

**47A LADYSMITH,  
EAST GOMELDON,  
SALISBURY,  
WILTSHIRE.**

**NGR: SU 186 353**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**



May 2018  
Report No. 1246



**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 (BS EN ISO 9001: 2008)

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## **SUMMARY**

On the 9th May and 10th May 2017 Foundations Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief on land at 47A Ladysmith, Gomeldon, Salisbury, Wiltshire (NGR SU 186 353). The project was commissioned by Andrew Kettley.

No archaeological finds, features or deposits were present in the area observed. However, during the archaeological monitoring it was noted that intact and undisturbed subsoil and topsoil was present throughout the whole of the stripped area. Therefore, although no archaeological material was present, the archaeological potential for the site as a whole was good. However, it should be noted the majority of the stripped area was stripped down to clean natural deposits.

## 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 the Norman Conquest (AD 1066) and *c.* 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.

### *OS*

Ordnance Survey.

### *Post-medieval*

The period from *c.* AD 1500 onwards.

### *Romano-British*

Term used to define the fusion of indigenous Iron Age traditions with invasive Roman culture. Traditionally dated AD 43 to *c.* AD 410.

### *Saxon*

The period between AD 410 and AD 1066.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On the 9th May and 10th May 2017 Foundations Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief on land at 47A Ladysmith, Gomeldon, Salisbury, Wiltshire (NGR SU 186 353). The project was commissioned by Andrew Kettley.
- 1.2 The project was conducted in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation, prepared by Foundations Archaeology (2017), the standard brief issued by Wiltshire Council, CifA Standards and Guidance on Archaeological Watching Brief (2008) and Standards for Field Evaluation and Assessment in Wiltshire (CAS 1995).
- 1.3 This document presents the findings of the archaeological watching brief and complies with the specification set out in MoRPHE (English Heritage, 2006).

## 2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Planning permission (**Planning Ref: 16/04945/FUL**) was granted for a single storey extension with associated alterations for 47A Ladysmith, East Gomeldon, Salisbury, Wiltshire.
- 2.2 The underlying geology comprises *Seaford Chalk Formation – Chalk* with no superficial deposits (BGS – on-line viewer).
- 2.3 The site was located within the village of Gomeldon (*Gumela's Hill*), the Saxon settlement was on the lower slopes of the hill and Saxon burials have been found within the vicinity. The deserted Medieval village of Gomeldon is located approximately 500m to the west of the study area and has undergone archaeological investigation. There are frequent Bronze Age barrows throughout the surrounding landscape and a horse (bowl) barrow is located less than 50m to the south west of the development area. Also, excavations undertaken in 1904 within the footprint of the present main dwelling revealed a second barrow which contained a human burial.
- 2.4 The site therefore contained the potential for significant archaeological features and deposits, predominantly associated with the Bronze Age and Saxon periods. This did not prejudice the works against the recovery of finds or features associated with other periods.

## 3 AIMS

- 3.1 The aims of the archaeological watching brief 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 will allow

reasonable planning decisions to be taken regarding the archaeological provision for the areas affected by the proposed 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 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.

## **4 METHODOLOGY**

4.1 Intrusive groundworks were carried out under the constant observation of the attending archaeologist and were recorded in order to identify archaeological finds and deposits. All material was excavated by a mechanical excavator using a toothless grading bucket. Spoil tips were visually scanned for finds.

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

## **5 RESULTS**

5.1 A mechanical strip was undertaken of an area 9.37m by 5m to the rear of the property. The natural deposits consisted of chalk was only clearly identified along the northeastern edge of the stripped area with the remaining area not penetrating the subsoil. This was in turn overlaid by a light brown friable sandy silt subsoil (102) with frequent small to medium stones and stone fragments which was on average 0.15m thick. Finally, this was overlaid by a light brown friable sandy silt topsoil (101) with occasional small to medium stones and stone fragments which was on average 0.2m thick. In the southeast corner of the stripped area a concrete plinth covering an area 4.5m by 2.6m was removed before the topsoil could be excavated.

5.2 The majority of the stripped area was reduced to the interface between the top of the natural chalk deposits and the base of subsoil (102).

