Archdeacon Street, Gloucester, Gloucestershire  
OS NGR: 382922 218957  
Site type: Evaluation  
Client: Moss Construction  
GSMR No: 33012  
GCC ref: 474.33  
Date of fieldwork: 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> December 2008  
Date of report: December 2008  
Author: Nick Witchell  
Recipient museum: Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery  
Archived finds: Yes

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## **Summary**

Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service were commissioned by Mr Roger Hart (Moss Construction) on behalf of Gloucestershire County Council Corporate Building Services to carry out an archaeological evaluation at Cathedral View, Archdeacon Street, Gloucester, Gloucestershire (OS NGR 382922 218957).

This evaluation was carried out in advance of the submission of a planning application, as the site is in an archaeologically sensitive area. The proposed development comprises the construction of a two-storey extension on the southwestern end of the existing building, to provide a learning disability day care centre at the Cathedral View residential home. An additional extension is proposed, on the northwestern side of Cathedral View, for the Respite Unit.

## **1 Introduction**

Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service (GCCAS) were commissioned by Mr Roger Hart (Moss Construction) on behalf of Gloucestershire County Council Corporate Building Services to carry out an archaeological evaluation at Cathedral View, Archdeacon Street, Gloucester, Gloucestershire OS NGR 382922 218957. The Senior Archaeological Officer of Gloucestershire County Council requested that an archaeological field evaluation was carried out in advance of an application for planning permission for the construction of a two-storey extension on the south-western end of the existing building and an extension on the north western side of the existing building. Two 1.2m by 1.2m trenches and a single 1.5m by 1.5m trench were excavated, The fieldwork was carried out on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of December 2008 by Nick Witchell and Briege Williams and on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2008 by Nick Witchell and Graham Arnold. Paul Nichols managed the project.

**1.2** The evaluation was completed in accordance with the requirements of the standard 'Brief for an Archaeological Field Evaluation' issued by the Senior Archaeological Officer of Gloucestershire County Council (Parry 2006). Specific requirements for the evaluation were detailed in the project design (Arnold 2008b). The evaluation was also carried out in accordance with the 'Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations' produced by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008). The Archaeology Service is an Institute of Field Archaeology, Registered Organisation (IfA RO 42).

## **2 Site location (Figure 1)**

Cathedral View is located on Archdeacon Street in the centre of Gloucester, approximately 200m northwest of Gloucester Cathedral and 320m northeast of the River Severn at a height of approximately 11m Above Ordnance Datum (OD) The site is geologically situated on Limestone and Mudstone of the Blue Lias formation and Charmouth Mudstone underlying sands (British Geological Survey (BGS) 2008). The study area is within the Gloucester Conservation Area 7, Cathedral Precinct.

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

The following information is selectively taken from the desk-based assessment carried out on the site (Arnold 2008a) and draws from the information provided by the staff of Gloucestershire County Council Sites and Monuments Record (GSMR). Historical maps and the reports of previous archaeological work in the area have also been consulted.

### **3.1 General**

The site lies close to a number of important known archaeological sites, it is within 40m of the Scheduled Monument (SM) area of St Oswald's Priory (SM 223), which was founded in the late 9th century on the site of a Roman cemetery.

The site is also approximately 30m from St Mary de Lode Church, a Grade I Listed Building with a 12<sup>th</sup> century tower and chancel, which is reputed to be the longest continuously occupied site of Christian worship.

### **3.2 Romano-British**

**3.2.1** In 1825-6 remains of a Roman building; a tessellated pavement and mosaics were discovered within the grounds of St Mary de Lode Church during rebuilding work.

**3.2.2** In 1978-79 excavations were undertaken at St Mary De Lode Church prior to redevelopment work. The excavations discovered occupation from Roman, sub-Roman, Anglo Saxon and Medieval periods (Bryant

and Heighway 2003). These included a series of Roman buildings of high status dating to the 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> century including 1<sup>st</sup> century wall plaster suggests a high status building. In the second phase, dating to the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> centuries a series of Roman mosaics and an intricate hypocaust system with Roman columns were uncovered, suggesting a public building of high status, either used as a bath-house or a temple. There was also evidence that the area was used as a burial ground between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> centuries, with post-holes relating to a wooden mausoleum constructed over the foundations of the previous Roman building, following the same alignment. The uppermost levels for the Roman deposits were at approximately 10m AOD, with a maximum depth of 9.50m AOD (Bryant and Heighway 2003, 135-139).

