

**Land at Mill House, 17 Mill Road,  
Denmead, Hampshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
for Wilson Designer Homes Ltd**

By Sean Wallis  
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code AY285

**June 2006**

## Summary

**Site name:** Land at Mill House, 17 Mill Road, Denmead, Hampshire

**Grid reference:** SU 6640 1170

**Site activity:** Field Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 5th June 2006

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Sean Wallis

**Site code:** AY285

**Area of site:** 0.27ha

**Summary of results:** Apart from a small section of wall, which probably relates to the 19th-century mill, no archaeological finds or features were recorded.

**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 in due course, with accession code AY285.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 15.06.06 Steve Preston✓ 15.06.06
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# Land at Mill House, 17 Mill Road, Denmead, Hampshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Sean Wallis

Report 06/21

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at 17 Mill Road, Denmead, Hampshire (SU 6640 1170) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Bryan Jezeph of Bryan Jezeph Consultancy, The Gallery, 3 South Street, Titchfield, Hampshire, PO14 4DL, on behalf of Wilson Designer Homes Ltd, PO Box 305, Waterlooville, Hampshire, PO7 9AR.

Planning permission (05/02568/FUL) has been granted by Winchester City Council to construct 10 new houses on the site. This consent is subject to a condition (17) relating to archaeology, requiring a programme of archaeological work to mitigate the impact of the proposed development on any archaeological remains that may be present. In the first instance this involves an evaluation to ascertain if any archaeology is present. A requirement for any further fieldwork would be dependent upon the results of the evaluation.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the City Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Tracy Matthews, Winchester City Council Sites and Monuments Officer. The fieldwork was undertaken by Paul Sanderson and Sean Wallis on 5th June 2006 and the TVAS project code is MDH06/21. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Winchester Museum Service in due course, with accession code AY285.

## Location, topography and geology

The site lies to the south-east of the historic settlement of Denmead, on the west side of Mill Road. The proposed area of development currently forms part of the gardens of Mill House (Fig. 2) and is surrounded by residential properties. According to the British Geological Survey, the underlying geology consists of Reading Beds (BGS 1998), and the geology revealed in the five trenches excavated actually consisted of orange brown sandy clay with frequent flint and gravel inclusions. The site lies at a height of approximately 45m above Ordnance Datum.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a project brief prepared by Ms Tracy Matthews. In summary, the site lies to the south-east of the historic hamlet of Denmead, which was formerly known as Barn Green. The origins of Denmead are unclear but may be within the medieval period. Recent fieldwork has located an Iron Age cremation cemetery on the south-western margin of Denmead, along with evidence of prehistoric settlement and Roman industrial activity. The site was previously occupied by an early 19th-century mill complex, of which Mill House is the only building still standing (Matthews 2006).

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development. Specific research aims of the project are :

To determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;

To determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present;

To determine if deposits of Iron Age or Roman date are present.

To achieve these aims it was proposed to excavate five trenches, each 15m long and 1.6m wide, using a JCB type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under continuous archaeological supervision. If any features of archaeological, or potentially archaeological, interest were present, the trenches were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools, and the features planned and sufficient of the excavated to satisfy the aims of the project. This was to take place in such a manner as not to jeopardize any remains which might better be investigated under the conditions of full excavation. All spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds.

A number of trenches had to be shifted slightly from their original intended positions, due to the presence of trees, a pond, and areas of the garden which could possibly contain reptiles (Fig. 3). As a result, it was not possible to excavate all the trenches to their full intended length of 15m. Ms Matthews approved these slight variations from the intended scheme of investigation.

A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

## **Results**

Five trenches were excavated. In general, the topsoil and subsoil deposits revealed were similar in all five trenches, as was the underlying geology.

#### Trench 1

This trench was aligned NE–SW. It was shifted slightly south westwards from its original intended position, due to the presence of a pond, and as a result could only be dug to a length of 8.4m. Up to 0.35m of topsoil overlay a deposit of greyish brown silty sand subsoil, which was about 0.2m thick and contained frequent gravel and flint inclusions. This lay directly above the natural orange brown sandy clay with flints. No archaeological finds or features were noted.

#### Trench 2 (Plate 1)

Trench 2 was aligned approximately east–west, and was 13.5m long. Topsoil, up to 0.2m thick, overlay about 0.2m of subsoil, which lay directly above the natural clay with flints. There were no archaeological finds or features observed.

