

**LAND AT THE FORMER SWAN INN,
GREEN'S LANE,
WROUGHTON,
WILTSHIRE.**

NGR: SU 1482 8012

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

July 2007
Report No. 552

Quality Assurance

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SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken in March 2007 by Foundations Archaeology on land at the former Swan Inn, Green's Lane, Wroughton, Wiltshire (NGR: SU 1482 8012).

The archaeological works comprised the monitoring of groundworks associated with the construction of two residential dwellings.

The study area had previously been reduced down to and possibly into the natural substrates and a late Post-medieval/modern cut was present at the north of the site.

No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were present within the investigated area.

GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Archaeology

For the purpose of this project archaeology is taken to mean the study of past human societies through their material remains from prehistoric times to the modern era. No rigid upper date limit has been set, but AD 1900 is used as a general cut-off point.

Medieval

The period between the Norman Conquest (AD 1066) and *circa* AD 1500.

Natural

In archaeological terms this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site.

NGR

National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid.

OD

Ordnance datum; used to express a given height above sea-level.

OS

Ordnance Survey

Post-medieval

The period from *circa* AD 1500 onwards

Romano-British

Term used to define the fusion of indigenous Iron Age traditions with invasive Roman culture. Traditionally dated AD 43 to *circa* AD 410.

Saxon

The period between AD 410 and AD 1066.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In March 2007 Foundations Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief on land at the former Swan Inn, Green's Lane, Wroughton, Wiltshire (NGR: SU 1482 8012). The work was commissioned by John Lippitt Chartered Architects on behalf of Bakers (Lambourn) Ltd.
- 1.2 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Foundations Archaeology (2007). The WSI was prepared in accordance with the *Standards for Archaeological Assessment and Field Evaluation in Wiltshire* (CAS 1995), the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994, revised 2001), Archaeological Guidance Paper 4: *Archaeological Watching Briefs: (guidelines)* issued by English Heritage (London Region).
- 1.3 This document presents the findings of the archaeological watching brief and conforms to the specification set out in Appendices 4 and 5 of *The Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991).

2 SITE LOCATION

- 2.1 The site is located near the centre of Wroughton at NGR: SU 1482 8012 and at a height of 126m OD. The study area is bounded to the south by Green's Lane, to the east by residential dwellings, to the north by Bakers Road and to the west by a car park.

3 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Planning permission, with an archaeological watching brief condition, has been granted to construct two new dwellings with associated works and change of use for an existing building to a single dwelling (Application Number: S/06/0391/SS).
- 3.2 The site is located close to the historic core of Wroughton. The study area therefore contained the potential for the preservation of archaeological features and deposits, associated with the Saxon, Medieval and Post-medieval periods. This in no way prejudiced the monitoring works against the recovery of finds or features relating to other periods.

4 AIMS

- 4.1 The aims of the watching brief were to gather high quality data from the direct observation of archaeological deposits in order to provide sufficient information to establish the nature, extent, preservation and potential of any surviving archaeological remains.

- 4.2 These aims were to be achieved by the pursuit of the following specific objectives as stated in the WSI (Foundations Archaeology 2007).
- i) to define, identify and record any archaeological deposits on site, and date these where possible.
 - ii) to attempt to characterise the nature of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning of features present on the site.
 - iii) where possible to recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence and recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples.

5 METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 All significant groundworks within the study area were observed by an archaeologist. When features or deposits of potential archaeological significance were noted, they were closely examined, defined, manually excavated (where appropriate) and recorded.

6 RESULTS

- 6.1 The stratigraphic sequence across the site was relatively uniform. The natural deposits, which consisted of yellow and grey sand, were present at an average depth of 0.41m below modern ground surface. These were overlaid by a brick rubble layer (103), up to 0.30m thick, which contained occasional Post-medieval and modern pottery sherds. Layer (103) was sealed by context (102), up to 0.18m thick, which comprised a gravel bedding layer. Layer (102) was overlaid by context (101), up to 0.08m thick, which consisted of tarmac.
- 6.2 Feature [104] was at least 30m long, 2m wide, 0.80m in depth and consisted of a northeast-southwest aligned linear cut with steep sides, which was aligned parallel to the southern edge of Bakers Road. The feature occurred at the north of Plots 1 and 2 and extended beyond the north limit of investigation. Feature [104] cut the natural deposits and brick rubble layer (103) and was overlaid by context (102). Fill (105) comprised a brown clay sand, which contained frequent charcoal flecks and lenses and a sherd of china-ware pottery.

7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The lack of intact subsoil layers across the site indicates that the study area had previously been stripped and possibly reduced.
- 7.2 Feature [104] was later than brick rubble deposit (103) and contained a piece of china-ware pottery and therefore was clearly of late Post-medieval/modern origin.

