

**FORMER DAIRY CREST DEPOT
WESTMINSTER LANE, NEWPORT
ISLE OF WIGHT**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

For

CgMs CONSULTING

on behalf of

MCCARTHY AND STONE

CA PROJECT: 2492
CA REPORT: 08041


APRIL 2008



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CA PROJECT: 2492
CA REPORT: 08041

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date	4 April 2008
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signed	
date	4 April 2008
issue	01

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Former Dairy Crest Depot
Location: Westminster Lane, Newport, Isle of Wight
NGR: SZ 4953 8921
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 23 January – 21 February 2008
Planning Reference: P/03014/06 – TCP/00502/X
Location of Archive: Museum of Island History, Newport
Site Code: DCN 08

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a 2/3 storey block of flats at the Former Dairy Crest Depot, Westminster Lane, Newport, Isle of Wight. The watching brief was undertaken at the request of CgMs Consulting on behalf of McCarthy and Stone.

An undated drain, possibly relating to the post-medieval mill was identified. No other features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In January and February 2008 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for CgMs Consulting, on behalf of McCarthy and Stone, at the Former Dairy Crest Depot, Westminster Lane, Newport, Isle of Wight (centred on NGR: SZ 4953 8921; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent for the demolition of the existing buildings and the construction of a 2/3 storey block of 46 units of sheltered accommodation for elderly persons; closure of existing vehicular access and new vehicular access off Westminster Lane, parking & landscaping (Planning ref: P/03014/06–TCP/00502/X). The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the development.

1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief produced by CgMs Consulting (2007) and approved by Mr Owen Cambridge, Planning Archaeologist, Isle of Wight Council. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (2001), and the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991). It was monitored by Mr Owen Cambridge, including site visits on 5 and 20 February 2008.

The site

1.3 The site is bounded to the south-east by Westminster Lane and Old Westminster Lane, to the south-west by Westminster Lane House, to the north-west by a further construction site and to the north-east by Mill Lane (Fig. 2). The site slopes downwards from the north-west to the south-east and lies at between 6.35m AOD and 5.8m AOD.

1.4 The site is approximately 0.2ha in area and contains the demolished remains of the Dairy Crest Depot.

1.5 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Hamstead Beds and Bembridge Marls of the Tertiary era (IGS 1979).

Archaeological background

- 1.6 The archaeological potential of the site is detailed within the Desk-Based Assessment WSI (CgMs 2006) and is summarised below.
- 1.7 The area surrounding Newport was apparently densely occupied during the Romano-British period and it has been suggested that there may be a settlement dating to this period towards the River Medina within the northern part of the town. However there is no evidence for Romano-British activity within the site.
- 1.8 The town of Newport appears to have medieval origins and was fairly prosperous until the middle of the 14th century when it entered a period of decline. At least one mill was located within Newport during the medieval period and as the site straddles the Lugley Brook and contained a mill during the post-medieval period, it is thought that the site may have contained a mill dating to the medieval period.
- 1.9 The earliest reliable map that depicts the site is John Speed's map of the island dated 1611. Although the legend on this map coincides with the site making it unclear whether any mill structures were present at this time. However, it is clear that it lay beyond the built up area of Newport.
- 1.10 The first edition Ordnance Survey 25" scale map (1864) shows the site occupied by Home Mill, its associated mill pond and an orchard. Home Mill straddles the mill pond with the northern part of the mill extending beyond the present site boundary. Home Mill was demolished sometime between WWII and 1962 when the dairy buildings were first shown on an Ordnance Survey map. The site has remained essentially unchanged from this time, until the current development (CgMs 2007).

Methodology

- 1.11 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the *Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (CgMs 2007). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising the excavation of foundation trenches within the site (Fig. 2).
- 1.12 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).

