



Bury Close

Station Road, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire

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Archaeological recording

NGR: SP 17103 20978

Site code: BCBW 14

OASIS ID: 110archa1-250625

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one ten archaeology

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Contents	
<i>Figures</i>	4
<i>Plates</i>	4
SUMMARY	5
INTRODUCTION	7
<i>Location and scope of works</i> (Figs. 1 & 2)	7
<i>Geology and topography</i>	7
ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.....	8
RESULTS (Figs. 3 & 4)	10
<i>Method and nature of the excavation</i>	10
<i>Description of deposits</i>	10
FINDS.....	18
<i>Environmental data</i>	18
DISCUSSION (Fig. 5).....	19
BIBLIOGRAPHY	22
Appendix 1; OASIS.....	23

Figures

- 1 site location
- 2 area of study
- 3 site plan showing results of the 2011 evaluation and the areas of excavation in 2014 & 2015
- 4 gas trench section
- 5 study site with dunning's excavations (1931-4) and results of 1994 magnetometer survey

Plates

- 1 area 1, showing stone well, from the north-west
- 2 stone well, from the north
- 3 stone well, elevation, from the north
- 4 area 2, from the south
- 5 area 3, from the east
- 6 area 4, from the south-east
- 7 gas trench, from the west
- 8 aerial photograph, 1984

SUMMARY

Archaeological recording was carried out during 2014 & 2015 at Bury Close, Station Road, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire during development comprising extensions to the existing house, construction of a replacement garage and excavation of a gas pipe trench. The work represented the last stage in a programme of archaeological mitigation that began in 2011 with a documentary desk-based assessment. This established the potential for significant archaeological deposits associated with the occupation of the Iron Age hill fort known as Salmonsbury Camp to be present within the study site. The assessment identified from earlier aerial photographs and a magnetometer survey, features associated with occupation of the fort continuing into the site from the adjacent field to the east.

A field evaluation followed in the same year in the form of hand dug trial trenches that provided information on the depth and nature of the deposits. From the results a mitigation strategy was devised comprising a 0.30m buffer being established between the surface of significant archaeological deposits and the base of the new foundation. This meant that for the majority of the excavations in 2014, archaeological deposits were not disturbed. The impact of the subsequent gas trench in 2015 was minimal and no dateable deposits were recorded.

In the area of the north extension a rudimentary limestone well was encountered during excavation. Although the structure was undated, the evidence suggests that this feature could easily be associated with occupation of the camp. There is also a possibility that the well could be associated with Harp Farm formerly situated west of the study site before its redevelopment in recent times.

The crop marks identified to the east indicating a number of archaeological features, some rectilinear, some circular, can be clearly seen continuing into the study site. The presence of a well at suggests that these features could be interpreted as enclosures with associated dwellings. The subsequent evaluation established that some of these deposits are Roman and that they survive within the study site. Other possible features indicative of pitting can be seen in the lawn area behind the former garage.

Given that no evidence of a structure that could be interpreted as a building is recorded on the historic mapping (1774 & 1884-6), it would appear that any building associated with the well that may have formerly occupied the site would have been demolished before this date.

