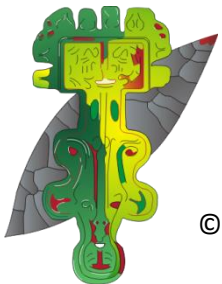


Absolute Archaeology LLP
2014


Results of a Programme of Archaeological Investigation and Recording~
Monkton House, Broughton Gifford, Wiltshire, SN12 8PA ~ Interim Report



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Absolute Archaeology LLP
On behalf of Mr & Mrs Kirk

Client/Agent Name: Mr & Mrs Kirk
 Document Title: Results of a Programme of Archaeological Investigation and Recording ~ Monkton House, Broughton Gifford, Wiltshire, SN12 8PA
 Grid Reference: ST 88348 62339 (central point)
 Document Type: Test Pit Evaluation ~ Interim Report
 Issue Number: 1.0
 Date of Preparation: 5th December 2014
 Local Planning Authority: Wiltshire Council
 Site Code: AArc178
 Oasis ID: absolute1-196898
 OS Licence: 100048201

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Summary

This document sets out the results of a test pit evaluation carried out to inform plans for redevelopment and engineering works in the grounds of Monkton House, Broughton Gifford, Wiltshire, SN12 8PA. The work was commissioned by Ms I Bishop, acting on behalf of the clients, Mr & Mrs Kirk. The programme of investigation was carried out from the 24th – 28th November 2014 in order to inform plans for engineering works to the NW of Monkton House, and excavations to establish a pool and fountain to the SW.

The results of the test pit evaluation were varied, with a small amount of artefacts representing a background scatter of material suggesting activity in the vicinity of the Project Site ranging from the Prehistoric period to the 19th century. However, no period dominates and the general lack of finds along with no associated features for the pre Medieval period, suggests that the Project Site may be on the periphery of the focus of activity at this time. With regards to the Medieval history of the Project Site, whilst a lack of associated finds is notable, evidence of a roughly coursed, rubble feature, interpreted at this time as a potential wall footing, was recording adjacent to the NW wall of Monkton House and appears to pre date the current structure.

It is considered that land to the NW of Monkton House has potential to preserve evidence of activity relating to the use of the Project Site in the Medieval period, however this may have been significantly disturbed during recent works. Despite this, at least one structural feature appears to be preserved and the extent and date of this should be investigated further, in the event that significant groundwork is to be carried out in this area. Despite the low level of artefacts retrieved from the area of the proposed swimming pool (Test Pits 1 & 2), the potential for features to be preserved at 450mm – 600mm below the current ground level should not be ruled out. With regards to the fountain, it is considered that groundwork in this area is likely to be of a minimal nature and therefore it is unlikely that archaeological features will be encountered.

Acknowledgements

Absolute Archaeology LLP would like to thank Mr & Mrs Kirk (the clients) and Ms I Bishop for Verity & Beverly (the agent) for their assistance throughout the project. We would also like to thank Mr D Haigh, for JME Conservation Ltd, for his help and expertise.

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1. INTRODUCTION

This document sets out the results of a test pit evaluation carried out to inform plans for redevelopment and engineering works in the grounds of Monkton House, Broughton Gifford, Wiltshire, SN12 8PA (hereafter referred to as the Project Site). The work was commissioned by Ms I Bishop, acting on behalf of the clients, Mr & Mrs Kirk. The programme of investigation was carried out from the 24th – 28th November 2014.

The need for the programme of work was advised by Mr D Haigh (JME Conservation Ltd) and will accompany plans for engineering works to the NW of Monkton House and excavations to establish a pool and fountain to the SW of the property.

2. THE PROJECT SITE

The Project Site is situated in a rural location, on the bank of the River Avon, 1.1km SSE of the village of Broughton Gifford, Wiltshire. The site comprises a Grade II* listed house, with late 16th century origins, along with a walled garden. The property was expanded in the 17th century, when a range was added to the east. Further features of 18th century date are also evident.

