

**LAND ADJOINING WAYSIDE,
SILCHESTER ROAD,
LITTLE LONDON,
HAMPSHIRE.**

**NGR: SU 6215 5979
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

Accession Number: HMCMS:A2020.58



Trench 2 Looking North Northeast
January 2021
Report No. 1404



ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY, MANAGEMENT & FIELD SERVICES

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Quality Assurance

This document has been compiled and authorised in accordance with AMS's Quality Procedures (ISO 9001: 2015)

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SUMMARY

Between the 5th & 6th January 2021 Foundations Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation on land adjoining Wayside, Silchester Road, Little London, Hampshire (NGR: SU 6215 5979). The project was commissioned by the landowner, Lisa Witham.

The works comprised the excavation of three archaeological evaluation trenches within the proposed development area.

The evaluation trenching has indicated that the site has previously been disturbed and that Modern deposits are directly sealing the natural substrates. It is likely that this activity would have impacted on any underlying potential archaeology, with the exception of deep, negative archaeological features.

No archaeological finds, features or deposits were present in any of the evaluation trenches.

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.

CBM

Ceramic Building Material.

Medieval

The period between AD 1066 and 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.

Post-medieval

The period between AD 1500 and AD 1900.

Prehistoric

The period prior to the Roman invasion of AD 43, traditionally sub-divided into; *Palaeolithic* – c. 500,000 BC to c. 12,000 BC; *Mesolithic* – c. 12,000 BC to c. 4,500 BC; *Neolithic* – c. 4,500 BC to c. 2,000 BC; *Bronze Age* – c. 2,000 BC to c. 800 BC; *Iron Age* – c. 800 BC to AD 43.

Roman

The period traditionally dated AD 43 until AD 410.

Saxon

The period between AD 410 and AD 1066.

Silchester Dykes

A series of upstanding linear bank and ditch monuments located within a 3km radius of the Late Iron Age oppidum and Roman town of Silchester.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Between the 5th & 6th January 2021 Foundations Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation on land adjoining Wayside, Silchester Road, Little London, Hampshire (NGR: SU 6215 5979). The project was commissioned by the landowner, Lisa Witham.
- 1.2 The evaluation and excavation was conducted in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), prepared by Foundations Archaeology (2020) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CifA) *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation / Excavation* (2014).
- 1.3 The CifA code of conduct was adhered to throughout.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 There is currently an application for the erection of a single detached dwelling with associated external works on land adjoining Wayside, Little London (Application No. 20/02875/FUL). The extent of this proposed development is shown on Figure 2.
- 2.2 The site was bounded to the east by Silchester Road, to the south by Wayside and to the west and north by fields and woodland.
- 2.3 The site lies on the northern periphery of Little London. It is located approximately 2.5m to the southwest of Roman Silchester (*Calleva Atrebatum*) (Scheduled Monument 1011957) and almost 800m south of the southernmost linear earthwork associated with the Silchester Dykes at Bridles Copse (Scheduled Monument 1008728).
- 2.4 Directly east of the study area the Little London Roman Tilery site has been investigated by geophysical survey in 2015 and excavation in 2017 as part of the University of Reading Silchester Environs Project. A Roman kiln was previously excavated in the 1920's on this site, but the subsequent works identified a further eight brick and tile kilns in the same field. This suggested large scale production of building material which was most likely utilised at the nearby town of *Calleva Atrebatum*.
- 2.5 Approximately 300m to the north of the site aerial photographs have identified ridge and furrow (HER 69900).
- 2.6 The underlying geology of the site consists of *Windlesham Formation - Sand, Silt and Clay* with superficial deposits of *Surrey Hill Gravel Member - Sand and Gravel* recorded (BGS online viewer).
- 2.7 The site therefore contained the potential for the presence of archaeological remains, predominately dating from the Iron Age and Roman periods. This did not prejudice the works against evidence relating to other periods.

