



**New Road
Aylesbury
Buckinghamshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

for
Pegasus Planning Group


CA Project: 660293
CA Report: 14295

July 2014

New Road
Aylesbury
Buckinghamshire

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 660293
CA Report: 14295

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|-------------|---|
| prepared by | Mo Muldowney, Project Officer |
| date | 16 June 2014 |
| checked by | Nicola Powell, Post-Excavation Manager |
| date | 4 July 2014 |
| approved by | Simon Carlyle, Principal Fieldwork Manager |
| signed |  |
| date | 4 July 2014 |
| issue | 01 |

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Cirencester
Building 11
Kemble Enterprise Park
Kemble, Cirencester
Gloucestershire, GL7 6BQ
t. 01285 771022
f. 01285 771033

Milton Keynes
Unit 4
Cromwell Business Centre
Howard Way, Newport Pagnell
MK16 9QS
t. 01908 218320

Andover
Stanley House
Walworth Road
Andover, Hampshire
SP10 5LH
t. 01264 347630

e. enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

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SUMMARY

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Project Name: | New Road, Aylesbury |
| Location: | Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire |
| NGR: | SP 6600 2150 |
| Type: | Evaluation |
| Date: | 11 June -12 June 2014 |
| Planning Reference: | Pre-application |
| Location of Archive: | Buckinghamshire Museum Service |
| Accession Number: | Not yet allocated |
| Site Code: | NRA 14 |

In June 2014, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation, comprising the excavation of eleven trenches, on a plot of land off New Road, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire. The work, which was commissioned by Pegasus Planning Group, was carried out prior to the submission of a planning application for the residential development of the site.

The evaluation identified extant ridge and furrow earthworks of medieval/post-medieval date across most of the site. The earthworks were well-preserved but the ridges had been cut by two post-medieval/modern ditches in the east half of the field. In addition, a modern intrusion was identified in the north-east corner of the site that may be associated with the site of a former 19th-century building shown on historic mapping.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In June 2014, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation, comprising the excavation of eleven trenches, of a plot of farmland off New Road, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire (site centred on NGR: SP 6600 2150; Fig. 1). The work, which was commissioned by Pegasus Planning Group, was carried out prior to the submission of a planning application for the residential development of the site.
- 1.2 The scope of the evaluation was determined following consultation with Phil Markham, Buckinghamshire County Council's Senior Archaeologist (BCCSA), which was formalised in a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2014a). Previously, the site had been the subject of a geophysical survey undertaken by Museum of London Archaeological Service (Bartlett 1999) and more recently by a *Heritage Desk-Based Assessment* prepared by CA (2014b).
- 1.3 The project was carried out in accordance with the WSI, the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (IfA 2008) and the English Heritage procedural documents *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (EH1991) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006).

The site

- 1.4 The site, which covers an area of c. 4ha, is located on the eastern outskirts of Aylesbury, approximately 2.8km south-east of the town centre (Fig. 1). It comprises two pasture fields bounded by New Road to the west, the Holiday Inn on the A41 Aston Clinton Road and the Calibre Audio Library to the north and farmland to the east and south (Fig. 3). The ground is generally flat and lies at an average height of c. 86m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 1.5 The solid geology of the site comprises Cretaceous mudstone, siltstone and sandstone of the Gault Formation and Upper Greensand Formation, overlain by superficial deposits of glacial Head (BGS 2014).

Archaeological background

- 1.6 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been presented in detail in the *Heritage Desk-Based Assessment* prepared by CA (2014b). In brief,

with the exception of medieval furrows identified from aerial photographs, there are no records of archaeological remains having been identified within the site, although Iron Age, Roman and medieval remains have been investigated in the fields to the south and east (Wessex Archaeology 2012a; 2012b). Extensive medieval remains have also been investigated c. 500m to the north of the site at Old Manor Farm, where there are Scheduled medieval earthworks (Archaeological Solutions 2007a; Archaeological Solutions 2007b; Stratascan 2005).

- 1.7 A geophysical survey of the site and an area to the east was carried out by the Museum of London Archaeological Service in 1999, although no significant anomalies were identified within the current area (Bartlett 1999).

Archaeological objectives

- 1.8 The objectives of the evaluation, as outlined in the WSI (CA 2014), were to determine:
- the location, extent, nature and date of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present;
 - the integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present.