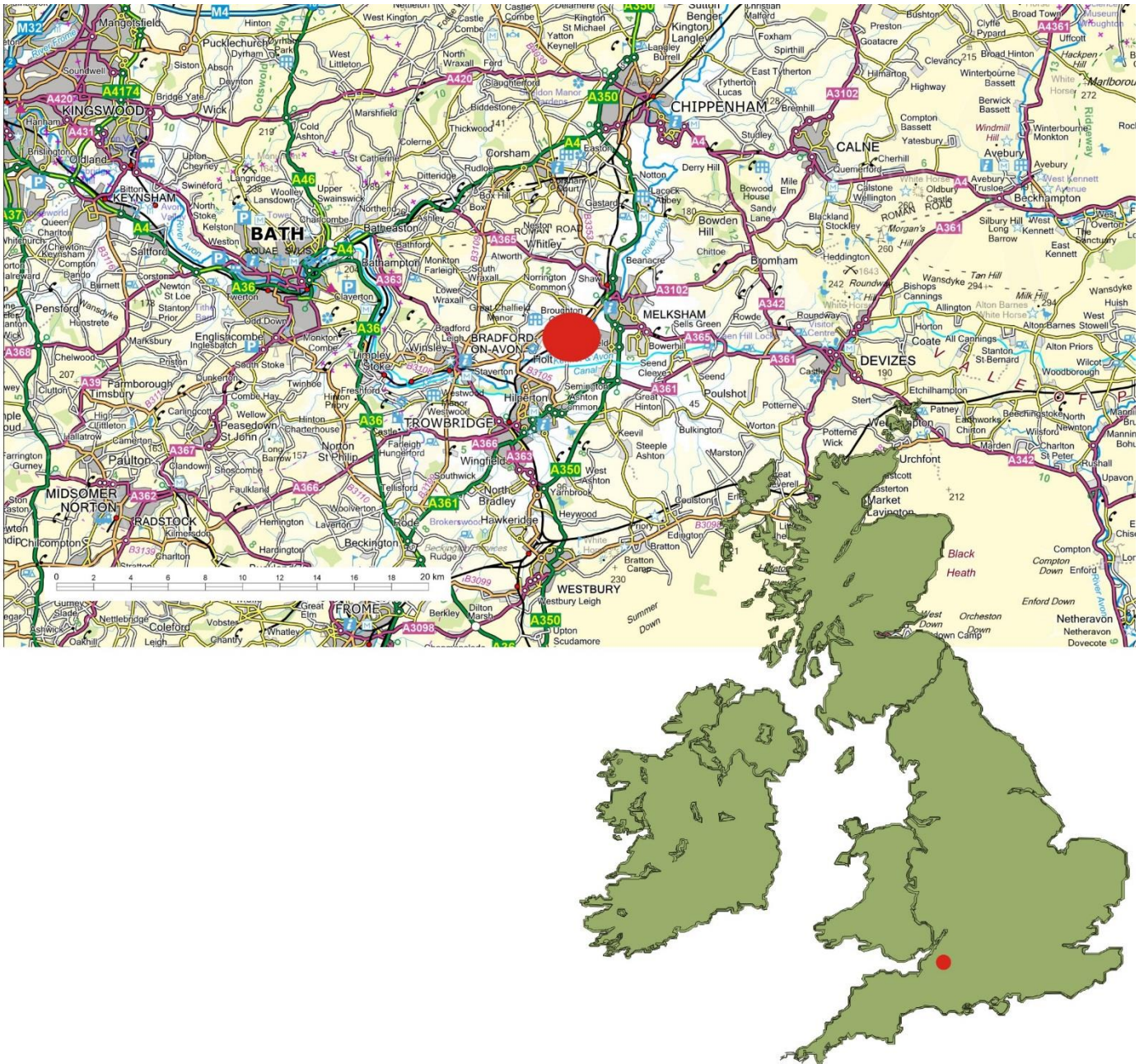


Figure 1 Project Site Location

The Project Site is reported to have Medieval origins and is recorded as Little Broughton Manor in the Domesday survey. Records indicate that there was a Chapel at Little Broughton or Monkton, the patronage of which was claimed by the Prior of Monkton Farleigh and by the Abbess of Shaftesbury. An agreement was made in AD 1232, which enabled the abbess to retain the patronage of the chapel as part of Great Broughton and the prior was to be free from the payment of tithes from the two hides of land which he held in the parish, of which the tithe had previously been paid to the chapel. Shortly after this it is suggested that the chapel may have fallen into disuse and in AD 1341 records state that there was no chapel in the parish except the parish church (Dawson 1985. 56-57).

Geologically the site is defined by Quaternary River Terrace Deposits, Unlithified Sand and Gravel, overlaying Mid - Late Jurassic Oxford Clay Formation, Mudstone and is situated 35m aOD.

3. APPROACH TO PROGRAMME OF INVESTIGATION

3.1. Methodology

The investigation took the form of an archaeological test pit evaluation undertaken to ascertain information on the presence/absence, extent, condition, character and date of any archaeological deposits within the Project Site.

It is intended that the results of the evaluation will form the basis of any proposals for appropriate mitigation measures that may seek to limit the damage to significant archaeological deposits identified within the Project Site, and will help to define any research priorities that may be relevant should further investigation be required.

The programme of work was carried out in line with the following:

- IFA Standard and Guidance for an archaeological field evaluation (revised 2008)
- Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation (English Heritage 2006).

3.2. Objectives

Broadly the archaeological investigation sought to:

- Assess the potential for archaeological activity associated with the Project Site;
- Establish the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation within the development area;
- Record and identify archaeological features and deposits to a level appropriate to their extent and significance;
- Establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes;
- Undertake sufficient post-excavation assessment to interpret archaeological features and phasing identified during the evaluation and to place these within their local and regional context;
- Create a site archive for deposition in a suitable repository;
- Inform the implementation of a suitable strategy in order to mitigate the impact of development on the archaeological resource, in the event of positive results.

4. REPORT & ARCHIVE

4.1. Report