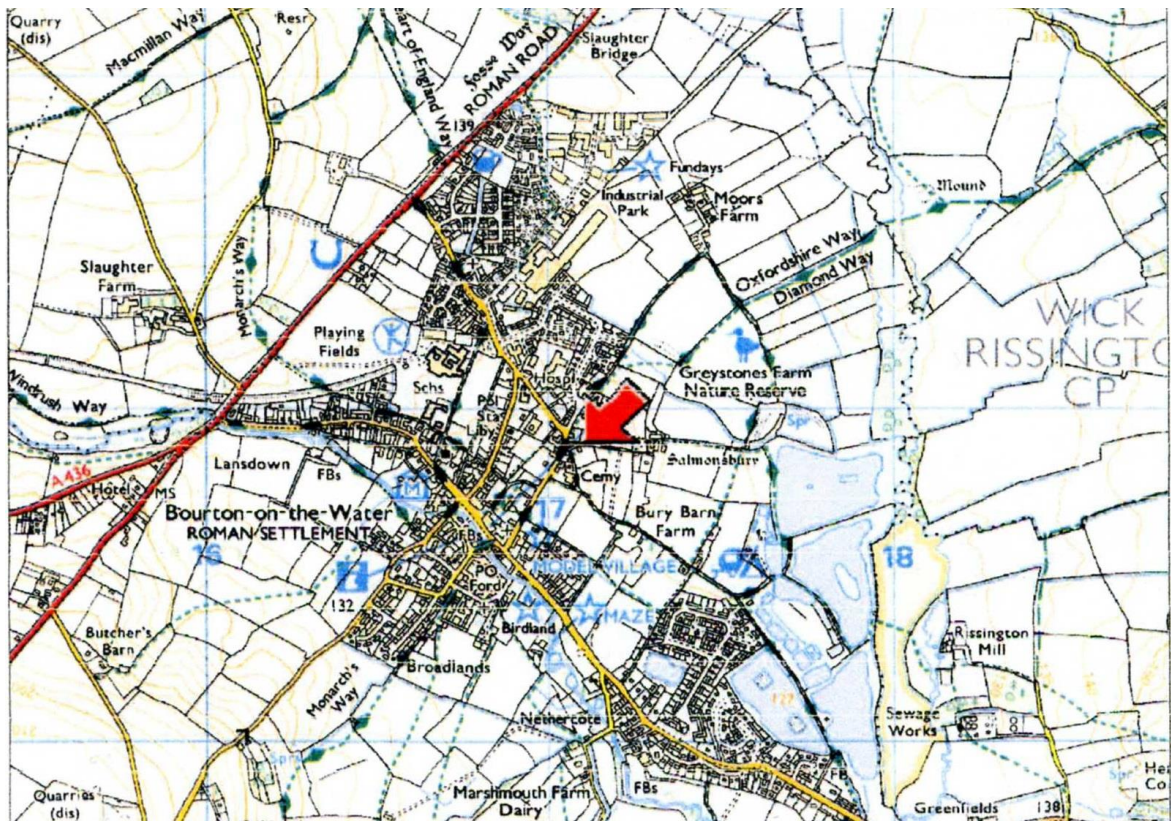


Fig. 1; site location



Fig. 2; area of study

INTRODUCTION

Location and scope of works (Figs. 1 & 2)

This document sets out the results for archaeological recording (watching brief) during the 13th June 2014 and 1st December 2015 at Bury Close, Station Road, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire, GL542EN at the request of the owner Mr Nigel Cox. A proposal for development of the site was approved by Cotswold District Council comprising extensions to the existing house; demolition of an existing garage; construction of a replacement garage in the footprint of an existing building and a new driveway.

As the site lies within the Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 32392) known as Salmonsbury Camp and identified as an Iron Age fortified enclosure, preliminary work comprising a desk-based assessment followed by field evaluation (see below), was requested by Gloucestershire County Council Historic Environment & Archaeology Service following consultation with English Heritage.

As a result of the investigations, planning was approved on the condition that a 0.30m buffer between the top of the archaeology and the base of the raft foundation was built into the design in order to preserve the underlying archaeology. To ensure that an adequate record is made during excavation, the development was conditional on a programme of archaeological work (watching brief) being carried out in accordance with the condition of the scheduled Monument Consent. The work was carried out with Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).

