

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION
AT
GLOUCESTER FOLK MUSEUM,
GLOUCESTER

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With a contribution by Dennis Williams

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Project 3197
Report 1610

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Archaeological Evaluation at Gloucester Folk Museum, Gloucester

Sarah Phear

With a contribution by Dennis Williams

Part 1 Project summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Gloucester Folk Museum, Gloucester (NGR SO 8284518714). It was undertaken on behalf of Gloucester City Council, who intend to construct a two storey extension in the rear courtyard of the museum linked to the existing Cider House, for which a planning application has been submitted. The project aimed to determine if any significant archaeological site was present and if so to indicate what its location, date and nature were.

A 2m x 5m trench was excavated at the rear of the site. A 17th century ditch with one re-cut was recorded, oriented roughly north-south, which contained a number of residual medieval artefacts including pottery, decorated floor tiles and masonry fragments as well as 17th century pot sherds. The ditch was cut into a thick soil deposit similar to dark earth, the base of which was not reached in the evaluation. It is thought that deposition of this layer began in the medieval period, and continued until the 18th century. After this time, evidence for surface levelling is apparent, with a brick floor surface and wall related to a small building forming the structural remains from the 20th century.

The site has a high potential for surviving medieval and Roman archaeological and environmental remains, although these are at a depth greater than the required depth for the evaluation trench (i.e. 2mbs+). The recovery of a heavily corroded iron and copper alloy artefact is also considered significant and further analysis is recommended through x-ray and consequent interpretation.

Part 2 Detailed report

1. Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Gloucester Folk Museum (NGR SO 8284518714), Gloucester (Fig 1), on behalf of Gloucester City Council (the client). Gloucester City Council intend to construct a two storey extension in the rear courtyard of the museum linked to the existing Cider House and have submitted a planning application to Gloucester City Council (reference 07/01532/FOL), who consider that a site of archaeological interest may be affected as the site is situated within the historic core of the city and within an 'Area of Principal Archaeological Potential' as designated in the Local Development Framework.

1.2 Project parameters

The project conforms to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IFA 1999). The project also conforms to a brief prepared by Gloucester City Council (Gloucester City Council 2008) and for which a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (HEAS 2008).

1.3 Aims

The aims of the evaluation were to locate archaeological deposits. In particular, the Brief indicated that Roman and medieval domestic and industrial remains are considered significant. Therefore, the main aim was to determine if any significant archaeological remains were present any if so to indicate their nature, date and location.

2. Methods

2.1 Documentary search

Prior to fieldwork commencing a search was made of the Historic Environment Record (HER). In addition to the sources listed in the bibliography the following were also consulted:

Cartographic sources

- Board of Health Map 1852, Sheet 4, GBR/L/10/1/2.
- Gloucester: deeds of 91 Westgate Street, formerly part of the Taberd or The Crown Inn, and also formerly 46 Westgate Street n.d. c.1770, scale 1:160, sketch plan of site, D4286.
- Ordnance Survey 1881 west and east, 1st edition.
- John Speed 1610 *The Theatre of the Empire of Great Britain*, 4 ³/₄ x 4 ¹/₄.
- Hall, R and Pinnell, T 1780 *A Plan of the City of Gloucester*.
- Causton, A 1843 *Map of the City and Borough of Gloucester from an actual survey made in 1843 (London)*.

2.2 **Fieldwork methodology**

2.2.1 **Fieldwork strategy**

A detailed specification has been prepared by the Service (HEAS 2008). Fieldwork was undertaken between 25th and 27th February 2008. A site reference number has not been assigned.

One trench, amounting to c.10m² in area, was excavated in the car park area of 0.0378ha. The trench was slightly repositioned on site in order to ensure continued access by vehicles to the rear car park during the evaluation. The location of the trench is indicated in Figure 2. The trench was excavated to a depth of 1.2m representing the maximum depth of foundations for the proposed extension.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed using a 360° tracked excavator, employing a toothless bucket and under archaeological supervision. Subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand. Clean surfaces were inspected and selected deposits were excavated to retrieve artefactual material and environmental samples, as well as to determine their nature. Deposits were recorded according to standard Service practice (CAS 1995). On completion of excavation, trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material.

2.2.2 **Structural analysis**

All fieldwork records were checked and cross-referenced. Analysis was effected through a combination of structural, artefactual and ecofactual evidence, allied to the information derived from other sources.

2.3 **Artefact methodology, by Dennis Williams**

2.3.1 **Artefact recovery policy Artefact recovery policy**

The artefact recovery policy conformed to standard Service practice (CAS 1995, appendix 4).

2.3.2 **Method of analysis**

All hand retrieved finds were examined and a primary record was made on a Microsoft Access 2000 database. They were identified, quantified and dated to period. A *terminus post quem* date was produced for each stratified context. The date was used for determining the broad date of phases defined for the site. All information was recorded on *pro forma* sheets.

The pottery and ceramic building material was examined under x20 magnification and recorded by fabric type and form according to the fabric reference series maintained by the service (Hurst and Rees 1992; Hurst 1994).

Artefacts from environmental samples were examined, but none were worthy of comment, and so they not included below, nor included in the Table 1 quantification.

2.4 **Environmental archaeology methodology**

2.4.1 **Sampling policy**

The environmental sampling strategy conformed to standard Service practice (CAS 1995; appendix 4). However, in the event no deposits were identified which were determined to be appropriate for environmental analysis.

2.5 The methods in retrospect

The methods adopted allow a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved.

3. Topographical and archaeological context

The predominant underlying geology of the area is Lower Lias clay of the Jurassic period (Green 1992). The site is located close to the River Severn, and Quaternary deposits including recent alluvium, fluvio-glacial and glacial clays and gravels also occur along sections of the River Severn. The site itself is situated upon re-claimed land, the chronology of which is discussed below.

The site is currently occupied by the Gloucester Folk Museum. The north extent is characterised by timber framed Grade II listed buildings dating from the 16th century, which front onto Westgate Street (north-east). Behind these is a building initially built in the 16th century but remodelled in the 18th century into a pin factory, and also an additional brick extension, an old cider house, and a courtyard and tarmac car park area, in the latter of which the evaluation trench was placed. Quay Street forms the south-west site boundary, with buildings of a nightclub bounding the site to the west and Upper Quay House to the east. The site currently slopes to the south-west, at c. 11.33OD in the courtyard to 10.61OD in the entranceway to the car park, and is located approx. 170m from the River Severn (East Channel) to the west.

