

**Old Memorial Hospital,
Cirencester, Gloucestershire**
Archaeological Desk Based Assessment



for

Carter Jones LLP

CA Project: 6008

CA Report: 16519

Sept 2016



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SUMMARY

Project Name: Old Memorial Hospital, Cirencester
Location: Gloucestershire
NGR: SP 02115 01840

In July 2016, Cotswold Archaeology was commissioned by Carter Jonas LLP to carry out an archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) in respect of proposed redevelopment of the Old Memorial Hospital, Cirencester. This assessment has identified that the Site is located within the south-west of Corinium's insula XXI / XXVII. The remains of the town's defensive wall and rampart run parallel, to the west. Structural remains have previously been uncovered within the Site, including robbed-out wall footings with associated pottery dating to the third and fourth centuries AD. Further structural remains have been recorded in proximity to the Site, including evidence for mortared stone walls and gravelled floors.

In sum, the available evidence suggests that the Site is located within an area of the town that was in primarily residential and/or commercial use, with no indications of any high status settlement. Small-scale gravel quarrying is also in evidence in proximity to the Site, and a burial has been recorded within the town walls a short distance to the west. The Site appears to have been in agricultural use following the end of the Romano-British settlement. Previous archaeological investigations have revealed wide-spread deposits of dark earth, of probable medieval origin, as well as plough-soil.

Romano-British remains have previously been recorded at depths of 1.76-2.08m below present ground level within the Site, and any presently unrecorded Romano-British remains would be anticipated to survive at a comparable depth. Any such remains would be considered significant heritage assets, largely on the basis of their evidential value. Remains within the west and north of the Site would fall within the Corinium Roman Town Scheduled Monument and would be heritage assets of the highest significance, statutorily protected.

Scheduled Monument Consent would be required prior to any on-site investigation/construction works that might affect the Scheduled Monument. Such remains may warrant either preservation *in situ*, secured via a sensitive design and engineering response, or comprehensive mitigation including excavation and recording prior to construction. The significance of any non-designated Romano-British remains beyond the Scheduled area is likely to be equivalently high, and they would need to be considered within the same policy context, specifically paragraph 132 of the NPPF (2012).

Medieval dark earth deposits have previously been recorded at 0.32-1.06m below present ground level. These, and any surviving medieval/post-medieval agricultural remains, might retain some evidential value. This would be comparatively limited, however, and they would be considered heritage assets of low, if any, significance, which would not require preservation *in situ*.

Overall, it is highly probable that Romano-British archaeological remains survive within the Site. The broad proposals are for the demolition of the extant buildings, and the construction of a car park. Ground reduction and surfacing activities associated with the construction of the car park would be comparatively superficial and would be unlikely to result in the truncation of any Romano-British remains. Should the final proposals include the excavation of the existing hospital foundations, in addition to demolition of the standing structure, then it is this activity that would have the greatest potential to truncate any archaeological deposits. The extent of any such truncation would depend upon the depth of the foundations, and the extent to which the original construction of those foundations has already truncated any underlying archaeological remains.

1. INTRODUCTION

Outline

- 1.1. In July 2016, Cotswold Archaeology was commissioned by Carter Jonas LLP to carry out an archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) in respect of proposed redevelopment at Old Memorial Hospital, Cirencester, centred on NGR: 402115 201840 (henceforth referred to as 'the Site'; Fig. 1.1).



Figure 1 Site location on modern aerial photography. Source: Google Earth 2006.

- 1.2. This report will form part of a pre-application submission to be made to Cotswold District Council (CDC). The results of this assessment, will inform the need for any further archaeological investigation in respect of the proposed redevelopment, and will contribute to the evolution of the detailed redevelopment design.
- 1.3. This assessment has focussed solely on buried archaeological remains. Separate assessments have been undertaken in respect of heritage setting and the architectural significance of the standing historic structure.

Location

- 1.4. The Site comprises the Old Memorial Hospital building with surrounding concreted parking area and is c.0.32ha in extent. It is located within the north-western area of Cirencester, to the east of Sheep Street, west of the town centre. A superstore is

located to the east of the Site, with residential buildings to the south and north. Cirencester Park is located to the north-west.

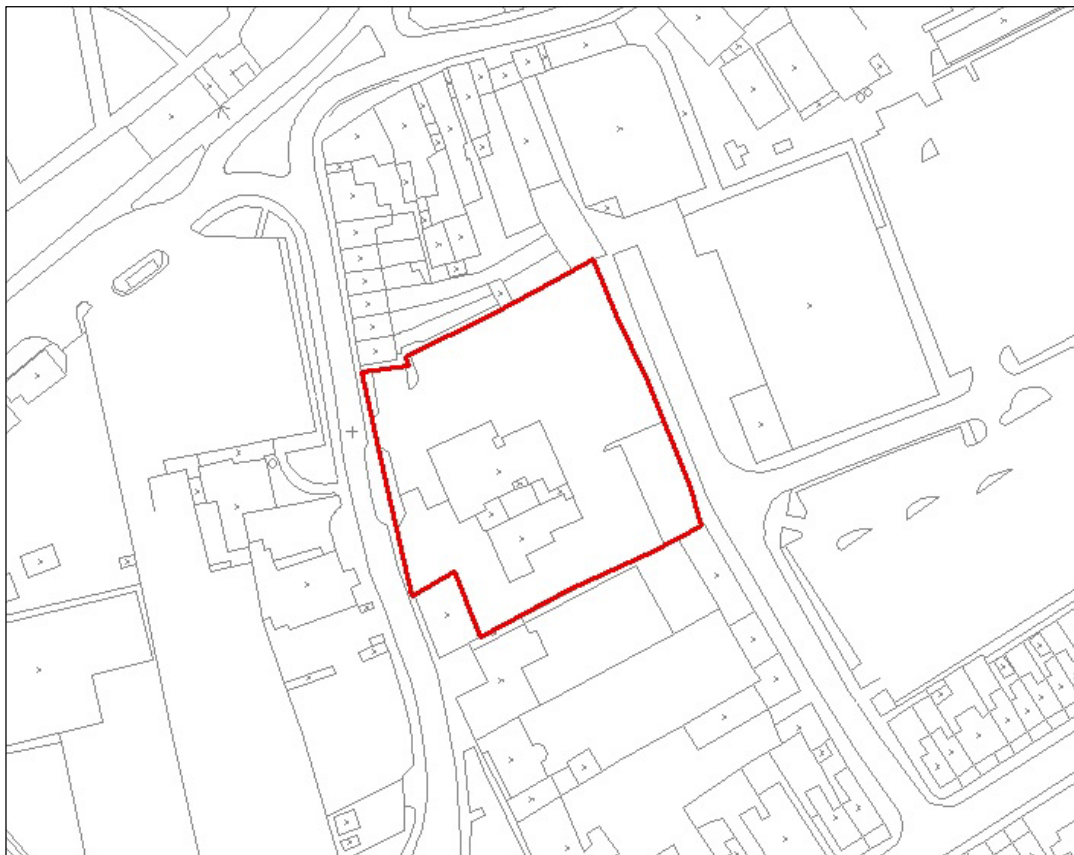


Figure 2 Detailed Site location. OS Mastermap.

