

**91-97 New Street, Aylesbury,
Buckinghamshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for McCann Homes**

by Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code NSA 03/09

November 2006

Summary

Site name: 91-97 New Street, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire

Grid reference: SP 8183 1419

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 26th October -7th November 2006

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Andy Taylor

Site code: NRA 03/09

Area of site: 0.204 hectares

Summary of results: No deposits or finds of an archaeological nature were observed

Monuments identified: None

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held by Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd, 47-49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading, RG1 5 NR, and will be deposited with Buckinghamshire County Museum in due course.

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 07.11.06 Steve Preston ✓ 03.11.06
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91-97 New Street, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Andy Taylor

Report 03/09b

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at 91-97 New Street, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire (SP 8183 1418) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Jo Thorn, Technical Co-ordinator with McCann Homes Ltd, Shirwell House, Shirwell Crescent, Furzton Lake, Milton Keynes, MK4 1GA.

A planning application (02/2490) has been made to Aylesbury Vale District Council to redevelop the site with the construction of 19 flats and car parking. In light of the possibility of the presence of archaeological remains on the site which might be affected by the development, an archaeological evaluation has been requested.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the District's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr David Radford, Archaeological Officer with Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service, advisers to the District on matters relating to archaeology, following a brief produced by Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service (Radford 2004). The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor and James Haygreen on the 26th October 2006 and the site code is NRA 03/09. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Buckinghamshire County Museum in due course.

A desk-top study identified the archaeological potential of the site (Lowe 2003). In summary this showed the site lay in an area of prehistoric activity. Mesolithic flints, Bronze Age pits structures and cremations and an Iron Age hillfort all lie within the vicinity of the site. Roman activity consists of the Roman road, Akeman Street, which is projected as crossing the site. Numerous Saxon and medieval deposits have been identified within Aylesbury. Appendix 2 provides a summary of SMR entries in the vicinity (from Lowe 2003) and their locations are shown on Figure 1.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on a rectangular parcel of land of 0.204 hectares to the north of Aylesbury town centre. It lies on the northern side of New Street, close to the junctions of Buckingham Street, Oxford Road, Bicester Road and Buckingham Road (Fig. 2). It is currently occupied by empty buildings associated with former garages. The site is located on the boundary between Kimmeridge Clay Formation and Portland Sands (BGS 1994), with the former being observed in all trenches. The site lies at a height of approximately 85m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The site lies within an archaeologically rich area with the projected line of the Roman Road Akeman Street, which is thought to have run from St Albans to Alchester (Margary 1955), traversing the site. Sites from Saxon to post-medieval date are recorded within the general of the site (Lowe 2003; Radford 2004).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development.

Specific aims of the project were:

To determine if archaeologically relevant have survived on the site;

To determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present;

To determine if the Roman road traverses the site and if any roadside occupation or burial is present;

To determine if deposits representing Saxon and medieval Aylesbury known to be present to the south of the site extend into the site area.

A total of three trenches were excavated using a JCB-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. These measured between 8.30m and 13.50m in length (Fig. 3). Trench 2 was slightly repositioned to avoid a concrete plinth, in consultation with the monitor. The trenches were dug under constant archaeological supervision and all spoilheaps were monitored for finds.

A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Results

Trench 1 (Figure 4)

This trench was 13.5m long and 0.83m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of Tarmac overlying a brick surface overlying a dark grey silty clay. This was overlying a light grey brown silty clay overlying clay natural.

Trench 2 (Plate 1)

This trench was 12.4m long and 0.93m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of Tarmac overlying made ground overlying a dark grey silty clay. This overlay a light grey silty clay overlying clay natural.

Trench 3 (Plate 2)

This trench was 8.3m long and 0.74m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of Tarmac overlying brick rubble overlying a dark grey silty clay. This overlay a light grey silty clay overlying clay natural.

Finds

No finds of an archaeological nature were retrieved.

Conclusion

Despite the presence of archaeological deposits within the vicinity of the site, no deposits or finds of an archaeological nature were observed in the evaluation trenches. It seems unlikely that any archaeological remains will be affected by the development of the site.

