

Land at 'At Last', Salt Lane,
Winterbourne Gunner, Salisbury, Wiltshire

Centred on NGR 418190, 135190

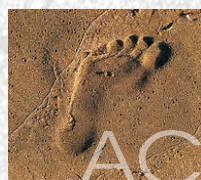
Results of an archaeological evaluation

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archaeology

‘AT LAST’, SALT LANE, WINTERBOURNE GUNNER, SALISBURY, WILTSHIRE (NGR 418190 135190):

RESULTS OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Summary

An evaluation excavation at ‘At Last’, Salt Lane, Winterbourne Gunner, was undertaken in April 2013 to provide additional information prior to determining a planning application for a proposed new dwelling on the site. Two c. 10m long trenches were excavated. The application area lies close to the site of an extensive Anglo-Saxon cemetery on the north and west side of Salt Lane and was considered to have potential to contain further evidence for the cemetery. No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were present.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This document sets out the results of an archaeological trench evaluation undertaken in support of a planning application for the construction of a 3 bed dwelling, single garage, hard and soft landscaping and associated works at ‘At Last’, Winterbourne Gunner, Wiltshire (Planning Ref. S/2013/0327/FULL).

1.2 The work was requested by the Assistant County Archaeologist, Wiltshire Council (hereafter ACAWC), in order to provide additional information regarding the archaeological potential of the site and to assist in the formulation of any necessary mitigation requirements should consent be granted. The work was undertaken by AC archaeology on April 24th 2013 and was commissioned by Weird Projects Ltd.

1.3 The site is on level ground at 65m OD; the underlying geology is chalk. The land is currently part of a garden under grass and a former vegetable plot (Plate 1).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The site is of high archaeological potential as significant archaeological remains are known from the area. There is a scheduled monument, comprising two Bronze Age barrows less than 100m to the east of the proposed development.

2.2 To the immediate north and north-east of the proposed development is the site of the first Anglo-Saxon graves excavated by Musty in 1960 (Musty & Stratton 1964); including 5th and 6th century burials. Further excavations and watching briefs in properties along Salt Lane have revealed an extensive Saxon cemetery dating between 5th and 8th centuries AD that may have been focused around pre-existing Bronze Age barrows. While the NW and SE extent of the cemetery is reasonably well established the south and SW extent is unknown and may extend into the present application area.

2.3 An evaluation carried out by AC archaeology (2008) at ‘Shiralee’, Salt Lane, has confirmed the presence of well-preserved human remains in proximity to the proposed development. While the burial was not fully excavated during this evaluation it appeared to be in a supine, extended position, in common with other graves excavated on the site in the 1960s.

2.4 An adjacent property, Sachbar, includes the site of a pond barrow that may have acted as the focus of the early cemetery. This monument is protected as a Scheduled Monument (no. 26264). The possibility of a further prehistoric monument in the vicinity cannot be discounted.



Plate 1: General view from the south prior to commencement of works

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a project design (Cox, 2013) approved by the ACAWC prior to commencement on site. It comprised two machine-excavated trenches, each 10m x 1m, positioned within the footprint of the proposed new dwelling. The location of the trenches is shown on Fig. 1.

3.2 Soil removal was undertaken under the control and direction of the Site Archaeologist. Topsoil was removed by mechanical excavator, using a toothless bucket, and stored alongside each trench. Stripping by mechanical excavator ceased at the level at which natural subsoil was exposed.

3.3 All deposits revealed were recorded using the standard AC archaeology pro-forma recording system, comprising written, graphic and photographic records, and in accordance with AC archaeology's General Site Recording Manual Version 2.

3.4 The archive has been prepared using the site code ACW526.

4. RESULTS

Trench 1 (Plate 2)

4.1 Trench 1 was aligned north-south. A single modern posthole was observed at the north end of the trench; it contained a single fill which included modern brick fragments. No artefacts of pre-modern date were present. The recorded layer sequence is summarised in Table 1.

Table 1: The stratigraphic sequence of Trench 1

Context	Thickness (mm)	Description	Interpretation
100	300	Dark brown silty loam.	Topsoil
101	150	Dark reddish brown clay with chalk fragments and pea grit.	Subsoil
102		Chalk	Natural Chalk

Trench 2 (Plate 3)

4.2 Trench 2 was aligned east-west. No artefacts or deposits of archaeological significance were present. The recorded layer sequence is summarised in Table 2.

