

**LAND AT BERHILLS LANE,
SELLS GREEN,
WILTSHIRE**

NGR: ST 9531 6216 (centred)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Quality Assurance

This Document has been compiled and authorised in accordance with
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March 2012

Report No. 784

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SUMMARY

Site Name: Land at Berhills Lane, Sells Green, Wiltshire

Grid Reference: NGR ST 9531 6216 (centred)

Site Activity: Evaluation

Date of Project: 5th March 2012

Project Manager: Roy King

Site Supervisor: James Vessey

Site Code: BLS12

On the 5th March 2012 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological evaluation on land at Berhills Lane, Sells Green, Wiltshire centred approximately on NGR: ST 9531 6216. The project was commissioned by Gary Weston of Energy Management Ltd.

A planning application has been made for the construction of an eventing stables and menage (ref: E2011/1753/FUL) on land at Berhills Lane, Sells Green, Wiltshire (NGR ST 9531 6216 centred), which currently consists of open fields. An archaeological evaluation was requested by the Local Planning Authority to inform any requirements for further mitigation.

The evaluation has indicated a low potential for the presence of archaeological deposits in the evaluated area and no archaeological features or finds were present.

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 *circa* 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

Romano-British

The period between AD 43 and AD 410.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents the findings of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Foundations Archaeology on the 5th March 2012 on land at Berhills Lane, Sells Green, Wiltshire (NGR: ST 9531 6216 centred). The project was commissioned by Gary Weston of Energy Management Ltd
- 1.2 The archaeological works were undertaken in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (2012), based upon the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations* issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (2008) and the *Standards for Archaeological Assessment and Field Evaluation in Wiltshire* (CAS 1995).

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A planning application has been made for the construction of an eventing stables and menage (ref: E2011/1753/FUL) on land at Berhills Lane, Sells Green, Wiltshire (NGR ST 9531 6216 centred), which currently consists of open fields. An archaeological evaluation was requested by the Local Planning Authority to inform any requirements for further mitigation.
- 2.2 No archaeological background is known for the site. It does however sit within an area of known significant archaeology, with a number of medieval moated sites and farmsteads of possible medieval origin lying to the south. In addition, cropmarks indicating a Romano-British settlement have been identified to the south-west and prehistoric flint tools have been found to the south of the site.

3 AIMS

- 3.1 The aims of the archaeological evaluation as set out in the brief were to record the historic environment assets disturbed by the construction of the flood defence scheme, to conserve any archaeological records and discoveries and to report on the findings.
- 3.2 These aims were achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:
 - i) To determine the existence or absence of archaeological remains and, should archaeological remains be present, to assess their general nature and significance.
 - (ii) To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of the remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence.
 - (iii) To determine or confirm the approximate extent of the remains.

- (iv) To determine the condition and state of preservation of the remains.
- (v) To determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present.
- (vi) To assess the associations and implications of any remains encountered with reference to the historic landscape.
- (vii) To determine the implications of the remains with reference to economy, status, utility and social activity. And to characterise the intensity, status and environment of the settlement from recovered artefactual and ecofactual assemblages.
- (viii) To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present.
- (ix) To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeo-environmental, geo-archaeological and/or economic evidence. The forms in which such evidence may be present will be determined in accordance with the guidelines set out in English Heritage's Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation and Geoarchaeology: Using earth sciences to understand the archaeological record.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The WSI required the excavation of four 1.6m x 20m trenches, comprising a 5% sample of the area.
- 4.2 Topsoil and non-significant overburden was removed in level splits with the use of a mechanical excavator with a toothless grading bucket, working under constant archaeological direction, to the top of archaeological deposits or natural, whichever was encountered first. Spoil tips were scanned by eye for unstratified finds.
- 4.3 All excavation and recording work was undertaken in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation and the Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 3: Excavation Manual.
- 4.4 The trenches were backfilled at the completion of the work.

5 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- 5.1 The trenches were all located in relatively close proximity to target the areas that will be disturbed by the proposed development (Figure 2). All four trenches revealed a thin topsoil of approximately 0.25m thick directly overlying the natural clay. The natural comprised a stiff yellow clay with grey

mottling. There was no evidence of disturbance to the natural either through ploughing or rooting activity.

- 5.9 No archaeological finds or features were present within any of the trenches.

