

**LAND AT CANDLEFORD CLOSE
BRACKLEY
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

For

ASBRI PLANNING

on behalf of

CASTLEOAK CARE DEVELOPMENTS


CA PROJECT: 3210
CA REPORT: 10146

AUGUST 2010

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BRACKLEY
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date	26 August 2010
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signed	1 September 2010 
date	
issue	01

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land at Candleford Close
Location:	Brackley, Northamptonshire
NGR:	SP 5790 3790
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	24–25 August 2010
Planning Reference:	S/2010/0822/MAF
Location of Archive:	Held at Cotswold Archaeology's Offices, Kemble
Site Code:	CAN 10

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in August 2010 of land at Candleford Close, Brackley, Northamptonshire. Four trenches were excavated.

No archaeological features or deposits were identified and no finds pre-dating the modern period were recovered. Evidence was revealed throughout that the site had been landscaped in the recent past by the dumping of modern construction debris, overlain by redeposited topsoil.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In August 2010 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Asbri Planning, on behalf of Castleoak Care Developments, of land at Candleford Close, Brackley, Northamptonshire (centred on NGR: SP 5790 3790; Fig. 1). The evaluation was required by South Northamptonshire District Council to inform consideration of an application for planning consent for the construction of a care home on the site (Planning ref: S/2010/0822/MAF).

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a *Brief* for archaeological evaluation (NCC 2010) prepared by Liz Mordue, Assistant County Archaeological Advisor, Northamptonshire County Council (NCC), the archaeological advisor to South Northamptonshire District Council, and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2010) and approved by Liz Mordue. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (2008), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991), and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MORPHE) (English Heritage 2006). It was monitored by Liz Mordue, including a site visit on 25 August 2010.

The site

1.3 The site is c. 0.7ha in area and is located on the north-western side of the town of Brackley. It consists of an open area of grassland, formerly part of a playing field, with a short length of access road from Candleford Close entering the site on its east side. Modern residential properties border the south and west edges of the site, with the remainder of the playing field to the north, and a residential care home to the east (Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 130m AOD, occupying an artificial terrace on a gentle south-east facing slope (Fig. 3, photograph a).

1.4 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as the Taynton Limestone Formation of the Bathonian geological era (BGS 2010). Limestone with clay overlain by colluvium was exposed during the evaluation.

Archaeological background

- 1.5 No archaeological remains are recorded within the site but it lies in area of archaeological potential. In 1977, Romano-British pottery and other artefacts were recorded to the south-east and during nearby housing development a probable prehistoric/Romano-British settlement was recorded (NCC 2010). Aerial photographs indicate the presence of possible prehistoric enclosures in the vicinity of the site (ibid.).

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 South Northamptonshire District 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 four trenches, each measuring 25m in length and 2m in width, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2).
- 1.8 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision initially to the top of the colluvium. The colluvium was subsequently mechanically removed in spits to the top of the limestone bedrock substrate to determine the presence or absence of archaeological features cutting into, or sealed by, the colluvium. All recording was undertaken 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. The spoil was scanned for finds in accordance with CA Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of Finds Immediately After Excavation* (1995).
- 1.10 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble, pending deposition with a suitable 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 2–3)

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendix A.
- 2.2 All of the trenches contained a similar sequence of deposits. The earliest deposit was the natural limestone with clay substrate, which was encountered at depths of between 1m and 1.70m below the present ground level (Fig. 3, photograph b). The natural substrate was overlain by colluvial deposits measuring between 0.20m and 1.10m in depth. In Trench 1 the colluvium was cut by three possible features which proved upon hand excavation to be of geological origin.
- 2.3 In Trenches 1–3 the colluvium was sealed by subsoil and in Trench 3, this subsoil was sealed by a 0.08m thick deposit of buried topsoil, 302 (Fig. 3, photograph c). Sealing these deposits, and directly overlying the colluvium in Trench 4, were a series of dumped layers comprising modern construction debris overlain by redeposited topsoil, the latter formed the current land surface. These dumped layers measured between 0.2m and 0.8m in depth and contained modern finds (including bricks, breeze blocks, wood, plastic, and metal) which were not retained.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 No archaeological features or deposits were identified during the evaluation and, despite visual scanning of the spoil, no artefacts pre-dating the modern period were recovered. The presence of buried topsoil and/or subsoil deposits in Trenches 1–3 suggests that the colluvium and the limestone bedrock had not been truncated during modern landscaping of the site. Within Trench 4, modern deposits directly overlaid the colluvium but the thick depth of the surviving colluvium (0.6m thickness) suggests that any truncation during recent construction work was probably minimal.
- 3.2 The results of the evaluation suggests that the absence of archaeological remains within the trenches reflects a real absence of archaeological activity rather than being the result of modern truncation.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Jonathan Hart assisted by Luke Brannlund. This report was written by Jonathan Hart with illustrations prepared by Jonathan Bennett. The archive has been compiled by Jonathan Hart and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2010 *Geology of Britain Online Viewer* online resource at http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html accessed 26 August 2010

