

**LAND AT THE OLD SCHOOL HOUSE
BELL LANE
MINCHINHAMPTON
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

For

MR AND MRS S. LARGE

CA PROJECT: 2875
CA REPORT: 09094

JUNE 2009


**COTSWOLD
ARCHAEOLOGY**



LAND AT THE OLD SCHOOL HOUSE MINCHINHAMPTON GLOUCESTERSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CA PROJECT: 2875
CA REPORT: 09094

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date	28 May 2009
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date	5 June 2009
approved by	Simon Cox, Head of Fieldwork
signed	
date	5 June 2009
issue	01

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Land at The Old School House, Bell Lane
Location: Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire
NGR: SO 8708 0090
Type: Evaluation
Date: 28 May 2009
Planning Reference: S.09/0748/FUL
Location of Archive: To be deposited with The Museum in the Park, Stroud
Accession Number: STGCM 2009.30.
Site Code: TIM 09

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May 2009 at Land at The Old School House, Bell Lane, Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire. One trench was excavated.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the evaluation and no artefactual material was recovered.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In May 2009 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Mr and Mrs S. Large at Land at The Old School House, Bell Lane, Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SO 8708 0090; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application for the construction of a house within the garden of the property (ref: S.09/0748/FUL).

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief for archaeological evaluation (GCC 2009) prepared by Charles Parry, Senior Archaeological Officer, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC), the archaeological advisors to Stroud District Council (SDC) and with a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2009) and approved by Mr Parry. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (2008), the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Gloucestershire* (GCC 1995) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006).

The site

1.3 The site is bounded to the east and north by Bell Lane and to the south and west by the buildings and grounds of Minchinhampton Primary School (Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 190m AOD with the ground dropping downward slightly to the south.

1.4 The proposed development area, approximately 178m² in size, comprised part of the garden of The Old School House.

1.5 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Fullers Earth and Oolite of the Mid Jurassic era (BGS 1975). The natural geology was encountered during the evaluation.

Archaeological background

1.6 Archaeological interest in the site arises from its location within an area of archaeological potential, with remains dating from the Neolithic period through to WWII known from the site locality. Consultation of the Gloucestershire County Sites

and Monuments Record (SMR) and of readily-accessible archaeological, documentary and map-based archives indicates that the site lies to the south of extensive Iron Age and later earthworks, known as The Bulwarks, on Minchinhampton Common (protected as Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) Gloucestershire 13806), to the west of Iron Age earthworks at Glebe Farm (SAM Gloucestershire 28527) and close to the historic core of Minchinhampton.

- 1.7 In addition the county SMR records the presence of an approximately circular mound, 9m to 10m in diameter and 0.9m in height, on common land to the north-east of the development area which may represent the remains of a prehistoric round barrow (SMR ref. no. 5940). The site also lies to the north-east of the presumed location of a medieval and later manorhouse, together with associated outbuildings, thought to lie wholly or partially within the area of Minchinhampton School (SMR ref. no. 3513; CA 2009).
- 1.8 An archaeological evaluation by Cotswold Archaeological Trust (CAT) undertaken at the school in July 1997 identified evidence of quarrying activity within the southern part of the site. This was thought to date to the post-medieval period. The evaluation also showed that a significant proportion of structural remains associated with the National School, built in 1868, survived in the northern part of the present playground. No evidence of earlier medieval structures was found (CAT 1997).
- 1.9 During the earlier part of the 20th century the site was used as vegetable garden by Minchinhampton School. Subsequently the land was planted with a number of fruit trees, a number of which remain (Mrs J. Large pers. comm.).

Archaeological objectives

- 1.10 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 SDC in making an informed judgement on the significance of the archaeological resource and the likely impact upon it of the proposed development.

Methodology

- 1.11 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of one trench measuring 10m in length and 1.5m width in the location shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2).
- 1.12 The trench was excavated by a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the natural substrate.
- 1.13 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with The Museum in the Park, Stroud, under accession number STGCM 2009.30. 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 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results and detailed summaries of the recorded contexts.
- 2.2 The natural geological substrate 102 comprising limestone bedrock was identified at c. 0.6m below present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain by an intermittent clay silt subsoil layer 101 which in turn was sealed by clay silt topsoil and turf layer 100.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the proposed development area, no features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the excavation and no artefactual material was recovered. The absence of archaeological deposits and the undisturbed level of the natural geology indicates that remains associated with the prehistoric earthworks or medieval manor house referred to in the archaeological background do not extend into the site.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Philippa Mitcheson who also wrote the report and compiled the archive, which was prepared for deposition by Victoria Taylor. The

illustrations were prepared by Lorna Gray and the project was managed for CA by Laurent Coleman.

