

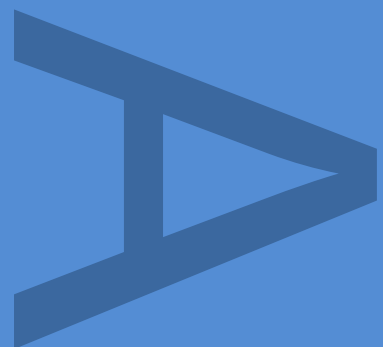
**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING
BRIEF AT ODSEY HOUSE NATURAL
SWIMMING POOL, GILDEN
MORDEN, CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY: SOUTH
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

PCA REPORT NO: 11357

SITE CODE: OGGM12

MAY 2014



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT ODSEY HOUSE NATURAL SWIMMING POOL, GUILDEN MORDEN, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Site Code: OGGM 12

Report No: R11357

National Grid Reference: NGR TL 2953 3806

Written and Researched by: Karl Hanson

Project Manager: Mark Hinman

Commissioning Client: Woodhouse Landscapes on Behalf
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ABSTRACT

Pre-Construct Archaeology was commissioned by Woodhouse Landscapes on Behalf of Mr and Mrs A Cox, to carry out an archaeological watching brief on ground works for a Natural Swimming Pool at Odsey House, Guilden Morden, Cambridgeshire. The watching brief was undertaken on the 7th and 8th of January 2013. No archaeological features or artefacts were encountered, only a modern soakaway associated with the septic tank and a modern concrete pad for a garden feature were noted.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A Brief for Archaeological Monitoring & Recording at Odsey House Natural Swimming Pool, Guilden Morden, Cambridgeshire, was issued by Dan McConnell of the Historic Environment Team, Cambridgeshire County Council.
- 1.2 This report details the working methods and results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA). The programme was carried out according to a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared for Woodhouse Landscapes by PCA (Hinman 2012). The fieldwork, undertaken on the 7th and 8th of January 2013 and was managed for PCA by Mark Hinman and supervised by Karl Hanson.
- 1.3 The study area centred on NGR TL 2953 3806 and covered approximately 200 square metres. The site lies northeast of the 18-Century Racing Lodge Odsey House, and is situated 0.12km to the northwest of the A505, 3.27km south-east of Ashwell and 6.71km southwest of Royston.
- 1.4 The Natural geology in this area is characterised by Holywell Nodular Chalk Formations with no noted superficial deposits in the location. It was noted that calcareous/neutral Boulder Clay with some Clay-with-Flints may be present overlying the Chalk, but these were not present in the area opened.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site lies on the Cambridgeshire/Hertfordshire county boundary and the line of the Icknield Way runs through the grounds of the house.
- 2.2 Odsey Grange, formerly the Jockey house was built circa 1705¹. Odsey House and stables were built and owned by the Second and Third Dukes of Devonshire as part of a racing establishment the Dukes owned. Odsey Grange could be buildings mention by Thos. Fountaine and John Duckett, of Lincoln's Inn before 1705 has buildings "newly erected for race-horses", and the sale of property to Robert Chester (VCH Vol. VIII p97).

¹ Odsey House and Odsey Grange are used interchangeably in the historical records.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 All aspects of the programme were conducted in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' code of conduct and the Standards and guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (2008). Field techniques and guidance are detailed within the PCA fieldwork induction manual, (Taylor and Brown 2009).
- 3.2 An archaeological watching brief, covering the footprint for the building of a natural swimming pool was undertaken. The swimming pool footprint was excavated to a depth of between 0.30m-0.40m onto the natural Chalk, using a 360° with a 2m wide toothless bucket.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The only features present within the footprint were a soakaway associated with the modern septic tank and a concrete pad for a modern garden feature.
- 4.2 No archaeological features or finds were identified within this area.

5 INTERPRETATION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 No archaeological features or artefacts were encountered during the groundworks, a modern soakaway for the septic tank and a modern concrete pad for a garden feature were noted. The garden appeared to have been subject to terracing during earlier landscaping of the site.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

6.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Woodhouse Landscapes on Behalf of Mr and Mrs A Cox for commissioning the archaeological evaluation and to Karl Hanson for carrying out the monitoring works for PCA. Thanks are also due to Dan McConnell of the Historic Environment Team Cambridge County Council for his assistance with the project and Mark Hinman for managing the project.

