

**COLLEGE FARM, BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER,  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

**NGR: SP 1670 2170 (CENTRED)**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

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Report No. 340  
March 2004



**COLLEGE FARM, BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER,  
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## SUMMARY

Between September and October 2002 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological recording on land at College Farm, Fosse Way, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire at NGR: SP 167 217 (centred). The project was commissioned by Stansgate Planning Consultants, on behalf of Peter Guilder and Sons Ltd.

Previous work on the site consisted of an archaeological evaluation, which revealed a wide, shallow ditch; orientated north-south, which was dated to the 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century.

The watching brief revealed a larger sample of the ditch identified during the evaluation, a section of dry-stone wall and three findspots, which included worked flints, Roman, Medieval and Post-Medieval pottery sherds.

No other archaeological features 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.

### *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, 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

### *Romano-British*

Term used to define the fusion of indigenous Iron Age traditions with invasive Roman culture. Traditionally dated AD 43 to *circa* AD 410.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Between September and October 2002 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording on land at College Farm, Fosse Way, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire at NGR: SP 167 217 (Figure 1). The work was commissioned by Stansgate Planning Consultants on behalf of Peter Guilder.
- 1.2 The project involved observation of the groundworks associated with the construction of a new hay barn and access road at College Farm (application ref. CD.8642/Ag/1). This was done in accordance with the principals of Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning (DoE 1990) and the archaeological policies of Gloucestershire County Council.
- 1.3 The works were undertaken in accordance with a Project Design prepared by Foundations Archaeology (2002). 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) and *Archaeological Guidance Paper 4: Archaeological Watching Briefs: (guidelines)* issued by English Heritage (London Region).
- 1.4 This document presents the findings of the archaeological monitoring.

## 2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site lies immediately northwest of the Fosse Way and Bourton-on-the-Water. The proposed development works cover an area of approximately 1605m<sup>2</sup>.
- 2.2 Bourton-on-the-Water was a Roman settlement situated near to the intersection between two Roman roads, the Fosse Way and Ryknild Street. A number of Roman buildings have previously been investigated in Bourton-on-the-Water.
- 2.3 Roadwork's undertaken during the 1950's on this section of the Fosse Way, revealed eight Anglo-Saxon burials. These could represent part of a cemetery dating to the 6<sup>th</sup> century. The potential therefore existed that the possible Saxon cemetery might have extended into the study area.
- 2.4 An archaeological evaluation on the study area (Foundations Archaeology, 2002) revealed a single shallow ditch, dated to the 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century. There has been no other known archaeology recorded within the study area.
- 2.5 The main archaeological potential for the site was therefore for Roman, Anglo-Saxon and Medieval activity. This did not prejudice the watching brief to the recovery of features from 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 Project Design (2002).

i) to define, identify and record any archaeological deposits on the upper and lower terraces, 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.

### **4 METHODOLOGY**

4.1 The groundworks involved a topsoil strip along the route of the access road and at the location of the barn. The works were undertaken using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket, working under constant archaeological supervision.

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

### **5 RESULTS**

5.1 The natural substrate was not reached during any of the groundworks.

5.2 The topsoil (501) consisted of a mid brown silty clay deposit, which was present for a depth of up to 0.25m. This was removed across the whole study area, to reveal a light brown silty clay subsoil (502). This stratigraphy was consistent across the area, except for at the site entrance, where the subsoil was directly overlaid by a levelling layer of sand, up to 0.10m thick, which was in turn sealed by a concrete layer, up to 0.10m thick.

5.3 A dry stone wall [503] was present near the bend of the access road. This was cut through the subsoil and sealed by the topsoil. The wall was constructed of un-faced limestone slabs (504), with dimensions ranging from 0.05m<sup>3</sup> to 0.40m by 0.20m by 0.20m. Two complete courses of the wall survived for a depth of 0.25m

and a width of 0.35m. The stones were loosely packed with a mid brown silty clay fill (505). A single sherd of 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century pottery was recovered from beneath the wall.