**3.2.3** Roman building rubble was discovered at a depth of 1m below ground level during a watching brief on the site of Cathedral View in November 1994 within a sewer trench a maximum of 1.25m below ground level. This consisted of 'Oolite and Lias building stones and Tegula and sandstone tile fragments in a mortar saturated loam' (Garrod, 1994, 68).

### **3.3 Anglo-Saxon**

At the site of St Mary de Lode in the late Roman period a high status house was demolished and a wooden structure was built on the same alignment, containing a number of burials, with their heads orientated west, suggesting a continuation of Christian traditions.

### **3.4 Cartographic evidence (Figures 3 and 4)**

**3.4.1** The proposed development area of the south west extension is shown as having been developed on the 1880 OS map, these buildings remain unaltered on the following maps, the layout is likely to have been unchanged up until their demolition (between 1955 and 1963 (Arnold 2008a)).

**3.4.2** The proposed development area of the north west extension is shown on the 1880 map (Ordnance Survey First Edition County Series) and all further OS maps, as being undeveloped (prior to the construction of Cathedral View) The area appears to be garden/open ground, which is enclosed, in part, by a boundary wall and the surrounding buildings.

## **4 Purpose of the evaluation**

The purpose of an evaluation is *"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).

## **5 Methodology**

**5.1** Three trenches were excavated by hand. The trenches were positioned to give the maximum coverage of the proposed development area within the constraints of the existing buildings, trees, services and access routes. Trench 1 was excavated to 1.5m by 1.5m; Trenches 2 and 3 measured 1.2m by 1.2m (their original size was proposed as being 1.5m square, this was reduced due to restrictions of space in Trench 2 and problems with tree roots in Trench 3). The location of the trenches is shown on Figure 2.

**5.2** All deposits were recorded on pro-forma context sheets. Site and trench location plans, indicating north and based on the Ordnance Survey maps, were prepared. Levels Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) were recorded for archaeological deposits as required in the brief.

**5.3** The site archive will be temporarily stored at Shire Hall, Gloucester under a unique site code, GSMR 33012, 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.

## 6 Results of the evaluation

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 rounded brackets ().

### 6.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was located to the southwest of the outbuilding on the southwestern side of Cathedral view and along with Trench 3 was situated to evaluate the proposed extension on the south west of the building.

The trench measured 1.5m by 1.5m and was excavated to a maximum of 0.99m below the existing ground level (10.30m OD). The earliest deposit encountered was a light grey clayey silt and ash (106) which contained frequent charcoal, red brick fragments and post medieval pottery and occasional pieces of clay pipe and animal bone, deposit (106) was not bottomed due to the confines of the trench, but measured at least 0.28m in depth. A northwest to southeast-orientated foundation wall (105) was observed along part of the southwest facing section of the trench, constructed of machine made, red brick with mortar bonding.

Wall [105] and deposit (106) were overlain by a surface (104) composed partially of brickwork and partially a large sandstone slab, with concrete filling between the two. Within the brick surface was a gully, the drain channel of which was at least 0.40m deep running northeast to southwest beneath the surface. It is probable that the drain will have destroyed any archaeology along its line, to a depth of at least 1.00m below ground level (10.19m OD).

Sealing surface (104) was a deposit of mixed demolition material (103), composed of broken modern red brick and tile within a black soil matrix up to 0.16m in depth; modern white china was observed within this deposit. Sealing (103) was a compacted deposit of broken modern red brick and mortar (102) up to 0.20m in depth, deposit (102) was sealed by a layer of compacted yellow gravel aggregate (101) up to 0.13m in depth, which was overlain by a deposit of dark brown topsoil, mixed with patches of grey clay (100). Ground level was at a height of 11.19m AOD.

### 6.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was located on the northwest side of the existing Cathedral View, Respite Centre building and was sited to evaluate the proposed extension on the northwest of the building. The trench measured 1.2m by 1.2m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.4m below the existing ground level (9.89m AOD).

