



Land at Lyncroft Farm, Bagendon, Gloucestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

September 2018

Client: C Build Ltd

Issue No: 1

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Land at Lyncroft Farm, Bagendon, Gloucestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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Summary

During 9th to the 13th August 2018 Oxford Archaeology undertook a watching brief on groundworks ahead of residential construction at Lyncroft Farm, Bagendon, Gloucestershire, centred on SP 0156 0593

The site had previously been subject to extensive terracing, and no archaeological features or deposits were present.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank C Build Limited for commissioning this project. Thanks is also extended to Charles Parry the Gloucestershire County Archaeologist for his advice and guidance.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Gerry Thacker. The fieldwork was directed by Bob McIntosh and Becky Peacock. Survey and digitizing was carried out by Gary Jones. Thanks is also extended to the team of OA staff who prepared the archive under the management of Nicky Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Tim McGrath of C Build Ltd to undertake a watching brief on groundworks ahead of residential construction at Lyncroft farm, Bagendon, Gloucestershire.

1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref. 17/05225/FUL) A specification was set by Charles Parry the Gloucestershire County Archaeologist and a written scheme of investigation was produced by OA detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to discharge the planning condition (OA 2016). This document outlines how OA implemented the specified requirements.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site lies to the immediate west of the village of Perrotts Brook, Gloucestershire at Lyncroft Farm and is bounded to the south by Welsh Way and agricultural land to the north and west (Fig. 1).

1.2.2 The area of proposed development currently consists of a yard which previously housed two workshops belonging to Lyncroft Farm (Fig. 2).

1.2.3 The geology of the area is White Limestone Formation, Hampden Formation and Taynton Limestone Formation, laid down during the Jurassic period. (BGS website).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background to the site has been described in detail in a Heritage Desk-Based Assessment (CA 2015), and is summarized below.

1.3.2 The proposed development is located within an area of Bagendon which comprises part of a late Iron Age Oppidum. A number of linear earthwork dykes are known to be within the area. These include the Perrott's Brook Dyke Scheduled Monument, which comprises two dykes respectively located c. 15m south and c. 370m north-east of the proposed development site, as well as two non-designated dykes which are respectively situated c. 17m and 90m north of the proposed development site.

Prehistoric and Roman

1.3.3 Excavations between 1954 and 1956 c. 300m to the north of the development site uncovered flint tools which were also noted to the north-west of the development site. These include microliths of Mesolithic date and represent activity long before the establishment of the Oppidum.

1.3.4 Two or possibly three Bronze Age round barrows have been recorded in antiquarian sources but any above ground remains of these features no longer survive.

1.3.5 The presence of the potential Oppidum was identified by Elsie Clifford in the mid-20th Century. Bagendon has been suggested as the location of Corinon, capital of the Dobunni and has been described as a 'Territorial Oppidum' which forms an enclosure of large areas of land with discontinuous linear earthworks.

1.3.6 The Oppidum is thought to have been established in the 1st Century AD, just prior to the Roman conquest, with activity continuing after the conquest although the exact nature of this activity is not known. Excavations during the 1950s on the part of Perrotts Brook Dyke to the north of the proposed development site confirmed an Iron Age date for that dyke and although the dyke to the immediate south of the proposed development site did not provide any dating it is accepted that this dyke is also of Iron Age date, and it is now a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

1.3.7 The excavations between 1954 and 1956 found evidence of occupation and metalworking. Coins and several coin moulds were also recovered and could potentially have been associated with a mint. Further evidence of occupation was observed through excavations in the 1980s. A possible Roman road was identified during the excavations in both the 1950s and 1980s. Geophysical surveys identified a concentration of features along the valley to the northeast of the proposed development site which included linear anomalies that may be associated to the course of the Roman road.

1.3.8 A linear earthwork was seen on aerial photographs in 1931 and was identified during the 2005/6 National Mapping Project. The linear was seen to cross the proposed development site but the area has been subject to various impacts during the mid to late 20th Century. This included quarrying to the east of the proposed development site, ploughing and the construction of buildings (including the buildings currently within the proposed development site). It is possible the earthwork represents an additional dyke associated with the Bagendon dyke system, or could represent a medieval or later field boundary/realignment of the Welsh Way.

Early Medieval to Modern

1.3.9 Although the Welsh Way immediately to the south of the development area most likely originated during the medieval period as a drove-way, the focus of the medieval settlement was around the modern village of Bagendon, c. 830m to the north-west of the proposed development site.

1.3.10 Various medieval and post-medieval agricultural features are recorded to the north of the development area which include post-medieval water meadows, medieval and post-medieval ridge and furrow earthworks and post-medieval drainage ditches. A water channel of medieval or post-medieval date is recorded c. 350m to the north of the proposed development area, but as it is on the same alignment of the putative Roman road it could be associated with that feature instead.

1.3.11 It is clear that the mid-20th century farm workshops that formerly occupied the site were constructed within an area that had been terraced into the slope, with the cut in places in excess of 2m.

