

**SOUTHCLIFFE,
MARKET LAVINGTON,
WILTSHIRE.**

NGR: SU 020 541 (centred)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

September 2016
Report No. 1150



ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY, MANAGEMENT & FIELD SERVICES

1st Floor, Shaftesbury Centre, Percy Street, Swindon, Wilts. SN2 2AZ Tel: 01793 525993 Email: admin@foundations.co.uk

**SOUTHCLIFFE,
MARKET LAVINGTON,
WILTSHIRE.**

NGR: SU 020 541 (centred)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

September 2016
Report No. 1150

Quality Assurance

This Document has been compiled and authorised in accordance with
AMS's Quality Procedures (BS EN ISO 9001: 2008)

Author: Amy Green BSc, MSc

Date: 19th September 2016

Approved: R. King BA MCIfA

QA Checked: D. King BA MCIfA

This report has been compiled with all reasonable skill care and attention to detail within the terms of the project as specified by the client and within the general terms and conditions of Archaeological Management Services Ltd trading as Foundations Archaeology but no explicit warranty is provided for information and opinions stated. AMS Ltd accepts no responsibility whatsoever to third parties to whom this report or any part thereof is made known. Any such party relies on this report at their own risk. Copyright of this document is retained by AMS Ltd, but unlimited licence to reproduce it in whole or part is granted to the client and/or their agents and/or assignees on payment of invoice.

CONTENTS

Summary

Glossary of Archaeological Terms and Abbreviations

- 1 INTRODUCTION
- 2 PROJECT BACKGROUND
- 3 SITE LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY
- 4 AIMS
- 5 METHODOLOGY
- 6 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
- 7 CONCLUSION
- 8 ARCHIVING, STORAGE & PUBLICATION
- 9 BIBLIOGRAPHY
- 10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Trench Summaries

Appendix 2: Finds Summary

FIGURE LIST

Figure 1: Site Location

Figure 2: Trench Locations

SUMMARY

This report presents the findings of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Foundations Archaeology on the 15th and 16th August 2016 on land adjacent to Southcliffe Road, Market Lavington, Wiltshire (NGR: SU 020 541 centred). The project was commissioned by the landowner, Joanna Chandler.

The evaluation works comprised the excavation of four 30m and one 20m trench within the development area.

The presence of intact subsoils within the majority of the trenches would suggest good preservation conditions for any potential archaeological deposits within the site. However, the results of this evaluation would indicate a low potential within the development area for archaeological activity.

The presence of 11th to 14th century pottery within the subsoil of Trench 4 was most likely the result of manuring practices rather than evidence of nearby settlement activity.

.

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 the 15th and 16th August 2016 on land adjacent to Southcliffe Road, Market Lavington, Wiltshire (NGR: SU 020 541 centred). The project was commissioned by the landowner, Joanna Chandler.
- 1.2 The project was conducted in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (rev. 2014) and complies with the principles of *National Planning Policy Framework* (2012). It also conforms to *Standards for Field Evaluation and Assessment in Wiltshire* (WCC 1995).

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 There is currently a proposal is for the construction of a residential development comprising around 16 houses along with associated services on land to the southeast of Southcliffe Road, Market Lavington. These archaeological works has been undertaken prior to the submission of any formal planning application.
- 2.2 The village of Market Lavington is thought to have been originally known as Lavington, then Steeple Lavington from around the 1240's until the later 14th century. The earliest known reference to the village is in the Domesday Book, where it is recorded as *Laventone* however, it is believed to have been of much earlier origin possibly derived from the farm or settlement of Lafa's people (McMahon 2004, 5).
- 2.3 Evidence for Prehistoric, Roman, Saxon and Medieval settlement was uncovered in the area of Grove Farm, approximately 700 metres to the west of the site. In 1990 excavations by Wessex Archaeology yielded a Roman building, a large number of Romano-British coins and 32 Saxon burials (Williams and Newman 2006). Further features of Saxon and Medieval date were uncovered during works in 1995 and 2006 (Wessex Archaeology 1995; 2006). The extents of the Saxon settlement were not defined during the excavations and is likely to have extended into a small village (McMahon 2004, 6-7).
- 2.4 The main archaeological potential of the site was therefore for evidence dating to the Prehistoric, Roman, Saxon and Medieval periods. This did not prejudice the evaluation against the recovery of data relating to other periods

3 SITE LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 3.1 The development area comprised a plot of land c.1ha, which was located to the southeast of Southcliffe Road, to the east of the centre of Market Lavington, Wiltshire (Figure 1). It is bounded to the southeast by Southcliffe Business Park, to the north and northwest by residential housing and to the northeast and southwest-west by agricultural fields.
- 3.2 During the time of the works the study area was laid to lawn, interspersed with large areas of shrubbery. The majority of the site was on a north-west facing slope however, in the southern area where Trench 5 is located there were two flat terraces which had previously been used as tennis courts. At the extreme southern part of the site ground level is 104.72m aOD sloping down to 99.54m aOD on the northern edge
- 3.3 The underlying solid geology comprises *West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation – Chalk* with no superficial deposits recorded (British Geological Survey 2016).