The results of the evaluation will assist BCCSA in making an informed judgement on the significance of the archaeological resource and the likely impact upon it of the proposed development, so that a suitable mitigation strategy can be devised if significant archaeological remains are encountered.

Methodology

- 1.9 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 11 trenches, each 30m long by 1.8m wide, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Trench 2 was shortened to 22.3m long to prevent the flooded furrow at the south end flooding the trench. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual: 4 Survey Manual* (2012).
- 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 geology 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* (2013).

- 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) but none were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with *Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation* (1995).
- 1.12 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation will be stored with Buckinghamshire Museum Service in due course. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with the county store under an as yet unallocated accession number 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

- 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. All features are shown on Fig. 2.

General stratigraphy

- 2.2 The underlying geological substrate comprised the anticipated glacial Head deposits, which variously consisted of clay and clay with flint gravels (Fig. 4). It was exposed at an average depth of 0.25m below the present ground level and was truncated by the furrows and overlain by the ridge material and/or the uppermost topsoil deposit. In addition to the furrows two modern ditches and a modern feature were cut into the geological substrate. No significant archaeological features were encountered.

Medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow

- 2.3 Ridge and furrow cultivation strips were present across the evaluation area and were prominent features in the present ground surface (Figs. 2, 3 and 5). Furrows were visible in the base of all trenches, except in Trenches 1, 3, 7 and 10 which

were sited along the top of the ridges. A furrow (202) in Trench 2 was excavated and was 3m wide by 0.32m deep (Fig. 5). It was aligned, like all the furrows, south-west to north-east and contained a single fill from which no finds were recovered. Finds were recovered from the west furrow in Trench 8 and comprised two residual sherds of 13th-century pottery and an abraded fragment of tile. Additionally, a surface survey of the ridge and furrow was undertaken by GPS.

Modern

Trench 4

- 2.4 Trench 4 contained a modern intrusion at the north end, which contained both concrete and tarmac (Figs. 2 and 6). It is located close to the site of a building marked on the 1899 Ordnance Survey (OS) map (Fig. 7).

Trench 5

- 2.5 Two modern ditches were identified in Trench 5 that are clearly visible as linear depressions in the present ground surface. They truncate the furrows and are therefore likely to be post-medieval or modern. Trench 5 also contained a linear trench packed with irregular blocks of chalk, probably marking the line of a land drain.

The finds evidence by Jacky Somerville

Pottery

- 2.6 Two bodysherds of Brill/Boarstall ware pottery were recovered from furrow fill 802. This wheel-thrown glazed jug fabric was produced during the 13th century in potteries at Brill and Boarstall in Buckinghamshire (Mellor 1994, 111-140).

Ceramic building material

- 2.7 Two fragments of ceramic building material, one of which was identified as tile, were recorded in furrow fill 802. Both were too fragmentary for dating.



3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The evaluation confirmed the presence of medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation strips in the proposed development area and was able to characterise their shape, depth and profile. The earthworks were generally well-preserved, although two post-medieval/modern ditches had been cut through the ridges in the eastern part of the site. Two sherds of medieval pottery recovered from one of the furrows are residual and it is likely that they entered the site through manuring. The modern features in the north-east corner of the site are likely to be related to the former building marked on the 19th-century OS map (Fig. 7).

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 4.1 The fieldwork was undertaken by Mo Muldowney, assisted by Dan Riley and Dan Wojcik. The report was written by Mo Muldowney, with a contribution from Jacky Somerville, and the illustrations were prepared by Dan Bashford. The archive has been compiled by Mo Muldowney and prepared for deposition by Emily Evans. The project was managed for CA by Simon Carlyle.

5. REFERENCES

Archaeological Solutions 2007a *Aston Clinton Major Development Area, Aylesbury: An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation*

Archaeological Solutions 2007b *Aston Clinton Major Development Area, Aylesbury: Archaeological Monitoring and Recording of Geotechnical Pits*

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Mellor, M. 1994. 'A Synthesis of Middle and Late Saxon, Medieval and Early Post-medieval Pottery in the Oxford Region'. *Oxoniensia*. **LIX**, 17-217.

