

**Land at Ermin Street
Stratton St Margaret
Swindon**

Archaeological Watching Brief

**Bellway Homes
Wales and West Ltd**


CA Project: 3342
CA Report: 11080

May 2011

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Swindon

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CA Project: 3342
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date	19 May 2011
issue	01

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

Fig. 2 The site showing location of groundworks (1:1000)



SUMMARY

Project Name: Land at Ermin Street
Location: Stratton St Margaret, Swindon
NGR: SU 1810 8656
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 3-17 March 2011
Planning Reference: S/10/0921/SAS
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Swindon Museum
Site Code: LES 11

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of 68 dwellings and their associated infrastructure at land off Ermin Street, Stratton St Margaret, Swindon.

No 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 March 2011 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Bellway Homes Wales and West on land at Ermin Street, Stratton St Margaret, Swindon (centred on NGR: SU 1810 8656; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent granted by Swindon Borough Council (SBC) for the erection of 68 dwellings and associated groundworks (SBC ref: S/10/0921/SAS). The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the development.
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a request by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, County Archaeologist, Wiltshire Council, the archaeological advisor to SBC, and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2011) and approved by Ms Pomeroy-Kellinger. 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 Wiltshire* (Wiltshire County Council 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 bounded by Ermin Street to the east, the London to Bristol railway line to the south, housing to the west and Griffiths Close to the north (Fig. 2). The site lies between approximately 103m and 106m AOD, with a very gentle slope down to the north.
- 1.4 The development area encloses an area of approximately 0.9ha, and comprised a recently cleared industrial site.
- 1.5 The solid geology comprises Ampthill Clay and Kimmeridge Clay of the Jurassic era (BGS 2011). Redeposited clays were present but no *in situ* geological deposits were seen.

Archaeological background

- 1.6 The site is bordered to the east by Ermin Street, the Roman road from Corinium (Cirencester) to Durocornovium (Wanborough) (HER ref: SU18NE301). In 1904 a local branch of paved Roman road (HER ref: SU18NE328) was found 567m to the north-west of the site, and a Bronze bow and fan-tail brooch (HER ref: SU18NE309) was recovered c. 230m to the south-west of the site. The centre of the late medieval village of Stratton St Margaret (HER ref: SU18NE453) is approximately 450m north of the site. In AD 1086 it was known as Stratone.
- 1.7 More recently the site was occupied by buildings, other structures and hardstanding associated with a former concrete works (see Fig. 2). The concrete works appears to have been erected in the 1960s based on the Ordnance Survey mapping for the area. These structures were removed prior to the start of the current project.

Methodology

- 1.8 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2011). Site visits on 3, 8 and 17 March 2011 revealed that contractors were removing redeposited clay, crushed concrete and other modern materials and using them to level up the site by 0.5m to 1m (Fig. 2).
- 1.9 Written and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.10 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. The site archive will be deposited with Swindon Museum. 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 (FIG. 2)

- 2.1 The natural geological substrate was not encountered during the watching brief. The existing ground was made up of large amounts of redeposited material including building rubble and clay containing common small fragments of glass. Hollows in this material, where structures associated with the former concrete works had been

cut in to this material, were observed in the south-eastern corner, in the centre south and on the south-western edge of the development area (see Fig. 2).

- 2.2 Mechanical stripping, using toothless buckets, stopped before the base of these redeposited clays and rubble was reached. This material was then used to fill the hollows associated with the former structures and raise the current ground level. All further groundworks were located wholly within this made ground.
- 2.3 No 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. This modern material was not retained.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 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. This is because the groundworks were limited to the existing made ground covering the site and at no point did the groundworks expose the natural substrate. The source of the made ground is not known, but its deposition must pre-date the erection of the concrete works in the 1960s as features associated with these works cut it. However, the presence of modern material throughout these layers would suggest they were still laid down in the 20th century. It is not known if the underlying deposits were disturbed at this time.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Donald and Jamie Wright. The report was written by Jamie Wright. The illustrations were prepared by Jon Bennett. The archive has been compiled by Jamie Wright, 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* 1:50,000
http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html accessed 21
January 2011

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011 *Land at Ermin Street, Stratton St Margaret, Swindon:
Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