4 AIMS

- 4.1 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. This would allow reasonable planning decisions to be taken regarding the archaeological provision for the areas affected by the proposed development.
- 4.2 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 and preservation of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning and extent of features present on the site.
 - iii) to recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence which will attempt to determine the complexity of the horizontal and vertical stratigraphy present, and to 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.

5 METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 The evaluation originally comprised the excavation of five 30m long trenches within the development area (Figure 2). However, due to the presence of areas of thick shrub and tree coverage together with underground services it was necessary to move the trenches from their original locations as laid out in the WSI and shorten Trench 2 to 20m. The total evaluated area was 252m² which represented a 2.5% sample of the development area.
- 5.2 Non-significant overburden – of topsoil and subsoil deposits - were removed under constant archaeological supervision to the top of archaeological remains or the underlying natural deposits - whichever was encountered first. This was achieved through the use of a mechanical excavator, equipped with a toothless grading bucket. Spoil tips were visually scanned for finds.
- 5.3 All excavation and recording work was undertaken in accordance with the WSI and the Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 3: Excavation Manual.

6 RESULTS & DISCUSSION

- 6.1 No archaeological features were present within the evaluated trenches. A full description of all deposits found in the trenches is presented in Appendix 1.
- 6.2 The basic stratigraphy of the site was similar in all trenches, with the exception of Trench 2 where no subsoil was present. The general sequence comprised a pale grey brown clay marl, which was sealed by a brown/grey brown clay silt subsoil, with chalk inclusions, which was in turn sealed by a brown grey brown clay silt topsoil. Both the top and subsoils showed evidence for heavy bioturbation. A series of Modern service trenches were located in Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 4.
- 6.3 A total of five sherds of pottery of 11th to 14th century date were present within subsoil (401) in Trench 4.

7 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 The presence of intact subsoils within the majority of the trenches would suggest good preservation conditions for any potential archaeological deposits within the site. However, the results of this evaluation would indicate a low potential within the development area for archaeological activity.

- 7.2 The presence of 11th to 14th century pottery within the subsoil of Trench 4 was most likely the result of manuring practices rather than evidence of nearby settlement activity.

8 ARCHIVING, STORAGE & PUBLICATION

- 8.1 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology, but will be deposited in due course with the local museum. Copies of the report in paper and digital format will be supplied to the County Archaeological Service and an additional copy will be deposited with the site archive.
- 8.2 The report will be published in an appropriate form in a relevant journal, within 12 months from completion of fieldwork. An OASIS record will also be completed and submitted on completion of the project.

9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

British Geological Survey. 2016. *Geology of Britain Viewer*. <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. rev 2014. *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation*. Reading.

Foundations Archaeology. 2016. *Southcliffe, Market Lavington, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation. Written Scheme of Investigation*.

McMahon. P. 2004. *Market Lavington, The Archaeology of Wiltshire's Towns: An Extensive Urban Survey* Wiltshire County Archaeology Service. Trowbridge.

Wessex Archaeology. 1995. *Grove Farm, Market Lavington, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation* Unpublished Client Report ref. 39162.

Wessex Archaeology. 2006. *Community Hall, Market Lavington, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation Report* Unpublished Client Report ref. 62570.

Williams, P. & Newman, R. 2006. *Market Lavington, Wiltshire: Anglo-Saxon Cemetery and Settlement – Excavations at Grove Farm, 1986-90* Wessex Archaeology Reports 19. Salisbury.

Wiltshire County Council. 1995. *Archaeological Assessment and Field Evaluation in Wiltshire*.

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Foundations Archaeology would like to thank Rachel Foster of Wiltshire County Council, Richard Cosker of RCC Town Planning and Joanna Chandler for their help for this project.