Excavations close to the site have revealed a history of land reclamation. On upper Quay Street adjacent to the site trenches excavated in an archaeological evaluation revealed a possible 1st century river foreshore with wattle revetments (GSMR 891). The site of the wharf is posited to have later moved c.100m to the west with evidence for building activities in the 3rd/4th centuries (Atkin and Garrod 1990). The remains of a mosaic floor were also previously recorded here in 1938 (Knowles 1938, 167-8) along with a row of postholes, Roman coins and samian pot sherds (GSMR 509, 508). Other finds include roman pot sherds (GSMR 511) and a large skeleton beneath the mosaic floor (GSMR 510).

Additional evidence of Roman occupation close to the site include pot sherds recovered from soils beneath Quay Street (GSMR 412), and on the west side of the night club evidence of land reclamation from the 2nd century onwards has been found (GSMR 968), with two sites further west displaying evidence of a quay wall (GSMR 502, 694). At 1-36 Lower Quay Street Roman pot sherds, tiles, food bones and stone were also recovered during a watching brief (GSMR 786).

The site is also located within the medieval city of Gloucester, although not in the core of the *burgh*. That land reclamation was still taking place in the medieval period is attested to by evidence to the west of the site (GSMR 694, 968). The construction of churches is also evident close to the site during this period. To the immediate north is St Nicholas's Church, initially built in the 12th century, which was been referred to as the 'keeper of the Gloucester bridge' in 1221 (*Hist. et Cart.*, I, 322; cited in Baker and Holt 2004, 117). Evidence within the church for later medieval rebuilds was recorded in the south aisle (GSMR 637, 685) and medieval street surfaces were also recorded on the southern boundary of the church, the earliest surface being Saxon/Norman (GSMR 750).

Construction activities on Lower Quay St also recorded 10th/11th century occupation deposits, along with 12th century metal working deposits overlain by medieval and post-medieval masonry buildings (site 11/1983, Bishop and Bishop 1984). To the rear of the site on Upper Quay Street features found during a watching brief were also from the medieval period. An 11th century sheet metal surface was recorded, along with evidence for a robbed medieval building (GSMR 801).

To the east of the Folk Museum an evaluation recorded eight successive 15th-16th century floor levels, along with differing wall alignments (GSMR 829). Excavation of a medieval ditch to the west of the site revealed an unusual quantity of medieval shoes due to excellent preservation conditions (GSMR 968). Medieval and post-medieval house remains were also recorded here. On Upper Quay Street, 10m back from the Westgate Street frontage a trench revealed a complex sequence of medieval and post-medieval cellars, along with a large collection of 17th century pot and clay pipes from the Civil War period (Atkin and Garrod 1990). On the corner of Upper Quay Street and Westgate Street evidence of medieval rubbish dumping has been recorded, as well as post-medieval structures (GSMR 1522).

Westgate Street continued to be built upon in the 15th-17th centuries period attested to by a number of Grade I and II listed buildings (e.g. LBS 472649, 472654, 472679). John Speed's 1610 map of Gloucester illustrates houses built along Westgate St, with back plots stretching to Quay Street devoid of buildings. Dwellings and shops (a number of which were conversions from past dwellings) continued to be built in the 18th and 19th centuries (e.g. LBS 472587, 472656) on Westgate Street, and the 1780 Hall and Pinnell map indicates that part of the rear of the site was still gardens at this time, while the c. 1770 map is more detailed, and indicates the majority of the rear of the site was a carpenters yard, bounded to the east by stables and a yard of Hyatt's residence.

By the 19th century, industry appears to have dominated the area. Causton's 1843 map indicates that the site is a pin factory. The Board of Health map 1852 illustrates a soap manufacturers to the east of the site, a pin manufactory to the west and beyond that Gloucester Brewery, and opposite on Quay Street a machine manufacture and smithy are illustrated. The 1881 OS map (west) indicates a row of cottages were built in the yard area, and a small square building that is known as 'Mrs Potter's washhouse' (Nigel Cox pers. Comm.) is illustrated on the east attached to the Cider House.

4. Results

4.1 Structural analysis

The trenches and features recorded are shown in Fig 3-4. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1.

4.1.1 Phase 1 Natural deposits

Excavation of the site was to a depth of 1.2m, and the natural deposits were not reached.

4.1.2 Phase 2 Roman deposits

No Roman deposits were observed in the evaluation.

4.1.3 Phase 3 Medieval/ Post-medieval

An homogenous thick deposit (107), the base of which was not reached, contained both medieval and post-medieval pot sherds. It resembled dark earth, and it appears to have been built up over a long time period, possibly through addition of organic materials over the medieval to post-medieval period. Certainly, within this layer a post-medieval ditch (127) was cut, oriented northwest-southeast. This ditch contained several layers, the initial layer quite dark (126) and similar to 107. The second fill deposit (111) contained plaster and building demolition debris, and an unusual iron wheel fragment, and medieval and post-medieval pot sherds. Above this was a rather sterile pale grey layer. It was truncated by a ditch re-cut (126), initially filled with a charcoal rich deposit (123). Above this was deposit 110, filled with a large number of late medieval pot sherds, and building demolition debris such as floor tiles and also some post-medieval pot sherds. A dense deposit of oyster shells

(112) formed the top fill of this ditch. An additional pit seems to have been cut into the ditch in the centre of the trench (122), which contained stoneware pot sherds.

Deposition of layer 107 continued in the 17th-18th centuries, after the ditch fell out of use. Two pits were cut in this later period. Pit 116 was filled with a brownish clay and plaster/mortar dump, and was truncated by a shallow pit (118) containing a charcoal rich layer (119) and a clay deposit (120). A lack of finds makes it difficult to date this pit. However, its proximity to the surface and deposit 106 (see below) suggests that this pit may date to the 18th-19th centuries.

4.1.4 Phase 3 19th-20th centuries

The surface in the yard was likely levelled during this period, as suggested by a mixed rubble/mortar layer (106). Above this, layer 105 may also represent similar ground levelling activities.

Evidence of a brick floor surface (102) was found cut into layer 105, on the northwest extent of the trench, and a brick wall (108), also cut into layer 105 and running roughly north-south is considered to be contemporary.

