WHARF HOUSE, WHARF HILL, WINCHESTER, HAMPSHIRE, SO23 9NQ

REPORT ON
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF



REPORT NO: R11743



JUNE 2014

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

WHARF HOUSE, WHARF HILL, WINCHESTER, HAMPSHIRE, SO23 9NQ REPORT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Issue 1: Issued For Approval

Local Planning Authority: Winchester City Council

Planning Ref: 12/00901/FUL

NGR: 448582 128806

Site Code: (WINCM: AY 513)

Client: Mr and Mrs Thompson

Commissioning Agent: Amiri Construction

Prepared By: Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (West)

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DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

WHARF HOUSE, WHARF HILL, WINCHESTER, SO23 9NQ

REPORT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

REPORT REF R11743

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- Plate 2: The mass excavation complete and concrete retaining wall in place (to right). View to east. Digital image D11.
- Plate 3: View of site from Domum Road with Wharf House to left. View north-east. Digital image 13.

Figure 1: Detailed Site Location

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1 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) was commissioned by Amiri Construction on behalf of Mr & Mrs Thompson (the Client) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the construction of a new building in the garden of Wharf House, Wharf Hill, Winchester, Hampshire, (Figure 1). This report concerns the results of the archaeological Watching brief, which comprised monitoring visits made between November 2013 and January 2014 during ground work to form the footprint of the new building.

No archaeological deposits, features, artefacts or environmental remains were observed. It is concluded the site retains no archaeological potential.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Project Background

- 2.1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) was commissioned by Amiri Construction on behalf of Mr & Mrs Thompson (the Client) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the construction of a new building in the garden of Wharf House, Wharf Hill, Winchester, Hampshire, (Figure 1). This report concerns the results of the archaeological Watching brief, which comprised monitoring visits made between November 2013 and January 2014 during ground work to form the footprint of the new building.
- 2.1.2 The watching brief and this report were requirements of Condition 8 of planning permission for the development granted by the Local Planning Authority (LPA) Winchester City Council (Planning reference 12/00901/FUL) in October 2012, based on the advice of the Council's Historic Environment Officer (HEO). The condition stated: 'No development, or site preparation prior to development which has any effect on disturbing or altering the level or composition of the land, shall take place within the site until the applicant (or their agents or successors in title) has secured and implemented a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation to be submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Reason: To ensure that the archaeological interest of the site is properly safeguarded and recorded.'
- 2.1.3 The required Written Scheme of Investigation (PCA 2013) was submitted to the LPA in January 2013 and approved in advance of the commencement of works on site in November 2013.
- 2.1.4 This report has been prepared in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs (IfA 2008) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (English Heritage, 2006).

2.2 Location, Topography and Geology

- 2.2.1 The site (NGR 448582 128806) is located approximately 600m to the south-east of Winchester Cathedral, and c.50m to the east of the Itchen Navigation (**Figure 1**). The site comprises a sub-rectangular parcel of land c.500m square in size laid out on two levels at the south end of the existing garden of Wharf House. The western boundary of the site along Domum Road is formed of a by a flint wall with red brick courses. The eastern part of the site comprises a steep slope, with a pathway leading up to a small area of land bounded to the east by fencing.
- 2.2.2 The site lies on Upper Chalk.

2.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

2.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site, which lies outside of the historic core of Winchester, was set out in a Desk-Based Assessment (PCA 2012) prepared in support of the planning application for the proposed development. This concluded that while the site lies in an area of known archaeological sites and findspots, the potential for the site to contain archaeological resources was low principally due to its location, which appears to be entirely within the cut-back face of the natural hill slope and valley side overlooking the floor of the River Itchen valley to the west.

3 AIM

3.1 Archaeological Watching Brief

- 3.1.1 The aim of the archaeological watching brief was to monitor ground work for the proposed development for the presence of archaeological resources and, if present, investigate and preserve by record the resources and determine, as may be possible, their character, including their date, nature and extent.
- 3.1.2 This report on the results of the watching brief aims to be sufficient to demonstrate to the Local Planning Authority that the watching brief was carried out in accordance with the WSI document and the Condition.

4 METHOD

4.1 Watching Brief

4.1.1 Arrangements for the watching brief were put in place with the Client's agent Amiri Construction.

These included visits to the site coinciding with initial site clearance, mass ground reduction and excavation into the chalk face forming the rear (east) of the site.

5 RESULT

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The following summary is based on the site archive, which comprises the site diary and digital photographs. The archive is held at PCA's Winchester office under the WINCM site code AY513 and will in due course be deposited with Winchester Museums Service.

