

**Longbourne
Ettone Barns
Castle Eaton
Swindon**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

For

MR JOHN FARRELLY

CA PROJECT: 2842
CA REPORT: 09102

JUNE 2009


COTSWOLD
ARCHAEOLOGY



LANGBOURNE
ETSTONE BARNS
CASTLE EASTON
SWINDON

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

CA PROJECT: 2842
CA REPORT: 09102

prepared by	Jonathan Bennett, Project Supervisor
date	19 June 2009
checked by	Richard Young, Project Manager
date	23 June 2009
approved by	Mark Collard, Head of Contracts
signed	
date	25 June 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	4
1. INTRODUCTION	5
2. RESULTS (FIGS 2).....	7
3. DISCUSSION.....	8
4. CA PROJECT TEAM	8
5. REFERENCES	8
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	10
APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM.....	11

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

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

Fig. 2 The site, showing location of groundworks (1:500).

SUMMARY

Project Name: Longbourne, Ettone Barns
Location: Castle Eaton, Swindon
NGR: SU 1440 9563
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 4 June 2009
Planning Reference: S/08/1705/ROBI
Location of Archive: Swindon Museum
Site Code: LEB09

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the erection of a three-bay wooden stable block and associated works at Longbourne, Ettone Barns, Castle Eaton, Swindon.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefacts pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In June 2009 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Mr John Farrelly at Longbourne, Ettone Barns, Castle Eaton, Swindon (centred on NGR: SU 1440 9563; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent for the erection of a three-bay wooden stable block and associated groundworks (Swindon Borough Council Planning ref: S/08/1705/ROBI). 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 (2009) and approved by Ms Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, County Archaeologist for Wiltshire Council and the archaeological advisor to Swindon Borough Council. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (2008), the *statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Wiltshire* (WCC 1995) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (English Heritage 2006).

The site

- 1.3 The site is located on the western edge of Castle Eaton on the south side of Mill Lane, approximately 150m south of the River Thames (Fig. 2). It lies at approximately 79m AOD and slopes gently to the south.
- 1.4 The proposed area of groundworks occupies less than 0.1ha and comprises land to the rear of the gardens of Plots 3 and 4, Ettone Barns.
- 1.5 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as First Terrace Deposits of the Pleistocene and Recent periods, associated with the River Thames (BGS 1974). Natural deposits comprising gravel and sand were observed on the western edge of the groundworks.

Archaeological background

- 1.6 The site lies in a rich and diverse archaeological landscape and the fields surrounding the village display an extensive system of cropmarks visible from aerial photographs. Information from the Wiltshire and Swindon Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) suggest that no early prehistoric activity has been recorded within the immediate area of the site although cropmark ring ditches that possibly represent the remains of Bronze Age burial mounds lie approximately 400m to the south-east of the site (SMR no SU19NW601). Cropmarks continue to the east where an Iron Age hut surrounded by a circular palisaded trench was excavated at Blackford Lane (SU19NE200). Further Iron Age activity was excavated at Marston Meysey where extensive settlement evidence was found (SU19NW205). From within the village of Castle Eaton, Iron Age pottery has been recovered from St Mary's churchyard (SU19NW200). Undated enclosure cropmarks 500m to the north of the site of the proposed development (SU19NW638 and the adjacent SU19NW639) may also be of Iron Age or of Roman date.
- 1.7 The Roman road of Ermine Street runs approximately 3km to the south-west of the site and the area was extensively settled in the Roman period. Possible settlement within the area of the village is indicated by the recovery of numerous sherds of Romano-British pottery and some coins at two locations 170m and 250m distance from the site of the proposed development (SU 19NW301/302). A decorated 6-7 century horse-bit was found to the north of the village (SU19NW400), where a complex of cropmarks suggest typical Saxon settlement activity close to the River Thames (SU19NW650). A focus of medieval settlement appears to be round the site of St Mary's church, where a medieval cross-shaft (SU19NW452) and 13-14 century pottery has been recovered (SU19NW454). Reference to the early place-name of 'Ettone' in 1086 would suggest pre-conquest origins (SU19NW451).
- 1.8 A single evaluation trench, excavated in 2004, immediately to the north-east of the site, identified an undated ditch and three ditches dating to the medieval period, one of which contained evidence for post-settings (CA 2004). The ditches have been interpreted as forming part of the same system and the dating evidence suggests that

this system was established between the 10th and 12th centuries and continued in use into the 13th to 14th centuries (ibid.).