References

- BGS, 1994, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 237, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
Lowe, J, 2003, '91-97 New Street, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, an archaeological desk-based assessment',
Thames Valley Archaeological Services rep 03/09, Reading
Margary, I D, 1955, *Roman Roads in Britain*, London
PPG16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO
Radford, D, 2004, 'Brief for Archaeological Excavation. Project: 91-97 New Street, Aylesbury', Aylesbury

APPENDIX 1: Trench details
 0m at S or W end

<i>Trench No.</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	13.50	1.60	0.83	0.00m-0.12m Tarmac; 0.12m-0.52m brick rubble; 0.52m-0.68m dark grey silty clay; 0.68m-0.79m light grey brown silty clay; 0.79-0.83m+ clay natural.
2	12.40	1.60	0.93	0.00m-0.12m Tarmac; 0.12-0.29m made ground; 0.29m-0.61m dark grey silty clay; 0.61-0.90m light grey brown silty clay; 0.90m-0.93m+ clay natural. [Plate 1]
3	8.30	1.60	0.74	0.00m-0.05m Tarmac; 0.05m-0.28m brick surface; 0.28m-0.50m dark grey silty clay; 0.50m-0.70m light grey brown silty clay; 0.70m-0.74m+ clay natural. [Plate 2]

APPENDIX 2: SMR records in the vicinity of the site (after Lowe 2003).

No	SMR Ref	Grid Ref (SP)	Type	Period	Comment
1	4032	8178 1526 to 8174 1418	Road	Medieval/Post medieval	Womans Bridge (Holmans Bridge) to Aylesbury
2	1829	8140 1403	Coin	Roman	
3	1815	8150 1420	Coin	Roman	
4	1821	8167 1403	Clay Pipe Kiln	Post medieval/Civil War	
5	0260	819 140	Pottery	Medieval	Pottery including 3 cooking pots retrieved from well in Buckingham street
6	5518	81918 14058 81855 14098	Settlement	Post medieval	2 trial trenches dug in gardens of 58 and 80 New Street. No material predating 18 th century was recovered.
7	6752-3	816 141	Pits; Pottery	Post medieval	Uncovered from a quarry
8	5815	817 142	Hospital	Post medieval	
9	4699	8171 1415	Burial	Unknown	Found by workman at the crossroads/junction.
10	0251	8201 1391	Coin	Roman	Claudius II
11	0310	82210 13900	Railway Station	Post medieval	Original Terminus of railway
	0314	822 139	Railway/liner Earthwork	Post medieval	Aylesbury to Cheddington line
12	4869	820 138	Chapel/Cemetery	Post medieval	
13	0309	823 138	Railway Station	Post medieval	
14	0748	82110 13785	Inn/Barn	Post medieval	
15	4872	821 137	Ditch; pit; pottery	Roman	
16	5782	821 142	Brickworks	Post medieval	
17	4091	815 139	Manor/Rectory	Medieval/Post medieval	Oxford Road
	0037	815 139	Scraper/pot	Neolithic/ Medieval	Oxford Road
	2918	815 139	Building/ Ditch/Fort/Pot	Iron Age/Saxon/ Medieval/Civil War	Oxford Road
18	0092	816 140	Well	Post medieval	Nelson Terrace
19	2575	817 139	St Mary's Church/ Minster	Saxon/Medieval	
20	0291	818 141	Coin/pot/ spindle whorl	Roman	Granville Street
	0278	818 141	Burial/pot	Iron Age/Medieval	Granville Street
21	0262	820 140	Pot/sculpture/well	Medieval	1 Buckingham Street
	6743	820 140	Ditch/pot	Iron Age/Medieval	Buckingham Street/Kingsbury
22	2917	818 141	House	Medieval	17 Buckingham Street
	4463	818 141	Ditch/pit/well/pott ery/ Settlement	Roman/Medieval/ Post medieval	Buckingham Street
23	0244	822 141	Cemetery/ meeting house	Post medieval	Cambridge Street
	2069	822 141	House	?Post medieval	Cambridge Street
24	1823	819 136	Hammerstone	?Neolithic	The Prebendal School
	4091	819 136	Manor/ Rectory	Medieval/Post medieval	The Prebendal School
	0533	819 136	Monastery	Saxon	The Prebendal School
25	4092	817 139	Tithe Barn	Post medieval	32 Parsons Fee
	6784	817 139	Garden	Modern	The Vicarage, Parsons Fee
	0253	817 139	Coin	Roman	7 Parsons Fee
	0257	817 139	Cemetery/ House/ Monastery	?Medieval	1-5 Parsons Fee
	4177	817 139	Skull	Unknown	Parsons Fee
26	2168	818 139	Key/Pin/Pot	Roman/Medieval/ ?Post medieval	Church Street
	0534	818 139	Chantry	Medieval	Church Street
	1776	818 139	Cemetery	Unknown	Church Street
	4728	818 139	Skull	Unknown	Church Street
	0473	818 139	Cemetery	Unknown	Church Street
	0450	818 139	Skeleton/ Skull	Unknown	Church Street
	0451	818 139	Cemetery	Unknown	Church Street
	0283	817 138	Brooch/pot	Roman/Medieval	Castle Street
28	5192	818 140	Well	?Post medieval	Pebble Lane
	2307	818 140	Pin	Roman	Pebble Lane

