

Land Adjacent to the Jolly Miller Quemerford, Calne, Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report



**LAND ADJACENT TO THE JOLLY MILLER,
QUEMERFORD,
CALNE
WILTSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

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SUMMARY

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Wadworth and Co Limited (The Client), to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to the Jolly Miller Public House, Quemerford, Calne, Wiltshire (hereafter, 'the Site'). The Site is located at 203 Quemerford and forms a sub-rectangular plot of approximately 700 square metres, bounded to the east and west by residential properties and to the north by open ground. This open ground comprises a Scheduled Monument (Wiltshire 28997) and includes the remains of part of a medieval settlement located to the south of Quemerford Farm and either side of a track, the origins of which may be contemporary with the settlement. The Site is centred on NGR 400900 169750 and is currently occupied by the Jolly Miller public house, car park and grounds. The fieldwork, comprising the excavation and recording of a single 15m long evaluation trench representing an approximately 4% sample of the Site, was undertaken on January 10th-12th 2005.

The natural substrata comprised Kimmeridge Clay, the surface of which was very variable in colour and texture. Three archaeological features, a ditch or trench and two postholes, were encountered within the trench. On the basis of the presence of modern pottery, along with post-medieval pottery, clay pipe fragments and brick and tile fragments, all three were assumed to be of 19th or 20th century date. All were cut into the surface of the natural substrata and sealed below the probable buried topsoil, which was in turn sealed by the modern overburden. The ditch or trench was aligned approximately north-west to south-east, parallel to the property boundary some 25m to the north-east, suggesting that the feature pre-dated the laying out of the present property. The two postholes lay within 2.00m of one another in the southern end of the trench, but did not appear to represent any discernible structure.

Despite the close proximity of earthworks, probably representing house platforms and property boundaries, within the field immediately to the north of the Site, no medieval features or deposits were located within the trench and none of the finds noted could be dated any earlier than the post-medieval period. The presence of a buried topsoil below the modern tarmac and brick rubble overburden suggests that the Site has not been subject to any large-scale landscaping or remodelling and consequently that the deserted medieval settlement does not extend into the Site.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The evaluation was commissioned by Mathewson Whittaker Waters Architects on behalf of Wadworth and Co. Ltd and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Howard Waters for his assistance. The fieldwork was monitored for Wiltshire County Council by Roy Canham, the County Archaeological Officer and his advice and assistance is gratefully acknowledged.

The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Nick Truckle. The fieldwork was undertaken by Vaughan Birbeck, assisted by Cai Mason and Bob Legg of Briter Plant Hire. This report was compiled by Vaughan Birbeck; Lorraine Mephram (Wessex Archaeology Finds Manager) provided comments on the finds and the illustrations were prepared by Karen Nichols and Linda Coleman.

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Wadworth and Co Limited (The Client), to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to the Jolly Miller Public House, Quemerford, Calne, Wiltshire (hereafter, 'the Site'). The Site is located at 203 Quemerford and forms a sub- rectangular plot of approximately 700 square metres, bounded to the east and west by residential properties and to the north by the open Pasture (**Figure 1**). The Site is centred on NGR 400900 169750 and is currently occupied by the Jolly Miller public house, car park and grounds. The fieldwork, comprising the excavation and recording of a single 15m long evaluation trench representing an approximately 4% sample of the Site, was undertaken on January 10th-12th 2005.
- 1.1.2 A planning application (no. 04/02550/FUL) was submitted to Wiltshire County Council for the development of four dwellings on the Site in September 2004. The site lies in an area of considerable archaeological interest, adjacent to a Scheduled Monument (Wiltshire 28997) and therefore Wiltshire County Council's Archaeology Officer advised that an archaeological field evaluation would be required in support of an application for planning permission. It was recommended that the evaluation should comprise a minimum 2% sample of the development area. A brief setting out the extent of the required work was provided in the form of a letter from Roy Canham, the County Archaeologist, dated 4th October 2004.

