



## Abbots Way, Netley Abbey, Hampshire

### Archaeological Watching Brief Report





**ABBOTS WAY,  
NETLEY ABBEY,  
HAMPSHIRE**

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

Prepared for:  
**Karen Wright**  
36 Avro Court  
Hamble  
Southampton  
Hampshire  
SO31 4FJ

by  
**Wessex Archaeology**  
Portway House  
Old Sarum Park  
Salisbury  
Wiltshire  
SP4 6EB

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## QUALITY ASSURANCE

SITE CODE		ACCESSION CODE		CLIENT CODE	
PLANNING APPLICATION REF.	<b>N/A</b>	NGR	<b>445536, 109248</b>		

VERSION	STATUS*	PREPARED BY	APPROVED BY	APPROVER'S SIGNATURE	DATE	FILE
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- I= INTERNAL DRAFT E= EXTERNAL DRAFT F= FINAL

**ABBOTS WAY, NETLEY ABBEY,  
HAMPSHIRE**

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

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**ABBOTS WAY, NETLEY ABBEY,  
HAMPSHIRE****Archaeological Watching Brief Report****Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Karen Wright to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at Abbots Way, Netley Abbey, Hampshire centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 445536, 109248.

The works consisted of the monitoring of groundworks associated with the development proposals, including the excavation of foundations and associated landscaping and the recording of any archaeology that was encountered. The work aimed to identify the date, extent, character, and preservation of the underlying archaeological remains.

No archaeological features or finds were identified during the course of the watching brief. The only features present related to the former building within the plot.

The fieldwork was carried out intermittently from the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2011 to the 16<sup>th</sup> of June 2011.

**ABBOTS WAY, NETLEY ABBEY,  
HAMPSHIRE****Archaeological Watching Brief Report****Acknowledgements**

This project was commissioned by Karen Wright (the client) and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to her in this regard. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Mike Saint of MGS Builders and Andy Ramus of AR Design Studios for their help and co-operation throughout the course of the works.

The fieldwork was carried out intermittently by Vasilis Tsamis, Phil Harding, Matt Kendall, Ray Kennedy and Piotr Orczewski. This report was compiled by Matt Kendall and Piotr Orczewski. Illustrations were prepared by Kenneth Lymer and Will Foster. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Sue Farr.

**ABBOTS WAY,  
NETLEY ABBEY, HAMPSHIRE****Archaeological Watching Brief Report****1 INTRODUCTION****1.1 Project Background**

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Karen Wright (the client) to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Abbots Way, Netley Abbey, Hampshire (hereafter 'the Site') centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 445536, 109248 (see **Figure 1**)
- 1.1.2 Planning consent (ref. C/10/66/734) was granted by Hampshire County Council (HCC) for the construction of a replacement two storey dwelling with garage and decking following the demolition of the existing house.
- 1.1.3 Due to the archaeological potential of the Site, the Senior Archaeologist at Hampshire County Council required that an archaeological watching brief be carried out during all landscaping and groundworks associated with the proposed development, to ensure that the archaeological interest of the Site was properly safeguarded and recorded.
- 1.1.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by Wessex Archaeology and approved by Hampshire County Council in advance of the fieldwork commencing (WA 2010). This document detailed the methods and standards employed throughout the work.

**2 SITE DESCRIPTION****2.1 Location, topography and geology**

- 2.1.1 The Site comprises a sub-rectangular parcel of land, approximately 0.1 hectares, centred on NGR 445536, 109248 (**Figure 1**). It lies at the eastern end of Fountains Park, a private unadopted road serving a number of houses in the Fishponds Estate. The Site is surrounded to the north and east by woodland. There is a belt of dense planting between the Site and neighbouring house to the west. To the south, the Site is bounded by a small lake; one of the original fishponds that supplied the Cistercian monastery at Netley Abbey.
- 2.1.2 The Site is positioned at the eastern end of the Netley Abbey Conservation Area, first designated in 1981.
- 2.1.3 The Site is generally flat and lies at approximately c. 19m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 2.1.4 The underlying geology of the Site is Third River Terrace deposits (mainly gravel) (Geological Survey of Great Britain, sheet 315).

