



22 High Street, Fordingbridge, Hampshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report





**22 HIGH STREET, FORDINGBRIDGE,
HAMPSHIRE**

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Prepared for:

**Mr Norman Anton
C/o Peter Collier Associates
9 Southampton Road
Ringwood,
Hampshire BH24 1HB**

by

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

Report reference: 85290.03

Path: x:\projects\85290\report\85290_22 high street_report v1.doc

November 2012

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QUALITY ASSURANCE

SITE CODE	85290	ACCESSION CODE		CLIENT CODE	
PLANNING APPLICATION REF.	09/94940	NGR	414769 114212		

VERSION	STATUS*	PREPARED BY	APPROVED BY	APPROVER'S SIGNATURE	DATE	FILE
01	E	NB	REG	REG	22 ND NOVEMBER 2012	X:\PROJECTS\85290\REPORT\85290_22 HIGH STREET_REPORT V1.DOC

* I= internal draft E= external draft F= final

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HAMPSHIRE**

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- Figure 1** Site location and monitored areas
Plate 1 South-west facing section showing general stratigraphic sequence
Plate 2 South-east facing section of ditch 105

Front cover: View of Site showing exposed gravels, from the west

Back cover: View of western part of Site, from the north

**22 HIGH STREET, FORDINGBRIDGE,
HAMPSHIRE****Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Mr Norman Anton to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the initial groundworks associated with the construction of two new residential dwellings on land at 22 High Street, Fordingbridge, Hampshire (NGR 414769 114212).

The watching brief established that post-medieval or modern garden soils, up to 0.70m in depth, were sealed immediately beneath the modern tarmac. The soil horizons in turn directly overlay the natural gravel, which rose up noticeably within the western end of the Site.

The terminus of a single undated south-east – north-west aligned ditch (**105**) was identified at the north-western edge of the excavated area. This feature was cut into the top of the natural gravels and sealed by the garden soils. The ditch was relatively shallow with a single secondary fill and extended further to the north-west beyond the limits of the excavated area.

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Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by Mr Norman Anton through Peter Collier Associates. Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Mr Norman Anton and Ray Lockyer (Site Manager) and his staff for all their help and assistance on site. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank David Hopkins (Hampshire County Archaeologist) who monitored the project on behalf of the Local Planning Authority.

The watching brief was undertaken by Jon Kaines, Piotr Orczewski and Naomi Brennan. This report was written by Naomi Brennan with illustrations by Ken Lymer. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Andy Manning.

**22 HIGH STREET, FORDINGBRIDGE,
HAMPSHIRE****Archaeological Watching Brief Report****1 INTRODUCTION****1.1 Project Background**

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Peter Collier Associates on behalf of the Client, Mr Norman Anton, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the initial groundworks associated with the construction of two new residential dwellings on land at 22 High Street, Fordingbridge, Hampshire. The development area is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 414769 114212 (**Figure 1**), hereafter referred to as 'the Site'.
- 1.1.2 The proposed development comprises the construction of two new residential properties and associated gardens immediately to the rear of the existing property (No. 22) fronting onto the High Street.
- 1.1.3 Planning permission for the proposed works was granted in February 2010 (Planning Application ref: 09/94940) with an archaeological condition.
- 1.1.4 Following consultation with the Hampshire County Council archaeological advisor it was agreed that an archaeological watching brief would take place during the groundworks associated with the initial site reduction and excavation of new footings within the eastern half of the Site. Elsewhere within the Site, the original ground levels would be maintained with no proposed impact on any underlying archaeological deposits.
- 1.1.5 The watching brief was carried out between the 12th, 13th 16th November 2012.

1.2 The Site, location and geology

- 1.2.1 The Site is located within the historic core of the town of Fordingbridge and was located immediately to the rear of the main building fronting on the High Street.
- 1.2.2 The Site comprised an area of approximately 220m² of land which was rectangular in shape. The northern edge of the Site contained the main access to the funeral directors site and to the High Street, to the south the Site was bounded by the rear of number 24, to the east by the Barber Shop at 22 High Street and the west by a public car park. Formerly the Site was a tarmac garden area to the rear of the barbers shop.
- 1.2.3 The topography of the Site is generally flat with a slight fall from the High Street in front to the public car park behind. The Site is located at a height of approximately 27.4m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 1.2.4 The Site geology consists of London Clay Formation overlain by river terrace deposits (BGS website).

