

**LAND AT NEW ROAD/ANNE CRESCENT,
DURRINGTON,
WILTSHIRE.**

NGR: 415946 144220 (centred)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

November 2021
Report No. 1455



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

On 12th October 2021 Foundations Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation on land at New Road/Anne Crescent, Durrington, Wiltshire (NGR: 415946 144220). The project was commissioned by Christine Brown at Wiltshire Council.

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

There were no archaeological features or finds within the trenches and the site is therefore considered to be of very low archaeological potential.

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.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents the findings of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Foundations Archaeology on 12th October 2021, on land at New Road/Anne Crescent, Durrington, Wiltshire (NGR: 415946 144220). The project was commissioned by Christine Brown at Wiltshire Council.
- 1.2 The evaluation was conducted in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), prepared by Foundations Archaeology (2021) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (2014).
- 1.3 The CIfA code of conduct was adhered to throughout.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 There is currently a proposal for residential development within the site.
- 2.2 The site comprises an area of unmanaged grassland and scrub, approximately 270m² in size. The site is bounded by New Road to the north and School Drive to the east, with residential properties fronting onto Anne Crescent to the south and west.
- 2.3 The site is generally flat, lying at approximately 87m aOD. The underlying geology is recorded as *Seaford Chalk Formation* – chalk, with no recorded superficial deposits (BGS Online Viewer).
- 2.4 A Heritage Statement was prepared for the site by Cotswold Archaeology (2021), which should be read in conjunction with this document; however, the archaeological background is summarised thus:
 - 2.4.1 *The Stonehenge, Avebury and associated sites World Heritage Site (WHS) (Ref 1000097) lies approximately 550m to the southwest of the study area. Durrington Walls and Woodhenge, along with round barrows and four settlements are located approximately 800m to the southwest, within the WHS. The surrounding area is a rich Prehistoric landscape, with a wealth of features including funerary monuments, settlements and field systems. The nearest Prehistoric evidence to the site consists of an assemblage of flint flakes and scrapers found in a garden at Bulford Road approximately 170m to the north of the site (MWI7202).*
 - 2.4.2 *Iron Age evidence is less extensive within the study area than for the earlier periods and the wider area appears to have been relatively well settled with a pattern of farms and field systems during this time. It is possible that a late Prehistoric field system (MWI76673) present approximately 630m to the southwest dates to this period.*

- 2.4.3 *The rural settlement pattern appears to extend to the Roman period, with settlement evidence identified during an evaluation at the Defensive Estates, approximately 770m to the northwest (MW112033). Roman evidence nearer to the site consists of stray finds including coins and pottery.*
- 2.4.4 *There is no archaeological evidence within the study area for the early Medieval (Saxon) period, but the Domesday Survey records a small settlement at 'Derintone' held by Earl Aubrey. The historic core of Durrington is approximately 580m to the northwest of the site and Medieval settlement was concentrated on two distinct areas; the separate manors of East End and West End.*
- 2.4.5 *Durrington was a small rural settlement throughout the Post-medieval period and a number of listed buildings, dating to the 17th and 18th centuries, are located within the Conservation Area, to the north of the site.*
- 2.5 The site therefore contained the potential for significant archaeological features and deposits, predominantly dating to the Prehistoric period. This did not prejudice the works against recording evidence relating to 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/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 on the archaeological potential of the site to enable the archaeological implications of the proposed development to be assessed;

- v) to inform formulation of a strategy to avoid or mitigate impacts of the proposed development on surviving archaeological remains.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The evaluation consisted of two trenches, which were located to provide a representative sample of the site. Due to on-site constraints, it was necessary to slightly amend the trench locations, as proposed in the approved WSI. The trench locations, as dug, are 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 360° mechanical excavator, equipped with a toothless grading bucket. Features and spoil tips were visually scanned for finds.
- 4.3 Where potential archaeological features were present, these were subject 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 **Trench 1:** The natural substrates, which consisted of variable orange clay with flints and white to beige soft chalk, were present at an average depth of 0.57m (86.11m aOD) below the Modern ground surface. These were sealed beneath an orange brown clay silt subsoil (102), with an average thickness of 0.34m, which was, in turn, overlain by a dark brown clay topsoil (101), with an average thickness of 0.23m. No archaeological features or finds were present within the trench.



Photograph 1: Trench 1 looking southeast

- 5.2 **Trench 2:** The natural substrates, which consisted of variable orange clay with flints and white to beige soft chalk, were present at an average depth of 0.65m (85.77m aOD) below the Modern ground surface. These were sealed beneath an orange brown clay silt subsoil (202), with an average thickness of 0.30m, which was, in turn, overlain by a dark brown clay topsoil (201), with an thick average thickness of 0.35m.