Summary of development proposals

- 1.5. The proposals comprise demolition of the Old Memorial Hospital, and redevelopment of the Site as a public carpark.

Scope, Consultation and objectives

- 1.6. The assessment has been compiled following consultation with Mr Hugh Beamish, Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Historic England South-West, and Mr Charles Parry, Senior Archaeological Officer, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC), and archaeological advisor to Cotswold District Council (CDC).
- 1.7. Due to the location of the Site (partially within the Corinium Roman Town Scheduled Monument, Fig. 2). Historic England will require formal consultation (as statutory consultee for proposals with the potential to affect the significance of Scheduled Monuments) prior to submission of any application.

1.8. The scope and methodology for the DBA were formalised within a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), prepared by Cotswold Archaeology. The WSI was approved by Mr Beamish and by Mr Parry, prior to commencement of the DBA.

1.9. The key objectives of the assessment were:

- to identify recorded heritage assets of archaeological interest (*designated and non-designated*) within the proposed Site and, where sufficient information allows, to assess their significance;
- where possible, to assess the resultant baseline information, and to offer an analysis of the potential for the presence of currently unrecorded heritage assets of archaeological interest within the proposed Site, and of their likely significance; and
- To assess as far as possible, the potential effect of the proposed development on the significance of known and potential buried archaeological remains or upstanding earthwork remains within the proposed Site.

2. METHODOLOGY

- 2.1. The methodology employed for this assessment is based upon key professional guidance, principally the Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014); and Historic England's Conservation Principles (2008). Relevant heritage statute and policy is set out in Chapter 3 below.
- 2.2. As part of this assessment, the data has been analysed, reconciled and refined in order to provide a useful heritage context for assessing potential archaeological significance and impact within the Site. Not all records from the HER, EHA and other consulted sources are therefore reproduced, only those which are relevant to this assessment.
- 2.3. Known heritage assets within the study area are discussed, where relevant, in Section 4 of this report, with their locations depicted on the relevant figures.

Study area

- 2.4. This assessment considers a minimum 100m study area surrounding the Site but also, where informative, historic environment evidence and heritage assets in the wider landscape. This study area has ensured that data sources provided sufficient contextual information about the Site and the surrounding landscape from which to assess known and potential impacts on the heritage resource.
- 2.5. Known and potential heritage assets within the study area are discussed in Section 4 and a gazetteer of these has been compiled, and is presented as Appendix A. Heritage assets are referred to in the text by a unique reference number 1, 2, etc. or in the case of designated assets, A, B, etc., and are illustrated on Figures 5 and 6.

Data acquisition

- 2.6. The DBA has involved the consultation of readily available archaeological and historical information. The major repositories of information include the following:
 - Relevant archaeological survey and excavation records from appropriate publications and journals, and from unpublished archaeological assessment and fieldwork reports held by archaeological contractors (including Cotswold Archaeology), Gloucestershire HER, and Historic England;

- Information from the Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record, the Historic England Archives, the National Heritage List for England, the Archaeological Data Service, and various online sources;
- Gloucestershire Archives, for historic maps and documentary sources pertaining to the Site and study area;
- The Historic England Archive at Swindon, for historic aerial photographs of the Site and its immediate vicinity; and
- Online sources such as British Geological Survey geology viewer, Cranfield Soilscales.

Previous archaeological investigations

2.7. Within the Site, and in the surrounding area of Cirencester, there have been extensive previous archaeological works. These will be reviewed and discussed in section 4. The archaeological works within the site comprise:

- Evaluation test pits, 1989, Corinium Development Programme, Cotswold Archaeology. Roman, medieval and post-medieval deposits were recorded (Gerrard and Johnson, 1989);
- Watching brief, 1992, Old Memorial Hospital, Cotswold Archaeology. Roman deposits and structures were recorded (Ings, 1992); and
- Archaeological Desk Based Assessment, 2002, Old Memorial Hospital, Cotswold Archaeology. This assessment identified the presence of Roman structures along with medieval and post medieval deposits (Stoten, 2002).

Specific Objectives

2.8. The Archaeological DBA has sought to identify, map and assess the known and potential buried archaeological resource within, and adjacent to, the Site. There is a clear focus on Roman-period heritage assets, in the context of the known layout of *Corinium* Roman Town. In particular:

- The Site has been mapped with respect to the known (and hypothesised) extent of Roman *Corinium*, in order to inform on the likely nature and significance of any unknown remains that might survive within the development footprint; this includes the known street grid and *insulae*.
- The results of previous investigations within, and within proximity to, the Site, including review of previous assessment and monitoring reports in order to

inform on the likely depth at which any buried archaeological remains might survive.

- A historic map regression exercise has been undertaken in order to identify any previous impacts within the site, such as might have truncated any buried archaeological remains; this has been supplemented by a review of available aerial photography.

Limitations

- 2.9. This assessment has utilised secondary information derived from a variety of sources, only some of which have been directly examined for the purpose of this assessment. The assumption is made that this data, in addition to that derived from other secondary sources, is reasonably accurate. The records held by the HER and the EHA are not a record of all surviving heritage assets, but a record of the discovery of a wide range of archaeological and historical components of the historic environment. The information held is not complete, and does not preclude the subsequent discovery of further elements of the historic environment that are presently unknown.
- 2.10. This assessment has been heavily reliant on the use of digital and geo-referenced cartographic sources, including a range of historic maps and site plans. While these have been geo-referenced and interrogated as closely as possible, a degree of tolerance should be assumed regarding the accuracy of the mapped data, as well as the conclusions drawn on the basis of the spatial analysis of this data.

Significance of heritage assets

- 2.11. Assessment of the heritage value (significance) of an asset sets out to identify how particular parts of a place and different periods in its evolution contribute to, or detract from, the identified heritage values associated with the asset.
- 2.12. Significance (for heritage policy) is defined in NPPF (Annex 2) as *'the value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting'* (Department for Communities and Local Government, 2012).
- 2.13. Current national guidance for the assessment of the significance of heritage assets is based on criteria provided by Historic England (formerly English Heritage) in Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of

the Historic Environment. Within this document, significance is weighed by consideration of the potential for the asset to demonstrate the following criteria:

- **Evidential value** derives from the potential of a place to yield evidence about past human activity, e.g. buried remains;
- **Historical value** derives from the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present. It tends to be illustrative or associative;
- **Aesthetic value** derives from the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place; and
- **Communal value** which derives from the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it or for whom it figures in their collective experience and memory. These values are closely associated within historical and aesthetic values, but tend to have additional and specific aspects.