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Wessex Archaeology 2012b *Land South-East of Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire: Archaeological Evaluation Report*



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

| Trench 1 | | | | | | |
|-------------|------------------------|---|-------|-------|---------------------|-----------|
| Context No. | Context interpretation | Description | L (m) | W (m) | Depth/thickness (m) | Spot-date |
| 100 | Topsoil | Dark brown silty clay | | | 0.25 | |
| 101 | Ridge | Mid grey brown silty clay | | | 0.25 | |
| 102 | Geology | Light brown clay with patches of yellow and grey clay | | | | Med/P-med |
| Trench 2 | | | | | | |
| 200 | Topsoil | Mid brown grey silty clay | | | 0.26 | |
| 201 | Geology | Mid grey brown compact clay | | | 0.07 | |
| 202 | Furrow | Wide shallow concave linear | +1.6 | 2.98 | 0.32 | Med/P-med |
| 203 | Fill of 202 | Mid brown grey silty clay | +1.6 | 2.98 | 0.32 | Med/P-med |
| Trench 3 | | | | | | |
| 300 | Topsoil | Dark brown silty clay | | | 0.20 | |
| 301 | Ridge | Mid grey brown silty clay | | | 0.15 | Med/P-med |
| 302 | Geology | Mid yellow brown clay | | | | |
| Trench 4 | | | | | | |
| 400 | Topsoil | Dark grey brown silty clay | | | 0.20 | |
| 401 | Ridge | Mid grey brown silty clay | | | 0.25 | Med/P-med |
| 402 | Modern | Round-based, V-shaped ditch, north-east/south-west oriented | 12.0 | | | |
| 403 | Geology | Mid blue brown clay | | | | |
| Trench 5 | | | | | | |
| 500 | Topsoil | Mid red brown clay silt | | | 0.20 | |
| 501 | Ridge | Mid grey brown silty clay | | | 0.35 | |
| 502 | Geology | Mid grey brown clay | | | | |
| 503 | Ditch | Linear, shallow, steep-sided, flat-based ditch | | 1.0 | 0.09 | Modern |
| 504 | Fill of 503 | Dark grey brown silt | | 0.86 | 0.24 | |
| Trench 6 | | | | | | |
| 600 | Topsoil | Dark brown silty clay | | | 0.25 | |
| 601 | Ridge | Mid grey brown silty clay | | | 0.25 | Med/P-med |
| 602 | Geology | Mid brown clay | | | | |
| Trench 7 | | | | | | |
| 700 | Topsoil | Dark brown silty clay | | | 0.20 | |
| 701 | Ditch | Mid grey brown silty clay | | | 0.18 | |
| 702 | Geology | Light yellow brown clay with patches of flint gravels | | | | |
| Trench 8 | | | | | | |
| 800 | Topsoil | Dark brown silty clay | | | 0.28 | |
| 801 | Subsoil | Mid grey brown silty clay | | | 0.25 | |
| 802 | Furrow | Mid grey brown silty clay | | | | |
| 803 | Geology | Mid yellow brown clay with patches of flint gravels | | | | |
| Trench 9 | | | | | | |
| 900 | Topsoil | Mid brown grey silty clay | | | 0.28 | |
| 901 | Ridge | Mid grey brown clay | | | 0.14 | |
| 902 | Geology | Mid orange grey clay with patches of flint gravels | | | | |
| Trench 10 | | | | | | |
| 1000 | Topsoil | Mid brown grey silty clay | | | 0.40 | |
| 1001 | Geology | Mid grey brown silty clay | | | 0.14 | |