Geology and topography

The parish of Bourton-on-the-Water is wedge-shaped, the northwest boundary follows the Foss Way, the eastern boundary the Slaughter brook and the River Dikler lying 925m to the east and the southern boundary is formed by the River Windrush which lies 400m to the south. The study site comprises a roughly rectangular area of generally flat land aligned north to south. It covers an area of approximately 1.6 acres and is accessed via Moore Lane which marks the western boundary of the site. The house itself is situated centrally on the western side of the plot with a tarmac driveway along the side to a garage at the rear leading off Roman Way, a new road. To the north of the garage and adjacent to the western edge of the site is a building formerly used as a work-shop. To the east and south

of the house the site currently consists of landscaped gardens comprising lawn, paving and flower beds. The site lies at about 134m above ordnance datum (AOD) and the underlying geology is gravel river terrace deposits; limestone gravel of the Upper Thames Valley Formation (BGS, 2000).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

An archaeological desk based assessment (Cook, 2011a) had previously examined the available sources and identified the potential for deposits to survive within the areas of the proposed development. It resulted in locating previous excavations carried out in the 1930s within the north end of Bury Close which occupied part of what is now the grass area behind the existing garage and to the east of the outbuilding. Part of this area forms the proposed new drive. Three ditches were excavated. Ditch 1 is aligned towards the east side of the existing garage whilst Ditch 2 would be aligned north to south along the front edge of the existing outbuilding. Ditch 3 is aligned east to west along the existing north boundary of the property.

A photographic survey in 1984 produced evidence clearly showing identifiable features comprising a variety of linear, circular and sub-circular features in the adjacent field to the east. The same land was subjected to a geophysical survey in 1994 which produced anomalies similar to the features identified in the 1984 aerial survey, these enter the site from the east and appear to extend to the west. Two of these linear features are aligned towards the position of the proposed north extension.

The desk based assessment concluded that Bury Close lies adjacent to areas where extensive, complex and multi-period archaeological deposits from the Neolithic to post medieval periods have been discovered. It considered that a high density of deposits can be expected within the site and a programme of test pit evaluation within the area to be affected by development would clarify the character, survival and depth of remains on the site.

The evaluation in July 2011 comprised a total of six hand excavated trenches. Trenches 1 and 2 (1m x 2.5m) were located to the north of the site and positioned from east to west in the area of the proposed driveway and replacement garage (currently lawn). The aim was to establish the depth of deposits and also to explore the location of the Site III excavated by Dunning in the 1930s. It was also hoped that in identifying Dunning's Ditch 1 and 2 the trenches would also be able to confirm the correct location of Site III. Trench 3 (1.5m x 1.5m) was located in the south east corner of the proposed north

extension with the intention of investigating the nature and depth of linear features plotted from the adjacent geophysical survey in 1995 which clearly align towards this area. Trench 4 (1.5m x 2.5m) was excavated along-side an existing stone wall to assess the impact of the garden feature as well as the impact of the proposed extension on the underlying deposits on the east side of the house. Trench 5 (1m x 1m) was located in the position of the proposed small south extension (currently a gravel path). Trench 6 (1.5m x 1.5m) was excavated in the north east corner of the area for the north extension, also the southern end of the proposed new driveway. The intention was to investigate the depth and nature of deposits beneath the existing tarmac drive.

2011 evaluation; summary of the results

The results from trenches 1 and 2 confirmed that Site III is located within the north end of Bury Close. The evaluation was not able to establish the location of the two ditches, but instead found two previously excavated post holes (contexts 102 & 202), a pit like feature (context 104), and a metal bucket (upside down) presumably associated with the 1930s excavations and left behind when backfilling.

In Trench 3, two undated features (contexts 303 & 305) were recorded producing some burnt stone which may represent the residual remains of a hearth. These types of features were found during Dunning's excavation of Site III. All of the features were sealed by two layers amounting to an overall depth of about 0.60m. These are probably associated with a later period of cultivation

In Trench 4 deposits appear to have survived relatively intact. The natural gravel is overlain by an undated relict soil (context 406), and an equivalent deposit was also recorded in trench 5. In both trenches this layer was undated, but in Trench 4, truncation by the Roman ditch (context 405) is an indication of its pre-Roman origins. The ditch, which is aligned roughly north-south may correspond with the west end of the enclosure entering the site on an east-west alignment.

In Trench 6, two ditch or pit-like features were recorded each aligned north-south, one partially truncating the other which produced a single sherd of Roman pottery, however, its retrieval from the upper part of the fill suggests that it could be intrusive. Both features were sealed by a single thick deposit of soil probably associated with later cultivation.

