

**TITHE BARN
SOUTHAM LANE
SOUTHAM
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

For

GL50 PROPERTIES LTD

CA PROJECT: 2545
CA REPORT: 08037


FEBRUARY 2008



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SOUTHAM LANE
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CA PROJECT: 2545
CA REPORT: 08037

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date	25 February 2008
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date	28 February 2008
approved by	Simon Cox, Head of Fieldwork
signed	
date	29 February 2008
issue	01

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

Fig. 2 Trench location plan, showing archaeological features (1:500)

SUMMARY

Project Name: Tithe Barn
Location: Southam Lane, Southam, Gloucestershire
NGR: SO 9697 2558
Type: Evaluation
Date: 21-22 February 2008
Location of Archive: Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum
Site Code: SBS 08

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February 2008 2007 at the Tithe Barn, Southam Lane, Southam, Gloucestershire at the request of GL50 Properties Ltd. Three trenches were excavated.

The evaluation identified undated limestone and crushed brick surfaces within the application area. Artefactual material retrieved from trench 2 would suggest that a pond depicted on 19th-century cartographic records was infilled in the later 20th century.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In February 2008 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for GL50 Properties Ltd at the Tithe Barn, Southam Lane, Southam, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SO 9697 2558; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken prior to determination of a planning application for the change of use of the tithe barn to a single residential dwelling, with an additional cedar clad dwelling to be built within the surrounding hardstanding car park (planning reference 07/01802/FUL).
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out following consultation with Charles Parry, Senior Archaeological Officer, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC), the archaeological advisor to Tewkesbury Borough Council, and with a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2007) that was approved by Charles Parry. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (2001), the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Gloucestershire* (GCC 1996) and the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991). It was monitored by Mr Parry.

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 0.3ha in area, and comprises the tithe barn and surrounding areas of hardstanding and orchard.
- 1.4 The solid geology of the site comprises Lower Lias clays, silts and limestone of the Jurassic Era (BGS 1981).

Archaeological background

- 1.5 The tithe barn is late 14th to early 15th century in date, although it was extensively renovated in the 1960s, and has a Grade II* Listing. It lies immediately north of the small Norman church of the Ascension and to the west of the late medieval Pigeon House and Cottage. Cartographic records indicate that between 1890 and the 1960s ancillary buildings lay to the north-west, and a pond immediately to the west, of the Tithe Barn.

Archaeological objectives

- 1.6 The objectives of the evaluation were to establish the character, quality, date and extent of any archaeological remains or deposits surviving within the site. This information will assist Tewkesbury Borough Council in making an informed judgement on the significance of the archaeological resource, and the likely impact upon it of the proposed development.

Methodology

- 1.7 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of three trenches each measuring 10m in length and 1.6m wide in the locations shown on Figure 2.
- 1.8 All 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* (2007).
- 1.9 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) and in light of this assessment no deposits were identified that required sampling. No artefacts were recovered during this evaluation.
- 1.10 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble prior to its deposition with Cheltenham Art Gallery and 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

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendix A.

Trench 1 (Fig. 2)

- 2.2 The natural substrate was encountered at a depth of 0.40m below present ground level (BPGL), immediately sealed by compact limestone surface 102. The limestone surface was present throughout the trench, typically measured 0.12m in depth, but remained undated due to the absence of artefactual material. It was in turn overlain by limestone and brick rubble 101 which formed the make up/levelling deposit for existing gravel car park surface 100.

Trench 2 (Fig. 2)

- 2.3 The natural substrate was not encountered within this trench, with modern deposits associated with the infilling of the farm pond previously depicted on cartographic records (see Archaeological Background above) being encountered to depths exceeding 1.1m BPGL. The infilled pond was sealed by limestone and brick rubble 201 which in turn was sealed by gravel car park surface 200

Trench 3 (Fig. 2)

- 2.4 Natural Lias clays were encountered between 0.27m and 0.56m BPGL as it sloped from east to west respectively. These were sealed at the eastern extent of the trench by compact limestone surface 305, which in turn was sealed by a surface of crushed brick and tile, 304. No artefactual material was recovered from either surface.
- 2.5 Overlying surface 304 and the natural clays throughout the remainder of the trench was limestone rubble 303 that may represent a more extensive surface. This was sealed by garden soil 302 which in turn was sealed by gravel make up 301 for tarmacadam surface 300.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The evaluation has identified undated limestone and crushed brick surfaces within the application area. Within trench 1, surface 103 is interpreted as a yard surface in all likelihood associated with the ancillary buildings that previously lay immediately to the north. By contrast, the two earliest surface revealed within trench 3 (surfaces 304 and 305) are interpreted as a path leading to the main entrance to the tithe

barn. Later surface 303 appears to be represent a more extensive yard surface which also sought to level the sloping ground immediately outside of the barn.

- 3.2 Artefactual material retrieved from trench 2 would suggest that the pond depicted on 19th-century cartographic records was infilled in the later 20th century.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Mark Brett, assisted by Ashley Strutt. The report was written by Cliff Bateman. The illustrations were prepared by Lorna Gray. The archive has been compiled by Mark Brett, and prepared for deposition by Kathryn Price. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1981 1:50,000 Geological Map, sheet 217: Moreton-in-Marsh

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2007 *Southam Tithe Barn, Southam, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1						
No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Gravel car park surface	10	1.6	0.10	
101	Layer	Limestone and brick rubble	10	1.6	upto 0.30	
102	Layer	Compact limestone surface	10	1.6	0.12	
103	Natural	Lias clays and silts	10	1.6	<0.10	


Trench 2						
No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness (m)	Spot-date
200	Layer	Gravel car park surface	10	1.6	0.10	
201	Layer	Limestone and brick rubble	10	1.6	0.55	
202	Layer	Pond infill	10	1.6	<0.45	Modern

