

**HOTEL DE LA BERE  
SOUTHAM  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

*For*

**SHETLAND HOTELS LTD**


CA PROJECT: 2936  
CA REPORT: 11021

FEBRUARY 2011

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SOUTHAM  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

CA PROJECT: 2936  
CA REPORT: 11021

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date	11 February 2011
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date	14 February 2011
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signed	
date	21 February 2011
issue	01

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## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	Hotel de la Bere
<b>Location:</b>	Southam, Gloucestershire
<b>NGR:</b>	SO 9723 2535
<b>Type:</b>	Watching Brief
<b>Date:</b>	13 October 2009 to 11 March 2010
<b>Planning Reference:</b>	08/01590/FUL
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum
<b>Site Code:</b>	EBP 09

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the excavation of trenches for the construction of column bases within the existing building and the excavation of foundation trenches at the Hotel de la Bere, Southam, Gloucestershire.

The earliest deposits encountered comprised post-medieval/modern make-up/levelling layers. A number of structures, comprising wall foundations and culverts/drains, were also identified in these trenches and appeared to cut through, or were built upon these deposits. In all likelihood these structures relate to either the 19th-century expansion or 20th-century modernisation of the Hotel de la Bere building.

No other features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In January 2011 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Shetland Hotels Ltd at Hotel De La Bere (centred on NGR: SO 9723 2535; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent granted by Tewkesbury Borough Council (TBC) for the removal of squash courts, swimming pool complex and ancillary modern buildings/extensions and restoration of existing buildings with new build health spa centre and quest accommodation (TBC ref: 08/01590/FUL). The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the development.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Recording* (GCC 2009) prepared by Charles Parry, Senior Archaeological Officer, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) and with a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2009) and approved by Mr Parry. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008), the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Gloucestershire* (GCC 1995), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006).
- The site**
- 1.3 The site is approximately 3.25ha in area and comprises the existing buildings and grounds of the Hotel de la Bere. The site is bounded to the north, south and west by farmland and to the east by the B4632.
- 1.4 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Charmouth Mudstone formation (BGS 2011). The natural substrate was encountered in all groundworks excavations and comprised compact yellow grey clay with occasional gravel patches.

### **Archaeological background**

- 1.5 The Hotel de la Bere is one of the largest Tudor houses in Gloucestershire, and is Grade II\* listed. Construction of this building began around 1500, for Thomas Goodman. The estate was sold to Sir John Huddleston soon afterwards; the house was completed by his son, also Sir John, in the mid sixteenth century. It was bought by Lord Ellenborough, Governor General of India in 1831; the construction of his additions to the house lasted until 1844 or soon thereafter. The building became a hotel in 1973. It is suspected that the original Tudor house would have had a number of associated ancillary structures. Therefore, groundworks required for the development may have revealed significant archaeological deposits and/or finds relating to medieval settlement and activity on the site.

### **Methodology**

- 1.6 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2009). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising the excavation of eight pits (T1-8) for the construction of column bases within the existing building and the excavation of foundation trenches (Areas A and B; Fig. 2).
- 1.7 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.8 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. The site archive will be deposited with Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum under accession number CAGM 2011.19. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## **2. RESULTS**

- 2.1 The natural geological substrate consisting of compact yellow grey clay, was revealed at between 0.2m and 1.1m below present ground level. In areas A and B this was sealed by topsoil measuring c. 0.25m in thickness. The earliest archaeological deposits encountered in trenches 1-8 comprised post-medieval/modern make-up/levelling layers that sealed the natural substrate. A number of structures, comprising wall foundations and culverts/drains, were also identified in these trenches and these appeared to cut through, or were built upon these deposits (Fig. 3). In all likelihood these structures relate to the 19th or 20th-century expansion/modernisation of the Hotel de al Bere building.
- 2.2 No other features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

## **3. DISCUSSION**

- 3.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see archaeological background above), the watching brief identified no archaeological remains pre-dating the post-medieval/modern period within the area of observed groundworks. The absence of archaeological deposits may indicate that potential structural remains associated with the original Tudor house and its associated ancillary structures either do not extend as far as or were not exposed by the development, or that they may have been removed during previous development associated with the expansion or modernisation of the building during its use as either a private residence or hotel.

