

**1 RISSINGTON ROAD,
BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

NGR: SP 16952 20511

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

May 2012

Report No. 798

Quality Assurance

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CONTENTS

List of Illustrations

Summary

Glossary

- 1 INTRODUCTION
- 2 PROJECT BACKGROUND
- 3 AIMS
- 4 METHODOLOGY
- 5 RESULTS AND CONCLUSION
- 6 BIBLIOGRAPHY
- 7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1: Site Location

Figure 2: Plan of New Access

1 Rissington Road, Bourton-on-the-Water: Archaeological Watching Brief

Site name: 1 Rissington Road, Bourton-on-the-Water.
Site code: RRB12
NGR: SP 16952 20511
Site activity: Archaeological Watching Brief
Date and duration: 20th February 2012; 1 day on site
Site area: Approximately 30m²
Location of archive: Corinium Museum

SUMMARY

In February 2012 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological monitoring during groundworks associated with the installation of a new vehicular access at 1 Rissington Road, Bourton-on-the-Water. The work was commissioned by Mr E. Hovard.

The monitored groundworks comprised the reduction of part of the front garden to allow installation of a new vehicular access and hardstanding.

No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were present within the monitored area.

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.

Medieval

The period between the Norman Conquest (AD 1066) and *c.* AD 1500.

Natural

In archaeological terms this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site, in this case comprising *Cretaceous Chalk*, forming part of the extensive *Southern England Chalk Formation*.

NGR

National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid.

OD

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

OS

Ordnance Survey.

Prehistoric

The period prior to the Roman invasion of AD 43. Traditionally sub divided into: *Palaeolithic* – *c.* 500,000 BC to *c.* 12,000 BC; *Mesolithic* – *c.* 12,000 BC to *c.* 4,500 BC; *Neolithic* – *c.* 4,500 BC to *c.* 2,000 BC; *Bronze Age* – *c.* 2,000 BC to *c.* 800 BC; *Iron Age* – *c.* 800 BC to AD 43.

Roman

The period traditionally dated between AD 43 and *circa* AD 410.

Saxon

The period between AD 410 and AD 1066.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In February 2012 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological monitoring during the installation of a new access at 1 Rissington Road, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire (NGR: SP 16952 20511). The work was commissioned by Mr E. Hovard.
- 1.2 The project was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) issued by Foundations Archaeology (2012). The WSI conformed to the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (1999, revised 2008), *Archaeological Guidance Paper 4: Archaeological Watching Briefs: (guidelines)* issued by English Heritage (London Region) and the standard brief issued by Gloucestershire County Council.
- 1.3 This document presents the findings of the archaeological monitoring.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Planning permission has been granted for the construction of a new vehicular access and hardstanding for vehicles at the site (Ref: 11/02841/FUL).
- 2.2 The proposed development is located in an area of archaeological potential. The site is situated southwest of *Salmonsbury Camp* Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 32392), which is known to have been occupied in the Neolithic, Iron Age and Roman periods.
- 2.3 Numerous crop-marks in the vicinity have indicated the presence of potential Prehistoric features in the wider vicinity and archaeological investigations in the vicinity have revealed features of Prehistoric and Roman date.
- 2.4 The study area therefore contained the potential for archaeological finds predominantly dating from the Prehistoric and Roman periods. This did not prejudice the watching brief against the recovery of data relating to other periods.
- 2.8 In accordance with the principles of Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning and the Historic Environment (replaced by NPPF in March 2012) and the archaeological policies of the Local Planning Authority, an archaeological watching brief was required in order to monitor the groundworks associated with the new access.

3 AIMS

3.1 The aims of the archaeological watching brief 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; this was intended to allow reasonable planning decisions to be taken regarding the archaeological provision for the areas affected by the proposed works.

3.2 These aims were to be achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:

i) To define and identify the nature of archaeological deposits on site, and date these where possible.

iii) 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.

iv) 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.

v) 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 monitored groundworks comprised the excavation of an existing garden area, removal of an existing hedge and minor works to the existing public footpath to ramp up to the new parking area, as shown in Figure 2. The excavations were undertaken using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All excavation was carried out under constant archaeological observation. Potential archaeological deposits were manually investigated, and where appropriate, hand excavated and recorded. Spoil heaps were visually scanned for finds.

