# Land Off Chartist Way
# Staunton
# Gloucestershire

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

oxfordarchaeology south

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Vix Hughes<br>Project Officer | Gerry Thacker<br>Senior Project Manager | Edward Biddulph | |

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| Illustrated by | Emily Punkett |



Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES
t: +44 (0) 1865 263800 e: oasouth@thehumanjourney.net
f: +44 (0) 1865 793496 w: oxfordarchaeology.com
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# Land Off Chartist Way, Staunton, Gloucestershire

*Archaeological Evaluation Report*

*Written by Vix Hughes*

*with contributions from John Cotter and illustrated by Emily Plunkett*

## Table of Contents

**List of Figures**



**List of Plates**

## *Summary*

*Oxford Archaeology South (OAS) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Gloucester Land Company Limited and their successors in title to the land to undertake an archaeological evaluation of Land off Chartist Way, Staunton, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR SO 7867 2910) ahead of proposed development.*

*The work was undertaken between 28th - 30th May 2013. A total of 7 trenches were excavated across the site.*

*The only features uncovered were a stone-packed post-medieval field drain, several service trenches and upcast related to modern sewerage and water supplies.*

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Project details

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Gloucester Land Company and their successors in title to the land to undertake an evaluation of Land off Chartist Way, Staunton, Gloucestershire (centred on SO 7867 2910).

1.1.2 The work was undertaken to inform the Planning Authority in advance of submission of a Planning Application. Although the Local Planning Authority had not set a brief for the work, discussions with Charles Parry of Gloucestershire County Council established the scope of work required; this document outlines how OA implemented those requirements.

1.1.3 All work was undertaken in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' '*Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation*' (revised 2008) and local and national planning policies.

## 1.2 Location, geology and topography

1.2.1 The site lies in the parish of Staunton and is bounded by agricultural fields and Brook Farm to the west, Prince Crescent to the south, Chartists Way and residential housing to the east, and the rear of property boundaries situated off Ledbury Road Crescent to the north.

1.2.2 The area of proposed development currently consists of two pasture fields and is approximately 2.2ha in extent (Fig. 1).

1.2.3 The site has a broadly level topography lying at *c*.21m Above Ordnance Datum, although at its western extent ground level falls gently to the tributary stream of the Glynch Brook, *c*.250m to the west.

1.2.4 The underlying geology is Branscombe Mudstone Formation (British Geological Survey website), formed approximately 206 to 221 million years ago in the hot deserts of the Triassic Period. There is no drift geology recorded on the site.

## 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background to the site has been described in detail in a desk-based assessment (CgMs 2012), and will not be reproduced in full here.

1.3.2 The assessment identified no existing known archaeological remains within the site and the area has a low level of activity for all periods. The most significant activity in the vicinity was the purchase of the land by the National Land Company in 1847. The company was an organisation set up by Fergus O'Connor of the national Chartist Movement. The aim of the movement was political reform and social change, and intended to improve conditions for the working class. A policy of land reform was proposed, as land ownership was the means by which the right to vote was decided, and a plan drawn up to settle the working class on the land, each receiving possession of a cottage and land to support it.

1.3.3 This resulted in the creation of the Chartist Land Company (latterly the National Land Company). One of six National Land Company settlements, the area purchased was known as Snigs End, wherein 82 new houses were erected, including a building originally designed for a school and community building, but which later became the Prince of Wales public house. The National Land Company was dissolved under an Act of Parliament in 1851, but the tenants continued to live in the houses, either through

purchasing them outright, or through tenancy with a new landlord. Many of the houses and buildings associated with the Chartist settlement at Snigs End survive and the site lies within this landscape.

1.3.4 ***Geophysical Survey:*** a survey of the site has been carried out (Stratascan 2013). The survey recorded the presence of a series of geophysical anomalies which may be archaeological in origin (Fig. 2):

- A set of weak curvilinear positive anomalies in the south-western part of the site (1). They have been interpreted as possible archaeology, perhaps deriving from previous ridge and furrow cultivation. However, their location and shape running along the nearby stream suggests they may be former watercourses.
- A faint negative linear anomaly of unknown origin, possibly associated with field drainage (2).

