

Archaeological Evaluation

CgMs Consulting
on behalf of
Wiltshire Grain Limited

CA Project: 770023 CA Report: 13623

November 2013

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 770023 CA Report: 13623

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Archaeological Evaluation

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Archaeological Evaluation

SUMMARY

Project Name: Land at Rollestone

Location: Wiltshire

NGR: SU 0212 6220

Type: Evaluation

Date: 4-6th of November

Planning Reference:

Location of Archive: To be submitted to an appropriate depository

Accession Number: N/A

Site Code: RLW13

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in November 2013 at Land at Rollestone, Wiltshire (centred at NGR: SU 0212 6220). Seven trenches were excavated.

No features of archaeological significance were revealed, and the only other features that were recorded were five tree throws.

Archaeological Evaluation

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In November 2013, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation for CgMs Consulting, acting on behalf of their client, Wiltshire Grain Limited on Land at Rollestone, Wiltshire, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 506221 140263 (Figure 1; hereafter referred to as the Site). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application for the development of a new grain store.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (CA 2013), following advice from Clare King (Assistant County Archaeologist for Wiltshire Council). The fieldwork also followed the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (IfA 2009), the Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage 1991) and the Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide (English Heritage 2006). It was monitored by Clare King, on 4/11/13.

The site

- 1.3 The land is situated in the eastern part of the historic parish of Rollestone, an area identified by the presence of Rollestone Camp and the grain storage facility of Wiltshire Grain Ltd. It lies in an area of great heritage significance on the boundary of the Stonehenge World Heritage Site (WHS). The Site is characterised by its proximity to the Wilshire Grain facility and its topographic location on a ridge with views of the surrounding Salisbury Plain (**Figure 1**). The proposed development area is in Wiltshire, and is presently arable land.
- 1.4 The British Geological Survey indicates that the solid geology of the proposed development area comprises the Seaford Chalk Formation. There is no recorded drift geology.

Archaeological background

1.5 In June 2013 CgMs Consulting produced an archaeological desk-based assessment of the Site and its environs. The following is a summary of that document.

Early Prehistoric Period

1.6 No evidence from the early prehistoric period has been recovered from the Site itself, however, within the wider environs of the Site, at least one Palaeolithic flint core has been recorded. The form of the core is characteristic of the late Lower and Middle Palaeolithic in the Levalloisian tradition of tool making. Such cores date from the Middle Palaeolithic 250/200,000– 40,000 BP. Palaeolithic material of any date is unlikely to be found *in situ* in the location of the proposed development because of its situation on the top of a chalk ridge where ice movement and soil erosion will have effected significant change to the topography.

Later Prehistoric Period

- 1.7 The majority of potential associated with the immediate environs of the Site date to the later prehistoric period, (Neolithic and Bronze Age), of which the principal monument type is the barrow. They are contemporary with building phases or episodes at Stonehenge. In broad terms the barrows, have been identified as belonging to a series of topographically determined groups identified in the HER and research literature by their location: Net Down Group, South Rollestone Clump, South West of Middle Farm, East Middle Farm, Rollestone Field Group, South West of Greenland Farm, North Greenland Farm, North of Lesser Cursus and Rollestone Bake Group. Lawson has linked these groups to a wider phenomenon characterised by linear groups of barrows which often incorporate a strong linear trend in their design which follow the topography of chalk ridges in the region.
- 1.8 The relationship between monuments of the type which characterise the area around the proposed Site is complex. The research frameworks follow Woodward and Woodward (1996) in suggesting that the placement of the barrows was strictly regulated, each being related to earlier monument complexes and local topography. This is seen spectacularly in the Stonehenge region, where barrow cemeteries form a visual "envelope" around the henge. The placements would have been cumulative and are likely to reflect changing and developing structuring principles rather than fixed and static ones with the barrows visible in the landscape for centuries. This view is supported by the discovery of some ten houses in a large settlement in 2006

and 2007 by Professor Mike Parker Pearson at Durrington Walls, a large henge monument 3km north-east of Stonehenge. The settlement has been dated from C14 dates, which suggest this is where the population that created Stonehenge lived. Radiocarbon tests show that these buildings date from around the same time as the sarsen stones were being put up at Stonehenge, about 2,500 BC. From the vast amount of remains of animal bones and pottery near the houses, it seems as if late Neolithic people were gathering at Durrington on a seasonal basis, probably at midwinter. As well as the houses, there were several timber monuments and an avenue linking the complex to the River Avon.