2.14. Further information on good practice in implementing historic environment policy in the Framework is provided within the Historic England's guidance Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 2: Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment. This document provides advice on the assessment of the significance of heritage assets in support of applications for planning permission, and emphasises that the information required regarding heritage significance should be no more than would be necessary to inform the planning decision.

3. PLANNING POLICY

Legislative framework, national planning policy and relevant sector guidance

3.1. This assessment has been compiled in accordance with the following legislative, planning policy and guidance documentation:

- Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979);
- National Heritage Act 1983 (amended 2002);
- National Planning Policy Framework (2012);
- National Planning Practice Guidance: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment (Dept. for Communities and Local Government 2014);
- Historic England, (2008): *Conservation Principles: policies and guidance for the sustainable management of the historic environment*;
- Historic England, (2015a): *Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: Note 2: Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment*; and

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979)

3.2. In accordance with the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979), Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) will be required for any works affecting the Scheduled Monument. A SMC application will be prepared ahead of any archaeological evaluation requested as part of the application. This would be submitted to Historic England South West, for approval, prior to commencement of the evaluation.

National policy: National Planning Policy Framework (2012)

3.3. The Framework sets out national planning policy relating to the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment. It defines the historic environment as all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time, including all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible, buried or submerged, and landscaped and planted or managed flora.

3.4. Individual components of the historic environment are considered heritage assets: buildings, monuments, sites, places, areas or landscapes identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of their heritage interest.

- 3.5. Heritage assets include designated sites and non-designated sites, and policies within the Framework relate both to the treatment of assets themselves and their settings, both of which are a material consideration in development decision making.
- 3.6. Key tenets of the Framework are that:
- When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation. The more important the asset, the greater the weight should be (Paragraph 132);
 - Significance can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction of the heritage asset, or development within its setting. As heritage assets are irreplaceable, any harm or loss should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to, or loss of, a Grade II Listed Building, park or garden should be exceptional. Substantial harm to, or loss of, designated heritage assets of the highest significance, notably Scheduled Monuments, Protected Wreck Sites, Battlefields, Grade I and II* Listed Buildings, Grade I and II* Registered Parks and Gardens, and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional (Paragraph 132);
 - where a proposed development will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal (Paragraph 133); and
 - With regard to non-designated heritage assets, a balance judgement will be required having due regard to the scale of any harm or loss, and to the significance of the heritage asset affected (Paragraph 135).
- 3.7. Local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected by a proposed development, including any contribution made to significance by their setting. The level of detail required in the assessment should be 'proportionate to the assets' importance, and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance.'

Local Planning Policy

- 3.8. Cotswold District Council is currently preparing a new Local Plan for 2011–2031. In the interim, a number of the policies contained within the Local Plan for 2001–2011 remain in force. However, none of these are relevant to the present assessment,

and so it is the provisions of the NPPF (2012), as described above, that are applicable.

4. OVERVIEW OF THE HERITAGE RESOURCE

Introduction

- 4.1. This section provides an overview of the historical and archaeological background of the study area, and the wider landscape, in order to provide a better understanding of the context and significance of heritage assets that may be affected by development within the Site. The assessment also seeks to identify the potential for encountering buried archaeological remains within the Site and to predict their likely nature, date, extent and condition. A determination is then also made of the significance of any such affected archaeological remains (Section 5).
- 4.2. Non-designated heritage assets within the study area are recorded in Appendix A. Figure 7 provides an illustration of those recorded heritage assets within the environs of the Site, which are considered to be relevant to the assessment of its historical development and archaeological potential, and that of its surroundings.

Topography, Geology and the palaeoenvironment

- 4.3. Cirencester is located within a shallow bowl, on the lower dip slope of the Cotswold Hills. The settlement developed on the banks of the River Churn, which presently flows NW-SE through the east of the town, to the south of the confluence of two tributaries, before following the prevailing slope of the land south-eastwards into the upper reaches of the Thames Valley. The precise course of the river can be seen to have shifted over time, with a previous course thought to have been further to the west, along the western margins of the town centre.
- 4.4. The site is located c.690m south-west of the River Churn and is within the floodplain. The Site is underlain by deposits of alluvium, and river terrace deposits, which overlie Cornbrash formation limestone, characteristic of the area (BGS, Sept 2016).

Summary of designated heritage assets

- 4.5. Part of the Site lies within the Scheduled Monument of Corinium Roman Town, which encompasses areas where elements of the Roman town would be anticipated to survive, resulting in a high archaeological potential.

Prehistoric period (pre-AD 43)

- 4.6. There is little substantive evidence for prehistoric occupation within Cirencester. The remains of possible prehistoric barrows survive at Tar Barrow to the north-east of the town, to the south-east of which is the more recently discovered site of

Kingshill North, where rare evidence for occupation from the Neolithic through until the later Iron Age is in evidence (Biddulph & Welsh, 2011). Flints have also been recorded, suggesting a background level of prehistoric activity within the area.

- 4.7. Cirencester would have lain within the territory of the late Iron Age *Dobunni* tribe. Earthworks and crop marks have been recorded on the south-eastern outskirts of the town, and there is evidence for artificial water courses associated with the River Churn, and suggestive of Iron Age occupation. A possible prehistoric ditch was also recorded during an excavation c.70m south of the Site, during an excavation in 1990 (King, 1990).
- 4.8. The potential for prehistoric remains to survive buried within the Site is low.

Roman period (AD 43 – AD 410)

- 4.9. Cirencester, known as *Corinium Dobunorum*, was established as an important military centre during the Roman period. The area later developed into an urban centre, eventually becoming the *civitas* capital, an administrative and political centre of the Dobunni tribal area. *Corinium* lay at the meeting of two principal Roman route ways including the Fosse Way, leading from Cirencester to Bath, and Ermin Street, linking Gloucester to Silchester. The establishment of the street grid system and construction of the town's major public buildings took place during the late 1st and early 2nd century, along with the construction of the town defences (Holbrook, 1994).
- 4.10. The Site is located within the north-western area of the Roman town close to the town defences. The wall surrounding the town would have originally comprised earthen ramparts. These ramparts were then re-enforced with stone in the 3rd century. The wall and rampart run almost parallel to the Site (Figure 3 and 4), with the line of medieval Sheep Street having likely been guided by that of the eroded Roman defences (Stoten, 2002). Proximate excavations have revealed evidence for the Roman defences in the form of ditches and ramparts, c.15m west of the Site (Fig. 6, 2, 3 and Fig. 5, A, and F). A Roman well has also been recorded in proximity to the Site (Fig. 6, 1).

