

**HESKETH CRESCENT  
CROFT, SWINDON  
WILTSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

*For*

**SWINDON BOROUGH COUNCIL**


CA PROJECT: 3183  
CA REPORT: 10148

AUGUST 2010

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CA PROJECT: 3183  
CA REPORT: 10148

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date	27 August 2010
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date	31 August 2010
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signed	
date	6 September 2010
issue	01

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Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)

Fig. 2 Trench location plan, showing archaeological features (1:1250)

## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Hesketh Crescent  
**Location:** Croft, Swindon, Wiltshire  
**NGR:** SU 1570 8300  
**Type:** Evaluation  
**Date:** 2-4 August 2010  
**Location of Archive:** Cotswold Archaeology  
**Site Code:** HCC10

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in August 2010 at Hesketh Crescent, Croft, Swindon. Four trenches were excavated.

A possible posthole, which contained a single sherd of Roman pottery and which could also be an animal burrow, and an undated shallow possible pit or scoop, were identified during the evaluation. Furrows probably dating to the medieval period were identified in three of the trenches.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In August 2010 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Swindon Borough Council (SBC) at Hesketh Crescent, Croft, Swindon, Wiltshire (centred on NGR: SU 1560 8305; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken prior to the submission of an application for the construction of a school on the site.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with request for archaeological evaluation by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, County Archaeologist, Wiltshire Council (WC), the archaeological advisor to the SBC, and with a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2010) and approved by Ms Pomeroy-Kellinger. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (2008), the Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Wiltshire (Wiltshire County Council 1995) and 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, including a site visit on 3 August 2010.

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The site comprised an open field on land to the south of Hesketh Crescent (also mapped as Evelyn Street), Croft, Swindon, Wiltshire (Fig. 2). It was bounded to the north by Hesketh Crescent, to the east by school buildings, to the south by sports pitches and to the west by gardens. The site lies at approximately 118m AOD, on a south facing slope with a view to the Ridgeway c. 2km away.
- 1.4 The site occupied an area of 1.5ha and comprised an area of uncut grass and, in the north-west, a playground and trees.
- 1.5 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as the Kimmeridge Clay Formation of the Jurassic era (BGS 2010). The boundary with the Amptill Clay Formation and Kimmeridge Clay Formation (Undifferentiated) is mapped along the southern edge of the site. No superficial deposits are mapped. The Natural substrate was encountered in all four trenches.

### **Archaeological background**

- 1.6 The site lies within the medieval area of Swindon Old Town, an area of high archaeological potential. Although no archaeological remains are recorded within the site by the Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment Record (HER), two separate find spots of Romano-British coins are recorded within 250m of the site (Wiltshire HER ref. nos SU18SE329 and SU18SE330). Two undated inhumation burials (Wiltshire HER ref. no SU18SE553) are recorded c. 200m to the north-east, while c. 250m to the north-east of the site, three crouched Bronze Age burials, an undated burial and a Saxon burial are recorded (Wiltshire HER ref. nos. SU18SE152, SU18SE552 and SU18SE401).

### **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 SBC in making an informed judgement on the significance of the archaeological resource, and the likely impact upon it of the proposed development.

### **Methodology**

- 1.8 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of four trenches, each 50m in length (Fig. 2). Trench 3 had to be relocated slightly to the west because of temporary fencing erected during construction work on the adjacent school, and a gap of c. 3m was left in Trench 2 to avoid blocking an informal but well used footpath to the play area. Both changes were made with the approval of Ms Pomeroy-Kellinger.
- 1.9 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).
- 1.10 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) but 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 (FIG. 2)**

- 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.
- 2.2 During the evaluation furrows were identified in Trenches 1, 2 and 4. In addition two possible features were identified within trench 2. One of these features was provisionally dated to the Roman period, the remaining feature was undated. In all four trenches the undisturbed natural substrate comprising silts with interleaved clays was revealed at depths of between 0.19m and 0.5m below present ground level (bpgl). In Trenches 1 and 2 this was overlain by subsoil up to 0.27m thick and sealed by topsoil up to 0.25m thick. Trenches 3 and 4 showed evidence of recent landscaping. In Trench 3 the natural substrate was overlain by 0.3m of topsoil with no subsoil present. The topsoil had been partially truncated and covered with a spread of cinders before 0.3m of topsoil was reinstated. In the eastern half of Trench 4 redeposited topsoil was up to 0.15m thick and sealed by 0.26m of rubble make-up. Trench 3 contained no archaeological features. Small quantities of Roman, medieval and post-medieval pottery and worked flint were recovered from the topsoil. A tree-throw pit was investigated in trench 4 but produced no dating evidence.

