

T H A M E S V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Wingreen, Poulton Hill,
Marlborough, Wiltshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Pierre-Damien Manisse and Andrew Muddin

Site Code: WPH19/05

(SU 1928 6952)

Wingreen, Poulton Hill, Marlborough, Wiltshire

An Archaeological Watching Brief

for Mr Tim Jones

By Pierre-Damien Manisse and Andrew Mundin

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code WPH 19/06

November 2019

Summary

Site name: Wingreen, Poulton Hill, Marlborough, Wiltshire

Grid reference: SU 1928 6952

Site activity: Archaeological Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 25th January – 19th November 2019

Project coordinator: Danielle Milbank

Site supervisor: Pierre-Damian Manisse, Anne-Michelle Huvig

Site code: WPH 19/05

Area of site: c. 700 sq m

Summary of results: Observations were undertaken on new access areas for a new adjacent dwelling. Areas were stripped of overburden but no archaeological deposits were located.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Wiltshire Museum, Devizes in due course.

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by Pierre-Damien Manisse and Andrew Muddin

Report 19/05

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief in the garden to the south-west of Wingreen, Poulton Hill, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 1AZ (SU 5809 8591) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Tim Jones, the home owner.

Planning permission (16/09492/FUL) has been granted by Wiltshire Council to construct a new house adjacent to Wingreen. The consent is subject to a condition (7) relating to archaeology which requires a watching brief to be carried out during groundworks. This was in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the Council's policies on archaeology. The work was undertaken in accordance with a specification based on a brief prepared by Ms Rachel Foster, Assistant County Archaeologist for Wiltshire Council. The watching brief was undertaken by Pierre-Damian Manisse and Anne-Michelle Huvig between 25th January and 19th November 2019 by. The site code is WPH 19/05.

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

Location, topography and geology

The site is located in the north-east part of Marlborough, near the junction of Poulton Hill and Tin Pit (Fig. 1). The site is located in the midst of a residential area (Fig. 2) and is substantially higher than the lowered road, which slopes downhill towards the River Og. Poulton Hill crosses the River Og just north of the point it joins the River Kennet, approximately 500m to the east within the valley base. The natural geology is mapped as Head deposits (BGS 1974). The site lies at a height of *c.*138-140m above Ordnance Datum (OD), with the access off Tin Pit, 2-3m lower than the site.

Archaeological background

Marlborough is a market town on the River Kennet and is in the wider environs of the Wessex Downs, including the Marlborough Downs which has extensive archaeological deposits. A Roman burial and pottery were recovered from Tin Pit, close to the site, and a general scatter of Roman coins and pottery has been found across the town (VCH 1983). There is scant evidence of Saxon archaeology in the town (McMahon 2004, 20), even though it has been argued that the town was established in the early 10th century (Haslam 1984, 98). The town has at least Early Medieval origins to the south-west, located at 'the Mount', the site of an early 12th century motte of Henry I (McMahon 2004, 11), which is a Scheduled Monument (SAM 10012349). Marlborough was a royal demesne in the 12th century, and King John granted the market charter in 1204 (VCH 1983).

The site off Poulton Hill is located in the north-east suburb of the 13th century planned town, known as St Martin's after a church with that dedication built in 1239-40. It was demolished in the 16th century (McMahon 2004, 23). The nearby road of St Martins is lined with 18th-century terraces. According to Brentnall, the town borough ditch was once visible adjacent to Stonebridge Lane (VCH 1983), south-west of the site. Development was thought to extend beyond this borough ditch after the 16th century, when the extinct parish was subsumed into the borough (VCH 1983).

The homeowner reported that when Wingreen was originally purchased, there was an Anderson shelter on the west side of the garden.

Objectives and methodology

The aims of the project were to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. The involved examination of all areas of intrusive groundworks, in particular overburden removal and ground reduction and, if it had been necessary, the digging of foundation trenches for the new building and any service runs. This included the systematic removal of overburden deposits within the footprint of the new building to the archaeologically-relevant level prior to the excavation of footing trenches.

