

**WINTERBOURNE HOUSE
BERWICK BASSETT
WILTSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

For

TONY ILES


CA PROJECT: 2517
CA REPORT: 09018

FEBRUARY 2009

WINTERBOURNE HOUSE
BERWICK BASSETT
WILTSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

CA PROJECT: 2517
CA REPORT: 09018

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date	4 February 2009
checked by	Richard Young, Project Manager
date	9 February 2009
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signed	
date	9 February 2009
issue	01

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CONTENTS

SUMMARY2

1. INTRODUCTION.....3

2. RESULTS (FIG. 2)4

3. DISCUSSION.....5

4. CA PROJECT TEAM.....5

5. REFERENCES.....6

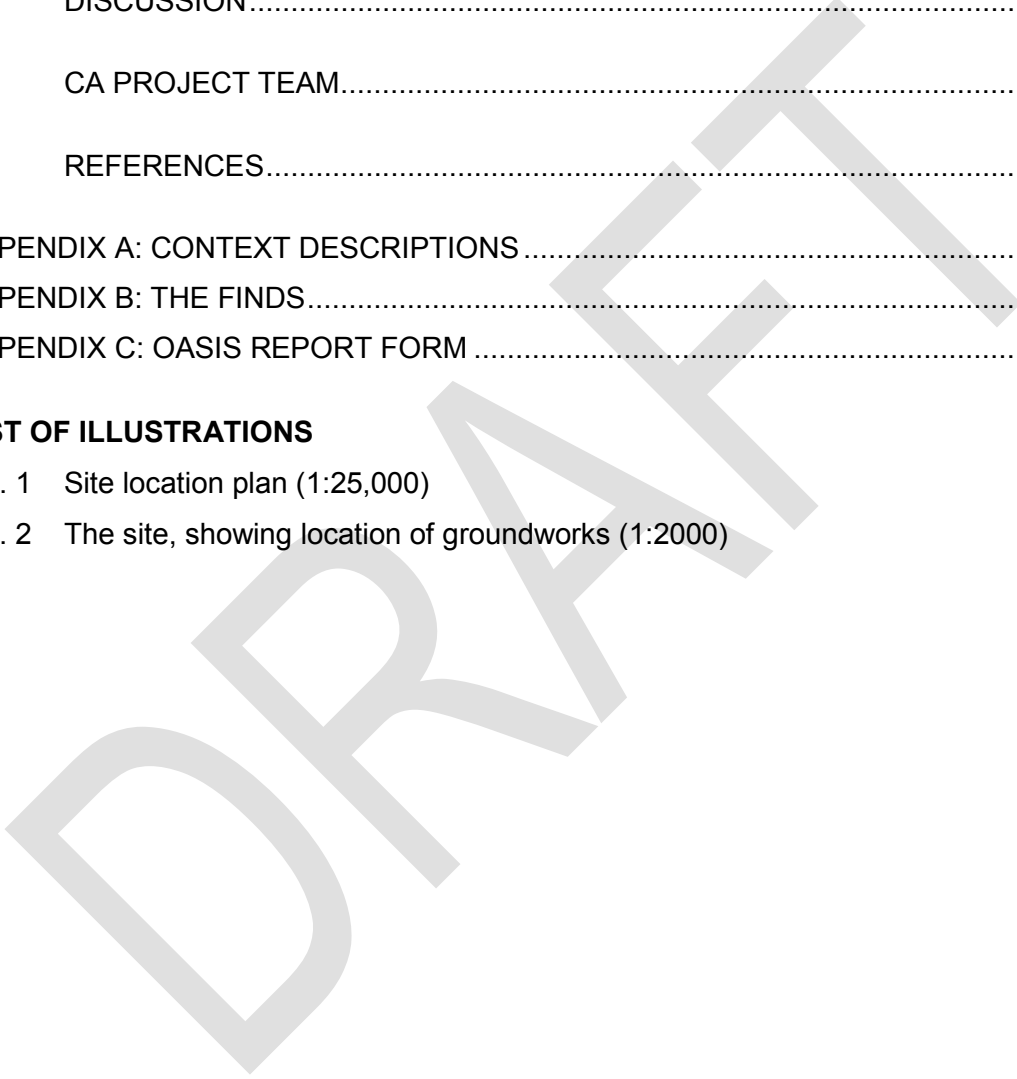
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS7

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS.....8

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM9

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
- Fig. 2 The site, showing location of groundworks (1:2000)



SUMMARY

Project Name: Winterbourne House
Location: Berwick Bassett, Wiltshire
NGR: SU 0990 7290
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 21–22 February, 22 December 2008
Planning Reference: K/57696/F
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Devizes
Site Code: WHB08

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the excavation of foundations for a new agricultural building and associated driveway, and the construction of a pond at Winterbourne House, Berwick Bassett, Wiltshire.

An undated ditch was identified running east-west across the location of the new agricultural building. No other features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the groundworks. Two fragments of pottery dating to the Roman period were recovered from the subsoil, no other artefactual material was recovered.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In February and December 2008 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Mr Tony Iles at Winterbourne House, Berwick Bassett, Wiltshire (centred on NGR: SU 0990 7290; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent for the excavation of foundations for a new agricultural building and associated driveway and the construction of a pond (Planning ref: K/57696/F). The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the development.
- 1.2 The archaeological fieldwork was carried out in accordance with a *brief* for archaeological recording (Wiltshire County Council 2007) prepared by Sue Farr, the then Assistant Archaeologist, Wiltshire County Council (WCC), the archaeological advisor to Kennet District Council, and with a subsequent Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2008) and approved by Ms Farr and Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, County Archaeologist, WCC. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (2001), the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Wiltshire* (WCC 1995) and the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991). It was monitored by Ms Pomeroy-Kellinger, including a site visit on 21 February 2008.

