

**THE COACH HOUSE,
MANOR LANE,
WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE,
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

NGR: ST 7607 9343

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Quality Assurance

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Date

Approved

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Report No. 454

October 2005

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SUMMARY

Site Name: The Coach House, Manor Lane, Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire

Grid Reference: ST 7607 9343

Planning Reference: S04/1523/FUL and S04/2111/FUL

Site Activity: Archaeological Watching Brief

Date and Duration of Project: 1st-2nd June 2005

Project Manager: Roy King

Site Supervisor: Barry Devon

AMS Site Code: TCH05

Summary of Results: The archaeological works comprised the monitoring of the groundworks associated with alterations and extension to The Coach House. The work was commissioned by Moira Buist.

No archaeological finds or 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.

CBM

Ceramic Building Material.

Medieval

The period between *circa* AD 1066 and 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

Post Medieval

The period after AD 1500.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On June 1st and 2nd 2005, Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording on land at The Coach House, Manor Lane, Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire at NGR: ST 7607 9343 (Figure 1). The work was commissioned by Moira Buist.
- 1.2 The project involved the observation of the groundworks associated with alterations and extension to The Coach 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 Gloucestershire County Council and Stroud District Council.
- 1.3 The works were undertaken in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Foundations Archaeology (2005) in response to a brief issued by Gloucestershire County Council (2004). 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 This report constitutes the results of the archaeological monitoring.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The works covered by this project were undertaken as part of a planning application for extensions and enlargement of a conservatory at The Coach House, Manor Lane, Wotton-under-Edge (Planning refs S04/1523/FUL and S04/2111/FUL). A condition was attached to the planning permission, which required that an archaeological watching brief should take place during all intrusive ground works.
- 2.2 The site is located within the medieval settlement area of Wotton-under-Edge and the site therefore contained the potential for significant archaeological deposits. As a result the County Archaeologist recommended the monitoring of all groundworks required for the development.
- 2.3 The base geology consisted of yellow brown 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 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 groundworks comprised the excavation of a series of strip foundation trenches measuring 0.9m in width by 1m in depth. The footings were excavated 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.
- 4.3 Any significant archaeological deposits and/or features within the study area were to be manually cleaned and investigated in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation.

5 RESULTS

- 5.1 The foundation trenches revealed natural deposits of yellow brown clay at an average depth of 0.69m from the existing ground level.
- 5.2 In the foundation trenches for the new porch (A), the stratigraphy consisted of natural clays beneath a light brown silty clay subsoil (102). In the northwest facing section the subsoil was overlain by a mid brown silty topsoil (101) up to 0.60m thick. In the southwest facing section the topsoil had been removed and replaced with a layer of made ground comprising brick and unfaced stone blocks

- in a silty clay matrix (104). The uppermost layer in both sections comprised a layer of gravel hardstanding (100) up to 0.18m thick.
- 5.3 In the foundation trenches for the conservatory (B), the stratigraphy consisted of natural clays beneath a mid grey brown silty clay subsoil (201) up to 0.36m thick. In the northeast facing section, however, the subsoil had been removed and replaced with a layer of made ground (203) up to 0.6m thick and identical to that present in the porch foundations. The uppermost layer throughout this area consisted of a dark brown clay loam with turf (200), up to 0.34m thick.
- 5.4 In the foundation trenches which linked the barn/garage to the existing house (C) the stratigraphy consisted of natural clays beneath a mid brown silty clay subsoil (302) up to 0.30m thick. Within the barn/garage, the subsoil was sealed beneath a layer of gravel hardcore (301) up to 0.20m thick, which supported the brick floor (300) to the building. Externally the subsoil was sealed beneath a layer of mid brown silty clay (306) up to 0.35m thick beneath a layer of gravel and brick hardcore (305) up to 0.10m thick. The hardcore was itself sealed beneath a layer of gravel hardstanding (304).
- 5.5 No archaeologically significant finds or features were identified during the course of the watching brief.

