

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Rowdens Farm, Grimstead Road
West Grimstead, Wiltshire**

NGR: SU 420881 126653

ASE Project No: 170247

Site Code: RWG17

ASE Report No: 2017273

OASIS No: 287586



By Angus Forshaw

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|----------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
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| Reviewed and approved by: | Dan Swift | Project Manager |
| Date of Issue: | June 2017 | |
| Revision: | | |

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East (ASE), was commissioned by Landscape Planning Group Ltd., to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with the construction of a single storey extension at Rowden's Farm, Grimstead Road, West Grimstead.

The foundation trenches revealed a truncated ground surface, with made ground deposits overlying natural strata. A possible well and a small brick-lined feature contemporary with the farm buildings were recorded.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Landscape Planning Group Ltd. (the client) to undertake archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with a single storey extension at Rowden's Farm, Grimstead Road, West Grimstead, Wiltshire (Figure 1).

1.2 Location, Topography and Geology

- 1.2.1 The village of West Grimstead is located within the civil parish of Grimstead in Wiltshire, approximately 4.5 miles southeast of Salisbury, and 1 mile north of the A36. Rowdens Farm is located in the west of the village 0.2 miles northwest of St. John's Church. The property lies to the immediate north of Grimstead Road and formed part of an enclosed farmstead with barn outbuildings to the west, residential buildings to the east and open pasture to the north.
- 1.2.2 Rowden Farmhouse is a Grade II Listed Building comprising a two-storey, timber framed cottage with a thatched roof with gable end brick stacks.
- 1.2.3 The site is located on geology of the Wittering Formation comprising of sand, silt and clay (British Geological Survey © NERC 2017). There are no superficial deposits recorded.

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 Planning permission has been granted by Wiltshire Council (Planning Ref. 17/00079/FUL) for a single storey extension, porch link and minor internal works. Due to the potential of the site, and the archaeological interest of the site, an archaeological condition was attached to planning permission.

The proposed condition reads:

Archaeological monitoring and excavation.

1. No groundworks of any kind shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological monitoring in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant, and approved by the planning authority.

- 1.3.2 The groundworks include the excavation of foundations trenches for the new extension.
- 1.3.3 The archaeological work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Archaeology South-East (2017). The WSI was submitted to, and approved by, Wiltshire County Council in their capacity as archaeological advisors prior to the commencement of works.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The initial aim of the archaeological work was to record exposed archaeological deposits and features and, where applicable, excavate them to a sufficient depth to facilitate the contractor's construction groundworks.

1.4.2 Specific aims were:

- To record the location of any surviving archaeological remains within the area of the proposed development and identify their relationship to the development of the existing building and its predecessors
- To record the stratigraphic sequence of deposits affected by the development.
- To identify if there are earlier origins of the building or evidence of land utilisation.

1.4.3 In the event that significant discoveries were made, the initial research objectives for the project were to be reviewed as part of any post-excavation assessment and reporting work that is required, with reference to those identified in *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000) and *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011).

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 This report details the results of monitoring and recording carried out by Angus Forshaw (Archaeologist) during groundworks at Rowdens Farm on the 11th May 2017.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following information is largely taken from the Heritage Statement (Winser 2017) and the WSI (ASE 2017a).

2.2 Historical Background

2.2.1 Grimstead is first mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 as '*Gremestede*', a rural farming settlement.

2.2.2 Rowden's farm consists of an original group of farmhouse and farm buildings dating from the early 18th century. The buildings form a square bounded by an original brick wall, which is a good example of a modest village farmstead. The Farmhouse is a Grade II Listed two-storey, timber framed cottage dating to c.1700 with an 18th century extension. The main barn to the west of the farmhouse dates to the late 18th century and is Grade II listed and timber framed. A barn/wood store is visible on historic mapping to the north of the site in the area of proposed development. The barn varies in size and shape on historic plans and is known to have been removed in 1973. The other associated buildings all date back to the 1800's and are still *in situ*.

2.2.3 The Church of England parish church of Saint John, located 275m southwest of the site dates from around 1300, with the brick tower constructed in the early 18th century. The church contains a stained glass window by Heaton, Butler and Bayne, which was installed in 1900. The church was designated as a Grade II* listed building in 1960.

