



Red Hone Cottage, Urchfont, Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report





**RED HONE COTTAGE,
URCHFONT,
WILTSHIRE**

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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QUALITY ASSURANCE

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PLANNING APPLICATION REF.	E/2011/0965/FU L	NGR	404183, 156957		

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I= Internal Draft E= External Draft F= Final

**RED HONE COTTAGE,
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

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Figure 1 Site location showing the excavated evaluation trenches

Figure 2 Trenches and representative sections

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Positive Planning, on behalf of Paul Clark, to undertake an archaeological field evaluation ahead of development at Red Hone Cottage, Urchfont, Wiltshire, located at National Grid Reference (NGR) 404183, 156957.

The Assistant County Archaeologist at Wiltshire Council advised that an archaeological evaluation was required ahead of the determination of the application to provide further information on the archaeological potential of the Site.

Two trenches positioned within the footprint of the proposed garage and the house were machine excavated under archaeological supervision. Trench 1 measured 3m x 1.8m and Trench 2 measured 6m x 1.8m, providing an 8% sample of the proposed development area. The stratigraphic sequence was broadly consistent in each trench and comprised a well developed garden soil which overlay a silty clay subsoil. Natural greensand was recorded in each trench at a depth of between 0.60m – 0.78m below ground level. No archaeological features were identified within either trench.

The fieldwork was carried out on 12th October 2011.

**RED HONE COTTAGE,
URCHFONT,
WILTSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Acknowledgments

Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Sophie Thomas from Positive Planning and Paul Clark for commissioning the evaluation. The advice and assistance provided by David Vaughan of Wiltshire Council, who monitored the project on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, is duly acknowledged.

The evaluation was carried out by Oliver Good and Neil Fitzpatrick. This report was prepared by Oliver Good and the report illustrations were prepared by Linda Coleman and Elizabeth James. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Sue Farr.

**RED HONE COTTAGE,
URCHFONT,
WILTSHIRE****ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT****1 INTRODUCTION****1.1 Project Background**

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Positive Planning, on behalf of Paul Clark (the Client), to undertake an archaeological field evaluation ahead of development at Red Hone Cottage, Urchfont, Wiltshire, located at National Grid Reference (NGR) 404183, 156957, hereafter 'the Site' (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The field evaluation was required prior to the determination of a planning application (E/2011/0965/FUL) which proposed the erection of a dwelling and garage at the rear of the existing property.

1.1.3 The Assistant County Archaeologist at Wiltshire Council advised that an archaeological evaluation was required ahead of the determination of the application to provide further information on the archaeological potential of the Site.

1.1.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WA 2011) was prepared and approved by Wiltshire Council prior to works commencing. The document detailed the strategy, methodology and standards to be employed during the archaeological fieldwork.

1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology

1.2.1 The Site lies in the village of Urchfont, to the south of the B3098 and at the rear of the existing cottage and detached double garage. It is bounded to the east and west by existing residential housing. Mature trees and shrubs form the southern boundary to the Site and borders a track/bridleway with open fields beyond.

1.2.2 The Site is rectangular in shape and mainly grassed with a number of mature trees, some of which are protected. The Site encloses an area of approximately 2288 sq. m; the total footprint of the garage and house will be 200sq. m. Vehicular access is via the existing driveway off the B3098

1.2.3 Urchfont lies predominantly on Upper Greensand (Geological Survey of Great Britain (England & Wales) 1:50,000).

1.3 Archaeological Background

1.3.1 A brief search for archaeological and historical sites within Urchfont via the Wiltshire and Swindon Sites and Monuments Record website (<http://localview.wiltshire.gov.uk/smr/InTheArea.aspx>) shows the presence of 71 sites, ranging in date from the Mesolithic to post-medieval periods,

indicating the potential for multi-period archaeological remains to be present within the village.

Designated Sites

- 1.3.2 There are no Scheduled Monuments within the Site.
- 1.3.3 Red Hone Cottage is a Grade II Listed Building and comprises a 17th century timber framed house.
- 1.3.4 The Site lies outside, but in close proximity to the Urchfont Conservation Area.
- 1.3.5 Nine trees within the Site have Tree Preservation Orders and are protected.

