



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION ON LAND AT WINDMILL FARM,
BAYDON RD, LAMBOURN, WEST BERKSHIRE**

SP 308 708

On behalf of

DLA Ltd

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REPORT FOR DLA Ltd
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Summary

John Moore Heritage Services conducted an archaeological evaluation in advance of a new proposed development at Windmill Farm, Baydon Road, Lambourn, West Berkshire (SU 308 780). One T-shaped trench, totalling approximately 37 metres in length, was excavated to the underlying natural geology. Three features were revealed comprising one posthole, one shallow gully associated with a modern hedgerow and one ditch containing densely packed waste iron objects of modern date. No features of an earlier medieval windmill were revealed. The remains of the enclosing wall and kerb for the post-medieval windmill were recorded.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location and Geology (Figure 1)

The site is located at Windmill Farm, Baydon Rd, Lambourn, Hungerford, Berkshire RG17 7BN and is currently occupied by the old farmhouse and a number of subsidiary structures (JMHS 2011). The site lies at *c.* 163m AOD and the underlying geology according to the British Geological Survey on line viewer (BGS) (1:50 000) is Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation.

1.2 Planning Background

Planning permission is sought for change of use from agriculture to equine establishment, demolition of the existing farmhouse and all outbuildings: construction of a replacement house, stabling, ancillary outbuildings and staff flat at Windmill Farm, Baydon Road, Lambourn (11/01903/FULMAJ). Due to the potential presence of archaeological remains a pre-determination field evaluation was recommended by West Berkshire Council Archaeological Service (WBCAS). This is in line with PPS5. WBCAS did not prepare a Brief for Archaeological Field Evaluation, but were consulted prior to a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (JMHS 2012) prepared by John Moore Heritage Services, which outlined a method to satisfy their requirements.

1.3 Archaeological Background

Windmill Farm originated as part of the holdings of Uplambourn. There were a number of portions of Uplambourn of which there was a parcel held by the king in 1086 and another 2 hides 1 virgate held by Hascoit Musard (VCH 1924, 251-66). The king's land in the 12th century was granted out as two parcels of land. One was held in 1167 by Henry, son of Riulf, in 1204 it was granted to William Briwer, and in 1233 the land came into the custody of William Grimor. The other was held in 1196 by the Plunkenet family and seems to have been frequently changing hands. In 1255 the two holdings were amalgamated, and in 1316 the estate had become a holding of the Bohun family. In the post-medieval period this manor belonged to the owners of the Place House, being the manor of the Grandisons Manor. The 2 hides and 1 virgate was partially granted to the Prior of the Hospital of Saint John of Lechlade in 1233.