Copies of the final report will be deposited with the Local Planning Authority and the Council's Historic Environment Record. A copy will also be uploaded to the Oasis database.

4.2. Archive

The site archive will contain all the data collected during the programme of investigation, including records, finds and environmental residues. It will be quantified, ordered, indexed and checked for internal consistency.

The archive will be prepared to the standards outlined in MoRPHE PPN 3 - Archaeological Excavation (English Heritage 2008), and in accordance with the guidelines published in *Guidelines for the preparation of Excavation Archives for long-term storage* (United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, 1990) and *Standards in the Museum care of archaeological collections* (Museum and Galleries Commission, 1994) and MoRPHE (2006). Deposition shall take place as soon as practicable after the site works, and in any case within 12 months of the completion of the project.

Although Wiltshire Museum is unable to take collection of the archive, all materials will be marked, packaged and presented in accordance with their standard requirements (pers com Ms L Brown, Curator Wiltshire Museum 11th October 2014). Security copies of paper records in digital or fiche format will be maintained and stored at the Absolute Archaeology LLP office prior to deposition.

Absolute Archaeology LLP will endeavour to ensure that the full integrated archive, including finds, shall, with the agreement of the owners, be transferred into our keeping until a suitable repository can be agreed. Until such a time, the material and paper archive will be held at 51 St Mary's Gardens, Hilperton Marsh, Trowbridge, BA14 7PH.

However, it is agreed that, in the event of the legal owner(s) resolving to retain all or part of the site archive, they shall be responsible for the future preservation and maintenance of any material element of that archive. That part of the site archive in question, shall be transferred to the legal owner only after all necessary processing, research, analysis and investigative/stabilising conservation and correct packing necessary to prepare the archive for preservation and storage in a usable, accessible form, and to produce a full report for publication, has been completed. The owner shall ensure that all necessary provision is made for the long-term preservation of the archive in a satisfactory environment, and that it is accessible for future research. The archaeological contractor will ensure that a proper record of material kept by the landowner shall be included in

the written archive, and the location and ownership of the material shall be stated in the written archive and public record. The explicit (written) permission of the owner shall be obtained for the latter in order that data protection legislation is not contravened.

