

**LAND TO THE REAR OF
GREEN FARM
URCHFONT
WILTSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

For

QDOS HOMES LIMITED


CA PROJECT: 3255
CA REPORT: 10186

OCTOBER 2010

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GREEN FARM
URCHFONT
WILTSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CA PROJECT: 3255
CA REPORT: 10186

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date	27 October 2010
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signed	
date	29 October 2010
issue	01

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land to the rear of Green Farm
Location:	Urchfont, Wiltshire
NGR:	SU 0375 5720
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	15 October 2010
Planning Reference:	E/10/0843/FUL
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Devizes
Site Code:	GFH 10

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in October 2010 at land to the rear of Green Farm, Urchfont, Wiltshire. A total of two trenches was excavated.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks. Natural greensand was overlain by subsoil and topsoil in both trenches.

Residual worked flint, Roman pottery and a quantity of medieval pottery was recovered from the subsoil and topsoil, along with modern glass, brick and tile from the topsoil. Medieval and post-medieval pottery, worked flint, including a scraper as well as metal artefacts, modern glass and ceramic building material were recovered from the topsoil and subsoil. It is not known whether the site was ploughed and it is possible that these finds were deposited during manuring. In addition, the planting of an orchard within the site at sometime between 1924 and 1939 may explain the mixture of finds identified within these deposits, as there is the possibility that soils were imported into the site during this period.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In October 2010 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Qdos Homes Limited at land to the rear of Green Farm, Urchfont, Wiltshire (centred on NGR: SU 0375 5720; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent for a single dwelling to be built to the rear of Green Farm (Planning ref: E/10/0843/FUL).

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2010) and approved by Mr David Vaughan, Assistant County Archaeologist, Wiltshire Council (WC). The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2008), the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Wiltshire* (Wiltshire County Council 1995), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006). It was monitored by Mr Vaughan, including a site visit on 15 October 2010.

The site

1.3 The proposed development area is located in the north-western part of Urchfont, to the south-east of Green Farm and to the west of Stable Cottage (Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 120m AOD and comprises relatively level ground.

1.4 The site encloses an area of approximately 0.3ha, currently utilised as pasture.

1.5 The underlying geology of the area is mapped as Upper Greensand of the Cretaceous period (BGS 1959). Greensand was encountered within both trenches.

Archaeological background

1.6 The Wiltshire County Sites and Monument Record (SMR) records a total of 71 entries for Urchfont and its immediate vicinity. Recorded artefact findspots and archaeological features span the Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods and identify the potential for multi-period archaeological remains to be present within the site.

- 1.7 Settlement at Urchfont is documented in 1086 during the Domesday Survey, and the Abbey of St Mary Winchester is known to have held an estate at Urchfont until it was suppressed in 1536. The Green contains a number of brick-built buildings of mostly 17th and 18th-century date.
- 1.8 An orchard is indicated on the site on the 1939 Ordnance Survey (OS) map, which is not seen on the previous 1924 OS map.

Archaeological objectives

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

Methodology

- 1.10 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of two trenches both measuring 12m in length by 2m in width, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). The location of both trenches was revised slightly with the approval of Mr Vaughan. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using a Leica 1200 series SmartRover GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual* (2009). The trenches were targeted on the footprint of the new building. The remainder of the site as shown on figure 2 will not be impacted upon by the development.
- 1.11 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).
- 1.12 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) however, no deposits were identified that

required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation* (2010).

- 1.13 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, along with the site archive, will be deposited with Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Devizes. 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 No features of archaeological significance were encountered within the two trenches. A broadly similar stratigraphic sequence was identified, with undisturbed natural greensand revealed within each trench at a depth of c. 0.7m below present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain by subsoil which was in turn sealed by topsoil.

The Finds

- 2.3 Quantities of artefactual material were recovered from topsoil and subsoil in both trenches. The material comprised medieval and post-medieval pottery, metal artefacts, worked flint, modern glass and ceramic building material. All finds were recovered from topsoil and subsoil deposits.
- 2.4 A small quantity of worked flint was retrieved from topsoil 100/200 and subsoil 101/201. Most were flakes without secondary working. A scraper, recovered from subsoil 201, featured abrupt retouch from the ventral surface.
- 2.5 An abraded sherd of greyware pottery of Roman date was recorded from subsoil 101 in association with medieval pottery.
- 2.6 Medieval pottery was retrieved from topsoil 100/200 and subsoil 101/201. It included sherds in reduced or buff-firing sandy coarseware; Kennet Valley unglazed

coarseware and scratch-marked sandy coarseware. This material is dateable to the 12th to 14th centuries.