## 2.2 Archaeological and historical background

- 2.2.1 Although no Scheduled Monuments exist within the Site itself, five are in close proximity and the Site is within the Netley Abbey Conservation Area.
- 2.2.2 Evidence of prehistoric activity and Romano-British activity is scarce in the village, although assemblages of Palaeolithic artefacts attributed to the plateau gravel beds at Netley have been recorded to the south and east of the Site.
- 2.2.3 The Cistercian abbey at Netley (HA5), founded in 1239, is positioned immediately to the south-west of the Site. The abbey complex was a typical arrangement comprising the church to the north, with a cloister against the southernmost wall of the nave. In addition, a chapter house was located to the east of the cloister with additional ancillary buildings to the south.
- 2.2.4 The abbey was dissolved in 1536 and granted to William Paulet who converted the complex into a private residence with very few alterations to the fabric of the abbey.
- 2.2.5 Remains associated with the abbey include the moat which survives as two disarticulate sections (HA5A) of the formerly substantial earthwork forming the southern boundary of the abbey precinct. Early maps of the area indicate that this feature defined the southern, eastern and northern precinct boundaries; the western boundary corresponding with the edge of Southampton Water.
- 2.2.6 A series of three fishponds were located on the valley floor to the east of the abbey, the western two were located within the perimeter defined by the moat and the easternmost is immediately to the south of the Site. Both the moat and three fishponds were provided with water via an extensive system of aqueducts (SM24324) that extend northwards to a possible water source at or near Tickleford Pond. Although the channels do not reach the abbey precinct, it is unclear if this was due to it being unfinished or the result of modern building and landscaping.
- 2.2.7 Netley Grange Farm is located to the east of the Site and is likely to be one of five farms associated with the abbey and referred to in late 13<sup>th</sup> century manuscripts. The farm complex is mapped as *Grange Farm* by 1725.
- 2.2.8 To the west of the abbey, Netley Castle (HA233) is one of the Solent forts established by Henry VIII and positioned on the shores of Southampton Water. Although subsequently enveloped within a much larger 19<sup>th</sup> century building, the original fabric of the single storey oblong structure is still discernible.
- 2.2.9 The modern village of Netley was created in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century with the construction of the main British Army hospital, begun in 1856. The village grew up around the hospital which was demolished to make way for the Royal Victoria Country Park.



### **3 AIMS**

- 3.1.1 The principal aim of the watching brief was to provide further information concerning the presence/absence, date, nature and extent of any buried archaeological remains and to investigate and record all archaeological features revealed during groundworks.

### **4 METHODOLOGY**

- 4.1.1 The fieldwork consisted of the monitoring of ground works made beneath the present ground surfaces for the purposes of excavation of foundation trenches, services and landscaping.
- 4.1.2 The groundwork was carried out under constant archaeological supervision using a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket. The mechanical excavation proceeded in spits to the top of the uppermost archaeological horizon or to the intended formation depth, whichever was encountered first.
- 4.1.3 The depth of excavation varied on Site and ranged from 0.55m to 2.0m.
- 4.1.4 A photographic record of the watching brief was maintained through digital images. The photographic record illustrated both the detail and general context of the archaeological remains revealed, and the Site as a whole.

### **5 FIELDWORK RESULTS**

#### **5.1 Deposit Sequence**

- 5.1.1 The majority of the Site was covered by a dark brown-grey silty clay loam topsoil which was well rooted by vegetation and went to a depth of between 0.20 – 0.40m below the existing ground surface. The topsoil overlay a 0.25m thick mid brown sandy clay subsoil with common flint inclusions. Below this level was the natural yellow red sandy clay with abundant sub-angular flint (terrace gravels).
- 5.1.2 In addition a podzolic grey-brown deposit was recorded within the natural gravel at a depth of 0.70m in the basement/gymnasium area.
- 5.1.3 A made ground/rubble layer was recorded in the area of the former building on the Site and associated terracing/ground levelling was evident in the area of the existing lawn. The former groundworks were not extensive and would not have removed archaeological features had they been present. Topsoil and the upper subsoil formed a slight terrace downslope.
- 5.1.4 A number of tree boles were noted and rapidly investigated. In the absence of any archaeological material they were not recorded further.

