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# Stonehill West Gomeldon, Wiltshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report



WA ref: 88130.01  
July 2013



# STONEHILL, WEST GOMELDON, WILTSHIRE

## Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Prepared for:

**PCMR Ltd**  
Hill Rise  
The Street  
Whiteparish  
Salisbury  
SP5 2SG

by

**Wessex Archaeology**  
Portway House  
Old Sarum Park  
SALISBURY  
Wiltshire  
SP4 6EB

[www.wessexarch.co.uk](http://www.wessexarch.co.uk)

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

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# STONEHILL, WEST GOMELDON, WILTSHIRE

## Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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## Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by PCMR Ltd. to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for a residential development at Stonehill, West Gomeldon, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP4 6LS. The watching brief was to fulfil an archaeological condition placed on the consent for a planning application to Wiltshire County Council (Planning Reference: S/2009/1937/FULL).

The development involved the division of the c. 0.24ha property, centred on National Grid Reference 418478 135541, into two plots, with the partial removal and reconstruction of the existing house, and the construction of a new house.

No significant archaeological features or deposits were observed during the groundworks.



## **Acknowledgements**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by PCMR Ltd, and the assistance of Philip Connolly and Marcus Reynolds is gratefully acknowledged. The project was monitored by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger Wiltshire Council County Archaeologist and her help and assistance during the course of the project is also acknowledged.

The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Andrew Manning. The watching brief was undertaken by Daryl Freer with reporting by Andrew B. Powell. The illustrations were by Ken Lymer.



# STONEHILL, WEST GOMELDON, WILTSHIRE

## Archaeological Watching Brief Report

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by PCMR Ltd on behalf of Mr Sims, the owner of Stonehill, West Gomeldon, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP4 6LS, to carry out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks relating to the residential development of the c. 0.24ha property at that address (hereafter 'the Site'), centred on National Grid Reference 418478 135541 (**Fig. 1**). The Site lies within an area of known high archaeological potential.

1.1.2 The proposed development involves the division of the Site into two plots, with the partial removal and reconstruction of the existing house, and the construction of a new house. A planning application was submitted in December 2009 and full planning permission granted in February 2010, conditional of the watching brief being maintained (Application Reference Number: S/2009/1937/FULL). The strategy and methodology of the watching brief were set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Wessex Archaeology 2012), which was submitted and approved by the Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service (WCAS) before the commencement of the fieldwork.

#### 1.2 The Site

1.2.1 The Site lies on the southern edge of West Gomeldon, approximately 7km north-east of Salisbury. It is bounded to the west, north and east by housing plots and to the south by the road that passes through West Gomeldon (**Figure 1**).

1.2.2 The Site, a. 80m above Ordnance Datum, occupies the south-facing slope of a small promontory between the River Bourne, approximately 200m to the west, and a former stream course, 100m to the south. The geology is mapped as Seaford Chalk Formation (British Geological Survey on-line mapping), with Alluvium in the Bourne valley and Head Deposits (Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel) in the dry valley.

#### 1.3 Archaeological background

1.3.1 A Bronze Age round barrow (*Horse Barrow*), located 500m south-east of the Site, is a Scheduled Monument (Wiltshire 346). In addition, a quantity of worked flint tools have been recovered from the area, and a number of cropmark features, of likely Bronze Age date, have been noted within the general area around West Gomeldon Farm, 360m to the north-west of the Site.

1.3.2 Extensive earthworks of a medieval deserted village, a Scheduled Monument (Wiltshire 817), lie less than 50m to the south and south-west of the Site. The settlement, documented as *Gomeledona* in AD 1189, was excavated in the early 1960s (Wiltshire HER). Further earthworks to the west, including a double lynchet trackway, have been surveyed by RCHM(E), and a resistivity survey was undertaken in 1997 which indicated buried structures at the western end of the settlement (Wiltshire HER SU13NE453).





## 2 AIMS AND METHODS

### 2.1 Methodology

- 2.1.1 The methods for the watching brief were set out in the WSI prepared in accordance with current best practice and to the guidance outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* ('MoRPHE', English Heritage 2008) and the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (IfA, 2008).
- 2.1.2 The aims of the watching brief were to establish the presence or absence, location, extent, date, character, condition, and depth of any surviving remains which may be affected by the proposed development, and to clarify the significance of any impact of the proposed construction groundwork upon the archaeological resource, and ensure its preservation by record.
- 2.1.3 The watching brief involved monitoring the Initial ground reduction on the footprint of the two new houses and a joint access drive, and the subsequent excavation of foundation trenches which were c. 0.7m wide and 0.6–0.9m deep. This involved in part the excavation of some of the existing foundations of the original building.
- 2.1.4 A full digital photographic record was made of the groundworks, with the photo locations marked on a plan of the Site. The watching brief was undertaken between 25th February and 21st March 2013.

