

## The Old Rectory, River Street, Pewsey, Wiltshire

### Archaeological Watching Brief Report





**THE OLD RECTORY  
RIVER STREET, PEWSEY  
WILTSHIRE**

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

Prepared for:  
**Quinlan and Francis Terry Architects**  
Old Exchange  
High Street  
Dedham  
Colchester  
CO7 6HA

On behalf of:  
**The Servants Fellowship International**

by:  
**Wessex Archaeology**  
Portway House,  
Old Sarum Park,  
Salisbury,  
Hampshire,  
SP4 6EB

Planning Ref No: E/10/1106/FUL  
Report reference: 76610.03

**September 2011**

*© Wessex Archaeology Limited 2011, all rights reserved  
Wessex Archaeology Limited is a Registered Charity No. 287786*

## DISCLAIMER

THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT WAS DESIGNED AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF A REPORT TO AN INDIVIDUAL CLIENT AND WAS PREPARED SOLELY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THAT CLIENT. THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT DOES NOT NECESSARILY STAND ON ITS OWN AND IS NOT INTENDED TO NOR SHOULD IT BE RELIED UPON BY ANY THIRD PARTY. TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY WILL NOT BE LIABLE BY REASON OF BREACH OF CONTRACT NEGLIGENCE OR OTHERWISE FOR ANY LOSS OR DAMAGE (WHETHER DIRECT INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL) OCCASIONED TO ANY PERSON ACTING OR OMITTING TO ACT OR REFRAINING FROM ACTING IN RELIANCE UPON THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT ARISING FROM OR CONNECTED WITH ANY ERROR OR OMISSION IN THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THE REPORT. LOSS OR DAMAGE AS REFERRED TO ABOVE SHALL BE DEEMED TO INCLUDE, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, ANY LOSS OF PROFITS OR ANTICIPATED PROFITS DAMAGE TO REPUTATION OR GOODWILL LOSS OF BUSINESS OR ANTICIPATED BUSINESS DAMAGES COSTS EXPENSES INCURRED OR PAYABLE TO ANY THIRD PARTY (IN ALL CASES WHETHER DIRECT INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL) OR ANY OTHER DIRECT INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL LOSS OR DAMAGE

## QUALITY ASSURANCE

SITE CODE	<b>76610.03</b>	ACCESSION CODE		CLIENT CODE	
PLANNING APPLICATION REF.	<b>E/10/1106/FUL</b>	NGR	<b>416600,159890</b>		

VERSION	STATUS*	PREPARED BY	APPROVED BY	APPROVER'S SIGNATURE	DATE	FILE
I	E	OG	SF		04/08/11	X:\ X:\PROJECTS\76610\REPORT\DRAFT

I= Internal Draft E= External Draft F= Final

**The Old Rectory**  
**River Street, Pewsey**  
**Wiltshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

**CONTENTS**

<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....	<b>1</b>
	1.1 Project Background .....	1
<b>2</b>	<b>THE SITE</b> .....	<b>1</b>
	2.1 Site location, description and topography.....	1
	2.2 Archaeological Potential .....	1
<b>3</b>	<b>AIMS</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>METHODOLOGY</b> .....	<b>2</b>
	4.1 Introduction.....	2
	4.2 Fieldwork .....	2
<b>5</b>	<b>RESULTS</b> .....	<b>2</b>
	5.1 Introduction.....	2
	5.2 Deposits.....	2
	5.3 Archaeology.....	3
<b>6</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>CONCLUSIONS</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>ARCHIVE</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>APPENDIX 1: OASIS RECORD</b> .....	<b>4</b>

**LIST OF FIGURES**

- Figure 1** Site location showing watching brief area and gully feature with west facing section through gully 108
- Cover** Machine excavation of the basement

**The Old Rectory**  
**River Street, Pewsey**  
**Wiltshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

**Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Quinlan and Francis Terry Architects on behalf of The Servants Fellowship International to undertake an archaeological watching brief during construction at The Old Rectory, River Street, Pewsey, Wiltshire. The watching brief was required as a condition of planning consent granted by Wiltshire Council for the construction of a two storey brick built library with a basement.

Monitoring of groundworks associated with the development proposals revealed a large build up of alluvial deposits overlying a single gully and the natural greensand. The curvilinear gully terminated within the excavated area and contained a single pottery sherd dating to the 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The identification of the shallow gully within the Site has confirmed the continuation of 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century occupation in the immediate area. Contemporaneous with the medieval features found to the north of the Site, the gully is likely to be related to the medieval settlement of Pewsey to the north.

The watching brief was carried out on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of August 2011.