#### **5.2 Archaeological features**

- 5.2.1 No features, finds or deposits of archaeological origin were identified during the watching brief.

## 6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1.1 The watching brief undertaken during groundworks associated with the development did not identify any archaeological remains.

## 7 ARCHIVE

### 7.1 Preparation and Deposition

- 7.1.1 The complete archaeological project archive was prepared in accordance with Wessex Archaeology's Guidelines for Archive Preparation and in accordance with *Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (AAF 2007). The project archive will be deposited with the local museum.

### 7.2 The Archive

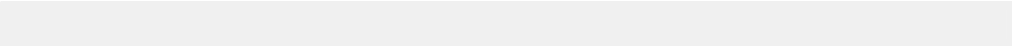
- 7.2.1 The project archive was prepared in accordance with the guidelines outlined in Appendix 3 of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and in accordance with the *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage* (UKIC 1990). It comprises a ring-bound file containing the site 'day book', trench record sheets, photographic register, 1:10 scale section drawings and *Written Scheme of Investigation*.
- 7.2.2 The archive is currently held at Wessex Archaeology's office building under the site code **75060**.

### 7.3 Copyright

- 7.3.1 This report may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey), or the intellectual property of third parties, which we are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferrable by Wessex Archaeology. You are reminded that you remain bound by the conditions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

## 8 REFERENCES

- Wessex Archaeology, 2010, Abbots Way, Netley Abbey, Hampshire, Written scheme of Investigation: Method Statement for a Watching Brief unpublished client report 75060.01 (2010)

**APPENDIX 1 - OASIS RECORD FORM**
**OASIS ID: wessexar1-106085**

**Project details**

Project name            Abbots Way, Netley Abbey, Netley

Short description of project    Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Karen Wright to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at Abbots Way, Netley Abbey, Hampshire centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 445536, 109248. The works consisted of the monitoring of groundworks associated with the development proposals, including the excavation of foundations and associated landscaping and the recording of any archaeology that was encountered. The work aimed to identify the date, extent, character, and preservation of the underlying archaeological remains. No archaeological features or finds were identified during the course of the watching brief. The only features present related to the former building within the plot. The fieldwork was carried out intermittently from the 15th of March 2011 to the 16th of June 2011.

Project dates            Start: 15-03-2011 End: 29-07-2011

Previous/future work        No / No

Any associated project reference codes    75060 - Contracting Unit 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                    Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

### Project location

Country                    England  
Site location            HAMPSHIRE NEW FOREST NETLEY MARSH Netley Abbey,  
Netelwy  
  
Postcode                SO31 5FF  
  
Study area              0.10 Hectares  
  
Site coordinates        445536 109248 445536 00 00 N 109248 00 00 E Point  
  
Height OD / Depth    Min: 19.00m Max: 19.00m

### Project creators

Name                    of Wessex Archaeology  
Organisation

Project                brief Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory  
originator                body

Project                design Wessex Archaeology  
originator

Project                Sue Farr  
director/manager

Project supervisor    Piotr Orczewski

Type                    of Landowner  
sponsor/funding  
body

Name                    of Landowner  
sponsor/funding  
body

### Project archives

Physical    Archive No  
Exists?

Digital Contents 'other'

Digital available Media 'Images raster / digital photography','Text'

Paper Contents 'other'

Paper available Media 'Context sheet','Drawing','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Report','Section','Unpublished Text'

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Abbots Way, Netley Abbey, Hampshire