## 3 RESULTS

### 3.1 Results

- 3.1.1 The deposits observed in the foundation trenches to the south of the existing house comprised modern topsoil (c. 0.1m thick) overlying a 0.2m thick layer of redeposited chalk rubble (made ground), which in turn sealed a buried topsoil, subsoil (0.3m thick), and the chalk bedrock (**Figure 2, Plate 1**). The made ground probably represents minor landscaping and levelling of the garden to the front of the existing house contemporary with its construction.
- 3.1.2 Elsewhere, the subsoil had been heavily truncated, probably during construction of the existing house (**Figure 2, Plate 2**), with the modern topsoil directly overlying the chalk bedrock.
- 3.1.3 A V-shaped feature, initially thought to be a ditch filled with a light brown soil, was observed in the bedrock in the foundation trench for the western wall of the eastern house; it proved, however, to be a natural, periglacial feature (**Figure 2, Plate 3**). Another apparently natural feature, possibly a tree-throw hole, was observed in the trench on the south side of the new house.
- 3.1.4 The only other features observed are considered to be of modern date. These consisted of two broad, flat-based features, 0.2–0.3m deep, recorded in the foundation trenches towards the north-western corner of the western building (**Figure 2, Plates 4 and 5**). Both were filled with dark soil similar to the overlying topsoil, and may have been recent garden beds.





- 3.1.5 No other potentially significant archaeological features or deposits were observed during the groundworks, and no artefacts were recovered.

## **4 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES**

### **4.1 Finds**

- 4.1.1 No finds were recovered during the course of the watching brief.

### **4.2 Environmental samples**

- 4.2.1 No deposits appropriate for sampling were observed during the course of the watching brief and accordingly no samples were taken.

## **5 DISCUSSION**

### **5.1 Conclusion**

- 5.1.1 No evidence was found for any significant archaeological features or deposits within the Site.

## **6 ARCHIVE**

### **6.1 Preparation and Deposition**

- 6.1.1 On completion of the fieldwork, the site archive will be prepared in general following nationally recommended guidelines (Walker 1990 and SMA 1995). The archive will include all artefacts and records collected and produced in the course of the work. It will be indexed, catalogued and internally consistent.
- 6.1.2 The completed project archive will be prepared in accordance with the guidelines outlined in Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment ('MoRPHE', English Heritage 2008), SMA (1993 and 1995) and in accordance with the Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage.
- 6.1.3 The project archive will be held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology at Old Sarum, Salisbury, Wiltshire. In due course the archive will be deposited with the Museum of Salisbury and South Wiltshire, under Wessex Archaeology project code **100630**.

## **7 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

English Heritage, 2008. Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)  
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Wessex Archaeology, 2012. *Stonehill, West Gomeldon, Salisbury, Wiltshire; Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*. Salisbury, Wessex Archaeology unpubl. rep. 86830.01.



## APPENDIX 1: OASIS SUMMARY

### OASIS ID: wessexar1-154637

#### Project details

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Project name                           | Stonehill, West Gomeldon, Wiltshire  |
| Short description of the project       | Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by PCMR Ltd. to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for a residential development at Stonehill, West Gomeldon, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP4 6LS. The watching brief was to fulfil an archaeological condition placed on the consent for a planning application to Wiltshire County Council (Planning Reference: S/2009/1937/FULL). No significant archaeological features or deposits were observed during the groundworks. |
| Project dates                          | Start: 25-02-2013 End: 21-03-2013  |
| Previous/future work                   | No / No  |
| Any associated project reference codes | 100630 - Contracting Unit No.  |
| Type of project                        | Recording project  |
| Site status                            | None   |
| Current Land use                       | Residential 1 - General Residential  |
| Monument type                          | NONE None  |
| Significant Finds                      | NONE None  |
| Investigation type                     | "Watching Brief"   |
| Prompt                                 | Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS  |

