

**PROPOSED NEW DWELLING, LODGE HOUSE FARM,  
MARSHWOOD, DORSET  
Archaeological Evaluation**



**Report No. 53286/2/1**

**May 2008**

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MARSHWOOD, DORSET**

**Archaeological Evaluation, May 2008**

**Prepared for:**

Mr & Mrs H Johnson  
Mr & Mrs M Johnson  
Lodge House Farm  
Whitchurch Canonicorum  
Dorset  
DT6 6RW

**Through their agents:**

Symonds and Sampson  
2 Court Ash  
Yeovil  
Somerset  
BA20 1HG

**Report Written by:**

Peter S Bellamy

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# **PROPOSED NEW DWELLING, LODGE HOUSE FARM, MARSHWOOD, DORSET**

## **Archaeological Evaluation, May 2008**

### **SUMMARY**

*In May 2008, Terrain Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of the proposed site of a new house at Lodge House Farm, Marshwood, Dorset (centred on NGR SY40449780). The site of the proposed new dwelling was just outside the area of Marshwood Castle Scheduled Monument. A single trench was excavated and no archaeological features were exposed and no finds were recovered.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Terrain Archaeology was commissioned by Symonds and Sampson, on behalf of their clients, to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the site of a proposed new dwelling at Lodge House Farm, Marshwood, Dorset. This evaluation is being undertaken pre-application for Planning Permission.

The site lies immediately to the northwest of Lodge House Farm, Marshwood, centred on Ordnance Survey NGR SY40449780 (Figure 1), adjacent to the area of the Scheduled Monument Dorset 427 "Marshwood Castle" (Figure 2). It lies on a spur of land on the northern side of Marshwood Vale at a height of about 42 m above Ordnance Datum. The ground slopes gently to the south and east. The site is currently in the corner of a field under grass.

The underlying geology is mapped as Black Ven Marl of the Charmouth Mudstone Formation of Early Jurassic age.

An archaeological evaluation, comprising trial trenching was requested by following advice from Phil McMahon (Inspector of Ancient Monuments) and Steven Wallis (Senior Archaeologist, Dorset County Council). This is in line with Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (Archaeology and Planning).

An archaeological evaluation, as defined by the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* is a "limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork, which determines the presence, or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site [...]. If such archaeological remains are present, field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context, as appropriate. "

The fieldwork was carried out on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2008 by Steven Tatler and Maggie Foottit. The project was managed by Peter Bellamy BSc (Hons) MIFA.

Terrain Archaeology would like to acknowledge the help and cooperation of Messrs Henry and Mark Johnson, Andrew Booth (Symonds and Sampson), Phil McMahon (English Heritage) and Steve Wallis and Claire Pinder (Senior Archaeologists, Dorset County Council).

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

Marshwood Castle was the caput of the barony of Mandeville of Marshwood. William de Mandeville was made Baron of Marshwood by King John in AD1205 and his son Robert was living at Marshwood in 1215. Marshwood Castle declined soon after the year AD1264 after Mandeville was involved a rebellion against King Edward III and his barony was forfeited (Bartelot 1944, 70-91).

The castle has a rectangular earthwork enclosure, with an internal earthwork rampart and a moat. The motte was in the southwest corner with the remains of a rectangular masonry tower still surviving. The moat was about 2.5 m wide and can still be traced for some of its circuit. Much of the area of the castle is now covered with farm buildings and is incorporated within the farmyard of Lodge House Farm.

An excavation was carried out in the castle in about 1840 and the remains of the foundations of the castle chapel (St Mary's Chapel) were uncovered (Bartelot 1944, 70; RCHME 1952, 157).

The Castle is a Scheduled Monument (Dorset 427) and the remains of the stone tower are a Listed Building Grade II\*.

## **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The objective of the archaeological works was to evaluate the archaeological potential of the site, that is, to appraise the nature, extent, level of preservation and importance of any archaeological deposits.

The evaluation aimed to record all the *in situ* archaeological deposits and features revealed during the works in order to provide sufficient data to assess the archaeological significance of the site.

The results of this evaluation may be used to formulate a strategy for the preservation or management of any archaeological remains; and/or formulate an appropriate response or mitigation strategy to planning applications or other proposals which may affect adversely any such archaeological remains, or enhance them; and/or formulate a proposal for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research.

## **METHODS**

The archaeological works were undertaken in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation*, although no written brief was issued for the works.

The evaluation comprised intrusive investigation in the form of a single machine-excavated trial trench measuring 18 m by 1 m, positioned across the proposed (Figure 2). The trench was excavated using a machine fitted with a one-metre-wide toothless grading bucket.

All deposits revealed, irrespective of their apparent archaeological significance, were recorded using components of the Terrain Archaeology recording system of complementary written, drawn and photographic records.