#### Trench 3 (Plate 2)

Trench 3 was 14.7m long and aligned north–south. Turf and topsoil, up to 0.25m thick, overlay about 0.25m of subsoil, which lay directly above the natural geology. This generally consisted of clay with flints, although a patch of clean yellow clay was observed at the southern end of the trench. No archaeological finds or features were recorded in this trench.

#### Trench 4

This trench was moved slightly from its original intended position, due to the presence of trees. The trench was aligned approximately NW–SE, and was 16m long. Up to 0.2m of turf and topsoil were removed to reveal a layer of subsoil, about 0.2m thick. This lay directly above the natural clay with flints, although a small patch of clean yellow clay was observed at the southern end of the trench (Fig. 4). Apart from a modern field drain, no archaeological finds or features were present.

#### Trench 5

The position of this trench was shifted to avoid the flint built wall of a partially demolished outbuilding. The trench was 12.5m long and aligned approximately NE–SW. A small section of flint built wall, about 0.35m wide, was uncovered immediately below the topsoil at the south-western end of the trench. This presumably relates to the 19th-century mill complex which previously occupied this part of the site, and was not excavated or recorded in detail. The stratigraphy of the rest of the trench consisted of 0.4m of topsoil onto about 0.35m of made ground (possibly demolition rubble), which lay directly above the natural clay with flints. A modern field drain was present in the northern half of the trench.

## **Finds**

No archaeological finds were recovered during the field evaluation.

## **Conclusion**

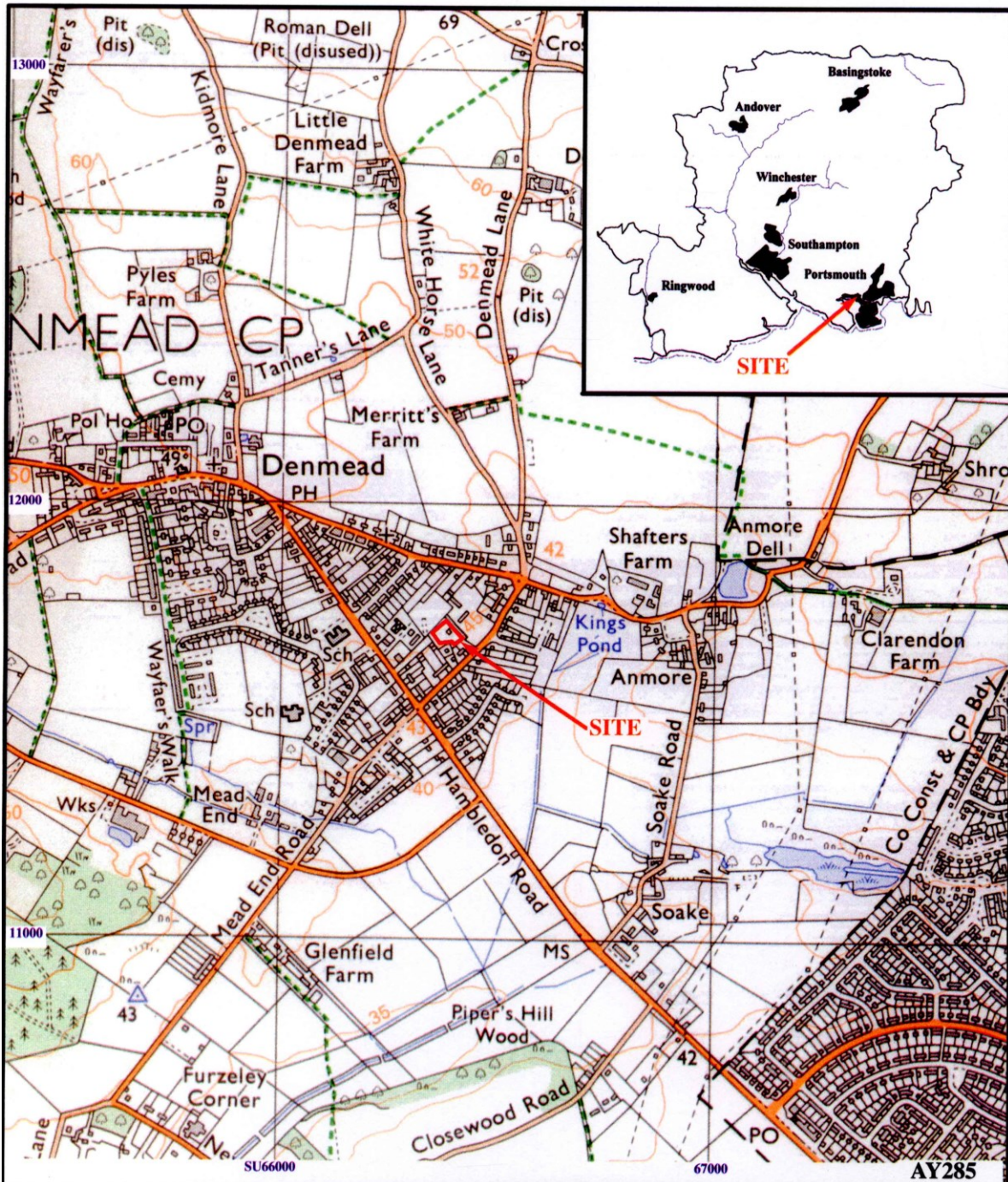
Apart from a small section of wall, which probably relates to the 19th-century mill complex which previously occupied the site, no archaeological finds or features were encountered during the field evaluation. On the basis of these results the site has no archaeological potential.

