

**TUDOR THATCH,
THE STREET,
YATESBURY
CALNE,
WILTSHIRE.**

NGR: SU 066 716

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

June 2010

Report No. 691

Quality Assurance

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Site name: Tudor Thatch, The Street, Yatesbury, Calne, Wiltshire.
Site code: TTY10
NGR: SU 066 716
Site activity: Archaeological Watching Brief
Date and duration: 2nd June 2010; 1 day on site
Site area: Approximately 50m²
Location of archive: Wiltshire Heritage Museum

SUMMARY

In June 2010 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological monitoring during groundworks associated with the installation of an air source heat exchange unit at Tudor Thatch, The Street, Yatesbury, Calne, Wiltshire. The work was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Angell.

The monitored groundworks comprised the excavation of two trenches to facilitate the installation of the air source heat exchange unit.

No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were present within the monitored area.

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, in this case comprising *Cretaceous Chalk*, forming part of the extensive *Southern England Chalk Formation*.

NGR

National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid.

OD

Ordnance datum; used to express a given height above sea-level.

OS

Ordnance Survey.

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 between AD 43 and *circa* AD 410.

Saxon

The period between AD 410 and AD 1066.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In June 2010 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological monitoring during the installation of an air source heat exchange unit at Tudor Thatch, The Street, Yatesbury, Calne, Wiltshire (NGR: SU 066 716). The work was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Angell.
- 1.2 The project was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) issued by Foundations Archaeology (2010). The WSI conformed to the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (1999, revised 2001), *Archaeological Guidance Paper 4: Archaeological Watching Briefs: (guidelines)* issued by English Heritage (London Region) and Standards for Archaeological Assessment and Field Evaluation in Wiltshire (County Archaeological Service 1995).
- 1.3 This document presents the findings of the archaeological monitoring.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Planning permission has been granted for the installation of an air source heat exchange unit at Tudor Thatch, Yatesbury (Planning Ref: 09/02041/FUL).
- 2.2 Yatesbury is mentioned in 1086 as 'Etesberie' and appears to be a shrunken village, the presently occupied areas consisting of residential dwellings on either side of The Street, which lies approximately 300m to the east of the late 12th century church.
- 2.3 Yatesbury (SU07SE450) lies in an area rich in Prehistoric activity and a number of Prehistoric finds and features are recorded from the near vicinity of the site on the Wiltshire Sites and Monuments Record. These include Neolithic worked flint (SU07SE102), Bronze Age round barrows (SU07SE604 and SU07SE605) and ring ditches (SU07SE644 and SU07SE656). An Iron Age silver coin (SU07SEU09) is also recorded as an unlocated find from the vicinity.
- 2.4 Roman activity is also recorded (SU07SE309). The site itself lies within 'Enclosure 3' identified during works on the Compton Bassett Area Research Project (CBARP), which included detailed investigation and excavation at Yatesbury. The enclosure appears to have originated during the late Roman period and been continuously maintained until approximately 1750. A further Roman settlement is known from southeast of the site (SU07SE312) and Romano-British coins have also been found further to the southeast (SU07SE302).
- 2.5 Saxon activity in the area is also known from the vicinity. The CBARP indicates that Enclosure 3 was maintained during the Early and Middle Saxon periods (Reynolds 1994, 64 *Compton Bassett and Yatesbury, North Wiltshire: settlement*

- morphology and locational change*). The project also identified that a nearby round barrow may have been re-used as a beacon platform (SU07SE404) during this period and that a 'lost' road (SU07SE403) also ran through Enclosure 3 during the Saxon period. Other Saxon activity is also known from intrusive burials in round barrows (SU07SE401 and SU07SEU02).
- 2.6 Evidence from the works carried out for the CBARP indicate that during the Medieval period Yatesbury contained three enclosures; Enclosure 1, to the west, contained the manor and church; Enclosure 2 contained the associated Medieval settlement while Enclosure 3, which appears to have been the earliest, lies to the east and may represent a separate manor.
- 2.7 The study area therefore contained the potential for archaeological finds predominantly dating from the Prehistoric period through to the Post-medieval period, but with particular scope for finds of late Roman, Saxon and Medieval date. This did not prejudice the watching brief against the recovery of data relating to other periods.
- 2.8 In accordance with the principles of PPS 5 (Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning and the Historic Environment) and the archaeological policies of the Local Planning Authority, an archaeological watching brief was required in order to monitor the groundworks associated with the installation of the air source heat exchange unit.

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; this was intended to allow reasonable planning decisions to be taken regarding the archaeological provision for the areas affected by the proposed works.
- 3.2 These aims were to be 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.
 - iii) 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.

iv) 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.

v) 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 The monitored groundworks comprised the excavation of two trenches, as shown in Figure 2. The trenches were excavated partly manually and partly by use of mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All excavation was carried out under constant archaeological observation. Potential archaeological deposits were manually investigated, and where appropriate, hand excavated and recorded. Spoil heaps were visually scanned for finds.

