



Our History

The Roman town of 'Corinium Dobunorum' was the second largest Roman settlement in England over 2,000 years ago. The Roman town wall, 50 metres from the Hotel, actually overlaid the Whiteway, a prehistoric salt trading route, showing Cirencester as a favoured location for many years.

The Hotel was built as an Elizabethan wool merchant's house around 1595, not long after the nearby Abbey, once the richest Augustinian house in the country, was dissolved on the orders of King Henry VIII. It is likely the Tudor oak beams, now exposed in the top floor rooms, are ships' timbers from nearby Gloucester docks, salvaged less than twenty years after the English defeated the Spanish Armada.

As an important house close to the centre of this thriving market town, the Hotel was modernised in Georgian times when the street façade was re-faced in dressed Cotswold stone and sash windows and shutters were added. Later the Victorians extended the property and walled the gardens.

During the Second World War Wing Commander Knowler owned the property. Pilots and aircrew from RAF Kemble were the first guests, billeted here throughout the Battle of Britain.

Since the war, the property was mainly operated as a guest house and subsequently as a small two star hotel, when the garage (formerly the stables) became the bar. The old coach house made way for the current restaurant, which was added in 1975.

In 2000, six additional bedrooms were added, two on the ground floor and four on the second floor in the old attic area, which included exposing many more of the old beams.

The Corinium Hotel is currently run by Tim Waller, who acquired the business in January 2008. He was previously a hotel manager for a couple of large UK hotel groups for many years. Tim's wife, Carol, is also a partner and assists with administration, maintaining the hotel's lovely garden and refurbishment projects. Their main objective has always been to blend modern décor and amenities with older character pieces of furniture, thereby retaining the hotel's warm and cosy atmosphere.

The building is grade 2 listed and accordingly a suitably sympathetic extension to the rear of the hotel was added in 2010. This included a new reception and the enlargement of the bar and lounge seating area. There have been other improvements made throughout the hotel during this time and the hotel now operates to a high three star standard.

