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**LAND ADJACENT TO 118 HIGH STREET
NETHERAVON, WILTSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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September 1999

Report 9920

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Land adjacent to 118 High Street, Netheravon: Archaeological Evaluation

SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at land adjacent to 118 High Street, Netheravon (NGR: SU 1474 4860). The work was undertaken by Foundations Archaeology on 28th July 1999.

Two trenches were excavated within the study area. A single possible late medieval feature was identified in Trench 1. A number of undated postholes and linear features were identified in both trenches.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This document sets out the results of an archaeological evaluation on the land at adjacent to 118 High Street, Netheravon (NGR: SU 1474 4860). The work was undertaken in line with the Project Design prepared by Foundations Archaeology, in accordance with the brief supplied by Wiltshire County Council on 28th July 1999 (DC/MJU/97DC281.br). The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994). The code of conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists was adhered to throughout.

1.2 The evaluation was directed by Brona Langton BA under the overall direction of Roy King BA MIFA, who has wide experience of performing, monitoring and managing field work projects of different periods throughout Britain.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

2.1 The site is presently a disused builders yard.

2.2 The village of Netheravon is of Saxon origin (Nigah Avia in AD 1086) and Saxo-Norman work has been identified in the nearby All Saints church. There are also earthworks in the field lying between the church and the site.

2.3 Although no archaeological remains are currently recorded from within the area of the site, the location had the potential to contain archaeological remains of Saxon origin. As a result the site was deemed to be of archaeological significance and in accordance with the principles of PPG16 Archaeology and Planning (DOE 1990), field evaluation was deemed the most appropriate method of investigation.

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 for the 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 to date these where possible;

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- 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 Two trenches with dimensions of 12.5 x 1.6m and 17.5 x 1.6m were excavated within the development area. The trenches were located in accordance with the project design and are illustrated on Figure 1

4.2 Deposits of topsoil and non-significant overburden were removed to the top of the archaeological deposits or natural, whichever was encountered first. This was achieved through the use of a JCB mechanical excavator with a toothless grading bucket. Thereafter cleaning and excavation was conducted by hand.

4.3 Archaeological features were located during the course of the evaluation in both Trenches 1 and 2.

4.4 All site recording was undertaken in accordance with Technical Manual 3 (Excavation Manual). A written, drawn and photographic record of the evaluation was compiled in accordance with the specification.

5 EVALUATION RESULTS

5.1 Trench 1 was excavated onto natural gravels at 1.20m from the modern ground surface (81.23m OD). The trench revealed a shallow 'U' shaped linear feature, [105], measuring 0.50m wide by 0.05 to 0.10m deep. The cut contained a mid olive/yellow brown sandy silt gravel with frequent angular flint nodules (106). A posthole, [107], measuring 0.21m in diameter by 0.18m deep was cut into the bottom of the eastern edge of ditch [105]. No dating evidence was recovered from either feature.

5.2 A second posthole [109] 0.21m in diameter by 0.10m deep, was located 1m away from [107] close to the edge of ditch [105]. The posthole contained a dark brown sandy silt gravel very different to (106) and (108) but no datable evidence was revealed from these features as well.

5.3 Two pits [111] measuring 0.67m wide by 1.2m deep and [114] measuring 0.70m wide by 0.40m deep, were also identified in Trench 1. Both were located in the north-east end of the trench, with [111] cutting [114]. Feature [111] comprised a large sub circular quarry pit cut into the natural substrate with near vertical sides. This feature was excavated to a depth of 1.20m, but was not bottomed due to Health and Safety

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considerations. The feature contained two fills, the upper fill (112) was a dark grey silty loam with occasional large flint inclusions, the lower fill (113) was a mid brown silty loam with frequent large flint nodules. Only fill (113) yielded dating evidence comprising a single sherd of 14th-15th century Coarse Border Ware pottery. Feature [114] contained a mixed dark-mid grey with light brown mottling silty loam, with infrequent small flint pieces throughout. This feature had a high amount of root or animal disturbance; no datable evidence was recovered.

5.4 Examination of the trench demonstrated the area had been subject to extensive levelling and infilling during the modern period.

5.5 Trench 2 was excavated to natural gravels at a depth of 0.65m from the modern ground surface (81.46m OD). Features revealed in this trench are described in detail in Appendix 1.

