

**LAND ADJACENT TO COXWELL
HOUSE
COXWELL ROAD
FARINGDON
OXFORDSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

For

COTSWOLD HOMES


CA PROJECT: 2968
CA REPORT: 09197

NOVEMBER 2009

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COXWELL ROAD
FARINGDON
OXFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

CA PROJECT: 2968
CA REPORT: 09197

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|-------------|---|
| prepared by | Jonathan Bennett, Project Supervisor |
| date | 23 November 2009 |
| checked by | Cliff Bateman, Project manager |
| date | 30 November 2009 |
| approved by | Mark Collard, Head of Contracts |
| signed |  |
| date | 30 November 2009 |
| issue | 01 |

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Land adjacent to Coxwell House
Location: Coxwell Road, Faringdon, Oxfordshire
NGR: SU 2818 9446
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 20 – 21 October 2009
Planning Reference: GFA/16464/5
Location of Archive: Oxfordshire Museum Service
Site Code: CXW09

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with development on land adjacent to Coxwell House, Coxwell House, Faringdon, Oxfordshire,

Remnant ridge and furrow of medieval/post-medieval date was observed throughout the site. No other archaeological features were identified and no artefacts pre-dating the modern period were recovered.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In October 2009 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Cotswold Homes on land adjacent to Coxwell House, Coxwell house, Faringdon, Oxfordshire, (centred on NGR: SU 2818 9446; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to planning consent granted by Vale of White Horse District Council (VWHDC) for the construction of eleven dwellings and nineteen car parking spaces (Planning ref: GFA/16464/5 condition 14). 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 Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2009) and approved by Mr Hugh Coddington, Deputy County Archaeological Officer, Oxfordshire County Council (OCC), archaeological advisor to VWHDC. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IfA 2008), the *Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd edition* (English Heritage 1992) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) (English Heritage 2006).

The site

1.3 The development site lies on the east side of Coxwell Road, Faringdon approximately 450m south of the junction with the B4019 Highworth Road. The application area is approximately 0.25 hectares and previously formed part of a residential garden. It is bounded to the north-west by Winslow House; to the north-east and south-east by farmland and to the south-west by Coxwell House. The site lies at approximately 128m AOD.

1.4 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Limestone Corallian Sand with some limestone outcrops (BGS 1971).

Archaeological background

- 1.5 Two archaeological excavations previously undertaken immediately to the west of Coxwell Road revealed a large and extensive later prehistoric and Romano British settlement. The excavated sites had two main phases from the late Bronze Age to the Middle Iron Age and the Romano-British period. The evidence for later Iron Age activity was more peripheral. There was a high concentration of pits and post holes during the later prehistoric period with evidence of animal husbandry and some domestic industry. The settlement would seem to be fairly typical for both the period and region with a mixed pastoral and arable economy. In the later stages there was some evidence of crop processing and evidence of sheep husbandry. The Romano-British settlement was smaller than the preceding prehistoric settlement and contained a small shrine or temple dating to the second century AD. The extent of the area of settlement has not been defined on the east side and it may extend into this development area (Weaver 2004, Cook 2004).

Methodology

- 1.6 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2009). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising the removal of non-archaeologically significant overburden with a toothless bucket. After an initial phase of ground clearance was observed, it was agreed with Hugh Coddington (OCC) that no further monitoring at the site was necessary (see Fig. 2 for location and extent).
- 1.7 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.8 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner site archive will be deposited with Oxfordshire Museum Service. 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 Natural geological substrate 002, comprising red-brown sand with occasional outcrops of limestone, was revealed throughout the site at an average depth of 0.2m below present ground level. It was cut by three undated furrows, 003, 005 and 009, which were orientated north-west/south-east and were evenly spaced c.9m apart. These were sealed by the topsoil.
- 2.2 Despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefacts pre-dating the modern period were recovered.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area, the watching brief identified no significant archaeological remains within the site. The absence of archaeological deposits associated with the prehistoric and Roman activity to the north-west of the site indicates that they did not extend as far as the current development area.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Jonathan Bennett, Mark Brett and Andrew Donald. The report was written by Jonathan Bennett. The illustrations were prepared by Peter Moore. The archive has been compiled by Jonathan Bennett, and prepared for deposition by Victoria Taylor. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1971 Geological Survey of Great Britain (England and Wales) Sheet 253, Solid and Drift Geology, *Abingdon*, 1:63360

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009 *Land Adjacent to Coxwell House, Coxwell road, Faringdon, Oxfordshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

Cook, J. et al (2004) 'Excavations of an Iron Age site at Coxwell Road, Faringdon', *Oxoniensia* **LXIX**, 181 – 286).

