

**North Farm House
Shipton Oliffe
Gloucestershire**

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
Graduate Gardeners Ltd


CA Project: 3519
CA Report: 11203

November 2011

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SUMMARY

Project Name: North Farm House
Location: Shipton Oliffe, Gloucestershire
NGR: SP 04031 18918
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 3 August to 18 October 2011
Planning Reference: 11/01983/FUL
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Corinium Museum
Site Code: NFH 11

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the creation of a swimming pool, terraced area, summerhouse/changing rooms and hard tennis court at North Farm House, Shipton Oliffe, Gloucestershire.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks. Small quantities of late post-medieval to modern finds were recovered from modern deposits.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Between August and October 2011 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Graduate Gardeners Ltd at North Farm House, Shipton Oliffe, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SP 0403 1892; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent granted by Cotswold District Council (CDC) for the creation of a swimming pool, terraced area, summerhouse/changing rooms and hard tennis court (CDC Planning ref: 11/01983/FUL). 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 *brief* (GCC 2011) prepared by Charles Parry, Senior Archaeological Officer, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC), the archaeological advisor to CDC, and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2011) and approved by CDC acting on the advice of 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 Field work in Gloucestershire* (GCC 1996), 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 0.65ha in extent and lies within the garden of North Farm House. The solid geology is mapped as limestone of the Hampen Formation of the Bathonian era (BGS 2011). Limestone brash was exposed during the watching brief.

Archaeological background

- 1.4 No archaeological remains have been identified within the site, but it lies within an area of known archaeological activity. In 1994 human remains associated with Iron Age pottery were found within a pit 150m west of the site at Highfield (CAT 1995, 1). A small Roman settlement may have existed 750m north-west of the site (RCHME 1976, 101) and a Roman ditch was identified at Shipton Oliffe Manor in 2000 (CA 2000). Roman remains are also recorded in the wider vicinity, including at Wycomb, Salperton Camp (Penhill Camp) and Compton Grove Villa.

- 1.5 The village is listed in the Domesday Book (Smith 1964), and the Norman church of St Oswald lies 500m south-west of the site (Verey and Brooks 1999). Approximately 40m to the south of the site are the extensive earthworks of a former medieval settlement (GCC 2011). The extent of this settlement is currently unknown. In 2004 an undated pit was identified c. 100m to the west of the site (CA 2004).
- 1.6 North Farm House is a Grade II Listed building, dating to the early to mid 17th century.

Methodology

- 1.7 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2011). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising the creation of level areas for the swimming pool and tennis court as well as associated landscaping (Fig. 2). Trenches 1 and 2 related to the swimming pool, Trench 3 the tennis court and Trench 4 the summerhouse.
- 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 from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Corinium Museum. 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 The natural geological substrate 102, 202 and 302, consisting of limestone brash, was revealed in Trenches 1–3 at a typical depth of 0.6m below the present ground level. In Trench 3 it was overlain by modern make-up 303, which included brick and wood fragments and in Trenches 1 and 2 by the subsoil. Trench 4 was only excavated to the top of the subsoil. The latest deposit in each trench was the topsoil. Late post-medieval to modern finds were recovered from the topsoil and subsoil deposits, and from make-up 303 (Appendix 3).

The Finds

- 2.2 The finds assemblage from the watching brief is summarised in Appendix B. The pottery assemblage consisted of 10 sherds (105g) recovered from topsoil and subsoil deposits, and from make-up layer 303. It is dominated by post-medieval earthenwares with orange fabrics (9 sherds), the majority finished with a translucent lead glaze, occasionally with an iron-rich slip or copper speckled, and dateable to the 17th to 18th centuries. The remaining sherd is from a refined whiteware plate of 19th-century date with blue 'Willow Ware' type decoration.
- 2.3 The remaining finds comprised brick and drain fragments, vessel and window glass shards, a horseshoe, an iron ring and a bucket fitting, all of which date to the 19th to 20th centuries. Due to the low significance of the finds assemblage, all will be discarded.

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. The absence of archaeological deposits may indicate that the former medieval settlement does not extend as far as the site, although the results might equally reflect the limited extent of the groundworks.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Jonathan Hart, Sian Reynish and Alexandra Wilkinson. The report was written by Alexandra Wilkinson and Jonathan Hart. The illustrations were prepared by Jon Bennett. The archive has been compiled by Alexandra Wilkinson, and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.



