

BWCS18



BADBURY WICK COTTAGES, SWINDON

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

PLANNING REF. S/10/0842/IH

commissioned by Lanpro Services Ltd

October 2018

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PROJECT INFO:

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PROJECT TEAM:

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PROJECT SUMMARY

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd monitored the demolition of two agricultural outbuildings and the removal of concrete hardstanding.

The demolition site was located within an archaeological preservation area (Area 3) associated with the residential development of Badbury Park, Swindon.

The remnants of a 19th or 20th century courtyard were encountered beneath the concrete hardstanding. No features, deposits or materials pre-dating the 19th century were disturbed or observed during demolition works.

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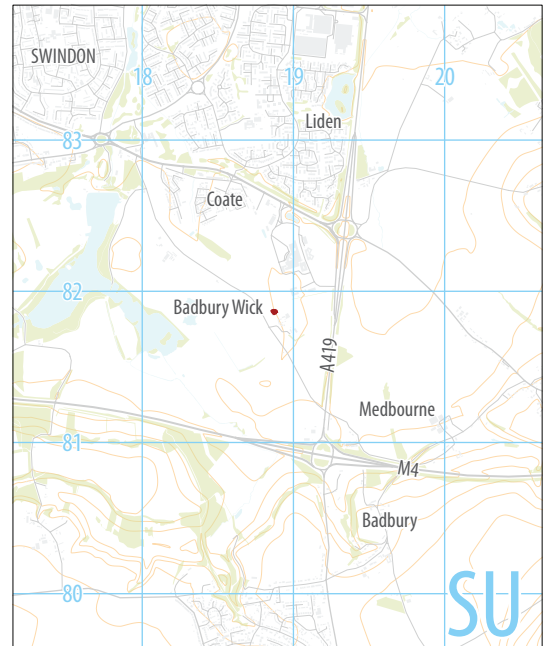
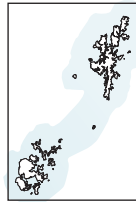
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Land at Badbury Wick
Commonhead
Swindon

0 200km
1:10,000,000 @ A4



0 100m
1:5,000 @ A4

watching brief area
preservation area 3

HEADLAND
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ILLUS 1 Site location

BADBURY WICK COTTAGES, SWINDON

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology was commissioned by Lanpro Services Ltd, working on behalf of Redrow Homes and Persimmon Homes to monitor the demolition of two agricultural outbuildings and the removal of concrete hardstanding at Badbury Wick Cottage, Swindon.

Planning permission for the residential development and Badbury Park was granted by Wiltshire County Council (ref S/10/0842/IH) subject to conditions, outlined in the Site Management Plan (Lanpro PG/8997/02);

Section 106; 17

'Prior to the commencement of any development within each of the archaeological areas shown...as sites 3, 4, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14, a Management Plan for each of the sites for the preservation of archaeological interests in situ shall have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The management of each site shall take place in accordance with the approved plans. The management plan is required to comply with provisions made in Schedule 9 of the Section 106 agreement and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The management of each site shall take place in accordance with the approved plans.'

Lanpro Services Ltd prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation (Gajos 2018) on behalf of Redrow Homes and Persimmon Homes; outlining the work methodology.

The Written Scheme of Investigation was submitted to and agreed by the Wiltshire County Archaeologist acting as advisor to Swindon Borough Council.

1.1 SITE DESCRIPTION

The development site lies to the south-east of the urban area of Swindon and covers approximately 78 hectares to the south of the A4259, west of the A419 and north of the M4. Preservation Area 3 covers c4.6ha in the central part of the development, located to the west of Day House Lane.

Area 3 is bounded by residential properties to the north and east, Day House Lane to the west and Badbury Wick Farm to the south (centred on SU 18876 81863; Illus 1). The site resides within two parcels of land, the northern field currently fallow and the southern field under pasture.

The demolition site is predominantly flat at 51m AOD. The underlying bedrock is mudstone of the Gault Formation (sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 101 to 113 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period) (NERC 2018).