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The evaluation has indicated a low potential for the presence of archaeological deposits in the evaluated area.
- 6.2 No archaeological features or finds were present within the evaluated area.
- 6.3 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology, but will be deposited with the Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Devizes. A short note will be submitted for publication in the WNHAS journal and an OASIS form will also be submitted to ADS.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

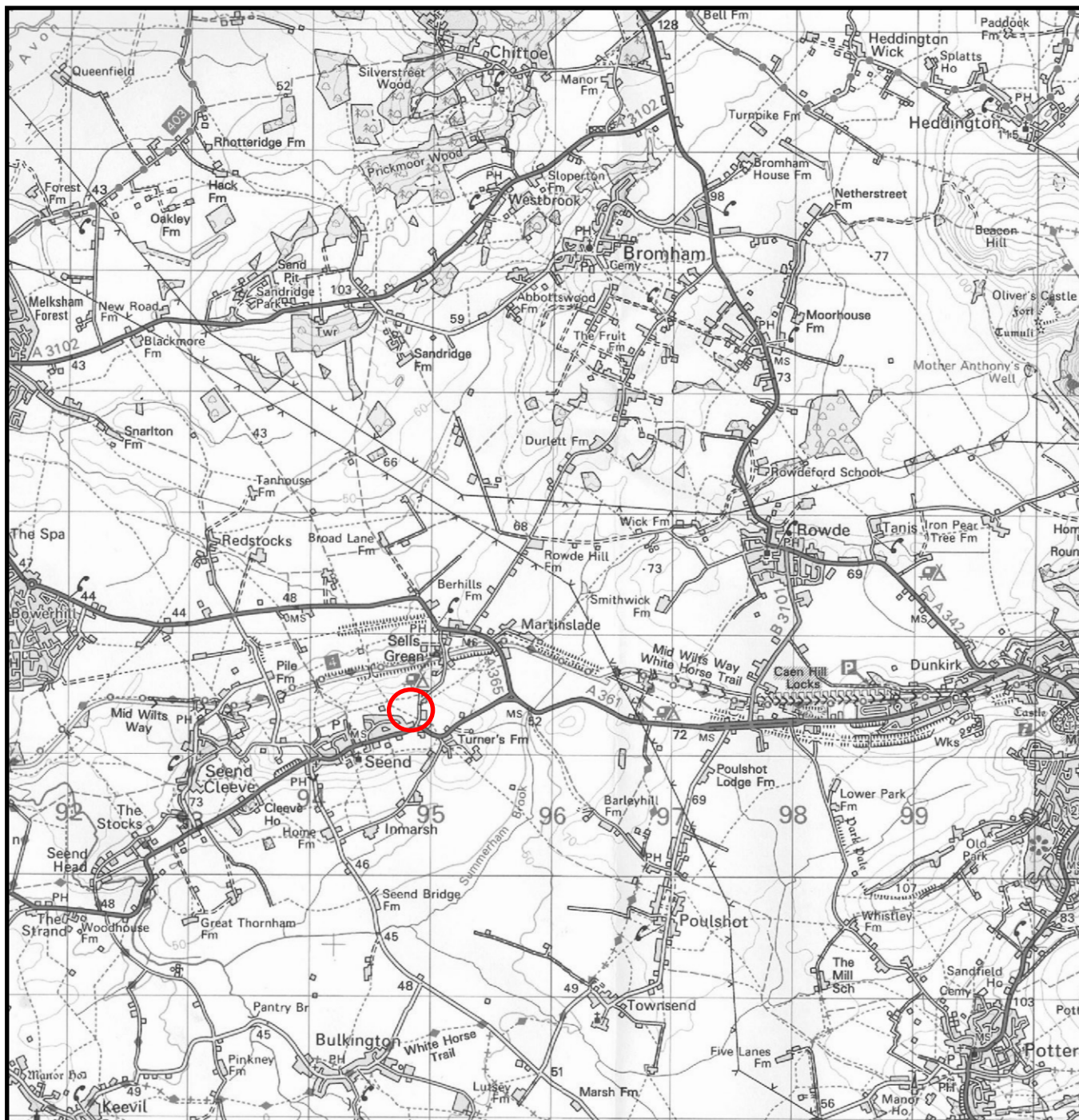
Foundations Archaeology 2012 *Land at Berhills Lane, Sells Green, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation.*

Institute for Archaeologists 2008 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation.*

Wiltshire County Council 1995 *Standards for Archaeological Assessment and Field Evaluation in Wiltshire*

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Foundations Archaeology would like to thank Gary Weston of Energy Management Ltd and David Vaughn of Wiltshire County Council for their assistance during the course of this project.