The records have been compiled in a stable, cross-referenced and fully indexed archive in accordance with current UKIC guidelines and the requirements of the receiving museum.

## **RESULTS**

Trench 1 was located across the approximate area of the footprint of the proposed new house. It was 18 m long, 1 m wide and up to 0.35 m deep and aligned approximately NW–SE. The

underlying natural consisted of orangey-brown clay (101). It lay immediately below a 0.35 m thick layer of yellowish-brown silty clay topsoil (100). No features or deposits of archaeological interest were found and no finds recovered. At the northwestern end of the trench, the remains of a field drain were noted crossing the trench.

## **Finds**

No finds were recovered from the evaluation.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

The evaluation trench was located to sample the probable location of the footprint of the proposed new building and represents a nominal 2% sample of the whole site of the house and garden. There were no earthworks visible on the site considered to be of archaeological origin. Overall, the results of this archaeological evaluation are considered to be representative of the potential archaeology existing on the site. Therefore, it is considered that the results of this evaluation indicate there was no significant archaeological activity on the site.

## **PROJECT ARCHIVE**

The archive (Terrain Archaeology Project No. 53286) will be deposited with Dorset County Museum, which has agreed in principle to accept the archive, subject to fulfilment of the Museum's requirements of the preparation of archaeological archives. A copy of the microfilmed archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Record.

## REFERENCES

- Bartelot, R. G. 1944 'The vanished mediaeval castles of Dorset' *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society* **66**, 65-75.
- RCHME 1952 Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England 1952 *An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in the county of Dorset 1, West*. HMSO.