5 RESULTS AND CONCLUSION

5.1 The car parking area in front of the house was reduced to a maximum of 300mm and was then built up with gravel to create a hardstanding. A grey plastic clay silt (103) comprised the earliest stratigraphic unit within the garden area at a depth 0.2-0.3m below the modern ground surface. This layer was partly overlain by a

dump modern loose stone rubble make-up (102) associated with the construction of the house during the 20th century and a humic garden soil and turf (101). In agreement with the County Archaeological Service, the works within the existing public footpath were not monitored, as these were restricted to grading up from the modern roadline and would not, therefore, penetrate beneath existing layers of made ground and tarmac.

- 5.2 No archaeological finds or features were present within the monitored areas.
- 5.3 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology, but will be deposited within 12 months with the Corinium Museum. A short note will be submitted for publication in the relevant local archaeological journal and an OASIS form will also be submitted to ADS.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

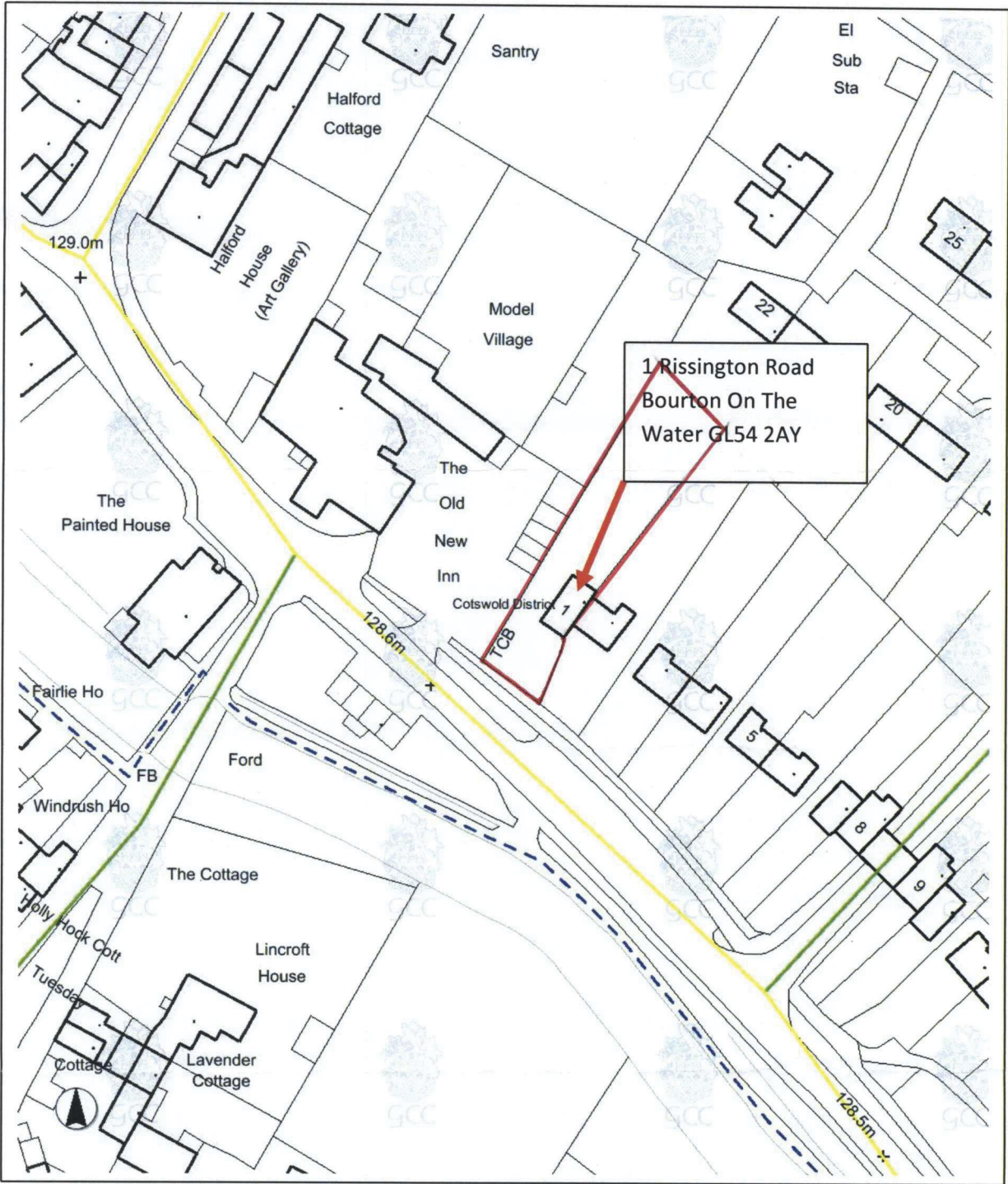
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7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

