

**39 DOWNS VIEW ROAD,
SWINDON,
WILTSHIRE.**

NGR: SU 1658 8251

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

February 2022
Report No. 1459



ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY, MANAGEMENT & FIELD SERVICES

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SWINDON,
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NGR: SU 1658 8251

ACCESSION CODE: SWIMG:2021.6

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Quality Assurance

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SUMMARY

Foundations Archaeology undertook archaeological monitoring and recording at 39 Downs View Road, Swindon, Wiltshire (NGR: SU 1658 8251) on the 7th December 2021. The project was commissioned by the landowner, Martin Carr.

The project comprised archaeological monitoring during the excavation of foundation trenches for a new single storey outbuilding to the southeast of current existing dwelling.

No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified within the monitored area during the course of the project and the previously identified Roman well was not disturbed by these works.

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 archaeological monitoring and recording by Foundations Archaeology on the 7th December at 39 Downs View Road, Swindon, Wiltshire (NGR: SU 1658 8251). The project was commissioned by the landowner, Martin Carr.
- 1.2 The project was conducted in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), prepared by Foundations Archaeology (2021) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014) and the *Standards for Field Evaluation and Assessment in Wiltshire* (CAS 1995) and complies with the principles of NPPF (2019).
- 1.3 The code of conduct of the CIfA was adhered to throughout.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Planning Permission (Ref: **S/HOU/20/1448**) has been granted for the erection a single storey detached outbuilding/annexe to the rear of 39 Downs View Road, Swindon, Wiltshire. The permission included a planning condition which required archaeological monitoring and recording during the groundworks.
- 2.2 The study area was located southeast of the centre of Swindon, within an area of residential housing, with Broome Manor Lane to the southwest and Downs View Road to the northwest.
- 2.3 The study area comprised an area of recently cleared scrub, trees, and a former small shed situated on a very gentle slope towards the southeast. The British Geology Viewer ([http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain /home.html](http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html)) notes the bedrock geology of site area as *Lower Greensand Group – Mudstone*. There were no superficial deposits recorded.
- 2.4 Within the rear grounds of the property a stone lined well (MWI16211) was identified in 1839. Finds within the well included 4th century Roman pottery sherds, five coins; including three for Emperor Constantine 1st (AD 306-337), tile and part of quern stone. Roman pottery sherds were also recovered from a pit during works by the Swindon Archaeological Society in 1973 just north of the property at No. 35 Downs View Road (MWI16213). Further north, at No.23 a stone wall was identified, which was associated with Roman pottery and coins (MWI16214). To the northwest of the site, at No.10 an undated adult male east-west aligned burial (MWI16338) was found by Bryn Walters during works for an extension in 1999. Further Roman activity has been identified in the surrounding area, along with possible ditches and gullies at Pipers Way, approximately 100m to the southwest, these are thought to date to the late Iron Age through to the Medieval period (MWI74915, 74916, 74917).

- 2.4.1 The surrounding area is also known for earlier Prehistoric activity. The site of a Neolithic standing stone is located approximately 140m to the east of the site. In 1894 the hole was still visible in Longstones Field, between Coate Road and Broome Lane, where it was thought to be associated with a line of smaller stones (MWI16154). The Scheduled Monument of the stone circle northeast of Day House (SM 1016359) is approximately 1.5km to the east of the site.
- 2.5 The site therefore contained the potential for significant archaeological features and deposits, predominately dating to the Prehistoric and Roman periods. This did not prejudice the works against recording evidence relating to other periods.

3 AIMS

- 3.1 The aims of the archaeological monitoring and recording were to gather high-quality data from the direct observation of archaeological deposits, as well as to ensure that significant archaeological remains were identified and appropriately mitigated.
- 3.2 These aims were achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:
- to define and identify the nature of archaeological deposits on site, and date these where possible;
 - to attempt to characterize the nature of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning of features present on the site;
 - where possible to recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence and recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples;
 - to produce a site archive for deposition with Swindon Museum, under accession number SWIMG:2021.6 and to provide information for accession to the Wiltshire and Swindon HER.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 Intrusive groundworks in the southeast rear garden of 39 Downs View Road, close to the location of a previously identified Roman well, were subject to archaeological monitoring, as shown in Figure 2. The groundworks consisted of foundation trenching, which was carried out by use of a 360° mechanical excavator, equipped with a 0.6m wide toothless grading bucket, whilst under constant archaeological observation.
- 4.2 Prior to the excavation of the foundation trenches, the site area was levelled by the use of a 1m grading bucket. In the northeast side of the site the topsoil was

reduced by approximately 0.2m from the current ground level and the soil was moved in order to raise the southwest area by approximately 0.05m to 0.1m.