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 1.3.1 A consideration of the archaeological and historical background, including a search of the Hampshire Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record within a 100m radius of the Site, was contained in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Wessex Archaeology 2012). A summary is provided here.
- 1.3.2 Fordingbridge is an historic market town which is mentioned in the Domesday Book with a population of 13 households. Medieval documents from the 11th to the 13th century refer to the town as 'Forde', 'Fordingebrug' and 'Forthingbrige'.
- 1.3.3 Unfortunately, the town appears to have suffered a series of serious fires in 1662, 1672 and 1702, the last of which severely affected areas of Round Hill and the High Street. Many of the buildings to be seen today in this area date from soon after the fire (Light and Ponting 1994).
- 1.3.4 Within the Hampshire Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record (Hampshire AHBR) there are four entries in close proximity to the Site (Locations shown in the WSI). A Roman coin (Hampshire AHBR **21531**) was recovered from the rear of the Friends Meeting Hall which lies directly to the north-east of the Site. A burial ground associated with the meeting hall is located to the rear of that property (Hampshire AHBR **55120**) to the north of the Site. A 17th to 19th century domestic rubbish dump (Hampshire AHBR **29708**) was found in 1989 at 1-9 High Street to the south of the Site, an evaluation at Kings Yard (Hampshire AHBR **42269**) approximately 100m to the northeast of the Site found no archaeological features.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

- 1.4.1 The objective of the watching brief was to record, as far as reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, nature, character and relationships of any surviving archaeological remains observed during the initial groundworks.
- 1.4.2 Specifically it was thought important to confirm that there were no burials from the meeting hall within the Site boundary.

2 METHODOLOGY

- 2.1.1 The full detailed methodology of the archaeological works was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (Wessex Archaeology 2012), this is summarized below:
- 2.1.2 Removal of hard-standing and overburden was undertaken using a mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket, operated under constant supervision by Wessex Archaeology staff. All overburden was removed to the top of the natural geology, construction formation level or the top of the archaeological deposits, whichever was higher.
- 2.1.3 All archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma record sheets with a unique numbering system for individual contexts. Archaeological features and deposits were hand-drawn at either 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate.

- 2.1.4 A full photographic record was compiled using digital images. The record illustrates both the detail and the general context of the principal features, finds excavated, and the site as a whole. Digital images have been subject to a managed quality control and curation process which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and ensures the long term accessibility of the image set.
- 2.1.5 The Site and any features were located with reference to current Ordnance Survey mapping and data provided by the client.
- 2.1.6 A unique site code **85290** was allocated to the Site, and was used on all records and finds.

2.2 Best practice

- 2.2.1 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the *Institute for Archaeologist's Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (revised 2008).

2.3 Copyright

- 2.3.1 This report may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), 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.

3 WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 Details of individual excavated contexts and features are retained in the archive. Summaries of the excavated sequences can be found in **Appendix 1**.

3.2 Results

- 3.2.1 The area monitored consisted of the footprint of the two new buildings, measuring approximately 10x20m. The area was covered in tarmac (**101**), up to 0.18m in depth which when removed exposed a buried soil (**102**), 0.16m in depth. Three initial small test pits were excavated through this layer and these demonstrated that this deposit (**102**) overlaid a second buried soil (**103**), up to 0.55m in depth. The natural gravel (**104**) was located in two of the three test pits.
- 3.2.2 The area was then stripped to a depth below the present ground surface of between 0.6 – 1.0m, with the shallower depth of stripping at the western end of Site, where this was sufficient to expose the natural gravel (**104**).
- 3.2.3 In the eastern part of Site, the base of the stripped formation level was still within the buried soil (**103**) and still between 0.05-0.20m above the natural gravels. However, monitoring was undertaken during the excavation of

footing trenches in this part of Site and no features were revealed except for two modern soakways filled with brick rubble and concrete (**Figure 1**).

- 3.2.4 A single feature (ditch **105**) was located in the north-western part of Site, a relatively shallow south-east – north-west aligned feature. The ditch contained a single secondary fill **106** and did not contain any datable finds. Only a short portion of the feature was exposed but it was shown to terminate at the south-eastern end and continue outside the northern limits of the watching brief area.
- 3.2.5 No pre-modern finds were recovered during the course of the watching brief but a small quantity of modern refined whitewares and brick rubble was noted and discarded from within deposit **103**.

4 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 The characteristics of the two soil horizons suggest that they constitute a post-medieval or modern garden soil which was subsequently tarmaced over. The homogeneous character of the main deep deposit of garden soil (**103**) and the sharp interface with the natural gravel (**1040**) did appear unusual, potentially suggesting that this material may have been imported onto the Site and levels raised.
- 4.1.2 The only archaeological feature found was the undated ditch **105** which is approximately aligned with the edge of the current building at 22 High Street. This may indicate that the ditch may form part of a former plot division or property boundary although only a short length was exposed and the feature clearly terminated 10-12m west of the main building.

