

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF
AT
33 HOMECROFT DRIVE,
UCKINGTON,
GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Graham Arnold & Tom Rogers

Rev 1

Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt

3rd September 2012

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Project P3893
Report 1940

Archaeological Watching Brief at 33 Homecroft Drive, Uckington, Gloucestershire

Graham Arnold and Tom Rogers

Background information

<i>Client</i>	c/o Cathy Patrick CgMs Ltd
<i>Site address</i>	33 Homecroft Drive, Uckington, Gloucestershire
<i>National Grid reference</i>	392144, 224661
<i>Historic Environment Sites and Monuments Record reference</i>	n/a
<i>Planning authority reference</i>	Tewkesbury Borough Council 12/00304/FUL
<i>Brief</i>	n/a
<i>Project design</i>	WAAS 2012
<i>Project parameters</i>	IfA 2008

General project background

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at 33 Homecroft Drive, Uckington, Gloucestershire (NGR 392144, 224661).

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken at the instruction of Cathy Patrick of CgMs Ltd on behalf of their client who is constructing a two bedroom detached bungalow with vehicular access at 33 Homecroft Drive, Uckington. Iron Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon remains have been recorded at a recent development adjacent to the development site and permission for the development was granted subject to conditions including the requirement for a programme of archaeological works. It was ascertained from correspondence with Charles Parry, Senior Archaeological Officer, Gloucestershire County Council (The curator) that the appropriate mitigation should be an archaeological watching brief carried out on all groundworks.

A search of the Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record for the surrounding area was requested, and the results are included in this report. Furthermore a preliminary copy of an excavation report of land to the west of the development site (Williams 2012), not yet included in the HER was consulted.

The project aimed to obtain a record of any archaeological deposits or finds disturbed or exposed by work associated with the development.

The watching brief was carried out on the excavation of the footings of the bungalow and a soakaway. No features or finds of archaeological interest were recovered during the watching brief.

Archaeological and historical background

To the north east of the site, on the north side of the Tewkesbury Road, cropmarks identified from an aerial photograph are likely to represent an Iron Age or Romano-British field system (GHER 5437). To the south east of this area, a desk-based assessment, geophysical survey and an evaluation at the site of a proposed Park and Ride in 2005 recorded extensive Roman agricultural features including ditches pits and postholes (27597).

Excavation of a plot immediately west of the site in 2011 (GSMR 37941, Williams 2012) provided evidence for activity on the site during the Iron Age, Roman, Saxon and post-medieval periods. A small number of Iron Age features included a truncated ring ditch. Roman and Anglo-Saxon features included a number of waterlogged pits including three *in situ* structures. The survival of waterlogged wood of this nature is rare in Gloucestershire and may be nationally significant. Other Anglo-Saxon features include postholes which may represent the remains of a timber building, perhaps a timber hall.

Aims

The aim of the watching brief was to observe and record archaeological deposits, and to determine their extent, state of preservation, date and type, as far as reasonably possible.

Methods

General specification for fieldwork WAAS 2012
Sources consulted Gloucestershire HER

Dates of fieldwork 17th-18th July 2012
Dimensions of excavated areas observed

Soak away (Trench 1)	length 2.10m width 1.90m depth 0.45m
Foundations (Trench 2) covering an area of	length 12.00m width 10.10m depth 0.93m max

Access to or visibility of deposits

Observation of the excavated areas was undertaken during and after machine excavation. The exposed surfaces were sufficiently clean to have observed well-differentiated archaeological deposits. Selected areas were cleaned by hand.

Statement of confidence

Access to, and visibility of, deposits allowed a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved.

Deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1001	Topsoil	Friable dark brown grey slightly sandy silt with frequent rooting, some limestone gravel, concrete and ceramic building material. Existing garden soil.	0.00m – 0.20m
1002	Subsoil	Moderately compact, slightly mixed orangey grey sandy silt with frequent rooting and some limestone gravels.	0.11m – 0.45m
1003	Natural	Mid orange very sandy silt with frequent small limestone gravels and fragments with some patches of heavy rooting disturbance.	0.30m – 0.93m +

Discussion

The stratigraphy of both trenches was similar, with the natural sandy gravels overlain by mixed natural subsoil and a modern garden soil. No archaeological finds or features were observed on site.

Conclusions

There was no indication that Iron Age, Roman or Anglo Saxon archaeology recorded at an adjacent plot extended into the development site.

Publication summary

The Service has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, the Service intends to use this summary as the basis for publication through local or regional journals. The client is requested to consider the content of this section as being acceptable for such publication.

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at 33 Homecroft Drive, Uckington, Gloucestershire (NGR 392144, 224661).

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The project aimed to obtain a record of any archaeological deposits or finds disturbed or exposed by work associated with the development.