### ***Trench 1 (Fig. 2)***

- 2.3 A single probable furrow 104 was excavated in Trench 1. Its alignment was north-east/south-west and, unlike the furrows in Trenches 2 and 4 which had leached pale grey fills, its fill had many reddish brown mottles. Fragments of 12th to 14th-century pottery and animal bone were recovered from this furrow.

**Trench 2 (Fig. 2)**

- 2.4 Irregularly shaped feature 209 survived to a depth of 0.05, with a diameter of 0.3m and has been interpreted as a possible truncated posthole or small pit. It was filled by 210, containing many small stones which helped to define the feature and a single sherd of greyware pottery, dating it to the Roman period. However, an animal burrow present to the east of the feature raises the possibility that it formed as a result of burrowing and the pottery was intrusive. Irregularly shaped shallow pit or scoop 211 was situated to the west of feature 209 and contained undated fill 212. Modern pit 213 (not illustrated) extended beyond the eastern end of the trench and contained brick and cable within its fill 214.
- 2.5 Three probable furrows 215-217 were excavated in Trench 2. Their alignment was north-north-west/south-south-east and they had leached pale grey fills 206-208 which contained no artefacts.

**Trench 4 (Fig. 2)**

- 2.6 A single probable furrow 406 was excavated in Trench 4. Its alignment was north-north-west/south-south-east and it had a leached pale grey fill 405 which contained no artefacts.

**The Finds and Palaeoenvironmental Evidence**

- 2.6 A quantity of artefactual material comprising pottery, worked flint, fired and vitrified clay, an iron object and some animal bone was recovered from seven deposits (Appendix B).
- 2.7 A small amount of pottery of the Roman date was recovered from two deposits 101 and 210. The sherd from topsoil 101 is identifiable as from a North Wiltshire oxidized ware jar. A sherd of miscellaneous greyware was retrieved from fill 210 of posthole 210 and is datable to the Roman period.
- 2.8 Pottery of medieval date was recovered from topsoil 101, furrow fill 105 and topsoil 401, and comprised mainly sherds of cooking pot in a sand and flint-tempered fabric.



- 2.9 Pottery of post-medieval date was retrieved from two topsoil deposits 201 and 401. A sherd of a bowl, from topsoil 201 is likely to be Ashton Keynes glazed earthenware of the 16th to 18th centuries. Two sherds retrieved from topsoil 401 are glazed earthenware broadly datable to the 16th to 18th centuries.
- 2.10 Two prehistoric worked flints were recovered from subsoil 102 and 202.

### 3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 A possible posthole 209 containing a single sherd of Roman pottery and an undated shallow possible pit 211 were identified during the evaluation. A large animal burrow was observed in the same trench and raises the possibility that feature 209 could also have been an animal burrow containing intrusive Roman pottery.
- 3.2 Furrows aligned broadly north-north-west/south-south-east were identified in Trenches 2 and 4. They were spaced c. 10m apart, the typical spacing for medieval ridge and furrow (Rackham 1986, 167). The presence of the remains of ridge and furrow ploughing suggests that the site has been little disturbed since the medieval period, and that it lies within the field system of Croft or Swindon. A further probable furrow in Trench 1 lay on a north-east/south-west alignment. It is possible that this furrow represents a plot ploughed parallel to Croft Road. Its fill 105 contained 12th to 14th-century pottery. The lack of furrows within trench 3 may be due to the fact the trench was aligned almost parallel to the furrows and that it therefore lay between them.
- 3.3 The dumping of modern rubble in the south-east corner of the site recorded in trench 4 represents landscaping and levelling involved with the modern playing pitches. The survival of a topsoil layer preserved below these dumped layers suggests that the area has not been truncated during these landscaping works and that archaeological deposits have not been removed by the landscaping, rather they were never present.

