



**55 Pavenhill
Dogridge, Purton
Wiltshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

for
NEWS Homes Ltd

CA Project: 3800
CA Report: 12208

August 2012

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Wiltshire

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CA Project: 3800
CA Report: 12208

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date	12 July 2012
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date	2 August 2012
issue	01

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SUMMARY

Project Name: 55 Pavenhill, Dogridge, Purton
Location: Purton, Wiltshire
NGR: SU 07891 87553
Type: Watching brief
Date: 18-27 June 2012
Planning Reference: 10/04414/FUL
Site Code: PVH 12

In June 2012, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the demolition of an existing house and the construction of seven new houses on the site.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was encountered in the upcast soil from the foundation trenches.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In June 2012, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the demolition of an existing house and the construction of seven new houses, with associated access and services, at 55 Pavenhill, Purton, Wiltshire (site centred on NGR: SU 07891 07553; Fig. 1).

1.2 The watching brief, which was commissioned by NEWS Homes Ltd, was requested by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, Wiltshire Council's County Archaeologist (WCCA), and was undertaken to fulfil Condition 10 attached to planning consent for the development (planning ref: 10/04414/FUL). This stated that:

'No development shall commence within the area indicated until:

a) A written programme of archaeological investigation, which should include on-site work and off-site work such as the analysis, publishing and archiving of the results, has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority; and

b) The approved programme of archaeological work has been carried out in accordance with the approved details.'

The objective of the watching brief was to investigate and record all archaeological remains exposed during the development.

1.3 The project was undertaken in accordance with the approved *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) prepared by CA (2012), the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (IfA 2008), and the English Heritage procedural documents *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (EH 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006).

The site

1.4 The site, which comprised an early 20th-century red brick house and a large, overgrown garden (c. 0.16ha in extent), is located at Dogridge, at the western end of the village of Purton, 7.5km to the north-west of Swindon town centre. It is bounded by Pavenhill to the north, gardens bordering Restrop View to the south

and residential properties to the east and west. The ground slopes gently to the west and lies at approximately 143m aOD. The geology comprises Upper Jurassic (Oxfordian Age) limestone of the Stanford Formation (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex>).

Archaeological background

- 1.5 The Wiltshire Historic Environment Record (HER) contains records of a number of sites in the vicinity (HER numbers in parenthesis). The earliest identified remains date to the Iron Age and comprise a bronze coin of Amminus (SU08NE202), uncovered at 47 Paven Hill, c. 120m to the east of the site, and Iron-Age pottery sherds have been recovered from a site at Dogridge, c. 200m to the south-east (SU08NE203). The latter site also contained Roman remains, comprising 2nd- to 4th-century Romano-British pottery sherds, tesserae, tiles and box flue-tiles (SU08NE303).
- 1.6 The area around Dogridge appears to have been a focus for Roman settlement as four Romano-British pottery kilns and traces of a substantial stone building were excavated here in 1975 (SU08NE300) and a Romano-British building with the remains of a tessellated pavement were found in 1896 (SU08NE305) near the junction between Pavenhill and Paven Close, approximately 300m east of the site. Coins of Claudius, Constantine, Magnentius and Decentius were also found. In 1972, Romano-British pottery, tesserae, tiles, flooring material and animal bones were found in an occupation layer (SU08NE304) at a site in Restrop View, less than 100m to the east of the site. Recent work by CA (2011) at 6 Battlewell, c. 450m to the south-east, identified the remains of a 2nd-century Roman drying oven and two postholes.
- 1.7 Sherds of medieval pottery, probably of Minety Ware of 14th-century date (SU08NE468), have been recovered from the Dogridge area.
- 1.8 No previous archaeological work has been carried out at the site and there are no known archaeological sites within the development area.

Methodology

- 1.9 The watching brief comprised the observation of all intrusive groundworks associated with the excavation of footings for seven houses. Non-archaeologically significant deposits were removed by the contractors under archaeological

supervision. Where mechanical excavators were used, these were equipped with a toothless bucket, although a toothed bucket was used to break up modern surfaces or made ground.

