Cotswold Archaeology

Newbridge Roundabout
Horsham
West Sussex

Archaeological Watching Brief

for
WSP

on behalf of
West Sussex County Council

CA Project: 770637
CA Report: 17596

September 2017

Andover Cirencester Exeter Milton Keynes

Newbridge Roundabout
Horsham
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Archaeological Watching Brief

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A	10.10.17	OG	Richard Greatorex	Internal review	General Edit	Richard Greatorex

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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

SUMMARY

Project Name:	Newbridge Roundabout
Location:	Broadbridge Heath, Horsham, West Sussex
NGR:	14334 31157
Type:	Watching Brief
Date:	25th of September to the 3rd of October 2017
Location of Archive:	Horsham Museum
Site Code:	NRH17

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology the during the groundworks associated with the initial stages of the West Sussex County Council highway improvements scheme in Broadbridge Heath, Horsham, West Sussex to develop and improve the Newbridge Roundabout.

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

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In September 2017 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for WSP on behalf of West Sussex County Council (WSCC) at Newbridge Roundabout, Broadbridge Heath, Horsham, West Sussex (centred at NGR: 14334 31157; Figure 1). The watching brief was undertaken at the request of John Mills, Senior Archaeologist for WSCC during the initial stages of the WSCC highway improvements scheme in Broadbridge Heath, to develop and improve the Newbridge Roundabout.

1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2017) and approved by the local planning authority (LPA) acting on the advice of John Mills. The fieldwork also followed S*tandard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 2014).

The site

1.4 The proposed development area is approximately 0.66ha, and comprises of the southern side of the Newbridge roundabout and either side of the adjacent A264 to the south-west. The site lies at approximately 33m above Ordnance datum (aOD).

1.5 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Weald Clay Formation - Mudstone. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 126 to 134 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period (BGS 2017).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 An archaeological desk based assessment by Archaeology South-East (ASE) was carried out on Land West of Horsham, 0.8km to the south-west of the site in 2007 and its findings are summarised below. Although the report was specifically focused on the Horsham site it did also provide archaeological information for the wider Weald area.

Prehistoric

2.2 Until very recently it was generally considered that the Weald area was only very sparsely populated during the prehistoric period, and thought to have been covered in dense woodland. Excavations by Archaeology South East (ASE) in 2008 and 2013 at the Wickhurst Green housing development, adjacent to the site, however found evidence of Mesolithic flint scatters, possible Neolithic features and a large Middle Iron Age settlement (ASE 2013 and ASE 2014).

2.3 Prehistoric evidence from the wider Weald area includes Bronze Age burial mounds and Iron Age iron ore exploitation (ASE 2007).

Romano-British

2.4 Evidence for the Romano-British period within the Weald area is very sparse, only a few sites have been found and they tend to be focused around Iron working sites and the transport links between them (ASE 2007). However excavations at the Wickhurst Green development immediately to the north-east of the site uncovered evidence of several phases of Romano-British settlement, stock management and agricultural field systems (ASE 2013 and ASE 2014).

Anglo-Saxon

2.5 During the Anglo-Saxon period the Weald area was heavily forested, covered by a large wood called the Andredeswal and as a result limited the development of settlement activity. No Anglo-Saxon sites have been recorded within the immediate area (ASE 2007).

Medieval

2.6 In the 13th century, the market town of Horsham began to rapidly expand. The area to the west of the town was reclaimed from woodland and due to its poor quality was used mainly for pastoral faming (ASE 2007).

2.7 Three Medieval sites have been recorded within the immediate area. These include a deer park, associated with a manorial centre that was established in the 13th century at Broadbridge Farm to the south. This manor included a water mill also constructed in the 13th century. A Grade II listed building, Parthings Farm, constructed in the 15th Century is located to the south of the site (ASE 2007).

2.8 The excavations by ASE at the Wickhurst Green development uncovered extensive evidence of 12th to 15th century agricultural activity, including fields, enclosures, trackways, pens, three separate farmsteads, ponds and a drift way (wide trackway used for droving of cattle across the Sussex Weald) (ASE 2013 and ASE 2014).

