

**SUNDIAL SITE  
COLN ST ALDWYNS  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

**NGR: SP 1434 0508**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**Quality Assurance**

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## **CONTENTS**

Summary

Glossary

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

## **FIGURE LIST**

- Figure 1: Site Location
- Figure 2: Study Area Location
- Figure 3: Test Pit Locations
- Figure 4: Test Pit 2, Plan and Section

## **SUMMARY**

In November 2009 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological evaluation on land at the Sundial Site, Coln St Aldwyns (NGR: SP 1434 0508). The work was commissioned by Waterman EED.

A planning application (08/03576/FUL) was submitted to Cotswold District Council for construction of Country House dwelling, and associated access and landscaping works in the former gardens and parklands to Coln Manor. The application has been refused, but the applicant wished to proceed with the archaeological investigations.

The evaluation comprised the excavation and recording of six 1m<sup>2</sup> hand-dug test-pits within the footprint of the proposed development.

Archaeological features and finds were present within the investigated area. The natural chalk was identified within all of the test pits except Test-pit 4 and there was no evidence for extensive modern truncation or disturbance.

The identified features consisted of a single north-south aligned linear feature, probably a ditch, in Test Pit 2. No dating evidence was recovered from the feature, but it was cut into the natural deposits and sealed by the subsoil and may therefore be of some antiquity.

A deep deposit of silty clay with frequent chalk inclusions was encountered in Test Pit 4. No dating material was recovered from this deposit, which is likely to represent either the fill of a deep feature – probably a quarry-type feature – or be the result of landscaping activity.

A small finds assemblage was recovered during the course of the evaluation. This consisted of a small quantity of modern ceramics and a small number of fragments of animal bone. All of the identifiable fragments were from deer and probably represent natural loss.

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 Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucester Archaeological Society and an OASIS form will also be submitted to ADS.

## **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 *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. (AOD Above Ordnance Datum).

### **OS**

Ordnance Survey.

### **Post-Medieval**

Period from *circa* AD 1500 onwards.

### **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 AD 410.

### **Saxon**

The period traditionally dated between AD 410 and AD 1066.

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This report presents the findings of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Foundations Archaeology in November 2009 on land at the Sundial Site, Coln St Aldwyns, Gloucestershire (NGR: SP 1434 0508). The work was commissioned by Waterman EED.
- 1.2 The archaeological work was undertaken in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (rev. 2008), discussions between the East Sussex Archaeological Officer and Foundations Archaeology and *Standards for Archaeological Fieldwork, Recording and Post-Excavation Work in East Sussex* (2008).
- 1.3 Foundations Archaeology is certified to BS/EN/ISO 9001: 2008 for quality assurance in the provision of archaeological services. The company is a Registered Organisation with the Institute for Archaeologists and subscribes to that organisation's Code of Conduct. All relevant IfA Codes of Practice will be adhered to throughout the course of the project.
- 1.4 This report constitutes the results of the archaeological works.

## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 A planning application (08/03576/FUL) was submitted to Cotswold District Council for construction of a Country House dwelling, and associated access and landscaping works in the former gardens and parklands to Coln Manor. The application has been refused, but the applicant wished to proceed with the archaeological investigations.
- 2.2 A desk based assessment was prepared for the site by Waterman EED. This concluded that the village is known to have medieval origins and that a Roman settlement lies to the north, alongside Akeman Street Roman road, suggesting a settlement shift. Prehistoric activity is thought to have been focused on the local river valleys. No archaeological finds or features were previously known from within the site.
- 2.3 The site, henceforward known as the Sundial site, lies on the western edge of the village in an area of woodland. The site is adjacent to the churchyard on sloping ground and there is no evidence of any earlier settlement or activity pre-dating the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Remains of the site's use as a garden within the wider grounds of Coln Manor in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century are evident, including a ha-ha, paths and the base of a summer house. The proposals envisage a new house being built near to the boundary wall separating the site from the churchyard.
- 2.4 The study area therefore contained the potential for the preservation of archaeological features and deposits predominantly associated with the

medieval and post-medieval periods. This in no way prejudiced the work against the recovery of finds or features relating to other periods.

