

**THE MILL INN,
WESTGATE ROAD,
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE,
TYNE AND WEAR**



WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

CP. No: 10205/12

17/07/2012



WA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD
COCKLAKES YARD,
CUMWHINTON,
CARLISLE,
CUMBRIA,
CA4 0BQ
TEL: 01228 564820
FAX: 01228 560025
WWW.WA-ARCHAEOLOGY.COM

WARDELL ARMSTRONG ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

DOCUMENT TITLE: The Mill Inn, Westgate Road
Newcastle Upon Tyne, Tyne
and Wear

DOCUMENT TYPE: Watching Brief Report

CLIENT: Naji Property

CP NUMBER: 10205/12

SITE CODE: TMI-A

PLANNING APP. NO: -

OASIS REFERENCE: Wardella2-130124

PRINT DATE: 17/07/2012

GRID REFERENCE: NZ 2313 6437

Quality Assurance

This report covers works as outlined in the brief for the above-named project as issued by the relevant authority, and as outlined in the agreed programme of works. Any deviation to the programme of works has been agreed by all parties. The works have been carried out according to the guidelines set out in the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Standards, Policy Statements and Codes of Conduct. The report has been prepared in keeping with the guidance set out by WA Archaeology Ltd on the preparation of reports.

REVISION SCHEDULE			
	01	02	03
PREPARED BY:	Angus Clark and Ben Moore		
POSITION:	Supervisors		
DATE:	11/07/12		
EDITED BY:	Martin Railton		
POSITION:	Project Manager		
DATE:	11/07/12		
APPROVED BY:	Frank Giecoco		
POSITION:	Project Manager		
DATE:	11/07/12		

WA Archaeology Ltd is a wholly owned company of Wardell Armstrong LLP. Company Registration No. 07702975 VAT Registration No. 108 2243 47. All rights reserved.

Disclaimer

No part of this report may be copied or reproduced, stored or transmitted by any means without prior written permission from WA Archaeology Ltd, or the client for whom the work was carried out. The report has been produced specifically for the client's usage, and no other party may use, make use of or rely on the contents of the report; any person or party using or relying on this document for such purposes agrees, and with such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement, to indemnify WA Archaeology Ltd for all loss or damage resulting from their action. No liability is accepted by WA Archaeology Ltd for any use of this report other than the use and purpose for which it was originally intended. Information contained in this report is provided by WA Archaeology Ltd using due care and diligence and no explicit warranty is provided as to its accuracy. No independent verification of any information provided to WA Archaeology Ltd has been made.

CONTENTS

SUMMARY	5
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	6
1 INTRODUCTION	7
1.1 Circumstances of the Project.....	7
2 METHODOLOGY	8
2.1 Standards.....	8
2.2 The Watching Brief.....	8
2.3 The Archive.....	9
3 BACKGROUND	10
3.1 Location and Geological Context	10
3.2 Historical Context	10
3.3 Previous Work	11
4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF	13
4.1 Introduction	13
4.2 Topsoil Strip and Removal of Demolition Material	13
4.3 Archaeological Finds and Environmental Sampling.....	16
5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	17
5.1 Conclusions.....	17
5.2 Recommendations.....	17
6 BIBLIOGRAPHY	18
6.1 Secondary Sources.....	18
APPENDIX 1: FIGURES	19

ILLUSTRATIONS

FIGURES (APPENDIX 1)

FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION

FIGURE 2: LOCATION OF WATCHING BRIEF

PLATES

PLATE 1: REMOVAL OF CONCRETE POOL ROOM FLOOR AND TOPSOIL. SOUTH FACING.14

PLATE 2: POST EXCAVATION SHOT OF WESTERN AREA OF SITE. NORTH FACING.14

PLATE 3: GENERAL SHOT OF EXCAVATED AREA AND CELLAR. NORTH-WEST FACING.....15

PLATE 4: AREA OF POOL ROOM SHOWING N-S ALIGNED SERVICE TRENCH. SOUTH FACING.....15

SUMMARY

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Naji Property to undertake an archaeological watching brief on groundworks relating to the redevelopment of the former Mill Inn site with the construction of a new commercial and apartment complex. The site lies on Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, Tyne and Wear (NGR NZ 2313 6437). The site itself lies within close proximity of Hadrian's Wall as it is believed that Westgate Road follows the line of Hadrian's Wall, which is designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Following on from the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken on the site in February 2012, Dave Heslop of the Tyne and Wear Specialist Conservation Team requested that an archaeological Watching Brief be undertaken during the excavation of the foundation trenches for the new development.