Post-Medieval

2.9 During the post-medieval period the town of Horsham continued to develop as a market down, and achieved its highest average wealth by 1524. The area to the west of the town was continued to be used as farmland during this period (ASE 2007).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks;

- to look for any indications of previous ground disturbance in the road verge north of the ring road, along the line of the realigned Billingshurst Road slip road. The road verge is close to Wykehurst Green where Iron Age features and structures were noted to the south-east.

- at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2017). An archaeologist was present during the hand excavation of five trial pits, excavated to located the existing utilities in the area of the A281 Broadbridge Heath bypass and the Newbridge Roundabout (Fig. 2).

4.2 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. 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.

5. RESULTS (FIGURES 2 - 4)

5.1 The natural geological substrate consisted of light bluish grey Weald clay. It was encountered at an average depth of 0.45m below the present ground level (BGL) in **Trenches 4b**, **5**, **6** and **7** and a depth of 0.11m BGL in **Trench 4a**. In **Trenches 5**, **6** and **7** the natural was covered by a layer of buried soil, encountered at an average depth of 0.25m BGL. The buried soil most likely represents the topsoil that covered the site before the roundabout was built. The buried soil was covered by a layer of redeposited natural found at an average depth of 0.14m, and was probably a result of landscaping works during the construction of the roundabout. In **Trench 4a** the natural was covered by mid-yellow brown topsoil. In **Trench 4b** the natural was covered by light yellow silt/clay subsoil encountered at a depth of 0.21m BGL and was capped by mid-yellow/brown topsoil.

5.2 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.

8. DISCUSSION

8.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see archaeological background above) the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the trenches monitored. However the watching brief was able to confirm that the site appears to be free of modern below ground surface disturbance. The redeposited natural and buried topsoil encountered in some of the trenches is most likely a by-product of roundabout construction, and clearly has not impacted upon the natural substrate.

8.2 Given the results of the recent ASE excavation at the Wickhurst Green site and the lack of modern disturbance found in the trial trenches, the potential for archaeological features to survive within the site (if present) remains high.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Jeremy Clutterbuck and Emily Stynes. The report was written by Oliver Good. The illustrations were prepared by Esther Escudero. The archive has been compiled by Zoe Emery, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Oliver Good.

10. REFERENCES

Archaeology South-East (ASE), 2007, *An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of Land West of Horsham, West Sussex*

Archaeology South-East (ASE), 2013, *A Post-Excavation Assessment and updated project Design report, 'Wickhurst Green', Broadbridge Heath, West Sussex*

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BGS (British Geological Survey), 2017, *Geology of Britain Viewer* http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html Accessed 26 September 2017

CIfA, 2014, S*tandard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology), 2017, *Newbridge Roundabout, Horsham, West Sussex*: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief

DCLG (Department of Communities and Local Government), 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
4a	450	Layer		Topsoil	Mid yellow brown clay silt, firm, with occasional rooting	4	0.46	0-0.11	
4a	451	Layer		Natural	Natural: mid reddish yellow clay, very compact, heavily rooting	4	0.46	0.11+	
4b	400	Layer		Topsoil	Mid yellow brown clay silt, firm, with occasional rooting	3	0.33	0-0.21	
4b	401	Layer		Subsoil	Light yellowish brown silty clay, firm, rare rooting	3	0.33	0.21-0.38	
4b	402	Layer		Natural	Mid red yellow silty clay, compact	3	0.33	0.38+	
4b	403	Cut		Modern service	Cut of modern drainage	3	0.33	0-0.38+	Modern
4b	404	Fill	403	Fill of service	Fill of modern service	3	0.33	0-0.38+	Modern
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown clay silt	4.5	0.5	0-0.05	
5	501	Layer		Made ground	Light yellowish and grey clay	4.5	0.5	0.05-0.17	
5	502	Layer		Buried Soil	Mid grey brown clay silt	4.5	0.5	0.17-0.38	
5	503	Layer		Natural	Light yellow and light blue clay	4.5	0.5	0.38+	
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown clay silt	3	0.55	0-0.25	
6	601	Layer		Made ground	Light yellowish and grey clay	3	0.55	0.25-0.35	
6	602	Layer		Buried Soil	Mid grey brown clay silt	3	0.55	0.35-0.47	
6	603	Layer		Natural	Light yellow and light blue clay	3	0.55	0.47+	
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown clay silt	6	0.65	0-0.13	
7	701	Layer		Made ground	Light yellowish and grey clay	6	0.65	0.13-0.25	
7	702	Layer		Buried Soil	Mid grey brown clay silt	6	0.65	0.25-0.58	
7	703	Layer		Natural	Light blue grey clay	6	0.65	0.58-0.7	
7	704	Layer		Natural	Light yellow and light blue clay	6	0.65	0.7+	