### **3 AIMS**

- 3.1 The general aims of the archaeological evaluation 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. In turn this would allow informed planning decisions to be taken regarding the archaeological provision for the areas affected by the proposed development.
- 3.2 These aims were 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;
  - 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 A total of six 1m by 1m test pits were excavated within the proposed development site. The test-pits were located within the footprint of the proposed building and car parking areas. The test pit locations are shown on Figure 2.
- 4.2 Non-significant overburden was to be removed to the top of archaeological deposits or natural, whichever was encountered first. A single exception to this method was Test-pit 4 wherein excavation ceased at a depth of 1.20m, the recommended health and safety depth of excavation without shoring, and natural deposits or archaeological levels were not reached in this case. The excavation was undertaken by experienced archaeologists using hand tools, such as shovels and mattocks.
- 4.3 All excavation and recording work was undertaken in accordance with the Specification and the Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 3: Excavation Manual.

## 5 RESULTS

- 5.1 **Test pit 1** was located on the site of the proposed car port. The test pit was excavated onto natural chalk deposits at a depth of 0.47m (113.48m OD) from the modern ground surface. The chalk was overlain by a mid brown silty clay subsoil with moderate chalk inclusions (102), up to 0.25m thick, from which two small fragments of animal bone were recovered. The subsoil was overlain by a dark brown humic topsoil with frequent rooting activity (101), up to 0.22m thick. No archaeological features were present within the test-pit.
- 5.2 **Test pit 2** was excavated onto natural chalk deposits at an average depth of 0.98m (114.57m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural deposits were overlain by a mid brown silty clay subsoil with moderate chalk inclusions (202), up to 0.20m thick from which two fragments of animal bone were recovered. The subsoil was overlain by a dark brown humic topsoil with frequent rooting activity (201), up to 40m thick. A single archaeological feature was present in this test-pit.
- 5.3 Feature [206] consisted of a north-south aligned ditch or gully measuring at least 0.75m wide by 0.40m deep. It had a steeply sloping western edge and a rounded base and contained two fills. The base fill was a mid brown silt clay (205) from which no finds were recovered, 0.07m thick. Fill (205) was overlain by bulk fill (203), a mid brown clay silt with frequent fragments of chalk, up to 0.38m thick from which one fragment of animal bone was recovered.
- 5.4 **Test pit 3** was excavated onto natural chalk deposits at an average depth of 0.50m (116.17m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural deposits were overlaid by a mid brown silty clay subsoil with moderate chalk inclusions (302), up to 0.30m thick. The subsoil was overlain by a dark brown humic topsoil with frequent rooting activity (301), up to 0.20m thick. No archaeological finds or features were recovered from this test-pit.
- 5.5 **Test pit 4** was excavated to a depth of 1.20m (115.42m OD) from the modern ground surface, into a light grey brown silt clay with frequent fragments of chalk (403) at least 0.60m thick. Layer (403) was overlaid by a mid brown silty clay subsoil with moderate chalk inclusions (402), up to 0.28m thick. The subsoil was overlain by a dark brown humic topsoil with frequent rooting activity (401), up to 0.32m thick from which modern china wares were recovered.
- 5.6 **Test pit 5** was excavated onto natural chalk deposits at an average depth of 0.40m (116.63m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural deposits were overlain by a mid brown silty clay subsoil with moderate chalk inclusions (502), up to 0.10m thick. The subsoil was overlain by a dark brown humic topsoil with frequent rooting activity (501), up to 0.30m thick. No archaeological finds or features were present within this test-pit.
- 5.7 **Test pit 6** was excavated onto natural chalk deposits at an average depth of 0.48m (116.41m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural deposits

were overlaid by a mid brown silty clay subsoil with moderate chalk inclusions (602), up to 0.22m thick. The subsoil was overlain by a dark brown humic topsoil with frequent rooting activity (601), up to 0.26m thick. No archaeological finds or features were recovered from this test-pit.