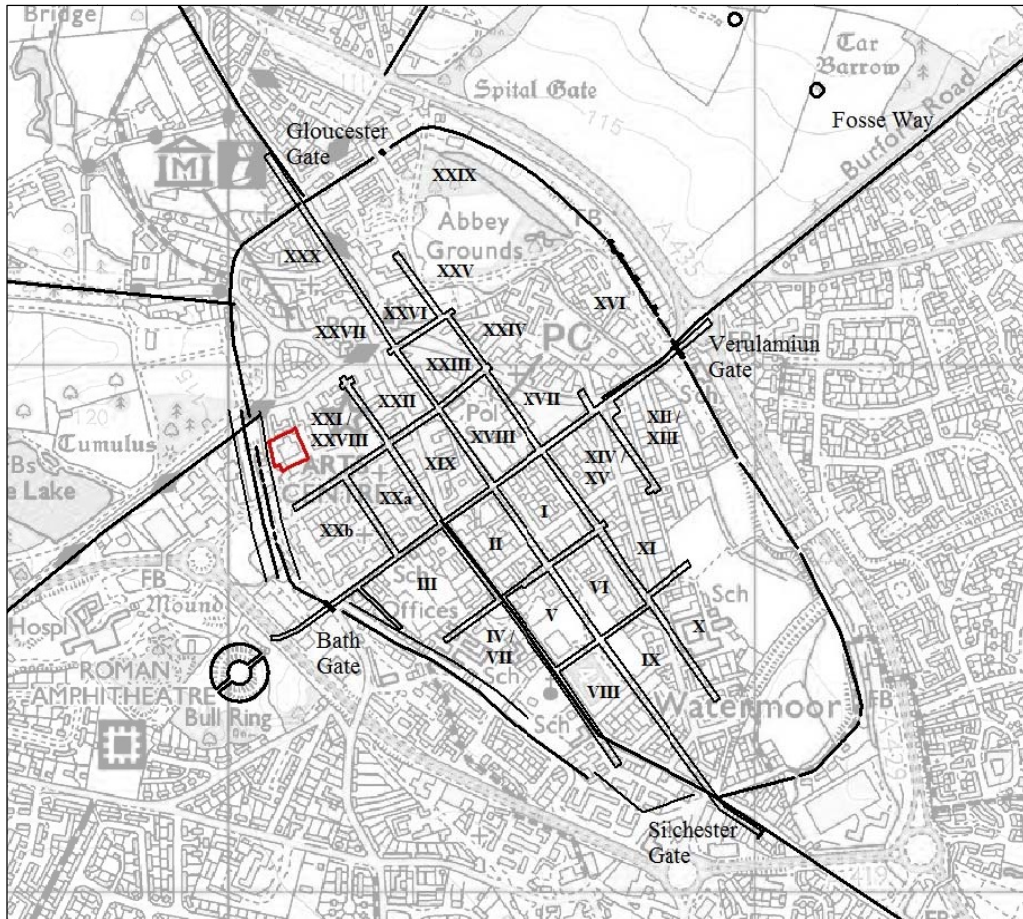


Figure 3 The Site (red line) shown within the context of the hypothesised extent of Roman Corinium: the intramural street grid, town defences, and major roads.

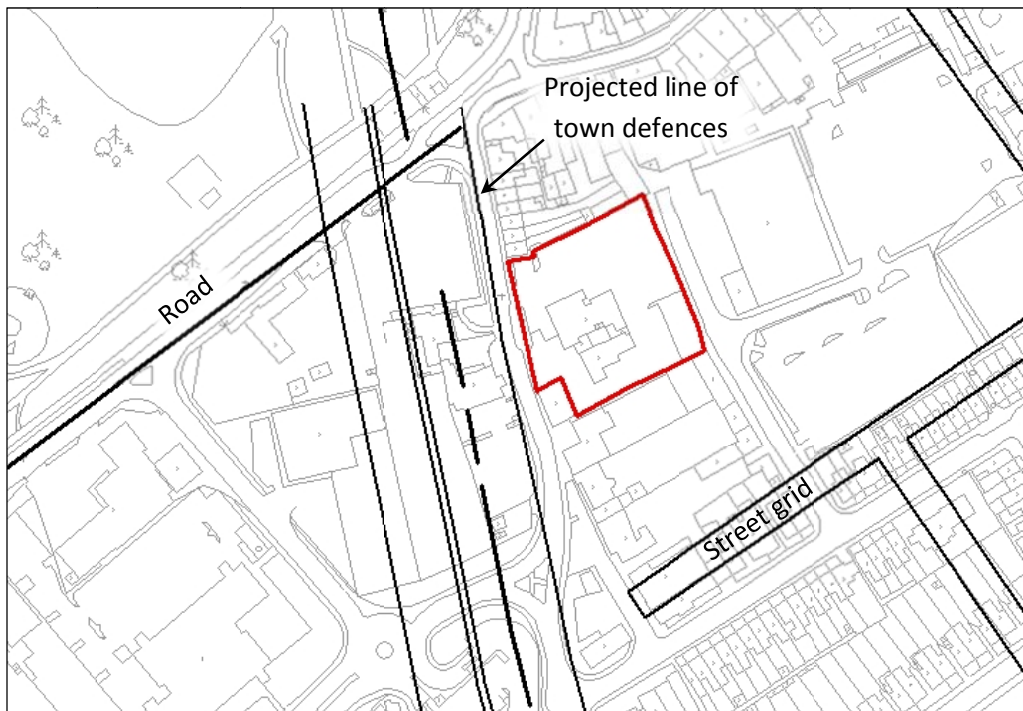


Figure 4 The Site shown immediately east of the town defences. OS Mastermap.

- 4.11. The Site is within the south-west of insula XXI / XXVII, with none of the main intramural streets projected to cross it; a small track may have run alongside the inner ramparts, however, as has been observed at Querns Road (King, 1992). Structural remains have previously been uncovered within the Site. During the excavation of soakaways in 1992, robbed-out wall footings of Romano-British date were identified (Fig. 5, **B**, **B1**, **B2**, **B3** and **B4**), along with associated pottery dating to the third and fourth centuries. No building plan was discernible, but the remains confirm the former presence of buildings within the eastern end of the Site.
- 4.12. Structural remains were also recorded during the construction of the supermarket to the east (Fig. 5, **J**), and during a watching brief at the 'Home and Wear' site (Fig. 5, **I**). These two sites revealed evidence for mortared stone walls and gravelled floors, although no evidence for the former operation of a hypocaust system, or any materials indicative of 'high status', e.g. wall plaster and tesserae, were identified. In this context, it seems likely that this was an area of shops and/ or housing in use by the general populace (Wilkinson, 1979).
- 4.13. Within the Brewery Car Park, archaeological investigations have recorded evidence for further Roman structures (Fig. 5, **K**). It is possible these were of a higher status with finds of tesserae and wall plaster, suggesting a building close to the junction of two streets. Evidence for walls and floors was also recovered although, again, a plan of the footprint of the buildings wasn't discernible. Excavations at Bridges garage also revealed a Roman wall, along with a clay figurine (Fig. 5, **M**). Other archaeological works in the area have recorded Roman deposits of pottery and other material (Fig. 5, **C**, **G** and **H**).
- 4.14. Archaeological works in proximity to the Site have identified Roman quarrying activities, suggestive of small-scale gravel extraction (Fig. 5, **L**). Burials have been found in proximity to the Site, suggesting an extra-mural cemetery beyond the town defences, as was common practice (Fig. 6, **5**). Inside the town defences four Roman bracelets were recorded c.15m west of the Site. These were recorded in the Historic Environment Record as being found with human remains and an unusual find of a skeleton within the town walls just to the west of the Hospital has been recorded. Although it may be that the inhumation was actually found outside the walls and the location was wrongly recorded, or that the burial was buried after the decline of the town, and may be a later burial incorporating earlier finds (Fig. 6, **4**).