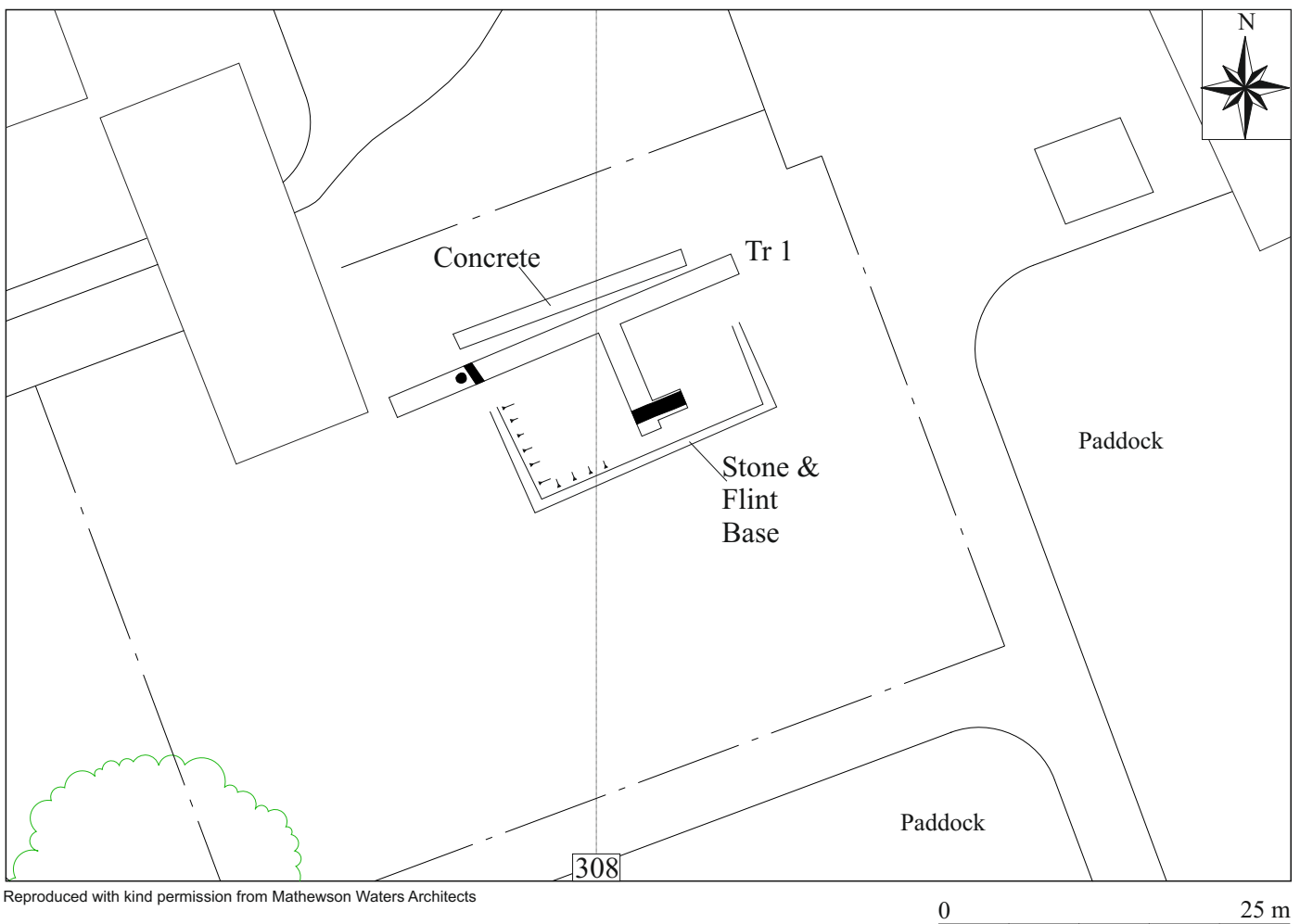
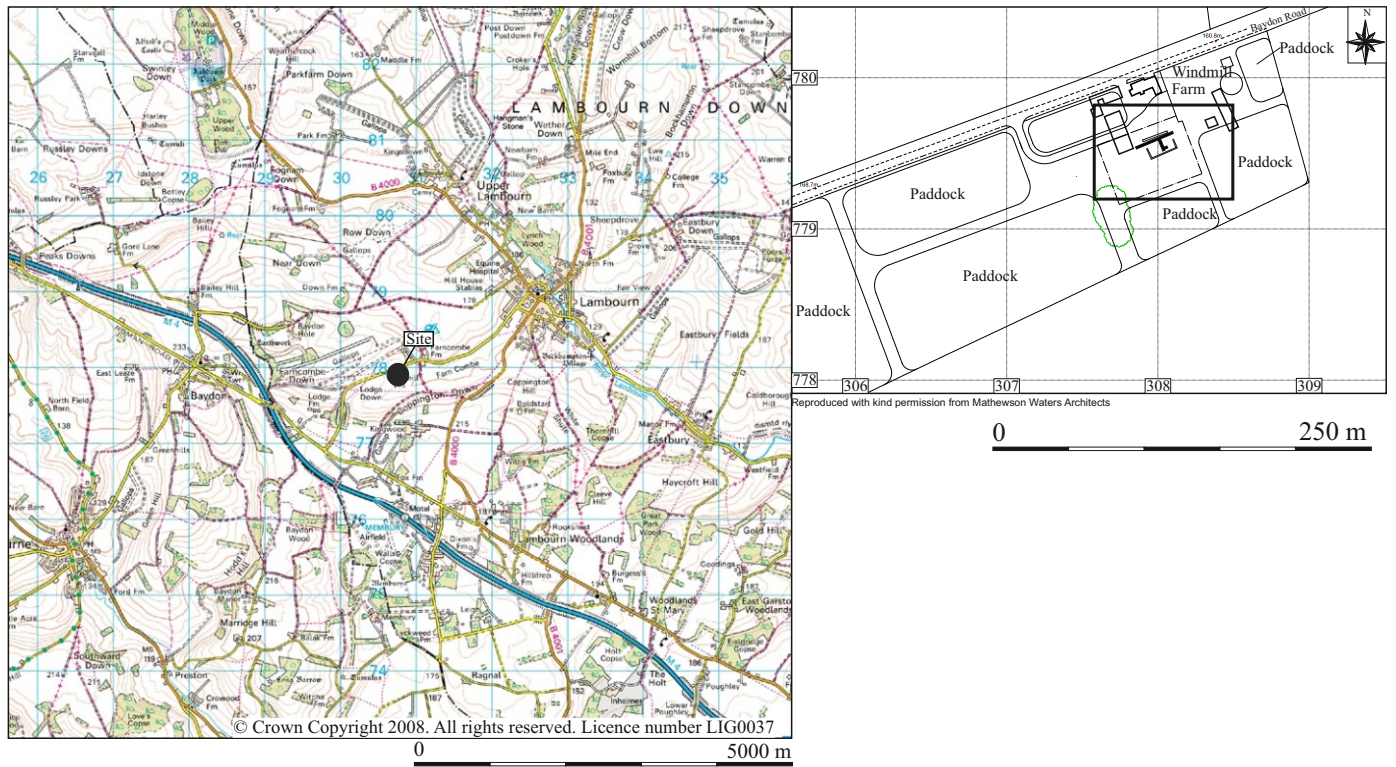


