

New Salt Store Depot, High Post, Salisbury, Wiltshire

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
For Wiltshire County Council**

by Susan Colley
Thames Valley Archaeological Services
Ltd

Site Code HPA 09/54

August 2009

Summary

Site name: New Salt Store Depot, High Post, Salisbury, Wiltshire

Grid reference: SU 1477 3652

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 28th July to 13th August 2009

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: James Lewis, Natasha Bennett, Susan Colley

Site code: HPA 09/54

Area of site: 0.7ha hectare

Summary of results: No finds nor deposits of archaeological interest were found

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

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New Salt Store Depot, High Post, Salisbury, Wiltshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Susan Colley

Report 09/54

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at New Salt Depot, High Post Wiltshire (SU 1477 3652) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Chris Haire of Provelio Limited, The Meeting House, Lewins Mead, Bristol, BS1 2NN, on behalf of Wiltshire Council.

Planning consent (S/2008/8002) has been granted by Wiltshire Council to construct a new salt depot at High Post, Salisbury, Wiltshire subject to a condition relating to archaeology which required a watching brief to take place during groundwork.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Helena Cave-Penney, Assistant County Archaeologist. The fieldwork was undertaken by James Lewis, Natasha Bennett, and Susan Colley between 28th July and 13th August 2009 and the site code is HPA 09/54.

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

Location, topography and geology

The site is located to the west of the A345, at High Post, which is to the north of Salisbury and south of Amesbury (Fig. 1). The site lies immediately west of existing facilities and is in a field under a recently harvested crop. The field slopes gently from east to west at a height of approximately 126m above Ordnance Datum (Fig. 2). The underlying geology is mapped as clay-with-flints capping Upper Chalk, (BGS 1976) but in fact this mostly comprised chalk, which was observed across the whole site but with some with peri-glacial striping and some clayey patches.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a brief prepared by Ms Helena Cave-Penney assistant County Archaeologist for Wiltshire Council, drawing on information from aerial photography in the

area (Cave-Penney 2009). The site lies in an area where aerial photography has identified remnants of field systems. Features of prehistoric date have been recorded on the other (east) side of the A345; these include a Bronze Age Barrow and possible Iron Age enclosures. To the north-west on the Chemring site further Iron Age settlement has been found. A former airfield is known to have existed to the rear of the High Post Inn and the site lies within this area.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. This was to involve examination of all areas of intrusive groundworks following the removal of topsoil and subsoil.

Results

The area of the proposed site comprised a rectangular plot of about 0.7ha (Fig. 3). The overburden was stripped with a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket under constant archaeological supervision. The stripping took place in two phases with a short interval between.

The stratigraphy revealed above the natural geology (chalk) was shallow and comprised just topsoil 0.26m thick (Pl. 1). No subsoil was present. This topsoil stripping revealed no features of archaeological interest. A modern water pipe identified running roughly north-west to south-east across the site was the only cut feature observed.

Finds

The only artefacts observed during the overburden stripping comprised modern metal finds. These were not retained.

