

Lallands, Hollow Lane, Wilton, Grafton, Wiltshire

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
For RWS Property and Development Limited**

by Tim Dawson
Thames Valley Archaeological Services
Ltd

Site Code LWM 09/78

September 2009

Summary

Site name: Lallands, Hollow Lane, Wilton, Grafton, Wiltshire

Grid reference: SU 2678 6147

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 18th – 19th August 2009

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Tim Dawson

Site code: LWM 09/78

Summary of results: No archaeological deposits were identified nor artefacts recovered

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

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Report 09/78

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Lallands, Hollow Lane, Wilton, Grafton, Wiltshire SN8 3SR (SU 2678 6147) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr. Roger Smith of RWS Property and Development Limited, Unit 3d Lowesden Works, Lambourn Woodlands, Hungerford, Berkshire, RG17 7RY.

A planning consent (e/09/0188/CAC) has been granted by Wiltshire County Council to construct a new house following demolition of the building that previously occupied the site. This consent is subject to a condition which requires the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during ground disturbing construction work. This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the County's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Vanessa Clarke, Assistant County Archaeologist at Wiltshire County Archaeological Service. The fieldwork was undertaken by Tim Dawson on the 18th and 19th August 2009 and the site code is LWM 09/78.

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

Location, topography and geology

The site is located just south of the centre of the village of Wilton, 7km south west of Hungerford and 11km south east of Marlborough (Figs 1 and 2). The site was previously occupied by a house which has since been demolished as part of the current development. The surrounding area consists of dwellings of a similar size to Lallands and the site itself is bordered to the north by an unnamed stream which feeds into Wilton Water, just to the north of the village. The Kennet and Avon Canal runs 1km to the northwest of the site. The underlying geology is Cretaceous Upper Greensand (BGS 1975) and the site is at a height of 130m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from the position of the site within the hamlet of Wilton which presumably has medieval and possibly late Saxon origins, though it is unclear if it is this Wilton that is mentioned in Domesday Book rather than that to the west of Salisbury (Williams and Martin 2002). The site also lies 500m west of the Roman road from Cirencester to Winchester.

The Wiltshire Sites and Monuments Record was consulted on 14th September for known archaeology within 200m of the site. Six records were found, including a collection of Roman pottery and seven Neolithic flint flakes which were discovered south west of Lallands on the adjacent property. Other archaeological features consist of a possible Bronze Age round barrow and unassociated Roman tile and pottery fragments 175m northeast of the site. A Saxon brooch was found in the garden of The Croft, 125m to the north west.

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, in particular the digging of foundation trenches for the new building. The work was to be carried out in such a way that all features would be investigated appropriately or identified to preserve their structure where preservation *in situ* was warranted. The specific research aims of this project were to determine the presence of any archaeological material relating to the possible medieval occupation of this site or a link with the Roman road to the east.

Results

The watching brief comprised examination of the foundation trenches for the new building. These were dug using a mini-digger with a 0.7m-wide toothless bucket to a depth of 1.0m. The spoil removed was monitored for finds.

The digging of the foundation trenches was observed across the whole site (Fig. 3). The stratigraphy exposed consisted of 0.29m of disturbed topsoil and demolition rubble covering 0.39m of brown sandy subsoil which, in turn, overlay the expected greensand natural geology (Fig. 4). As the plot had been previously built upon, the remains of drains and brick footings associated with the previous structure were visible in sections of the new foundation trenches. These were constructed of modern building materials and aligned with the layout of the previous structure. Otherwise, no archaeological deposits or artefacts were identified.