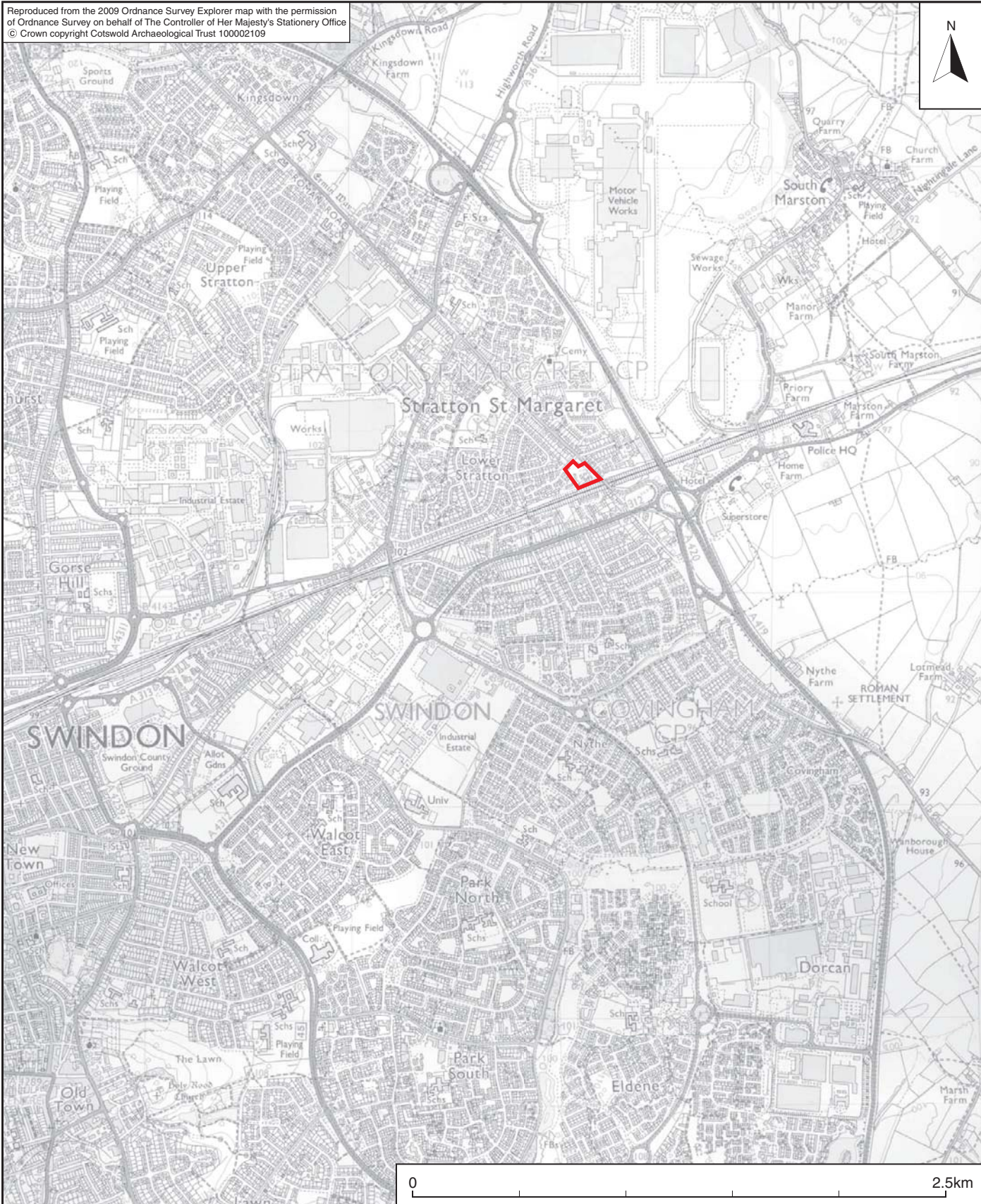


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot- date
100	Layer	Made-up ground comprising modern rubble and redeposited clay with modern glass fragments			>1m	Modern

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land at Ermin Street, Stratton St Margaret, Swindon	
Short description)	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of 68 dwellings and their associated infrastructure at land off Ermin Street, Stratton St Margaret, Swindon. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.	
Project dates	3 – 17 March 2011	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Land at Ermin Street, Stratton St Margaret , Swindon, Wiltshire	
Study area	0.9ha	
Site co-ordinates	SU 1810 8656	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Wiltshire Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Jamie Wright	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None,	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content
Physical	n/a	None
Paper	Swindon Museum	Day book
Digital	Swindon Museum	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011 <i>Land at Ermin Street, Stratton St Margaret, Swindon: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 11080		



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

Land at Ermin Street, Stratton St Margaret, Swindon

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

DRAWN BY

JB

SCALE

1:25,000@A4

PROJECT NO.

3342

FIGURE NO.

1



- site
- area of observed groundworks (with the locations of the removed structures from the concrete works shown)



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

Land at Ermin Street, Stratton St Margaret, Swindon

FIGURE TITLE

The site showing location of groundworks

DRAWN BY

JB

SCALE

1:1000@A3

PROJECT NO.

3342

FIGURE NO.

2