



## Land at Fitz Farmhouse Teffont Magna, Wiltshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report





**LAND AT FITZ FARMHOUSE  
TEFFONT MAGNA  
WILTSHIRE**

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

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### QUALITY ASSURANCE

SITE CODE	<b>85350</b>	ACCESSION CODE		CLIENT CODE	
PLANNING APPLICATION REF.	<b>S/2010/1879</b>	NGR		<b>398791 132594</b>	

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**\* I= Internal Draft E= External Draft F= Final**

**Land at Fitz Farmhouse**  
**Teffont Magna**  
**Wiltshire**

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**Land at Fitz Farmhouse**  
**Teffont Magna**  
**Wiltshire**

**Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks on land at the front of Fitz Farmhouse, Teffont Magna, Wiltshire, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 398791 132594.

Planning permission (Ref: S/2010/1879) was granted by Wiltshire Council for the construction of a two storey cottage subject to an archaeological watching brief during the initial stages of the development. The watching brief was maintained during the topsoil strip of the buildings footprint and the machine excavation of four geotechnical test pits positioned within the approximate corners of the proposed cottage

No archaeological features were recorded in any of the test pits, or in the larger topsoil stripped area. The presence of made ground to the surface of the natural chalk suggests that the site has suffered from considerable truncation and landscaping from at least the post-medieval period onwards. The made ground deposits recorded and the subsequent disturbance may have related to an ornamental pond which was previously located on the Site. As a result, the potential for the survival of archaeological deposits is therefore considered low.

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2012.

**Land at Fitz Farmhouse**  
**Teffont Magna**  
**Wiltshire**

**Acknowledgements**

This project was commissioned by CgMs Consulting and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Jonathon Nowell in this regard.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Darryl Freer. Sian Reynolds compiled this report. Illustrations were prepared by Kenneth Lymer. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Sue Farr.

**Land at Fitz Farmhouse  
Teffont Magna  
Wiltshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

**1 INTRODUCTION**

**1.1 Project Background**

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of a two storey cottage on land at the front of Fitz Farmhouse, Teffont Magna, Wiltshire, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 398791 132594 (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 Planning permission (Ref: S/2010/1879) was granted for the development by Wiltshire Council subject to a condition (condition 9) relating to archaeology. The condition stated that:

*No development shall commence until:*

*a) A written programme of archaeological investigation, which should include on-site work and off-site work such as the analysis, publishing and archiving of the results, has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority; and*

*b) The approved programme of archaeological work has been carried out in accordance with the approved details.*

*Reason: In the interests of recording archaeological artefacts that may be present within the site.*

1.1.3 Advice from the Assistant County Archaeologist for Wiltshire Council confirmed that the above planning condition would be suitably met by the implementation of an archaeological watching brief maintained during construction.

1.1.4 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2012.

**1.2 Site location, topography and geology**

1.2.1 The Site is located to the north of the village of Teffont Magna, to the east of the B3089. The Site measures approximately 21m x 21m and is located in the south-eastern corner of the front garden of Fitz Farmhouse, a building constructed in the 1960s.

1.2.2 The Site is bounded to the east by a stream and the village road, to the south by the neighbouring property and to the north and west by the grounds of Fitz Farmhouse, beyond which lie open fields and a current development plot.

- 1.2.3 The Site occupies the base of a shallow southeast to northwest valley at an average height of 90m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). To the west the land rises to a height of some 150m aOD.
- 1.2.4 The underlying geology of the Site comprises an outcrop of zig zag chalk formation with localised areas of overlying head clay, silt, sand and gravel (CgMs 2012).

## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1.1 The following provides a brief summary of the archaeological and historical background of the Site, as presented in the Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs 2012).
- 2.1.2 From the vicinity of the Site evidence for Prehistoric activity includes a Mesolithic axe or adze found to the north of Teffont and a Neolithic stone axe with a polished cutting edge, similarly found in the vicinity of Teffont. A number of Bronze Age implements have also been found and a single putative Iron Age burial is recorded within the parish, although the exact location is not recorded.
- 2.1.3 A Scheduled Romano-British site is located at Upper Holt Copse, to the south of the B3089 Hindon Road. Identified in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century through the presence of pottery and earthworks, a circular mound was subsequently excavated revealing floors, foundations and coins dated from AD 306-408. This site is thought to relate to either a villa or a religious site. A number of other Roman finds have been made within the general vicinity.
- 2.1.4 From the Saxon/medieval period a number of sherds of pottery and some oyster shells were recovered from an investigation at Thompson's Orchard to the south of the Site in the 1970s.
- 2.1.5 Land at Teffont Magna is first referenced in two charters dated in 860 and 964 which are included in the 15<sup>th</sup> century cartulary of Shaftesbury Abbey. Although not specifically referenced in Domesday, it is probably included as part of Dinton. The parish church dates from the 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century and is a good example of parish churches of that period. Until the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century Teffont Magna was considered as part of the Dinton manorial estate. However in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century the estate passed to Lord Pembroke.
- 2.1.6 The Site lies in the most northern part of the Teffont Magna and Evias Conservation Area. Whilst Fitz Farmhouse is not a Listed Building there are four Grade II Listed Buildings within the vicinity of the Site.
- 2.1.7 To the east of the Site, on the opposite side of the road, Spring Cottage is a Grade II Listed detached cottage dating from the 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> century. A complex of farm buildings lies to the south-east at Manor Farm, which are also Listed Grade II. These are model farm buildings dating from c. 1870. Built for the Earl of Pembroke's Estate, together with the farmhouse (Grade II) and dovecote (Grade II) represent a good example of a near complete model farm.



### **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

- 3.1.1 The aim of the watching brief was to provide further information concerning the presence/absence, date, nature and extent of any buried archaeological remains and to investigate and record these within the constraints of the proposed geotechnical test-pits.
- 3.1.2 The specific aim of the work was to assess the impact of previous landscaping/pond features and to provide additional archaeological detail informing any future programme of archaeological investigation that may be required on the Site.

### **4 METHODOLOGY**

- 4.1.1 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the methodology as laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs 2012).
- 4.1.2 All works were also carried out in accordance with current best practice and to the guidance outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE, English Heritage 2006)* and the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (IfA 2008)*.
- 4.1.3 All archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording sheets with a unique numbering system for individual contexts and features were located in relation to the Ordnance Survey national grid. All principle strata and features were related to the Ordnance Survey datum.
- 4.1.4 A general photographic record was made of the trial pits. The photographic record illustrated the general context of the archaeology and the Site as a whole.

### **5 INSURANCE AND HEALTH AND SAFETY**

#### **5.1 Policy and Risk Assessment**

- 5.1.1 Health and safety considerations were of paramount importance in conducting all fieldwork. All work was carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992, and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.

### **6 FIELDWORK RESULTS**

#### **6.1 Introduction**

- 6.1.1 The archaeological watching brief comprised the archaeological monitoring of topsoil removal within the footprint of the proposed building and four machine excavated geotechnical test-pits (**Figure 1**).

#### **6.2 Natural deposits and Soil Sequence**

- 6.2.1 The Site currently lies under turf and a shallow mid brown silty clay topsoil, c. 0.10m thick. The removal of this layer exposed mixed deposits of made

ground (**Plate 1**) with frequent post medieval and modern material which was noted but not retained.

