

**HACKPEN FARM COTTAGES,
HACKPEN LANE,
WROUGHTON,
WILTSHIRE.**

NGR: SU 1576 7602

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

March 2015
Report No. 1041



ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY, MANAGEMENT & FIELD SERVICES

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Quality Assurance

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SUMMARY

On the 18th February 2015 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological evaluation on land at Hackpen Farm, Hackpen Lane, Wroughton, Wiltshire (NGR: SU 1576 7602). The works were commissioned by the landowner Mary Morris.

The project comprised the excavation and recording of two trenches within a proposed development area.

Trench 1 showed signs of Modern disturbance throughout, with Modern C.B.M present within the full trench stratigraphy. This was most likely the result of this area being stripped down to the natural deposits (or beyond) during the construction of Hackpen Cottages and subsequently built up. This level of disturbance would most likely have removed or truncated any potential underlying archaeology.

Trench 2 appeared relatively undisturbed, with intact sub and topsoils visible. The disturbance caused by the Modern services in this area was unlikely to mask any substantial underlying archaeology present.

The lack of archaeological finds and features within the trenches has indicated a low potential for significant archaeological deposits to be present within the site.

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 in February on land at Hackpen Farm, Hackpen Lane, Wroughton, Wiltshire (NGR: SU 1576 7602). The works were commissioned by the landowner Mary Morris.
- 1.2 The project was conducted in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), prepared by Foundations Archaeology (2014); CIfA *Standards and Guidance on Archaeological Evaluation* (2008); *Standards for Field Evaluation and Assessment in Wiltshire* (CAS 1995) and MoRPHE, issued by English Heritage (2006).
- 1.3 This report constitutes the results of the archaeological works.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 There is a proposal to develop land at Hackpen Farm Cottages. In accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012; para. 128), a programme of archaeological investigation was required in order to inform the planning process.
- 2.2 The study area is located immediately to the northwest of Upper Herdswick Farm, immediately east of Hackpen Lane and is opposite the entrance to Barbury Castle car park (Figure 1). The current land use comprises the farm cottages and their curtilage. The underlying geology comprises Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation and Newhaven Chalk Formation intermittently overlaid by Clay-with-flints (BGS – online viewer).
- 2.3 The site is situated in a landscape rich in archaeological remains and there are a number of significant heritage assets located within the vicinity of the development.
- 2.4 The postulated route of The Ridgeway, which is thought to date back to the Prehistoric period, is located approximately 750m to the north and numerous Prehistoric barrows, some of which are Scheduled Monuments, are located around the site. Barbury Castle Iron Age Hillfort (Scheduled Monument 1014557) is situated approximately 800m to the west.
- 2.5 The proposed development is located immediately southwest of Scheduled Monument 1016383: Field system and earthwork enclosure on Burderop Down, which comprises an undated, although possibly Prehistoric, field system and a later earthwork enclosure.
- 2.6 Barbury Castle Farm deserted Medieval village (Scheduled Monument 1013415), which is situated approximately 500m to the southwest of the site, has yielded evidence for Roman and Medieval settlement.

- 2.7 The site of the 6th Century Battle of Beranburgh is believed to be located to the north of Barbury Castle, and is therefore within the vicinity of the development.
- 2.8 An archaeological watching brief is currently in progress on land immediately to the north of the site (Land Opposite Entrance to Barbury Castle Car Park, Hackpen Lane) which has, so far, revealed no evidence for archaeological activity.
- 2.9 The study area therefore contains the potential for archaeological remains dating to the Prehistoric, Roman, Saxon and Medieval periods. This will not prejudice the evaluation against the recovery of data relating to other periods.

3 AIMS

- 3.1 The aims of the evaluation were to gather high quality data from the direct observation of archaeological deposits in order to provide sufficient information to establish the location, date, character, extent, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains.
- 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;
 - iv) To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence and the forms in which such evidence may be present.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 A total of two trenches, which measured 20m by 1.6m, were excavated within the site, as shown in Figure 2.
- 4.2 Non-significant overburden was removed, under constant archaeological supervision, to the top of the archaeological deposits or the underlying natural deposits, whichever was encountered first. This was achieved through the use of a JCB wheeled mechanical excavator, equipped with a toothless grading bucket. Spoil tips were visually scanned for finds.

- 4.3 All excavation and recording work was undertaken in accordance with the WSI and the Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 3: Excavation Manual.

