

**HIGH STREET
AVEBURY
WILTSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

For

OPENREACH PLANNING


CA PROJECT: 3221
CA REPORT: 11009

JANUARY 2011

HIGH STREET
AVEBURY
WILTSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

CA PROJECT: 3221
CA REPORT: 11009

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date	11 January 2011
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date	21 January 2011
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signed	
date	24 January 2011
issue	01

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CONTENTS

SUMMARY	2
1. INTRODUCTION	3
2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-4)	4
3. DISCUSSION.....	5
4. CA PROJECT TEAM	5
5. REFERENCES	5
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	6
APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM.....	7

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
- Fig. 2 The site, showing location of groundworks (1:500).
- Fig. 3 Photograph: Area of telecommunications trenching prior to excavation, looking south west
- Fig. 4 Photograph: Excavation of telecommunications trench, looking south west
- Fig. 5 Photograph: Telecommunications trench after excavation, looking north east
- Fig. 6 Photograph: Telecommunications trench after excavation, looking north east

SUMMARY

Project Name: High Street
Location: Avebury, Wiltshire
NGR: SU 1014 6994
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 10 January 2011
SMC: S00006310
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Alexander Keiller Museum, Avebury
Site Code: AHS 10

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the laying of a new telecommunications duct across High Street, Avebury, Wiltshire.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In January 2011 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Openreach Planning at High Street, Avebury, Wiltshire (centred on NGR: SU 1014 6994; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil conditions attached to Scheduled Monument Consent (Ref: S00006310) dated 25 November 2010 granted for the excavation of a telecommunications duct across the High Street, Avebury, Wiltshire, to feed from an existing telecommunications carriageway box to the south of the High Street and to run approximately 18m north-east to The Stables Post Office, High Street, Avebury. A licence was also obtained from the National Trust (NT) for works to be conducted on NT land. The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the development.

1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2010) approved by Amanda Chadburn, Inspector of Ancient Monuments, English Heritage. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) (2008), the *Standards for Archaeological Assessment and Field Evaluation* issued by Wiltshire County Council Archaeology Service (1995), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006). Dr N Snashell, NT Archaeologist monitored the works, including a site visit on 10 January 2011.

The site

1.3 The site lies within High Street, Avebury and runs south-east from The Stables Post Office to the Community Shop (Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 158m AOD, gently sloping down to the south-east. The telecommunication trench was approximately 18m in length and 0.37m in width.

1.4 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Middle Chalk of the Upper Cretaceous era (BGS 1974). The natural substrate consisting of white chalk and flint was observed throughout most of the telecommunications trench.

Archaeological background

- 1.5 The proposed telecommunications duct is wholly contained within a Scheduled Monument (National Monument 28130 – *Avebury Henge and Stone Circles, Avebury, Wiltshire*). This monument includes the henge at Avebury as defined by its earthen bank and internal ditch, a large stone circle within the henge, two smaller stone circles within the enclosure, the stone setting known as The Cove, a series of medieval and later field and property boundaries, and a section of ancient trackway which at one time formed the London to Bath road. The monument also forms part of a World Heritage Site (*Ref 9: Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites*), which has a concentration of major funerary and ceremonial prehistoric monuments. These include many monuments which are among the best known examples of their type, such as the Silbury Hill monumental mound, the Windmill Hill causewayed enclosure, West Kennet long barrow and the Sanctuary.

Methodology

- 1.6 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2010). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks associated with the excavation of the service trench for the telecommunications duct (Fig. 2).
- 1.7 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.8 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. The site archive will be deposited with Alexander Keiller Museum, Avebury. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-4)

- 2.1 Natural geological substrate 103, consisting of white chalk and flint, was revealed at an average depth of 0.37m below present ground level (bpgl). It was overlain by a mixed, silty-chalk and flint subsoil 102, averaging 0.21m in thickness, which was cut by various modern utility services. This in turn was overlain by a thin (0.05m) roadstone make-up layer, 101, which was sealed by a mix of tarmac, 100, and concrete, 109, averaging 0.11m in thickness.

- 2.2 In the last 1.5m of the north-eastern end of the trench, make-up deposit 112 was identified 0.16m bpgl (below the concrete and road make-up) from which modern brick and tile was recovered (this material has not been retained). Within this length of the trench the natural substrate 103 was not observed.
- 2.3 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see archaeological background above), the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. The absence of archaeological deposits may indicate that features and deposits associated with Avebury Henge and stone circles either do not extend as far as the current development or that such deposits had previously been truncated during construction and use of High Street.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Sian Reynish. The report was written by Sian Reynish. The illustrations were prepared by Pete Moore. The archive has been compiled by Sian Reynish, and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1974 *Geological Survey of Great Britain (England and Wales)* Sheet 266: Marlborough.

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2010 *High Street, Avebury, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief.*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1


No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Tarmac			0.11	
101	Layer	Road make-up			0.05	
102	Layer	Mixed silty chalk and flint subsoil			0.21	
103	Layer	Natural chalk substrate			0.4	
104	Cut	Modern utility service	>0.37	0.5	0.3	
105	Fill	Sand backfill of service 104	>0.37	0.5	0.3	
106	Cut	Modern utility service Service	>0.37	1	0.44	
107	Fill	Sand backfill of service 106	>0.37	1	0.25	
108	Fill	Concrete cap of service 106	>0.37	1	0.15	
109	Layer	Concrete			0.11	
110	Cut	Modern utility service Service	>0.37	0.49	>0.44	
111	Fill	Sand backfill of service 110	>0.37	0.49	>0.44	
112	Layer	Make-up deposit	>1.5	>0.37	>0.34	

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	High Street, Avebury, Wiltshire	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the laying of a new telecommunications duct across the High Street, Avebury, Wiltshire. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.	
Project dates	10 January 2011	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	High Street, Avebury, Wiltshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	Approximately 19m in length and 0.37m in width.	
Site co-ordinates	SU 1014 6994	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	None	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Sian Reynish	
MONUMENT TYPE		
	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	N/A	None
Paper	Avebury Museum	Trench sheets, developers drawings, photographic registers, colour and black and white photographs
Digital	Avebury Museum	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2010 <i>High Street, Avebury, Wiltshire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report 11009		

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 COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY			
PROJECT TITLE High Street, Avebury Wiltshire			
FIGURE TITLE Site location plan			
DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
PJM	1:25,000@A4	3221	1

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 observed groundworks



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE
High Street, Avebury
Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
**The site, showing location of
groundworks**

DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
PJM	1:500@A4	3221	2



Fig. 3 Area of telecommunications trenching prior to excavation, looking south west



Fig. 4 Excavation of telecommunications trench, looking south west



Fig. 5 Telecommunications trench after excavation, looking north east



Fig. 6 Telecommunications trench after excavation, looking north east