

Land adjacent to 106 High Street Great Cheverell, Wiltshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report





**LAND ADJACENT TO 106 HIGH STREET,
GREAT CHEVERELL,
WILTSHIRE**

Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief

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PLANNING APPLICATION REF.		NGR		398490 154447	

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* I= INTERNAL DRAFT E= EXTERNAL DRAFT F= FINAL

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Contents

	Summary	iv
	Acknowledgements.....	v
1	INTRODUCTION	1
	1.1 Project Background	1
	1.2 The Site, location and geology	1
	1.3 Archaeological Background.....	1
2	METHODOLOGY	2
	2.1 Introduction and General Objectives	2
	2.2 Fieldwork Methodology.....	2
3	RESULTS	3
	3.1 Introduction.....	3
	3.2 Stratigraphic Sequence	3
	3.3 Archaeological features.....	3
4	FINDS	4
5	PALAEO-ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE	4
6	CONCLUSIONS	4
7	REFERENCES	4
	7.1 Bibliography.....	4
	7.2 Cartographic Sources.....	5
	7.3 Online resources	5
	APPENDIX 1: SUMMARY OF STRATIGRAPHIC SEQUENCE IDENTIFIED DURING WATCHING BRIEF	6
	APPENDIX 2: OASIS RECORD FORM	6

Figure 1 Site location plan showing watching brief area and 1995 evaluation trench

**LAND ADJACENT TO 106 HIGH STREET,
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Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by John Stone, the Client, to carry out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks undertaken for the construction of a single house on land adjacent to 106 High Street, Great Cheverell, centred on NGR 398490 154447.

The watching brief was a requirement as a condition of the planning permission (Condition 11) issued to the Client by Wiltshire Council (Planning Reference K/59421/F).

Previous trial trenching on the Site located a small number of presumably agricultural features dated by pottery to the medieval period. However, no archaeological features or artefactual material was recovered during this watching brief.

The fieldwork was carried out on 26th and 27th April 2011.

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Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief

Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by John Stone and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to him in this regard. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank David Vaughan, Assistant Archaeologist at Wiltshire Council.

The fieldwork was carried out by Steve Beach. The report was researched and compiled by Chloe Hunnisett and Sian Reynolds. The illustrations were prepared by Ken Lymer. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Sue Farr.

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Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to carry out an archaeological watching brief on land adjacent to 106 High Street, Great Cheverell, Wiltshire, centred on NGR 398490 154447 (hereafter the Site).
- 1.1.2 The watching brief was a requirement as a condition of the planning permission (Condition 11) issued to the Client by Wiltshire Council (Planning Reference K/59421/F).
- 1.1.3 The watching brief was undertaken during groundworks in advance of construction of a single house within the Site, and the work was carried out on 26th and 27th April 2011.
- 1.1.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by Wessex Archaeology and approved by Wiltshire Council in advance of the fieldwork commencing (WA 2011). This document detailed the methods and standards employed throughout the work.

1.2 The Site, location and geology

- 1.2.1 The Site is located on a vacant plot of land in the eastern half of the village of Great Cheverell. It is bounded to the north by the High Street and to the south, east and west by residential properties.
- 1.2.2 The Site is situated on a north-east facing slope at an elevation of between 72m to 74m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 1.2.3 The Site lies on the boundary between Upper Greensand and Gault (1:63,360 Drift Geology map, 1967 edition, Geological Survey of Great Britain (England and Wales)).

1.3 Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 Although isolated prehistoric, Romano-British and Saxon finds have been recorded within the village, Great Cheverell has its origins in the Saxon period, having been recorded in *Domesday* as '*Chevrel*'.
- 1.3.2 The church is located in the western part of the village. An extant section of a hollow way is visible to the south and numerous extant earthworks survive to the north-east of the village.
- 1.3.3 A previous archaeological evaluation has been undertaken on the Site (WA 1995), comprising the machine excavation of 5 trenches. Although much of

the evaluation area has now been built upon, Trench 2 was partially positioned over the footprint of the proposed building (**Figure 1**).

- 1.3.4 Four features were recorded in Trench 2, comprising a ditch aligned parallel to the existing field boundary, a stone alignment which overlay a stony layer and a sub-rectangular feature which, due to the confines of the trench, could not be fully interpreted. Pottery sherds collected dated the features to the 12th and 13th centuries, and additional pottery recovered from the machine arisings created a maximum date range of the 10th to 14th centuries.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Introduction and General Objectives

The aims of the watching brief were:

- To determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains, and should remains be found, to ensure their preservation by record to the highest possible standard.
- To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of the remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence.
- To determine or confirm the approximate extent of the remains.
- To determine the condition and state of preservation of the remains.
- To determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present.
- To prepare a report on the results of the watching brief

2.2 Fieldwork Methodology

- 2.2.1 The full detailed methodology of the archaeological works was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (Wessex Archaeology 2011), and is summarised below.
- 2.2.2 An archaeological watching brief was carried out on land adjacent to 106 High Street, Cheverell (see **Figure 1**). All groundworks undertaken below the present ground surface, including excavation of footings for a single house and associated landscaping, were monitored continuously by an appropriately qualified member of Wessex Archaeology.
- 2.2.3 Archaeological remains encountered were investigated and recorded using Wessex Archaeology's recording system. Excavated material was visually examined for archaeological material to enhance artefact recovery.
- 2.2.4 The location of the excavation was planned by hand and related to the Ordnance Survey grid. Section drawings were made of the stratigraphic sequence revealed within the foundation trenches. Archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system.
- 2.2.5 A digital photographic record of the watching brief was compiled. Digital images will be subject to managed quality control and curation processes which will embed appropriate metadata within the image and ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

- 2.2.6 All Site attendance and recording was conducted in compliance with the standards outlined in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (IfA 2008), excepting where they are superseded by statements made below.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 Groundworks monitored during the watching brief comprised the mechanical excavation of foundation trenches for a single house. The individual trenches were generally less than 0.7m in width, and were excavated to a maximum depth of 1m below ground level (BGL). A small soak-away was also excavated to the east of the house.
- 3.1.2 The foundation trenches were located c. 5m west of the medieval archaeological features identified in Trench 2 of the previous archaeological evaluation (WA 1995).

