

**PHELPS PARADE  
CALNE  
WILTSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

*For*

**R.J. LEIGHFIELD AND SONS LTD**

CA PROJECT: 2689  
CA REPORT: 08175


NOVEMBER 2008



PHELPS PARADE  
CALNE  
WILTSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

CA PROJECT: 2689  
CA REPORT: 08175

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date	20 November 2008
checked by	Richard Young Project Manager
date	21 November 2008
approved by	Mark Collard, Head of Contracts
signed	
date	25 November 2008
issue	01

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## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)  
Fig. 2 The site, showing location of groundworks (1:1250).

## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Phelps Parade  
**Location:** Calne, Wiltshire.  
**NGR:** ST 99808 71212  
**Type:** Watching Brief  
**Date:** 28 August 2008, 1 September 2008, 6 and 8 October 2008  
**Location of Archive:** To be deposited with Wiltshire Heritage Museum  
**Accession Number:** DZSWS: 2008.44  
**Site Code:** PPC 08

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the erection of a mixed retail and residential building at Phelps Parade, Calne, Wiltshire.

A well was encountered during the monitoring of the groundworks. No other 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 Between August and October 2008 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for R.J. Leighfield and Sons Ltd at Phelps Parade, Calne, Wiltshire (centred at NGR: ST 99808 71212; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent for the erection of a mixed retail and residential building (North Wiltshire District Council ref: 07/03228/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 Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, County Archaeologist for Wiltshire County Council (WCC), the archaeological advisor to North Wiltshire District Council (NWDC). 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 Fieldwork in Wiltshire* (WCC 1995) and the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991).

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The site is bounded to the east by The Pippin and to the south by the pedestrian walkway of Phelps Parade. To the west and the north are a number of retail units with dwellings above (Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 74m AOD.
- 1.4 The proposed development area encloses an area of approximately 0.1ha, and was until recently occupied by retail units.
- 1.5 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Coral Rag of the Corallian within the Jurassic era (BGS 1974). Limestone was observed across the site during the watching brief.

### ***Archaeological background***

- 1.6 A number of prehistoric artefacts have been recovered from the area. Approximately 350m to the north-west of the site a single Bronze Age burial and an associated

fragment of worked slate were recovered in the mid 19th century (SMR: ST97SE150), whilst 500m to the east a gold stater of Addedomaros of the tribe of the Trinovantes was found in the garden of 36 Page Close (SMR: SU67SW202). An Iron Age settlement has also been located 1km to the north-west of the site during excavations in 2000 (SMR: ST97SE201).

- 1.7 On the site of the former Harris Bacon Factory, 100m to the south of the site, a number of Romano-British pottery sherds were recovered, although these are associated with medieval pot and may therefore be residual (SMR: ST97SE305). Approximately 1.3km to the west of the site at The Brake three tesserae were recovered, whilst more recently a probable Romano-British enclosure was uncovered during the construction of sports fields approximately 1.4km to the north (CA forthcoming).
- 1.8 Calne is first recorded as Calnae in AD 997, and the development area lies within the known boundaries of the Saxon settlement. Saxon pottery, of 5th to 7th century date, was recovered 60m to the south of the site during an evaluation to the rear of Church Street (SMR: ST97SE400). This occupation continued throughout the medieval period. Three hundred metres to the south of the site lies the alleged site of a medieval castle at Castle House. No material evidence for this has yet been recovered, although close by lies an undated Christian burial (SMR: ST97SE462 and 553).
- 1.9 Immediately to the west of the site lies the 17th-century Quaker Meeting House and its associated burial ground, the extent of which is not known (SMR: ST97SE527).

### ***Methodology***

- 1.10 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2008). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks which comprised the removal of ground beams from the structures that previously occupied the site and the excavation of foundations, service trenches, a lift shaft and three geotechnical test pits (Fig. 2).
- 1.11 Written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007). A number of sherds of

modern pottery were recovered. Given their date, these sherds have not been retained.