Figure 1. Site location

Uplambourn is known to have had a windmill in 1273 (Gelling 1974, 340), and the road that runs past the farm is referred to as *Wyndmulleweye* in 1342 and 1346. A further reference to the *Wymmulle* dates to 1376. The windmill is known to have existed at the end of the 13th century and through the 14th century.

No buildings are shown on Rocques map of 1761, although this cannot be taken as a guarantee that no buildings were located on the site at that time. More information on the sites history can be obtained from a conservation appraisal prepared by John Moore Heritage Services (JMHS 2011).

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

The aims as laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation were:

To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the site.

To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.

To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of the archaeological features and deposits.

To determine the impact of the proposed development on any remains present.

In particular;

- Is there evidence relating to the windmill in the area?
- Does evidence relating to the medieval occupation of the site survive on the site?
- Are there any deposits or features revealed in the work that enable an understanding of the scale and character of the medieval activity?

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

Site procedures for the investigation and recording of potential archaeological deposits and features were defined in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (JMHS 2012). The work was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1999) and the procedures laid down in MAP2 (English Heritage 1991).

3.2 Methodology

The trenching sample required was achieved through the excavation of one T-shaped trench (27m x 9m x 1.6m) across the development plot. The line of a ditch was also traced c. 3m to help establish its shape (See Fig 1).

The trench was excavated by a 360° type tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The resultant surfaces were cleaned by hand where necessary prior to hand excavation of the potential archaeological deposits and features.

Standard John Moore Heritage Services techniques were employed throughout, involving the completion of a written record for each deposit encountered, with scale plans and sections drawings compiled where appropriate. A photographic record was produced. The trenches were backfilled after recording.

Duncan Coe County Archaeologist for West Berkshire County Council monitored the work.