Southcliffe, Market Lavington, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation

APPENDIX 1: Trench Summaries

TRENCH 1: 30m by 1.8m, aligned north northeast-south southwest Modern ground level: 99.54 m aOD (north northeast), 99.93m aOD (south southwest)						
CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/ LATER THAN	CUT BY/ EARLIER THAN
100	Trench	Trench	0.09	Brown silty clay. TOPSOIL	101	-
101	Trench	Trench	0.40	Brown, silty clay with medium chalk fragments. SUBSOIL	102	100
102	Trench	Trench	n/a	Grey chalk marl, more weathered in the southern area of the trench with large fragments of chalk. NATURAL	-	101
No archaeological finds or features present. Land drain present on a northwest-southeast alignment.						

TRENCH 2: 20m by 1.8m, aligned northeast- southwest Modern ground level: 99.56m aOD (north-east), 99.52m aOD (south-west)						
CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/ LATER THAN	CUT BY/ EARLIER THAN
200	Trench	Trench	0.35	Grey brown silty clay, with occasional small-medium sub-rounded chalk fragments. TOPSOIL	201	-
201	Trench	Trench	n/a	Pale grey brown chalk marl. NATURAL	-	200
No archaeological finds or features present. Modern services present on northeast-southwest and northwest-southeast alignment.						

TRENCH 3: 30m by 1.8m, aligned east southeast-west northwest Modern ground level: 102.57m aOD (east southeast), 100.75m aOD (west northwest)						
CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/ LATER THAN	CUT BY/ EARLIER THAN
300	Trench	Trench	0.10	Grey brown silty clay. TOPSOIL.	301	-
301	Trench	Trench	0.35	Mid grey brown silty clay with occasional chalk fragments. SUBSOIL	302	300
302	Trench	Trench	n/a	Grey weathered chalk marl. NATURAL.	-	301
No archaeological finds or features present. Land drain present on a northwest-southeast alignment.						

Southcliffe, Market Lavington, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation

TRENCH 4: 30m by 1.8m, aligned northeast-southwest Ground level: 102.96m aOD (north east), 103.93m aOD (south-west)						
CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/ LATER THAN	CUT BY/ EARLIER THAN
400	Trench	Trench	0.12	Grey brown silty clay with occasional small chalk fragments. TOPSOIL.	401	-
401	Trench	Trench	0.37	Mid grey brown silty clay with occasional small chalk fragments. SUBSOIL Contained five sherds of 11 th to 14 th century pottery.	402	400
402	Trench	Trench	n/a	Grey weathered chalk marl with medium chalk fragments. NATURAL	-	401
No archaeological features present. Land drain present on a northwest-southeast alignment.						

TRENCH 5: 30m by 1.8m, aligned northwest-southeast Ground level: 102.42m aOD (north west), 104.71m aOD (south east)						
CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/ LATER THAN	CUT BY/ EARLIER THAN
500	Trench	Trench	0.10	Grey brown silty clay with occasional small chalk fragments. TOPSOIL	501	-
501	Trench	Trench	0.25	Mid grey-brown chalky clay with occasional chalk fragments. SUBSOIL	502	500
502	Trench	Trench	n/a	Grey-white weathered chalk marl. NATURAL	-	501
No archaeological finds or features present.						