- 1.10 No archaeological remains were encountered during the watching brief; general deposits were recorded in accordance with CA's *Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual* (CA 2007). Each context was recorded on a *pro-forma* context sheet by written and measured description; any observations were noted on a general site construction plan. Photographs (black and white negative and digital colour) were taken as appropriate. There were no finds predating the modern period and modern finds from the garden soil were noted but not retained. No deposits were encountered that were suitable for environmental assessment.
- 1.11 A metal detector was used to maximise the chance of recovery of archaeologically significant metal objects.
- 1.12 The site archive will be deposited with the Wiltshire Heritage Museum and a summary of information from the project will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS

- 2.1 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and there was no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period in the upcast from the foundation trenches.
- 2.2 The geological substrate consisted of brashy limestone with occasional outcrops of solid limestone, overlain by a well-developed garden soil that was between 0.25m and 0.5m thick and comprised dark brownish-grey humic silt.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area, the watching brief encountered no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. The absence of archaeological deposits and finds in the garden soil may indicate that structural remains associated with the nearby Romano-British buildings and



pottery kilns do not extend as far as the development site and that the focus of settlement and activity in the late Iron Age and Roman periods lies further to the east.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 4.1 The fieldwork was undertaken by Tim Havard and Andrew Donald. The report was written by Simon Carlyle, assisted by Robert Scott, and the illustrations were prepared by Peter Moore. The archive will be compiled and prepared for deposition by Jeremy Mordue. The project was managed for CA by Simon Carlyle.

5. REFERENCES

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011 *6 Battlewell, Purton, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation*, CA typescript report **11307**

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2012 *55 Pavenhill, Dogridge, Purton, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*, CA document



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Plots 1, 2 and 3

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Topsoil	Dark brownish-grey humic silt.	-	-	0.25	Modern
101	Geological substrate	Brashy limestone with outcrops of solid limestone.	-	-	>0.25	-

Plots 4 and 5

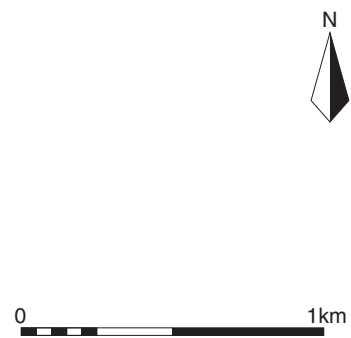
No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
200	Topsoil	Dark brownish-grey humic silt.	-	-	0.25	Modern
201	Geological substrate	Brashy limestone with outcrops of solid limestone.	-	-	>0.25	-

Plots 6 and 7

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
700	Topsoil	Dark brownish-grey humic silt.	-	-	0.50	Modern
701	Geological substrate	Brashy limestone with outcrops of solid limestone.	-	-	>0.25	-

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	55 Pavenhill, Dogridge, Purton, Wiltshire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	No archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the watching brief, and there was no artefactual material predating the modern period in the upcast soil from the foundation trenches.	
Project dates	18-27 June 2012	
Project type	Watching brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	None	
Monument type	None	
Significant finds	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Purton, Wiltshire	
Study area	c. 0.16ha	
Site co-ordinates	SU 07891 87553	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology (CA)	
Project Brief originator	-	
Project Design (WSI) originator	CA	
Project Manager	Simon Carlyle (CA)	
Project Supervisor	Tim Havard (CA)	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
Physical	Wiltshire Heritage Museum	None
Paper		Site archive
Digital	Wiltshire HER	Report, digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2012 <i>55 Pavenhill, Dogridge, Purton, Wiltshire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> , CA typescript report 12208		



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PROJECT TITLE
 55 Pavenhill, Purton, Wiltshire

