



## Rock Cottage, Chilmark, Wiltshire

### Archaeological Evaluation Report





**ROCK COTTAGE,  
CHILMARK,  
WILTSHIRE**

**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

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### QUALITY ASSURANCE

SITE CODE		ACCESSION CODE		CLIENT CODE	
PLANNING APPLICATION REF.	N/A	NGR	396929, 132025		

VERSION	STATUS*	PREPARED BY	APPROVED BY	APPROVER'S SIGNATURE	DATE	FILE
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\* I= INTERNAL DRAFT E= EXTERNAL DRAFT F= FINAL

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**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

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**ROCK COTTAGE,  
CHILMARK,  
WILTSHIRE****Archaeological Evaluation Report****Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by WGDP Ltd, on behalf of Johan Denekamp, to undertake an archaeological field evaluation ahead of development at Rock Cottage, Chilmark, Wiltshire, located at National Grid Reference (NGR) 396929, 132025.

Previous archaeological works to the north-east and east of the site had identified Romano-British burials and settlement activity. The extent and layout of the burials has not been defined and there was potential for human remains within the site. The evaluation, therefore, set out to ascertain the impact of the proposed development on any archaeological remains within the site.

The evaluation 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.

The fieldwork was undertaken on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April 2011.

**ROCK COTTAGE,  
CHILMARK,  
WILTSHIRE**

**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

**Acknowledgements**

This project was commissioned by WGDP Ltd on behalf of Johan Denekamp and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Tony Allen and Johan Denekamp in this regard. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Clare King (Assistant County Archaeologist) for her advice and assistance during the works. Thanks are also due to Ready Power Plant Hire and their driver, for their co-operation during the fieldwork.

The fieldwork was undertaken by John Powell. This report was written by John Powell. Report illustrations were prepared by Linda Coleman. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Sue Farr.

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

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by WGDP Ltd, (the Consultant) on behalf of Johan Denekamp (the Client) to undertake an archaeological field evaluation at Rock Cottage, Chilmark, Wiltshire (hereafter the 'Site') located at National Grid Reference (NGR) 396929, 132025 (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The field evaluation was required prior to the determination of the planning application (S/2011/265) which proposed the construction of a single storey plant room, garage, wash room and bike store with subterranean undercroft parking at the Site.

1.1.3 Previous archaeological works to the north-east of the Site identified Romano-British settlement in the form of a grain drier and burials (Fitzpatrick and Crockett 1998), and more recently three stone-lined burials were recorded to the north-east of the Site and are thought to be of similar date (Clare King *pers. comm.*).

**1.2 The 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 located immediately to the west of the now demolished Rock Cottage.

1.2.3 Chilmark falls predominantly on Upper Chalk (Geological Survey of Great Britain (England & Wales) 1:50,000).

**1.3 Standards**

1.3.1 The fieldwork and post-excitation was carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008).

**2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

2.1.1 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*

2.1.2 There are no Scheduled Monuments within the area of the Site.



### *Archaeological Background*

- 2.1.3 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).
- 2.1.4 More recently, permitted development works undertaken approximately 70m to the north-east of the Site have revealed a further three stone-lined graves of probable Romano-British date (Clare King *pers. comm.*)
- 2.1.5 In addition, three cist burials were found in c.1936 during an extension to Portash Cottage approximately 50m to the east of the Site.

## **3 AIMS AND METHODS**

### **3.1 General aims**

- 3.1.1 The principle aim of the project was to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the Site and, if such remains were present, to determine their date, nature, extent, quality and preservation and to enable an assessment of their relative importance in a local, regional, national or international context.
- 3.1.2 More specifically, the evaluation set out to establish if further Romano-British settlement and burials existed within the Site.

### **3.2 Methodology**

- 3.2.1 The evaluation of the Site was undertaken by the excavation of a single trench, measuring 10m x 1.5m. The trench was machine excavated using a JCB excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket and under constant archaeological supervision.
- 3.2.2 Excavation by machine ceased at the top of the archaeology or the top of the natural geology, whichever was encountered first. Topsoil and subsoil deposits were stored separately and scanned for artefacts.
- 3.2.3 All archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* record sheets with a unique numbering system for individual contexts. Trenches were located using a Leica GPS survey system. All archaeological features and deposits were planned at a scale of 1:20 with sections drawn at 1:10. All principal strata and features were related to the Ordnance Survey datum.
- 3.2.4 A photographic record of the investigations and individual features was maintained, utilising digital images. The photographic record illustrated both the detail and general context of the archaeology revealed and the Site as a whole, including working shots.
- 3.2.5 At the completion of the work, the trench was backfilled with the excavated material in the order that they were removed.

