

**Land at Goldfinch Way,
South Wonston, Hampshire**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
For Winchester Housing Group**

by Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code AY 270

April 2006

Summary

Site name: Land at Goldfinch Way, South Wonston, Hampshire

Grid reference: SU 4721 3621

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 10th-21st April 2006

Project manager: Jo Pine

Site supervisor: Andy Taylor

Site code: AY270

Area of site: c. 0.25 hectares

Summary of results: No deposits or finds of an archaeological nature were observed

Monuments identified: None

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Winchester Museum Service.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 21.04.06 Jo Pine ✓ 20.04.06

Land at Goldfinch Way, South Wonston, Hampshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Andy Taylor

Report 06/22

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at (SU 4721 3621) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Juan Moreno Jnr, Archaeological Consultant, Fieldside Long Wittenham, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 4QB on behalf of Winchester Housing Group.

Planning consent has been gained from Winchester City Council for the construction of new housing on the site. This is subject to a condition indicating that an archaeological watching brief is to take place during groundworks.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the Districts policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Tracy Matthews, Sites and Monuments Officer with Winchester City Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor between 10th-21st April 2006 and the site code is AY 270.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Winchester Museum Service in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located in the north western part of South Wonston and to the north of Goldfinch Way and comprises a plot of land measuring c.0.25 hectares in area. It is accessed off West Hill Road North which forms the western boundary of the site. The city of Winchester lies c.5km to the south of the site (Fig. 2). It is currently occupied by scrubland. The underlying geology comprises Upper Chalk (BGS 1975), which was observed across the site and the site lies at a height of c.100m AOD.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a desk-based assessment (SAS 2005). This noted that the site lies within an area of high archaeological importance being surrounded by three neolithic long barrows, a Bronze Age round barrow, probable enclosure, pit alignment (boundary feature) and 'celtic' field systems of Roman or possibly prehistoric date. It is likely that contemporary prehistoric occupation deposits will

be present in the vicinity. Further archaeological deposits in the near environs are a Roman Road (route 43; Margary, 1955), two medieval droeways and a post-medieval racecourse.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. The building contractor was to form a site entrance and a compound c.18m by 15m and this would involve the removal of topsoil and overburden if present. The remainder of the site, c.35 by 45m would also have topsoil removed. Both operations would take place under archaeological supervision on a continuous basis.

Results

The site was stripped of topsoil and overburden down to the chalk layer using a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket (Fig .3). The stratigraphy observed comprised topsoil, c.0.30m deep, overlying an orangey brown subsoil, c.0.20m deep. This in turn sealed a clayey chalk deposit c.0.05 which overlay the chalk natural. The depth dug to varied across the site with the majority dug to 0.50m and 0.65 in the north east corner and 0.40 in the north west corner. No archaeological features were observed during the fieldwork

It was deemed unnecessary to observe any footings or service runs being excavated, as they would only be dug through the natural chalk level.

Finds

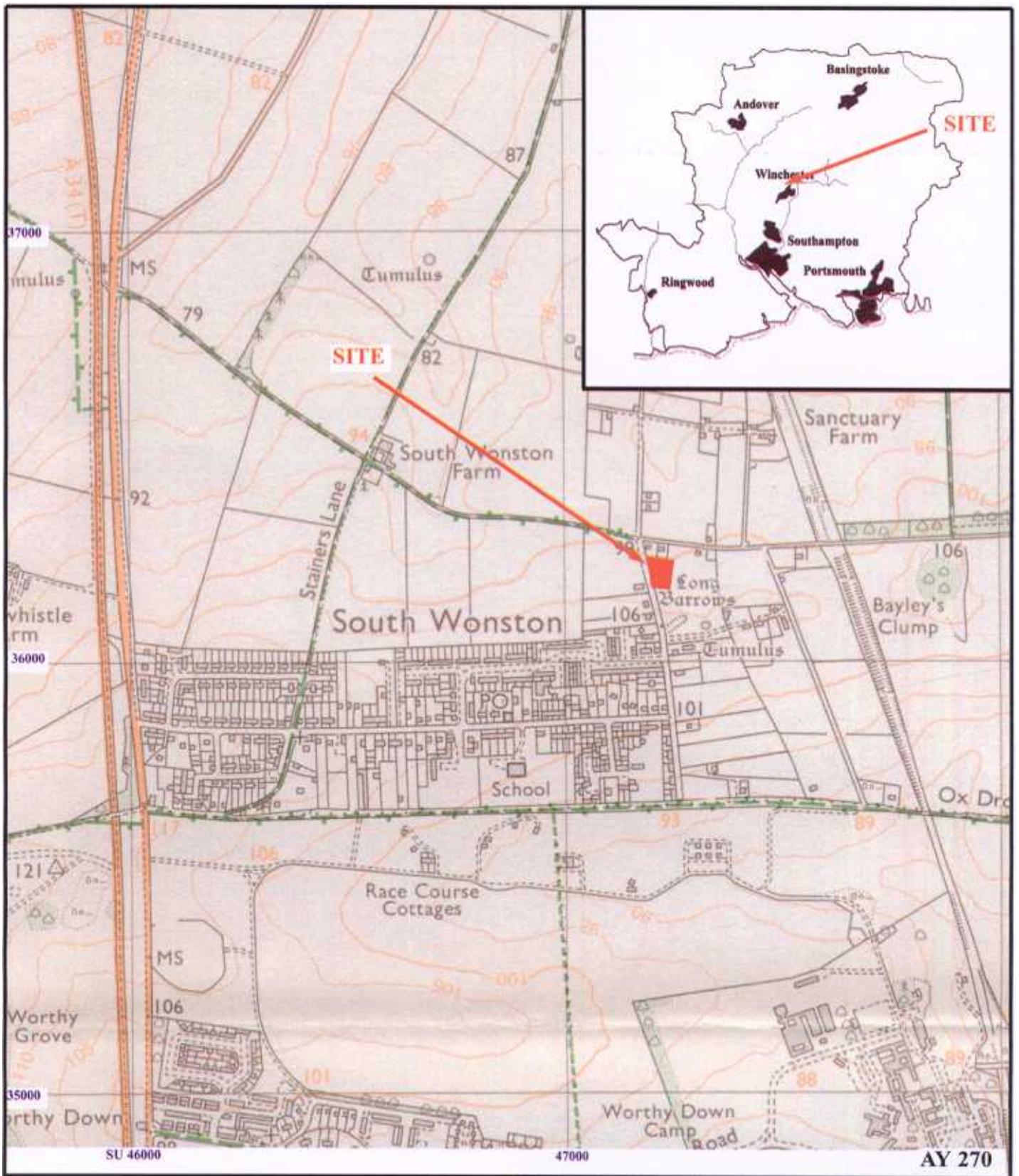
Only finds of modern brick and tile were observed in the topsoil. None of which were retained.

