

**LAND AT ST ANDREWS HOUSE,
EASTLEACH,
GLOUCESTERSHIRE.**

NGR: SP 2018 0536

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Quality Assurance

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SUMMARY

In January 2009 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological evaluation on land at St Andrews House, Eastleach, Gloucestershire (NGR: SP 2018 0536). The project was commissioned by Guy Stansfeld Architects Ltd.

The project comprised the excavation and recording of three trenches, which revealed a single cut feature. No dating evidence was recovered from the feature, however, it was sealed beneath a subsoil layer and, as such, is unlikely to be of modern origin.

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

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents the findings of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Foundations Archaeology in January 2009 on land at St Andrews House, Eastleach, Gloucestershire (NGR: SP 2018 0536). The project was commissioned by Guy Stansfeld Architects Ltd.
- 1.2 The project was undertaken in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (2009), based upon the standard brief issued by the Gloucestershire County Archaeological Service, and the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance on Archaeological Evaluation* (1994, revised 2001).

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A programme of development, which comprises demolitions, alterations and extensions to an existing house and garage, along with the construction of a new domestic dwelling (Planning Application Reference: 08/03204/FUL) is proposed on land at St Andrews House, Eastleach. A programme of archaeological works was required prior to the determination of planning permission, in accordance with the principles of Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG 16): Archaeology and Planning (DoE 1990) and the archaeological policies of Gloucestershire County Council and Cotswold District Council.
- 2.2 The Written Scheme of Investigation and associated trench locations were inadvertently based upon a previous development proposal for a stables and grooms flat. The trenches were therefore located outside the immediate footprint of the current development proposal.
- 2.3 The site was located within the garden of St Andrews House and was bounded by the graveyard of St Andrews Church to the south and east. The study area was situated on steeply sloping natural topography, which sloped downwards from north to south.
- 2.4 The archaeological background is based upon an examination of relevant documents.
- 2.5 The Gloucestershire SMR indicates that a Roman Road (Akeman Street) occurs approximately 2km north of the study area.
- 2.6 St Andrews church is listed as a Medieval church with Norman features and a settlement is recorded at Eastleach in the Domesday book.
- 2.7 The Southrop Tithe map of 1843 records the study area as agricultural land with the OS 1st edition (1882) and later maps indicating a possible small dwelling and/or ancillary buildings.

- 2.8 The study area therefore contained the potential for significant archaeological features and deposits, predominantly associated with the Medieval period. This did not prejudice the works against the recovery of finds or features associated with other periods.

3 AIMS

- 3.1 The 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 reasonable 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 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 project required the excavation of three 5m by 1.5m evaluation trenches. Due to space constraints it was necessary to slightly amend the trench sizes and locations, as shown in Figure 2.
- 4.2 Topsoil and non-significant overburden was removed to the top of the archaeological deposits or natural, whichever was encountered first. This was achieved with the use of a 360° mechanical excavator with a toothless grading bucket. Thereafter the trenches were cleaned and all additional excavation was conducted by hand.
- 4.3 All excavation and recording work was undertaken in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation and the Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 3: Excavation Manual.

5 RESULTS

- 5.1 **Trench 1** (6m long by 1.5m wide) was excavated onto natural deposits at an average depth of 0.95m (92.52m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural substrate, which comprised limestone brash with frequent patches of plastic orange clay, was sealed beneath subsoil layer (102), up to 0.65m thick, which consisted of a light beige clay silt with frequent limestone fragments. Subsoil (102) contained a sherd of 17th/18th century glazed earthenware pottery. Context (102) was overlaid by (101), up to 0.30m thick, which comprised a dark brown clay silt topsoil. A single sherd of 17th/18th century red glazed earthenware pottery was recovered from this context. No archaeological features were present within the trench.
- 5.2 **Trench 2** (2.4m long by 2.3m wide) was excavated onto natural deposits at an average depth of 1.15m (90.81m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural substrate, which comprised limestone brash with frequent patches of plastic orange clay, was sealed beneath subsoil layer (204), up to 0.60m thick, which consisted of a light beige/brown clay silt with frequent limestone fragments. This was overlaid by (203), up to 0.20m thick, which comprised a dark brown clay silt with frequent limestone fragments. Context (203) was sealed by layer (202), up to 0.15m thick, which comprised a beige brown clay silt with frequent limestone fragments. Layer (202) was overlaid by topsoil (201), up to 0.20m thick, which consisted of a mid brown clay silt. Two sherds of chinaware pottery and a fragment of green bottle glass were present within topsoil (201). Feature [205] was cut into the top of the natural deposits and was sealed beneath subsoil (204).
- 5.3 **Feature [205]** was 2m long, at least 1.4m wide and at least 0.40m deep and comprised an east-west aligned linear cut with a sloping profile. Due to the presence of relatively deep trench sections, the feature was only partially investigated. Fill (206) comprised a variable brown to light brown clay silt, which contained frequent limestone fragments and frequent charcoal lumps and flecks. A small assemblage of sheep bones, at least one of which had been burnt, along with a single oyster fragment was recovered from fill (206).
- 5.4 **Trench 3** (5m long by 1.5m wide) was excavated onto natural deposits at an average depth of 1.20m (90.04m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural substrate, which comprised limestone brash with frequent patches of plastic orange clay, was sealed beneath subsoil layer (302), up to 0.70m thick, which consisted of a beige clay silt with frequent limestone fragments. Three fragments of un-diagnostic bone, along with a single sherd of 17th/18th century red glazed earthenware pottery, were recovered from subsoil (302). Context (302) was overlaid by (301), up to 0.50m thick, which comprised a dark brown clay silt topsoil. Two sherds of 17th/18th century red glazed earthenware pottery were present within context (301). No archaeological features were present within the trench.

