

Former WWDC Offices Bradley Road Trowbridge, Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation



for
Newland Homes Ltd

CA Project: 6702
CA Report: 18396

August 2018



Former WWDC Offices
Bradley Road
Trowbridge, Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 18396
CA Report: 6702



Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	August 2018	D Sausins	C Bateman	draft	QA	MA Watts

This report is confidential to the client. Cotswold Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability to any third party to whom this report, or any part of it, is made known. Any such party relies upon this report entirely at their own risk. No part of this report may be reproduced by any means without permission.

CONTENTS

SUMMARY	2
1. INTRODUCTION	3
2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	3
3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	4
4. METHODOLOGY	4
5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3)	5
6. DISCUSSION	6
7. CA PROJECT TEAM.....	6
8. REFERENCES	6
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	8
APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM	10

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
- Fig. 2 Trench location plan showing identified features (1:750)
- Fig. 3 Photographs



SUMMARY

Project Name:	Former WWDC Offices, Bradley Road
Location:	Trowbridge, Wiltshire
NGR:	385397 156331
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	25th-30th July 2018
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Trowbridge Museum
Site Code:	BRDT 18

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in July 2018 at the former West Wiltshire District Council (WDDC) offices, Bradley Road, Trowbridge, Wiltshire. Nine trenches were excavated.

The earliest feature/deposit encountered was a small ditch dating to the 19th century. Elsewhere, modern truncation associated with the construction and subsequent demolition of the WWDC offices was recorded.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In July 2018 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Newland Homes Ltd at the former West Wiltshire District Council (WWDC) offices, Bradley Road, Trowbridge (centred at NGR: 385397 156331; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to support a forthcoming planning application to Wiltshire Council (WC) for the construction of residential properties, associated infrastructure and landscaping and was recommended by Rachel Foster, Assistant County Archaeologist, WC.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2018) that was approved by Rachel Foster. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). It was monitored by Rachel Foster.

The site

- 1.3 The site is approximately 2ha in extent and is located on the east side of the A363 (Bradley Road), south of Wiltshire Drive, c.1.5km south of Trowbridge town centre. The site was formerly occupied by the WWDC offices which were demolished in 2012. The site lies at approximately 45m AOD and is broadly level.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Oxford Clay Formation – Mudstone of the Jurassic period (BGS 2018). Silty clay with mudstone flecking was recorded during the evaluation.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site has been subject to Heritage Assessment (CA 2017) that is summarised below.
- 2.2 This assessment identified that no designated heritage assets are located within the site. In addition, it noted that there are no known prehistoric and/or Roman features or finds recorded within the application area (ibid.). Within the wider environs an evaluation at Ashton Park (c.730m east of the site) identified a series of prehistoric and Roman features as well as medieval through to modern agricultural features (CA 2014).

- 2.3 The current site was historically recorded as agricultural land until the 1960s when the former WWDC offices were constructed (CA 2017).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation were to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality, in accordance *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). This information will enable WC to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of nine trenches in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Trenches 1 to 6 inclusive each measured 20m in length and 1.8m in width. Trench 7 was reduced to 15m in length and 1.8m in width due to buried services, and similarly Trenches 8 and 9/9a measured 9m and 12m in length respectively and 1.8m in width due to buried contaminants (asbestos and hydrocarbons). The trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual*.
- 4.2 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*. No deposits were identified that required

sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.