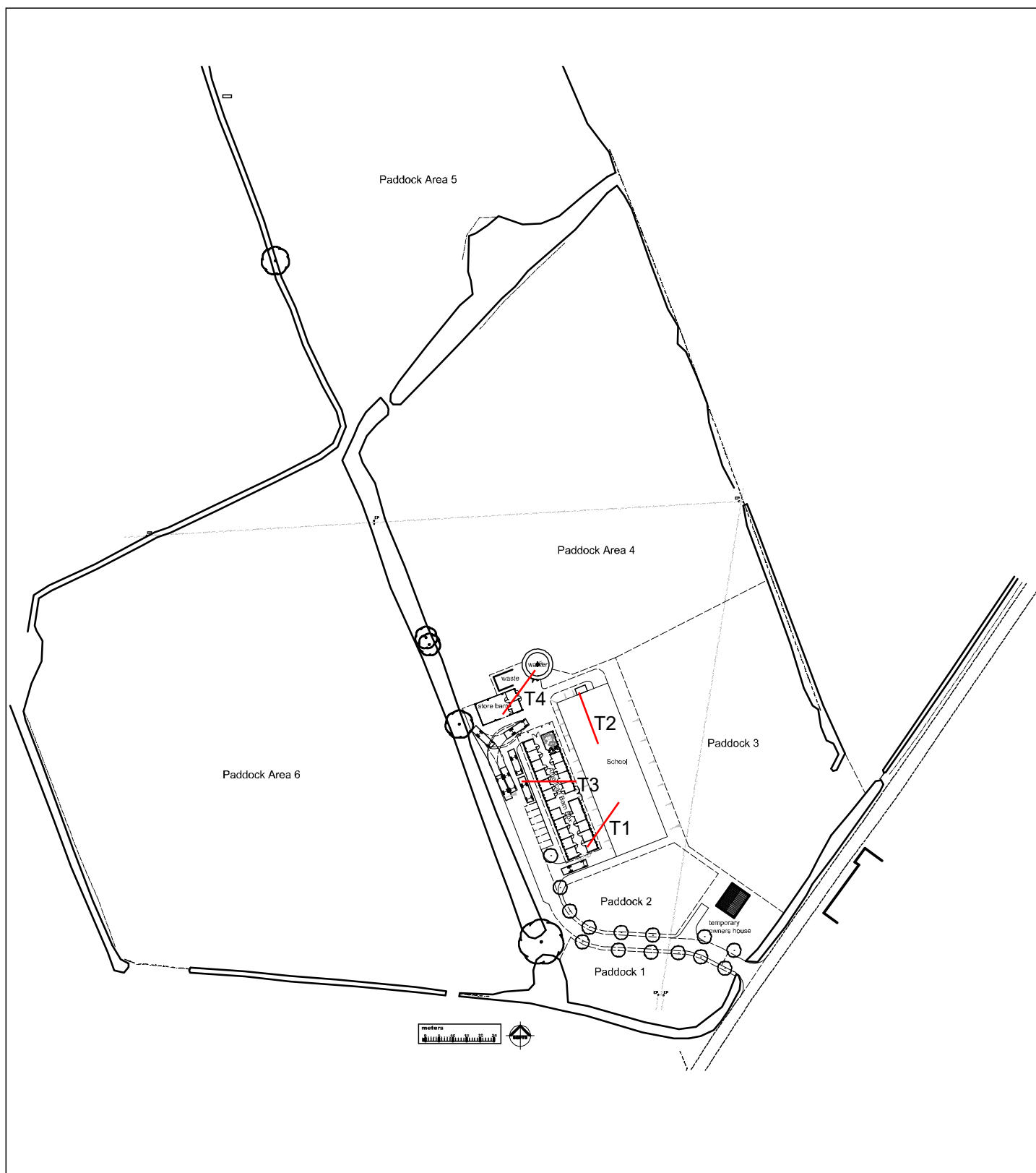
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Site Code: BLS12

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FIGURE 1: Site Location



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FIGURE 2: Trench Plan