- 1.13 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) but no deposits were identified that required sampling. Modern finds were identified during the watching brief but were not retained.
- 1.14 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. The site archive will be deposited with the Museum of Island History, Newport. 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 The natural geological substrate 007 and 013, consisting of blue grey clay was revealed intermittently across the site at an average depth of 0.9m to 1.1m below present ground level (bpgl). Drain 011, orientated south-west/north-east was identified in the southern part of the site (Fig. 2) and cut the natural substrate. The fill 012, comprised chalk fragments, did not contain any dating evidence and was sealed by deposit 004 a dark brown sandy silt 0.2m thick which was identified in the southern and south-eastern parts of the site. Localised deposits of subsoil 015 and topsoil 014 were also identified in this part of the site.
- 2.2 Within the northern and north-eastern parts of the site the natural substrate was overlain by 009, a dark brown clay silt, averaging 0.60m in thickness and in the north-western part of the site the natural substrate was overlain by a yellow brown sandy gravel make-up layer, 018, for an area of concrete hard-standing. All of these deposits were overlain by deposits and structures relating to the Dairy Crest Depot and the current construction works.
- 2.4 No artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 An undated drain possibly associated with the post-medieval mill (Home Mill) was identified during the groundworks. This was sealed by a clay layer 004 which, together with layer 009, may have represented deposits associated with the infilling

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

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Stuart Joyce. The report was written by Stuart Joyce. The illustrations were prepared by Lorna Gray. The archive has been compiled by Stuart Joyce, and prepared for deposition by Kathryn Price. The project was managed for CA by Laurent Coleman.

5. REFERENCES

CgMs 2006 *Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment: Dairy Crest Site, Westminster Lane, Newport, Isle of Wight*. CgMs typescript report

CgMs 2007 *Former Dairy Crest Depot, Westminster Lane, Newport, Isle of Wight: Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

IGS (Institute of Geological Sciences) 1979 *Geological Map of the United Kingdom South* 3rd Edition Solid 1:625,000

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS


No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
001	Deposit	Grey slightly silty clay. Stone, brick, tile and rubble inclusions. Make up layer, deposited during current works.			0.40	
002	Deposit	Orange, sand, gravel and red brick fragments. Make up layer, deposited during current works.			0.20-0.40	
003	Deposit	Terram (geotextile membrane).			0.002	
004	Deposit	Dark brown – black sandy gritty silt. Frequent stone and brick tile.				C19
005	Deposit/structure	Concrete duct for electrical cabling.	>10.00	0.80	0.30	
006	Deposit/structure	Modern red brick wall.		0.28	0.61 (high)	C19
007	Deposit	Natural. Slightly sandy, blue grey clay.				
008	Deposit/structure	Concrete Duct – Same as 005.	>4.5	0.75	0.35	
009	Deposit	Dark brown – black. Slightly clay silt.			0.60	C19
010	Deposit	Mid brown, sandy gravelly silt.			0.14	
011	Cut	Cut of field drain.		0.28	>0.30	
012	Deposit	chalk rubble fill of 011.		0.28	>0.30	
013	Deposit	Natural Mid blue – brown clay, occasional red brick fragments in top of deposit.			>0.30	
014	Deposit	Former topsoil. Mid grey brown, slightly sandy clay silt.			0.15-0.20	
015	Deposit	Former subsoil. Light yellow brown slightly silty clay.			0.15	
016	Deposit	Demolition/make-up layer. Pink – brown sandy gravel with frequent brick and mortar inclusions.			0.30	
017	Deposit	Re-deposited natural. Blue grey clay.			0.25	
018	Deposit	Modern bedding/hardcore layer for concrete hard standing. Yellow – brown sandy grit.			0.27	
019	Deposit	Demolition layer. Dark black brown silty sandy grit and rubble layer.			0.18	
020	Cut	Cut of modern service trench.		0.32		
021	Deposit	Cement and pipe fill of 020.				
022	Deposit	Cut for bottle dump.				
023	Deposit	Fill of bottle dump. Glass bottles, iron and general.	6.5	5.00	c.1.2	C19-C20

