

**HOLTS HEALTH CENTRE
WATERY LANE, NEWENT
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

For

BUILDING SOLUTIONS LTD

CA PROJECT: 2744
CA REPORT: 09025

MARCH 2009




**COTSWOLD
ARCHAEOLOGY**

HOLTS HEALTH CENTRE
WATERY LANE, NEWENT
GLOUCESTERSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

CA PROJECT: 2744
CA REPORT: 09025

| | |
|-------------|---|
| prepared by | Kelly Saunders, Project Supervisor |
| date | 6 March 2009 |
| checked by | Richard Young, Project Manager |
| date | 11 March 2009 |
| approved by | Mark Collard, Head of Contracts |
| signed |  |
| date | 12 March 2009 |
| issue | 01 |

This report is confidential to the client. Cotswold Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability to any third party to whom this report, or any part of it, is made known. Any such party relies upon this report entirely at their own risk. No part of this report may be reproduced by any means without permission.

CONTENTS

| | |
|--|---|
| SUMMARY | 2 |
| 1. INTRODUCTION | 3 |
| 2. RESULTS | 5 |
| 3. DISCUSSION..... | 5 |
| 4. CA PROJECT TEAM | 5 |
| 5. REFERENCES | 6 |
| APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS | 7 |
| APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM..... | 8 |

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
- Fig. 2 The site, showing location of groundworks (1:500)

SUMMARY

Project Name: Holts Health Centre
Location: Watery Lane, Newent, Gloucestershire
NGR: SO 7212 2597
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 2 February 2009
Planning Reference: P1212/08/FUL
Location of Archive: To be deposited with the Dean Heritage Museum, Cinderford
Accession Number: SOYDH 2008.32
Site Code: HHC08

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with alterations to the access at Holts Health Centre, Watery Lane, Newent, Gloucestershire.

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

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In February 2009 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Building Solutions Ltd at Holts Health Centre, Watery Lane, Newent, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SO 7212 2597; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent for improvements and alterations to the existing Health Centre (Planning ref: P1212/08/FUL). The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the intrusive groundworks associated with the development.
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Archaeological Recording* issued by Charles Parry, Senior Archaeological Officer, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC), 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 an Archaeological Watching Brief* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (2001), the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Gloucestershire* (GCC 1996), and the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991).

The site

- 1.3 The site lies within the town of Newent, at the junction of the High Street and Watery Lane, and comprises the area immediately to the north and south of the Health Centre (Areas 1 and 2, Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 32m AOD.
- 1.4 The Health Centre occupies an area of c. 625m², with the observed groundworks located within areas of grass and pavement immediately to the north and south of the building.
- 1.5 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Bromsgrove sandstone of the Triassic era (BGS 1998). A mid orange brown sand was encountered within Area 2 to the north of the Health Centre.

Archaeological background

- 1.6 The development lies within an area of archaeological potential. A small number of prehistoric finds have been recovered from the area, including a Middle Bronze Age low-flanged palstave (GCC SMR 5311) as well as a transverse arrowhead and a small flint arrowhead (SMR 15295), although no evidence for a prehistoric settlement have been uncovered within the vicinity (GCCAS 1998, 20).
- 1.7 Newent lies 4.8km to the south of the Roman settlement at Dymock, and close to the Roman road between Gloucester (*Glenvum*) and Kenchester (*Magnis*). Although no evidence for Roman occupation has been found within Newent, metal detector finds, and subsequent archaeological investigations have uncovered a large area of Roman metal working activity to the east of the town (SMR 14400, 20050) (*ibid*, 20).
- 1.8 The earliest evidence for a possible settlement at Newent dates to the Anglo-Saxon period. This consists of two fragments of sculpture, a 9th-century cross shaft, and a fragment of a funerary tablet, the latter of which was associated with two inhumations. Both were found within the vicinity of the current church of St Mary's, and it is believed that a pre-conquest church may lie under the present foundation. The Domesday Book also records a settlement here called 'Noent', held by the abbey of St Mary at Cormeilles in Normandy, who also founded a priory within the town (*ibid*, 20).
- 1.9 In 1253 the town, now known as Newent, was granted a charter to hold a market. The medieval core of the town, the church, market place and priory, lay to the southern end of the high street (*ibid*, 21). The current development site lies to the north of this within an area of burgage plots, remaining an area of settlement/housing until further development in the modern period.