6 DISCUSSION

- 6.1 Due to the limited nature of the investigation, it is difficult to interpret feature [205]. However, the feature's downward sloping profile suggests that it was not related to terracing or levelling activity. Although no dating evidence was recovered from the feature, it was sealed by subsoil (204) and, as such, is unlikely to be of modern origin.
- 6.2 Contexts (102), (204) and (302) were fairly substantial soil deposits and are likely to represent levelling or make-up layers. The presence of 17th/18th century pottery within contexts (102) and (302) suggests that this activity is probably related to landscaping associated with St Andrews House.
- 6.3 The evaluation has indicated that there is a medium to high potential for archaeological features to occur within the proposed development area. However, the identified archaeological remains are, at present, undated.
- 6.4 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.

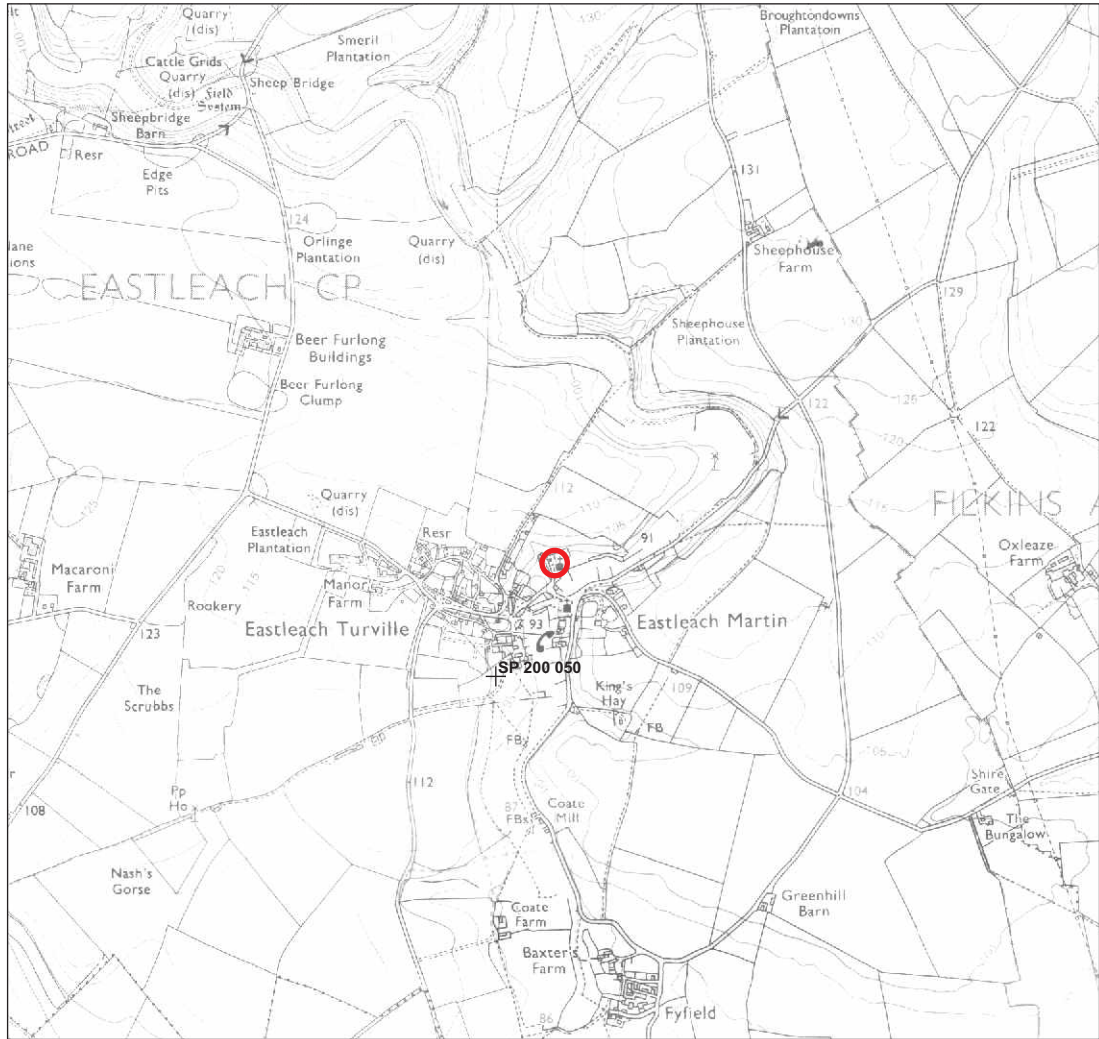
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8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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FIGURE 1: Site Location