<i>No</i>	<i>SMR Ref</i>	<i>Grid Ref (SP)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Comment</i>
	2402	818 140	House/coin hoard	Medieval	Pebble Lane
	4700	818 140	Cemetery/ Workhouse	Unknown/ Post medieval	Pebble Lane
	2097	818 140	Burial/ cemetery	Unknown	Pebble Lane
	4731	818 140	Skeleton	?Post medieval	Pebble Lane
29	0211	819 139	Manor	Saxon/Medieval	Kingsbury
	5673	819 139	Inn	Medieval	Kingsbury
	0316	819 139	Hospital	Medieval	Kingsbury
30			Road	Roman	Projected route of Akeman Street

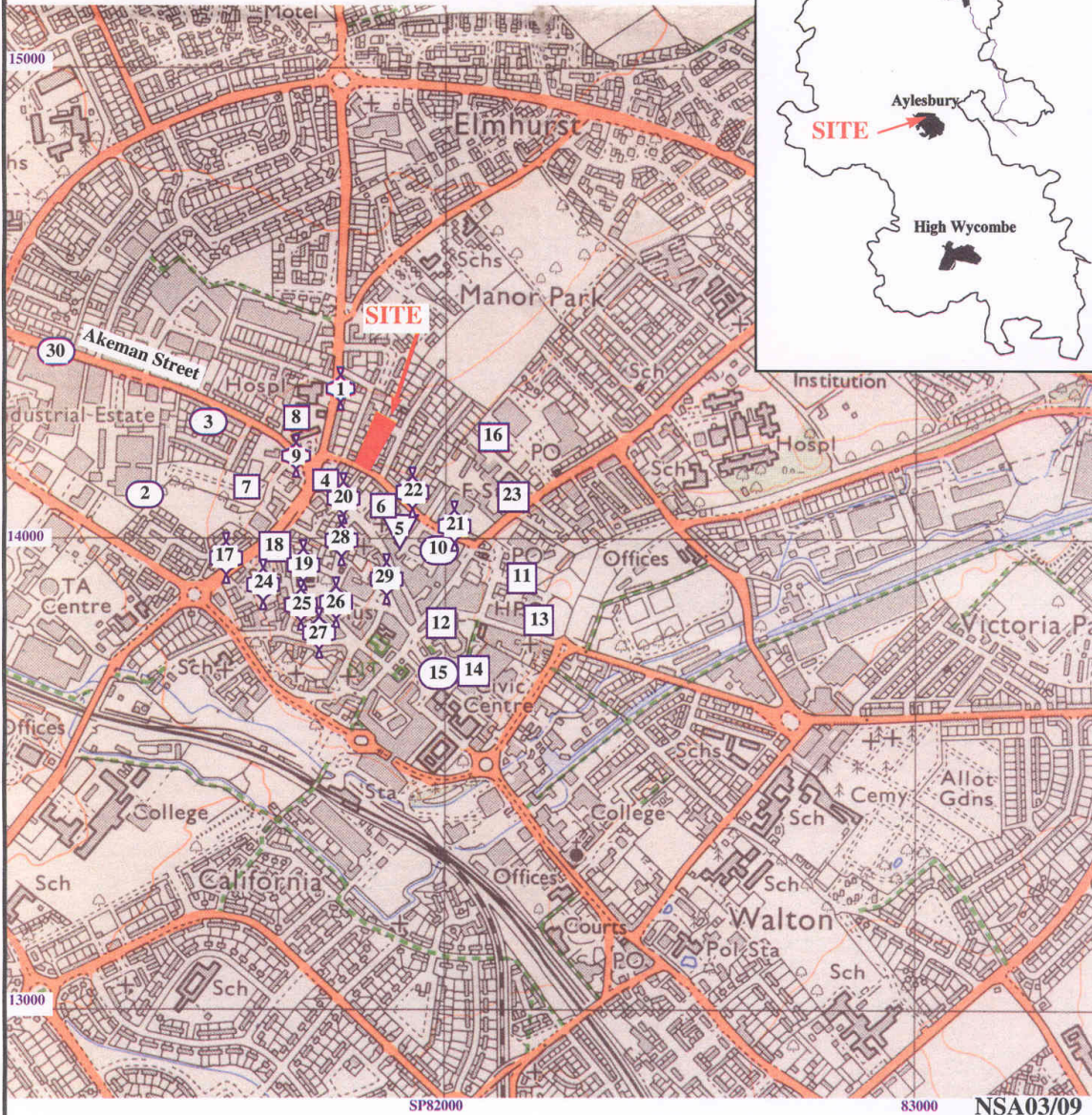
Key:

○ Roman

▽ Medieval

□ Post Medieval/
Civil War

◇ Mixed/
undated



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Figure 1. Location of site within Buckinghamshire, showing locations of SMR entries.

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Figure 2. Location of site on New Street, Aylesbury

Scale: 1:1250

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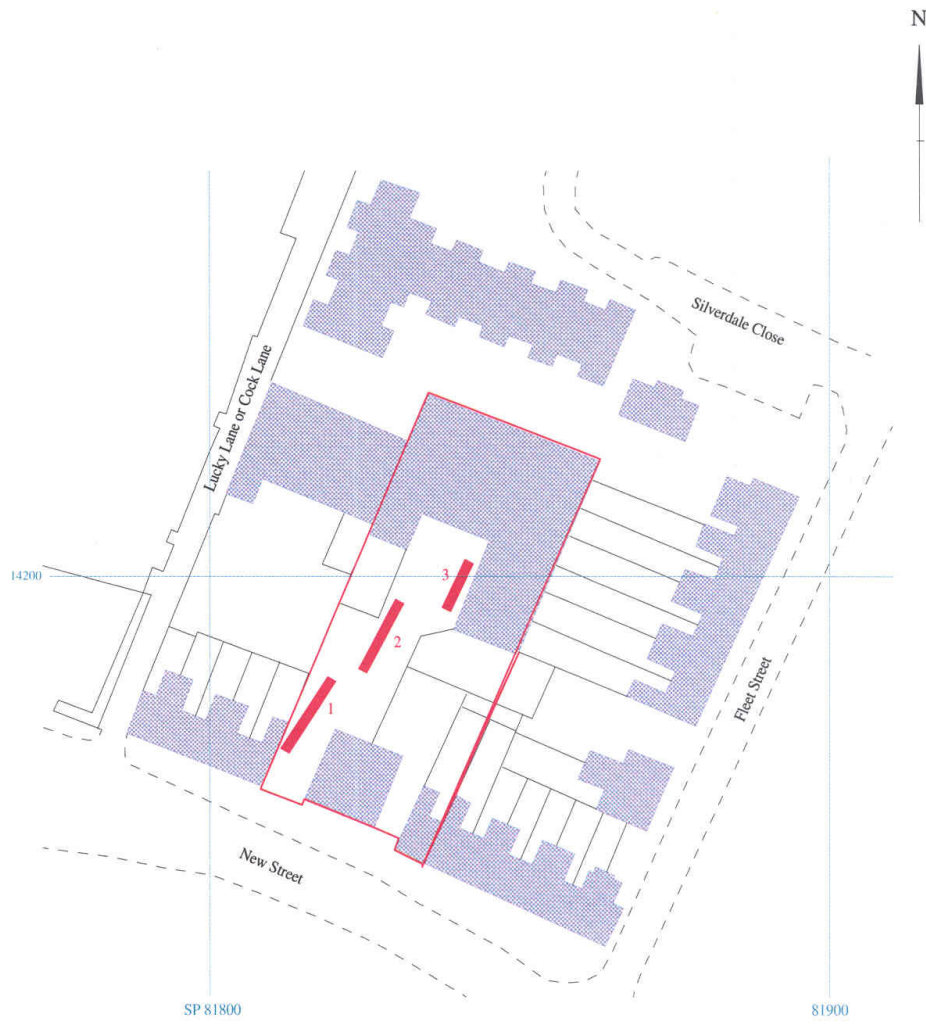