## **4. CA PROJECT TEAM**

Fieldwork was undertaken by Alistair Barber, Martin Harrington, Tim Havard, Stuart Joyce, Hazel O'Neill, Sian Reynish and Alexandra Wilkinson. The report was written by Steven Sheldon. The illustrations were prepared by Peter Moore. The archive has been compiled by Steven Sheldon, and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

## 5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2010 Geology of Britain Viewer [http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology\\_viewer\\_google/googleviewer.html](http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html) (accessed 24 January 2011)

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009 *Hotel De La Bere, Southam, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

GCC (Gloucestershire County Council) 2009 *Hotel de la Bere, Southam, Gloucestershire: Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Recording*



**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

## Trench 1

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Concrete floor	>2	>2	0.2	
101	Layer	Hardcore bedding below 100	>2	>2	0.15	
102	Layer	Make-up/levelling layer	>2	>2	0.4	
103	Layer	Natural substrate: yellow grey clay	>2	>2	>0.1	
104	Cut	E/W service trench	>2	0.45	0.8	
105	Fill	Ceramic pipe: fill of 104	>2	0.45	0.8	
106	Wall	Limestone wall footings	>2	>0.5	0.2	

## Trench 2

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
200	Layer	Concrete floor	>2	>2	0.2	
201	Layer	Hardcore bedding below 100	>2	>2	0.1	
202	Layer	Make-up/levelling deposit	>2	>2	0.25	
203	Layer	Natural substrate: yellow grey clay	>2	>2	>0.25	
204	Wall	Limestone wall footings	>2	>0.2	>0.2	
205	Cut	E/W drain	>2	0.6	0.2	
206	Fill	Fill of 205: ceramic pipe	>2	0.6	0.2	

## Trench 3

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
300	Layer	Wooden flooring	>2	>2	0.05	
301	Layer	Make-up/levelling deposit	>2	>2	0.15	
302	Layer	Natural substrate: yellow grey clay	>2	>2	>0.1	
303	Wall	Limestone wall footings	>2	0.1	0.5	
304	Wall	Upstanding wall of hotel	>2	>2	N/A	
305	Cut	N/S drain	>0.5	0.15	0.2	
306	Fill	Fill of 305: ceramic pipe:	>0.5	0.15	0.2	

## Trench 4

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
400	Layer	Concrete floor	>2	>2	0.2	
401	Wall	Limestone wall footing	>2	0.7	0.8	
402	Layer	Make-up/levelling deposit	>2	>2	0.5	
403	Cut	Cut of modern service	N/A	N/A	0.8	
404	Fill	Fill of 403: yellow sand	N/A	N/A	0.8	
405	Layer	Make-up/levelling layer	>2	1.8	0.2	
406	Layer	Natural substrate: yellow grey clay	>2	>2	LOE	

## Trench 5

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
500	Layer	Concrete floor	>2	>2	0.06	
501	Layer	Make-up/levelling layer	>2	>2	0.59	
502	Layer	Natural substrate: yellow grey clay	>2	>2	0.55	

503	Cut	Construction cut for inspection chamber	0.86	0.78	0.64	
504	Fill	1st fill of 503: red brick inspection chamber	0.58	0.7	0.86	
505	Fill	2nd fill of 503: yellow sand around 504	0.86	0.78	0.64	

## Trench 6

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
600	Layer	Concrete floor	>2	>2	0.06	
601	Layer	Bedding below 600	>2	>2	0.14	
602	Layer	Make-up/levelling layer	>2	>2	0.6	
603	Layer	Natural substrate: yellow grey clay	>2	>2	>0.4	
604	Cut	Construction cut for stone culvert/drain	>2	>0.26	0.46	
605	Fill	Fill of 604: limestone block culvert/drain	>2	>0.26	0.46	

## Trench 7

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
700	Layer	Concrete floor	>2	>2	0.06	
701	Layer	Bedding below 700	>2	>2	0.24	
702	Layer	Make-up/levelling layer	>2	>2	0.5	
703	Layer	Natural substrate: yellow grey clay	>2	>2	0.45	
704	Cut	Construction cut for stone culvert/drain	>2	>0.02	0.5	
705	Fill	Fill of 704: limestone block culvert/drain	>2	>0.02	0.5	

