

**ST ANDREWS HOUSE,  
EASTLEACH  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

**NGR: SP 2018 0536**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**Quality Assurance**

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## SUMMARY

Between February and November 2010 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological monitoring on land at St Andrews House, Eastleach, Gloucestershire (NGR: SP 2018 0536). The monitored works comprised the excavation of footings for a new garage and extensions to the existing house, along with associated service trenching.

The watching brief has demonstrated a high degree of truncation within the area of the garage where the hill-side has been terraced to provide level access in the past. Areas of disturbance were identified within the area of the rainwater harvesting system related to earlier services cutting across the lawn, with further evidence for landscaping around the house. Further evidence for the undated linear feature identified during the evaluation was not identified in any of the monitored groundworks. No archaeological features were identified within the monitored works suggesting a low potential for the presence of archaeology within the immediate vicinity of the house.

## **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 *c.* AD 1500.

### *Natural*

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

### *NGR*

National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid.

### *OD*

Ordnance datum; used to express a given height above sea-level.

### *OS*

Ordnance Survey

## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Between February and November 2010 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at St Andrews House, Eastleach, at NGR: SP 2018 0536 (Figure 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Nicholas Tucker.
- 1.2 Planning permission (ref: 08/03204/FUL) has been granted for demolitions, alterations and extension to an existing dwelling and garage at St Andrews House, Eastleach, Gloucestershire. 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 Gloucestershire County Council and Cotswold District Council.
- 1.3 The works were undertaken in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Foundations Archaeology (2009) in response to guidance issued by Gloucestershire County Council (2009). The project was undertaken in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (revision 2008), *Archaeological Guidance Paper 4: Archaeological Watching Briefs: (guidelines)* issued by English Heritage (London Region).
- 1.4 This report constitutes the results of the archaeological monitoring.

## 2 PROJECT AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Cotswold District Council placed a planning condition requiring a programme of archaeological works to be carried out in relation to application reference: 08/03204/FUL which proposed the demolition of existing structures and wings of St Andrews House, and the construction of new extensions, garage and associated drainage (Figure 1).
- 2.2 The proposed development site is located in close proximity to Eastleach's Medieval church, and it is therefore in an area where Medieval settlement associated with the church is likely to have been present. An archaeological evaluation was been undertaken in advance of the determination of this planning application (SMR33392). This work found an undated linear feature sealed below made-up ground originating no later than the 17th/18th century. Therefore any groundworks required for the development may reveal significant archaeological deposits and/or finds.
- 2.12 All intrusive ground works required for the proposed development had the potential to reveal significant archaeological deposits and/or features predominantly associated with the medieval period. 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 (2009).

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 would 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 The groundworks were undertaken by a mechanical tracked excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket. All excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision. Excavation ceased at the formation depth for the proposed structures and undisturbed deposits were left *in-situ*.

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

4.3 Any significant archaeological deposits and/or features within the study area were manually cleaned, investigated and recorded in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation.