Above this were modern deposits (113, 101) related to the laying of the tarmac surface (100) in the car park area.

4.2 Artefact analysis, by Dennis Williams

4.2.1 The artefact assemblage

The artefactual assemblage recovered is summarised in Table 1. The pottery assemblage retrieved from the excavated area consisted of 50 sherds of pottery weighing 2.394kg. In addition, fragments of brick, mortar, stone, tile, metal and glass were recovered.

Four stratified contexts (107, 110, 111 and 121) and yielded finds, the majority of which dated from the medieval and post-medieval periods. The level of preservation was variable, and generally related to the age of the finds, with glazes on the medieval pottery sherds being much more abraded than on post-medieval examples.

Context	Material	Type	Total	Weight (g)
107	Metal	Copper alloy	2	12
107	Pottery	Post-Roman/ medieval	1	8
107	Pottery	Medieval	4	72
107	Pottery	Post-medieval	4	84
110	Brick	Post-medieval	2	151
110	Coal		1	18
110	Glass/ Metal	Medieval/ post-medieval	3	26
110	Metal	Post-medieval	3	41
110	Mortar	Building	2	2450
110	Pottery	Medieval	1	12
110	Pottery	Post-medieval	21	1337
110	Stone		9	5680
110	Tile	Floor	4	565

110	Tile	Roof	2	364
111	Metal	Iron/copper	43	1540
111	Pottery	Medieval	2	168
111	Pottery	Medieval?	1	39
111	Pottery	Post-medieval	13	429
111	Tile	Floor	1	329
111	Tile	Roof	2	172
121	Metal	Lead	1	9
121	Pottery	Post-medieval	3	245
121	Shell	Oyster	4	27
121	Stone	Building	1	11000
			130	24778

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

4.2.2 The pottery

All pottery sherds have been grouped and quantified by fabric type (Table 2). Only one diagnostic form sherd, a handle from a medieval vessel, was present, in context 107. This could be dated to the 15th century, and is referenced to the type series within the report for Deansway, Worcester (Bryant 2004). Most of the other sherds were datable by fabric type to general periods or production spans.

Fabric no.	Fabric common name	Total	Weight (g)
101	Miscellaneous modern wares	2	31
143	Ham Green	1	3
57	Cotswolds unglazed ware	1	8
63	Brill/Boarstall ware	2	28
69	Oxidized glazed Malvernian ware	1	41
78	Post-medieval red wares	34	1772
81	Stonewares	5	292
99	Miscellaneous medieval wares	4	219

Table 2: Quantification of the pottery by fabric

4.2.3 Other artefacts

Pieces of stone accounted for 67% of the total assemblage, by weight. Most prominent among these was a section of a chamfered and faced moulding, found in context 121, and probably from a door or window surround. This item was carved from oolitic limestone, similar to the local Cotswold material used in the construction of Gloucester Cathedral and other ecclesiastical buildings in the city. The front carved face of the moulding exhibited pinkish staining, suggesting that it may have been exposed to burning while still *in situ* as part of a building.

All the other stone came from context 110, and comprised pieces of grey sandstone and blue lias. These were likely to have been used in paving or other groundworks, since none showed evidence of careful shaping. However, some of the blue lias fragments had traces of a light-coloured lime mortar adhering. Two substantial pieces of lime mortar, containing very little aggregate, were also found in context 110. It is noted that this material was used throughout the structure of Gloucester Cathedral, where its expansion properties are very well matched to those of the limestone masonry.

A number of brick and tile fragments, all dating from the medieval and post-medieval periods, were recovered from contexts 110 and 111. A single glass find took the form of a small, thin pane of window glass, intact within its leaded surround, from 110. Other metal finds were undiagnostic in terms of their dates, but included a large number of rusted fragments from a wheel-like artefact, including copper alloy studs and a protruding central area (Plate 5). While interpretation is difficult due to its poor condition, it has been suggested that it may have formed part of a drive train or winding gear, function unknown. Alternatively, it may be part of a shield (Derek Hurst pers. Comm.). This material was found in context 111. The only evidence of foodstuffs at the site was provided by some oyster shells from context 121.

4.2.4 Overview of artefactual evidence

Examined collectively, the finds from this site are representative of domestic buildings and activity (with the possible exception of machinery, as in the case of the corroded wheel remains). Context 107, which lay at the deepest level of the excavation, contained a single sherd of Cotswolds unglazed ware (fabric 57), a limestone-tempered fabric type probably produced locally at Haresfield. This 10th-12th century material is found mainly in the Lower Severn Valley.

Two other medieval fabrics from fairly local production areas were also found in context 107. A green-glazed sherd from Ham Green (fabric 143) was 12th-13th century in date, while a handle, with a glazed Malvernian fabric (69), was identified as being from a pipkin or skillet, of the form 69.6 in the Deansway series. In a Gloucestershire context, the latter fabric is likely to date from the 15th century (Vince, 1977), although production is believed to have continued into the 16th century. From further afield, a single sherd of glazed Brill/Boarstall pottery (fabric 63) from Buckinghamshire, dated from the 13th century, which bore a green decorative glaze very similar to that of the Ham Green material, but was also decorated with brown-glazed, applied strips typical of this fabric type.

The medieval pottery finds in context 107 were all residual, as indicated by the presence of post-medieval red wares (fabric 78) and stone wares (fabric 81), which suggested that *terminus post quem* date for this context is probably in the 17th century. However, the stone ware fabric was, in itself, undiagnostic, so it may have been produced at a much later date than this. The only non-pottery finds in context 107 were fragments of roughly-solidified copper alloy, which were also undiagnostic.

Context 111 lay below 110; this pair were chronologically parallel with 107. The ceramic finds in 111 were mainly post-medieval. Two distinct fabrics were evident within the broad red ware (fabric 78) category, but were probably all 17th century in date. One of these fabrics was evident from two thin-walled vessels, decorated with external rilling, and a very dark brown glazes on both surfaces. The other was a lighter fabric, with yellowish-brown glazes sealing the internal surfaces of thicker-walled jars or pancheons. It was noted that all these functional glazes on the latter vessels were either yellowish-brown or light brown in colour. In addition, there was a small, thin-walled red ware sherd, decorated with mid-brown glaze and a white roundel, in a manner reminiscent of dark-glazed Cistercian ware. This sherd was 16th-17th century in date.

