

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING REPORT:
LAND AT LOMER COTTAGE, LOMER LANE, WARNFORD, HAMPSHIRE SO32 3LJ**

Planning Reference: SDNP/16/00858/HOUS
NGR: SU 59330 23335
AAL Site Code: WALC 16
Museum Accession Number: WINCM:AY 606
OASIS Reference Number: allenarc1-288880



Report prepared for Preshaw Farm Estate

By
Allen Archaeology Ltd
Report Number AAL 2017086

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Allenarchaeology



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Cover image: View of site with excavation in progress, looking north

Executive Summary

- Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Preshaw Farm Estate to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks for the construction of an extension to the existing Lomer Cottage located along Lomer Lane, Warnford, Hampshire SO32 3LJ.
- The cottage is within an area of archaeological interest, with extensive earthworks, thought to be associated with the deserted medieval village of Lomer, located adjacent to the property's boundary to the north.
- The scheme of works required the monitoring and recording of a 9m by 6m excavation of a raised bank and current pathway, down to the proposed floor level of a new extension adjoining Lomer cottage on its southeast face.
- The monitoring revealed the robbed out footings of a 19th century annex that was demolished in recent memory. No other archaeological deposits were identified.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeology Limited (AAL) was commissioned by Preshaw Farm Estate to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks as a condition of planning consent for the construction of an extension to the existing Lomer Cottage located along Lomer Lane, Warnford, Hampshire.
- 1.2 The monitoring, recording and reporting conformed to current national guidelines, as set out in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists '*Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*' (CIfA 2014), with reference to regionally identified research aims (Hey and Hind 2014) and the Historic England document '*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*' (Historic England 2015). The archaeological monitoring was also undertaken in accordance with a specification prepared by this company (AAL 2017).

2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 Warnford is located in the City of Winchester district of Hampshire. It lies approximately 14km southeast of Winchester and 12km west of Petersfield. The proposed development area is within the South Downs National Park and is located some 3km west of the village of Warnford, adjacent to the southeast side of the existing Lomer Cottage on Lomer Lane and is centred on NGR 459330 123335 (Figure 1).
- 2.2 The bedrock geology comprises Seaford Chalk Formation (mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html). No superficial geology has been recorded.

3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 A planning application for Lomer Cottage was submitted to Winchester City Council to '*Extend the existing cottage at ground to provide a new kitchen to meet current building standards and at first floor to include a new master bedroom and en-suite bathroom.*' (Reference SDNP/16/00858/HOUS). The planning application was refused but the decision was appealed (appeal ref: APP/Y9507/D/16/3153640) and subsequently allowed with conditions. These include '*the recording and reporting of any archaeological deposits affected by the proposed works.*' *The archaeological works should be undertaken in accordance with a 'Written Scheme of Investigation that has first been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.'*
- 3.2 This approach is consistent with the guidelines that are set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012) and sections CP19 and CP20 of the Winchester Local Plan.

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 The proposed development area lies within a landscape rich in archaeological remains. Those most pertinent to the proposed development works include a complex of possible prehistoric and/or Roman enclosures and tracks to the southwest (HER ref 37241), and an Iron Age enclosure 325m to the northeast (HER ref 31077). These are set within a wider landscape that includes prehistoric barrows and other features of possible prehistoric origin visible on aerial and satellite photographs.

- 4.2 The deserted medieval settlement of Lomer (Scheduled Monument 1001797) lies close to the northern edge of the development area. The settlement is first documented in AD802, when it is referred to as Lammaeres Gate. Further references are made in a 10th century charter of Ethelred II and in the Domesday survey of 1086. In the mid 16th century the settlement appears to have been abandoned and now survives as earthworks. To the northwest of the deserted settlement is an area of ridge and furrow (HER ref 51282).
- 4.3 Lomer Cottage itself is of 19th century date and constructed from flint with brick dressing. A building in a similar location is visible on an Estate map of 1684 but is absent on 19th century Ordnance Survey maps. It is clear that the construction of the present cottage and associated landscaping will have impacted on buried deposits but there remains some potential for archaeological remains to survive within the development footprint.

