



**Land at 10 High Street,
Market Lavington, Wiltshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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Quality Assurance

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Figure 1 Site location plan

Plate 1 Representative section of stratigraphy showing made ground



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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Ms Ruth Pinder of Lisle Properties Ltd., to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the initial ground works associated with construction of a residential property in former gardens to the rear of 10 High Street, Market Lavington, Wiltshire, SN10 4AF (centred on NGR 401589 154181).

Planning Permission has been granted for this development (E/2011/1701/FUL) with a condition for archaeological mitigation (Condition 7). The watching brief was carried out on 14th November 2013.

The watching brief involved the observation and recording of foundation trenches for the proposed new development. Fairly deep, modern made-ground deposits were revealed throughout the foundation trenches. No archaeological remains or finds survived that might indicate earlier activity on this site. A deposit of brick and stone rubble at a substantial depth below ground level, situated directly above natural geology, suggests archaeological remains which may have been present have been wholly removed by more recent 20th-century activity.



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Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Ruth Pinder, whose assistance and support throughout is very gratefully acknowledged. The collaborative assistance of the Wiltshire County Council Archaeologist Rachel Foster was also very gratefully received.

The archaeological watching brief was carried out on 14th November 2013 by Mark Bagwell who also produced this report. This project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Andrew Crockett.



Land at 10 High Street Market Lavington, Wiltshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Ruth Pinder (the Client) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during initial ground works associated with construction of a residential property in former gardens to the rear of Kytes Cottage, 10 High Street, Market Lavington, Wiltshire, SN10 4AF (hereafter 'the Site'), centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 401589 154181.
- 1.1.2 The watching brief was carried out on the 14th November 2013 in accordance with Planning Condition 7 of the existing Application (E/2011/1701/FUL).

1.2 Site location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 Market Lavington in central Wiltshire occupies the southern slopes of a ridge of high ground, situated between two stream valleys, some 5km to the south of the town of Devizes.
- 1.2.2 The Site is located close to the village centre, It comprises a sub-rectangular-shaped parcel of land encompassing an area of approximately 256m², formerly in use as gardens at the rear of the Grade II Listed Kytes Cottage at No. 10 High Street. The proposed new building, a two-storey dwelling, will be constructed on this land.
- 1.2.3 The Site is bounded to the north by the rear yard fence of 10 High Street, to the west by the outbuildings of the Kings Arms public house at 12 High Street, east by gardens of No. 8 High Street and the new housing development known as the Clays to the south. A concrete-paved public footpath runs along the site's eastern boundary leading from High Street to the Clays.
- 1.2.4 The ground surface on site is fairly level at a height of approximately 93m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The underlying geology is mapped as glauconitic sandstone of the Upper Greensand Formation (British Geological Survey).

1.3 Archaeological background

Prehistoric

- 1.3.1 Although prehistoric settlement in the area is most widely recognised on the neighbouring chalk downlands, the archaeological record has evidence for Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age activity on the Greensand ridge upon which Market Lavington is situated.

Romano-British

- 1.3.2 Evidence for Romano-British settlement in this area largely derives from previous excavations carried out by Wessex Archaeology (WA 2006-2010). Additional indications

of Romano-British activity are provided by stray finds to the north-east of the Site, possibly suggesting activity extended along the crest of the Greensand ridge.

Saxon

- 1.3.3 The Saxon origins of the village were confirmed during the Grove Farm excavations in 1986-90, which recorded extensive evidence of occupation c.150m to the north of the Site, dating predominantly to the 5th-7th centuries. By the late Saxon period the focus of activity had shifted towards the location of the present church, c.180m to the west of the Site. Lavington, or *Laventone* as it is first recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086, is a name of Saxon derivation, referring to a settlement belonging to *Lafa's* people (Gover *et al* 1939).

Medieval

- 1.3.4 Settlement at Market Lavington continued to develop into the medieval period. Following the granting of a market charter in 1254, the town underwent an additional phase of planned redevelopment, with the emphasis extending eastwards away from the earlier nucleus around the church, along the present day High Street (Chandler 2003).
- 1.3.5 The Extensive Urban Survey for Market Lavington indicates that the Site lies within the 13th-century planned settlement (McMahon 2004). The current layout of the town suggests burgage plots are preserved better to the south of the High Street.

Post-medieval to modern

- 1.3.6 The Site itself, however, appears to have remained within the core of the settlement, adjacent to the main route eastwards. The Listing (entry number 1364641) for Kytes Cottage at 10 High Street describes the building as 17th-century in origin and the land undergoing development has probably always been in use as gardens.
- 1.3.7 Archaeological evaluation trenching in the adjacent gardens of the Kings Arms public house revealed two distinct chronological phases, interpreted as colluvium and former plough/garden soils (WA 2010). A single residual sherd of Romano-British pottery and two residual sherds of 12th to 13th-century pottery were recorded. A subsequent phase of activity represented a deliberate deposit to raise the level of the ground, probably in the post medieval period.

