

**T H A M E S      V A L L E Y**

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**S E R V I C E S**

**6 Westhill Close, Highworth,  
Swindon, Wiltshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**by Kyle Beaverstock**

**Site Code: WCH18/25**

**(SU 1971 9222)**

**6 Westhill Close, Highworth,  
Swindon, Wiltshire**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief  
for Mr. David Hall**

by Kyle Beaverstock

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code WCH 18/25

**March 2020**

## Summary

**Site name:** 6 Westhill Close, Highworth, Swindon, Wiltshire

**Grid reference:** SU 1971 9222

**Site activity:** Watching Brief

**Date and duration of project:** 11<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> of March 2020

**Project coordinator:** Tim Dawson

**Site supervisor:** Kyle Beaverstock and Maisie Foster

**Site code:** WCH 18/25

**Area of site:** c.0.08ha

**Summary of results:** A single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from this watching brief but no associated features were seen.

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Swindon Museum or the Archaeology Data Service in due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 31.03.20 Steve Preston ✓ 31.03.20
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# **6 Westhill Close, Highworth, Swindon, Wiltshire An Archaeological Watching Brief**

by Kyle Beaverstock

**Report 18/25**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 6 Westhill Close, Highworth, Swindon, Wiltshire. (SU 1971 9222) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by David Hall of 6 Westhill Close, Highworth, Swindon, Wiltshire. SN6 7BY.

A planning consent (S/HOU/17/1852) has been granted by Swindon Borough Council to construct a new extension at the rear of 6 Westhill Close. The consent is subject to a condition (7) relating to archaeology which requires a watching brief to be carried out during groundworks. This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the Borough's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, Senior Archaeologist for Wiltshire Council, advisor to Swindon Borough. The fieldwork was undertaken by Kyle Beaverstock and Maisie Foster between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of March 2020 and the site code is WCH 18/25.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site is located to the south west of the centre of Highworth, on the south west corner of WestHill Close (Fig. 2). This triangular parcel of land is level, at a height of 133m above Ordinance Datum. The underlying geology, as seen in the trenches, is stated as Lower Corallion Highworth Limestone and Sand (BGS 1997).

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location in an area west of the town centre where Roman pottery has been recorded in the Wiltshire Historic Environment Record. It is possible that this reflects the presence of Roman occupation deposits which may be exposed and damaged by the new extension foundations. On the northern edge of Highworth at Lechlade Road, a geophysical survey (Beaverstock 2018) and subsequent evaluation (Beaverstock 2018) showed the presence of significant Iron Age occupation.

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the works. This would involve the monitoring of areas of intrusive groundworks and the excavation of foundation and service trenches. The intrusive groundworks were to be excavated by a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket and under constant archaeological observation. Any features were to be cleaned, excavated and recorded using the appropriate hand tools.

## **Results**

### *Area strip*

The footprint of the new extension was initially stripped of turf/overburden to a depth of c. 0.15m. However, this only partly revealed the underlying subsoil and no archaeological deposits were exposed.

### *Foundation trenches*

All foundation trenches for the footprint of the proposed structure were examined monitored. The trenches observed measured 0.70m wide and were dug to a depth of c.0.6m (Fig. 3, Pls. 1 to 4). The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of topsoil, 0.38m of dark yellowish brown silty sand with frequent overlying the natural geology of Highworth Limestone and sand (Fig. 4).

## **Finds**

### *Pottery by Jane Timby*

The watching brief produced a single sherd (5 g) of Roman grey sandy ware recovered from subsoil. It is from a wheel-made closed vessel and is likely to be from the North Wiltshire pottery industry active from the later 1<sup>st</sup> century AD through into the later Roman period.

## **Conclusion**

A single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from the subsoil of the foundation trenches. However, no associated features of archaeological interest were seen.

## **References**

- Beaverstock, K, 2018, Land west of Lechlade Road, Highworth, Wiltshire, a geophysical survey (magnetic) report 17/95c, Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading
- Beaverstock, K, 2018, Land at Lechlade Road, Highworth, Wiltshire, an archaeological evaluation, report 17/95d, Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading
- BGS, 1997, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 252, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London

