



Rock Cottage Chilmark, Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report





**ROCK COTTAGE,
CHILMARK,
WILTSHIRE**

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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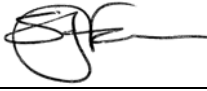
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QUALITY ASSURANCE

SITE CODE	77431	ACCESSION CODE		CLIENT CODE	
PLANNING APPLICATION REF.	S/2011/1281/FU L),	NGR	396929 131990		

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* I= INTERNAL DRAFT E= EXTERNAL DRAFT F= FINAL

**ROCK COTTAGE,
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WILTSHIRE**

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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**ROCK COTTAGE,
CHILMARK,
WILTSHIRE**

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Johan Denekamp (the Client) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at land to the south of Rock Cottage, Chilmark, Wiltshire, located at National Grid Reference 396929 131990.

The watching brief was required as a condition of planning consent granted to the Client by Wiltshire Council (Planning Reference S/2011/1281/FUL), the Local Planning Authority, for the erection of an agricultural building and the construction of a ha-ha.

Previous archaeological works to the north-east and east of the site had identified Romano-British burials and settlement activity. An undated linear ditch was recorded immediately to the north of the site while two inhumation burials were recorded in a service trench approximately 30m to the south of the proposed Ha-ha trench in 2011.

The watching brief consisted of the monitoring of groundworks associated with the construction of the ha-ha. The excavated trench was approximately 96m long, 4m wide and up to 1.2m deep.

Although the site is situated in the vicinity of a Romano-British settlement and cemetery, no archaeological features, finds or deposits relating to the Romano-British activity were observed during the fieldwork. Across the majority of the site, mid greyish brown clay loam topsoil overlay a natural deposit of light yellowish brown sandy clay with limestone inclusions. At the eastern end of the trench, a modern made ground deposit overlying the topsoil was recorded. A single undated feature of unknown origin, with shallow sides and a concave base, was recorded during the watching brief in the western part of the trench.

The fieldwork was undertaken in July 2012.

**ROCK COTTAGE,
CHILMARK,
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Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Acknowledgements

This watching brief work was commissioned by Johan Denekamp and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to him in this regard.

The fieldwork was conducted by Neil Fitzpatrick and this report was compiled by Julia Sulikowska. The figures were prepared by Kenneth Lymer. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Sue Farr.

**ROCK COTTAGE,
CHILMARK,
WILTSHIRE****Archaeological Watching Brief Report****1 INTRODUCTION****1.1 Project Background**

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Johan Denekamp (the Client) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at land to the south of Rock Cottage, Chilmark, Wiltshire, located at National Grid Reference (NGR) 396929 131990 hereafter 'the Site' (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 The watching brief was required as a condition of planning consent granted to the Client by Wiltshire Council (Planning Reference S/2011/1281/FUL), the Local Planning Authority, for the erection of an agricultural building and the construction of a ha-ha. The planning condition stated that an archaeological watching brief was required during groundwork.
- 1.1.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), setting out the methodologies and standards to be implemented during the watching brief, was prepared in advance of the fieldwork (Wessex Archaeology 2012). The WSI was submitted to and approved by the Assistant County Archaeologist at Wiltshire Council prior to any groundworks commencing.
- 1.1.4 The fieldwork was carried out in July 2012.

1.2 Site location and geology

- 1.2.1 The Site is accessed off an unnamed road to the south of Chilmark and falls within the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).
- 1.2.2 The Site is broadly triangular in shape and is located in an open field immediately to the south of the demolished Rock Cottage (**Figure 1**).
- 1.2.3 The underlying geology for the Site is recorded as Lulworth Formation comprising Jurassic sandstone and limestone, which is overlain by Quaternary Head deposits of clay, silt and sand (British Geological Survey).

1.3 Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 A brief search for archaeological and historical sites within a 500m radius ('the Study Area') of the Site via the Wiltshire Sites and Monuments Record website (<http://localview.wiltshire.gov.uk/smr/InTheArea.aspx>) indicates the presence of 13 sites, predominantly of Romano-British date.

Designated Sites

- 1.3.2 There are no Scheduled Monuments within the Study Area.