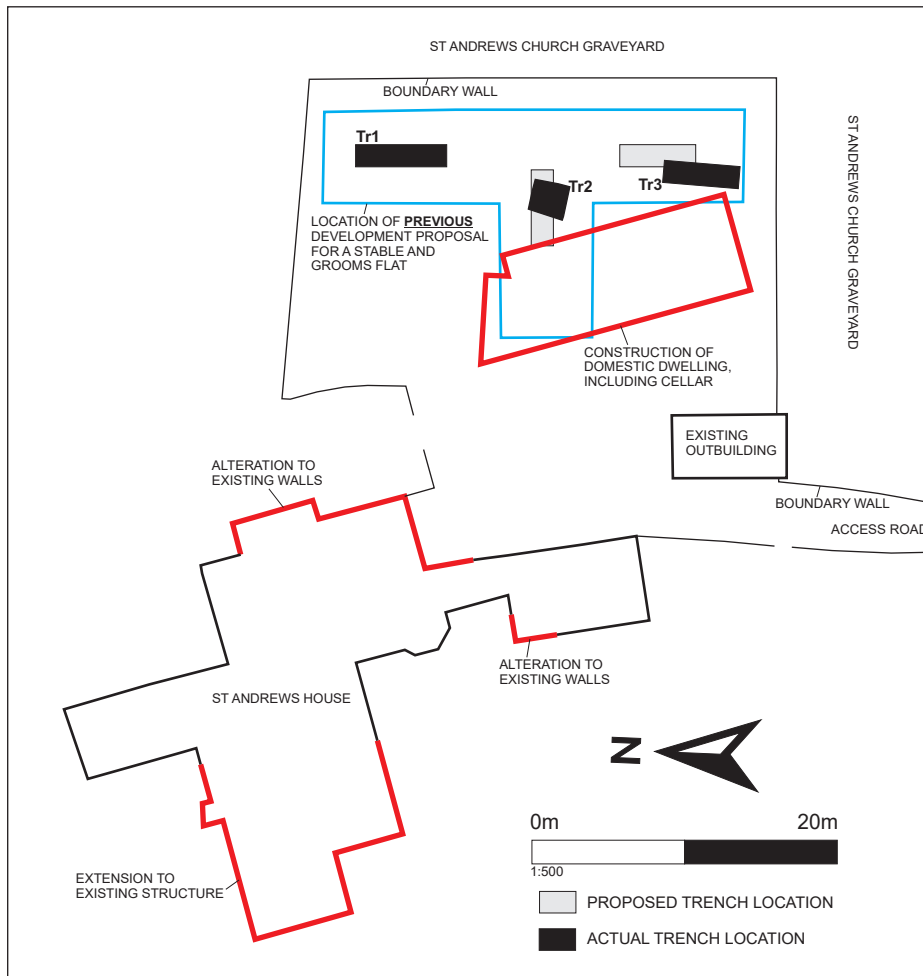
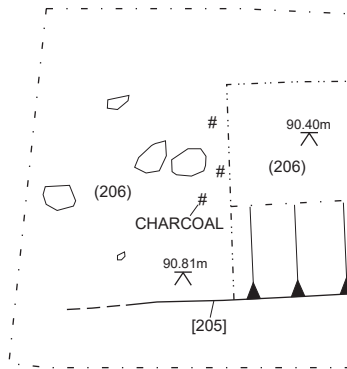


FIGURE 2: Trench Locations

TRENCH 2



EAST FACING SECTION [205]

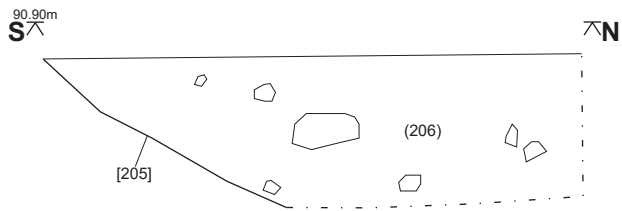


FIGURE 3: Trench 2 Plan and Section