2.2.4 Further listed buildings are located 80m northwest of the site at Emmotts Farmhouse, a 17th century timber framed farmhouse with 18th and 20th century alterations. Crossways House lies to the south of Emmotts Farm and is of c.1750 date.

2.2.5 The Salisbury and Southampton Canal was built to the north of the village, and was opened in 1803, linking to the Andover Canal near Kimbridge. The canal was never completed as far as Salisbury and was closed in 1806.

2.2.6 The London and Southwestern Railway lies to the north of the site and was opened in 1847. The route follows the route of the canal but in a straighter line.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 Monitoring and excavation was undertaken by ASE archaeologists on construction groundworks that had the potential to expose, damage or destroy any archaeological remains that might be present. This consisted of foundation trenching for the new extension (Figure 2).
- 3.1.2 Foundation trenches were excavated using a mini-digger fitted with a toothed bucket (due to ground compaction, foundation size, presence of roots, etc.). All work was undertaken under archaeological supervision. Investigation was not undertaken below the required construction level.
- 3.1.3 All stratigraphy was recorded using the ASE context recording system, with all exposed archaeological features and deposits recorded and excavated, except obviously modern features and disturbances. Plans were drawn at 1:20 scale and sections at 1:10 scale and located in relation to the standing building. A digital photographic record was also created.
- 3.1.4 Standard artefact collection and recording methodologies were employed throughout.
- 3.1.5 All work was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching brief, Code of Conduct (CIfA 2014a & 2014b), and the ALGAO Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003).
- 3.1.7 Finds were identified by context number to a specific deposit, and have been processed according to ASE and CIfA guidelines (2014c). All pottery and other finds, where appropriate, were marked with the site code and context number.

3.2 Site Archive

- 3.2.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at Salisbury Museum in due course. The contents of the archive are summarised below (Table 1).

| Item | Quantity |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Number of Contexts | 11 |
| No. of files | 1 |
| Plan and sections sheets | 2 |
| Photographs | 45 digital |
| Bulk finds | 1 box |

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

(Figures 3 and 4)

4.1 Summary

4.1.1 The foundation trench was located against the northern end of the property and was approximately rectangular in plan, with the total area measuring c.8.0m x c.7.0m. Excavations were 0.80m wide x 0.80-1.60m deep below ground level.

4.2 Surface material and natural deposits

4.2.1 The existing ground surface was on two levels, representing a stepped area from the house to a lowered patio area. The higher level extended to the edge of the southern foundation trench.

4.2.2 The ground surface immediately adjacent to the house consisted of a layer of paving [1011] measuring 0.16m thick overlying two layers of made ground deposits [1001, 1002]. Deposit [1001] measured 0.40m thick and was formed of dark brown sandy silt with common angular and sub rounded stones and gravels as well as CBM fragments and charcoal flecks. This layer was only visible on the southern section of the foundation trenches and represents made build up to the level of the house.

4.2.3 Made ground layer [1002] was present across the whole of the monitored area, and was directly above natural strata [1003] suggesting that any earlier topsoil and subsoil deposits had been truncated away. It measured up to 0.41m thick and consisted of mid grey brown sandy silt with common angular and sub rounded gravels as well as CBM fragments.

4.2.4 Natural deposits of red orange gravels and sand [1003] were found immediately below the made ground deposits and measuring between 0.27-0.50m thick. Friable orange yellow sand natural [1004] was found underlying the gravel natural. All features identified were cut into the gravel horizon [1003].

4.3 Foundation trench

4.3.1 Two archaeological features were identified within the foundation trench. A possible well [1005] was located against the western baulk of the western foundation trench. The feature measured 1.80m long and 0.72m at its widest point. The feature had steep, straight sides and was excavated to the depth of the trench at 0.82m below ground level, the base was not reached. The feature had two fills, a lining formed of mottled red and grey compact clay [1006] measuring up to 0.38m thick, and mid grey brown sandy silt fill [1007] with common gravels, CBM and charcoal, representing intentional backfill.