## 6 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 No archaeological finds, features or deposits were present in the area observed. However, during the archaeological monitoring it was noted that intact and undisturbed subsoil and topsoil was present throughout the whole of the stripped area. Therefore, although no archaeological material was present, the archaeological potential for the site as a whole was good. However, it should be noted the majority of the stripped area was stripped down to clean natural deposits.
- 6.2 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology, but will be deposited within 12 months with Devizes Museum. A short note will be submitted for publication in the relevant journal and an OASIS form will also be submitted to ADS.

## 7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2008. *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*.

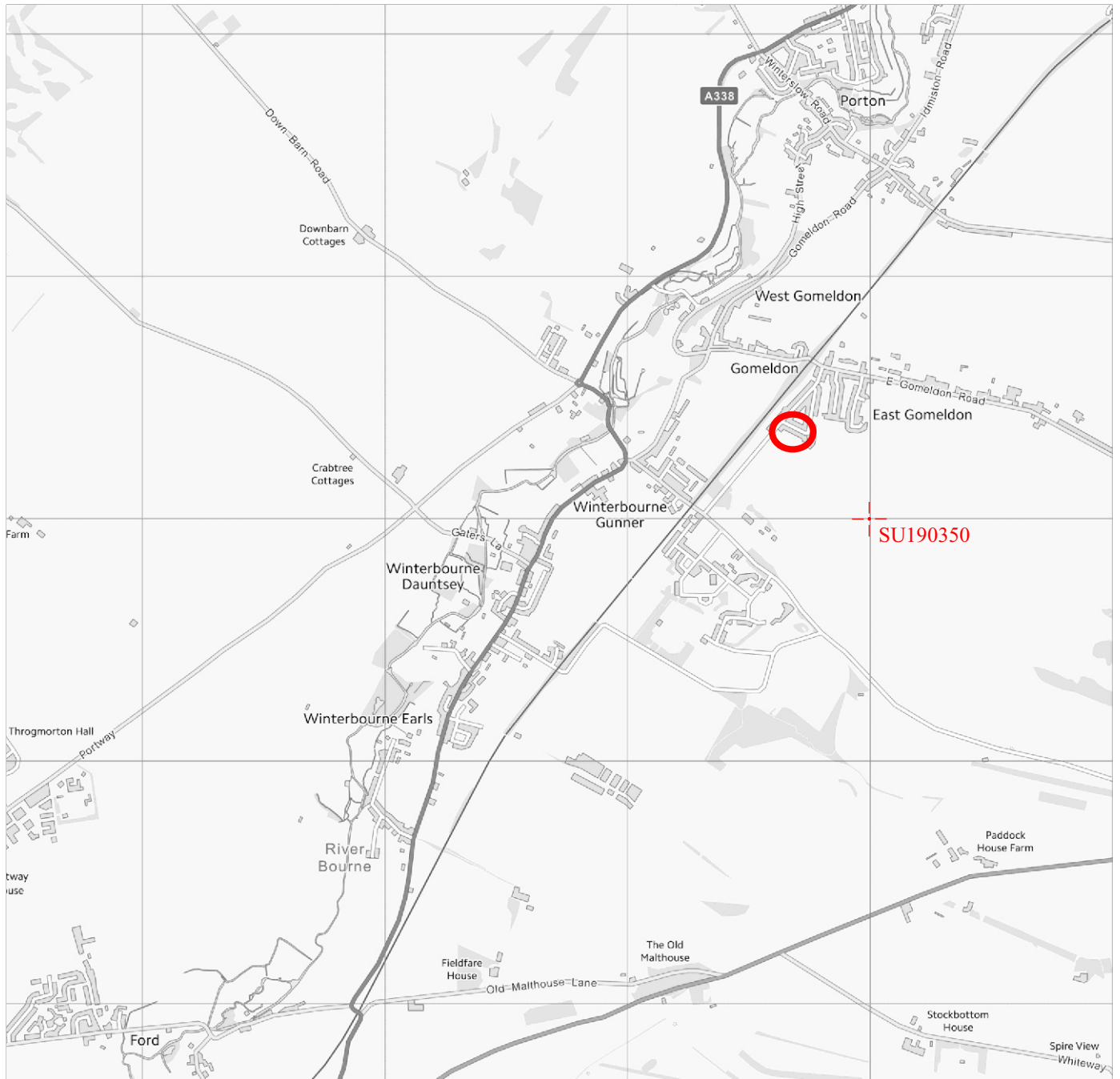
English Heritage. 2006. *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*.

