

**THE OLD VICARAGE  
TAYNTON  
OXFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

*For*

**MRS ALEXANDRA LLOYD**

CA PROJECT: 2482  
CA REPORT: 08086

MAY 2008


COTSWOLD  
ARCHAEOLOGY



# THE OLD VICARAGE TAYNTON OXFORDSHIRE

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

CA PROJECT: 2482  
CA REPORT: 08086

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date	24 April 2008
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signed	
date	6 May 2008
issue	01

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

Fig. 2 The site, showing location of groundworks (1:500)

## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** The Old Vicarage  
**Location:** Taynton, Oxfordshire  
**NGR:** SP 2341 1371  
**Type:** Watching Brief  
**Date:** 4 December 2007  
**Planning Reference:** 07/1682/P/FP  
**Location of Archive:** To be deposited with Oxfordshire Museums Service  
**Site Code:** TOV08

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the extension of The Old Vicarage, Taynton, Oxfordshire. The watching brief was undertaken on the behalf of Mrs Alexandra Lloyd.

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 December 2007 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Mrs Alexandra Lloyd at The Old Vicarage, Taynton, Oxfordshire (centred on NGR: SP 2341 1371; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent for the extension of The Old Vicarage and the construction of a new swimming pool (Planning ref: 07/1682/P/FP). The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the development. To date the works have comprised the construction of the extension to the rear of the property only and the construction of the swimming pool has been postponed.
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed archaeological brief prepared by Hugh Coddington, Deputy County Archaeological Officer, Oxfordshire County Council (OCC), the archaeological advisor to West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC) and with a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2007) and approved by WODC acting on the advice of Hugh Coddington. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (2001) and the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991).

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The site is bounded to the south-west by the unclassified road running between Burford and Taynton and on the remaining sides by further residential properties and gardens (Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 110m AOD, with the ground dropping downward to the south.
- 1.4 The site comprises an area of approximately 540m<sup>2</sup> and contains the residential property together with areas of hard-standing and parts of the garden.
- 1.5 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Marlstone Rock Formation of the Jurassic era (BGS 1998). This was encountered during the groundworks.

### **Archaeological background**

- 1.6 Archaeological interest in the site arises not only from the status of The Old Vicarage as a Grade II listed building dating to the 18th century but also its location within the historic core of Taynton. The village is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 implying a late Saxon or Norman origin at the latest and cartographic data demonstrates that the form of the village has changed very little over time. The nearby church of St John dates to the 14th century and Romano-British pottery has also been found in its vicinity (OCCAS 2007).

### **Methodology**

- 1.7 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2007). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising the machine excavation of foundations, services trenches and ground reduction (Fig. 2).
- 1.8 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.9 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with the Oxfordshire Museums Service. 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 The natural geological substrate 003 comprised green clay, was revealed across the footprint of the extension and was encountered at an average depth of 0.7m below present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain throughout by a 0.5m thick levelling deposit comprising modern building material, 002, for the modern concrete surface, 001.
- 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 area, the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. The absence of topsoil and subsoil deposits may indicate that any archaeological features may have been truncated during previous development.

### **4. CA PROJECT TEAM**

Fieldwork was undertaken by Steve Sheldon. The report was written by Philippa Mitcheson. The illustrations were prepared by Jemma Elliot. The archive has been compiled by Philippa Mitcheson, and prepared for deposition by Kathryn Price. The project was managed for CA by Laurent Coleman.

### **5. REFERENCES**

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1998 Geological Survey of England and Wales, Sheet 235 Cirencester, Scale 1:50,000

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2007 *The Old Vicarage, Taynton, Oxfordshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

OCCAS (Oxfordshire County Council Archaeological Service) 2007 *The Old Vicarage, Taynton: Design Brief for Archaeological Watching Brief*

**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
001	Layer	Modern concrete flooring	7	6.5	0.2
002	Layer	Levelling deposit for 001, silt and rubble	7	6.5	0.5
003	Layer	Green grey clay.	8	7	1.2

**APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	The Old Vicarage, Taynton, Oxfordshire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the extension of The Old Vicarage at Taynton, Oxfordshire.</p> <p>No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.</p>	
Project dates	4 December 2008	
Project type	Watching brief	
Previous work	N/A	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	The Old Vicarage, Taynton, Oxfordshire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	540m <sup>2</sup>	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SP 2341 1371	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Oxfordshire County Council Archaeological Service	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Laurent Coleman	
Project Supervisor	Steve Sheldon	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	Oxfordshire Museums Service	WSI, pro forma registers and recording forms
Digital	N/A	N/A
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008 <i>The Old Vicarage, Taynton, Oxfordshire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i>. CA Typescript report <b>08086</b></p>		





**COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

PROJECT TITLE

**The Old Vicarage, Taynton  
Oxfordshire**

FIGURE TITLE

**Site location plan**

DRAWN BY

JE

SCALE

1:25,000@A4

PROJECT NO.

2482

FIGURE NO.

**1**



- site
- location of observed groundworks



**COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

PROJECT TITLE

The Old Vicarage, Taynton  
Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE

**The site, showing location of  
observed groundworks**

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SCALE

1:500@A4

PROJECT NO.

2482

FIGURE NO.

**2**