

**PREATORS HOUSE  
HIGH STREET  
WANBOROUGH  
WILTSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

*For*

**MR BRYN FREEMAN**


CA PROJECT: 2980  
CA REPORT: 09187

NOVEMBER 2009

PREATORS HOUSE  
HIGH STREET  
WANBOROUGH  
WILTSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CA PROJECT: 2980  
CA REPORT: 09187

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date	10 November 2009
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date	13 November 2009
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signed	
date	19 November 2009
issue	01

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- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
- Fig. 2 Trench location plan (1:500)

## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Preators House  
**Location:** Wanborough, Wiltshire  
**NGR:** SU 2118 8340  
**Type:** Evaluation  
**Date:** 3 November 2009  
**Location of Archive:** To be deposited with Wiltshire Heritage Museum and Library  
**Site Code:** PHW 09

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in November 2009 at Preators House, High Street, Wanborough, Wiltshire. One trench was excavated.

No features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified, and no artefacts pre-dating the modern period were encountered.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In November 2009 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Mr Bryn Freeman at Preators House, High Street, Wanborough, Wiltshire (centred on NGR: SU 2118 8340; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken in response to an informative (02) included on a decision notice issued by Swindon Borough Council (SBC) who refused detailed planning permission (Ref S/09/1452) for a dwelling and associated works. This report will accompany an appeal against this decision.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a recommendation for a programme of archaeological work by Ms Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, County Archaeologist, Wiltshire Council, the archaeological advisor to Swindon Borough Council, the Local Planning Authority (LPA) and with a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2009) and approved by Ms Pomeroy-Kellinger. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (2008), the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Wiltshire* (Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service 1995), the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (English Heritage 2006), and the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991). It was monitored by Ms Pomeroy-Kellinger, including a site visit on 3 November 2009.

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The proposed development area lies immediately south-west of High Street and to the north-west of Chapel Lane in Lower Wanborough (Fig. 2).
- 1.4 The proposed development area encloses an area of approximately 0.1ha, currently a residential garden.
- 1.5 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Gault Clay of the Lower Cretaceous era overlain by Head of the Pleistocene and Recent era (BGS 1974). The natural substrate of clay and chalk was encountered in the trench.

### **Archaeological background**

- 1.6 Archaeological interest in the site arises from its location immediately west of Ermin Street Roman road. A previous evaluation on the route of a gas pipeline revealed a ditch which may represent the roadside ditch associated with Ermin Street. Additionally a number of Romano-British artefacts have been located within the area such as at Sheard Farm (SMR: SU28SW337) where a Romano-British tile fragment was recovered, Callas Hill (SMR: SU28SW312) where a Romano-British coin and pottery fragments were recovered and The Beanlands (SMR: SU28SW334) where two sherds of grey-ware pottery were recovered from an evaluation in 1997. In addition, a number of medieval sites have been identified in the area. Medieval settlement comprising house platforms and a holloway was located to the north-west of the site at Slate Farm (SMR: SU28SW472) and a probable Medieval building with pottery fragments and animal bone was revealed to the east of site during stripping for a gas main at Lower Wanborough (SMR: SU28SW465).

### **Archaeological objectives**

- 1.7 The objectives of the evaluation were to establish the date, character, quality, survival and extent of any archaeological deposits surviving within the application area. 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**

- 1.8 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of one trench measuring 8.9m in length and 1.4m wide, in the location shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). The trench was located within the footprint of the proposed new dwelling.
- 1.9 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 natural substrate. Deposits were recorded in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).

- 1.10 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. Although modern pottery and brick was noted both within the topsoil and subsoil no artefacts were recovered.
- 1.11 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. The site archive will be deposited with Wiltshire Heritage Museum and Library. 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 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendix A.
- 2.2 The trench was devoid of archaeological features. The undisturbed natural substrate 1003 comprising clay and chalk, was revealed at a depth of 0.46m below present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain by subsoil 1002, which was in turn overlain by topsoil 1001.

### ***The Finds and Palaeoenvironmental Evidence***

- 2.3 Small quantities of modern pottery and brick were noted within the topsoil and subsoil, but were not recovered.

## **3. DISCUSSION**

- 3.1 No archaeological features were identified during the evaluation. Modern pottery and building materials noted within the topsoil and subsoil deposits relate to the recent use of the proposed development area as a residential garden. The absence of

archaeological deposits may indicate that features or deposits associated with Ermine Street did not extend as far as the footprint of the proposed building. Equally they could have been removed by the construction of Preators House, although the level nature of the area allied to the absence of any make-up deposits suggests the site of the proposed building has not been subjected to significant truncation.

#### **4. CA PROJECT TEAM**

Fieldwork was undertaken by Ray Holt, assisted by Sam Hall. The report was written by Ray Holt. The illustrations were prepared by Lorna Gray. The archive has been compiled by Ray Holt, and prepared for deposition by Victoria Taylor. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

#### **5. REFERENCES**

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1974 *Geological Survey of Britain (England and Wales) Solid and Drift*. Sheet 252: Swindon

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009 *Preators House, High Street, Wanborough, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*



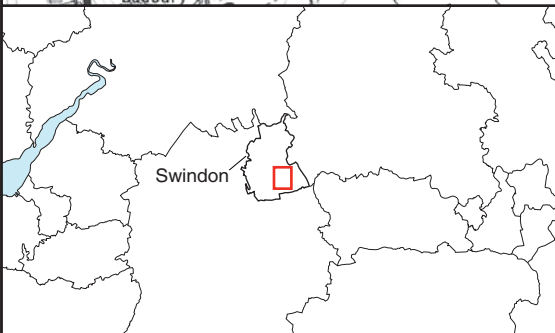
**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**


## Trench 1

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1001	Layer	Topsoil			0.35	Modern
1002	Layer	Subsoil			0.12	Modern
1003	Deposit	Natural substrate				

**APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Preators House, High Street, Wanborough, Wiltshire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in November 2009 at Preators House, High Street, Wanborough, Wiltshire. One trench was excavated.  No features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified, and no artefacts pre-dating the modern period were encountered.	
Project dates	3 November 2009	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Preators House, High Street, Wanborough, Wiltshire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	0.1ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SU 2118 8340	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Wiltshire County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Ray Holt	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical		None
Paper	Wiltshire Heritage Museum and Library	Trench sheet, photographic registers
Digital	Wiltshire Heritage Museum and Library	Digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009 <i>Preators House, High Street, Wanborough, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report <b>09187</b>		

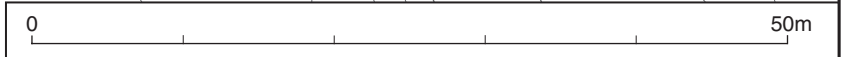


 <b>COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY</b>			
<b>PROJECT TITLE</b> Preators House, High Street Wanborough, Swindon			
<b>FIGURE TITLE</b> Site location plan			
<b>DRAWN BY</b>	<b>SCALE</b>	<b>PROJECT NO.</b>	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
RK	1:25,000@A4	2980	<b>1</b>

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ST



- site
- evaluation trench



**COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

PROJECT TITLE

**Preators House, High Street  
Wanborough, Swindon**

FIGURE TITLE

**Trench location plan**

DRAWN BY

RK

SCALE

1:500@A4

PROJECT NO.

2980

FIGURE NO.

**2**