Evidence from previous archaeological work in the area has shown that Roman occupation within the defended enclosure at Salmonsbury dates from the later 1st century to the early 4th century AD, during which time the defences to

the east appear to have been reduced, possibly to aid cultivation which was taking place within the area. The results of the evaluation appear to confirm this; all of the features recorded in trenches 3, 4 and 6 which are clearly of Roman origin, appear to have been subjected to some degree of truncation and are sealed by layers of cultivation soil.

significance of the evaluation

The evaluation (trenches 1 and 2) demonstrated that few deposits are likely to survive to the north of the site in the area of lawn behind the existing garage where archaeological deposits were fully excavated in the early 1930s. Trenches 3 and 6 have shown that archaeological deposits survive at a depth of about 0.60m below the existing ground level. In trenches 4 and 5 significant archaeological deposits comprising a potential pre-Roman soil deposits (contexts 406 & 501) are present within the area of the east and south extensions surviving at approx. 0.35 and 0.45m respectively below the existing ground level. In Trench 4 Roman deposits, probably associated with cultivation, survive at a depth of about 0.35m below ground level with more significant deposits including a Roman ditch (context 403) below this.

RESULTS (Figs. 3 & 4)

Method and nature of the excavation

English Heritage in consultation with the County Archaeological Officer required a minimum 0.30m buffer between the top of significant archaeology and the base of the proposed foundation design. Archaeological recording was undertaken to obtain a record of any archaeological deposits or finds disturbed or exposed during excavation of deposits to the required buffer level. Machine excavation was only used for the stratigraphic removal of non-archaeologically significant material. All machining was conducted under constant and close archaeological supervision at all times using a toothless bucket.

Description of deposits

AREA 1 (north extension)

The results of the evaluation in trench 6 have shown that significant archaeological deposits survive intact at 0.60m below the existing ground level. The depth of overburden comprises a single thick undated layer interpreted as a former

cultivation soil. With the introduction of a 0.30m buffer between the top of significant archaeology and the base of the raft foundation, excavation went no lower than 0.30m below the existing ground level.



Plate 1; area 1, showing limestone well, from the north-west

Limestone well

A single undated limestone well was fully exposed during the excavation. The soil around the fabric was reduced to depth of 0.20m and the structure was subsequently excavated by hand to the corresponding depth. The outer circumference of the well was circular in shape measuring 1.54m (north-south) and 1.60m (east-west) whilst the internal dimensions measuring 1m (east-west) and 0.76m (north-south) indicate that the upper fabric comprising wall of the well varied between 0.30m and 0.45m thick and that the shaft was ovoid in shape. It was constructed from large and small angular fragments of limestone. There was no obvious bonding agent, instead the stones were held together in a rudimentary manner by a brown clay matrix. The soil inside the well was also reduced to the appropriate level and consisted of the same overburden material that sealed the site.