## Trench 8

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
800	Layer	Concrete floor	>2	>2	0.06	
801	Layer	Bedding below 800	>2	>2	0.19	
802	Layer	Make-up/levelling layer	>2	>2	0.55	
803	Cut	Construction cut for 804	>1.94	0.48	0.24	
804	Wall	Limestone wall footings	>1.94	0.48	0.24	
805	Wall	Upstanding internal wall of hotel	N/A	N/A	N/A	

## Area A

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
900	Layer	Topsoil			0.25	
901	Layer	Natural substrate: yellow grey clay			LOE	

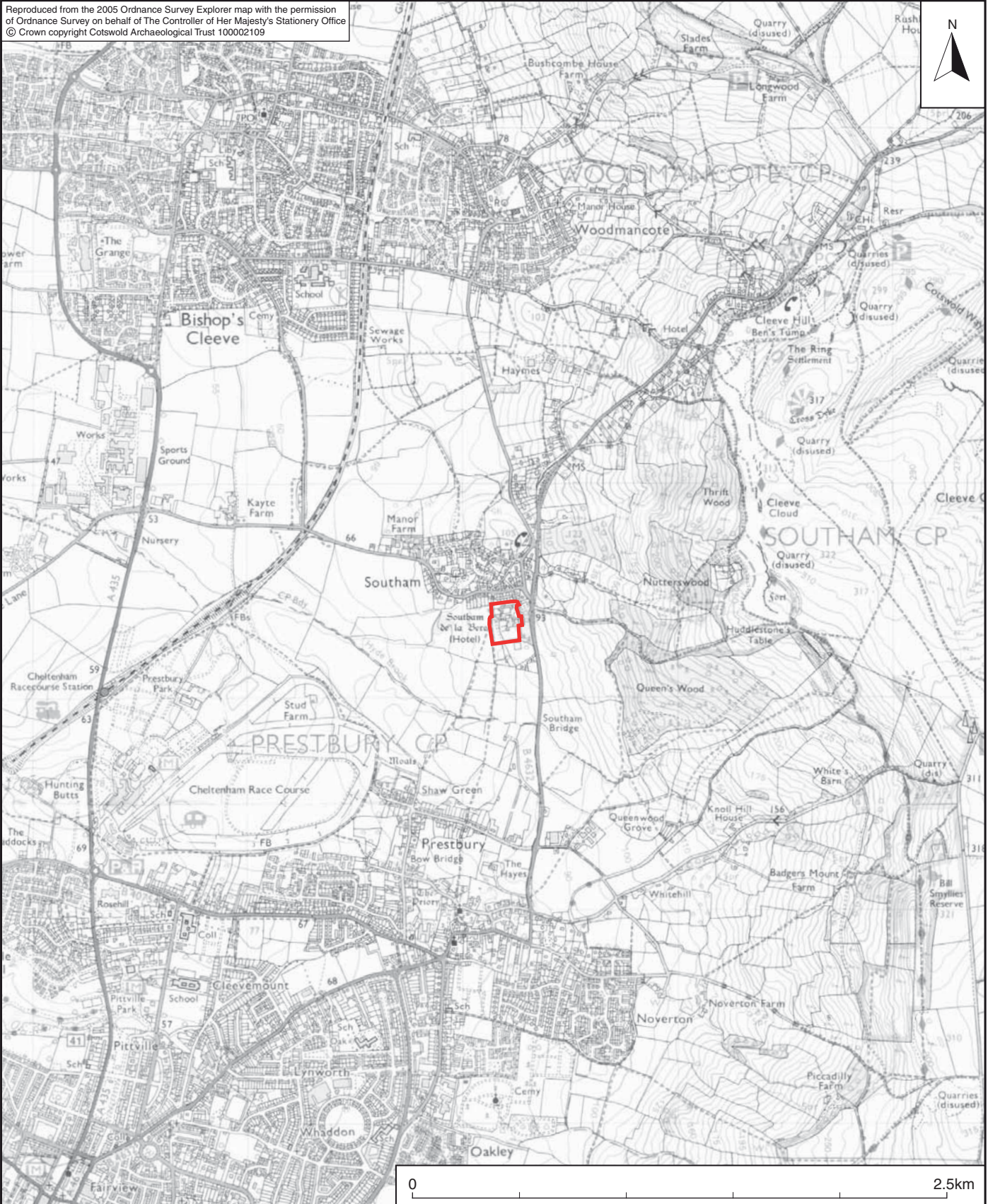
## Area B

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1000	Layer	Topsoil			0.25	
1001	Layer	Natural substrate: yellow grey clay			LOE	

## APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Hotel De La Bere, Southam, Gloucestershire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the excavation of trenches for the construction of column bases within the existing building and the excavation of foundation trenches at the Hotel de la Bere, Southam, Gloucestershire.</p> <p>The earliest deposits encountered comprised post-medieval/modern make-up/levelling layers. A number of structures, comprising wall foundations and culverts/drains, were also identified in these trenches and appeared to cut through, or were built upon these deposits. In all likelihood these structures relate to either the 19th-century expansion or 20th-century modernisation of the Hotel de al Bere building.</p> <p>No other features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.