

**Land Adjacent to Glenville and Cherry Tree
House
Rotten Row
Wanborough
Swindon**

Archaeological Watching Brief

for

Mr Tony Marks

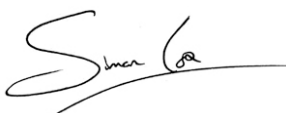
CA Project: 4310
CA Report: 14474

October 2014

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CA Project: 4310
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prepared by	Alistair Barber, Senior Project Officer
date	28 October 2014
checked by	Laurent Coleman, Principal Fieldwork Manager
date	28 October 2014
approved by	Simon Cox, Head of Fieldwork
signed	
date	29 October 2014
issue	01

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Cirencester Building 11 Kemble Enterprise Park Kemble, Cirencester Gloucestershire, GL7 6BQ t. 01285 771022 f. 01285 771033	Milton Keynes Unit 4 Cromwell Business Centre Howard Way, Newport Pagnell MK16 9QS t. 01908 218320	Andover Stanley House Walworth Road Andover, Hampshire SP10 5LH t. 01264 347630
e. enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk		

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land Adjacent to Glenville and Cherry Tree House
Location:	Rotten Row, Wanborough, Swindon, Wiltshire
NGR:	SU 2104 8349
Type:	Watching Brief
Date:	11-17 September 2014
Planning Reference:	Swindon Borough Council S/12/1596/HC
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Swindon Museum and Art Gallery
Site Code:	RRW 14

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with residential development of land adjacent to Glenville and Cherry Tree House, Rotten Row, Wanborough, Swindon.

A pit and four ditches were recorded within the area of observed groundworks. Although undated artefactually, the features are generally associated with the medieval boundary ditches and other features identified during the preceding archaeological evaluation.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In September 2014 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Mr Tony Marks on land adjacent to Glenville and Cherry Tree House, Rotten Row, Wanborough, Swindon (centred on NGR: SU 2104 8349; Fig. 1).
- 1.2 Planning permission for construction of a new dwelling and detached garage on the site was granted by Swindon Borough Council (SBC) (SBC ref: no. S/12/1596/HC), conditional (no 4) on a programme of archaeological work.
- 1.3 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2013) and approved by SBC acting on the advice of Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, County Archaeologist, Wiltshire Council (WC). The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2009), the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Wiltshire* (WCC 1995) 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

- 1.4 The site encloses an area of approximately 0.17ha, and comprises a former garden. The site is bounded by residential properties including Glenville to the north-west and Cherry Tree House to the south-west. The south-eastern part of the site is flat and lies at a height of 106.5m AOD. The north-western part of the site slopes downwards to the north-west (towards Rotten Row) and lies at a height of 105.2m AOD.
- 1.5 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Gault Clay of the Lower Cretaceous era overlain by Head of the Pleistocene and Recent era (BGS 2013). The natural substrate, comprising clay and chalk deposits, was encountered during the preceding archaeological evaluation (CA 2008) and throughout the area of observed groundworks.

Archaeological background

- 1.6 Archaeological interest in the site arises from its location approximately 30m to the south-west of Ermin Street, a major Roman road running between the ‘small towns’ of Wanborough (*Durocornovium*) to the north and Speen (*Spinis*) to the south (Margary 1967, 132-4, **41b**). The site is also located approximately 3km to the south-east of the site of the Roman ‘small town’ of Wanborough, where excavation identified a substantial roadside settlement (Anderson *et al* 2001). An evaluation undertaken approximately 0.5km to the south of the site identified a ditch containing pottery dating to the 2nd to 4th centuries AD (John Samuels Archaeological Consultants 1997).
- 1.7 Archaeological evaluation undertaken within the site (and to the north-west of Glenville) revealed three medieval ditches, together with three undated pits and/or ditch terminals and one recut post-medieval ditch (CA 2008).

Archaeological objectives

- 1.8 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

- 1.9 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2013). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising the excavation of foundations (Trench 4) and services (Trench 5) (Fig. 2).
- 1.10 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2013).
- 1.11 The archive and artefacts from the watching brief are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will

be deposited with Swindon Museum and Art Gallery, along with the site archive. 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 This section provides an overview of the watching brief results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts, are to be found in Appendix A.

2.2 The natural substrate 408 consisting of a chalk-rich silty clay, was revealed throughout the foundation trenches (Trench 4) at an average depth of 1m below present ground level (bpgl). The natural substrate was not identified in the service trench (Trench 5). It was overlain by a silt-clay subsoil 401 and 501 averaging 0.5m in thickness, which was in turn sealed by 0.6m of humic silty clay topsoil 400 and 500. Archaeological features (cutting the natural substrate and sealed by subsoil) were identified in Trench 4 (together with modern disturbance, including wall 410). No features of archaeological significance were identified in Trench 5.

