

**THE MANOR,
SEVENHAMPTON,
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

NGR: SP 0322 2171

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

June 2009

Report No. 643

Quality Assurance

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SUMMARY

Site Name: The Manor, Sevenhampton, Gloucestershire

Grid Reference: SP 0322 2171

Site Activity: Archaeological Watching Brief

Date and Duration of Project: 28th May 2009

Project Manager: Roy King

Site Supervisor: Jack Crennell

Site Code: TMS09

Summary of Results: A condition requiring a programme of archaeological recording was attached to the planning permission (ref:08/00841/FUL) granted for the erection of a conservatory onto the south side of the recently re-built southern wing of The Manor at Sevenhampton, Gloucestershire. The work was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Scarlett.

The archaeological works comprised the monitoring of the groundworks associated with the construction of the conservatory.

No archaeological finds or features were present within the study area, except for an undated well of dry stone construction.

GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Archaeology

For the purpose of this project archaeology is taken to mean the study of past human societies through their material remains from prehistoric times to the modern era. No rigid upper date limit has been set, but AD 1900 is used as a general cut-off point.

CBM

Ceramic Building Material.

Natural

In archaeological terms this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site.

NGR

National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid.

OD

Ordnance datum; used to express a given height above sea-level.

OS

Ordnance Survey

Post Medieval

The period after AD 1600.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In May 2009, Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording on land at The Manor Sevenhampton, Gloucestershire at NGR: SP 0322 2171 (Figure 1). The work was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Scarlett.
- 1.2 The project involved the observation of the groundworks associated with the construction of a conservatory to be built adjoining the south side of the existing house. A programme of archaeological works was required in accordance with the principals of Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning (DoE 1990) and the archaeological policies of Cotswold District Local Plan policies 12 (archaeologically sensitive areas) and 13 (Listed Buildings).
- 1.3 The works were undertaken in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Foundations Archaeology (2009). The project was undertaken in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (rev. 1999), *Archaeological Guidance Paper 4: Archaeological Watching Briefs: (guidelines)* issued by English Heritage (London Region) and the standard brief for archaeological watching briefs issued by Gloucestershire County Council.
- 1.4 This report constitutes the results of the archaeological monitoring.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The study area lies in the parish of Sevenhampton in Bradley Hundred in the River Coln valley. The parish name was first recorded in 1086 and contains the villages of Sevenhampton and Brockhampton which had 24 tenants at the time of Domesday. The parish formed part of the Bishop of Hereford's estate from 1066 until the 16th century. Throughout the majority of this period the western part of the parish was wooded and the eastern part (around the study area) was open fields and commons with scattered settlement. Inclosure of the fields was piecemeal but completed by 1818. Some of the isolated farmsteads within the parish lie upon Roman sites (Glos. VCH, vol.9, 166-187) and the Deserted Medieval Village (DMV) of Sennington lies just 800m to the west of the study area. The manor shares a boundary with St Andrews church to its east, which is 12th century in origin with later additions.
- 2.2 The study area is within a conservation area and the parish has 44 listed buildings, The Manor itself being grade II listed and of 17th century in origin. The earliest Remaining house in the village is of early 17th century date. A 16th century Church House stood in the southwest corner of the churchyard, which later became a poor house and was finally demolished in the 19th century, the area

being incorporated into the burial ground.

- 2.3 All intrusive ground works required for the proposed development had the potential to reveal significant archaeological deposits and/or features predominantly associated with the medieval and post medieval periods, particularly the possibility of building remains associated with the development of Sevenhampton village and parish and the manor. This in no way prejudiced the archaeological monitoring works against the recovery of finds or features related to other periods.

3 AIMS

- 3.1 The aims of the archaeological monitoring were to gather high quality data from the direct observation of archaeological deposits in order to provide sufficient information to establish the nature, extent, preservation and potential of any surviving archaeological remains; as well as to make recommendations for management of the resource, including further archaeological works if necessary.
- 3.2 These aims were to be achieved by the pursuit of the objectives as stated in the Written Scheme of Investigation (2009).
- i) To define and identify the nature of archaeological deposits on site, and date these where possible;
 - ii) To attempt to characterise the nature and preservation of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning and extent of features present on the site;
 - iii) To recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence which will attempt to determine the complexity of the horizontal and vertical stratigraphy present, and to recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples.
 - iv) To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence and the forms in which such evidence may be present.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The initial groundworks, Phase 1, comprised the removal of the existing limestone paving, the partial removal of a small garden wall and the reduction of a small area of the raised lawn behind the garden wall. This phase was completed before prior to the arrival on site of the archaeologist and were not considered to fall within the definition of 'appropriate groundworks' that may disturb archaeological deposits. The second phase of works, Phase 2, comprised excavation of the footing trenches for the development of the new conservatory.