Results (Fig. 3)

Ground reduction

Access road (Pls 1 and 2)

The concrete access road north-east of the house leading to the former garage to the rear of the property had already been removed before attendance. Ground reduction then entailed the removal of topsoil and/or subsoil to

a depth of 0.45m. Where the concrete drive was laid, between 0.10m and 0.15m of brown clayey silt with frequent gravel was excavated but did not expose natural geology (Pl. 1). The deepest excavation occurred to the south-east of the former garage, between it and the house, with an area of c. 115 sq m for the access, stripped to natural geology (Pl. 2). This created a terrace for the access to the north-west and south-west of the existing house (Fig.3). This exposed level was grey silt clay with moderate pieces of chalk inclusions within its matrix. This horizon was not a clean strip, which meant it was difficult to see contrasts in the deposit exposed. The spoilheaps were checked for finds, but no material of archaeological interest was observed.

Proposed house footprint (Fig. 3)

Ground reduction was observed over the footprint of the proposed new house. This excavation stripped off 0.4m of overburden comprising topsoil overlying minimal subsoil covering chalk geology (Fig.3, Pls 3 and 4). No archaeological deposits were exposed, and no finds were observed during the strip. Further terracing of the ground into the natural geology for the new house platform was to take place.

Finds

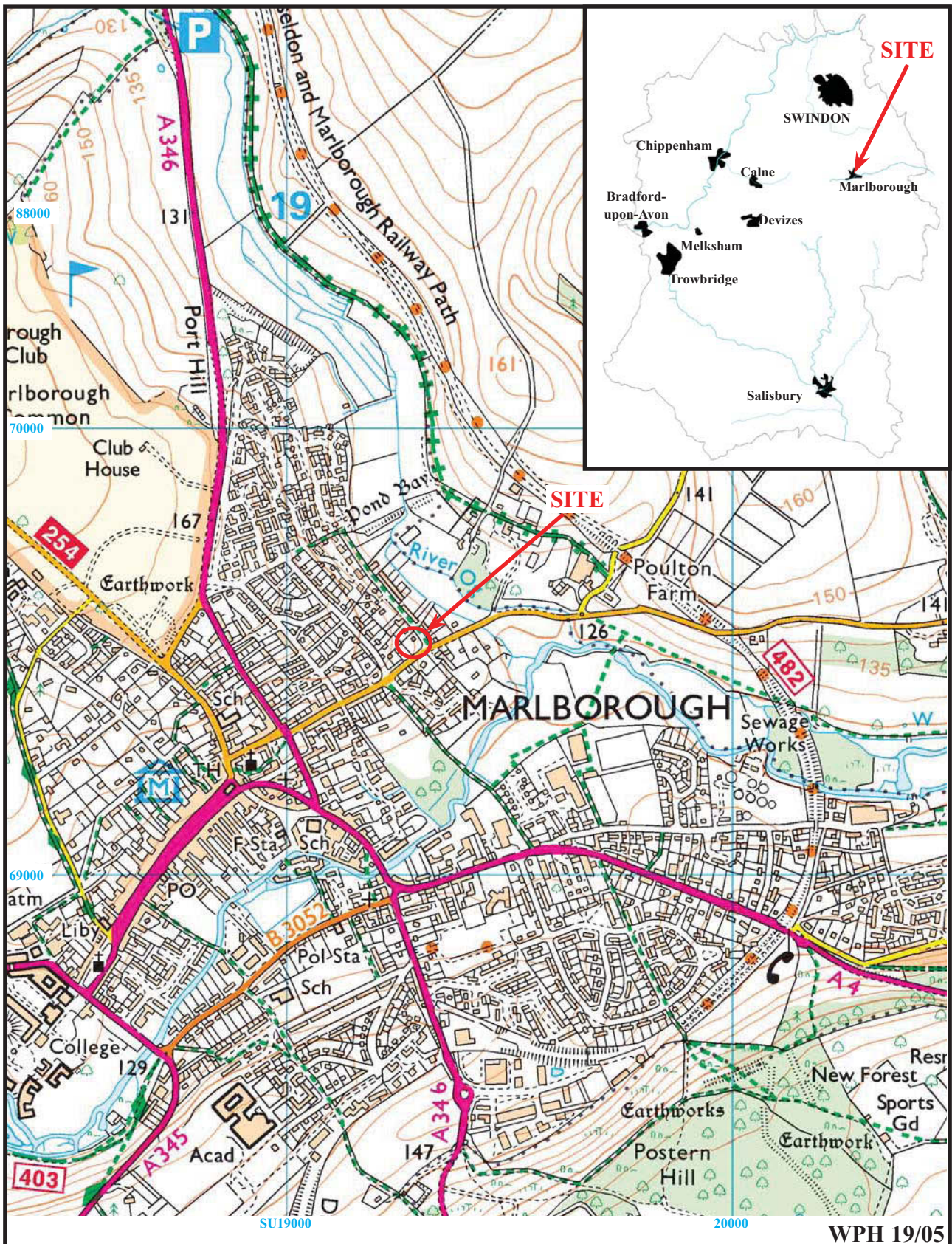
No finds of archaeological interest were encountered.

