

**Dormers  
9 St Martin's Lane  
Marshfield  
South Gloucestershire**

*Archaeological Watching Brief*

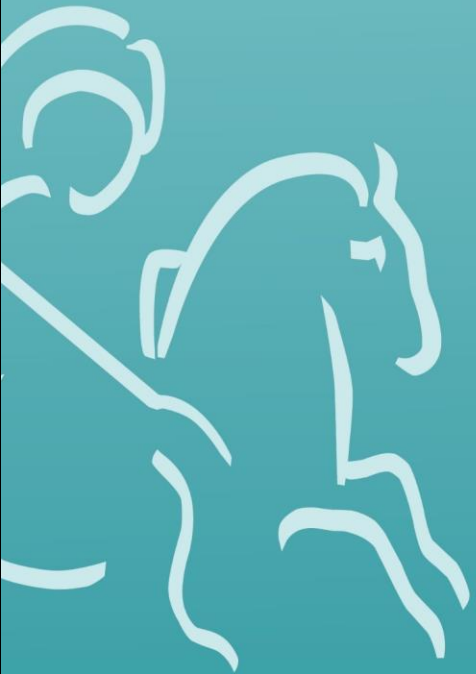


*for:*  
CaSA Architects Ltd

*on behalf of:*  
Anthony Nowlan & Emma Firman

CA Project: CR0891  
CA Report: CR0891\_1

October 2022



# Dormers 9 St Martin's Lane Marshfield South Gloucestershire

## *Archaeological Watching Brief*

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A	1 November 2022	Christian Day	Monica Fombellida	Draft	-	Alex Thomson

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Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)

Fig. 2 The site, showing monitored groundworks (1:500)

Fig. 3 Photographs

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## SUMMARY

**Project name:** Dormers, 9 St Martin's Lane  
**Location:** Marshfield, South Gloucestershire  
**NGR:** 377603 173682  
**Type:** Watching brief  
**Date:** 24 March – 30 August 2022  
**Planning reference:** South Gloucestershire Council ref: P21/02161/F  
**Location of Archive:** To be deposited with Bristol Museums, Galleries and Archives

In March and August 2022, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with a residential development at Dormers, 9 St Martin's Lane, Marshfield, South Gloucestershire.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed, and no artefactual material was recovered.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Between March and August 2022, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Dormers, 9 St Martin's Lane, Marshfield, South Gloucestershire (centred at NGR: 377603 173682; Fig. 1). This watching brief was undertaken for CaSA Architects Ltd, who were acting on behalf of Anthony Nowlan & Emma Firman.
- 1.2. South Gloucestershire Council (SGC) has granted planning permission for the demolition of an existing dwelling and outbuildings, and the erection of a dwelling, a garage and associated works (SGC planning ref: P21/02161/F). Condition 5 of this planning permission requires the implementation of a programme of archaeological watching brief, undertaken in accordance with an approved WSI.
- 1.3. The scope of this watching brief was defined by Dr Paul Driscoll, Archaeology and HER Officer, SGC. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) prepared by CA (2021) and approved by Dr Driscoll.
- 1.4. The watching brief was also undertaken in line with *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014; updated October 2020), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* (Historic England 2015).

### The site

- 1.5. The development site is c. 650m<sup>2</sup> in extent. It lies on the eastern side of St Martin's Lane, on the western edge of the village of Marshfield. The site currently comprises three buildings (now demolished) and a garden, with a lane providing access onto St Martin's Lane to the west. The site lies at approximately 190m AOD, with the ground level dropping away to c. 185m AOD to the south.
- 1.6. The underlying bedrock geology of the site is mapped as limestone of the Chalfield Oolite Formation, which formed in the Jurassic Period; no superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2021). The natural substrate was not recorded during the course of the watching brief.