- 1.9 Two trenches were excavated in 2007 immediately to the north of the site. The footing of an undated stone-built wall was uncovered in one trench, on the south-western side of the site, as well as a number of contemporary structural features. The alignment of the wall suggests that it was associated with the farm buildings formerly present on the site. No other finds, features or deposits of archaeological interest were identified (CA 2007).

Methodology

- 1.10 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2009). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising the excavation of foundations for the proposed structure (Fig. 2).
- 1.11 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.12 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. The site archive will be deposited with Swindon Museum. 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 2)

- 2.1 The natural geological substrate 1003 consisting of gravel in a sand matrix was revealed at the south-western end of the groundworks at a depth of 0.2m below present ground level (bpgl). At the north-eastern end of the groundworks, this was overlain by subsoil 1002, which in turn was sealed by the topsoil 1001. Dump deposit 1000 consisting of gravel, modern building rubble and plastic, 0.1-0.2m thick, sealed the entire area.

- 2.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefacts pre-dating the modern period were recovered. Finds dating to the modern period were not retained.

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, particularly of the medieval period, may indicate that they do not extend as far as, or were not exposed by, the development, which only extended to the top of the subsoil in the north-east end of the groundworks. It is also possible that any archaeological deposits may have been removed during work associated with the construction of nearby farm buildings as modern truncation was evident in the south-west end of the groundworks as a modern dump deposit immediately overlay the natural substrate.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Jonathan Bennett. The report was written by Jonathan Bennett. The illustrations were prepared by Rachael Kershaw. The archive has been compiled by Jonathan Bennett, and prepared for deposition by Victoria Taylor. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

5. REFERENCES

- BGS (British Geological Survey) 1974 *Solid and drift geology: England and Wales Sheet 252: Swindon 1:50,000 series*
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2004 *Castle Eaton Farm, Castle Eaton, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation* CA Report **04108**
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2007 *Castle Eaton Farm, Castle Eaton, Wiltshire: Archaeological Excavation* CA Report **07079**

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009 *Longbourne, Ettone Barns, Castle Eaton, Swindon:*
Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological watching Brief