The watching brief was carried out on the excavation of the footings of the bungalow and a soak away. No features or finds of archaeological interest were recovered during the watching brief and it was concluded that the features recorded to the west do not survive in this part of the development site.

Acknowledgements

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Cathy Patrick, CgMs Ltd, Briege Williams of Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record and Charles Parry, Senior Archaeological Officer, Gloucestershire County Council.

Bibliography

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DCLG 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*, Department for Communities and Local Government

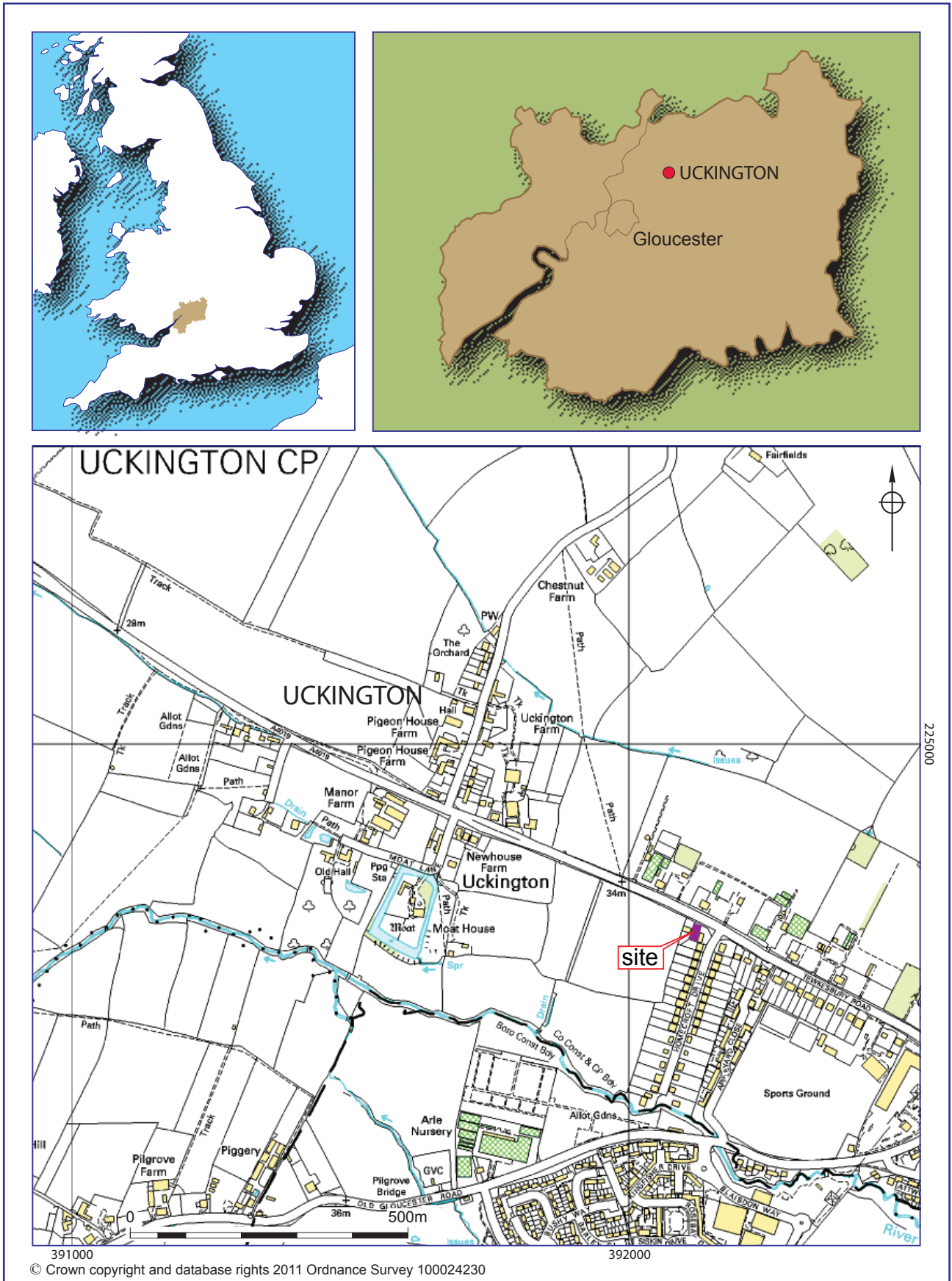
HEAS 2012 *Manual of Service Practice: recording manual*, Worcestershire Archaeology, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished report, **1842**

IfA 2008 *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*, Institute for Archaeologists

WAAS 2012 *Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological watching brief at 33 Homecroft Drive, Uckington, Gloucestershire* Worcestershire Archaeology, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 28th June 2012 P3893