3 AIMS

- 3.1 The aims of the archaeological evaluation and excavation 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 for management of the resource, including further archaeological works if necessary. In turn, this would allow reasonable planning/mitigation decisions to be taken regarding the archaeological provision for the areas affected by the 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 characterize the nature of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning of features present on the site;
 - iii) where possible, to recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence and recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples;
 - iv) to provide sufficient information to allow for an assessment of the archaeological potential of the site;
 - v) to provide further data in regard to the nearby Roman brick kilns;
 - vi) to inform formulation of a strategy to avoid or mitigate impacts of the proposed development on surviving archaeological remains.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The archaeological works consisted of three evaluation trenches which were located across the development area as shown in Figure 2.
- 4.2 Non-significant overburden was removed, under constant archaeological supervision, to the top of archaeological remains or the underlying natural deposits, whichever was encountered first. This was achieved through use of a JCB type mechanical excavator, equipped with a toothless grading bucket. Spoil tips were visually scanned for finds.
- 4.3 Where potential archaeological features were present, these were subjected to appropriate levels of investigation. All excavation and recording work was undertaken in accordance with the approved WSI and the Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 3: Excavation Manual.

5 RESULTS

- 5.1 A full description of all contexts identified during the course of the fieldwork is presented in Appendix 1. A summary of the results is given below.
- 5.2 The natural substrates consisted of orange brown clay and gravels, at an average depth of 0.5m to 1.17m (82.30m AOD) below the Modern ground. In Trenches 2 and 3 these were sealed by a mixed deposit of clays and topsoil, this was in turn sealed by a mid brown sandy clay mixed deposit of gravel, soils and turf, which contained fragments of plastic sheeting. In Trench 1 there was evidence for a number of Modern layers sealing the natural deposits.
- 5.3 No archaeological finds, features or deposits were present in any of the evaluation trenches.

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The evaluation trenching has indicated that the site has previously been disturbed and that Modern deposits directly sealed the natural substrates. It is likely that this activity would have impacted on any underlying potential archaeology, with the exception of deep, negative archaeological features.
- 6.2 No archaeological finds, features or deposits were present in any of the evaluation trenches.
- 6.3 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology but will be deposited in due course with Hampshire Museum Service under Accession Number HMCMS:A2020.58. A digital report/archive will also be submitted to OASIS/ADS. A short note will be submitted for publication in the relevant local archaeological journal.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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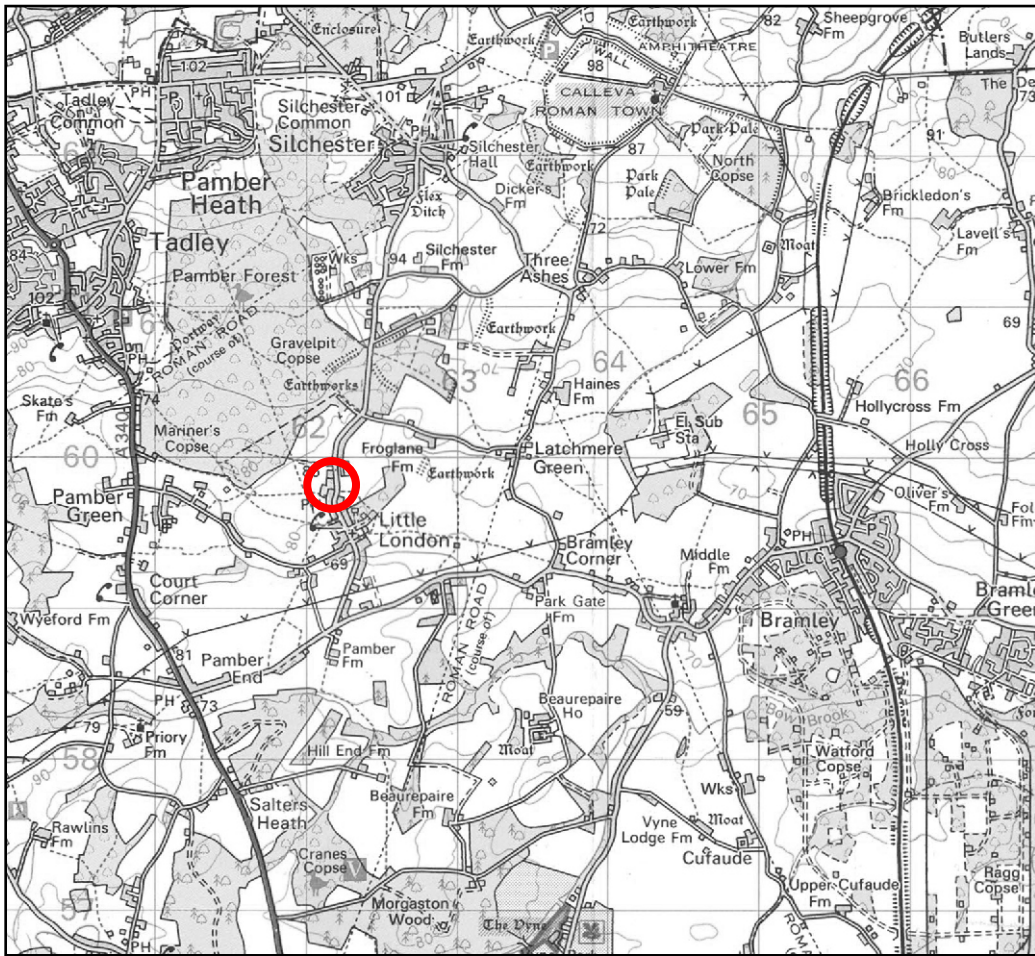
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8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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APPENDIX 1: Stratigraphic Data