1.3.5 In addition, a number of other anomalies were recorded including a series of closely spaced anomalies in the north-east of the site (3), probably of modern agricultural origin, a large scatter of magnetic debris next to the stream at the north-western edge of the site (4), and a scatter of anomalies across the site (5) which are related to surface ferrous objects such as manhole covers and boreholes.

1.3.6 Bands of magnetic disturbance were also recorded along the edges of the surveyed area, associated with fencing, buildings and power lines (6).

## 1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 Gloucester Land Company funded the project and Steve Weaver and Hannah Smalley of CgMs Consulting acted as consultant. Charles Parry, the Senior Archaeological Officer for Gloucestershire County Council, monitored the work. The site was excavated, for OA, by Vix Hughes, Christoff Heisterman and Ben Penny-Mason. The report was written by Vix Hughes and the project managed by Gerry Thacker.

# 2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

## 2.1 General Aims

2.1.1 The general aims and objectives of the evaluation were:

- To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains within the development;
- To assess vulnerability/sensitivity of any exposed remains;
- To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence;
- To provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site to enable the archaeological implications of any proposed development to be assessed;
- To assess the impact of previous land use on the site;
- To inform a strategy to avoid or mitigate impacts of any proposed development on surviving archaeological remains;
- 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.

## 2.2 Specific aims and objectives

2.2.1 The specific aims and objectives of the evaluation were:

- To investigate and characterise the various anomalies identified through geophysical survey that may represent archaeological features;
- To examine areas identified by the geophysical survey as being blank.

## 2.3 Methodology

2.3.1 It was proposed to excavate an array of eight trenches, each 30m by 1.8m, across the site, representing a 2% sample of the site area. The trenches were positioned to investigate the recorded geophysical anomalies of archaeological interest and to provide a good general coverage of the site. It was not possible to undertake Trench 1 (Plate 1), due to the existence of an established site compound. This was agreed between Charles Parry (GCC) and Hannah Smalley (CgMs).

2.3.2 Trench 5 was moved slightly from its original position (Fig. 2) to avoid the route of an active footpath.

2.3.3 The trenches were excavated using a JCB fitted with a toothless bucket under the direct supervision of an archaeologist. Machining continued in spits down to the top of the undisturbed natural mudstone or the first significant archaeological horizon depending upon which was encountered first. Further excavation proceeded by hand.

# 3 RESULTS

## 3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below, and an index of all trenches is presented in Appendix A. The site is divided into two fields and the trench results are presented by field, below.

## 3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The underlying geology consisted of a mid to dark red clay seen in all trenches. In addition, in Trench 7, an outcrop of dark red mudstone was seen in the western half of the trench, and a reddish grey clay was visible in the lower, north-western portion of Trench 8.

3.2.2 Above the natural geology was a widespread subsoil layer, present in all trenches. The subsoil consisted of a mid orangey brown firm silty clay, with occasional inclusions of rounded pebbles, charcoal and ceramic building material (CBM) flecks throughout. The finds from this layer indicate an 18th-19th century date.

3.2.3 Archaeological features were all cut into the subsoil and were sealed by the topsoil which was, on average, 0.13m thick.

## 3.3 Results

***Eastern Field – Trenches 2-4 (Fig. 2; Plate 2)***

3.3.1 These trenches (Plate 2) contained no significant archaeological features or deposits. Trench 3 uncovered part of the main E-W drain in the western end. This drain was inserted within the last 10 years and serves the more recently constructed houses to the east.

***Western Field – Trenches 5-8 (Fig. 2; Plates 3-4)***

3.3.2 These trenches contained no significant archaeological features or deposits (Plate 3). Trench 5 contained a single E-W aligned stone-packed drain of post-medieval date (Plate 4). Trench 6 contained an extensive layer of re-deposited red clay (Plate 5) which given its stratigraphical relationship and proximity to the recently installed manholes, was the disposal of extraneous spoil form the drain trenching. Trench 8 contained a service trench with dumped backfills. The feature was of modern date and was installed and attested to by the resident farmer.