3.2 Stratigraphic sequence

- 3.2.1 The soil sequence indentified within the foundation trenches consisted of a topsoil/garden soil layer (**100**) of between approximately 0.2m and 0.5m thickness. The topsoil encountered during the watching brief was very stony when compared to the deposit recorded during the evaluation (WA 1995). It is possible that this recorded difference relates to differential use of the Site in the past, with the less stony area in the east of the Site potentially indicating a more cultivated or heavily utilised area.
- 3.2.2 The topsoil overlay a mid brown silty clay subsoil (**101**), with sparse calcareous inclusions and measuring approximately 0.15m in depth.
- 3.2.3 The subsoil overlay mottled light greenish clay natural (**102**). This deposit contained a greater sand component as the depth increased, and occurred from 0.35m BGL. From a depth of 0.65m, mottled greenish sandy clay greensand deposits (**103**) were recorded.
- 3.2.4 Within the northern portion of the footprint of the house, topsoil directly overlay natural clay, indicating that some truncation of the natural soil sequence had occurred. This may also suggest that any archaeological features which may once have existed within this area are likely to have been removed prior to the commencement of this scheme.

3.3 Archaeological features

- 3.3.1 No features which could be conclusively identified as archaeological in origin were identified during the watching brief.
- 3.3.2 A possible linear trend, (**104**), was identified within the western half of the foundation excavations, comprising a very loose arrangement of sandstone and flint nodules or blocks, aligned east to west. There was no evidence of a foundation cut, no trace of bedding/bonding agent to indicate a masonry feature, no indication that the blocks were deliberately shaped or cut, nor were the blocks demonstrably deliberately arranged, or even touching. No finds were identified within or near this feature.

3.3.3 It is likely that the linear trend is geological in origin, perhaps indicating a change in the underlying natural geology. This is supported by the fact that the possible feature was not identified in other foundation trenches and did not appear to continue to the east or the west.

3.3.4 No archaeological features were identified during the watching brief.

4 FINDS

4.1.1 No archaeological finds were recovered during the watching brief. A small assemblage of artefacts of indisputably modern origin, including glass, plastic, modern china, metal and brick fragments, were noted within the topsoil but were not retained.

5 PALAEO-ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

5.1.1 No deposits which were deemed suitable for palaeo-environmental analysis were identified during the course of the watching brief and no samples were collected.

6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1.1 No archaeological features or artefactual material was recovered during this watching brief.

6.1.2 Previous trial trenching on the Site located a small number of presumably agricultural features dated by pottery to the late 12th to 13th century. Further unstratified sherds recovered from the machine excavated spoil of this trench extend the maximum date range to between the 10th and 14th centuries.

6.1.3 The house footings excavated during the watching brief were located c. 5m to the west of these features, in the area of a stony linear trend. Whilst this layer was shown to continue into the watching brief area, it did not appear to be archaeological in nature.

7 REFERENCES

7.1 Bibliography

Institute for Archaeologists 2008, *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

Wessex Archaeology 1995, *Land adjacent to 106 High Street, Great Cheverell, Wiltshire Archaeological Desk-Top Study and Field Evaluation Report*. Unpublished client document ref: 39234

Wessex Archaeology 2011. *Land adjacent to 106 High Street, Great Cheverell, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*. Unpublished client document ref: 77390.01

7.2 Cartographic Sources

Geological Survey of Great Britain (England & Wales) 1:63,360 sheet 265

7.3 Online resources

<http://www.magic.gov.uk>

<http://lbonline.english-heritage.org.uk/>

APPENDIX 1: SUMMARY OF STRATIGRAPHIC SEQUENCE IDENTIFIED DURING WATCHING BRIEF

Context No.	Description
100	Topsoil/turf 0.00-0.19m
101	Subsoil: Mid brown silty clay with sparse calcareous inclusions (<0.05m) 0.19-0.35m
102	Natural: Greensand / tan clay 0.35-0.65m
103	Natural: Greensand / clay 0.65m+
104	Linear trend: Loose arrangement of stone blocks, likely natural in origin. No evidence to suggest this is a masonry feature, although the base of a heavily truncated feature cannot be ruled out.
105	Stone patch: Very amorphous.

APPENDIX 2: OASIS RECORD FORM

OASIS ID - wessexar1-110035

Versions

View	Version	Completed by	Email	Date
View 1	1	Sue Farr	s.farr@wessexarch.co.uk	15 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?		NMR signed off?



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site Watching brief area Foundation trenches Previous trench (1995) Archaeological feature 	<p>Contains Ordnance Survey open data © Crown Copyright and database right 2011.</p> <p>Digital data reproduced from Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright 2011. All rights reserved. Reference Number: 100020449.</p> <p>This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.</p>			
	Date:	08/09/11	Revision Number:	0
	Scale:	1:20,000 & 1:400 @ A4	Illustrator:	KL
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Site location and trench plan

Figure 1



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