5. RESULTS

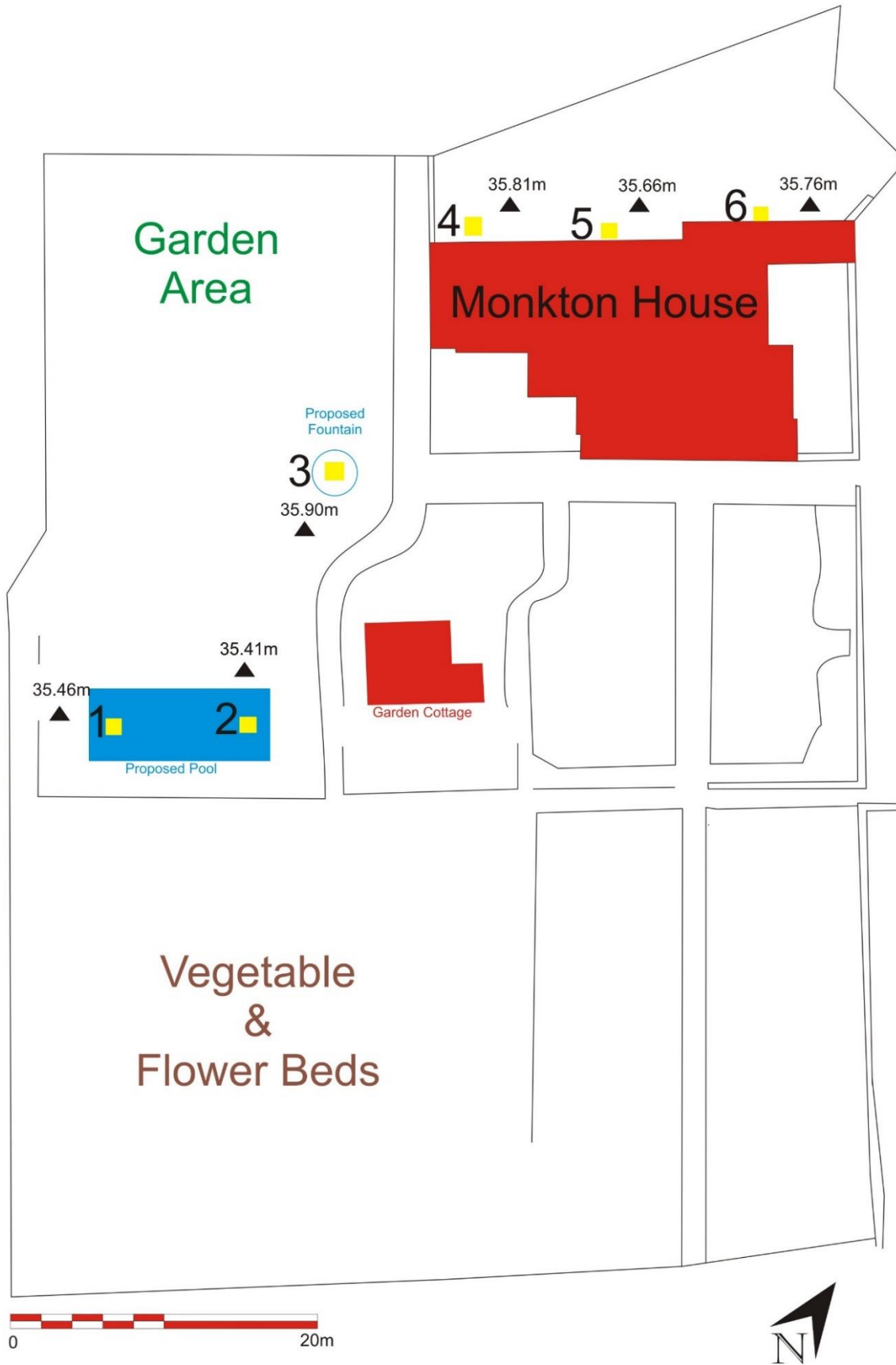


Figure 2 Test Pit location plan

5.1. Test Pit 1

Test Pit 1 was located in an area of vegetable garden, 35m SW of the main house and within the footprint of the proposed new swimming pool. Excavation revealed a topsoil (100) overlaying a silty clay deposit (101), with abundant gravel inclusions. The material was seen to contain residual ceramic sherds, dating from the Medieval – Post Medieval period and a small collection of worked flint. This layer was seen to overlay the natural silty clay. An irregular feature noted in the base of the test pit was identified as root disturbance.

No archaeological features layers or deposits were identified within the test pit.



Photograph 1 SE facing section Test Pit 1 (Scales 1 x 1m & 1 x 500mm)

5.2. Test Pit 2

Test Pit 2 was also excavated within the footprint of the proposed new swimming pool. Excavation revealed a topsoil (200) sealing a silty clay layer (201), which was seen to overlay a small post hole, with stone packing. Layer (201) contained Medieval – Post Medieval ceramics and a small collection of worked flint. The potential post hole at the base of the trench measured 450mm in

width and is most likely Post Medieval in date (located at 34.93m aOD). Investigation of fill [207], which was seen to compact stone packing [206], failed to identify any associated artefacts. However, an earlier date cannot be ruled out at this stage. A wide trench was also identified in the base of the test pit. The feature was seen to be filled with a material similar to (201) and it is interpreted as a Post Medieval cultivation trench. An investigation of the fill (not bottomed) revealed fragments of CBM (Ceramic Building Material).



Photograph 2 SE facing section of Test Pit 2 (Scales 1 x 1m & 1 x 500mm)

5.3. Test Pit 3

Test Pit 3 was excavated in the location of a proposed new fountain c. 10m SW of the main house. Excavation revealed a topsoil/turfline (300), overlaying a thin gravel layer (301), perhaps a remnant of a pathway or hard standing area. This material was seen to seal a deeper silty clay layer (302), which contained ceramic sherds dating from the Medieval – Post Medieval Period along with worked flint, including a scraper of Mesolithic date. The material also contained frequent flecks of charcoal, seen throughout. A potential cut feature [303] was identified at the base of the test pit at 35.38m aOD. Investigation of the feature failed to reveal any associated finds, however the base