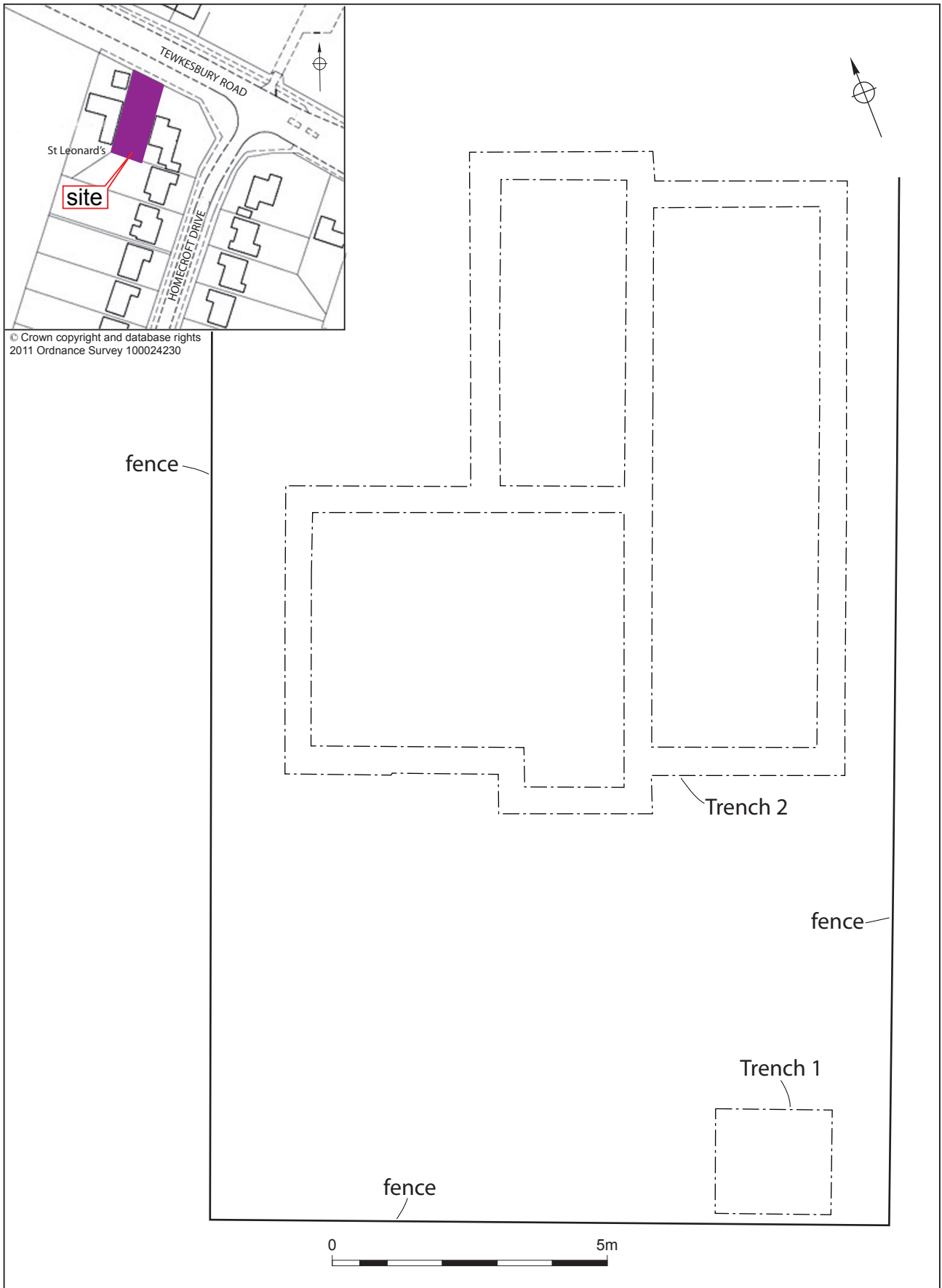
Williams, B 2012 *An interim report on an archaeological excavation on land at Tewkesbury Road, Uckington, (Uckington fire station), Gloucestershire 2011* Gloucestershire County Council

Figures



Location of the site

Figure 1



Plan of Trenches 1 and 2

Figure 2

Plates



Plate 1 Trench 1 Soak away fully excavated looking south-west



Plate 2 South-east facing section of Trench 1 showing rooting activity



Plate 3 The overall site once bungalow foundations (Trench 2) had been excavated, looking north.



Plate 4 South-east facing sample section of Trench 2 building footings



Plate 5 The overall site looking north-east

Appendix 1 Technical information

The archive

The archive consists of:

- 1 Field progress reports AS2
- 1 Photographic records AS3
- 2 Trench record sheets AS41
- 1 Copy of this report (bound hard copy)

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum
Clarence Street,
Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire
GL50 3JT