These were undertaken by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket, working under constant archaeological supervision. The footing trenches were dug to a depth of 0.5m from the existing ground surface and were 0.75m wide.

- 4.2 Spoil tips were scanned for unstratified finds across the entire study area.
- 4.3 Any significant archaeological deposits and/or features within the study area were to be manually cleaned, investigated and recorded in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation.

5 RESULTS

- 5.1 Phase 1 of site works: part of a small garden wall and the area of raised lawn behind the garden wall had been excavated to a depth of 1.00m. The stratigraphy consisted solely of a sandy silt topsoil, which revealed no archaeological finds or features.
- 5.2 Phase 2: The trenches were dug to a depth of 0.5m and were 0.75m wide. The natural was reached at a depth of 0.30m to 0.50m below modern ground surface and consisted of an orange brown soft plastic, silt clay with frequent large, medium and small fragments of limestone. This was overlain by subsoil layer (102), light grey friable sandy silt, 0.20m thick, with frequent medium and small limestone inclusions. This layer was in turn overlain by topsoil (101), a light brown friable sandy silt, 0.10m thick, with frequent small limestone inclusions. Finally this layer was overlaid by limestone paving, 0.05m thick.
- 5.3 The only archaeological feature revealed on site comprised a well of unknown date cut into the natural substrate. The well was left *in situ* and was to be covered with a glass panel and incorporated as a feature into the floor of the new conservatory. The well was of dry stone construction and built out of shaped limestone blocks of varying sizes. It had previously been capped-off with a limestone block and had not been backfilled. The well was approximately 10m in depth and contained no water. An outlet for a soakaway was noted at the top of the well approximately 0.40m from the surface.
- 5.4 No archaeology was revealed in the remainder of the footing trenches. The only other thing of note within the trench was a ceramic soakaway which was on the same alignment as the outlet which fed into the well.

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified within the observed areas, with the exception of the undated dry stone constructed well which was to

be incorporated into the conservatory floor surface. It is most likely that the well was associated with The Manor due to its close proximity with its southern wing. The lack of artefactual or ecofactual material from elsewhere in the excavated trenches and the presence of intact subsoils, demonstrating the area was not truncated, suggests that the study area is of low archaeological potential. This does not preclude the possibility of archaeological finds or deposits in the immediate vicinity of the study area.