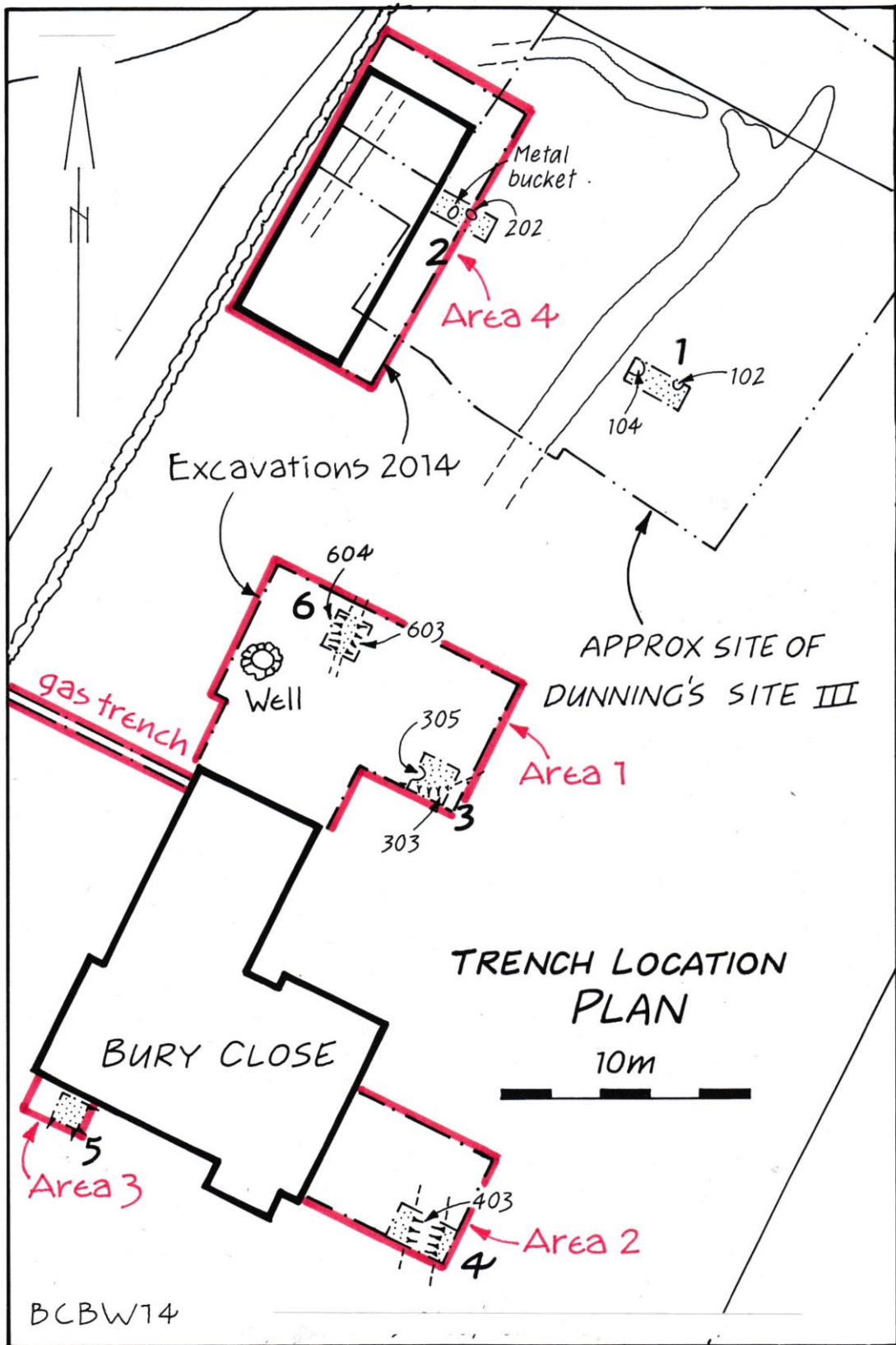


Fig. 3; site plan, results of the 2011 evaluation in black and the areas of excavation ('watching brief') in 2014 & 2015 outlined in red



Plate 2; stone well, from the north



Plate 3; stone well, from the north

AREA 2 (east extension)

The addition proposed for the east side of the house was in an area used partly as grass and landscaped patio. The foundation design for this extension consisted of a concrete slab up to maximum thickness of 0.60m. It was shown that the surface of a Roman soil horizon lies at about 0.35 m below the existing ground level or at about 136.08m AOD with further Roman deposits surviving beneath this level. With the introduction of a 0.30m buffer between the top of significant archaeology and the base of the raft foundation, excavation went no lower than 0.05m below the existing ground level.



Plate 4; area 2, from the south

AREA 3 (south extension)

The foundation design consisted of a similar concrete slab up to maximum of 0.60m thick. In this trench deposits were undated but, context (layer) 501 which is equivalent to the context (layer) 406 in trench 4, itself cut by the Roman ditch (403), may be an ancient soil horizon and the surface of this layer lies at about 0.35m below the existing ground level or 136.10m AOD. With the introduction of a 0.30m buffer between the top of significant archaeology and the base of the raft foundation, excavation went no lower than 0.10m below the existing ground level.