5. REFERENCES

- BGS (British Geological Survey) 2011 Geology of Britain Viewer
http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html
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- Smith, A. H. 1964 *The Place Names of Gloucestershire: Part 1 The River- and Road- Names of the Cotswolds*. English Place-Name Society Vol. XXXVIII 1960-1. Cambridge.
- Verey, D., and Brooks, A. 1999 *Gloucestershire I: The Cotswolds*. The Buildings of England. 607-8.

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Topsoil and Turf: Dark greyish brown clayey silt, friable with moderate angular limestones and sparse brick			0.26	C18 - ?C19
101	Layer	Subsoil: Mid yellowish brown clayey silt, friable with abundant angular limestone and rare pottery inclusions			0.39	C17 - ?C19
102	Layer	Natural Substrate: Light yellowish brown clayey silt within a limestone brash				

Trench 2

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
200	Layer	Topsoil and Turf: Dark greyish brown clayey silt, friable with moderate angular limestones and sparse brick			0.23	C19
201	Layer	Subsoil: Mid yellowish brown clayey silt, friable with abundant angular limestone and rare pottery inclusions			0.41	C20
202	Layer	Natural Substrate: Light yellowish brown clayey silt within a limestone brash				

Trench 3

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
300	Layer	Topsoil and Turf: Mid greyish brown clayey silt, friable with occasional angular limestone inclusions			0.25	
301	Layer	Subsoil: Mid yellowish brown clayey silt with regular limestone inclusions			0.35	
302	Layer	Natural Substrate: Light brownish yellow clayey silt within a limestone brash				
303	Deposit	Made Ground: Mid brown clayey silt with abundant limestone inclusions, also occasional brick and wood fragments			0.4	C19-C20
304	Cut	Cut of modern land drain		0.5	0.4	
305	Fill	Fill of 305: Soil and gravel containing modern ceramic pipe		0.5	0.4	