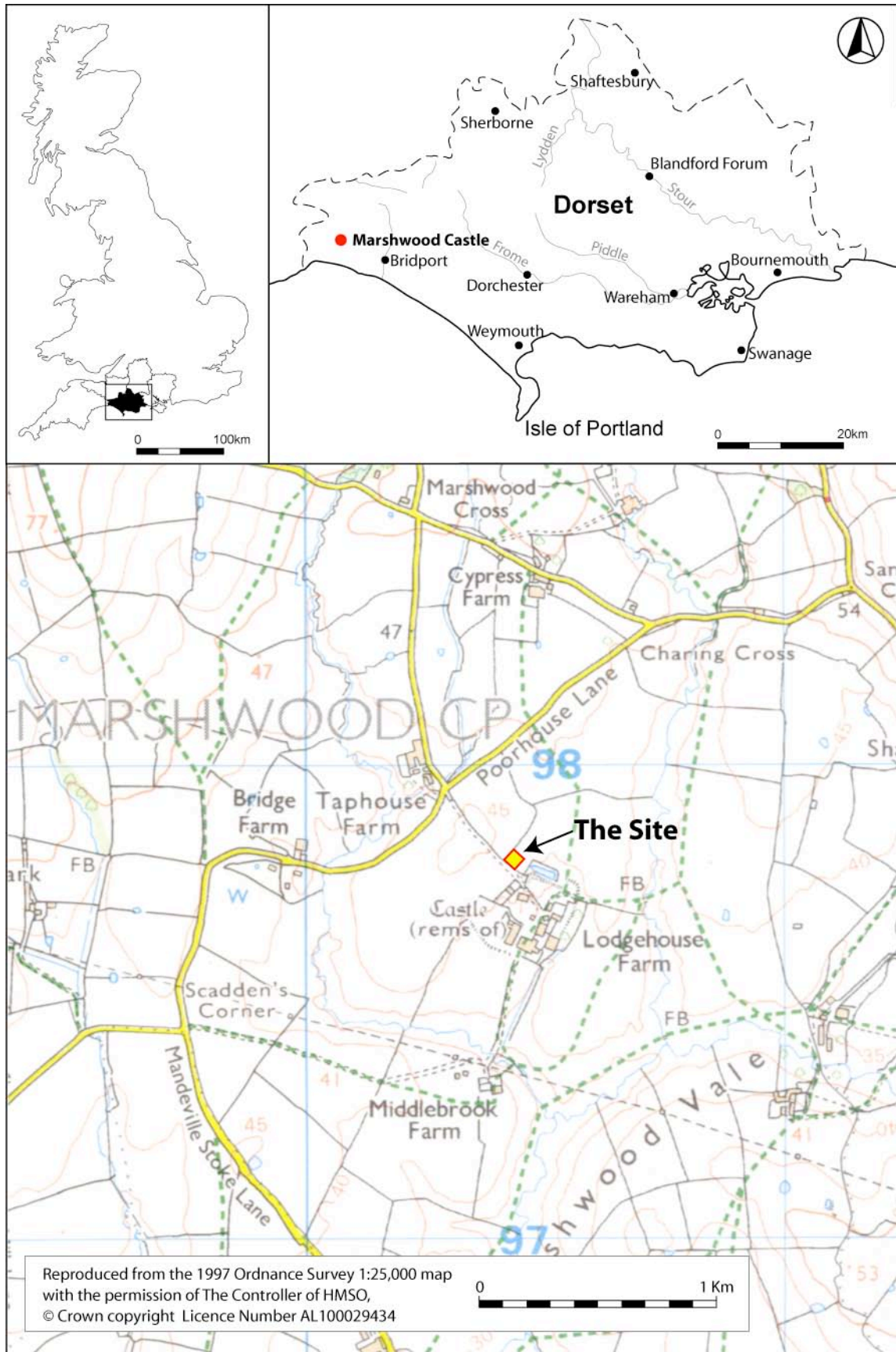


Figure 1: Location map



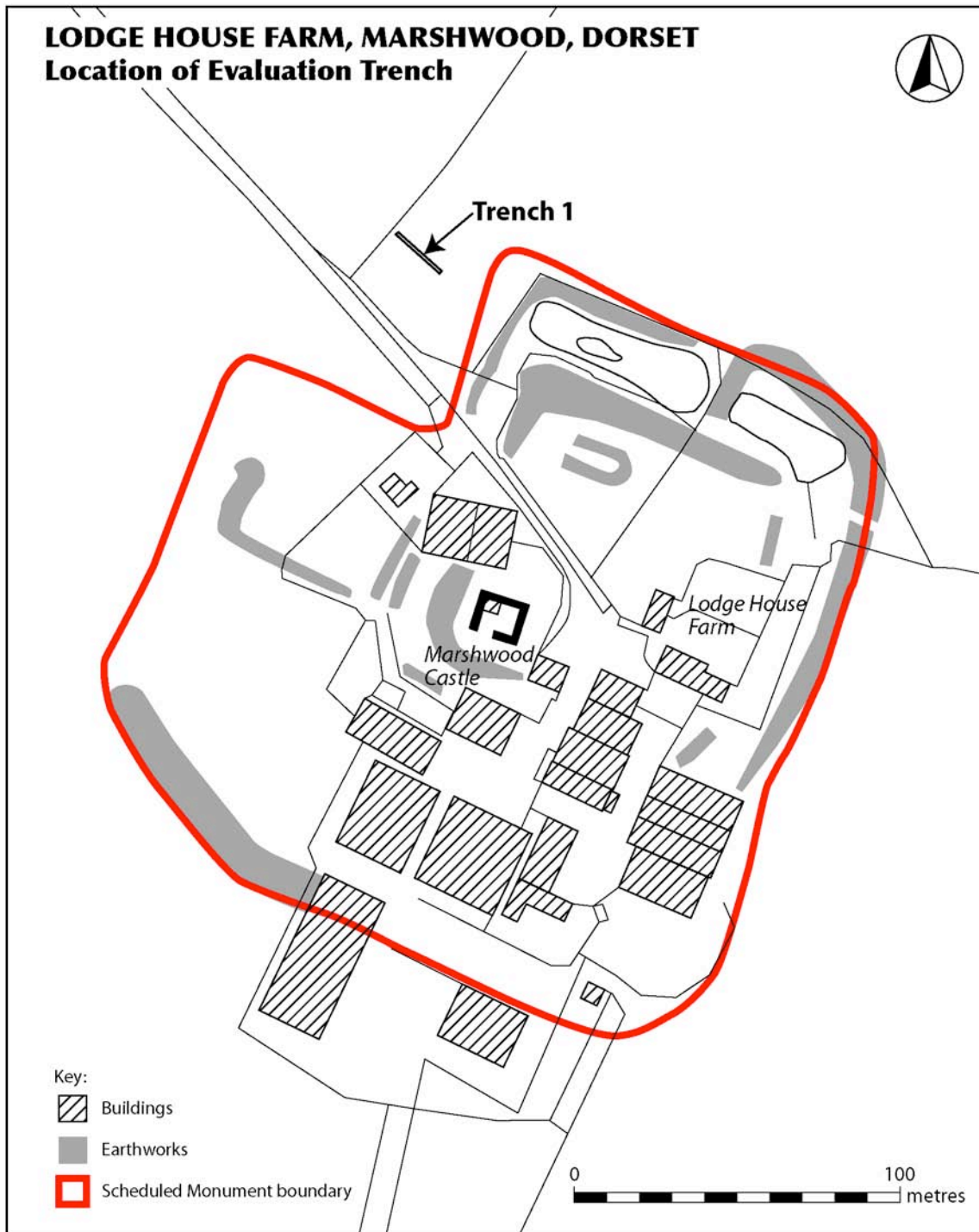


Figure 2: Trench location plan (based on a plan provided by the agent)





*Plate 1: Trench 1 viewed from southwest*



*Plate 2: Trench 1 viewed from northwest.*



*Plate 3: Representative southwest-facing section of Trench 1.*