## **6 CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 Archaeological features and finds were present within the investigated area. The natural chalk was identified within all of the trenches, with the exception of Test-pit 4, and there was no evidence for extensive modern truncation or disturbance.
- 6.2 The identified features consisted of a single north-south aligned linear feature, probably a ditch, in Test Pit 2. No dating evidence was recovered from the feature, but it was cut into the natural deposits and sealed by the subsoil and may therefore be of some antiquity.
- 6.3 A deep deposit of silty clay with frequent chalk inclusions was encountered in Test Pit 4. No dating material was recovered from this deposit, which is likely to represent either the fill of a deep feature – probably a quarry-type feature – or be the result of landscaping activity.
- 6.4 A small finds assemblage was recovered during the course of the evaluation. This consisted of a small quantity of modern ceramics and a small number of fragments of animal bone. All of the identifiable fragments were from deer and probably represent natural loss.
- 6.5 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 *Trans Bristol and Gloucester Archaeological Society* and an OASIS form will also be submitted to ADS.

## **7 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

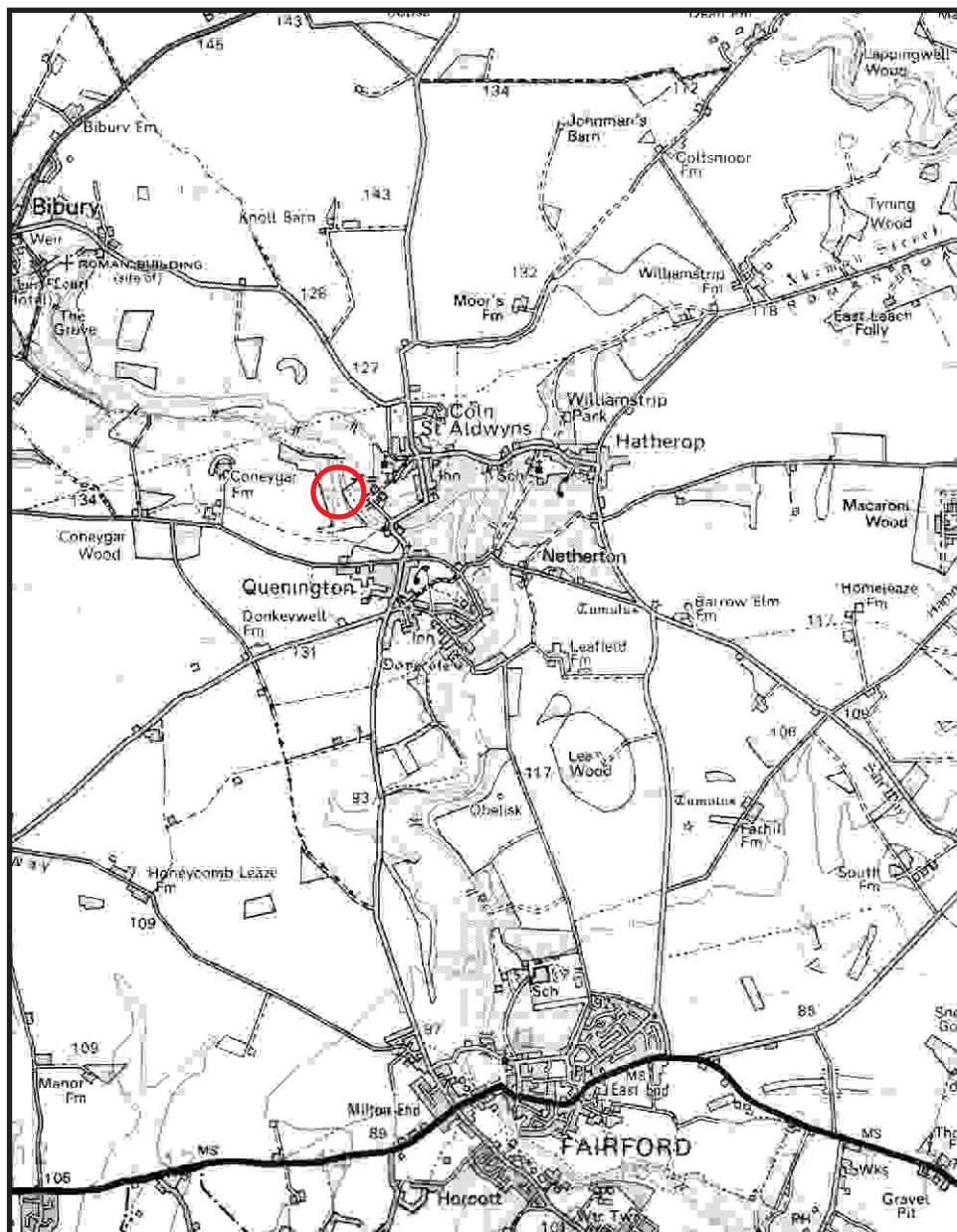
Foundations Archaeology, 2009 *Sundial Site, Coln St. Aldwyns: Written Scheme of Investigation*.

Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1994 (revised 2008) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation*.

## **8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Foundations Archaeology would like to thank Ben Stephenson and Tom Davies of Waterman EED and Charles Parry of Gloucestershire County Council for their assistance with this project.





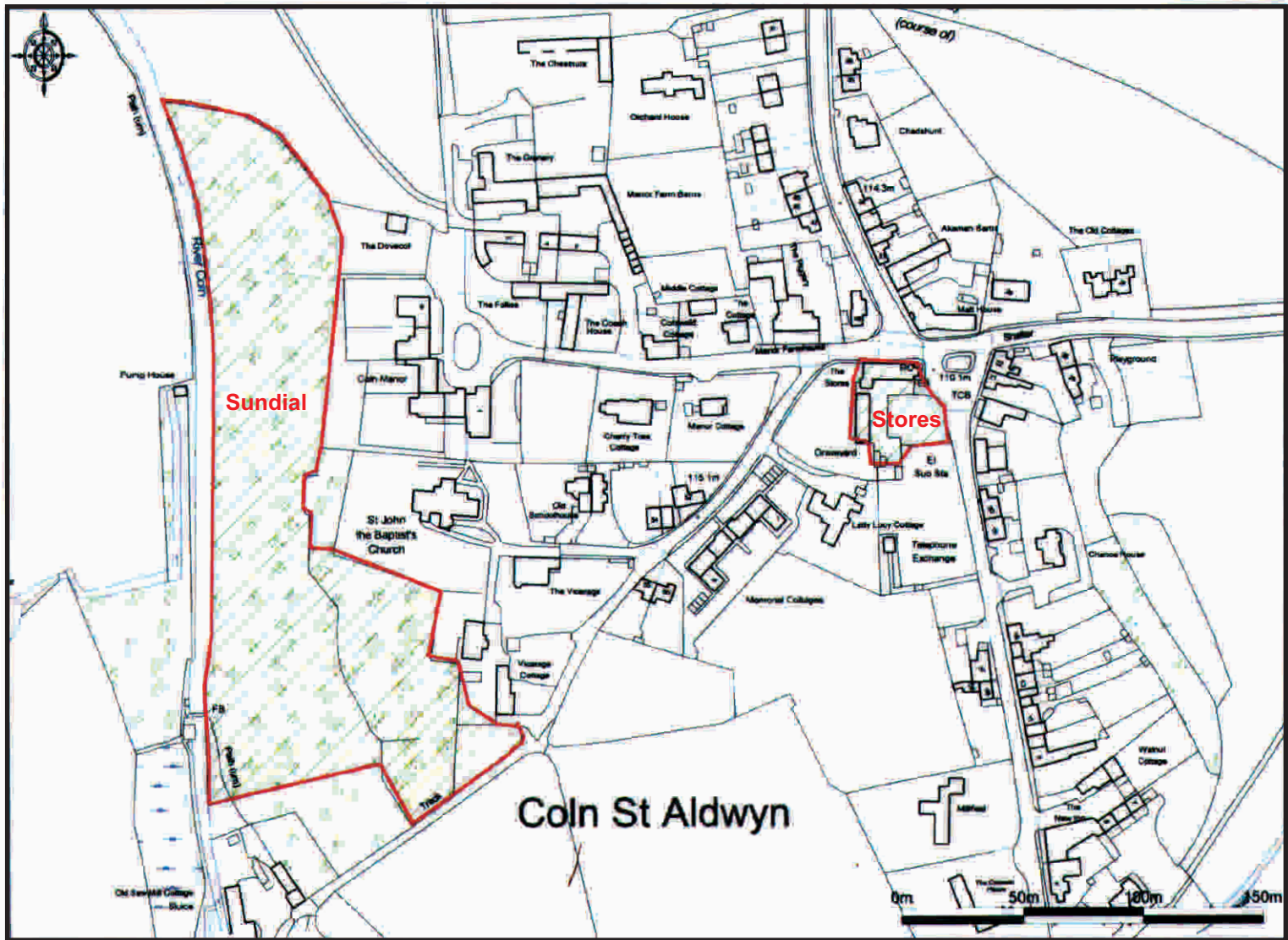
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**Site Code: CSA09b**