5 OASIS REPORT

- 5.1.1 An OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/projects/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators Forms. All appropriate parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to the AHBR. This will include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy will also be included with the archive).

6 ARCHIVE

- 6.1.1 The project archive was prepared in accordance with the guidelines outlined in the *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage* (Walker 1990). It comprises a ring-bound file containing the written records and a copy of the *Written Scheme of Investigation*. The project archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology under the project code **85290**. In due course the complete archive will be deposited with Hampshire County Museums Service.

7 REFERENCES

Institute for Archaeologists, 2008, *Standards and Guidance for archaeological watching brief*

Light, A and Ponting, G., 1994, *Fordingbridge and District*, Phillimore & CO. Ltd

Walker, K., 1990, *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for Long-term Storage*, UKIC Archaeology Section

Wessex Archaeology, 2012, *22 High Street, Fordingbridge, Hampshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*, Report Reference: 85290.01

BGS information from <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/lexicon>

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT SUMMARY

bgl= below ground level

Context	Description	Depth (m)	
101	<i>Overburden</i>	Tarmac surface and underlying type 1.	0.00-0.18 bgl
102	<i>Layer</i>	Buried topsoil horizon. Dark grey-black silty sand. 5% flint gravel, sub-angular, <1-6cm. Homogeneous. Compact. Diffuse interface with 103.	0.18-0.36 bgl
103	<i>Layer</i>	Buried soil. Dark grey-brown silty sand. 2% flint gravel, sub-angular, <1-8cm. Homogeneous. Compact. Sharp interface with 104.	0.36-0.90 bgl
104	<i>Natural</i>	Natural gravel. Pale yellow-white with pale orange bands. Sub-angular, <1-10cm in sharp sand.	0.90+ bgl
105	<i>Cut</i>	South-east – north-west aligned ditch. Concave, moderate sides, concave base. 1.0m wide. Filled with 106. Undated. Cuts 104.	0.30 deep
106	<i>Fill</i>	Secondary fill of ditch 105. Mid orange-brown sandy silt loam. 5% gravel, sub-angular, <1-4cm. Fairly homogeneous. Moderately compact. Some bioturbation.	0.30 deep

APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: wessexar1-138044

Project details

Project name	22 High Street, Fordingbridge, Hampshire
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Mr Norman Anton to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the initial groundworks associated with the construction of two new residential dwellings on land at 22 High Street, Fordingbridge, Hampshire (NGR 414769 114212). The watching brief established that post-medieval or modern garden soils, up to 0.70m in depth, were sealed immediately beneath the modern tarmac. The soil horizons in turn directly overlay the natural gravel, which rose up noticeably within the western end of the Site. The terminus of a single undated south-east - north-west aligned ditch (105) was identified at the north-western edge of the excavated area. This feature was cut into the top of the natural gravels and sealed by the garden soils. The ditch was relatively shallow with a single secondary fill and extended further to the north-west beyond the limits of the excavated area.
Project dates	Start: 12-11-2012 End: 16-11-2012
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	85290 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Project location

Country	England
Site location	HAMPSHIRE NEW FOREST FORDINGBRIDGE 22 High Street
Postcode	SP6 1AX
Study area	0.02 Hectares
Site coordinates	SU 147 142 50 -1 50 55 35 N 001 47 26 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 26.00m Max: 27.00m

Project creators

Name of Wessex Archaeology
 Organisation

Project brief City/Nat. Park/District/Borough archaeologist
 originator

Project design Wessex Archaeology
 originator

Project A Manning
 director/manager

Project supervisor Naomi Brennan

Type of Developer
 sponsor/funding
 body

Name of Mr. N Anton
 sponsor/funding
 body

Project archives

Physical Archive No
 Exists?