Two medieval sherds were found in context 111, and listed under the miscellaneous category (fabric 99). One of these took the form of a glazed handle from a pipkin or skillet, provisionally dated to the 15th, or early 16th, centuries. Its orange-brown, slightly sandy fabric, had no inclusions of the type generally found in medieval, Malvernian pottery, but it may have been from another local source, e.g. Herefordshire or West Gloucestershire. A similar fabric was exhibited by a rim sherd, glazed and decorated with thumb and finger-tip impressions. This was probably from a large jar, or bung-hole jar, and of the same date-range as the skillet handle.

Tile fragments from context 111 were all medieval. Two fragments of roof tile had traces of a yellowish-brown glaze surviving, and were probably 13th-15th century in date. A substantial piece of a floor tile had inlaid white decoration and therefore could be more closely dated, to the 15th century. Its fabric had characteristic quartz inclusions, so it is likely that it was from a Great Malvern production site.

Context 110 also contained a mix of medieval and post-medieval pottery. Red wares (fabric 78) dating from the 17th century comprised the bulk of the post-medieval material, again with brown internal glazes rather than black ones. A range of bowls, flagons, jugs and pancheons were represented. There was one example of a finer, thin-walled red ware in the form of a tankard rim, with good quality black glazing inside and out. A neck section from a stone ware jug or flagon, with a mottled brown exterior glaze, could have been contemporary with these various red wares, but its form and fabric were of a type that may have remained in production as late as the 19th century.

There was a single, small sherd of medieval pottery in context 110. This was glazed, with a reduced fabric, from an unknown source, but probably 14th-15th century in date. Fragments of floor tile from 110 were medieval, and probably 15th- early 16th century in date. Two of these had been scored and snapped to form triangular edging tiles. All had traces of white slip and dark green glazing. Two pieces of roof tile were probably post-medieval; one of these was indented on the underside with a star-like maker's stamp, indicative of a production date in the 15th century. Brick fragments from context 110 included one with a thickness of almost exactly 2 inches, and therefore possibly of 16th-17th century date. The leaded glass pane from 110 was less than 2mm thick, and badly degraded. It was not possible to determine whether this had been coloured or painted in any way.

The only significant find in context 121 was a collection of three stone ware sherds, which were reassembled to form a complete neck, with handle, of a jar topped by a narrow rim. Probably of English manufacture, this had a grey fabric and a mottled brown exterior glaze, and could be assigned to a 17th-18th date range.

There were no prehistoric, Roman or modern finds in the assemblage. The overall conclusion is that the four contexts containing artefacts were all post-medieval, with residual medieval finds in 107, 110 and 111. The types of pottery and ceramic building material all pointed to production dates early in the post-medieval period. In particular, there was a notable absence of thick-walled red ware sherds, with internal black glazing, of the type usually found in the Midlands at sites dating from the 18th century onwards.

5. Synthesis

5.1 Medieval – residual evidence

Pottery from the 12th-15th centuries were recovered from the thick soil deposit that is similar to dark earth (107.) However, the presence of post-medieval pottery in the same layer indicates that the layer is not medieval in date. It is possible, though, that the layer was initially formed in the medieval period and subsequent reworking of the soil over time has led to a mixing of earlier and later materials. It may have formed a garden area, and inspection of John Speed's 1610 map does show that this area of the site was a back plot in the 17th century. As the base of this layer was not reached, it is unknown if surviving *in situ* medieval features exist at a depth greater than 9.20OD.

A range of medieval artefacts were also recovered from two of the ditch fills (111 and 110), however they are also residual, with pottery dating to the 17th century also recovered. Of interest, however, is the presence of the decorated medieval floor tile, and two other glazed floor tile fragments. While the tiles came from ditch fill 111 and the re-cut fill 110 it is likely that they were from the same building originally. The presence of triangular edging tiles as well as the decorated tile does suggest that the original layout of the pavement had

incorporated diagonal panels. Pavements of this type are also usually associated with religious buildings, although there is evidence for some private dwellings having floors of this type during the 14th century in London (Egan 1998, 38).

It is possible that the tiles originally came from St Nicholas's church, located opposite the site on Westgate Street. Rebuilding episodes have been recorded in the 14th century, with the present west tower having been built in the mid-15th century replacing an earlier, stone-built west bell tower (Bake and Holt 2004, 121). In addition, the recovery of the chamfered limestone masonry fragment and other lias stone could also be related to rebuilding of the church. If the tiles and masonry did originate from the church, their presence in the 17th century ditch and re-cut and pit could indicate tertiary (or greater) deposition of not only the tiles, but also the medieval pot sherds. In addition, the presence of medieval roof tiles in the fills is certainly consistent with building demolition, although not necessarily ecclesiastical buildings.

5.2 17th-18th centuries

The ditch and re-cut contained 17th century pottery as well as the medieval artefacts previously discussed. It is posited that the ditch was a relatively short-lived feature, perhaps used for a specific purpose during building/renovation works on Westgate Street, such as drainage, or dumping of materials.

The corroded iron wheel is of interest, found within a 17th century context (111). As the site was transformed into a pin factory in the 18th century, it is possible that this piece of machinery is derived from a small pin-making machine related to a cottage type of industry in the 17th century. Alternatively, some characteristics could be associated with a shield (as protruding boss-like feature on copper alloys studs). However, only tentative interpretations can be made due to the highly corroded nature of the artefact, and further analysis is required.

Deposition of the thick soil layer (107) continued, burying the ditch, indicating a likely reversion back to a garden or yard area. Several pits were later placed in the yard, one with 18th century stone ware, and were likely just rubbish pits. This corresponds with the conversion of this part of the site into a carpenters yard, as indicated on the c. 1770 map. Therefore, it is posited that deposition of layer 107 was definitely over by the 18th century.

5.3 19th-20th centuries

The rear of the site appears to have remained a yard as indicated on the Board of Health Map 1853. Several deposits were identified as levelling layers, likely deposited over this period in order to create a reasonably flat yard. This area then formed several rear garden areas for a row of cottages constructed on the west to central area of the site backing onto Quay Street, as indicated on the 1881 OS map, although Trench 1 did not test this area.

