

**FITZHAMON HOUSE
AMPNEY CRUCIS
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

NGR: SP 065 019

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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SUMMARY

Site Name: Fitzhamon House, Ampney Crucis, Gloucestershire

Grid Reference: SP 065 019

Site Activity: Archaeological Watching Brief

Date and Duration of Project: 3rd June 2005

Project Manager: Roy King

Site Supervisor: Barry Devon

Site Code: FAC05

Summary of Results: The archaeological works comprised the monitoring of the groundworks associated with the construction of an extension to the rear of Fitzhamon House, Ampney Crucis. The work was commissioned by the landowner, Mr Andrew King.

A single undated linear feature and a dumped layer of Post-medieval bricks were present within the study 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.

Natural

In archaeological terms this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site, in this case, clay.

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 1500.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In June 2005, Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording on land at Fitzhamon House, Ampney Crucis, Gloucestershire at NGR: SP 065 019 (Figure 1). The work was commissioned by the landowner, Andrew King.
- 1.2 The project involved the observation and recording of groundworks associated with the construction of an extension to 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 Council and Gloucestershire County Council.
- 1.3 The works were undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by the Senior Archaeological Officer of Gloucestershire County Council (2005) and the Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Foundations Archaeology (2005). The project 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).
- 1.4 The project was undertaken in accordance with all relevant IFA Codes of Conduct and Practice. Foundations Archaeology is a registered archaeological organisation and is also certified to BS EN ISO 9001: 2000 for quality assurance in the provision of archaeological services.
- 1.5 This report constitutes the results of the archaeological monitoring.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 An archaeological condition was attached to the planning permission (Planning Reference CT2163/Q) granted by Cotswold District Council for the erection of an extension at Fitzhamon House, Ampney Crucis, Gloucestershire.
- 2.2 The site is located in the historic village of Ampney Crucis. The village has evidence of a sizeable Roman settlement and the site under development, Fitzhamon House, lies circa 20 metres to the east of the Medieval *Church of the Holy Rood*. As a result the County Archaeologist recommended the monitoring of all groundworks required for the development.
- 2.3 The base geology consisted of clay.
- 2.4 All intrusive ground works required for the proposed development had the potential to reveal significant archaeological deposits and/or features

predominantly associated with the Roman, Medieval and Post medieval periods. 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.

3.2 These aims were to be achieved by the pursuit of the objectives as stated in the Written Scheme of Investigation (2005).

i) To define and identify the nature of 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) To recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence and recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 The development required the excavation of one rectangular foundation trench to the northeast of the main house as well as the stripping of the topsoil from the entire development area.

4.2 The groundworks were undertaken by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket, working under constant archaeological supervision.

4.3 Spoil tips were scanned for unstratified finds across the entire study area.

4.4 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 An area measuring 9.3m in length and 7m wide was machine stripped. The topsoil (101), was a dark brown silty clay which measured between 0.21m and 0.70m

thick. No artefactual evidence predating the late post-medieval/modern period was present in this context.

- 5.2 The footing trenches extended northeast from the rear of the main house. The footings were 0.8m wide and were excavated to between 1.3m and 1.45m in depth below the modern ground surface. The excavation cut through the greyish brown clay natural, which was in turn sealed by subsoil (102), a yellow brown silty clay, up to 0.75m thick. The subsoil was then sealed by topsoil (101). A single feature of possible archaeological significance was present.
- 5.3 Linear [104] was orientated approximately north-south and extended beyond the study area. The feature cut the subsoil and was sealed by the topsoil. The linear was visible for a length of 4.4m, was 0.70m wide and 0.4m deep, with concave sides and a flat base. The feature contained single fill (105), a friable mid-red brown, silty clay, which did not contain any artefactual evidence.
- 5.4 A spread of dumped late Post-medieval bricks (106) was present at the northwest end of the study area, for a minimum length of 2.5m. This layer overlaid the subsoil, was sealed by the topsoil and abutted the brick foundations of Fitzhamon house. The material was similar to the bricks used for the original footings and were most likely dumped there during the construction of the house foundations.

