



LAND AT CHURCH ROAD AND HAM LANE  
OLD WINDSOR  
BERKSHIRE  
SL4 2PS

Archaeological Watching Brief Report





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### QUALITY ASSURANCE

SITE CODE	86730	ACCESSION CODE	CLIENT CODE
PLANNING APPLICATION REF.	12/00790	NGR	498999, 174730

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

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**Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

**Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs consulting on behalf of HAP Chartered Architects Limited and their Client Mr Steve Jury to carry out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of a new stable block on land at Church Road and Ham Lane, Old Windsor, Berkshire. The Site is centered on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference 498999, 174730.

The Site lies within a Scheduled Monument relating to an early medieval and medieval Palace to the east of Old Windsor and Scheduled Monument Consent was granted by English Heritage (on behalf of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport) on condition an archaeological watching brief was maintained during the groundworks.

The groundworks consisted of the excavation of foundation trenches for the walls of a rectangular stable block covering approximately 105m<sup>2</sup>. No finds or features relating to the Scheduled Monument were recovered during the works.

The watching brief was carried out on the 20<sup>th</sup> of August 2012.

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**Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

**Acknowledgements**

This project was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of HAP Chartered Architects Limited and their Client Mr Steve Jury and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Michelle Collings in this regard.

The report was researched and compiled by Marie Kelleher and illustrations were prepared by Daniel Jackson. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Sue Farr.

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**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**1 INTRODUCTION**

**1.1 Project Background**

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of HAP Chartered Architects Limited and their Client Mr Steve Jury to undertake an archaeological watching brief on Land at Church Road and Ham Lane, Old Windsor, Berkshire, (hereafter 'the Site'), centered on National Grid Reference (NGR) 498999, 174730.

1.1.2 The development proposes the construction of a new stable block, comprising 4 stables and a tack room in the south-west corner of land at Church Road and Ham Lane.

1.1.3 The Site lies partially within a Scheduled Monument relating to an early medieval palace and associated monuments at Kingsbury (SM WN HA 1006995) and Scheduled Monument Consent was granted by English Heritage (on behalf of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport) on condition an archaeological watching brief was maintained during the groundworks.

1.1.4 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Works (CgMs 2012). The specification detailed the strategy, techniques and methods to be employed by Wessex Archaeology's archaeologist during the fieldwork.

1.1.5 All works were carried out in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (IfA 2008).

1.1.6 The fieldwork was conducted on the 20<sup>th</sup> August 2012.

**1.2 Site location, topography and geology**

1.2.1 The Site is located to the south-west of Ham Island in Old Windsor, on the corner between Church Road and Ham Lane. The Site comprises a paddock used for grazing horses and covers 1.78 hectares. The Site is bound by Church Road to the south, Ham Lane to the east, residential properties to the west and Manor Cottages to the north. The River Thames is located 450m to the east of the Site, running through Old Windsor.

1.2.2 The Site lies upon fairly flat ground with a slight rise to the northern edge of the Site. The underlying geology of the Site comprises a superficial deposit of Shepperton Gravel made up of sand and gravel and a Bedrock of London Clay (BGS Online).



## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Introduction**

2.1.1 A brief search of the Berkshire Historic Environment Record confirms 116 sites within a 1km radius of the Site.

### **2.2 Designated Sites**

2.2.1 The Site lies within the Saxon settlement and medieval Royal Palace of Old Windsor and is designated as a Scheduled Monument. The Schedule Monument comprises five parcels of land to the eastern edge of Old Windsor.

2.2.2 Excavations in the 1950s revealed an early medieval settlement, comprising a small village or farmstead, dating to the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> century. The fieldwork also exposed a series of structures including a domestic building, possibly with a tiled roof and glazed windows and a large mill.

2.2.3 An early medieval and medieval palace is also recorded. Documentary evidence suggests this was the royal palace of Edward the Confessor and the early Norman kings.