#### Project location

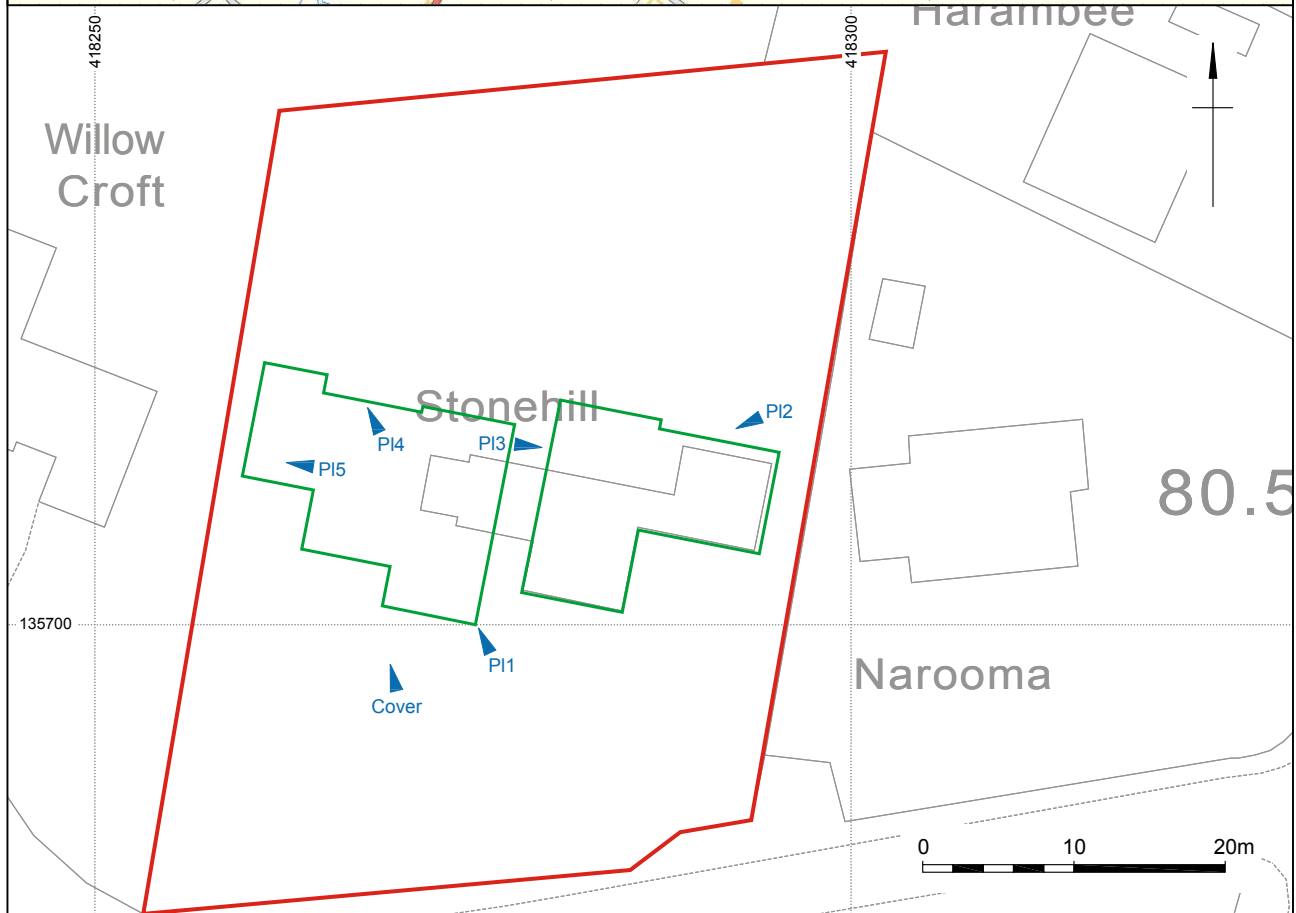
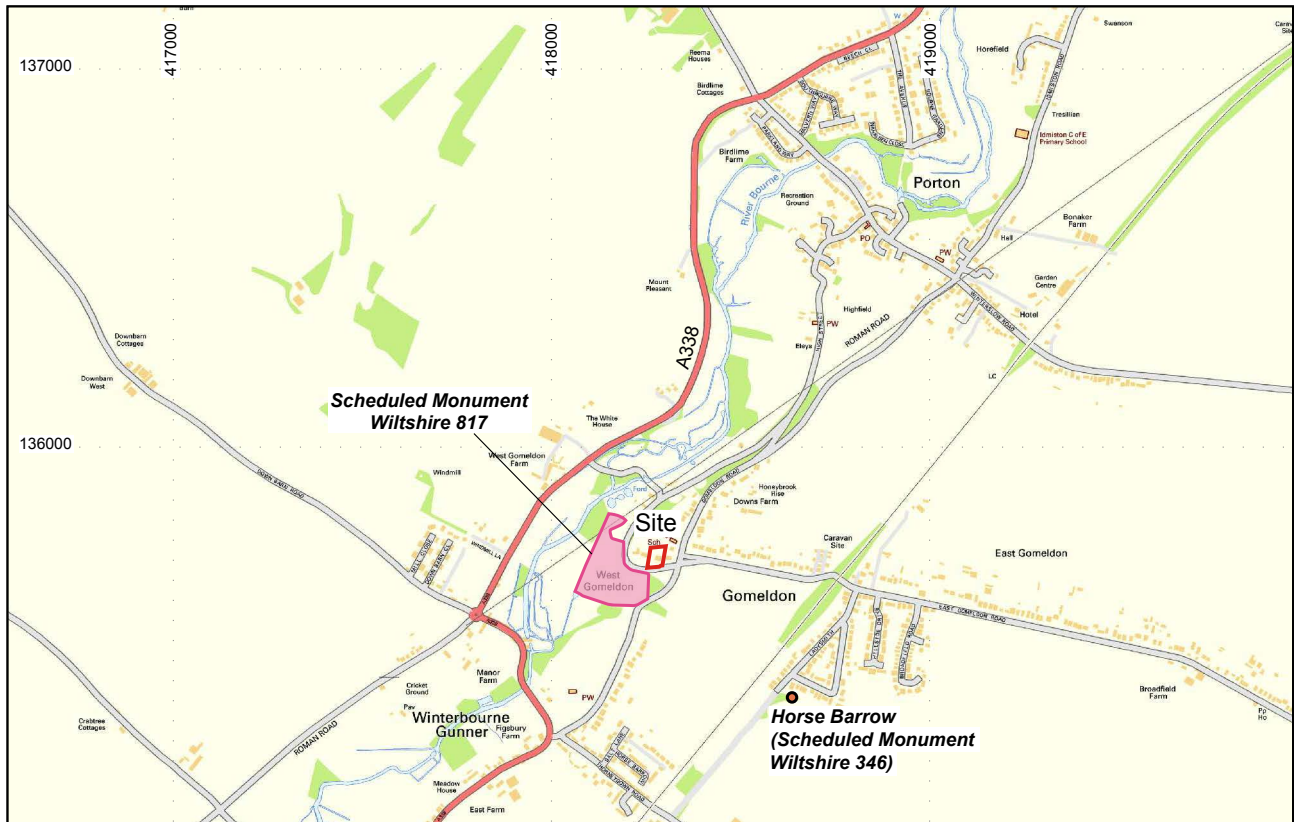
|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Country           | England                                       |
| Site location     | WILTSHIRE SALISBURY IDMISTON Stonehill        |
| Postcode          | SP4 6LS                                       |
| Study area        | 0.25 Hectares                                 |
| Site coordinates  | SU 182 357 51 -1 51 07 11 N 001 44 23 W Point |
| Height OD / Depth | Min: 79.00m Max: 80.00m                       |