Photograph 2: Trench 2 looking north

- 5.2.1 A single Modern pit was partially revealed within the evaluation trench. It was cut through the topsoil and subsoil, into the top of the natural deposits. It measured 0.70m long, by 0.30m wide and at least 0.65m in depth and contained a soil in-fill, which was associated with frequent Modern detritus, including part of a pram, a spade and a lump of concrete.
- 5.2.2 No archaeological features or finds were present within the trench.

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The evaluation identified natural clay and chalk substrates sealed beneath a subsoil layer and subsequent topsoil. The presence of intact subsoil suggested that preservation conditions were good. There were no archaeological features or finds within the trenches and, as such, the site is considered to be of very low archaeological potential.
- 6.2 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology, but will be deposited in due course with Salisbury Museum, under Accession Code SBYWM:2021.40. 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

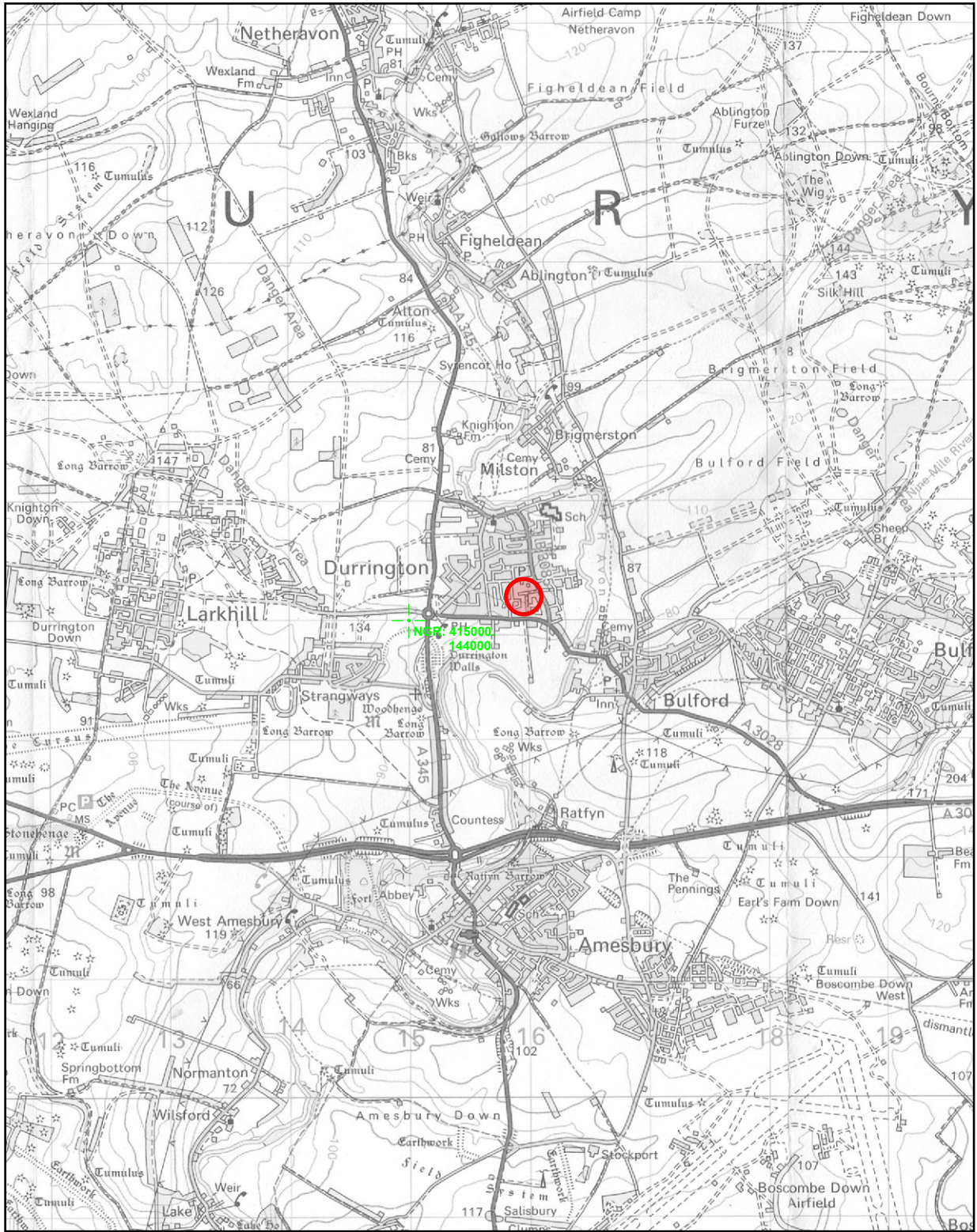
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8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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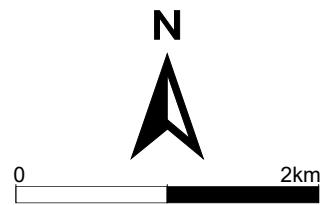


FIGURE 1: Site Location