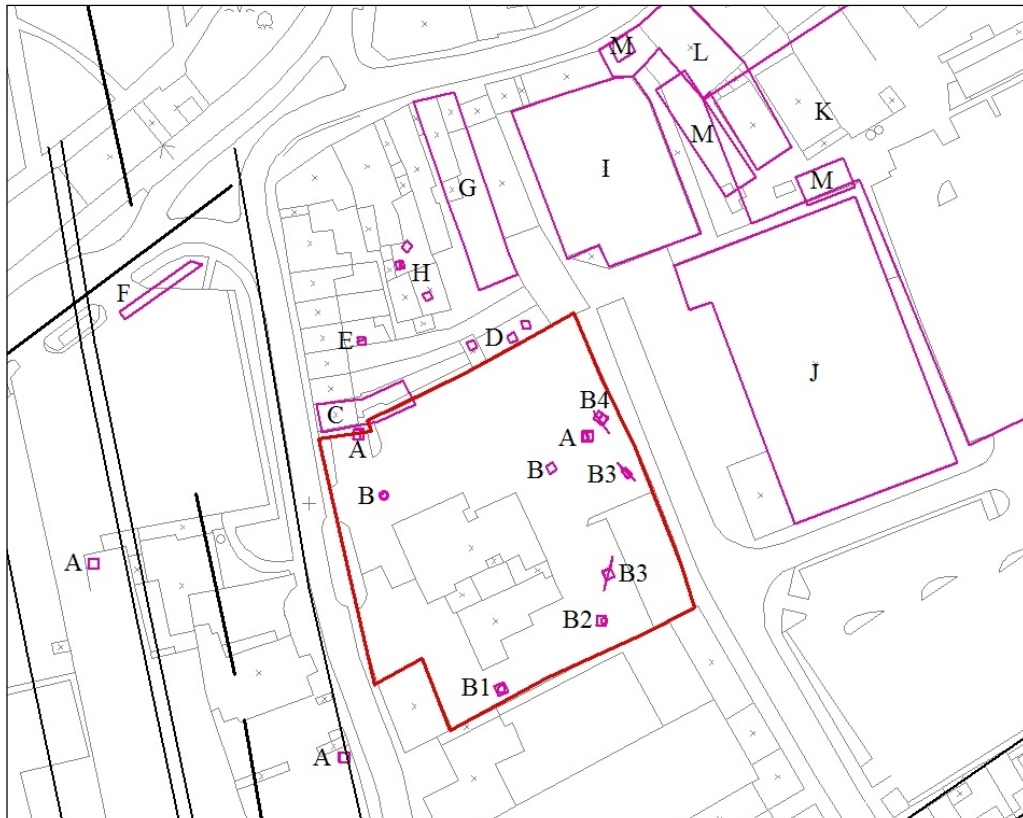


Figure 5 Previous archaeological works within, and within proximity to, the Site.

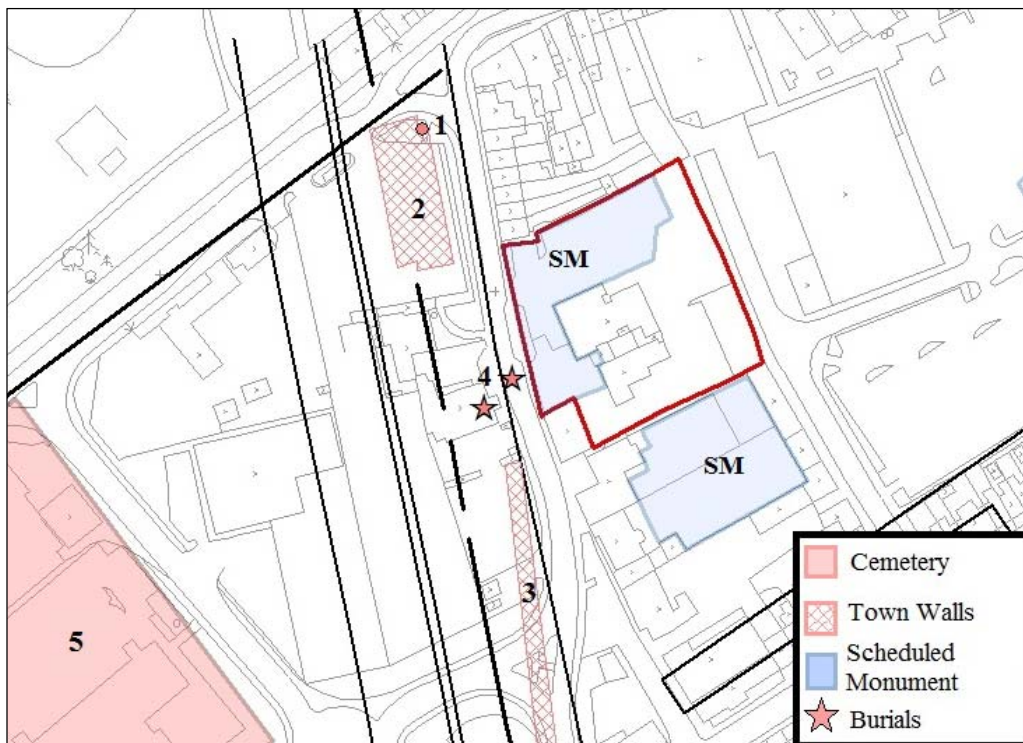


Figure 6 Recorded Romano-British heritage assets

- 4.15. The structural remains revealed during previous excavations demonstrate Romano-British settlement activity within the Site, part of which also falls within the Corinium Roman Town Scheduled Monument (Fig. 6).