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken over 5 days between the 28th June and the 6th of July 2012. The watching brief monitored the excavation of the area surrounding a cellar in the centre of the proposed development area. No archaeological remains were noted during the excavations.

As this archaeological watching brief was conducted as part of a recommendation to observe groundworks in association with the development of a new commercial and residential complex, no further work is deemed necessary. However, given the high archaeological potential of the area, it is recommended that any future work be subject to a programme of archaeological investigation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Furhan Naji of Naji Property, for commissioning the project, and for all assistance throughout the work. Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Ltd would also like to thank Dave Heslop, County Archaeologist, Tyne and Wear Specialist Conservation Team, for all his assistance throughout the project.

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Ltd would also like to extend their thanks to Mark Stevely of NE Groundworks, and all the staff on site at the former Mill Inn, Westgate Road for their help during this project.

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Angus Clark. The report was written by Angus Clark and Ben Moore and the drawings were produced by Adrian Bailey. The project was managed by Martin Railton, Project Manager for WAA Ltd. The report was edited by Martin Railton, Project Manager for WAA Ltd.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 In June 2011, Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Ltd were invited by Furhan Naji of Naji Property to maintain an archaeological watching brief at The Mill Inn, Westgate Road, Newcastle Upon Tyne, Tyne and Wear (NGR NZ 2313 6437; Figure 1), during groundworks associated with the redevelopment of the site into a commercial and residential complex. The site itself lies within close proximity of Hadrian's Wall as it is believed that Westgate Road follows the line of Hadrian's Wall, which is designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Following on from the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken on the site in February 2012 Dave Heslop of the Tyne and Wear Specialist Conservation Team requested that an archaeological Watching Brief be undertaken during the excavation of the foundation trenches for the new development. This is in line with government advice as set out in Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012).
- 1.1.2 All groundworks associated with the redevelopment of the site into a commercial and residential complex had to be excavated under full archaeological supervision and all stages of the archaeological work were undertaken following approved statutory guidelines (IfA 2008), and were consistent with the specification provided by the Tyne and wear Specialist Conservation Team and generally accepted best practice.
- 1.1.3 This report outlines the monitoring works undertaken on site, the subsequent programme of post-fieldwork analysis, and the results of this scheme of archaeological works.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 STANDARDS

2.1.1 The work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008), and generally accepted best practice.

2.2 THE WATCHING BRIEF

2.2.1 The works involved a structured watching brief to observe, record and excavate any archaeological deposits from the development site. A watching brief is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons, on a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed (IfA 2008).

2.2.2 The aims and principal methodology of the watching brief can be summarised as follows:

- to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record them;
- to carry out further excavation and recording work in adequate time, if intact archaeological remains are uncovered during the project;
- to accurately tie the area watched by the archaeologist into the National Grid at an appropriate scale, with any archaeological deposits and features adequately levelled;
- to sample environmental deposits encountered as required, in line with English Heritage (2002) guidelines;
- to produce a photographic record of all contexts using colour digital and monochrome formats as applicable, each photograph including a graduated metric scale;
- to recover artefactual material, especially that useful of dating purposes;
- to produce a site archive in accordance with MAP2 (English Heritage 1991) and MoRPHE standards (English Heritage 2006).

2.2.3 An area around the existing cellar of the former Mill Inn was excavated in the area of proposed development to a depth of around 1m through topsoil and overburden and also through the concrete floor and brick walls of what had been the pool room of the pub. The area was excavated in order to lay the foundations for a new residential and commercial complex and was

monitored down to the required formation levels. Archaeological monitoring and supervision of groundworks associated with the stripping commenced on 28th June 2012. A summary of the findings of the watching brief is included within this report. The area of excavation measured approximately 21 metres east-west by 16 metres north-south. The cellar in the centre of this area covered an area around 10 metres by 11 metres and as a result this portion of the site was already below formation level.