**The Old Rectory**  
**River Street, Pewsey**  
**Wiltshire**  
**Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

**Acknowledgements**

Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Quinlan and Francis Terry Architects on behalf of The Servants Fellowship International for commissioning the watching brief.

The watching brief was undertaken by Oliver Good. This report was compiled by Oliver Good with the report illustrations prepared by Linda Coleman. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Damian De Rosa and Sue Farr.

---

**The Old Rectory  
River Street, Pewsey  
Wiltshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

**1 INTRODUCTION**

**1.1 Project Background**

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Quinlan and Francis Terry Architects on behalf of The Servants Fellowship International (The Client) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during development at The Old Rectory, River Street, Pewsey, Wiltshire (hereafter 'the Site') centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 416600,159890 (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 Planning permission (ref. E/10/1106/FUL) was granted by Wiltshire Council for the construction of a two storey brick built library with a basement on condition (Condition 4) that an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during all groundworks associated with the development to ensure that the archaeological interest of the Site was properly safeguarded.
- 1.1.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WA 2011) was prepared and approved by the Assistant County Archaeologist at Wiltshire Council prior to the groundworks commencing. The document set out the methodologies and standards that were employed by Wessex Archaeology during the watching brief and was prepared in line with the guidance included in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (IfA 2008).
- 1.1.4 The watching brief was carried out on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2011.

**2 THE SITE**

**2.1 Site location, description and topography**

- 2.1.1 The Site lies to the south of the Old Rectory and is accessed from Church Street to the west. The River Avon flows in a north - south direction to the west of the Site. The High Street lies to the north of the Site (**Figure 1**).
- 2.1.2 The underlying solid geology is recorded as Cretaceous Upper Greensand, with more recent drift deposits of River Gravel and Alluvium associated with the course of the River Avon. In addition, a superficial cap of brickearth is noted c. 500 m to the east of the Site (BGS 1985, Sheet 282).

**2.2 Archaeological Potential**

- 2.2.1 The Site is located on the edge of the medieval town of Pewsey and excavations immediately to the north (WA 1996) of the Site revealed features relating to medieval settlement activity. Three pits, two linear features (a ditch and a slot) and a possible trackway were recorded and dated to the 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century.
- 2.2.2 Post-medieval and modern material was recovered from a further pit and four postholes. Three further pits remained undated.

- 2.2.3 Although possible structural features were identified (postholes and the slot), insufficient evidence was recorded to determine the nature of any such structural remains. However, it is suggested that the recorded medieval remains represent backland activity associated with burgage plots fronting onto the High Street to the north, the linear features possibly representing flanking boundary ditches.

### **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 Introduction**

- 4.1.1 The watching brief was carried out to the standards and methods stated in the WSI (WA 2011) and in accordance with the standards outlined in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (IfA 2008).

### **4.2 Fieldwork**

- 4.2.1 The fieldwork consisted of the monitoring of groundworks made beneath the present ground surfaces during the ground reduction associated with the construction of the proposed library. The excavations were carried out using a 20 tonne machine and a 3 tonne machine equipped with toothless ditching buckets under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist. Machine excavation was halted when it was necessary to undertake archaeological investigations by hand.
- 4.2.2 All archaeological deposits were recorded to the Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system, supported by a digital photographic record.
- 4.2.3 The position of the archaeology within the trench and the watching brief area was recorded using tapes from known positions due to the lack of a sufficient satellite signal to digitally record them with a GPS.

## **5 RESULTS**

### **5.1 Introduction**

- 5.1.1 The building's footprint measured 18m long, 9m wide and was machine excavated to a maximum depth of 3m. One archaeological feature was revealed during the excavations and was identified at a depth of 0.90m below of the overlying modern hardcore and alluvium.

### **5.2 Deposits**

- 5.2.1 The stratigraphic sequence identified was similar across the area of the watching brief and comprised a modern red hardcore (0.40m in depth) consisting of crushed gravel relating to the former car park. This material overlay a mid grey brown sandy clay alluvium with patches of light yellowish brown sandy clay.



- 5.2.2 The natural geology comprised a greensand found at a depth of 1m below the existing ground levels.

### **5.3 Archaeology**

- 5.3.1 One gully was identified in the southern extent of the building footprint. The curvilinear gully was recorded running from the southern trench edge round to the east before terminating within the area of excavation (**Figure 1**).
- 5.3.2 Two sections were hand-excavated through the gully, which measured 0.38m in width and 0.28m in depth. The overall length of the gully (within the excavated area) was 7m and contained a dark grey brown sandy clay containing one small sherd of 12<sup>th</sup>–13<sup>th</sup> century pottery. Although not evident within the terminus, a re-cut was recorded within the other excavated slot.