Early medieval – medieval period (AD 410 – AD 1539)

- 4.16. Following the decline of Roman occupation in Cirencester early medieval occupation in the area seems to be minimal. Any settlement associated with the Cirencester medieval estate seems to have been focused away from the Site (Stoten, 2002). Approx. 150m to the north-west of the Site, the HER records a possible Saxon sunken floored building with Anglo-Saxon pottery present (GHER 47586) this however is the only recorded medieval feature in proximity to the Site
- 4.17. Within the Site, previous archaeological works have revealed archaeological deposits of ‘dark earth’; one possible interpretation for these is that they represent an amalgam of early medieval/medieval cultivation soil, decayed wooden structures and animal and vegetable remains. Within the Site medieval pottery was also recorded in these black earth deposits (Fig. 5, **A**), as well as to the north of the Site (Fig. 5, **D**, **E** and **H**). Dark earth horizons and medieval pottery were also recorded within the Brewery Car Park (Fig. 5, **K**).
- 4.18. By the mid-16th Century, the Site was located on the western edge of Ayshecroft (McWhirr, 1976). During the later medieval period Cirencester grew to be a market town, although there are no remaining medieval structures within the town. Sheep Street possibly runs along its original course, as recorded in 1460 as ‘Schytttestrete’ (Stoten, 2002). On the basis of documentary evidence, the HER records that the medieval Castle of Cirencester was located c.65m north of the Site, although no physical evidence of this has been uncovered (GHER 2433). During the medieval period Cirencester expanded and became a central market town within the region, and the principal outlet for Cotswold wool.
- 4.19. Due to the Site’s location, and the known presence of dark earth, it is likely that the Site was in primarily agricultural use during the medieval period. Any deposits that might survive buried within the Site would be anticipated to be agricultural in nature. In particular, further deposits of dark earth would be anticipated.

Post-medieval - Modern period (1540 – Present)

- 4.20. Cirencester continued to prosper from the wool trade, and with that prosperity came the redevelopment of the town during the 17th century, when many of the medieval

buildings were replaced. The town was again redeveloped in the 18th century, demonstrating the towns continued economic prosperity. Evidence of this post-medieval growth has been recorded during archaeological works in the form of demolition layers and small finds.

- 4.21. The Site itself has undergone changes during the post-medieval period. The earliest map of the Site is the 1795 plan of Cirencester. This appears to show the Site in use as an allotment. The Cottage Hospital first appears on the 1875 map, set within a small plot of land. The rest of the Site is shown as gardens and allotments, with sheds and outhouses to the north-west and the British school to the south. The hospital itself is smaller in size than the current building (Fig. 7).
- 4.22. By 1932, the grounds of the hospital had expanded to encompass the entire Site with the exception of the old school buildings (Fig. 7). The hospital was extended throughout the early and mid 20th century, then demolished in stages in the last quarter of the century, until only the main building survived. There is also a surviving air raid shelter in the eastern corner of the Site. The sequence of development of the buildings within the Site is depicted on Figure 7.



Figure 7 Map regression, showing the sequence of structural development within the site.

5. SIGNIFICANCE AND POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT EFFECTS

Significance of Recorded and Potential Heritage Assets within the Site

- 5.1. The remains of Romano-British structures and other settlement features within Corinium Insula XXI / XXVIII would be considered significant heritage assets, largely on the basis of their evidential value (Conservation Principles 2008). Roman remains within the Scheduled Monument (western and northern areas of the Site, Fig. 6) have been identified as being of the highest significance and are statutorily protected. The significance of any non-designated Roman remains beyond the Scheduled area (south-eastern areas of the Site, Fig. 6) is likely to be equivalently high. Roman settlement remains such as these may warrant either preservation *in situ*, secured via a sensitive design and engineering response, or comprehensive mitigation including excavation and recording prior to construction.
- 5.2. Any surviving medieval/post-medieval agricultural remains would be heritage assets of low, if any, significance. These periods are known to be primarily represented by dark earth deposits, and subsequent buried plough-soil, though former boundary ditches/furrows may also survive.

Anticipated stratigraphy

- 5.3. The results of the previous archaeological investigations undertaken within and around the Site provide a useful indication of the likely stratigraphy, as follows:
- Modern made ground and hard-surfacing...
 - Medieval dark earth deposits have previously been recorded at 0.32-1.06m below current ground level; and
 - Roman horizons have previously been recorded at depths of 1.76-2.08m below present ground level.
 - The natural substrate has been recorded at...

Previous disturbance within the Site and its implications

- 5.4. Previous modern development within the Site will already have resulted in some truncation of earlier deposits. The greatest extent of this previous truncation is likely to conform to the footprint of the previous hospital and its associated structures (Fig. 8); this would have resulted from the foundation excavations associated with these buildings, as well as the installation of services. Beyond this footprint, less extensive truncation is likely to have occurred as a result of modern landscaping

and surfacing activity. There is a high potential for Romano-British deposits to survive within these areas of anticipated lesser truncation. Given the probable Site stratigraphy, there is also the potential for Romano-British remains to survive at depth below the hospital and associated modern buildings.



Figure 8 Anticipated previous truncation within the Site (grey), areas of anticipated lesser truncation (beige), and the location of the extant structure (dashed line).

Potential Development Effects

- 5.5. The detailed redevelopment design for the Site is still under consideration. As such, no firm assessment can be made about its potential impact upon the identified archaeological resource. In general terms, however, it is likely that Roman-period archaeological remains survive within the Site, and that these might be truncated by any new excavations.
- 5.6. The broad proposals are for the demolition of the extant buildings within the Site, and the construction of a car park. Ground reduction and surfacing activities associated with the construction of the car park would be comparatively superficial;

given the anticipated depth of any surviving Romano-British remains, such activities would be unlikely to result in their truncation.

- 5.7. Should the demolition strategy include the removal (excavation) of the existing hospital foundations, then it is this activity that would have the greatest potential to truncate any significant archaeological remains. In this context, any such remains are likely to have already been truncated during the original installation of the foundations.

6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1. This assessment has identified that the Site is located within the south-west of Corinium's insula XXI / XXVII. The remains of the town's defensive wall and rampart run parallel, to the west. Structural remains have previously been uncovered within the Site, including robbed-out wall footings with associated pottery dating to the third and fourth centuries. Further structural remains have been recorded in proximity to the Site, including evidence for mortared stone walls and gravelled floors.
- 6.2. In sum, the available evidence suggests that the Site is located within an area of the town that was in primarily residential and/or commercial use, with no indications of any high status settlement. Small-scale gravel quarrying is also in evidence in proximity to the Site, and a burial has been recorded within the town walls a short distance to the west. The Site appears to have been in agricultural following the end of the Romano-British settlement, and previous archaeological investigations have revealed wide-spread deposits of dark earth, of probable medieval origin, as well as plough-soil.
- 6.3. Romano-British remains have previously been recorded at depths of 1.76-2.08m below present ground level, and any presently unrecorded remains would be anticipated to survive at a comparable depth. Any such remains would be considered significant heritage assets, largely on the basis of their evidential value. Remains within the west and north of the Site would fall within the Corinium Roman Town Scheduled Monument and would be heritage assets of the highest significance, statutorily protected.
- 6.4. Scheduled Monument Consent would be required prior to any on-site investigation/construction works that might affect the Scheduled Monument. Such remains may warrant either preservation *in situ*, secured via a sensitive design and engineering response, or comprehensive mitigation including excavation and recording prior to construction. The significance of any non-designated Romano-British remains beyond the Scheduled area is likely to be equivalently high, and they would need to be considered within the same policy context, specifically paragraph 132 of the NPPF (2012).
- 6.5. Medieval dark earth deposits have previously been recorded at 0.32-1.06m below present ground level. These, and any surviving medieval/post-medieval agricultural remains, might retain some evidential value. This would be comparatively limited,

however, and they would be considered heritage assets of low, if any, significance, which would not require preservation *in situ*.