4 RESULTS

All deposits and features were assigned individual context numbers. Context numbers without brackets indicate features i.e. pit cuts; while numbers in () show feature fills or deposits of material.

4.1 Excavation Results (Figure 2)

The lowest deposit noted within the trenches consisted of natural chalk, which was reached between varying heights of 162.16 - 162.84m AOD. The overburden consisted of a modern hardcore deposit (1/02) and topsoil (1/01). All features within the trench were sealed by topsoil (Plate 1).

4.2 Trench 1 (Figure 2)

Linear Features

Gully 1/06 was orientated north-south and was recorded near the western end of the trench where it passed across an existing earthwork consisting of a bank and hedgerow. The gully was recorded in section as 0.60m wide with sharp concave sides and gently rounded base, filled by two deposits. The earliest deposit was 0.20m thick mid grey silty clay (1/07) with chalk inclusions overlain by 0.30m thick dark greyish black silty clay (1/10) (Figure 2; S. 1.2)

Ditch 1/08 was *c.* 0.90m in width with almost straight sides and a flat base. It was filled by dark blackish brown silty clay with modern finds throughout (1/09) (Fig 2; S. 1.1; Plate 4).

Discrete features

Posthole 1 /04 (162.88m) was 0.65m in diameter and 0.25m depth with sharp concave sides and a gently rounded base. It was filled by mid greyish brown silty clay (1/05) with one nail and frequent chalk inclusions throughout (Fig 2; S. 1.3)

All of these features were sealed directly by topsoil (1/01). Gully 1/06 was sealed by a deposit of hardcore associated with the existing access road (1/02).