2 AIMS

2.1 General

- 2.1.1 The aims of the watching brief were:

- *to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains, and should remains be present, to ensure their preservation by record to the highest possible standard;*
- *to 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; and*
- *to prepare a report on the results of the Watching Brief.*

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1.1 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (Revised 2008).
- 3.1.2 The watching brief involved the observation and recording of the foundation trenches for the new building which formed an L-shaped ground plan in the southern part of the site. The trenches were excavated with a mechanical excavator to the level of natural sand deposits, approximately 1.3m to 1.5m below ground level, and were 0.7m wide. A total length of 45m of trenching was undertaken.
- 3.1.3 All archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording sheets with a unique numbering system for individual contexts and features were located in relation to the Ordnance Survey national grid. All principal *strata* and features were related to the Ordnance Survey datum.
- 3.1.4 Relevant sections were drawn at an appropriate scale. A full photographic and graphic record was made of the excavated areas. The photographic record illustrated both the detail and general context of the archaeology and the site as a whole.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Stratigraphic sequence

- 4.1.1 The natural geology within the base of the foundation trenches comprised greyish green silt sand (context 103) which was recorded at 1.3m below ground level, overlaid by modern rubble layer (102).
- 4.1.2 A layer of dark grey, silty sand (context 102) was recorded close to the base of the foundation trenches with a thickness of 0.40m. This contained abundant modern brick and stone rubble and was overlaid by context (101). It was laid directly onto natural sand (103). It was notable that there was an absence of subsoil or of any earlier features or deposits.
- 4.1.3 The stratigraphic sequence across the area of excavation was broadly consistent. The upper 0.90m comprised a layer of fairly sterile homogeneous dark, greyish-black, soft silt sand with abundant plant roots, sparse modern brick fragments and pieces of modern plastic (context 101). This layer was extant across the entire area of the site.

5 DISCUSSION

- 5.1.1 The archaeological watching brief has revealed no significant archaeological remains. Natural greensand (103) was identified in the base of the foundation trenches at 1.3m below ground level overlaid by a modern make-up or consolidation deposit comprising brick and stone rubble (102). The absence of any subsoil deposits or earlier archaeological activity and the very sharp interface between the two layers suggests ground levels may have been reduced in the recent past.
- 5.1.2 The latest of the three layers identified (101) was similar to topsoil in composition. However, its thickness and the presence of plastic suggests it represents a modern imported deposit used to raise the level of the ground surface. The depth of modern deposits encountered and the absence of any earlier residual finds, suggests that if

archaeological remains had been present they were entirely removed by more recent modern activity.

6 REFERENCES

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7 APPENDICES

7.1 Appendix 1: Trench table

Trench 1	Dimensions:	6m x 9m x 1.50m	
Context	Category	Description	Depth BGL (m)
101	Layer	Redeposited topsoil made ground—grey black silt sand with abundant root disturbance and sparse pieces of plastic	0.00- 0.90
102	Layer	Modern made-ground/consolidation layer. Mixed loose dark grey silty sand and brick rubble with moderate mid-large stones.	0.90- 1.3
103	Layer	Natural. Greyish green silt sand	1.3- 1.5+



7.2 Appendix 2: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: wessexar1-165186

Project details

Project name	Land at 10 High Street, Market Lavington, Wiltshire, Archaeological Watching Brief November 2013
Short description of the project	In November 2013 an archaeological watching brief was carried out at a site to the rear of the Grade II Listed No. 10 High Street, Market Lavington. The land was former gardens which were being redeveloped for residential accommodation. Groundworks were monitored, no archaeological deposits or features were present. The former garden land had been significantly disturbed in the 20th Century, possibly during construction of an adjoining Housing development to the south of the site, known as The Clays.
Project dates	Start: 14-11-2013 End: 15-11-2013
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	102090.01 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	E/2011/1701/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WILTSHIRE KENNET MARKET LAVINGTON 10 High Street, Market Lavington, Wiltshire
Postcode	SN10 4AF
Study area	256.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	SU 401589 154181 50 -1 50 56 10 N 001 25 42 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 92.00m Max: 93.00m

Project creators



Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	Andy King
Project supervisor	Mark Bagwell
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Lisle Properties Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	Devizes Museum
Physical Archive ID	102090
Digital Archive recipient	Devizes Museum
Digital Archive ID	102090
Digital Contents	"Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Digital Archive notes	No finds recovered, digital record to be sent to Devizes Museum service under project code - accession numbers not issued before deposition
Paper Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive recipient	Devizes Museum
Paper Archive ID	102090

Project bibliography 1




Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)



Publication type

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	<p>Scale: 1:25 000 & 1:5000 @ A4</p>	<p>Illustrator: LJC</p>
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Site location plan

Figure 1



Plate 1: Representative section of stratigraphy showing made ground

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