2.3 THE ARCHIVE

- 2.3.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the specification, and in line with current UKIC (1990) and English Heritage Guidelines (1991) and according to the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2011). The archive will be deposited within the Great North Museum, with copies of the report sent to the County Historic Environment Record at the Civic Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne, available upon request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier WAA12, TMI-A, CP 10205/12.
- 2.3.2 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Ltd, and Tyne and Wear County Council, support the **Online AccesS to the Index of Archaeological InvestigationS (OASIS)** project. This project aims to provide an on-line index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature, created as a result of developer-funded archaeological work. As a result, details of the results of this project will be made available by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Ltd, as a part of this national project.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 LOCATION AND GEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

- 3.1.1 The Mill Inn lies within an urban context to the west of the centre of the city of Newcastle upon Tyne, at 413 Westgate Road. The site is bounded to the north by Westgate Road, with Mill Lane North to the east and Hartington Street to the west. The site is a former public house, which is currently disused and derelict.
- 3.1.2 The natural subsoil of the area consists of a glacial drift of boulder clay, the Lodgement Till, which overlies carboniferous rocks containing coal measures. Postglacial streams, which flow into the River Tyne, have cut deep narrow gorges through the boulder clay and solid rock, though most were culverted in the 19th century.

3.2 HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- 3.2.1 *Introduction:* this historical background is compiled mostly from secondary sources, and is intended only as a brief summary of historical developments specific to the study area. References to the County Historic Environment Recod (HER) are included where known.
- 3.2.2 The Mill Inn lies within a zone of archaeological sensitivity, being situated on the course of Hadrian's Wall and Vallum. Hadrian's Wall is probably the most complex and best preserved of the frontiers of the Roman Empire (Austen and Young 2002). Begun in AD 122, the wall was a composite military barrier, which in its final form, comprised a stone wall fronted by a V-shaped ditch, and a number of purpose-built stone garrison fortifications such as forts, milecastles and turrets. A large earthwork and ditch, built parallel with, and to the south of the Wall, known as the Vallum, and a metalled road linking the garrison forts, which is known as the 'Roman Military Way', completed the northern military boundary.
- 3.2.3 The Wall begins in the east at Wallsend in Tyneside and continues to the west terminating at Bowness-on-Solway in Cumbria, a distance of 80 Roman miles (73.5 modern miles or 117 kilometres). The Wall conceived by Hadrian was to be ten feet wide and about fifteen feet high. The northern military boundary was designated as a World Heritage Site in 1987.
- 3.2.4 Hadrian's Wall is known to follow the approximate course of West Road and Westgate Road from the west of Newcastle, running southeast towards the Castle Keep in the city centre. Archaeological survival is very variable along the course of the Wall. The foundations of a turret (Denton Hall Turret) and a 65m-long section of Hadrian's Wall are visible close to the

junction of Denton Road and West Road to the west of the Mill Inn site. The remains of a small temple dedicated to the native god Antenociticus, and a crossing place on the Vallum, also survive at Broomridge Avenue in Benwell.

- 3.2.5 The Castle Keep lies within the area once delimited by a Roman Fort. However, the precise line of the Wall at the Castle Keep, and it's relation to the fort of *Pons Aelius* is uncertain. Stone foundations, interpreted as part of a milecastle on Hadrian's Wall were uncovered in 1985 during works carried out in conjunction with the conversion of Nos. 67-75 Westgate Road into the Newcastle Arts Centre to the east of the Mill Inn site (Harbottle et al 1988).
- 3.2.6 It has been suggested that the wall diverged from its alignment at some point to the east of the arts centre, taking a sudden northern route, passing to the north of the fort, as opposed to continuing along the same gradual south-westerly alignment. A sighting of the wall ditch in 1934 with the construction of Stephenson's Monument on Westgate Road has since been disputed. Furthermore, the Wall was thought to have been seen at the site of the Miner's Institute in 1952, but it has since been argued that the masonry seen there was more likely to have formed a part of the Westmorland House, demolished in 1870 (Harbottle 1974, Hill 2001).
- 3.2.7 A 2.8m section of Hadrian's Wall was excavated by Durham University under a disused car showroom at the junction of Melbourne Street and Gibson Street in 2003, following a preliminary stage of evaluation. The wall survived at a depth of 2.3m and measured 2.6 metres wide, which was wider than the accepted width of the Narrow Wall in this area (ASUD 2003).
- 3.2.8 As a result it can be seen that elements of the Hadrian's Wall frontier can survive in seemingly unlikely contexts within urban Newcastle upon Tyne, and there is the potential for modern development to reveal more information about this important site (Petts and Gerrard 2006, 145).

3.3 PREVIOUS WORK

- 3.3.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in February 2012 by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Ltd within the development site. This evaluation covered an area 5.5m² utilizing two trenches. (Churchill 2012)
- 3.3.2 In Trench 1, located on the street frontage, sealed under the modern deposits, were the undated remains of a possible sandstone surface laid over a bedding deposit. Underlying the bedding deposit was a linear feature, possibly a gully, which extended the length of the trench and contained fragments of Romano-British pottery.