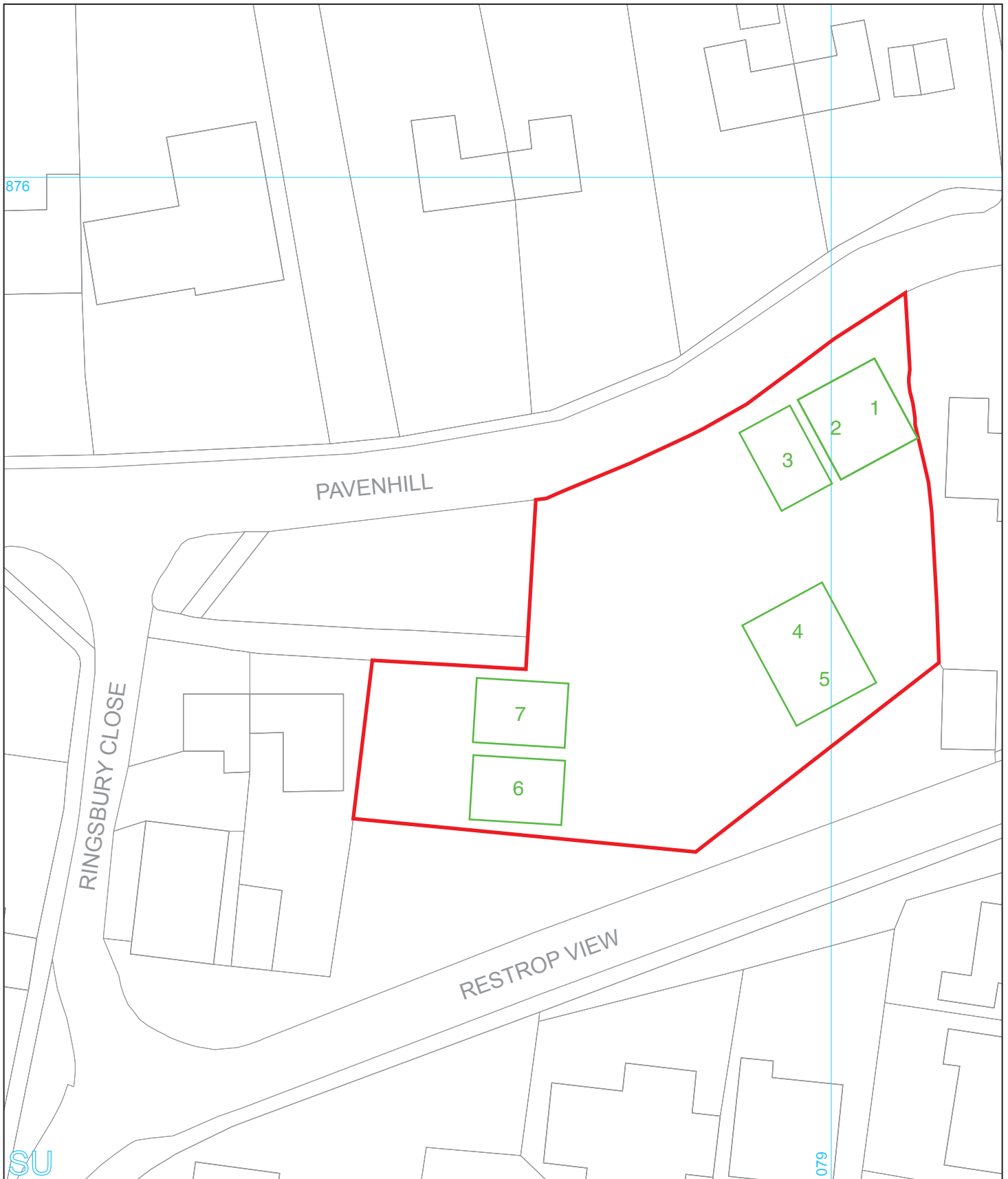
FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

PROJECT NO. 3800 DATE 23-7-2012
 DRAWN BY PJM REVISION 00
 APPROVED BY PJM SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1

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- site
- monitored building plot



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PROJECT TITLE
55 Pavenhill, Purton, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
Site plan, showing monitored building plots

PROJECT NO.	3800	DATE	23-7-2012	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	PJM	REVISION	00	2
APPROVED BY	PJM	SCALE@A4	1:500	



3

3 Plots 1 & 2, excavation in progress, looking south-west



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PROJECT TITLE

55 Pavenhill, Purton, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

PROJECT NO. 3800 DATE 237-2012
 DRAWN BY PJM REVISION 00
 APPROVED BY PJM SCALE@A4 N/A

FIGURE NO.

3



4

4 Plot 7 foundation trench, looking west



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PROJECT TITLE

55 Pavenhill, Purton, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

PROJECT NO. 3800 DATE 23-7-2012
DRAWN BY PJM REVISION 00
APPROVED BY PJM SCALE@A4 N/A

FIGURE NO.

4