#### Project creators


|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Name of Organisation      | Wessex Archaeology  |
| Project brief originator  | Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body |
| Project design originator | Wessex Archaeology  |
| Project director/manager  | Andrew Manning  |
| Project supervisor        | Dr Michael J Allen  |



| Type of sponsor/funding body  | Developer  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Project archives</b>       |  |
| Physical Archive Exists?      | No   |
| Digital Archive recipient     | Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum   |
| Digital Contents              | "none"   |
| Digital Media available       | "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"  |
| Paper Archive recipient       | Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum   |
| Paper Contents                | "none"   |
| Paper Media available         | "Context sheet", "Notebook - Excavation", ' Research', ' General Notes', "Photograph"    |
| <b>Project bibliography 1</b> |  |
| Publication type              | Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  |
| Title                         | Stonehill, West Gomeldown, Wiltshire: Archaeological Watching Brief Report               |
| Author(s)/Editor(s)           | Powell, AP   |
| Other bibliographic details   | 88130.01   |
| Date                          | 2013   |
| Issuer or publisher           | Wessex Archaeology   |
| Place of issue or publication | Salisbury  |
| Description                   | A4 soft back standard Illustrated watching brief report approximately 12 pages in total. |
| Entered by                    | Andrew Manning (a.manning@wessexarch.co.uk)  |
| Entered on                    | 8 July 2013  |



□ Site  
□ Watching brief area  
▶ PI1 Plate location



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Site location plan

Figure 1





Plate 1: Made ground over buried topsoil and subsoil, from south-east



Plate 2: The truncated chalk natural, from east



Plate 3: Periglacial feature, from west



Plate 4: Shallow possible garden bed, from south



Plate 5: Shallow possible garden bed, from east



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salisbury rochester sheffield edinburgh



Wessex Archaeology Ltd registered office Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB  
Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk



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