

Land at Melrose
Shute Street
King's Stanley
Stroud
Gloucestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief



for:
Mr Alan Beresford

CA Project: CR0348
CA Report: CR0348_1

August 2020



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Shute Street
King's Stanley
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Gloucestershire**

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SUMMARY

Project name:	Land at Melrose
Location:	Shute Street, King's Stanley, Stroud, Gloucestershire
NGR:	381269 203304
Type:	Watching brief
Date:	25 May and 27-30 July 2020
Planning reference:	Stroud District Council ref: S.19/0140/FUL
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Museum in the Park, Stroud, and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS)
Site Code:	LMSS20

In May and July 2020, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with residential development on at land at Melrose, Shute Street, King's Stanley, Stroud, Gloucestershire.

A single undated ditch was identified in the east of the site, likely correlating with a boundary shown on historic mapping. No further deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no artefactual material was recovered.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In May and July 2020, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief on at land at Melrose, Shute Street, King's Stanley, Stroud, Gloucestershire (centred at NGR: 381269 203304; Fig. 1). This watching brief was undertaken for Mr Alan Beresford.
- 1.2. Planning permission for the erection of one dwelling with associated landscaping and boundary treatments has been granted by Stroud District Council (SDC, ref: S.19/0140/FUL), conditional on a programme of archaeological work in accordance with an approved WSI (Condition 3).
- 1.3. The scope of this watching brief was defined by Charles Parry, former Archaeologist, Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service (GCCAS), the archaeological advisor to SDC. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) prepared by CA (2020) and approved by Charles Parry.
- 1.4. The watching brief was also in line with *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014; updated June 2020), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* (Historic England 2015).

The site

- 1.5. The development area is approximately 0.06ha and comprises a detached house and gardens adjacent to Shute Street. The site is bounded to the north by Shute Street and on all other sides by residential properties and gardens. The site lies at approximately 56m AOD, and is broadly level.
- 1.6. The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as interbedded siltstone and mudstone of the Dyrham Formation, formed during the Jurassic Period (BGS 2020). The natural geological substrate identified during the course of the watching brief consisted of brown-yellow and blue-grey clays.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1. No previous archaeological study has been undertaken for the site. The results of archaeological works from the wider area are detailed below.
- 2.2. Occasional prehistoric findspots are known from King's Stanley, however none are within the immediate vicinity of the site (GCC 2008). Evidence of Roman settlement in King's Stanley is thus far confined to the area in the immediate vicinity of the church (750m to the north), where a Roman stone structure was excavated in the 1960s and 1970s (GCC SMR Ref: 3468); however an excavation at Rectory Meadows, 200m north of the current site, identified residual Roman finds in medieval features (CA 2013), suggesting that Roman activity may have been more widespread.
- 2.3. The early focus of settlement at King's Stanley overlooked the River Frome to the north. Although the Norman church was established here, the medieval settlement developed some distance to the south of this. In 1253 the lord of the manor, Adam le Despenser, was granted a market and fair, which led to the establishment of a borough, sited some 400m south of the church and manor. The current site is situated in the core of this medieval settlement. The new borough was not commercially successful, and by the 16th century was largely moribund. The post-medieval clothing industry prompted a revival in the settlement's fortunes, at least until the 19th century (Tilley *et al.* 2007).
- 2.4. Approximately 150m to the north-west of the current site, an archaeological watching brief on the High Street identified a probable medieval boundary ditch (CA 2016). Furthermore, during evaluation off Church Street, approximately 250m to the north, three ditches dating to the medieval period were identified together with one undated ditch (CA 2008).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. The general objectives of the watching brief were:
- to monitor the development groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record any significant buried archaeological deposits/features thus revealed;
 - at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated project archive and a report setting out the watching brief results and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1. The watching brief comprised the archaeological observation of all intrusive groundworks associated with the proposed development (Fig. 2). These works comprised the machine excavation of foundation trenches (Trenches 1, 2 and 5) and ground investigation trenches (Trenches 3 and 4).
- 4.2. Records were maintained in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3. 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*, but no deposits were identified that required sampling.
- 4.4. CA will make arrangements with the Museum in the Park, Stroud, for the deposition of the project archive. A digital archive will also be prepared and deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). The archives (museum and digital) will be prepared and deposited in accordance with *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (ClfA 2014; updated June 2020).
- 4.5. A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS

- 5.1. This section provides an overview of the watching brief results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are given in Appendix A.
- 5.2. The stratigraphic sequence identified during the course of the watching brief was broadly uniform. The natural geological substrate, comprising mixed clays, was identified in all excavated trenches at an average depth of 0.74m below present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain by c. 0.35m of silty-clay subsoil, which was in turn sealed by approximately 0.4m of silty-clay topsoil.
- 5.3. Undated ditch 301 was observed cutting the subsoil horizon in Trench 3 (Fig. 3). It was aligned north/south, measured at least 0.15m in width and could not be excavated due to its limited exposure within the trench. Ditch 303 correlates closely to the location of a former property boundary depicted on the Second Edition Ordnance Survey 25-inch map of 1903.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1. Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see *Archaeological Background*, above), the watching brief identified a single archaeological feature within the area of observed groundworks, which was probably a boundary ditch as depicted on 1903 historic mapping. Its absence from the First Edition (1884) and Third Edition (1923) of the OS 25-inch map suggests that this was a short-lived late 19th-century boundary. No evidence for any of the structures as depicted on these early OS maps within the development area was observed. The absence of any earlier archaeological features/deposits suggests that the nearby prehistoric, Roman or medieval activity may not have extended as far as the development area.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 7.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Daniel Sausins, Matt Coman and Michael Lavery. This report was written by Matt Coman. The report illustrations were prepared by Rosanna Price. The project archive has been compiled by Matt Coman, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Alex Thomson.

8. REFERENCES

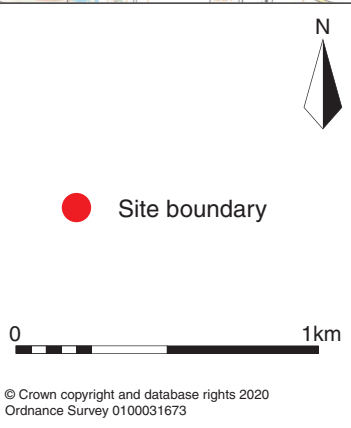
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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Area	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark black brown silty clay			0.28
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid-light yellow brown silt clay			0.35
1	102	Layer		Natural substrate	Light brown yellow & blue grey clay			>0.10
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark black brown silty clay			0.3
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid-light yellow brown silt clay			0.4
2	202	Layer		Natural substrate	Light brown yellow & blue grey clay			>0.10
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark black brown silty clay			0.3
3	301	Cut		Ditch	N-S aligned ditch, unexcavated	>1m	>0.15	
3	302	Fill	301	Fill of ditch 301	Dark black brown silty loam	>1m	>0.15	
3	303	Layer		Subsoil	Mid-light yellow brown silt clay			0.3m
3	304	Layer		Natural substrate	Light brown yellow & blue grey clay			>0.10
4	400	Depos		Made ground	Mid grey brown silty loam			0.42
4	401	Layer		Buried topsoil	Dark black brown silty clay			0.27
4	402	Layer		Subsoil	Mid-light yellow brown silt clay			0.29
4	403	Layer		Natural substrate	Light brown yellow & blue grey clay			>0.10
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Dark black brown silty clay			0.4
5	501	Layer		Subsoil	Mid-light yellow brown silt clay			0.4
5	502	Layer		Natural substrate	Light brown yellow & blue grey clay			>1.2

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Land at Melrose, Shute Street, King's Stanley, Stroud, Gloucestershire	
Short description	<p>In May and July 2020, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with residential development on at land at Melrose, Shute Street, King's Stanley, Stroud, Gloucestershire.</p> <p>A single undated ditch was identified in the east of the site, likely correlating with a boundary shown on historic mapping. No further deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no artefactual material was recovered.</p>	
Project dates	25 May and 27-30 July 2020	
Project type	Watching brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Land at Melrose Shute Street King's Stanley Stroud Gloucestershire	
Study area (m ² /ha)	0.06ha	
Site co-ordinates	381269 203304	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator	N/A	
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Alex Thomson	
Project Supervisor		
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive	Content
Paper	Museum in the Park, Stroud	Fieldwork recording sheets
Digital	Museum in the Park, Stroud	Digital photos, etc
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2020 <i>Land at Melrose Shute Street King's Stanley Stroud Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> , CA typescript report CR0348_1		



