

**MALLARDS PIECE,
HOLLOW LANE,
WILTON,
MARLBOROUGH,
WILTSHIRE**

**PROJECT DESIGN FOR A
PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND
RECORDING**

SU 2676 6144

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Quality Assurance

This Document has been compiled and authorised in accordance with
AMS's Quality Procedures (ISO 9001: 2015)

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document sets out details of the Project Design (PD) for archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks related to the development at Mallards Piece, Hollow Lane, Wilton, Marlborough, Wiltshire (NGR: SU 2676 6144). The work will be undertaken in accordance with the *Universal Guidance for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording*, the *Standard for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording* issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2023), as well as the *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Assessment and Fieldwork in Wiltshire and Swindon Borough* (WCAS 2025) and complies with the principles of NPPF (2024).
- 1.2 Foundations Archaeology is certified to ISO 9001: 2015 for quality assurance in the provision of archaeological and heritage services. The company is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and subscribes to that organisation's *Code of Conduct*. All relevant CIfA *Codes of Practice* will be adhered to throughout the course of the project.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Planning permission (PL/2023/10534) has been granted for a new single storey side/rear extension, alterations to existing roof to provide additional accommodation, internal alterations and adjustments to the existing entrance at Mallards Piece, Wilton, Marlborough. Condition 3 of the outline stated:
No part of the side and rear extension hereby approved shall commence until:
a) A written programme of archaeological investigation, which should include on-site work and off-site work such as the analysis, publishing and archiving of the results, has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority; and
b) The approved programme of archaeological work has been carried out in accordance with the approved details.
REASON: To enable the recording of any matters of archaeological interest.
- 2.2 The site is located on the southwestern side of the village of Wilton and is partly bounded to the northwest by a stream fed by Wilton Water, to the north, east and west by residential properties and to the south by an access road.
- 2.3 On the eastern boundary of the site Roman pottery sherds, including Samian ware, along with blue glass were recovered (MWI18884). Also close to this location seven Neolithic flint flakes were recovered (MWI18858). A further findspot, this time of Romano-British tile and pottery was identified around 200m to the northeast of the site (MWI18875). Less than 400m to the northeast is a northwest-southeast aligned Roman road (MWI18883) linking Winchester to Mildenhall.
- 2.4 Approximately 130m to the east of the site a number of struck flints, as well as ceramic building material, pottery, metal objects and dressed stone were recovered during garden cultivation (MWI63611).

- 2.5 A Saxon brooch was recovered from the garden of The Croft (MWI18887) approximately 130m to the northwest.
- 2.6 Wilton itself is thought to have derived its name as the wool production area of the religious Saxon estate of Bedwyn and the village is thought to have Medieval origins (MWI18895).
- 2.7 The British Geology Viewer (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>) notes the bedrock geology as *Upper Greensand Group - Sandstone*. Sedimentary Bedrock formed Superficial deposits of *Alluvium-Clay, silt, sand and gravel* are recorded along the western side of the site.
- 2.8 The site therefore contains the potential for significant archaeological features and deposits, predominately associated with the Prehistoric, Roman, Medieval and Post-medieval periods. This will not prejudice the works against recording evidence relating to other periods.

3 AIMS

- 3.1 The aims of the archaeological monitoring are 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.
- 3.2 These aims will be achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:
 - i) to record prior to their destruction archaeological deposits within the monitored areas, and date these where possible;
 - ii) to attempt to characterise the nature and preservation of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning and extent of features present within the monitored areas;
 - iii) to recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence which will attempt to determine the complexity of the horizontal and vertical stratigraphy present, and to recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples;
 - iv) to define any research priorities that may be relevant should further field investigation be required.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 All groundworks will be undertaken whilst under the constant observation, of an archaeologist.

