

**RICKFIELD HOUSE
CHURCH ROAD, LIDDINGTON
WILTSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

For

LAURELGROVE LTD


CA PROJECT: 3039
CA REPORT: 10021

MARCH 2010

RICKFIELD HOUSE
CHURCH ROAD, LIDDINGTON
WILTSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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CA REPORT: 10021

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date	17 February 2010
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date	12 March 2010
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signed	
date	12 March 2010
issue	01

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Rickfield House
Location: Church Road, Liddington, Wiltshire
NGR: SU 2063 8117
Type: Evaluation
Date: 15-16 February 2010
Planning Reference: S/09/1794/CLMC
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Swindon Museum and Art Gallery
Site Code: RHL 10

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February 2010 at Rickfield House, Church Road, Liddington, Wiltshire. One trench was excavated.

The evaluation identified two ditches of probable post-Roman/Anglo-Saxon date. A further undated ditch may be contemporary. The ditches probably represented field boundary and/or drainage ditches.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In February 2010 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Laurelgrove Ltd at Rickfield House, Church Road, Liddington, Wiltshire (centred on NGR: SU 2063 8117; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany an application that has been made for residential development of the site (App. No. S/09/1794/CLMC).

1.2 The requirement for archaeological evaluation was outlined in an email, dated 21 January 2009, outlining the requirement for an archaeological evaluation prior to the determination of any planning application from Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, County Archaeologist, Wiltshire Council (WC) archaeological advisor to Swindon Borough Council (SBC), and with a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2010) and approved by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (IfA 2008), the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Wiltshire* (WCC 1995), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (EH 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006). It was monitored by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, including a site visit on 15 February 2010.

The site

1.3 The site is bounded to the north-east by Parsonage House, to the south-east and south-west by fields and to the north-west by Parsonage Yard (Fig. 2). The present boundary of the churchyard of All Saints Church lies approximately 50m to the north. The site comprised Rickfield House and garden and is c. 0.4ha in area, it lies at c. 151m AOD, with the ground sloping downward to the north.

1.4 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Lower Chalk of the Cretaceous era (BGS 1974). The natural substrate was identified throughout the trench.

Archaeological background

1.5 The proposed development area lies at the southern edge of the village of Liddington which has Saxon origins (Wiltshire SMR number: SU28SW407). Finds recovered from the vicinity of the site include a Mesolithic Macehead (Wiltshire SMR

number: SU28SWU01) and Romano-British pottery sherds (Wiltshire SMR number (SU28SW317).

Archaeological objectives

- 1.6 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 Swindon Borough Council in making an informed judgement on the significance of the archaeological resource, and the likely impact upon it of the proposed development.

Methodology

- 1.7 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of a single trench, measuring c. 14m in length and 1.8m in width in the location shown on the trench location plan (Fig. 2). The location of the trench was constrained by the boundary fence to the west and by a tree to the east. The length of the trench was therefore reduced from that agreed in the WSI, with the approval of Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger.
- 1.8 The trench was 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).
- 1.9 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) and 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).
- 1.10 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner, the artefacts will be deposited with Swindon Museum and Art Gallery along with the site archive. 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 (FIGS 2-3)

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B.

Trench 1

- 2.2 The undisturbed natural substrate 103 comprising light grey chalk fragments was revealed at c. 0.36m below present ground level (bpgl). The archaeological features and deposits were overlain by subsoil c. 0.25m thick and topsoil c. 0.11m thick.
- 2.3 A north-east/south-west orientated ditch 107 was identified at the western end of the trench (Fig. 3, Section AA). The ditch was 1.55m in width, at least 0.46m in depth and upper fill 108 contained five sherds of pottery dating to the post-Roman/Anglo-Saxon periods.
- 2.4 Two intercutting ditches were identified at the eastern end of the trench, although the stratigraphic relationship between the ditches could not be established within the evaluation trench. The eastern ditch 110 was orientated north-east/south-west, was at least 1m in width, 0.4m in depth (Fig. 3, Section CC) and two sherds of pottery dating to the post-Roman/Anglo-Saxon periods were recovered from upper fill 111. No dating evidence was recovered from ditch 104 located to the west which was 1m in width, 0.55m in depth (Fig. 3, Section BB) and was orientated north/south.