was defined by a deposit of pea grit, suggesting a natural horizon and lending support to the material representing a fill.



Photograph 3 SW facing section of Test Pit 3 (Scales 1 x 1m, 1 x 600mm & 1 x 300mm). Feature [303] shown at base of test pit, in SE corner.

5.4. Test Pit 4

Test Pit 4 was excavated adjacent to the NW facing wall of Monkton House, in order to investigate the potential for any masonry associated with projecting stone noted on the outer wall. Excavation revealed a shallow topsoil/turfline (400) overlaying natural gravels. Post Medieval ceramic sherds and modern glass were identified within material (400), along with a flat, ceramic red brick fragment which, although potentially Medieval in origin, the form and fabric indicate that a Romano British date cannot be ruled out.

No archaeological features, layers or deposits were identified in Test Pit 4.



Photograph 4 NW facing section of Test Pit 4 (Scales 1 x 1m & 1 x 300mm)

5.5. Test Pit 5

Test Pit 5 was also excavated against the NW facing wall of Monkton House, in order to investigate the lower course of masonry seen to project from the base of the wall. Excavation revealed that a large concrete block had been cast beneath the wall in this area, by way of underpinning. Although full investigation was not possible at this time, partial clearance of shallow grass and moss from alongside the wall suggests that the concrete may extend >10m from the NE – SW. Stone packing inserted above the concrete block represents the masonry which is seen to extend beyond the face of the wall. The cut for the concrete underpinning was seen to truncate the natural orange silty clay, suggesting that disturbance in the area of the Project Site may be extensive. The results also suggest that the ground floor level of Monkton House is terraced into the SE slope of the natural

topography, which would account for the drop in the level from the external turfline to the internal flooring, notable to the rear of the property.