## **References**

BGS, 1998, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 316, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth  
Matthews, T, 2006, 'Mill House, 17 Mill Lane, Denmead, Hampshire – brief for archaeological field evaluation',  
Winchester  
PPG16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO

**APPENDIX 1: Trench details**

<i>Trench No.</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	8.4	1.6	0.75	0-0.35m topsoil onto 0.35-0.55m subsoil onto natural clay with gravel. No archaeology.
2	13.5	1.6	0.55	0-0.2m topsoil onto 0.2-0.4m subsoil onto natural clay with gravel. No archaeology. <b>[Plate 1]</b> .
3	14.7	1.6	0.55	0-0.25m turf and topsoil onto 0.25-0.5m subsoil onto natural clay with gravel. No archaeology. <b>[Plate 2]</b> .
4	16.0	1.6	0.55	0-0.2m turf and topsoil onto 0.2-0.4m subsoil onto natural clay with gravel. No archaeology.
5	12.5	1.6	0.75	0-0.4m topsoil onto 0.4-0.75m made ground (demolition rubble) onto natural clay with gravel. No archaeology apart from probable 19th-century wall.



**Land at Mill House, 17 Mill Road, Denmead,  
Hampshire, 2006  
An Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Denmead and Hampshire.

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# Land at Mill House, 17 Mill Road, Denmead, Hampshire, 2006



Figure 2. Location of Site

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# Land at Mill House, 17 Mill Road, Denmead, Hampshire, 2006

