

**The Old Rectory
Icomb
Gloucestershire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

for

Parr Walker & Associates

on behalf of

Mr & Mrs Bickmore


CA Project: 3319
CA Report: 11063

March 2011

The Old Rectory
Icomb
Gloucestershire

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date	4 March 2011
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date	4 March 2011
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signed	
date	15 March 2011
issue	01

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

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

SUMMARY

Project Name: The Old Rectory
Location: Icomb, Gloucestershire
NGR: SP 2143 2270
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 18-19 January 2011 and 21 February 2011
Planning Reference: 10/04578/FUL
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Corinium Museum
Site Code: ORI 11

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a two-storey extension to the property, together with a new porch and garage with boiler room at the Old Rectory, Icomb, Gloucestershire.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and only modern artefactual material was recovered and not retained.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In January and February 2011 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at the request of Parr Walker & Associates on behalf of Mr & Mrs Peter Bickmore at the Old Rectory, Icomb, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SP 2143 2270; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent granted by Cotswold District Council (CDC) for the construction of a two-storey extension to the property, together with a new porch and garage with boiler room (CDC Planning ref: 10/04578/FUL). 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 *Brief for a programme of archaeological mitigation recording* (GCC 2010) issued by Mr Charles Parry, Senior Archaeological Officer, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC), archaeological advisor to CDC and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2010) and approved by the LPA acting on the advice of Mr Charles Parry. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008), the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Gloucestershire* (GCC 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* (English Heritage 2006).

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area lies on the eastern side of the hamlet of Icomb, and encloses an area approximately 1.1ha in size surrounding the Old Rectory (Fig. 2). The site currently comprises a residential property, garden and driveway with open pasture to the north and east of the house. The site lies at approximately 160m AOD and is fairly flat over the area of house and garden, but slopes down to the north in the open pasture.
- 1.4 The underlying solid geology comprises Marlstone Rock Bed deposits (sandy, shelly, ferruginous limestones) of the Middle Lias period of the Jurassic era (BGS

1981). The natural substrate observed within the groundworks was a mid yellowish brown clay with abundant limestone inclusions.

Archaeological background

- 1.5 The development area lies immediately north-east of the parish church of St. Mary the Virgin, dating from the mid 13th-century AD, in an area where medieval settlement associated with the church is likely to have been present. It was considered therefore that any groundworks associated with the development might reveal significant archaeological deposits and/or finds relating to medieval settlement and activity (GCC 2010).

Methodology

- 1.6 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2010). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks associated with the new development comprising the excavation of foundations of the extension and garage (Fig. 2).
- 1.7 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 are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. The site archive will be deposited with Corinium 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 (FIG. 2)

- 2.1 The natural geological substrate (101 and 202) consisting of a mid yellowish brown clay with abundant limestone inclusions, was revealed throughout the groundworks at an average depth of 0.57m below present ground level. This was overlain by a dark greyish brown clayey silt (100 and 201, which was in turn sealed by either terram and gravel (200) or brick surface (102).

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

3. DISCUSSION

3.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see archaeological background above), the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. The absence of archaeological deposits may indicate that structural remains associated with the medieval settlement either do not extend as far as or were not exposed by the development, or that they may have been removed during the construction of the house as no *in situ* topsoil or subsoil was observed with only a modern make-up layer located directly above the natural substrate. In addition distinctive ridge and furrow can be seen in the open pasture immediately to the north and east of the house and which stops abruptly at the edge of the house, suggesting the ground level was reduced during the construction of the house.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Sian Reynish and Diarmuid O'Seaneachain. The report was written by Sian Reynish. The illustrations were prepared by Jonathan Bennett. The archive has been compiled by Sian Reynish, and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1981 *Moreton-in-Marsh Sheet Sheet 217, Solid and Drift Edition*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2010 *The Old Rectory, Icomb, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

GCC (Gloucestershire County Council) 2010 *The Old Rectory, Icomb, Gloucestershire. Brief for a programme of archaeological mitigation recording*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Make-up deposit			0.45	
101	Layer	Natural substrate				
102	Layer	Modern brick floor			0.08	