- 1.9 The topography of the Site and its proximity to the Net Down Group of barrows, suggested that the proposed development site had the potential to contain further funerary monuments. Although Lawson's interpretation, hints at a more linear pattern, perhaps, characterised by the group of barrows along Net Lane.
- 1.10 In addition to the funerary evidence, a rectangular enclosure has been recorded dating to the Neolithic/Bronze Age based on lithic material and ceramics excavated in 1965 from the enclosing ditches. The enclosure has been interpreted as a small settlement in which, possibly, a single round house may have been present. Such a settlement may have been associated with the barrow cemetery and research from the 1970s suggests that such settlement might be associated with ditches and land enclosure.
- 1.11 The late Neolithic and Bronze Age evidence in proximity to the Site suggested that there was potential for further evidence from this period. Such potential might have taken the form of further burial monuments or settlement related activity.
- 1.12 Evidence of Iron Age activity in the record is slight in comparison to that of the earlier periods. Iron Age ceramics have been found during excavation of barrows in the Net Down Group. Lawson, in surveying the wider landscape of Stonehenge, has interpreted the low level of artefact material in the area to suggest a shift towards pasture by communities which were now creating more enclosed settlements such as those known from Little Woodbury and Scotland Lodge. To Roger Thomas, this indicates a move away from more open settlement as a result of kinship changes related in turn to changes in agricultural practice in particular the closer attachment of families or small communities to particular areas of land. The potential, for further evidence of Iron Age activity within the Site is probably slight.

Roman Period

- 1.13 Several Roman artefacts have been found within the environs of the Site. These include a coin from the Net Down barrow excavation (SU04SE300) together with Roman period ceramics from the ditches of the barrows. Roman pottery has also been found north of the Lesser Cursus during the excavation of SU14SW615. Further afield settlements are known from Winterbourne Stoke Down and east of Rollestone. Such a low level of activity attests the development of a dispersed rural population with small settlements known, for instance, from around Shrewton. Within the Salisbury Plain Training Area some eleven settlements have survived as earthworks and, where evidence has been recovered, they seem to have developed from earlier Iron Age settlements. Generally, however, the pattern of landscape development is one in which Roman period settlement seems to shift towards more nucleated settlement, trending towards the occupation of valley sites. A small town was established at Amesbury.
- 1.14 The level of settlement activity during the Roman period in the environs of the Site is low in density which may suggest a pastoral economy based on nucleated settlement.

Saxon - Medieval

- 1.15 Evidence of activity in the area after the end of the Roman province is even scarcer than the preceding Iron Age and Roman periods. Villages previously occupied were largely abandoned and there is little evidence of arable farming. The river valleys became the preferred location for settlement. A site at Countess Road, north of Amesbury, has revealed an extensive settlement of early Anglo-Saxon date, 5th to 8th centuries. One of the Net Down Barrows yielded a double burial which may represent a secondary Saxon burial within the mound. Such burials are known in the region where burial associated with the, by now, historic mounds, may have helped to legitimize claims to land and resources by the Saxons. Amesbury is the nearest local settlement known at this time founded before AD 858. Otherwise, the principal evidence for the Saxon period in the region is documentary indicating the name Stonehenge means 'hanging stone'.
- 1.16 The Site is close to the former hamlet of Netton, meaning 'cattle farm' in Old English. Rollestone, which is derived from Hroald's tun, is only mentioned for the first time in the 13th century. The nearby village of Shrewton was mentioned at Domesday when the farm and village were called Winterbourne Shryreveton, meaning the sheriff's

manor located close to a winterbourne. It was held by the Earl of Salisbury, sheriff of the county. Estimates suggest the population of the township of Winterbourne Shryreveton was about 300 at Domesday, with 21 plough-teams on the three estates.

1.17 The development lies towards the eastern end of the parish of Rollestone, which extends 4.5km north from the River Till on which the village of Rollestone, was situated. In 1422 there were only some 10 households in the village and this remained unchanged until 1901. Physical evidence of the medieval period is absent within the proposed development area and sparse within the search area probably existing in some of the undated linear crop marks. Netton the hamlet survives only in the name of Net Lane and Net Down, consequently the potential for evidence of medieval activity is very low.

Post-Medieval and Modern Landscape

1.18 The parish of Rollestone was enclosed in 1790 (Enclosure Act 30 Geo III 1790), but the earliest useful map evidence for the proposed development area is an Estate Map recording the sale of the Rollestone manor estate on 13th July 1827. Land parcel 61, the Site, is recorded as 'Down Arable'. The Tithe Award Map of 29th January 1840 illustrates the proposed development area is located in land parcel 43, in Rollestone Down Arable field, probably a description that can be assigned to an earlier medieval open field. Today the Site is occupied by farmland adjacent to Wiltshire Grain.