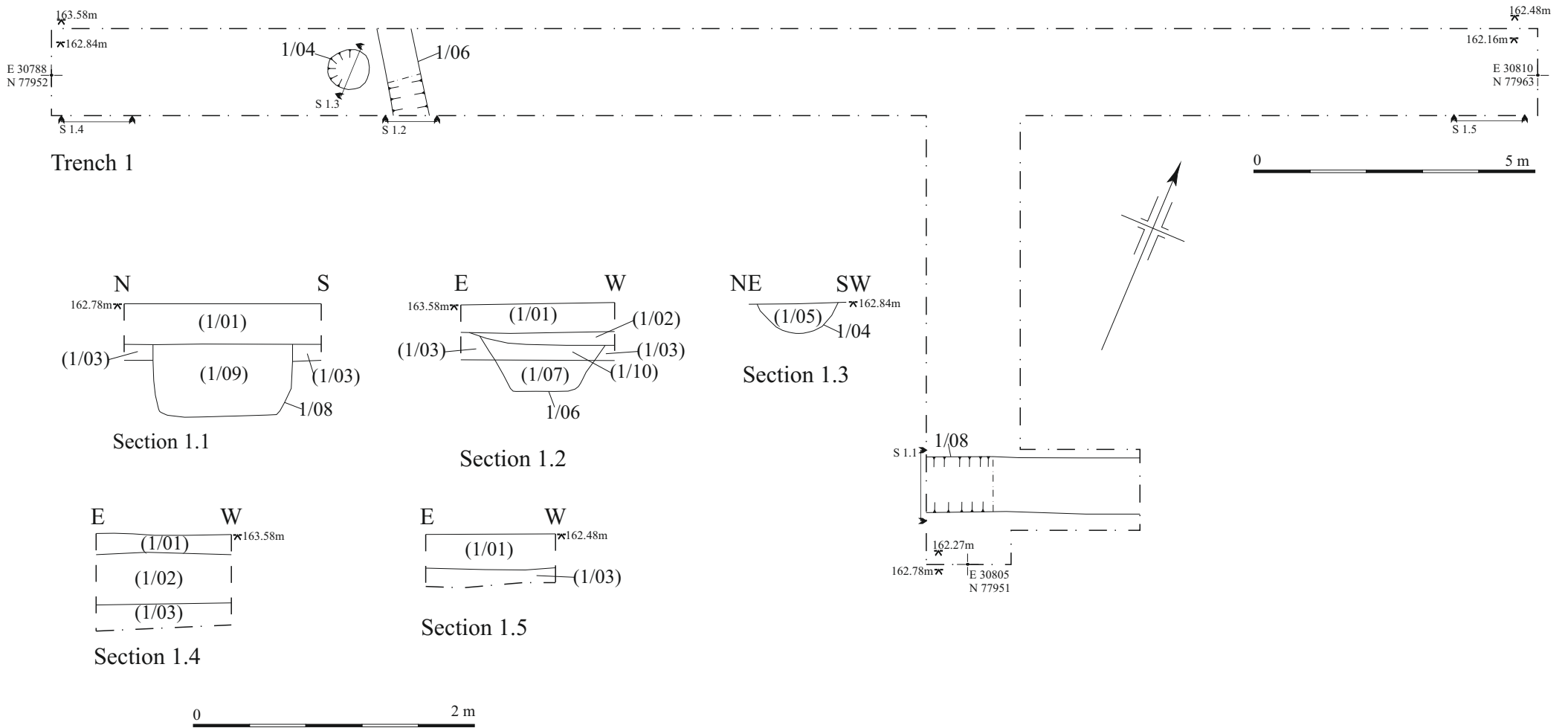


Figure 2. Trench 1 plan and sections

4.3 Reliability of Techniques and Results

The reliability of results is considered to be good. The excavation of the trench took place in favourable weather conditions.

5 FINDS

The only finds recovered from the excavations were modern and not retained. Ditch 1/08 was densely filled with iron objects (Plate 2) and posthole 1/04 contained one iron nail of post-medieval date

6 DISCUSSION

The depth of overburden was as expected and preservation of below ground deposits was good. The evaluation did not reveal any evidence of a medieval windmill thought to have existed beneath the post-medieval windmill, considered to have been located across the area of the proposed new building. This area is suggested as there is still existing concrete kerbing and remains of flint and stone walls and a bank with hedgerow defining this space (Plate 3). The area was level within the space (See Figure 1).

The trench was positioned across the general area of the proposed new build in a T-shaped design to maximise the area covered in an attempt to locate any earlier medieval windmill. As a result no features of any earlier medieval structures were encountered.

All features were related to the later windmill or were created by modern farming activity. Given the site was used during the war by Canadians and American armed forces, the objects recovered from ditch 1/08 may be connected to the war. A twisted metal coil seen in the ditch could have been used on barbed wire fences common in WWII camps.

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APPENDIX 1– ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Findings	Date
Trench 1							
1/01	Layer	Dark greyish black silty clay	0.20	Tr.	Tr.	None	/
1/02	Layer	Mid-dark orange brown silty clay	0.20	Tr.	c. 3m	None	/
1/03	Layer	Light-mid mottled orange silt with creamy white chalk	0.20	Tr.	Tr.	None	/
1/04	Cut	Posthole	0.25	0.65	0.65	/	/
1/05	Deposit	Mid greyish brown silty clay	0.25	0.65	0.65	None	/
1/06	Cut	Gully N-S	0.30	0.60	Tr.	/	/
1/07	Deposit	Mid grey silty clay with chalk inclusions	0.30	0.60	Tr.	None	/
1/08	Cut	Ditch E-W	0.55	0.95	Tr.	/	/
1/09	Deposit	Dark blackish brown silty clay	0.55	0.95	Tr.	None	/
1/10	Deposit	Dark greyish black silty clay	0.20	0.65	Tr.	None	/
1/11	Deposit	Natural Chalk	/	/	Tr.	/	/

Plate 1; Trench 1 - looking E



Plate 2; Iron objects including saucepan from ditch 1/08



Plate 3; Concrete kerbing assumed to be associated with the previous windmill



Plate 4; Ditch 1/08 looking NE showing extension to trench