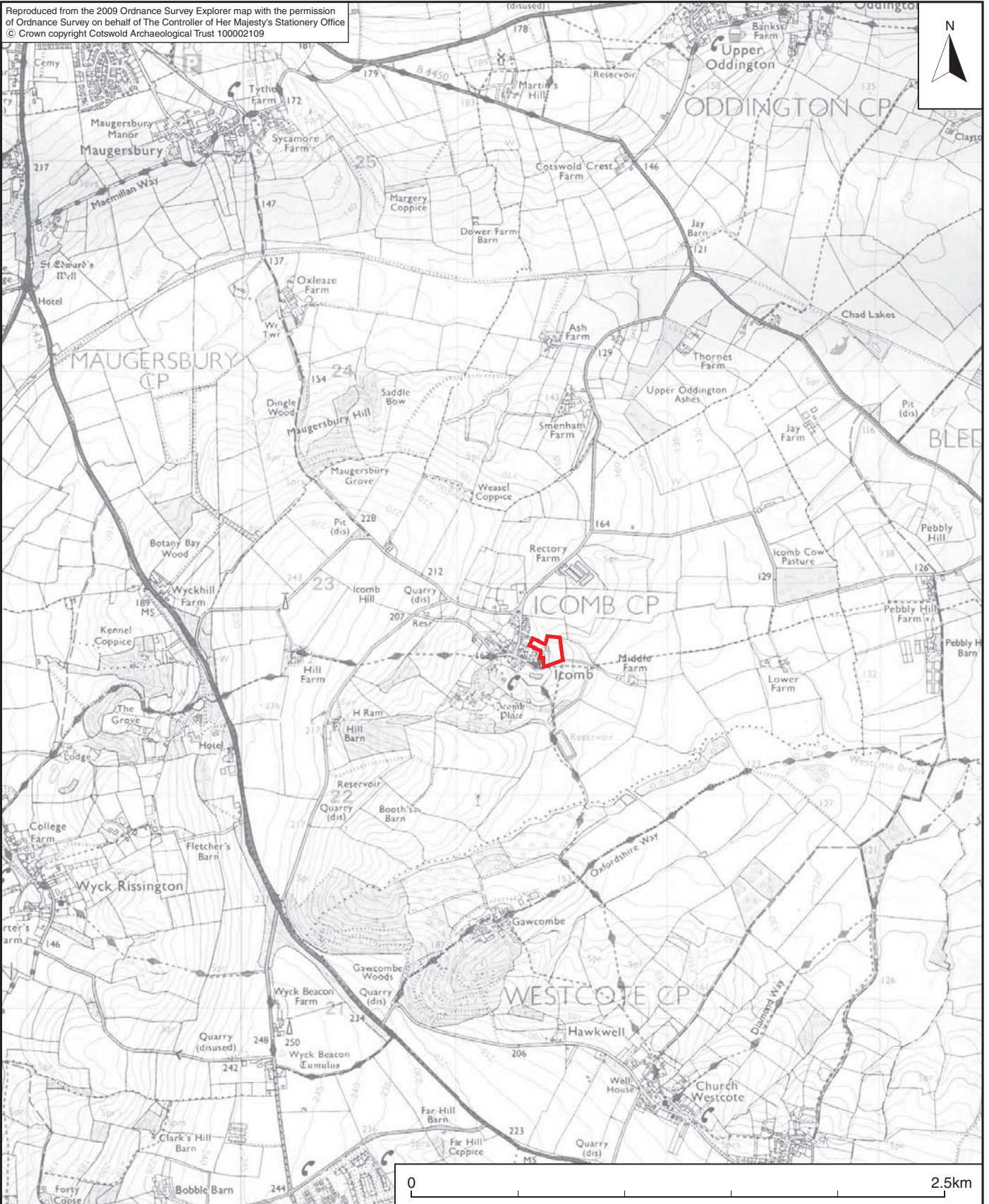
Trench 2

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
200	Layer	Modern gravel and terram			0.2	
201	Layer	Make-up deposit			0.4	
202	Layer	Natural substrate				

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	The Old Rectory, Icomb, Gloucestershire	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a two-storey extension to the property, together with a new porch and garage with boiler room at the Old Rectory, Icomb, Gloucestershire. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and only modern artefactual material was recovered and not retained.	
Project dates	18-19 January 2011 and 21 February 2011	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	The Old Rectory, Icomb, Gloucestershire	
Study area	1.1ha	
Site co-ordinates	SP 2143 2270	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Gloucestershire County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Sian Reynish and Diarmuid O'Seaneachain	
MONUMENT TYPE		
	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	Corinium Museum	WSI, trench sheets, developers plans and photographic registers
Digital	Corinium Museum	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011 <i>The Old Rectory, Icomb, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 11063		

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COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