4.3.2 A brick built feature [1010] was also found within the western foundation trench. It measured 1.18m long and 0.28 m at its widest visible point and was 0.48m deep. The feature was lined with bricks [1008] with a single course at the base and six courses on either side. Bricks ran across the trench running approximately north-south before turning off into the trench baulk. The bricks measured c.0.24m x 0.12m x 0.06m and were unfroged. The area within the brick lining measured 0.95m at its widest and was 0.43m deep. It was filled with dark grey brown silty sand [1009] containing fragments of post-medieval pottery, glass and CBM. There was common rooting within the top 0.25m of the fill.

4.3.3 The features were recorded in plan when first revealed, before excavation was continued to the depth required for the groundworks and then recorded in section.

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length (m) | Max. Width (m) | Deposit Thickness (m) |
|----------------|-------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1001 | Layer | Made ground | Trench | Trench | 0.40 |
| 1002 | Layer | Made ground | Trench | Trench | 0.20-0.41 |
| 1003 | Layer | Natural | Trench | Trench | 0.27-0.50 |
| 1004 | Layer | Natural | Trench | Trench | 0.17+ |
| 1005 | Cut | Well? | 1.80 | 0.72+ | 0.82 |
| 1006 | Fill | Clay lining | - | - | 0.82 |
| 1007 | Fill | Backfill of [1005] | - | - | 0.82 |
| 1008 | Masonry | Brick structure | 1.18 | 0.28+ | 0.48 |
| 1009 | Fill | Backfill of [1010] | - | - | 0.43 |
| 1010 | Cut | Cut for brick structure | 1.18 | 0.28+ | 0.48 |
| 1011 | Layer | Paving | Trench | Trench | 0.16 |

Table 2: List of recorded contexts

5.0 FINDS

5.1 Summary

- 5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered and were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and were bagged by material and context (Table 3). All finds have been packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (2014).

| Context | Pottery | Weight (g) | CBM | Weight (g) | Glass | Weight (g) |
|--------------|----------|------------|----------|-------------|----------|------------|
| 1002 | 1 | 28 | | | | |
| 1007 | | | 1 | 400 | | |
| 1008 | | | 2 | 5124 | | |
| 1009 | 1 | 32 | | | 2 | 334 |
| Total | 2 | 60 | 3 | 5524 | 2 | 334 |

Table 3: Finds quantification

5.2 The Pottery by Luke Barber

- 5.2.1 The archaeological monitoring recovered just two sherds of post-Roman pottery, both of which are of the late post-medieval period. Context [1002] contained a fresh 28g sherd from a blue transfer-printed whiteware plate with willow pattern design. A date between c. 1825 and 1875 is suggested for the vessel. Context [1009] contained a fresh 32g fragment from a child's saucer with cup seating and overglaze polychrome transfer-print of a seated toddler 'Tom Tosset'. An early/mid-20th century date is suspected. The sherds are not considered to hold any potential for future research and have been discarded.

5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

- 5.3.1 Three bricks – two complete and one very chipped and abraded edge fragment – were hand-collected from two contexts. The partial brick was found in [1007] and was formed of a medium orange fabric, with a finely gritty texture, common medium quart, and sparse pale ad red silty deposits; it was ~70mm thick and weighed 400g. Due to its poor level of preservation it is difficult to date but based on the thickness an 18th century date is most likely.
- 5.3.2 The two complete bricks were recovered from [1008]. One, with dimensions of 2201 x 223 x 108mm and weighing 2201g, was formed from a very pale, cream-coloured fabric similar to that of Suffolk Whites or Cambridgeshire Buffs, which could indicate that they were manufactured elsewhere and brought to West Grimstead. Both Suffolk Whites and Cambridgeshire Buffs generally date to the mid-19th century. The upper surface of this example was heavily abraded as if it had functioned as a paving brick.
- 5.3.3 The other complete brick measured 231 x 114 x 68mm, and weighed 2921g. It was made from a gritty red fabric with moderate very coarse quartz, and was very sharply formed. It is most probably if later 18th or 19th century date.
- 5.3.4 All the material was quantified by form, weight and fabric and recorded on standard recording forms. Fabric descriptions were developed with the aid of a x20 binocular microscope and use the following conventions: frequency of inclusions as sparse, moderate, common or abundant; the size of inclusions as fine (up to 0.25mm), medium

(up to 0.25 and 0.5mm), coarse (0.5-1.0mm) and very coarse (larger than 1.0mm). Due to the fairly recent date of the bricks and their limited archaeological potential they have all been discarded.