## 3.4 Finds summary

3.4.1 A total of five sherds of pottery were found, all dated to the 18th - 19th century (and probably 1830-1900). The assemblage is very small, consistent with domestic use and indicates a low density of activity. The CBM comprised 17 fragments, including land drain, brick and peg tile. The material came predominantly from the topsoil and the subsoil deposits with only a single fragment of brick from a sealed context (a brick fragment within the stone-packed drain).

3.4.2 No ecofactual evidence was suitable for recovery.

# 4 DISCUSSION

## 4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The trenches were excavated in reasonable conditions, sufficiently good to identify the presence or absence of archaeological features. It is therefore felt that the recorded density and distribution of archaeological features, or lack of, provides an accurate representation of the evaluation area as a whole.

## 4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 The evaluation aimed to investigate and characterise the various anomalies identified by geophysical survey and thought to represent archaeological features. Trenches were also positioned to test areas thought to be blank.

4.2.2 The anomaly expected in Trench 4 was not identified but it may have been just outside the trench and this was probably due to a slight variation in the geographical positioning of the surveys. The nature of the anomaly suggests it would be of modern date and this would be in keeping with the general findings for the evaluation.

4.2.3 The anomaly in Trench 8 was the result of a modern water service trench installed by the farmer. Anecdotal evidence, combined with the position of manholes also suggests that the other two anomalies to the north probably relate to disturbance relating to the installation of a modern sewer trench that runs along this line.

4.2.4 Neither the stone-packed land drain nor the layer of upcast were identified in the geophysical survey.

4.2.5 The most obvious impact on the site relates to recent drainage activities, and although historically the most significant change in the area was the establishment of the Chartist housing and land division, no evidence directly related to this was found.

4.2.6 No deposits or features of archaeological significance were encountered, which means that there would be no damage to any established below ground heritage resources.

## 4.3 Interpretation

4.3.1 The results from the current evaluation confirms and enhances the results from the geophysical survey.

4.3.2 The features encountered were all of post-medieval to modern date and relate to post-medieval agricultural practices and modern domestic expansion, namely drainage works.

4.3.3 No evidence of earlier activity or settlement activity was uncovered. The suggestion derived from the desk-based assessment that the area has been in long term use for agriculture, mainly pastoral, remains valid.

# APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

| **Trench 2** | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **General description** | | | | | **Orientation** | N-S |
| Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying natural geology. | | | | | **Avg. depth (m)** | 0.37 |
| | | | | | **Width (m)** | 1.6 |
| | | | | | **Length (m)** | 30 |
| **Contexts** | | | | | | |
| **context no** | **type** | **Width (m)** | **Depth (m)** | **comment** | **finds** | **date** |
| 200 | Layer | - | 0.16 | Topsoil: dark reddish brown friable clayey silt | pot | 18-19th century |
| 201 | Layer | - | 0.21 | Subsoil: mid orangey brown firm silty clay, occ rounded pebbles, charcoal and CBM flecks | - | - |
| 202 | Layer | - | - | Natural | - | - |

| **Trench 3** | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **General description** | | | | | **Orientation** | E-W |
| Trench devoid of archaeology. The southern side of the main E-W drain, running from the recent new residential development to the brook to the west. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying natural geology | | | | | **Avg. depth (m)** | 0.38 |
| | | | | | **Width (m)** | 1.6 |
| | | | | | **Length (m)** | 30 |
| **Contexts** | | | | | | |
| **context no** | **type** | **Width (m)** | **Depth (m)** | **comment** | **finds** | **date** |
| 300 | Layer | - | 0.12 | Topsoil: dark reddish brown friable clayey silt | Field drain | 19th-century |
| 301 | Layer | - | 0.18 | Subsoil: mid orangey brown firm silty clay, occ rounded pebbles, charcoal and CBM flecks | - | - |
| 302 | Layer | - | - | Natural | - | - |
| 303 | Fill | - | - | Drain; redeposited red clay | - | - |
| 304 | Cut | - | - | Drain; E-W aligned linear cut | - | - |