APPENDIX 2: Finds Summary

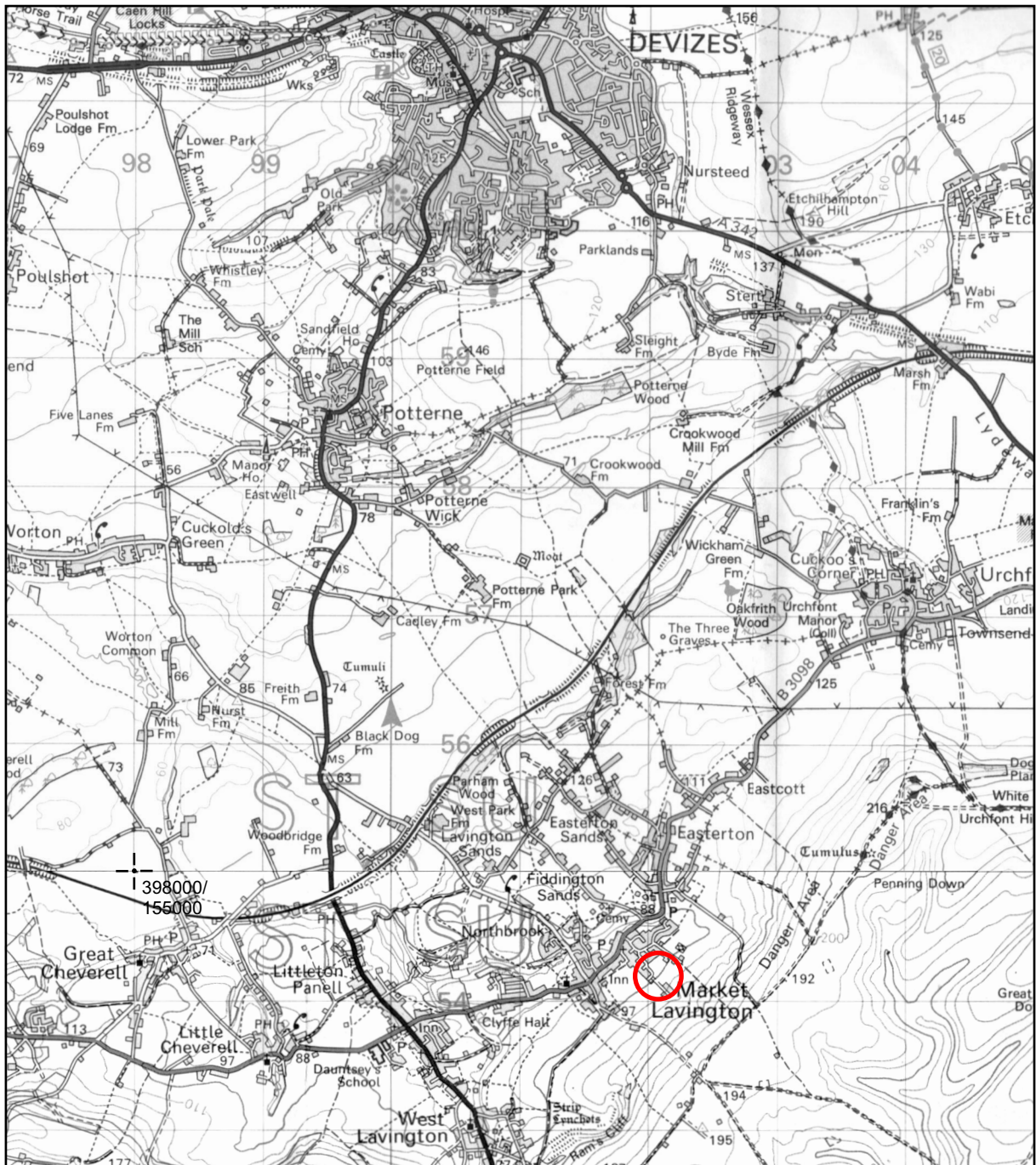
The Pottery

By Roy King

A total of five sherds of pottery weighing 43g was found during the evaluation – all from subsoil deposit (**401**) in Trench 4. All date to the Medieval period, specifically the 11th to 14th centuries and are summarised below.

Context	No.	Wt. (gr.)	Description	Date
401	4	38	Minety ware bodysherds	12 th - 14 th century
	1	5	Bath 'A' bodysherd	late 11 th – 13 th century

The assemblage is typical for the area and is likely to have resulted from manuring.



© Crown Copyright and Database Right 2016.
Ordnance Survey Licence 100015722

Site Code: SML16

Accession Code:

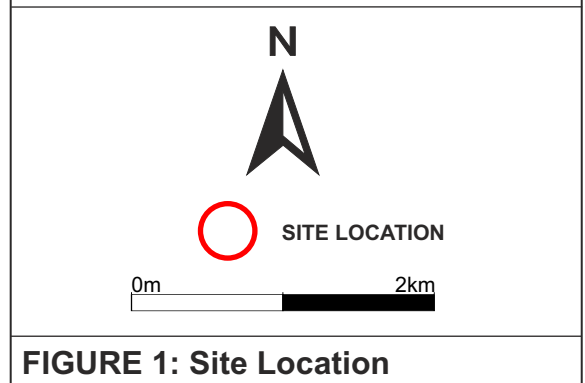


FIGURE 1: Site Location



Site Code: SML16
Accession Code:

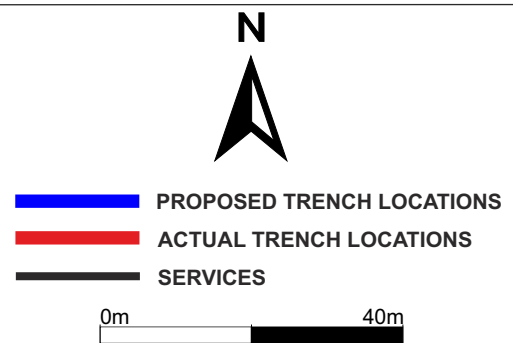


FIGURE 2: Trench Locations