

**BARNES COACHES SITE
ALDBOURNE
WILTSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

For

HANNICK HOMES

CA PROJECT: 2536
CA REPORT: 08054


MARCH 2008



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date	17 March 2008
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SUMMARY

Project Name: Barnes Coaches Site
Location: Aldbourne, Wiltshire
NGR: SU 2635 7560
Type: Evaluation
Date: 20-22 February 2008
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Wiltshire Heritage Museum
Site Code: BCA 08

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February 2008 at the request of Hannick Homes at the Barnes Coaches Site, Aldbourne. In compliance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation, three trenches were excavated.

A possible Anglo-Saxon ditch was recorded at 0.6m below present ground level. It was cut into the underlying chalk natural and sealed by modern subsoil, topsoil and recent yard surfaces. An undated ditch had very similar form and fills to the possible Anglo-Saxon ditch, and may be of the same date. A modern wall foundation and modern pit were also encountered.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In February 2008 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation at the request of Hannick Homes at the Barnes Coaches Site, Aldbourne, Wiltshire (centred on NGR: SU 2635 7560; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken prior to the submission of a planning application.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2008) and approved by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, County Archaeologist, Wiltshire County Council (WCC), archaeological advisor to Kennet District Council. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (2001), the *Standards for Archaeological Assessment and Field Evaluation* (WCC Archaeological Service 1995), and the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991). It was monitored by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, including a site visit on 21 February 2008.

The site

- 1.3 The site encloses an area of approximately 0.3ha, and comprises the Barnes Coach Depot and an associated tarmac parking area. The site lies to the west of West Street behind current domestic dwellings at approximately 128m AOD (Fig. 2).
- 1.4 The underlying geology of the site is recorded as chalk (BGS 1971). The strata belong to the Upper Cretaceous, middle chalk formation overlain by river and valley gravel. The chalk was encountered in all three trenches.

Archaeological background

- 1.5 The site lies in an area of archaeological interest. Evidence for Prehistoric activity in the area includes assemblages of Neolithic and Mesolithic flints found to the north of the site, whilst sherds of Bronze Age pottery have been uncovered immediately to the north at Pudley Cottage. Aldbourne is situated to the south of Ermine Way, and a number of Romano-British artefacts have been found in the vicinity of the site including sherds of pottery immediately to the north, again at Pudley Cottage, sherds of pottery associated with a compacted flint surface to the north-west at Manor Farm,

and a bronze buckle and two coins at the Old Rectory to the south-east. These suggest the possibility of a nearby settlement.

- 1.6 Aldbourne itself is first recorded as Aldincburnan in AD 970, and archaeological work immediately to the north of the site at West Street House in 2004 revealed evidence of medieval domestic activity to the rear of the historic street frontage, suggesting a high potential for further medieval activity within the site.

Archaeological objectives

- 1.7 The objectives of the evaluation were to establish the character, quality, date and extent of any archaeological remains or deposits surviving within the site. This information will assist Kennet District Council in making an informed judgement on the significance of the archaeological resource, and the likely impact upon it of the proposed development.

Methodology

- 1.9 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of three trenches: Trench 1 measured 18.5m in length and 1.6m wide, Trench 2 measured 24m in length and 1.6m wide and Trench 3 was 15m in length and 1.6m wide, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). The trenches were positioned to give maximum coverage of the foundation footprint of the proposed development.
- 1.10 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* (2007).
- 1.11 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) and no deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of Finds Immediately After Excavation* (1995).

- 1.12 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the site archive will be deposited with the Wiltshire Heritage Museum. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, 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; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendix A and of the finds in Appendix B. Details of the relative heights of the principal deposits and features expressed as metres Above Ordnance Datum (m AOD) appear in Appendix C.
- 2.2 Moved from its proposed location due to the presence of live services and a thick capping of concrete, Trench 3 contained no archaeological features. The natural chalk showed signs of modern disturbance probably related to garden activities. Buried modern topsoil was identified sealed by a series of build up and bedding layers forming the base for the existing brick yard surface.

Trench 1 (Figs 2 and 3)

- 2.3 The earliest deposit encountered in Trench 1 consisted of chalk 1003 and represents the natural horizon. This deposit was cut by ditch, 1005 that was filled with a clay silt containing a single sherd of 5th to 9th century pottery and a hand forged iron nail of Roman or later date. The chalk 1003 was also cut by an undated posthole 1011 and an undated ditch 1009. A modern wall foundation trench 1007 contained modern brick which was noted during excavation although not recovered. Foundation 1007 cut ditch 1005. The above features and deposits were sealed by topsoil 1002 and subsequently a concrete and brick yard surface 1001.

