



THE MILL HOUSE, LANSDOWN, BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Watching Brief

for Stuart Scott-Cooper

07/02578/ful

February 2011

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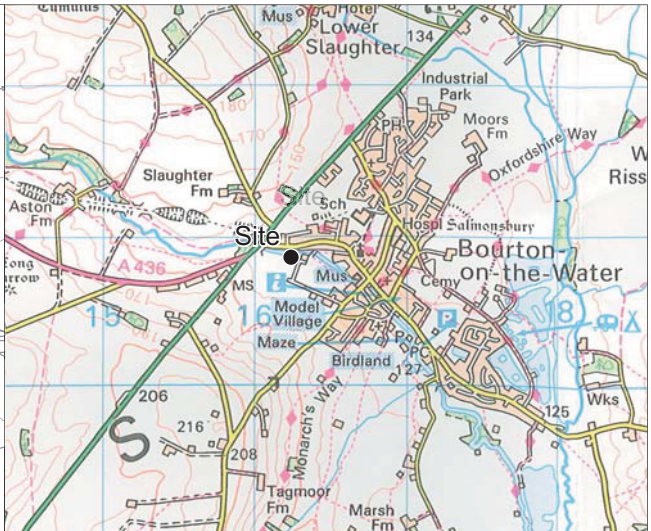
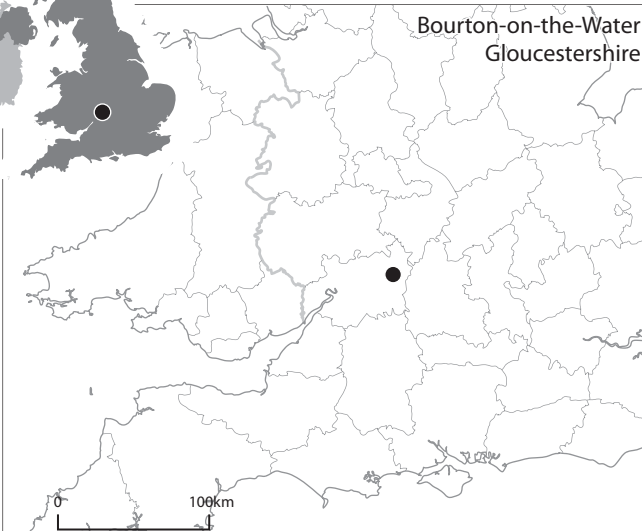
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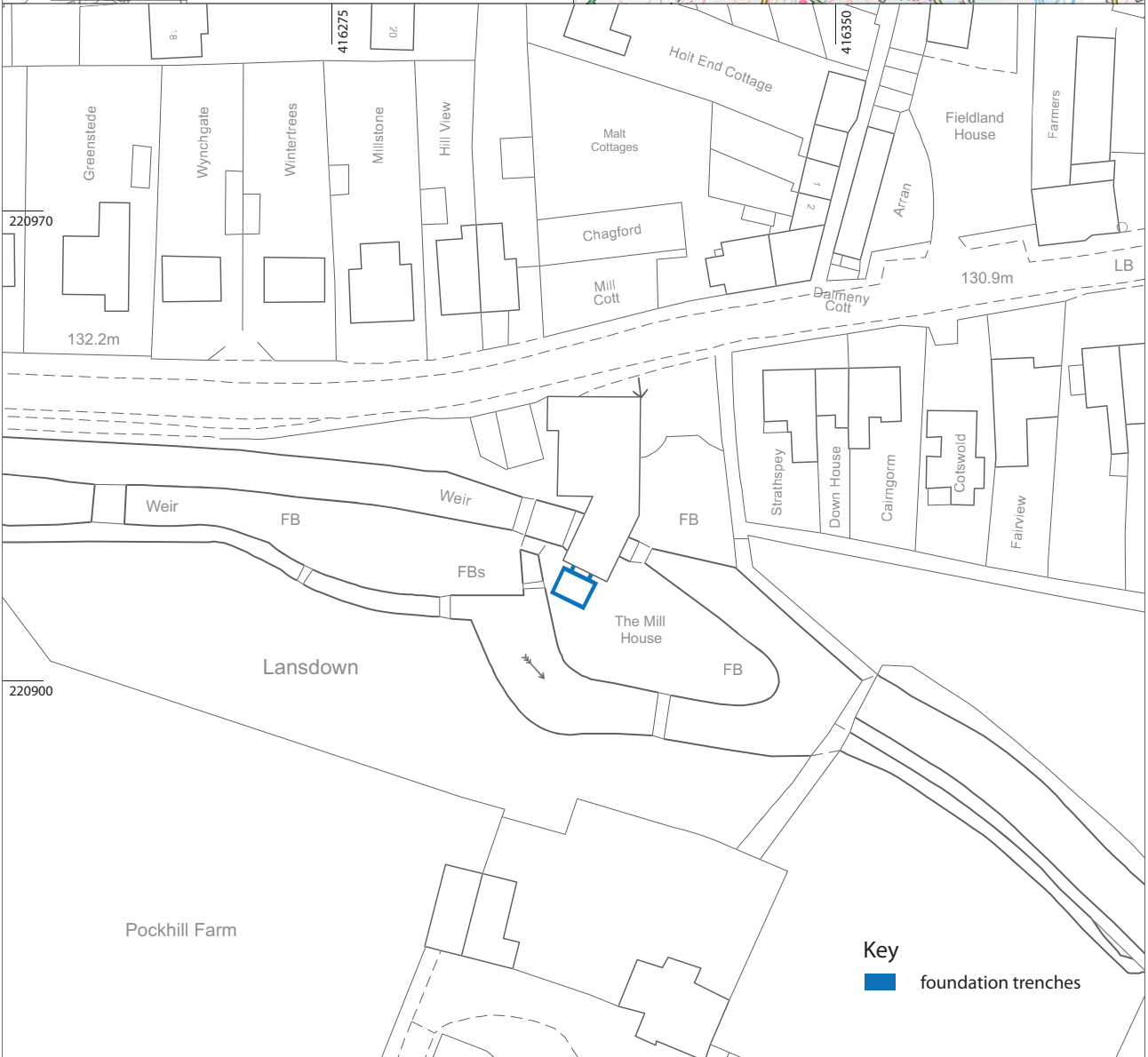
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Bourton-on-the-Water
Gloucestershire