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 An undated ditch and a dump of late Post-medieval bricks were present within the watched area. There was no clear evidence for the continuation of the Roman settlement into the study area.
- 6.2 Overall the complete absence of artefactual material from the site would suggest that the study area is of moderate-low archaeological potential.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Foundations Archaeology 2005 Fitzhamon House, Ampney Crucis: *Project Design for a Programme of Archaeological Recording*.

IFA 1994 (revised 2001) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*. Institute of Field Archaeologists.

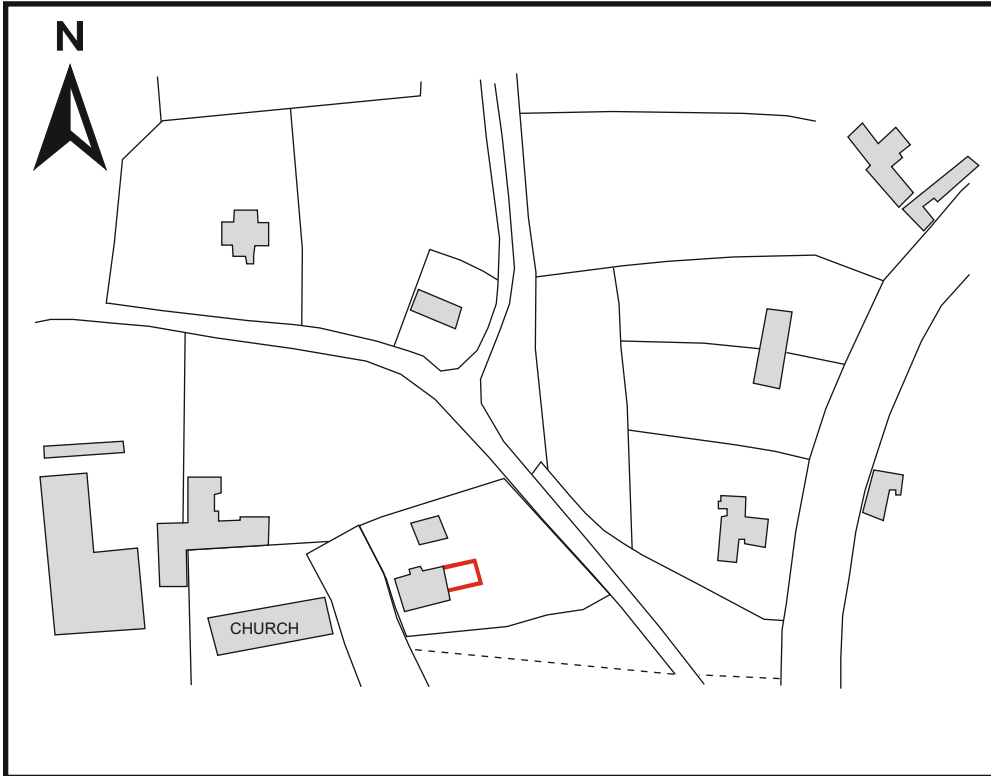
8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Foundations Archaeology would like to thank the client, Mr Andrew King, and Mr. Charles Parry of Gloucestershire Council Council for their help and co-operation during the course of the project.