Trench 2 (Fig. 2)

- 2.4 A chalk layer 2003, similar to that identified in the other trenches constituted the natural horizon within Trench 2. A sub-rectangular pit 2005 cut chalk 2003 and was filled with clay silt containing modern ceramic building material, 18th/19th century

pottery and animal bone. The overlying bedding layer 2002 was sealed by a concrete yard surface 2001.

The Finds and Palaeoenvironmental Evidence

- 2.5 A single sherd of slightly abraded 5th to 9th century pottery was recovered from deposit 1004, along with a hand forged iron nail of Roman or later date, and a sheep sized long bone. Deposit 2004 contained two sherds of 18th to 19th century hand painted white china, as well as a number of animal bones from cattle sheep or goats, and a juvenile pig.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Three phases of activity were identified: Anglo-Saxon, undated and modern. These were represented by pits, postholes, ditches and a wall foundation cut. All were covered by modern yard surfaces related to the site's previous use as a coach depot.
- 3.2 Comparable natural deposits 1003, 2003 and 3011 were identified across the whole of the development area between 0.39 and 0.93m below present ground surface and showed evidence of modern disturbance.
- 3.3 One feature of possible Anglo-Saxon date was encountered. Ditch 1005 contained artefacts consistent with the disposal of domestic and farm waste; this included a single sherd of 5th to 9th century pottery. The sherd is only slightly abraded, suggesting that it is not residual, but as the only securely dated artefact within the feature it cannot be discounted that the ditch may be of medieval or later date.
- 3.4 The undated features consisted of posthole 1011 and ditch 1009. Posthole 1011 contained a fill similar to, and is probably contemporary with, the overlying topsoil 1002. Although undated, ditch 1009 had a very similar form and fills to ditch 1005 and probably dates to that phase of activity.

- 3.5 Modern features consisted of pit 2005 and wall foundation trench 1007, and probably relate to the use of the site as gardens prior to the construction of the concrete and brick yard surfaces of the coach depot.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Ray Holt, assisted by Matt Edmonds and Rebecca Riley. The report was written by Ray Holt. The illustrations were prepared by Lorna Gray. The archive has been compiled by Ray Holt, and prepared for deposition by Kathryn Price. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

5. REFERENCES

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008 *Barnes Coaches site, Aldbourne, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1971 *Geological Survey of England and Wales Sheet 267 Hungerford Solid and drift edition 1:63360. 4th Edition*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1001	Layer	Concrete and brick yard surface			0.28	Modern
1002	Layer	Buried topsoil below 1001			0.64	
1003	Layer	Chalk natural				
1004	Fill	Fill of 1005	2.5	0.41	0.11	Anglo-Saxon
1005	Cut	East – west orientated ditch filled by 1004	2.5	0.41	0.11	Anglo-Saxon
1006	Fill	Fill of wall foundation trench 1007	1.6	0.78	0.2	Modern
1007	Cut	Wall foundation trench filled by 1006	1.6	0.78	0.2	Modern
1008	Fill	Fill of 1009	2.3	0.55	0.2	
1009	Cut	North south orientated ditch filled by 1008	2.3	0.55	0.2	
1010	Fill	Fill of 1011	0.35	0.35	0.26	
1011	Cut	Posthole filled by 1010	0.35	0.35	0.26	

Trench 2

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
2001	Layer	Concrete yard surface			0.18	Modern
2002	Layer	Bedding layer for concrete 2001			0.32	Modern
2003	Layer	Chalk natural				
2004	Fill	Fill of 2005	1.3	1.15	0.32	Modern
2005	Cut	Sub rectangular pit	1.3	1.15	0.32	Modern

Trench 3

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
3000	Layer	Brick yard surface			0.055	Modern
3001	Layer	Bedding layer for 3000			0.05	Modern
3002	Layer	Bedding layer for 3000, below 3001			0.15	Modern
3003	Layer	Build up deposit below 3002			0.2	Modern
3004	Layer	Buried topsoil below 3003			0.25	
3005	Cut	Modern disturbance into underlying natural 3011	1.7	1.6	0.1	
3006	Fill	Fill of 3005	1.7	1.6	0.1	
3007	Cut	Modern disturbance into underlying natural 3011	1.2	0.7	0.1	
3008	Fill	Fill of 3007	1.2	0.7	0.1	
3009	Cut	Modern disturbance into underlying natural 3011	0.6	0.6	0.1	
3010	Fill	Fill of 3008	0.6	0.6	0.1	
3011	Layer	Chalk natural				

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Quantities of pottery, ceramic building material, animal bone and metalwork were recovered from three layers.

