

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

AT

DAYS COTTAGE, COLN ROGERS,

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

SP 08538 09512

On behalf of

Mr & Mrs Bagnall

May 2007

REPORT FOR Mr & Mrs Bagnall
Days Cottage
4 Coln Rogers
Near Cheltenham
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FIELDWORK 2nd – 3rd April 2007

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Summary

A watching brief was conducted by John Moore Heritage Services during the construction of an extension to Days Cottage, Coln Rogers. Two pits were recorded containing pottery of possible late Saxon and medieval date. There is also evidence for 16th century and later horticulture and metal working on the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The proposal site lies within Coln Rogers, a dispersed settlement lying to the west of the River Coln (NGR SP 08538 09512). The geology is Taynton Limestone.

1.2 Planning Background

Cotswold District Council granted planning permission for the erection of a two-storey extension to Days Cottage, Coln Rogers. Due to the presence of potential remains of archaeological interest in the proposal area a condition of the planning consent required that an archaeological watching brief be carried out during the course of groundworks.

1.3 Archaeological Background

The development site is within the reputed former medieval settlement at Coln Rogers. Therefore below ground works had to potential to expose remains associated with this settlement.

Roger of Gloster gave Colne on the Hills to the Monks of the Abbey at Gloucester in 1150. Known as Culne Rogers it remained in their possession until the Dissolution when it was transferred to the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral in 1541.

The church of St. Andrew in the village has a late Saxon nave and chancel and was enlarged in the 13th and 15th centuries. The church was heavily restored in 1844-5, 1888-92 and 1910-12 (Verrey & Brooks 2000).

Also in the village are the remains of a 14th century Priest's House at Upper Farm and several buildings dating from the 17th and 18th centuries (Verrey & Brooks 2000).

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

The aims of the investigation as laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation were as follows:

- To make a record of any significant remains revealed during the course of any operations that may disturb or destroy archaeological remains.
- To make public the results of the investigations.

In particular:

- to record any evidence relating to the medieval settlement.