| **Trench 4** | | |
|---|---|---|
| **General description** | **Orientation** | N-S |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying natural geology. | **Avg. depth (m)** | 0.33 |
| | **Width (m)** | 1.6 |
| | **Length (m)** | 30 |

**Contexts**

| context no | type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | comment | finds | date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 400 | Layer | - | 0.09 | Topsoil: dark reddish brown friable clayey silt | - | - |
| 401 | Layer | - | 0.2 | Subsoil: mid orangey brown firm silty clay, occ rounded pebbles, charcoal and CBM flecks | CBM | 18-19th century |
| 402 | Layer | - | - | Natural | - | - |

**Trench 5**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **General description** | **Orientation** | N-S |
| Trench contained a single stone packed E-W aligned field drain but lacked any significant archaeological remains. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying natural geology. | **Avg. depth (m)** | 0.4 |
| | **Width (m)** | 1.6 |
| | **Length (m)** | 30 |

**Contexts**

| context no | type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | comment | finds | date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 500 | Layer | - | 0.1 | Topsoil: dark reddish brown friable clayey silt | pot | 1830-1900 |
| 501 | Layer | - | 0.12 | Subsoil | - | - |
| 502 | Cut | 0.58 | 0.33 | Field Drain cut: E-W aligned, V-shaped profile | - | - |
| 503 | Fill | 0.58 | 0.12 | Field Drain fill: fill of 502: solid, sandstone fragments set on end | CBM | Late 18-19th century |
| 504 | Fill | 0.58 | 0.21 | Field Drain fill: fill of 502: firm reddish brown sandy silt | - | - |
| 505 | Layer | - | 0.24 | Subsoil: mid orangey brown firm silty clay, occ rounded pebbles, charcoal and CBM flecks | - | - |
| 506 | Layer | - | - | Natural | - | - |

**Trench 6**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **General description** | **Orientation** | N-S |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Trench contained a layer of recently redeposited natural clay at the northern end of the trench and no significant archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying natural geology.<br>The trench was shortened at the northern end to avoid disturbing the main E-W drain that ran to the adjacent manhole. | **Avg. depth (m)** | 0.35 to 0.48 |
| | **Width (m)** | 1.6 |
| | **Length (m)** | 25 |

**Contexts**

| context no | type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | comment | finds | date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 600 | Layer | - | 0.22 | Topsoil: dark reddish brown friable clayey silt | Pot<br>CBM | 18-19th century<br>1830-1900 |
| 601 | Layer | - | 0.18 | Layer: hard mid red clay, occasional mudstone fragments | - | - |
| 602 | Layer | - | 0.2 | Subsoil: mid orangey brown firm silty clay, occ rounded pebbles, charcoal and CBM flecks | - | - |
| 603 | | | | Natural | | |

**Trench 7**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **General description** | **Orientation** | E-W |
| Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying natural geology. | **Avg. depth (m)** | 0.26 |
| | **Width (m)** | 1.6 |
| | **Length (m)** | 30 |

**Contexts**

| context no | type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | comment | finds | date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 700 | Layer | - | 0.1 | Topsoil: dark reddish brown friable clayey silt | - | - |
| 701 | Layer | - | 0.16 | Subsoil: mid orangey brown firm silty clay, occ rounded pebbles, charcoal and CBM flecks | CBM | 18-19th century |
| 702 | Layer | - | - | Natural | - | - |

**Trench 8**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **General description** | **Orientation** | NW-SE |
| Trench devoid of archaeology. A modern service trench was excavated towards the northern end of the trench. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying natural geology. | **Avg. depth (m)** | 0.38 |
| | **Width (m)** | 1.6 |
| | **Length (m)** | 30 |

