

**Westhill, Hinton Parva,  
Swindon, Wiltshire**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief**

**For Mr Steve Collett**

by Natasha Bennett

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code HPS08/21

**March 2008**

## Summary

**Site name:** Westhill, Hinton Parva, Swindon, Wiltshire

**Grid reference:** SU 2223 8330

**Site activity:** Watching Brief

**Date and duration of project:** 25th February 2008

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Natasha Bennett

**Site code:** HPS 08/21

**Area of site:** c.740 sq m

**Summary of results:** No finds or deposits of archaeological significance were uncovered

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

*This report may be copied for bona fide research or planning purposes without the explicit permission of the copyright holder*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 19.03.08 Steve Preston✓ 19.03.08
---

# Westhill, Hinton Parva, Swindon, Wiltshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Natasha Bennett

Report 08/21

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out adjacent to Westhill, Hinton Parva, SU 2223 8330 (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Edward Clare of Challow Design, Unit 11A Home Farm, Ardington, Wantage on behalf of Mr Steve Collett.

Planning permission (app no: S/07/2553/NIRO) was granted by Swindon Borough Council, to demolish a bungalow and erect a two-storey dwelling partly on the same footprint. The consent was subject to a condition (9) relating to archaeology which required an archaeological watching brief to be carried out during the ground works.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and both Swindon's and Wiltshire's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, County Archaeologist for Wiltshire County council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Natasha Bennett on the 25th February 2008, and the site code is HPS 08/21.

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

## Location, topography and geology

The site is located to the west of the village of Hinton Parva on the south side of City Corner (Figs 1 and 2). It was formerly a house plot, now a building site with the former house demolished. It is located on a steep hill that rises sharply up southwards from the road and gently flattens out further to the south. The underlying geology is gault clay and upper greensand (BGS 1971).

## Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its position on the margins of Hinton Parva. The settlement is not recorded in Domesday Book but, nevertheless may have late Saxon origins. Unspecified earthworks are recorded adjacent to the site. Surviving earthworks are also known further west. A number of Roman settlements

are also recorded for the area following the spring line of the chalk escarpment, with the Roman road from Cirencester to Silchester (Ermin Way) around half a kilometre to the south-west. A building is shown on the plot on the enclosure map of 1855.

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits that would have been damaged or destroyed during the groundworks. This resulted in the monitoring of an area of overburden removal/ ground reduction for the footprint of the new building.

## **Results**

The groundworks for the new structure required a new cut into the slope of the site to the south of the demolished building to form a level platform. It was this zone which was subject to archaeological monitoring. The remaining parts of the groundworks for the new structure were sited on top of the previously demolished structure and did not require further overburden stripping.

The fieldwork comprised monitoring the stripping of a rectangular area 2.40m wide, 10.80m long and 0.72m deep was excavated by 360<sup>0</sup>-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket on the southern margin of the site (Fig. 3). The stratigraphy removed and recorded was topsoil 0.60m deep, which was a mid grey brown clay silt containing some demolition rubble, overlying the natural geology, a grey green sandy clay which was removed to a depth of 0.72m below present ground level (Fig. 4).

A test pit was dug in the north-west corner through the natural geology to a depth of 2m below the present ground level and the proposed depth of the footprint and this revealed undisturbed geological strata.

## **Finds**

No finds were recovered.

