APPENDIX 6

FOUNDATIONS ARCHAEOLOGY

LAND AT COLLINGBOURNE DUCIS, WILTSHIRE

NGR: SU 242 539

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

July 2003

Report No. 304

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REGISTERED IFA ORGANISATION

LAND AT COLLINGBOURNE DUCIS, WILTSHIRE

NGR: SU 242 539

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SITE CODE: CBD03

Report No. 304

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109 Albion Street, Swindon, Wilts SN1 5LP
Tel/Fax 01793 525993 / 08700 780 555 Email Admin@foundations.co.uk
Website http://www.foundations.co.uk

CONTENTS

FIGURE LIST

109 Albion Street, Swindon, Wilts SN1 5LP
Tel/Fax 01793 525993 Email admin@foundations.co.uk

SUMMARY

On 14th July 2003 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological evaluation on land at Collingbourne Ducis, Wiltshire, centred at NGR: SU 242 539 (Figure 1). The project was commissioned by Wiltshire County Council and was undertaken in accordance with the Brief, supplied by Sue Farr of Wiltshire County Council Archaeological Service (2003) and the Project Design (Foundations Archaeology 2003).

The evaluation comprised the excavation and recording of four 20m by 1.6m trenches within the proposed development area (Figure 2).

No significant archaeological features or deposits were identified during the course of the project.

109 Albion Street, Swindon, Wilts SN1 5LP
Tel/Fax 01793 525993 Email admin@foundations.co.uk

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.

CBM

Ceramic Building Material.

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. (AOD Above Ordnance Datum).

OS

Ordnance Survey.

Roman

The period between AD43 and *circa* AD410

Saxon

The period between *circa* AD410 and AD1066

109 Albion Street, Swindon, Wilts SN1 5LP
Tel/Fax 01793 525993 Email admin@foundations.co.uk

INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report presents the findings of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Foundations Archaeology on 14th July 2003 on land at Collingbourne Ducis, Wiltshire at NGR: SU 242 539 (Figure 1). The project was commissioned by Wiltshire County Council.

1.2 It is proposed to undertake the construction of new school buildings and associated works. A programme of archaeological investigation was required by Wiltshire County Council prior to the determination of planning permission in accordance with the principals of Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning (DoE 1990) and the archaeological policies of Wiltshire County Council.

1.3 This report constitutes the results of the archaeological works. The project was undertaken in accordance with the Project Design prepared by Foundations Archaeology (2003), based upon the Brief (2003) prepared by Sue Farr of Wiltshire County Council. The fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with IFA *Standards and Guidance on Archaeological Evaluation* (1994, revised 2001) and *Standards for Archaeological Assessment and Field Evaluation in Wiltshire* (1995).

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

2.1 The site is situated near to the centre of Collingbourne Ducis, west of the A338 (Figure 1). The area is bordered by residential development to the east, Chicks Lane to the north, Court Farm to the south and a recreation ground to the west. The natural geology is *Upper Chalk* and current land-use consists of pasture. The proposed development works cover an area of approximately 7500m^2.

2.2 The archaeological background for the area suggests that the site is of high archaeological potential. A Saxon settlement is known from immediately east of the site. Nine sunken-featured buildings were excavated and some 1400 sherds of pottery recovered. Although the bulk of the assemblage was of Saxon date, a small number of worn Roman sherds were found, suggesting either continuing use of Roman vessels during the post-Roman period or the presence nearby of a Roman settlement. More than 3000 bones were also recovered with sufficient variety of species to suggest a specialised or high status site. A Saxon cemetery is also known to the north east of the proposed development area, from which 33 burials were recovered in 1974. A number of linear features are also recorded on aerial photographs from north and south of the proposed development area.

2.3 The archaeological potential for the site therefore centred on potential Roman and Saxon activity. This did not prejudice the evaluation to the recovery of features from other periods.

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Tel/Fax 01793 525993 Email admin@foundations.co.uk

3 AIMS

3.1 The aims of the archaeological evaluation 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; as well as to make recommendations for management of the resource, including further archaeological works if necessary. In turn this would allow reasonable planning decisions to be taken regarding the archaeological provision for the areas affected by the proposed development.

3.2 These aims were achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:

i) To define and identify the nature of 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) To recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence and recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 The project required the excavation of four 20m by 1.6m trenches within the proposed development area (Figure 2). Trench 4 was relocated in order to preserve an extant fence line.

4.2 Topsoil and non-significant overburden was removed to the top of archaeological deposits or natural, whichever was encountered first. This was achieved with the use of a mechanical excavator with a toothless grading bucket. Thereafter the trenches were cleaned and all additional excavation was conducted by hand.

4.3 All excavation and recording work was undertaken in accordance with the Foundations Archaeology Project Design and the Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 3: Excavation Manual.