Cotswold Archaeology

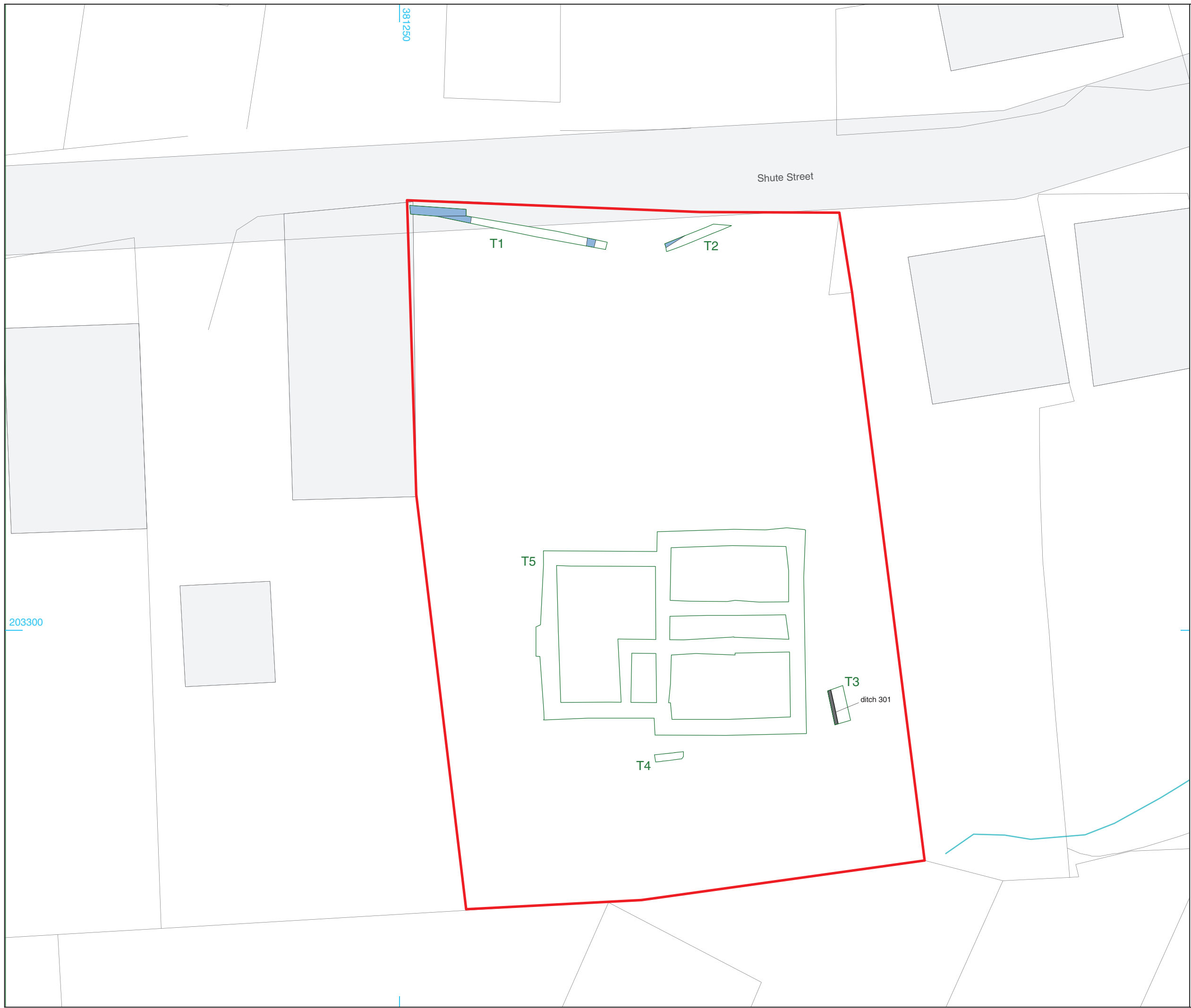
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PROJECT TITLE
 Land at Melrose, Shute Street, Kings Stanley, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY AW **PROJECT NO.** CR0348 **FIGURE NO.**
CHECKED BY DJB **DATE** 12.08.20 **1**
APPROVED BY AT **SCALE@A4** 1:25,000

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 Ordnance Survey 0100031673



381250

Shute Street

T1

T2

T5

T3

ditch 301

T4

203300

- Site boundary
- Observed groundworks
- Archaeological feature
- Modern



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PROJECT TITLE
 Land at Melrose, Shute Street,
 Kings Stanley, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
 Location of observed groundworks

DRAWN BY	AW	PROJECT NO.	CR0348	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	12.09.20	2
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Trench 3 showing ditch 303, looking north-west (0.3m scale)



Trench 5, looking north (1m scale)


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PROJECT TITLE
 Land at Melrose, Shute Street,
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FIGURE TITLE
Photographs

DRAWN BY	AW	PROJECT NO.	CR0348	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	10.08.20	3
APPROVED BY	AT	SCALE@A3	NA	

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