**Contexts**

| context no | type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | comment | finds | date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 800 | Layer | - | 0.12 | Topsoil: dark reddish brown friable clayey silt | - | - |
| 801 | Layer | - | 0.11 | Subsoil: mid orangey brown firm silty clay, occ rounded pebbles, charcoal and CBM flecks | Pottery CBM | 1830-1900 19th-century |
| 802 | Layer | - | - | Natural | - | - |
| 803 | Cut | 1.15 | >0.53 | Water pipe cut: | - | - |
| 804 | Fill | 1.15 | >0.53 | Water pipe fill: fill of 803, highly variable patches of redeposited yellowish grey and red silty clay, with occasional CBM, charcoal and pea gravel / stone inclusions | - | - |

# APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

## The Ceramic Building Material (CBM) and Pottery

*by John Cotter*

| Context | Description | Date |
|---|---|---|
| 200 | 1 sherd salt glazed stoneware from a cylindrical vessel, probably a flagon, 16g | 18-19th c |
| 300 | 2 sherds machine extruded land drain, 74g | 19th c |
| 401 | 3 fragments of brick, 43g | 18-19th c |
| 500 | 1 rim sherd blue transfer printed ware, rim of dish or bowl, 5g | 1830-1900 |
| 503 | 1 fragment severely scorched brick either a waster or from a furnace lining or brick kiln, 386g | late18-19th c |
| 600 | 1 sherd white ware, 2g<br>3 fragments brick, 280g | 1830-1900<br>late18-19th c |
| 701 | 3 fragments very worn brick, 1 with animal foot print, 117g | 18-19th c |
| 801 | 1 sherd yellow ware, very worn, 6g<br>5 fragments peg tile and brick, 85g | 1830-1900<br>19th c |

**Description/recommendations.**

The assemblage is of low potential and requires no further work.

# APPENDIX C. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

CgMs, 2012 Land off Chartist Way, Staunton, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Desk-based Assessment

Institute for Archaeologists 2008. *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation*

Stratascan, 2013 Land at Chartist Way, Staunton, Gloucestershire: Geophysical Survey Report