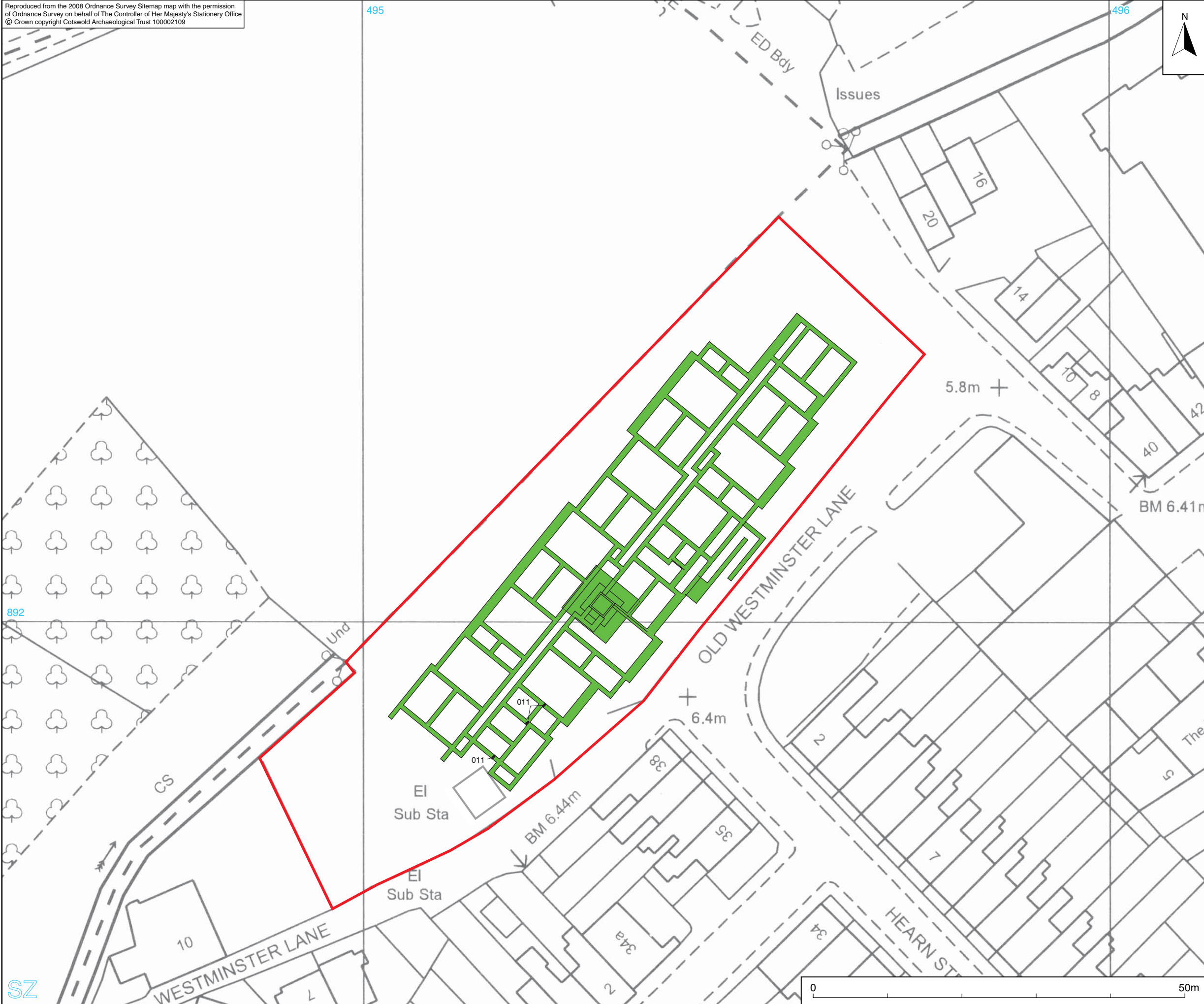
APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM



PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Former Dairy Crest Depot	
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a 2/3 storey block of flats at the former Dairy Crest depot, Westminster Lane, Newport, Isle of Wight. An undated drain, possibly relating to the post-medieval mill was identified. No other features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.	
Project dates	23 January 2008 – 21 February 2008	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	CgMs 2006. Archaeological Desk Based Assessment: Dairy Crest Site, Westminster Lane, Newport, Isle of Wight. CgMs typescript report.	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Former Dairy Crest Depot, Westminster Lane, Newport, Isle of Wight.	
Study area (M ² /ha)		
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SZ 4953 8921	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	N/A	
Project Design (WSI) originator	CgMs Consulting	
Project Manager	Laurent Coleman	
Project Supervisor	Stuart Joyce	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	Museum of Island History, Newport	WSI, pro forma registers and recording forms
Digital	Museum of Island History, Newport	Digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2007 <i>Former Dairy Crest Depot, Westminster Lane, Newport, Isle of Wight: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report 08041		

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 COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY		PROJECT TITLE Former Dairy Crest Depot, Westminster Lane, Newport, Isle of Wight	
		FIGURE TITLE Site location plan	
DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
LG	1:25,000@A4	2492	1



-  site
-  area of groundworks, showing archaeological features