5.4 The Glass by Elke Raemen

- 5.4.1 Two fragments of glass weighing 334g were recovered from [1009]. Included is a clear glass bottle of mid/late 20th-century date. A fragment of textured privacy glass from a rectangular pane was also included. The latter dates broadly to the later 19th to 20th century.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Discussion

- 6.1.1 The watching brief has revealed that the site has been previously landscaped during its history, with no evidence of topsoil or subsoil deposits surviving within the area of the foundation trench. The section adjacent to the house suggests that the made ground deposits continue under the farmhouse and the whole site area was landscaped prior to construction.
- 6.1.2 The recorded remains all date to the post medieval period and are likely associated with the farmhouse. The possible well [1005] lies directly adjacent to the 18th century extension of the property, with CBM dates suggesting that it was present or backfilled at that time. It could indicate an early water source for the property. The well lies in the suspected location of the barn/wood store, which is pictured on numerous maps from 1810 onwards, though its exact date and location are unknown. The building was removed in 1973. The placement of the well within the template of this barn suggests that it predates its construction, and was backfilled prior to this date.
- 6.1.3 The brick lined feature to the north [1008] lies below ground level and is likely related to farming activities occurring at the farmstead. It could represent a trough or storage area. This was located to the north of the footprint of the barn/wood store and could have been related and had a contemporary period of use, before being backfilled, possibly at the time of the barn being removed, with finds dating from mid/late 20th century date coinciding with the barns removal.
- 6.1.4 Excavation was not carried out below the depths required by the building works, so any lower remains of these features are preserved *in situ*.

6.2 Conclusions

- 6.2.1 The results indicate that previous landscaping occurred across the site prior to the construction of the farmhouse. A possible well and a brick-lined trough or storage unit representing activity linked with the farmhouse and its surrounding barns were recorded.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank the Landscape Planning Group Ltd. for commissioning the archaeological work. The archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by Angus Forshaw. Daryl Palmer managed the fieldwork and the post-excavation process was managed by Dan Swift.

Appendix 1: HER Summary

| | |
|--|--|
| Site name/Address: Rowden's Farm, Grimstead Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire | |
| Parish: Grimstead | District: Salisbury |
| NGR: SU 420881 126653 | Site Code: RWG17 |
| Type of Work: Archaeological Monitoring and Excavation | Site Director/Group: A. Forshaw, Archaeology South-East |
| Date of Work: 11 th May 2017 | Size of Area Investigated: c. 50sq m |
| Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Salisbury Museum | Funding source: Client |
| Further Seasons Anticipated?: No | Related HER Nos: |
| Final Report: | OASIS No: 287586 |
| Periods Represented: Post-medieval | |
| SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS: | |
| <p><i>Archaeology South-East (ASE), was commissioned by Landscape Planning Group Ltd., to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with the construction of a single storey extension at Rowden's Farm, Grimstead Road, West Grimstead.</i></p> <p><i>The foundation trenches revealed a truncated ground surface, with made ground deposits overlying natural strata. A possible well and a small brick-lined feature contemporary with the farm buildings were recorded.</i></p> | |
| Previous Summaries/Reports: N/A | |
| Author of Summary: A. Forshaw | Date of Summary: June 2017 |

Appendix 2: OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-287586

Project details

Project name Archaeological Watching Brief: Rowden's Farm, Grimstead Road, West Grimstead, Salisbury

Short description of the project Archaeology South-East (ASE), was commissioned by Landscape Planning Group Ltd., to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with the construction of a single storey extension at Rowden's Farm, Grimstead Road, West Grimstead. The foundation trenches revealed a truncated ground surface, with made ground deposits overlying natural strata. A possible well and a small brick-lined feature contemporary with the farm buildings were recorded.

Project dates Start: 11-05-2017 End: 11-05-2017

Previous/future work Not known / Not known

Any associated project reference codes RWG17 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference codes 170247 - Contracting Unit No.