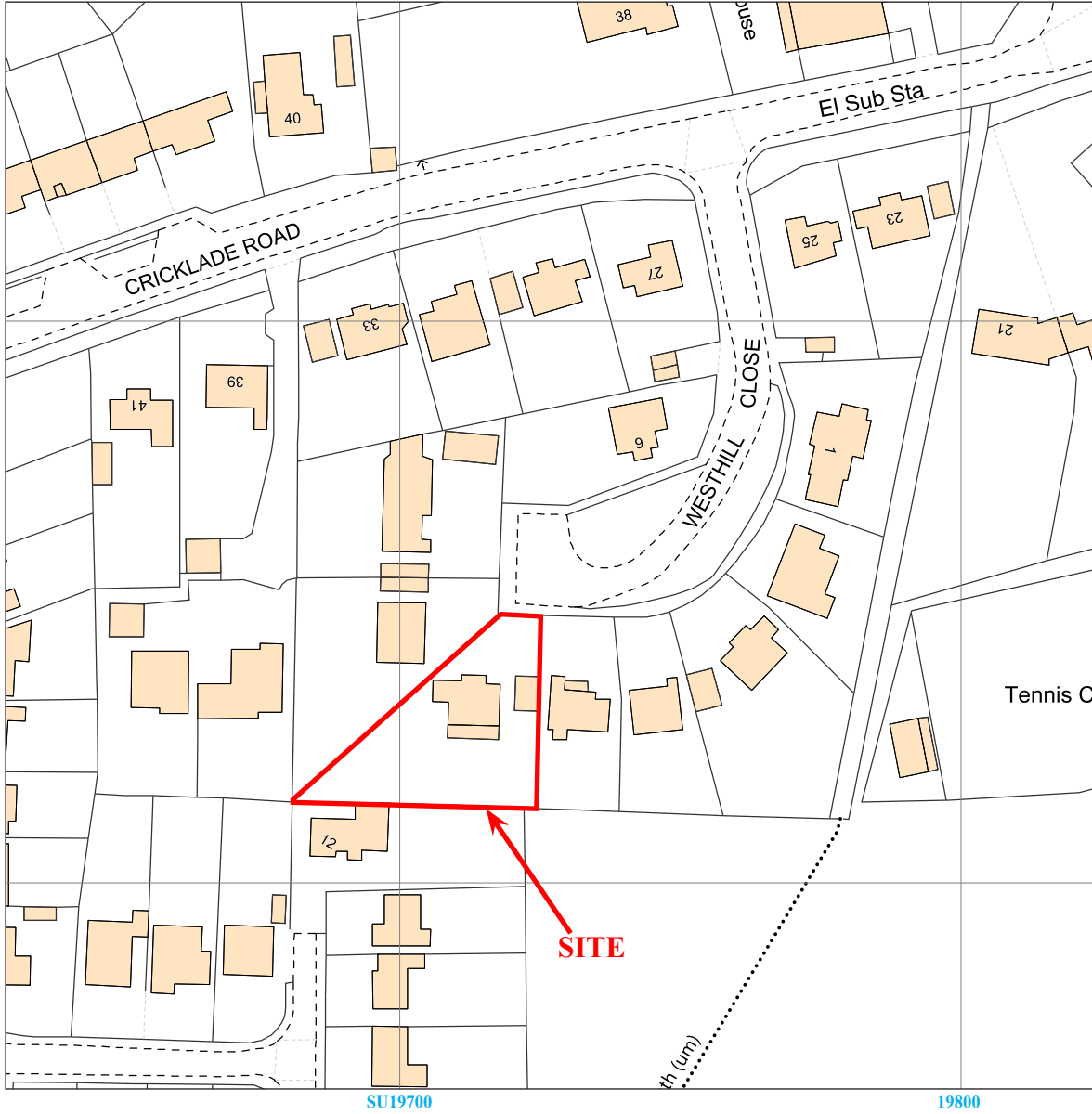


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Figure 1. Location of site within Highworth and Wiltshire.