- 2.7 A total of 13 fragments of ceramic building material, weighing 722g, were retrieved from topsoil 100/200. These were identified as brick and tile fragments of post-medieval date.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 No archaeological features or deposits were identified during the course of the evaluation.
- 3.2 Medieval and post-medieval pottery, worked flint, including a scraper as well as metal artefacts, modern glass and ceramic building material were recovered from the topsoil and subsoil. It is not known whether the site was ploughed and it is possible that these finds were deposited during manuring. In addition, the planting of an orchard within the site at sometime between 1924 and 1939 may explain the mixture of finds identified within these deposits, as there is the possibility that soils were imported into the site during this period.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Stuart Joyce, assisted by Andrew Donald. The report was written by Stuart Joyce. The finds report was written by Ed McSloy and Angela Aggujaro. The illustrations were prepared by Lorna Gray. The archive has been compiled by Stuart Joyce, and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1959 *Geological Survey of England and Wales*, Sheet 282: Devizes

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2010 *Land to the Rear of Green Farm, Urchfont, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**Trench 1** Ground level: Eastern end 119.36m AOD; Western end 119.53m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt.			0.25	MOD
101	Subsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt			0.45	MED
102	Natural	Mid grey green silty sand			-	

Trench 2 Ground level: Southern end 119.25m AOD; Northern end 119.44m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
200	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt.			0.25	MOD
201	Subsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt			0.45	PMED
202	Natural	Mid grey green silty sand			-	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS


Context	Description	Ct.	Wt.	Date
100	Post-medieval pottery: refined white ware, internally glazed, porcelain, Somerset glazed earthenware, Medieval pottery: sandy coarse ware Metal artefacts: Iron nail, S shaped iron fitting Worked flint: Ceramic building material: brick, tile	7 5 4 4	93 264 87 224	-
101	Medieval pottery: Kennet Valley unglazed coarse ware, buff-firing sandy coarse ware, scratch mark sandy coarse ware Roman pottery: greyware Worked flint: flake	11 1 2	89 13 17	-
200	Ceramic building material: brick, tile Glass: modern window glass, green bottle glass. Medieval pottery: sandy coarse ware	9 3 1	498 167 13	-
201	Worked flint: flake, scraper. Medieval pottery: Kennet Valley unglazed coarse ware Post-medieval pottery: Somerset glazed earthenware	5 8 1	56 45 16	-

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land to the rear of Green Farm, Urchfont, Wiltshire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in October 2010 at land to the rear of Green Farm, Urchfont, Wiltshire. A total of two trenches was excavated.</p> <p>No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks. Natural greensand was overlain by subsoil and topsoil in both trenches.</p> <p>Residual worked flint, Roman pottery and a quantity of medieval pottery was recovered from the subsoil and topsoil, along with modern glass, brick and tile from the topsoil. Medieval and post-medieval pottery, worked flint, including a scraper as well as metal artefacts, modern glass and ceramic building material were recovered from the topsoil and subsoil. It is not known whether the site was ploughed and it is possible that these finds were deposited during manuring. In addition, the planting of an orchard within the site at sometime between 1924 and 1939 may explain the mixture of finds identified within these deposits, as there is the possibility that soils were imported into the site during this period.</p>	
Project dates	15 October 2010	
Project type	Archaeological Evaluation	
Previous work	Not known	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Land to the rear of Green Farm, Urchfont, Wiltshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.3ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SU 0375 5720	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Wiltshire Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Stuart Joyce	
MONUMENT TYPE		
None		
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
None		
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Devizes	Pottery, animal bone
Paper	Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Devizes	WSI, pro forma registers, recording forms and photographs
Digital	Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Devizes	Digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2010 <i>Land to the Rear of Green Farm, Urchfont, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 10186		

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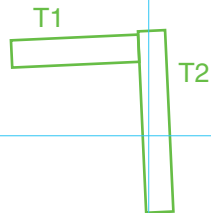
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PROJECT TITLE Land to the rear of Green Farm Urchfont, Wiltshire			
FIGURE TITLE Site location plan			
DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
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0375

5725



5720



Laurel House

Chaise Cottage

Stable Cottage

CHAPEL LANE



The Barn

5715

SU

0

50m

-  site
-  evaluation trench



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

Land to the rear of Green Farm
Urchfont, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

**The site, showing location of
evaluation trenches**

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1:500@A4

PROJECT NO.


3255

FIGURE NO.

2

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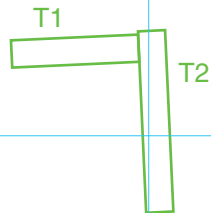
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0375

5725



5720



Laurel House

Chaise Cottage

Stable Cottage

CHAPEL LANE

The Barn

5715

SU

0

50m



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

Land to the rear of Green Farm
Urchfont, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

**The site, showing location of
evaluation trenches**

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1:500@A4

PROJECT NO.

3255

FIGURE NO.

2

 site

 evaluation trench