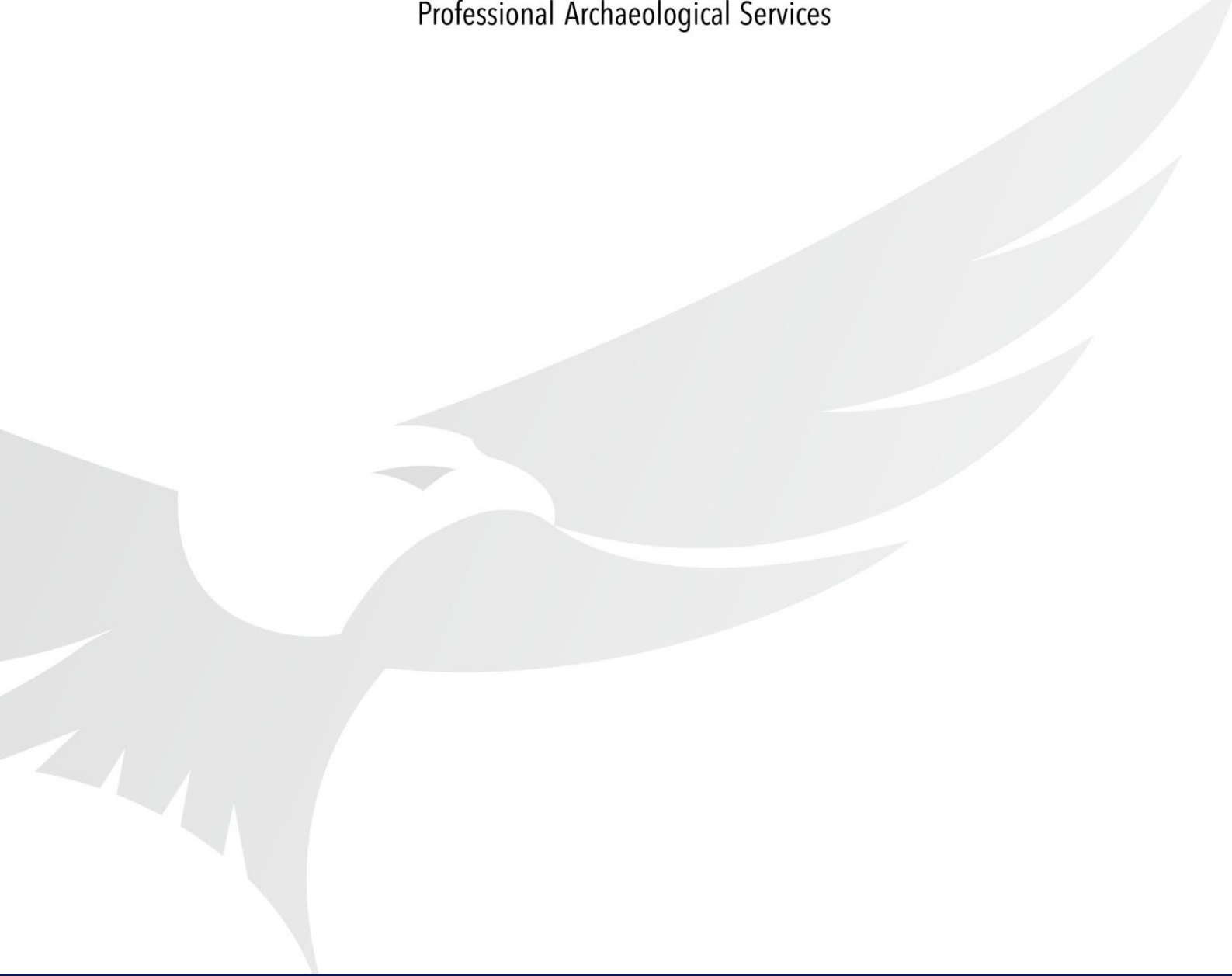




HPS

Professional Archaeological Services



Land at Garden Cottage, Dauntsey Park, Church Lane, Dauntsey, SN15 4HT

Archaeological Evaluation Report





Document title	Land at Garden Cottage, Dauntsey Park, Church Lane, Dauntsey, SN15 4HT
Document subtitle	Archaeological Evaluation Report
National grid reference (NGR)	398092, 182563 (ST 98092 82563)
Client	Cllr. T Sturgis
Planning authority	Wiltshire Council
Planning reference	20/05304/FUL
Collecting museum	Wiltshire Museum
Accession number	DZSWS:49-2020
Project code	HPS 366/20
Date of fieldwork	4 th December 2020
Project manager	Sam Driscoll MCIfA
Issue number	v1
Document date of preparation	17 December 2020
OASIS ID	heritage10-408106
OS Licence	100056941