2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:

- I. To mitigate the construction impacts on any archaeological features and deposits through preservation by record.
- II. To disseminate the results through the production of a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Gloucestershire HER.
- III. To investigate and record the linear feature potentially crossing the site and to recover any artefacts and ecofacts that may be present.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The watching brief was undertaken on the 9th, 12th and 13th of August 2018.

2.2.2 Rather than strip footings, the new houses were constructed on reinforced concrete rafts as part of the energy efficient ethos of the build, and to reduce the amount of concrete utilised whilst increasing insulation levels. Services runs made use of the existing service trenches.

2.2.3 Once the slab from the previous workshops had been removed, further ground reduction was undertaken using a suitably powerful excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under close archaeological supervision.

2.2.4 The strip covered the footprints of all of the proposed new houses, and stopped at either the surface of the natural geology, or formation level, whichever was reached first. All areas of ground reduction were recorded in plan (Fig. 2).

3 RESULTS

3.1 Results of the watching brief

3.1.1 The natural geology manifested as limestone brash. This was sealed by a thin layer of made ground comprising reworked topsoil containing fragments of concrete blocks and reworked limestone which was up to 0.25m thick.

3.1.2 Areas of disturbance from modern services and tree roots were noted, but no archaeological features or deposits were present.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 Ground conditions throughout the watching brief remained good, and the site remained dry throughout. Had archaeological features been present they would have been easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

4.2 Interpretation

4.2.1 No archaeological features or deposits were present within the areas subject to watching brief. It seems likely that the extensive former terracing would have removed all but the deepest of features had these been present, including the potential ditch noted from aerial photographs.

APPENDIX A CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	Description	Depth
100	Made ground	0.25m
101	Natural limestone brash	-

APPENDIX B BIBLIOGRAPHY

BGS website <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> British Geological Survey

CA 2015 Land at Lyncroft Farm, Bagendon, Gloucestershire. Heritage Desk-Based Assessment. Cotswold Archaeology unpublished client document

OA 2016 Lyncroft Farm, Bagendon, Gloucestershire. Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief. Oxford Archaeology unpublished client document

APPENDIX C**SITE SUMMARY DETAILS**

Site name:	Land at Lyncroft Farm, Bagendon, Gloucestershire
Site code:	OABALF18
Grid Reference	SP 0156 0593
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	3 days between 9 th -13 th August 2018
Area of Site	c 0.25ha
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Corinium Museum in due course, under the following accession number: TBC.
Summary of Results:	During 9 th to the 13 th August 2018 Oxford Archaeology undertook a watching brief on groundworks ahead of residential construction at Lyncroft Farm, Bagendon, Gloucestershire, centred on SP 0156 0593. The site had previously been subject to extensive terracing, and no archaeological features or deposits were present.

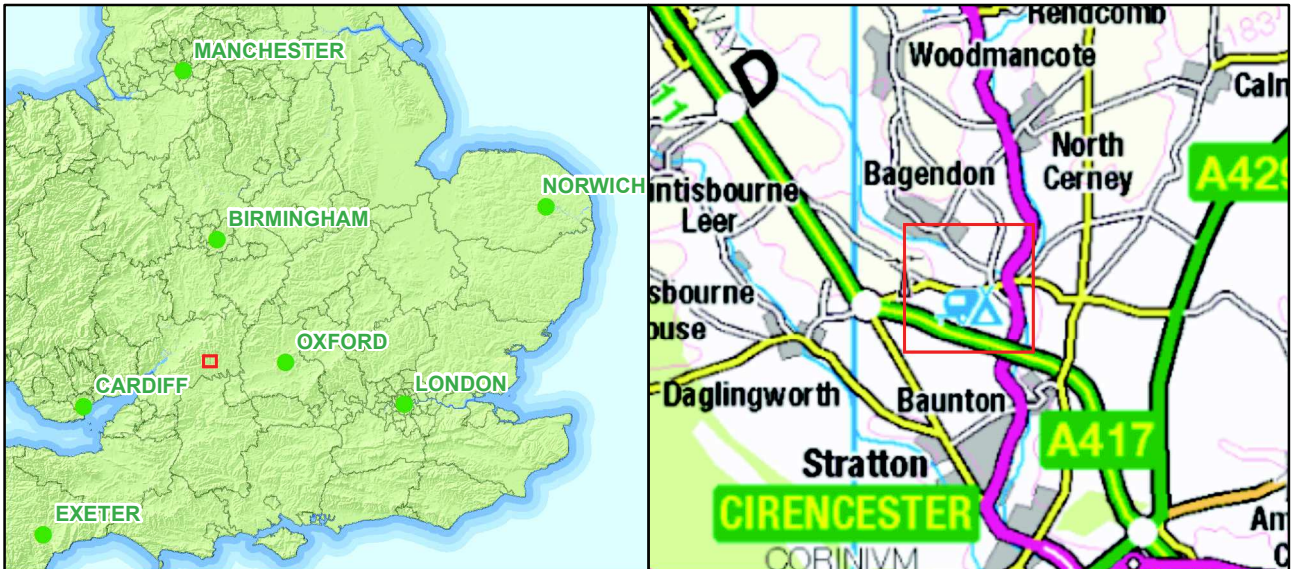


Figure 1: Site location



Figure 2: Areas subject to watching brief



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