Conclusion

The observations undertaken to form the new access area and terrace for the new dwelling adjacent to Wingreen were monitored but no archaeological deposits or artefacts of archaeological interest finds were located.

References

- BGS, 1974, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 266 (Marlborough), Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Haslam, G, 1984, *Anglo-Saxon Towns in Southern England*, Southampton
- McMahon, P, 2004, 'Marlborough: The Archaeology of Wiltshire's Towns, An Extensive Urban Survey', Wiltshire Council
- NPPF, 2012, Dept for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework*, London
- VCH, 1983, 'The borough of Marlborough'. In D Crowley (ed) *A History of the County of Wiltshire: Vol. 12: Ramsbury and Selkley Hundreds: the borough of Marlborough*, 199-229, British History Online, <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/wilts/vol12/pp199-229> [accessed 7th June 2019]

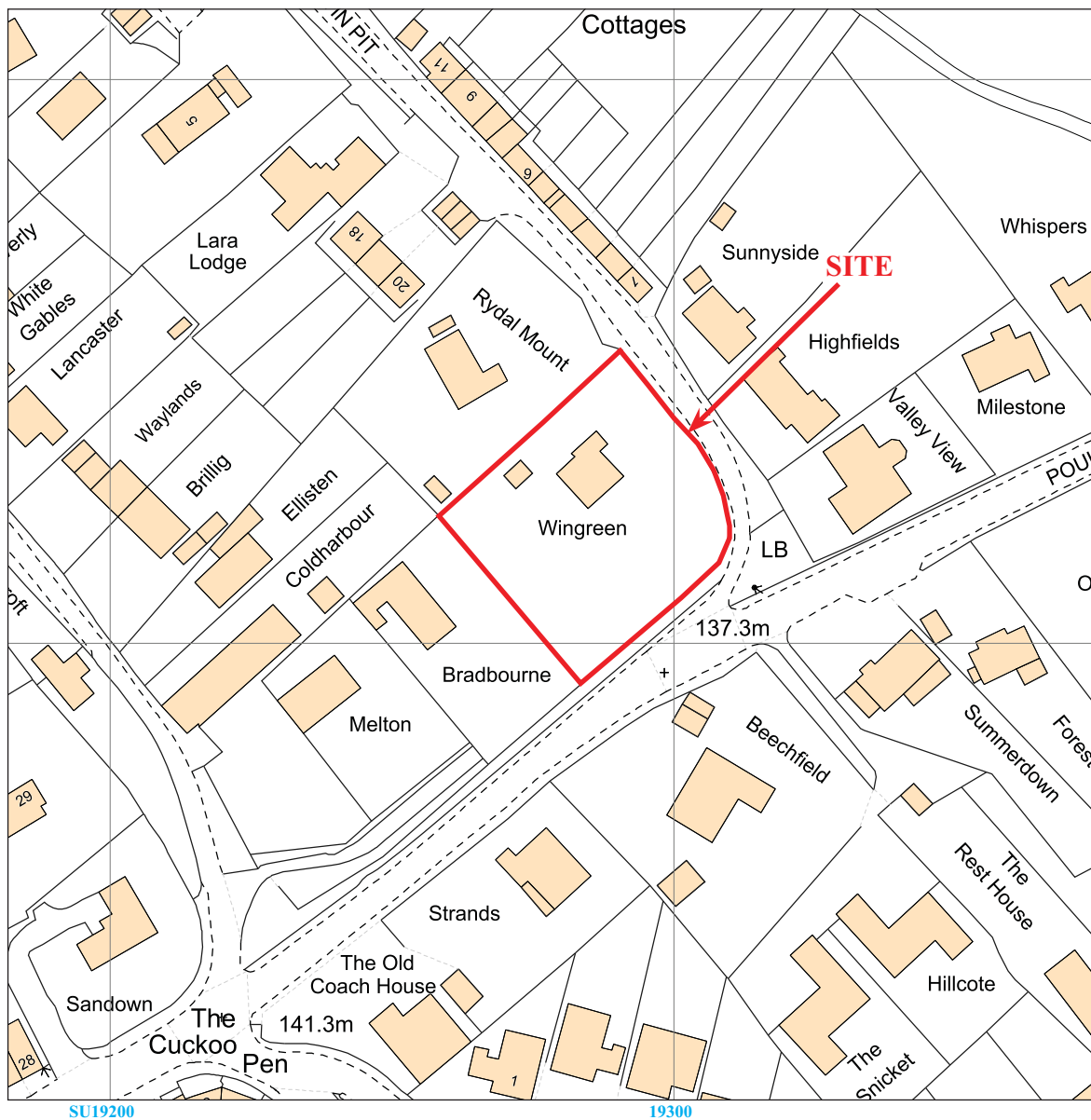


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Figure 1. Location of site within Marlborough and Wiltshire.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Poulton Hill.