Plate 5; area 3, from the east

AREA 4 (replacement garage)

The existing outbuilding at the north east end of the site is to be replaced by a new garage on a similar, but slightly larger footprint than the existing one. Any foundations associated with the existing building which was shown in trench 2 to be 0.26m thick were grubbed out prior to the construction of the new garage. The foundations for this structure will comprise a further concrete slab up to a maximum of 0.60m thick. The results from trenches 1 and 2 showed that archaeological deposits in this area were previously excavated by Dunning during the 1930s excavations.



Plate 6; area 4, from the south-east

Gas trench excavation

The gas trench was excavated from the west boundary of the site to the house, a distance of about 10m and at a width of 0.40m. The west half of the trench (5m) was excavated within the garden border to a depth of 0.85m and it was in this part of the excavation that the earliest undated deposit (context 701) was recorded comprising a light to mid, yellowish-brown sandy-silt with a component of frequent small fragments of limestone, some discoloured red from exposure to fire. The deposit was excavated to depth of 0.25 and it continued beyond the bottom of the trench. Overlying this deposit although the interface between the two deposits was diffuse, was an undated 0.25m thick deposit (context 700) of dark greyish-brown clayey-silt also with a component of small fragments of limestone. This also continued beyond the base of the trench. Sealing both these contexts to a depth of 0.60m was the existing garden topsoil. This had been subjected to substantial root penetration. Topsoil was not present in the east half of the trench where context 700 was instead sealed by gravel associated with the current tarmac driveway.

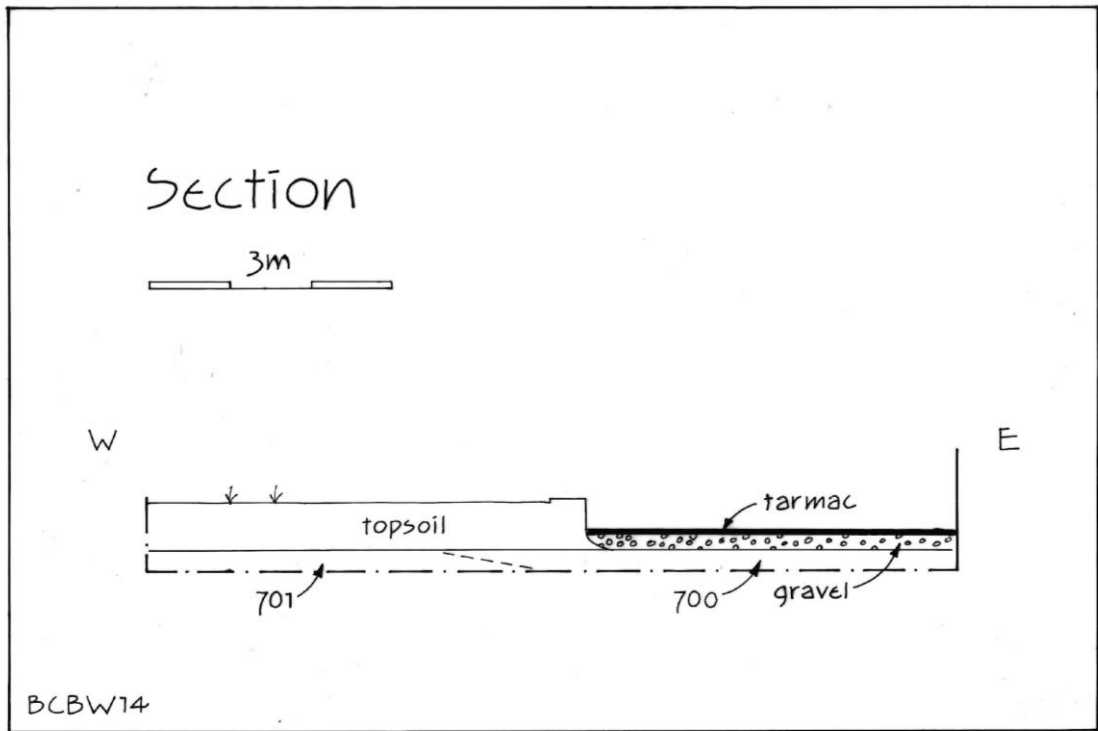


Fig. 4; gas trench section



Plate 7; gas trench, from the west

FINDS

No finds were retrieved during the excavation.