## 5 RESULTS

- 5.1 Phase 1 of the groundworks comprised the excavation of footings for a new garage located to the south east of the existing house and garage. The footings were up to 2m in depth and 0.75m wide. The stratigraphy comprised a mid brown, friable silt clay topsoil up to 0.8m thick directly overlying a natural loose mid brown clay silt brash. Once the existing garage had been demolished, it was clear that the platform where the new garage was situated had been previously terraced, resulting in significant truncation of the natural geology.
- 5.2 The second phase of the watching brief entailed the monitoring of footings for a new extension on the south east side of the house. The footings were excavated up to a maximum depth of 2m by 0.70m wide, the stratigraphy comprised a mid brown friable silt clay topsoil overlying a natural loose mid brown clay silt brash. In some areas natural bedrock was encountered underlying the clay silt brash. A further extension on the west side of the house entailed the terracing of the natural slope to provide a level base. The existing steep slope comprised a thin layer of mid brown, friable silt clay topsoil, up to 0.08m thick, directly overlying the natural bedrock. No archaeological features were present within the monitored works.
- 5.3 Phase 3 of the project required the monitoring of various service trenches, including foul water and surface water with associated features such as swale and land drains.
- 5.4 The foul water service trenches (marked in blue on Fig.2) averaged 1m deep by 0.60m wide. The stratigraphy comprised a mid brown friable silt clay topsoil overlying a dark grey brown friable clay silt subsoil up to 0.05m thick. This in turn overlay a natural loose mid brown clay silt brash. The subsoil was only present in a few areas suggesting that the area had been subjected to limited truncation in the past, possibly related to landscaping activity. Where the run approached the septic tank, the depth of trench was reduced to 0.5m to account for the sloping ground. In this area the topsoil comprised a thick dark brown loamy clay silt, which exceeded the depth of the trench. This material appears to be the result of hill wash from further up slope. No archaeological features were present within the monitored works.
- 5.5 Surface water drainage trenches were divided into two categories; those for rain water harvesting, and those for water to be culverted off site into the existing drainage system. The rain water harvesting system was located adjacent to the house on its south side within the garden (marked in green on Fig.2). This area appears to have been heavily disturbed with many old services running across the lawn. The monitored trenches varied in depth from 1m adjacent to the house, increasing to 2m as the trenching progressed to the southwest. Natural bedrock was encountered in the area close to the house at a depth of 0.6m, this was directly

overlaid by a dark grey brown friable clay silt subsoil up to 0.15m thick, which was in turn overlain by a mid brown friable silt clay topsoil up to 0.45m thick. Bedrock was not encountered at the south west extremity of the works, where the subsoil overlay a natural loose mid brown clay silt brush. No archaeological features were present within the monitored works.

- 5.6 The remaining surface water drainage comprised a swale, which descended from the northwest side of the house further up slope, around the eastern side of the house, connecting to the main drainage along the entrance drive. This trench averaged a depth of 1m below existing ground level, with a width of 0.50m. The majority of this trench was cut into the natural hillside, where a mid brown friable silt clay topsoil, up to 0.15m thick overlay a dark grey brown friable clay silt subsoil, up to 0.20m thick. This was in turn underlain by natural bedrock. As the trench progressed downhill, the build-up of colluvium was clearly visible, with increased depths of topsoil and subsoil. At the junction of the swale and the manhole situated next to the new garage, the depth was increased to 2.5m, where the bedrock was overlain by 1.05m of natural clay silt brush.
- 5.7 The remaining surface water drainage comprised the excavation of a land drain which ran along the north west side of the house, with a return along the north east side; joining the swale within the area of the main drive to the house. The land drain was 0.60m deep by 0.45m wide. The stratigraphy comprised a mid brown friable silt clay topsoil up to 0.15m thick overlying a natural loose mid brown clay silt brush which exceeded 0.45m thick. The land drain connected with the swale described in para 5.6, and then ran into a culvert which runs down the main driveway.

## 6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The watching brief has demonstrated a high degree of truncation within the area of the garage where the hill side has been terraced to provide level access in the past. Areas of disturbance were identified within the area of the rainwater harvesting system related to earlier services cutting across the lawn, with further evidence for landscaping around the house. Further evidence for the undated linear feature identified during the evaluation was not identified in any of the monitored groundworks. No archaeological features were identified within the monitored works suggesting a low potential for the presence of archaeology within the immediate vicinity of the house.
- 6.4 The site archive has been prepared in accordance with *MORPHE* (English Heritage 2006) the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archaeological Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990) and *Standards in the Museum Care of*



*Archaeological Collections* (MGC 1994). It is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology and will be deposited with Corinium Museum within 12 months.