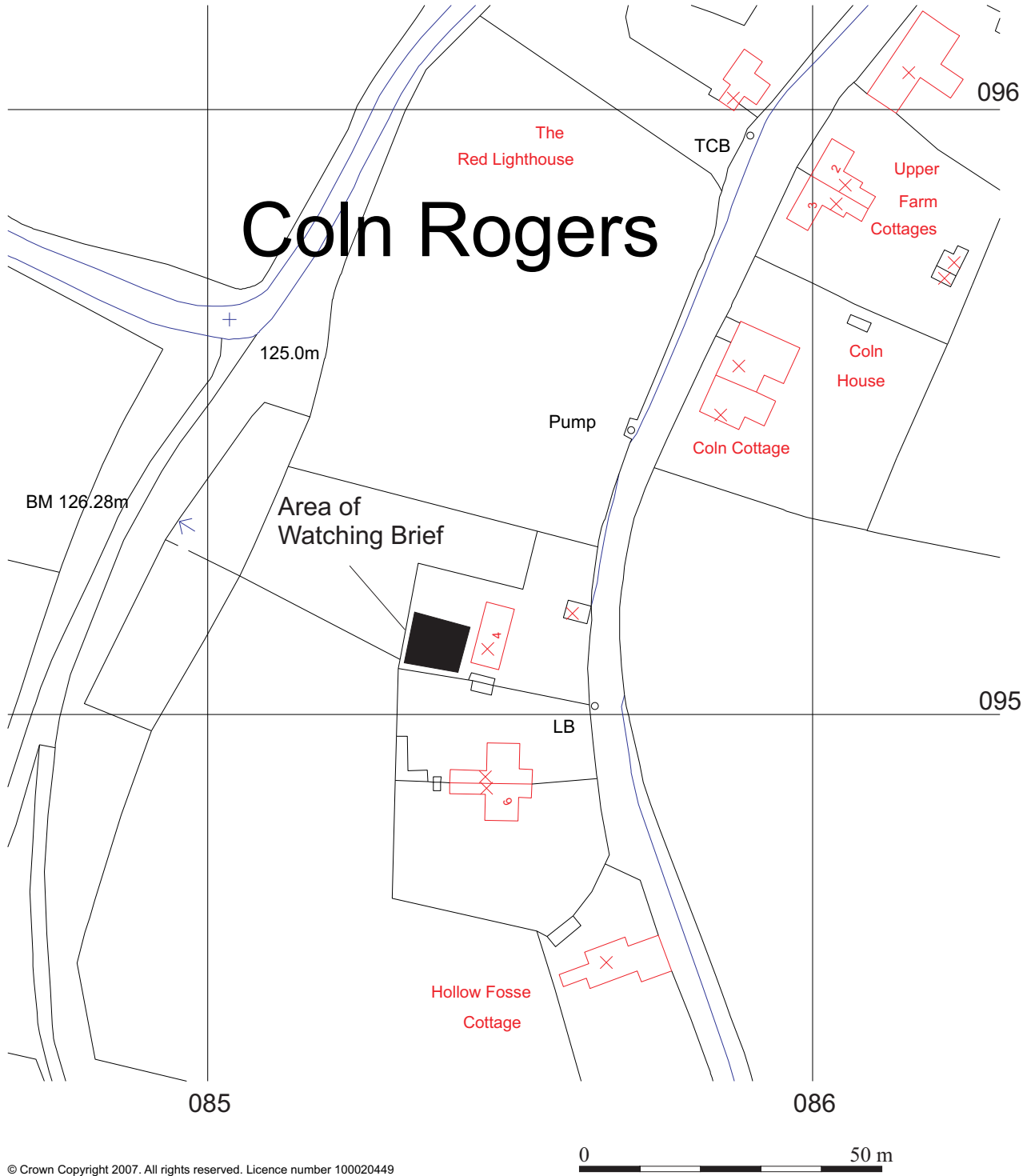


Figure 1. Site Plan

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the work to a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with Gloucestershire County Council's Senior Archaeological officer.

3.2 Methodology

An archaeologist monitored the soil strip and excavation of the foundation trenches for the new extension. Services had previously been laid for this structure. The soil strip was carried out down to the surface of the natural geology.

Standard John Moore Heritage Services techniques were employed throughout, involving the completion of a written record for each deposit encountered, with scale plans and sections drawings compiled where appropriate.

The recording was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994).

4 RESULTS (Figure 2)

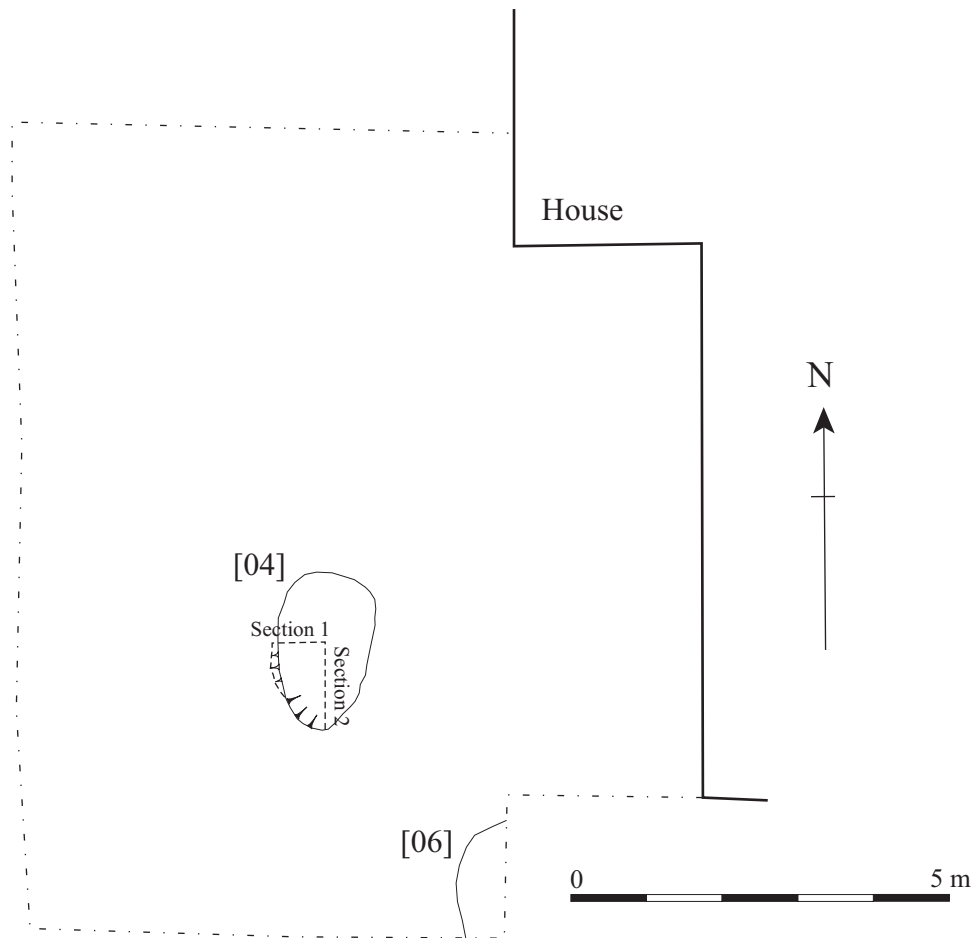
All deposits and features were assigned individual context numbers. Context numbers in [] indicate features i.e. pit cuts; while numbers in () show feature fills or deposits of material.

The natural (03) was a compact pale orange-yellow sandy clay with up to 50% stone chunks. This was approximately 0.3m thick and lay on a pale yellow grey clay.

Above the natural was a deposit of yellow-brown-grey silty clay loam (02). It varied in thickness across the site, but was on average 0.3m thick. It contained a small quantity of pottery and some metal working debris in the form of coke-like slag.