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Scale 1:1000 @ A4



Illus 1
Site location

THE MILL HOUSE, LANSDOWN, BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Watching Brief

Headland Archaeology (UK) Limited carried out an archaeological watching brief at Mill House, Lansdown, Bourton-on-the-Water in respect of a planning application to erect a one storey extension to the Grade II Listed Building. The watching brief revealed a wall foundation in the north-west running trench which is likely to be part of a building also identified underneath the footing of the current Mill House in the north-east running trench.

1. INTRODUCTION

A watching was commissioned by the client in respect of a condition attached to planning permission for the erection of a single storey orangery at the Mill House; a Grade II Listed Building. Cotswold District Council granted planning permission for the development on condition that the applicant secure the implementation of a program of archaeological work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation that had been approved in writing by the local planning authority (HA MLHB10 WSI 11/2011)

The objective of the archaeological work was to record any remains of archaeological significance encountered during the course of the work, produce a report and deposit the archive with a local repository.

1.1 Location

The site lies towards the west edge of Bourton-on-the-Water and about 300m east of the A439 (Fosse Way). The site currently lies within the grounds of a former mill which has been converted for residential use.

1.2 Background and history

Drift geology in the area is fluvial deposits associated with the adjacent stream, these overlie Liasic deposits. The site lies within or near to an area of known Roman occupation and is within 300m of a major Roman Road (the Fosse Way). There are clear indications of earlier occupation in the area such as a possible Neolithic camp on the east side of the town, which was later occupied in the Iron Age (as indicated from currency bars discovered there).

The presence of the Roman Road on the west side of the settlement clearly demonstrates activity from this period in the area, and there is a known site of a Roman camp at Lansdown where the road crossed the River Windrush, this latter site being near to the development. The site of the current development was formerly the location of the old Upper Mill of Bourton (Elrington 1965).