## **6 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

- 6.1.1 No deposits suitable for environmental analysis were identified within the Site.

## **7 CONCLUSIONS**

- 7.1.1 The identification of the shallow gully within the Site has confirmed the continuation of 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century occupation in the immediate area. Contemporaneous with the medieval features found to the north (WA 1996) of the Site, the gully is likely to be related to the medieval settlement of Pewsey to the north.

## **8 ARCHIVE**

- 8.1.1 Details of the Site will be submitted online to the OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations) database, a copy of this will be included as an Appendix to the report. A full archive of site photographs will also be submitted to the ADS as part of the photographic trial currently be undertaken across Wiltshire.
- 8.1.2 The archive is currently being held at Wessex Archaeology's Salisbury office under the site code 76610, but will ultimately be deposited for permanent storage at the Devizes Museum where the archive will be deposited.

## **9 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Geological Survey of England and Wales 1985, Devizes. Sheet 282 drift edition.

Wessex Archaeology 1996. Former Pewsey Motors Site, Pewsey, Wiltshire. Archaeological Excavation. WA Ref: 39474

Wessex Archaeology 2011. Old Rectory, River Street, Pewsey, Wiltshire. Written Scheme of Investigation. WA Ref: 76610

## 10 APPENDIX 1: OASIS RECORD

The Old Rectory, River Street, Pewsey, Wiltshire - Wessex Archaeology

OASIS ID - wessexar1-109911

### Versions

View	Version	Completed by	Email	Date
<a href="#">View 1</a>	1	Sue Farr	s.farr@wessexarch.co.uk	14 September 2011