Conclusion

Despite the site's close proximity to known archaeological monuments and features no further archaeological deposits or finds were observed during the course of the watching brief.

References

- BGS, 1975, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 299, Drift Edition, Keyworth
Margary, I D, 1955, *Roman Roads in Britain*, London
PPG 16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO

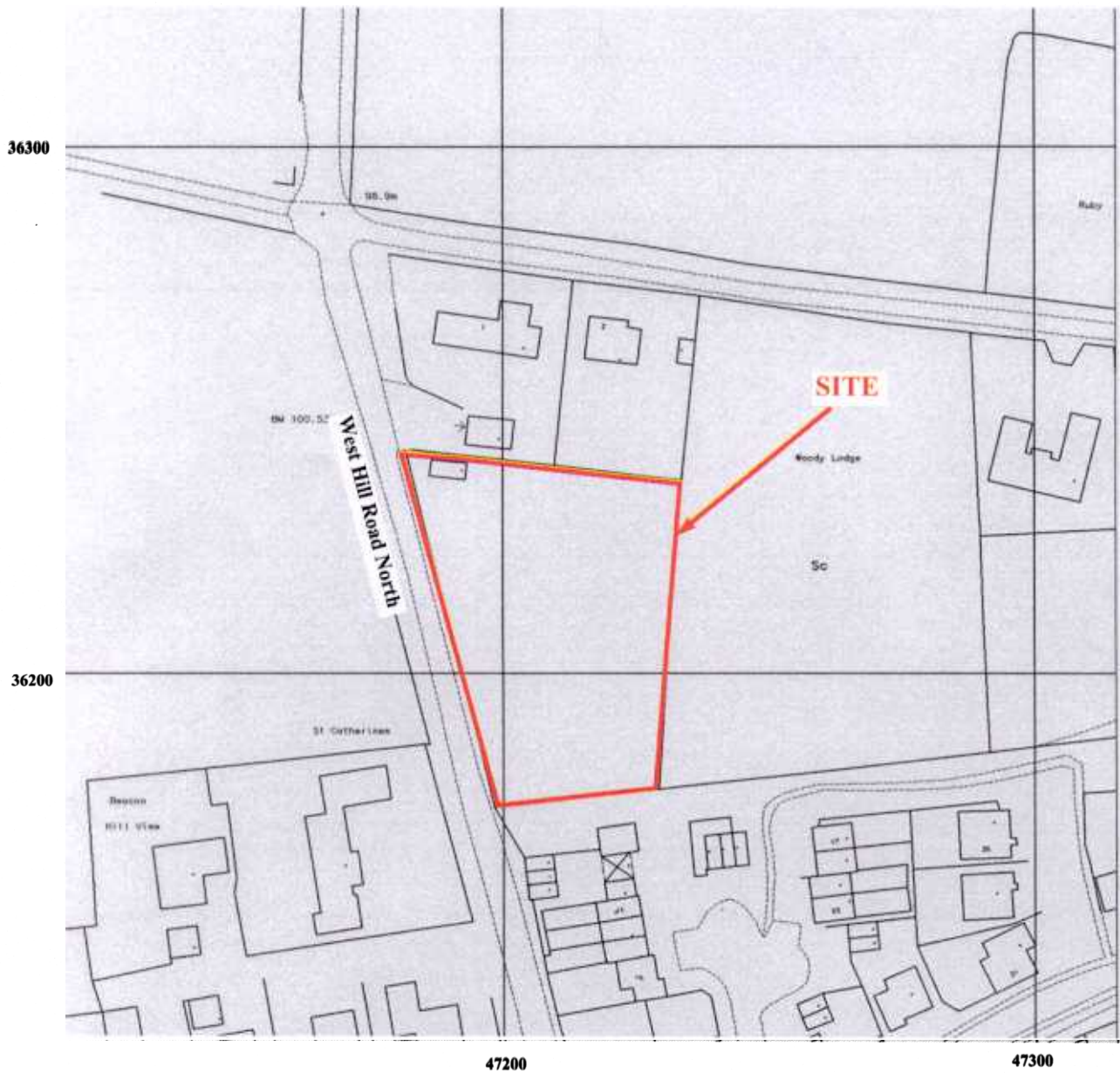