The earliest archaeological deposit encountered was a mixed demolition deposit (208) of dark brown silty clay, containing frequent small pieces of pink mortar, small, rounded limestone pieces and rare fragments of red brick. Three well-preserved pieces of Romano-British pottery were recovered from deposit (208) along with three pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) of post-medieval date.

Sealing deposit (208) was a layer of mid brown, clay silt (207) up to 0.28m deep, which contained frequent flecks of charcoal and fragmented limestone, occasional red brick fragments and a single, whole, red brick (probably hand made). An intact and well-preserved shale spindle whorl was residual within context (207), which is likely to date to the Romano British period (A similar example of Romano British date is known from Bath).

Overlying deposit (207) was black clay silt (206) up to 0.41m deep, which contained frequent charcoal pieces, occasional red brick and limestone fragments, glass and post-medieval pottery. Sealing deposit (206) was a heavily compacted layer of modern mixed demolition rubble (205) up to 0.13m in depth; a piece of sheet plastic was observed within this deposit.

Sealing deposit (205) was a modern levelling deposit of imported grey-brown clay (204) up to 0.12m deep, which was sealed by a second clay layer (203) up to 0.12m in depth. Sealing layer (203) was a red-pink, hardcore stone and clay deposit (202), which was in turn sealed by a yellow, sand bedding layer (201) up to 0.07m deep, sealing deposit (201) was a modern surface of concrete slabs (200), measuring 0.05m in thickness. Ground level was at a height of 11.21m AOD.

### 6.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 was located north west of trench 1 and was situated to evaluate the proposed extension on the south west of the building. The trench measured 1.20m by 1.20m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.21m below ground level (9.94m OD).

The earliest deposit encountered was light grey, clay silt (304), which contained frequent charcoal, occasional red brick and limestone fragments and a few fragments of glass and clay pipe; This deposit was not bottomed due to the confines of the trench, but was at least 0.26m deep. Sealing deposit (304) was a black, clay silt deposit (303) up to 0.36m in depth, this contained similar inclusions to deposit (304). Overlying deposit (303) was a compacted deposit of demolition rubble (302), composed of modern red brick, modern ceramic floor tile, slate, mortar and charcoal. Sealing deposit (302) was a modern aggregate layer of yellow gravel and sand up to 0.10m in depth, which was sealed by a topsoil deposit up to 0.18m in depth. Ground level was at a height of 11.11m AOD.

## 7 Conclusions

### Proposed southwest extension (Trenches 1 and 3)

As can be seen from the Ordnance Survey maps (Figures 3 and 4) a large proportion of the proposed development area of the southwest extension was covered by buildings during the post medieval period. These buildings were in existence on the 1880 OS map and the layout of the area remained unchanged to the 1938 OS map. A small area within the centre of the proposed development area appears to have remained undeveloped.

The demolition deposits observed in both trenches 1 and 3 may represent the demolition of these buildings which 'were demolished between 1955 and 1963' (Arnold 2008a) the current Cathedral View building was constructed by 1975. Trench 1 is situated mostly in the undeveloped central area, which is likely to have suffered much less disturbance than the surrounding area. Trench 3 is situated within the footprint of a building; no evidence of this was encountered during the evaluation.

What was recorded as a foundation wall [105] in trench 1 may be part of an outbuilding or other brick built feature, it does show that post-medieval disturbance in the area extends to a depth in excess of 1.00m below ground level.

The earliest deposits in trenches 1 and 3 are most likely to represent land use as gardens or similar occupation deposits. No significant archaeological deposits were encountered in trenches 1 and 3. Due to the limitations of the trenches, excavation was only possible to a maximum of 1.21m below ground level (9.94m OD) and archaeological remains may survive below this level.

### Proposed northwest extension (Trench 2)

The trench revealed a mixed demolition deposit, which contained post-medieval and residual Romano-British finds, this deposit was first encountered 1.31m below ground level (9.98m OD) and was overlain by post-medieval garden soil and modern levelling deposits. A well-preserved shale spindle whorl, of probable Romano British date was recovered during the excavation.

