

Land off Broadfield Road Eastington Gloucestershire

Archaeological Evaluation



for
Springfield Investments Ltd

CA Project: 5300
CA Report: 15149

April 2015



Land on Broadfield Road
Eastington
Gloucestershire

Archaeological Evaluation

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A	24 March 2015	S.J.Sworn	Cliff Bateman	Internal review		Simon Cox

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

Fig. 2 Trench location plan showing geophysical survey results (1:750)

Fig. 3 Photograph



SUMMARY

Project Name: Land off Broadfield Road,
Location: Eastington, Gloucestershire
NGR: SO 7755 0565
Type: Evaluation
Date: 23-24 March 2015
Location of Archive: Museum in the Park, Stroud, Gloucestershire
Site Code: BREA15

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in March 2015 on land off Broadfield Road, Eastington, Gloucestershire. Four trenches were excavated.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were identified during the course of the evaluation.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In March 2015 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Springfield Investments Ltd on land off Broadfield Road, Eastington, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SO 7755 0565; Fig. 1). The evaluation was commissioned to accompany a forthcoming planning application to Stroud District Council (SDC) for development of the site.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2015a) and approved by Charles Parry, Archaeologist, Gloucestershire County Council, the archaeological advisor to SDC.
- 1.3 The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014), *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

- 1.4 The proposed development area is approximately 1ha in extent and comprises part of an agricultural field, currently under an arable regime. It is bound to the south by residential properties and to the north, west and east by further agricultural land. The site lies at approximately 31m AOD, and is relatively flat.
- 1.5 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as mudstone of the Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation (Undifferentiated) (BGS 2015). Natural clays were identified in each of the trenches.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Eastington is first mentioned in 1220 as *Esteuenton*, although it subsumed Alkerton, which is first mentioned in the Domesday Book in 1086 (Smith 1964). Within 1km to the north of the current site Roman and possibly Saxon finds were discovered during gravel extraction in the 1920s-30s and during the construction of the M5 motorway in early 1970s. These include pottery, burials and building remains of a possible villa complex (Fowler & Walthew 1971). The postulated course of the Roman road from Easton Grey to Arlingham (Margary 1973, road 543), may survive within or

close to the current site. Cartographic sources indicate that the proposed development area has remained unchanged since the late 19th century.

- 2.2 A geophysical survey of the current site identified no anomalies indicative of archaeological features (AS 2015; see Fig. 2).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation were 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 *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014), the evaluation had been designed to be minimally intrusive and minimally destructive to archaeological remains. The information gathered will enable SDC 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).

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of four trenches, each measuring 20m in length and 2m in width, representing a 2% sample of the proposed development area (Fig. 2). The trenches were targeted upon geophysical anomalies identified during the preceding survey and on the postulated course of the Roman road. The location of Trenches 2 and 4 was altered slightly from that in the WSI, being rotated to an east/west alignment due to the presence of overhead power cables. 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.
- 4.2 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*.

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*; no deposits were identified that required sampling.

4.4 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. The paper and digital site archive will be deposited with the Museum in the Park, Stroud, Gloucestershire.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3)

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

5.2 The natural geological substrate, consisting of compact yellow-grey clay, was revealed in all of the excavated trenches typically at a depth of 0.4m below the present ground level. It was sealed by compacted clay subsoil that was in turn overlain by the present ploughsoil.

5.3 A number of field drains were noted in Trenches 1, 2 and 4, all of which correlated with geophysical anomalies, although the latter had provisionally been interpreted as a possible ditch-like feature by the preceding geophysical survey. No evidence for the linear geophysical anomaly targeted by Trench 3 was identified.

6. THE FINDS

6.1 No artefacts or biological evidence were recovered during the course of the current works.

7. DISCUSSION

7.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the proposed development area, no features or deposits of archaeological interest were identified during the course of the evaluation. This absence of archaeological deposits suggests that the postulated course of the Roman road either lies to the south-west of the application area (see Fig. 2) or that it has been truncated by modern ploughing regimes. It is noteworthy

that no evidence for the Roman road was identified during recent archaeological trenching immediately to the south-west of the current site (CA 2015b).

8. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Simon Sworn, assisted by Sam Bateman. The report was written by Simon Sworn. The archive has been compiled by Simon Sworn, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.