5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 The groundworks comprised the excavation of a bank to the southeast of the cottage down to floor level and the reduction of the entire area in preparation for a series of footings (Figure 2). Lomer Cottage is built into a bank, which has created a series of terraces.
- 5.2 An area measuring c.9m long and 6m wide and aligned northeast to southwest along the edge of the property was reduced to the level of natural chalk by a mechanical excavator. The subsequent footings were to be excavated below this level, to a maximum depth of 1.00m, and as a result were not monitored.
- 5.3 The monitoring was undertaken by the author on 3rd and 4th May 2017.
- 5.4 A full written record of the archaeological deposits was made on standard AAL context recording sheets. Archaeological deposits were drawn in plan and section at an appropriate scale (1:20 for the section and 1:50 for the site plan). Digital photography formed an integral part of the recording strategy.
- 5.5 Each deposit or layer was allocated a unique identifier (context number), and accorded a written description, a summary of these are included in Appendix 1. Three-digit numbers within square brackets reflects cut features, e.g. foundation trench [105], and three-digit numbers without brackets denote layers and deposits, e.g. topsoil 100.

6.0 Results

- 6.1 Excavation of the area revealed natural geological chalk formations across the site, 104, overlain by a light brown silty clay subsoil, 103. Above these deposits were a series of layers associated with terracing events. Directly above the subsoil was a very mixed deposit, 102, which was the old ground surface that had been levelled during landscaping of the area. Above this was a layer of re-deposited chalk, 101, created by levelling of ground during the construction of Lomer Cottage. Finally, these deposits were sealed by topsoil, 100 (Plate 1). Two sherds of 19th century pottery were collected from layer 102 and were discarded after examination at the offices of AAL, due to their modern origin.



Plate 1: Northwest-facing representative section through bank, scales 0.5m and 1m

- 6.2 The remnants of footings from a previous annex to the cottage were also revealed, [105]. The old footings contained abundant fragments of 19th century brick, tile, pipe and some sherds of pottery (not retained due to modern date), 106. A garden wall to the northeast of the cottage appears to have utilised the old bricks when this annex was demolished, supposedly in the 1980s (A Perry *pers. comm*).
- 6.3 The area was reduced to natural chalk and revealed no archaeology beneath the previous building, suggesting that any medieval activity was confined to the field directly to the north of the site.

7.0 Discussion and Conclusions

- 7.1 Excavation of the terraced bank and the area adjoining the cottage to the southeast, in preparation for the construction of an extension to the existing Lomer Cottage, revealed a series of modern deposits related to landscaping events associated with the construction of the cottage.
- 7.2 The work also revealed the remains of a building on the site, which was demolished in the late 1980s. It is believed that the building, or annex to the cottage, was once a laundry and that it was constructed in the 19th century.
- 7.3 The excavation revealed no earlier activity on the site than that of the construction of Lomer Cottage.

8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

- 8.1 The archaeological monitoring methodology was appropriate to the scale and nature of the project. The works have shown that there are no significant archaeological deposits present on the site beyond the remains of previously known 19th century buildings.

9.0 Acknowledgements

- 9.1 Allen Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Preshaw Farm Estate for this commission, and Mr. Anthony Perry, for his help during the works.

10.0 References

AAL, 2017, *Specification for a Written Scheme of Investigation for a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording: Land at Lomer Cottage, Lomer Lane, Warnford, Hampshire, SO32 3JL*. Allen Archaeology Ltd unpublished project document

CifA, 2014, *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Reading

Department for Communities and Local Government, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, London: Department for Communities and Local Government

Hey, G. and Hind, J. 2014. Solent-Thames Research Framework for the Historic Environment Resource Assessments and Research Agendas. Project Report. Oxford Wessex

Historic England, 2015, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide*, London: Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England

Appendix 1: Context Summary List

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
100	Layer	Loose, mid brownish grey clayey silt with frequent small rounded stones and occasional chalk	-	-	0.18	Topsoil
101	Layer	Compact, white chalk with frequent mid brown silty clay	-	-	0.27	Re-deposited natural chalk landscaping layer
102	Layer	Loose mid grey brown clayey silt with frequent charcoal and bricks and moderate chalk	-	-	0.30	Demolition layer
103	Layer	Firm light brown silty clay with moderate chalk pieces	-	-	0.24	Buried soil
104	Layer	Compact white chalk	-	-	-	Natural geology
105	Cut	Northwest to southeast orientated sub-rectangular with steep straight sides and a sharp break of slope to a flat base	-	4.60	-	Foundation cut for 19 th century annex
106	Fill	Friable mid brownish grey silty clay with frequent brick and chalk	-	4.60	0.20	Fill of robbed-out foundations [105] from 19 th century annex