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Summary

This document sets out the results of an archaeological trench evaluation on Land at Garden Cottage, Dauntsey Park, Church Lane, Dauntsey, SN15 4HT (the Project Site). Permission has been granted for the development of a small agricultural barn, under Wiltshire Council Planning Application Reference 20/05304/FUL.

The programme of work was required due to the proximity of the Project Site close to an area of high archaeological potential. Earthworks postulated to relate to the Saxon settlement of Dauntsey were recorded c. 30 m to the north of the development area. However, the exact location of the site is disputed, and there would appear to be no evidence of the surviving earthworks today (T. Sturgis 2020, pers. comm 9 Sept). Earthworks relating to the Medieval settlement of Dauntsey are recorded c. 120 m to the south of the Project Site.

A single trench was excavated along the line of the footings for the new barn. The results revealed a single truncated 19th century rubbish pit, cut into the truncated subsoil and sealed by an imported topsoil.

The results suggest that shrubs had been grubbed out within the area of the Project Site, and that the ground was subsequently levelled, possibly in conjunction with the construction of the adjacent manure store directly south of the Project Site. A new topsoil was brought in, sealing the truncated subsoil, possibly to facilitate planting or the general regrowth of the area.

Due to the absence of activity predating the later 19th century, the archaeological potential of the development area is considered low and no further monitoring and recording is recommended in conjunction with the construction of the new barn.

Acknowledgements

HPS would like to thank Cllr. Sturgis for commission the archaeological evaluation and for arranging and operating the plant. HPS are also grateful for the advice from Mike Cepak, Assistant Archaeological Officer who monitored the project form Wiltshire Council and to Ann Sturgis for her help and information on the history of the Project Site.



1. Introduction

Project Background

- 1.1. This document sets out the results of an archaeological trench evaluation on Land at Garden Cottage, Dauntsey Park, Church Lane, Dauntsey, SN15 4HT (hereafter referred to as the Project Site). Permission has been granted for the development of a small agricultural barn, under Wiltshire Council Planning Application Reference 20/05304/FUL.
- 1.2. The programme of work was required due to the proximity of the Project Site to an area of high archaeological potential. Earthworks postulated to relate to the Saxon settlement of Dauntsey were recorded c. 30 m to the north of the development area. However, the exact location of the site is disputed, and there would appear to be no evidence of the surviving earthworks today (T. Sturgis 2020, pers. comm 9 Sept). Earthworks relating to the Medieval settlement of Dauntsey are recorded c. 120 m to the south of the Project Site.
- 1.3. A programme of archaeological evaluation was secured by way of a condition of planning. The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (HPS 2020), which was approved by Mike Cepak (Assistant Archaeological Officer) on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, prior to fieldwork commencing.
- 1.4. This project was completed under reference HPS-366/20.

Location, Topography and Geology

- 1.5. The Project Site is located within Dauntsey Park, on land west of Garden Cottage. The development area is located off of the farm access road, within open countryside.
- 1.6. The course of the River Avon runs to the west of the farm. Land is recorded as c. 62 m aOD.
- 1.7. Geologically the site is defined by Oxford Clay Formation - Mudstone. A sedimentary bedrock, formed approximately 157 to 166 million years ago in the Jurassic Period. The limit of the overlying Quaternary River Terrace sand and gravel deposits are recorded to the west (BGS 2020).