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2010 *Land at Candleford Close, Brackley, Northamptonshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

NCC (Northamptonshire County Council) 2010 *Brief for the archaeological field evaluation of land at Candleford Close, Brackley, Northamptonshire*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

No.	Type	Description	Depth (m)
101	Layer	Topsoil: mid grey-brown clay silt with modern construction debris (brick, breeze blocks, wood, plastic and metal)	0.20
102	Layer	Subsoil: orange-brown clay silt	0.17
103	Layer	Colluvium: grey-white clay silt with small limestone fragments	0.60
104	Layer	Colluvium: yellow silty clay mixed with white sandy silt containing small white limestone fragments	0.50
105	Layer	Natural: limestone bedrock with yellow clay	1.47+

Trench 2

No.	Type	Description	Depth (m)
201	Layer	Topsoil: mid grey-brown clay silt with modern construction debris (brick, breeze blocks, wood, plastic and metal)	0.38
202	Layer	Dumped layer: construction debris (limestone fragments, brick, breeze blocks, wood, plastic and metal)	0.43
203	Layer	Subsoil: orange-brown clay silt	0.29
204	Layer	Colluvium: yellow silty clay mixed with white sandy silt containing small white limestone fragments	0.60
205	Layer	Natural: limestone bedrock with yellow clay	1.70+

Trench 3

No.	Type	Description	Depth (m)
301	Layer	Topsoil: mid grey-brown clay silt with modern construction debris (brick, breeze blocks, wood, plastic and metal)	0.44
302	Layer	Buried topsoil: dark grey-brown clay silt	0.08
303	Layer	Subsoil: orange-brown clay silt	0.30
304	Layer	Colluvium: yellow silty clay mixed with white sandy silt containing small white limestone fragments	0.20
305	Layer	Natural: limestone bedrock with yellow clay	1.02+

Trench 4

No.	Type	Description	Depth (m)
401	Layer	Topsoil: mid grey-brown clay silt with modern construction debris (brick, breeze blocks, wood, plastic and metal)	0.40
402	Layer	Dumped layer: mid brown clay silt with construction debris (limestone fragments, brick, wood, plastic and metal)	0.40
403	Layer	Colluvium: yellow silty clay mixed with white sandy silt containing small white limestone fragments	0.60
404	Layer	Natural: limestone bedrock with yellow clay	1.40+

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land at Candleford Close, Brackley, Northamptonshire: Archaeological Evaluation	
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in August 2010 of land at Candleford Close, Brackley, Northamptonshire. Four trenches were excavated. No archaeological features or deposits were identified and no finds pre-dating the modern period were recovered. Evidence was revealed throughout that the site had been landscaped in the recent past by the dumping of modern construction debris, overlain by redeposited topsoil.	
Project dates	24–25 August 2010	
Project type	Archaeological Evaluation	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Land at Candleford Close, Brackley, Northamptonshire	
Study area	c. 0.7ha	
Site co-ordinates	SP 5790 3790	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Northamptonshire County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Jonathan Hart	
MONUMENT TYPE		
	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	n/a	n/a
Paper	To be confirmed	Context records, drawings, reports, levels
Digital	To be confirmed	Photos, reports, survey information
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2010 <i>Land at Candleford Close, Brackley, Northamptonshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 10146		