- 3.3.3 No archaeological remains were identified in Trench 2 situated inside the building. This area has seen significant modern disturbance, with a substantial depth of backfill deposits present.
- 3.3.4 No direct evidence was revealed for features associated with Hadrian's Wall. Although archaeological evidence was found within one of the excavated trenches it could not be confirmed whether the linear feature was directly associated with either the construction or use of Hadrian's Wall. However, the presence of this feature indicates that there is potential for further archaeological features to survive along the street frontage. (Churchill 2012).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

4.1 INTRODUCTION

4.1.1 The watching brief monitoring was undertaken in one phase over a period of 5 days. This began on the 28th June 2012 and was completed on the 6th July 2012. This consisted of the monitoring of the removal of topsoil, overburden, in-situ concrete flooring and walls down to the formation level, around 1m below the current ground surface.

4.2 TOPSOIL STRIP AND REMOVAL OF DEMOLITION MATERIAL

4.2.1 The Watching Brief covered the controlled stripping of deposits around the site prior to the excavation of the foundation area around the cellar.

4.2.2 In the areas where it existed, the topsoil was stripped by an 8 tonne 360° mechanical excavator (Plate 1). The topsoil comprised a moderately compacted dark brown silty clay with a high percentage of rubble and gravel inclusions. As such, it could be described more accurately as a modern occupation layer around 0.40m deep sitting on the subsoil. It was present across the development area except in the area of the cellar and where it was replaced by the makeup and concrete floor associated with the demolished pool room.

4.2.3 Beneath the topsoil and below the make up / leveling for the concrete floor, the natural subsoil was uncovered (Plates 2 and 3). This consisted of a firmly compacted yellowish grey boulder clay which existed across the development area.

4.2.4 Beneath the concrete floor of the pool room a 0.70m wide north-south linear cut was revealed (Plate 4). This has been interpreted as a modern service trench associated with the pub.

4.2.5 No archaeological remains were revealed by the works.



Plate 1: Removal of concrete pool room floor and topsoil. South facing.



Plate 2: Post excavation shot of western area of site. North facing.



Plate 3: General shot of excavated area and cellar. North-west facing



Plate 4: Area of pool room showing N-S aligned service trench. South Facing.

4.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING

4.3.1 No archaeological finds of note were recovered, and no environmental samples were obtained during the groundworks.

5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1.1 The site was stripped of topsoil and the remains of a modern structure to create a working area, under archaeological supervision. No archaeological remains were noted.
- 5.1.2 The work revealed no evidence for features associated with Hadrian's Wall despite the its route being in close proximity. It is believed that any potential archaeological features were removed during the construction of the Mill Inn.

5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.2.1 As this watching brief was conducted as a condition of ground works relating to the development within this specific area, no further archaeological work is deemed necessary. However, given the site's location in relation to the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site, it is recommended that any work conducted in the future be subject to a similar programme of archaeological investigation.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

6.1 SECONDARY SOURCES

ASUD (2003) *Archaeological excavation at Melbourne Street/Gibson Street, Newcastle upon Tyne*, Archaeological Services University of Durham, Unpublished Report

Austen, P. and Young, C. (2002) *Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site Management Plan 2002-2007*, English Heritage

Brown, D.H. (2011) *Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation*. Archaeological Archives Forum

Churchill, D. (2012) *The Mill Inn, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, Tyne and Wear Archaeological Evaluation Report* (Unpublished report)

English Heritage (1991) *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*. London: English Heritage.

English Heritage (2006) *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*. London: English Heritage.

Harbottle, B. (1974) Excavation and Survey in Newcastle upon Tyne, 1972-3, in *Archaeologia Aeliana* 5th Series II, 57-89

Harbottle, B. Fraser, R. and Burton, F.C. (1988) The Westgate Road Milecastle, Newcastle upon Tyne, in *Britannia* XIX, 153-162

IfA (2008) *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*. Reading: Institute for Archaeologists.

NPPF (2012) *National Planning Policy Framework: Archaeology and Planning*. Department for Communities and Local Government

Petts, D and Gerrard, C (2006) *Shared Visions: The North East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment*, English Heritage and Durham University

UKIC (1990) *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage*

APPENDIX 1: FIGURES