- 5.4 The linear feature investigated during the course of the evaluation was present in the watching brief as ditch [404]. It was visible for approximately 30m, with a width of up to 1.40m and depth of 0.38m. The ditch was orientated approximately north west-south east, although the feature did turn slightly west towards the north western end of the hay barn. The cut had steep sides, a flat base and contained (405), a mid orange/grey clay silt/clay fill with occasional small sub-angular fragments of sandstone but no visible charcoal. No pottery or other artefactual evidence was recovered from this feature, however the evaluation recovered dating evidence from the 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century.
- 5.5 Three separate findspots were present within the watched area.
- 5.6 The first findspot was located immediately south west of evaluation Trench 1 and consisted of three worked flints. Of these, one was an end scraper of possible late Mesolithic date, the other two were flaked tools with some signs of re-touching but were undiagnostic as to date.
- 5.7 The second findspot was present near the northeast end of evaluation Trench 2 and consisted of four sherds of abraded Roman pottery.
- 5.8 The third findspot was located near to ditch [404] and evaluation Trench 4, which consisted of two sherds of 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century pottery, a sherd of ceramic roof tile, an iron horse shoe and an undiagnostic flint flake.
- 5.9 Recovered from the spoil tips was a small sherd of abraded Bath A ware, a sherd of Minety ware and five fragments of cattle long bone and two molars. With the exception of modern land-drains, no other finds or features were present within the watched area.

## 6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The monitoring works revealed a larger sample of the Medieval ditch investigated during the evaluation and a small section of dry stone wall, probably dated to the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The ditch was identified during the evaluation as possibly representing a field boundary and the results of the watching brief suggest that this is probably the case. The dry stone wall also probably represented a former boundary, rather than a structural wall and was constructed during or after the medieval period. Dry stone walls were rarely used for the construction of buildings and the foundation for this wall did not penetrate the natural substrates and so probably would not have provided a strong enough footing for a structure.



- 6.2 The findspots present along the route of the access road indicate prehistoric and Roman activity within the vicinity of the site.
- 6.3 The artefactual material recovered during the watching brief consisted of eight sherds of unstratified pottery. There were four small, abraded undiagnostic bodysherds of Roman pottery compatible with Gloucester fabric TF6, dating 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> century. These sherds weighed <5g. Two undiagnostic body sherds respectively of North Wiltshire/South Cotswold (Minety) ware, weighing <2g and Bath A ware, weighing 2g were recovered in association with seven fragments of cattle bone. Both sherds may be dated 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century. Two sherds from a single Cistercian ware vessel, possibly a cup, were also recovered. These sherds date to the 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century and weighed 6g. A single stratified undiagnostic bodysherd of North Wiltshire/South Cotswold (Minety) ware, weighing 9g was recovered from beneath a drystone wall. This sherd may be dated late 12<sup>th</sup> to mid 14<sup>th</sup> century. A single small fragment of ceramic roof tile, probably 19<sup>th</sup> century or later in date was also recovered, along with an iron horseshoe.
- 6.4 Four pieces of worked flint were also recovered during the course of the watching brief. These consisted of an end scraper of possible late Mesolithic date, two undiagnostic flaked tools with some signs of re-touching and a waste flake.
- 6.5 No evidence for the Anglo-Saxon cemetery was present within the watched area.
- 6.6 The results of the watching brief indicate that there is a relatively low level of archaeological activity within the study area.