Archaeological Background

- 1.3.6 Recorded artefact find spots and archaeological features span the Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Romano-British, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods and identified the potential for multi-period archaeological remains to be present within the village.
- 1.3.7 Urchfont itself is first recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as *Lerchesfonte* and the Abbey of St. Mary Winchester is known to have held an estate at Urchfont until it was suppressed in 1536. This early record for the settlement would suggest that the village could have late Saxon or possibly earlier origins. Indeed, to the west of the Site, an archaeological evaluation (Foundations Archaeology 2002) ahead of development recorded a single medieval pit dating to the 12th to 13th century.
- 1.3.8 Find spots in the vicinity of the Site include Neolithic waste flakes from within Drove Lane Cemetery situated to the east, a Bronze Age barbed and tanged arrowhead, found north of the Site and a Romano-British coin, found to the north-west of the Site.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 2.1.1 The aims of the archaeological field evaluation were to:
- Clarify the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the Site that may be disturbed by development;
 - Identify, within the constraints of the evaluation, the date, character, condition and depth of any surviving remains within the Site;
 - Assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits;
 - Produce a report which will present the results of the evaluation in sufficient detail to allow an informed decision to be made concerning the Site's archaeological potential.

3 METHOD

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 The following methodology was proposed in order to meet the aims and objectives of the fieldwork. All works were carried out in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and*

Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (IfA 2008) excepting where they were superseded by statements made below.

3.2 Fieldwork

- 3.2.1 Two trenches positioned within the footprint of the garage and the house were machine excavated. Both trenches were located as shown in **Figure 1** and measured 6m x 1.8m and 3m x 1.8m providing an 8% sample of the proposed development area.
- 3.2.2 Prior to machine excavation, the trench locations were visually inspected and scanned by Wessex Archaeology using a cable tracing device.
- 3.2.3 All overburden (topsoil and subsoil) was carefully removed by a JCB mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or natural geology, whichever was encountered first.
- 3.2.4 All machine excavations were completed under constant archaeological supervision. Stripped material was visually examined for archaeological material and a metal detector was used to enhance artefact recovery.
- 3.2.5 Each trench was fully recorded and a representative section, detailing the deposits through each trench from ground surface to the top of the natural geology was recorded.
- 3.2.6 All recording was undertaken using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording sheets and recording system.
- 3.2.7 Trench locations were surveyed using a GPS and tied in to the Ordnance Survey.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 No archaeological features were recorded in any of the excavated trenches (**Figure 1**). Detailed trench descriptions and stratigraphic sequences encountered are presented below in **Appendix 1**.

4.2 Stratigraphic Sequence

- 4.2.1 A similar stratigraphic sequence was recorded in each trench, comprising a well developed garden soil, consisting of a dark grey brown silty clay overlying a silty clay subsoil.
- 4.2.2 Topsoil ranged in depth from 0.30m in Trench 2 to 0.53m in Trench 1. Subsoil measured between 0.24m to 0.30m in depth.
- 4.2.3 No archaeological features were observed cutting the natural greensand geology which was recorded in each trench at a depth of between 0.60m – 0.78m below ground level.

5 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING

5.1 Finds

- 5.1.1 A single sherd of modern pottery was noted within the topsoil but not retained.

5.2 Environmental Sampling

- 5.2.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified.

6 DISCUSSION

- 6.1.1 Despite the archaeological potential, no features were recorded during the course of the evaluation and only a single modern pottery sherd within the topsoil was noted. Nevertheless, the results have confirmed that the core medieval settlement area did not extend into the Site.

- 6.1.2 The evaluation results suggest a low potential for features of archaeological interest to be impacted by development at the Site.

7 ARCHIVE

- 7.1.1 Wessex Archaeology shall retain full copyright of the client report under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the Client for the use of the report by the Client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the specification.

- 7.1.2 The completed project archive will be prepared in accordance with the guidelines outlined in Appendix 3 of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and in accordance with the *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage* (UKIC 1990).

- 7.1.3 The information will be deposited within the Wiltshire and Swindon Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) maintained by Wiltshire Archaeology Service where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or Development Control within the planning process.

- 7.1.4 Details of the Site will be submitted online to the OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations) database prior to the submission of the final report.