Finds

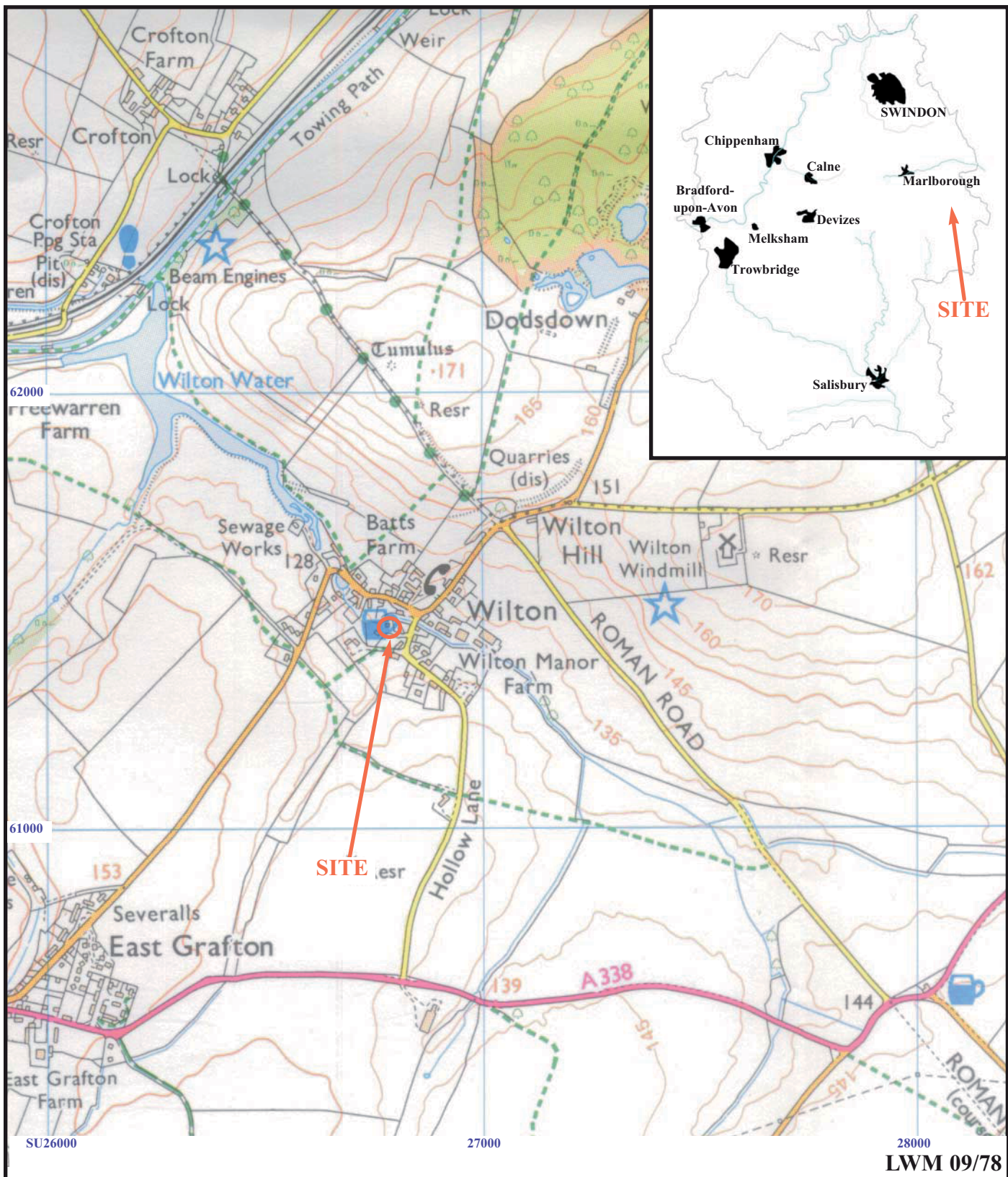
No archaeological deposits were identified and no finds recovered.

Conclusion

No deposits or artefacts of archaeological interest were observed during the watching brief despite the majority of the ground being undisturbed by previous building foundations. No evidence of Roman or medieval occupation of the site was observed.

References

BGS, 1975, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50 000, Sheet 283, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
PPG 16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO
Williams, A and Martin, G H, 2002, *Domesday Book, a complete translation*, London