Conclusion

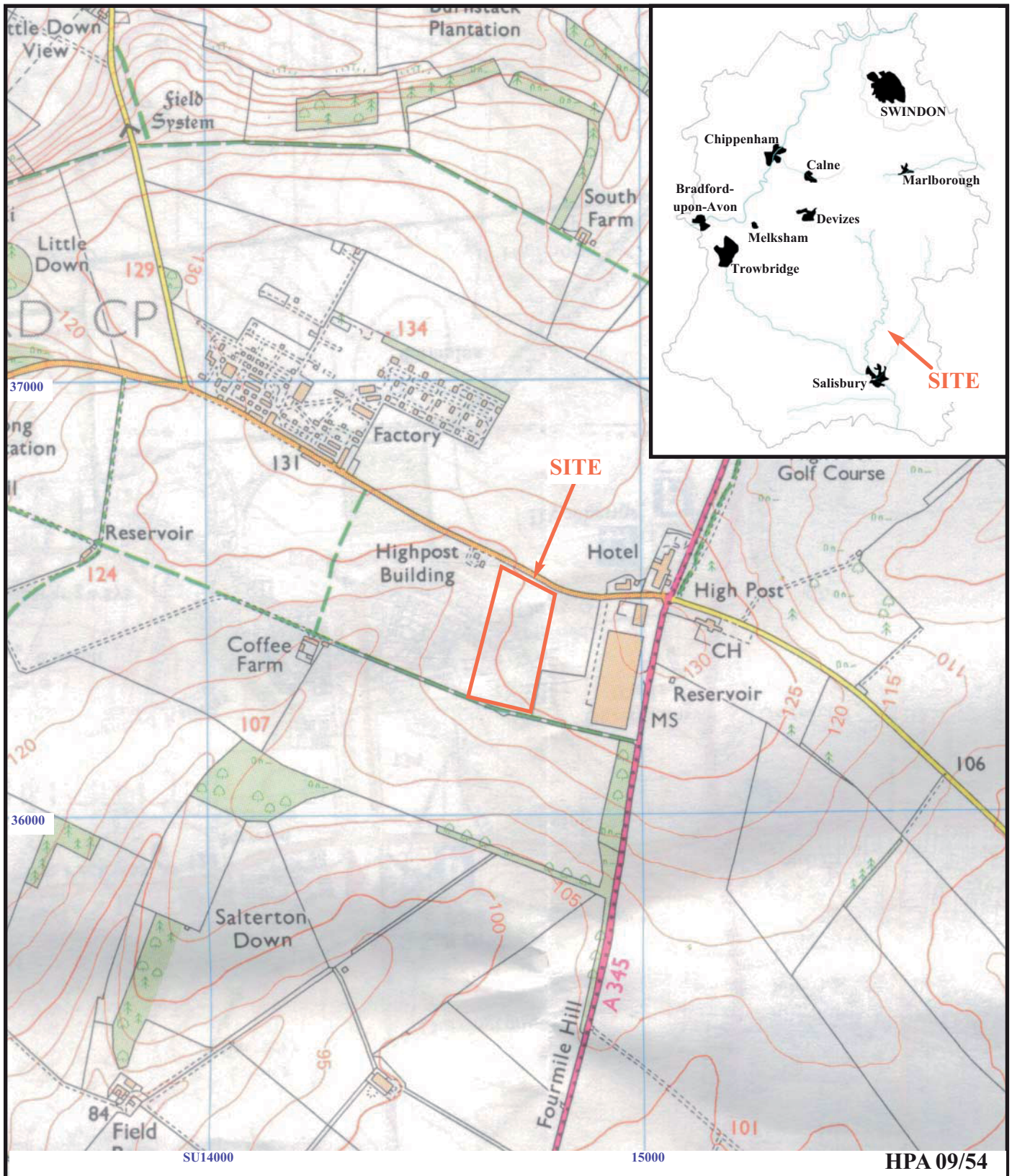
Despite the stripping of a large expanse of land which exposed the natural geology (which is the archaeologically relevant horizon), the watching brief identified no features of archaeological interest.

References

BGS, 1976, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 298, Drift Edition, Keyworth

Cave-Penny, H, 2009, 'New Salt Store Depot, High Post, Salisbury, Wiltshire, specification for archaeological watching brief,' Wiltshire County Council, Chippenham.

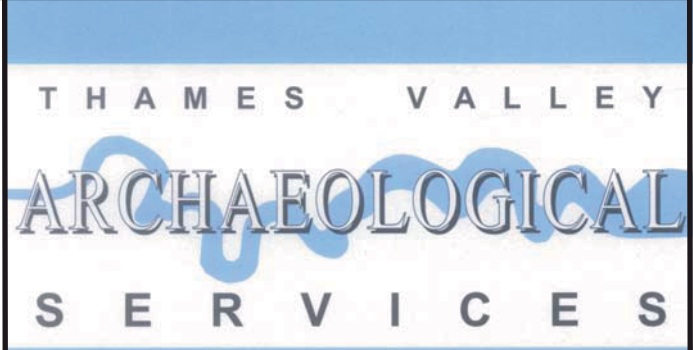
PPG 16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO



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Figure 1. Location of site at High Post and Wiltshire.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site at High Post.