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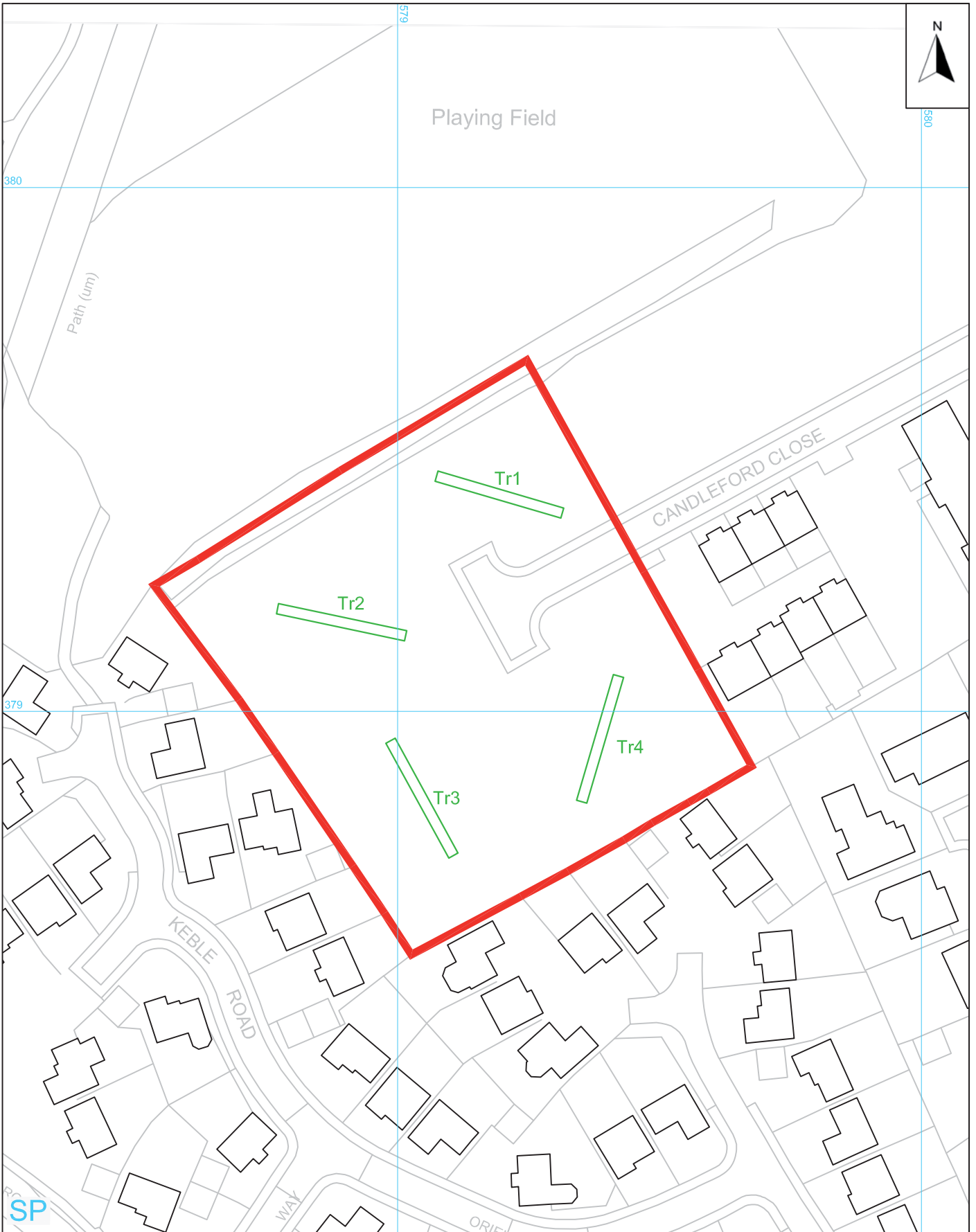


 **COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

PROJECT TITLE
Land at Candleford Close, Brackley
Northamptonshire

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
JB	1:25,000@A4	3210	1



- site
- evaluation trench



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

Land at Candleford Close, Brackley
Northamptonshire

FIGURE TITLE

Trench location plan

DRAWN BY

JB

SCALE

1:1000@A4

PROJECT NO.

3210

FIGURE NO.

2



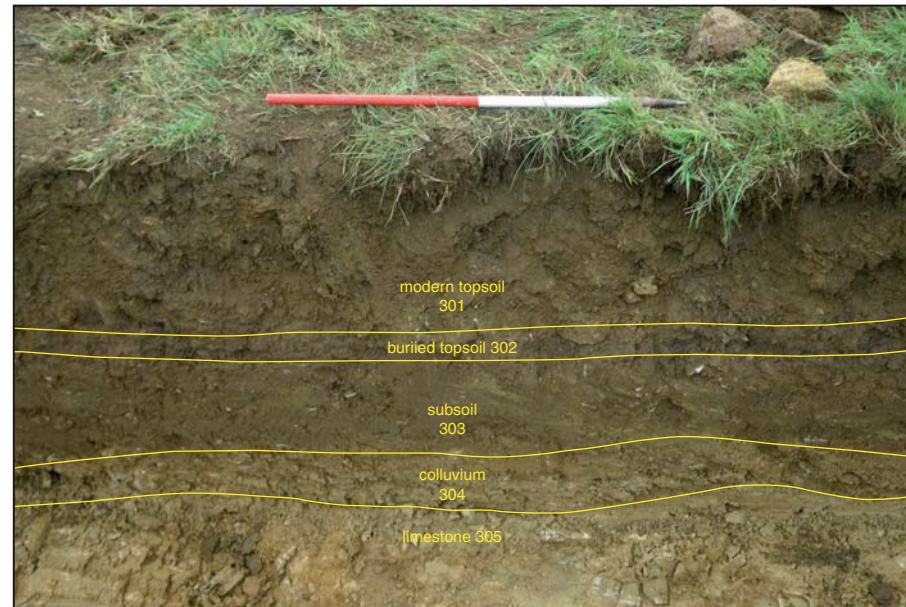
a

The site, looking south-east




b

Trench 3, looking south-east (1m scale)



c

Trench 3, south-west facing section (1m scale)

 COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY			
<small>PROJECT TITLE</small> Land at Candleford Close, Brackley Northamptonshire			
<small>FIGURE TITLE</small> Photographs			
<small>DRAWN BY</small>	<small>SCALE</small>	<small>PROJECT NO.</small>	<small>FIGURE NO.</small>
JB	n/a	3210	3