### **2.3 Archaeological Background**

2.3.1 Evidence of Romano-British activity within the immediate area consists of a possible building situated between the Church at Old Windsor and the River Thames. A large amount of pottery and some building material was recovered during the excavation of a service trench to the south-east of the Church.

2.3.2 Adjacent to the western boundary of the Site is 'The Windsor Great Ditch' which is considered to date to the 7<sup>th</sup> Century AD. This survives as an earthwork on the western side of the Site boundary.

## **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

3.1.1 The aim of the watching brief as specified in the *Written Scheme of Archaeological Investigation*, (CgMs 2012) was:

- To determine the nature of any archaeological remains present within the Site. In particular to inform the nature of the potential Anglo-Saxon and Medieval activity in the area;
- To determine the significance of any archaeological remains present

## **4 METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1 Introduction**

4.1.1 All archaeological work was conducted in accordance with the methodology set out in the CgMs *Written Scheme of Archaeological Investigation* (ibid.) and the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2008).

## 4.2 Fieldwork

- 4.2.1 The watching brief consisted of the monitoring of groundworks associated with the topsoil stripping and the excavation of footings for the stable block. The machine excavation was undertaken using a mini digger equipped with a 0.50m wide toothless bucket.
- 4.2.2 Topsoil was removed from the footprint of the stable block prior to the trench excavation. The foundation trenches varied in width from between 0.60 to 0.85m, and between 0.35 to 0.52m in depth. The excavation was carried out under archaeological supervision until such time that it was apparent that the required levels of excavation had been reached. The excavated material was inspected for finds.

## 4.3 Recording

- 4.3.1 All recording was undertaken using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system. A unique site code (**86730**) was issued for the investigation.
- 4.3.2 A digital photographic record was maintained throughout the fieldwork, illustrating both the detail of the excavated areas and the Site as a whole.

## 4.4 Health and Safety

- 4.4.1 All work was carried out in accordance with the *Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974*, the *Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992* and *Health and Safety in Field Archaeology 1997*, and all other relevant health and safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.
- 4.4.2 Prior to the commencement of the fieldwork a site-specific Risk Assessment was produced (Wessex Archaeology 2012). All site staff involved in the works signed and complied with this document.

## 5 FIELDWORK RESULTS

### 5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 This section presents the results of the archaeological watching brief. Detailed descriptions of the stratigraphy encountered across the Site are produced in **Appendix 1**. In addition to this **Figure 1** shows the location of the area monitored and the Site location as a whole. **Plates 1-4** provide photographs of the stratigraphic sequence across the Site and the Site overall.

### 5.2 Stratigraphic Sequence

- 5.2.1 The stratigraphic sequence recorded across the Site was generally consistent and comprised a topsoil and turf layer (**101**), consisting of a mid grey brown silty clay (**Plate 1**) which overlay a made ground deposit (**102**), through which the foundation trenches were excavated. The made ground deposit consisted of a dark grey brown silty clay and contained frequent stones, chalk, modern Ceramic Building Material (CBM), plastic and bottles (**Plates 2 & 3**).

5.2.2 In the south-west corner of the stable block, a second made ground layer was recorded and comprised a mid brown silty sand, with gravel, CBM, plastic and glass.

5.2.3 Due to the shallow depths of excavation no subsoil or natural deposits were exposed.

### **5.3 Archaeological Results**

#### ***Foundation Trenches***

5.3.1 The excavation of the foundation trenches revealed topsoil layer **101** to a depth of 0.10m, overlying made ground layer **102** throughout most of the Site. In the south-west corner of the Site made ground layer **103** was encountered beneath **102**.

5.3.2 The foundation trenches comprised a long trench (**Plate 4**) on the western side forming the rear wall of the proposed building and measured approximately 21m in length. The foundation trench for the external wall at either end of the stable block was approximately 6m long and the internal wall foundations were slightly shorter to allow for a covered walkway in front of the stable doors.