Environmental data

No animal bone was recovered and none of the deposits exposed during the excavation proved suitable for palaeo-environmental sampling.

DISCUSSION (Fig. 5)

The archaeological recording represented the last stage in a programme of work that began in 2011 with a documentary desk-based assessment (Cook, 2011a) which established the potential for significant archaeological deposits to be present within the study site. Bury Close is situated on the west edge of the hill fort known as Salmonsbury Camp. The scale of defences and extent of the area enclosed by them, together with evidence from finds and excavation, indicate the existence of a major settlement during the Mid-Later Iron Age. There is also some evidence for Neolithic-Bronze Age activity or settlement before establishment of the Iron Age stronghold, and also during the period after its decline as a fortification. Material of Roman and then Saxon date indicate continued use of the area. The assessment identified from aerial photographs and a magnetometer survey (Marshall, 1995) features associated with the occupation of the fort continuing into the site from the adjacent land to the east.

A field evaluation (Cook, 2011b) followed in the same year in the form of hand dug trial trenches. This established that some of these deposits are Roman and that they survive within the study site. The ditch (context 403) aligned roughly north-south on the east side of the house could mark the west end of a rectilinear enclosure recorded entering the site from the east.

From the results a mitigation strategy was devised comprising a 0.30m buffer established between the surface of significant archaeological deposits and the base of the new foundation. This meant that for the majority of the excavations in 2014, that development remained above the known archaeological deposits ensuring that they were not disturbed. The impact of the subsequent gas trench in 2015 was minimal and no dateable deposits were recorded.

In the area of the north extension a rudimentary limestone well was encountered during excavation of the overburden. Although the structure was undated, there is clear evidence to suggest that this feature could be associated with the Iron Age or Roman occupation deposits. There is also the possibility that the well is associated with Harp Farm formerly situated west of the study site before its redevelopment in recent times. The well, if Roman in date, would suggest that the rectilinear enclosures identified continuing into the study site from the east were associated with former dwellings. Other possible features indicative of pitting can be seen in the lawn area behind the former garage.

Given that no evidence of a structure that could be interpreted as a building is recorded on the historic mapping (1774 & 1884-6), it would appear that any

building associated with the well that may have formerly occupied the site would have been demolished before this date.