- 4.4 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Trowbridge Museum. 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 (FIGS 2-3)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B respectively.
- 5.2 The natural geological substrate, consisting of silty clay with mudstone flecking, was identified at a typical depth of 0.5m below the present ground level (bpgl). Ceramic field drains cutting the natural substrate were identified within Trenches 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6. Within Trenches 1, 4, and 5 the natural substrate was immediately sealed by modern reworked soils containing brick and concrete that measured approximately 0.5m thick and were overlain by a modern vegetation layer.
- 5.3 Within Trenches 2, 3 and 6 the natural substrate was sealed by Type 1 stone chippings, up to 0.4m in thickness, that in turn was covered by tarmacadam surfacing.
- 5.4 Within Trench 7 the natural substrate was cut by ditch 705 that was identified on a broadly north-west/south-east alignment. It had moderate sides, a concave base and measured 0.9m in width and 0.2m in depth. It contained silty sandy-clay fill 704 from which five sherds of 19th-century pottery (now discarded) were recovered. The ditch was sealed by buried soil 702, measuring approximately 0.35m thick, that was covered by modern demolition material 701 (up to 0.35m thick) which in turn was overlain by topsoil 700.
- 5.5 Within Trenches 8 and 9 the natural substrate was sealed by modern reworked soils containing brick, concrete, plasterboard, and asbestos (Trench 8). These deposits measured between 0.4m thick in Trench 8 and approximately 1.8m thick in Trench 9

where it was recorded in association with a modern raised bank. The reworked soils were sealed by modern turf measuring approximately 0.2m thick.

6. DISCUSSION

6.1 Ditch 704 was the only feature pre-dating the modern period that was identified during the current works. Pottery dated the feature to the 19th century and it also broadly corresponds with a field boundary first depicted on the Manuscript Map of the Manor of Trowbridge 1776 by J. Sartain (see CA 2017 Fig. 2 & Photographs 4 – 5). It is recorded on cartographic sources until the construction of the WWDC offices in the 1960s.

6.2 Within the remaining trenches the natural substrate was immediately sealed by deposits comprising, or incorporating, modern building rubble or stone levelling for the existing tarmacadam hardstanding. All are likely to be associated with the construction and subsequent demolition of the WWDC offices. The survival of ditch 704 and the field drains within Trenches 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 would suggest that any modern truncation within the current site was not extensive, and consequently large, substantive archaeological features would have survived if present.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Daniel Sausins, assisted by Gary Baddeley and Nathan Chinchin. The report was written by Daniel Sausins. The illustrations were prepared by Charlotte Patman. The archive has been compiled by Daniel Sausins and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.

8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2018 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 9 May 2018

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 *Former WWDC Offices, Bradley Road, Trowbridge, Wiltshire; Heritage Desk-Based Assessment* CA typescript report **17245**

CA 2018 *Former WWDC Offices, Bradley Road, Trowbridge, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*



