

**Shamrock, Mousetrap Lane  
Bourton-on-the-Water  
Gloucestershire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

*for*

**Mr and Mrs Hackling**


CA Project: 3799  
CA Report: 12280

October 2012

Shamrock, Mousetrap Lane  
Bourton-on-the-Water  
Gloucestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 3799  
CA Report: 12280

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date	3 October 2012
issue	01

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

Fig. 2 The site showing location of groundworks (1:300)



## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Shamrock, Mousetrap Lane  
**Location:** Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire  
**NGR:** SP 1652 2104  
**Type:** Watching Brief  
**Date:** 8 May 2012  
**Planning Reference:** 11/05748/FUL  
**Location of Archive:** To be deposited with Corinium Museum  
**Site Code:** SHK 12

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the alterations and extension of the existing dwelling at Shamrock, Mousetrap Lane, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire.

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 May 2012 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Mr and Mrs Hackling at Shamrock, Mousetrap Lane, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR:SP 1625 2104; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent granted by Cotswold District Council for the alteration and extension of the existing residential property (Planning ref: 11/05748/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 detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2012) and approved by the LPA acting on the advice of the Senior Archaeological Officer, Gloucestershire County Council. 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 1996) and the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991), the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006).

### ***The site***

1.3 The development area lies within the domestic curtilage of Shamrock, Mousetrap Lane, Bourton-on-the-Water. The site is relatively flat and is bounded to the north and south by domestic residences, to the west by Mousetrap Lane, and to the east by the grounds of The Cotswold School (Fig. 1).

1.4 The underlying solid geology is mapped as Charmouth Mudstone Formation of the Jurassic period, overlain in places by Sherborne Member gravels (BGS 2010).

### ***Archaeological background***

1.5 Previous work in and around Bourton-on-the-Water has revealed evidence for occupation from the Neolithic period onwards (Lang 2008, 5) and the Cotswold School lies between two principal areas of past investigations (ibid, 5). The Iron Age hillfort of Salmonsbury Camp is situated approximately 400m to the east. This was identified as an archaeological site during the 18th century but was first recorded in

any detail during the 1930s by Mrs Helen O'Neil and during excavations by G. C. Dunning between 1931 and 1934 (Timby 1998, 353).

- 1.6 Salmonsbury Camp comprises earthworks enclosing c. 23ha and occupies a gravel platform in an open valley between the Windrush and Dikler Rivers (Timby 1998, 355). Iron Age roundhouses, hearths and pits, some containing burials, have been identified within the defences, in some cases overlain by Roman remains (ibid, 355). Anglo-Saxon burials have also been recorded at the hillfort (ibid, 355). More recently, a range of surveys, including an archaeological desk-based assessment, building survey, palaeoenvironmental survey and erosion survey, undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology, have indicated that Salmonsbury Camp originated as a Neolithic causewayed enclosure (CA 2005).
- 1.7 Bourton Bridge Roman Villa is located some 600m to the west of the site (Timby 1998, 356). This was the site of a Roman roadside settlement along the Fosse Way that developed from the 1st century AD onwards and extended into the Lansdown area to the west of the school. There is also evidence of Anglo-Saxon activity around Bourton, including a number of burials and a sunken-featured building located by the Fosse Way, close to Slaughter Bridge (Lang 2008, 6).
- 1.8 Archaeological investigations, including evaluations, excavations and geophysical survey, have been carried out during construction works at Cotswold School and Bourton-on-the-Water Primary School. These investigations were largely undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology and Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service (GCCAS) between 1995 and 2003, and the results of these works have been collated by Lang (2008). A summary of the Lang report is provided below, with additional information derived from more recent excavations.

#### *Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age*

- 1.9 Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age pits were identified within the Cotswold School CA 1998 site. Although no structural remains were identified, the assemblage of pottery and flints recovered might be indicative of settlement of this date, possibly linked to the causewayed enclosure at Salmonsbury Camp.

#### *Early to Middle Iron Age*

- 1.10 More extensive occupation has been recorded for Early to Middle Iron Age occupation. At the Primary School site (CA 1998), the Sports Hall site (CA 2010),

the new classroom block to the south of the school (works carried out by CA in 2011) and during the GCCAS excavations at the Primary School, Iron Age postholes and structural remains were identified. Of the hundreds of postholes identified within the GCCAS and CA sites, many dated to the Early Iron Age. A Middle Iron Age crouched burial of a young female was identified within the Primary School GCCAS 2000 site (GCCAS 2001). During the excavations prior to the construction of the sports hall one small pit/posthole contained a single sherd of pottery dating to the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age (8th to 3rd centuries BC). Four postholes produced pottery more closely dated to the Middle Iron Age, while a number of other pits and postholes and two ditches were given a broader Iron Age date (CA 2010).

- 1.11 Further Iron Age features, including structural remains, were identified within the Cotswold School CA 1998 site. Further to the north, a smaller number of Iron Age features were recorded within the Cotswold School CA 2001/2 site. This remains the largest open area excavation so far undertaken within the schools, but contained relatively few features, possibly as a result of post-medieval and modern truncation.
- 1.12 A geophysical survey and evaluation undertaken 25m to the south-west of the current site in 2001 identified a series of small C-shaped enclosures dating to the Early Iron Age (GeoQuest Associates 2001; GCCAS 2001). Pottery of similar date was recovered from the ditches of a larger sub-rectangular enclosure (GCCAS 2001).