Digital Archive Hampshire County Museums Service
 recipient

Digital Contents "none"

Digital Media "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
 available

Paper Archive Hampshire County Museums Service
 recipient

Paper Contents "none"

Paper Media "Context sheet", "Drawing", "Notebook - Excavation',
 available Research', ' General Notes"

**Project
 bibliography 1**

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
 Publication type

Title 22 High Street, Fordingbridge, Hampshire

Author(s)/Editor(s) Brannan, N

Other bibliographic 85290.03
 details

Date 2012

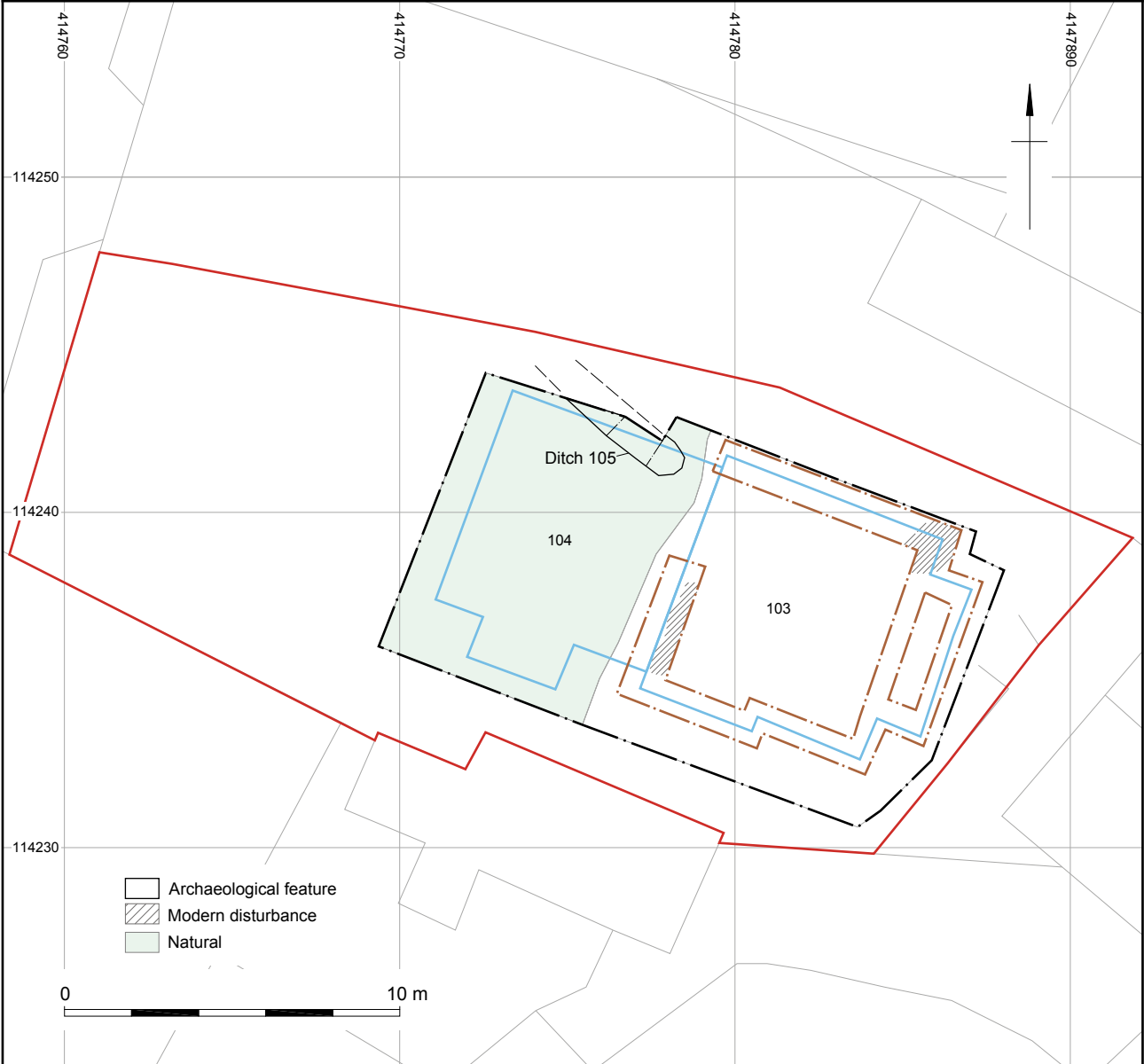
Issuer or publisher Wessex Archaeology

Place of issue or Salisbury
 publication

Description Standard A4 soft cover illustrated watching brief report.

Entered by A Manning (a.manning@wessexarch.co.uk)

Entered on 22 November 2012



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	Date:	21/11/12	Revision Number:	0
	Scale:	1:8000 & 1:200 at A4	Illustrator:	KL
	Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\85290\Drawing Office\Report Figs\wb\12_11\85290_wb.dwg		

Site location and monitored areas

Figure 1



Plate 1: South-west facing section showing general stratigraphic sequence



Plate 2: South-east facing section of ditch 105

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Scale: n/a

Layout: KL

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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

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

For more information visit www.wessexarch.co.uk



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