

**LAND AT SARUM HOUSE AND WANDLE HOUSE,  
COWS DROVE,  
CHILMARK,  
WILTSHIRE.**

**NGR: 396909.132973 (centred)**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

April 2014  
Report No. 956

**Quality Assurance**

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## **SUMMARY**

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2014 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological evaluation on land at Sarum House and Wandle House, Cows Drove, Chilmark, Wiltshire (NGR: 396909.132973 - centred). The works were commissioned by Mr Andrew Bracey.

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

The evaluation identified natural chalk substrates, which were intermittently overlaid by subsoil and/or topsoil deposits.

No archaeological features were present within the trenches. A single sherd of late Medieval pottery, present within the topsoil in Trench 1, probably represented dumped material.

The evaluation works have 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 April 2014 on land at Sarum House and Wandle House, Cows Drove, Chilmark, Wiltshire (NGR: 396909.132973 - centred). The works were commissioned by Mr Andrew Bracey.
- 1.2 The project was conducted in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), prepared by Foundations Archaeology (2014); IfA *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 It is proposed to demolish Sarum House and Wandle House and to construct a new residential development at the site, which will comprise nine new houses with access roads, garages, parking areas and landscaping. 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 site is located to the northwest of the historic core of Chilmark village (HER Ref: MWI13315) and therefore contained the potential for the presence of Saxon and Medieval remains. The site is also situated in an area of general potential for the presence of finds and features dating to the Roman period. The underlying geology comprises *Seaford Chalk Formation* – chalk (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>). At the time of the fieldwork, the site comprised residential gardens, which were situated on land which sloped downwards from north to south.
- 2.3 The site therefore contained the potential for the preservation of archaeological deposits, predominately dating to the Roman, Saxon and Medieval periods. This did not prejudice the evaluation against finds and features 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 and 10m 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 360° tracked 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 chalk substrates were encountered at an average depth of 0.31m (119.16m OD) below Modern ground. The natural was overlaid by a mid brown, compact clay silt subsoil (102), up to 0.15m thick, which contained frequent chalk and flint fragments. The subsoil was, in turn, overlaid by a dark brown clay silt topsoil (101), up to 0.16m thick. Topsoil (101) contained a sherd of late Medieval green-glazed pottery and a single sherd of 18<sup>th</sup> century red-glazed earthenware pottery, as well as three fragments of CBM. No archaeological features were present within the trench.
- 5.2 **Trench 2** (10m by 1.6m): The natural chalk substrates were encountered at an average depth of 0.25m (122.28m OD) below Modern ground. The natural was directly overlaid by a dark brown clay silt topsoil (201), up to 0.25m thick, which contained a single sherd of porcelain pottery. No archaeological features were present within the trench.
- 5.3 There was no direct evidence within the trenches for plough damage or other disturbance. The presence of an intact subsoil within Trench 1 indicated that

preservation conditions were good in parts of the site. The absence of archaeological features suggested that the late Medieval pottery within topsoil (101) probably represented dumped material and was not, in itself, evidence for significant on-site archaeological activity.

- 5.4 The lack of archaeological features within the trenches has indicated a low potential for significant archaeological deposits to be present within the site.
- 5.5 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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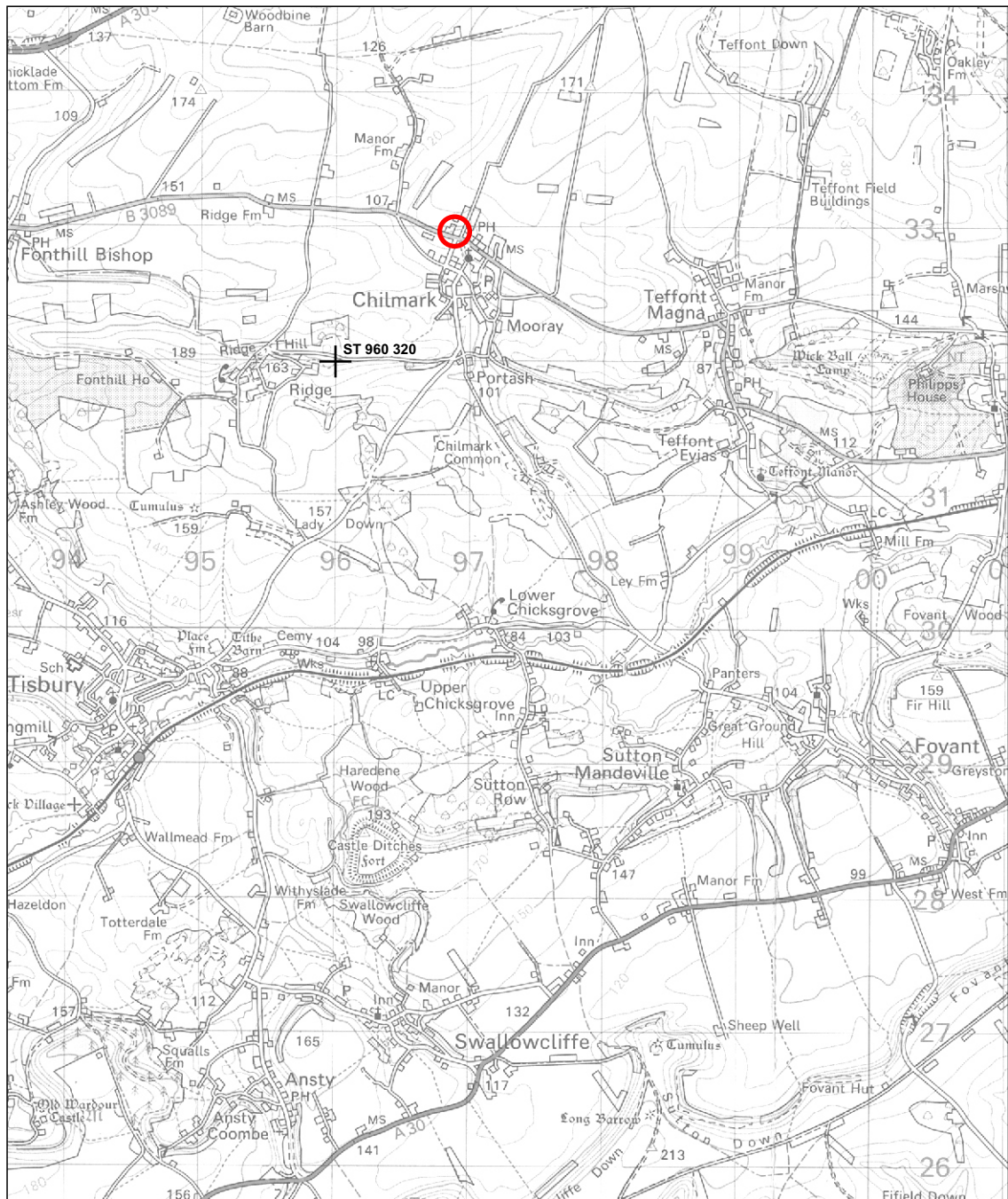
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## 7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Foundations Archaeology would like to thank Clare King of Wiltshire Council and Andrew Bracey for their help during the course of the project.