Weaver, S. et al (2004) 'An early Iron Age occupation site, a Roman shrine and other prehistoric activity at Coxwell Road, Faringdon', *Oxoniensia* **LXIX** 119 -180

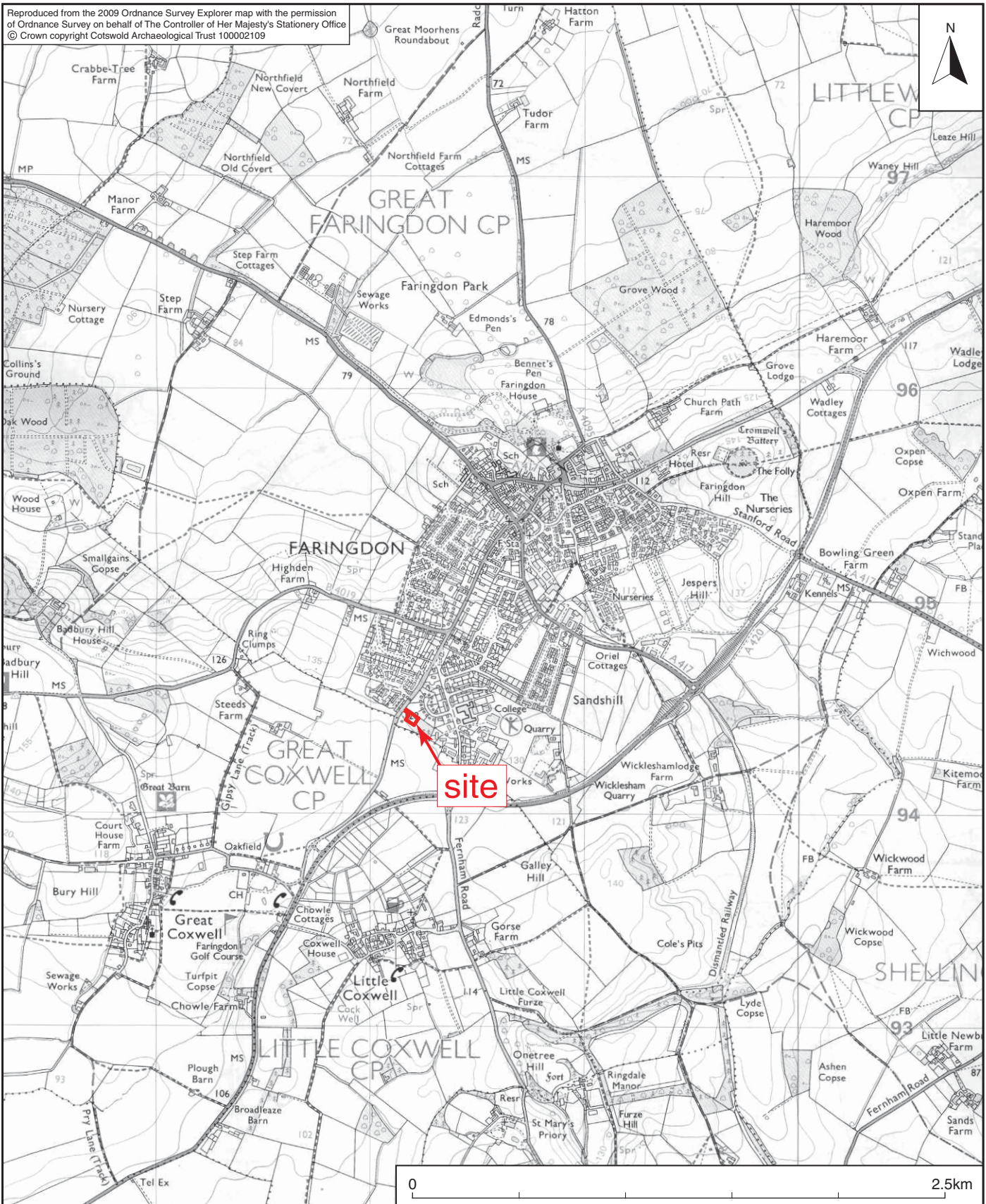
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