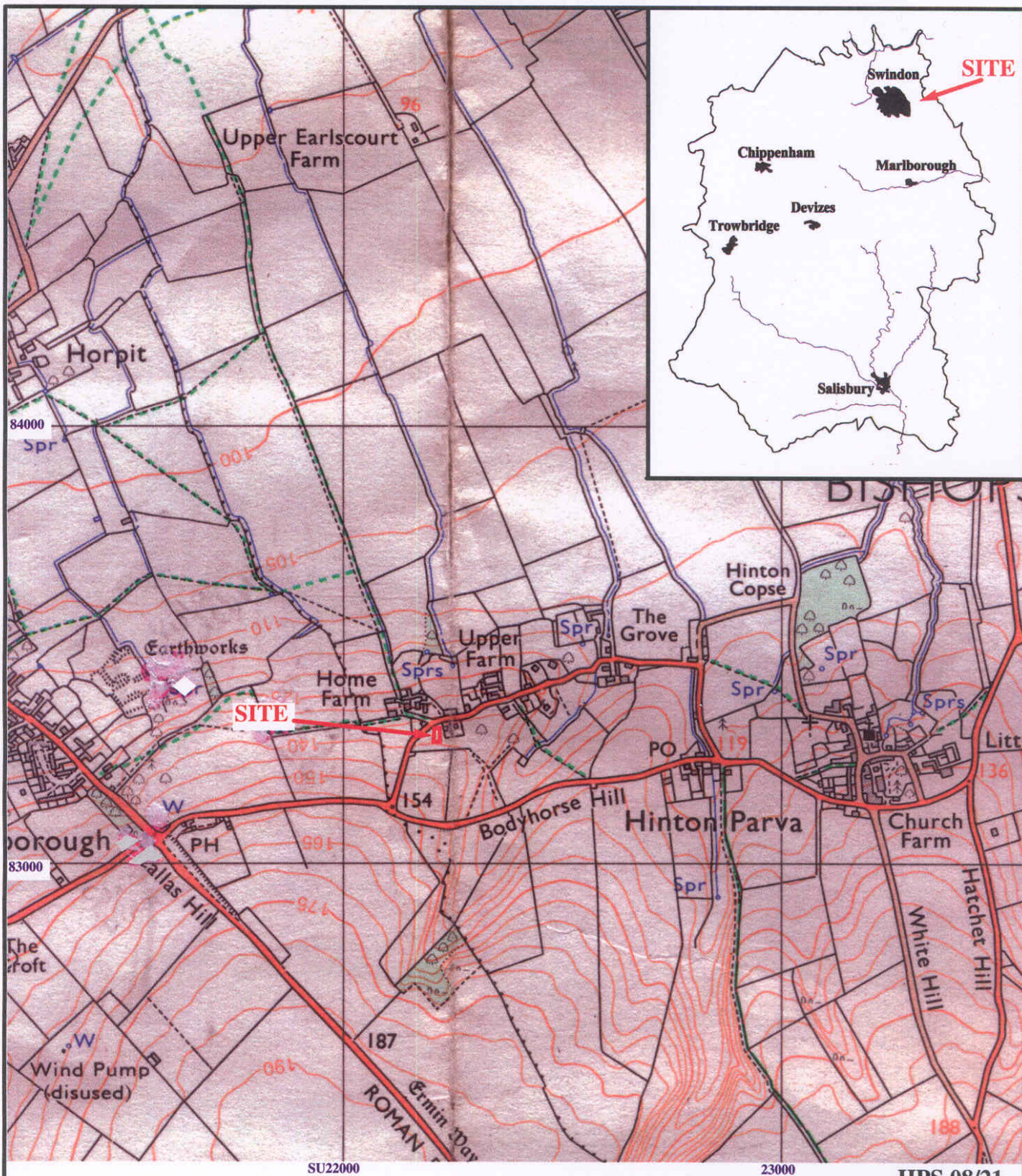
## **Conclusion**

No archaeological features or artefacts were discovered during the fieldwork.

## **References**

BGS, 1971, *British Geological Survey*, 1:63360, Sheet 253, Drift Edition, Keyworth  
PPG 16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO





**Westhill, Hinton Parva, Swindon  
Wiltshire, 2008  
Archaeological Watching Brief**

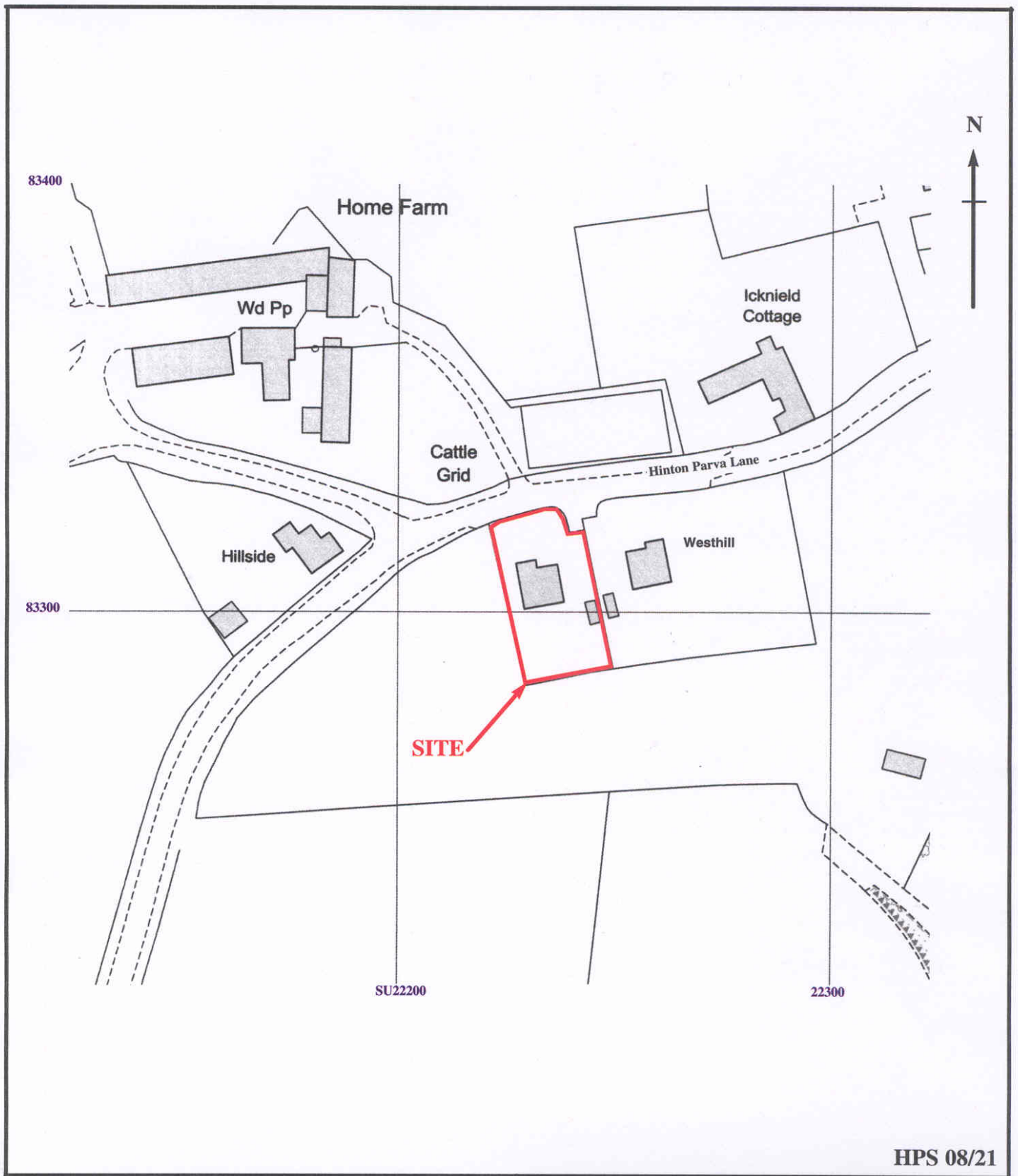
Figure 1. Location of site within Hinton Parva and Wiltshire.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Pathfinder SU 28/38 at 1:12500  
Ordnance Survey Licence 100025880

THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES

HPS 08/21





HPS 08/21

**Westhill, Hinton Parva, Swindon,  
Wiltshire 2008  
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 2. Detailed location of site in Hinton Parva.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Digital  
mapping under licence.  
Scale 1:1250

T H A M E S   V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

# Westhill, Hinton Parva, Swindon, Wiltshire, 2008



Figure 3. Location of area observed during watching brief.

# Westhill, Hinton Parva, Swindon, Wiltshire 2008

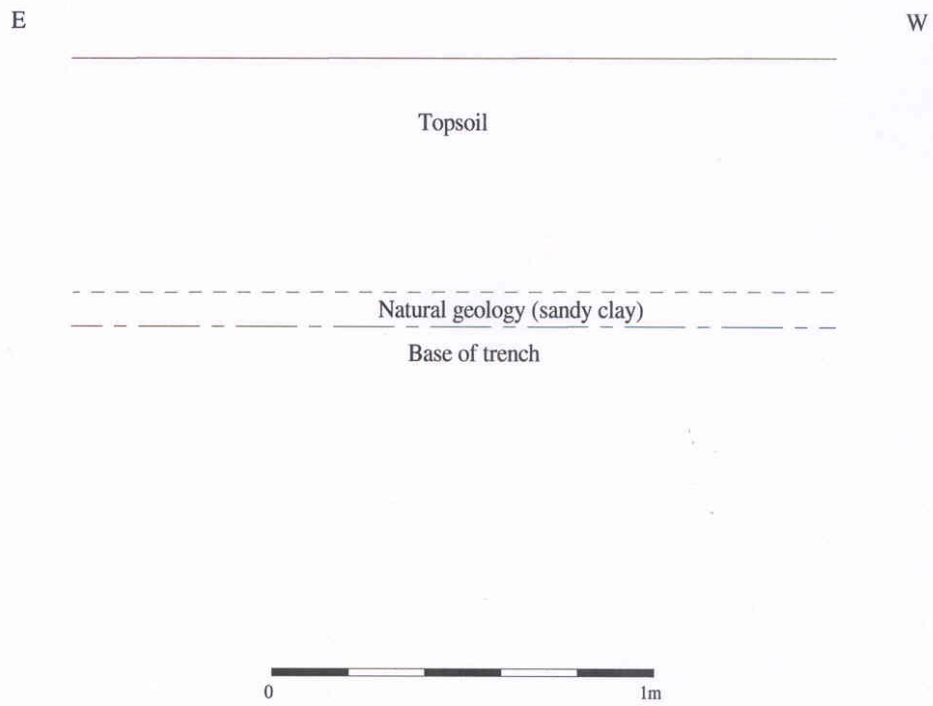


Figure 4 Representative Section