Cotswold Archaeology

Land at Badbury Park
Swindon
Wiltshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

for
Geotechnics Limited

CA Project: 6606
CA Report: 18247

May 2018

Andover Cirencester Exeter Milton Keynes

Land at Badbury Park
Swindon
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Archaeological Watching Brief

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Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	17 May 2018	Sian Reynish	Ian Barnes	Internal review	Client comment	TBC

CONTENTS

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land at Badbury Park
Location:	Swindon, Wiltshire
NGR:	418449 182195
Type:	Watching Brief
Date:	25-27 April 2018
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Swindon Museum and Art Gallery
Site Code:	BADB 18

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during ground investigations prior to the construction of a school building and associated infrastructure on land at Badbury Park, Swindon, Wiltshire.

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

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In April 2018 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at the request of Geotechnics Limited on land at Badbury Park Swindon, Wiltshire (centred at NGR: 418449 182195; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to accompany a submission for planning consent for the erection of a two story school building with associated parking and play areas.

1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2018) and approved by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, County Archaeologist, Wiltshire Council (WC). The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 2014).

The site

1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 2ha in extent, and comprises agricultural fields divided by a hedgerow. It is bordered to the south by Day House Lane, to the west by agricultural land, to the north by woodland, and to the east by a housing development. The site lies at approximately 113m AOD and is broadly level.

1.4 The site is located on the border between two types of underlying bedrock geology. The north-west of the site comprises Kimmeridge Clay Sandstone Formation from the Jurrasic period. The south-east of the site comprises Lower Greensand Group – mudstone and sand from the Cretaceous Period. No superficial deposits were identified (BGS 2018). Layers of sands overlain by sandy clay were observed within the groundworks.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The site has been subject to desk-based assessment (JSAC 2003), geophysical survey (PCG 2005) and trial trench evaluation (OA 2006) as part of a previous planning application. These assessments are briefly summarised below.

2.2 A stone circle is located approximately 250m to the north-west of site (Wiltshire Historic Environment Record (HER) ref MWI16150). The circle comprises five

sarsens, none of which are believed to be in their original upright positions, forming a semicircle. Four additional stones (now removed) were previously recorded around Day House, to the southwest of the extant stones. Accounting for all the noted stones, the overall diameter of the circle would have been approximately 92m. Medieval and post-medieval settlement is noted at Badbury Wick.

2.3 Immediately to the west of the site, geophysical survey (PCG 2005) and trial trenching identified a possible Roman farmstead (OA 2006).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks;

- at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2018). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising the excavation of 12 geotechnical test pits (Fig. 2).

4.2 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.

4.3 The archive is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. This will be deposited with Swindon Museum and Art Gallery. 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.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2)

5.1 The natural geological substrate consisting of fine sands overlain by a sandy clay were observed at a depth ranging between 0.63m to 1.4m below present ground level (bpgl). The natural substrate was most shallow towards the western extent of the site. It was overlain by a mid orangey brown silty clay subsoil averaging 0.67m in thickness, which was in turn sealed by a dark yellowish brown clayey silt, averaging 0.24m in thickness. Test pit 5 partially cut through a modern bank which overlay the topsoil.

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

6. DISCUSSION

6.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see archaeological background above), the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks.

6.2 In comparison to the results of the nearby evaluation (OA 2006), the natural substrate was observed at a markedly deeper depth in adjacent locations: in Trench 32 of the evaluation the natural substrate was 0.42m bpgl whereas the nearest of the current observations (Test Pit 1) it was 0.94m bpgl. The current phase of archaeological observations also noted a wide variation in the depth of natural substrate, without any clear indication of truncation in its upper surface.

6.3 As such, the previous evaluation and the current phase of work are in agreement that archaeological assets are unlikely to have extended into this area.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Sian Reynish. The report was written by Sian Reynish. The illustrations were prepared by Aleksandra Osinska. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Ian Barnes.