Type of project Recording project

Site status Listed Building

Current Land use Other 14 - Recreational usage

Monument type WELL Post Medieval

Monument type BRICK LINED PIT Post Medieval

Significant Finds GLASS Post Medieval

Significant Finds POTTERY Post Medieval

Significant Finds CBM Post Medieval

Investigation type "Watching Brief"

Prompt Planning condition

Project location

Country England

Site location WILTSHIRE SALISBURY GRIMSTEAD Rowden's Farm, Grimstead Road, West Grimstead, Salisbury, Wiltshire

Postcode SP5 3RF

Site coordinates SU 2078 2671 51.038877 -1.703513 51 02 19 N 001 42 12 W Point

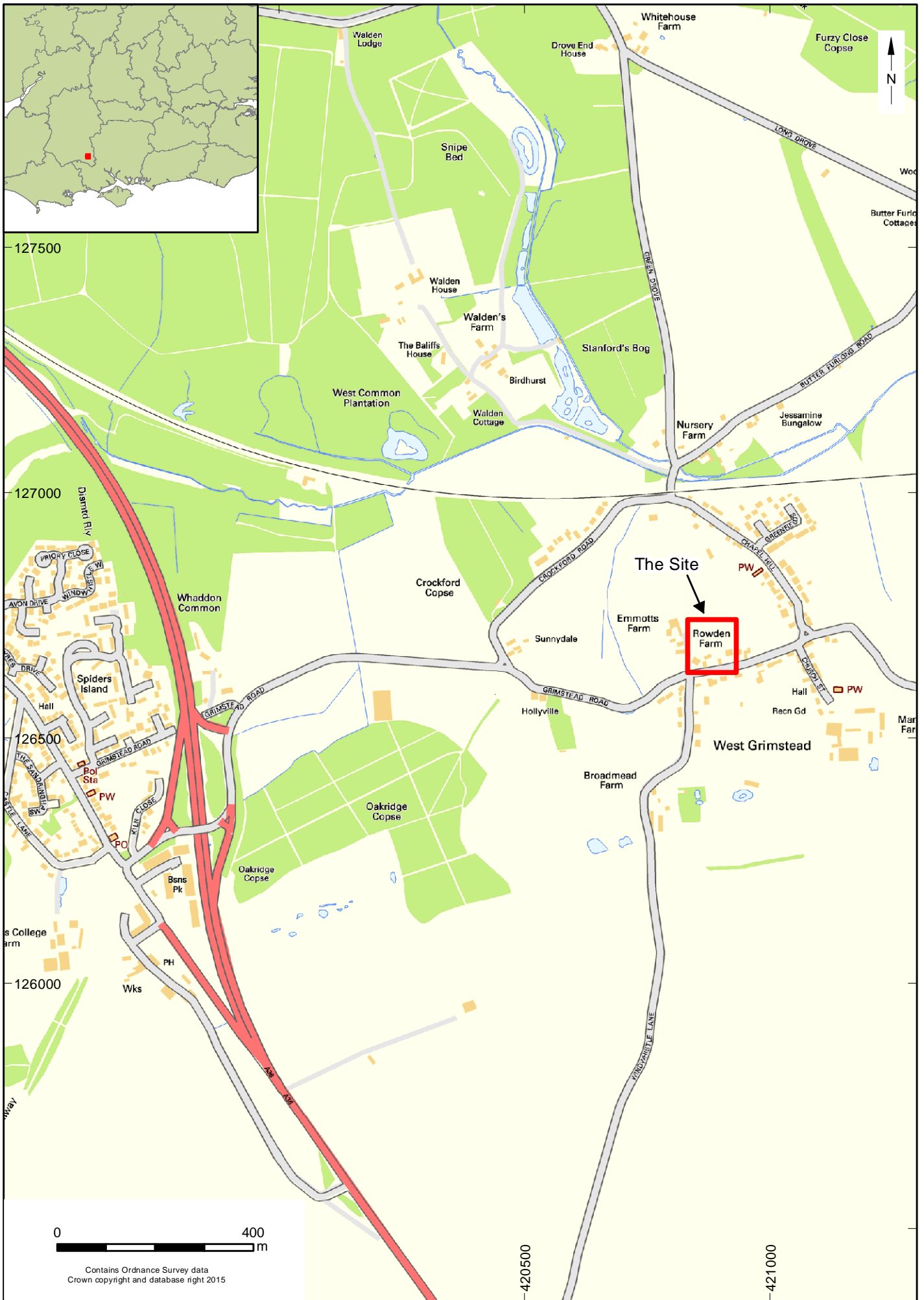
Lat/Long Datum WGS 84 Datum

Project creators

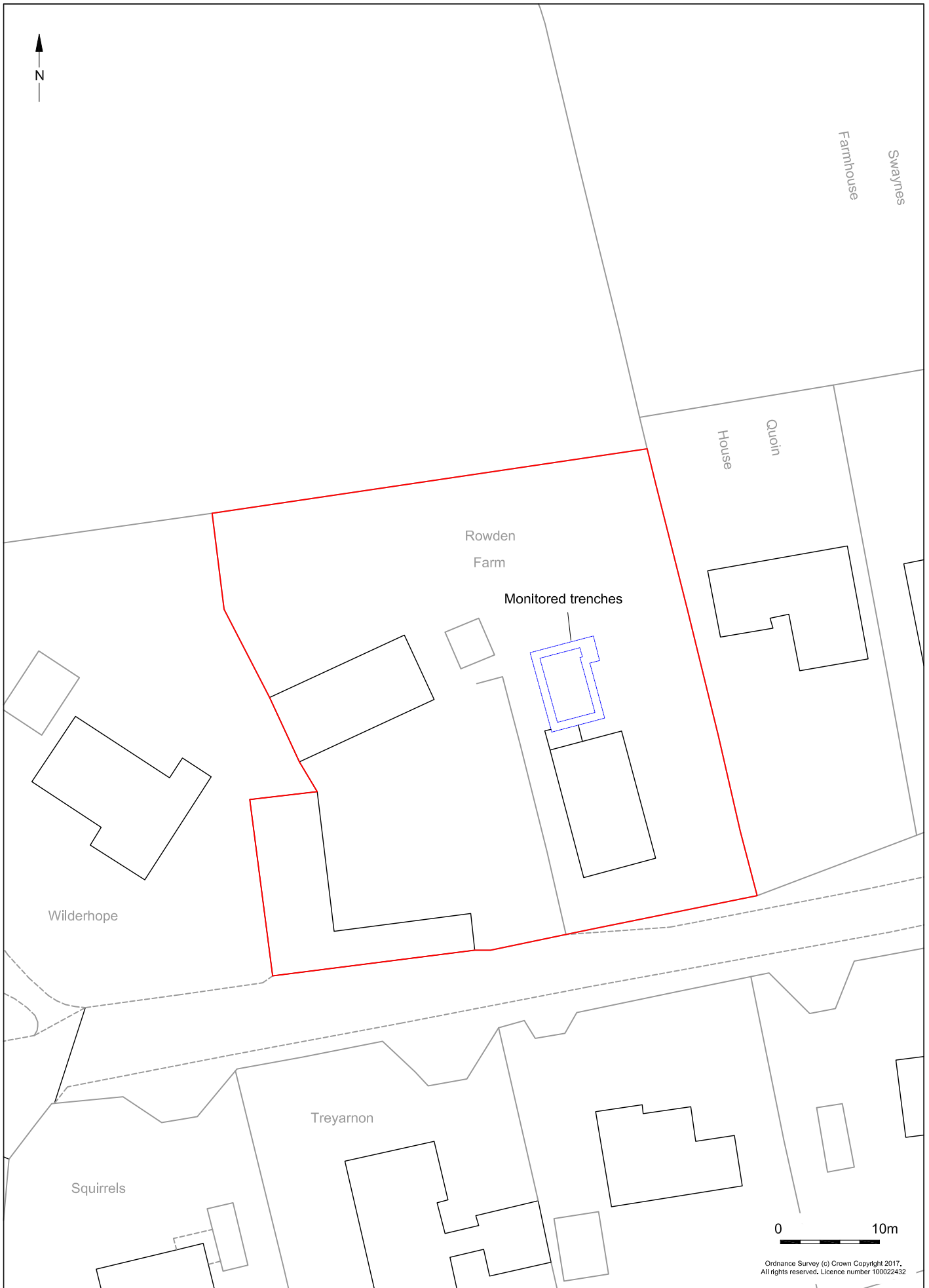
Name of Organisation Archaeology South-East

Project brief originator Wiltshire Council

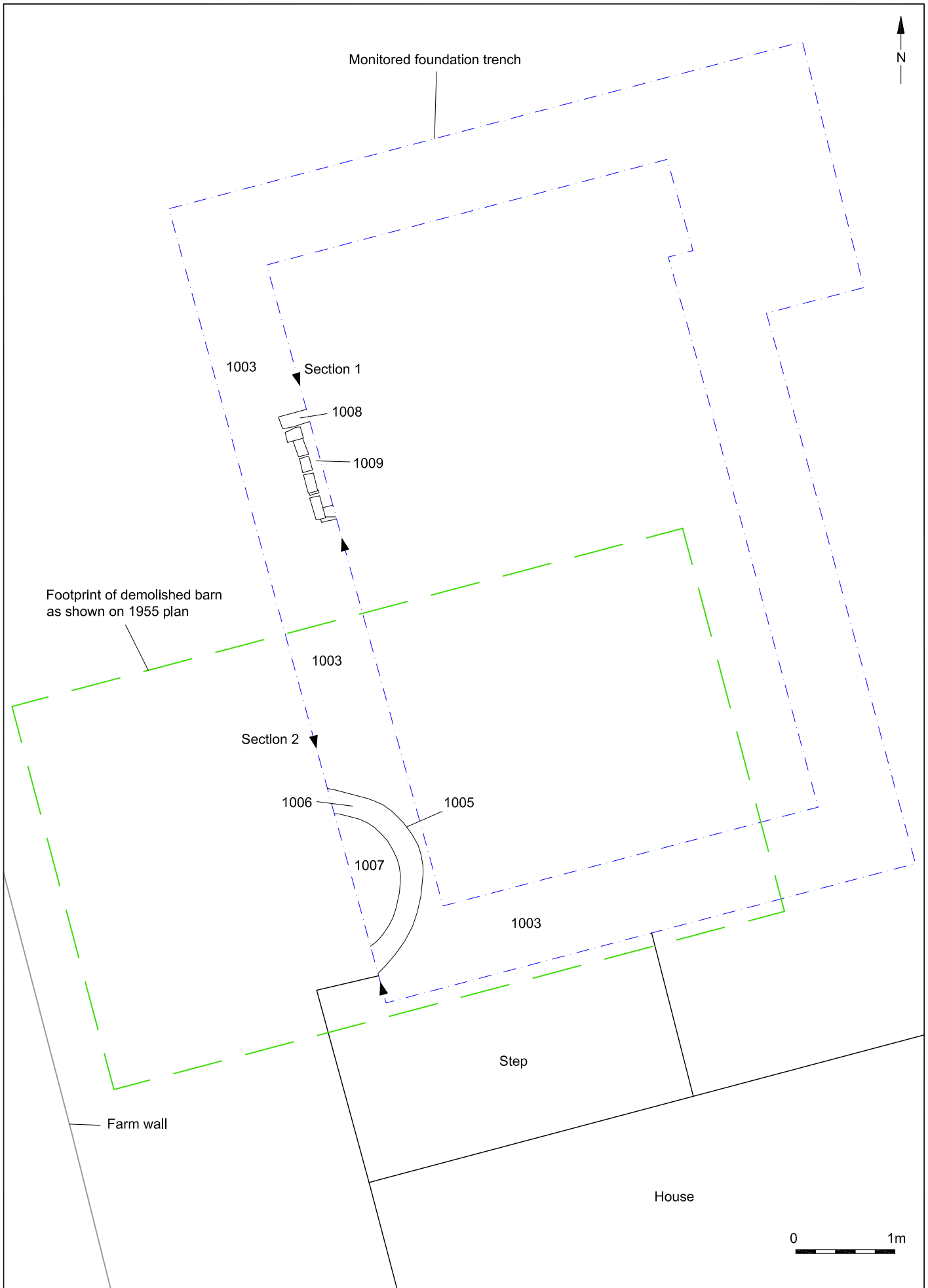
| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Project design originator | ASE |
| Project director/manager | Darryl Palmer |
| Project supervisor | Angus Forshaw |
| Type of sponsor/funding body | Developer |
| Project archives | |
| Digital Archive recipient | Salisbury Museum |
| Digital Media available | "Database","Images raster / digital photography" |
| Paper Archive recipient | Salisbury Museum |
| Paper Media available | "Context sheet","Photograph","Report","Section" |
| Entered by | Angus Forshaw (a.forshaw@ucl.ac.uk) |
| Entered on | 15 June 2017 |



