

**7, 8, AND 8a THE STREET,  
LATTON**

**NGR: SU 0910 9547**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION  
TSL03**

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## **SUMMARY**

In June 2003 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological evaluation on 7, 8 and 8A The Street, Latton Wiltshire at NGR: SU 0910 9547. The project was commissioned by Stewart Waters of David James and Partners.

The evaluation comprised the excavation and recording of one 'T' trench totalling 17m in length, across the proposed development area. (Figure 2)

Excavation of this trench revealed an ephemeral post-medieval/modern cut, a section of a modern footpath and a post-medieval/modern wall cut.

## 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.

### 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

Period from *circa* AD 1500 to 1900.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents the findings of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Foundations Archaeology in June 2003 on 7, 8 and 8A The Street, Latton Wiltshire at NGR: SU 0910 9547. The project was commissioned by Stewart Waters of David James and Partners.
- 1.2 There has been a proposal to construct a single dwelling 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 IFA *Standards and Guidance on Archaeological Evaluation* (1994, revised 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 7, 8 and 8A The Street, Latton Wiltshire. The study area is bordered by the A419 to the southwest and Ermin Way to the northeast.
- 2.2 Although the site itself does not contain any direct evidence of archaeological activity, it is located within an area of high archaeological potential. The site is adjacent to a Roman Road (Ermin Way) and is situated on the Thames Valley gravels, which have contained significant evidence of both prehistoric and Roman settlement activity.
- 2.3 The main archaeological potential was for activity of prehistoric and Roman date. 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 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 'T' shaped evaluation trench, with a length totalling 17m. 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 Technical Manual 3: Excavation Manual.

#### 5 RESULTS

- 5.1 For ease of recording the main branch of the trench will be referred to in the text as Trench 1, The 'T' off Trench 1 will be referred to as Trench 1A.
- 5.2 **Trench 1** (12m by 1.50m) was aligned east-west and was excavated onto natural sands and gravels at an average depth of 0.40m (80.87m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural was sealed beneath subsoil (102), a mid yellow grey silt gravel layer up to 0.23m thick. Subsoil (102) was sealed by a layer of dark brown topsoil (101), up to 0.17m thick. Two post-medieval/modern cuts were present within this trench.
- 5.3 Cut [104] was an ill-defined feature approximately 4m wide and 0.30m deep, which was orientated east-west across the width of the trench. The feature cut through the subsoil (102) and natural and was partially overlaid by the topsoil (101). The cut contained (105), a dark brown silty loam, with frequent stone and occasional charcoal inclusions and contained 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery sherds. The feature was partially overlaid by a modern footpath.
- 5.4 Feature [108] was a wall foundation cut 0.50m wide and 0.25m deep. The wall cut through the subsoil (102) and natural and was overlaid by the topsoil (101). The wall was orientated north-south and was only present within the trench for 0.80m, but continued along the north axis for an unknown length.

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The wall was of dry stone construction, with roughly faced, flat limestone slabs (110). The fill of the wall cut (109) was a light brown silty clay, with occasional charcoal flecks and 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery sherds.

- 5.5 **Trench 1A** (5m by 1.50m) was aligned northeast-southwest and was excavated onto natural sands and gravels at an average depth of 0.40m (80.87m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural was sealed beneath subsoil (102), a mid yellow grey silt gravel layer up to 0.23m thick. Subsoil (102) was sealed by a layer of dark brown topsoil (101), up to 0.17m thick. With the exception of the modern footpath, none of the features present in Trench 1 continued into Trench 1A. No archaeological features were present within this trench.

## 6 DISCUSSION

- 6.1 No archaeological features with a date earlier than the 18<sup>th</sup> century were present within the evaluation trench.
- 6.2 All artefactual material present was of a post-medieval or modern origin. No evidence of earlier activity was present either in the form of archaeological features or artefactual evidence.
- 6.3 The results indicate that the archaeological potential of this part of the site is low and that development is unlikely to destroy any significant archaeological features or deposits.

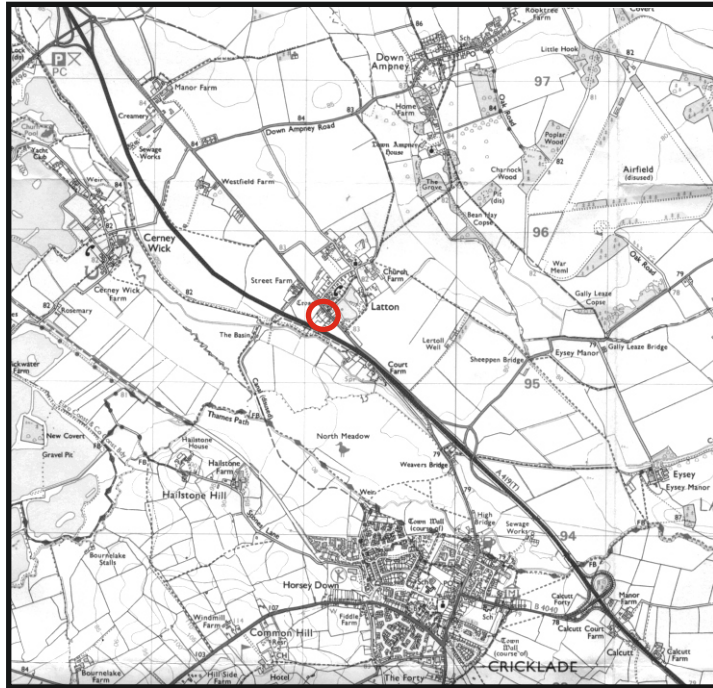
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## 8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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**FIGURE 1: Site Location**





— STUDY AREA  
— TRENCH LOCATION



**FIGURE 2: Trench Location**