#### **4. CA PROJECT TEAM**

Fieldwork was undertaken by Jamie Wright, assisted by Jonathan Boon and Jon Pick. The report was written by Jamie Wright. The finds report was prepared by Angela Aggujaro and the illustrations were prepared by Lorna Gray. The archive has been compiled by Jamie Wright, 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 1.08.10

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2010 *Hesketh Crescent, Croft, Swindon, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

Rackham, O. 1986 *The History of the Countryside*, London, JM Dent and Sons

**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

## Trench 1

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
101	Layer	Topsoil			0-0.25	
102	Layer	Subsoil			0.25-0.45	
103	Layer	Natural			>0.45	
104	Cut	Probable furrow	3.0m	>2m	0.2	
105	Layer	Fill of 104	0.9m exc.	>2	0.2	

## Trench 2

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
201	Layer	Topsoil			0-0.23	
202	Layer	Subsoil			0.23-0.5	
203	Layer	Natural			>0.5	
204	Cut	?Frost wedge or mole plough; narrow and deep	2.0	0.25	0.22	
205	Fill	Fill of 204	2.0	0.25	0.22	
206	Layer	Pale yellowish grey sand fill of furrow 215	2	0.6	0.08	
207	Layer	Pale yellowish grey sand fill of furrow 216	2	0.85	0.05	
208	Layer	Pale yellowish grey sand fill of furrow 217	2	0.5	Not exc.	
209	Cut	Possible posthole. Roughly circular but irregular base.	0.3	0.3	0.05	
210	Fill	Yellowish grey fill of 209 that contained many small stones.	0.3	0.3	0.05	
211	Cut	Irregularly shaped scoop or shallow pit.	0.8m exc.	0.2m	0.15m	
212	Fill	Fill of 211. Contained stones <0.2m	0.8m exc.	0.2m	0.15m	
213	Cut	Cut of modern pit in eastern end of trench.				
214	Fill	Fill of 213. Contained modern bricks and a cable or wire in a thick rubber coating.				
215	Cut	Furrow		0.6		
216	Cut	Furrow		0.85		
217	Cut	Furrow		0.5		

## Trench 3

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
301	Layer	Topsoil			0-0.3	
302	Layer	Natural			>0.3	

## Trench4

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
401	Layer	Topsoil			0-0.19	
402	Layer	Natural			>0.19	
403	Layer	Rubble make-up layer in eastern half of trench. At least one Purbeck Limestone fragment from ? C19 quarry.	4.4	>1.8	0.19-0.45	
404	Layer	Former topsoil beneath 403.	4.0	>1.8 m	0.45-0.60	
405	Fill	Fill of furrow 406	>1.8	1.6	0.21	
406	Cut	Furrow.	>1.8	1.6	0.21	
407	Layer	Intermittent but persistent layer of cinder below topsoil.	8.2	>1.8	0.06	
408	Cut	Tree-throw hollow.	0.77	0.49	0.08	
409	Fill	Fill of 408	0.77	0.49	0.08	

**APPENDIX B: THE FINDS**

Context	Description	Ct.	Wt.	Date
101	Roman pottery: North Wiltshire oxidized ware	1	7	RB
	Medieval pottery: cooking pot sandy and flint-tempered fabric	1	12	C12-C14
	Fired clay	1	16	
102	Worked flint: flake	1	4	
	Fe object: sheet fragments	1	15	-
105	Medieval pottery: cooking pot sandy and flint-tempered fabric	3	6	C12-C14
	Animal bone: cow-sized	125	20	
201	Post-medieval pottery: Ashton Keynes glazed earthenware	1	82	C16-C18
202	Worked flint	1	3	-
210	Roman pottery: misc. greyware	1	13	RB
401	Medieval and post-medieval pottery: cooking pot and glazed earthenware	5	10	C17-C19
	Vitrified clay	1	5	

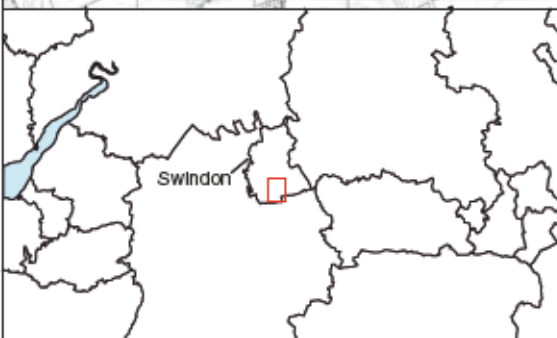
**APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM**


<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Hesketh Crescent, Croft, Swindon, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation	
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in August 2010 at Hesketh Crescent, Croft, Swindon. Four trenches were excavated. A possible posthole, which contained a single sherd of Roman pottery and which could also be an animal burrow, and an undated shallow possible pit or scoop, were identified during the evaluation. Furrows probably dating to the medieval period were identified in three of the trenches.	
Project dates	2-4 August 2010	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	Not known	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Hesketh Crescent, Croft, Swindon, Wiltshire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	1.5ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SU 1570 8300	
<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	Jamie Wright	
<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 and worked flint
Paper	Swindon Museum	Trench Recording Forms, Context Recording Sheets and A4 Drafting Film
Digital	Swindon Museum	Digital survey data and digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2010 <i>Hesketh Crescent, Croft, Swindon, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report <b>10148</b>		