- 7.3 No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were present within the investigated area.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

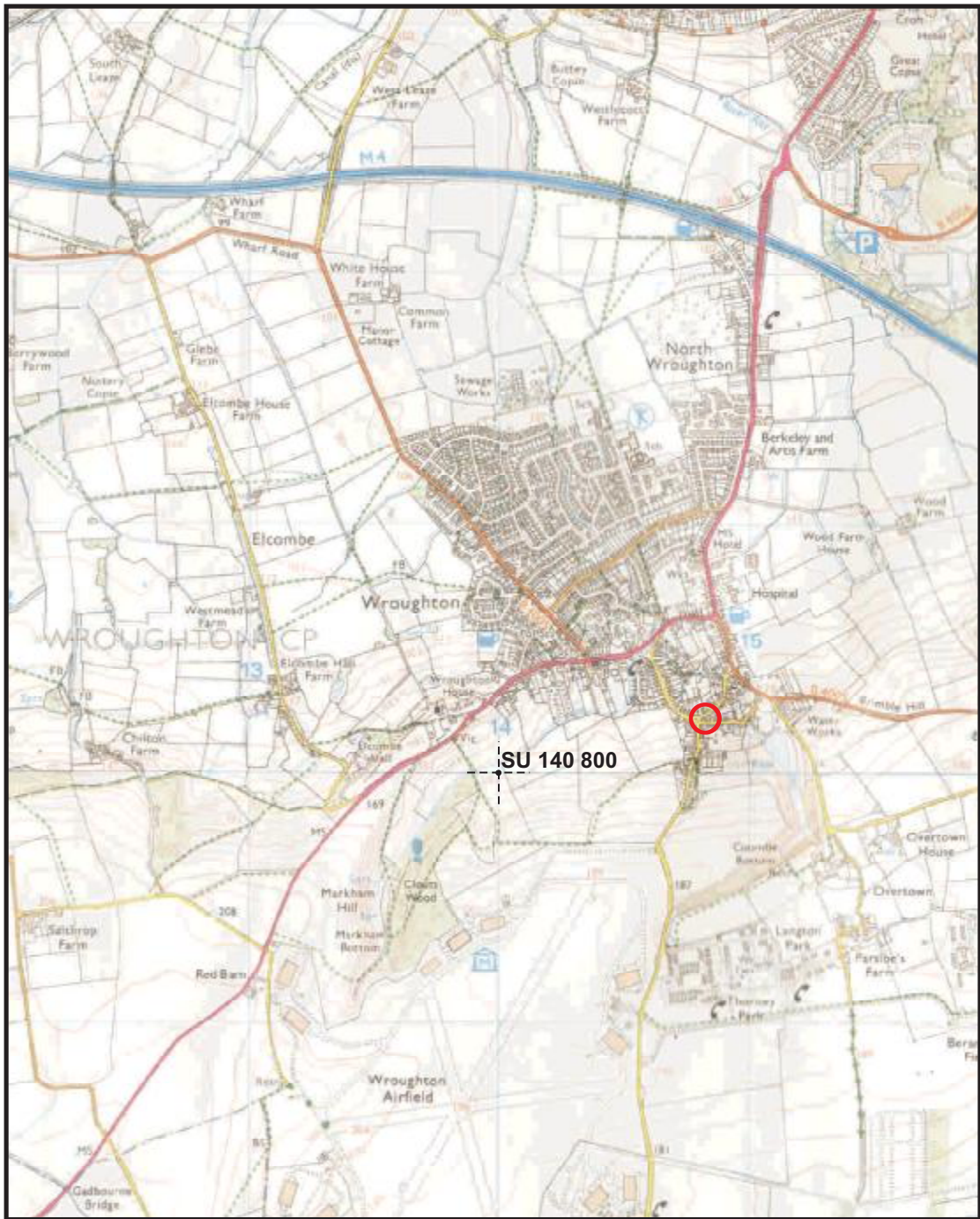
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9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Foundations Archaeology would like to thank Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger of Wiltshire County Council and John Lippitt Chartered Architects.



