

**RAINBOW COTTAGE,
15 BARNSELY,
CIRENCESTER**

NGR: SP 0770 0510

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
BC03**

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken in June 2003 by Foundations Archaeology at Rainbow Cottage, 15 Barnsley, Cirencester. The watching brief involved the archaeological monitoring of groundworks for the construction of an extension to the existing building.

A single drain from the post-medieval period was identified.

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.

Medieval

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

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 from *circa* AD 1500 onwards

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In June 2003 Foundations Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief at Rainbow Cottage, 15 Barnsley, Cirencester. The work was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Foster, in response to a planning condition to build an extension to the existing property.
- 1.2 The watching brief covered the groundworks associated with the construction of a single storey extension to the rear of the existing property. The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994, revised 2001), *Archaeological Guidance Paper 4: Archaeological Watching Briefs: (guidelines)* issued by English Heritage (London Region) and the Project Design prepared by Foundations Archaeology (2003).
- 1.3 This document presents the findings of the archaeological watching brief and conforms to the specification set out in Appendices 4 and 5 of *The Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991).

2 SITE LOCATION

- 2.1 15 Barnsley is located on the eastern side of the B4425 in the village of Barnsley (SP 077 051). The area of ground where the extension is to be constructed is adjacent to an existing extension and the garden.

3 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The site lies within an area of known archaeological potential and is located in close proximity to Barnsley's Medieval parish church. Therefore the site is likely to be within an area of Medieval occupation.
- 3.2 The study area therefore has the potential for the preservation of archaeological features and deposits; particularly those from Medieval settlement. The watching brief was designed to note and investigate, where possible, evidence associated with any of the identified potential archaeological elements. The watching brief remit, however, covered the possible discovery of finds and features of all periods.

4 AIMS

- 4.1 The aims of the 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.

4.2 These aims were to be achieved by the pursuit of the following specific objectives as stated in the Project Design (Foundations Archaeology 2003).

i) to define, identify and record any archaeological deposits on site, and date these where possible.

ii) to attempt to characterise the nature of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning of features present on the site.

iii) where possible to recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence and recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 All significant groundworks within the study area were observed by a qualified archaeologist whilst being machine excavated by the building contractors. When features or deposits of potential archaeological significance were noted, they were then closely examined, defined, manually excavated and recorded to appropriate standards.

6 RESULTS

6.1 The layout of the groundworks are shown in Figure 2. Initially an area approximately 4.5m by 4.5m was reduced by 0.6m. Then the footings were excavated to a total depth of 1m. The trenches were excavated by machine and hand under the constant supervision of a qualified archaeologist.

6.2 The stratigraphic sequence with the excavated area was constant throughout. The natural yellow/orange clay was overlaid by a mid brown loamy clay subsoil (102), 0.15m thick, with some gravel inclusions. This was overlaid by a black humic garden topsoil (101), 0.4m thick. The natural changed from yellow/orange to blue/grey clay in the base of the trench. The water table was reached at a depth of 0.9m, which led to some waterlogging of the trenches.

6.3 A single drain [103] was identified orientated northwest to south east across the area. This was from an original outhouse downhill, but turned east above the outhouse to head up the hill. The feature was a stone lined and capped 'French drain' cut, sealed by the topsoil and excavated into the natural clays. It was filled with a leached grey version of the subsoil (105), where it crossed the site, but was empty upslope. A single piece of blue and white transfer ware was present in (105).

7 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 The 'French' Drain identified during the course of the works is probably of a similar date to the original buildings on the site. The drain was silted up, so had not been used for some time.
- 7.2 No other archaeological finds or features were present within the excavated area.