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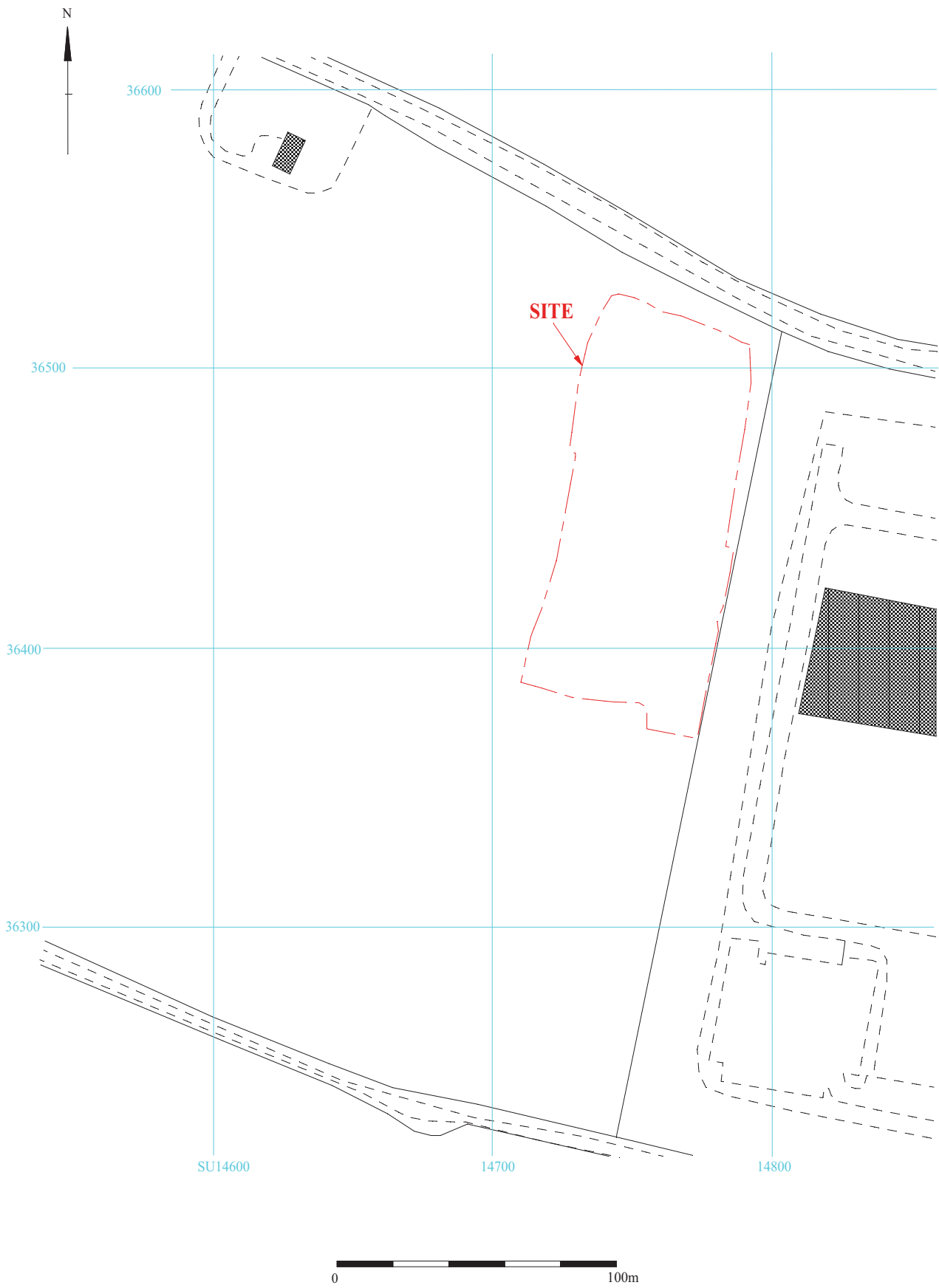


Figure 3. Location of area stripped of topsoil.

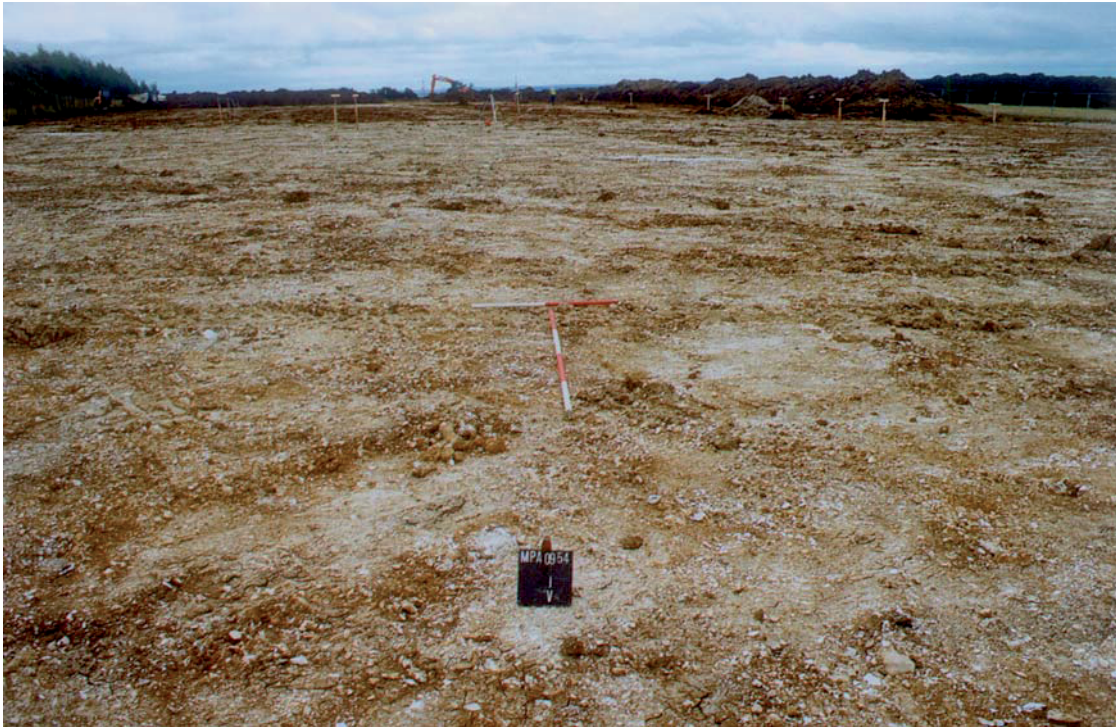


Plate 1. View of site , looking south, scales: 2m and 1m.