

**LAND AT HORSEY DOWN,  
CRICKLADE,  
WILTSHIRE.**

**NGR: SU 0916 9362**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**Quality Assurance**

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## **SUMMARY**

On the 5<sup>th</sup> July 2010 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological evaluation on land at Horsey Down, Cricklade, Wiltshire (NGR: SU 0916 9362).

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

No archaeological features or deposits were present within the evaluation trenches.

## **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 *circa* AD 1500.

### **Natural**

In archaeological terms this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site, in this case Oxford Clay.

### **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 *circa* AD 1500 and AD 1900.

### **Roman**

The period between AD 43 and 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 July 2010 on land at Horsey Down, Cricklade, Wiltshire (NGR: SU 0916 9362). The project was commissioned by The Historic Environment Consultancy.
- 1.2 The archaeological works were undertaken in accordance with the Specification (2010), *Standards for Archaeological Assessment and Field Evaluation in Wiltshire* (CAS 1995) and the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (1994, revised 2008).

## **2 PROJECT BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 It is proposed to develop land at Horsey Down, Cricklade, Wiltshire. In accordance with the general principles of *Planning Policy Statement 5* (PPS 5) and the archaeological policies of Wiltshire County Council, a programme of archaeological evaluation was required prior to a planning application.
- 2.2 The proposed development site is located to the west of the Saxon town of Cricklade. A number of Medieval pottery sherds have been recovered from the vicinity of the site.
- 2.3 The study area therefore contained the potential for the preservation of archaeological remains, predominately associated with the Saxon and Medieval periods. This did not prejudice the evaluation against evidence from other periods.

## **3 AIMS**

- 3.1 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; as well as to make recommendations for management of the resource, including further archaeological works if necessary. In turn this would 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 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.

## **4 METHODOLOGY**

- 4.1 A total of three 20m by 1.8m evaluation trenches were excavated within the proposed development area, as shown in Figure 2.
- 4.2 Topsoil and non-significant overburden was removed to the top of the archaeological deposits or natural, whichever was encountered first. This was achieved with the use of a 360° mechanical excavator with a toothless grading bucket. Thereafter the trenches were cleaned and all additional excavation was conducted by hand. Spoil heaps were visually scanned for finds.
- 4.3 All excavation and recording work was undertaken in accordance with the Specification and the Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 3: Excavation Manual.

## **5 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

- 5.1 **Trench 1** was excavated onto natural grey/brown clay and gravel deposits at an average depth of 0.45m (88.22m OD) below the modern ground surface. The natural was sealed by a mid brown clay with frequent gravel (102), up to 0.25m thick. This was overlaid by a dark brown silt clay (101), up to 0.20m thick, which contained occasional charcoal flecks and frequent modern artefacts. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were present within the trench.
- 5.2 **Trench 2** was excavated onto natural grey/brown clay and gravel deposits at an average depth of 0.48m (88.59m OD) below the modern ground surface. The natural was sealed by a mid brown clay with frequent gravel (202), up to 0.29m thick. This was overlaid by a dark brown silt clay (201), up to 0.19m thick, which contained rare modern artefacts. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were present within the trench.
- 5.3 **Trench 3** was excavated onto natural grey/brown clay and gravel deposits at an average depth of 0.45m (89.01m OD) below the modern ground surface. The natural was sealed by a mid brown clay with frequent gravel (302), up to 0.28m thick. This was overlaid by a dark brown silt clay (301), up to 0.17m thick, which contained rare charcoal flecks and a single sherd of 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century *Ashton Keynes* red-glazed earthenware pottery. No archaeological features or deposits were present within the trench.
- 5.4 The evaluation works have indicated that there is a low potential for archaeological remains to be present within the proposed development area.

- 5.5 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology, but will be deposited within 12 months with the appropriate museum. A short note will be submitted for publication in the relevant local archaeological journal and an OASIS form will also be submitted to ADS.