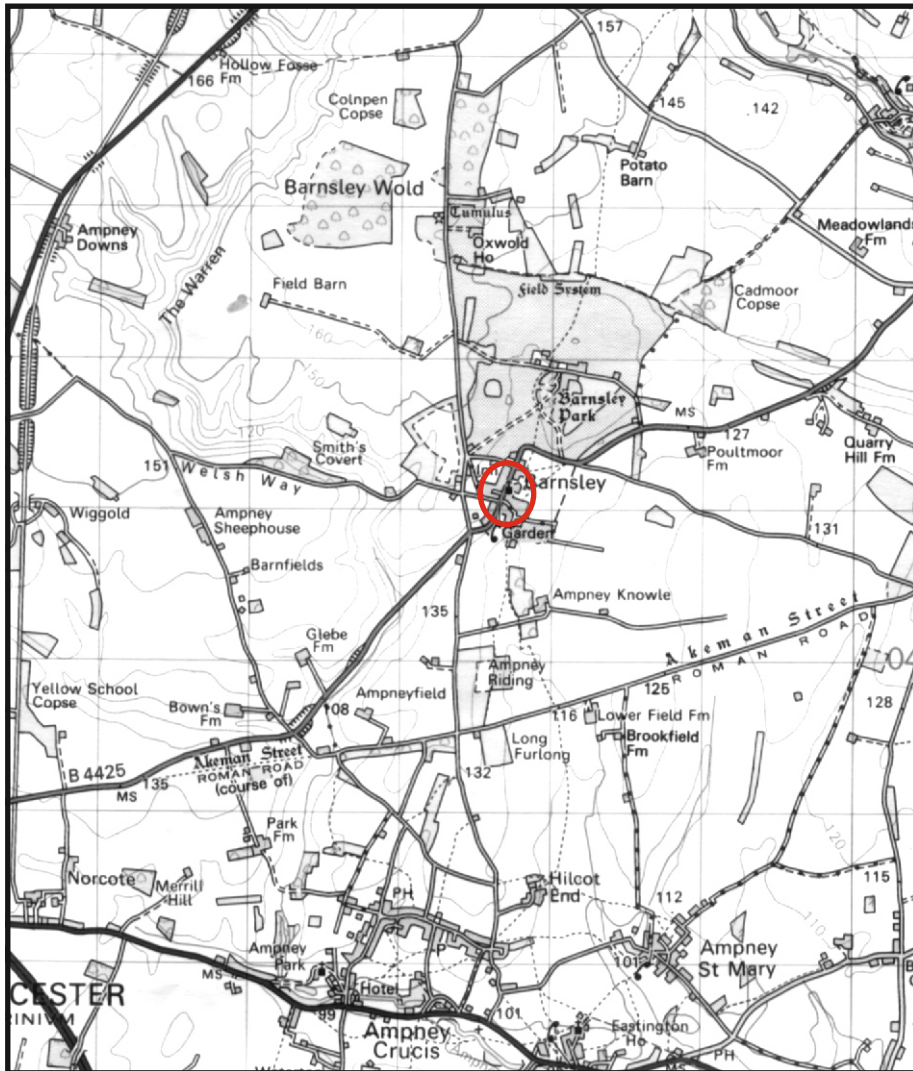
8 REFERENCES

Foundations Archaeology 2003 *15 Barnsley, Cirencester: Project Design.*

Gloucestershire County Council 2003 *15 Barnsley, Gloucestershire: single storey extension and minor alterations. Brief for a programme of archaeological recording.*

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Foundations Archaeology would like to thank Mr & Mrs Foster and Charles Parry for their assistance during the course of the project.



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FIGURE 1 : Site Location



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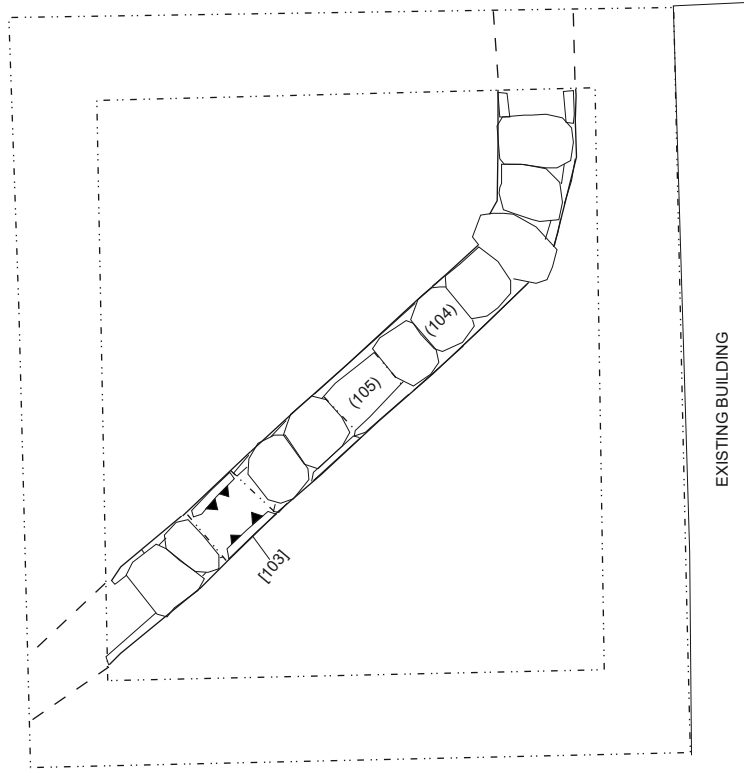
EXCAVATED AREA

STUDY AREA



FIGURE 2: Study Area

PLAN OF [103]



SECTION OF [103]

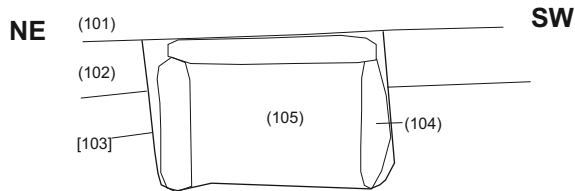


FIGURE 3 : Plan and Section of [103]