### General conclusions

The excavations did not reveal any stratified medieval or earlier deposits. Given what is known about the archaeology in the area, there is a high probability that archaeological remains exist within the proposed development areas, however any archaeological remains present would be covered by significant depths of post-medieval deposits.

The impact of any proposed construction work would be highly dependent on the depth of groundwork, the evaluation shows that post-medieval and modern deposits exist at a depth of 1.21m in the southwest proposed development area and 1.40m in the northwest proposed development area.

## 8 References

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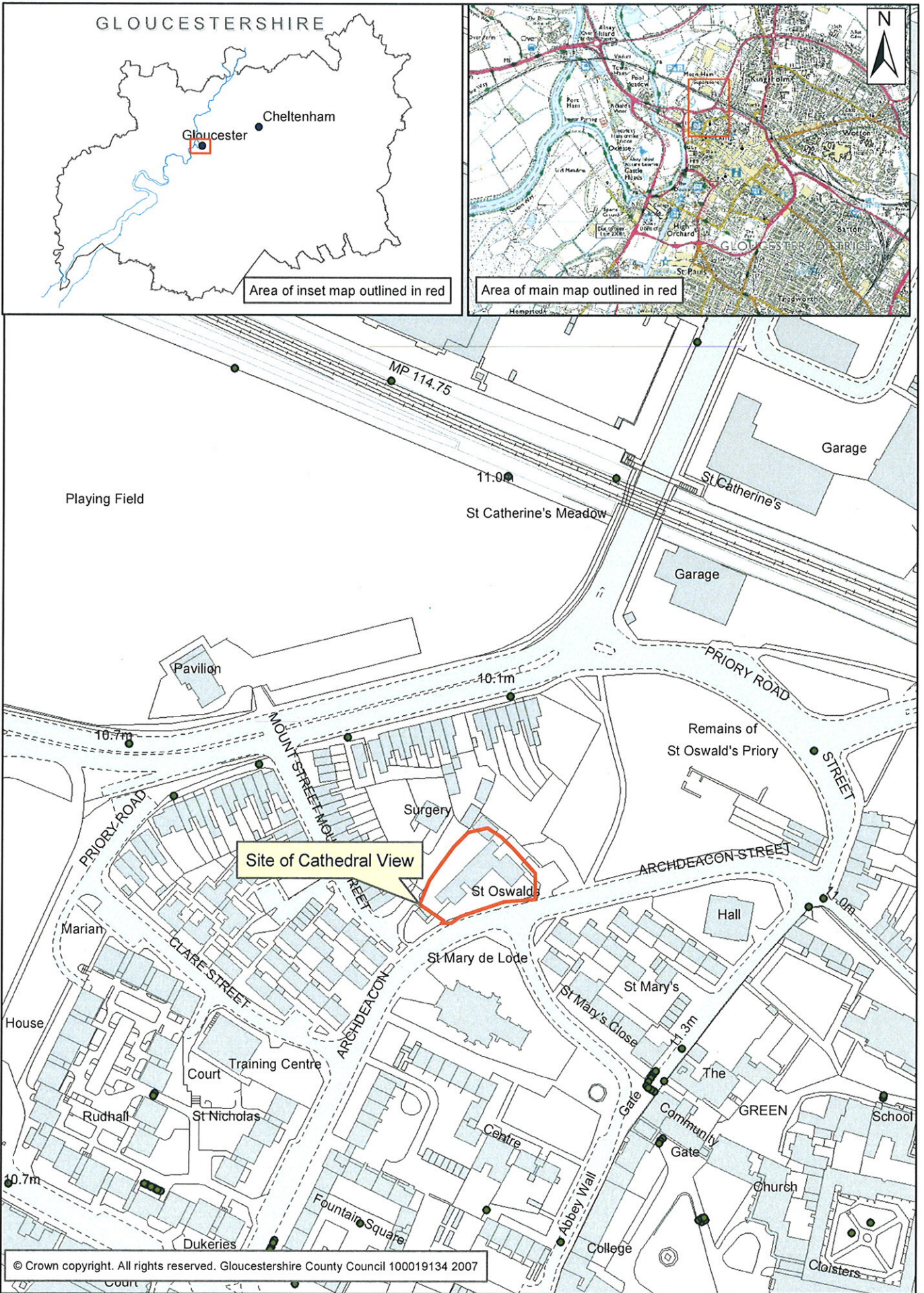