**Accession Code:**



**FIGURE 1: Site Location**



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**Site Code: CSA09b**

**Accession Code:**

**FIGURE 2: Study Area Location**



Site Code: CSA09b  
 Accession Code:

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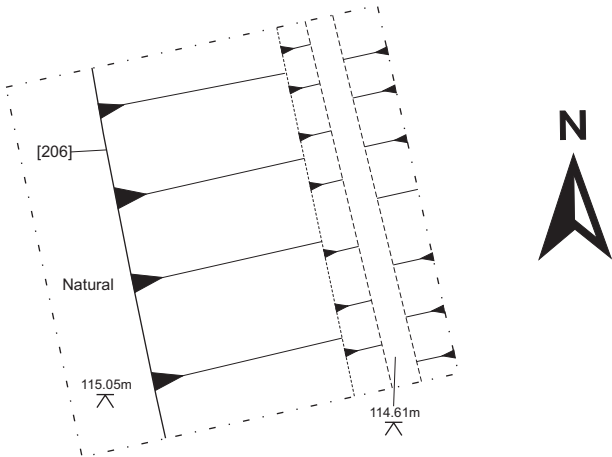
TEST PIT LOCATIONS

0m 50m

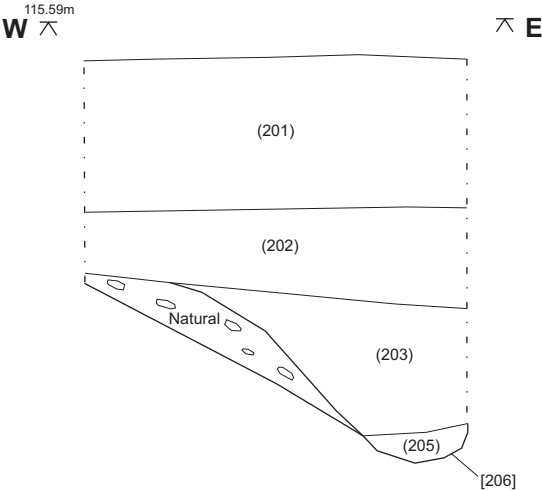
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**FIGURE 3: Test Pit Locations**

**PLAN OF TEST PIT 2**



**SOUTH FACING SECTION TEST-PIT 2  
SHOWING [206]**



<p><b>Site Code: CSA09b</b>  <b>Accession Code:</b></p>
<p>0m <span style="float: right;">1m</span></p>  <p>1:20@A4</p>
<p><b>FIGURE 4: Test-Pit 2, Plan and Section</b></p>