- 1.12 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with the Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Devizes. 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 (FIGS 1 AND 2)**

- 2.1 The natural geological substrate consisted of a mid brownish yellow limestone brash (1002, 2002, 101, 201 and 301) and a mid greyish yellow clay (1003 and 401), was revealed at an average depth of 0.40m below present ground level. This was overlain by hardcore (1001, 2001, 100, 200, 300 and 400) which was, in places, sealed by tarmac 1000.
- 2.2 Within one of the service trenches the remains of well 1005 were encountered. This was of drystone wall construction and filled with grey clayey silt 1006.
- 2.3 Despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

## **3. DISCUSSION**

- 3.1 The only archaeological feature identified within the area of observed groundworks was a drystone well of probable post-medieval date. This structure does not appear on the early Ordnance Survey mapping of the site. The absence of archaeological deposits may indicate that structural remains associated with the Anglo-Saxon and medieval settlement within the area either do not extend as far as or were not exposed by the development, or that they may have been removed during the construction of the retail units that formerly occupied the site.

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

Fieldwork was undertaken by Sian Reynish, Pippa Mitcheson, Steve Sheldon and David Cudlip. The report was written by Sian Reynish. The illustrations were prepared by Rachael Kershaw. The archive has been compiled by Sian Reynish, and prepared for deposition by Kathryn Price. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

#### **5. REFERENCES**

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1974 *Geological survey of Great Britain, Marlborough Sheet 266, 1: 63,360 series.*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008 *Phelps Parade, Calne, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief.*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) forthcoming *Land at Beversbrook, Calne, Wiltshire: Archaeological Excavation.*



**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

## Foundation/Service Trenches

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1000	Layer	Tarmac	N/A	N/A	0.07	
1001	Layer	Hardcore	N/A	N/A	0.17	
1002	Layer	Natural: greyish yellow limestone brash	N/A	N/A	N/A	
1003	Layer	Natural: mid greyish yellow clay	N/A	N/A	N/A	
1004	Cut	Construction cut for well 1005	N/A	0.8	0.7	
1005	Structure	Limestone drystone well	N/A	0.8	0.7	
1006	Fill	Silty fill of well 1005	N/A	0.8	N/A	

## Removal of ground beams

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
2000	Layer	Hardcore				
2001	Layer	Natural: greyish yellow limestone brash				
2002	Cut	Construction cut for existing ground beams				
2003	Fill	Concrete fill of 2002				

## Test pit 1

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Hardcore	N/A	N/A	0.4	
101	Layer	Natural: greyish yellow limestone brash	N/A	N/A	N/A	

## Test pit 2

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
200	Layer	Hardcore	N/A	N/A	0.4	
201	Layer	Natural: greyish yellow limestone brash	N/A	N/A	N/A	

## Test pit 3

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
300	Layer	Hardcore	N/A	N/A	0.4	
301	Layer	Natural: greyish yellow limestone brash	N/A	N/A	N/A	

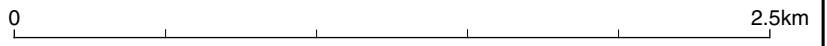
## Lift shaft


No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
400	Layer	Hardcore	N/A	N/A	0.3	
401	Layer	Natural: mid greyish yellow clay	N/A	N/A	N/A	