2. Archaeological & Historic Background

- 2.1. The information presented here is derived from sources including Wiltshire Historic Environment Record (Know Your Place), Historic England National Monuments Record database (PastScape), the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) and surviving cartographic resources, along with other published or documentary sources.
- 2.2. The Project Site is located on land to the south of the postulated Saxon settlement of *Dameteseye* (850 AD). The name is believed to derive from the Saxon word for 'island' denoting dry ground within a marshy environment (Whittock 1997). Associated earthworks are shown on Know Your Place (KYP) to the north of the site; however, the current landowners have reported that the earthworks are no longer visible. Whilst it is possible that the location is incorrect, evidence of a hachured site on the 1981 Ordnance Survey map suggests that the earthworks were once prominent.
- 2.3. Dauntsey House is located c. 130 m to the southwest of the Project Site. The Grade II listed building is built around a 14th century core, with alterations in the 17th / early 18th century and again c. 1800.
- 2.4. The Church of St. James is located adjacent (southeast) of Dauntsey House. The church is believed to date from the 12th century, with additions throughout the 14th – 16th centuries. A tower was added in the 17th century. Earthworks relating to the Medieval development of Dauntsey are located c. 50 m to the southeast of the church.
- 2.5. The earliest map available at the time of writing was viewed on the Know Your Place website. Whilst there doesn't appear to be a Tithe map available for Dauntsey, a copy of a contemporary map (c. 1840) places the Project Site on land historically belonging to Great Idover Farm (also *Idiver*). The name may derive from the Welsh *ywdwfr*, meaning Yew Stream (Whittock 1997). Farm buildings were evident to the west of the site, in the location of Dauntsey Park Farm.
- 2.6. By 1884 the farm buildings appear to have been extended. An avenue of trees was established flanking a new track leading east from the north range. The Project Site is located on land abutting the new track, to the north. By 1989 the track can be seen to lead to a new circular plantation.



2.7. A hachured area to the north of the site is included on the 1981 Ordnance Survey Map, in the location of the postulated Saxon settlement recorded on the KYP database. The feature does not appear to have been documented on earlier maps.

2.8. Landscaping to establish the track and plantation in the 19th century is likely to have impacted on the upper stratigraphy, however there was considered potential for the Project Site to preserve archaeology dating to Saxon – Medieval settlement.

3. Aims and Objectives

General aims

3.1. The general aims (or purpose) of the evaluation, as stated in the WSI (HPS 2020) in compliance with the CIfA' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2020), were:

- to provide information about the archaeological potential of the site; and
- to inform the scope and nature of any further archaeological work, if required or to a mitigation strategy (to offset the impact of the development on the archaeological resource); or a management strategy.

General objectives

3.2. In order to achieve the above aims, the general objectives of the evaluation were:

- to determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified area;
- to establish, within the constraints of the evaluation, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains;
- to place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
- to make available information about the archaeological resource within the site by reporting on the results of the evaluation.



4. Methodology

- 4.1. All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the WSI (HPS 2020).
- 4.2. Due to the small scale of the development it was agreed, in correspondence with the Assistant Archaeological Officer, that a single trench would be excavated across the footprint of the storage barn (Cepak, M. 2020 pers. comm 9 Nov). The dimensions of the trench were altered on the day of the fieldwork, due to on site constraints. However, Cllr Sturgis confirmed that the overall length of the barn is to be reduced from 20 m in length to 16 m, as such the reduced trenching was deemed to be sufficient.

Service location and other constraints

- 4.3. There were no constraints in relation to below/above-ground services or ecological and environmental matters.
- 4.4. The trial trench location was scanned before the excavation with a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) in order to verify the absence of any live underground services.

Excavation methods

- 4.5. The trench was excavated using a mechanical excavator equipped with a 1.8 m toothless grading bucket, supplied and operated by the client. Machine excavation was carried out under constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist.
- 4.6. Machine excavation proceeded in level spits of approximately 200 mm until the archaeological horizon was exposed. The base of the trench was cleaned by hand.
- 4.7. All spoil was visually scanned and metal detected for the purposes of finds retrieval.

Recording

- 4.8. All archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Heritage Planning Services LTD pro forma recording system.



4.9. A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels.

5. Results

5.1. A single trench measuring 1.8 m (w) x 16 m (l) was excavated using an 8 ton mechanical digger. The area of excavation was positioned centrally within the footprint of the new barn, along the length of the footings.

5.2. The results revealed 0.6 m of loose, dark greyish brown topsoil, with gravel inclusions (100), overlaying the fill of a shallow cut feature [102].

5.3. The shallow irregular cut [102] was recorded to the east of the trench. The fill (101) contained late Victorian stoneware bottles, glass bottles and broken window glass. The feature measured 0.8 m in diameter, with a depth of 0.3 m and was interpreted as a truncated late 19th century rubbish pit.