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FIGURE 1: Site Location

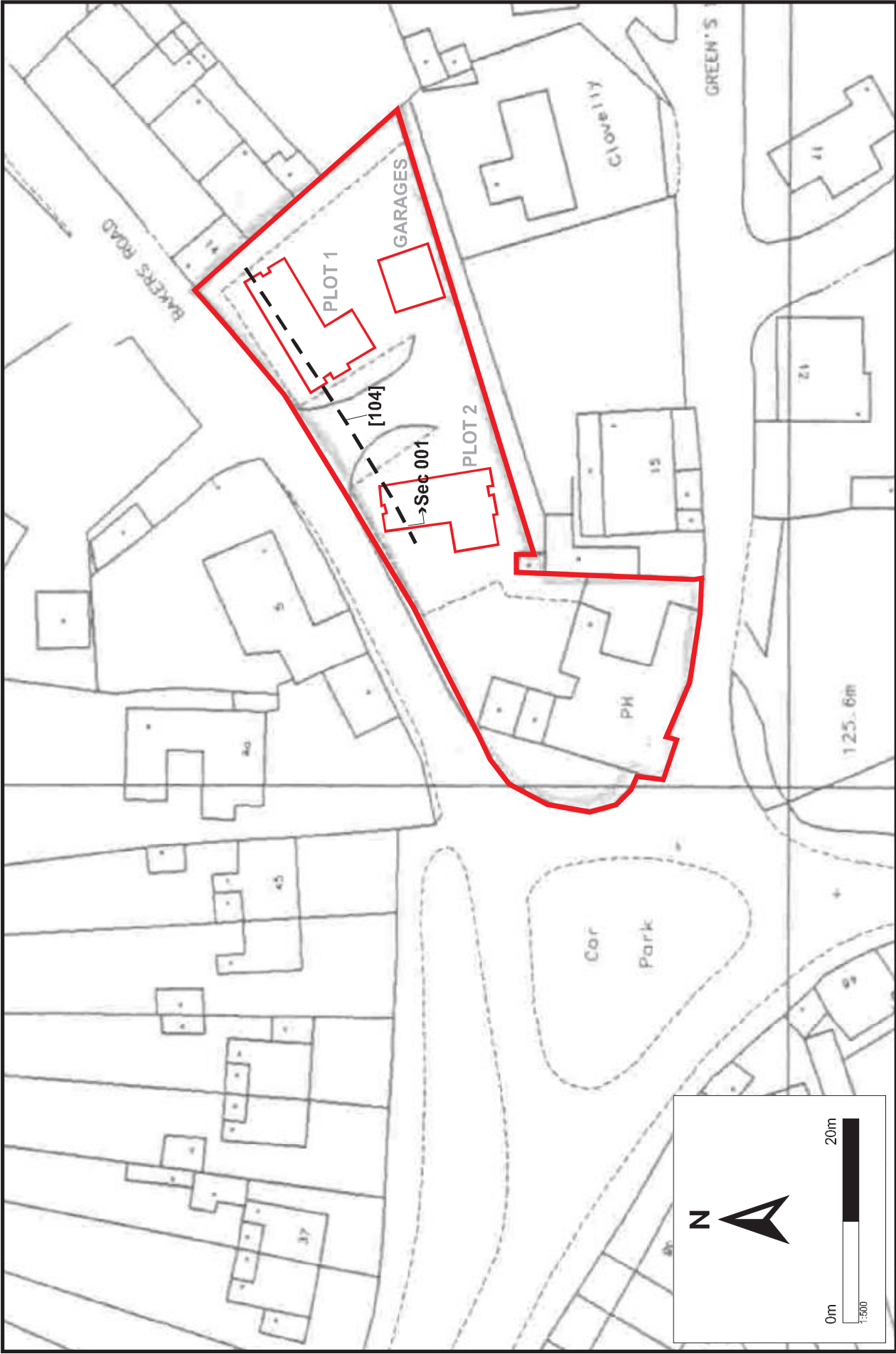


FIGURE 2: Site Plan

SECTION 001 - EAST FACING SECTION THROUGH [104]

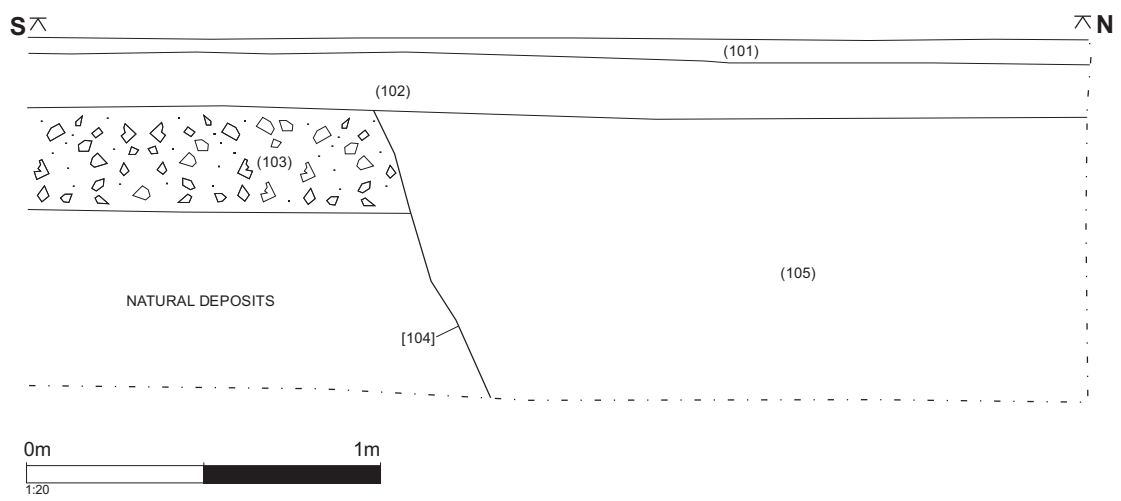


FIGURE 3: Section