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## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The site has not been subject to any previous archaeological assessment or archaeological works. This section provides a summary from publicly available heritage resources pertaining to the site and its vicinity.
- 2.2. The Fosse Way, constructed during the Early Roman period, forms part of the eastern boundary of the parish of Marshfield. Marshfield lay within the sphere of influence of *Aquae Sulis* (Bath) with direct communication along the Fosse Way. A settlement may have developed in the parish of Marshfield during this period, but only a few scattered remains have been recorded.
- 2.3. No evidence of Roman activity has been recorded within the site itself. A probable Roman villa site is recorded at Ringswell Common (HE List Entry No: 204927), c. 1km to the south-east of the site. The site was partially excavated by Bristol University in 1987, revealing remains of a small building and a boundary wall. Additionally, a findspot of Roman pottery sherds (South Gloucestershire HER ref: 3879) was recorded during building works at Chippenham Road in 1960, c. 250m to the north-east of the site.
- 2.4. No evidence of medieval activity has been recorded within the site itself, although Marshfield has origins in the Anglo-Saxon period. A settlement is recorded around the current location of Marshfield in the Domesday Book of 1086; however, the exact location of the site is uncertain.
- 2.5. The Abbot of Keynsham was granted 'a fair and market' at Marshfield in 1265, which suggest that the medieval town was planned at this time, with burgage plots being laid out along the High Street. Marshfield was considered by 1334 the fourth most prosperous town in the county, after Bristol, Gloucester and Cirencester (La Trobe-Bateman 1996, 3).
- 2.6. The cultivation of barley was important for the economic prosperity of Marshfield from the 13th to 15th centuries; barley was mostly grown for malting. The early development of Marshfield as a malting centre probably occurred because of the high quality of the barley that could be grown in the shallow soils of the southern Cotswold uplands.

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- 2.7. The malting industry prospered greatly in the post-medieval period; however, by the 18th century malting appears to have been in decline. Kilns associated with malting activity were recorded at nos. 71 and 78 High Street, c. 240m to the north-east of the site. A building recorded as a probable malthouse was identified at the back of 78 High Street (La Trobe-Bateman 1996, 20).
- 2.8. The industrial revolution passed Marshfield by, with the commercial life of the town based around smithies, timber yards and hat making. Most of these industries have left little archaeological trace. Three smithies are shown on the First Edition 1882 Ordnance Survey (OS) map. The clearest evidence for the survival of an outbuilding associated with a smithy is located at the rear of number 1 and 3 Sheep Fair Lane (*ibid.*), c. 250m to the north-east of the site.
- 2.9. The 1841 Tithe map shows the site divided into two plots (plots 44, to the north, and 43, to the south), with a small building depicted toward the western part of plot 44. The layout of the site had changed by the late 19th century, with the southern part of the site depicted on the 1882 OS map as an open field with a footpath crossing it on a north/south alignment. A small building is also shown towards the north-western edge of the plot.
- 2.10. An archaeological evaluation undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology (CA 2019) at Church Lane, Marshfield, c. 550m to the east of the site, identified no features or deposits of archaeological interest.

### 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. The general objectives of the watching brief were:
- to monitor the development groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record any significant buried archaeological deposits/features thus revealed;
  - at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated project archive and a report setting out the watching brief results and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.
- 3.2. The specific objective of the watching brief was to investigate and record any remains associated with the nearby Roman, medieval, and post-medieval activity that may have been exposed by the development groundworks.



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## 4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1. The watching brief comprised the observation by a competent archaeologist of all intrusive groundworks associated with the proposed development, which included the removal of modern surfacing, ground reduction and levelling (Fig. 2).
- 4.2. Records were maintained in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3. Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*, but no deposits were identified that required sampling.
- 4.4. CA will make arrangements with Bristol Museums, Galleries and Archives for the deposition of the project archive. The archive will be prepared and deposited in accordance with *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (ClfA 2014; updated October 2020).
- 4.5. A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## 5. RESULTS

- 5.1. This section provides an overview of the watching brief results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are given in Appendix A.
- 5.2. The natural substrate was not encountered during the monitored groundworks. The earliest layer recorded was made ground deposit 103 which was recorded to a maximum depth of 0.85m below present ground level and continued beyond the limit of excavation.
- 5.3. Made ground 103 was overlain by concrete wall footings 100 within the southern part of the site, which measured 0.7m in thickness and were related to the recently demolished dwelling, an associated concrete slab 102 to the north, which measured 0.1m in thickness, and 0.6m of modern garden soil 101 elsewhere.



