

KNAPP FARMHOUSE, HIGH LANE, BROAD CHALKE, WILTSHIRE

Results of an Archaeological Watching Brief

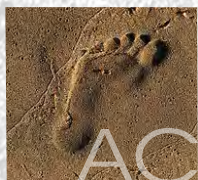
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archaeology

KNAPP FARMHOUSE, HIGH LANE, BROAD CHALKE, SALISBURY, WILTSHIRE

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RESULTS OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks associated with a new extension to Knapp Farmhouse, Broad Chalke, Wiltshire. No archaeological features or artefacts were found during the monitoring.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** This document sets out the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken during the construction of a two-storey thatched extension at Knapp Farmhouse, 1 High Lane, Broad Chalke, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP5 5HH. The location of the site area is shown on Fig. 1.
- 1.2** The monitoring was undertaken during groundworks associated with the building of an extension to Knapp Farmhouse. Wiltshire Council granted permission for a two-storey thatched extension that was subject to a number of conditions (Planning reference: 18/12086/FUL & 19/00264/LBC).. The Wiltshire Council Assistant County Archaeologist (WCACA) recommended that intrusive groundworks be monitored under an archaeological watching brief, with Conditions 3 of the consent stating that:

No development shall commence within the area indicated (proposed development site) until:

- A written programme of archaeological investigation, which should include on-site work and off-site work such as the analysis, publishing and archiving of the results, has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.*
- The approved programme of archaeological work has been carried out in accordance with the approved details.*

REASON: To enable the recording of any matters of archaeological interest.

- 1.3** The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by AC archaeology Ltd in September 2019 following instruction by Dalby Reeve Architects and in consultation with the WCACA.

2. SITE LOCATION, LAND USE AND GEOLOGY

- 2.1** The site lies in the north-western part of village of Broad Chalke on the lane known as High Lane. The underlying geology comprises Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation a sedimentary bedrock that was formed approximately 84 to 90 million years ago. There are no overlying superficial deposits recorded (BGS online).

- 2.2** The site is situated on ground 95m to 97m above Ordnance Datum (OD).

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1** Knapp Farmhouse is a Grade II listed building (LEN 1198371) of late 17th century date, subsequently altered in the 18th and early 19th centuries. The land in west Broad Chalke on which Knapp Farmhouse is situated was part of the Wilton Abbey estate. In 1256 it was sold to St. Nicolas Hospital, Salisbury which had been established in 1214 to provide 'succour to the poor and infirm persons'. Many gifts and sales of land were made to the hospital at this time. During this period the farm was known as East Gerrardston Farm and additional land was added to the farm in the late 13th century (Reeve, 2018).
- 3.2** Nine designated heritage assets are included in the Wiltshire Historic Environment Record (HER) that are recorded within a 500m radius of the site. In 1898 several artefacts were found c. 200m to the south of the site in an area known as 'the marsh'. A Palaeolithic hand axe (MO 214005), Neolithic polished axes (MO 214002 & MO 1011235) and a Neolithic adze (MO 214038) were found. Romano-British pottery sherds were also found in the area (MO 214008).
- 3.3** A Neolithic flint axe was found in 1960 c. 130m to the north of the site (MO 214075). A possible round barrow of Bronze Age date was identified as a cropmark c. 550m to the south (MO 1002001). Another cropmark resembling an oval enclosure is recorded 450m to the south-east (MO 1001860).
- 3.4** At a distance of c. 260m to the north of Knapp Farmhouse are the remains of a Royal Observer Corps monitoring post (MO 1414562). This structure was built after 1946 and closed in 1991.

4. AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

- 4.1** The aims of the archaeological monitoring were:
- To record any archaeological features and finds, which may have been revealed or disturbed by the groundworks;
 - To provide an archive and interpretive report on the results of the monitoring.

5. FIELD METHODOLOGY

- 5.1** The site investigation was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation approved by the WCACA (Trott 2019). The route of the access track and associated groundworks were subject to topsoil stripping, undertaken by the main contractor and monitored by the site archaeologist. Attendance by the archaeologist was comprehensive (i.e. present during all ground disturbance).
- 5.2** Site observations were recorded using the standard AC archaeology *pro-forma* recording system, comprising written and graphic records in accordance with AC archaeology's General Site Recording Manual, Version 2. A comprehensive photographic record was also made, and four photographs are included in this report.
- 5.3** The archive has been prepared using the unique site code ACW1181.

6. RESULTS

- 6.1** The initial topsoil stripping of the access track began from the existing car park to the north-east of Knapp Farmhouse (Fig.1). The track was approximately 60m long, 2.7m wide and 0.3m deep and was stripped of topsoil using a mechanical excavator with a toothless bucket. Following the removal of 0.1 - 0.3m of topsoil the underlying redeposited layers were exposed. The excavation of the access track deepened from 0.1m to 1m on reaching some terraced ground, to the north of the farmhouse. Here natural geology was exposed below made ground (101) and (102) which were 0.7m thick.
- 6.2** The removal of the existing paving slabs, to a depth of 0.2m, adjacent to the farmhouse, where the extension was constructed, exposed natural chalk (103).
- 6.3** The deposits encountered are summarised in Table 1. No archaeological deposits, or artefacts were found during the groundwork. Evidence from the groundworks indicates that the original farmhouse construction involved cutting into the hillslope, which rises to the north and where the new access track is located.

Table 1: Deposits encountered during the site investigation

Context Number	Description	Thickness (mm)	Interpretation
100	Mid brown, silty clay with common flint and occasional chalk fragments	300	Topsoil
101	Light greyish-brown silty clay with <20% chalk fragments	500	Subsoil / Made - ground containing redeposited chalk
102	Dark brown, soft silty clay containing clinker, wire and brick	200	Made – ground with redeposited soil and modern deposits
103	White chalk	-	Natural geology / Bedrock

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1** No archaeological remains were found during the excavation of the access track as only a thin amount of topsoil was removed. Within the footprint of the new extension, where existing paving slabs were removed to reveal exposed natural chalk deposits, there was no evidence for archaeological deposits or any artefacts.

8. REFERENCES

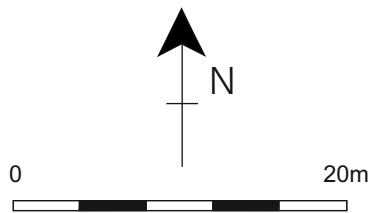
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Key:
 Site location


 AC archaeology
 PROJECT
 Knapp Farmhouse, Broadchalke
 TITLE
 Fig. 1: Site location



Plate 1: South-east facing access track



Plate 2: North-west facing section through terrace/made ground (scale 1m)



Plate 3: North-west facing natural geology in development area (scale 1m)



Plate 4: South facing natural geology in development area (scale 1m)

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