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN
				TRENCH 1: 10m long by 1.6m wide. Natural = variable dark grey brown clay and gravels. Present at average 82.35m AOD.	
101	10+	1.6+	0.12 to 0.2	Mid brown sandy clay mixed deposit of gravel, soils and turf. Fragments of plastic sheeting present.	102
102	10+	1.6+	0.1-0.15	Dark grey compacted gravels.	103
103	10+	1.6+	0.13 to 0.3	Mid brown compact silty sand clay.	104, 105
104	10+	1.6+	Upto 0.2	Orange/yellow clean imported sand. Only present in western half of the trench.	105
105	10+	1.6+	0.3	Mid brown silty sand clay.	106
106	10+	1.6+	0.1-0.2	Dark grey brown silt sand clay, with frequent roots and occasional fragments of Modern CBM. This Modern layer appeared to have discoloured the underlying natural deposits.	natural
				No archaeological features or finds were present within the trench.	
				TRENCH 2: 20m long by 1.6m wide. Natural = variable beige orange brown clay and gravels. Present at average 82.28m AOD.	
201	20+	1.6+	0.12	Mid brown sandy clay mixed deposit of gravel, soils and turf. Fragments of plastic sheeting present.	202
202	20+	1.6+	0.48	Dark brown mixed/disturbed clay and topsoil.	natural
				No archaeological features or finds were present within the trench.	
				TRENCH 3: 20m long by 1.6m wide. Natural = variable beige orange brown clay and gravels. Present at average 82.32m AOD.	
301	20+	1.6+	0.28	Mid brown sandy clay mixed deposit of gravel, soils and turf. Fragments of plastic sheeting present.	302
302	20+	1.6+	0.22	Dark brown mixed/disturbed clay and topsoil.	natural
				No archaeological features or finds were present within the trench.	