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

5 RESULTS

- 5.1 The stratigraphy across the monitored area was uniform throughout. The natural deposits which comprised yellow orange sands, were observed at approximately 0.8 to 1.1m (on average 126.25m aOD) below the current ground level. The natural deposits were overlain by a grey brown sandy silt subsoil (102) which averaged 0.7m in depth and contained frequent root disturbance but no obvious inclusions of stone or charcoal. This was sealed by topsoil (101), which comprised a dark greyish brown loose to soft sandy silt and a number of large concrete slabs were noted throughout this substrate. Prior to the levelling of the site, the depth of the topsoil varied from 0.3m in the northeast to 0.1m in the southwest.
- 5.2 The foundations for the new outhouse consisted of a single 0.6m wide excavated trench around the footprint perimeter (approximately 12.6m by 6.2m), which was excavated down on to the natural deposits. The depth of the foundations were on average between 0.8 to 1.1m below the current ground level, except in the centre of the southeast trench and corner of the western trench, where excavation was approximately 0.2m deeper in order to help stabilise the foundations which were located close to mature trees.
- 5.3 No archaeological features or finds were present within the monitored area.

6 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

- 6.1 No archaeological find, feature or deposits were present within the monitored area.
- 6.2 The works ensured that the previously identified Roman well was undisturbed by these works.
- 6.3 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology but will be deposited in due course with Swindon Museum under Accession Number SWIMG:2021.6. A short note will be submitted for publication in the relevant local archaeological journal and an OASIS form will also be submitted to ADS.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2014. *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief*. Reading.

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8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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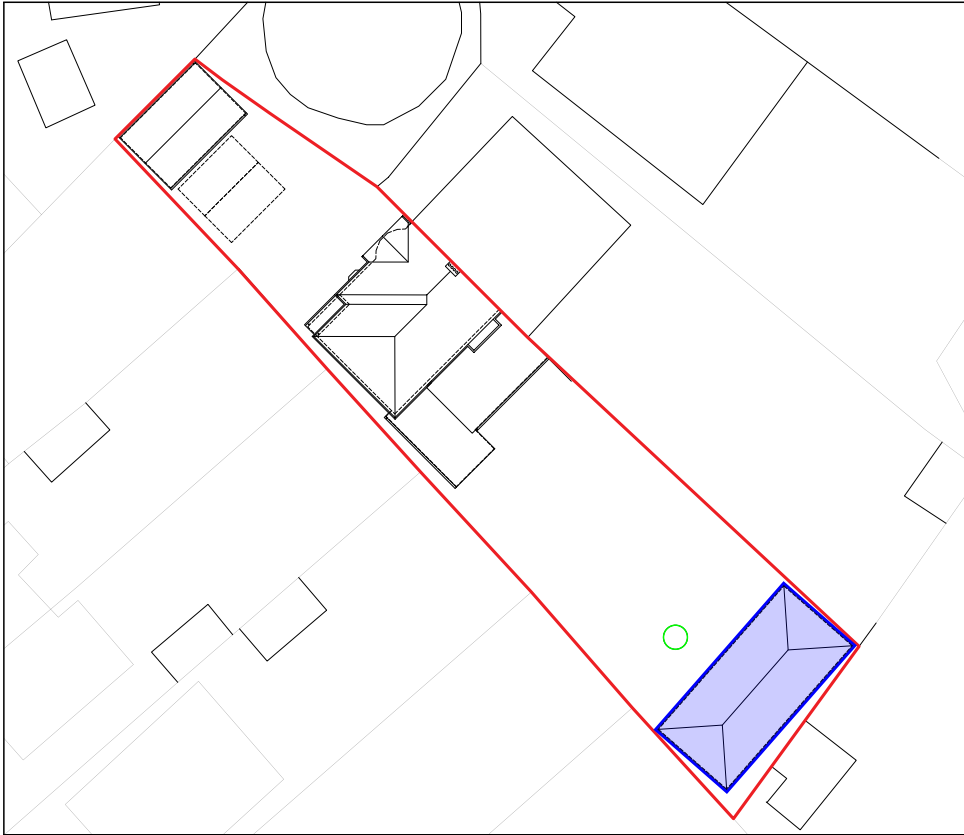
Site Code: DVS21
Accession Code: SWIMG: 2021.6

N

— Site Location

0km — 1km

FIGURE 1: Site Location



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Site Code: DVS21

Accession Code: SWIMG : 2021.6

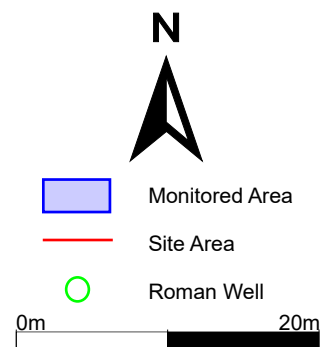


FIGURE 2: Monitored Location