Author(s)/Editor(s) Orczewski, P

Other bibliographic details 75060

Date 2011

Issuer or publisher Wessex Archaeology

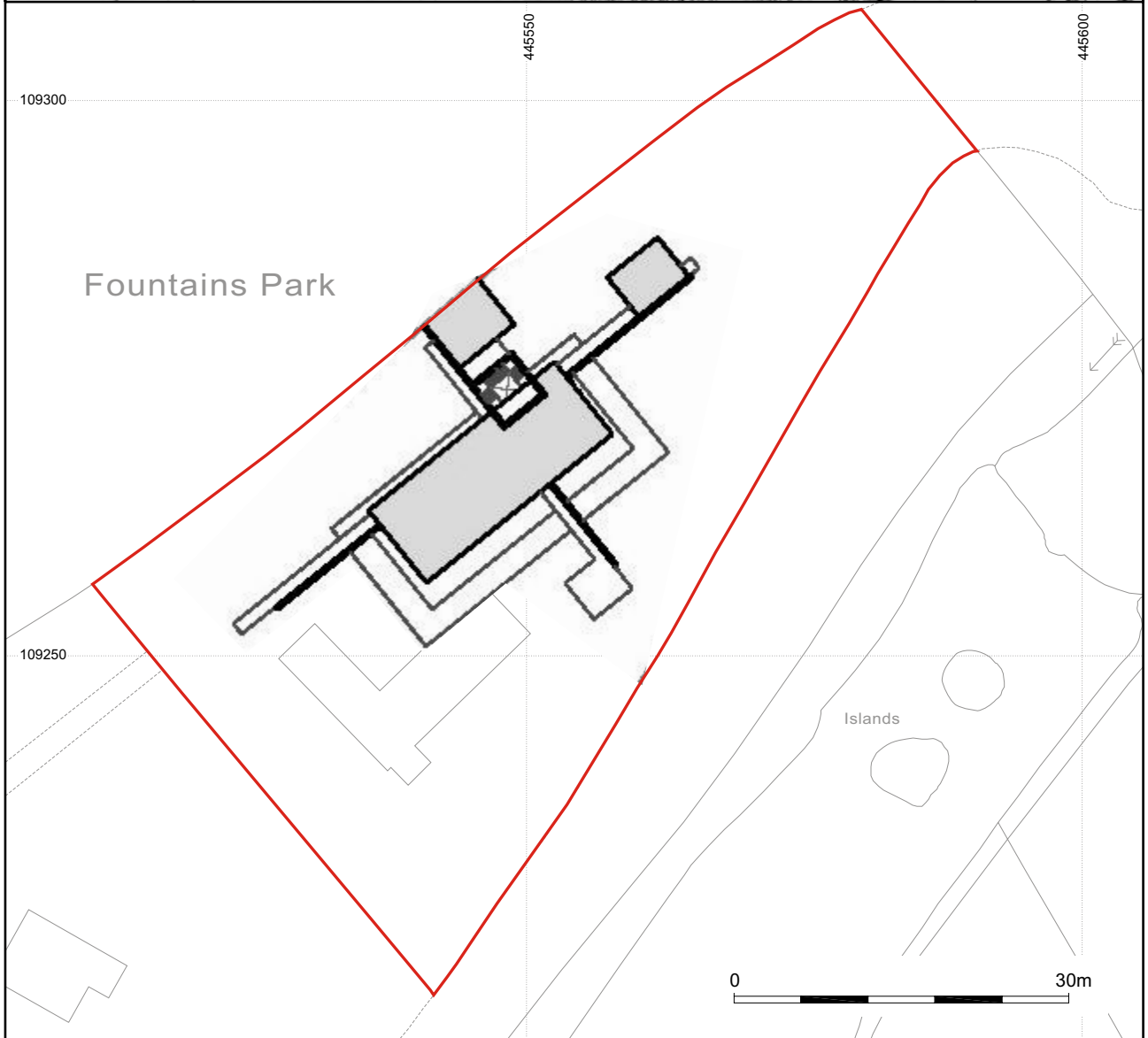
Place of issue or publication Salisbury


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URL <http://www.oasis.ac.uk>

Entered by S Farr (s.farr@wessexarch.co.uk)

Entered on 29 July 2011



 Watching brief area

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Site location plan

Figure 1



Plate 1: Section with podzol in basement area



Plate 2: Garage foundation trench section

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**WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY LTD.**

**Registered Head Office:** Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB.

Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 [info@wessexarch.co.uk](mailto:info@wessexarch.co.uk)

**With regional offices in Maidstone, Sheffield and Edinburgh**

For more information visit [www.wessexarch.co.uk](http://www.wessexarch.co.uk)