Trench 4

2.3 An east/west orientated flat-based ditch 402 and an adjacent U-shaped north/south-orientated ditch 411 were identified within the south-eastern foundation trench (Figure 3, section BB). No finds were recovered from their similar clay silt fills, 403 and 412. From its position and alignment, ditch 402 appears to represent a westward continuation of ditch 105 which was identified during the evaluation. Ditch 105 contained 11th to 13th-century pottery (CA 2008). Ditch 402 did not continue into the south-western foundation trench and it may therefore turn to the south as ditch 411.

2.4 A curvilinear feature, ditch 404, was identified in the central part of Trench 4. The ditch had a U-shaped profile (Figure 3, section AA) and no finds were recoverable from its clay silt fill 405. From its position and alignment, ditch 404 appears to represent a south-eastward continuation of ditch 203 which was identified during the evaluation. Ditch 203 also contained 11th to 13th-century AD pottery.

2.5 Sub-circular pit 406 was identified to the south-east of ditch 404 (Fig. 3, section AA; no dating evidence was recovered from its single clay silt fill, 407. A north-

west/south-east orientated U-shaped ditch 414 was noted within the north-western foundation trench. No dating evidence was recovered from its single clay silt fill, 415.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 A total of four further ditches and a pit was identified during the archaeological watching brief. Although undated artefactually, their positions, alignments and similar fill composition indicate that these features are broadly contemporary to, associated with and/or represent continuations of, features identified during the preceding evaluation. These features appear to represent land boundaries and/or drainage channels dating to the medieval period. Medieval settlement activity (two structures with sarsen walls and chalk floors and a thick black occupation layer) was identified at the Mallards (Wiltshire SMR ref. MWI20240 – SU28SW525) c. 100m to the south-west of the site and medieval earthworks (Wiltshire SMR MWI20233 – SU28SW472) have been identified c. 20m to the south-west of the site. The activity identified during the evaluation and watching brief may represent a north-eastward continuation of this activity.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Peter Busby and Ray Holt. The report was written by Alistair Barber. The illustrations were prepared by Lucy Martin. The archive has been compiled by Peter Busby, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Laurent Coleman.

5. REFERENCES

Anderson, A. S., Wachter, J. S., and Fitzpatrick, A. P. 2001 'The Romano-British 'Small Town' at Wanborough, Wiltshire', *Britannia Monograph Series 19*

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2013 *Geology of Britain Viewer* http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 7 May 2013



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Margary, I. 1967 *Roman Roads in Britain*



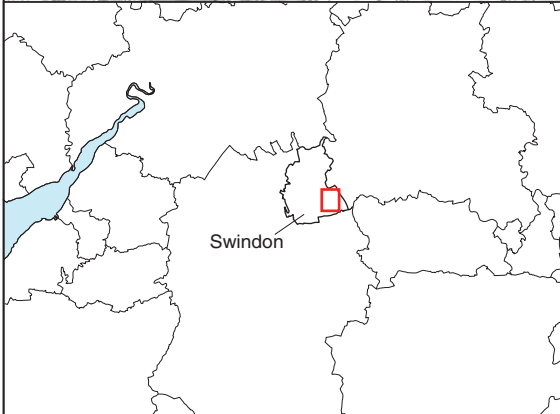
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silt-clay			0.55
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Light grey-brown gravel silt-clay			0.45
4	402	Cut		Ditch	E/W-aligned, U-shaped, flat base	>2	3	0.75
4	403	Fill	402	Ditch fill	Grey-brown clay-silt	>2	3	0.75
4	404	Cut		Ditch	E/W-aligned, u-shaped, concave base	>3	2	0.5
4	405	Fill	404	Ditch fill	Grey-brown clay-silt	>3	2	0.5
4	406	Cut		Pit	Sub-circular, moderately sloping sides and concave base		2.5	0.75
4	407	Fill	406	Pit fill	Grey-brown clay-silt		2.5	0.75
4	408	Layer		Natural substrate	Chalky silt-clay			
4	409	Cut		Foundation trench	Vertical sides, flat base	>	0.6	1
4	410	Structure	409	Wall	Red brick wall, unmortared. Lower courses not visible.	>	0.6	1
4	411	Cut		Ditch	N/S-aligned, U-shaped, flat base	>1	1.5	0.35
4	412	Fill	411	Ditch fill	Grey-brown clay-silt	>1	1.5	0.35
4	413	Layer		Subsoil	Light grey-brown gravel silt-clay, with stone and modern artefacts			1
4	414	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE-aligned, U-shaped, concave base	>1.2	1.5	0.5
4	415	Fill	414	Ditch fill	Grey-brown clay-silt	>1.2	1.5	0.5
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silt-clay	55	0.6	0.6
5	501	Layer		Subsoil	Light grey-brown silt-	55	0.6	>0.5
5	502	Layer		Driveway	Grey road stone, capped with 0.08m of tarmacadam	10.3	0.6	0.3
5	503	Layer		Contractors driveway	Grey roadstone	33	0.6	0.8