7 REFERENCES

Hinman, M. 2012. *Written Scheme of Investigation Archaeological Monitoring & Recording at Odsey Grange Natural Swimming Pool, Guilden Morden*. (unpublished document, Pre-Construct Archaeology)

McConnell, D. 2012. *Brief for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at Odsey Grange, Guilden Morden, Cambridgeshire*. (unpublished document, Cambridgeshire County Council)

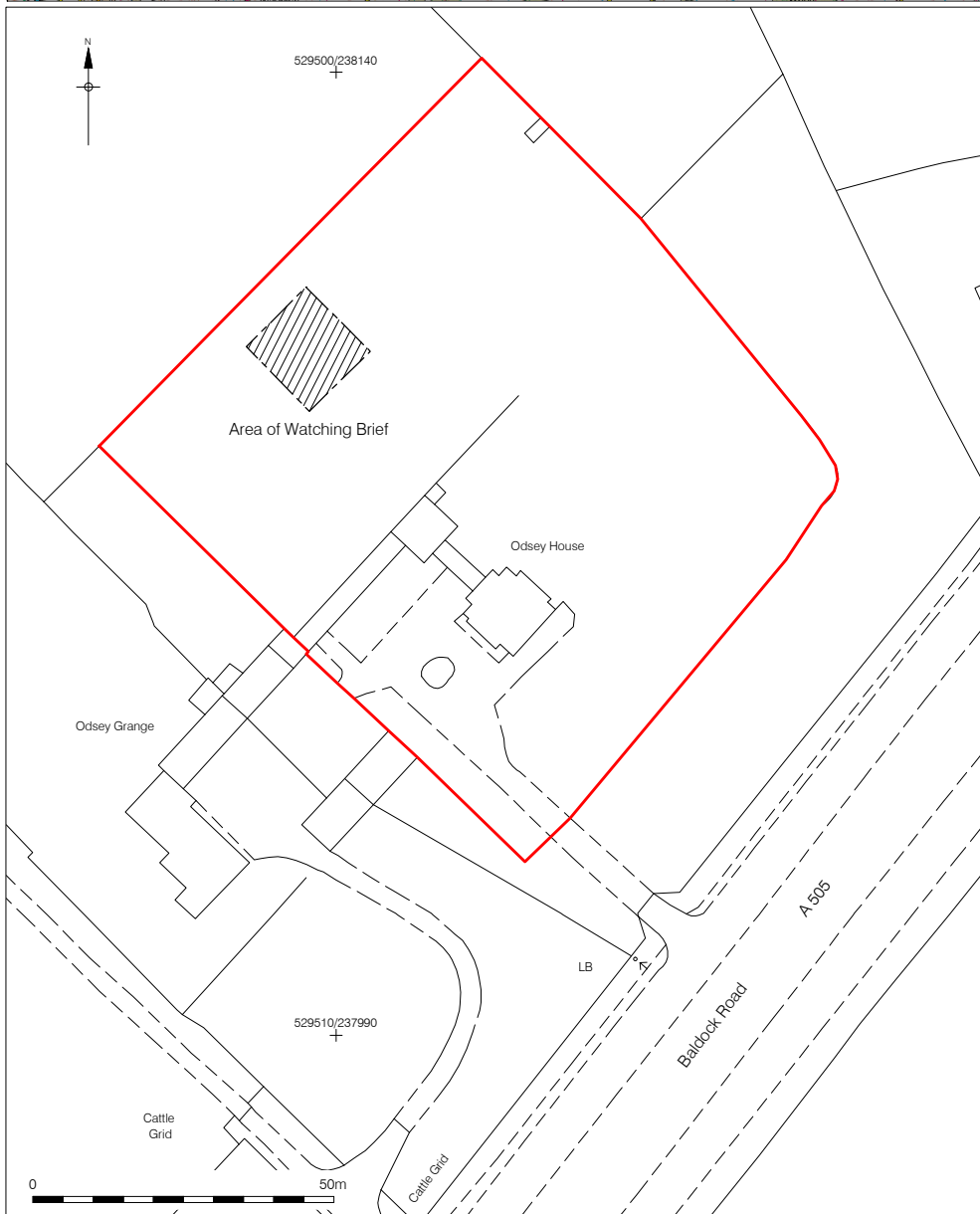
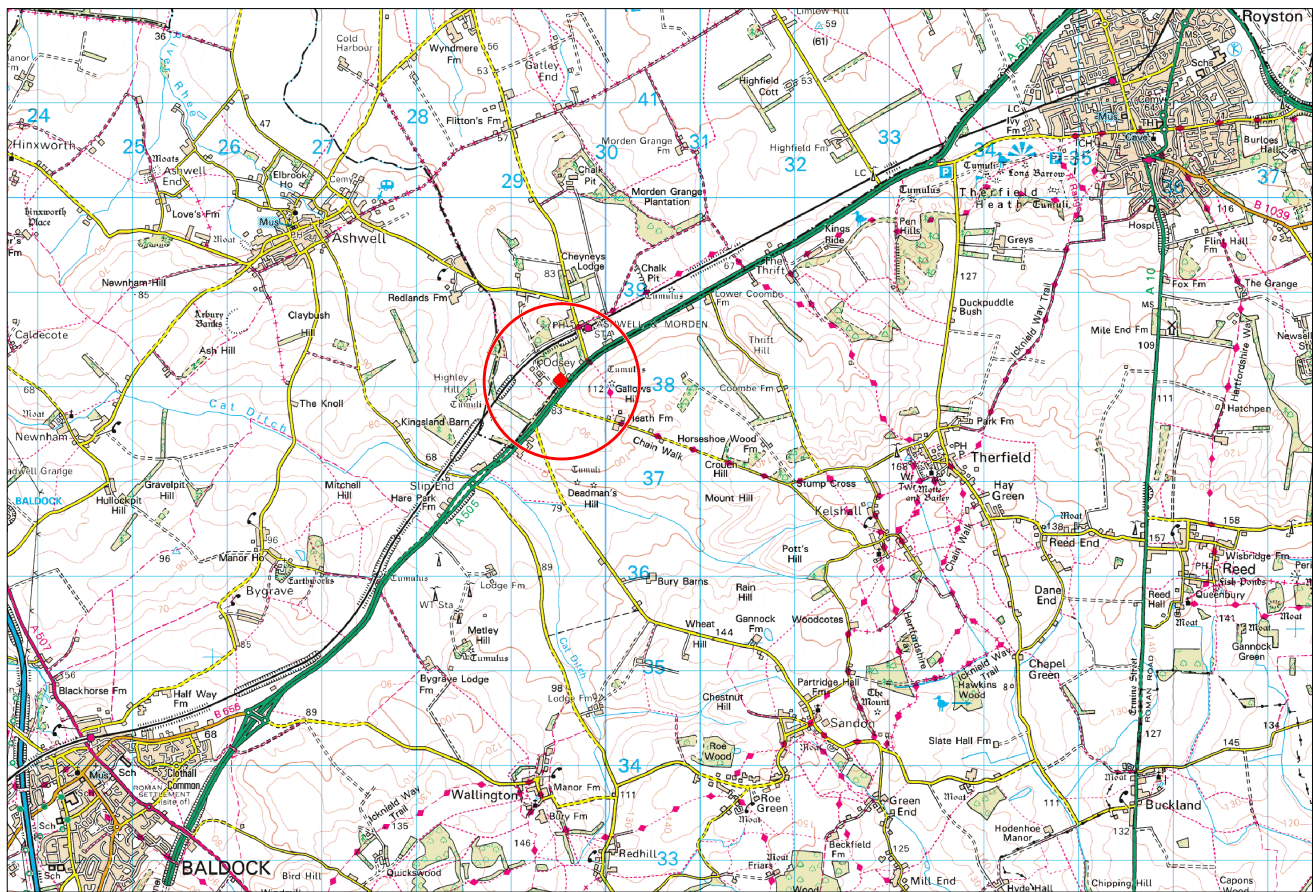