Figure 1: Site location plan (Scale 1 : 2000)



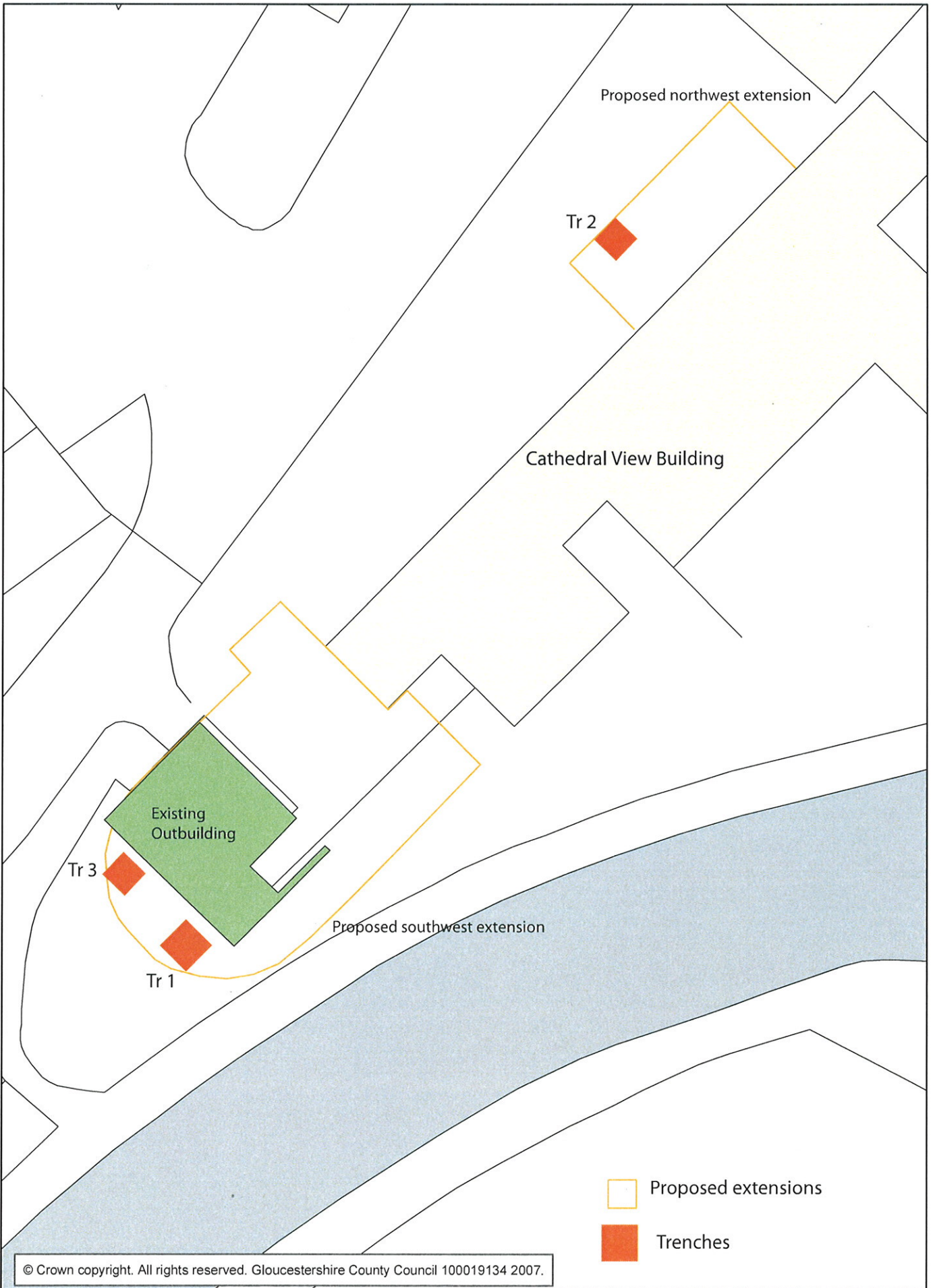


Figure 2 -Trench Location Plan (Scale 1:200)





