



Pond Farm, Church Road Upper Wanborough

Archaeological Watching Brief



Planning Ref: S/HOU/18/0575/SASM
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On behalf of	A private client
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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Mattewson Whittaker Waters (Lambourn) Architects to undertake an archaeological watching brief during extension works at Pond Farm. The monitored works covered 0.075 ha, centred on NGR 421039 182737, to the rear of Pond Farm, Church Road, Upper Wanborough, Swindon, SN4 0DQ.

The watching brief comprised the observation of all mechanical excavations within the development area.

Both excavated trenches (Trenches 1 & 2) contained archaeological features and/or deposits comprising a 19th-century stone wall footing and stone lined well, and a levelling deposit of probable later 19th or 20th-century date.

Modern services and other disturbance due to modern gardening activity were also encountered across the site.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Mattewson Whittaker Waters (Lambourn) Architects for commissioning the archaeological watching brief on behalf of the property owners. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of the County Archaeologist for Wiltshire, who monitored the project for Swindon Borough Council, and to Tailormade Building Solutions Ltd for their cooperation and help on site.



Pond Farm , Church Road, Upper Wanborough

Archaeological Watching Brief

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Matthewson Whittaker Waters (Lambourn) Architects on behalf of Mr & Mrs S. Bird, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during extension works at Pond Farm. The monitored works covered 0.075 ha, centred on NGR 421039 182737, to the rear of Pond Farm, Church Road, Upper Wanborough, Swindon, SN4 0DQ (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The watching brief was carried out as a condition of planning permission, granted by Swindon Borough Council (S/HOU/18/0575/SASM), as part of a programme of archaeological works.

Condition 6

Prior to the commencement of works on site in connection with the development hereby permitted, the developer, applicant, their agent(s) or successor in title shall have secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work, in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which shall have first been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To provide a record of any features of archaeological interest that may be revealed during construction.

1.1.3 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed (Wessex Archaeology 2020). The County Archaeologist for Wiltshire approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing. The watching brief was undertaken on 23 March 2021.

1.2 Scope of the report

1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the results of the watching brief, to interpret the results within their local or regional context (or otherwise), and to assess their potential to address the aims outlined in the WSI, thereby making available information about the archaeological resource (a preservation by record).

1.3 Location, topography and geology

1.3.1 Pond Farm is situated at the north-eastern edge of historic Upper Wanborough, a village 5.5 km to the south-east of Swindon. The Farm is located on a north-westerly facing slope of the Lambourn Downs which slope down towards the River Ray and lies 2 km to the north of the course of the Ridgeway path.



- 1.3.2 The site lies at approximately 150 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) on a gentle incline sloping down to the southeast.
- 1.3.3 The underlying geology is mapped as Upper Greensand Formation - Calcareous Sandstone and Siltstone. Which is a sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 94 to 113 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period and is indicative of the local environment previously being dominated by shallow seas (British Geological Survey 2020).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The following historical and archaeological background has been compiled using publicly available online resources, combined with the results of Wessex Archaeology's previous investigations in the area, and in-house resources, as well as evidence detailed in the Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment Record (WSHER).

2.2 Previous investigations related to the development

Archaeological Evaluation 2010

- 2.2.1 An archaeological evaluation immediately to the north of Pond Farm revealed well preserved features including walls and ditches suggestive of settlement dating from the early to late Roman period. A Saxon ditch, medieval gully and several undated postholes (MW175501) were also recorded (Weale 2010).

Archaeological Evaluation 1997

- 2.2.2 Trenching at The Beanlands revealed a soil dump over the existing ridge and furrow which had previously been identified as a possible medieval house platform, and what had previously been thought to be a Holloway associated with the house platform was revealed to be a ridge and furrow headland (JSAC 1997).

Geophysical Survey 2013

- 2.2.3 Pits and ditches were identified by a geophysical survey on land off Stanley Close to the north-east of the site (Dawson 2013).

Excavation

- 2.2.4 Excavations on land off Stanley Close revealed evidence of occupation dating from the early Iron Age through the Romano-British period.

Fieldwalking 1987

- 2.2.5 Fieldwalking by the Thamesdown Archaeological Unit in fields to the south and south east of the historic core of Upper Wanborough recovered Romano-British pottery, tile fragments and pottery dating from the medieval period.

Monitoring of a Pipeline 1987

- 2.2.6 A watching brief on a gas pipeline to the south-east of Upper Wanborough recovered medieval pottery fragments.

2.3 Archaeological and historical context

Prehistoric (8500 BC – AD 43)

- 2.3.1 Excavations on Stanley Close c. 300 m to the north-east of the site revealed pits dating to the early Iron Age (Pine & Taylor 2016).