Archaeological objectives

1.19 The objectives of the evaluation were to provide information about the archaeological resource within the Site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality, in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2009). This information will enable the Clare King (Assistant County Archaeologist for WC) to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

Methodology

- 1.20 Fieldwork comprised the excavation of seven trenches, numbered 1 to 7. They measured between 24.9 and 26.5m long and 1.6m wide, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Figure 2). Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) coordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 Survey Manual (2012).
- 1.21 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual (2007).
- 1.22 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites (2003). All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation (1995).
- 1.23 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Andover. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with the appropriate museum along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. Results (Figs 2&3)

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendices A.
- 2.2 Seven trenches were machine excavated. No archaeological evidence was revealed during the evaluation. **Trenches 2, 3, 4, 6** and **7** contained tree throws. No finds were recovered.

Trench 1 (Figures 2 & 3)

2.3 No archaeological features were present. Layer **100** was a mid-greyish brown silty clay loam. This layer is the modern topsoil. Layer **101**, is the natural chalk bedrock.

Trench 2 (Figures 2 & 3)

2.4 Layer **200** was a mid-greyish brown silty clay loam (modern topsoil) and **201** the natural chalk bedrock, below it. A tree throw (**202**) was recorded the primary fill of which, (**203**), was a very pale greyish white chalky silt. The upper fill, (**204**) was a mid-greyish brown silty clay loam, very similar to the topsoil.

Trench 3 (Figures 2 &3)

2.5 Layer **300** was a mid-greyish brown silty clay loam (modern topsoil) and **301** was the natural chalk bedrock sealed below it. A tree throw (**302**) was recorded, the primary fill of which (**303**) was very pale greyish white chalky silt. The upper fill of (**304**) comprised mid-greyish brown silty clay loam.

Trench 4 (Figures 2 &3)

2.6 Layer **400** was a mid-greyish brown silty clay loam (modern topsoil) and **401** was the natural chalk bedrock sealed below it. A tree throw (**402**) was recorded, the primary fill of which (**403**) comprised a mix of chalk rubble and pale yellowish white silt. The upper fill (**404**) was a mid-greyish brown silty clay loam.

Trench 5 (Figures 2 &3)

2.7 No archaeology was present. Layer **500** (modern topsoil) was a mid-greyish brown silty clay loam and **501** the natural chalk bedrock sealed below it.

Trench 6 (Figures 2 &3)

2.8 Layer **600** (modern topsoil) was a mid-greyish brown silty clay loam and **601** the natural chalk bedrock sealed below it. A tree throw (**602**) was recorded, the single fill of which (**603**), was a mid-greyish brown silty clay loam similar to the modern topsoil.

Trench 7 (Figures 2 &3)

2.9 Layer **700** (modern topsoil) was a mid-greyish brown silty clay loam and **701** was the natural bedrock sealed below it. A tree throw **702** was recorded, the primary fill of

which was (703), was very pale greyish white chalky silt. The secondary fill, 704, was a mid-greyish brown silty clay loam.

Finds and palaeoenvironmental evidence

2.10 No finds were recovered and no deposits were considered suitable for sampling.

3. DISCUSSION

3.1 No evidence of archaeological remains/activity was identified within the excavated trenches. Five tree throws were recorded, but no dating evidence was recovered from them.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was directed and undertaken by Chris Ellis. The report was written by Adam Howard. The illustrations were prepared by Lucy Martin. The archive has been compiled by and prepared for deposition by John Heart. The project was managed for CA by Richard Greatorex.