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Newbridge Roundabout	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology the during the groundworks associated with the initial stages of the West Sussex County Council highway improvements scheme in Broadbridge Heath, Horsham, West Sussex to develop and improve the Newbridge Roundabout. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.	
Project dates	25th of September to the 3rd of October 2017	
Project type	Watching brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Newbridge roundabout, Broadbridge Heath, Horsham, West Sussex	
Study area (M^2/ha)	0.66ha	
Site co-ordinates	14334 31157	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator		
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Oliver Good	
Project Supervisor	Jeremy Clutterbuck	
MONUMENT TYPE	none	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	none	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Horsham Museum	None
Paper	Horsham Museum	Context sheets, photo registers
Digital	Horsham Museum	Report, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		

Archaeology South-East (ASE), 2007, An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of Land West of Horsham, West Sussex

BGS (British Geological Survey), 2017, Geology of Britain Viewer http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html Accessed 26 September 2017

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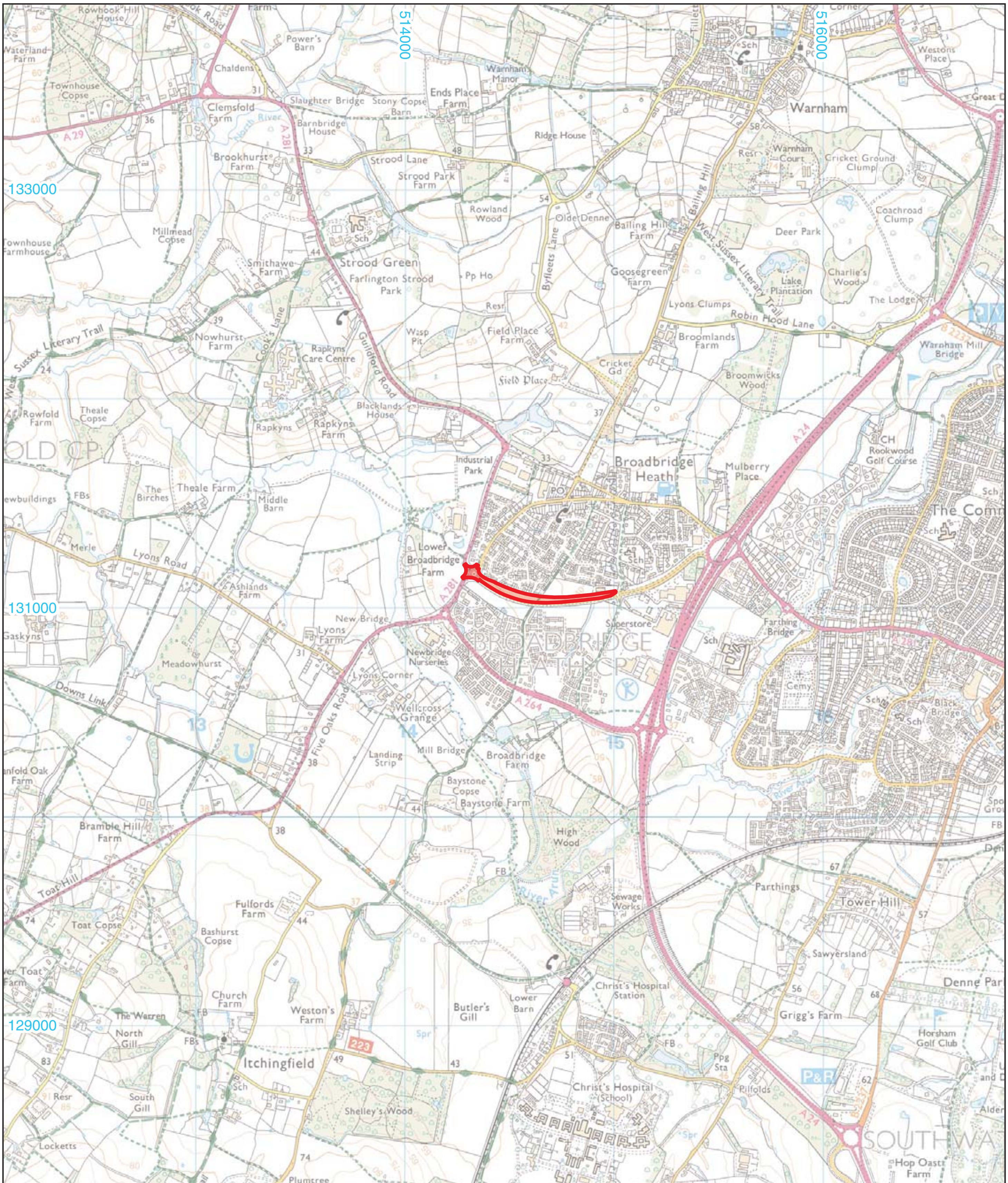
CA (Cotswold Archaeology), 2017, Newbridge Roundabout, Horsham, West Sussex: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief

DCLG (Department of Communities and Local Government), 2012, National Planning Policy Framework

WSCC, 2017, per comms



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Cotswold Archaeology

Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 826185
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Newbridge Roundabout, Horsham, West Sussex

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

DRAWN BY	EE	*PROJECT NO.*	770637	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	DJB	*DATE*	11/10/2017	1
APPROVED BY	OG	*SCALE@A4*	1:25,000	

514300
514500
514700
514900
131300
131100
130900
A281
Billingshurst Road
Five Oaks Road
Newbridge Roundabout
T7
T6
T5
T4B
T4A
A281

N

Site boundary

Trial trench

0 1:2,000 100m

Cotswold Archaeology
Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 826185
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Trench location plan

DRAWN BY	**EE**	*PROJECT NO.*	**770637**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**11/10/2017**	**2**
APPROVED BY	**OG**	*SCALE@A3*	**1:2000**	

Trench 4A, looking east

Trench 4B, looking east

Cotswold Archaeology

Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 826185
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Newbridge Roundabout, Horsham, West Sussex

FIGURE TITLE

Trenches 4A and 4B, photographs

DRAWN BY	**EE**	*PROJECT NO.*	**770637**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**11/10/2017**	**3**
APPROVED BY	**OG**	*SCALE@A4*	**NA**	

Trench 5, looking south (2m scale)

Trench 6, looking north-east (2m scale)

Cotswold Archaeology

Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 826185
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Trenches 5 and 6, photographs

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CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**11/10/2017**	**4**
APPROVED BY	**OG**	*SCALE@A4*	**NA**	

Trench 7, looking south-west (0.5, 1m and 2m scales)

Trench 7, looking north (0.5 and 2m scales)

Cotswold Archaeology

Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 826185
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 7, photographs

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	770637	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	11/10/2017	5
APPROVED BY	OG	SCALE@A3	NA	

Cotswold Archaeology

Andover Office

Stanley House
Walworth Road
Andover
Hampshire
SP10 5LH

t: 01264 347630

Cirencester Office

Building 11
Kemble Enterprise Park
Cirencester
Gloucestershire
GL7 6BQ

t: 01285 771022

Exeter Office

Unit 53
Basepoint Business Centre
Yeoford Way
Marsh Barton Trading Estate
Exeter
EX2 8LB

t: 01392 826185

Milton Keynes Office

41 Burners Lane South
Kiln Farm
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire
MK11 3HA

t: 01908 564660

e: enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk