

**CONTACT HOUSE  
HIGH STREET  
WANBOROUGH  
WILTSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

*For*

**PEGASUS PLANNING GROUP**

*on behalf of*

**ICON TWO LTD**

CA PROJECT: 3202  
CA REPORT: 10161


SEPTEMBER 2010



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HIGH STREET  
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CA PROJECT: 3202  
CA REPORT: 10161

prepared by	David Parry
date	9 September 2010
checked by	Richard Young, Project Manager
date	15 September 2010
approved by	Simon Cox, Head of Fieldwork
signed	
date	17 September 2010
issue	01

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## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

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## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Contact House  
**Location:** High Street, Wanborough, Wiltshire  
**NGR:** SU 2090 8366  
**Type:** Evaluation  
**Date:** 7-8 September 2010  
**Location of Archive:** To be deposited with Swindon Museum  
**Site Code:** CHW10

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in September 2010 at Contact House, High Street, Wanborough, Wiltshire. One trench was excavated.

A single, possibly prehistoric, ditch was located within the trench. It was sealed by a layer of alluvium, which lay beneath a buried soil and modern made ground. A modern pit was also revealed.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In September 2010 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Pegasus Planning Group on behalf of Icon Two Ltd at Contact House, High Street, Wanborough, Wiltshire (centred on NGR: SU 2090 8366; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany the submission of an application for the construction of residential properties on the site.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2010) and approved by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, County Archaeologist, Wiltshire Council (WC), archaeological advisor to Swindon Borough Council (SBC). The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2008), *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Wiltshire* (Wiltshire County Council 1995), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006). It was monitored by Ms Pomeroy-Kellinger.

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The proposed development area lies to the south-west of High Street, Wanborough (Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 102m AOD, on a level, slightly raised area of land.
- 1.4 The site comprises an area of approximately 0.4ha, occupied by a disused office building (Contact House) and a paddock to the north-west.
- 1.5 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Gault clay (BGS 2010). Natural substrate was observed along the length of the trench.

### ***Archaeological background***

- 1.6 Archaeological interest in the site arises from its location immediately south-west of Ermin Street Roman road (Wiltshire HER: SU28SW319). A previous evaluation on the route of a gas pipeline revealed a ditch which may represent the roadside ditch

associated with Ermin Street. Additionally, a number of Romano-British artefacts have been located within the area; at Sheard Farm (Wiltshire HER: SU28SW337) a Romano-British tile fragment was recovered, at Callas Hill (Wiltshire HER: SU28SW312) a Romano-British coin and pottery fragments were recovered and at The Beanlands (Wiltshire HER: SU28SW334) two sherds of grey ware pottery were recovered from an evaluation in 1997.

- 1.7 In addition, a number of medieval sites have been identified in the area. Medieval settlement comprising house platforms and a holloway were recorded to the south of the site at Slate Farm (Wiltshire HER: SU28SW472) and a probable medieval building with pottery fragments and animal bone was identified to the north of the site during stripping for a gas main at Lower Wanborough (Wiltshire HER: SU28SW465).

### ***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 the 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. This information will clarify whether any remains are of sufficient importance to warrant consideration for preservation *in situ*, or alternatively form the basis of mitigation measures that may seek to limit damage to significant remains.

### ***Methodology***

- 1.8 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 1 trench, measuring 20m by 1.5m, in the location shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Due to the presence of a standing building, it was agreed with Ms Pomeroy-Kellinger that only the open field comprising 0.1ha of the proposed development area would be subject to evaluation trenching. The single trench was located approximately 10m north of the Contact House building.
- 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) 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).
- 1.11 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Swindon Museum, along with the site archive. 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 (FIGS 2-4)**

- 2.1 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.

### ***Trench 1 (Figs 2-4)***

- 2.2 The underlying natural clay substrate was exposed along the length of the trench at an average depth of 1m below present ground level (bpgl). Ditch 105, running approximately north-south at an angle across the trench, was cut into the natural clay and its single fill 106 contained one piece of struck flint. Fill 106 was sealed by probable alluvial layer 103, which in turn was overlain by buried soil 102 containing post-medieval/modern pottery. This layer was covered by modern building debris 101, which was itself overlain by redeposited topsoil 100. Towards the south-west end of the trench was pit 107, containing modern rubbish 108.

### **The Finds**

- 2.3 Artefactual material including small quantities of worked flint, pottery, glass and an iron object, together with some animal bone was recovered from four deposits (appendix B).
- 2.4 A secondary (partly cortical) flint flake was the sole find from fill of ditch 105. A second flake, also a 'secondary' removal, was recovered together with modern material from soil horizon 102. As unutilised 'waste' flakes the worked flint cannot be closely dated other than as broadly 'earlier prehistoric' (Bronze Age or earlier). The flake from ditch fill 106 is in sharp condition, though in isolation cannot be regarded as reliable evidence for prehistoric dating for the deposit.
- 2.5 Animal bone was recovered from deposits 102 and 103. Cattle and sheep/goat were identified.
- 2.6 The remainder of the finds date to the post-medieval and later periods and are summarised in appendix B. This material will not be retained.