Archaeological Background

- 1.3.3 Several human burials were disturbed during construction work for a new farmhouse at Eyewell Farm to the north-east of the Site. Subsequent investigations revealed evidence for Romano-British occupation in the area consisting of a well preserved grain drier, stone structures, a number of ditches and pits and a small later Romano-British inhumation cemetery which included several cist burials (Fitzpatrick and Crockett 1998).
- 1.3.4 More recently, permitted development works undertaken approximately 70m to the north-east revealed a further three stone lined graves of probable Romano-British date (Clare King *pers. comm.*).
- 1.3.5 In addition, three cist burials were found in c. 1936 during an extension to Portash Cottage approximately 50m to the east of the Site

Recent Archaeological Investigations

- 1.3.6 An archaeological evaluation at Rock Cottage ahead of development in 2011 comprised the excavation of a single trial trench within the area of a proposed single storey building with subterranean undercroft parking. The trial trench was machine excavated to the top of the natural geology. An undated linear ditch was recorded within the evaluation trench (Wessex Archaeology 2011a).
- 1.3.7 The archaeological recording of two inhumation burials discovered in a service trench, excavated under permitted development rights within a field to the south of Rock Cottage (approximately 30m to the south of the proposed Ha-ha trench), was undertaken in 2011. Two graves, both containing a single inhumation and each placed in shelly limestone cists were identified (Wessex Archaeology 2011b). Although no pottery was found in association with the burials, both graves were considered to be of Romano-British date, as a number of similar cist burials of Romano-British date have been excavated in the vicinity.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 2.1.1 The general objective of the watching brief was to establish within the constraints of the agreed strategy the presence or absence, location, extent, date, character, condition, and depth of any surviving remains which may be affected by the proposed development.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (Wessex Archaeology 2012) and the standards outlined in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2008).

3.2 Health and Safety

- 3.2.1 The work was undertaken in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992. A health and safety Risk Assessment was produced by Wessex Archaeology prior to the commencement of the watching brief.

3.3 Fieldwork

- 3.3.1 The watching brief consisted of the monitoring of groundworks associated with the construction of the ha-ha made beneath the present ground surface. The machine excavation was undertaken using an 8-tonne 360° mechanical excavator. The excavation was carried out under archaeological supervision until such time that it was apparent that the potential for archaeological remains to be exposed has been exhausted. The excavated material was also inspected for finds.
- 3.3.2 The ha-ha trench was approximately 96m long, 4m wide and up to 1.2m deep. In the eastern part of the trench, a c. 6m wide and 20m long extension (picnic area) was also excavated to the north of the ha-ha (**Figure 1**). The northern side of the trench was vertical, with the slope located on the southern side.
- 3.3.3 The archaeological recording was undertaken using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system. A digital photographic record was maintained throughout the fieldwork, illustrating both the detail and the general context of the Site as a whole.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 This section includes information on the natural deposits encountered and any archaeological features and deposits recorded during the watching brief. Details of the excavated contexts and features are retained in the project archive and are summarised in **Appendix 1**.

4.2 Stratigraphic sequence

- 4.2.1 The stratigraphic sequence across the majority of the Site comprised topsoil overlying natural geology (**Plate 1**).
- 4.2.2 Topsoil (**302**), characterised by a mid greyish brown clay loam, was on average 0.20m – 0.30m deep. At the eastern end of the trench it was overlain by a modern made ground deposit (**301**), which was 0.30m deep. Deposit (**303**), identified as possible subsoil or, more likely, bioturbated natural geology, was also located at the eastern end of the trench and comprised light greyish brown sandy clay with sparse pebbles. It was c. 0.25m thick.
- 4.2.3 The natural geology (**304**), comprising light yellowish brown sandy clay with sparse limestone cobbles, was recorded between 0.30m and 0.75m below ground level.

4.3 Observed features

- 4.3.1 A single feature was recorded during the watching brief. Feature **305** was located in the western part of the trench (**Figure 1**) and was only observed in the north facing section before the extension of the slope (**Plate 2**). The feature, approximately 1.4m wide and 0.3m deep, was cut into the natural geology (**304**) and was filled with deposit **306** comprising a mid greyish brown clay loam. No finds associated with the feature were retrieved. It was

not possible to ascertain the date or function of the feature and whether it was of archaeological origin.

5 DISCUSSION

- 5.1.1 Although the Site is situated in the vicinity of a settlement and cemetery of Romano-British date, no archaeological features, finds or deposits relating to the Romano-British activity were observed during the fieldwork.
- 5.1.2 Across the majority of the Site, mid greyish brown clay loam topsoil overlay a natural deposit of light yellowish brown sandy clay with limestone inclusions. At the eastern end of the trench, a modern made ground deposit overlying the topsoil and light greyish brown sandy clay (probable subsoil) were recorded.
- 5.1.3 A single undated feature of unknown origin, with shallow sides and a concave base, was observed during the watching brief in the western part of the trench.

