

**1-3 HIGH STREET
HIGHWORTH
WILTSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

For

BARE, LEANING AND BARE

CA PROJECT: 2638
CA REPORT: 08126


JUNE 2008



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HIGHWORTH
WILTSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CA PROJECT: 2638
CA REPORT: 08126

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date	20 June 2008
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date	23 June 2008
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signed	
date	23 June 2008
issue	01

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SUMMARY

Project Name: 1-3 High Street
Location: Highworth, Wiltshire
NGR: SU 2022 9240
Type: Evaluation
Date: 17-18 June 2008
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Swindon Museum and Art Gallery
Accession Number: To be confirmed
Site Code: HIG 08

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in June 2008 at the request of Bare, Leaning and Bare on land to the rear of 1-3 High Street, Highworth, Wiltshire. One trench was excavated.

No features or deposits of archaeological significance were present, and no artefacts pre-dating the modern period were recovered.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In June 2008 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Bare, Leaning and Bare on land to the rear of 1-3 High Street, Highworth, Wiltshire (centred on NGR: SU 2022 9240; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application for residential development of the site.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological evaluation produced by CA (2008) and approved by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, County Archaeologist, Wiltshire County 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 in Wiltshire* (WCC Archaeology Service 1995) and the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991). It was monitored by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, including a site visit on 18th June 2008.

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 800m², and comprises gardens formerly associated with the existing domestic properties located immediately to the north (Fig. 2). The proposed development area was divided by two north-south orientated modern limestone walls that formed redundant garden features. The site lies at 130.58m AOD at its western end, sloping downhill to 129.17m AOD at its eastern limit.
- 1.4 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Lower Corallian Silt and Sand of the Upper Jurassic era (BGS 1974).

Archaeological background

- 1.5 The site lies in an area of archaeological potential within the known extent of medieval settlement within Highworth; previous archaeological evaluation within the immediate vicinity revealed a series of features of probable medieval date (SMR Number SU29SW452). Grass tempered wares, indicative of Saxon occupation, were recovered from modern contexts in Brewery Street (SMR Number SU29SW401).

Archaeological objectives

- 1.6 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 Swindon Borough Council in making an informed judgement on the significance of the archaeological resource, and the likely impact upon it of the proposed development.

Methodology

- 1.7 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of a single trench measuring 10m in length and 1.6m in width, located within the footprint of the proposed development. This was at variance with the WSI, which proposed the excavation of two 5m trenches. The alteration, which was approved by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, was determined by the need to avoid services and a disused swimming pool located within the site.
- 1.8 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.
- 1.9 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 deposits that required sampling were identified.
- 1.10 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble; it will be deposited with Swindon Museum and Art Gallery. 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; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendix A.
- 2.2 The natural sand substrate was identified 0.35m below present ground level (bpgl) at the western end of the trench. At the trench's eastern end, the natural sand was revealed at 1.1m bpgl. This downhill slope to the east was clearly visible in the topography immediately outside the site limits. The natural substrate was sealed by a layer of topsoil, apparently imported in the modern period to level the area in advance of its use as a garden.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Despite the site's location within the known medieval settlement area of Highworth, no features or deposits of archaeological significance were present, and no artefacts pre-dating the modern period were recovered. This may be due to the disturbance of the area associated with the construction and levelling of the modern garden.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by David Cudlip. The report was written by David Cudlip. The illustrations were prepared by Jemma Elliott. The archive has been compiled by David Cudlip, and prepared for deposition by Kathryn Price. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.

5. REFERENCES

- BGS (British Geological Survey) 1974 *Geological Survey of Great Britain (England and Wales): Swindon Sheet 252*
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008 *1-3 High Street, Highworth, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Topsoil			1.1	Modern
101	Layer	Natural: Yellow and grey banded and mottled sand			L.O.E.	Geological

APPENDIX B : OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	1-3 High Street, Highworth, Wiltshire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in June 2008 at the request of Bare, Leaning and Bare on land to the rear of 1-3 High Street, Highworth, Wiltshire. One trench was excavated.</p> <p>No features or deposits of archaeological significance were present, and no artefacts pre-dating the modern period were recovered.</p>	
Project dates	17-18 June 2008	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Evaluation	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	Unknown	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	1-2 High Street, Highworth, Wiltshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	800m ²	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SU 2022 9240	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	N/A	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	David Cudlip	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	Swindon Museum and Art Gallery	Trench sheet, plan, photographic registers
Digital	Swindon Museum and Art Gallery	Digital report, digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008 1-3 High Street, Highworth, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation. CA Report 08126		

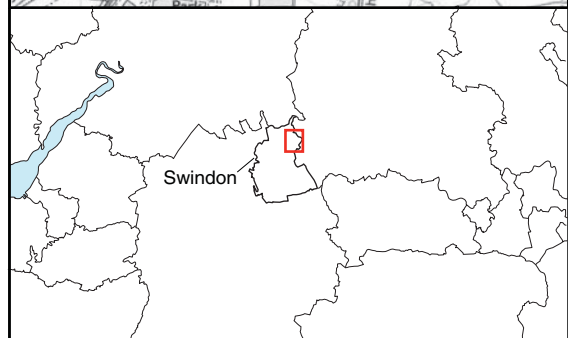


FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
JE	1:25,000@A4	2638	1



0 100km



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE
**1-3 High Street, Highworth, Swindon
Wiltshire**

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan

DRAWN BY JE	SCALE 1:1000@A4	PROJECT NO. 2638	FIGURE NO. 2
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