No archaeological features, layers of deposits were identified in the test pit.



Photograph 5 NW facing section of Test Pit 5 (Scales 1 x 1m & 1 x 600mm)

5.6. Test Pit 6

Test Pit 6 was located to the NE of the main house, at the interface of the NW wall and a later single storey annex. Excavation revealed a shallow topsoil/turfline (600) sealing the fill of a cut feature [601], containing 19th century domestic waste, in the form of broken ceramic sherds, glass and a bone button. The cut was seen to truncate randomly coursed limestone rubble, recorded throughout the test pit at 35.56m aOD. Due to the 19th century disturbance, it was possible to

identify at c. 5 courses of mortared rubble in the cut, measured to a depth of 400mm. The feature [603] was seen to continue beneath the wall of Monkton House and was separated stratigraphically by a thin dark loamy layer, which was identified in section between the lower course of Monkton House and the upper rubble of structure [603]. It is not possible to fully understand the nature and date of the rubble feature at this stage, however it is suggested that the structure may represent an early wall foundation, and a Medieval date cannot be ruled out.



Photograph 6 SSE facing view of Test Pit 6 (Scales 1 x 1m & 1 x 200mm)

6. FINDS SUMMARY

The artefacts recovered from the test pits are summarised below, however a full assessment will be included in our final report, which will be submitted following the completion of the relevant specialist reports.

A total of 10 flint artefacts were recovered, including a reworked flint from Test Pit 1, burnt worked flint from Test Pit 2 and a Mesolithic core scraper from Test Pit 3. Although there were no associated features and the total amount was relatively low, the evidence indicates prehistoric activity in vicinity of the Project Site.

Ceramic finds represent Medieval activity within the vicinity of the Project Site, although once again the amount of sherds attributed to the period is low, with only 4 examples of potential Saxo/Norman to 12th century fabric. In addition, examples of 16th – 19th century domestic fabrics were identified, but again not in any great quantity. Of particular import may be a single sherd of potential Romano – British fabric recovered from Test Pit 3. The burnished fabric is still to be assessed, however the sherd has the appearance of a fabric similar to BB1 (Black Burnished Ware Category 1).

In addition to the above, 19 fragments of animal bone were recovered representing livestock, in addition to partial canine jaw bone.

7. DISCUSSION

The results of the test pit evaluation were varied, with a small amount of artefacts representing a background scatter of material suggesting activity in the vicinity of the Project Site ranging from the Prehistoric period to the 19th century. However, no period dominates and the general lack of finds along with no associated features for the pre Medieval period, suggests that the Project Site may be on the periphery of the focus of activity at this time. Alternatively, it is possible that associated features are preserved beneath the silty clay layer which was represented by layers (101), (201) and (302) to the south of Monkton House.

With regards to the Medieval history of the Project Site, whilst a lack of associated finds is notable, evidence of a roughly coursed, rubble feature, interpreted at this time as a potential wall footing, was recorded adjacent to the NW wall of Monkton House and appears to pre date the current structure. The upper coursing of the feature was recorded at just 200mm below the current ground level and if this does indeed represent the upper course of a trench built foundation, then it is possible that significant ground reduction and terracing during the construction of the current Monkton House, may have resulting in the truncation of earlier land surfaces in this region of the site. The removal of material from the Project Site during the construction of the 16th century dwelling would result in a low level of diagnostic finds. Similarly, destructive engineering work to establish concrete underpinning along the main extent of the NW wall would have resulted in large scale disturbance in this area.