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## 6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1. Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see *Archaeological Background*, above), the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks.
- 6.2. The absence of archaeological deposits may be the result of modern truncation within the site, associated with the construction of the former dwelling, or due to the fact that the depth of the observed groundworks did not exceed the level of the previous disturbance or expose the natural substrate.

## 7. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 7.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Sara-Jayne Boughton and Noel Boothroyd. This report was written by Christian Day. The report illustrations were prepared by Ryan Wilson. The project archive has been compiled by Noel Boothroyd and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Monica Fombellida.

## 8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2021 *BGS Geology Viewer*

<https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/bgs-geology-viewer/> Accessed 29 October 2021

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2019 *Land Adjacent to The Manor, Church Lane, Marshfield, South Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation*. CA typescript report **18744**

CA 2021 *Dormers, 9 St Martin's Lane, Marshfield, S. Glos: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

La Trobe-Bateman, E. 1996 *Avon Extensive Urban Areas Survey 1996 Marshfield*, South Gloucestershire Council

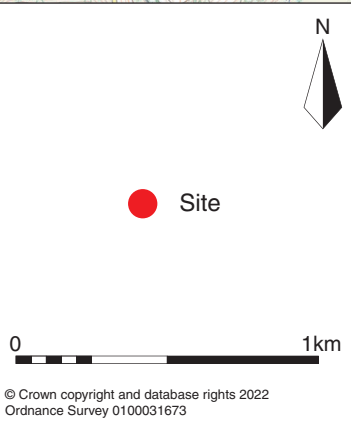
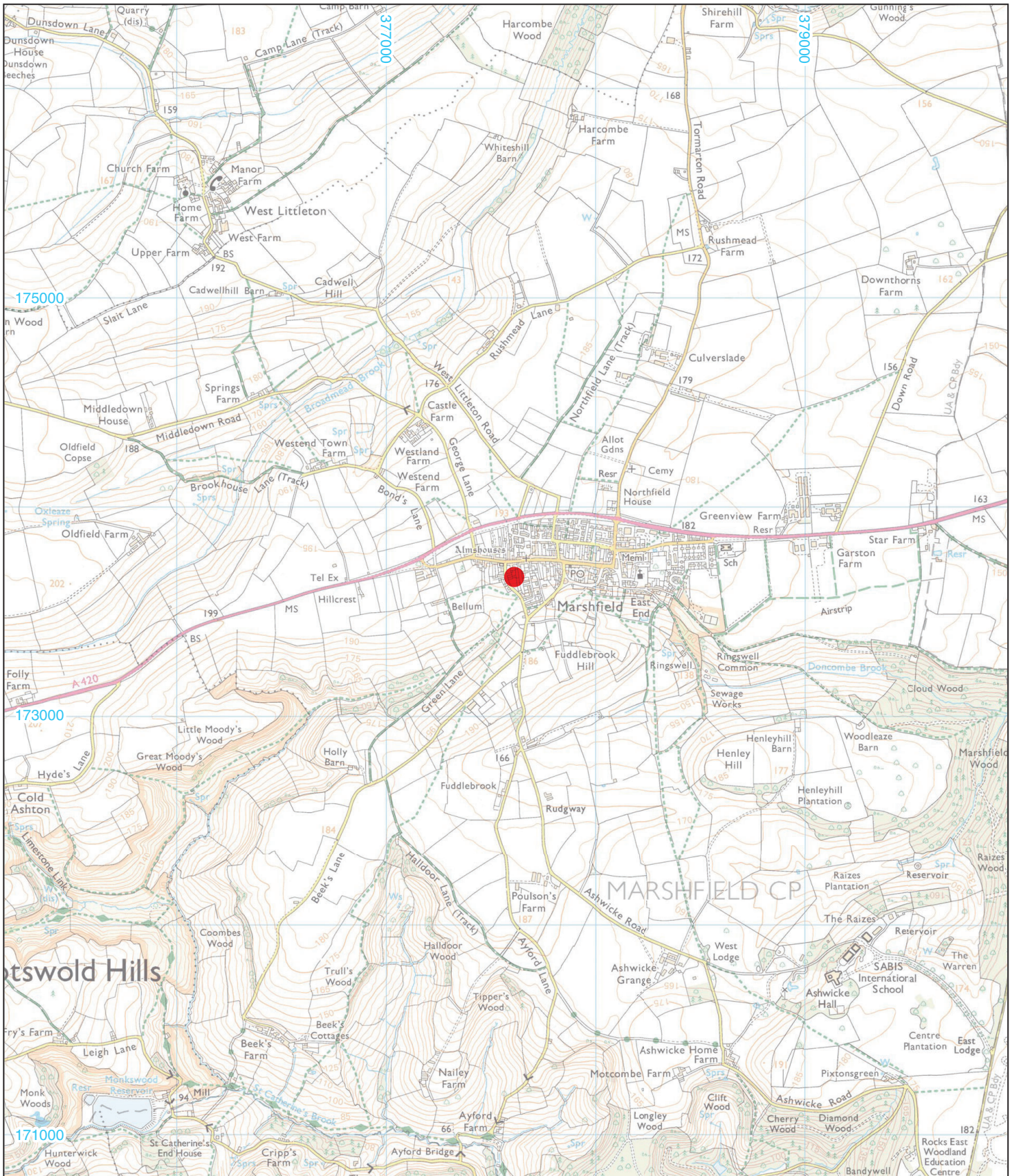
## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Area	Context No.	Type	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
1	100	Structure	Concrete footings	Concrete footings for recently demolished house	15.5	9	0.70
1	101	Layer	Garden soil	Dark greyish brown silt, loose	>15	>11	0.60
1	102	Structure	Concrete slab	Concrete slab/hardstanding for vehicular access to demolished house	18	15	0.10
1	103	Layer	Made ground	Modern made ground / bedding for 102 and surround of 100	33.5	15	>0.85

## APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Dormers, 9 St Martin's Lane, Marshfield, South Gloucestershire	
Short description	<p>In March and August 2022, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with residential development at Dormers, 9 St Martin's Lane, Marshfield, South Gloucestershire.</p> <p>No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed, and no artefactual material was recovered.</p>	
Project dates	24 March – 30 August 2022	
Project type	Archaeological Watching Brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	9 St Martin's Lane, Marshfield, South Gloucestershire	
Study area (m <sup>2</sup> /ha)	650m <sup>2</sup>	
Site co-ordinates	377603 173682	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator	N/A	
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Monica Fombellida	
Project Supervisor	Sara-Jayne Boughton and Noel Boothroyd	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Paper	Bristol Museums, Galleries and Archives	Fieldwork recording sheets
Digital	Bristol Museums, Galleries and Archives	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2022 <i>Dormers, 9 St Martin's Lane, Marshfield, South Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> CA typescript report <b>CR0891_1</b>		





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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Dormers, 9 St Martin's Lane, Marshfield,  
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**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan

<b>DRAWN BY</b>	<b>RW</b>	<b>PROJECT NO.</b>	<b>CR0891</b>	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
<b>CHECKED BY</b>	<b>DJB</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>26/10/2022</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>APPROVED BY</b>	<b>MF</b>	<b>SCALE@A4</b>	<b>1:25,000</b>	

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- Site boundary
- Monitored groundworks



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Dormers, 9 St Martin's Lane, Marshfield,  
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**FIGURE TITLE**  
 The site, showing monitored  
 groundworks

<small>DRAWN BY</small> RW	<small>PROJECT NO.</small> CR0891	<small>FIGURE NO.</small>
<small>CHECKED BY</small> DJB	<small>DATE</small> 26/10/2022	<b>2</b>
<small>APPROVED BY</small> MF	<small>SCALE@A3</small> 1:500	





Layer 103, following removal of concrete slab 102, looking east (1m scales)



The site, looking south



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PROJECT TITLE

Dormers, 9 St Martin's Lane, Marshfield,  
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FIGURE TITLE

**Photographs**

DRAWN BY RW PROJECT NO. CR0891  
 CHECKED BY DJB DATE 26/10/2022  
 APPROVED BY MF SCALE@A4 NA

FIGURE NO.

**3**

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