5. REFERENCES

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

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009 Land at *The Old School House, Bell Lane, Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

CAT (Cotswold Archaeological Trust) 1997 *Minchinhampton School, Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation*. CAT typescript report No. **97481**

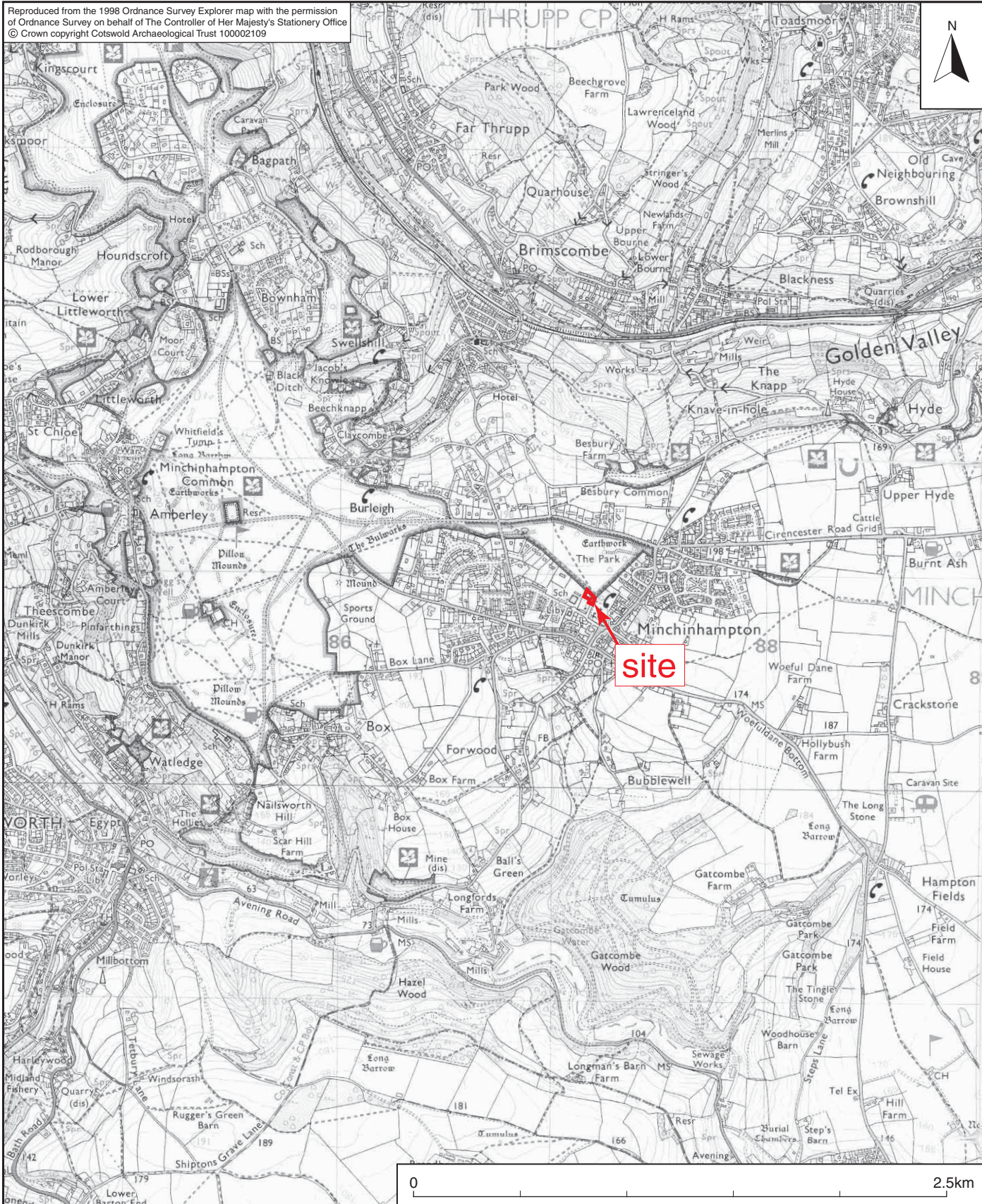
GCC 2009 *Brief for an Archaeological Field Evaluation*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**Trench 1:** N: 191.172m AOD; S: 190.882m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Depth (m)
100	Layer	Dark brown clay silt: turf and topsoil	0.37
101	Layer	Red brown clay silt: intermittent subsoil	0.11
102	Layer	Limestone brash: natural geology	>0.11

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land at The Old School House, Bell Lane, Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire	
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May 2009 of Land at The Old School House, Bell Lane, Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire. One trench was excavated. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the evaluation and no artefactual material was recovered.	
Project dates	28 May 2009	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	The Old School House, Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	178m ²	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SO 8708 0090	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Gloucestershire County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Laurent Coleman	
Project Supervisor	Philippa Mitcheson	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	The Museum in the Park, Stroud. STGCM 2009.30.	WSI, pro forma registers, black and white negatives and photos
Digital	The Museum in the Park, Stroud. STGCM 2009.30.	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009 <i>The Old School House, Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 09094		



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

Land at the Old School House, Bell Lane
Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

DRAWN BY

LG

SCALE

1:25,000@A4

PROJECT NO.

2875

FIGURE NO.

1



- site
- evaluation trench



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

Land at the Old School House, Bell Lane
Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Trench location plan

DRAWN BY

LG

SCALE

1:500@A4

PROJECT NO.

2875

FIGURE NO.

2