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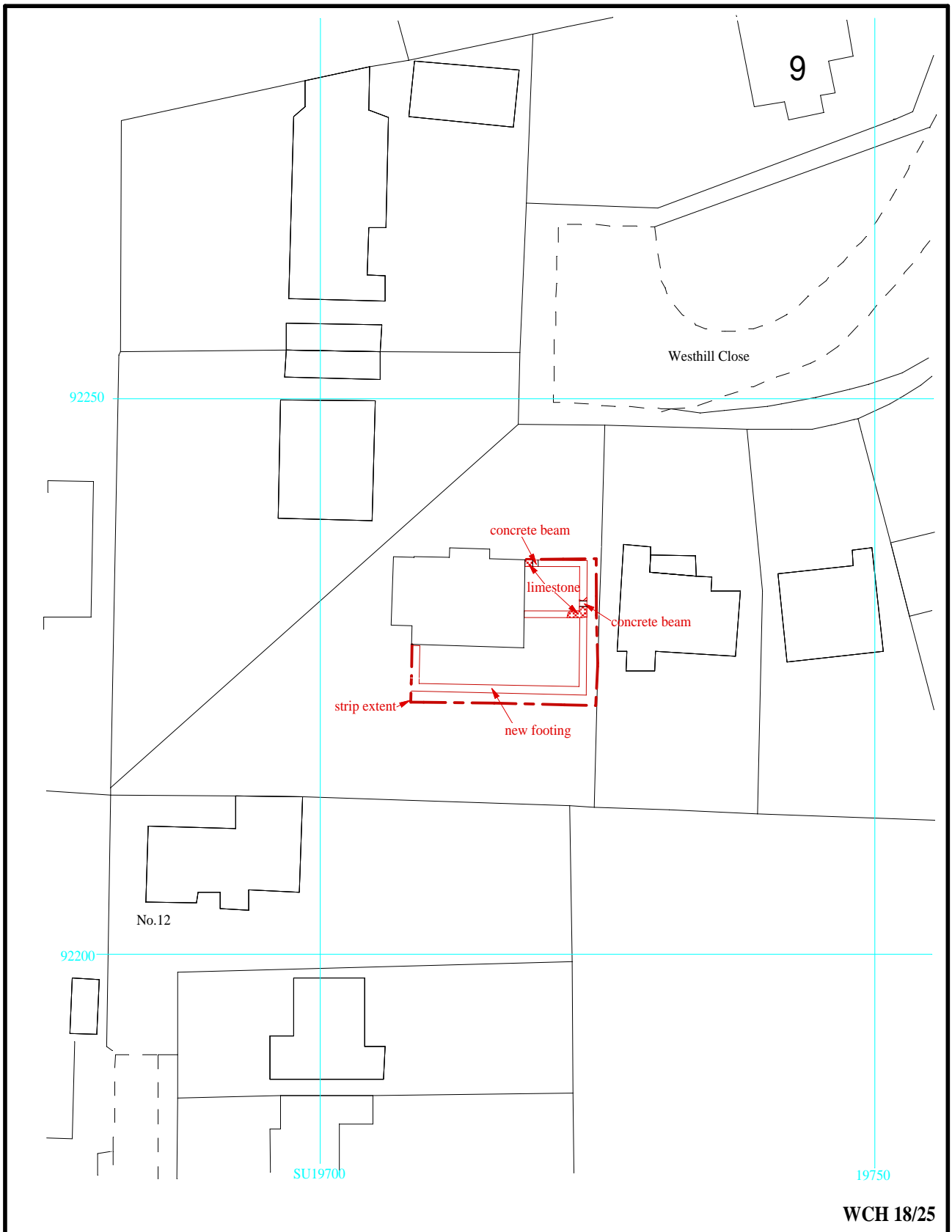


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site.**

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Figure 3. Location of observed areas.



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Topsoil

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Dark yellow/brown silty sand (subsoil)

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Limestone and sand (Natural geology)

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Figure 4. Representative section



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Plate 1. New southern footing, looking E, Scales: horizontal 1m, vertical 0.5m.



Plate 2. Representative section, looking S, Scales: 1m and 0.5m.

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Plates 1 and 2.

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Plate 3. Foundation trench, looking west, Scales: 2m and 0.5m.



Plate 4. Foundation trench, looking west, Scales: 2m and 0.5m.

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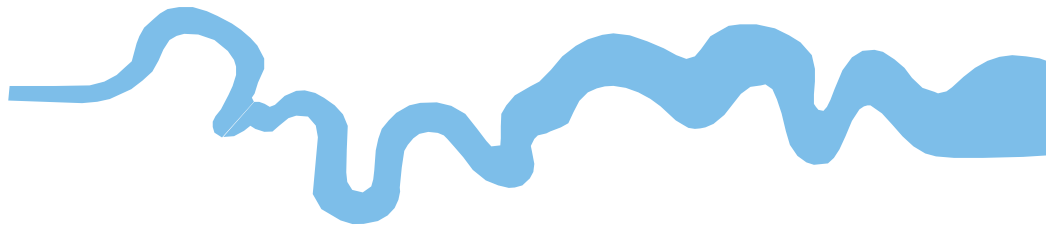
Plates 3 and 4.

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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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