| No. | Type | Description | Length (m) | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Spot-date |
|-----|---------|---|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 001 | Layer | Topsoil | | | 0.2 | |
| 002 | Natural | Light reddish brown sand with sparse limestone outcrops | | | | |
| 003 | Cut | Furrow – Generic cut no. | >45 | 1.6 | 0.1 | |
| 004 | Fill | Fill of 003 | >45 | 1.6 | 0.1 | |
| 005 | Cut | Furrow – Generic cut no. | >45 | 1.5 | 0.14 | |
| 006 | Fill | Fill of 005 | >45 | 1.5 | 0.14 | |
| 007 | Void | Void | | | | |
| 008 | Void | Void | | | | |
| 009 | Cut | Furrow – Generic cut no. | >10 | 1 | 0.05 | |
| 010 | Fill | Fill of 007 | >10 | 1 | 0.05 | |
| 011 | Cut | Furrow, part of 009 | >10 | 1 | 0.05 | |
| 012 | Fill | Fill of 011 | >10 | 1 | 0.05 | |
| 013 | Cut | Furrow, part of 003 | >45 | 1.6 | 0.1 | |
| 014 | Fill | Fill of 013 | >45 | 1.6 | 0.1 | |
| 015 | Cut | Furrow, part of 005 | >45 | 1.5 | 0.14 | |
| 016 | Fill | Fill of 015 | >45 | 1.5 | 0.14 | |

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

| PROJECT DETAILS | | |
|---|---|---|
| Project Name | Land adjacent to Coxwell House, Coxwell Road, Faringdon, Oxfordshire | |
| Short description (250 words maximum) | <p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with development at Land adjacent to Coxwell House, Coxwell house, Faringdon, Oxfordshire,</p> <p>Remnant ridge and furrow of probable post-medieval date was observed across the site. No other archaeological features were identified and no artefacts pre-dating the modern period were recovered.</p> | |
| Project dates | 20 – 21 November 2009 | |
| Project type | Archaeological Watching Brief | |
| Previous work | | |
| Future work | Unknown | |
| PROJECT LOCATION | | |
| Site Location | Land adjacent to Coxwell House, Coxwell Road, Faringdon, Oxfordshire | |
| Study area | 0.25ha | |
| Site co-ordinates | SU 2818 9446 | |
| PROJECT CREATORS | | |
| Name of organisation | Cotswold Archaeology | |
| Project Brief originator | Oxfordshire County Council | |
| Project Design (WSI) originator | Cotswold Archaeology | |
| Project Manager | Cliff Bateman | |
| Project Supervisor | Jonathan Bennett | |
| PROJECT ARCHIVES | | |
| | Intended final location of archive | Content |
| Physical | n/a | n/a |
| Paper | Oxfordshire Museum Service | Context sheets, project registers, photos |
| Digital | Oxfordshire Museum Service | Digital photos |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY | | |
| <p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) <i>Land adjacent to Coxwell House, Coxwell Road, Faringdon, Oxfordshire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> CA typescript report 09167</p> | | |

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 **COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

PROJECT TITLE
**Land adjacent to Coxwell House
 Faringdon, Oxfordshire**

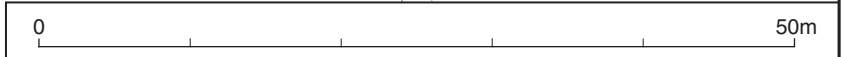
FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan




| | | | |
|----------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| DRAWN BY | SCALE | PROJECT NO. | FIGURE NO. |
| PJM | 1:25,000@A4 | 2968 | 1 |



SU

2815



-  site
-  excavated area
-  recorded ridge and furrow



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE
Land adjacent to Coxwell House
Faringdon, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
Location of groundworks

| DRAWN BY | SCALE | PROJECT NO. | FIGURE NO. |
|----------|----------|-------------|------------|
| PJM | 1:500@A4 | 2968 | 2 |