5 RESULTS AND CONCLUSION

- 5.1 **Trench 1** was 10m long, 0.60m wide and was excavated to an average depth of 0.80m below the Modern ground level. The lowest deposit within the trench comprised a natural mid yellow-grey stoney clay chalk, which occurred at a depth of 0.35m below ground. The natural was sealed by a dark brown friable silt clay subsoil (104), up to 0.20m thick. This was overlaid by a layer of mixed Modern demolition rubble (103), up to 0.05m thick. Layer (103) was, in turn, overlaid by a sand bedding layer (102), up to 0.01m thick and paving slabs (101), up to 0.09m thick. No archaeological features, finds or deposits were present within the trench.
- 5.2 **Trench 2** was 2.5m long, 0.60m wide and was excavated to an average depth of 0.80m below the Modern ground level. The lowest deposit within the trench consisted of a dark mottled grey friable chalk clay soil (106), up to 0.69m thick, which contained frequent Modern brick and CBM fragments. This was overlaid by a concrete floor (105), up to 0.11m thick. No archaeological features, finds or deposits were present within the trench.
- 5.3 Subsoil (104) appeared to represent a sealed deposit with good potential for archaeological preservation. However, limited truncation by services associated with the extension to the eastern end of Tudor Thatch was evident, and the possibility of some truncation associated with the deposition of (103) cannot be excluded.
- 5.4 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology, but will be deposited within 12 months with the Wiltshire Heritage 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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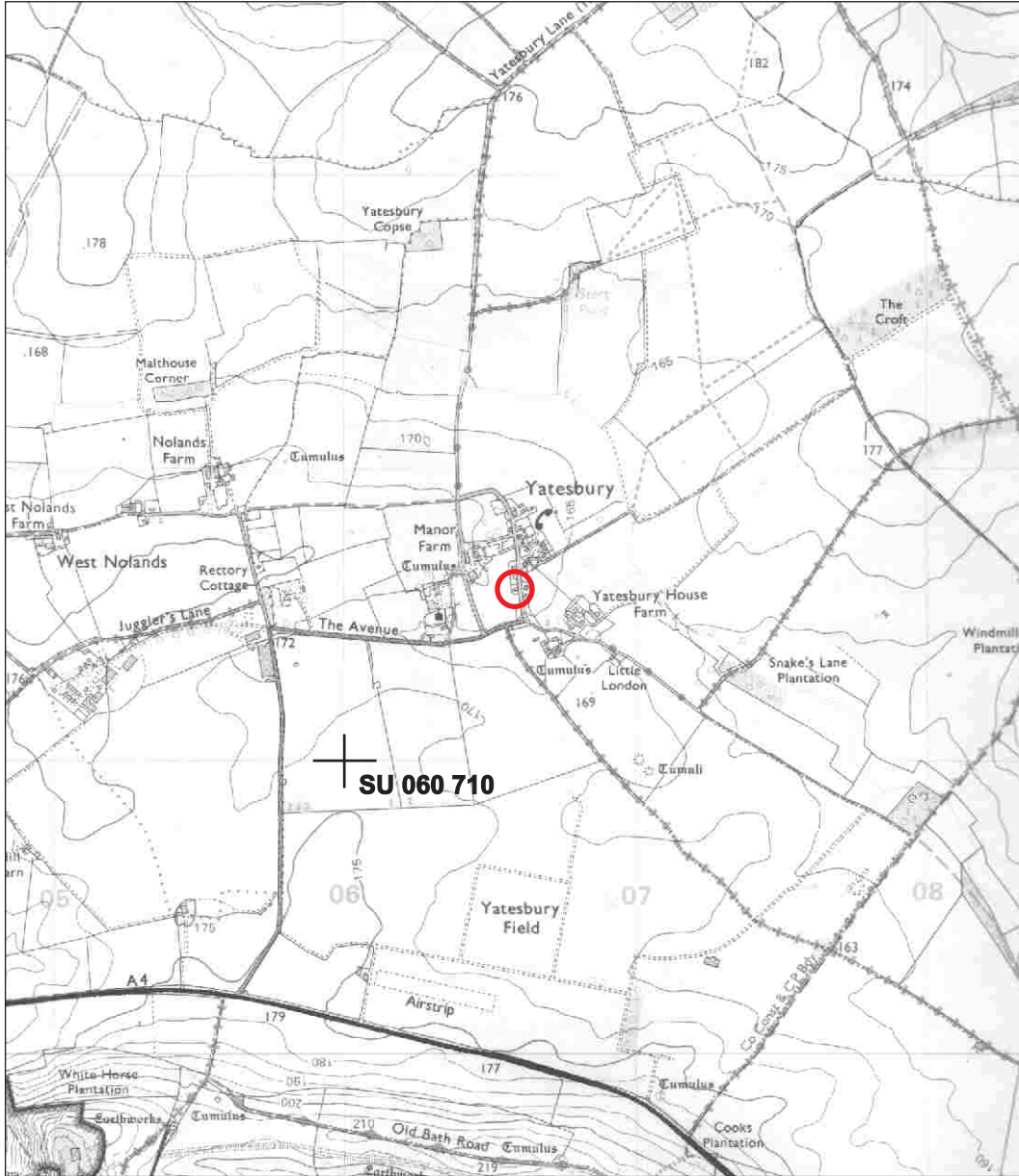
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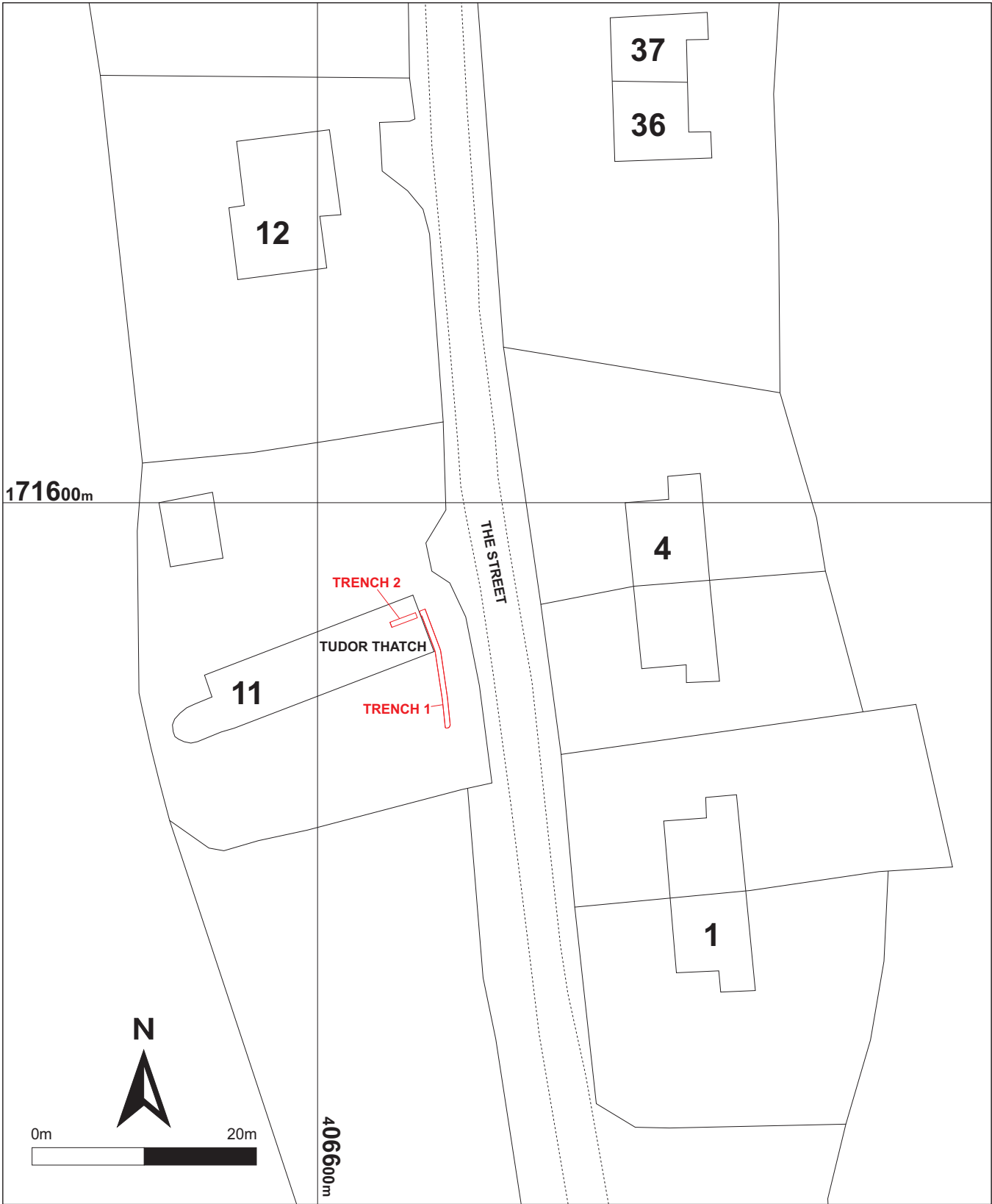
7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Foundations Archaeology would like to thank Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger and David Vaughan of Wiltshire County Council and Mr and Mrs Angell, for their help during the course of this project.



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FIGURE 1: Site Location



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FIGURE 2: Site Plan