The site

- 1.3 The site lies to the south of Winterbourne House on the A4361 between the villages of Berwick Bassett and Winterbourne Monkton (Fig. 2). The development comprised the excavation of foundations for a new agricultural building and associated driveway, and the construction of a pond. The site lies at approximately 160m AOD, with ground sloping up to the south and west.
- 1.4 The development area measures 30m by 20m for the building foundations, 22.50m by 8m for the driveway, whilst the area of the pond is approximately 25m in diameter.
- 1.5 The underlying geology of the area is mapped as Lower Chalk of the Upper Cretaceous era to the east of the site, and valley gravels to the west (BGS 1974).

The natural substrate observed during the watching brief was a mid brown grey clay containing flint, and a light yellowish brown clay.

Archaeological background

- 1.6 Archaeological features to the south and north of Winterbourne House have been recorded from aerial photography, a number of which may relate to prehistoric field systems. In addition, Romano-British brooches and two medieval coins have been unearthed to the west of the site (WCC 2007). An archaeological watching brief had been carried out in 2007 during groundworks associated with the construction of a garage and driveway at the site (CA 2007). No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during these works.

Methodology

- 1.7 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2008). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks, comprising the excavation of foundations for a new agricultural building and associated driveway, and the construction of a pond (Fig. 2).
- 1.8 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.9 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the site archive will be deposited with Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Devizes. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS (FIG. 2)

- 2.1 In the area of groundworks associated with the construction of the building and driveway the natural geological substrate 003 was revealed at an average depth of 0.30m below present ground level (bpgl). An east-west ditch 005 was observed

cutting the natural. No dating evidence was recovered. This was overlain by subsoil and topsoil.

2.2 Two sherds of a local (North Wiltshire type) Roman reduced ware were recovered from the subsoil 002. No forms were identifiable and a broad Roman date is suggested for this material. Despite visual scanning of the spoil, no other artefactual material was recovered.

2.3 In the area of groundworks associated with the construction of the pond the natural geological substrate 101 was revealed at an average depth of 0.22m bpgl. This was overlain by topsoil.

3. DISCUSSION

3.1 The watching brief identified a single undated ditch. The lack of artefactual evidence and its location, perpendicular to the modern road and running down a slope away from it, suggests this was a drainage ditch or field boundary. This ditch also lay c.80m to the north of, and parallel to, a field boundary first shown on the 1889 OS mapping, again suggesting a comparatively modern feature. The Roman pottery found in the subsoil might suggest activity associated with this period within the vicinity of the site, although only a small number of artefacts have been recovered locally. The absence of any other archaeological deposits, and the relatively undisturbed nature of the development area, suggests that the proposed prehistoric field system and other features observed on aerial photographs, do not extend as far as the development area, or that they were not exposed during the groundworks.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Jonathan Bennett and Kelly Saunders, who also wrote this report. The illustrations were prepared by Lorna Gray. The archive has been compiled by Kelly Saunders, and prepared for deposition by Kathryn Price. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1974 *Geological Survey of Great Britain, Sheet 266, Marlborough, 1:50,000*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2007 *Winterbourne House, Berwick Bassett, Wiltshire: Archaeological Watching Brief. Report no. 07067*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008 *Winterbourne House, Berwick Bassett, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief.*

WCC (Wiltshire County Council) 2007 *Archaeological Brief: Winterbourne House, Berwick Bassett*

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Agricultural building and associated driveway

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
001	Deposit	Topsoil. Mid brown clay silt with frequent flint			0.20	
002	Deposit	Subsoil. Light brown clay silt with frequent flint			0.10	
003	Deposit	Natural Substrate. Light yellow brown clay with dark grey brown lenses, natural flint and gravel				
004	Ditch fill	Fill of 005, mid grey brown clay with flint		0.60	0.26	
005	Ditch cut	East-west ditch, steep sided, almost flat base. Undated		0.60	0.26	

Pond

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Deposit	Topsoil. Dark grey clay silt			0.22	
101	Deposit	Natural Substrate. Medium grey clay with frequent small-large flint				

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

by Teresa Gilmore

Context	Artefact type	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
002	Roman pottery; North Wiltshire type greyware	2	9	RB

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APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Winterbourne House, Berwick Bassett, Wiltshire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the excavation of foundations for a new agricultural building and associated driveway, and the construction of a pond at Winterbourne House, Berwick Bassett, Wiltshire.</p> <p>An undated ditch was identified running east-west across the location of the new agricultural building. No other features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the groundworks. Two fragments of pottery dating to the Roman period were recovered from the subsoil, no other artefactual material was recovered.</p>	
Project dates	21–22 February, 22 December 2008	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	Yes	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Winterbourne House, Berwick Bassett, Wiltshire	
Study area	c.1ha	
Site co-ordinates	SU 0990 7290	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Wiltshire County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Jonathan Bennett, Kelly Saunders	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Wiltshire Heritage Museum	Pottery
Paper	Wiltshire Heritage Museum	Proforma recording sheets, black and white and colour photographs
Digital	Wiltshire Heritage Museum	digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008 <i>Winterbourne House, Berwick Bassett, Wiltshire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . Report no. 09018		