

**LAND TO THE NORTH-WEST OF
ST GEORGE'S CHURCH
BROCKWORTH
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

For

HUNTER PAGE PLANNING

On behalf of

BROCKWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

CA PROJECT: 2777
CA REPORT: 09005


JANUARY 2009



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ST GEORGE'S CHURCH
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CA REPORT: 09005

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date	13 January 2009
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signed	
date	16 January 2009
issue	01

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Land to the North-West of St George's Church
Location: Brockworth, Gloucestershire
NGR: SO 8900 1712
Type: Evaluation
Date: 06 January 2009
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery
Site Code: GEC08

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in January 2009 at land to the north-west of St George's Church, Brockworth. Two trenches were excavated.

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

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In January 2009 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Hunter Page Planning on behalf of Brockworth Parish Council at St George's Church, Brockworth (centred on NGR: SO 8900 1712; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken prior to the submission of a planning application to Tewkesbury Borough Council (TBC) to extend the parish burial ground.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief issued by Mr Charles Parry, Senior Archaeological Officer, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC), archaeological advisor to TBC and with a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2008) and approved by Mr Parry. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (2001), the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Gloucestershire* (GCC 1995) and the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991).

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area encloses an area of approximately 0.1ha, currently comprising a strip of agricultural land to the north-west of the existing cemetery. The site is flat and lies at approximately 50m AOD.
- 1.4 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as clay of the Jurassic Era (BGS 1975). Mixed orange-brown sand and gravel with frequent patches of clay was encountered in both trenches.

Archaeological background

- 1.5 Archaeological interest in the site arises from its location close to Ermin Street, a major Roman road linking Gloucester (*Glevum*) to Cirencester (*Corinium*) and the Horsebere Brook, along which are a number of known Roman settlements. One of these is located approximately 250m to the south of the proposed development site (GCC SMR 6532). Here, a number of ditches, gullies, postholes and the drip-gullies of two circular huts, as well as significant quantities of pottery and building materials, indicate occupation dating from the 2nd to 4th centuries AD.

- 1.6 In 1998 CA excavated the route of the Gloucester Business Park link road (approximately 500m to the west of the site) and discovered a number of Bronze Age cremations, and five sub-circular structures, two curvilinear gullies dating to the Iron Age and various feature and deposits associated with settlement from the early 2nd to late 4th centuries AD, including a small inhumation cemetery (Thomas *et al* 2003).
- 1.7 CA (then CAT) undertook a fieldwalking survey of the proposed development area in 1995 which recovered five sherds of abraded Roman pottery and indicated that there were no significant archaeological deposits present within the site (CAT 1995).
- 1.8 The site is adjacent to St George's Church and Brockworth Court. The church was dedicated in 1142 and given to Llanthony prior, Gloucester. It was heavily rebuilt in the 14th century. The Tithe Barn at Brockworth Court dates to the late 15th century, whilst the house is slightly later, dating to the first half of the 16th century. Any medieval settlement is likely to have been focussed around this complex.

Archaeological objectives

- 1.9 The objectives of the evaluation were to establish the character, quality, date and extent of any archaeological remains or deposits surviving within the site. This information will assist the Tewkesbury Borough Council in making an informed judgement on the significance of the archaeological resource, and the likely impact upon it of the proposed development.

Methodology

- 1.10 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of two trenches each measuring 20m in length and 1.5m in width, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2).
- 1.11 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 natural substrate.
- 1.12 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 (2003). However, no deposits were identified that required sampling. No artefacts were recovered.

- 1.13 The paper archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with the Gloucester City 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.

2. RESULTS (FIG. 2)

- 2.1 The natural geological substrate, comprising mixed orange-brown sand and gravel with frequent patches of clay was encountered in both trenches at a depth of 0.5m below the present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain by clayey silt subsoil approximately 0.25m thick. The subsoil was overlain by approximately 0.25m of topsoil.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the proposed development area, the evaluation did not identify any archaeological finds, features or deposits. Subsoil, present in both excavated trenches, indicates that it is unlikely that the site has been recently truncated. Therefore, it would appear that remains associated with Roman or medieval settlement of Brockworth did not extend as far the current site.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

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

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) *1975 Geological Survey of England and Wales, Sheet 234, Gloucester. 1:50 000*

CAT (Cotswold Archaeological Trust) 1995 *Land West of St George's Church, Brockworth: Archaeological Fieldwalking Survey*, CAT typescript report.