3.2.6 The archive was subsequently transported to the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury where it was processed and assessed for this report. The archive including plans, photographs and written records are currently held at the Wessex Archaeology offices under the project code 77430.

## **4 EVALUATION RESULTS**

### **4.1 Introduction**

4.1.1 Details of the individual excavated contexts and features are retained in the archive and a detailed summary of the excavated sequences and features can be found in **Appendix 1**. A plan showing the location of the trial trench is provided on **Figure 1**.

### **4.2 Trench 1**

4.2.1 Trench 1 was located immediately to the south-east of the Site entrance and was positioned within the footprint of the proposed subterranean undercroft parking bays, **Figure 2**.

4.2.2 Topsoil (101) and subsoil (102), were excavated by mechanical excavator to the surface of the natural geology (103).

4.2.3 An undated linear ditch, ditch **104 (Plate 2)**, was identified within the north-western end of Trench 1 (**Figure 2**). The ditch was aligned broadly north-south and contained a single grey-brown primary fill; no archaeological materials were recovered from the feature. The ditch had diffuse edges and was relatively shallow, with a maximum depth of 0.12m. The ditch may represent the remains of a truncated field boundary, although given the limitations of the evaluation, the function and nature of the feature cannot be confirmed.

## **5 FINDS**

5.1.1 No archaeological finds were identified during the evaluation.

## **6 ENVIRONMENTAL**

6.1.1 No features or deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified during the evaluation.

## **7 DISCUSSION**

7.1.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the Site, the evaluation has only identified a single undated ditch. Assumptions regarding the potential were based upon the close proximity of the Site to Romano-British settlement and burial activity, located to the north-east and east of the Site. However no dated archaeological features were recorded during the evaluation. As such, the evaluation has done little to add to the knowledge of the Romano-British landscape within which the Site lies.

7.1.2 The archaeological feature, ditch **104**, recorded during the evaluation was undated and was of uncertain archaeological function. It is possible that it may represent the truncated remains of a field boundary within the Site.

7.1.3 The feature recorded during the evaluation suggests it is unlikely that the proposed development will have a significant impact on any archaeological deposits. However the limited scope of the evaluation trench does little to inform on the potential for archaeological activity within the remainder of the Site to the south and east.

## **8 ARCHIVE**

### **8.1 Preparation and deposition**

8.1.1 The complete project archive will be prepared in accordance with Wessex Archaeology's Guidelines for Archive Preparation and in accordance with Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (UKIC 1990). On completion of the project, the archive will be deposited with Dorchester Museum under the Site Code 75140.

### **8.2 Archive**

8.2.1 The evaluation project archive, consists of:

- One A4 file containing the paper records and drawings
- Digital data (Site photographs, survey data, word and pdf files)

8.2.2 The project archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology (WA) in Salisbury under the WA report reference 77430.

### **8.3 Copyright**

8.3.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the Site will be retained by Wessex Archaeology Ltd under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved.

### **8.4 Security Copy**

8.4.1 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 Museum, and a third diazo copy will be retained by Wessex Archaeology.

## 9 REFERENCES

- British Geological Survey, Sheet 298, Salisbury
- Fitzpatrick, A.P and Crockett, A.D 1998 *A Romano-British Settlement and Inhumation Cemetery at Eyewell Farm, Chilmark Wiltshire* Archaeological and Natural History Magazine 91 11-33
- Institute for Archaeologists, 2008 *Standards and guidance for an archaeological watching brief and evaluation.*
- Wessex Archaeology, 2011 *Rock Cottage, Chilmark, Wiltshire. Written Scheme of Investigation: Method Statement for an Archaeological Evaluation*, Unpublished Client Report Ref 77430.01

## APPENDIX 1

### Evaluation trench summaries

Depths are below ground level (bgl)