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The results of the watching brief have indicated that the site appears to contain limited potential for archaeological deposits. The presence of an intact subsoil overlying the natural clays indicates that area around the house may have suffered relatively little disturbance. In areas immediately adjacent to the house, however, the subsoil had been replaced with a layer of rubble, which probably represents a platform beneath the house.
- 6.2 No archaeologically significant finds or features were identified during the course of the watching brief.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Gloucestershire County Council 2004 *The Coach House, Manor Lane, Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire: erection of extension/enlargement of conservatory*

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

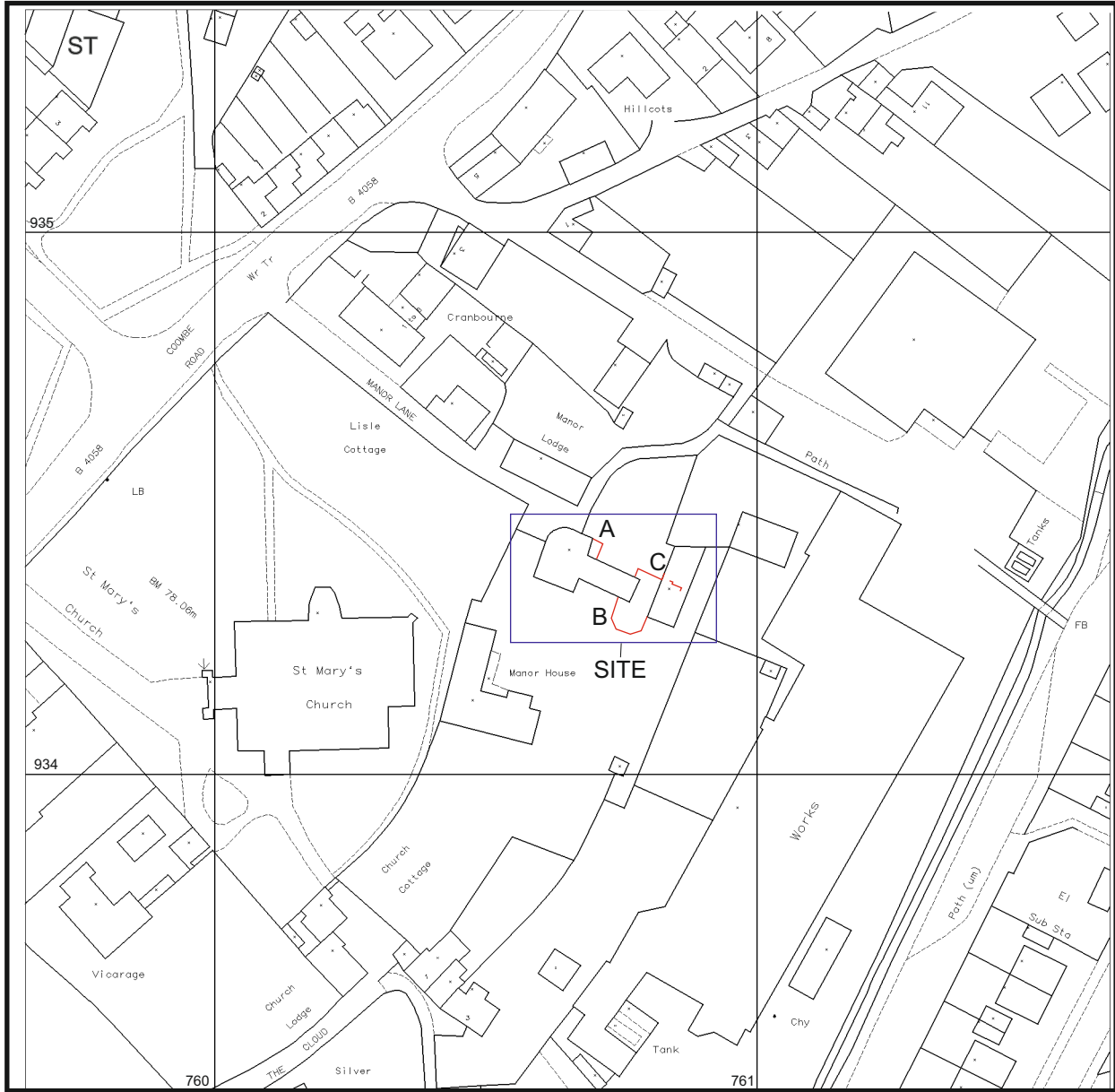
8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Foundations Archaeology would like to thank Mr & Mrs Lees, J Martin Ryder, Melanie Latham and the Gloucestershire County Council Archaeologist, Charles Parry for their help and co-operation during the course of the project.



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FIGURE 1: Site Location



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SCALE 1:1250

FIGURE 2: Study Area Showing Location of Watching Brief Areas