

**SEMPRINGHAM,  
MARLBOROUGH,  
WILTSHIRE**

**NGR: SU 192 689**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION  
SHM02**

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**Sempringham, Marlborough : Archaeological Evaluation****SUMMARY**

In July 2002 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological evaluation on land at Sempringham, Salisbury Road, Marlborough Wiltshire at NGR: SU 192 689. The project was commissioned by David Sacof of The Standard Housing Company Ltd.

The evaluation comprised the excavation and recording of one 15m by 1.50m trench across the proposed development area. (Figure 2)

Excavation of this trench revealed no archaeological features.

**Sempringham, Marlborough : Archaeological Evaluation****GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS****Archaeology**

For the purpose of this project, archaeology is taken to mean the study of past human societies through their material remains from prehistoric times to the modern era. No rigid upper date limit has been set, but AD 1900 is used as a general cut-off point.

**Medieval**

The period between the Norman Conquest (AD 1066) and c. AD 1500.

**Natural**

In archaeological terms this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site.

**NGR**

National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid.

**OD**

Ordnance datum; used to express a given height above sea-level. (AOD Above Ordnance Datum)

**OS**

Ordnance Survey

## Sempringham, Marlborough : Archaeological Evaluation

### 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents the findings of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Foundations Archaeology in July 2002 on land at Sempringham, Salisbury Road, Marlborough, Wiltshire at NGR: SU 192 689. The project was commissioned by The Standard Housing Company Ltd.
- 1.2 There has been a proposal for a new residential development at the above site. A programme of archaeological works was required prior to the determination of planning permission in accordance with the principals of Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG 16): Archaeology and Planning (DoE 1990) and the archaeological policies of the Wiltshire County Council Archaeological Service.
- 1.3 This report constitutes the results of the archaeological works. The project was undertaken in accordance with the Project Design (Foundations 2002) and the Archaeological Brief from Wiltshire County Council Archaeological Service. The fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with *IFA Standards and Guidance on Archaeological Evaluation* (2001) and *Standards for Archaeological Assessment and Field Evaluation in Wiltshire* (County Archaeological Service 1995).

### 2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site is located on the land at Sempringham, Salisbury Road, Marlborough. The study area is bordered by the B3052 to the north, the A346 to the east and is surrounded by private dwellings.
- 2.2 The archaeological background for the site suggests that the site is of high archaeological potential. A Gilbertine Priory (NGR: SU 16 NE 473), first recorded in AD 1199 is present to the immediate east of the site. The Priory was partially excavated in 1938, which revealed evidence of stone wall footings, tiled floors and burials. More recent evaluation works at land adjacent to Tree Toft, Salisbury Road identified a number of features that might also be linked to the Priory. Prehistoric activity in the form of Neolithic/Early Bronze Age pits and post-holes, has also been recorded in the area, at Duck's Meadow to the southwest of the proposed development area.
- 2.3 The main archaeological potential was for activity of prehistoric and Medieval date; predominantly associated with the Priory. This did not prejudice the evaluation to the recovery of features of other periods.

### 3 AIMS

- 3.1 The aims of the archaeological evaluation were to gather high quality data from the direct observation of archaeological deposits, in order to provide sufficient information to establish the nature, extent, preservation and potential of any surviving archaeological remains; as well as to make recommendations

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for management of the resource, including further archaeological works if necessary. In turn this would allow reasonable planning decisions to be taken regarding the archaeological provision for the areas affected by the proposed development.

3.2 These aims were achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:

i) To define and identify the nature of archaeological deposits on site, and date these where possible;

ii) To attempt to characterise the nature of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning of features present on the site;

iii) To recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence and recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples.

## 4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 The project required the excavation of one 15m by 1.5m evaluation trench. The trench location is shown on Figure 2.

4.2 Topsoil and non-significant overburden was removed to the top of archaeological deposits or natural, whichever was encountered first. This was achieved with the use of a mechanical excavator with a toothless grading bucket. Thereafter the trenches were cleaned and all additional excavation was conducted by hand.

4.3 All excavation and recording work was undertaken in accordance with the Foundations Archaeology Project Design and the Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 3: Excavation Manual.

## 5 RESULTS

5.1 Trench 1 was excavated in an area of garden, currently under lawn, to the rear of the property.

5.2 The trench was aligned northwest–southeast and was excavated onto natural chalk deposits at an average depth of 0.58m (130.41m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural chalk was sealed beneath (103), an orange brown silty clay layer up to 0.24m thick, with frequent sub-angular flint nodules and chalk flecks. This was itself sealed beneath (102), a light brown clay silt subsoil up to 0.26m thick, with frequent sub-angular flint nodules and occasional chalk flecks. Subsoil (102) was sealed by a layer of mid to dark brown topsoil (101), up to 0.22m thick. No archaeological features were present within this trench.