8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2018 *Geology of Britain Viewer* http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html Accessed 16 April 2018

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2007 *Badbury Park Swindon, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

DCLG (Department of Communities and Local Government) 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*

JSAC 2003 *An archaeological desk-based assessment of the proposed Swindon Gateway, Coate, Swindon, Wiltshire*, Report ref: **1082/03/01**

OA (Oxford Archaeology) 2006 *Swindon Gateway, B 2005/14, Archaeological Evaluation Report.* Job No: **2961**

PCG (Pre-Construct Geophysics) 2005 *Geophysical survey: site of the proposed Swindon Gateway Development, Coate, Swindon, Wiltshire*

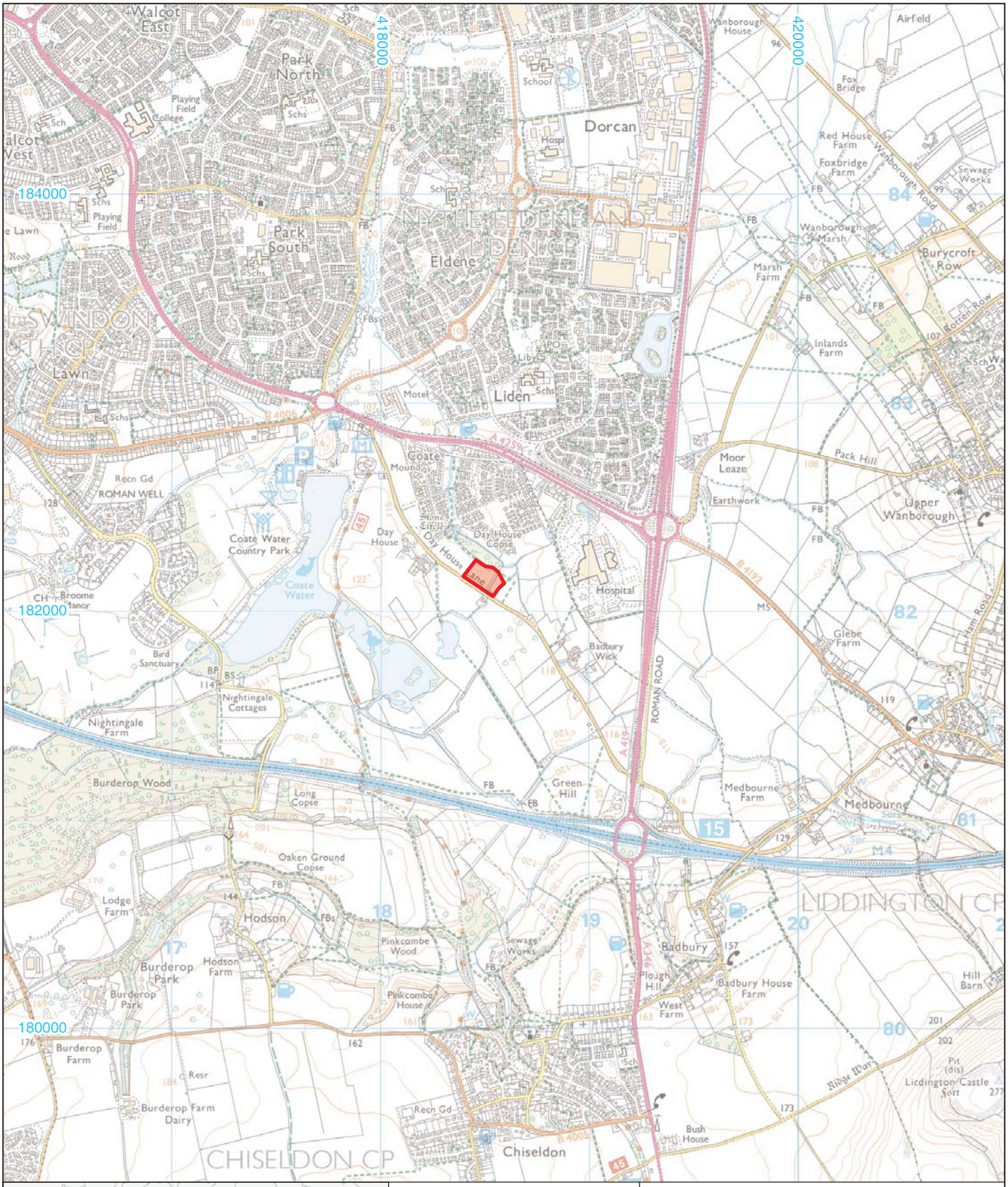
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