6 ARCHIVE

- 6.1.1 The project archive was 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* (Walker 1990). The archive, including plans, photographs and written records, is currently held at the Wessex Archaeology offices under the project code 77431. It is intended that the archive should ultimately be deposited with the local museum.
- 6.1.2 Details of the Site have been submitted online to the OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations) database (**Appendix 2**).
- 6.1.3 The information will be deposited within the Wiltshire and Swindon Sites and Monuments Record, 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 COPYRIGHT

- 7.1.1 This report may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), 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.

8 REFERENCES

British Geological Survey:

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

Fitzpatrick, A.P. and Crockett, A.D. 1998: A Romano-British Settlement and Inhumation Cemetery at Eyewell Farm, Chilmark, Wilts, *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine*, No. 91, pp. 11-33

IfA 2008: *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*. Institute for Archaeologists

Walker, K. 1990: *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-Term Storage*, UKIC Archaeology Section

Wessex Archaeology 2011a: *Rock Cottage, Chilmark, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation Report*, client report ref. 77430.02

Wessex Archaeology 2011b: *Land to the east of Rock Cottage, Chilmark Wiltshire: Archaeological Recording*, ref. 77430, May 2011

Wessex Archaeology 2012: *Rock Cottage, Chilmark, Wiltshire: Project Design for an Archaeological Watching Brief*, client report ref. 77431.01

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT SUMMARY

Trench No. 3	Length		Width
	95 m		4 m
Context No	Type	Description	Depth
301	Layer	Overburden – made ground overlying topsoil in eastern part of the trench	0 – 0.30
302	Layer	Topsoil – mid greyish brown clay loam	(E) 0.30 – 0.55 (W) 0 – 0.20
303	Layer	Disturbed natural/subsoil – light greyish brown sandy clay with sparse pebbles (in eastern part of the trench)	0.55 – 0.75
304	Layer	Natural deposit – light yellowish brown sandy clay with sparse limestone cobbles	(E) 0.75 + (W) 0.20 +
305	Cut	Cut of a possible undated feature with shallow sides and concave base. Only visible in north facing trench section in the western part of the trench before the excavation of the sloping extension. 1.4m wide, 0.30m deep. Filled with 306	0.20 – 0.50
306	Fill	Single sterile mid greyish brown clay loam fill of a possible undated feature 305	0.20 – 0.50

APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: wessexar1-130679

Project details

Project name Rock Cottage, Chilmark

Short description of the project Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Johan Denekamp (the Client) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at land to the south of Rock Cottage, Chilmark, Wiltshire, located at National Grid Reference 396929 131990. The watching brief was required as a condition of planning consent granted to the Client by Wiltshire Council (Planning Reference S/2011/1281/FUL), the Local Planning Authority, for the erection of an agricultural building and the construction of a ha-ha. Previous archaeological works to the north-east and east of the site had identified Romano-British burials and settlement activity. An undated linear ditch was recorded immediately to the north of the site while further possibly Romano-British burials were recorded to the south. The watching brief consisted of the monitoring of groundworks associated with the construction of the ha-ha. The excavated trench was approximately 96m long, 4m wide and up to 1.2m deep. The site-wide stratigraphy comprised mid greyish brown clay topsoil overlying (in eastern part of the trench) a light greyish brown sandy clay subsoil and light yellowish brown sandy clay natural deposit. An undated possible feature with shallow sides and a concave base was observed in the western part of the trench. The fieldwork was undertaken in July 2012.

Project dates Start: 08-02-2012 End: 20-07-2012

Previous/future work Yes / Not known

Any project codes associated reference 77431 - Contracting Unit No.

Any project codes associated reference S/2011/1281/FUL - Planning Application No.

Type of project Recording project

Site status None

Current Land use Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation

Monument type FEATURE Uncertain

Significant Finds NONE None

Investigation type "Watching Brief"

Prompt Planning condition

Project location

Country England
 Site location WILTSHIRE SALISBURY CHILMARK Rock Cottage, Chilmark
 Postcode SP3 5BW
 Study area 0 Hectares
 Site coordinates ST 969 319 51 -2 51 05 09 N 002 02 39 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Wessex Archaeology
 Project originator brief Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
 Project originator design Wessex Archaeology
 Project director/manager Sue Farr
 Project supervisor Neil Fitzpatrick
 Type of sponsor/funding body Landowner