Methodology

- 1.7 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2008). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks, which comprised the excavation of foundations for walls associated with alteration of access routes into the Health Centre. (Fig. 2).

- 1.8 Written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.9 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. The site archive will be deposited with the Dean Heritage Museum under accession number SOYDH 2008.32. 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

- 2.1 The natural geological substrate 202 consisting of mid orange-brown sand, was revealed within Area 2 at an average depth of 0.1m below present ground level. This was overlain by both topsoil 201 and paving slabs 200. Within Area 1 the natural substrate was not revealed as the ground level had been raised during construction of the Health Centre. The topsoil 100 overlay 0.8m of re-deposited silt and sand, 101.
- 2.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefacts were recovered.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area, the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. The absence of archaeological deposits may indicate that remains associated with the medieval burgrave plots, and other earlier activity, 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 Health Centre.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Kelly Saunders who also wrote this report. The illustrations were prepared by Lorna Gray. The archive has been compiled by Kelly Saunders and prepared for deposition by Victoria Taylor. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1998 *England and Wales, Solid and Drift geology, Sheet 216: Tewkesbury, 1:50,000*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2007 *Holts Health Centre, Watery Lane, Newent, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

GCCAS (Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service) 1998 *Gloucestershire Historic Towns Survey, Forest of Dean District Archaeological Assessment: Newent*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Area 1

| No. | Type | Description | Length (m) | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Spot-date |
|-----|-------|--|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 100 | Layer | Topsoil. Dark brown silt | | | 0.2 | |
| 101 | Layer | Make-up deposit. Dark brown sand and silt, contains modern brick | | | 0.8+ | |

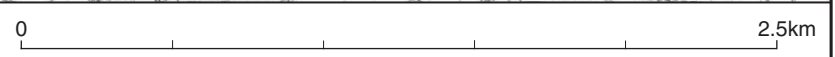
Area 2

| No. | Type | Description | Length (m) | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Spot-date |
|-----|-------|--|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 200 | Layer | Paving slabs and associated bedding | | | 0.1 | Modern |
| 201 | Layer | Topsoil. Dark brown sandy silt | | | 0.14 | |
| 202 | Layer | Natural Substrate. Mid orange-brown sand | | | | |

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

| PROJECT DETAILS | | |
|---|---|---|
| Project Name | Holts Health Centre, Watery Lane, Newent, Gloucestershire | |
| Short description | An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with alterations to the access at Holts Health Centre, Watery Lane, Newent, Gloucestershire. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefacts were recovered. | |
| Project dates | 2 February 2009 | |
| Project type | Watching Brief | |
| Previous work | None | |
| Future work | Unknown | |
| PROJECT LOCATION | | |
| Site Location | Holts Health Centre, Watery Lane, Newent, Gloucestershire | |
| Study area | c. 625m ² | |
| Site co-ordinates | SO 7212 2597 | |
| 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 | Kelly Saunders | |
| PROJECT ARCHIVES | | |
| | Intended final location of archive | Content |
| Physical | n/a | n/a |
| Paper | Dean Heritage Museum SOYDH 2008.32 | Proforma recording sheets, black & white and colour photographs |
| Digital | Dean Heritage Museum SOYDH 2008.32 | Digital photographs |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY | | |
| CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009 <i>Holts Health Centre, Watery Lane, Newent, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . Report no. 09025 | | |

Reproduced from the 2002 Ordnance Survey Explorer map with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office
 © Crown copyright Cotswold Archaeological Trust 100002109



 **COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

PROJECT TITLE
 Holts Health Centre, Watery Lane
 Newent, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| DRAWN BY | SCALE | PROJECT NO. | FIGURE NO. |
| LG | 1:25,000@A4 | 2744 | 1 |

721



B4216

260

Kyrle
Cott

Area 2

WATERY LANE

Health
Centre

Pol Sta

Area 1

HIGH STREET



101

Library

SO

0

50m

-  site
-  area of observed groundworks



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

Holts Health Centre, Watery Lane
Newent, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

**The site, showing location of
groundworks**

DRAWN BY

LG

SCALE

1:500@A4

PROJECT NO.

2744

FIGURE NO.

2