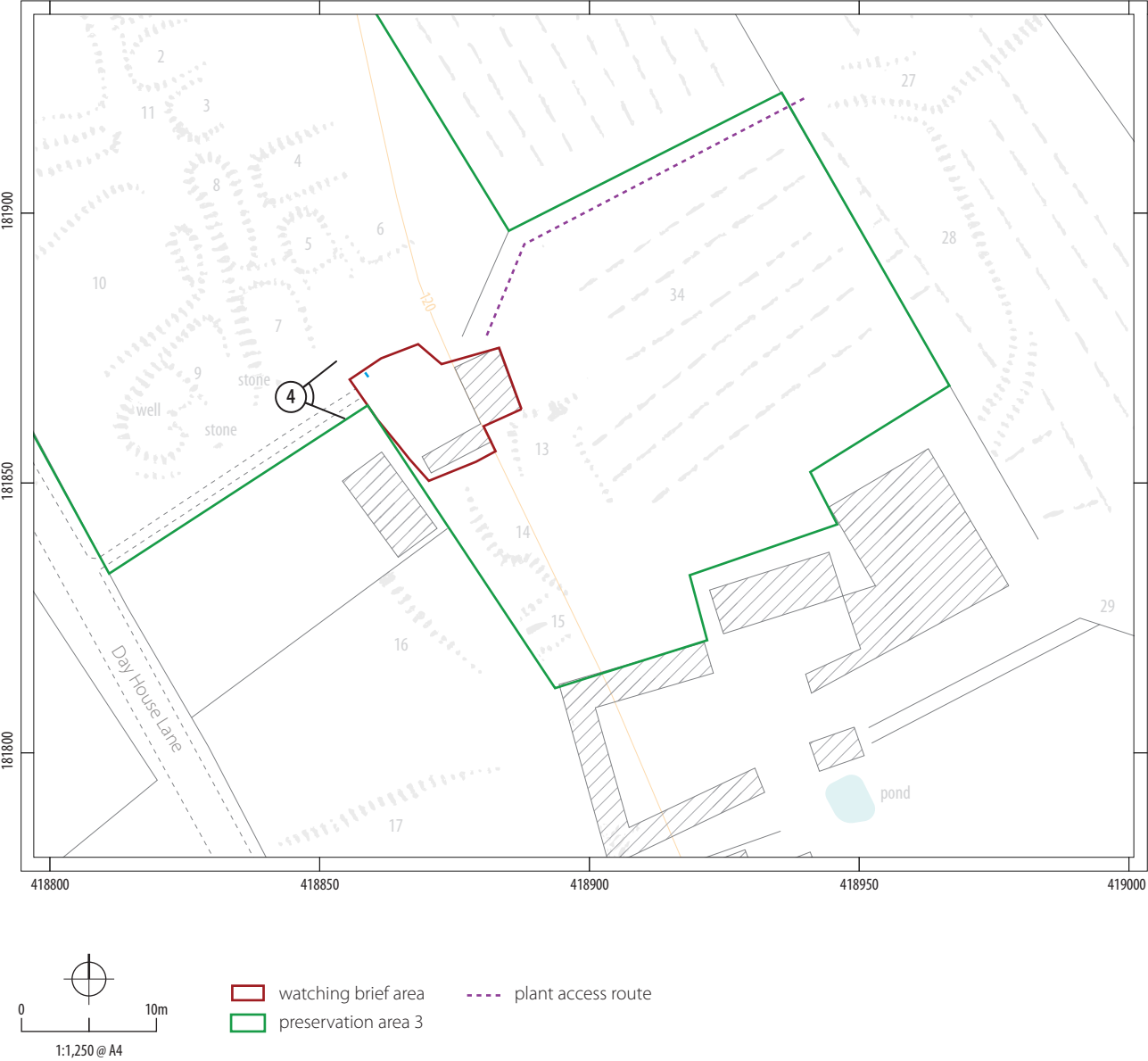
1.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The archaeological background is detailed within the Written Scheme of Investigation (Gajos 2018). Previous archaeological work comprises a Desk-Based Assessment, Aerial Photographic Survey, Geophysical Survey, Analytical Earthwork Surveys, and Archaeological Field Evaluation.

The following section is a summary based upon those accounts.

Prehistory and Roman

A possible Bronze Age barrow survives as a low mound to the south of the medieval settlement of Badbury Wick. No intrusive archaeological work has been undertaken to determine the character of this feature.



ILLUS 2 Plan of Demolition Site (Preservation Area 3)

A segment of Marlborough road (A419) located to the east of the development site respects the alignment of Roman Ermin Way which links Gloucester (Glevum) and Cirencester (Corinium) to Silchester (Calleva).

Medieval

Within the fields to the immediate north and south of Badbury Wick Cottage are the remains of earthworks relating to the shrunken medieval village of Badbury Wick. The recorded earthworks consist of building platforms, a holloway (sunken track), drove ways and ridge and furrow cultivation associated with settlement and agricultural activities.

Post-medieval/modern

The demolition site is located to the rear of Badbury Wick Cottage (Grade II Listed; HER1300167). The cottage dates to the late 18th century.

The fields to the immediate north and south are likely to have been under pasture throughout this period and incorporated as part of agricultural lands relating to Badbury Wick Farm (located to the north of development site).