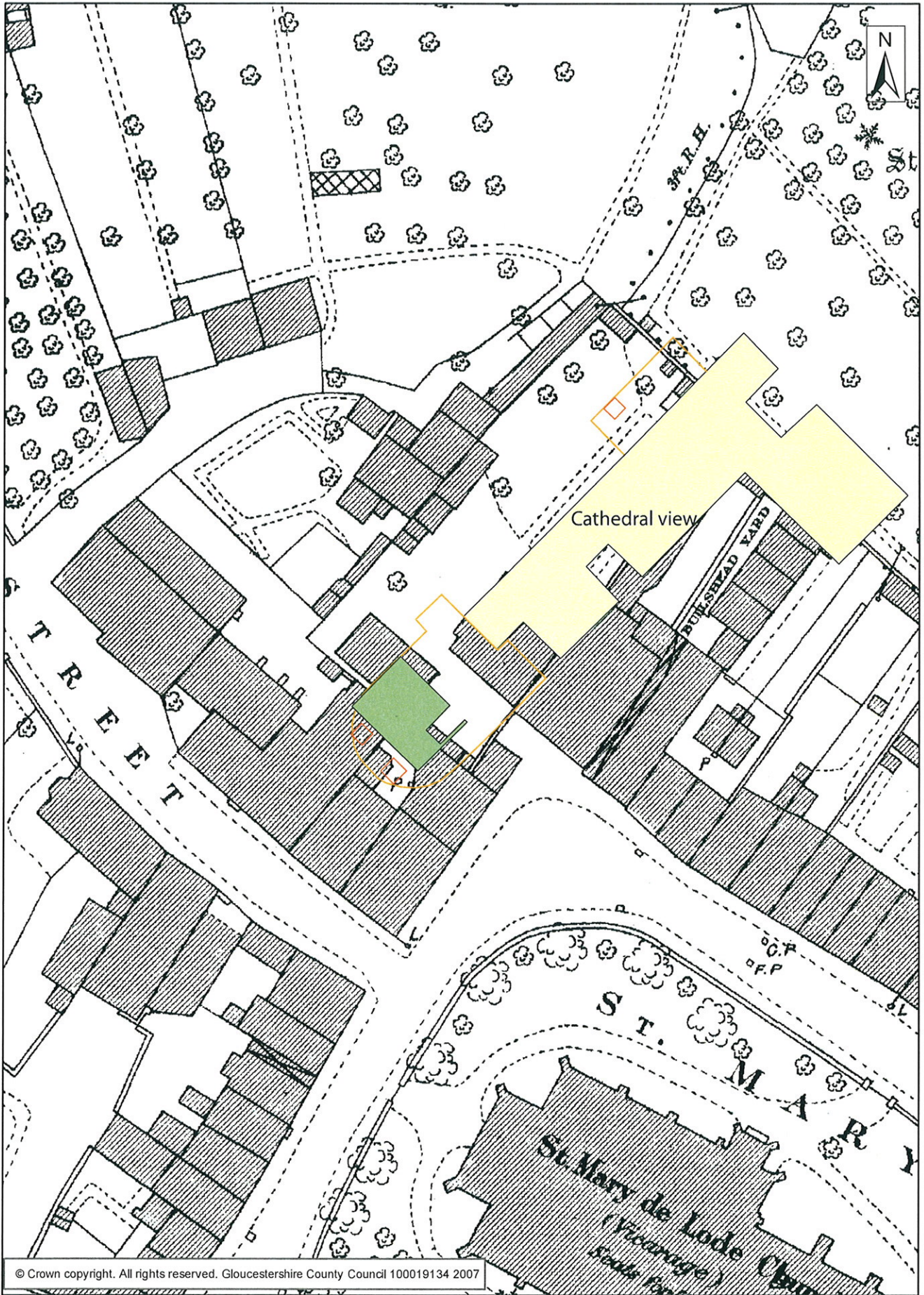


Figure 3- Ordnance Survey Map (1880) Showing Proposed Development areas (Scale 1:400)