8. CONCLUSION

It is considered that land to the NW of Monkton House has the potential to preserve evidence of activity relating to the use of the Project Site in the Medieval period, however this may have been significantly disturbed during recent works. Despite this, at least one structural feature appears to be preserved and the extent and date of this should be investigated further, in the event that significant groundwork is to be carried out in this area.

Despite the low level of artefacts retrieved from the area of the proposed swimming pool (Test Pits 1 & 2), the potential for features to be preserved at 450mm – 600mm below current ground level should not be ruled out. With regards to the fountain, it is considered that groundwork in this area is likely to be of a minimal nature and therefore it is unlikely that archaeological features will be encountered.

9. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Ceramics Table

Test Pit	Context	Weight	Amount	Description
1	101	8g	1	1 Possibly Saxo/Norman
1	101	48g	3	Post Medieval Pancheon
2	201	15g	3	Early Medieval Possibly 12 th century
3	302	4g	1	1 Possibly Romano British BB1
3	302	10g	1	Post Medieval Pancheon
6	601	20g	2	X 1 16 th century X 1 17 th century 19 th century sherds not retained
Total	-	105g	11	-

Appendix 2 Worked Flint

Test Pit	Context	Weight	Amount	Description
1	101	1g	1	Reworked Flint
2	201	1g	1	Burnt Flint
3	302	32g	8	1 Mesolithic Core Scraper (non patinated) 2 Retouched Flake (non patinated) 2 Waste Flakes (non patinated) 1 Waste Flake (patinated) 1 Reworked Flake 1 Burnt Flint
Total	-	34g	10	-

Appendix 3 Other

Test Pit	Context	Weight	Amount	Description
1	101	95g	6	Animal Bone
2	201	123g	11	Animal Bone Including 3 teeth
2	201	21g	1	Oyster Shell
2	201	53g	2	CBM Post Medieval?
3	302	135g	8	Animal Bone Including 1 tooth
4	401	542g	1	CBM Possible Pilae
6	601	1g	1	Bone Button

Appendix 4 Test Pit Descriptions

Test Pit 1							
Description: Square Hand Dug Test Pit Measuring 1.5m x 1.5m. Excavated in allotment area.					Orientation	-	
					NGR	-	
					Depth	450mm	
					Width	1.5m	
					Length	1.5m	
Contexts 100-102							
Context Number	Type	Depth/Height	Width	Length/Diameter	Colour	Finds	Recorded Date
100	Topsoil	250mm	>1.5m	>1.5m	Mid Greyish Brown	-	24.11.2014
101	Layer	100mm	>1.5m	>1.5m	Mid Yellowish Brown, Friable Gravel Layer	Medieval – Post Medieval ceramic sherds	24.11.2014
102	Natural	>100mm	>1.5m	>1.5m	Mid Yellowish Brown Clay	-	24.11.2014

Test Pit 2							
Description: Square Hand Dug Test Pit Measuring 1.5m x 1.5m. Excavated in allotment area.						Orientation	-
						NGR	-
						Depth	480mm
						Width	1.5m
						Length	1.5m
Contexts 200 - 207							
Context Number	Type	Depth/ Height	Width	Length /Diameter	Colour	Findings	Recorded Date
200	Topsoil	230mm	>1.5m	>1.5m	Dark Greyish Brown	-	24.11.2014
201	Soft Silty Clay Layer	250mm	>1.5m	>1.5m	Mid Greyish Brown	-	24.11.2014
202	Post Medieval Cut	-	>800mm	>1.5m	-	Worked Flint and Medieval – Post Medieval Ceramics	24.11.2014
203	Fill of cut [202]	-	>800mm	>1.5m	Mid Greyish Brown	-	24.11.2014
204	Natural Soft Silty Clay	-	>1.5m	>1.5m	Mid Orange Brown	-	24.11.2014
205	Cut – Possible Post Hole. Probably Post Medieval	-	450mm	450mm	-	-	24.11.2014
206	Stone Packing	160mm	-	-	-	-	24.11.2014
207	Fill of [205]	-	450mm	450mm	Mid Greyish Brown	-	24.11.2014