Trench 4

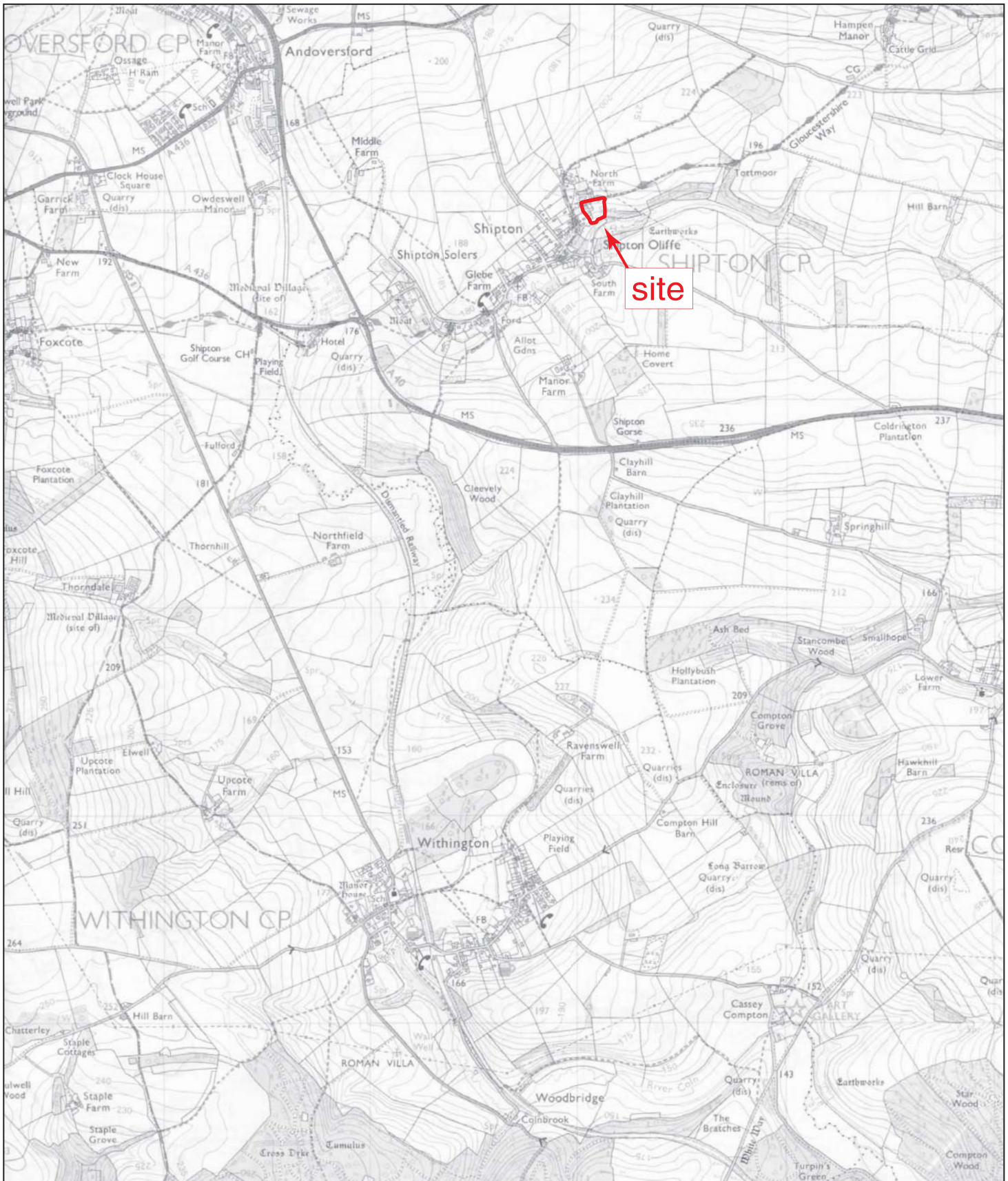
No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
400	Layer	Topsoil and Turf: Dark greyish brown clayey silt, friable with moderate angular limestones and sparse brick			0.23	
401	Layer	Subsoil: Mid yellowish brown clayey silt, friable with abundant angular limestone and rare pottery inclusions			-	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Description	Ct.	Wt.	Date
100	Brick	2	55	C18 -?C19
101	Post-medieval pottery: post-medieval earthenwares	2	15	C17 -?C19
	Brick	1	116	
200	Modern pottery: refined whiteware	1	8	C19
	Brick	1	38	
	Fired clay	2	12	
	Iron: Horse shoe	1	223	
	Animal bone	2	32	
201	Post-medieval pottery: post-medieval orange earthenwares	6	66	C20
	Glass: vessel and window?	2	3	
	Iron: Harness ring?	1	66	
	Tin?: Bucket handle mount	1	29	
	Animal bone	1	7	
303	Post-medieval pottery: post-medieval earthenwares	1	16	C19-C20
	Ceramic drain	1	15	
	Brick	1	281	

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	North Farm House, Shipton Oliffe, Gloucestershire	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the creation of a swimming pool, terraced area, summerhouse/changing rooms and hard tennis court at North Farm House, Shipton Oliffe, Gloucestershire. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks. Small quantities of late post-medieval to modern finds were recovered from modern deposits.	
Project dates	3 August to 18 October 2011	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	North Farm House, Shipton Oliffe, Gloucestershire	
Study area	0.65ha	
Site co-ordinates	SP 04031 18918	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Gloucestershire County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Jonathan Hart, Sian Reynish, Alexandra Wilkinson	
MONUMENT TYPE		
	none	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
	none	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	n/a	n/a
Paper	Corinium Museum	Trench sheets, plan
Digital	Corinium Museum	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011 <i>North Farm House, Shipton Oliffe, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report 11203		



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PROJECT TITLE
 North Farm House, Shipton Oliffe
 Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

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PROJECT NO. 3519	DATE 10-11-2011	FIGURE NO. 1
DRAWN BY JB	REVISION 00	
APPROVED BY PJM	SCALE@A4 1:25,000	



- site
- area of observed groundworks



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PROJECT TITLE
 North Farm House, Shipton Oliffe
 Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan, showing area of
 observed groundworks



PROJECT NO.	3519	DATE	10-11-2011	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	JB	REVISION	00	2
APPROVED BY	PJM	SCALE@A4	1:1000	