5.2 Observations

- 5.2.1 No archaeological deposits, features, artefacts or environmental remains were observed in the course of the watching brief.
- 5.2.2 During the course of groundwork it was observed that the site was formed entirely within natural chalk, the site having been originally formed by cutting into the natural slope overlooking the river ltchen to the west. The groundwork constitutes further cutting into the natural chalk to accommodate the proposed development

5.3 Conclusion

5.3.1 It is concluded that the site retains no archaeological potential.

6 ARCHIVE PREPARATION & DEPOSITION

6.1 The Site Archive

6.1.1 The Site archive, to include all project records and cultural material produced by the project, will be prepared in accordance with Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage (UKIC 1990) and the Institute for Archaeologists 'Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives' (IfA 2009). On completion of the project PCA will arrange for the archive to be deposited in accordance with the provisional arrangements made with a suitable museum or repository at the onset of fieldwork. Any alternative arrangements will be agreed with the Historic Environment Officer and the Local Planning Authority.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

PCA Ltd is grateful to AMIRI Construction for commissioning the watching brief on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Thompson of Wharf House and to Stephen Appleby, Historic Environment Officer, Winchester City Council, for his advice.

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8 REFERENCES

PCA, 2012, Wharf House, Domum Road, Winchester SO23 9NQ: An Archaeological Deskbased Assessment, Report no R11150

PCA, 2013, Wharf House, 31 Wharf Hill, Winchester, SO23 9NQ: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief

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APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: Mass excavation of natural chalk underway. View to east from Domum Road. Digital image D6.



Plate 2: The mass excavation complete and concrete retaining wall in place (to right). View to east. Digital image D11.



Plate 3: View of site from Domum Road with Wharf House to left. View north-east. Digital image 13.

APPENDIX 2: OASIS REPORT

OASIS ID: preconst1-180703

Project details

Project name Wharf House Wharf Hill Winchester

Short description of

the project

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Amiri Construction on behalf of Mr and Mrs Thompson (the Client) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the construction of a new building in the garden of Wharf House, Wharf Hill, Winchester, Hampshire. Monitoring visits were made between November 2013 and January 2014 during ground work to form the footprint of the new building. No archaeological deposits, features, artefacts or environmental remains were observed. It is concluded the site retains no

archaeological potential.

Project dates Start: 14-11-2013 End: 05-06-2014

Previous/future work No/No

Any associated

project reference

AY513 - Sitecode

codes

Any associated

project reference

codes

12/00901/FUL - Planning Application No.

Type of project Recording project

Site status None

Current Land use Other 5 - Garden

Monument type NONE None

Significant Finds NONE None

Investigation type "Watching Brief"

Prompt Planning condition

Project location

Country England

Site location HAMPSHIRE WINCHESTER WINCHESTER Wharf House

Postcode SO23 9NQ

Study area 500.00 Square metres

Site coordinates SU 448582 128806 50.913093973 -1.36184483246 50 54 47

N 001 21 42 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 35.00m Max: 45.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation PCA West

Project brief originator

Tracy Matthews

Project design originator

Paul McCulloch

Project director/manager

Paul McCulloch

Project supervisor Paul McCulloch

Type of

sponsor/funding

body

Mr and Mrs Thompson

Project archives

Physical Archive

Exists?

No

Digital Archive

recipient

Winchester Museums

Digital Archive ID AY513

Digital Contents "none"

Digital Media

available

"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"

Paper Archive

recipient

Winchester Museums

Paper Archive ID AY513
Paper Contents "none"

Paper Media available

"Diary", "Report"

Project bibliography

1

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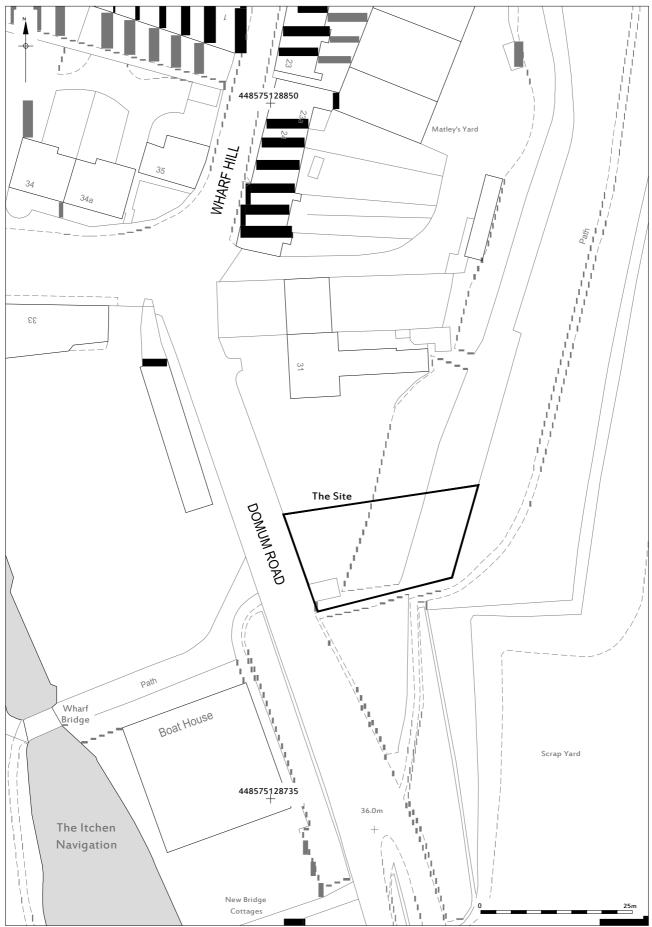
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