The remains of a brick floor surface and wall correlate with a small square building and wall also indicated on the 1881 OS map, known locally as 'Mrs Potter's washhouse' (Nigel Cox, pers. Comm.). This was a small annexe attached to the cider house, of which the roofline is still visible on the west wall of the building.

Despite the presence of several industries around the site in the 19th centuries, such as the pin factory, no artefacts were recovered. In fact, there was a clear absence of pot sherds from the 18 century onwards, although a few modern sherds were observed in the top layers during the evaluation, and were not collected.

6. Significance

6.1 Archaeological

The evaluation recorded the presence of a post-medieval ditch and thick soil deposit, deposition of which is posited to have begun in the late medieval period. The high number and range of medieval pottery types recovered, and the floor tiles are of interest, although their residual nature intimates a low level of significance to inform on *in situ* medieval archaeology.

A good level of preservation does exist due in large part to the anaerobic conditions created by the variable water table. As such, it is likely that significant early medieval and possibly Roman archaeological and environmental deposits exist at a greater depth (2mbs+), but these will not be impacted on by the proposed extension.

The 19th and 20th century deposits and surfaces are not considered to be significant.

7. Publication summary

The Service has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, the Service intends to use this summary as the basis for publication through local or regional journals. The client is requested to consider the content of this section as being acceptable for such publication.

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Gloucester Folk Museum, Gloucester (NGR SO 8284518714). It was undertaken on behalf of Gloucester City Council, who intends to construct a two-storey extension in the rear courtyard of the museum linked to the existing Cider House for which a planning application has been submitted. The project aimed to determine if any significant archaeological site was present and if so to indicate what its location, date and nature were.

A 2m x 5m trench was excavated at the rear of the site. A 17th century ditch with one re-cut was recorded, oriented roughly north-south, which contained a number of residual medieval artefacts including pottery, decorated floor tiles and masonry fragments as well as 17th century pot sherds. The ditch was cut into a thick soil deposit similar to dark earth, the base of which was not reached in the evaluation. It is thought that deposition of this layer began in the medieval period, and continued until the 18th century. After this time, evidence for surface levelling is apparent, with a brick floor surface and wall related to a small building forming the up-most evidence in the 20th century.

The site has a high potential for surviving medieval and Roman archaeological and environmental remains, although these are at a depth greater than the required depth for the evaluation trench (i.e. 2mbs+). The recovery of a heavily corroded iron and copper alloy artefact is also considered significant and further analysis is recommended through x-ray and consequent interpretation.

8. Acknowledgements

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Jonathan Smith (Gloucester City Council), Chris Morris (Gloucester Folk Museum), Nigel Cox (Curator, Gloucester Folk Museum) and Phil Greatorix (HER Officer).

9. **Personnel**

The fieldwork and report preparation was led by Sarah Phear. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Vaughan. Fieldwork was undertaken by Richard Shakles, finds analysis by Dennis Williams, and illustration by Carolyn Hunt.