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FIGURE 1: Site Location



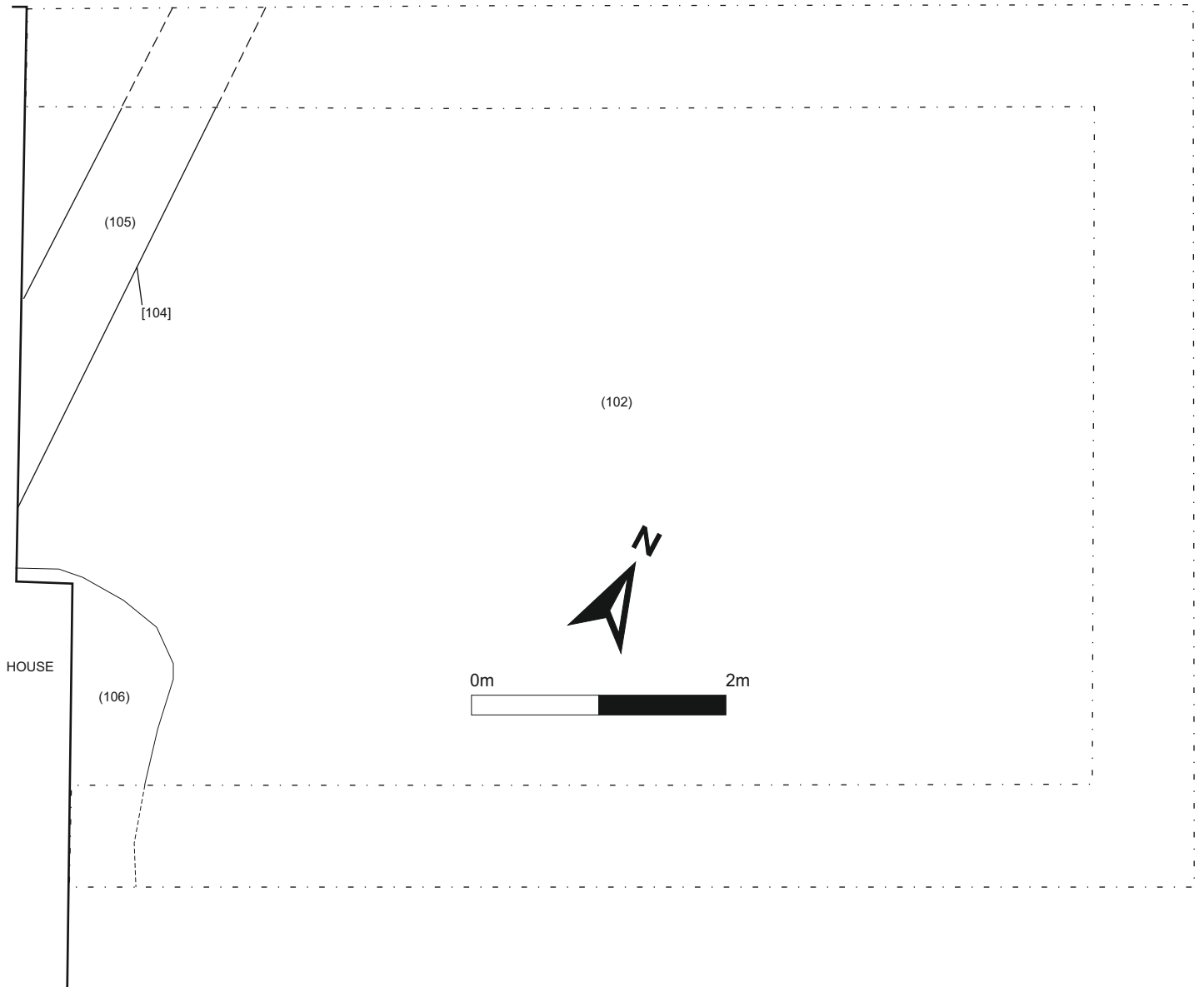
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— NEW BUILD



FIGURE 2: Trench Plan

PLAN OF STUDY AREA



SOUTHEAST FACING SECTION [104]

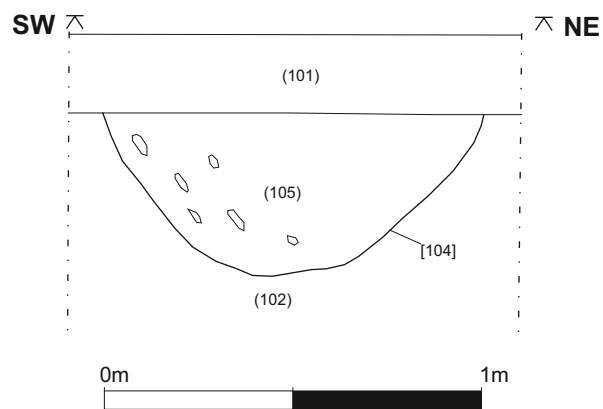


Figure 3: Plan and Section