## **3. DISCUSSION**

- 3.1 The only archaeological feature encountered was ditch 105, a possible boundary or water management ditch. The single flint flake contained within it may suggest that the ditch is of prehistoric date. The ditch was sealed by a probable alluvial layer with the ground having been later raised with modern building debris and imported topsoil.

## **4. CA PROJECT TEAM**

Fieldwork was undertaken by David Parry, who also wrote the report. The illustrations were prepared by Peter Moore. The archive has been compiled by David Parry, and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.



## 5. REFERENCES

BGS [http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer\\_google/googleviewer.html](http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html) accessed 9.9.10

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2010 *Contact House, High Street, Wanborough: 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			0.15	Modern
101	Layer	Made ground			0.2	Modern
102	Layer	Buried soil – dark red brown sandy silt			0.3	Modern
103	Layer	Alluvium – light grey brown silt			0.32	
104	Layer	Natural substrate – orange brown silty clay				
105	Cut	Ditch	n/k	0.74	0.31	
106	Fill	Fill of 104. Flint flake.	n/k	0.74	0.31	?Prehist
107	Cut	Pit	4.3	n/k	>1	
108	Fill	Fill of 107. Modern demolition and other debris	4.3	n/k	>1	Modern

**APPENDIX B: THE FINDS**


<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Weight(g)</b>	<b>Spot-date</b>
100	Post-medieval/modern pottery: refined whiteware (transfer-printed), glazed earthenware Iron nail	3 1	20 18	modern
102	Animal bone; sheep-sized Glass: green bottle glass; marble Post-medieval/modern pottery: refined whiteware, glazed earthenware Worked flint: flake (secondary)	2 2 2 1	18 14 8 4	modern
103	Animal bone: cattle, sheep/goat	4	84	-
106	Worked flint: flake (secondary)	1	4	-

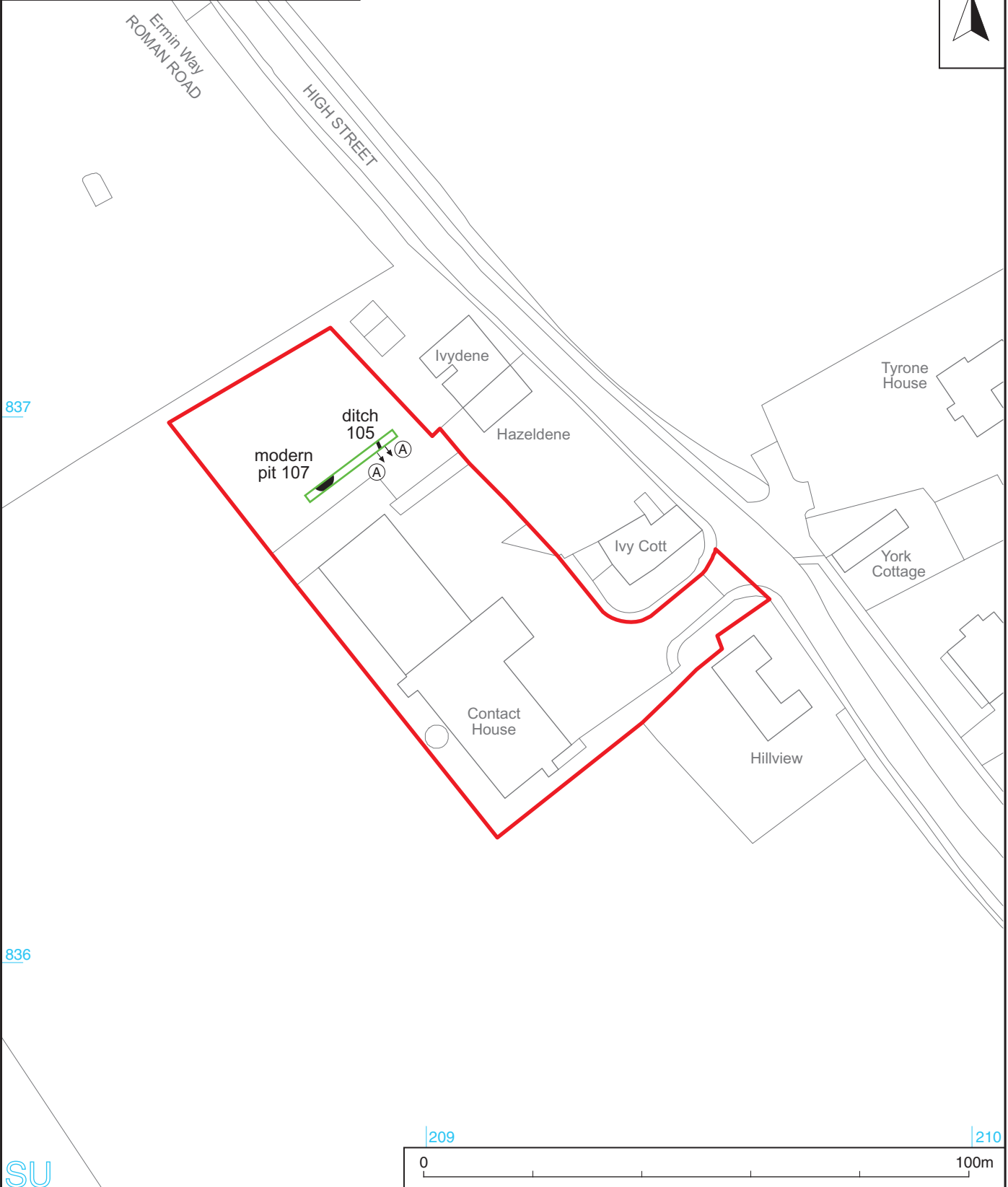
**APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Contact House	
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in September 2010 at Contact House, High Street, Wanborough, Wiltshire. One trench was excavated. A single, possibly prehistoric, ditch was located within the trench. It was sealed by a layer of alluvium, which lay beneath a buried soil and modern made ground. A modern pit was also revealed.	
Project dates	7-8 September 2010	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	High Street, Wanborough, Wiltshire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	0.4ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SU 2090 8366	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Wiltshire Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	David Parry	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	none	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	none	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Swindon Museum	Ceramics, animal bone, flint
Paper	Swindon Museum	Context sheets, permatrace drawings, photographic registers
Digital	Swindon Museum	Digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2010 <i>Contact House, High Street, Wanborough, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report <b>10161</b>		