5 RESULTS

5.1 **Trench 1** measured 20m long and was aligned approximately north-south. The trench was excavated onto natural chalk at an average depth of 0.44m (141.44m OD) from the modern ground surface. Overlying the natural deposits, layer (102) consisted of a degraded chalk/clay silt mixed subsoil, up to 0.27m thick. Context (102) was sealed beneath a dark grey/brown humic clay/silt topsoil (101), up to 0.25m thick. No archaeological artefacts or features were present within this trench.

5.2 **Trench 2** measured 20m long and was aligned approximately east-west. The trench was excavated onto natural chalk at an average depth of 0.69m (140.27m OD) from the modern ground surface. Overlying the natural deposits, layer (202) consisted of a degraded chalk/clay silt mixed subsoil, up to 0.35m thick which contained occasional CBM fragments. Context (202) was sealed beneath a dark grey/brown humic clay/silt topsoil (201), up to 0.43m thick. At the western end of the trench, a north-south aligned modern feature cut through layers (201) and (202) and was cut into the natural substrate. No archaeological artefacts or features were present within this trench.

5.3 **Trench 3** measured 20m long and was aligned approximately northeast-southwest. The trench was excavated onto natural chalk at an average depth of 0.71m (139.49m OD) from the modern ground surface. Overlying the natural deposits, layer (302) consisted of a degraded chalk/clay silt mixed subsoil, up to 0.30m thick, which contained rare CBM fragments. Context (302) was sealed beneath a dark grey/brown humic clay/silt topsoil (301), up to 0.56m thick. A single root bole occurred at the northeast end of the trench. No archaeological artefacts or features were present within this trench.

5.4 **Trench 4** measured 20m long and was aligned approximately east-west. The trench was excavated onto natural chalk at an average depth of 0.62m (139.45m OD) from the modern ground surface. Overlying the natural deposits, layer (402) consisted of a degraded chalk/clay silt mixed subsoil, up to 0.26m thick. Context (402) was sealed beneath a dark grey/brown humic clay/silt topsoil (401), up to 0.48m thick. No archaeological artefacts or features were present within this trench.

6 DISCUSSION

6.1 The stratigraphic sequence was essentially uniform across the site.

6.2 In general, site conditions for archaeological preservation were extremely good and there was no evidence of the site having been previously stripped or otherwise developed.

6.3 No archaeologically significant features or deposits were present within the investigated areas and no archaeological finds were recovered.

6.4 The proposed development area therefore appears to be of low archaeological potential.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Foundations Archaeology would like to thank Sue Farr of Wiltshire County Council for her assistance and cooperation with this project.