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land adjacent to Glenville and Cherry Tree House, Wanborough, Swindon, Wiltshire.	
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with residential development of land adjacent to Glenville and Cherry Tree House, Rotten Row, Wanborough, Swindon.</p> <p>A pit and four ditches were recorded within the area of observed groundworks. Although undated artefactually, the features are generally associated with the medieval boundary ditches and other features identified during the preceding archaeological evaluation.</p>	
Project dates	11-17 September 2014	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Watching Brief	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	Field Evaluation (CA 2008)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Land adjacent to Glenville and Cherry Tree House, Wanborough, Swindon, Wiltshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.17ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SU 2103 8350	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	-	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Laurent Coleman	
Project Supervisors	Ray Holt and Peter Busby	
MONUMENT TYPE	none	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	none	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Swindon Museum and Art Gallery	none
Paper	Swindon Museum and Art Gallery	Context Sheets, Trench Recording Forms
Digital	Swindon Museum and Art Gallery	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 *Land adjacent to Glenville and Cherry Tree House, Wanborough, Swindon, Wiltshire: Archaeological Watching Brief*. CA typescript report **14474**



Cirencester 01285 771022
 Milton Keynes 01908 218320
 Andover 01264 347630
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Land adjacent to Glenville and Cherry Tree House, Rotten Row, Wanborough, Swindon

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

PROJECT NO.	4310	DATE	26-09-14	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	LM	REVISION	00	1
APPROVED BY	LM	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	

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- ▬ site
- ▬ area of observed groundworks
- ▬ previous evaluation trench (CA 2008)
- archaeological feature
- previous archaeological feature
- modern



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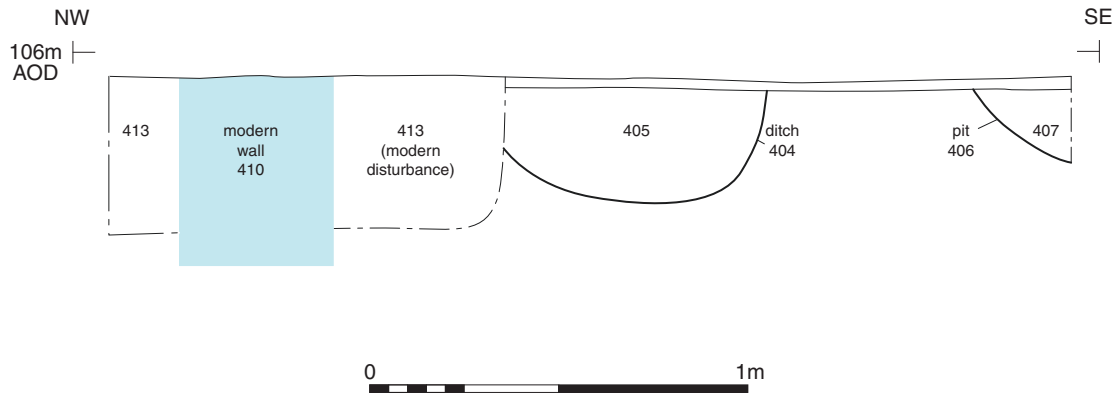
PROJECT TITLE
 Land adjacent to Glenville and Cherry Tree House, Rotten Row, Wanborough, Swindon

FIGURE TITLE
 Location of groundworks, showing archaeological features

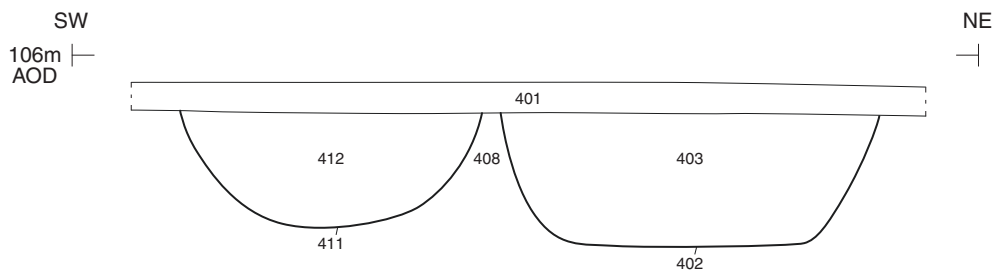
PROJECT NO.	4310	DATE	29-10-2014	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	LM/JB	REVISION	00	2
APPROVED BY	JB	SCALE@A3	1:200	

P:\4310 Rotten Row Wanborough Wills WB\Illustration\Drawings\4310 Rotten Row Wanborough Wills WB Figure 02.dwg

Section AA



Section BB



Ditch 402, looking north-west (scale 1m)



Cirencester 01285 771022
 Milton Keynes 01908 218320
 Andover 01264 347630
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Land adjacent to Glenville and Cherry Tree House, Rotten Row, Wanborough, Swindon

FIGURE TITLE

Sections and photograph

PROJECT NO.	4310	DATE	23-10-14	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	LM	REVISION	01 RP	3
APPROVED BY	LM	SCALE@A4	1:20	