Trench 1	Length	Width
	9.35 m	1.48 m
Context No	Description	Depth
101	<b>Topsoil.</b> Dark grey-brown sandy clay loam. Common sub-angular sandstone and flints throughout. Common to abundant tree roots and bioturbation was evident. Natural topsoil, although some modern disturbance was noted to the southern end of the trench.	0 – 0.35 m
102	<b>Subsoil.</b> Mid grey-brown sandy clay with abundant sub-rounded and sub-angular sandstone and flint inclusions. Common root disturbance. Natural subsoil.	0.35 – 0.68 m
103	<b>Natural.</b> Mid yellowish-brown sandy clay with abundant sandstone and flint inclusions throughout. The natural geology sloped away towards the southern end of the trench and was recorded at a maximum depth of 0.68m.	0.68 m +
104	<b>Cut of Ditch.</b> Linear Ditch aligned N-S with a shallow U shaped profile. Undated.	0.50 m +
105	<b>Primary Fill of Ditch [104].</b> Light grey-brown sandy clay with common sub-angular sandstone inclusions; probably result of erosion from the local top and subsoil.	

## APPENDIX 2

### 9.1 OASIS ID: wessexar1-98742

#### Project details

Project name            Rock Cottage, Chilmark, Wiltshire

Short description of the project    Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by WGDP Ltd, on behalf of Johan Denekamp, to undertake an archaeological field evaluation ahead of development at Rock Cottage, Chilmark, Wiltshire, located at National Grid Reference (NGR) 396929, 132025. Previous archaeological works to the north-east and east of the site had identified Romano-British burials and settlement activity. The extent and layout of the burials has not been defined and there was potential for human remains within the site. The evaluation, therefore, set out to ascertain the impact of the proposed development on any archaeological remains within the site. The evaluation 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. The fieldwork was undertaken on the 4th of April 2011.

Project dates            Start: 04-04-2011 End: 08-04-2011

Previous/future work    No / No

Any associated project reference codes    77430 - Contracting Unit No.

Type of project            Field evaluation

Monument type            NONE None

Significant Finds        NONE None

Methods & techniques    & 'Sample Trenches'

Development type        Rural residential

Prompt                      Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Position in the Between deposition of an application and determination  
planning process

### Project location

Country England  
Site location WILTSHIRE SALISBURY CHILMARK Rock Cottage  
Postcode SP3 5BW  
Study area 0.01 Hectares  
Site coordinates ST 969 320 51.0867757001 -2.0442655346 51 05 12 N 002 02 39  
W Point

### Project creators

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

### Project archives

Physical Archive No  
Exists?  
Digital Archive Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum  
recipient