5 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- 5.1 **Trench 1** (20m by 1.6m): The natural yellow clay and flints were encountered at an average depth of 0.72m (266.47m OD) below the Modern ground surface. The natural was overlaid by (103), a mid brown grey plastic clay silt, up to 0.11m thick, with occasional chalk inclusions and fragments of Modern C.B.M throughout. This was sealed by (102), a mid brown plastic clay silt, up to 0.29m thick, with occasional gravels and fragments of Modern C.B.M throughout. This was in turn sealed by (101), a mid grey brown plastic clay silt, up to 0.22m thick, with occasional small stone inclusions and Modern C.B.M throughout. A cut for a Modern disused service was present on a northwest-southeast alignment at the northeastern end of the trench. Also at the northeastern end of the trench was a substantial Modern cut, which cut through layers (102) and (103). This contained CBM inclusions, stone pieces, plastic and wire. No archaeological finds or features were present within the trench.
- 5.2 **Trench 2** (20m by 1.6m): The natural yellow clay and flints were encountered at an average depth of 0.55m (266.32m OD) below Modern ground. The natural was overlaid by (202), a mid brown plastic clay silt subsoil, up to 0.16m thick. This was in turn sealed by (201), a mid brown grey plastic clay silt topsoil, up to 0.27m thick, with occasional charcoal flecks. A number of Modern services were present cutting through the subsoil and natural deposits. No archaeological finds or features were present within the trench.
- 5.3 Trench 1 showed signs of Modern disturbance throughout, with Modern CBM present within the full trench stratigraphy. This was most likely the result of this area being stripped down to the natural deposits (or beyond) during the construction of Hackpen Cottages and subsequently built up. This level of disturbance would most likely have removed or truncated any potential underlying archaeology.
- 5.4 Trench 2 appeared relatively undisturbed, with intact sub and topsoils visible. The disturbance caused by the Modern services in this area was unlikely to mask any substantial underlying archaeology present.
- 5.5 The lack of archaeological finds and features within the trenches has indicated a low potential for significant archaeological deposits to be present within the site.
- 5.6 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology, but will be deposited with the appropriate museum in due course. A short note will be submitted for publication in the relevant local archaeological journal and an OASIS form will also be submitted to ADS.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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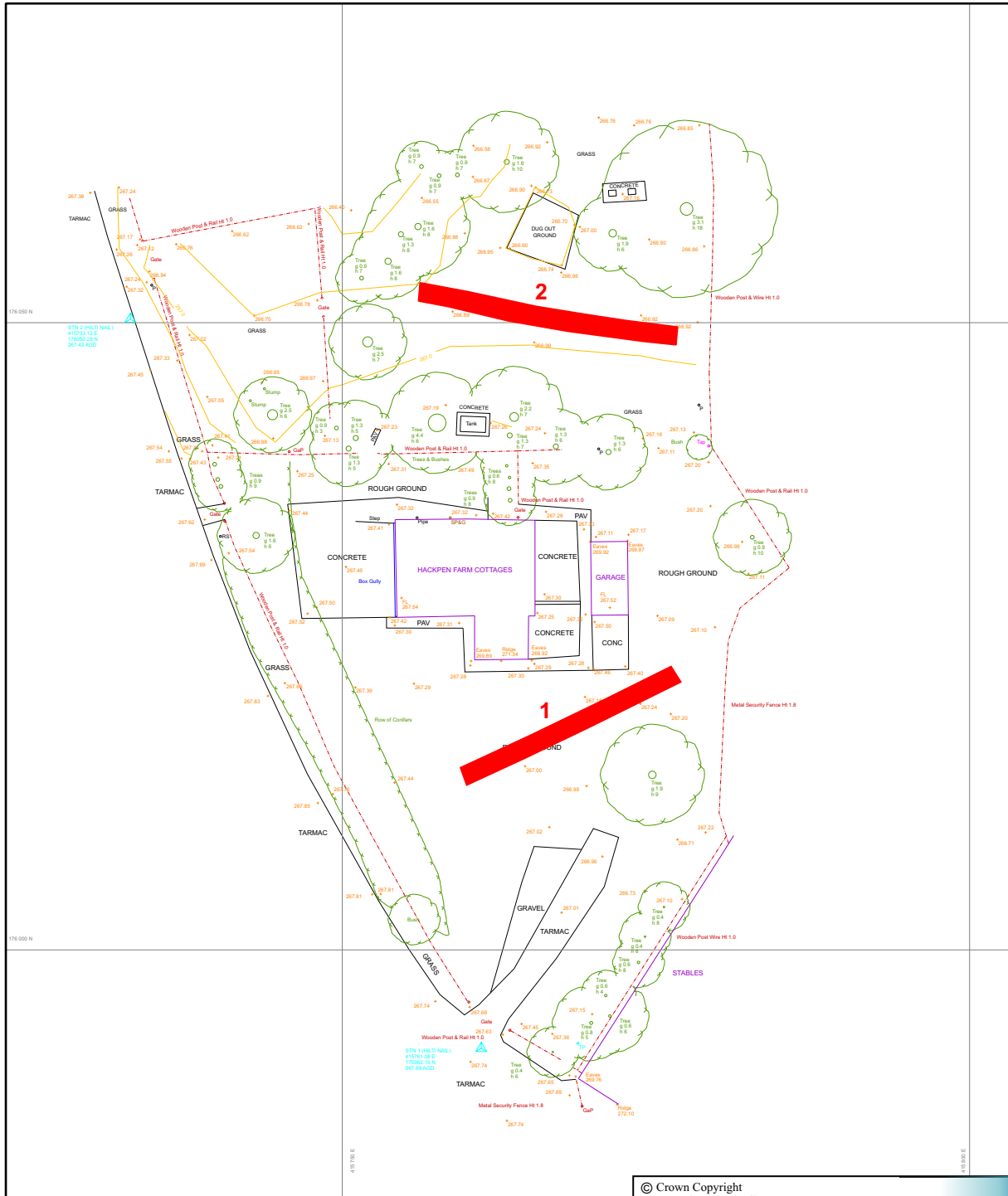
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0m 2km
 1:50,000@A4

FIGURE 1: Site Location



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FIGURE 2: Trench Locations