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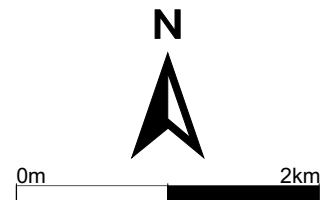
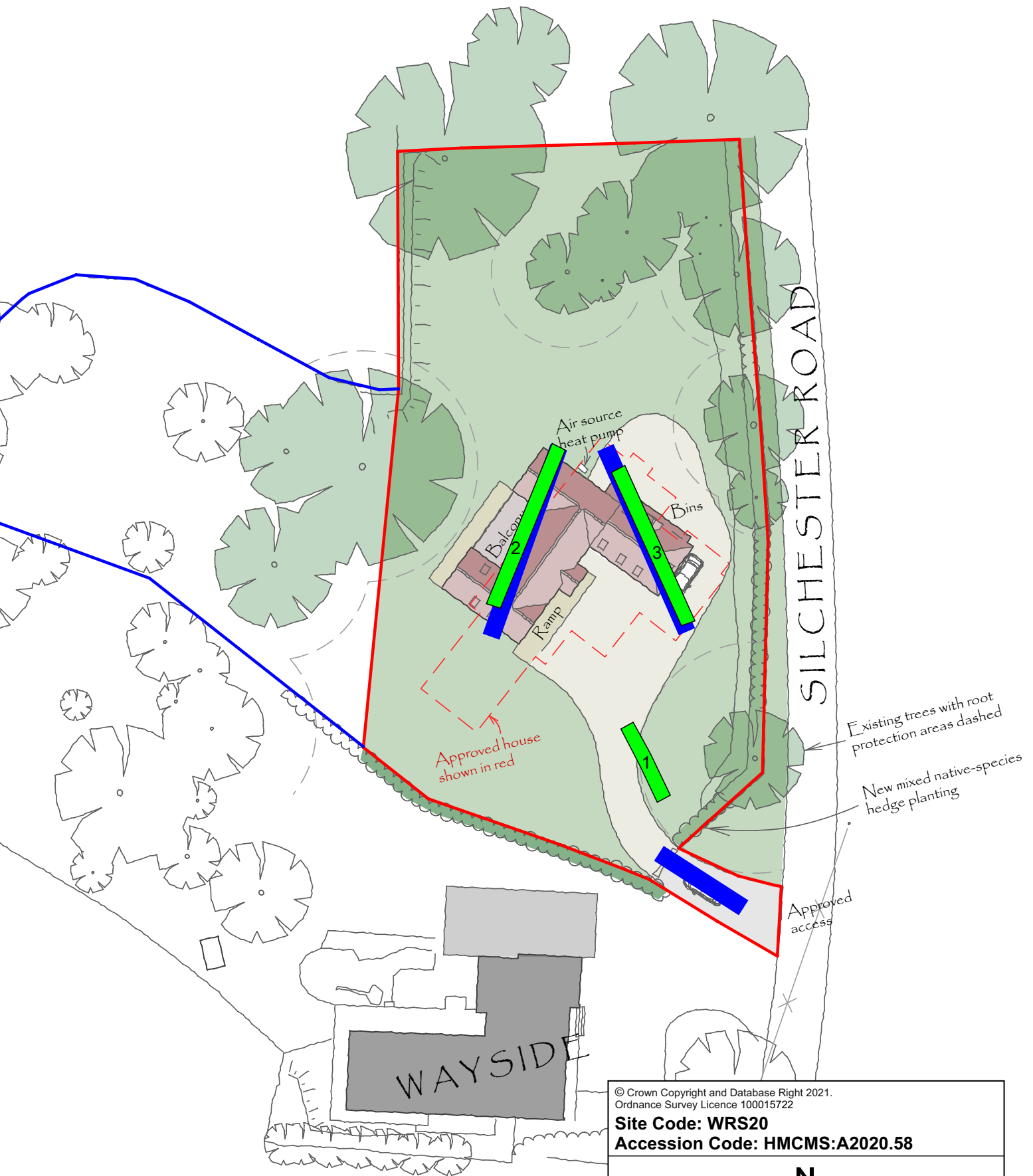


FIGURE 1: Site Location



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- Proposed Evaluation Trench
 - Excavated Evaluation Trench
- 0m 20m

FIGURE 2: Proposed Trench Locations