

**Manor Cottage
Church End
Eastington
Stonehouse
Gloucestershire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

for

Mr and Mrs B. J. Fairhurst


CA Project: 4819
CA Report: 14450

October 2014

Manor Cottage
Church End
Eastington
Stonehouse
Gloucestershire

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date	30 September 2014
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date	10 October 2014
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signed	
date	14 October 2014
issue	01

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Manor Cottage
Location: Church End, Eastington, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire
NGR: SO 7818 0578
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 29-30 September 2014
Planning Reference: Stroud District Council ref: S.13/2145/HHOLD
Location of Archive: To be deposited with The Museum in the Park, Stroud
Site Code: MCE 14

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a single story extension at Manor Cottage, Church End, Eastington, Stonehouse, 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 September 2014 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Mr and Mrs Fairhurst at Manor Cottage, Church End, Eastington, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SO 7818 0578; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached by Stroud District Council (SDC) to a planning consent for the erection of a single story extension at the rear of an existing property (Planning ref: S.13/2145/HHOLD; condition 2).

1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2014) and approved by SDC acting on the advice of Charles Parry (Archaeologist, Gloucestershire County Council) the archaeological advisor to SDC. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2009), *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork 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* (EH 2006).

The site

1.3 The development area is approximately 0.2ha in extent and comprises an existing residential dwelling and its associated grounds (Fig. 2). The site is bounded to the south-west by the River Frome and to the north, north-east and south-east by residential properties.

1.4 The underlying geology of the area is mapped as Lower Lias Clay of the Lower Jurassic Period (BGS 2014). Natural blue-grey clay was revealed within one of the observed trenches.

Archaeological background

1.5 Archaeological interest in the site arises from its proximity to the fourteenth-century church. Eastington is first mentioned in 1220 as Esteuenton, although it subsumed Alkerton, which is first mentioned in the Domesday Book in 1086 (Smith 1964).

1.6 Approximately 1.5km to the north-west of the site, finds of Roman and possibly Saxon date were identified during gravel extraction in the 1920s and 1930s and also

during the construction of the M5 motorway in the early 1970s. These include pottery, burials and building remains of a possible villa complex (Fowler and Walthew 1971).

- 1.7 An archaeological evaluation undertaken immediately to the north-east of the current site revealed the remains of a wall footing relating to a possible post-medieval building (CA 2002). No other significant archaeological deposits or finds predating the modern period were encountered during the evaluation.
- 1.8 Manor Cottage, and the attached Elm Beams, is a Grade II listed building that dates from the early 17th century (EH List Entry 1340734). The two listed cottages previously formed one building that are reputed to have formed part of Eastington Manor House that was demolished in 1778.

Archaeological objectives

- 1.9 The objectives of the archaeological works were:
 - to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks;
 - at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

Methodology

- 1.10 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2014). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising the excavation of two foundation trenches (see Fig. 2 for location and extent).
- 1.11 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2013).
- 1.12 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble, but will be deposited with The Museum in the Park, Stroud. 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 Natural blue-grey clay, 104, was only observed in Trench 1 at a depth of 1.2m below present ground level. It was overlain by dark brown sandy-silty-clay 103 that measured 0.2m in thickness. This was in turn sealed by up to 0.65m of made-ground, comprising mixed sandy-silty-clay, gravel and rubble, that was recorded as deposit 102 and 203 within Trenches 1 and 2 respectively. This deposit was sealed by successive layers of garden soil, topsoil and modern surfaces.
- 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), no significant archaeological remains were identified within the area of observed groundworks. The earliest deposit encountered, 103, most probably represents a buried wetland or river bank environment associated with the adjacent course of the River Frome. The overlying made-ground deposits (102 and 203) are interpreted as consolidation/levelling horizons that were presumably imported to prevent flooding of the existing buildings from the River Frome. Artefactual material recovered from these deposits dates to the early modern period and has therefore not been retained.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Alex Thomson. The report was written by Alex Thomson. The illustrations were prepared by Daniel Bashford. The archive has been compiled by Alex Thomson, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.



5. REFERENCES

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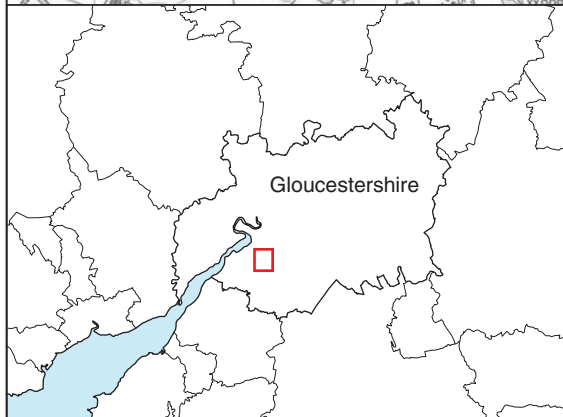


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown clayey-silt	>9	>0.5	0.22
1	101	Layer		Buried garden soil	Dark blackish-brown clayey-silt	>9	>0.5	0.13
1	102	Layer		Made-ground	Yellowish-greyish-brown sandy-silty-clay with gravel and building rubble	>9	>0.5	0.65
1	103	Layer		Waterlogged material	Dark brownish-black humic-silty-clay	>9	>0.5	0.2
1	104	Layer		Natural	Greyish-blue clay	>9	>0.5	>0.1
2	200	Layer		Modern Surface	Flagstone floor	>5	>0.5	0.05
2	201	Layer		Bedding	Greyish-brown sandy-silt with rubble	>5	>0.5	0.15
2	202	Layer		Buried garden soil	Dark blackish-brown clayey-silt	>5	>0.5	0.21
2	203	Layer		Made-ground	Yellowish-greyish-brown sandy-silty-clay with gravel and building rubble	>5	>0.5	>0.14

