

**2 ST MARGARETS MEAD,
MARLBOROUGH,
WILTSHIRE.**

NGR: SU 1950 6902

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING
Accession Code: DZSWS:44-2021

August 2022
Report No. 1523

Author T. Michaels BSc MCIfA



ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY, MANAGEMENT & FIELD SERVICES

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

**2 ST MARGARETS MEAD,
MARLBOROUGH,
WILTSHIRE.**

NGR: SU 1950 6902

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING



August 2022
Report No. 1523

Quality Assurance

This Document has been compiled and authorised in accordance with AMS's Quality Procedures (ISO 9001: 2015)

Author: T.Michaels BSc MCIfA

Date: 31st August 2022

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 AIMS
- 4 METHODOLOGY
- 5 RESULTS
- 6 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION
- 7 BIBLIOGRAPHY
- 8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

FIGURE LIST

Figure 1: Site Location

Figure 2: Site Area

SUMMARY

On the 24th and 25th May 2022 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at 2 St Margarets Mead, Marlborough, Wiltshire (NGR: SU 1950 6902). The project was commissioned by Kieren Dobie of Tuttle Architectural Services on behalf of the landowners Mr and Mrs Rumbold.

The archaeological works comprised the monitoring of groundworks related to the construction of a single storey extension and associated internal alterations at 2 St Margarets Mead.

The groundworks for the extension were devoid of archaeological finds, features or 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 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 a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording undertaken by Foundations Archaeology on the 24th and 25th May 2022 at No. 2 St Margarets Mead, Marlborough, Wiltshire (NGR: SU 1950 6902). The project was commissioned by Kieren Dobie of Tuttle Architectural Services on behalf of the landowners Mr and Mrs Rumbold.
- 1.2 The archaeological monitoring and recording was conducted in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), prepared by Foundations Archaeology (2021), as well as the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (Cifa) *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014), and *Standards for Field Evaluation and Assessment in Wiltshire* (CAS 1995).
- 1.3 The Cifa code of conduct was adhered to throughout.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Planning Permission (Ref: PL/2021/03797) has been granted for a single storey extension and associated internal alterations at 2 St Margarets Mead, Marlborough. The archaeological officer for Wiltshire Council required a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during associated intrusive groundworks.
- 2.2 The site is located within the eastern side of Marlborough, in an area of residential development.
- 2.3 The site is located in an area of archaeological interest.
 - 2.3.1 Marlborough has seen a number of archaeological investigations and there are findspots noted from the Prehistoric period onwards. There are also a number of Romano-British finds and features, within the vicinity, including an architectural fragment which is included in the fabric of St. Mary's church.
 - 2.3.2 Past investigation also indicates that the area was settled in the Prehistoric period, with a nearby Neolithic causewayed camp and numerous likely Bronze Age round barrows attesting activity in these periods. Further evidence for later Prehistoric settlement is also present.
 - 2.3.3 Marlborough is likely to have been founded during the Saxon period, but evidence for this period has been generally elusive, although a number of pottery sherds have been recovered from a mixed context in the vicinity of the site.
 - 2.3.4 The town and street layout for Marlborough is believed to be of 12th-13th century inception, but earlier activity may have been present. The study area is located approximately 600m to the southeast the centre of the Medieval town

and approximately 400m to the northeast of the site of The Priory of St Margaret, which is first mentioned in a list of Gilbertine houses which King John took under his protection in 1199-1200. The priory was dissolved in 1539. Andrew and Durys map dated 1773 show properties with gardens along both sides of London Road and the 1843 Tithe Map also shows a property within the location of the study area, therefore there is potential for earlier dwellings to be identified during the works.