5.3.3 Four complete bottles dating to the modern period were recovered from made ground layer **102** along with modern bricks, pieces of ceramic and pieces of plastic.

### **5.4 Archaeological features**

5.4.1 No archaeological features or deposits were observed during the watching brief. No finds, apart from modern material was observed.

## **6 ENVIRONMENTAL**

6.1.1 No features suitable for environmental sampling were identified during the watching brief.

## **7 CONCLUSIONS**

7.1.1 Although the groundworks were undertaken within a Scheduled Monument, no archaeological features or deposits were observed during the fieldwork.

7.1.2 The presence of made ground deposits across the Site indicate that some ground disturbance has previously been undertaken. Given the shallow nature of the excavations, the impact of the previous groundworks on the underlying deposits could not be determined and there remains the potential for archaeology to be preserved beneath the made ground deposits.

## **8 ARCHIVE**

### **8.1 Preparation and Deposition**

8.1.1 The complete project archive will be prepared in accordance with Wessex Archaeology's *Guidelines for Archive Preparation* and in accordance with *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-Term Storage* (Walker 1990) and following the nationally recommended guidelines

(SMA 1995). On completion of the project the archive will be deposited with Reading Museum.

## **8.2 The Archive**

8.2.1 Following the fieldwork the archive was transported to Wessex Archaeology's Rochester Office. The documentary records from the watching brief have been compiled into a fully cross referenced and indexed archive in accordance with appendix 6 of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991).

8.2.2 The contents of the project archive, comprises an A4 ring-bound file containing the following (as further detailed in **Appendix 1**)

- 3 Record Sheets
- 1 Photographic Record Sheets
- Day Book (1 Sheet)
- A copy of the CgMs *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Works*
- A copy of the Risk Assessment

## **8.3 Discard Policy**

8.3.1 The project archive including written record and photographs are currently held at Wessex Archaeology's Rochester Office under the site code **86730**.

## **8.4 Copyright**

8.4.1 Full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the Site will be retained by Wessex Archaeology Ltd under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved. The recipient museum however will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profit making, and conforms to the Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003.

## **8.5 Security Copy**

8.5.1 In line with current best practice, on completion of the project a security copy of the paper records will be prepared, in the form of microfilm. The master jackets and one diazo copy of the microfilm will be submitted to the National Monuments Record Centre (NMR) (English Heritage) in Swindon; a second diazo copy will be deposited with the paper records at the appropriate local museum, and a third diazo copy will be retained by Wessex Archaeology.

## 9 REFERENCES

CgMs 2012, *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Works, In respect of land at Church Road and Ham Lane, Old Windsor*

English Heritage. 1990. Schedule Monument Entry: Early Medieval and Medieval Palace and Associated Monuments, Kingsbury

Institute for Archaeologists 2008 *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Briefs*

SMA 1995 *Towards an Accessible Archaeological Archive*. Society of Museum Archaeologists

Walker K. 1990 *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-Term Storage*. UKIC Archaeology Section

### **Online Sources**

<http://magic.defra.gov.uk/website/magic/>

<http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer/>

## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT SUMMARY TABLE

### Foundation Trenches

Context	Category	Description	Depth
101	Topsoil	Mid Grey Brown, silty clay , with frequent rooting and a few stones (sub-angular/sub-round)	0.00-0.10m
102	Made Ground	Dark greyish brown, silty clay, high amount of stones approximately 60% (sub round), contained chalk lumps, CBM, Plastic and complete bottles.	0.10-0.52m
103	Made Ground	Mid brown yellow, silty sand with gravel, contained CBM, plastic and glass	0.23-0.52m

## APPENDIX 2: OASIS RECORD FORM

### Land at Church Road and Ham Lane, Old Windsor - Wessex Archaeology

#### OASIS ID - wessexar1-133840

##### Versions

View	Version	Completed by	Email	Date
<a href="#">View 1</a>	1	Sue Farr	s.farr@wessexarch.co.uk	14 September 2012