**The Old Rectory, Icomb
 Gloucestershire**

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

DRAWN BY

JB

SCALE

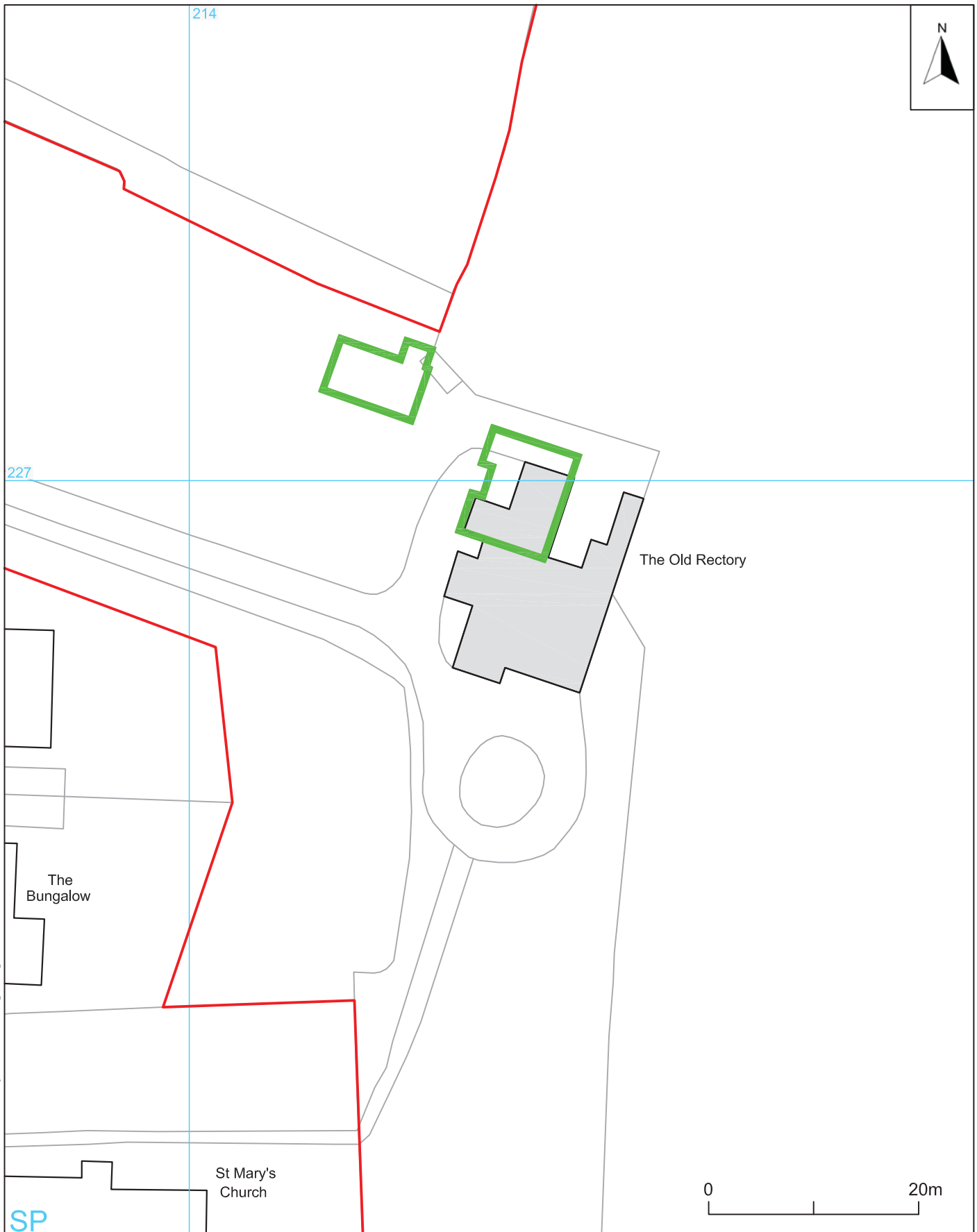
1:25,000@A4

PROJECT NO.

3319

FIGURE NO.


1



P:\3319 The Old Rectory Icomb Glos WB\Illustration\Drafts\3319 The Old Rectory, Icomb, Glos Fig 2.dwg

SP

- site
- location of observed groundworks
- existing rectory building

 COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY			
<small>PROJECT TITLE</small> The Old Rectory, Icomb Gloucestershire			
<small>FIGURE TITLE</small> The site, showing location of observed groundworks			
<small>DRAWN BY</small> JB	<small>SCALE</small> 1:500@A4	<small>PROJECT NO.</small> 3319	<small>FIGURE NO.</small> 2