- 2.3.5 Previous works in the area have identified a number of archaeological finds and deposits. The nearest of these was a section of Roman road or wall, which was recorded in 1954 close to Coombe End House (MWI14092), the grid reference places the site within the grounds of the study area, however the recorded grid reference is approximate. Also present during these works was a large quantity of 1st to 3rd century pottery, a coin circa AD80, an iron knife, a stone tile fragment and oyster shell. The approximate location of a Roman road between Silchester and Bath (MWI74619) is shown to possibly cross the study area on an approximate east northeast-west southwest alignment. Further Roman evidence is present approximately 100m to the northeast at Colemans Mead. This site is recorded as a Romano-British settlement site and cemetery (MWI14094). Further Roman pottery, along with evidence for the production of bone pins has been identified at No.95 London Road (MWI14121).
- 2.3.6 Prehistoric evidence has also been found in the vicinity of the site. Approximately 60m to the southwest of the site 91 worked flints were recovered during an evaluation at Coombe End House in 2004 (MWI14046). Most of the flints were waste flakes and blades dated to either the late Glacial or the Early Mesolithic period. Approximately 250m to the northeast of the site a leaf-shaped Neolithic arrowhead was found at the Elcot Drainage Works. A flat grave which contained the Marlborough bucket (MWI14084) found in 1807 was located approximately 120m to the southwest of the site. The bucket was made of fir wood, with triple iron hoops and drop handles, embossed with human and animal forms. It was an Armorican import, which probably dated to the 1st century BC.
- 2.3.7 Later evidence in the surrounding area includes unstratified 12th to 13th century pottery from the 2004 evaluation at Coombe End House (MWI14162) and an inhumation in a stone coffin (MWI13390) was recovered in Spittlefield approximately 120m to the northeast. The burial was undated, but was thought to indicate the site of the Medieval Hospital of St Thomas the Martyr, which was founded for lepers before AD1231.
- 2.4 The geology within the site comprises *Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation* – Chalk, with superficial deposits of *Head* - Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel (BGS Online viewer).
- 2.5 The site therefore contained the potential for significant archaeological features and deposits, predominately dating to the Prehistoric, Roman and Medieval periods. This did not prejudice the works against recording evidence relating to other periods.

3 AIMS

- 3.1 The aims of the archaeological monitoring 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.
- 3.2 These aims were achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:
- i) to record, prior to their destruction, any identified archaeological deposits within the monitored areas, 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 within the monitored areas;
 - 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 define any research priorities that may be relevant should further field investigation be required.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The topsoil and existing extension were removed across the footprint of the development areas through mechanical excavation by the use of a 360° excavator equipped with a toothless bucket. Following this, the footing trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator and by hand. With the exception of the removal of the superstructure of the previous extension, all groundworks were conducted under constant archaeological observation.
- 4.2 All archaeological investigation, 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 relatively uniform. The natural substrates, which consisted of a mid brown plastic clay, with occasional gravel inclusions was present at an average depth of 0.50m (128.15m AOD) below the Modern ground surface. The natural deposits were overlain by a mid grey brown sand silt clay subsoil (102), average 0.30m thick, which was sealed by a dark grey brown silt sand clay topsoil (101), average 0.20m thick.

- 5.2 The site area was approximately rectangular and measured 7.3m long by 6.3m wide, as shown in Figure 2. Initially, the development area was reduced by mechanical excavation to a depth of approximately 0.10m, then the area inside the footing trenches for the extension was reduced further to the top of the subsoil. Within this reduced area the footings for the previous extension were visible, but not recorded.
- 5.2 Following the ground reduction, footing trenches 0.6m wide were excavated to a depth of approximately 0.9m (127.79m AOD) from the Modern ground level. The footing trenches penetrated the natural deposits for a depth of approximately 0.35m.
- 5.3 Contained within the western footing trench, a chalk deposit (103) approximately 0.1 to 0.15m thick was located between the sub and topsoils. The layer did not contain any visible charcoal or artefactual evidence but was likely to be of recent origin.
- 5.4 No archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within the investigated area.

6 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The monitored groundworks for the extension were devoid of archaeological finds, features or deposits.
- 6.2 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology but will be deposited in due course with Wiltshire Museum, under Accession Code DZSWS:44-2021. An OASIS form will also be submitted to ADS. A short note will be submitted for publication in the relevant local archaeological journal.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

CAS. 1995. *Standards for Field Evaluation and Assessment in Wiltshire*. Unpublished.

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

Foundations Archaeology. 2021. *2 St Margarets Mead, Marlborough, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording*. Unpublished.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Foundations Archaeology would like to thank Neil Adam of Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service, Kieren Dobie of Tuttle Architectural Services and Mr & Mrs Rumbold for their help during the course of the project.