- 6.2 The site archive has been prepared in accordance with *MORPHE* (English Heritage 2006) the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archaeological Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990) and *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (MGC 1994). It will be deposited with Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum under the accession code CAGM:2009.54 within 6 months. An OASIS form will also be completed and submitted.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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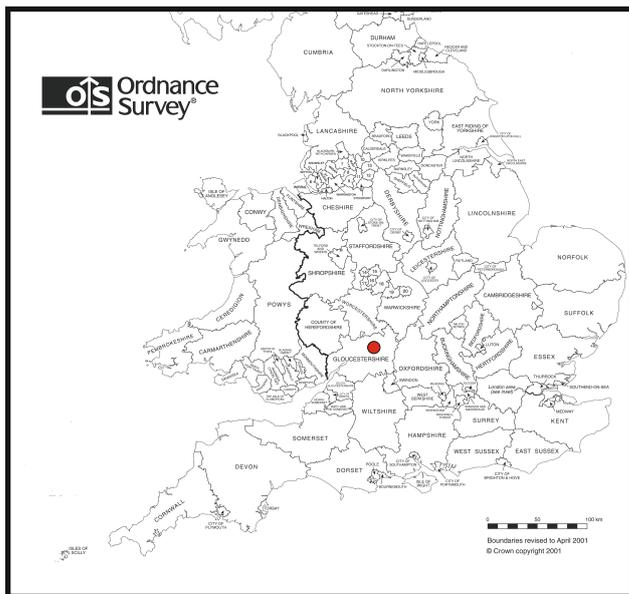
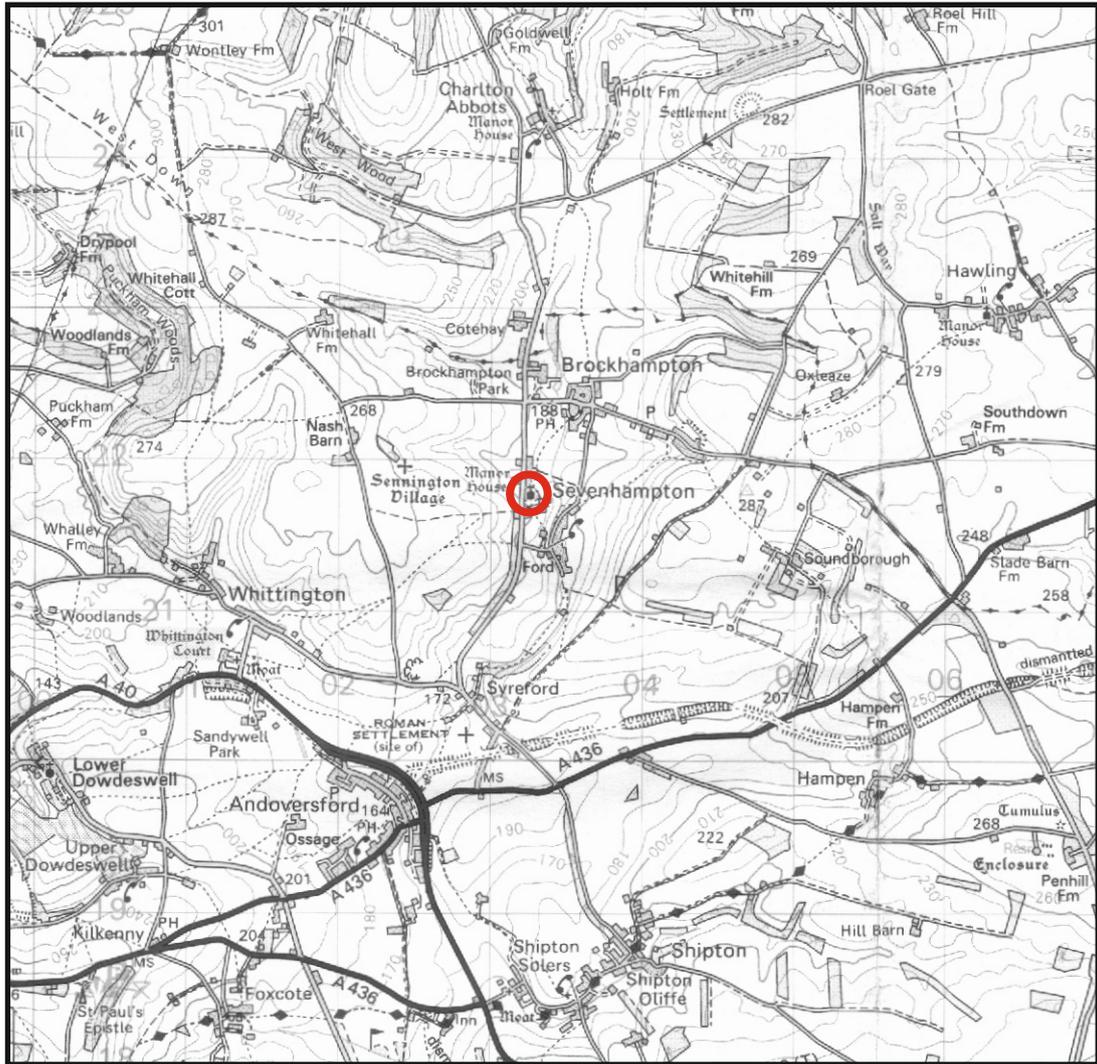
DoE 1990 *Planning Policy Guidance note 16*