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The Site is located on the gently sloping southern side of the small valley of the River Marden, and lies at between 81.40m OD at the northern end and 81.90m OD at the southern end. The underlying geology comprises Kimmeridge Clay, very close to its junction with the underlying Coral Rag, immediately to the north of the site. (BGS Sheet 266, 1:50 000 1971).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1.1 The site is adjacent to a Scheduled Monument (National Monument Number 28997). The monument description obtained from English Heritage states that the monument falls into two areas and includes the remains of part of a medieval settlement located to the south of

Quemerford Farm and either side of a track, the origins of which may be contemporary with the settlement.

- 2.1.2 The settlement area divides into two parts. (**Figure 1**). To the west of the track (which can be seen running north, immediately to the east of 213 Quemerford on Figure 1), and at the western edge of the area east of the track, there are a series of well-defined house platforms, up to 0.6m high. Those which abut and are aligned on the track provide clear evidence of its antiquity, a point also confirmed by the route it provides between the settlement and the 13th century St Peter's Church. Linear banks surround and run between the platforms. These features represent the boundaries of enclosures or closes; one prominent example, running parallel to the track on the west side, stands 1m high. Beyond the area of the house platforms to the east are a series of less distinct earthwork features representing fields. These are arranged on a different alignment and fill the intervening area between the Quemerford settlement and a further settlement area some 250m further east. This eastern settlement has been levelled by agricultural operations over the years and is not included in the scheduling. Although less well preserved than the earthworks west of the track, the visible remains of fields between the two settlements are included in the scheduling as they represent a further dimension to the monument not represented elsewhere.
- 2.1.3 The northern boundary of the Site directly adjoins the western scheduled area and therefore it was anticipated that remains of the abandoned medieval settlement may have extended into the Site.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1.1 The aims of the evaluation were to determine, as far as reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. Site specific objectives were:
- To identify the nature and function of any archaeological remains surviving on the site.
 - To define the construction date of any structures or features that survive on the site.
 - To define the disuse/destruction date of any structures or features that may survive on the site.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1.1 The evaluation comprised the excavation of a single evaluation trench measuring 15m by 1.8m in plan, representing a 4% sample of the site (**Figure 1**) in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (Wessex Archaeology 2004). All work was in accordance with the relevant guidance in the *Standards and Guidance* papers of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and in accordance with the document *Standards for Archaeological Assessment and Field Evaluation in Wiltshire* (Wiltshire County Council Archaeological Service 1995).
- 4.1.2 A mechanical excavator (JCB) fitted with a toothless bucket removed all modern overburden and topsoil down to the top of the natural Kimmeridge Clay substrata, under

constant archaeological supervision. A sample of each feature encountered was excavated by hand and recorded.

- 4.1.3 All exposed archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system.

5. RESULTS

A catalogue of trench descriptions, giving brief soil descriptions, dimensions and finds information can be found in Appendix 1. More detailed descriptions are available in the archive. The Trench location is shown on Figure 1.

- 5.1.1 The natural substrata comprised Kimmeridge Clay, the surface of which was very variable in colour and texture. Within the trench the clay varied from a mid yellowish brown to a strong reddish brown with amorphous patches of bluish green clay covering approximately 40% of the exposed surface. Initially these patches were assumed to be archaeological features, however, hand excavation showed that this was not the case. Although charcoal flecks and in one case a sherd of post-medieval or modern Verwood pottery were noted on the surface of these deposits, no anthropogenic material was recovered from within them.
- 5.1.2 A series of auger bores were taken through the patches; these showed a gradual change of colour, becoming more yellow and uniform with depth. Finally a machine sondage was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.20m below the present ground level (0.70m below the surface of the natural substrata). This demonstrated the very irregular form of the patches and the very variable nature of the Kimmeridge Clay on the site. Although clearly not man-made, the origin of the bluish green clay patches is uncertain.
- 5.1.3 Three archaeological features, a ditch or trench and two postholes, were encountered within the trench (**Figure 2**). On the basis of the presence of modern pottery, along with post-medieval pottery, clay pipe fragments and brick and tile fragments, all three were assumed to be of 19th or 20th century date. All were cut into the surface of the natural substrata and sealed below the probable buried topsoil, which was in turn sealed by the modern overburden. The ditch or trench was aligned approximately north-west to south-east, parallel to the property boundary some 25m to the north-east, suggesting that the feature pre-dated the laying out of the present property. The two postholes lay within 2.00m of one another in the southern end of the trench, but did not appear to represent any discernible structure.