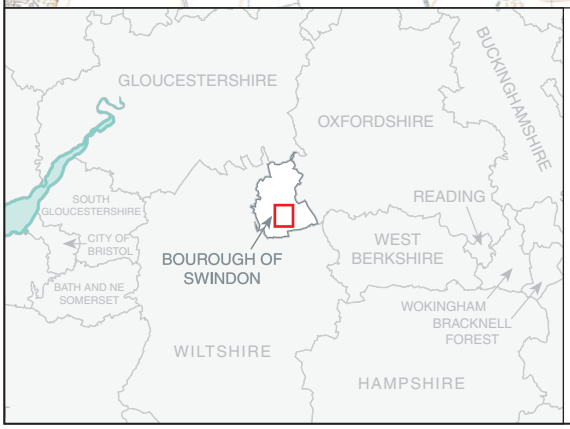
Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		topsoil	dark yellowish brown clayey silt.	3.5	0.6	0.24	
1	101	Layer		subsoil	mid orangey brown silty clay.	3.5	0.6	0.7	
1	102	Layer		natural substrate	mid orangey brown sandy clay with brownish grey mottling.	3.5	0.6	0.41	
1	103	Layer		natural substrate	light yellowish grey silty fine sand with light yellowish brown mottling.	3.5	0.6	>0.35	
2	200	Layer		topsoil	dark yellowish brown clayey silt.	3.2	0.6	0.27	
2	201	Layer		subsoil	mid orangey brown silty clay.	3.2	0.6	0.51	
2	202	Layer		natural substrate	mid orangey brown sandy clay with brownish grey mottling.	3.2	0.6	0.12	
2	203	Layer		natural substrate	light yellowish grey silty fine sand with light yellowish brown mottling.	3.2	0.6	1.5	
2	204	Layer		natural substrate	dark bluey grey fine sand	3.2	0.6	>0.6	
3	300	Layer		topsoil	dark yellowish brown clayey silt.	2.65	0.6	0.2	
3	301	Layer		subsoil	mid orangey brown silty clay.	2.65	0.6	0.78	
3	302	Layer		natural substrate	mid orangey brown sandy clay with brownish grey mottling.	2.65	0.6	0.06	
3	303	Layer		natural substrate	light yellowish grey silty fine sand with light yellowish brown mottling.	2.65	0.6	0.41	
4	400	Layer		topsoil	dark yellowish brown clayey silt.	3.2	0.6	0.2	
4	401	Layer		subsoil	mid orangey brown silty clay.	3.2	0.6	0.7	
4	402	Layer		natural substrate	mid orangey brown sandy clay with brownish grey mottling.	3.2	0.6	1	
4	403	Layer		natural substrate	light yellowish grey silty fine sand with light yellowish brown mottling.	3.2	0.6	>0.1	
5	500	Layer		topsoil	dark yellowish brown clayey silt.	3	0.6	0.2	
5	501	Deposit		modern make-up	light yellowish/greyish brown sitly clay with modern brick, gravel, plastic etc. Forms a bank up to the new housing estate.	>0.5	0.6	0.58	
5	502	Layer		buried topsoil	dark yellowish brown clayey silt. Same as topsoil across the site.	3	0.6	0.22	
5	503	Layer		subsoil	mid orangey brown silty clay.	3	0.6	0.6	
5	504	Layer		natural substrate	mid orangey brown sandy clay with brownish grey mottling.	3	0.6	>1.4	
6	600	Layer		topsoil	dark yellowish brown clayey silt.	3	0.6	0.26	
6	601	Layer		subsoil	mid orangey brown silty clay.	3	0.6	0.47	
6	602	Layer		natural substrate	mid orangey brown sandy clay with brownish grey mottling.	3	0.6	0.21	
6	603	Layer		natural substrate	light yellowish grey silty fine sand with light yellowish brown mottling.	3	0.6	>2.06	
7	700	Layer		topsoil	dark yellowish brown clayey silt.	3.5	0.6	0.26	
7	701	Layer		subsoil	mid orangey brown silty clay.	3.5	0.6	0.54	
7	702	Layer		natural substrate	light yellowish grey silty fine sand with light yellowish brown mottling.	3.5	0.6	1.2	
7	703	Layer		natural substrate	mid brownish grey fine sand.	3.5	0.6	1	
7	704	Layer		natural substrate	dark bluey grey fine sand.	3.5	0.6		
8	800	Layer		topsoil	dark yellowish brown clayey silt.	3.1	0.6	0.23	
8	801	Layer		subsoil	mid orangey brown silty clay.	3.1	0.6	0.4	
8	802	Layer		natural substrate	mid orangey brown sandy clay with brownish grey mottling.	3.1	0.6	0.52	
8	803	Layer		natural substrate	light yellowish grey silty fine sand with light yellowish brown mottling.	3.1	0.6	>0.75	
9	900	Layer		topsoil	dark yellowish brown clayey silt.	3.4	0.6	0.25	
9	901	Layer		subsoil	mid orangey brown silty clay.	3.4	0.6	0.75	