# APPENDIX D. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

**Site name:** Land Off Chartist Way, Staunton, Gloucestershire

**Site code:** STCY 13

**Grid reference:** SO 78674 29097

**Type:** Evaluation

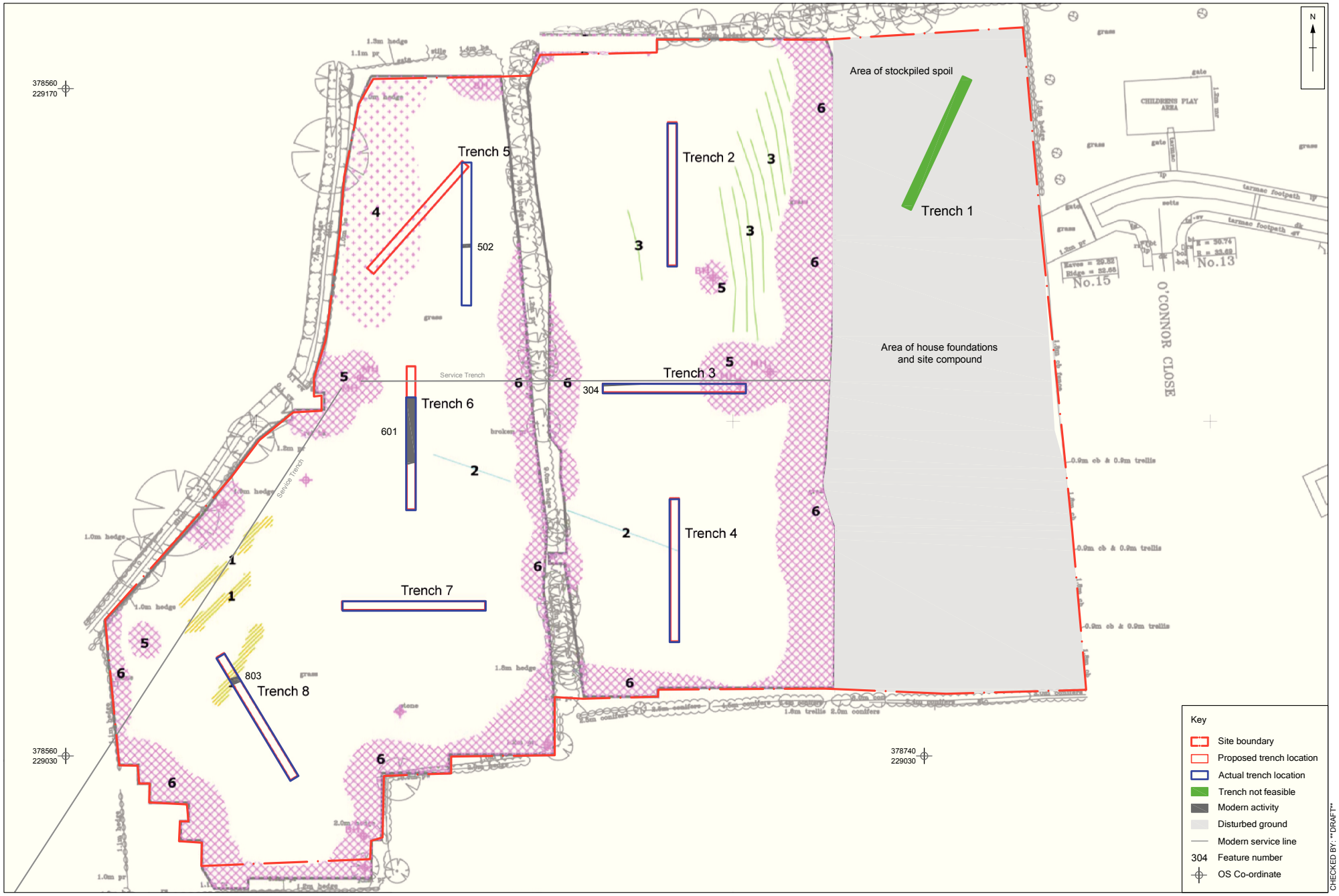
**Date and duration:** 28th - 30th May 2013

**Area of site:** 2.2ha

**Summary of results:** Oxford Archaeology South (OAS) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Gloucester Land Company Limited and their successors in title to the land to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land off Chartist Way, Staunton, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR SO 7867 2910) ahead of proposed development. The work was undertaken between 28th - 30th May 2013. A total of 7 trenches were excavated across the site. The only features uncovered were a stone-packed post-medieval field drain and several service trenches and upcast related to modern sewerage and water supplies.

**Location of archive:** The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Dean Heritage Centre, Gloucestershire in due course.


Figure 1: Site Location (figure derived from CgMs DBA)




X:\Staunton_Chartist Way\010Geomatics\02 CAD\001current\Staunton_030613.dwg(Figure 2)**Staunton, Chartist Way'E. Plunkett' 06 Jun 2013

CHECKED BY: **DRAFT**



Survey Data supplied by :
Stratascan and E.Plunkett

0 50 m

1:750 at A3

Figure 2: Plan of trenching results.


Plate 1: Location of Trench 1, looking south-west

Plate 2: Eastern field with trenches excavated looking north-east

Plate 3: Western field with trenches excavated, looking south

Plate 4: Trench 5, field drain 502, looking east

Plate 5: Trench 6, redeposited layer 601, looking north-west


**Head Office/Registered Office/ OA South**

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496
e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk
**w:http://thehumanjourney.net**

**OA North**

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1GF

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606
e: oanorth@thehumanjourney.net
w:http://thehumanjourney.net

**OA East**

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500
f: +44 (0) 1223 850599
e: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net
w:http://thehumanjourney.net