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Figure 1. Location of site within South Wonston and Hampshire.

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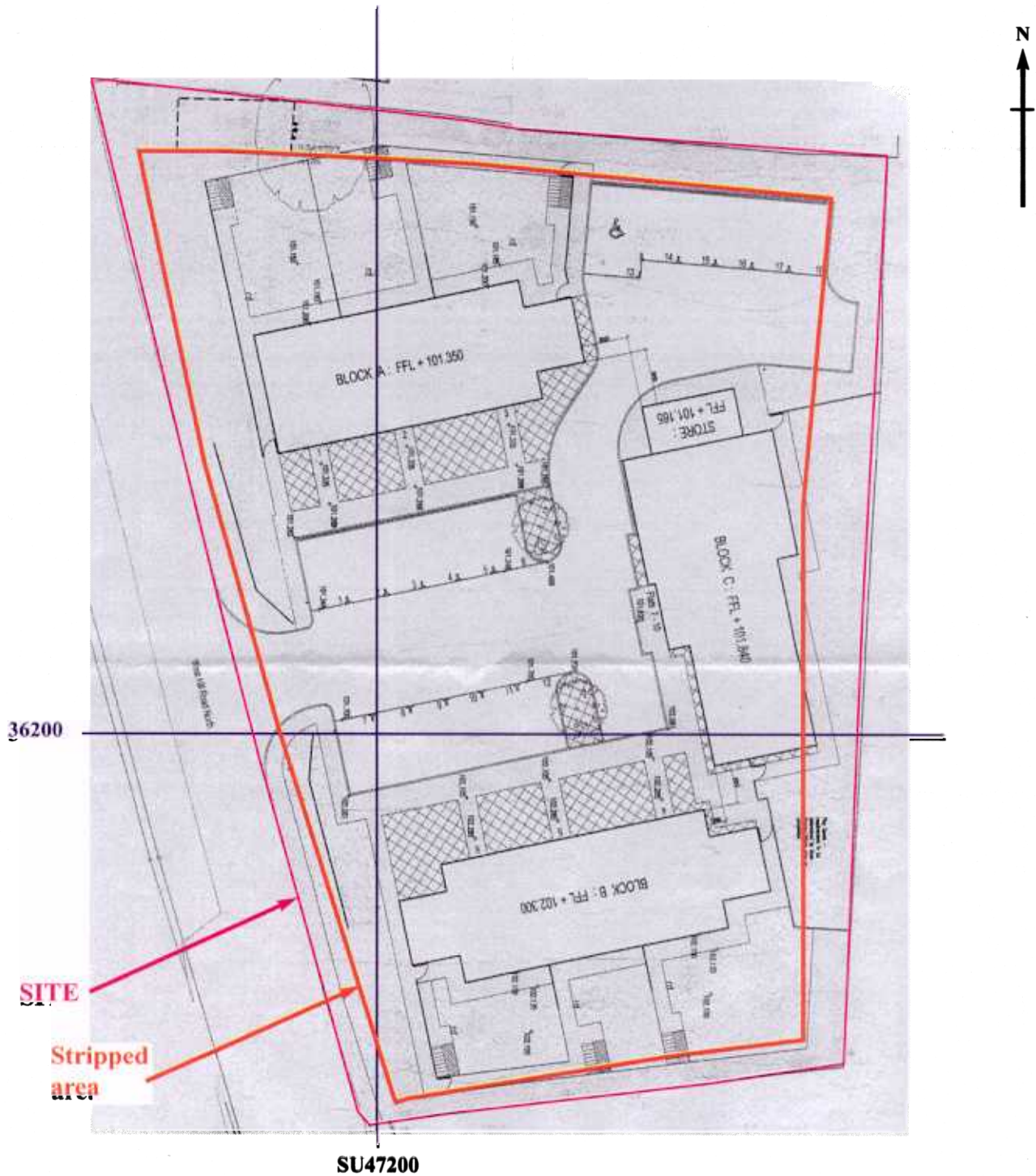
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Figure 2. Location of site within South Wonston.

Scale: 1:1250

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Figure 3. Areas of groundworks observed
in watching brief.

Scale: 1:250

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