5.4. The pit was cut into a soft, silty clay subsoil (103), characterised by extensive root disturbance.

5.5. The results suggest that shrubs had been grubbed out within the area of the Project Site, and that the ground was subsequently levelled, possibly in conjunction with the construction of the adjacent manure store directly south of the Project Site. A new topsoil was brought in, sealing the truncated subsoil, possibly to facilitate planting or the general regrowth of the area.

6. Finds

6.1. Finds were limited to the contents of the late Victorian rubbish pit. The collection was recorded on site and not retained for further assessment.



7. Conclusions

- 7.1. Despite the proximity of the Project Site to the postulated Saxon settlement of *Dameteseye*, there was no evidence of associated activity on the Project Site.
- 7.2. The land appeared to have been truncated, most likely in line with the development of the area to the south to create hardstanding and a manure storage. Whilst this is expected to have had an impact on extant archaeology, the base deposits of substantial features are considered likely to have survived where present.
- 7.3. Due to the absence of activity predating the later 19th century, the archaeological potential of the development area is considered low and no further monitoring and recording is recommended in conjunction with the construction of the new barn.

8. Project Archive Storage and Curation

Museum

- 8.1. The archive is currently held at the offices of Heritage Planning Services Ltd, Chippenham. Wiltshire Museum, Devizes agreed in principle to accept the archive resulting from the project, under accession number DZSWS:49-2020.
- 8.2. The archive, which includes paper records, graphics and digital data, will be prepared following the standards and conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological materials, Wiltshire Museum and following the nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 2012; CIfA 2020; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

Oasis

- 8.3. An OASIS online record has been created with key fields completed. The record will be completed at the end of the project. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant records.



9. Copyright

Archive and Report Copyright

- 9.1. The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Heritage Planning Services Limited under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003.
- 9.2. Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) where it can be freely copied without reference to Heritage Planning Services Limited for the purposes of archaeological research, or development control within the planning process.

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11. Appendices

Appendix 1 Trench Summary

Trench 1	Dimensions: 16 m (l) x 1.8 m (w) x 0.8 m (d)		NGR: 398092, 182563 (ST 98092 82563)	Height aOD centre of trench (base): 61.2 m	
Context	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Extent	Date
100	Layer	-	Dark greyish brown, topsoil (imported material) with pockets of pea gravel throughout. Very mixed and loose material.	Seen throughout trench.	Modern
101	Fill	102	Dark greyish brown, soft silty clay fill of cut [102].	Partially revealed in plan. 0.8 m diameter x 0.3 m depth.	19 th century
102	Cut	-	Shallow truncated cut, with irregular base. Filled by (101)	Partially revealed in plan. 0.8 m diameter x 0.3 m depth.	19 th Century
103	Subsoil	-	Mottled light yellowish brown with dark yellowish brown soft silty clay. No frequent inclusions noted. Extensive root disturbance. Truncated natural deposit.	Seen throughout trench.	n/a



Appendix 2 Graphics



Figure 1 Development area (Project Site) outlined in red. Centred on 398092, 182563 (ST 98092 82563)



Figure 2 Trench One location.