9. REFERENCES

AS (Archaeological Surveys Ltd) 2015 *Land off Broadfield Road, Eastington, Gloucestershire: Magnetometer Survey Report*

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2015 *Geology of Britain Viewer* http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 9 February 2012

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015a *Land off Broadfield Road, Eastington, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

CA 2015b *Land off Alkerton Road, Eastington, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation*
CA typescript report **15148**

Fowler, P. J. & Walthew, C. V. 1971 'Archaeology and the M5 Motorway', *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society*, **90**, 22-63

Margary, I.D., 1973 *Roman Roads in Britain*

Smith, A. H. 1964 *Place Names of Gloucestershire*



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Plough soil	Mid greyish brown silty clay	>20m	>2m	0.21m	
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Light yellowish grey silty clay	>20m	>2m	0.27m	
1	102	Layer		Natural substrate	Light greyish yellow compact clay	>20m	>2m		
2	200	Layer		Plough soil	Mid greyish brown silty clay	>20m	>2m	0.25m	
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Light yellowish grey silty clay	>20m	>2m	0.10m	
2	202	Layer		Natural substrate	Light greyish yellow compact clay	>20m	>2m		
3	300	Layer		Plough soil	Mid greyish brown silty clay	>20m	>2m	0.25m	
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Light yellowish grey silty clay	>20m	>2m	0.10m	
3	302	Layer		Natural substrate	Light greyish yellow compact clay	>20m	>2m		
4	400	Layer		Plough soil	Mid greyish brown silty clay	>20m	>2m	0.30m	
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Light yellowish grey silty clay	>20m	>2m	0.15m	
4	402	Layer		Natural substrate	Light greyish yellow compact clay	>20m	>2m	0.05m	

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land off Broadfield Road, Eastington, Gloucestershire.	
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in March 2015 at Land off Broadfield Road, Eastington, Gloucestershire. Four trenches were excavated. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were identified during the course of the evaluation.	
Project dates	23 – 24 March 2015	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	Geophysical survey (AS 2015)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Land off Broadfield Road, Eastington, Gloucestershire.	
Study area	1ha	
Site co-ordinates	SO 7755 0565	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	None	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Simon Sworn	
MONUMENT TYPE		
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Paper	Museum in the Park, Stroud, Gloucestershire	Trench record sheets.
Digital	Museum in the Park, Stroud, Gloucestershire	Database, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 Land off Broadfield Road, Eastington, Gloucestershire: <i>Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 15149		

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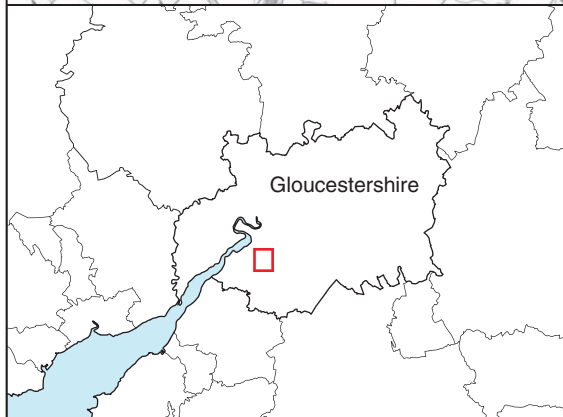
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PROJECT TITLE

Land off Broadfield Road, Eastington, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

DRAWN BY RP PROJECT NO. 5300
CHECKED BY JB DATE 30.03.15
APPROVED BY CMB SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1



- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- field drain
- possible course of Roman road

Geophysics Key
(Archaeological Surveys Ltd)

- Positive linear anomaly - possible ditch-like feature
- Linear anomaly - of agricultural origin
- Positive linear anomaly - land drain
- Positive anomaly - magnetically enhanced material
- Negative anomaly flanked by positive responses - footpath
- Magnetic debris - spread of magnetically thermoremanent/ferrous material
- Strong dipolar anomaly - ferrous object



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PROJECT TITLE
Land off Broadfield Road, Eastington, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan showing geophysical survey results

DRAWN BY	RP	PROJECT NO.	5300	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	JB	DATE	30.03.15	2
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SO



3

3 General view of site, Trench 4 in the foreground, facing north-east



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PROJECT TITLE

Land off Broadfield Road, Eastington,
 Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

DRAWN BY	RP	PROJECT NO.	5300	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	JB	DATE	30.03.15	
APPROVED BY	CMB	SCALE@A4	N/A	3