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- 5.3 A small assemblage of late Post-medieval and modern pottery and ceramic building material was present in both subsoil (102) and topsoil (101). No earlier artefactual material was present.

## 6 DISCUSSION

- 6.1 No archaeological features were present within the evaluation trench.
- 6.2 All artefactual material present was of a post-Medieval or modern origin. No evidence of Medieval activity was present either in the form of archaeological features or artefactual evidence.
- 6.3 The results of the evaluation suggest that the Priory did not extend into the study area, although there is potential for archaeological deposits associated with the Priory outside of the confines of the evaluation trench. The results however indicate that the archaeological potential of the site is low and that development is unlikely to destroy any significant archaeological features or deposits.

## 7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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## 8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

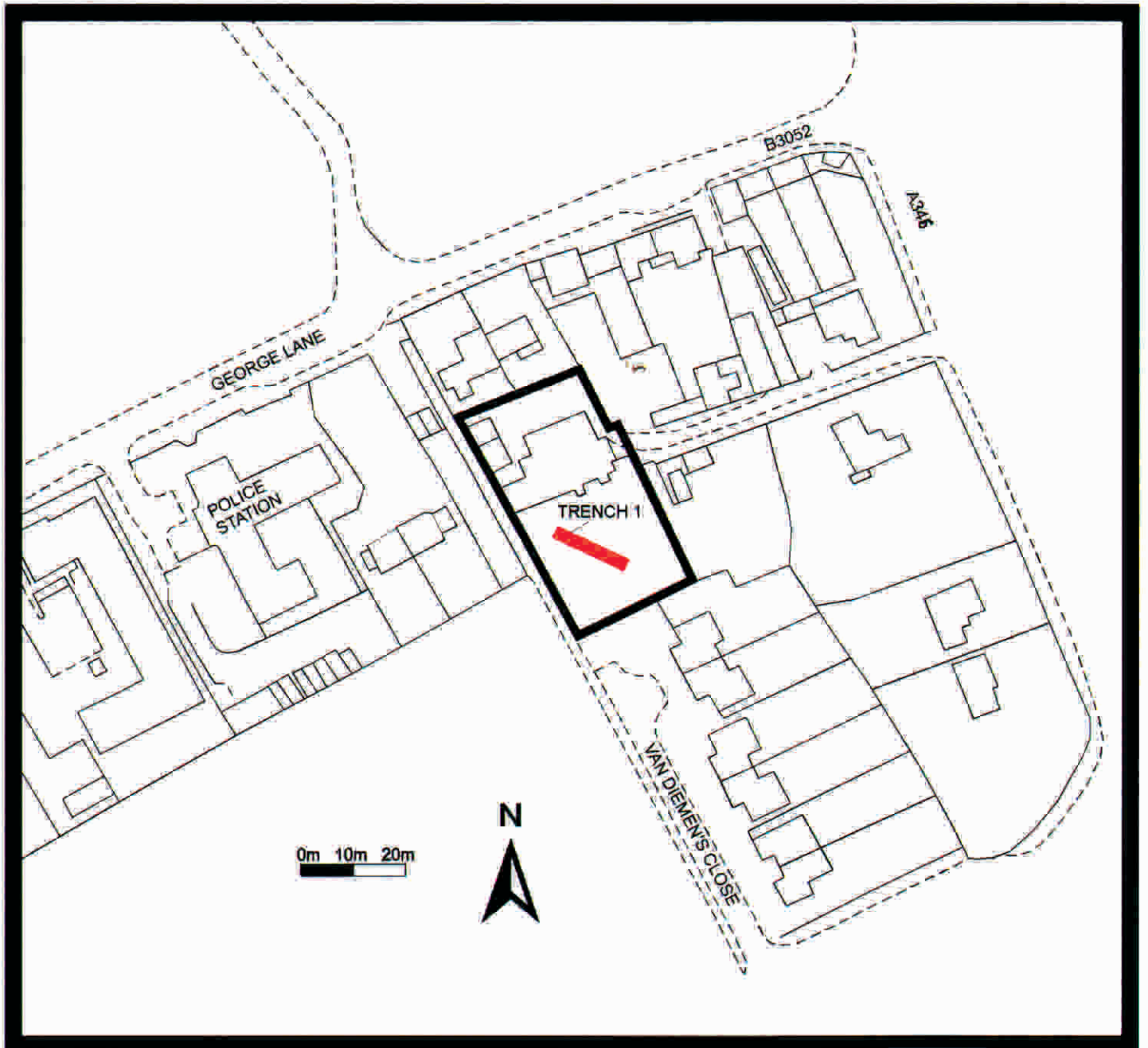
Foundations Archaeology would like to thank Sue Farr of the Wiltshire County Council Archaeological Service and David Sacof of Standard House Company Ltd for their help in the smooth running of this project.



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FIGURE 1: Site Location.





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**FIGURE 2: Trench Location Plan**