

**LAND ADJACENT TO DUNALLEY
PRIMARY SCHOOL, CHELTENHAM,
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

For

HUNTER PAGE PLANNING LTD

on behalf of

ST VINCENT'S CENTRE

CA PROJECT: 2789
CA REPORT: 09027


FEBRUARY 2009



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SCHOOL, CHELTENHAM
GLOUCESTERSHIRE

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CA PROJECT: 2789
CA REPORT: 09027

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date	11 February 2008
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signed	
date	13 February 2008
issue	01

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CONTENTS

SUMMARY	2
1. INTRODUCTION	3
2. RESULTS (FIG. 2)	5
3. DISCUSSION.....	6
4. CA PROJECT TEAM	6
5. REFERENCES	6
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	7
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS	8
APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM.....	9

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)

Fig. 2 Trench location plan (1:1000)

SUMMARY

Project Name: Land adjacent to Dunalley Primary School
Location: Cheltenham, Gloucestershire
NGR: SO 9521 2342
Type: Evaluation
Date: 28-30 January 2009
Location of Archive: Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum
Accession Number: 2009.26
Site Code: DUN 09

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in January 2009 on land adjacent to Dunalley Primary School, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. Seven trenches were excavated.

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

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In January 2009 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Hunter Page Planning Ltd on behalf of St Vincent's Centre on land adjacent to Dunalley Primary School, West Drive, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SO 9521 2342; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken as part of a planning application to Cheltenham Borough Council (CBC) for development of the site.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2009) and approved by Charles Parry, Senior Archaeological Officer, Gloucestershire County Council. 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). It was monitored by Mr Parry, including a site visit on 29 January 2009.

The site

- 1.3 The site is approximately 0.6ha in area, and comprises a strip of land running east-west to the north of Dunalley Primary School. The site is used by the school as a wildlife garden. It currently comprises areas of brambles, open grassland, a pond, and several mature trees.
- 1.4 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Cheltenham Sand of the Quaternary geological era (BGS 1981).

Archaeological background

- 1.5 An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of the application area was undertaken in November 2008 (CA 2008). While it is not intended to repeat this information in its entirety, this preliminary work indicated that the proposed development area lies in an area of archaeological potential. Although no archaeological remains are recorded from within the application area, archaeological investigations previously undertaken immediately to the south identified Roman agricultural features,

including trackways and rectangular enclosures. The full extent of these features is not known, although they have been shown to extend throughout the playing fields and onto the eastern side of West Drive. The excavation of the playing field site suggested that a Roman trackway may extend to the north, into the proposed development area. Modern service trenches in the eastern area of the site are likely to have impacted upon any archaeological deposits there.

- 1.6 The site lies within the Pittville Character Area of the Cheltenham Central Conservation Area. Pittville Park, a Grade II Registered Park, lies immediately to the north. Historic maps indicate the site did not form a part of the park.

Archaeological objectives

- 1.7 The objectives of the evaluation are to provide data on the date, character, quality, survival and extent of the archaeological deposits within the site in order that an informed decision on their importance in a local, regional or national context can be made. This information will clarify whether any remains are of sufficient importance to warrant consideration for preservation *in situ*, or alternatively form the basis of mitigation measures that may seek to limit damage to significant remains.

Methodology

- 1.8 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of seven trenches in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2).
- 1.9 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 first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.10 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); in this instance no deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in

accordance with CA Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of Finds Immediately After Excavation* (1995).

- 1.11 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. The site archive will be deposited with Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum. The artefacts are of modern date, and will not be retained. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS (FIG. 2)

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B respectively.
- 2.2 With the exception of trench 1, all trenches exhibited the same stratigraphic sequence, with the natural sand substrate being identified between 0.7m and 1.2 m below the present ground level. It was sealed by subsoil, typically 0.5m in thickness, which in turn was overlain by topsoil.

Trench 1 (Fig. 2)

- 2.3 Silty sands 108, possibly representing the natural substrate, were identified 1.6m bpgl (excavation ceased at this point due to the risk of trench collapse). It was sealed by clay silt 107, from which 19th- to 20th-century pottery was recovered. This was overlain by clay 106, which was sealed by buried subsoil 105 and buried topsoil 104. This was covered by a modern geotextile membrane on top of which scalpings 102 were deposited. The scalpings were covered by clays sands 101, which were sealed by modern topsoil 100.

The Finds Evidence

- 2.4 Two sherds (13g) of 19th to 20th-century pottery were recovered from deposit 107. Pottery types present consist of white china and English stoneware. None of the material is of archaeological significance and it has not been retained.