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008 *St. George's Church, Brockworth, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

Thomas, A., Holbrook, N. and Bateman, C. 2003 *Later Prehistoric and Romano-British burial and settlement at Hucclecote*, Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Report No. 2

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
100	Layer	Topsoil: dark greyish brown clayey silt with sparse limestone gravel inclusions			0.26m
101	Layer	Subsoil: mid yellowish brown clayey silt with frequent limestone gravel inclusions			0.24m
102	Layer	Natural substrate: mixed orange-brown sand and gravel with frequent clay patches			>0.05m

Trench 2


No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
200	Layer	Topsoil: dark greyish brown clayey silt with sparse limestone gravel inclusions			0.25m
201	Layer	Subsoil: mid yellowish brown clayey silt with frequent limestone gravel inclusions			0.25m
202	Layer	Natural substrate: mixed orange-brown sand and gravel with frequent clay patches			>0.05m

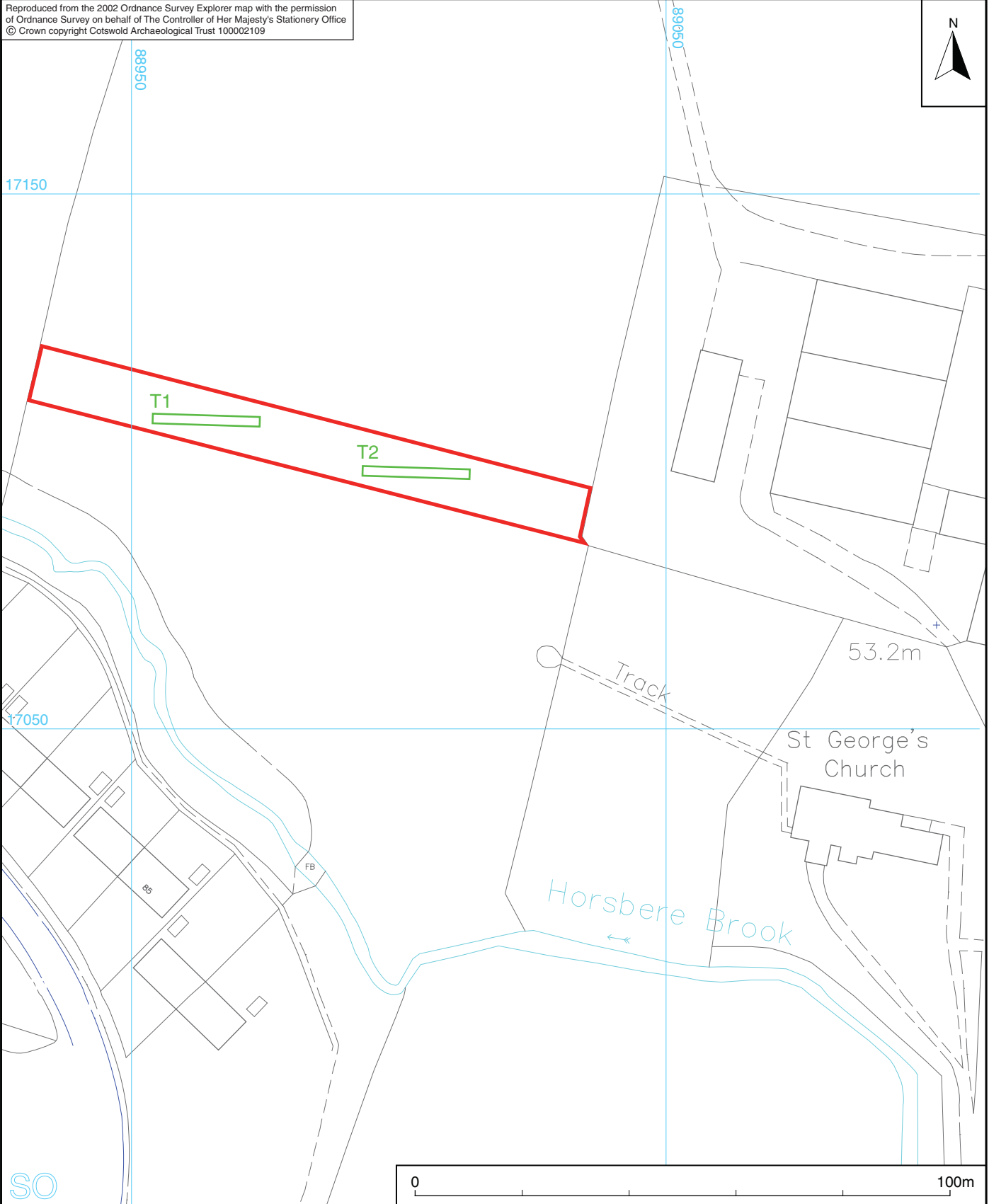
APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	St George's Church, Brockworth, Gloucestershire	
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in January 2009 at land to the north-west of St George's Church, Brockworth. Two trenches were excavated. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were identified during the evaluation.	
Project dates	06 January 2009	
Project type	Field Evaluation	
Previous work	Fieldwalking by CAT in 1995 <i>Land West of St George's Church, Brockworth: Archaeological Fieldwalking Survey (GCC SMR 17086)</i>	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	St George's Church, Brockworth, Gloucestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.1ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SO 8900 1712	
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	Steven Sheldon	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Paper	Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery	Trench recording forms, levels register, photographic register, colour and black and white photographs and negatives
Digital	Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009 <i>St George's Church, Brockworth, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 09005		

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 COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY			
PROJECT TITLE St Georges Church, Brockworth Gloucestershire			
FIGURE TITLE Site location plan			
DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
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SO

- site
- evaluation trench



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

**St Georges Church, Brockworth
 Gloucestershire**

FIGURE TITLE

Trench location plan

DRAWN BY

RK

SCALE

1:1000@A4

PROJECT NO.

2777

FIGURE NO.

2