

**MILDENHALL COURT
11 OXFORD STREET
LAMBOURN
WEST BERKSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

For

HANNICK HOMES

CA PROJECT: 2495
CA REPORT: 08006


JANUARY 2008



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11 OXFORD STREET
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CA PROJECT: 2495
CA REPORT: 08006

prepared by	Neil J. Adam, Senior Project Officer
date	09 January 2008
checked by	Richard Young, Project Manager
date	10 January 2008
approved by	Mark Collard, Head of Contracts
signed	
date	11 January 2008
issue	01

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Mildenhall Court
Location: 11 Oxford Street, Lambourn, West Berkshire
NGR: SU 3276 7893
Type: Evaluation
Date: 07 January 2008
Planning Reference: 07/02442/FULD
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Newbury Museum
Site Code: MCL 08

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in January 2008 at the request of Hannick Homes at Mildenhall Court, 11 Oxford Street, Lambourn, West Berkshire. One trench was excavated, no archaeological deposits, features, or structures pre-dating the modern period were observed.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In January 2008 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Hannick Homes at Mildenhall Court, 11 Oxford Street, Lambourn, West Berkshire (centred on NGR: SU 3276 7893; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application (ref. 07/02442/FULD) for the demolition of existing buildings and the erection of new flats with associated works and car parking. The evaluation was requested by West Berkshire Council Archaeology Service (WBCAS) prior to the determination of the application.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a memorandum (WBCAS 2007) issued by Ms Sarah Orr, Sites and Monuments Officer WBCAS, and with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2007) and approved by Mr Duncan Coe, Archaeological Officer, WBCAS. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (2001) and the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991). It was monitored by Mr Coe, including a site visit on 7 January 2008.

The site

- 1.3 The site consists of an L-shaped plot of land approximately 1175m² in area and located at 11 Oxford Street close to the centre of Lambourn. The plot is generally flat and lies at approximately 126m AOD on a plateau of ground that is slightly raised above the surrounding area. The site contains a number of small brick buildings some of which currently house local businesses. The space between these buildings is covered with patches of tarmac, concrete and compact gravel and is used as a car park for the local businesses. The single trench was located at the southern end of the site on an open area covered with compacted gravel chippings (Fig. 2).
- 1.4 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Middle Chalk of the Upper Cretaceous era (BGS 1947). A very light brown degraded version of this chalk sealed by a thin layer of river gravels was encountered within the evaluation trench.

Archaeological background

- 1.5 Interest in the site arises from the location of Mildenhall Court within the historic core of Lambourn. The settlement is known to have Saxon origins, being a probable royal residence in the 9th century AD and is first documented in the will of King Alfred c. AD 888. Recent archaeological work in the centre of Lambourn has found evidence of early Saxon occupation dating back to the 5th century AD. Excavations at Bourne House Stables located 100m to the east of the current site have uncovered important Saxon structures (WBCAS 2007).

Archaeological objectives

- 1.7 The objectives of the evaluation were to provide data on the date, character, quality, survival and extent of the archaeological deposits, within the application area in order that an informed decision on their importance in a local, regional or national context could be made. This information would clarify whether any remains were of sufficient importance to warrant consideration for preservation *in situ*, or alternatively form the basis of mitigation measures that might seek to limit damage to significant remains

Methodology

- 1.8 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of one trench measuring 15m x 1.6m (Fig. 2).
- 1.9 The trench was 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* (2007).
- 1.10 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* (2003). No samples were taken. No artefacts pre-dating the modern period were recovered during the evaluation. The modern artefacts were not retained.

- 1.11 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Newbury 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.

2. RESULTS

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results and detailed summaries of the recorded contexts.

Trench 1 (Figs 2 & 3)

- 2.3 The excavation of Trench 1 exposed a weathered chalk substrate. This chalk dipped steeply from a depth of 0.60m below present ground level (BPGL) 0.80m from the south-western end of the trench down to 1.9m BPGL a further 1.8m to the north-east. The chalk undulated slightly along the rest of the length of the trench but remained between 1.8 and 2m below the gravel surface of Mildenhall Court.
- 2.4 A single sub-circular feature 108 was cut into the degraded chalk close to the northern end of the trench. This measured 1.15m by 1.02 and was 0.39m deep with steep sides and a rounded base. It was filled with light greyish brown silty clay 107 that contained frequent angular and rounded stones. The form and function of this feature could not be determined. No datable material was recovered from it. An east/west aligned modern storm drain 110 was exposed c. 1.5m to the south-west of feature 108.
- 2.5 Feature 108 was sealed below a series of redeposited layers 102 to 105 that ran the length of the trench and had a combined depth of c. 1.5m. These deposits infilled the dip in the chalk substrate and created the plateau of slightly raised ground on which the site is located. All of these layers were mixtures of former topsoil with clays and chalk debris and contained large amounts of modern brick, tile, glass, iron work and pottery. None of these items were retained.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The drop in the depth of the chalk substrate across the site appears to represent the southern edge of a former terrace of the River Lambourn which is located some 200m to the east of the site. The successive layers of redeposited soil and waste material 102-105 appear to have been deliberately dumped across the site from the late 19th century onwards in an attempt to infill this part of the terrace and to create an area of flat ground on which to build. Feature 108, although undated, is filled with a deposit 107 which is identical in colour, compaction and texture to layer 105 above and as a result it is likely that it is also modern in date.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Neil J. Adam, assisted by Steve Sheldon. The report was written by Neil J. Adam. The illustrations were prepared by Jemma Elliot. The archive has been compiled by Neil J. Adam, and prepared for deposition by Kathryn Price. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (*British Geological Survey*) 1947 *Geological Survey of Great Britain, sheet 267, 1:50,000*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2007 Mildenhall Court, 11 Oxford Street, Lambourn, West Berkshire: *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

WBCAS (West Berkshire Council Archaeology Service) 2007 *Memorandum; Demolition of existing buildings and erection of 2 no.1 bedroom and 7 no.2 bedroom flats with car parking and associated works. Mildenhall Court, 11 Oxford Street, Lambourn (App No. 07/02442/FULD)*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1 (126.3m AOD at ground level, south-western end of trench and 126.21m AOD at north-eastern end. 125.42m AOD on the top of the natural substrate, south-western end of trench. 124.29m AOD at the north-eastern end)

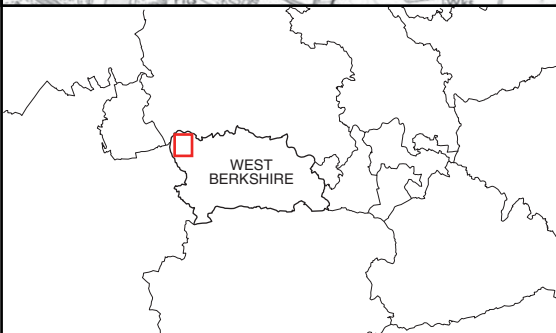
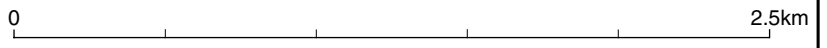
No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
101	Layer	Greyish brown gravel. Modern yard surface			0.2	Modern
102	Layer	Mid greyish brown silty clay with sparse red brick fragments and rare greyish white mortar flecks. Levelling deposit			0.5-0.8m	Modern
103	Layer	Dark greyish brown silty clay with frequent glass, charcoal and slate contributing to the friable nature of the deposit. Probable bottle dump.	1.4m	n/k	0.2	Modern
104	Layer	Pale grey silty clay with sparse whitish grey mortar inclusions. Very rare red brick fragments. Probable levelling deposit.			0.3	Modern
105	Layer	Mid grey silty clay with sparse chalk fleck inclusions. Probable levelling deposit			0.5-0.6m	Modern
106	Layer	Greyish white degraded chalk. Natural substrate			n/k	Natural
107	Deposit	Light greyish brown silty clay with frequent rounded and angular stone inclusions along with fragments of degraded chalk. Fill of feature 108.	1.15m	1.02 m	0.39m	Modern
108	Cut	Sub circular pit of unknown date or function. Filled with deposit 107.	1.15m	1.02 m	0.39m	Modern
109	Deposit	Mid greyish brown silty clay with sparse red brick inclusions. Fill of cut 110.	2.5m+	0.5m	n/k	Modern
110	Cut	Construction cut for modern storm drain. Filled with deposit 109.	2.5m+	0.5m	n/k	Modern

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Mildenhall Court	
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in January 2008 at Mildenhall Court, Lambourn at the request of Hannick Homes. One trench was excavated, no archaeological deposits, features, or structures predating the modern period were observed.	
Project dates	7 January 2008	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Field Evaluation.	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	N/A	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	11 Oxford Street, Lambourn, West Berkshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	1175m ²	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SU 3276 7893	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	West Berkshire Council Archaeology Service	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Neil J. Adam	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content Excavation records and drawings, copy of evaluation report
Physical		None
Paper	Newbury Museum	Trench record sheets, Context sheets, drawings, levels record
Digital		None

BIBLIOGRAPHY	
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2007 Mildenhall Court, 11 Oxford Street, Lambourn, West Berkshire: <i>Archaeological Evaluation, CA typescript report no. 08006</i></p>	

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COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

**Mildenhall Court, 11 Oxford Street
 Lambourn West Berkshire**

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

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SCALE

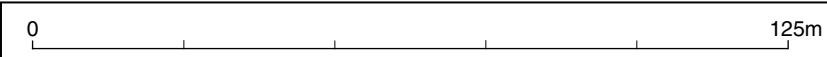
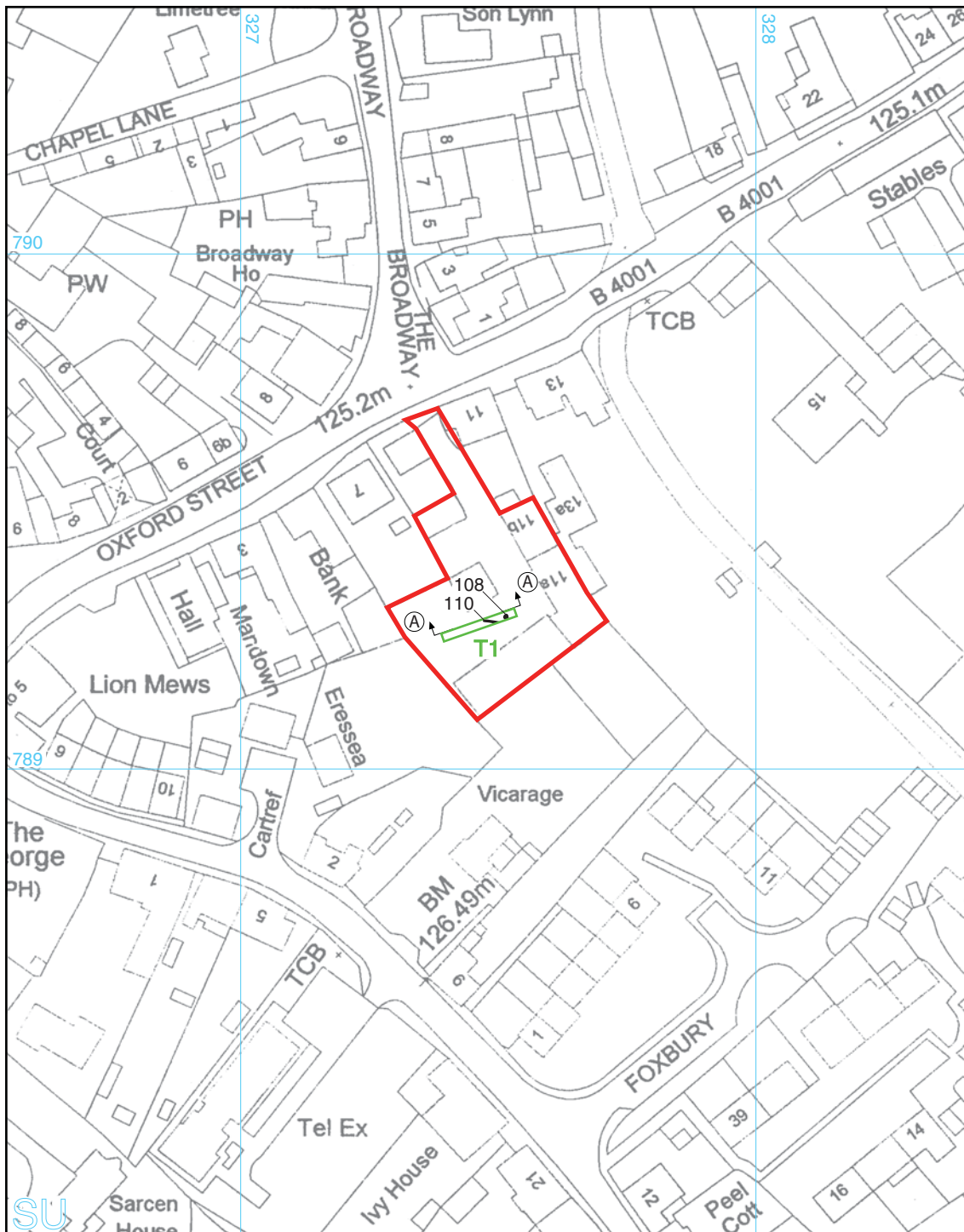
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PROJECT NO.

2495

FIGURE NO.

1



- site
- evaluation trench showing archaeological feature



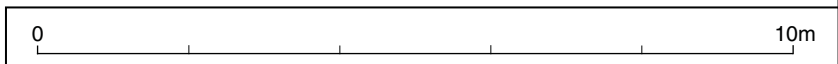
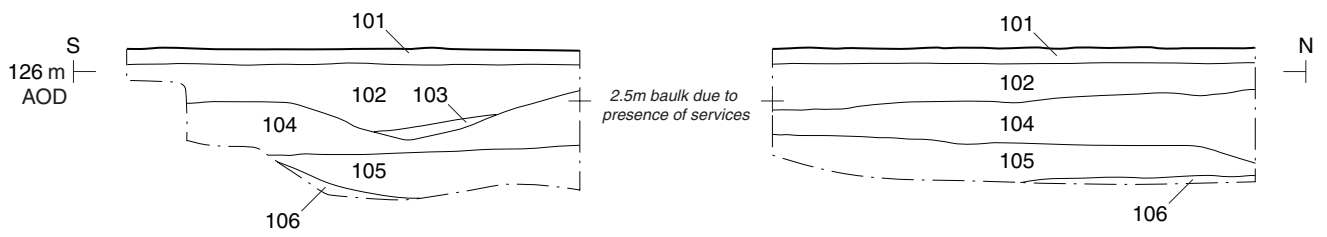
COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE
**Mildenhall Court, 11 Oxford Street
 Lambourn West Berkshire**

FIGURE TITLE
**Trench location plan showing all
 archaeological features**

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Section AA



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

Mildenhall Court, 11 Oxford Street
Lambourn West Berkshire

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 1: Section AA

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FIGURE NO.

3