5. REFERENCES

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

1 100 Layer topsoil mid grey brown silty loam 25 1 101 Layer natural Broken angular blocks (<50mm) of chalk with patches and striations of a very pale yellowish white granular silt with very common chalk (1-2mm) 2 200 layer topsoil mid grey brown silty loam 25 2 201 layer natural Broken angular blocks (<50mm) of chalk with patches and striations of a very pale yellowish white granular silt with very common chalk (1-2mm) 2 202 cut Tree throw Sub oval (1.14 by 0.87m) with shallow concave s.w side and steep concave s.e. side. Moderate concave s.e. side and steep concave s.e. side in the shallow concave s.e. sid	1.6 1.6 1.6	(m) 0.28 0.04+ 0.43	mode
chalk with patches and striations of a very pale yellowish white granular silt with very common chalk (1-2mm) 2 200 layer topsoil mid grey brown silty loam 25 2 201 layer natural Broken angular blocks (<50mm) of chalk with patches and striations of a very pale yellowish white granular silt with very common chalk (1-2mm) 2 202 cut Tree throw Sub oval (1.14 by 0.87m) with shallow concave s. w. side and steep concave base 2 203 fill 202 First fill Chalk rubble, very pale greyish white chalky silt 2 204 fill 202 Second fill mid grey brown silty loam 0.5 3 300 layer Topsoil mid grey brown silty loam 26.5 3 301 layer Natural Broken angular blocks (<50mm) of chalk with patches and striations of a very pale yellowish white granular silt with very common chalk (1-2mm) 3 302 Cut Tree throw Annular ne/sw aligned 2.70m by 1.2m with moderate flat side to the nef flat base 3 303 Fill First fill Chalk rubble, very pale greyish white chalky silt with very common chalk (1-2mm) 3 304 Fill Second fill Chalk rubble, very pale greyish white chalky silt mid grey brown silty loam 25 4 400 Layer Topsoil mid grey brown silty loam 25 4 400 Layer Topsoil mid grey brown silty loam 25	1.6	0.43	mode
2 201 layer natural Broken angular blocks (<50mm) of chalk with patches and striations of a very pale yellowish white granular silt with very common chalk (1-2mm) Sub oval (1.14 by 0.87m) with shallow concave s.w side and steep concave s.e side. Moderate concave base 2 203 fill 202 First fill Chalk rubble, very pale greyish white chalky silt 2 204 fill 202 Second fill mid grey brown silty loam 0.5 3 300 layer Topsoil mid grey brown silty loam 26.5 3 301 layer Rose Broken angular blocks (<50mm) of chalk with patches and striations of a very pale yellowish white granular silt with very common chalk (1-2mm) Annular ne/sw aligned 2.70m by 1.2m with moderate flat side to the ne flat base 3 303 Fill First fill Chalk rubble, very pale greyish white granular silt with very common chalk (1-2mm) 1.2m with moderate flat side to the ne flat base 1.2m with moderate flat	1.6		mode
chalk with patches and striations of a very pale yellowish white granular silt with very common chalk (1-2mm) 2 202 cut Tree throw Sub oval (1.14 by 0.87m) with shallow concave s. w side and steep concave s.e side. Moderate concave base 2 203 fill 202 First fill Chalk rubble, very pale greyish white chalky silt 2 204 fill 202 Second fill mid grey brown silty loam 0.5 3 300 layer Topsoil mid grey brown silty loam 26.5 3 301 layer Natural Broken angular blocks (<50mm) of chalk with patches and striations of a very pale yellowish white granular silt with very common chalk (1-2mm) 3 302 Cut Tree throw Annular ne/sw aligned 2.70m by 1.2m with moderate flat side to the ne flat base 3 303 Fill First fill Chalk rubble, very pale greyish white chalky silt 3 304 Fill Second fill mid grey brown silty loam 25 4 400 Layer Topsoil mid grey brown silty loam 25 4 401 Layer Natural Broken angular blocks (<50mm) of		0.04+	
shallow concave s.w side and steep concave s.e side. Moderate concave base 2 203 fill 202 First fill Chalk rubble, very pale greyish white chalky silt 2 204 fill 202 Second fill mid grey brown silty loam 0.5 3 300 layer Topsoil mid grey brown silty loam 26.5 3 301 layer Natural Broken angular blocks (<50mm) of chalk with patches and striations of a very pale yellowish white granular silt with very common chalk (1-2mm) 3 302 Cut Tree throw Annular ne/sw aligned 2.70m by 1.2m with moderate flat side to the ne flat base 3 303 Fill First fill Chalk rubble, very pale greyish white chalky silt 3 304 Fill Second fill mid grey brown silty loam 4 400 Layer Topsoil mid grey brown silty loam 25 4 401 Layer Natural Broken angular blocks (<50mm) of	1.6		
white chalky silt 2 204 fill 202 Second fill mid grey brown silty loam 0.5 3 300 layer Topsoil mid grey brown silty loam 26.5 3 301 layer Natural Broken angular blocks (<50mm) of chalk with patches and striations of a very pale yellowish white granular silt with very common chalk (1-2mm) 3 302 Cut Tree throw Annular ne/sw aligned 2.70m by 1.2m with moderate flat side to the ne flat base 3 303 Fill First fill Chalk rubble, very pale greyish white chalky silt 3 304 Fill Second fill mid grey brown silty loam 4 400 Layer Topsoil mid grey brown silty loam 25 4 401 Layer Natural Broken angular blocks (<50mm) of		0.35	
3 300 layer Topsoil mid grey brown silty loam 26.5 3 301 layer Natural Broken angular blocks (<50mm) of chalk with patches and striations of a very pale yellowish white granular silt with very common chalk (1-2mm) 3 302 Cut Tree throw Annular ne/sw aligned 2.70m by 1.2m with moderate flat side to the ne flat base 3 303 Fill First fill Chalk rubble, very pale greyish white chalky silt 3 304 Fill Second fill mid grey brown silty loam 4 400 Layer Topsoil mid grey brown silty loam 25 4 401 Layer Natural Broken angular blocks (<50mm) of	1.6	0.12	
3 301 layer Natural Broken angular blocks (<50mm) of chalk with patches and striations of a very pale yellowish white granular silt with very common chalk (1-2mm) 3 302 Cut Tree throw Annular ne/sw aligned 2.70m by 1.2m with moderate flat side to the ne flat base 3 303 Fill First fill Chalk rubble, very pale greyish white chalky silt 3 304 Fill Second fill mid grey brown silty loam 4 400 Layer Topsoil mid grey brown silty loam 4 401 Layer Natural Broken angular blocks (<50mm) of	1.6	0.45	
chalk with patches and striations of a very pale yellowish white granular silt with very common chalk (1-2mm) 3	1.6	0.46	
1.2m with moderate flat side to the ne flat base 3 303 Fill First fill Chalk rubble, very pale greyish white chalky silt 3 304 Fill Second fill mid grey brown silty loam 4 400 Layer Topsoil mid grey brown silty loam 25 4 401 Layer Natural Broken angular blocks (<50mm) of	1.6	0.03+	
white chalky silt 3 304 Fill Second fill mid grey brown silty loam 4 400 Layer Topsoil mid grey brown silty loam 25 4 401 Layer Natural Broken angular blocks (<50mm) of	1.2	0.29	
4 400 Layer Topsoil mid grey brown silty loam 25 4 401 Layer Natural Broken angular blocks (<50mm) of		0.20	
4 401 Layer Natural Broken angular blocks (<50mm) of		0.29	
	1.6		
a very pale yellowish white granular silt with very common chalk (1-2mm)			
4 402 Cut Tree throw			
4 403 Fill First fill Chalk rubble			
4 404 Fill Second Fill Very pale yellowish white silt (chalk Erosion)			
5 500 Layer Topsoil mid grey brown silty loam		0.23	
5 501 Layer Natural Broken angular blocks (<50mm) of chalk with patches and striations of a very pale yellowish white granular silt with very common chalk (1-2mm)		0.04+	
6 600 Layer Topsoil mid grey brown silty loam 25	1.6	0.23	
6 601 Layer Natural Broken angular blocks (<50mm) of chalk with patches and striations of a very pale yellowish white granular silt with very common chalk (1-2mm)		0.04+	
6 602 Cut Tree Throw Irregular tree throw cut. 1.2m	1.02	0.27	1