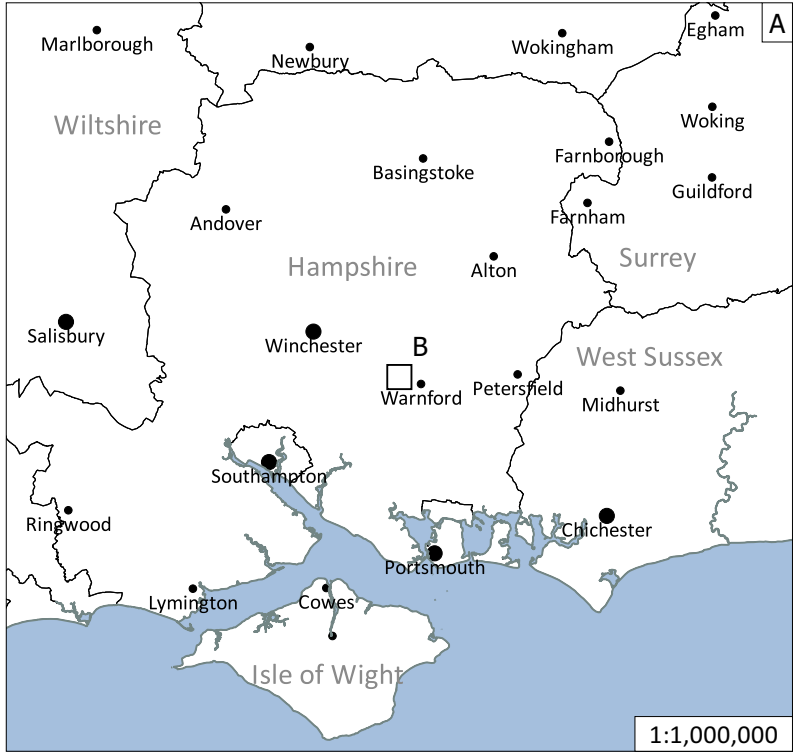


Figure 1: Site location outlined in red

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Site Code	WALC 16
Scale	1:10,000,000 1:1,000,000 1:25,000 @ A4
Drawn by	R J Birtwistle
Date	01/06/17