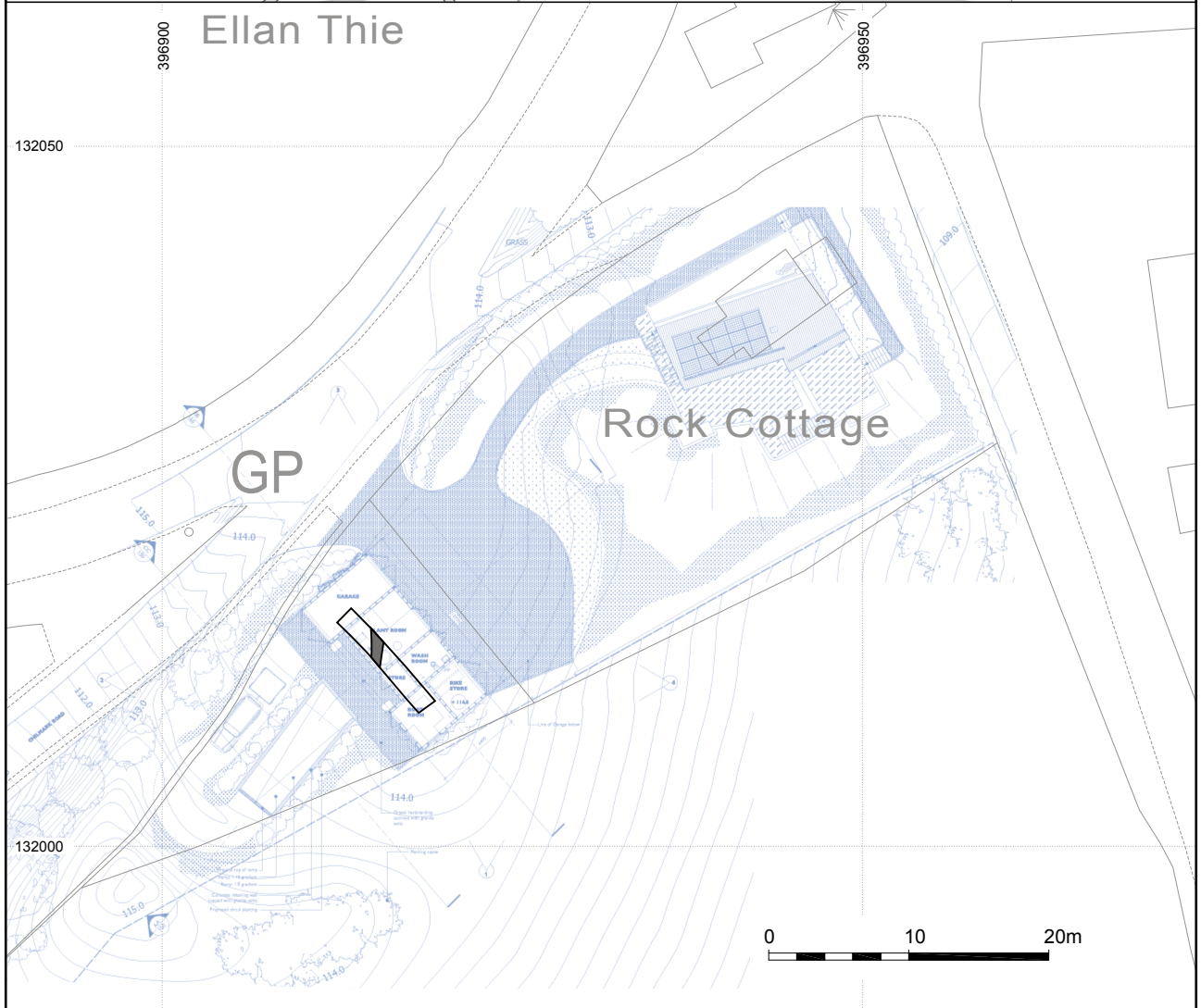
Digital Contents	'other'
Digital available	Media 'Survey','Text'
Paper recipient	Archive Salisbury and South Wilts Museum
Paper Contents	'none','other'
Paper available	Media 'Context sheet','Drawing','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Plan','Report','Section','Survey '

### **Project bibliography 1**

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URL	<a href="http://www.oasis.ac.uk">http://www.oasis.ac.uk</a>

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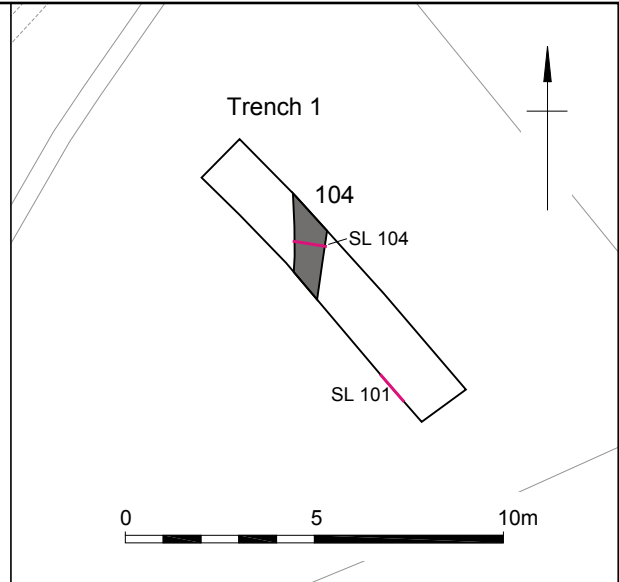
Site and trench location plan

Figure 1

SL 104



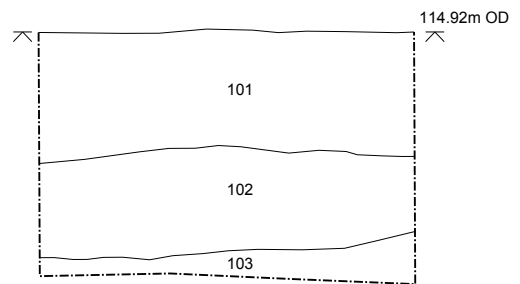
North-east facing section of Ditch 104



SL 101

SE

NW



North-east facing section of Trench 1



Trench 1 viewed from the south

- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature

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