



making sense of heritage

66 North Street Wareham, Dorset

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Planning Ref: 6/2011/0678
Ref: 86221.01
January 2014



**66 North Street
Wareham, Dorset**

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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January 2014

**Planning Ref: 6/2011/0678
Report Ref: 86221.01**



Quality Assurance

Project Code	86221	Accession Code		Client Ref.	
Planning Application Ref.	6/2011/0678	Ordnance Survey (OS) national grid reference (NGR)	392176 087783		

Version	Status*	Prepared by	Checked and Approved By	Approver's Signature	Date
v01	I	GSC	S Farr		27/01/14
File:	X:\PROJECTS\86221\Report				
v02	E	SF	A Crockett		27/01/14
File:					
v03	F	SF; GSC	A Crockett		04/02/14
File:	\\Projectserver\WESSEX\PROJECTS\86221\Report				
File:					
File:					

* I = Internal Draft; E = External Draft; F = Final

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Figure 1: Site location plan

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Plate 1: Representative section, view from south-east

Plate 2: North-east elevation of wall foundation 106

Plate 3: South-west elevation of wall foundation 106



66 North Street Wareham, Dorset

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology were commissioned by WorleyParsons, on behalf of National Grid Property Holdings Ltd (NGPH), to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with a new development proposal at 66 North Street, Wareham. The watching brief was undertaken between 18th and 21st November 2013.

The watching brief identified limited evidence for archaeological remains within the areas investigated on the Site. A single wall foundation was exposed, situated between the location of 66 North Street and North Street itself. The wall was north-west to south-east aligned, and ran parallel with the now demolished 66 North Street.

It is likely that the wall foundation relates to the Wareham Gas Company, which occupied the site from 1839. However, high levels of ground disturbance and made ground deposits indicate the area has been heavily disturbed.



66 North Street Wareham, Dorset

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank WorleyParsons, acting on behalf of National Grid Property Holdings Ltd (NGPH), for commissioning the work, and in particular we acknowledge the assistance of Sarah Helby during the course of the project. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank the groundwork team of Erith, in particular Gavin Craig, for their assistance during the course of the works. Thanks are also due to Steve Wallis of Dorset County Council who monitored the work on behalf of the Local Planning Authority.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Benjamin Cullen. This report was compiled by Gareth Chaffey, the finds assessed by Lorraine Mephram and the report illustrations were prepared by Liz James. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Sue Farr.



66 North Street Wareham, Dorset

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by WorleyParsons, on behalf of National Grid Property Holdings Ltd (NGPH) (the Client), to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with a new development proposal at 66 North Street, Wareham (**Figure 1**), centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 392176 087783 (hereafter 'the Site').
- 1.1.2 A planning application (6/2011/0678) was submitted to Purbeck District Council for the demolition of 66 North Street and existing gas governor compound, to facilitate environmental improvement works, erection of a replacement gas governor compound, comprising two kiosks secured by a brick wall, and associated car parking.
- 1.1.3 Planning permission was granted in November 2011 with a condition for archaeological mitigation. This included an archaeological watching brief on groundwork and a Level 1 Historic Building Record of 66 North Street prior to its demolition. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological watching brief and historic building survey (WA 2012) was prepared by Wessex Archaeology and submitted to, and approved by, the Senior Archaeologist at Dorset County Council, prior to the start of the fieldwork.
- 1.1.4 The historic building record was undertaken in February 2012 (WA 2013). This report is associated with the archaeological watching brief during groundworks in the immediate vicinity of the building.
- 1.1.5 The watching brief was undertaken from 18th to 21st November 2013.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 Wareham is located approximately 15km south-west of Poole and within the administrative boundary of Purbeck District Council. The Site is located in the north-western part of the town, close to North Bridge and to the east of North Street. The application site also included the former Toll House on North Street and the existing gas governor. The Site is bounded to the north by the River Piddle and to the south by the south brick wall of an earlier building and rear gardens of residential properties fronting onto North Street
- 1.2.2 The Site is situated on generally level ground at c. 4m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) and lies on Valley Gravels (Geological Survey of Great Britain (England & Wales) 1:50,000 sheet 328).



