

**Land West of St James' Church  
Quedgeley  
Gloucestershire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

*for*  
**Quedgeley Parish Council**


CA Project: 5048  
CA Report: 14452

October 2014

Land West of St James' Church  
Quedgeley  
Gloucestershire

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 5048  
CA Report: 14452

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date	1 October 2014
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date	1 October
issue	01

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## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	Land West of St James' Church
<b>Location:</b>	Quedgeley, Gloucestershire
<b>NGR:</b>	SO 8066 1420
<b>Type:</b>	Evaluation
<b>Date:</b>	25-26 September 2014
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery
<b>Site Code:</b>	SJQ 14

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in September 2014 on land west of St James' Church, Quedgeley, Gloucestershire. Two trenches were excavated.

Despite the archaeological potential of the site, no archaeological features or deposits were observed during the course of the evaluation.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In September 2014 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Quedgeley Parish Council on land west of St James' Church, Quedgeley, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SO 8066 1420; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application that had been submitted to Gloucester City Council (GCC).
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a recommendation by Andrew Armstrong, Gloucester City Archaeologist, the archaeological advisor to GCC, and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)* produced by CA (2014) that was approved by Andrew Armstrong. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2009), the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Gloucestershire* (GCC 1995), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (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 proposed development comprised a broadly triangular parcel of land and is approximately 0.15ha in extent. It is bound by a modern road (St James) to the north, south and west, and by the existing churchyard to St James' Church to the east.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area was mapped as Blue Lias and Charmouth Mudstone Formations of the Rhaetian to Pleinsbachian geological era (BGS 2014). Natural blue-grey and orange-grey clays were revealed throughout both trenches.

### ***Archaeological background***

- 1.5 The proposed development area lies in an area of known archaeological potential, and is sited between the 14th-century Church of St James' and a scheduled, medieval moated site (National Monument 1016995; Moated site 200m west of St James' Church).

- 1.6 The moated site comprises a sub-rectangular, four-armed moat enclosing an island measuring about 52m by 44m. The moat is approximately 10m wide at its widest point and about 1m deep to water level. A slightly raised area on the island is believed to contain the buried remains of buildings. The moat is thought to have been the site of Woolstrop Manor House, which was first recorded in the mid-13th century. In 1672 a William Hayward had a house with 11 hearths in Woolstrop, and in the early 18th century it was described as a 'pleasant seat'. During the later 18th century a new house was built to the north west of the original site and the moat was abandoned (EH 2014).
- 1.7 Historic mapping indicates that from at least the latter part of the 19th century until the last quarter of the 20th century the current site lay within agricultural land immediately outside the churchyard.

### **Archaeological objectives**

- 1.8 The objectives of the evaluation are to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality, in accordance with the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2009). This information will enable GCC to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

### **Methodology**

- 1.9 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of two trenches, both measuring 20m in length and 1.8m in width, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). The trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual* (2012).
- 1.10 Both trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2013).

- 1.11 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* (2003) but no deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation* (1995).
- 1.12 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble, and will be deposited with Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery. 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 evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendix A.
- 2.2 The natural substrate, comprising light greyish-blue lias clay with frequent patches of yellow and orange clay, was exposed at a depth of 0.23m and 0.39m below present ground level in Trenches 1 and 2 respectively. In both trenches this was sealed by subsoil which was in turn overlain by modern topsoil.
- 2.3 No archaeological features were identified in either trench and no artefactual material was recovered.

## **3. DISCUSSION**

- 3.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the area (see archaeological background above) the evaluation identified no archaeological remains within the two trenches. The absence of archaeological deposits may indicate that remains associated with either the church to the east or the medieval moated manor to the west do not extend as far as the evaluated area.

## **4. CA PROJECT TEAM**

Fieldwork was undertaken by Steven Sheldon, assisted by Sara-Jayne Boughton. The report was written by Alex Thomson. The illustrations were prepared by

Aleksandra Osinska. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.

## 5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2014 *Geology of Britain Viewer* [http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology\\_viewer\\_google/googleviewer.html](http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html) Accessed 01 October 2014

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 *Land West of St James' Church, Quedgeley, Gloucester: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

EH (English Heritage) 2014 *The National Heritage List for England* <http://list.english-heritage.org.uk> Accessed 01 October 2014





**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 greyish-brown sandy-silt	>20	>1.8	0.1
1	101	Layer		subsoil	Mid orangey-grey sandy-clay	>20	>1.8	0.13
1	102	Layer		natural	Light bluish-grey and orangey-grey lias clay	>20	>1.8	
2	200	Layer		topsoil	Dark greyish-brown sandy-silt	>20	>1.8	0.21
2	201	Layer		subsoil	Mid greyish-brown sandy-clay	>20	>1.8	0.18
2	202	Layer		natural	Light bluish-grey and orangey-grey lias clay	>20	>1.8	

**APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Land West of St James' Church, Quedgeley, Gloucestershire	
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in September 2014 on the Land West of St James' Church, Quedgeley, Gloucestershire. Two trenches were excavated.  Despite the archaeological potential of the site, no archaeological features or remains were observed during the course of the evaluation.	
Project dates	25-26 September 2014	
Project type	Field Evaluation	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Land West of St James' Church, Quedgeley, Gloucestershire	
Study area	0.15ha	
Site co-ordinates	SO 8066 1420	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Gloucester City Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Steven Sheldon	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery	Field Recording Forms, WSI, Typescript Report
Digital	Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery	Digital Photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 <i>Land West of St James' Church, Quedgeley, Gloucester: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report <b>14452</b>		



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**PROJECT TITLE**

Land west of St James Church, Quedgeley  
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**FIGURE TITLE**

Site location plan



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PROJECT NO. 5048 DATE 01/10/2014  
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FIGURE NO.

1



- site
- evaluation trench
- modern feature



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land west of St James Church, Quedgeley  
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**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Trench location plan showing  
 identified features



PROJECT NO.	5048	DATE	01/10/2014	FIGURE NO.
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3

**3 Trench 2, looking south-west (1m scales)**



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*PROJECT TITLE*

Land west of St James Church, Quedgeley  
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*FIGURE TITLE*

**Photograph**

PROJECT NO. 5048 DATE 01/10/2014  
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*FIGURE NO.*

**3**