##### Completed sections in current version

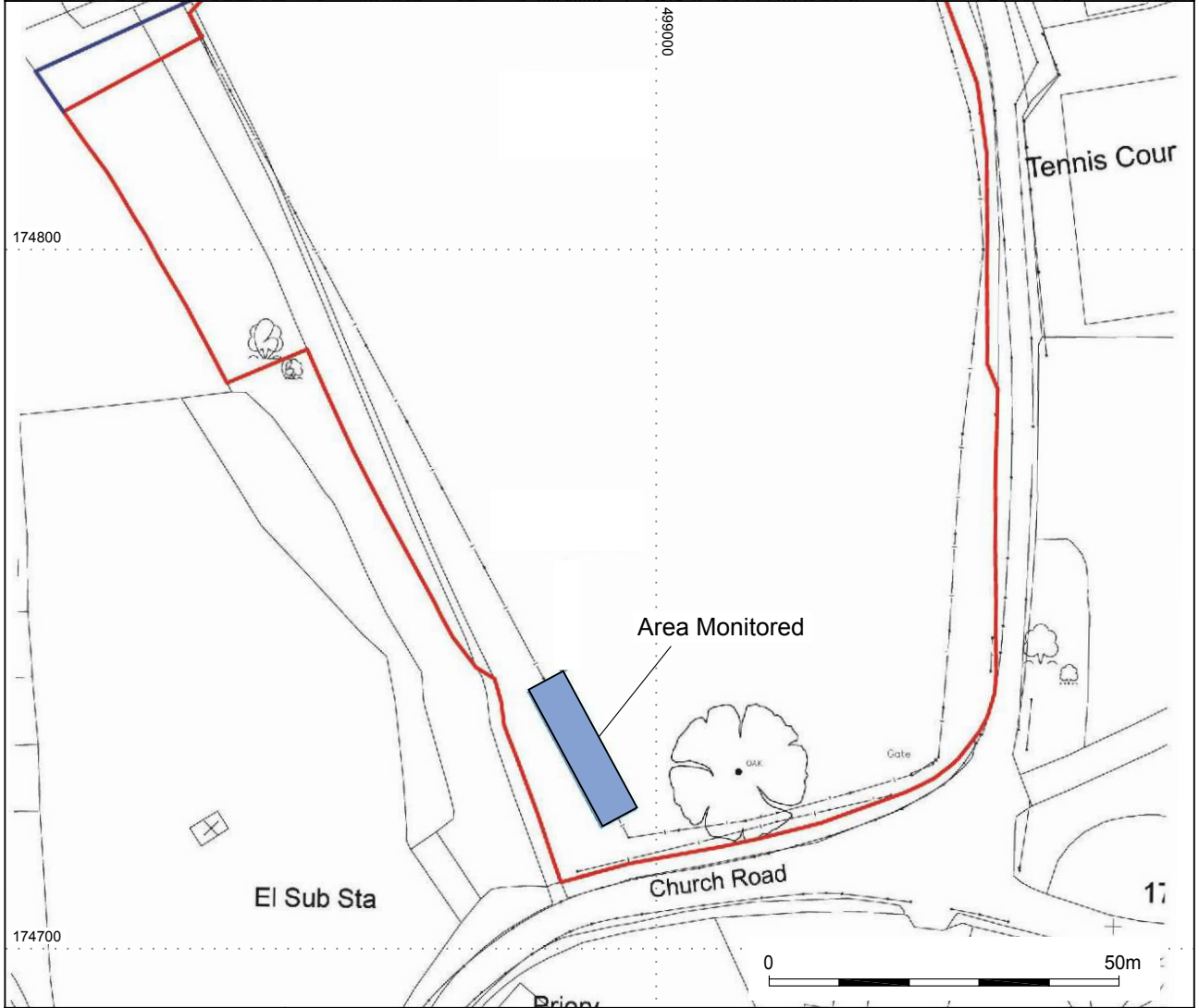
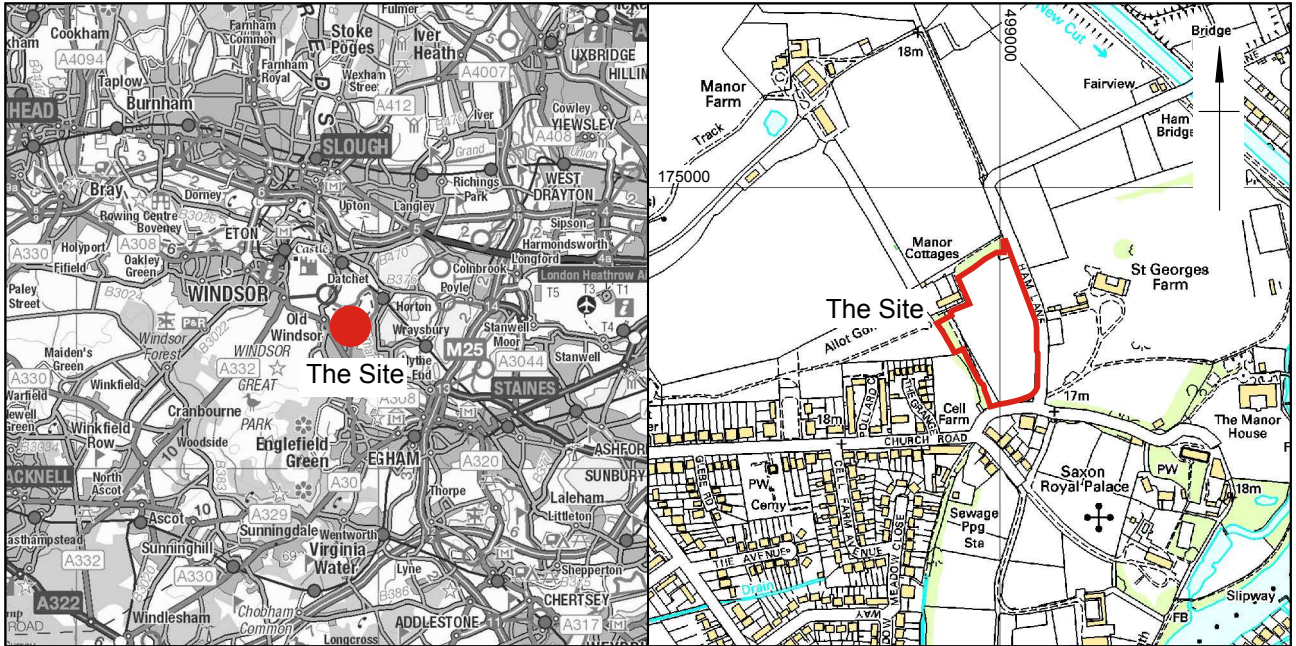
Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1/1




##### 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?



 Site boundary  Area monitored	Reproduced from the (2012) Ordnance Survey (1:10k Streetview ©) map with the permission of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright, Wessex Archaeology, Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP4 6EB. Licence Number: 100028190. Site Plan data (Including Ordnance Survey Mapping) supplied by the Client (CGMS) License number: 100014723 Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright and database right 2012. This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.		
	Date: 31/08/12	Revision Number: 0	
	Scale: 1:1000@ A4	Illustrator: DBJ	
	Path: Y:\PROJECTS\86730\Drawing Office\Report figs\Wbrief\120831		

Site location plan

Figure 1



Plate 1: Excavation of topsoil looking north



Plate 2: East facing section of foundation trench

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Plate 3: South facing section of foundation trench



Plate 4: Excavated area looking south

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