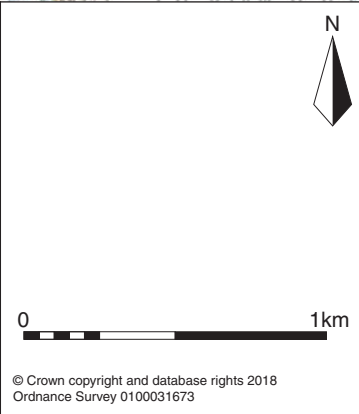
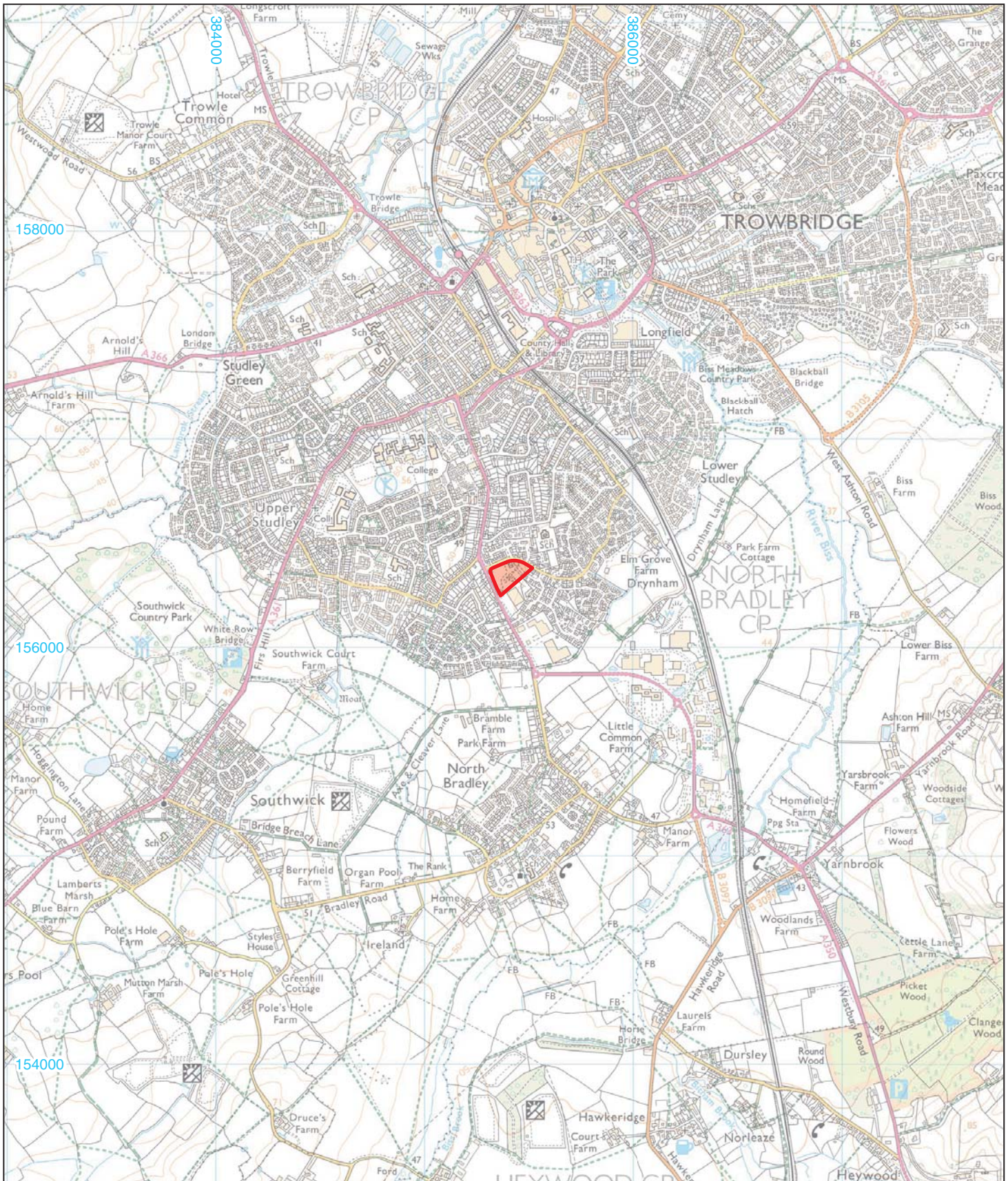
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Vegetation	Dark brown grey clay silt with type 1 stone chipping and rooting			0.03	
1	101	Layer		Demolition rubble	Re-deposited natural, stone chippings and brick rubble			0.5	
1	102	Layer		Natural substrate	Light brown-yellow with blue-grey mottling silt clay with mudstone flecking				
2	200	Layer		Surface	Black tarmac			0.15	
2	201	Layer		Consolidation	Pinkish type 1 stone chippings			0.4	
2	202	Layer		Natural substrate	Light brown-yellow and blue-grey silt clay				
3	300	Layer		Surface	Black tarmac			0.2	
3	301	Layer		Consolidation	Pinkish type 1 stone chippings			0.52	
3	302	Layer		Natural substrate	Light brown-yellow and blue-grey silt clay				
4	400	Layer		Vegetation	Mid grey-brown clay silt with rooting			0.1	
4	401	Layer		Made-ground	Redeposited natural with brick rubble and stone chippings			0.5	
4	402	Layer		Natural substrate	Light brown-yellow and blue-grey silt clay				
5	500	Layer		Vegetation	Mid grey clay silt			0.1	
5	501	Layer		Demolition rubble	Re-deposited natural, stone chippings and brick rubble			0.2	
5	502	Layer		Disturbed soil	Light yellow-brown silty sandy-clay with occasional brick rubble			0.2	
5	503	Layer		Natural substrate	Light brown yellow and blue grey silt clay				
5	504	Layer		Modern soil	Mid grey brown silty clay with rubble fragments			>0.1	
6	600	Layer		Surface	Black tarmac			0.1	
6	601	Layer		Consolidation	Pinkish type 1 stone chippings			0.4	
6	602	Layer		Natural substrate	Light brown-yellow and blue-grey silt clay				
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown grey clay silt			0.15	
7	701	Layer		Made-ground	Rubble including chalk, stone and plastic			0.35	
7	702	Layer		Buried soil	Mid grey brown clay sand with CBM flecking			0.35	
7	703	Layer		Natural substrate	Light brown yellow silt clay				
7	704	Fill	705	Ditch fill	Light yellow-brown silty sandy clay	>1.8	0.9	0.21	C19
7	705	Cut		Ditch	Aligned NW/SE, moderate sides, concave base	>1.8	0.9	0.21	
8	800	Layer		Turf	Mid black grey clay loam			0.14	
8	801	Layer		Made-ground	Mid yellow-brown clay silt with concrete and brick rubble, polystyrene sheeting and asbestos			0.45	
8	802	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow silty clay with mudstone flecking				
9	900	Layer		Turf	Dull grey brown clay silt loam			0.2	
9	901	Layer		Disturbed soil	Mid grey brown clay silt with modern metal objects			0.4	
9	902	Layer		Natural substrate	Light brown yellow silt clay				