The pottery consisted of three sherds; two of modern hand painted white china of 18th to 19th century date from layer 2004, the single fill of pit 2005, and one slightly abraded body sherd of coarse quartz and fossil shell tempered pottery from layer 1004, the single fill of ditch 1005, possibly of Early to Middle Saxon date (5th to 9th centuries).

A hand-forged iron nail from layer 1004. This may be of Roman or later date.

Animal bone was recovered from three deposits. The bulk of that from 2004 was identified as a juvenile pig skeleton. The pig bones although porous were very well preserved contrasting with the sheep/goat and cattle specimens which showed evidence of weathering. The animal bone from 1004 and 1006 was also weathered. The sheep-sized long bone from 1006 had been split vertically. The pig skeleton appears to be quite recent; the other animal bones from 2004 are probably residual deriving from reworking of earlier deposits at the time the pig carcass was buried.

Context	Artefact type	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
1004	Pottery: quartz and fossil shell tempered	1	10	C5–C9
	Ceramic building material: brick	1	2	
	Iron nail	1	114	
	Animal bone: sheep-sized	1	1	
1006	Ceramic building material: brick, tile	2	368	-
	Animal bone: sheep-sized	1	10	
2004	Pottery: hand painted china	2	1	C18–C19
	Ceramic building material: brick	4	22	
	Animal bone: cattle, sheep/goat, pig, cow-sized	126	530	

APPENDIX C: LEVELS OF PRINCIPAL DEPOSITS AND STRUCTURES

Levels are expressed as metres below current ground level and as metres Above Ordnance Datum (AOD), calculated using a spot height located adjacent to Trench 1 (128.25m AOD).

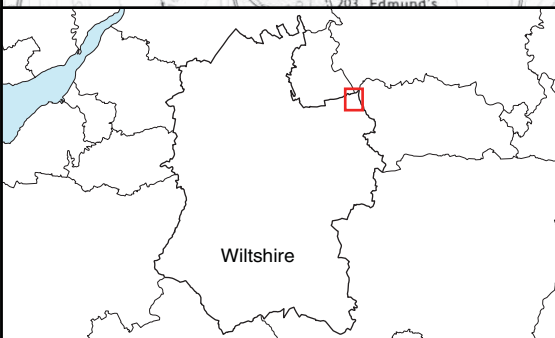
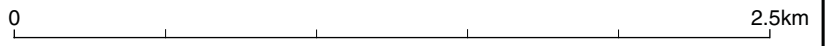
	Trench 1	Trench 2	Trench 3
Current ground level	0.00m (128.42m – 128.95m)	0.00m (128.32m – 128.83m)	0.00m (127.44m – 127.81m)
Base of modern yard surface	0.28m (128.14m – 128.67m)	0.5m (127.82m – 128.32m)	0.45m (126.99m – 127.31m)
Top of natural deposits	0.59m – 0.93m (127.83m – 128.02m)	0.45m - 0.62m (127.87m – 128.21m)	0.39m – 0.5m (126.94m - 127.42m)


Upper figures are depth below modern ground level; lower figures in parentheses are metres AOD.