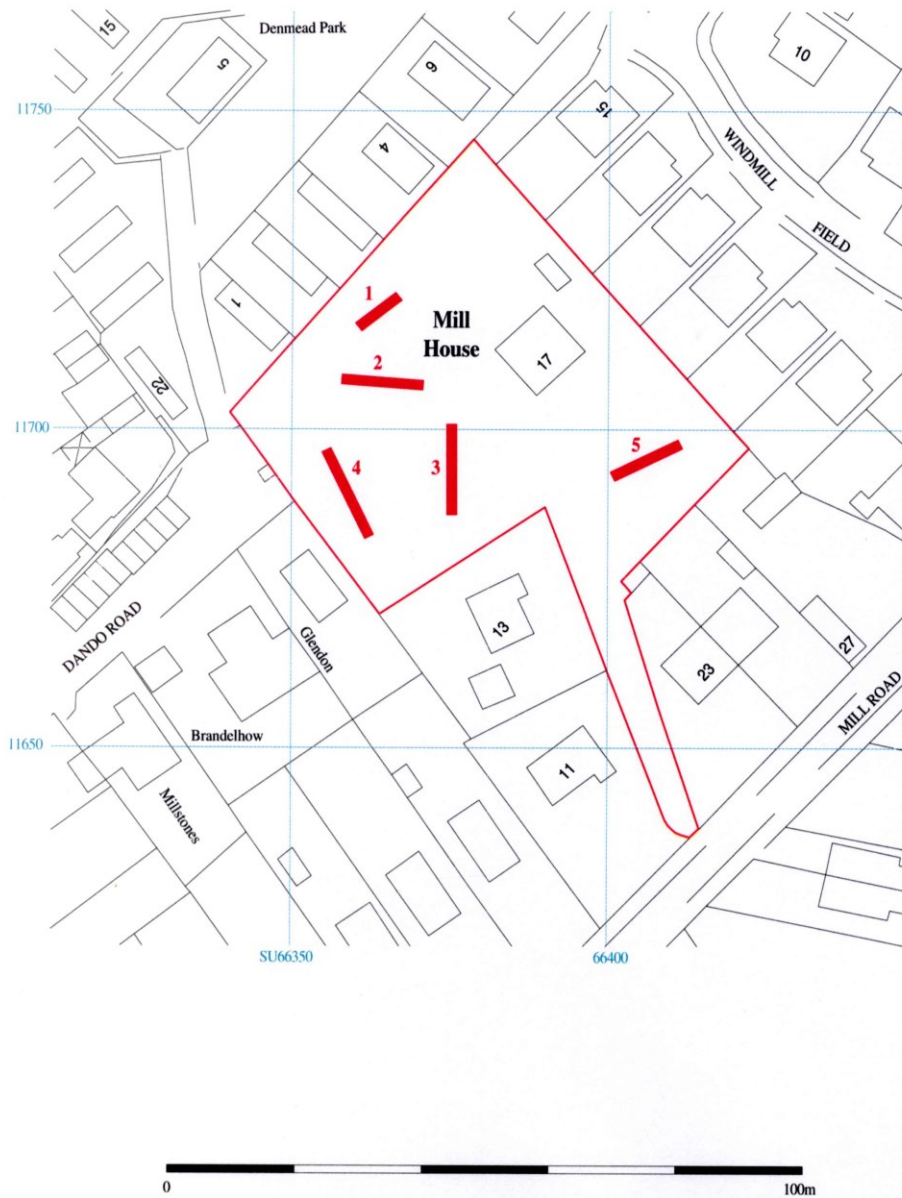


Figure 3. Location of Trenches

# Land at Mill House, 17 Mill Road, Denmead, Hampshire, 2006

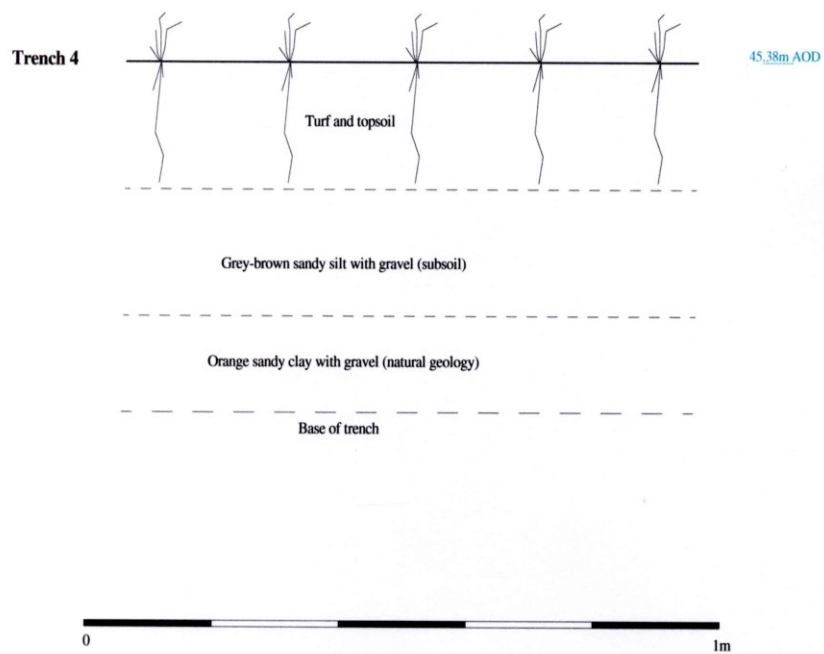


Figure 4. Representative section

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Plate 1. Trench 2 looking east, scales 1m and 2m.



Plate 2. Trench 3 looking south, scales 1m and 2m.