Romano-British (AD 43 - 410)

- 2.3.2 Wanborough lies mostly to the south of Ermine Street, the main Roman road from Cirencester to Silchester and approximately 2 km to the south-east of its junction with the Roman road to Marlborough. At this junction lies the small Roman town of Durocornovium (NHLE 1004684) which lies slightly north-west of the current village of Wanborough. It is believed to be the last vicus on Ermin Way or Ermin Street before the scarp slope of the Marlborough Downs, Durocornovium was a site where horses were watered before the steep climb off the Oxfordshire plain. Buildings, field systems, enclosures and trackways were identified in a geophysical survey undertaken over a significant portion of the monument in 2013.
- 2.3.3 The site at Pond Farm is located c. 610 m to the south-west of Ermin Way. Today the A419, broadly follows the line of the Roman road. Excavations to the north-east of the site, closer to the route of the Roman road, revealed evidence of Romano-British occupation, these included an enclosure, a corn dryer, and a burial (WHER MWI75049, MWI75050, MWI75051). A ditch which contained five fragments of Romano-British pottery is also recorded in this vicinity. It was excavated during an evaluation in 1997 at The Beanlands (WHER SU28SW333).
- 2.3.4 Closer to the site itself, in the field immediately to the north of the present farmhouse, excavation revealed walls (MWI75500) and ditches (MWI75497) indicative of settlement in this period. Spot finds of 1st-2nd-century coarse ware and Samian sherds, an AS of Vespasian and a follis of Constantine I have also been recorded to the west of the site on Kite Street. A spotfind of a bronze coin of Antoninus and Gallienus was also recovered from 24 Warneage Green also to the west.
- 2.3.5 Additionally, an inhumation cemetery has been identified to the north-west of Covington Farm (SU 2113 8283) which is in close proximity. The cemetery is currently of unknown date but may be of Roman or Saxon origin (Weale 2010).

Saxon (AD 410 - 1066)

- 2.3.6 Place name evidence suggests that the village of Wanborough has Saxon origins, and Wenbeorgan is first recorded in documents dating to AD 854. Whilst Wemberge is recorded in AD 1086 (Gover 1939).
- 2.3.7 A Saxon ditch (MWI75498) containing pottery from the period was excavated during an evaluation to the north of the present farmhouse, and a spot find of a Saxon brooch and a book or stirrup mount is recorded on Callas Hill c. 600 m to the east of the site.

Medieval (AD 1066 - 1500)

- 2.3.8 Evaluation of land to the north in 2010 identified a gully to the north-east of the site (MWI75499). Spot finds of medieval pottery dated to the 13th-14th centuries, and fragments of bone, were recovered from a site c. 160 m to the south-east.
- 2.3.9 A number of earthworks in the vicinity of the site have been mapped from aerial photographs. To the north of Upper Wanborough, alongside Kite Hill, they cover an area of approximately 750 metres by 550 metres. The earthworks consist mainly of linear ditches although some of the ditches appear to have associated linear embankments on one side. The area appears to contain a complex system of agricultural drains and settlement earthworks. All of them are probably associated with the Medieval settlement of Wanborough and are likely to be associated with the surrounding areas of ridge and furrow.



Post-medieval (AD 1500 - 1800)

- 2.3.10 Pond Farm, Wanborough (MWI68183) is a 19th-century farmstead of loose courtyard plan. Four sides of the courtyard are formed by agricultural buildings with additional detached elements to the main plan. The farmhouse is detached with a gable on to the yard (Edwards & Lake 2014).
- 2.3.11 There are a cluster of Listed Buildings at the heart of Upper Wanborough which include properties fronting on Church Road (including numbers 8, 10 and 12), Knowle House, 1 Ham Road and the Calley Arms. To the northeast lies The Cottage on Stacey's Lane.
- 2.3.12 A large number of other post-medieval farmsteads are recorded in the vicinity of the village, these include: Foxbridge (WHER MWI68132), Outfarm, southwest of Foxbridge (WHER MWI68133), Farmstead south-east of Foxbridge (WHER MWI 68134 and MWI68135), Wightsbridge House (WHER MWI68136), Outfarm on Wanborough Marsh (WHER MWI68137 and MWI68138), Outfarm north-west of Wanborough Marsh (WHER MWI68139), Outfarm and corn mill, west of Wanborough Marsh (WHER MWI68140), Outfarm in Buryscroft Row (WHER MWI68141), Outfarm northwest of Inlands Farm (WHER MWI68142), Inlands Farm (WHER MWI68143), Outfarm east of Inlands Farm (WHER MWI68144), Outfarm South-east of Inlands Farm (WHER MWI68145).