8 REFERENCES

English Heritage [EH], 1991, *Management of Archaeological Projects*

Foundations Archaeology 2002 *The Paddocks, Urchfont Archaeological Evaluation Report* Unpublished client report

Institute for Archaeologists, 2008 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation*.

Walker, K, 1990, *Guidelines for the Preparation of Evaluation Archives for Long-term Storage*

Wessex Archaeology 2011, *Written Scheme of Investigation: Method Statement for an Archaeological Evaluation at Red Hone Cottage, Urchfont*

Wiltshire Council 2011 *Archaeological Brief for Evaluation at Red Hone Cottage*

9 APPENDICES

9.1 Appendix 1: Trench profiles

NGR = national grid reference; MaOD = metres above Ordnance Datum (Newlyn); BGL = below ground level

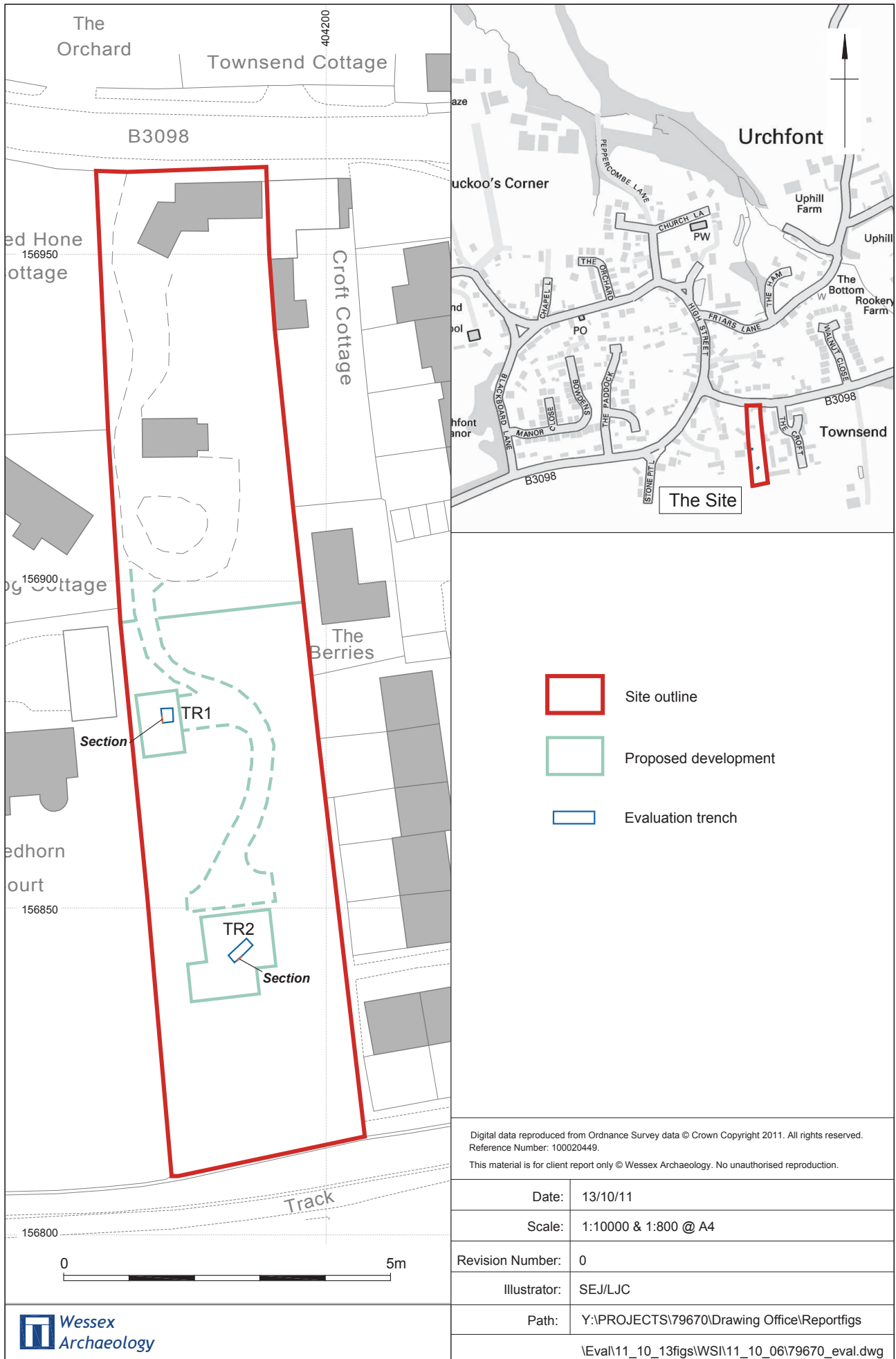
Trench 1	NGR co-ords: North: 404175.636 156880.873 South: 404175.934 156877.753	MaOD: 122.700m 123.100m
Dimensions	3m by 1.8m; 1.20 m maximum depth	
Context Number	Description	Depth BGL (m)
101	Topsoil: Very dark greyish brown silty sandy clay loam. Quite compact, containing common grass roots (fine), rare sub rounded flint (<0.03m) and rare/sparse CBM.	0 – 0.54
102	Subsoil: Mid greenish greyish brown silty sandy clay. Quite soft with very few inclusions but does contain rare sub rounded flint (<0.03m) and rare CBM.	0.54–0.78
103	Natural: Greensand with a small clay elements, very soft.	0.78+