9	903	Layer		natural substrate	light yellowish grey silty fine sand with light yellowish brown mottling.	3.6	0.6	>0.95	
10	1000	Layer		topsoil	dark yellowish brown clayey silt.	3.6	0.6	0.26	
10	1001	Layer		subsoil	mid orangey brown silty clay.	3.6	0.6	0.7	
10	1002	Layer		natural substrate	mid orangey brown sandy clay with brownish grey mottling.	3.6	0.6	0.41	
10	1003	Layer		natural substrate	light yellowish grey silty fine sand with light yellowish brown mottling.	3.6	0.6	>1.13	
11	1100	Layer		topsoil	dark yellowish brown clayey silt.	2.6	0.6	0.25	
11	1101	Layer		subsoil	mid orangey brown silty clay.	2.6	0.6	1.15	
11	1102	Layer		natural substrate	mid orangey brown sandy clay with brownish grey mottling.	2.6	0.6	1.1	
11	1103	Layer		natural substrate	light yellowish grey silty fine sand with light yellowish brown mottling.	2.6	0.6	>0.2	
12	1200	Layer		topsoil	dark yellowish brown clayey silt.	3	0.6	0.2	
12	1201	Layer		subsoil	mid orangey brown silty clay.	3	0.6	0.76	
12	1202	Layer		natural substrate	mid orangey brown sandy clay with brownish grey mottling.	3	0.6	>1.64	

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Badbury Park, Swindon, Wiltshire	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with erection of a two story school building with associated parking and play areas at Badbury Park, Swindon, Wiltshire. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.	
Project dates	25-27 April 2018	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	Desk-based assessment (JSAC 2003) Geophysical survey (PCG 2005) Evaluation (OA 2006)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Badbury Park, Swindon, Wiltshire	
Study area (M^2/ha)	2ha	
Site co-ordinates	418449 182195	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Wiltshire Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ian Barnes	
Project Supervisor	Sian Reynish	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper		Trench sheets and photographic register.
Digital		Digital photographs and digital plan.
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2018 *Badbury Park, Swindon, Wiltshire: Archaeological Watching Brief.* CA typescript report **18247**		





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PROJECT TITLE

Badbury Park, Swindon, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

DRAWN BY	**RP**	*PROJECT NO.*	**6606**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**AO**	*DATE*	**03.05.18**	**1**
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418500

418600

182200

182100

TP1

TP2

TP6

TP3

TP7

TP8

TP4

TP10

TP9

TP5

TP12

TP11

DAY HOUSE LANE

The Oaks

N

site boundary

test pit

0 40m

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PROJECT TITLE

Badbury Park, Swindon, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

Site, showing location of observed groundworks

DRAWN BY	RP	PROJECT NO.	6606	FIGURE NO.
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