## 7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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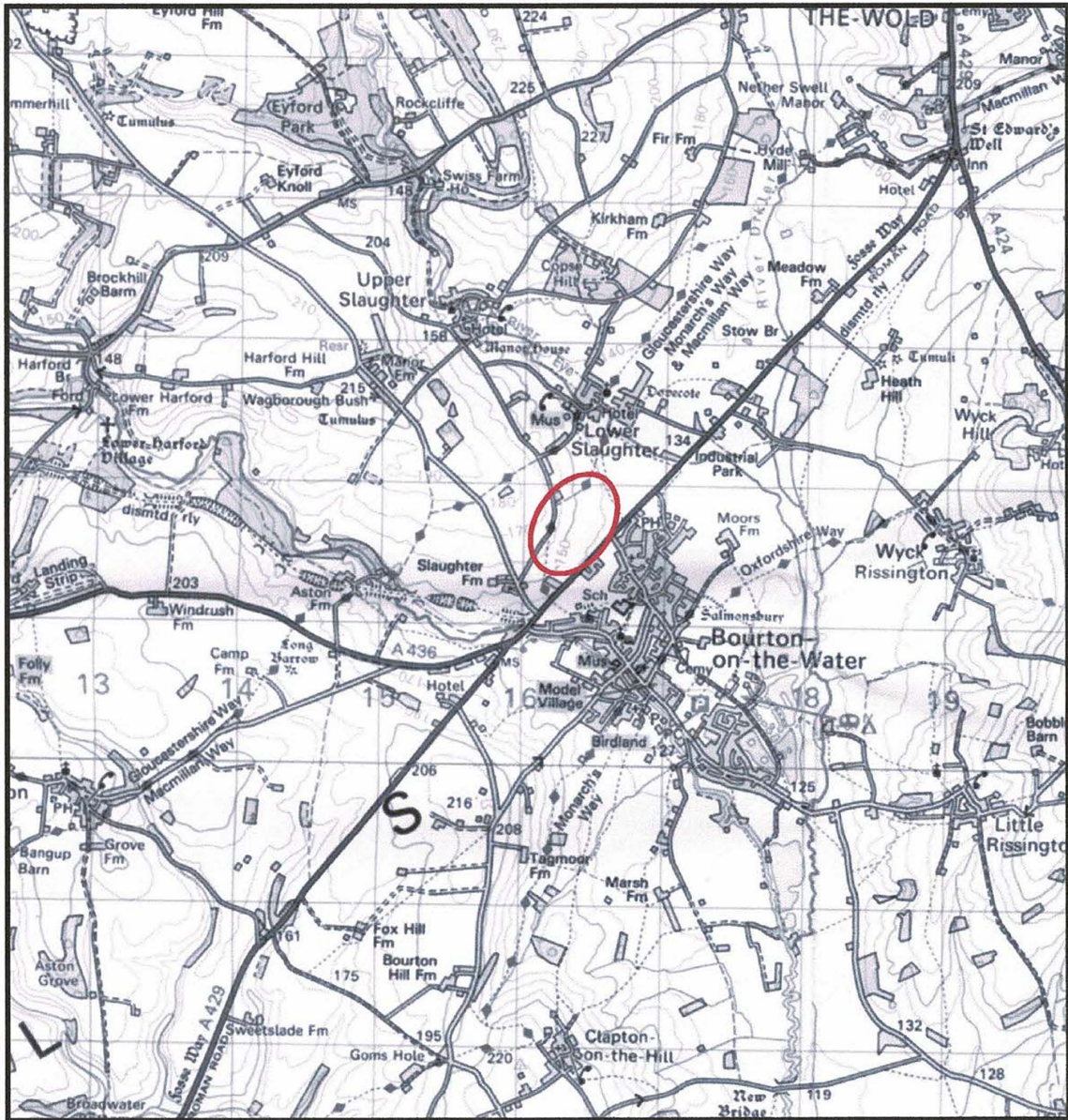
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## **8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Foundations Archaeology would like to thank Charles Parry of Gloucestershire County Council, Daniel Hatcher of Stansgate Planning Consultants and Peter Guilder of Peter Guilder and Sons Ltd for their assistance with this project.