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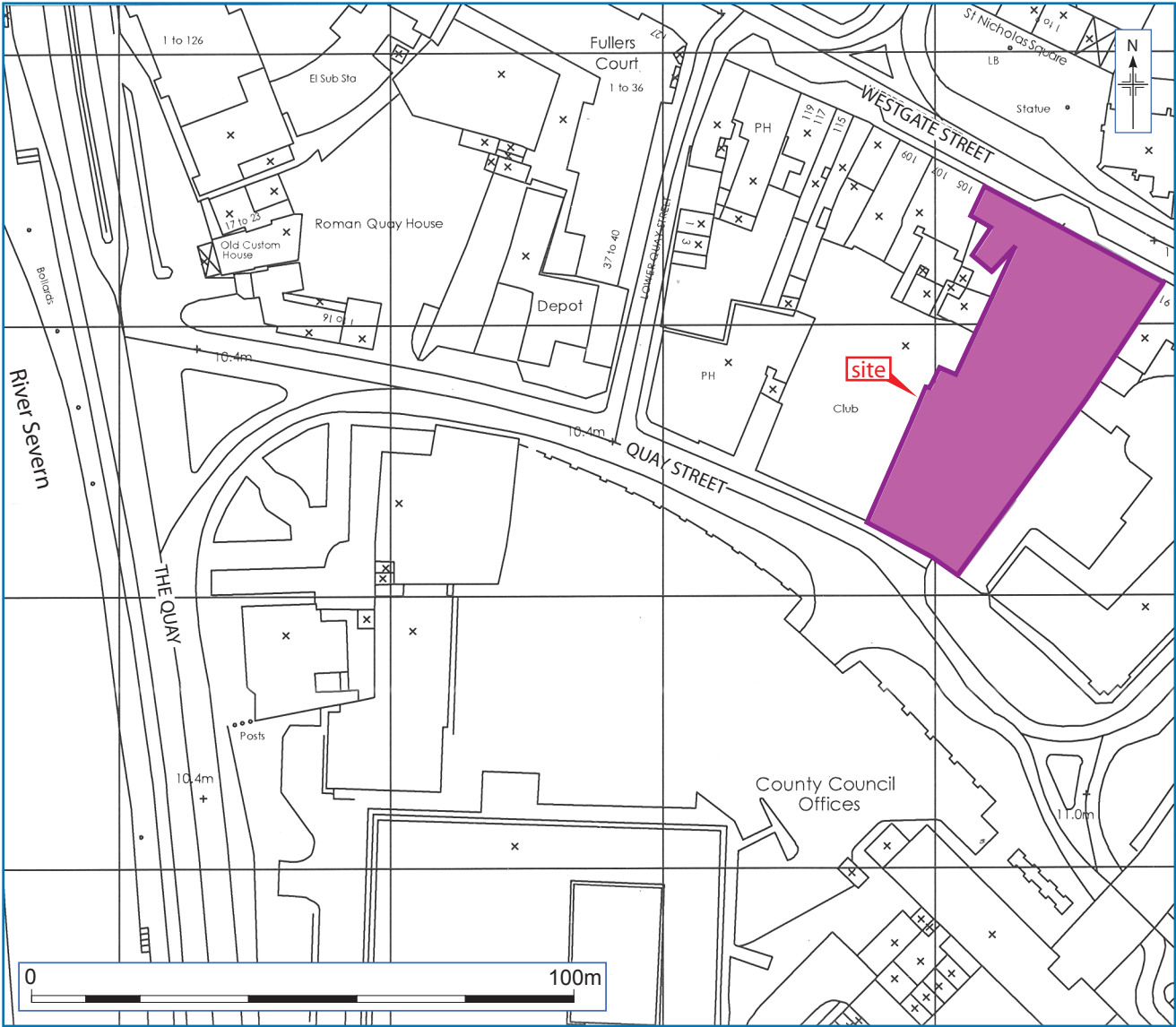
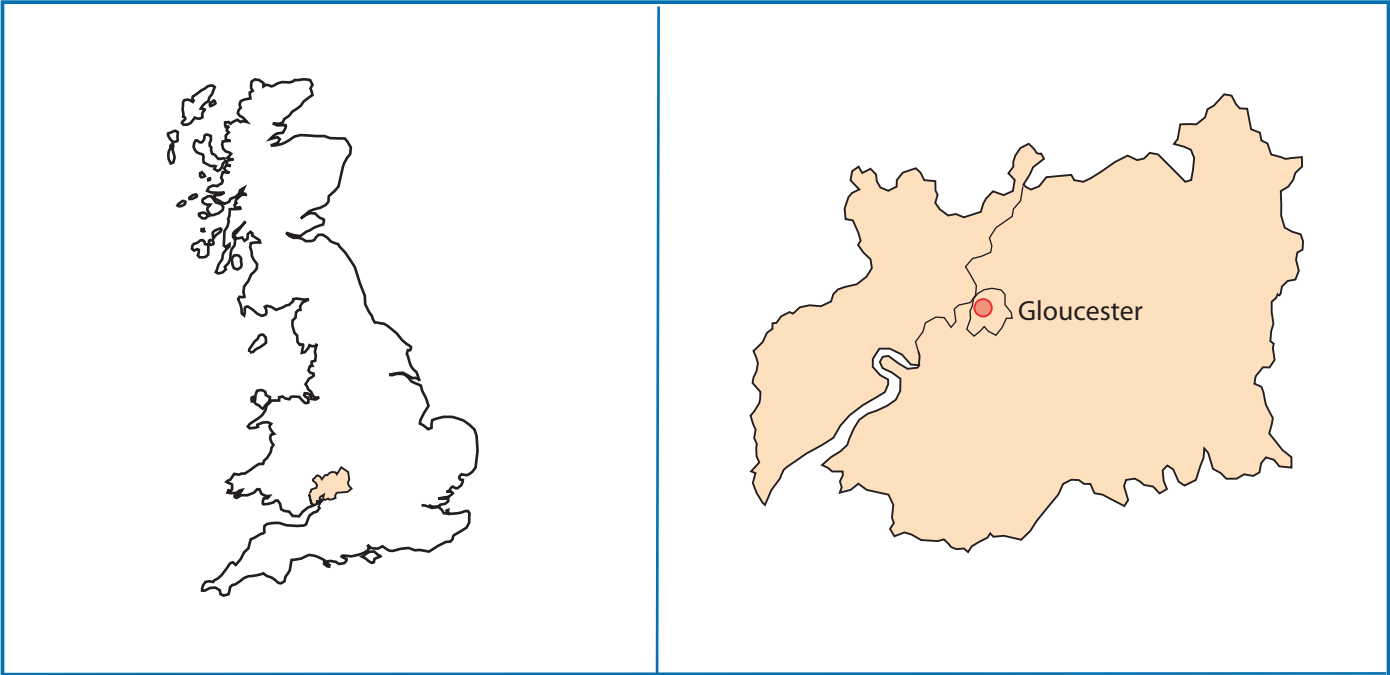
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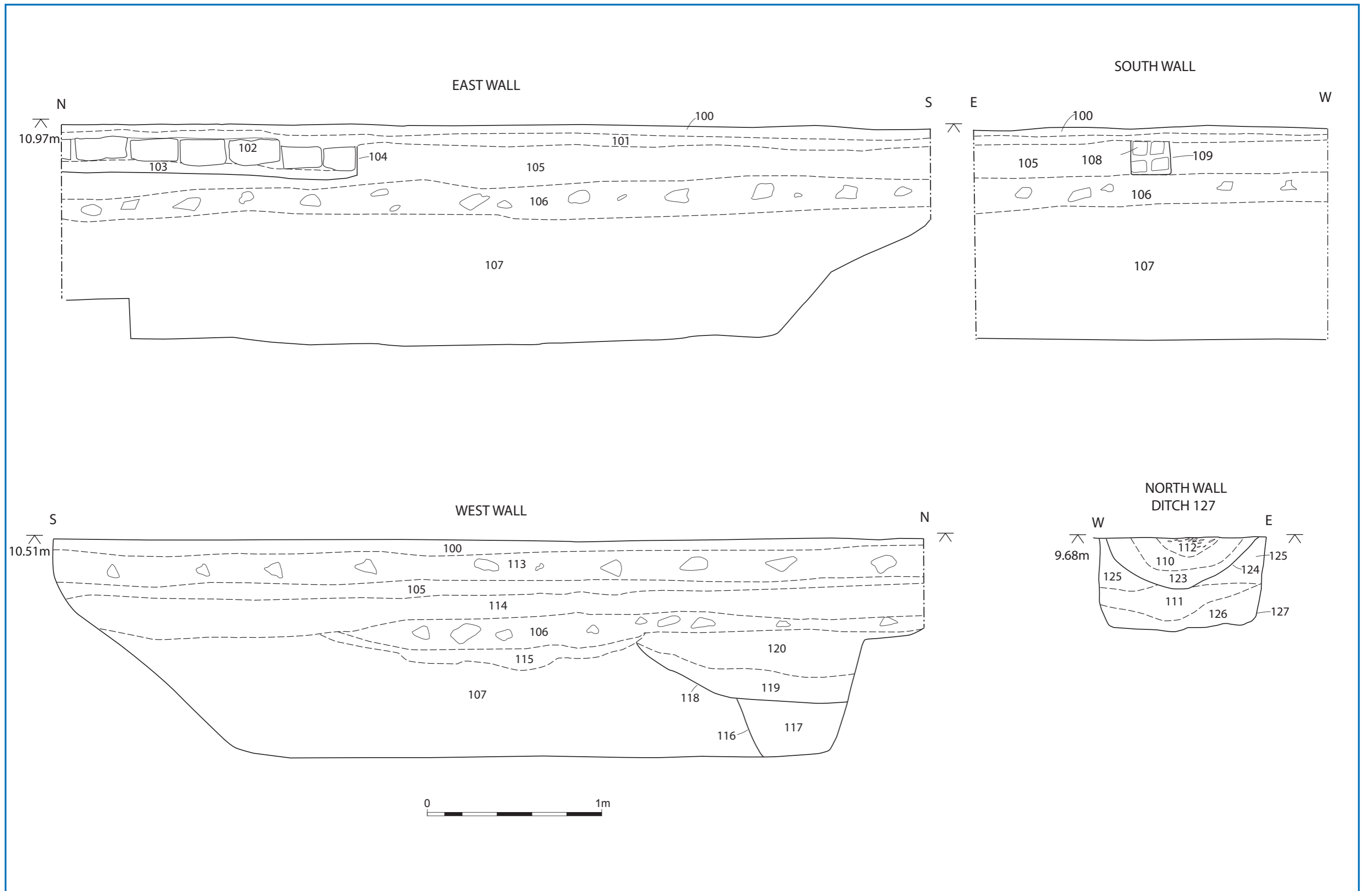