Figure 3: Trench Locations

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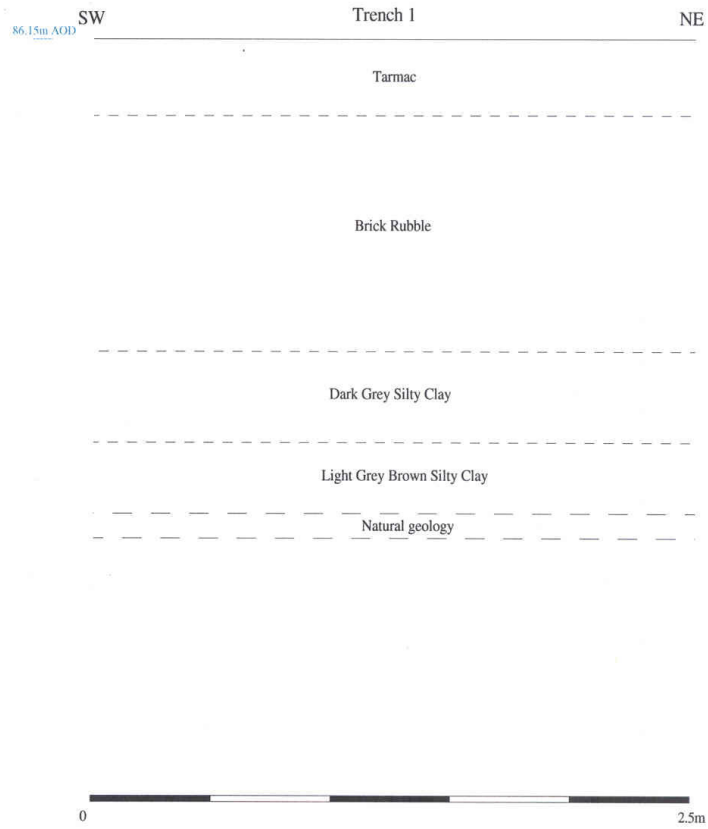


Figure 4: Representative section of trench 1.



Plate 1. Trench 2 looking south, scales 2m, 1m.

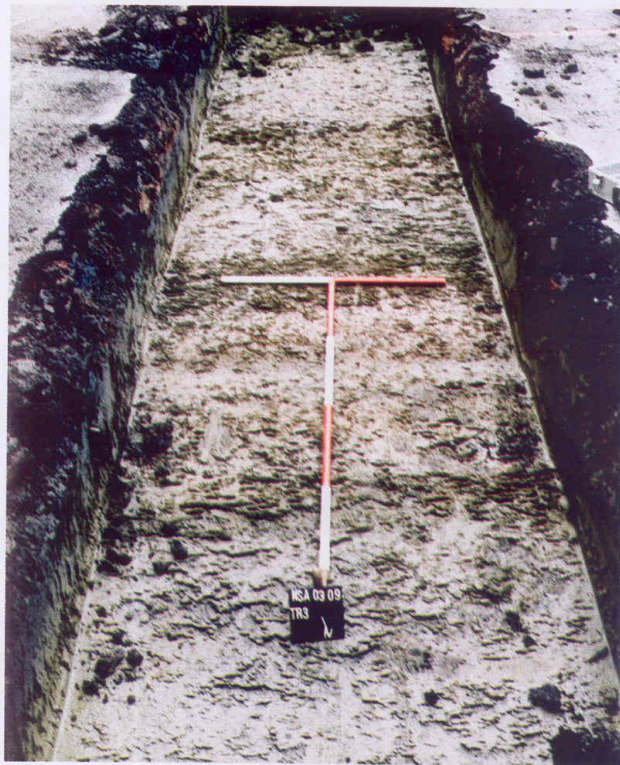


Plate 2. Trench 3 looking south, scales 2m, 1m.