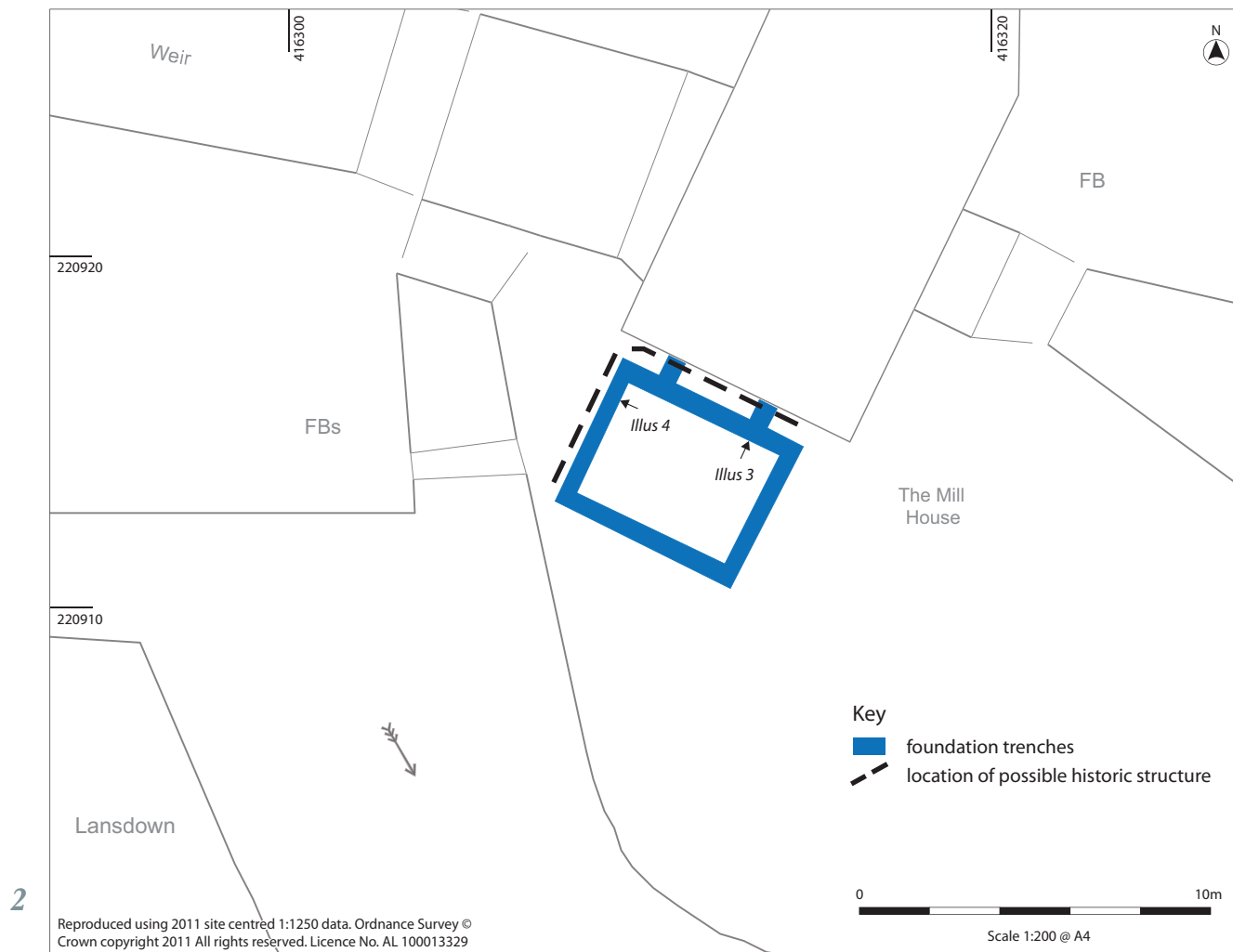
2. METHOD

The scope of the work encompassed the recording of trenches that were opened for the purpose of forming foundations for the new extension. The trenches had already been opened prior to the archaeologist arriving. The sides and bases of foundation trenches were cleaned to establish the nature of deposits that had been disturbed and a record made of features and deposits visible.

2.1 Recording

All recording followed IfA Standards and Guidance. All trench positions, areas of observations, excavation areas and survey grids were tied into features shown on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 mapping.

A plan of excavations and features encountered were maintained at a scale of 1:50 and has been tied to the National Grid. Section drawings of the south-east and south-west facing sections were maintained at a scale of 1:20. Archaeological features and areas of ground disturbance were photographed with graduated metric scales and include 35mm colour transparencies, black-and-white prints and digital photographs. Photographs were taken using a digital camera, colour slide and black and white print film.