### Completed sections in current version

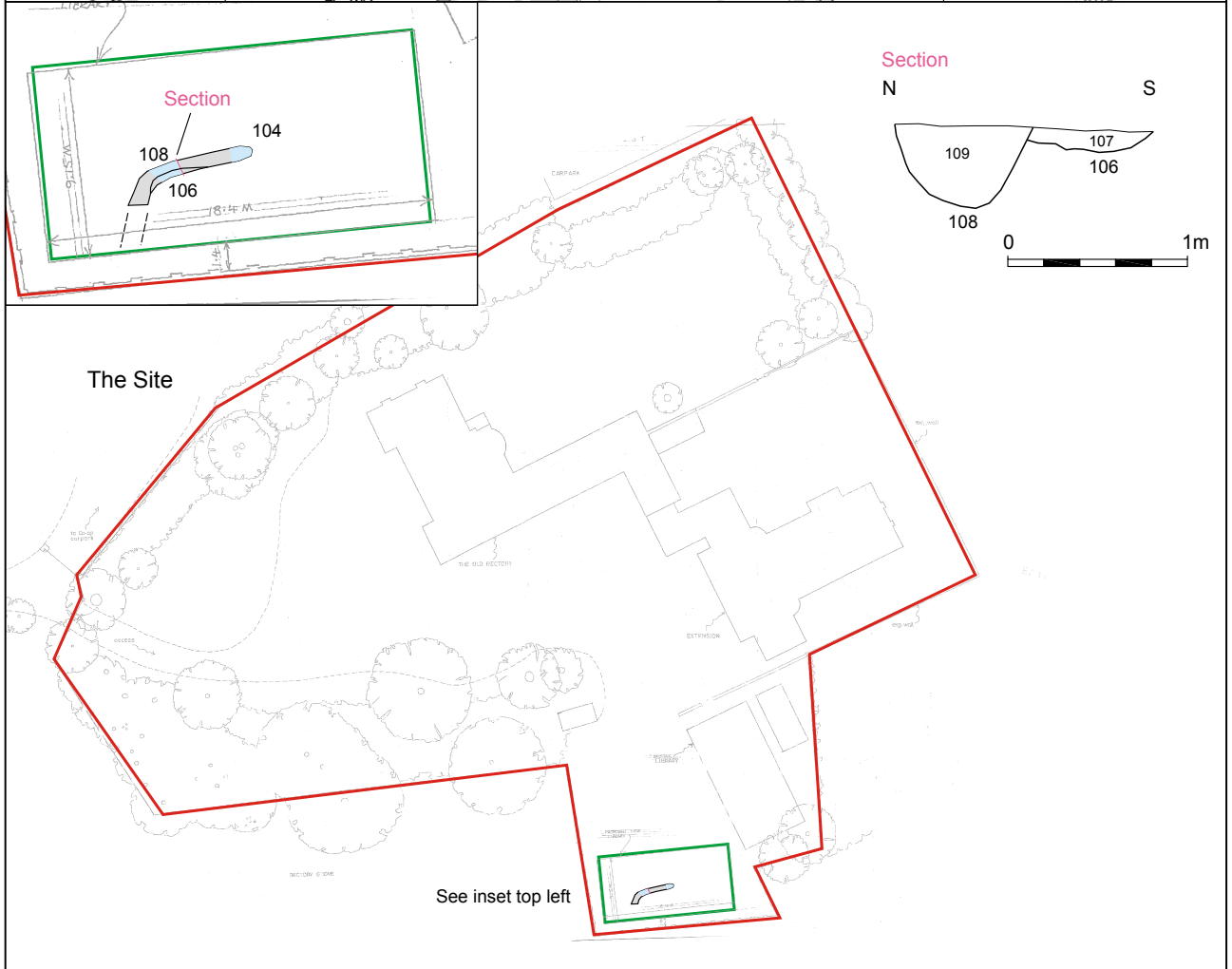
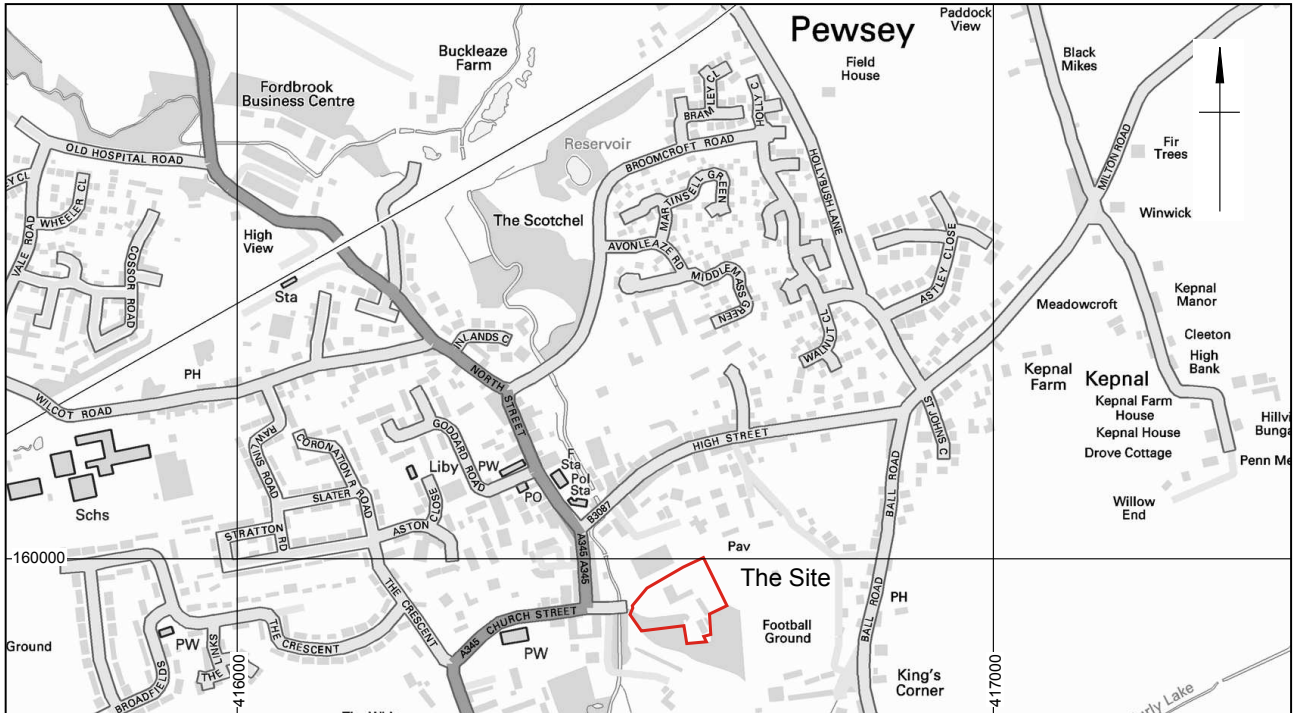
Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1/1

### Validated sections in current version

Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
No	No	No	No	0/1

### File submission and form progress

Grey literature report submitted?	No	Grey literature report filename/s
Images submitted?	No	Image filename/s
Boundary file submitted?	No	Boundary filename
HER signed off?		



Watching brief area Gully feature  	Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright and database right 2010  This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.			
	Date:	14/09/11	Revision Number:	0
	Scale:	1:10 000 & 1:1000 @ A4	Illustrator:	LJC
	Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\76610\Drawing Office\Report figs\WB\11_09_14\76610_wb.dwg		

Site location showing watching brief area and gully feature with west facing section through gully 108

Figure 1



**WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED.**

**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)

Regional offices in **Edinburgh, Rochester and Sheffield**

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