## **7 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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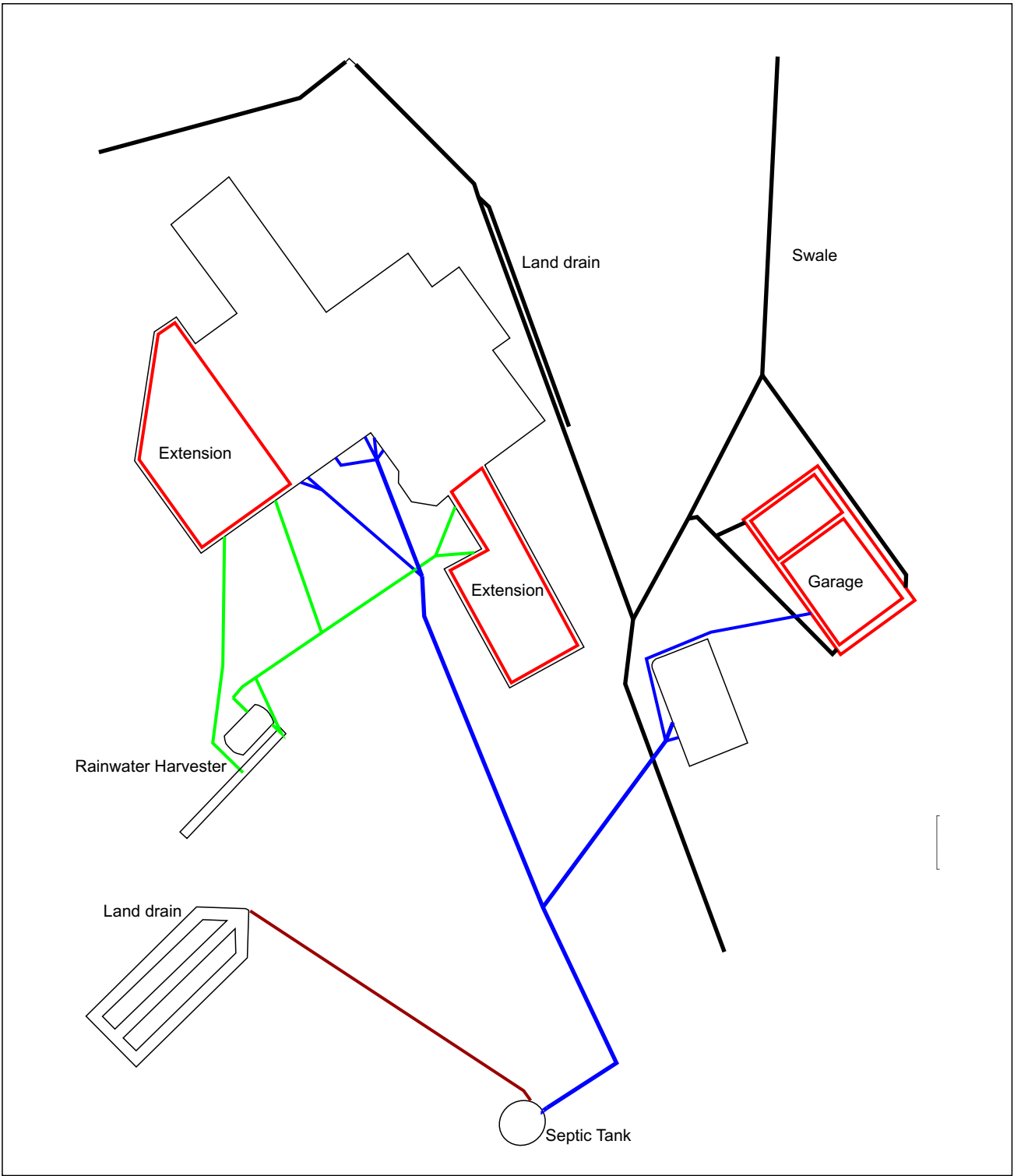
## **8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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<p><b>Site Code: SAH09wb</b>  <b>Accession Code:</b></p>	
	
	<p>Site Location</p>
<p><b>FIGURE 1: Site Location</b></p>	



Site Code: SAH09  
 Accession Code:



- FOUL WATER
- RAINWATER HARVESTING
- SURFACE WATER



**FIGURE 2: Site Plan**