6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1.1 Despite the close proximity of earthworks, probably representing house platforms and property boundaries, within the field immediately to the north of the Site, no medieval features or deposits were located within the trench and none of the finds noted could be dated any earlier than the post-medieval period. The presence of a buried topsoil below the modern tarmac and brick rubble overburden suggests that the Site has not been subject to

any large-scale landscaping or remodelling and consequently that the deserted medieval settlement does not extend into the Site.

- 6.1.2 Due to the lack of significant archaeological remains it is considered unlikely that any further archaeological work will be required on the site.

7. CONFIDENCE RATING

- 7.1.1 The trench was carefully examined and planned during initial machining. Topsoil removed mechanically was examined for finds both during the initial machining and the subsequent recording. After recording the natural clay was examined by the machining of a sondage to make certain that the deposit was not masking earlier archaeological features. It is not considered that any features of archaeological significance were overlooked.

8. REFERENCES

Wessex Archaeology 2004, The Former Jolly Miller Public House, Quemerford, Wiltshire: Project Design for an Archaeological Field Evaluation. Unpublished Client Report. Ref: 58450.01

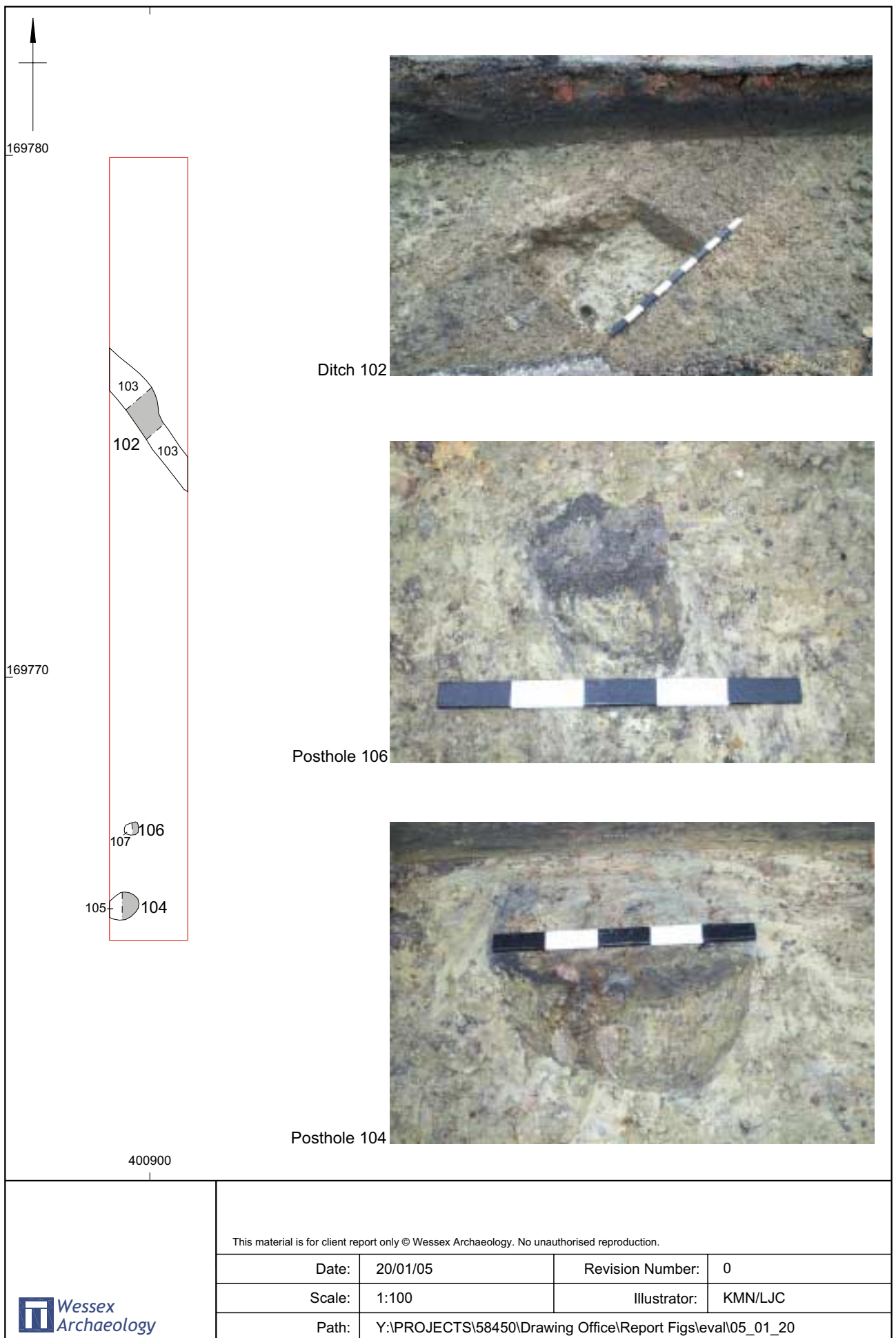
Appendix 1: Catalogue of Trench Descriptions