#### *Roman*

- 1.13 Roman boundary ditches have been excavated within the Primary School CA 1998 and GCCAS 1995 sites. These ditches contained 4th-century AD pottery and coins. A single pit containing abraded Roman pottery was identified at the Cotswold School CA 2001/2 site.
- 1.14 Recent excavations undertaken prior to construction of the Sports Hall at Cotswold School revealed further evidence of Roman occupation, including part of a large sub-rectangular enclosure, which may have been an enclosed farmstead, and had previously been partially recorded during a geophysical survey undertaken to the east (CA 2010).

### *Anglo-Saxon and Later*

- 1.15 A small quantity of Anglo-Saxon pottery was recovered from the upper fill of one of the Roman boundary ditches in the Primary School CA 1998 site and from the upper fill of one of the prehistoric ditches at the new classroom site in 2011. A pit containing medieval pottery was identified within the Cotswold School CA 2001/2 site.
- 1.16 An archaeological excavation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology at Stonecroft on Mousetrap Lane, which lies to the south-west of the current site. Two postholes and a pit, all undated, were identified during the excavation (CA 2011b).

### **Methodology**

- 1.17 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2012). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks, comprising the excavation of foundations and service trenches (Fig. 2).
- 1.18 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.19 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 Corinium 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 (FIGS 2-3)**

- 2.1 The natural geological substrate (104) consisting of a hard yellowish brown sandy, gravelly clay was revealed at an average depth of 0.91m below present ground level. This was overlain by a light brown sandy silty clay subsoil containing occasional charcoal flecks (103) averaging 0.32m in thickness, which was in turn sealed by 0.35m of dark greyish brown buried topsoil containing frequent cinders 102. These layers were overlain by a 0.1m thick layer of building debris 101 including hardcore, cement and occasional brick fragments relating to the construction of the existing residential property in the 1960s). The uppermost



deposit on site was a 0.1-0.25m thick layer of dark brown imported topsoil which sealed all other layers.

- 2.2 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.

### 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 surrounding prehistoric and Roman activity either does not extend as far as or was not exposed by the development, or that any archaeological remains may have been removed during previous development at the site.

### 4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Ray Holt. The report was written by Christopher Leonard. The illustrations were prepared by Ian Atkins. The archive has been compiled by Christopher Leonard, and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Mark Collard.

### 5. REFERENCES

- BGS (British Geological Survey) 2011 *Geology of Britain Viewer* [http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer\\_google/googleviewer.html](http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html) (accessed 18 April 2012)
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2005 *Greystones Farm, Bourton-on-the-Water: Archaeological Surveys* CA typescript report No. **04084**
- CA 2010 *New Sports Hall Cotswold School, Bourton-On-The-Water, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Excavation*. CA typescript report No. **09113**

- CA 2011a *New Classroom Block, Cotswold School, Bourton-On-The-Water, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Excavation*. CA typescript report No. **11045**
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- CA 2012 *Shamrock, Mousetrap Lane, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*
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- Lang, A. 2008 'Excavations at Bourton Primary School and The Cotswold School, Bourton-on-the-Water', *Glevensis*. **41**, 5-11
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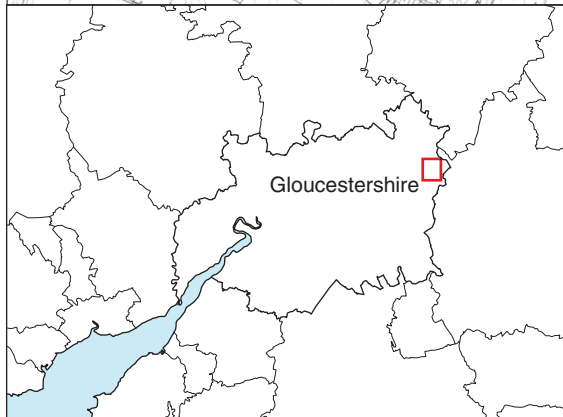
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## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Imported topsoil. Dark brown sandy silt.	0- 0.1m	Modern
101	Layer	Building debris below 100.	0.1- 0.2m	Modern
102	Layer	Buried topsoil. Dark greyish brown sandy silt. Frequent cinder.	0.2- 0.5m	-
103	Layer	Subsoil. Light brown sandy silty clay. Occasional charcoal.	0.5- 0.91m	-
104	Deposit	Natural geological substrate. Yellowish brown sandy gravelly clay.	0.91m +	-

**APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Shamrock, Mousetrap Lane, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire.	
Short description (250 words maximum)	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the alterations and extension of the existing dwelling at Shamrock, Mousetrap Lane, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire.</p> <p>No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.</p>	
Project dates	08 May 2012	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Watching Brief	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	No	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Shamrock, Mousetrap Lane, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire.	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)		
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SP 1652 2104	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Gloucestershire county Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Mark Collard	
Project Supervisor	Ray Holt	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Paper	Corinium Museum	WSI, trench record sheet, digital photo register.
Digital	Corinium Museum	Database, digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2012 Shamrock, Mousetrap Lane, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire: <i>Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report <b>12280</b>		



0 1km

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PROJECT TITLE

Shamrock, Mousetrap Lane  
Bourton-On-The-Water

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

PROJECT NO. 3799 DATE 22-06-2012  
DRAWN BY IA REVISION 00  
APPROVED BY PJM SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1





- ▬ site
- ▬ area of observed groundworks
- ▬ modern services



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*PROJECT TITLE*

**Shamrock, Mousetrap Lane  
Bourton-On-The-Water**

*FIGURE TITLE*

**The site, showing location of  
groundworks**



PROJECT NO. 3799 DATE 22-06-2012  
 DRAWN BY IA REVISION 00  
 APPROVED BY PJM SCALE@A4 1:300

*FIGURE NO.*

**2**