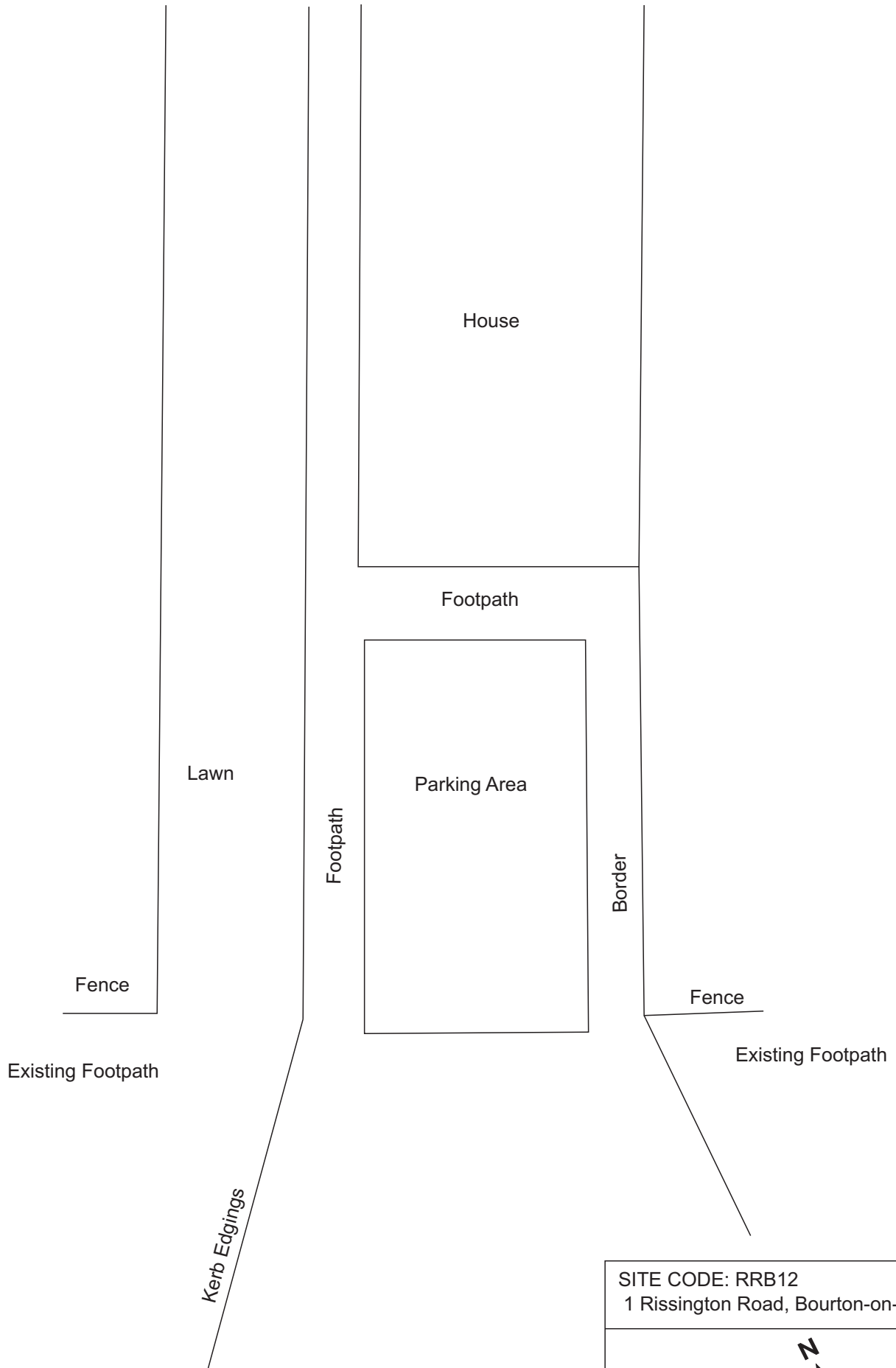
Foundations Archaeology would like to thank Charles Parry of Gloucestershire County Council and Mr E. Hovard, for their help during the course of this project.



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FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION



SITE CODE: RRB12
 1 Rissington Road, Bourton-on-the-Water

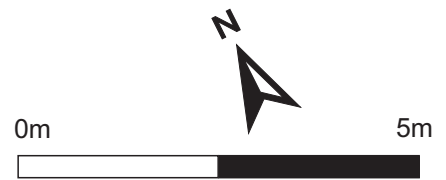


FIGURE 2: PLAN OF NEW ACCESS