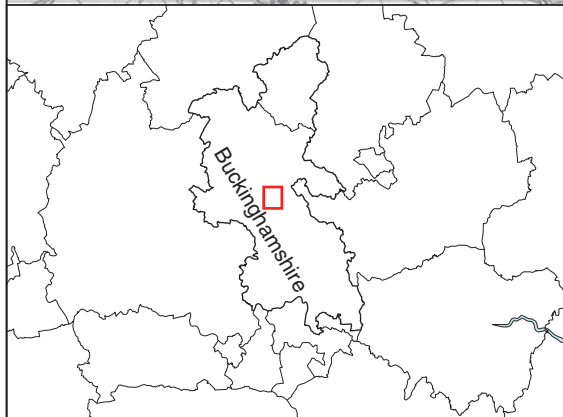
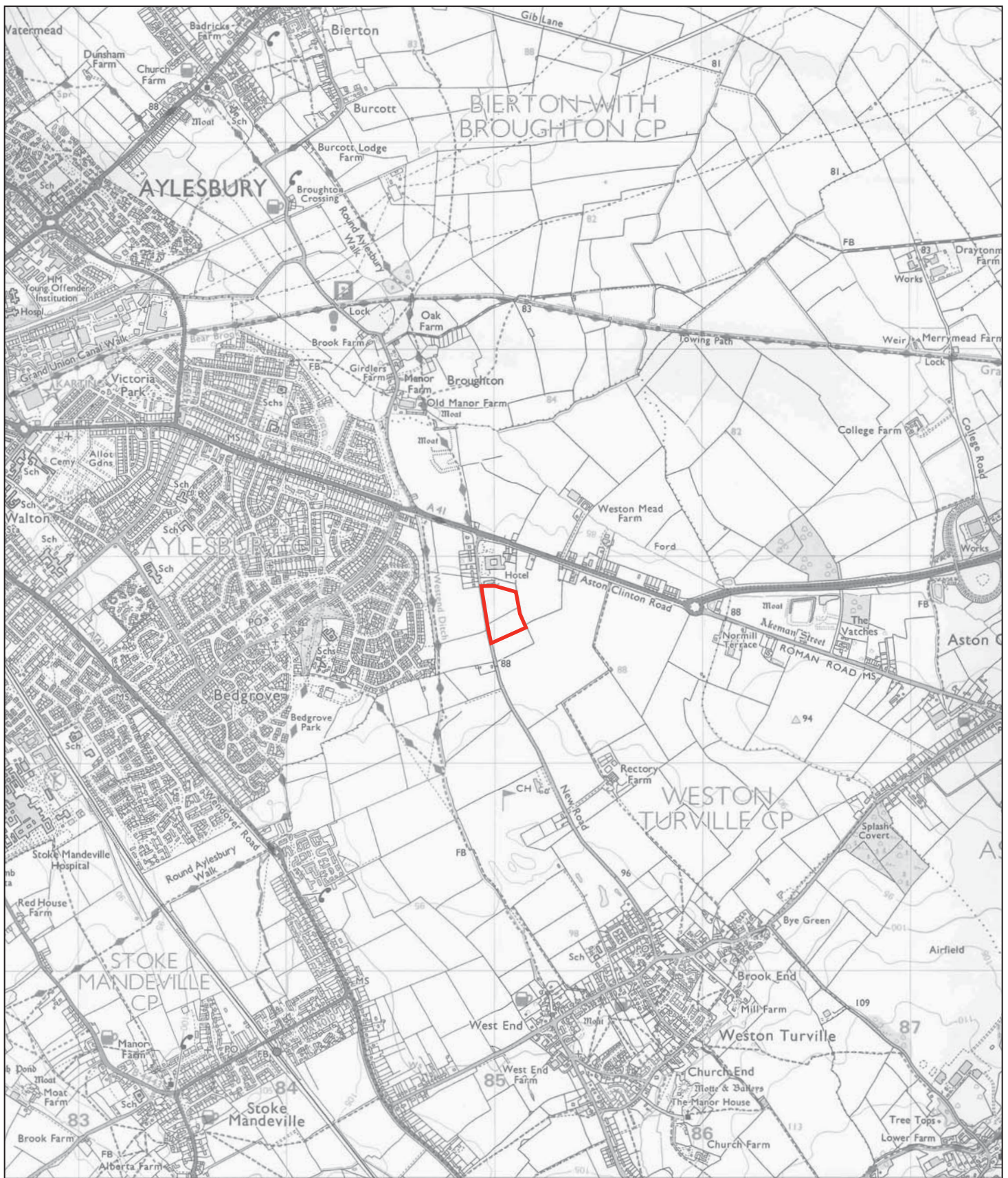
| | | | | | | |
|-----------|---------|---|--|--|------|--|
| 1002 | Ridge | Mid blue brown clay, band of sand at NW end | | | | |
| Trench 11 | | | | | | |
| 1100 | Topsoil | Mid brown grey silty clay | | | 0.30 | |
| 1101 | Ridge | Mid grey brown silty clay | | | 0.11 | |
| 1102 | Geology | Mid brown grey clay with gravel | | | | |