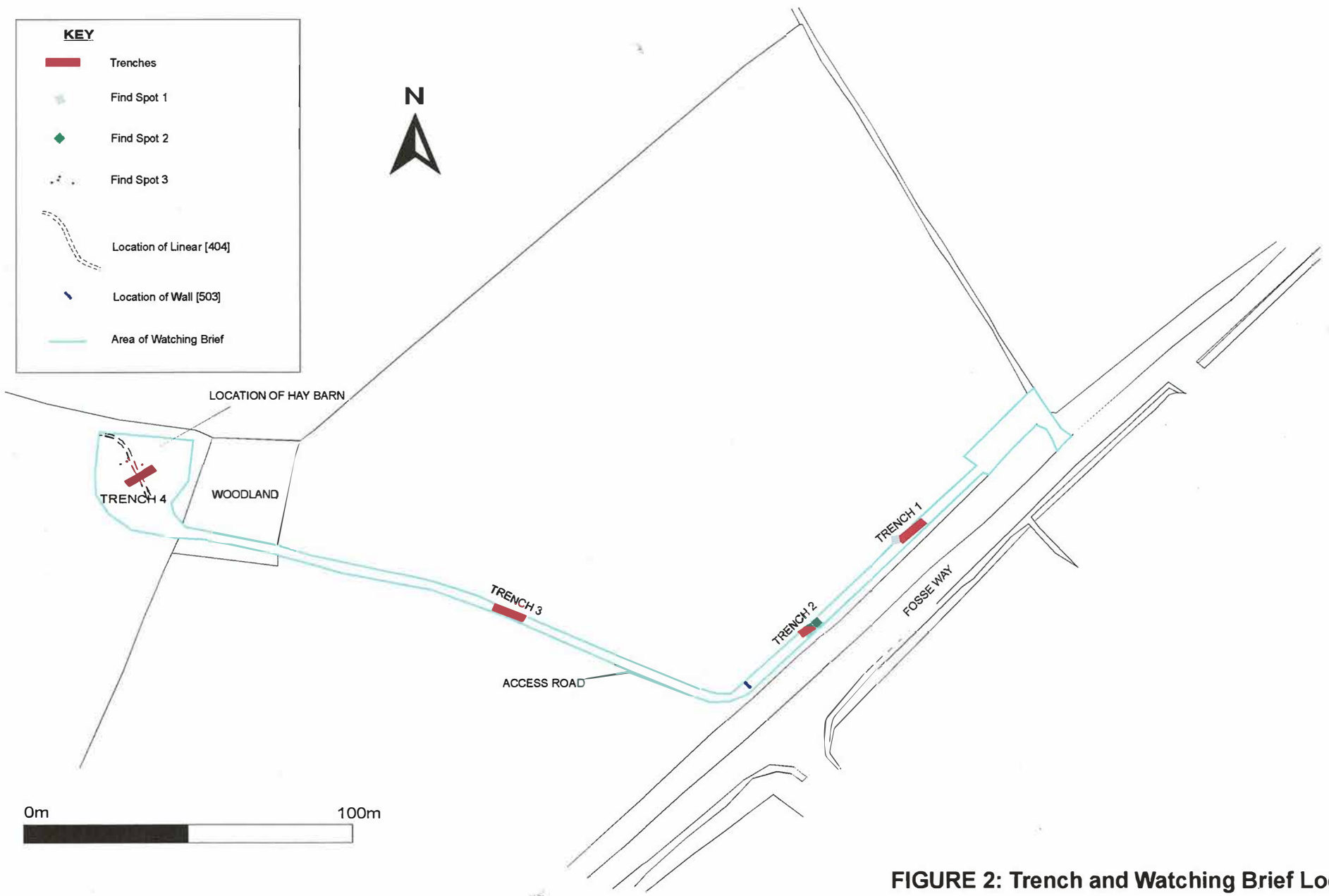


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FIGURE 1: Site Location.

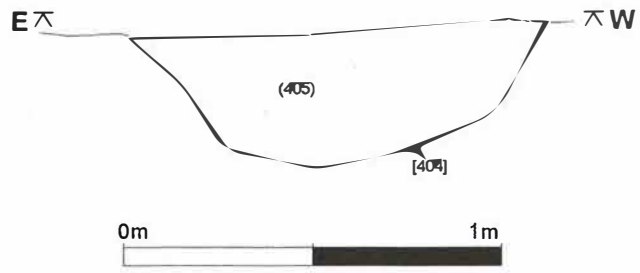
**KEY**

- Trenches
- Find Spot 1
- Find Spot 2
- Find Spot 3
- Location of Linear [404]
- Location of Wall [503]
- Area of Watching Brief

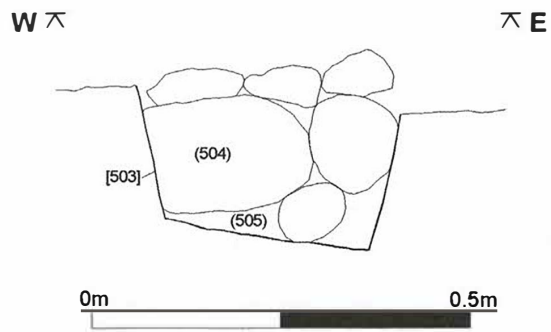


**FIGURE 2: Trench and Watching Brief Location**

**NORTH FACING SECTION [404]**



**SOUTH FACING SECTION [503]**



**FIGURE 3: Sections**