- 4.2 Where machine excavation is required, this will be used only for the removal of overburden that has no archaeological significance. Plant will be suitable for the task and will be equipped with a **toothless grading bucket** as appropriate. Archaeological hand-excavation and recording will be required should significant archaeological deposits be encountered. In the event that unexpected archaeological remains of high significance are discovered, work will cease and the archaeological advisor to Wiltshire Council will be notified in order that an assessment of the remains and suitable provision for their recording to be agreed.
- 4.3 All archaeological deposits and features that would be destroyed by the groundworks will be subjected to appropriate levels of investigation. Spoil tips will be scanned for finds both visually and by metal detector, which will be retained for study during the post-excavation phase.
- 4.4 Sections will be cut through all linear features at appropriate intervals and all intersections, overlaps and terminals will be investigated to provide a minimum 10% sample of each feature.
- 4.5 A minimum 50% sample of all non-linear features (including all intrusive features such as pits and postholes) will be hand excavated. In some cases 100% excavation of features will be required.
- 4.6 Structural remains such as beamslots and ring-ditches will be excavated to a minimum 75-100% sample. Actual surviving structural elements, such as walls, floors and rubble deposits will be cleaned, recorded and, if possible, preserved *in situ*. If preservation *in situ* is not possible then these remains will be excavated to a minimum sample of 75%.
- 4.7 All industrial remains, such as hearths and ovens, will be excavated to 100% sample levels. If these remains are large and/or structural, then these will be cleaned, recorded and, if possible, preserved *in situ*. If preservation *in situ* is not possible then these remains will be excavated to a minimum sample of 100%.
- 4.8 Each excavation context will be excavated, wherever possible, in such a way as to produce at least one representative cross-section of the deposit.
- 4.9 Any human remains which may be encountered will initially be left in situ and reported to the appropriate authorities. If removal is necessary, particularly in the event that potential cremation burials are identified as being vulnerable to illegal disturbance, this must comply with the relevant Ministry of Justice guidelines and current archaeological best-practice.
- 4.10 Decisions about the relative value of archaeological deposits and features will be made in consultation with the archaeological advisor to Wiltshire Council.
- 4.11 All artefactual and ecofactual remains, whether stratified or not, will be collected, bagged and labelled. Artefacts will be subject to preliminary study on site in order to help date archaeological features and contexts. All artefactual and ecofactual evidence will be treated in accordance with *First Aid for Finds*. All artefactual and ecofactual evidence will be treated in accordance with the Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 4 (Finds Manual). All finds and

environmental samples will be treated in a manner to prevent deterioration. Finds will be regularly transferred from the site to the conservation laboratory, for security reasons and to ensure the long term well-being of the finds themselves. In accordance with procedures outlined in *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) all iron objects, a selection of non-ferrous artefacts (including all coins) and a sample of any industrial debris relating to metallurgy will be x-radiographed before assessment (English Heritage 2006).

- 4.12 Normal conditions will apply with regard to finds ownership and the Treasure Act 1996. If any archaeologically significant finds are recovered the Portable Antiquities Scheme Finds Liaison Officer for Wiltshire will be notified.

5 STAFF

- 5.1 The field team will consist of a minimum of one experienced operative, who may be supplemented by additional staff as required. The project will be directed by Tracy Michaels BSc, MCIfA who has wide experience of performing, monitoring and managing fieldwork projects of different periods throughout Britain. She is an Associate Director of Foundations Archaeology and is a Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

6 SURVEY CONTROL

- 6.1 Horizontal survey control of the site will be by means of a coordinate grid, using metric measurements, relative to the National Grid. The geo-referenced site plan will be produced by use of a Topcon FC-5000 global positioning system (GPS). Complex/detailed site plans will be drawn by hand, as appropriate. These will be tied into the site grid by use of the GPS, where possible.
- 6.2 Vertical survey control will be tied to the Ordnance Survey datum. Details of the method employed will be recorded, including the assumed height of the reference point.