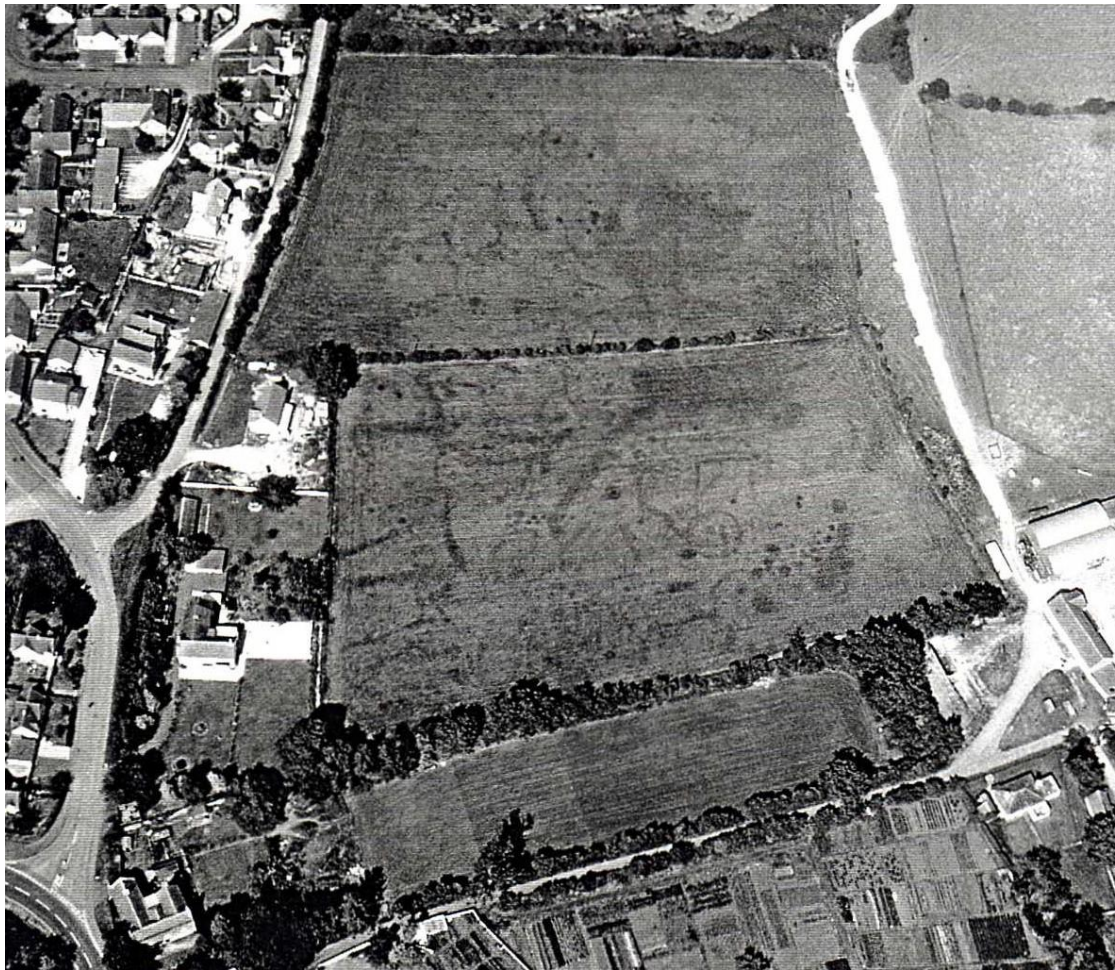


Plate 8; aerial photograph taken in 1984 showing Bury Close to the left of the picture and the archaeological features located in the field to the east. These were also mapped during a magnetometer survey in 1994. Note the large rectilinear enclosures continuing into the study site.



Fig. 5; Showing the results of the excavations by Dunning (1931-4) within the study site and the adjacent property to the north (Woodlands House). The results of the magnetometer survey by Marshall in 1994 were plotted in 2011 corresponding with the cropmarks identified from the 1984 aerial photograph. An Iron Age ditch feature (contexts 202 & 207) was recorded during a watching brief to the south at Camp House in 2006.

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Appendix 1; OASIS

Project name	Bury Close, Station Road, Bourton on the Water, Gloucestershire; archaeological recording
Short description of the project	Archaeological recording was carried out during 2014 and 2015 at Bury Close, Station Road, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire during development comprising extensions to the existing house, construction of a replacement garage and excavation of a gas pipe trench.
Project dates	Start: 13-06-2014 End: 01-12-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	BCBW14 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	WELL Uncertain
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Planning condition
Country	England
Site location	GLOUCESTERSHIRE COTSWOLD BOURTON ON THE WATER Bury Close, Station Road
Postcode	GL542EN
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	SP 17103 20978 51.886658767563 - 1.751471736554 51 53 11 N 001 45 05 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 0m Max: 0m
Name of Organisation	one ten archaeology
Project brief originator	English Heritage/Department of Environment
Project design originator	one ten archaeology
Project director/manager	sean cook
Project supervisor	sean cook

Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	OASIS
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Text"
Paper Archive recipient	county museum
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Report"
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Bury Close, Station Road, Bourton on the Water, Gloucestershire; archaeological recording
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Cook, S
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	one ten archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Warks.
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