Figure 1
Watching Brief Location
1:8,000 and 1:1250 at A4

8 PLATES



Plate 1: Pre-excavation - area and Odsey House facing southeast.



Plate 2 Sample section showing top soil lying above natural chalk, facing northeast.



Plate 3 Working shot show tooth marks, and redeposited natural of soakway facing southeast.



Plate 4 Post-excavation facing southeast - note area to right of shot which is soakaway disturbance

APPENDIX 1: OASIS SUMMARY

OASIS ID: preconst1-140515

Project details

Project name	Odsey House Natural Swimming Pool, Guilden Morden, Cambridgeshire
Short description of the project	Pre-Construct Archaeology was commissioned by Woodhouse Landscapes on Behalf of Mr and Mrs A Cox, to carry out an archaeological watching brief on ground works for a Natural Swimming Pool at Odsey House, Guilden Morden, Cambridgeshire. The watching brief was undertaken on the 7th and 8th of January 2013. No archaeological features or artefacts were encountered, only a modern soakaway associated with the septic tank and a modern concrete pad for a garden feature.
Project dates	Start: 07-01-2013 End: 08-01-2013
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	OGGM12 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Methods & techniques	""Visual Inspection""
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE GUILDEN MORDEN Odsey Grange Natural Swimming Pool, Guilden Morden
Study area	200.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 2953 3806 52 0 52 01 31 N 000 06 42 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project originator	Cambridgeshire County Council
Project design originator	Mark Hinman
Project director/manager	Mark Hinman
Project supervisor	Karl Hanson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Exists?	Archive	No
Digital recipient	Archive	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store
Digital available	Media	"Text"

Paper Exists?	Archive	No
Paper recipient	Archive	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store
Paper available	Media	"Context sheet", "Photograph", "Plan"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT ODSEY GRANGE NATURAL SWIMMING POOL, GUILDEN MORDEN, CAMBRIDGESHIRE
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Entered on	10 January 2013

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