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## 8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Foundations Archaeology would like to thank Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger at Wiltshire Council and Andrew Kettleby for their help with this project.





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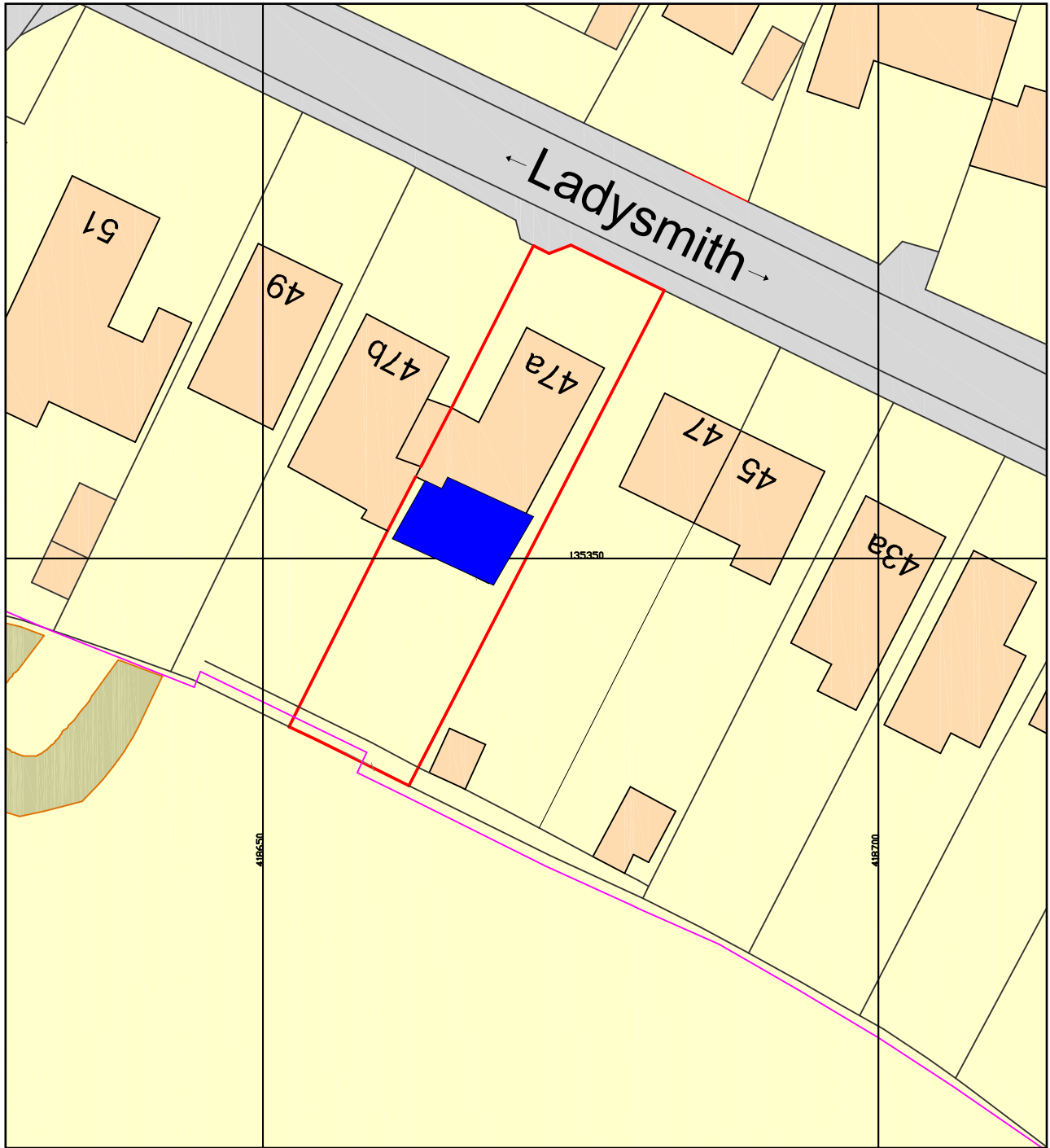
**Site Code: LEG17**  
**Accession Code:**



 Site Location

0m  1km

**FIGURE 1: Site Location**



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**Site Code: LEG17**

**Accession Code:**



Site Area



**FIGURE 2: Watching Brief Location**