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3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The absence of any archaeological features within the excavated trenches suggests either that any such features were truncated by subsequent activity within the proposed development area, or that they were never present.
- 3.2 The stratigraphic sequence revealed within trench 1 appears to represent the infilling of a small valley/coombe running south-north towards Wymans Brook. The limited artefactual material retrieved from layer 107 indicates that this was undertaken in the modern period, perhaps in advance of the use of the site as allotments prior to its current function as a wildlife garden.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by David Cudlip, assisted by Darran Muddiman. The report was written by David Cudlip, assisted by Teresa Gilmore. The illustrations were prepared by Lorna Gray. The archive has been compiled by David Cudlip, and prepared for deposition by Victoria Taylor. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.

5. REFERENCES

- BGS (British Geological Survey) 1981: *Geological Survey of Great Britain (England and Wales) 1:50,000 series Sheet 217: Moreton-in-Marsh*
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008: *Land adjacent to Dunalley Primary School, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment: CA Report No.08221*
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009: *Land adjacent to Dunalley Primary School, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Topsoil	10	1.5	0.1	
101	Layer	Landscaping	10	1.5	0.25	
102	Layer	Scalpings	10	1.5	0.1	
103	Layer	Membrane	10	1.5	0.01	
104	Layer	In-situ topsoil	10	1.5	0.2	
105	Layer	In-situ subsoil	10	1.5	0.34	
106	Layer	Mid yellow-brown clay levelling	10	1.5	0.2	
107	Layer	Dark grey-brown clay silt	10	1.5	0.3	20th century
108	Layer	Mid grey brown silty sand	10	1.5	L.O.E.	

Trench 2

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
200	Layer	Topsoil	5	1.5	0.3	
201	Layer	Subsoil: Mid reddish brown slightly clay sand	5	1.5	0.6	
202	Layer	Natural: Mid to light yellow sand with occasional gravel lenses	5	1.5	L.O.E.	

Trench 3

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
300	Layer	Topsoil	15	1.5	0.4	
301	Layer	Subsoil: Mid reddish brown slightly clay sand	15	1.5	0.4	
302	Layer	Natural: Mid to light yellow sand with occasional gravel lenses	15	1.5	L.O.E.	

Trench 4

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
400	Layer	Topsoil	5	1.5	0.35	
401	Layer	Subsoil: Mid reddish brown slightly clay sand	5	1.5	0.35	
402	Layer	Natural: Mid to light yellow sand with occasional gravel lenses	5	1.5	L.O.E.	

Trench 5

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
500	Layer	Topsoil	10	1.5	0.4	
501	Layer	Subsoil: Mid reddish brown slightly clay sand	10	1.5	0.4	
502	Layer	Natural: Mid to light yellow sand with occasional gravel lenses	10	1.5	L.O.E.	

Trench 6

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
600	Layer	Topsoil	10	1.5	0.6	
601	Layer	Subsoil: Mid reddish brown slightly clay sand	10	1.5	0.6	
602	Layer	Natural: Mid to light yellow sand with occasional gravel lenses	10	1.5	L.O.E.	

Trench 7

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
700	Layer	Topsoil	5	1.5	0.4	
701	Layer	Subsoil: Mid reddish brown slightly clay sand	5	1.5	0.5	
702	Layer	Natural: Mid to light yellow sand with occasional gravel lenses	5	1.5	L.O.E.	

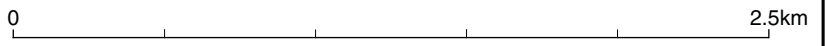
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Finds Concordance

Context	Artefact type	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
107	Modern pottery: china, English stoneware	2	13	C19-C20+

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land adjacent to Dunalley School, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in January 2009 at the request of Hunter Page Planning on behalf of St Vincent's Centre on land adjacent to Dunalley Primary School, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. Seven trenches were excavated.</p> <p>No features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.</p>	
Project dates	28-30 January 2009	
Project type	Evaluation following on from a desk-based assessment	
Previous work	Desk-based assessment, CA report number 08221	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Land adjacent to Dunalley School, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.6ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SO 9521 2342	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	NA	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	David Cudlip	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	NA	Modern pottery: not retained
Paper	Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum	Trench sheets, colour slides, monochrome prints
Digital		Database, digital photos etc
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008: <i>Land adjacent to Dunalley Primary School, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation: CA Report No.09027</i>		