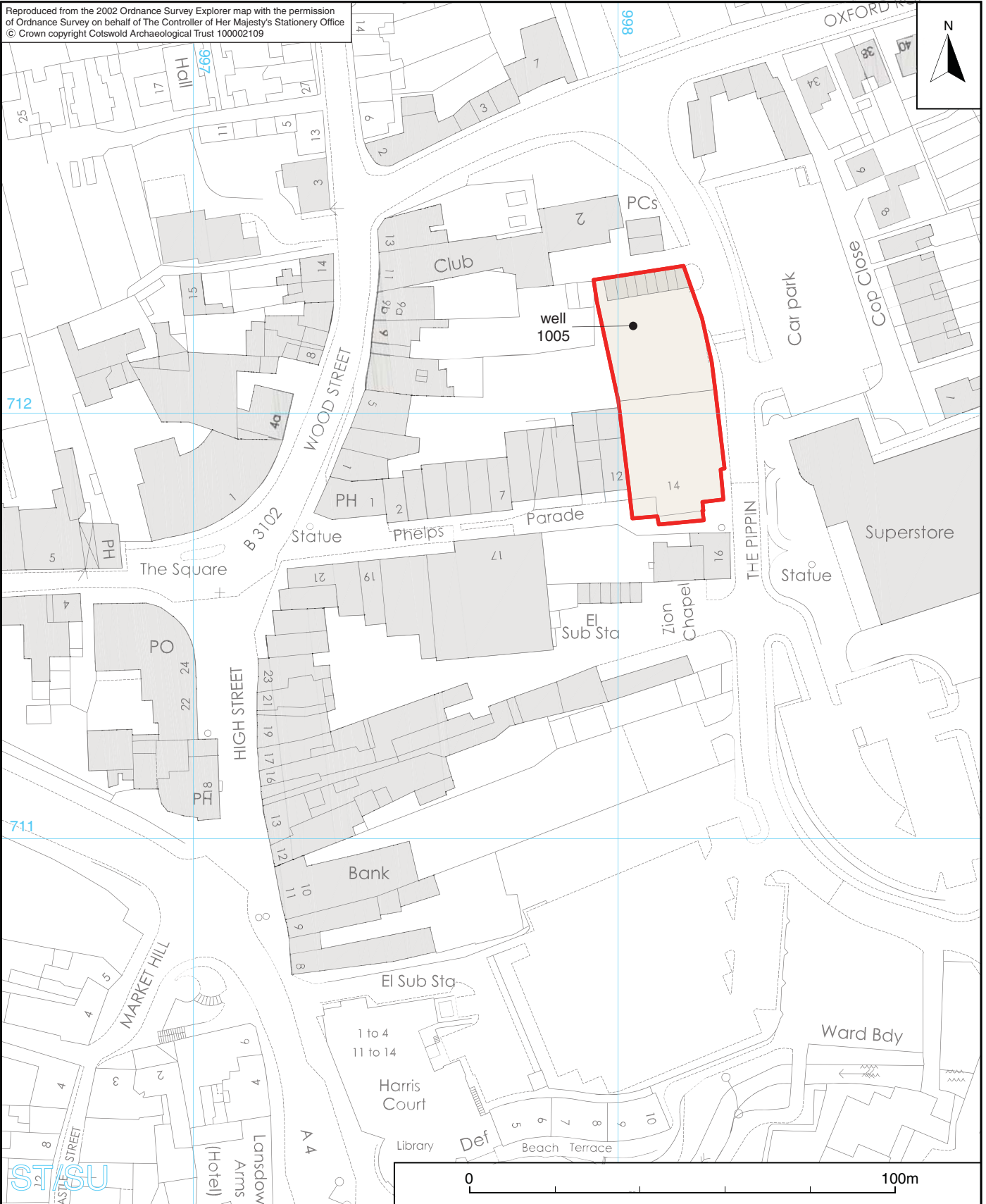
## APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Phelps Parade, Calne, Wiltshire	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the erection of a mixed retail and residential building at Phelps Parade, Calne, Wiltshire. A well was encountered during the monitoring of the groundworks. No other features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.	
Project dates	28 August 2008, 1 September 2008, 6 and 8 October 2008	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	Unknown	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Phelps Parade, Calne, Wiltshire	
Study area	0.1ha	
Site co-ordinates	ST 99808 71212	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Wiltshire County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Sian Reynish, Pippa Mitcheson, Steve Sheldon and David Cudlip.	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.) Recipient of each type of archive	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc) Indicate the contents of each archive box
Physical	N/A	None
Paper	Wiltshire Heritage Museum DZSWS: 2008.44	Trench sheets, Context sheets, drawn section, photographic registers, colour and black and white photographs and site plans
Digital	Wiltshire Heritage Museum DZSWS: 2008.44	Digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008 <i>Phelps Parade, Calne, Wiltshire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> , CA unpublished typescript report no. <b>08175</b> .		

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 <b>COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY</b>			
PROJECT TITLE <b>Phelps Parade, Calne          Wiltshire</b>			
FIGURE TITLE <b>Site location plan</b>			
DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
RK	1:25,000@A4	2689	<b>1</b>



- site
- location of groundworks



**COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

PROJECT TITLE

**Phelps Parade, Calne  
Wiltshire**

FIGURE TITLE

**The site, showing location of  
groundworks**

DRAWN BY

RK

SCALE

1:1250@A4

PROJECT NO.

2689

FIGURE NO.

**2**