

# Background & Planning

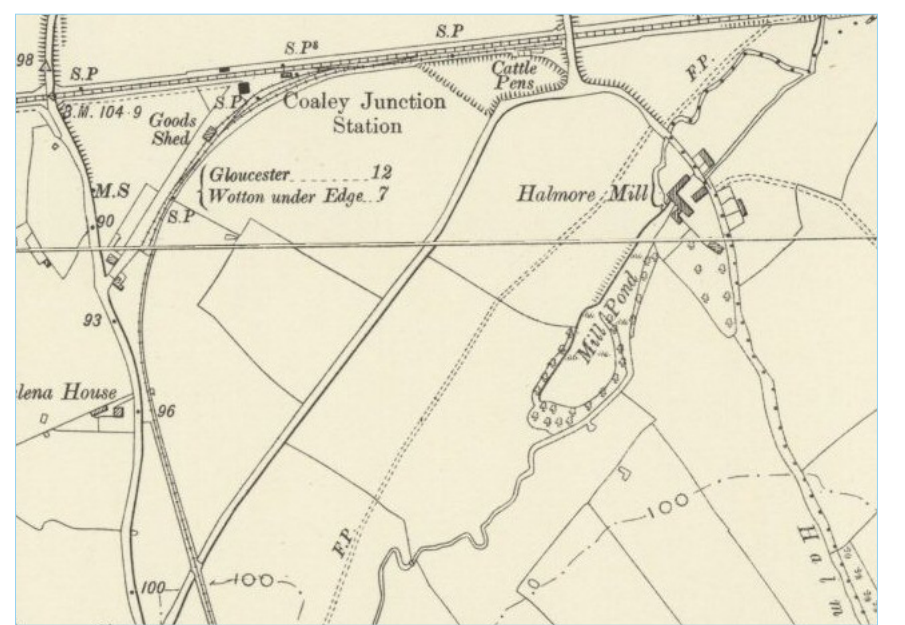
Excavations at Millfields, Cam, Dursley, Gloucestershire

This open day is an opportunity for you to get up close to the Roman villa which was recently uncovered prior to the development of the field in which it lies. It is just one small part of a larger programme of archaeological works that have been ongoing for many years. Thames Valley Archaeological Services, who have carried out the excavation, have been digging on site since 28th April 2019. Prior to this the site has been through a number of archaeological investigations as a condition for the granting of planning permission.

**2015**

## Desk-based Assessment

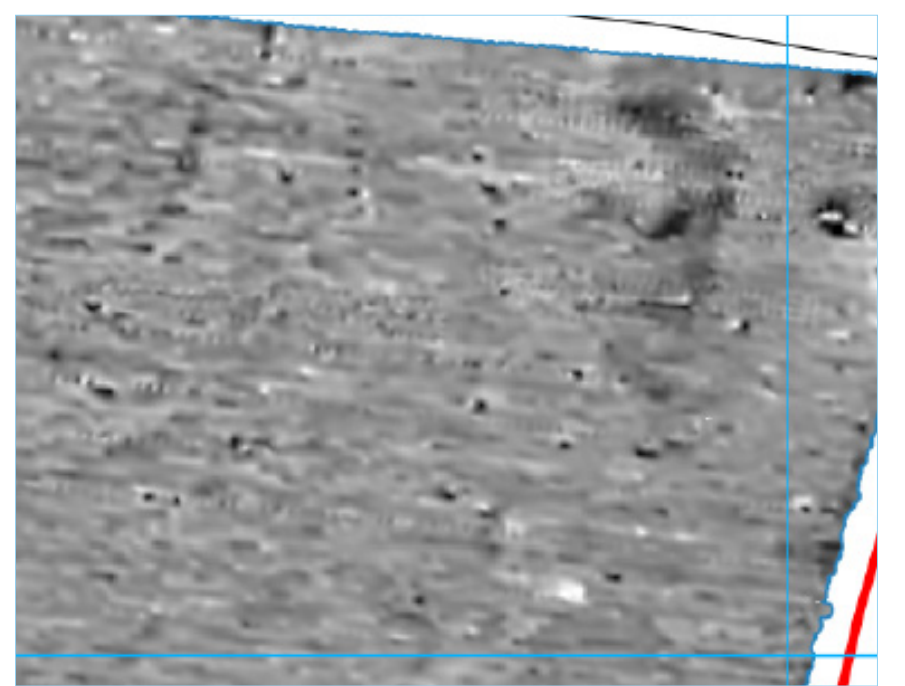
The process of gathering and analysing historical documents, records, maps and past archaeological work around the development area to determine the archaeological potential of the site.



**September 2015**

## Geophysical Survey

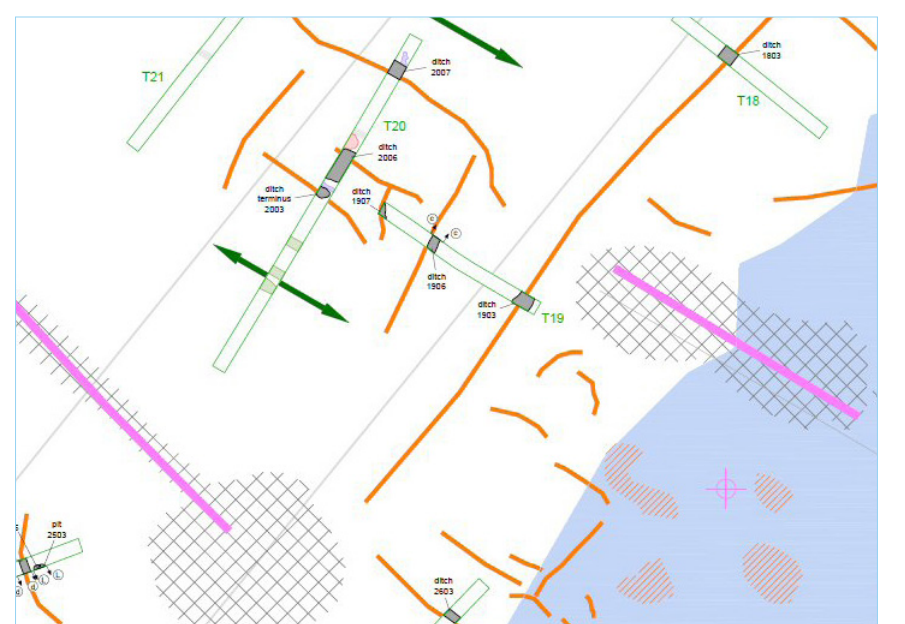
The use of geophysical survey to map subsurface features within the development area and analysis of the results to identify potential archaeological features. Unfortunately the villa was located very close to a modern sewer line so its magnetic signature was masked by that of the pipe.



**May 2016**

## Evaluation

The digging of trial trenches across the area of development, with some targeting potential archaeological features identified by geophysical survey. Any archaeology found is excavated by hand and recorded.



**April 2019 - today**

## Excavation

Soil is stripped off a wide area where all archaeology is investigated, recorded and all finds are recovered. In the case of ditches 20% of each feature is dug in the case of pits or smaller features it is 50% and for structures and burials it is 100%.



## What happens next?

Once all archaeological activity is completed on site the process of post excavation begins. All of the information gained from the excavations is collated and analysed, with finds being processed and given to relevant experts for study. The results of this are then written up into a report which is later published. All finds and archives are eventually sent to a local museum for safe long term storage so as to be accessible for anyone to re-study in the future. As for the physical remains of the villa, these walls will be reburied for preservation and the ground above turned into public space. Information boards will also be erected to explain what lies beneath.