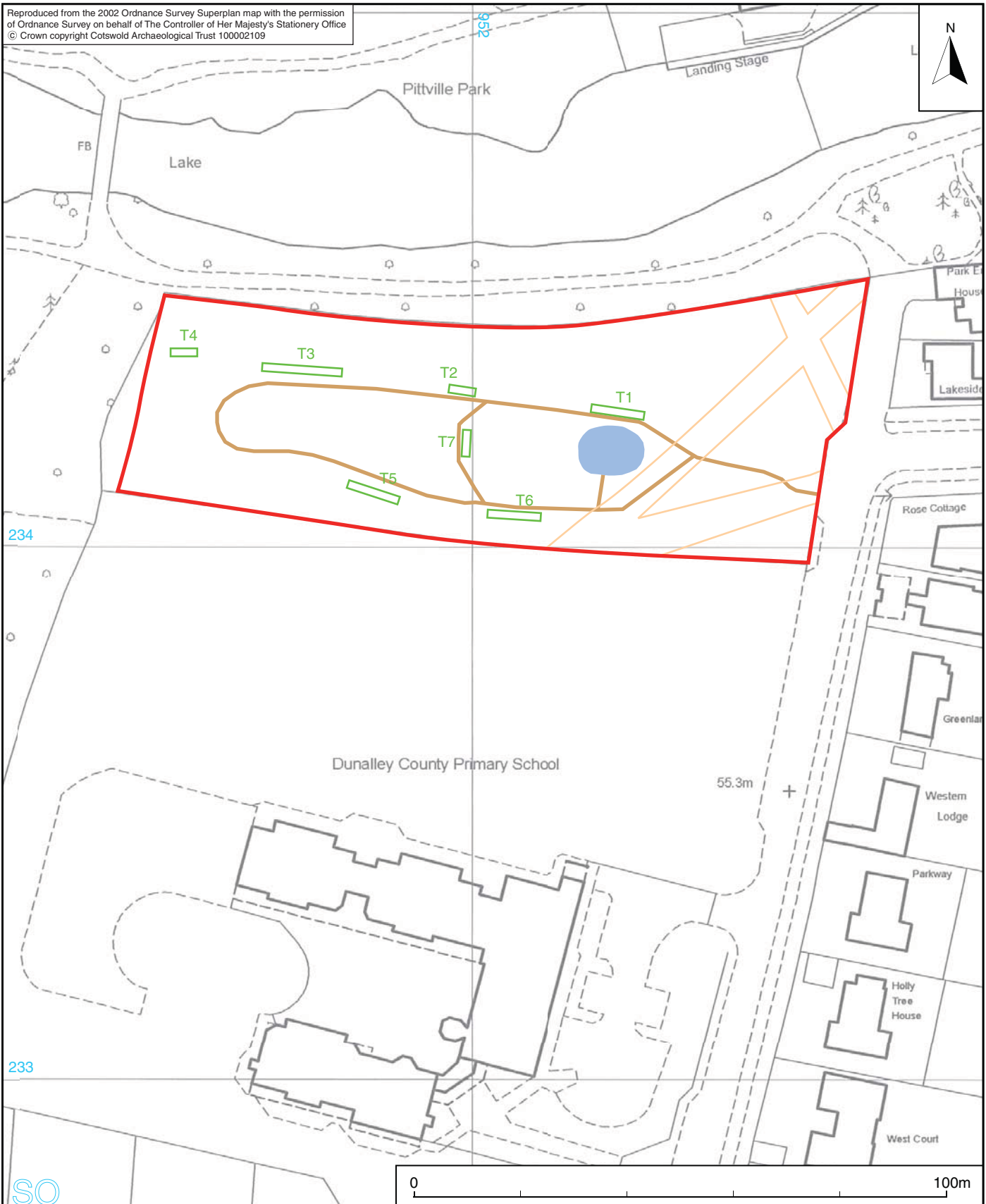


 **COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

PROJECT TITLE
**Land adjacent to Dunalley School
 Cheltenham, Gloucestershire**

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
LG	1:25,000@A4	2789	1



SO

- site
- evaluation trench
- path
- pond
- services

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY			
<small>PROJECT TITLE</small> Land adjacent to Dunalley School Cheltenham, Gloucestershire			
<small>FIGURE TITLE</small> Trench location plan			
<small>DRAWN BY</small> LG	<small>SCALE</small> 1:1000@A4	<small>PROJECT NO.</small> 2789	<small>FIGURE NO.</small> 2