Trench 2	NGR co-ords: North: 404188.768 156845.219 South: 404184.774 156841.465	MaOD: 123.200m 123.270m
Dimensions	6m by 1.8m; 0.99 m maximum depth	
Context Number	Description	Depth BGL (m)
201	Topsoil: Very dark greyish brown silty sandy clay loam. Quite compact, containing common grass roots (fine), rare sub rounded flint (<0.03m) and rare/sparse CBM.	0 – 0.30
202	Subsoil: Mid greenish greyish brown silty sandy clay. Quite soft with very few inclusions but does contain rare sub rounded flint (<0.03m) and rare CBM.	0.30–0.60
203	Natural: Greensand with a small clay elements, very soft.	0.60+

9.2 Appendix 2: Oasis Record Form

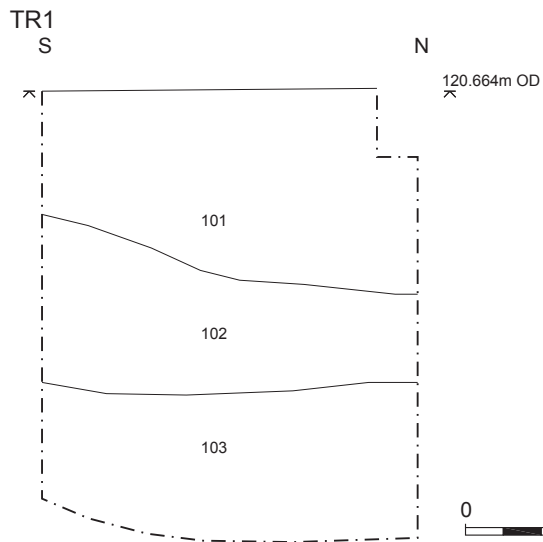
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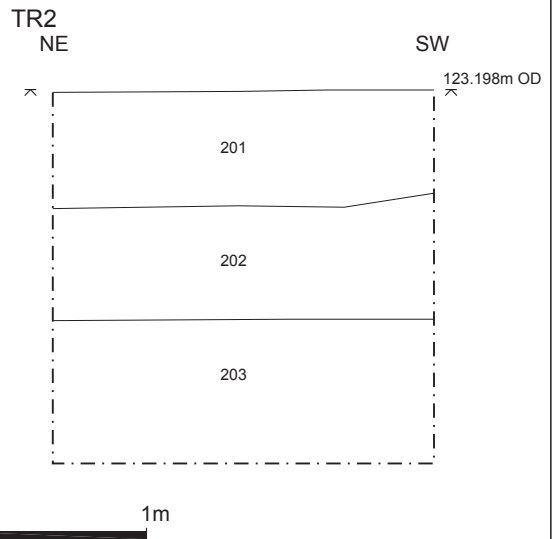


Site location showing the excavated evaluation trenches

Figure 1



East facing representative section of trench 1



North-west facing representative section of trench 2



TR1



TR2



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