The Finds

- 2.5 Quantities of pottery, animal bones, flint, ceramic building material and glass were recovered from four deposits.
- 2.6 A total of eight sherds of pottery, from deposits 108 and 111, was identifiable as organic-tempered fabric of post-Roman or Anglo-Saxon date. The only form describable was a globular jar with upright rim from deposit 111. Material recovered from subsoil 101 comprised fragments of brick and a glass of modern date.
- 2.7 A total of 25 fragments of animal bone weighing 299g was recovered from four deposits. The species identified were horse, cattle, sheep/goat and pig. More

fragmented bones were classified by size as coming from cow-sized and sheep-sized animals. Most of the animal bone assemblage came from deposits of post-Roman or Saxon date.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The evaluation identified two ditches of probable post-Roman/Anglo-Saxon date. A further ditch did not contain any dating evidence and no stratigraphic relationship could be established with the dated features. It is possible that this ditch also dated to the post-Roman/Anglo-Saxon period, although the possibility that it dated to earlier or later periods cannot be ruled out. The ditches probably represented field boundary and/or drainage ditches.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Tim Havard assisted by Diarmuid O Seaneachain. The report was written by Diarmuid O Seaneachain. The illustrations were prepared by Peter Moore and the finds report was written by Angela Aggujaro and Sylvia Warman. The archive has been compiled by Diarmuid O Seaneachain, and prepared for deposition by. The project was managed for CA by Laurent Coleman.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1974 *Geological Survey of England and Wales: Solid and Drift Edition* Sheet 252: Swindon 1: 63,360

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2010 *Rickfield House, Church Road, Liddington, Wiltshire: 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	Turf and topsoil: dark brownish black sandy silt			0.15	Modern
101	Layer	Subsoil: dark brownish black clay silt with frequent light grey chalk pebbles and grit.			0.35	Modern
102	Deposit	Dark brown silty clay with frequent chalk pebbles. Localised to area around cut 110 at the eastern end of trench 1.			0.16	
103	Layer	Natural geology: Light grey chalk			> 0.36	
104	Cut	Cut of ditch		1.02	0.56	
105	Fill	Secondary fill of 104. Light grey silty clay with moderate sub-angular and sub-rounded chalk pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks.		1.02	0.22	
106	Fill	Primary fill of 104. Light brownish grey silty clay with very occasional charcoal flecks and a concentration of chalk pebbles at the base.		0.73	0.39	
107	Cut	Cut of ditch		0.95	0.46	
108	Fill	Secondary fill of 107. Dark greyish brown clayey silt. Occasional chalk pebbles and charcoal flecks.		1.55	0.16	C5-C8
109	Fill	Primary fill of 107. Dark greyish brown clayey silt. Occasional chalk pebbles and grit.		0.84	0.36	
110	Cut	Cut of ditch.		> 1.0	>0.51	
111	Fill	Secondary fill of 110. Light brown silty clay with frequent sub-angular white chalk pebbles.		>1.0	0.15	C5-C8
112	Fill	Primary fill of 110. Greyish brown clay silt. One large sub-rounded cobble >0.3m x 0.3m. Frequent sub-angular chalk pebbles and grit.		>0.65	>0.36	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Artefact type	Description	Ct.	Wt.	Date
101	Animal bone: CBM Glass	Pig, cow-sized. Brick.	4 4 1	36 156 9	C19-C20
105	Animal Bone:	Sheep/goat.	1	4	
108	Animal Bone: Pottery: Flint	Cow, sheep/goat, horse, cow-sized, sheep-sized. Organic tempered fabric of Anglo-Saxon or post-Roman date. Flake.	14 5 1	193 22 5	C5-C8
111	Animal Bone Pottery: Flint	Sheep/goat, pig, cow-sized, sheep-sized. Organic tempered fabric of Anglo-Saxon or post-Roman date. Flake.	6 3 2	66 29 4	C5-C8

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Rickfield House, Church Road, Liddington, Wiltshire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February 2010 at Rickfield House, Church Road, Liddington, Wiltshire. One trench was excavated.</p> <p>The evaluation identified two ditches of probable post-Roman/Anglo-Saxon date. A further undated ditch may be contemporary. The ditches probably represented field boundary and/or drainage ditches.</p>	
Project dates	15-16 February 2010	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Field Evaluation	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)		
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Rickfield House, Church Road, Liddington, Wiltshire.	
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.4ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SU 2063 8117	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator		
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Laurent Coleman	
Project Supervisor	Tim Havard and Diarmuid O Seaneachain	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Swindon Museum and Art Gallery	Pottery, animal bone, flint.
Paper	Swindon Museum and Art Gallery	Trench sheet, context sheets, drawings, registered artefact index, drawing register, photographs, slides and registers, levels register, WSI
Digital	Swindon Museum and Art Gallery	Digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2010 Rickfield House, Church Road, Liddington, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation CA Report No. **10021**

DRAFT



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PROJECT TITLE

**Rickfield House, Church Road
Liddington, Wiltshire**

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

DRAWN BY

PJM

SCALE

1:25,000@A4

PROJECT NO.