- 6.6. Overall, it is highly probable that Romano-British archaeological remains survive within the Site. The broad proposals are for the demolition of the extant buildings, and the construction of a car park. Ground reduction and surfacing activities associated with the construction of the car park would be comparatively superficial and would be unlikely to result in the truncation of any Romano-British remains.
- 6.7. Should the final proposals include the excavation of the existing hospital foundations, in addition to demolition of the standing structure, then it is this activity that would have the greatest potential to truncate any archaeological deposits. The extent of any such truncation would depend upon the depth of the foundations, and the extent to which the original construction of those foundations has already truncated any underlying archaeological remains.

7. REFERENCES

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BGS Geology viewer: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>
(Viewed September 2016)

APPENDIX A: GAZETTEER OF RECORDED HERITAGE ASSETS AND OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

No.	Description	Period	Reference: GHER, HEA, HE
	Designated Heritage Assets		
SM	Corinium Roman town, Scheduled Monument	Roman	1003426
	Non-designated Assets		
1	Roman well.	Roman	HER: 8916
2	Evidence for the narrow wall relating to the Roman town defences surrounding Cirencester.	Roman	HER: 28635 HER: 400 HER: 28630 HER: 28637
3	Rampart associated with the construction of the Roman town wall.	Roman	HER: 28637
4	<p>This is an unusual find as the skeleton would appear to have been found inside the walls. The Hospital referred to is the present Memorial Hospital on the east side of Sheep Street built in 1893. The Hospital now, however, includes the earlier Nonconformist Chapel, on the west side of Sheep Street, and built on the line of the Roman town wall. It may be that connected works here produced the find from just outside the town wall. (1896)</p> <p>Stray find of two armillae were noted as being found on a skeleton at Sheep Street near Cottage Hospital, in 1881 reported in a catalogue (number 127) of Roman remains in Corinium museum written by TB Bravender. A further record (number 126) in the same catalogue noted that four armillae were found on a skeleton at the same location.</p>	Roman	HER: 29012 HER: 29013 HER: 29027
5	Roman cemetery area.	Roman	-
	Previous Archaeological Works		
A	<p>Evaluation, 1989, CA. Corinium Development Programme.</p> <p>1989 – This evaluation recorded elements of stage two</p>	Roman – post-medieval	HER: 28996 HER: 14075

No.	Description	Period	Reference: GHER, HEA, HE
	<p>of the Corinium Development programme. An archaeological evaluation was undertaken between 1/7/1989 and 21/8/1989 by Cotswold Archaeological Trust within the area of the proposed Corinium Development. Seven test pits of 2 x 2 metres were hand excavated to depths of between 0.80 metres and 3.80 metres. All were dug to the top of the archaeologically sterile deposits; two were located within scheduled areas (test pits 6 and 7).</p> <p>1989 – Two further 2 x 2 metre test pits were excavated to the top of the Roman deposits. Test pit 9 revealed evidence for the Roman rampart. Test pit 8 revealed C19 garden features. The site archive has been deposited at Corinium Museum, Cirencester.</p> <p>In test pit 2, an early modern structure, probably an outhouse located in one of the plots behind the hospital, was noted, along with possible medieval quarrying.</p> <p>The possible bottom fill of a medieval ditch was identified in test pit 6 during the archaeological evaluation for Corinium Development Stage 2. HER: 29005</p>		<p>HER: 28997</p> <p>HER: 28998</p>
B	<p>Watching Brief, 1992, CA, Old Memorial Hospital. A watching brief was undertaken between March and May 1992 following demolition of parts of the existing building and prior to the construction of car parking. A series of six soakaways with associated service trenches were machine excavated across the site to an average depth of 2.7m and a much shallower hand dug 0.8 meter hole was opened to locate an existing water pipe. The location of the groundwork just within the town defensive rampart provided an opportunity to examine the Roman and later occupation. Confirmation of Roman structures adjacent to the eastern defences within Insula XXI. Wall foundations were encountered.</p> <p>B1: Watching Brief, 1992, CA, Memorial Hospital. Two narrow gullies were noted in soakaway F during the watching brief at Memorial Hospital, Sheep Street, Cirencester. HER: 29017</p> <p>B2: A gravel scoop was noted on soakaway B containing a small assemblage of 3rd to 4th century pottery during the watching brief at Memorial Hospital,</p>	Roman	HER: 14973

No.	Description	Period	Reference: GHER, HEA, HE
	<p>Sheep Street, in 1992. HER 29015</p> <p>B3: In soakaway A, a wall footing was revealed running at a north-west to south-east alignment. These consisted of rough angular limestone blocks (approximately 0.15 by 0.10 by 0.10 meters), set irregularly within a gritty clay matrix. A small quantity of 3rd to 4th century pottery and some bone was retrieved from the foundations. There was substantial stone-robbing activity that disturbed the Roman remains. In soakaway C a wall footing was revealed running at a north-west to south-east alignment. These consisted of rough angular limestone blocks (approximately 0.10 by 0.10 by 0.7 meters), set irregularly within a gritty clay matrix. In soakaway D a foundation trench of a Roman wall was observed running north to south. The footings consisted of rough rectangular limestone blocks (approximately 0.20 by 0.10 by 0.10 meters), mainly irregularly set, although there was some evidence at the base of the foundation trench for herring-bone style settings. The stones were set within a clean clay matrix. HER 29014</p> <p>B4: A possible post-medieval feature was observed in soakaway C during the watching brief at Memorial Hospital, Sheep Street, Cirencester. The fill of the cut feature contained a mixture of black earths and gravel, and contained post-medieval and modern pottery and fragments of drainage-pipe indicative of recent activity. HER 29016</p>		
C	<p>Watching Brief, 1990, CA, 15 Sheep Street. Inspection of groundworks at 15 Sheep Street, by Cotswold Archaeological Trust, revealed a post-medieval drain, running northwards constructed from irregular limestone blocks (post-medieval ceramics were found within the drain and across the site) and wash house. Material excavated consisted of post-medieval and Roman remains</p>	Roman - medieval	HER: 14054 HER: 28995
D	<p>Evaluation, 2003, Gloucestershire country council archaeology service, 15 sheep street. Trench three revealed a medieval deposit of unknown origin at a level of 109.84m AOD, which appeared to be undisturbed and contained medieval pottery sherds.</p>	Medieval	HER: 22188 HEA: 1052259
E	<p>Evaluation, 2007, Foundations Archaeology, 7 Sheep Street. One trench 1.5m by 1.5m was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.32m (110.15m AOD). A stone feature measuring 1.50m in length, 0.34m in width and at least 0.14m in height, this was adjacent to a layer of</p>	Medieval – post-medieval	HER: 30324 HER: 30325