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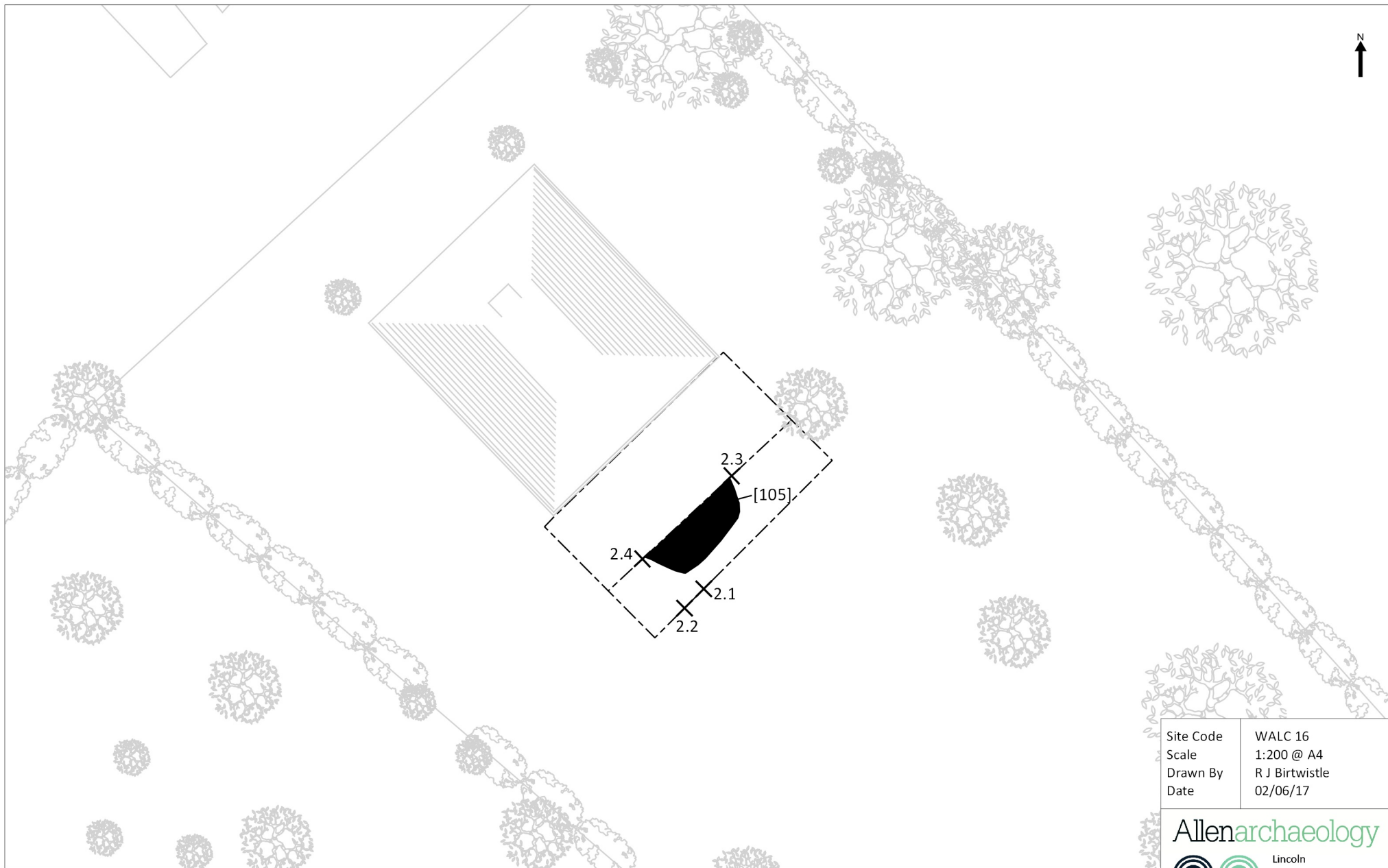


Figure 2: Area of monitoring outlined in blue with archaeological deposits in black. Mapping provided by client

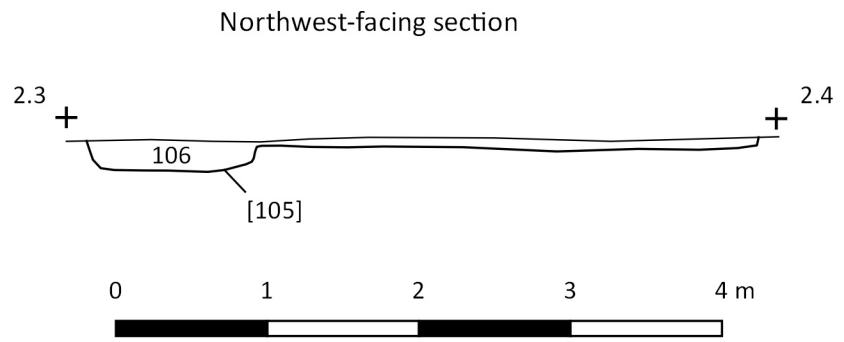
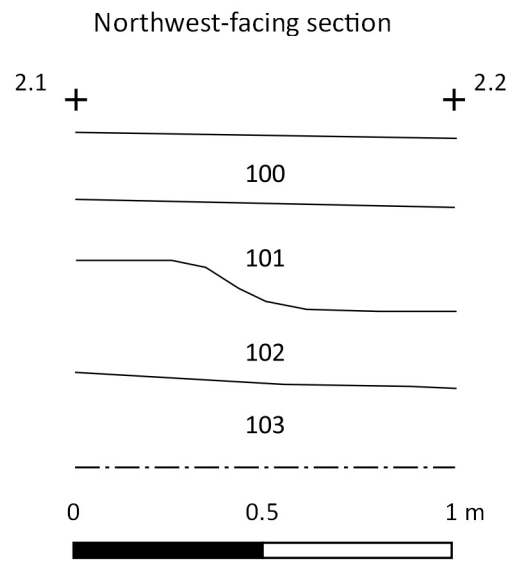


Site Code	WALC 16
Scale	1:200 @ A4
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Date	02/06/17

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Site Code	WALC 16
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Figure 3: Selected sections located on Figure 2



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