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Illus 2

Plan showing location of possible historic structure and illustrations

2.2 Samples and artefacts

No contexts suitable for sampling were uncovered during the course of the watching brief and no small finds were observed/retained.

3. RESULTS

Strip foundations with a width of one metre were excavated to the building footprint, which measured 4.5m by 5.5m. The new building was orientated north-west to south-east (Illus 1). The foundation trenches were 1.5m deep. Topsoil was stripped back to a level of 0.2m, revealing a two brick tall line of red bricks [009] that had been placed end on end to form a linear structure. The brick layer measured 0.3m height and 3m in length east-north. The structure is most likely of a recent date, possibly relating to the early 20th century alterations of the building.

The red brick overlaid a band of mid-grey brown sand with frequent inclusions of stones and charcoal,

a former ground surface most likely of a modern date, possibly 20th century. Underlying this was a 0.6m deep mid-brown to grey silty sand [004] with no inclusions coming on to a dark brown-grey 0.2m deep sandy silt [005]. Removal of [005] revealed undisturbed geological deposits consisting of a light brown to orange gravelly silt with no inclusions.

The southwest facing section was stepped back 1m to the northeast in two places to accommodate the link between the proposed orangery and the standing building. The step measured 1m in width and revealed the limestone footing of the standing building [007]. This foundation consisted of three layers of stones, each measuring approximately 0.3 by 0.2m with a total depth of 0.6m. Underlying the layer of dressed stone was another footing consisting of smaller, sub angular stones of varying size measuring a total depth of 1m [108]. Both stone structures were bound with lime mortar. Without further investigations it is difficult to determine whether this is the foundation of another building on the site (possibly the old mill known as Upper Mill of Bourton) upon which the more recent, standing building has been built, or whether the stones



Illus 3

Close up of wall foundations in west-facing section

have been removed from another building nearby and reused in the foundation for the standing building.

The southeast facing section was stepped back 0.5m, revealing a substantial stone wall [002] consisting of sub-angular stones of varying sizes, some measuring 0.5m by 0.2m. The wall was at least 1.2m deep, the top having been disturbed by modern services. The face of the wall had already been removed, exposing the rubble core of the wall. The type, shape and size of stones are similar to those identified under the foundation of the standing building in the southwest facing section.

4. CONCLUSION

No structures were present in the west and south trenches. The north and east trenches revealed the footing of the standing building and what is likely to be the footing of an earlier building underneath. Judging by the similarities in the size and type of stones and similar bounding material, it is likely that the structures in both north and east trenches are the same building. It is possible that this is the foundation of the former mill known as Upper Mill of Bourton, although the limited extent of the excavations and the lack of any dating evidence make this difficult to determine for certain.



Illus 4

Close up of possible foundation of the old mill in south-facing section

5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

3

Elrington, J, 1965, *A History of the County of Gloucester: volume 6*, Victoria County History.

6. APPENDIX

6.1 Site registers

Trench register

Trench no.	Orientation	Description	Length	Topsoil depth
1	N-W	Foundation trench for orangery	4.5m	0.2m
2	N-E	Foundation trench for orangery	5.5m	0.2m

Context register

Context no.	Trench	Description
001	1 & 2	Topsoil
002	1	Stone wall structure
003	1 & 2	mid grey-brown sand with frequent stone and charcoal
004	1 & 2	Mid grey-brown silty sand
005	1 & 2	Mid grey-brown sandy silt
006	1 & 2	Undisturbed geological deposit
007	2	Stone foundation of standing building
008	2	Sub-angular stone foundation under [007]
009	2	Red brick structure under topsoil [001]

Drawing register

Drawing no.	Section	Plan	Description
1	1:20	-	S-facing section of N-W foundation trench
2	1:20	-	W-facing section of N-E foundation trench
3	-	1:50	Annotated plan

Photographic register

Photo no.	Colour slide	B&W	Digital	Direction facing	Description
1	466/1	467/1	1-6	N	S facing section (SW end of wall)
2	466/2	467/2	7-9	N	S facing section (NE corner of wall)
3	466/3	467/3	10-12	E	W facing section of mill foundations
4	466/4	467/4	13-17	E	W facing section of stratigraphy in E corner
5	466/5	467/5	18-19	E	W facing upper section showing red brick [009]
6	466/6	467/6	20-21	N	General shot of site
7	466/7	467/7	22-23	N/A	Stones removed from face of [002]



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