- 6.2.2 Test pit 1, located in the east of the development footprint, recorded made ground of similar characteristics to the topsoil but with increased amounts of building rubble, to a depth of 0.45m below which was a 0.40m thick pale brown silty clay interpreted as a possible subsoil deposit. Natural chalk was reached at a depth of 0.85m below ground level (BGL).
- 6.2.3 Test pit 2, located in the south of the buildings footprint, recorded topsoil above a pale brown silty clay subsoil 0.30m thick. This 'subsoil' overlay 0.30m of redeposited natural chalk which appeared to have been used as a levelling deposit following landscaping/ground levelling or the infilling of a pond recorded in this area of the Site (**Plate 2**). Beneath the redeposited chalk was a 0.18m thick dark brown clay silt deposit which contained post-medieval ceramics.
- 6.2.4 Test pit 3, located in the east of the development footprint recorded similar stratigraphy comprising pale brown silty clay subsoil (0.30m deep) above dark brown silty clay made ground (0.40m deep), below which was clean natural chalk.
- 6.2.5 Test pit 4, located in the north of the development footprint recorded similar stratigraphy to test pit 2, with pale brown silty clay subsoil (0.18m thick) above 0.20m of redeposited natural chalk levelling deposit and 0.20m dark brown clay silt (**Plate 3**).

## **7 FINDS**

- 7.1.1 Post-medieval and modern material was noted during the excavation of the test pits, but was not retained.

## **8 ENVIRONMENTAL**

- 8.1.1 No material suitable for environmental sampling was identified during the course of the watching brief.

## **9 CONCLUSION**

- 9.1.1 No archaeological features were recorded in any of the test pits or the footprint of the building during the topsoil strip. The presence of made ground deposits directly overlying the surface of the natural chalk suggests that the Site has suffered from considerable truncation and landscaping from at least the post medieval period onwards. The potential for the survival of archaeological deposits is therefore considered low.
- 9.1.2 It is possible that the deposits recorded and the subsequent disturbance related to an ornamental pond previously located on the Site, the construction and removal of which, will have adversely affected the archaeological horizon.

## **10 ARCHIVE**

### **10.1 Preparation and Deposition**

- 10.1.1 The project archive will be prepared in accordance with the guidelines outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE, English Heritage 2006)* and in accordance with the *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage (UKIC 1990)*.
- 10.1.2 The archive is currently held at Wessex Archaeology's office building in Salisbury under the WA project code 85350. The completed archive, which will include all paperwork, will on completion of all fieldwork and post excavation reporting, ultimately be deposited for permanent storage at the Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum, where it will be deposited under the Site Code 85350
- 10.1.3 Digital images will be curated under arrangements agreed for the Wessex Archaeology Digital Image Archive Trial and will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (University of York) as part of the submission of an OASIS record for the project.

### **10.2 Copyright**

- 10.2.1 This report may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey), or the intellectual property of third parties, which we are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferrable by Wessex Archaeology. You are reminded that you remain bound by the conditions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

### **10.3 Security Copy**

- 10.3.1 In line with current best practice, on completion of the project a security copy of the paper records will be prepared, in the form of microfilm. The master jackets and one diazo copy of the microfilm will be submitted to the National Monuments Record Centre (Swindon), a second diazo copy will be deposited with the paper records at the Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum, and a third diazo copy will be retained by Wessex Archaeology.

## **11 REFERENCES**

- British Geological Society, 1976, Geological Survey of Great Britain (England and Wales) Sheet 298, Salisbury
- CgMs 2012, Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief on land at Fitz Farmhouse, Teffont Magna, Wiltshire.

**12 APPENDIX 1 – OASIS RECORD FORM**
**12.1 Land at Fitz Farmhouse, Teffont Magna, Wiltshire - Wessex Archaeology**
**OASIS ID - wessexar1-126850**
**Versions**

<b>View</b>	<b>Version</b>	<b>Completed by</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Date</b>
<a href="#"><u>View 1</u></a>	1	Sue Farr	s.farr@wessexarch.co.uk	21 May 2012