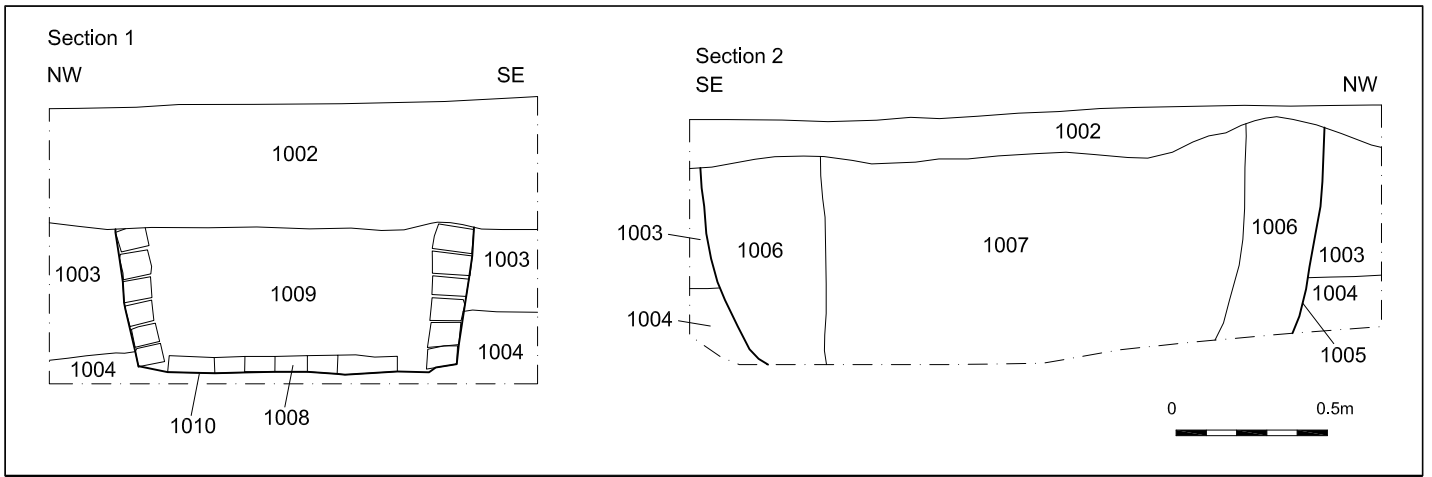
| | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|---|--------|
| © Archaeology South-East | | Rowdens Farm, West Grimstead, Wiltshire | Fig. 1 |
| Project Ref: 170247 | June 2017 | Site location | |
| Report No: 2017273 | Drawn by: APL | | |



| | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|---|--------|
| © Archaeology South-East | | Rowdens Farm, West Grimstead, Wiltshire | Fig. 2 |
| Project Ref: 170247 | June 2017 | Location of monitored foundation trenches | |
| Report Ref: 2017273 | Drawn by: APL | | |



| | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|---|--------|
| © Archaeology South-East | | Rowdens Farm, West Grimstead, Wiltshire | Fig. 3 |
| Project Ref: 170247 | June 2017 | Detail of proposed extension | |
| Report Ref: 2017273 | Drawn by: APL | | |



Masonry feature 1010 looking north-east, 0.5m scale



Well 1005 looking south-west, 0.5m scale



North facing trench section, 0.5m scale



The site during excavation



View of the site looking north-east



Well 1005 and the site looking south

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|--|-------|
| © Archaeology South-East | | Rowdens Farm, West Grimstead, Wiltshire | Fig.4 |
| Project Ref: 170247 | June 2017 | Sections 1 and 2 with selected photographs | |
| Report Ref: 2017273 | Drawn by: APL | | |

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