7 RECORDING

- 7.1 All site recording will be undertaken in accordance with Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 3 (Excavation Manual).
- 7.2 Each archaeological feature or deposit will be recorded by means of a measured plan at an appropriate scale, usually 1:50. Spot heights will be taken on the deposit and their location recorded on the plan.
- 7.3 Cross-sections will be recorded by means of a measured drawing at an appropriate scale, usually 1:20, with smaller features (e.g. post/stakeholes) drawn at 1:10. The height of a datum on the drawing will be calculated and recorded. The locations of cross sections will be recorded either on the site plans, or relative to the site grid. Cut features will be recorded in profile and plan at an appropriate scale and their location accurately identified.

- 7.4 All drawn records will be clearly marked with a unique site number, and will be individually identified. The scale of the plan will be recorded. All drawings will be drawn on permatrace or an equivalent material. All plans will be drawn relative to the site grid and at least two grid references marked on each plan.
- 7.5 Each archaeological context will be recorded separately by means of a written description. The stratigraphic relationships of each context will be recorded. Foundations Archaeology *pro forma* record sheets will be used throughout. An index will be kept of all record types. All trenches will be recorded even if no archaeological deposits have been identified.
- 7.6 An adequate photographic record of the excavation will be compiled which will contain a suitable scale. Each excavation context will be recorded photographically prior to removal. All photographs will feature an appropriately sized scale. All images taken must be at least 12 megapixels in size. Digital images for archiving purposes must be high quality non-proprietary raw files (DNG) or TIFF images only.

8 POST-EXCAVATION

- 8.1 A typescript report will be prepared after site works are completed, in accordance with archaeological best-practice and the standards set out in MoRPHE (English Heritage 2006).
- 8.2 As a minimum, the report will include a full written description and interpretation of the results, including specialist reports. The report will contain a front sheet which will detail the following: site name, NGR, site activity, date and duration, site code, area of site, summary of results, monuments identified (referenced to the Thesaurus of Monument Types) and location of the archive. All recording, cleaning and conservation of finds will comply with Cifa Guidelines for Finds Work.
- 8.3 The report will be suitably illustrated with drawings to an appropriate scale showing location, trench layout, recorded features and deposits, trench plans and section drawings. The report will normally be produced within six weeks of completion of fieldworks unless delayed by circumstances beyond the control of Foundations Archaeology. In some cases specialist reports (e.g. Radiocarbon dating) may take several months to be produced. In such circumstances an interim report will be provided.
- 8.4 An indexed and internally consistent archive will be prepared in accordance with MoRPHE (EH 2006) and Foundations Archaeology's internal quality control systems which are certified to ISO 9001: 2015. These standards comply with *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage* (UKIC 1990) and *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (MGC 1994). Arrangements will be made for the deposition of the finds and the site archive with Wiltshire Museum prior to the commencement of fieldwork under accession code DZSWS:TBC-2025. Deposition will take place following the completion of final site works. Foundations Archaeology

acknowledges that there will be a requirement to pay box fees to the museum for this.

- 8.5 Draft copies of the report will be supplied to the archaeological advisor to Wiltshire Council; for verification and assessment. When the report has been agreed both a digital and hard copy will then be supplied to the County Historic Environment Record (HER) on the understanding that it will become a public document after an appropriate period of time (generally not exceeding six months).
- 8.6 The report will normally be published in an appropriate form in a relevant journal within twelve months of completion of fieldwork. An OASIS record will also be completed and submitted on completion of the project.
- 8.7 Copies of all photographs will be supplied to the HER as required.

9 MONITORING

- 9.1 An appropriate level of monitoring will be undertaken by the archaeological advisor to Wiltshire Council as required.

10 HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 10.1 The monitoring will be undertaken with regard to all relevant Health and Safety legislation, in accordance with the *Foundations Archaeology Health and Safety Manual* (2025) and the site-specific Risk Assessment and Method Statement (RAMS).

11 INSURANCE

- 11.1 Foundations Archaeology carries appropriate levels of Public Liability, Employers Liability Insurance and Professional Indemnity Insurance. Copies of the certificates are available on request.

