

4 Church Street Silverstone Northamptonshire

*Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording,
Analysis and Publication (OIRAP)*



for
CgMs Limited

on behalf of
iexpand Developments Ltd

CA Project: 660917

CA Report: 18316

Site Code: CSSN17

Event UID: ENN108704

June 2018



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Silverstone
Northamptonshire

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CONTENTS

| | | |
|-----|---------------------------------------|----|
| 1. | INTRODUCTION..... | 3 |
| 2. | ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND..... | 3 |
| 3. | AIMS AND OBJECTIVES..... | 5 |
| 4. | METHODOLOGY..... | 5 |
| 5. | RESULTS (FIGS. 2 AND 3)..... | 6 |
| 6. | DISCUSSION..... | 7 |
| 7. | CA PROJECT TEAM..... | 7 |
| 10. | REFERENCES..... | 7 |
| | APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS..... | 9 |
| | APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM..... | 10 |

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000 / 1:2,500)
- Fig. 2 The site, showing location of observed groundworks (1:200).
- Fig. 3.1 Plot 1 trench section, looking north-west facing (scale 2m)
- Fig. 3.2 Plot 1 looking north-west
- Fig.3.3 Plot 2 looking north
- Fig. 3.4 Plot 3 car park area landscaping, looking north-east

Summary

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Project Name: | 4 Church Street |
| Location: | Silverstone, Northamptonshire |
| NGR: | 466739:244200 |
| Type: | Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication (OIRAP) |
| Date: | 9, 16-17 May 2018 |
| Planning Reference: | S/2017/1624/FUL |
| Location of Archive: | Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource centre (NARC) |
| Site Code: | CSSN17 |

A programme of archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication (OIRAP) was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology, for CgMs Limited, on behalf of iexpand Developments Ltd. This took place during groundworks prior to the construction of three residential dwellings at 4 Church Street, Silverstone (centred on NGR: 466739:244200; Fig. 1) over the course of three days in May 2018.

No features or deposits of archaeological significance were observed during these groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In May 2018 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out a programme of archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication (hereafter, OIRAP) for CgMs Limited on behalf of iexpand Developments Ltd at 4 Church Street, Silverstone (centred at NGR: 466739:244200; Fig 1). The OIRAP was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent for the construction of three residential dwellings (Planning ref: S/2017/1624/FUL).
- 1.2 The OIRAP was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Cotswold Archaeology (CA) 2017 which was approved by Liz Mordue for Assistant Archaeological Advisor for Northamptonshire County Council (AAANCC). The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014). It was monitored by Liz Mordue; though no site monitoring visits were required.

The site

- 1.3 The site is located close to the north-western edge of the village, on the north side of Church Street, close to its junction with High Street and Little London. The site was previously occupied by a bungalow with associated garage and garden, which was demolished in advance of the groundworks for the current development. The ground within the site lies at c.119m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), but in its wider topographical setting it is situated on a north-east facing slope overlooking the valley of a small stream, a tributary of the River Tove.
- 1.4 The geology of the site comprises Jurassic rocks at the interface between the Blisworth Limestone Formation and the preceding Rutland Formation (BGS 2017). There are no superficial deposits mapped within the site, although glacial diamicton deposits of the Oadby Member and mid Pleistocene glaciofluvial deposits of sand and gravel occur nearby.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Reference to the Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record (HER) and other sources indicates that the site lies within an area of archaeological potential, with

remains of predominately medieval date having been documented and investigated in the immediate vicinity (HER numbers in parentheses).

- 2.2 The hamlet of Silverstone is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as Silvetone and Selvestone (RCHM(E) 1982). The name is likely to derive from the Old English name Sigewulf and the suffix tun, a settlement or enclosure (Gover et al. 1933). The hamlet was probably attached to the late Saxon royal estate of Towcester, which was the administrative centre of the area, a role that it maintained into the medieval period when it served as head of the hundred. The village was located at the edge of extensive areas of woodland and the exploitation of woodland resources probably made a significant contribution to the village's economy. In the late 18th and early 19th centuries, Silverstone was home to 'tree-fellers and hewers, sawyers and hurdlers, spoke-choppers and faggoters, lath-renders, rake and ladder makers ...'; so it is probable that similar woodland industries were undertaken in Silverstone in the medieval period .
- 2.3 The location of a well-documented royal hunting lodge at Silverstone has not been identified, although it may have been located to the north-east of the site, near the parish church and close to the smaller of two fishponds, at a site known as Hall Garth in 1600 (745/1). It is mentioned as early as 1121-30 and was frequently visited by the Angevin kings in the 12th and 13th centuries. It was rebuilt and altered several times before its abandonment in 1317.
- 2.4 The village stocks, which were removed in 1886, stood on a large open space called "Stocks Hill", near the church, although their precise site is unknown (745/0/1).
- 2.5 Archaeological test pits excavated within the churchyard of St Michaels and All Angels, c.80m to the south-east of the site, revealed a limestone floor and the robbed out walls of a possible building (745/2/2; Ivens 2006). Dating evidence was scarce, but the building was probably demolished in the late 17th or early 18th century, suggesting that it may have been medieval or early post-medieval in date.
- 2.6 Approximately 600m to the north-west of the site, on the opposing slope of the valley and east of Bucknell Wood, is the site of the deserted village of Charlock (744/0/1). Little is known about the history of this site and it was not recorded by name until 1250, though it is probably much older. The settlement has been identified from cropmarks and surviving earthworks, which show a complex of small enclosures,