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
9	903	Cut		Landscaping	Irregular in plan and profile	>14.0	>1.8	>1.0	
9	904	Fill	904	Landscaping material	Yellow brown silt clay with concrete rubble, plaster and contaminated with hydrocarbons	>14.0	>1.8	>1.0	

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Former WWDC Offices, Bradley Road, Trowbridge, Wiltshire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in July 2018 at the former West Wiltshire District Council (WDDC) offices, Bradley Road, Trowbridge, Wiltshire. Nine trenches were excavated.</p> <p>The earliest feature/deposit encountered was a small ditch dating to the 19th century. Elsewhere, modern truncation associated with the construction and subsequent demolition of the WWDC offices was recorded.</p>	
Project dates	25 – 30 July 2018	
Project type	Archaeological Evaluation	
Previous work	Desk Based Assessment (CA 2017)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Bradley Road, Trowbridge	
Study area (M ² /ha)	Approx. 2 ha	
Site co-ordinates	385397 156331	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	n/a	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Daniel Sausins	
MONUMENT TYPE	none	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	none	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Trowbridge Museum	n/a
Paper	Trowbridge Museum	Trench sheets, context sheets, section drawings, photo registers
Digital	Trowbridge Museum	Database, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2018 <i>Former WWDC, Bradley Road, Trowbridge, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i>. CA typescript report 18396</p>		




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

PROJECT TITLE
 Former WWDC Offices, Bradley Road,
 Trowbridge, Wiltshire
FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

DRAWN BY	CP	PROJECT NO.	6702	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	02/08/2018	
APPROVED BY	CMB	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	1

© Crown copyright and database rights 2018
 Ordnance Survey 0100031673



- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Demolished building footprint
- Archaeological feature (excavated/unexcavated)
- Field drain
- Modern



© Crown copyright and database rights 2018 Ordnance Survey 0100031673

Cotswold Archaeology

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

PROJECT TITLE
 Former WWDC Offices, Bradley Road,
 Trowbridge, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
**Trench location plan showing
 identified features**

DRAWN BY	CP	PROJECT NO.	6702	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	02/08/2018	2
APPROVED BY	CMB	SCALE@A3	1:750	

P:\6702 Bradley Road Trowbridge Mills EVAL\Illustration\Drafts\6702 Former WWDC Offices Fig.02.dwg



Post-medieval ditch 704, looking north-west (scale 1m)



Trench 8 section, showing modern deposits sealing natural clays



Trench 9 overview, looking north-east (scales 1m)



Trench 3 overview, looking north-west (scales 1m)

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

Unit 8 - The IO Centre
Fingle Drive
Stonebridge
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire
MK13 0AT

t: 01908 564660

e: enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