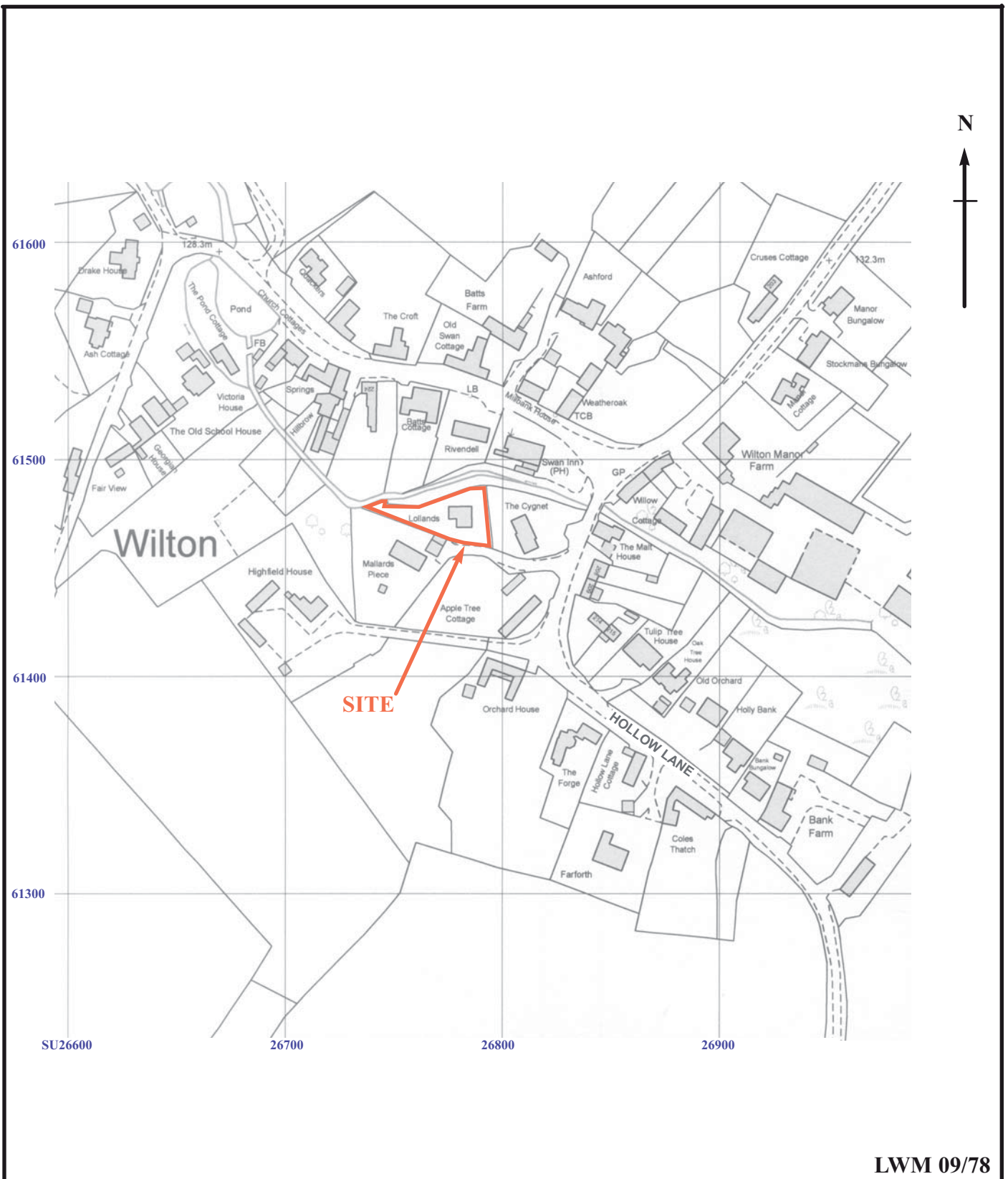


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Figure 1. Location of site within Wilton and Wiltshire.

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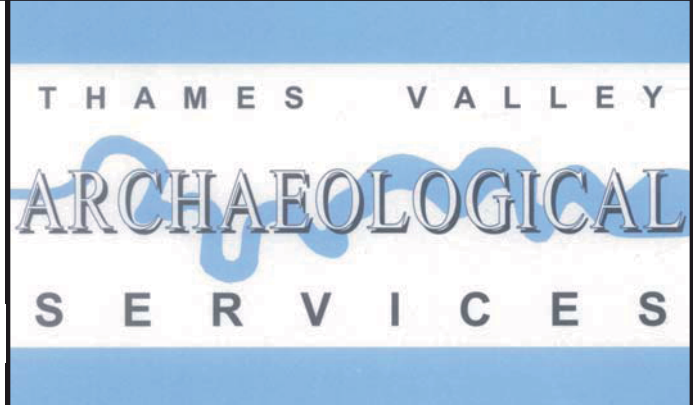


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Figure 2. Location of site off Hollow Lane.

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Figure 3. Detailed plan of the site.

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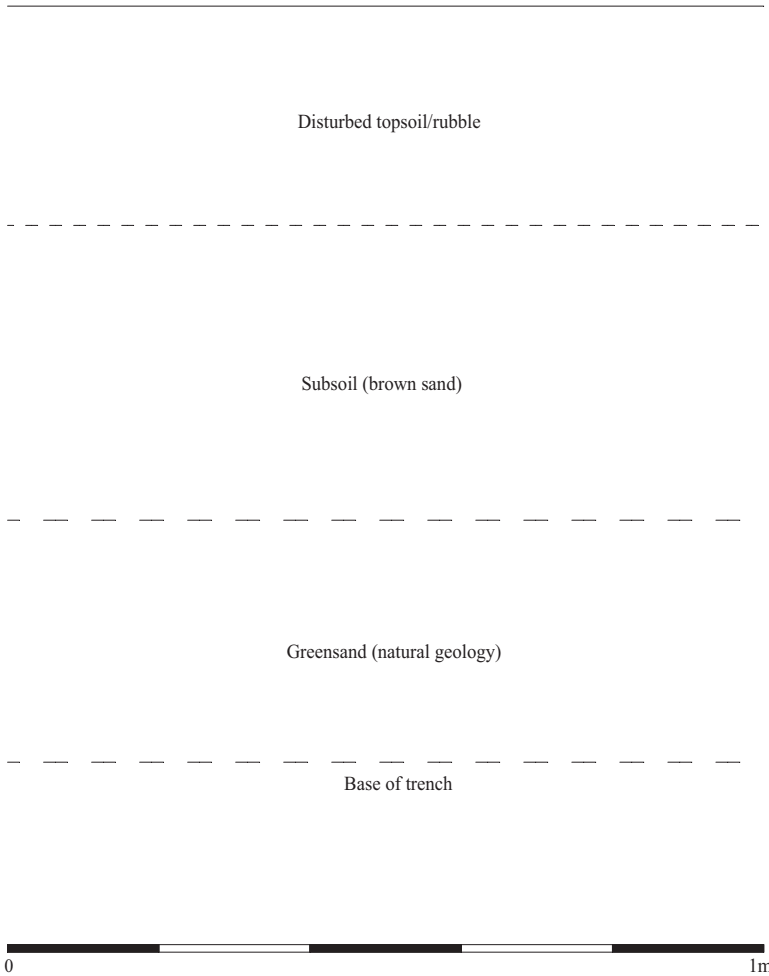


Figure 4. Representative section, foundation trench.