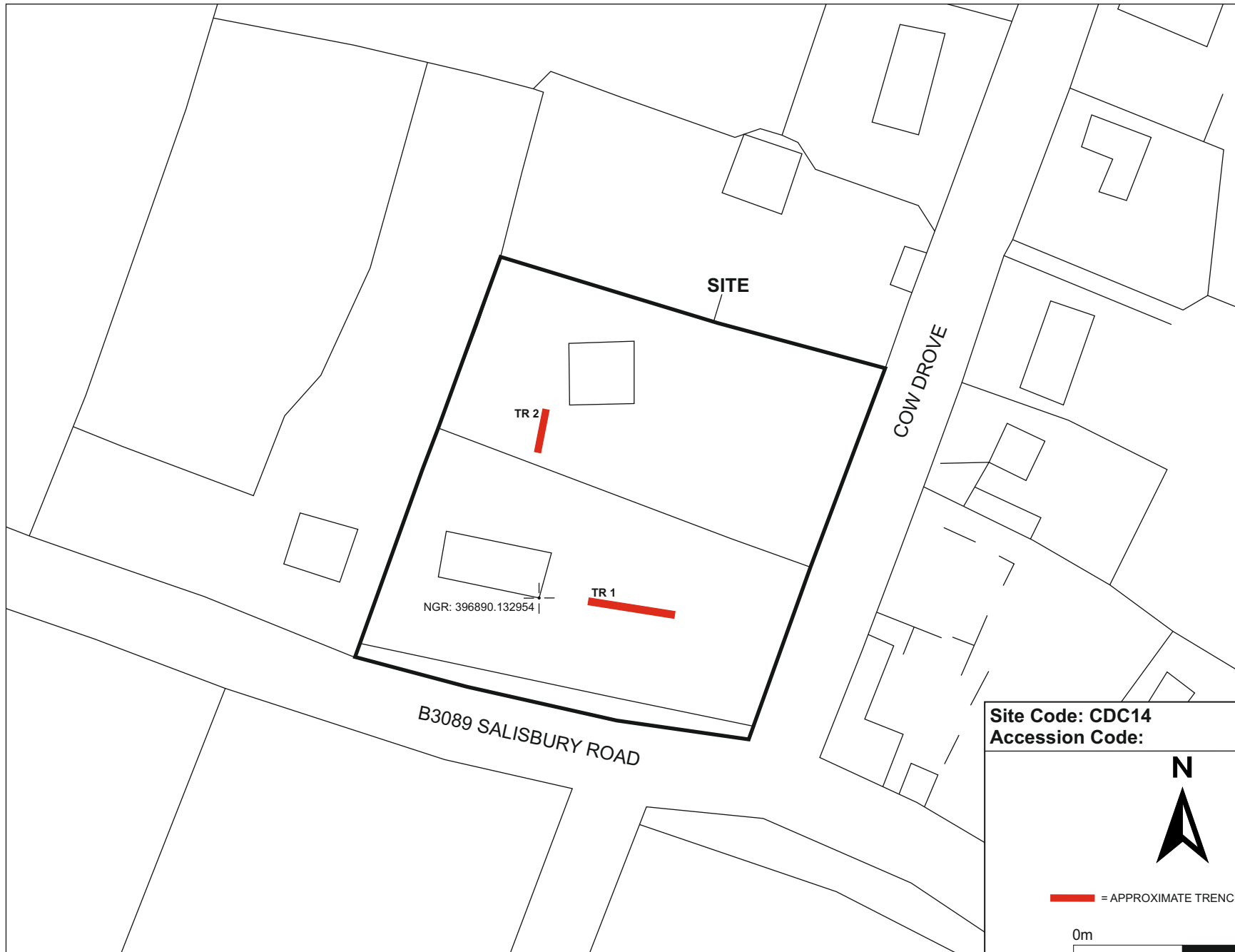
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**Site Code: CDC14**

**Accession Code:**

**FIGURE 1: Site Location**





Site Code: CDC14  
Accession Code:

N

— = APPROXIMATE TRENCH LOCATIONS

0m 50m

**FIGURE 2: Trench Locations**