Trench No. 1		Ground Level – 81.510m - 81.655m OD
Dimensions – 15m x 1.80m		NGR 400900 169770
Context Number	Description	Depth
100	Tarmac surface and brick rubble made ground deposit. Modern overburden.	0-0.24m
101	Mid-dark greyish brown silty clay loam with sparse small pebble inclusions. Common modern brick fragments and sparse animal bone and post-medieval/modern pottery inclusions were noted, but not retained.	0.24-0.53m
Feature	Linear feature (102) was aligned approximately southeast to northwest and was 0.50m wide and 0.20m deep with near vertical sides and a flat base. The single mid greenish grey silty clay fill (103) contained common charcoal flecks and sparse small pebble inclusions. Small quantities of Verwood pottery (only broadly datable to the post-medieval or modern period), clay pipe fragments (including one fragment of ribbed bowl) and modern “yellow ware” pottery of 19 th or 20 th century date, along with more abundant brick and tile fragments, were noted during the hand excavation of the fill, but were not retained	0.53-0.73m
Feature	Posthole 104 was oval in plan, 0.60m long, 0.47m wide and 0.21m deep with concave sides and base. The single dark greyish brown silty clay fill (105) contained sparse charcoal flecks and small pebble inclusions. Moderate quantities of modern brick and tile fragments, along with two sherds of Verwood pottery (only broadly datable to the post-medieval or modern period), three clay pipe stems and a single sherd of stoneware pottery of 19 th or 20 th century date, were noted in the fill during hand excavation, but were not retained.	0.53-0.74m
Feature	Posthole 106 was sub-rectangular in plan, 0.25m long, 0.20m wide and 0.075m with steep, straight sides and a concave base. The single dark greyish brown silty clay fill (107) contained a few tiny fragments of modern ceramic building material, which were noted, but not retained.	0.53-0.605m
108	Mid yellowish brown clay with sparse ?sandstone inclusions. Kimmeridge Clay natural substrata. The surface of this deposit was very variable in colour and texture. Hand excavation, augering and finally machine excavation were employed to ensure that the variations were of geological, rather than archaeological, origin.	0.53-1.20m+



Site and trench location

Figure 1



All features plan and photos

Figure 2



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