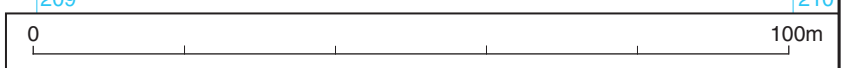
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 <b>COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY</b>			
<b>PROJECT TITLE</b> Contact House, High Street Wanborough, Wiltshire			
<b>FIGURE TITLE</b> <b>Site location plan</b>			
<b>DRAWN BY</b>	<b>SCALE</b>	<b>PROJECT NO.</b>	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
PJM	1:25,000@A4	3202	<b>1</b>

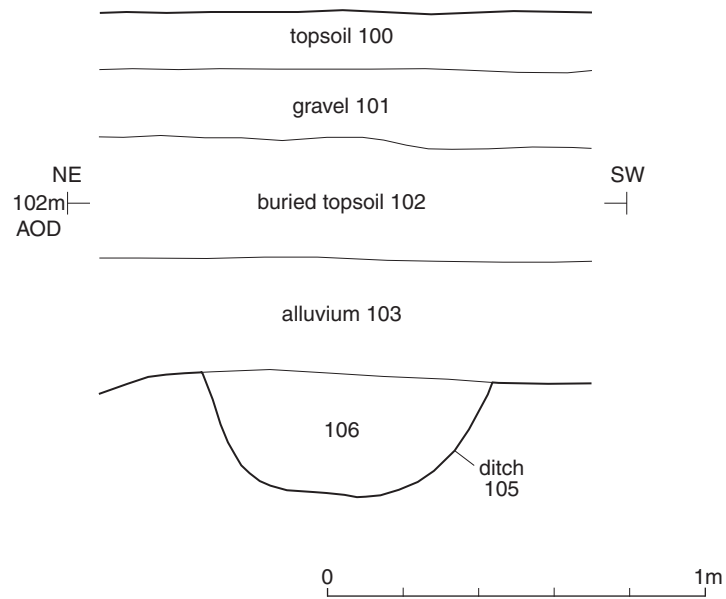


SU



- site
- evaluation trench
- archaeological feature

 <b>COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY</b>			
PROJECT TITLE <b>Contact House, High Street                  Wanborough, Wiltshire</b>			
FIGURE TITLE <b>Trench location plan</b>			
DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
PJM	1:1000@A4	3202	<b>2</b>



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

Contact House, High Street  
Wanborough, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

**Section AA: section and photo**

DRAWN BY

PJM

SCALE

1:20@A4

PROJECT NO.

3202

FIGURE NO.

**3**