Two ditches were identified [207] measuring 0.90m wide by 0.14m deep, and [217] measuring 0.66m wide by 0.24m deep. A single possible gully [229] was identified against the southern edge of the trench.

5.6 Feature [207] was shallow with a rounded base and was aligned N-S. It terminated 1.20m into the trench and contained a mid brown/orange sandy clay with frequent flint nodules and chalk flecks (210). Feature [217] was aligned N-S and contained a mid brown/orange silty clay with frequent flint nodules and very rare charcoal (218). The ditch had an uneven U-shaped base. No datable evidence was identified.

5.7 Fourteen postholes and/or small pits were identified cut into the natural substrate. These features, illustrated on Figure 00. In two cases these had a stratigraphic relationship with the ditches; [207] being cut by [209] and [217] being cut by [219]. Dating evidence was recovered from only two postholes; [219] contained a fragment of tile, while modern cut [223] contained wood and tile.

5.8 A single Pit [225] was identified at the eastern end of the trench. The pit had shallow sides with a concave base and measured 0.86m wide by 0.14m deep and contained a similar fill to (224); a dark brown silty loam with moderate flint inclusions (226).

5.9 The features identified within Trench 2 were predominantly undated and contained a generally similar mid brown sandy clay fill. Two demonstrably modern cuts, posthole [223] and pit [225] both contained a very different dark brown silty loam fill, suggesting that the other features were of greater antiquity.

6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 The evaluation work has identified one definite medieval feature in Trench 1 as well as numerous undated features. Most of these features were obvious and relatively easy to

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identify through machining, although a number of features only showed up through careful hand cleaning.

6.2 With the exception of some levelling of the site area there appears to have been little modern or post medieval disturbance. The potential exists for the recovery of further archaeological features.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Foundations Archaeology would like to thank Duncan Coe of Wiltshire County Council and Niall Robertson of Iain Ogilvie Property Consultants for their assistance in the smooth running of this project.

APPENDIX 1 (Trench 2 deposits)

Note: Stratigraphic descriptions are given earliest to latest. Cut features are designated by square brackets thus: [000]; all other deposits/layers are given in round brackets (000).

Undated features

Pits/postholes

Pit/posthole [209]. This feature measured 0.70m by 0.45m by 0.19m deep. Contained a mid brown sandy clay with abundant flint nodules and chalk flecks (210).

Posthole [211] measuring 0.20m by 0.27m by 0.35m deep. Contained a mid brown sandy clay (212).

Posthole [215] measuring 0.24m by 0.18m by 0.30m deep. Contained compact mid dark brown sand silt with abundant flint nodules and chalk flecks.

Posthole [219] measuring 0.30m in diameter by 0.41m deep and containing a mid brown sandy silt with frequent large flint nodules and rare charcoal (220). One small fragment of tile of uncertain date was recovered from this feature.

Posthole [233] measured 0.20 diameter by 0.12m deep. Contained mid orange brown silt clay with gravel inclusions (234).

Posthole [235] measured 0.22 diameter by 0.08m deep. Contained mid orange brown silt clay with small gravel inclusions (236).

Posthole [231] measured 0.19 by 0.15 by 0.15 deep. Medium brown grey sandy silt with frequent flint inclusions and chalk flecks (232).

Posthole [241] measured 0.28m by 0.19m by 0.20 deep. Contained mid brown grey sand silt with frequent chalk and flint inclusions (242).

Posthole [221] measured 0.34 by 0.40 by 0.19 deep containing compact mid brown grey silty sand with frequent flint nodules (222).

Posthole [227] measured 0.36m by 0.24 by 0.23m deep. Contained mid orange brown silty clay with high flint content (228).

Gully

[229] 0.67m by 0.51m by 0.32m deep containing a mid brown grey sandy clay with frequent flint inclusions and chalk flecks (230).

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Ditch

[207] 0.90m wide by 0.14m deep containing a mid brown grey sandy silt with abundant flint nodules and chalk flecks (208).

[217] measured 0.66m wide by 0.24m deep containing a compact mid brown orange silty clay with frequent flint nodules and rare charcoal flecks (218).

Modern features

Posthole

Posthole [223] measured 0.20m by 0.33m by 0.15m deep. Contained dark brown silt loam with moderate flint and small gravel (224). Remnants of wooden post and tile.

Pit

[225] measured 1.9m by min 0.86 by 0.14m deep. Contained dark brown silty loam with flint nodules and small gravel inclusions and modern wood fragments (226).