paddocks and tracks. The settlement appears to have been fitted in at the end of a furlong, suggesting that it post-dates the establishment of the open field system. By the stream at the base of the slope is the site of a medieval fishpond and possibly a mill (747/1/1).

- 2.7 The remains of the village's open field system can still be seen at several locations as surviving ridge and furrow earthworks, including in fields on either side of Church Street (9935/0/1; 9935/0/3; 9935/0/7).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The general aim of the archaeological investigation was to determine and understand the nature, function and character of any archaeological remains that might have been encountered within the site and to set these within their cultural and environmental setting.

- 3.2 Specific objectives were to:

- establish the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation in the development site;
- establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes; and
- recover palaeoenvironmental remains to determine local environmental conditions as an intrinsic part of the investigation.

- 3.3 During the course of the fieldwork the results were assessed and, where relevant, reference would have been made to the regional research objectives outlined in *The Archaeology of the East Midlands: An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda* (Cooper 2006) and *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands* (Knight et al. 2012).

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2017). An archaeologist was present during all intrusive groundworks related to Plots 1, 2 and 3, which consisted of foundation trenches, 0.6m wide and up to 1.6m deep from ground level, for all three dwelling plots, as well as ground reduction for access (Fig.

2). It was agreed with Liz Mordue that subsequent archaeological monitoring during the excavation of service trenches and a car port was not necessary due to the nature of the existing 'made ground' deposits, less intrusive nature of associated groundworks and negative archaeological results for the works associated with Plots 1, 2 and 3.

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 resultant archive is currently held by CA at its offices in Milton Keynes. 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 AND 3)

5.1 The natural substrate, a light yellow sandy clay, was evident across the site at the base of trenches for each of plots 1 – 3. This was overlain by modern made ground (a mix of demolition rubble, redeposited natural material and associated (dumped) plastic and glass rubbish).

5.2 The earliest deposit (1004), recorded at an average depth of 0.3m below present ground, comprised a blackish brown loam, 0.63m thick, and probably represented evidence of disturbed garden soil from an earlier levelling phase associated with the construction of the previous dwelling, built in the 1960s. Modern material (china and iron object) were also recovered from this deposit. This was overlain by deposits of light yellow sandy clay (1003), containing a moderate quantity of limestone rubble. This deposit, averaging c.0.15m in thickness, most likely represents redeposited natural material associated with levelling activities. Deposit 1003 was sealed by the most recent deposits of made ground, (1000) and (1009), which comprised dark greyish brown clay silt, c.0.3m thick, which mostly comprised demolition rubble and disturbed topsoil, with modern brick, plastic and glass visible too. Another deposit (1001) comprising yellowish brown silt sand, c.0.6m thick, also likely to represent levelling and/or modern construction material, was evident in plan to the south-west end of Plot 1. This could be related to the cutting of the adjacent road.

- 5.3 The original concrete foundations (1006) for the earlier bungalow were evident in parts of the construction trenches for Plots 2 and 3, along with more made ground deposits. This measured c.0.4m thick and contained demolition material such as modern brick, associated with the earlier building.
- 5.4 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.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 Despite the anticipated archaeological potential of the site (see Section 2 above), the programme of Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication (OIRAP) identified no archaeological remains within the site. The absence of archaeological deposits is quite likely the result of modern period disturbance, truncation or removal during recent phases of site development in the 19th and, predominantly the 20th century. An alternative possibility is that activity during earlier periods did not occur to a measurable extent within the site boundary.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 7.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Edmund Grenier and Alice Krausova. The report was written by Edmund Grenier. The illustrations were prepared by Esther Escudero. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Emily Evans. The project was managed for CA by Mark Hewson.

10. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2017 *Geology of Britain Viewer*
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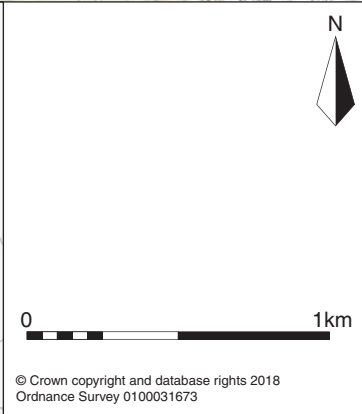
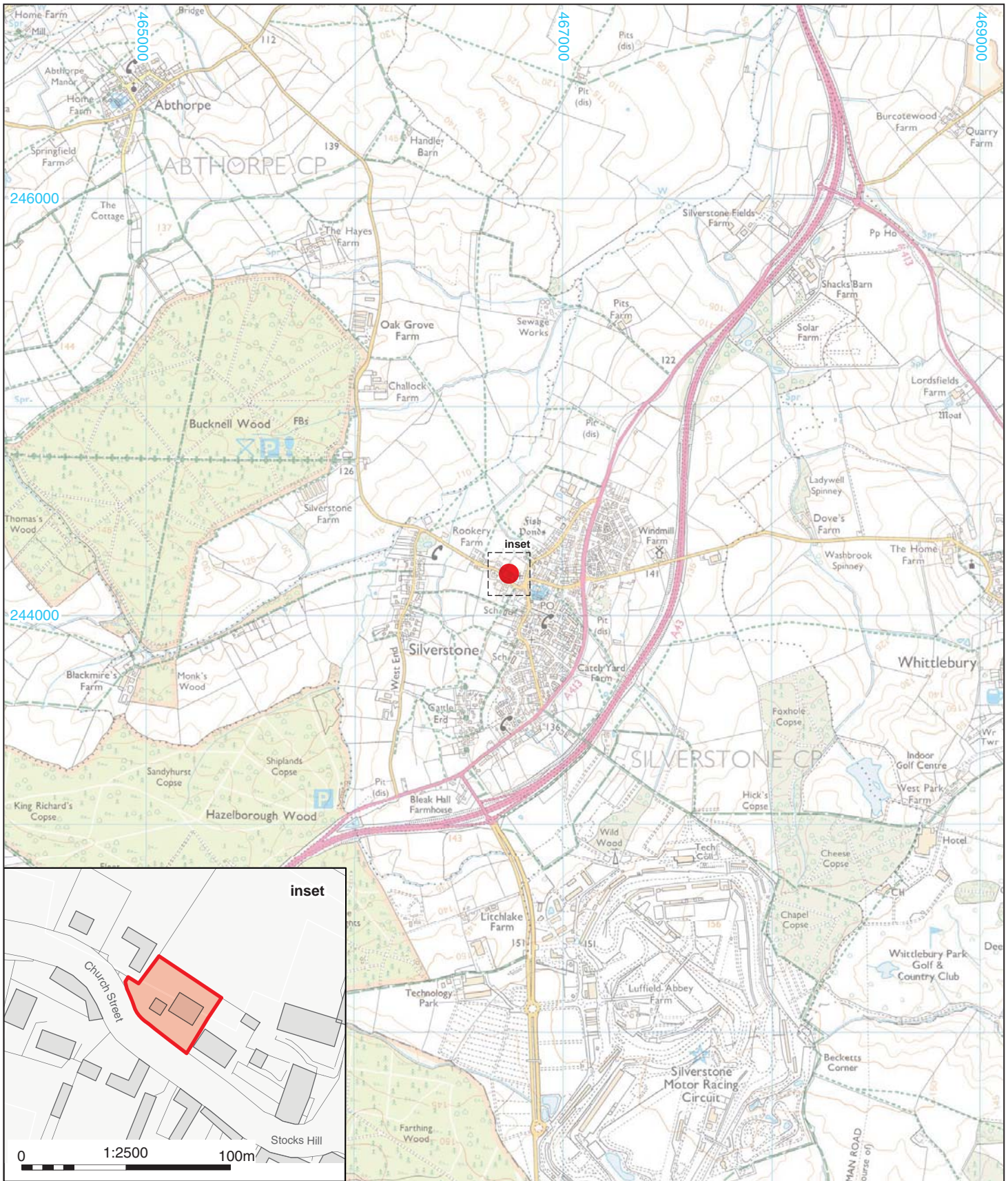