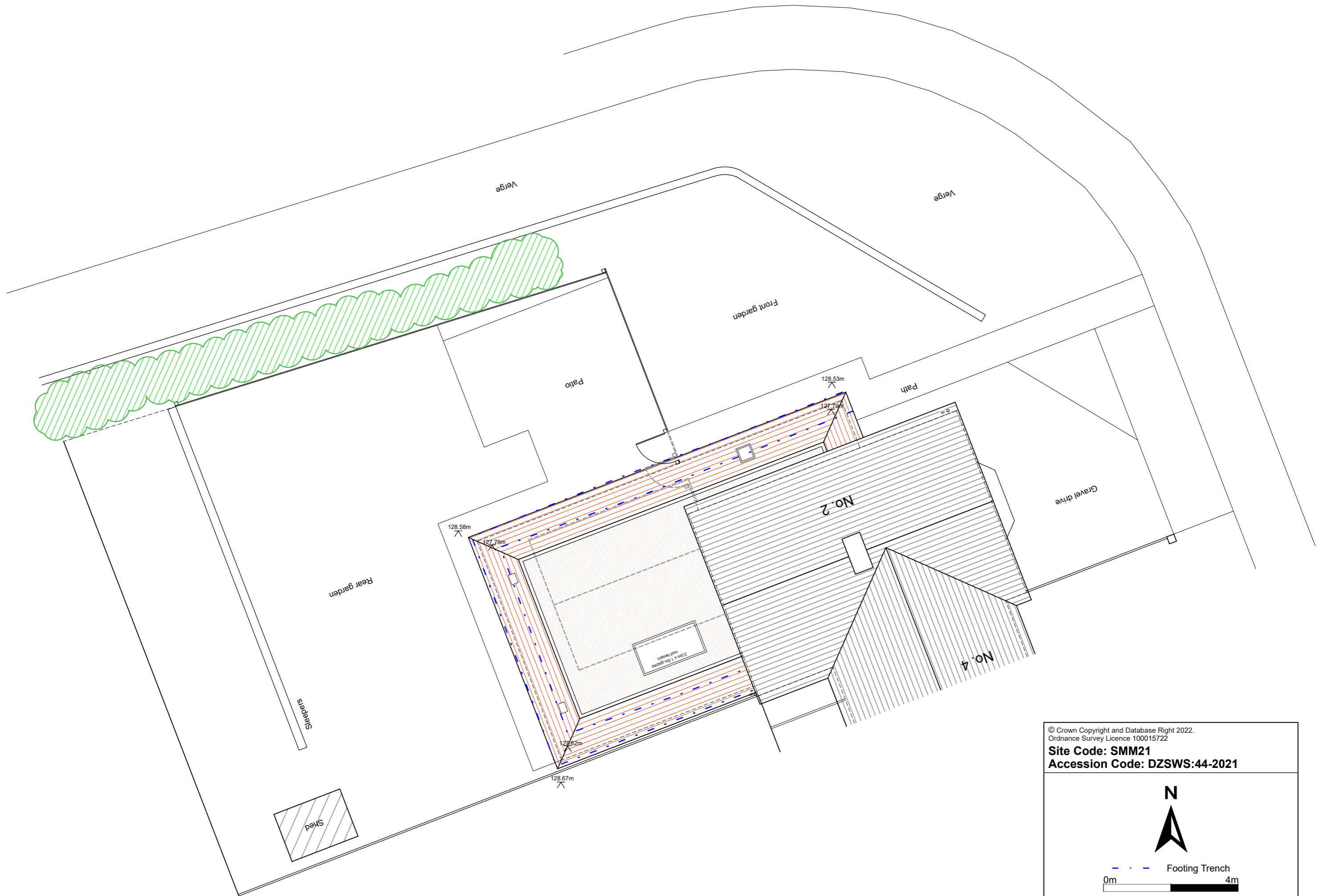


© Crown Copyright and Database Right 2022.
Ordnance Survey Licence 100015722

Site Code: **SMM21**

Accession Code: **DZSWS:44-2021**

FIGURE 1: Site Location



© Crown Copyright and Database Right 2022.
 Ordnance Survey Licence 100015722
Site Code: SMM21
Accession Code: DZSWS:44-2021

N

- - - Footing Trench

0m 4m

FIGURE 2: Site Area