Cotswold District Local Plan policies 12 and 13

English Heritage (2006) *MORPHE*

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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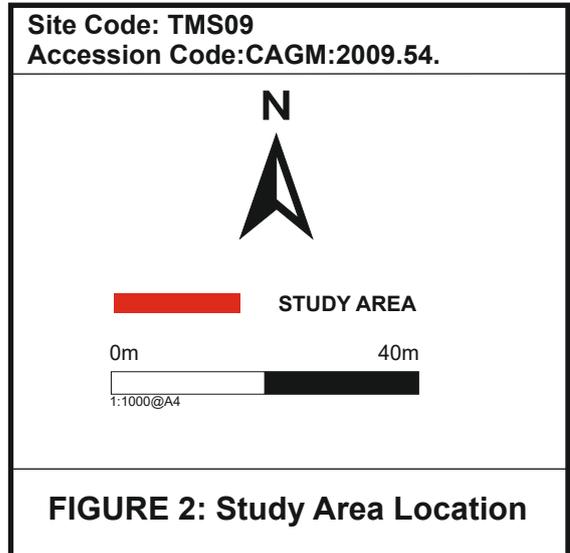
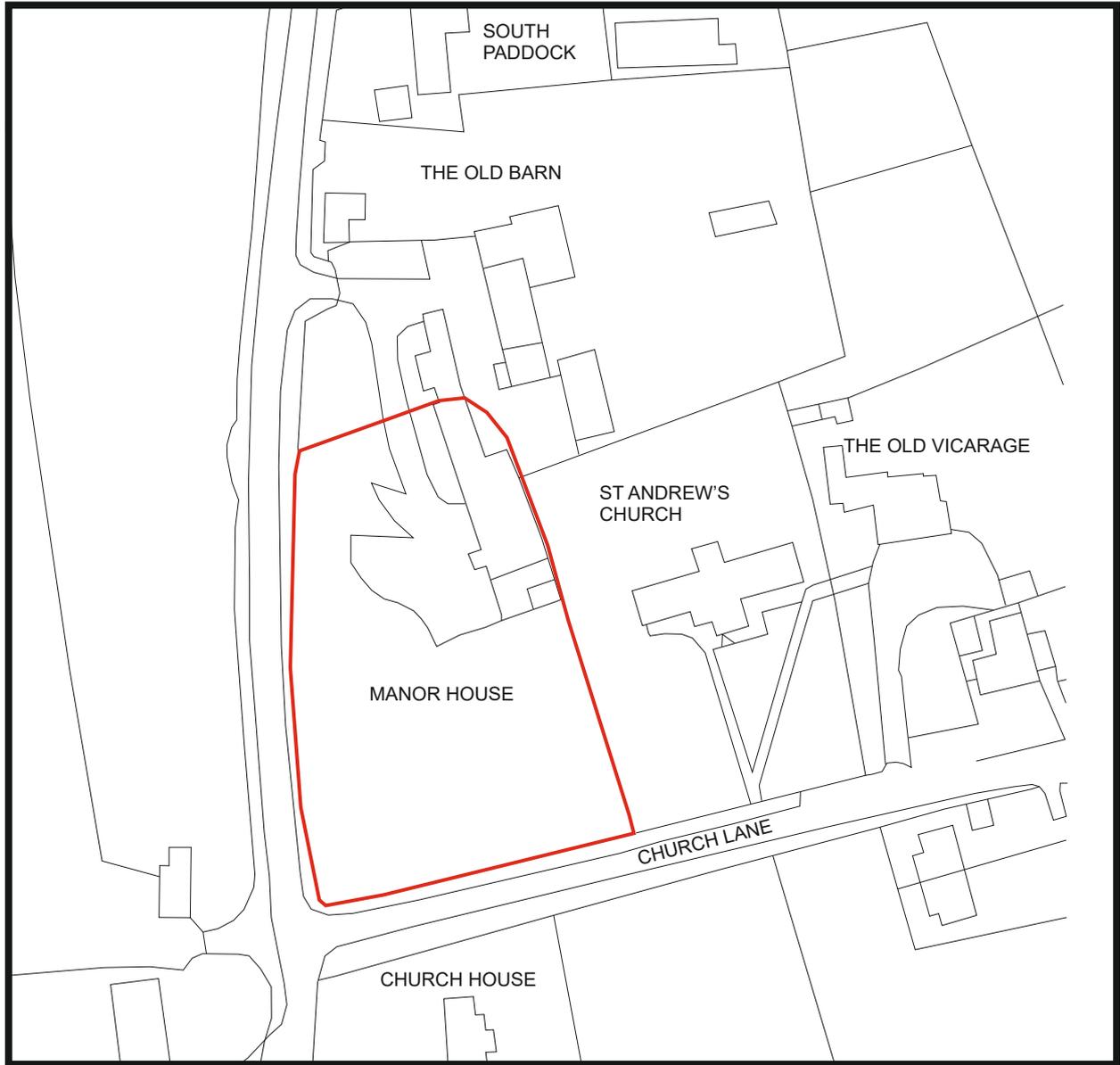