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

| Context no. | Type | Fill of | Context interpretation | Description | L (m) | W (m) | Thickness (m) | Spot-date |
|-------------|---------|---------|------------------------|---|-------|-------|---------------|-----------|
| 1000 | Layer | | Made ground | Dark greyish brown clayey silt | >13 | >10.4 | 0.3 | Modern |
| 1001 | Layer | | Made ground | Yellowish brown silty sand | >8 | >2.8 | >0.6 | Modern |
| 1002 | Layer | | Natural | Light yellow sandy clay | >13 | >10.4 | >0.3 | |
| 1003 | Layer | | Redeposited natural | Light yellow sandy clay | >1.9 | >2 | 0.16 | Modern |
| 1004 | Layer | | Made ground | Blackish brown loam | >2 | >2 | 0.05 | Modern |
| 1005 | Layer | | Made ground | Brownish grey clayey silt with brick rubble | >8 | >0.8 | 0.4 | Modern |
| 1006 | Masonry | | Foundation | Concrete footing | >10 | 0.6 | 0.2 | Modern |
| 1007 | Cut | | Construction cut | Linear | >10 | 1.7 | 0.63 | Modern |
| 1008 | Fill | 1007 | Foundation | Brownish grey clayey silt with brick and limestone rubble | >10 | 1.7 | 0.63 | Modern |
| 1009 | Layer | | Made ground | Dark greyish brown clayey silt | >13 | >10.4 | 0.3 | Modern |

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

| PROJECT DETAILS | | |
|--|--|--|
| Project Name | 4 Church Street, Silverstone, Northamptonshire | |
| Short description | <p>A programme of archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication (OIRAP) was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology, for CgMs Limited, on behalf of iexpand Developments Ltd. This took place during groundworks prior to the construction of three residential dwellings at 4 Church Street, Silverstone (centred on NGR: 466739:244200; Fig. 1) over the course of three days in May 2018.</p> <p>No features or deposits of archaeological significance were observed during these groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.</p> | |
| Project dates | | |
| Project type | Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication (OIRAP) | |
| Previous work | No | |
| Future work | No | |
| PROJECT LOCATION | | |
| Site Location | 4 Church Street, Silverstone, Northamptonshire | |
| Study area (M ² /ha) | | |
| Site co-ordinates | NGR: 466739:244200 | |
| PROJECT CREATORS | | |
| Name of organisation | Cotswold Archaeology | |
| Project Brief originator | Planning: Northamptonshire County Council | |
| Project Design (WSI) originator | Cotswold Archaeology | |
| Project Manager | Mark Hewson | |
| Project Supervisor | Edmund Grenier, Alice Krausova | |
| MONUMENT TYPE | None | |
| SIGNIFICANT FINDS | None | |
| PROJECT ARCHIVES | | |
| | Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.) | Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc) Indicate the contents of each archive box |
| Physical | n/a | None |
| Paper | Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre | Context sheets and all site records |
| Digital | Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre | digital photos |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY | | |
| <p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2018 <i>4 Church Street, Silverstone, Northamptonshire: Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication (OIRAP)</i>. CA typescript report 18316</p> | | |



Cotswold Archaeology

Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 826185
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 4 Church Street, Silverstone,
 Northamptonshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

| | | | | |
|--------------------|------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| DRAWN BY | EE | PROJECT NO. | 660917 | FIGURE NO. |
| CHECKED BY | DJB | DATE | 12/06/2018 | |
| APPROVED BY | MH | SCALE@A4 | 1:25,000 | 1 |



- Site boundary
- Observed groundworks
- Ph. 3.3 Photograph location



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Cotswold Archaeology
 Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 826185
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
**4 Church Street, Silverstone,
 Northamptonshire**

FIGURE TITLE
**The site, showing the location of
 observed groundworks associated**

| | | | | |
|-------------|-----|-------------|------------|------------|
| DRAWN BY | EE | PROJECT NO. | 660917 | FIGURE NO. |
| CHECKED BY | DJB | DATE | 12/06/2018 | 2 |
| APPROVED BY | MH | SCALE @A3 | 1:200 | |



3.1

Plot 1, trench section, looking south-east (2m scale)



3.2

Plot 1, general view, looking north-west



3.3

Plot 2, general view, looking north



3.4

Plot 3, car park area landscaping, looking north-east


Cotswold Archaeology
 Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 826185
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 4 Church Street, Silverstone,
 Northamptonshire

FIGURE TITLE
Plots 1, 2 and 3, photographs

| | | | | |
|-------------|-----|-------------|------------|------------|
| DRAWN BY | EE | PROJECT NO. | 660917 | FIGURE NO. |
| CHECKED BY | DJB | DATE | 12/06/2018 | |
| APPROVED BY | MH | SCALE | @A3 | 3 |

Andover Office

Stanley House
Walworth Road
Andover
Hampshire
SP10 5LH

t: 01264 347630

Cirencester Office

Building 11
Kemble Enterprise Park
Cirencester
Gloucestershire
GL7 6BQ

t: 01285 771022

Exeter Office

Unit 53
Basepoint Business Centre
Yeoford Way
Marsh Barton Trading Estate
Exeter
EX2 8LB

t: 01392 826185

Milton Keynes Office

Unit 8 - The IO Centre
Fingle Drive
Stonebridge
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire
MK13 0AT

t: 01908 564660

e: enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