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Manor Cottage, Church End, Eastington, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a single story extension at Manor Cottage, Church End, Eastington, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.	
Project dates	29-30 September 2014	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Manor Cottage, Church End, Eastington, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.2ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SO 7818 0578	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	None	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Alex Thomson	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	Museum in the Park, Stroud	Fieldwork recording forms, WSI, Typescript Report
Digital	Museum in the Park, Stroud	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 <i>Manor Cottage, Church End, Eastington, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report 14450		



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PROJECT TITLE

Manor Cottage, Church End, Eastington,
Stonehouse, Gloucestershire

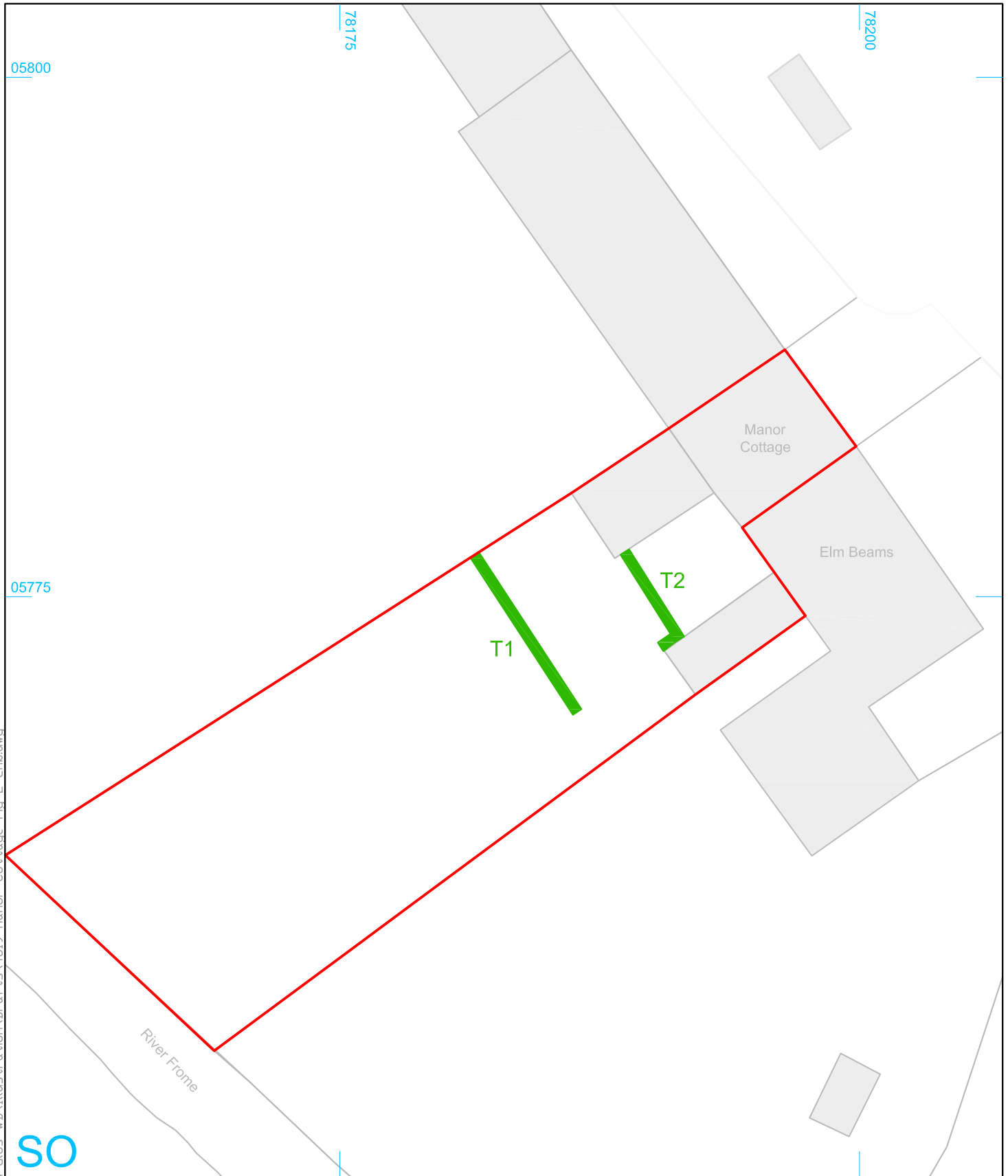
FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

PROJECT NO. 4819 DATE 08-10-2015
DRAWN BY DJB REVISION 00
APPROVED BY JB SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1



P:\4819 Manor Cottage Eastington Stroud Glos VBA\Illustration\Drafts\4819 Manor Cottage Fig 2 cmb.dwg

- site
- observed groundworks



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PROJECT TITLE
 Manor Cottage, Church End, Eastington, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
 The site, showing the location of observed groundworks

PROJECT NO.	4819	DATE	08-10-2014	FIGURE NO.	2
DRAWN BY	DJB	REVISION	00		
APPROVED BY	JB	SCALE@A4	1:250		