The uppermost layer was a 0.4m thick friable deposit of dark brown-black humic silty loam (01). This was well-worked garden soil and fairly free of stone. In places some noticeably dark areas of planting beds could be seen. Sherds of white mass produced earthenwares were noted in this layer.

Two pits were recorded cut into the natural (03) and sealed by the subsoil (02). The first [04] was oval measuring 2m long and 1.3m wide. It was 0.7m deep and filled with a mid grey-brown silty loam (05) with some stone fragments up to 20cm². The base of the pit was rounded and the sides slightly under-cut as if it had been open for some time and the edge had collapsed. This collapsed material could be seen within the fill (5). A large quantity of pottery was recovered from this pit.



Pit 04

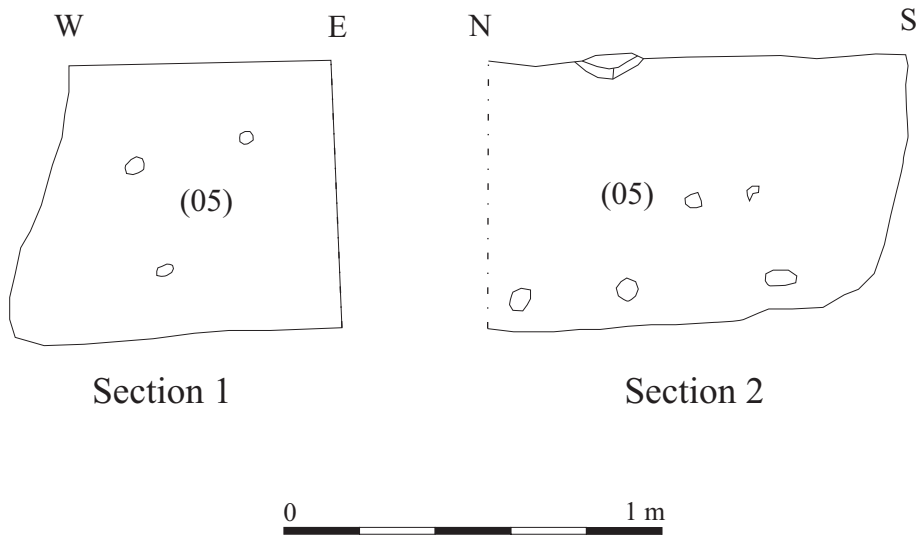


Figure 2 Plan and sections

The second pit [06] was over 1m long and 1m wide. Its entirety was not seen and it was not excavated. It lay outside the area that would be disturbed by foundations. It was filled with a dark grey-brown loam with some stone chunks (07). Pottery was also recovered from the fill.

5 FINDS

5.1 Pottery (by Paul Blinkhorn)

The pottery assemblage comprised 41 sherds with a total weight of 353g. It comprised a range of wares of medieval and later date, which indicates that there was activity at the site from the medieval period onwards. One sherd may perhaps be of late Saxon date, but this is uncertain.

The following fabrics were noted:

Cotswold-type ware, 11th - mid 14th century (Mellor 1994). 40 sherds, 208g.

Newbury A/B Ware, late 11th – early 15th century (Mephram 1997, 51-2). 1 sherd, 9g.

Minety-type Ware, mid 12th - 15th century (Mellor 1994). 4 sherds, 59g.

Red Earthenware, mid 16th – 19th century. 2 sherds, 77g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of fabric types is typical of the region, with most of the pottery originating in the Cotswolds. The pottery is all in fairly good condition, and suggests that it has been subject to little disturbance or transportation since its original deposition.

The single sherd of pottery from context 7 may be of late Saxon origin, and has many similarities with wares of that date which identified at Gloucester, and categorized as Gloucester fabric TF41A (Vince unpub.). The sherd is rather small however, and cannot be given a confident precise date.

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

Context	Cotswolds		Newbury		Minety		RE		
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
2							2	77	M16thC
5	39	201	1	9	4	59			M12thC
7	1	7							11thC?
Total	40	208	1	9	4	59	2	77	

6 DISCUSSION

The two pits are likely to be rubbish pits associated with settlement in the close vicinity. It is unlikely that both were open at the same time, but the second dug when the first was full. They were certainly left open long enough for the sides of [4] to collapse. The pottery contained within these pits is characteristic of local pottery traditions and the majority is unlikely to have travelled far from its source (Vince 1984). The pits date from some time in the mid 11th to mid 14th centuries.

A sherd of pottery recovered may be of late Saxon date although this cannot be confirmed.

A layer (02) that is possibly horticultural in origin seals both pits. This later activity is dated to the mid 16th century onwards and may well have included small-scale metal working. The upper most layer (1) constituting the garden contains material from the 19th century onwards.

7 THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of the following:

The project brief	The primary site records
Written scheme of investigation	The photographic and drawn records
The project report	

The archive currently is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services. The archive will be transferred to the Corinium Museum.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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