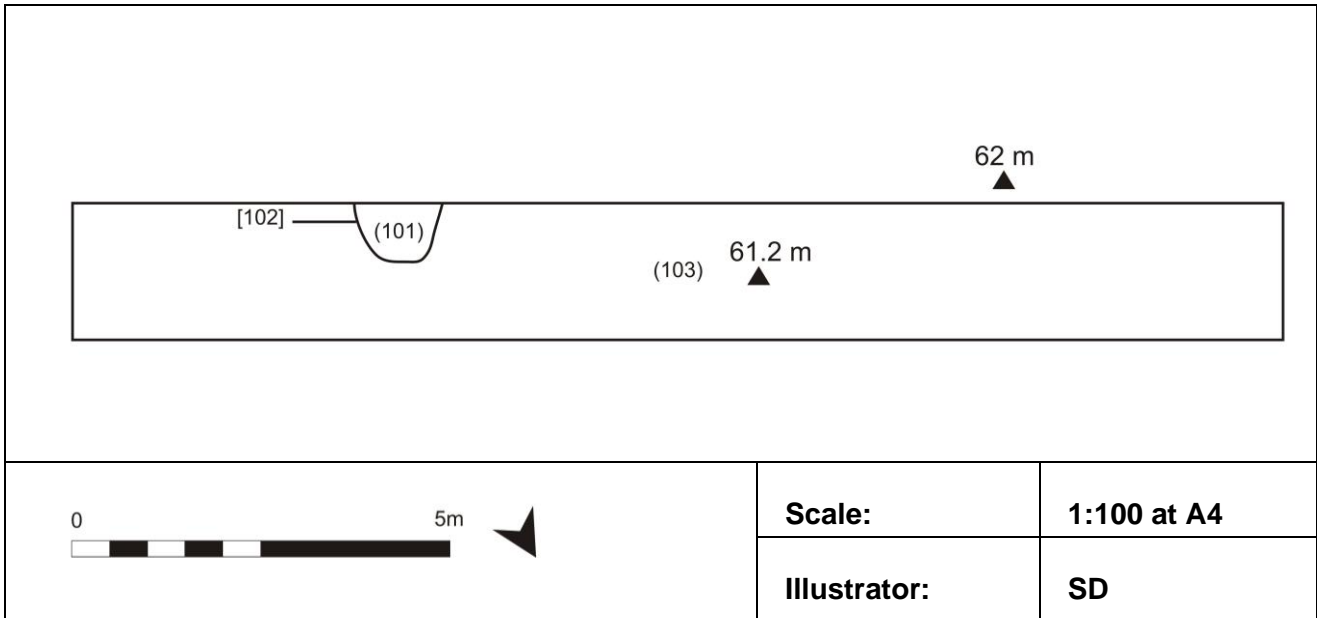


Figure 3 Trench 1 Plan

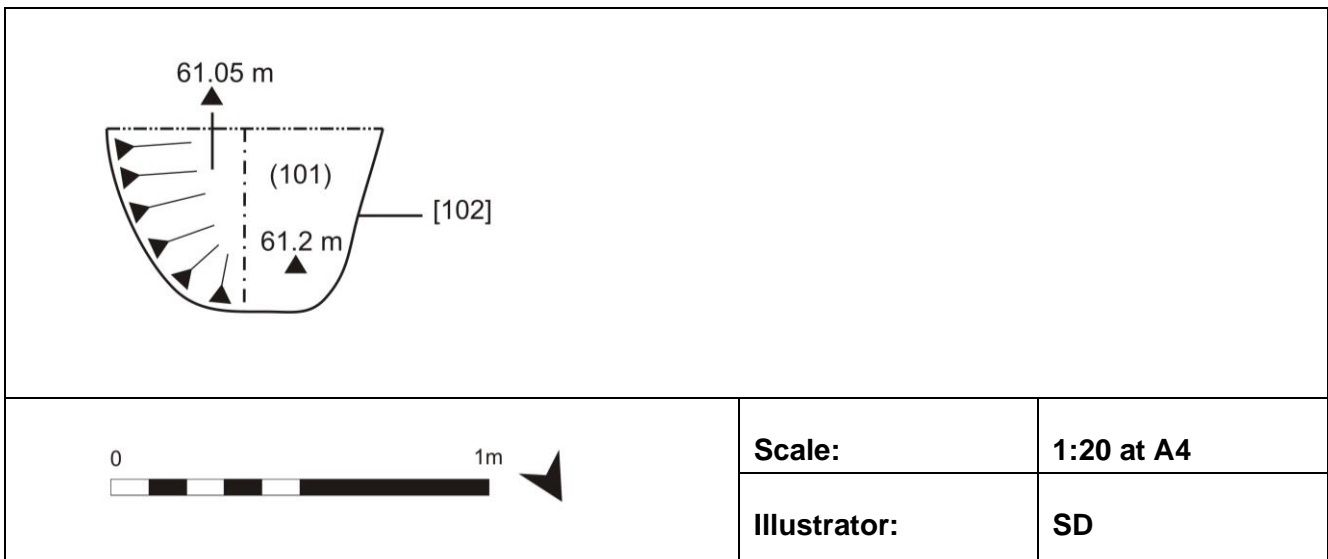


Figure 4 Plan of Cut [102]



Appendix 3 Photographs



Photo 1 West facing view of Trench 1. Scales 1 x 1 m & 1 x 2 m



Photo 2 South facing view of baulk section. Scales 1 x 1 m & 1 x 0.5 m.



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