Undated

- 2.3.13 Several linear ditches of uncertain date can be seen as cropmarks and have been mapped from aerial photographs. They are located north-west of King Edwards Place (to the south-east of the site) alongside the west side of Ermin Way.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

- 3.1.1 The aims of the watching brief, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020) and as defined in the ClfA *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014a), were to:

- allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of the development or other works;
- provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard; and
- guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.

3.2 Objectives

- 3.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the objectives of the watching brief, also defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020), were to:

- determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified works area;



- record and establish, within the constraints of the works, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains (a preservation by record);
- place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
- make available information about the archaeological resource on the site by preparing a report on the results of the watching brief.

3.3 Site specific objectives

3.3.1 Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the site and the regional research framework (Webster 2007), the site-specific objectives of the evaluation were:

- To look for evidence for non-villa Roman rural settlements (Webster 2007);
- To look for evidence of farming in the Romano-British period (Webster 2007);
- To investigate for changes in the landscape at the end of the Roman period (Webster 2007);
- To improve our understanding of medieval farming (Webster 2007).

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methodology set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in ClfA guidance (ClfA 2014a). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

4.2.1 The watching brief monitored ground reduction works within the footprint of two extensions on the northwest side of Pond Farm, immediately adjacent to the house.

4.2.2 The watching archaeologist monitored all mechanical excavations within the specified areas. Where necessary, the surfaces of uncovered archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand to aid visual definition. A sample of archaeological features and deposits was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the watching brief.

4.2.3 Spoil from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. Artefacts from features and deposits of modern date (19th century or later) were recorded on site and not retained. No features or deposits pre-dating the modern period were encountered.

Recording

4.2.4 All exposed archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete record of excavated features and deposits was made, including plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections) and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid.



- 4.2.5 A Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service surveyed the location of archaeological features. All survey data is recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSTN15 and OSGM15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.
- 4.2.6 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

4.3 Finds and environmental strategies

- 4.3.1 Strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of finds and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b), *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011) and ClfA's *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting* (Type 1: Description).

4.4 Monitoring

- 4.4.1 The County Archaeologist for Wiltshire monitored the watching brief on behalf of the LPA.

5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 Both excavated trenches contained archaeological features and/or deposits (Trenches 1 & 2), indicating limited archaeological remains are present across the site.
- 5.1.2 The archaeological features comprised a stone wall footing, a stone lined well, and a levelling deposit which was revealed in both Trenches 1 and 2. Modern services were encountered across the site.
- 5.1.3 The following section presents the results of the watching brief with archaeological features and deposits discussed by period. **Figure 1** shows all archaeological features recorded within the trenches.

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

- 5.2.1 The natural substrate was encountered in Trenches 1 and 2 at a depth of between 0.25 m and 0.4 m below ground level (BGL). This consisted of light grey siltstone (103 and 203), the upper surface of which was weathered and crumbly. The natural substrate had clearly been truncated, forming a flat terrace cut into the natural slope rising to the northwest and presumably indicates levelling of the site prior to the building of Pond Farm in the 19th-century.
- 5.2.2 No evidence for in-situ topsoil or subsoil deposits was observed.

5.3 19th-century (AD 1800 - 1900)

- 5.3.1 Wall footing 105 was revealed in Trench 1 and consisted of irregular roughly hewn siltstone blocks bonded with a yellow lime mortar (consistent with that visible within the walls of Pond Farm farmhouse to the south). The foundation trench for the wall (104) was cut into the underlying natural siltstone and was orientated north-east/south-west. Footing 105 was



trench built, measured 0.3m in width and 5.1 m in length and had been truncated by modern services at its southwestern extent (**Figure 1, Plates 1 & 2**).

- 5.3.2 Overlying wall 105, a mixed soil, containing stone and ceramic building material, was recorded. This levelling deposit, measuring up to 0.2 m in thickness, was revealed within Trench 1 and continued across Trench 2 to the west (deposits 102 and 202 respectively **Plates 3 & 4**). Pottery consisting of blue and white china and brick rubble indicated a 19th-century or later date.
- 5.3.3 A well (204) was located immediately to the northwest of Trench 2 (**Figure 1, Plates 5 & 6**). The well was visible as a surface feature prior to groundworks commencing and was undoubtedly contemporary with Pond Farm farmhouse and serviced the farm.