Table 2: The stratigraphic sequence of Trench 2

Context	Thickness (mm)	Description	Interpretation
200	400	Grey/brown silty loam.	Topsoil
201	100	Dark reddish brown clay with chalk fragments and pea grit.	Subsoil
202		Chalk with some clay patches	Natural Chalk



Plate 2: Trench 1 as excavated, view from the north



Plate 3: Trench 2 as excavated, view from the west

5. COMMENT

5.1 The evaluation did not reveal any significant archaeological deposits or artefacts within either of the trenches.

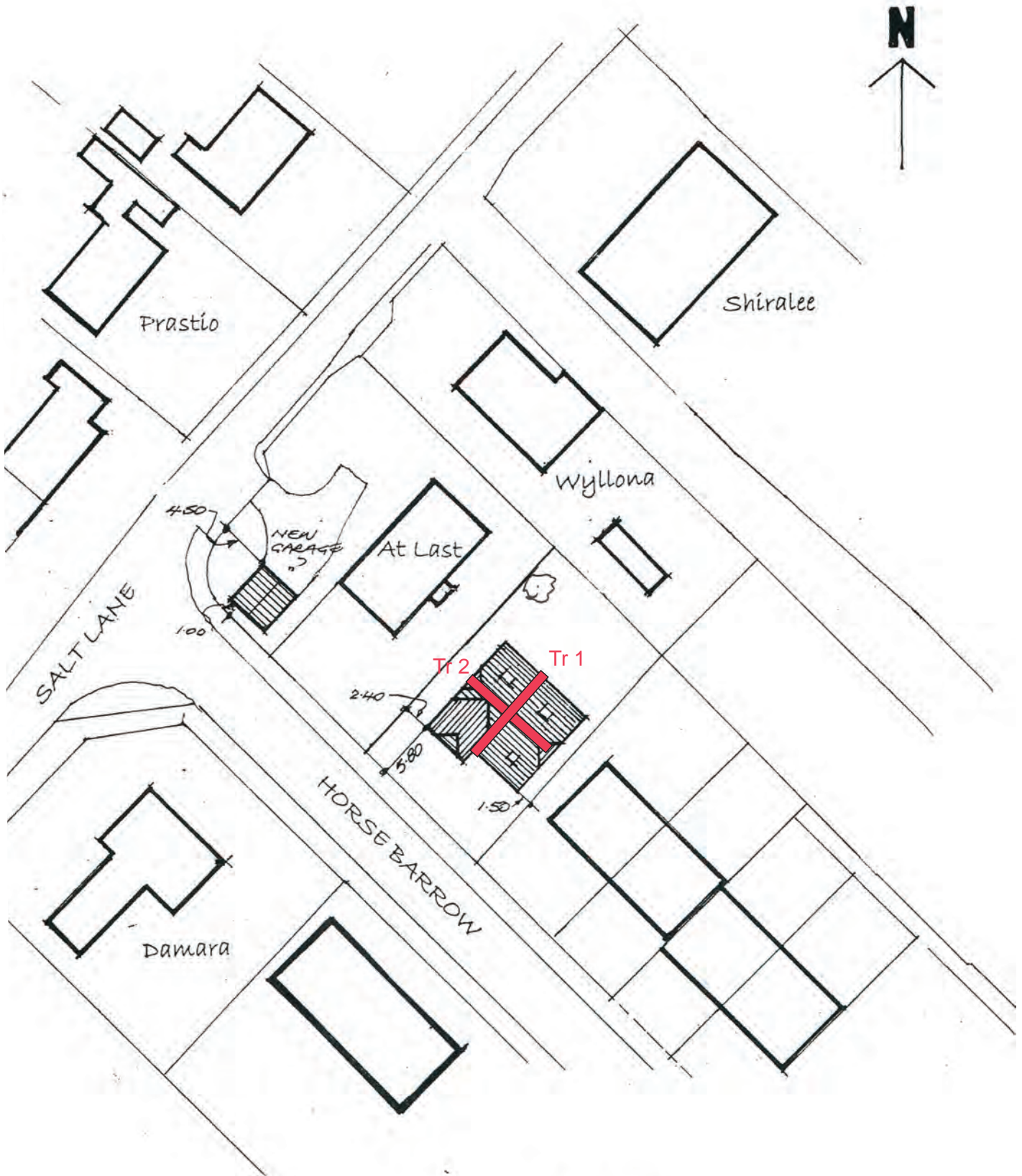
5.2 The negative result of these investigations *may* indicate that the proposed development area is beyond the south western limit of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery although further observations on adjacent properties would be required to confirm this.

6. REFERENCES

AC Archaeology, 2008, *An Archaeological Evaluation at 'Shiralee', Salt Lane, Winterbourne Gunner, Wiltshire*. Unpublished report

Cox, P., 2013, *Land at 'At Last', Salt Lane, Winterbourne Gunner, Salisbury, Wiltshire: Project Design for archaeological evaluation*, Doc. no ACW526/1/0

Musty, J. & Stratton, J. E. D., 1964, 'A Saxon cemetery at Winterbourne Gunner, Near Salisbury' *WANHM* Vol 59 1964, 86 – 109



PROJECT
At Last, Salt Lane, Winterbourne Gunner

TITLE

Fig. 1: Trench locations

drg no 2013/3A/B

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