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Figure 3. Location of observed areas.



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Plate 1. Ground reduction under previous concrete drive, looking south west, Scales: 1m x2.



Plate 2. Ground reduction for access to rear of existing house, looking south east, Scales: 1m x2.

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Plates 1 and 2.**

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Plate 3. Ground reduction in garden area to west, looking south west,
Scales: 1m x2.



Plate 4. Ground reduction in garden area to west, looking south west,
Scales: 1m x2.

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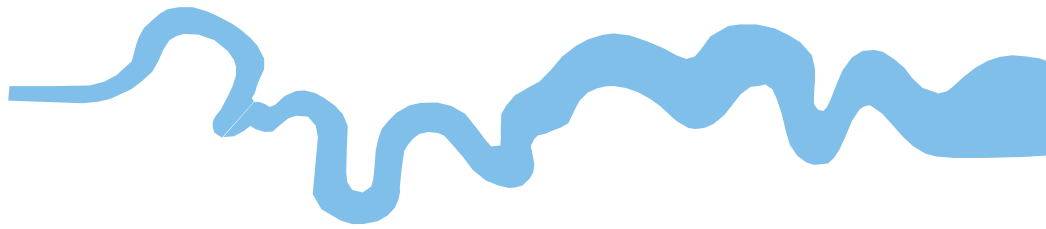
**Wingreen, Poulton Hill,
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Plates 3 and 4.**

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TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	750 BC
Bronze Age: Late _____	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle _____	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early _____	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC





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