5.4 Modern (AD 1900 - present)

- 5.4.1 Cutting through levelling deposit 102/202, modern services were revealed in Trenches 1 and 2. Areas of disturbance were also noted adjacent to the walls of Pond Farm farmhouse and probably represent gardening activity.
- 5.4.2 All the above features and deposits were sealed by a crushed limestone bedding layer 101/201 and stone paving 100/200 of recent date.

6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Summary

- 6.1.1 The watching brief identified a limited number of archaeological features within the site, comprising a wall and a well which were contemporary with the farmhouse.
- 6.1.2 The wall in Trench 1 probably formed part of a garden feature, perhaps denoting a change in elevation or a raised bed. The initial construct of the well adjacent to Trench 2 is probably contemporary with the farmhouse, however the above ground portion is clearly of modern date.

6.2 Discussion

- 6.2.1 The watching brief has established that no features pre-dating the farmhouse survive in the area immediately adjacent to the farmhouse.
- 6.2.2 The watching brief also established that the site has been subject to a high degree of truncation relating to landscaping during the initial construction of the farmhouse in the 19th-century, subsequent gardening activities as well as the insertion of services in more recent times.

7 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

7.1 Museum

- 7.1.1 The archive resulting from the watching brief is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Bristol. Swindon Museum and Art Gallery has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project, under the accession code **SWIMG:2020.11**. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner to transfer title of all finds to the museum.



7.2 Preparation of the archive

Physical archive

- 7.2.1 The physical archive, which includes paper records will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Swindon Museum and Art Gallery, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011).
- 7.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the accession code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:
- 1 file of paper records

Digital archive

- 7.2.3 The digital archive generated by the project, which comprises born-digital data (eg site records, survey data, photographs and reports), will be deposited with a Trusted Digital Repository, in this instance the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), to ensure its long-term curation. Digital data will be prepared following ADS guidelines (ADS 2013 and online guidance) and accompanied by metadata.

7.3 Selection strategy

- 7.3.1 It is widely accepted that not all the records and materials (artefacts and ecofacts) collected or created during the course of an archaeological project require preservation in perpetuity. These records and materials will be subject to selection in order to establish what will be retained for long-term curation, with the aim of ensuring that all elements selected to be retained are appropriate to establish the significance of the project and support future research, outreach, engagement, display and learning activities, ie the retained archive should fulfil the requirements of both future researchers and the receiving Museum.
- 7.3.2 The selection strategy, which details the project-specific selection process, is underpinned by national guidelines on selection and retention (Brown 2011, section 4) and generic selection policies (SMA 1993; Wessex Archaeology's internal selection policy) and follows ClfA's 'Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives'. It should be agreed by all stakeholders (Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists, external specialists, local authority, museum) and fully documented in the project archive.
- 7.3.3 In this instance, no artefacts were recovered.
- 7.3.4 Any material not selected for retention may be used for teaching or reference collections by Wessex Archaeology.

Documentary records

- 7.3.5 Paper records comprise site registers (other pro-forma site records are digital) and reports (Written Scheme of Investigation, client report). All will be retained and deposited with the project archive.

Digital data

- 7.3.6 The digital data comprise site records (tablet-recorded on site) in spreadsheet format; survey data; photographs; reports. All will be deposited, although site photographs will be subject to selection to eliminate poor quality and duplicated images, and any others not considered directly relevant to the archaeology of the site.



7.3.7 Given the very limited results of the fieldwork, it is recommended that only selected digital data are deposited with ADS, an approach commensurate with the scale and significance of the project. Deposition will involve the uploading of the site report via OASIS only.

7.4 Security copy

7.4.1 In line with current best practice (eg, Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

7.5 OASIS

7.5.1 An OASIS (online access to the index of archaeological investigations) record (<http://oasis.ac.uk>) has been initiated, with key fields completed (Appendix 1). A.pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by the County Archaeologist for Wiltshire on behalf of the LPA. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) ArchSearch catalogue.

8 COPYRIGHT

8.1 Archive and report copyright

8.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology 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*.

8.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.

8.2 Third party data copyright

8.2.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (eg, Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material.



REFERENCES

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- CIfA 2014b *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials* (revised edition October 2020). Reading, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
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- CIfA *Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives* <https://www.archaeologists.net/selection-toolkit> (accessed 24/03/2021)
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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 OASIS record

OASIS ID: wessexar1-399211

Project details

Project name	Pond Farm, Church Road, Upper Wanborough - Archaeological Monitoring
Project dates	Start: 23-03-2021 End: 23-03-2021
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	237080 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