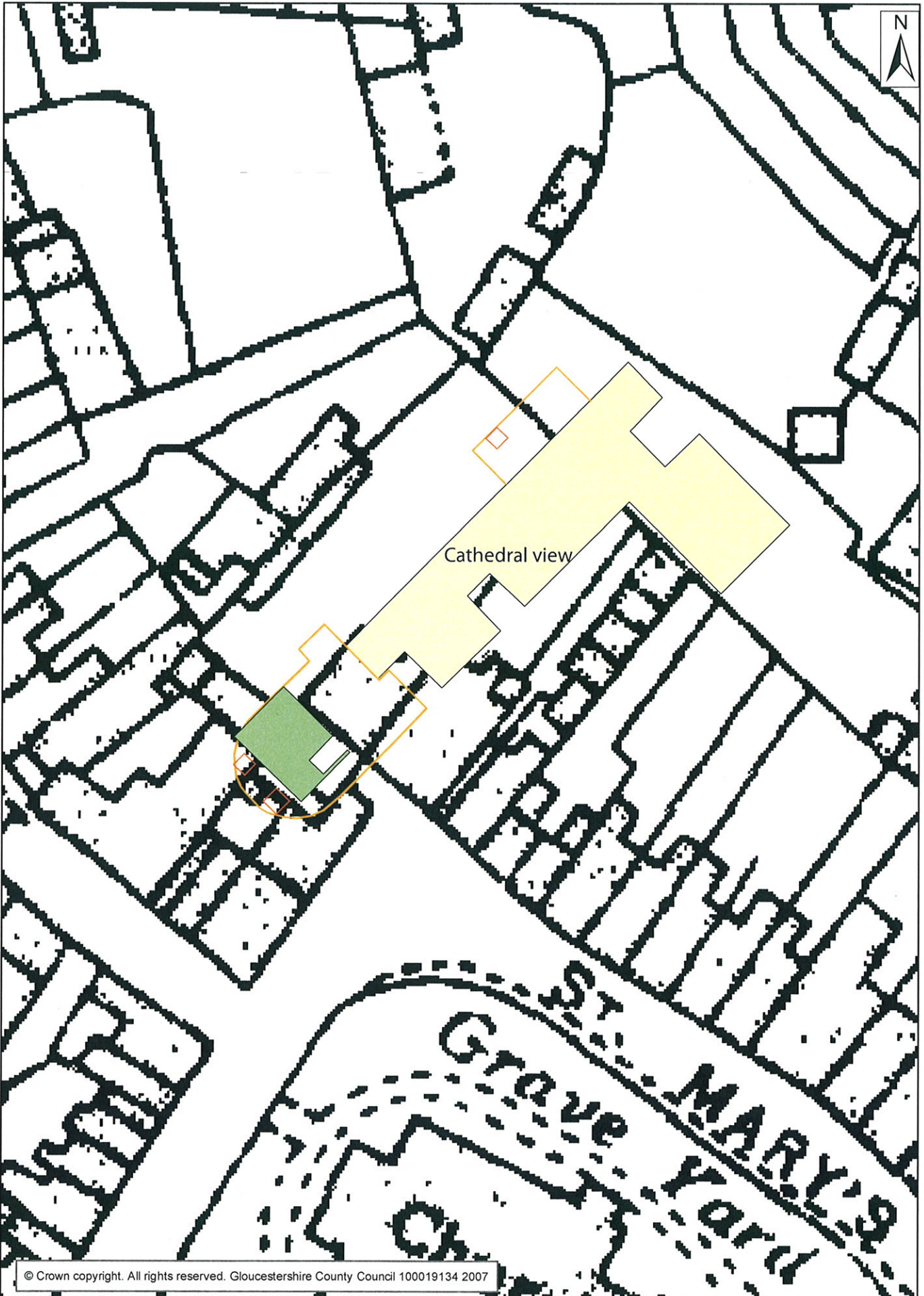


Figure 4 - Ordnance Survey map (1938) Showing Proposed Development areas (Scale 1:400)