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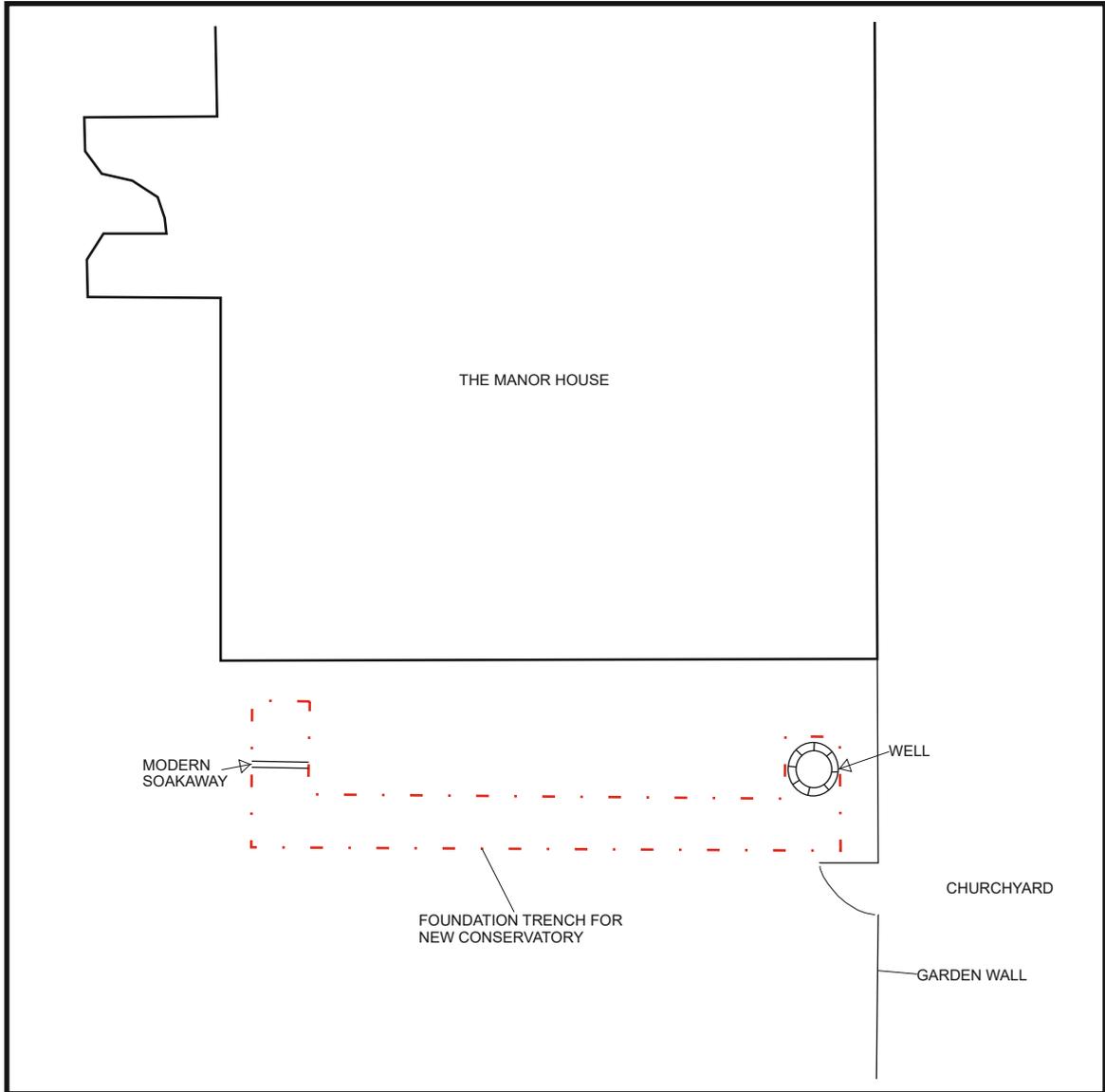
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FIGURE 1: Site Location





Site Code: TMS09
Accession Code: CAGM:2009.54



 TRENCH LOCATION



FIGURE 3: Trench Location