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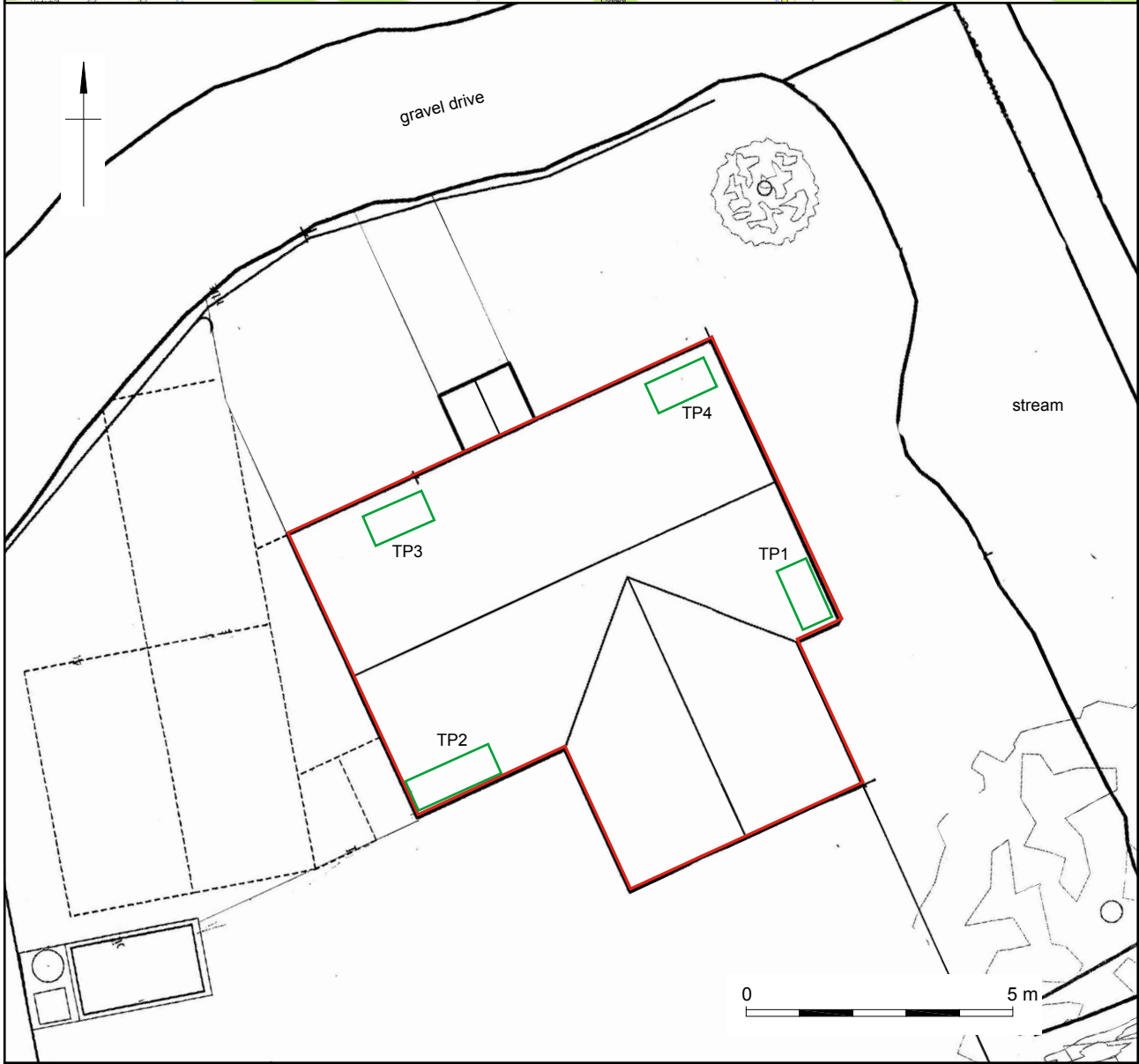
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Site location plan showing watching brief area and test pits

Figure 1



Plate 1: Footprint of building following topsoil strip, looking south



Plate 2: North facing section of Test pit 2



Plate 3: South facing section Test pit 4

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