3039

FIGURE NO.

1



- site
- ▭ evaluation trench



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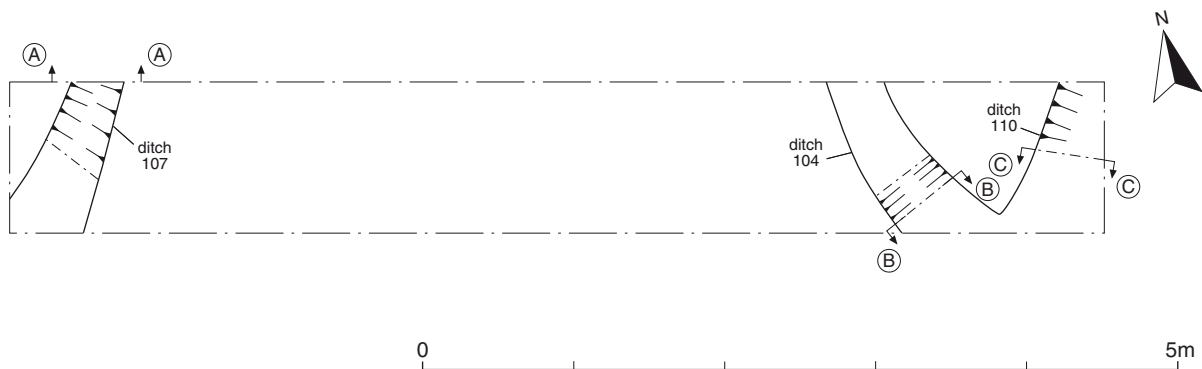
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**Rickfield House, Church Road
Liddington, Wiltshire**

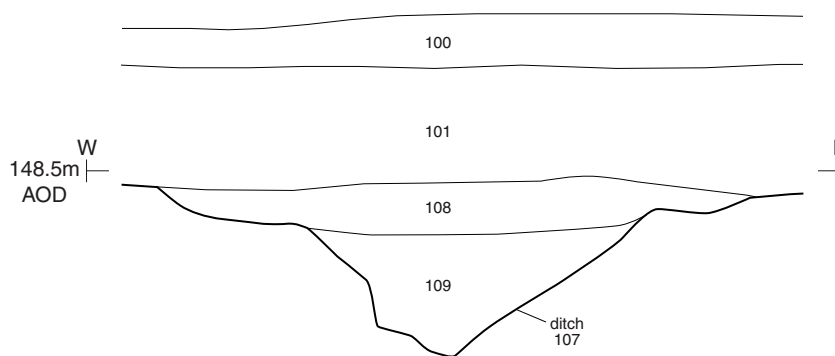
FIGURE TITLE

Trench location plan

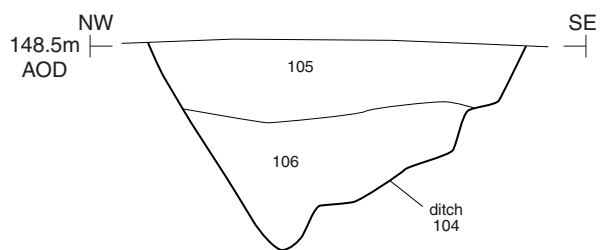
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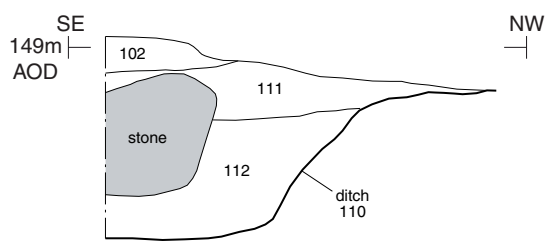
Section AA



Section BB



Section CC



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PROJECT TITLE

Rickfield House, Church Road
Liddington, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 1: plan and sections

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SCALE

1:100&1:20@A4

PROJECT NO.

3039

FIGURE NO.

3