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Location of the site

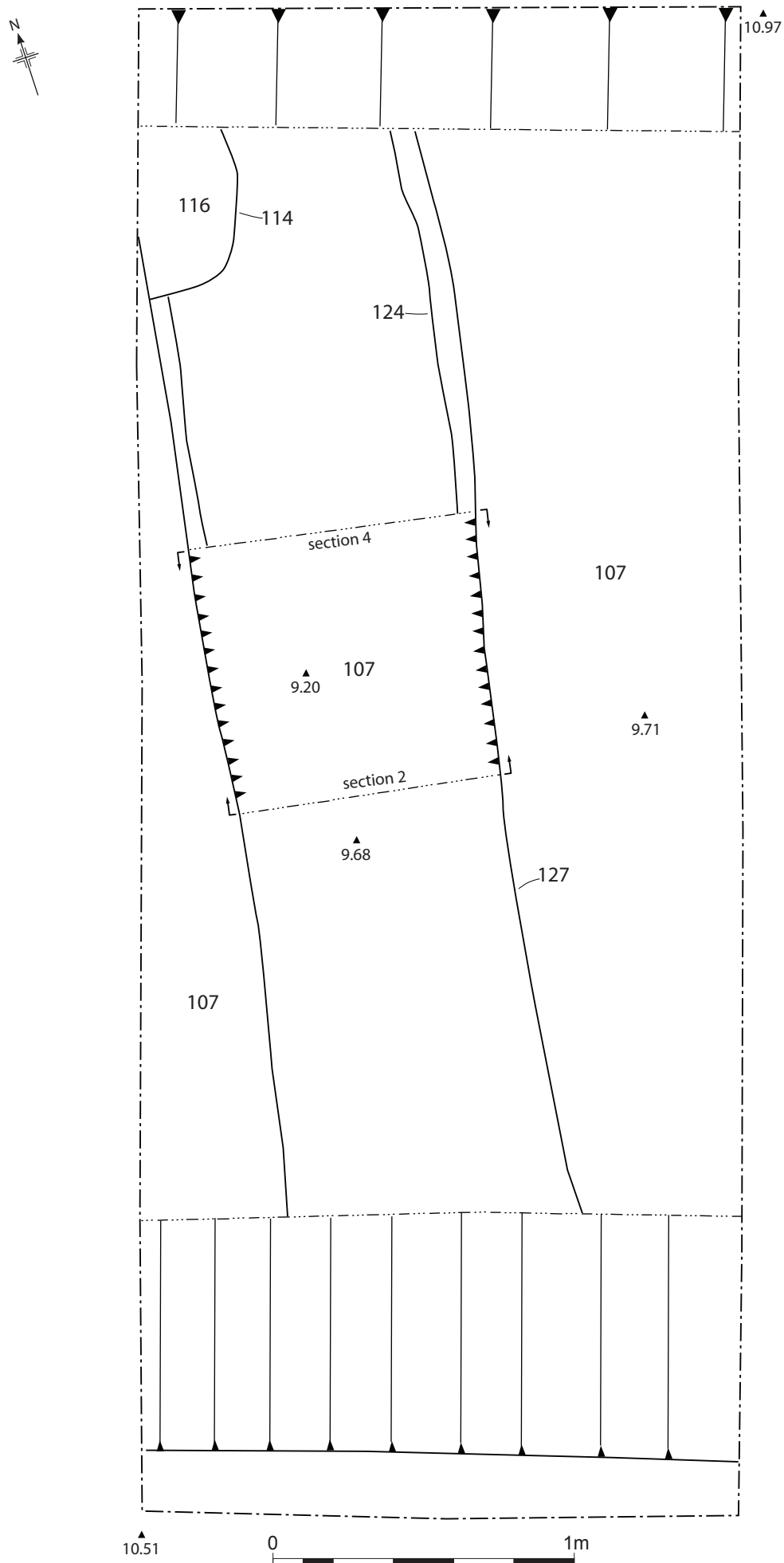
Figure 1





Trench I section drawings

Figure 3



Plan of Trench 1

Figure 4

Plates



Plate 1 View of the trench with ditch 127, facing north



Plate 2 East wall of trench.



Plate 3 West wall of trench



Plate 4 Ditch 127 and re-cut 124, facing north



Plate 5 Fragments of corroded iron wheel from context 111

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Trench 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 5m Width: 2m Depth: 1.21-1.97m