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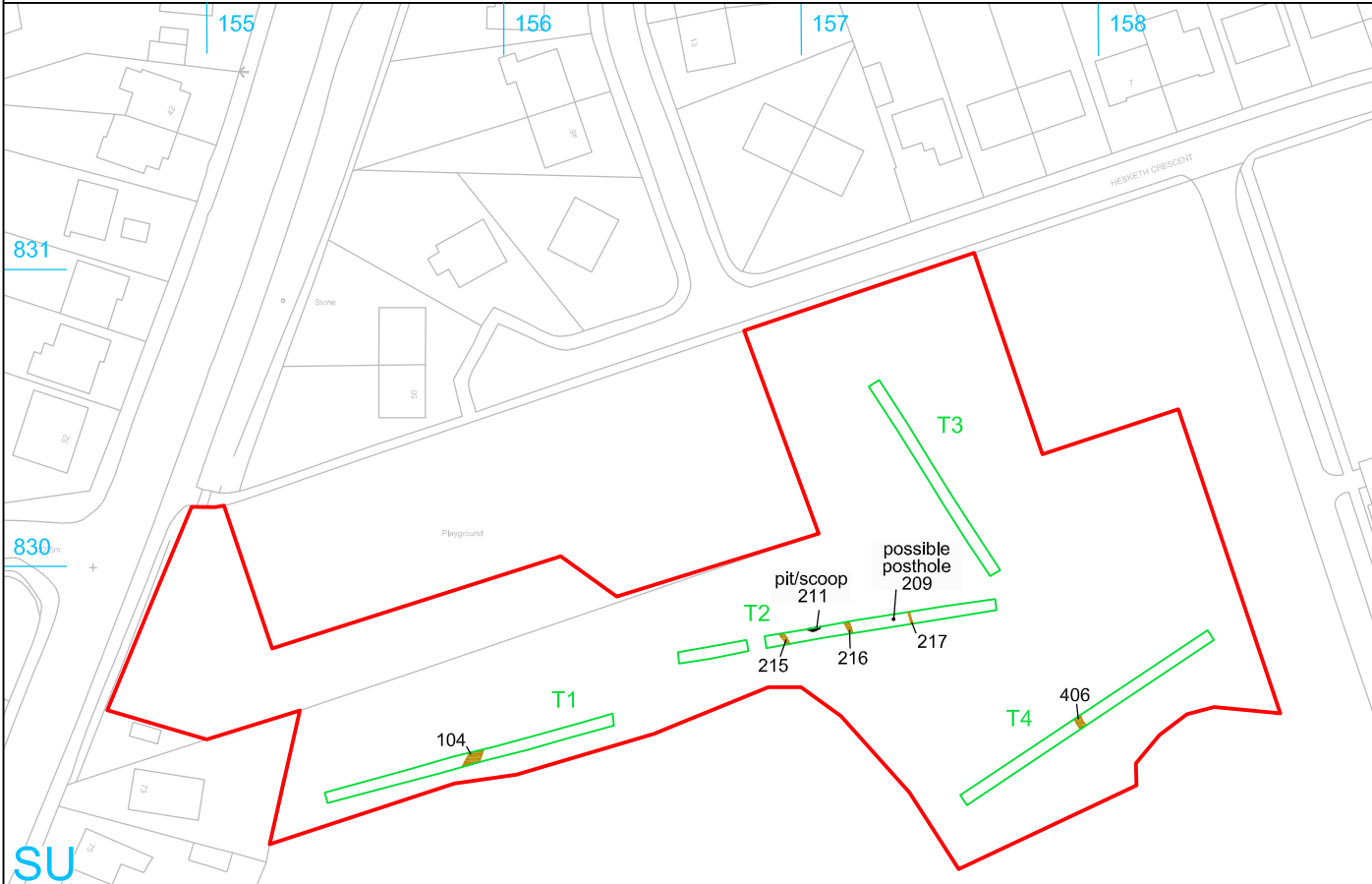


site



 <b>COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY</b>			
<b>PROJECT TITLE</b> Hesketh Crescent, Croft Swindon, 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>
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 site

 evaluation trench

 archaeological feature

 furrow



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

Hesketh Crescent, Croft Swindon, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

Trench location plan, showing archaeological features

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SCALE

1:1250@A4

PROJECT NO.

3183

FIGURE NO.

2