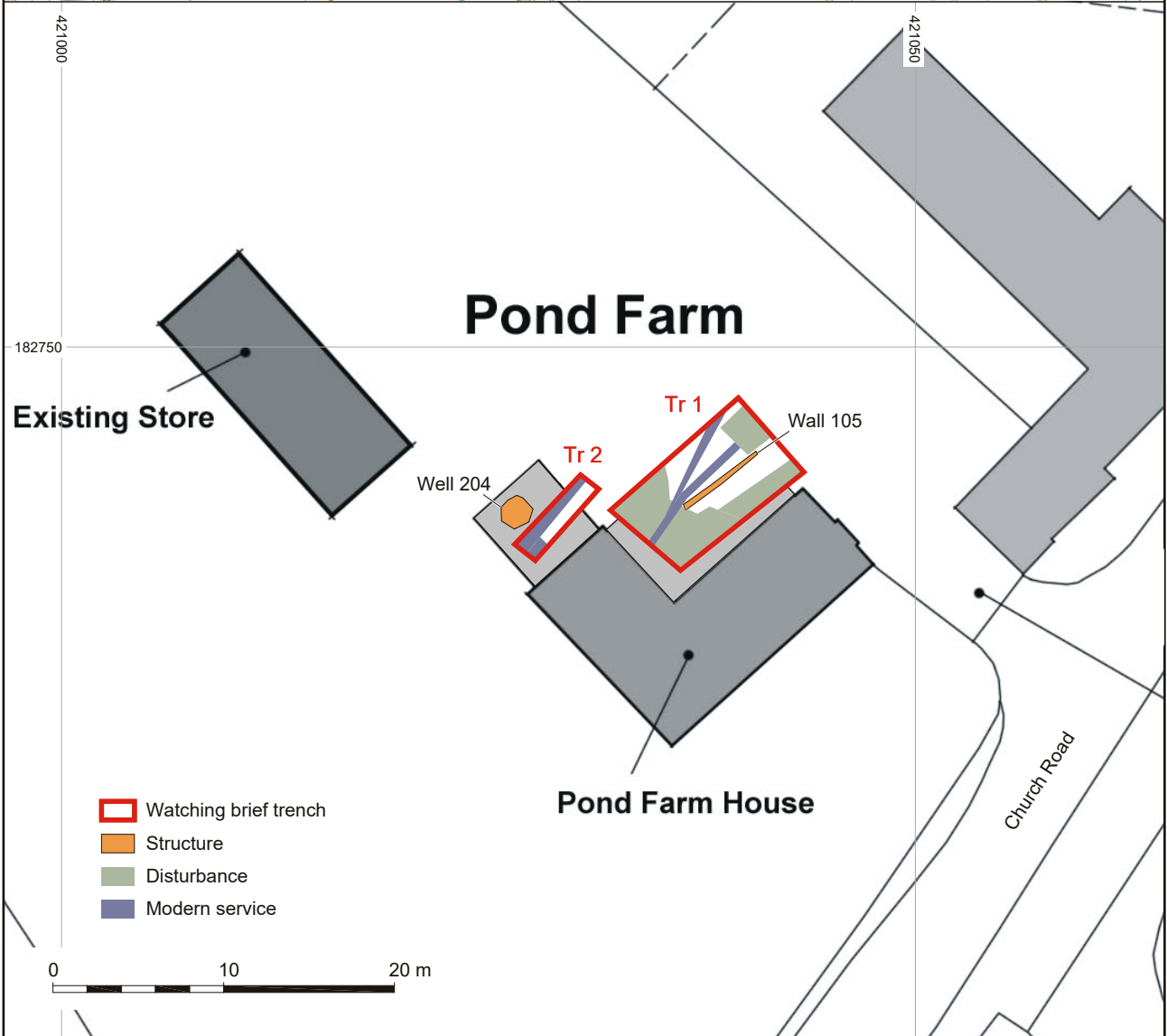
Country	England
Site location	WILTSHIRE SWINDON WANBOROUGH Pond Farm, Church Road, Upper Wanborough
Postcode	SN4 0DQ
Study area	0.08 Hectares
Site coordinates	SU 21039 82737 51.542659072442 -1.696587257064 51 32 33 N 001 41 47 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	No brief
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	Kirsty Nichol
Project supervisor	Ray Holt
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mattewson Whittaker Waters (Lambourn) Architects

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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- Watching brief trench
- Structure
- Disturbance
- Modern service

0 10 20 m

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Site location and areas to be monitored

Figure 1



Plate 1: Trench 1 looking SW, 2 x 1 m scale



Plate 2: Wall 105 looking SW, 1 m scale


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Plate 3: Trench 2 looking SW, 1 m scale



Plate 4: Trench 2 representative section looking SE, 1 m scale



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Plate 5: Well 204 looking SW, 1 m scale



Plate 6: Well 204 looking SW

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