Orientation: North-south

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
100	Modern surface	Tarmac.	0-0.06m
101	Layer	Yellowish-white mortar sand, moderately compact. Foundation layer for tarmac.	0.06-0.12m
102	Surface	Brick floor surface. One layer of bricks 0.23x0.11m.	0.12-0.19m
103	Layer	Yellowish-white mortary-sand layer, compact. Frequent small CBM fragments. Foundation layer for surface 102.	0.19-0.24m
104	Foundation cut	South side vertical cut, extending horizontally northwards. Cut for surface 102.	0.19-0.24m
105	Layer	Cinder, glass and CBM layer, compact. Occasional small stone fragments. Possible surface.	0.11-0.29m
106	Layer	CBM fragments and mortar layer, compact. Levelling layer.	0.29-0.55m
107	Layer	Mid brownish-grey sandy clay silt, moderately compact. Frequent small charcoal fragments and small flecks. Occasional oyster shell fragments, pot sherds, small CBM and sandstone fragments. Possible dark earth deposit.	0.55-1.97m+
108	Structure	Victorian wall. Two courses remaining, shallow. Oriented north-south. Fill of 109	0.08-0.27m
109	Foundation cut	Vertical sided and horizontal base. Cut for wall 108.	0.08-0.27m
110	Fill	Mid-brown silty clay, compact. Occasional charcoal, small fragments of animal bone and pot sherds. Fill of 124.	1.21-1.39m
111	Fill	Light brownish-pink silty clay, moderately compact. Frequent small mortar/plaster fragments, charcoal flecks, animal bone fragments, pot sherds and iron fragments. Fill of 124.	1.51-1.67m
112	Fill	Brown silt with frequent oyster shells. Occasional	1.21-1.31m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
		charcoal and animal bone fragments. Fill of 124.	
113	Layer	Rubble and mortar hardcore layer for 100. Present in west wall only.	0.09-0.31m
114	Layer	Light brownish-grey sandy clay silt, moderately compact. Frequent small charcoal fragments and small flecks. Occasional oyster shell fragments, pot sherds, small CBM and mortar flecks.	0.35-0.59m
115	Layer	Mid brown sand, loose. Occasional mortar and charcoal fragments.	0.62-0.7m
116	Pit cut	South side of pit only visible. Steep sloping side, base not visible. Filled by 117.	0.9-1.25m+
117	Fill	Mix of brown silty clay and mortar/plaster. Occasional small charcoal flecks. Fill of 116.	0.9-1.25m+
118	Pit cut	South side of pit visible only. Moderate slope, flattish base. Filled by 119 and 120.	0.51-0.91m
119	Fill	Mix of small charcoal fragments and brown clay, moderately compact. Fill of 118.	0.75-0.91m
120	Fill	Light brownish-grey sandy clay silt, moderately compact. Frequent small charcoal fragments and small flecks. Occasional oyster shell fragments. Fill of 118.	0.51-0.75m
121	Fill	Mid-brown silty clay, compact. Occasional charcoal, small fragments of animal bone and pot sherds. Fill of 122.	1.11-1.2m
122	Pit cut	Filled by 121.	1.11-1.12m
123	Fill	Dark brownish-black silty clay, friable. Frequent charcoal fragments and flecks. Occasional animal bone fragments. Fill of 124.	1.21-1.57m
124	Pit cut	Gradual BFS, steep to moderate sloping sides, gradual BTB, concave base. Filled by 123, 110, and 112.	1.21-1.57m
125	Fill	Light brownish-grey silt, friable. Occasional rubble fragments from building demolition. Fill of 127.	1.21-1.51
126	Fill	Dark brown clay, compact. Occasional charcoal flecks, and animal bone fragments. Fill of 127.	1.67-1.97m
127	Ditch cut	Sharp BFS, vertical sides, sharp BTB, flat base. Filled by 126, 111, and 125.	1.67-1.97m

Appendix 2 Technical information

The archive

The archive consists of:

1	Fieldwork progress records AS2
1	Photographic records AS3
66	Digital photographs
1	Drawing number catalogues AS4
1	Context number catalogues AS5
1	Matrix sheets AS7
1	Sample records AS17
1	Levels record sheets AS19
15	Abbreviated context records AS40
1	Trench record sheets AS41
2	Scale drawings
2	Box of finds
1	Computer disk

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery
Brunswick Road
Gloucester
GL1 1HP
Accession number: GLRCM:2008.3

Appendix 3

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM:

England

[List of Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: fieldsec1-38804

Project details

Project name	Archaeological Evaluation at Gloucester Folk Museum, Gloucester
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Gloucester Folk Museum, Gloucester (NGR SO 8284518714). It was undertaken on behalf of Gloucester City Council, who intend to construct a two storey extension in the rear courtyard of the museum linked to the existing Cider House, for which a planning application has been submitted. The project aimed to determine if any significant archaeological site was present and if so to indicate what its location, date and nature were. A 2m x 5m trench was excavated at the rear of the site. A 17th century ditch with one re-cut was recorded, oriented roughly north-south, which contained a number of residual medieval artefacts including pottery, decorated floor tiles and masonry fragments as well as 17th century pot sherds. The ditch was cut into a thick soil deposit similar to dark earth, the base of which was not reached in the evaluation. It is thought that deposition of this layer began in the medieval period, and continued until the 18th century. After this time, evidence for surface levelling is apparent, with a brick floor surface and wall related to a small building forming the structural remains from the 20th century. The site has a high potential for surviving medieval and Roman archaeological and environmental remains, although these are at a depth greater than the required depth for the evaluation trench (i.e. 2mbs+). The recovery of a heavily corroded iron and copper alloy artefact is also considered significant and further analysis is recommended through x-ray and consequent interpretation.
Project dates	Start: 25-02-2008 End: 27-02-2008
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status (other)	Area of Principal Archaeological Potential
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Significant	CONTAINER Medieval

Finds

Significant Finds	CONTAINER Post Medieval
Significant Finds	FLOOR TILE Medieval
Significant Finds	ROOF TILE Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Documentary Search','Sample Trenches'
Development type	Small-scale extensions (e.g. garages, porches, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	Between deposition of an application and determination

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GLOUCESTERSHIRE GLOUCESTER GLOUCESTER Gloucester Folk Museum
Study area	0.04 Hectares
Site coordinates	SO 82845 18714 51.8662996337 -2.249171329780 51 51 58 N 002 14 57 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Field Section, Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	Field Section, Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council
Project director/manager	Tom Vaughan
Project supervisor	Sarah Phear

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery
Physical Archive ID	GLRCM:2008.3
Physical Contents	'Ceramics','Glass','Metal'
Digital Archive Exists?	No

Paper Archive

recipient	Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery
Paper Contents	'other'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Correspondence','Drawing','Map','Matrices','Miscellaneous Material','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey '
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation at Gloucester Folk Museum, Gloucester
Author(s)/Editor (s)	Phear, S
Other bibliographic details	Report number 1610
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Entered by	Sarah Phear (sphear@worcestershire.gov.uk)
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