2 METHOD

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken between 17th and 21st September in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (Gajos 2018). The monitored works consisted of the demolition of two agricultural barns, constructed from timber and corrugated iron and the breaking and removal of concrete hardstanding (Illus 3). Any archaeological features exposed would be recorded and remain in situ.

Archaeological monitoring was required due to the likely proximity of the archaeological horizon to the existing ground surface. In addition to recording any remains that may be exposed, the monitoring archaeologist was present to ensure that:



ILLUS 3 East facing shot of demolition works **ILLUS 4** West facing representative section of modern concrete hard standing (0101) and remnants of former courtyard (0102) and (0103)



A photographic record of the works was maintained and included, as a minimum, the site before works commence and when the demolition has been completed.

No works took place during the demolition that impacted into subsoil or natural deposits.

Plant movement was restricted to the area indicated in Illus 2.

Should there be heavy rain or adverse weather conditions such that ruts are likely to occur to a depth of 0.10 m or more below the current ground surface then all plant movement should be suspended until conditions improve or alternative arrangements can be made.

Once demolition is complete a thin layer of topsoil will be applied which will be seeded with grass.

All recording followed the relevant ClfA Standard and guidance (ClfA 2014b). All deposits identified during the demolition were given unique numbers and recorded on pro forma trench record sheets, recording the level at which deposits were encountered below ground level (BGL). Digital photographs were taken of the demolition process and any archaeological significant features and deposits.

3 RESULTS

Full descriptions of features and deposits observed are provided in Appendix 1.

No subsoil or geological deposits were impacted or exposed during groundworks.



ILLUS 5 North-west facing shot of levelled ground

3.1 GENERAL STRATIGRAPHY

The topsoil was exposed between 0.32–0.40m BGL, comprising of medium grey brown silty clay (0104). This deposit was a mixed agricultural soil containing 'back yard'/midden materials. This was in turn sealed by concrete hard-standing (0101) measuring 0.20m thick.

3.2 19TH / 20TH CENTURY YARD SURFACE (ILLUS 4)

Located in the northern extent of the demolition site were the remains of a courtyard surface. This comprised of a rough assortment of limestone cobbles (0102) (each cobble measured between 0.12–0.32m in length) with an arrangement of unfrogged red brick (0103) (each brick measured between 0.10 x 0.07m). This sat on top of the topsoil (0104) and was in turn sealed by the concrete yard surface (0101).

The underlying topsoil (0104) contained materials related to back yard/horticultural activity, consisting of brick fragments, blue and white china, glass, iron nails, ceramics and ash.

4 DISCUSSION

Immediately below the modern concrete hardstanding was the remnant of a former yard surface constructed of cobbles and brick. The surface immediately predates the laying of the concrete and a date for its construction in the late 19th / early 20th century seems likely. Following the removal of this deposit, a former topsoil was

identified. No underlying deposits or features were encountered or impacted during demolition works.

5 CONCLUSION (ILLUS 5)

No features, deposits or materials pre-dating the 19th century were observed during the project. Adequate monitoring was in place to ensure that any archaeological remains present on the site were not impacted by the demolition works.

6 REFERENCES

- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014a *Code of Conduct* (Reading) <http://http.www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CodesofConduct.pdf> accessed 25 September 2018
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014b *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (Reading) http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CIfA&GWWatchingbrief_2.pdf accessed 25 September 2018
- Gajos P 2018 *Works within Archaeological Preservation Area 3, Commonhead, Swindon. Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief* [unpublished client document] Lanpro Services Ltd
- National Environment Research Council (NERC) 2018 *British Geological Survey* <https://www.bgs.co.uk/> accessed 25 September 2018

7 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 TRENCH AND CONTEXT REGISTER

*D BGL = Depth below ground level

TR1			
L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)
32	130	0.32	0.40
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION		*D BGL (M)
0101	Concrete surface: White concrete hard standing		0.20
0102	Cobbled surface: Rough assortment of sub-rounded limestone cobbles (between 0.12–0.28) in length. Re-used building material.		0.10
0103	Brick surface: Unfrosted red brick (approx. 0.10x0.07m), single coursing. Aligned in a 'stretch' arrangement.		0.10
0104	Topsoil: Mixed grey brown silty clay agricultural soil and midden material (fragments of brick, B+W china, glass, Nails, ceramics, 'rake' out debris from domestic fireplace. Typical Victorian/early 20th century back 'yard'/horticultural activity.		–
SUMMARY			

Remnants of limestone cobbled and bricked courtyard related to Badbury Wick Cottage. 19th/20th century. Evidence for backyard/horticultural activity.

No subsoil or geological deposits exposed during demolition works.



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