</p>	
Project dates	13 October 2009 to 11 March 2010	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	N/A	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Hotel De La Bere, Southam, Gloucestershire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	3.2ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SO 9723 2535	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Gloucestershire County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Steven Sheldon	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum (CAGM 2011.19)	Photographic registers, context sheets, trench recording forms, plan and section drawings, black and white photographs
Digital	Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum (CAGM 2011.19)	Digital photographs
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011 <i>Hotel De La Bere, Southam, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report <b>11021</b>		

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 **COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

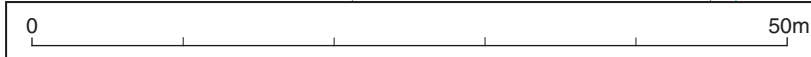
**PROJECT TITLE**  
Hotel de la Bere, Southam  
Gloucestershire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
**Site location plan**

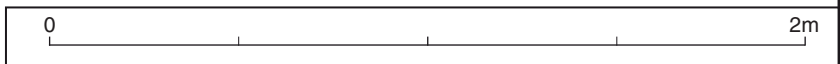
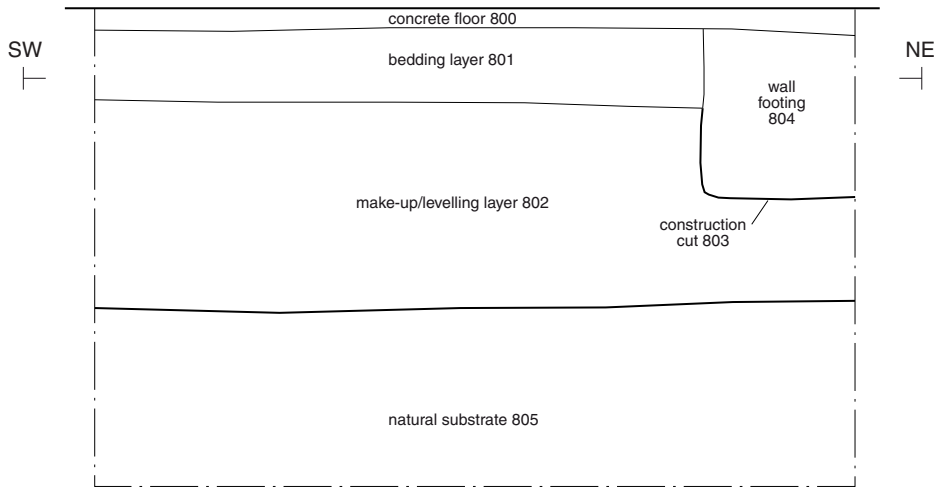
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■ observed groundworks



Section AA



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

Hotel de la Bere, Southam  
Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

**Trench 8: Section**

DRAWN BY

PJM

SCALE

1:20@A4

PROJECT NO.

2936

FIGURE NO.

**3**