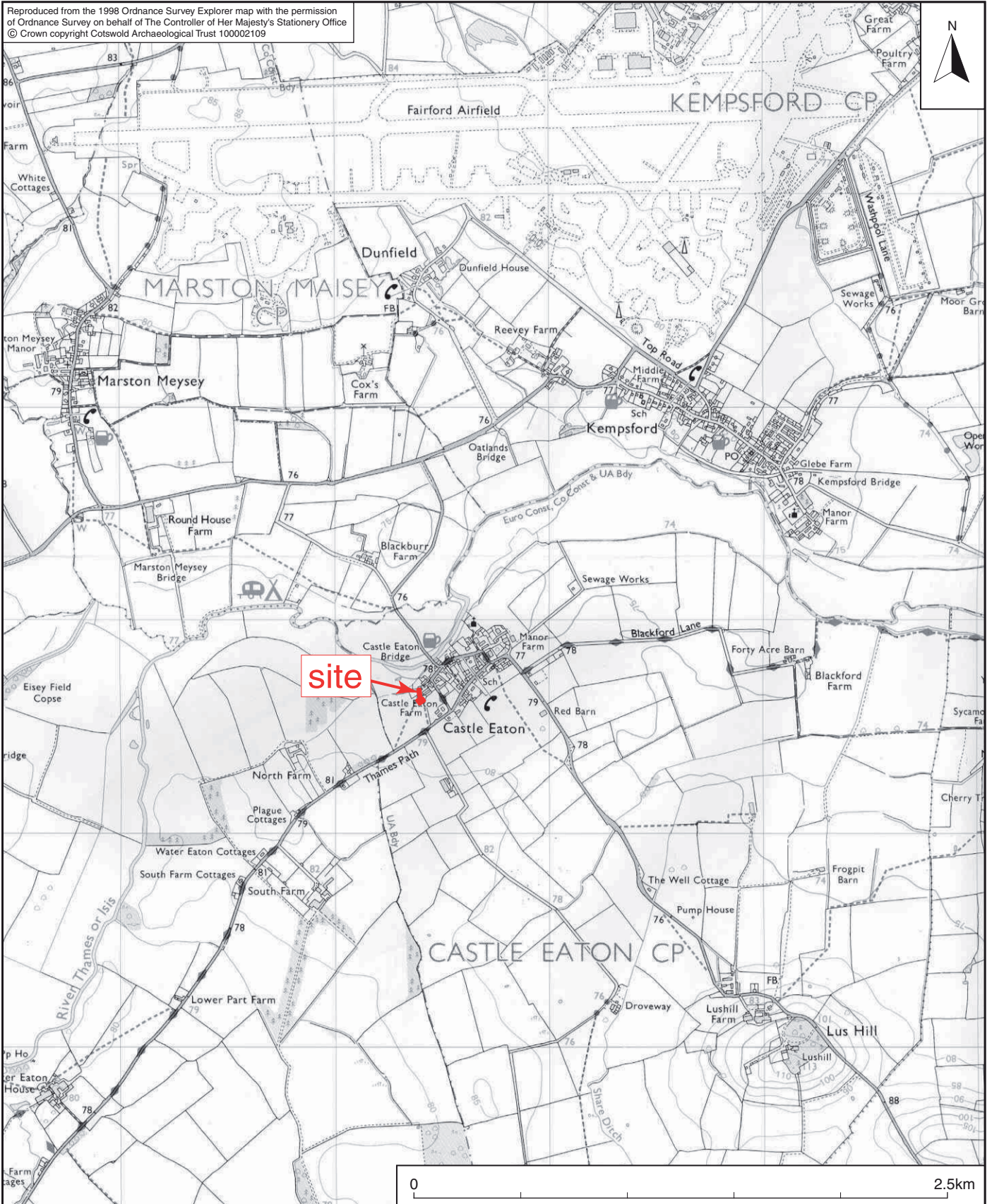
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Area of groundworks

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1000	Layer	Modern dump deposit including rubble, plastic, drain pipes			0.100 – 0.200m	
1001	Layer	Topsoil			0.100m	
1002	Layer	Subsoil				
1003	Natural	Natural substrate - Gravel in a mid yellowish brown sand matrix				

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Longbourne, Ettone Barns, Castle Eaton, Swindon	
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the erection of a three-bay wooden stable block and associated works at Longbourne, Ettone Barns, Castle Eaton, Swindon. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefacts pre-dating the modern period was recovered.	
Project dates	06 June 2009	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Watching Brief	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	CA Evaluation 2004, CA Excavation 2007	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Longbourne, Ettone Barns, Castle Eaton, Swindon	
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.1 ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SU 1440 9563	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Wiltshire Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Jonathan Bennett	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	n/a	n/a
Paper	Swindon Museum	Trench sheet, site plan, B&W photos
Digital	Swindon Museum	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009 <i>Longbourne, Ettone Barns, Castle Eaton, Swindon: Archaeological Watching Brief Report 09102</i>		



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

Longbourne, Ettone Barns
Castle Eaton, Swindon

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

DRAWN BY

RK

SCALE

1:25,000@A4

PROJECT NO.

2842

FIGURE NO.

1



- site
- area of observed groundworks
- trench (CA 2007)
- trench (CA 2004)



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

Longbourne, Ettone Barns
Castle Eaton, Swindon

FIGURE TITLE

**The site, showing location of
groundworks**

DRAWN BY

RK

SCALE

1:500@A4

PROJECT NO.

2842

FIGURE NO.

2