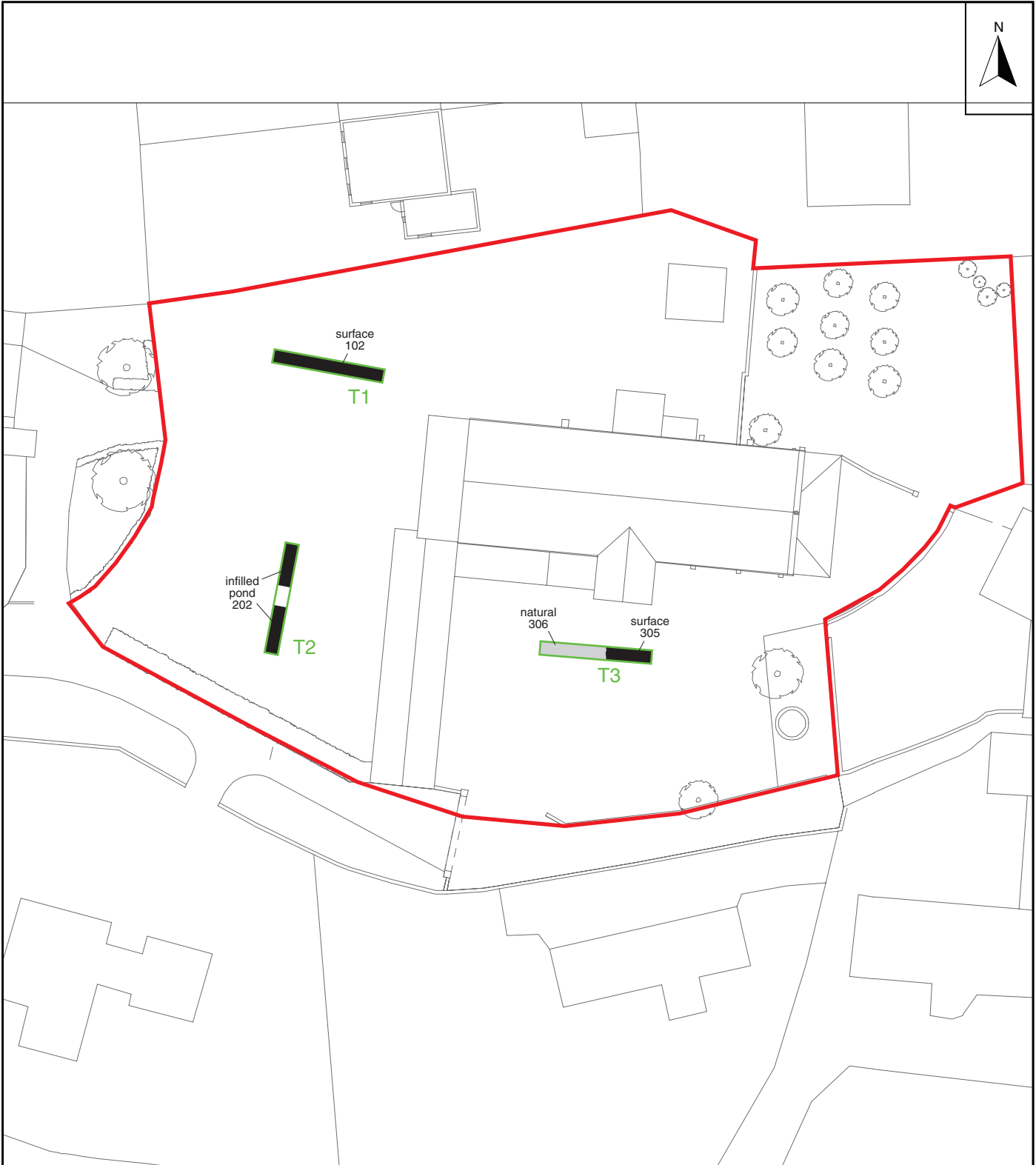
Trench 3						
No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness (m)	Spot-date
300	Layer	Tarmacadam car park	10	1.6	0.07	
301	Layer	Sand and gravel make up	10	1.6	0.10	
302	Layer	Garden type soils	4.25m	1.6	0.12	
303	Layer	Limestone and brick surface	10	1.6	0.25	
304	Layer	Crushed brick and tile surface	5.5	1.6	0.25	
305	Layer	Compact limestone surface	4.75	1.6	0.25	
306	Natural	Lias clays and silts	10	1.6	<0.10	
307	Layer	Same as 303	10	1.6	0.25	





APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Tithe Barn, Southam Lane, Southam, Gloucestershire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	Archaeological evaluation, comprising three 10m metre trenches. The evaluation identified undated limestone and crushed brick surfaces within the application area. Artefactual material retrieved from trench 2 would suggest that the pond depicted on cartographic records was infilled in the later 20th century.	
Project dates	10 th –11 th October 2007	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Archaeological Evaluation	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Tithe Barn, Southam Lane, Southam, Gloucestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.3 ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SO 9697 2558	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	No brief supplied	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Mark Brett	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	n/a	None
Paper	Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum	1 Written Scheme of Investigation 4 Trench recording forms 1 Black and white/Colour slide photo register 1 Levels register
Digital		None
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
	CA 2008 <i>Tithe Barn, Southam Lane, Southam, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . Typescript report 08037	



 COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY			
PROJECT TITLE Tithe Barn, Southam Lane Southam, Gloucestershire			
FIGURE TITLE Site location plan			
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-  site
-  evaluation trench
-  archaeological feature
-  natural



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE
Tithe Barn, Southam Lane
Southam, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
**Trench location plan, showing
archaeological features**

DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
LG	1:500@A4	2545	2