109 Albion Street, Swindon, Wilts SN1 5LP
Tel/Fax 01793 525993 Email admin@foundations.co.uk

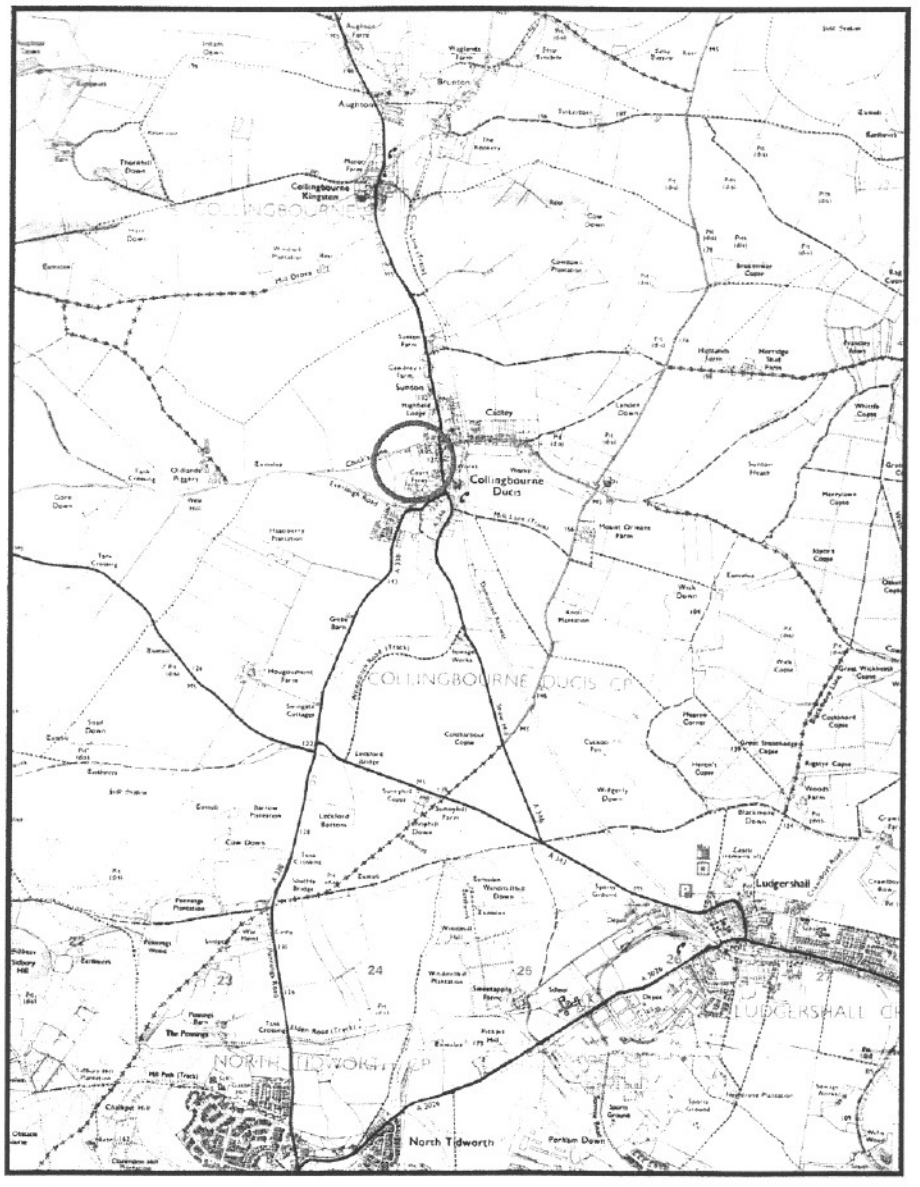
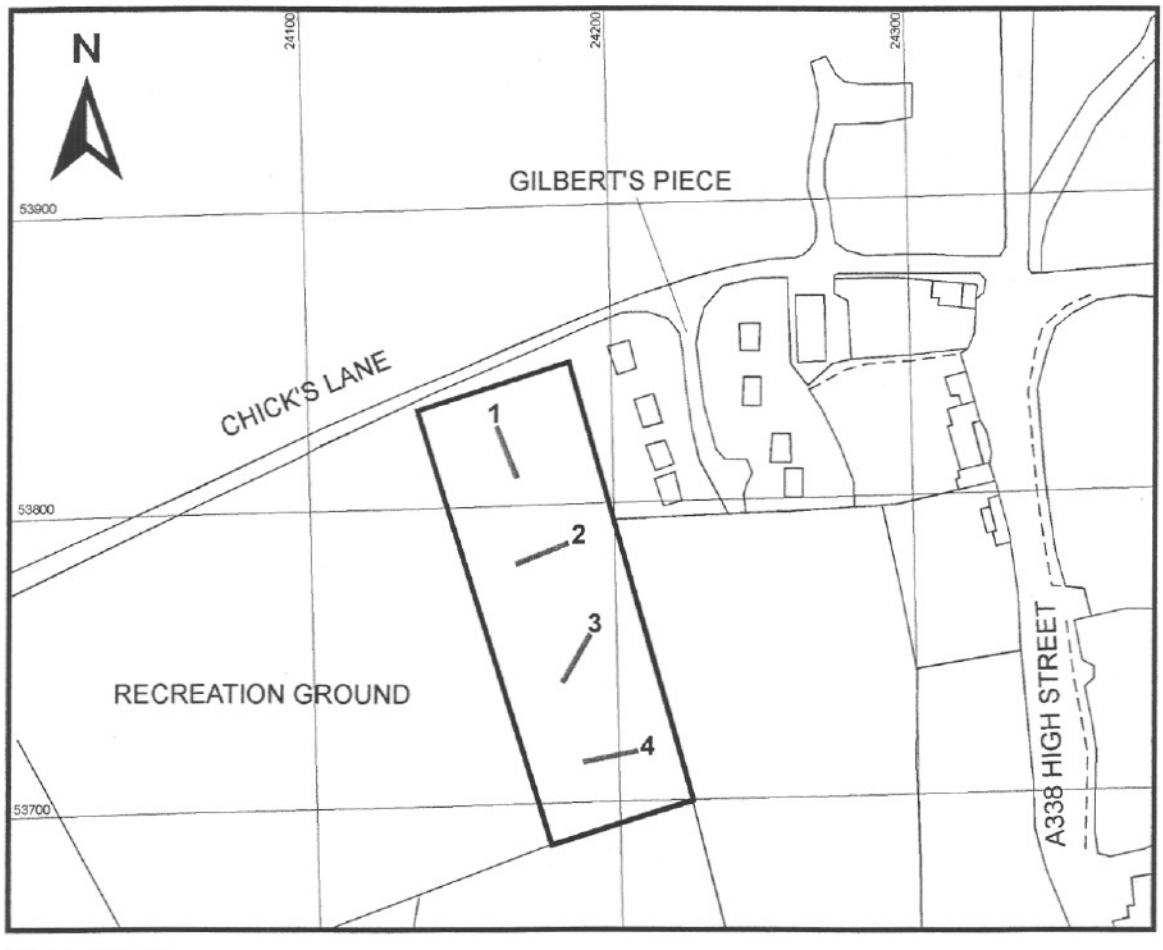


FIGURE 1: Site Location



0m 100m

FIGURE 2: Trench Location