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS*Table 1: Quantification of finds*

| Context | Description | Count | Weight (g) | Spot-date |
|----------------|--|--------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 802 | Medieval pottery: Brill Boarstall ware | 2 | 10 | C13-C14 |
| | Ceramic building material: tile | 2 | 24 | |

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

| PROJECT DETAILS | | |
|---|--|------------------------|
| Project name | New Road, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire | |
| Short description | The evaluation identified extant ridge and furrow earthworks of medieval/post-medieval date across most of the site. The earthworks were well-preserved but the ridges had been cut by two post-medieval/modern ditches in the east half of the field. In addition, a modern intrusion was identified in the north-east corner of the site that may be associated with the site of a former 19th-century building shown on historic mapping. | |
| Project dates | 10 June to 11 June 2014 | |
| Project type | Evaluation | |
| Previous work | Geophysical survey (Bartlett 1999); Desk-based assessment (CA 2014b) | |
| Future work | Unknown | |
| Monument type | Medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow and modern ditches and pits | |
| Significant finds | Medieval pottery | |
| PROJECT LOCATION | | |
| Site location | New Road, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire | |
| Study area | c. 4ha | |
| Site co-ordinates | SP 6600 2150 | |
| PROJECT CREATORS | | |
| Name of organisation | Cotswold Archaeology (CA) | |
| Project Brief originator | - | |
| Project Design (WSI) originator | CA | |
| Project Manager | Simon Carlyle (CA) | |
| Project Supervisor | Mo Muldowney (CA) | |
| PROJECT ARCHIVE | | |
| | Accession no: n/a | Content |
| Physical | Buckinghamshire Museum Service | Pottery, CBM |
| Paper | | Site records |
| Digital | Buckinghamshire HER | Report, digital photos |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY | | |
| CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 <i>New Road, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 14295 | | |



0 1km

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Cirencester 01285 771022
 Milton Keynes 01908 218320
 Andover 01264 347630
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Land at New Road, Aylesbury
 Buckinghamshire

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

PROJECT NO. 660293 DATE 01-07-2014
 DRAWN BY DJB REVISION 00
 APPROVED BY LM SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1



- ▬ site
- ▬ evaluation trench
- ▬ furrow
- ▬ modern

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PROJECT TITLE
Land at New Road, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan showing furrows and modern features

| | | | | |
|-------------|--------|----------|------------|------------|
| PROJECT NO. | 660293 | DATE | 04-07-2014 | FIGURE NO. |
| DRAWN BY | DJB | REVISION | 00 | 2 |
| APPROVED BY | LM | SCALE@A3 | 1:1000 | |

P:\660293 Land at New Road Aylesbury Bucks EVAL\Illustration\Drafts\660293 New Road Aylesbury Fig 2.dwg



3



4

- 3 General view of site, looking south-east
- 4 Trench 6, soil profile (scale 1m)



Cirencester 01285 771022
 Milton Keynes 01908 218320
 Andover 01264 347630
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Land at New Road, Aylesbury
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FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

PROJECT NO. 660293 DATE 01-07-2014
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FIGURE NO.

3 & 4



5

5 Trench 2, furrow 202, looking north-east (scale 1m)



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FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

PROJECT NO. 660293 DATE 01-07-2014
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FIGURE NO.

5



6

6 Trench 4, modern feature, looking south (scales 1m)



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FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

| | | | | |
|-------------|---------------|----------|-------------------|------------|
| PROJECT NO. | 660293 | DATE | 04-07-2014 | FIGURE NO. |
| DRAWN BY | DJB | REVISION | 00 | 6 |
| APPROVED BY | LM | SCALE@A4 | N/A | |



7 Detail from Second Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1899



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PROJECT TITLE

Land at New Road, Aylesbury
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FIGURE TITLE

Historic mapping

| | | | | |
|-------------|--------|----------|-----------------|------------|
| PROJECT NO. | 660293 | DATE | 01-07-2014 | FIGURE NO. |
| DRAWN BY | DJB | REVISION | 00 | |
| APPROVED BY | LM | SCALE@A4 | 1:5000 (approx) | 7 |