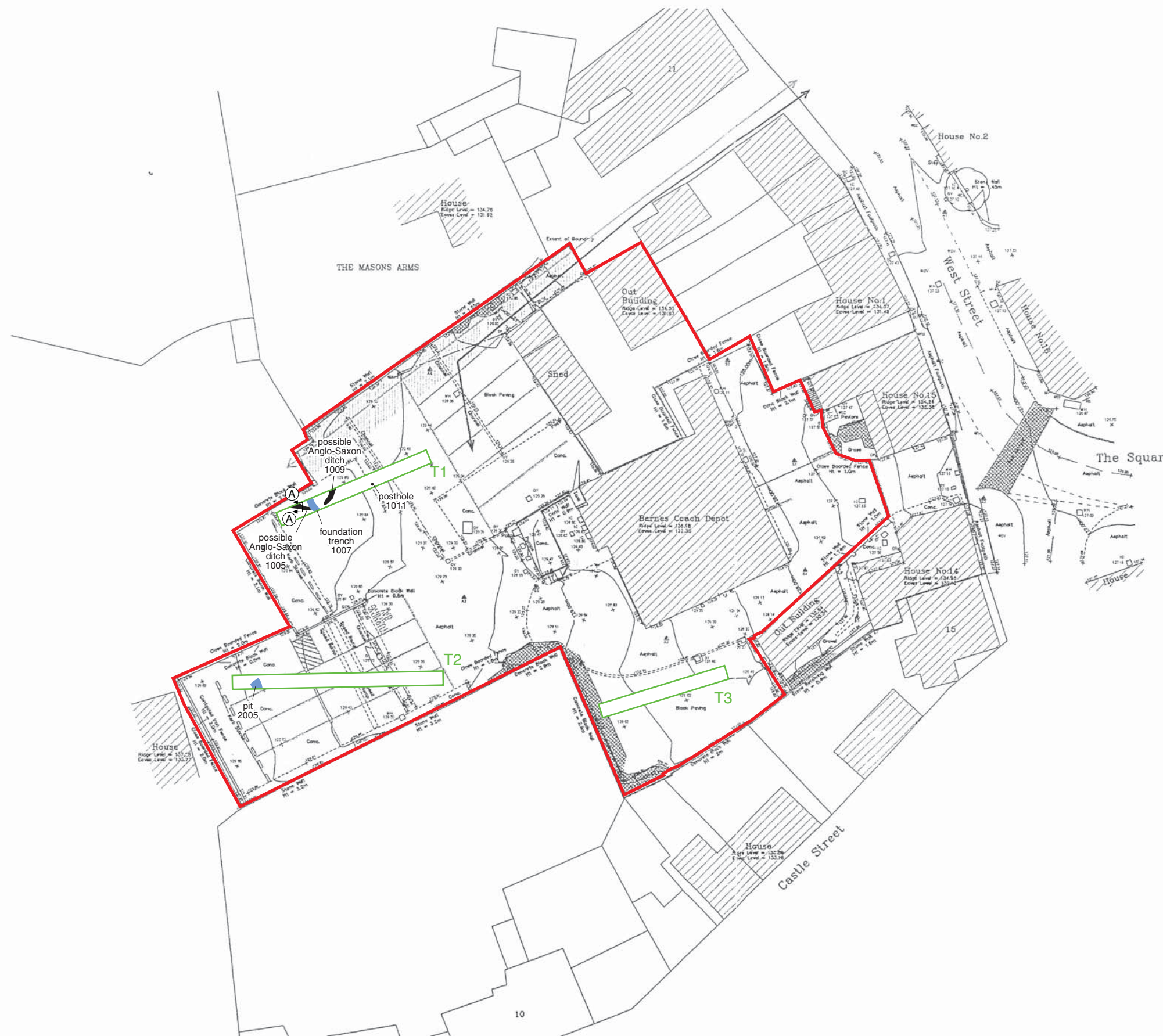
APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Barnes Coaches Site, Aldbourne, Wiltshire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February 2008 at the request of Hannick Homes at the Barnes Coaches Site, Aldbourne. In compliance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation, three trenches were excavated.</p> <p>A possible Anglo-Saxon ditch was recorded at 0.6m below present ground level. It was cut into the underlying chalk natural and sealed by modern subsoil, topsoil and recent yard surfaces. An undated ditch had very similar form and fills to the possible Anglo-Saxon ditch, and may be of the same date. A modern wall foundation and modern pit were also encountered.</p>	
Project dates	20-22 February 2008	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Field evaluation	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Barnes Coaches Site, Aldbourne, Wiltshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.3ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SU 2635 7560	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Wiltshire County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Ray Holt	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Wiltshire Heritage Museum	Pottery, ceramic building material, animal bone, iron nail
Paper	Wiltshire Heritage Museum	Trench recording forms, Day record sheets, Photographic register, Levels register, Plans, Matrices
Digital		None
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008 <i>Barnes Coaches Site, Aldbourne, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> CA Report No. 08054		

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 COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY			
PROJECT TITLE Barnes Coaches Site, Aldbourne Wiltshire			
FIGURE TITLE Site location plan			
DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
LG	1:25,000@A4	2536	1



- site
- evaluation trench
- archaeological feature
- modern feature



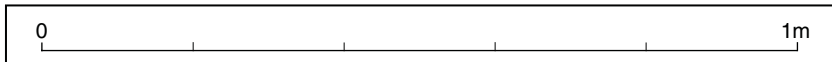
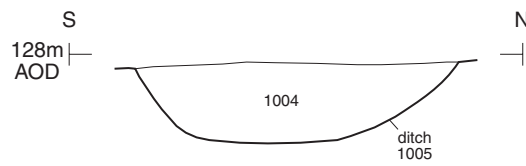
PROJECT TITLE
Barnes Coaches Site, Aldbourne
Wiltshire

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

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LG	1:500@A3	2536	2



Trench 1; section AA



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

Barnes Coaches Site, Aldbourne
Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 1; section AA

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LG

SCALE

1:10@A4

PROJECT NO.

2536

FIGURE NO.

3