Project archives

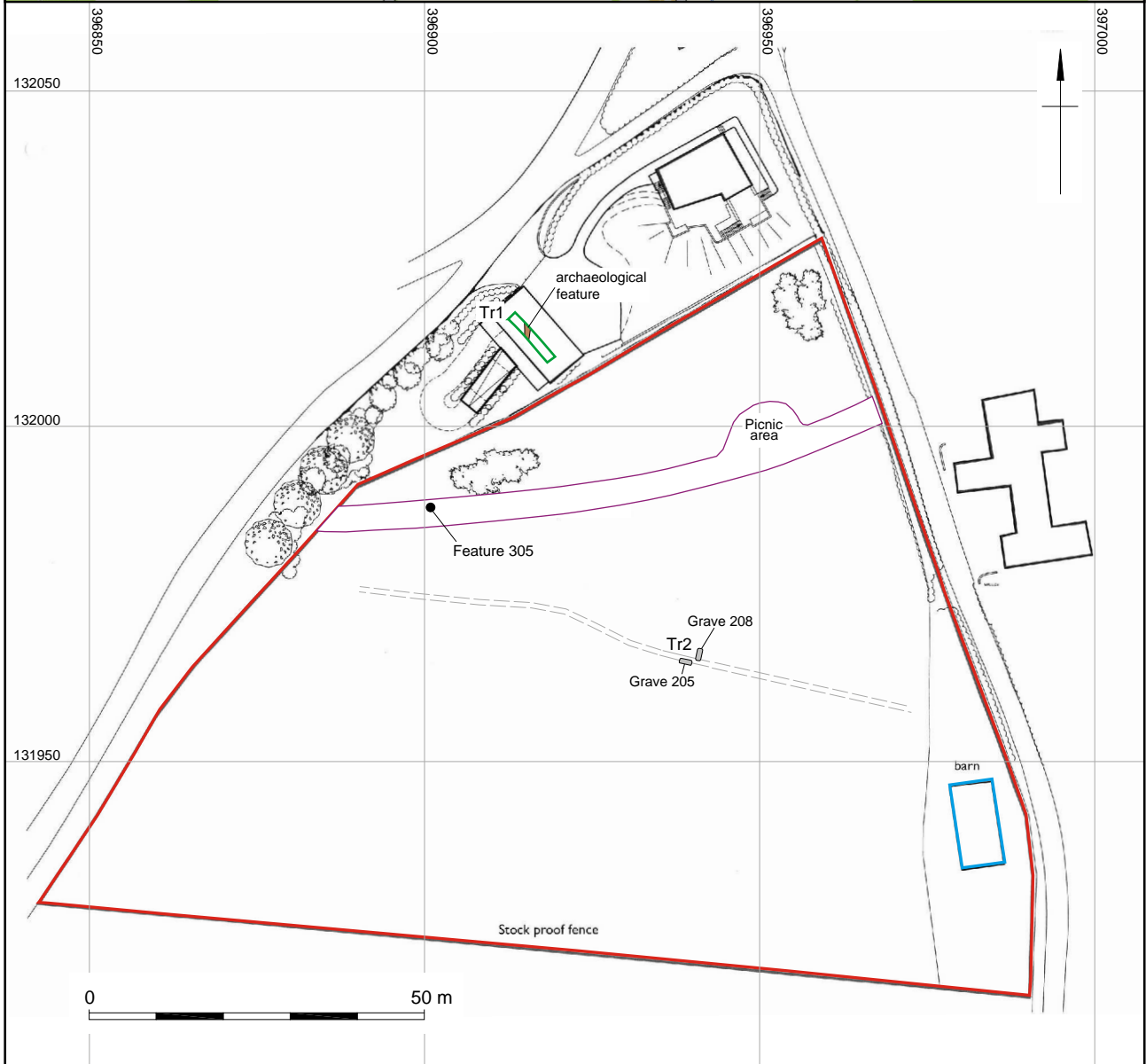
Physical Archive Exists? No
 Digital Archive recipient Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum
 Digital Contents "other"
 Digital available Media "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
 Paper Archive Exists? No
 Paper Archive recipient Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum
 Paper Contents "other"


Paper available Media "Context sheet", "Notebook - Excavation", "Research", "General Notes", "Report"

**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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Entered on 20 July 2012



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▭ Site ▭ Previous evaluation trench ▭ Watching brief area ▭ Proposed building 	<p>Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright and database right 2010 Digital data reproduced from Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright (2011) All rights reserved. Reference Number: 100020449. This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.</p>		
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Site location plan

Figure 1



Plate 1: North facing representative section of ha-ha trench (western part)



Plate 2: North facing section of a possible feature 305

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