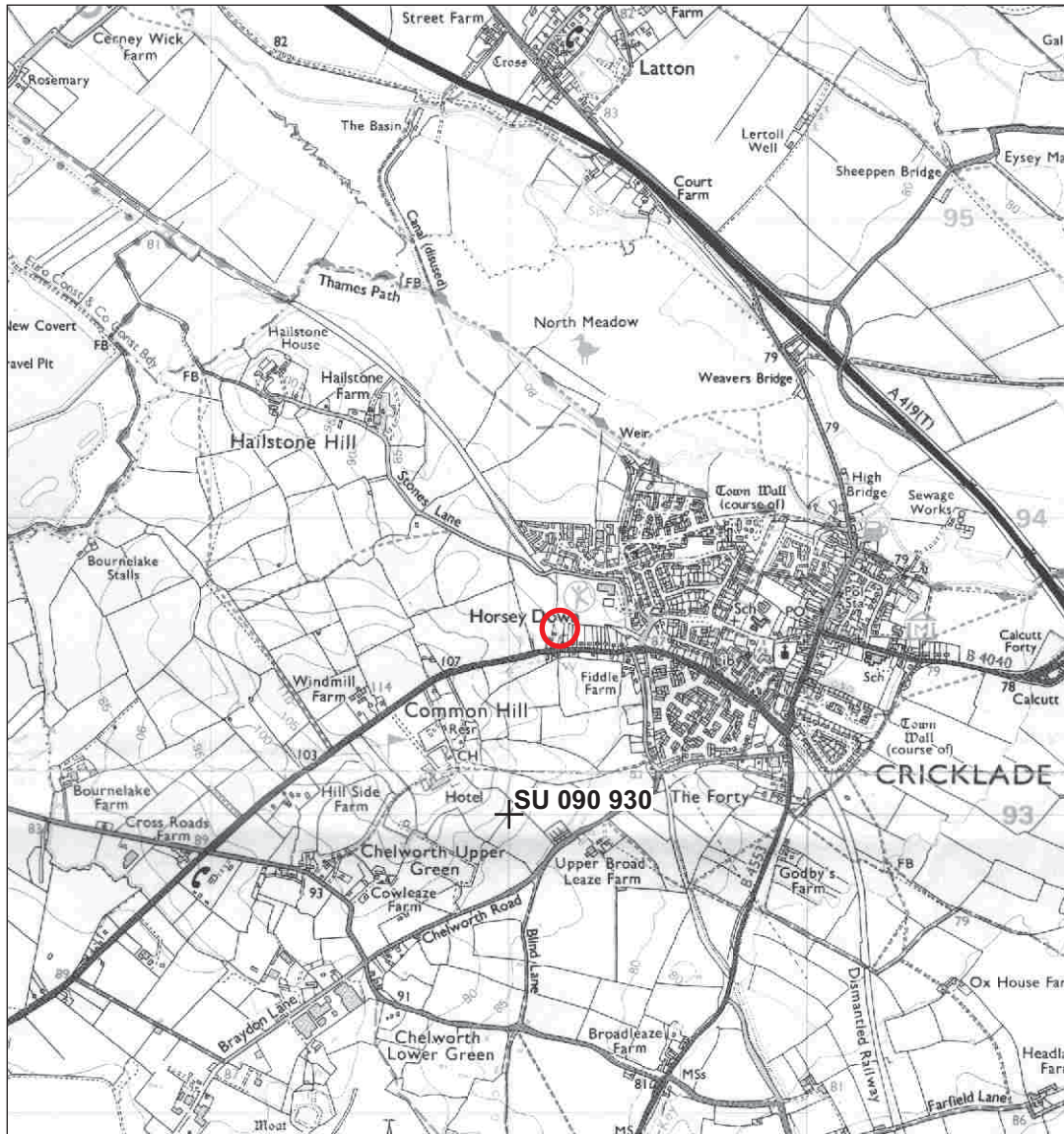
## **6 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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The Historic Environment Consultancy. 2010. *Horse Down, Cricklade, Wiltshire: Archaeological Specification, Evaluation Exercise*. Unpublished.

## **7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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**Site Code: HDC10**

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**FIGURE 1: Site Location**