No.	Description	Period	Reference: GHER, HEA, HE
	stone rubble. The feature could be interpreted as a wall or an area of rubble with a kerb. Medieval and post medieval pottery was retrieved.		
F	1967, Cirencester excavation committee. Excavations took place in the grounds of the old railway station yard in advance of proposed development. This work revealed evidence for the town wall and rampart. The excavation of six trial trenches revealed evidence for the town wall and rampart. Archaeological deposits were encountered at depths of only c.0.6m. All the trenches produced some evidence for the defences (Old Railway Station Yard)	Roman	HER:28600
G	Evaluation, 2009, Gloucestershire county Council Archaeology Service, 53-61 Castle Street. Medieval occupation layers containing residual Roman pottery 1.3m below ground level. DBA, Gloucestershire County Council.	Roman	HER: 33943 HER: 33620 HER: 33533
H	2004 - Cotswold Archaeology undertook an evaluation at the Somewhere Else public house, 65 Castle Street, Cirencester. Three trenches were opened. Hand augering revealed an undated layer, which may possibly be Romano-British, at a depth of 1.9m below present ground level (109.6m AOD). Also found were a possible medieval surface and a post-medieval wall. The post-medieval wall was seen to respect the medieval property boundaries. Deposits of "dark earth" were found in all the trenches and were characteristic of this part of Cirencester.	Roman / medieval – post-medieval	HER: 27834 HER: 29021
I	Watching Brief, 1979, Corinium Museum, 'Home and Wear' site. Roman buildings were noted although plans could not be suggested. Walls and floors present. Damage from medieval development. Most likely shops or strip houses. Hearth or kiln recorded. Medieval cess pits.	Roman	HER: 29022 HER: 29025 HER: 29026 HER: 28051
J	1979 - Forty three foundation holes were observed between 13th February and 5th April 1979 on the site of a new Tesco store off Castle Street, Cirencester. There was evidence of gravel quarrying on the site probably dating to the early Roman period. There was considerable evidence for Roman buildings with mortared stone walls and compacted gravel floors. There was no in situ evidence for hypocausts and no tesserae were found and the buildings have thus been	Roman	HER: 28038 HER: 29024

No.	Description	Period	Reference: GHER, HEA, HE
	<p>interpreted as shops or strip houses. The spacing of the holes meant that no useful plans of the rooms or courtyards could be established. There was no evidence for a Roman road on the site though the distribution of buildings might suggest one to the west.</p> <p>There was increased activity on the site from about 1600 with stone cess pits, dry stone walls and wells being constructed. Broken fragments of glass and ceramics of the 19th and 20th centuries were abundant.</p>		
K	<p>Brewery Car Park</p> <p>DBA, 2003, CA.</p> <p>DBA, 1996, Birmingham University Field Archaeology.</p> <p>Archo and engineering assessment, 2013, CA. Model of archaeological deposits.</p> <p>Black earth and soil horizons dating to med – post-med recorded in 1989 eval. 0.67m – 1.8m, medieval cultivated soil.</p> <p>Roman remains. Painted wall plaster and tesserae suggest a building close by.</p> <p>Medieval hearth and yard. Post-medieval wall.</p> <p>The early medieval pit was dug through the Roman stratigraphy and a second straight sided pit some 2.20 meters deep is likely to be a robber trench, suggesting that substantial pieces of Roman masonry had been removed from beneath the Roman ground levels. One interpretation was that Roman sewers were being robbed in this area. The fill of both pits contained redeposited Roman pottery sherds.</p> <p>Evaluation, 2008, CA, Brewery Car Park. The evaluation identified the presence of <i>in situ</i> Roman deposits, including a tessellated floor, which are likely to represent a high status building situated close to the junction of two inter-<i>insulae</i> Roman streets. The fieldwork also revealed probable post-Roman demolition debris.</p> <p>Dark earth layer, 1m below present ground level.</p> <p>One pit contained a single sherd of residual pottery of 2nd to 4th century date.</p> <p>Roman foundations located in brewery car park</p>	Roman / medieval – post-medieval	<p>HER: 30758</p> <p>HER: 30891</p> <p>HER: 30896</p> <p>HER: 29259</p> <p>HER: 30893</p> <p>HER: 30891</p> <p>HER: 30894</p> <p>HER: 28091</p> <p>HER: 28996</p> <p>HER: 29003</p> <p>HER: 28999</p> <p>HER: 29000</p> <p>HER: 29002</p> <p>HER: 14075</p> <p>HER: 29001</p> <p>HER: 20463</p> <p>HER: 44790</p> <p>HER: 30895</p> <p>HEA: 1454666</p>

No.	Description	Period	Reference: GHER, HEA, HE
	<p>A cellar wall was revealed in trench 2 during an evaluation excavation at the Brewery Car Park in Cirencester. The wall was aligned north-east/south-west and comprised rough limestone blocks laid in irregular courses. Another wall was visible in the north-eastern edge of the trench. The second wall was believed to be part of the same feature as it was of similar construction.</p> <p>A floor was revealed in trench 3 during an evaluation excavation at the Brewery Car Park, Cirencester. The floor was only visible in section and comprised white and grey tesserae set into a mortar bedding layer. The floor was truncated by a post-medieval robber trench.</p> <p>2013 In advance of development at Brewery Court, Cirencester the design of the proposed development, which will necessitate the use of piles to support the foundations, was tested against a model of archaeological deposits. The impact of the proposed scheme on the Roman deposits was anticipated to be within the guidelines for impacts given within English Heritage Piling guidance and, as such, it was considered that the proposed development will result in less than substantial harm to the heritage asset. HER: 44790</p>		
L	Watching brief, 1979, Corinium Museum. Evidence of Roman gravel quarrying. Some pottery and CMB. Site of Tesco's on Castle Street.	Roman	HER: 28052 HER: 29023
M	<p>Excavation, 1970, Cirencester excavation committee. Limited excavation of Insula XXI. One Roman wall. Clay figurine.</p> <p>1954 pit dug for storage tank, medieval rubbish pit and well. Roman pottery.</p>	Roman	HER: 8992 HER: 8993

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