6	603	Fill	Single fill	mid grey brown silty loam				
7	700	Layer	Topsoil	mid grey brown silty loam	24.9	1.60	0.26	
7	701	Layer	Natural	Broken angular blocks (<50mm) of chalk with patches and striations of a very pale yellowish white granular silt with very common chalk (1-2mm)			0.04	
7	702	Cut	Tree Throw	Slightly curvilinear flat steed sided Medium concave on west side shallow concave base	1.9	1.25		
7	703	fill	Primary fill	Chalk rubble, very pale greyish white chalky silt			0.29	
7	704	Fill	Upper fill	mid grey brown silty loam			0.25	

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name	Land at Rollestone		
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in November 2013 at Land at Rollestone, Wiltshire (centred at NGR: SU 0212 6220). Seven trenches were excavated.		
	No features of archaeological significand throws were recorded.	e were revealed. Five tree	
Project dates			
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Evaluation		
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	DBA CGMS		
Future work	Unknown		
PROJECT LOCATION			
Site Location	Wiltshire		
Study area (M²/ha)			
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SU 0212 6220		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology		
Project Brief originator	No brief		
Project Design (WSI) originator	CA		
Project Manager	Richard Greatorex		
Project Supervisor	Chris Eliss		
MONUMENT TYPE	none		
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	none		
PROJECT ARCHIVES	T.B.C	none	
Dhusiaal		None	
Physical		None	
Paper		Context sheets, matrices etc	
Digital		Database, digital photos etc	
BIBLIOGRAPHY		1	