Test Pit 3							
Description: Square hand excavated test pit, measuring 1.5m x 1.5m. Excavated in garden area.					Orientation	-	
					NGR	-	
					Depth	520mm	
					Width	1.5m	
					Length	1.5m	
Contexts 300 - 305							
Context Number	Type	Depth/Height	Width	Length/Diameter	Colour	Findings	Recorded Date
300	Topsoil/Turfline	200mm	>1.5m	>1.5m	Dark Greyish Brown	-	25.11.2015
301	Layer Soft Silty Clay with Gravel inclusions	130mm	1.5m	1.5m	Mid Yellowish Brown	-	25.11.2015
302	Layer Soft Silty Clay	300mm	1.5m	1.5m	Dark Greyish Brown	Worked flint waste flakes plus scraper (possibly Mesolithic). Also Medieval ceramic sherds – Post Medieval Sherds.	25.11.2015
303	Cut – Possible	200mm	300mm	-	-	-	25.11.2015
304	Fill of [304]	200mm	300m	-	-	-	25.11.2015
305	Natural Soft Silty Clay	>1.5m	>1.5m	-	Mid Orange Brown	-	25.11.2015

Test Pit 4							
Description: Hand excavated test pit, adjacent to NW wall of Monkton House, measuring 1m x 1m.					Orientation	-	
					NGR	-	
					Depth	320mm	
					Width	1.5m	
					Length	1.5m	
Contexts 400 - 403							
Context Number	Type	Depth/Height	Width	Length /Diameter	Colour	Finds	Recorded Date
400	Turfline/topsoil layer	50mm	>1m	>1m	Dark Greyish Brown	-	26.11.2014
401	Demolition Material / Made Ground	130mm	>1m	>1m	-	Post Medieval Ceramics and CBM	26.11.2014
402	Layer – Soft Silty Clay	140mm	>1m	>1m	Dark Greyish Brown	-	26.11.2014
403	Natural	-	>1m	>1m	Mid Orange Clay	-	26.11.2014

Test Pit 5							
Description: Hand excavated test pit, adjacent to the NW wall of Monkton House.					Orientation	-	
					NGR	-	
					Depth	500mm	
					Width	>1m	
					Length	>1m	
Contexts 500 - 505							
Context Number	Type	Depth/ Height	Width	Length /Diameter	Colour	Finds	Recorded Date
500	Topsoil/Turfline	200mm	>1m	>1m	Dark Greyish Brown	-	28.11.2014
501	Ceramic Water Pipe	150mm	150mm	>1m	-	-	28.11.2014
502	Cut for [501]	>150mm	>150mm	>1m	-	-	28.11.2014
503	Concrete Underpinning	500mm	-	>1m	-	-	28.11.2014
504	Stone Packing	200mm	-	-	-	-	28.11.2014
505	Natural Soft Silty Clay	-	>1m	>1m	Mid Orange Brown	-	28.11.2014

Test Pit 6							
Description: Hand excavated test pit, adjacent to the NW wall of Monkton House.					Orientation	-	
					NGR	-	
					Depth	500mm	
					Width	>1m	
					Length	>1m	
Contexts 600 - 604							
Context Number	Type	Depth/ Height	Width	Length /Diameter	Colour	Finds	Recorded Date
600	Topsoil/Turfline	100mm	>1m	>1m	Dark Greyish Brown	Post Medieval Ceramics	28.11.2014
601	Fill of Victorian Rubbish Pit	300mm	-	-	-	Post Medieval Ceramics	28.11.2014
602	Cut of [601]	300mm	-	-	-	-	28.11.2014
603	Feature- Stone wall, rubble foundation. Possibly Medieval	>300mm	>1m	>1m	-	-	28.11.2014
604	Layer	100mm	>1m	-	Dark Greyish Brown	-	28.11.2014

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Dawson. 1985. *The Victoria History of the Counties of England. Wiltshire*. University of London Institute of Historical Research.