

**LORETTO
ST MARY'S WAY
BROWNSHILL
STROUD
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

For

MR M WIGHTMAN

on behalf of

TREE VIEW DEVELOPMENT

CA PROJECT: 2520
CA REPORT: 08092

MAY 2008


**COTSWOLD
ARCHAEOLOGY**



LORETTO
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BROWNSHILL
STROUD
GLOUCESTERSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

CA PROJECT: 2520
CA REPORT: 08092

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date	28 April 2008
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date	1 May 2008
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signed	
date	6 May 2008
issue	01

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Fig. 2 The site, showing location of groundworks (1:200)

SUMMARY

Project Name: Loretto
Location: St Mary's Way, Brownhill, Stroud, Gloucestershire
NGR: ST 8812 0259
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 04 March 2008
Planning Reference: 06/2316/FUL
Location of Archive: To be deposited with the Museum in the Park, Stroud
Site Code: LOS08

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the erection of a replacement dwelling at Loretto, St Mary's Way, Brownhill, Stroud, Gloucestershire.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material was recovered.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In March 2008 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Mr M Wightman on behalf of Tree View Development at Loretto, St Mary's Way, Brownhill, Stroud, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: ST 8812 0259; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to planning consent for the erection of a replacement dwelling (Planning ref: 06/2316/FUL). The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the development.
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2008) and approved by Mr Charles Parry, Senior Archaeological Officer, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC), the archaeological advisor to SDC. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (2001), the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Field work in Gloucestershire* (GCC 1996) and the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991).

The site

- 1.3 The site is situated on the steep slopes of the Cotswolds. It lies to the south-west of Brownhill and to the south-east of Stroud. The site is bounded by St Mary's Way to the north and the meadows of Vine Farm to the south and west (Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 200m AOD.
- 1.4 The proposed development area measures 380m² and comprises a former dwelling and garden.
- 1.5 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Fuller's Earth Oolite of the Middle Jurassic era and which is landslide and founded strata i.e. where the ground has collapsed due to subsidence (BGS 1975). The natural substrate observed during groundworks was a pale yellowish brown clay and limestone brash.

Archaeological background

- 1.6 The archaeological interest in the site arises from the location, immediately to the west, of an earthwork that has been identified as a long barrow (Gloucestershire SMR 21355). However, a site visit in 2002 by the County Archaeologist for Gloucestershire did not reveal any positive characteristics that would identify the earthwork as a long barrow. The eastern end of the earthwork appears to have been truncated by the construction of the extant building at Loretto that is due to be replaced. The proposed works, whilst potentially impacting on this feature, could also provide some information on its original form and function (CA 2008).

Methodology

- 1.7 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2008). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks including the excavation of foundations and service trenches. Non-archaeologically significant deposits were removed by the contractors under archaeological supervision. Where mechanical excavators were used, these were equipped with a toothless bucket.
- 1.8 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. The archive will be deposited with the museum on the Park, Stroud. 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 (FIG. 2)

- 2.1 The natural geological substrate was revealed across the site at a depth of 0.25m–0.60m below present ground level. A seam of large limestone Oolite pieces, 3m in width, was observed running E/W across the site. These deposits were overlain by between 0.25–0.60m of topsoil.

- 2.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material was recovered.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks associated with the earthwork to the west. The eastern end of the earthwork had clearly been removed during the construction of the extant building and gardens at Loretto. The alignment of the possible barrow coincides with that of the band of large limestone pieces observed running E/W across the site, suggesting that the earthwork may be of geological origin.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Jonathan Bennett. The report was written by Jonathan Bennett. The illustrations were prepared by Jemma Elliott. The archive has been compiled by Jonathan Bennett, and prepared for deposition by Kathryn Price. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1975 *England and Wales, Solid and drift Edition, Sheet 234 Gloucester, 1:50,000 Series*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008 *Loretto, St Mary's Way, Brownhill, Stroud, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot- date
001	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown sandy silt			0.25m- 0.60m	
002	Natural	Pale yellowish brown clay with inclusions of limestone brash fragments				

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Loretto, St Mary's Lane, Brownhill, Stroud, Gloucestershire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the erection of a replacement dwelling at Loretto, St Mary's Way, Brownhill, Stroud, Gloucestershire.</p> <p>No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material was recovered.</p>	
Project dates	04 March 2008	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Watching Brief	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	Earthwork - possible long barrow (Gloucestershire SMR 21355)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Loretto, St Mary's Lane, Brownhill, Stroud, Gloucestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	380m ²	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	ST 8812 0259	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Gloucestershire County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Jonathan Bennett	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	Museum on the Park, Stroud	Trench sheets, site plan
Digital	Museum on the Park, Stroud	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008 <i>Loretto, St Mary's Way, Brownhill, Stroud, Gloucestershire Archaeological Watching Brief</i>, CA typescript report no. 08092</p>		



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

**Loretto, St Mary's Way, Brownhill
Stroud, Gloucestershire**

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

DRAWN BY

JE

SCALE

1:25,000@A4

PROJECT NO.

2520

FIGURE NO.

1



- site
- area disturbed by extant building
- band of large limestone pieces
- earthwork recorded on SMR



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

Loretto, St Mary's Way, Brownshill
Stroud, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

**The site, showing location
of groundworks**

DRAWN BY

JE

SCALE

1:200@A4

PROJECT NO.

2520

FIGURE NO.

2