2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The proposed development lies along the projected northern line of the Saxon earthen defensive circuit which surround the town. The monument (List Entry 1003574), which comprises eight separate areas, includes part of the defences of the Saxon fortified centre of Wareham and part of an early 12th century motte and bailey castle with shell keep.

2.2 Saxon defences

2.2.1 The defences extend around the later castle and enclose a broadly rectangular area of over 30ha. The defences define the Saxon burh, although they were partially rebuilt during the 10th and 11th centuries, and the ditch was re-cut in the 12th century. Originally the four entrances were centrally positioned along each side, although subsequent widening has altered the arrangements of the gates. The Site falls to the immediate north of the northern entrance, and throughout the circuit the walls and ditch survive differentially. The surviving portions of the defences vary in length and nothing is known about the defences to the south where it borders the River Frome. On the western side, where best preserved, the rampart is 3.6m high above the interior and 7.9m high above the base of the ditch. The ditch is up to 16.7m wide. In the north-west corner, the rampart stands to 4.5m high internally.

2.2.2 The rampart and ditch were sectioned on the western side by a partial excavation between 1952 and 1954, which also revealed Late Iron Age storage pits and Romano-British occupation material including New Forest Wares of late 3rd and 4th century sealed beneath the rampart.

2.3 66 North Street

2.3.1 Before demolition, the building was a relatively small, rectangular single storey red brick building under a tiled, pitched roof with gables to the east and west. It appeared to be of mixed date, but with a frontage containing fine gauged bricks. It shared a plot, and is believed to have been historically associated with the former toll house at 68 North Street.

2.3.2 The building was not statutorily or locally listed, but fell within the Wareham Conservation Area (first designated in 1970.) It was set within a tarmac yard, which was used as a car park.

2.3.3 The purpose of the building is difficult to determine (WA 2013). It stood within the site of the earlier gas works and was probably built after WWII. Its partly decorative style, internal open space and toilet block would suggest that it was not used for an industrial purpose, more likely an office or workshop.

3 AIMS AND METHODS

3.1 General aims and objectives

3.1.1 The 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 these within the proposed development area.

3.2 Fieldwork methodology

3.2.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the methodology set out within the WSI. All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the guidance and standards outlined in the

Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (IfA 2008).

- 3.2.2 The fieldwork consisted of the monitoring of groundworks on land to the south-west of 66 North Street, as well as the land beneath the former building.
- 3.2.3 Works comprised archaeological monitoring by an experienced archaeologist of all groundworks undertaken by staff of Erith. Where practicable and safe to do so, all archaeological deposits and features observed during the watching brief were then cleaned manually to an acceptable standard by the archaeologist on site and planned and/or drawn in section, and located on a site plan. The excavated spoil from the groundwork was stored adjacent to the groundworks and was scanned for artefacts.
- 3.2.4 Recording was undertaken using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* record sheets. Representative soil profile sections of the excavations were drawn. Digital images were taken of ground work operations during the watching brief.
- 3.2.5 Site survey was carried out using a Leica Viva series GNSS unit using the OS National GPS Network through an RTK network with a 3D accuracy of 30mm or below. All survey data was recorded using the OSGB36 British National Grid coordinate system.
- 3.2.6 All archaeological fieldwork was monitored on behalf of the local planning authority by the Senior Archaeologist at DCC.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1.1 The watching brief recorded a limited amount of below-ground archaeology in the immediate vicinity of the former building at 66 North Street partially as a result of the extensive modern disturbance noted throughout the monitoring. This was characterised by several layers of made ground deposits beneath the tarmac ground surface (**Plate 1**), and comprised a dark brown clay with common brick and tile inclusions, and a layer of possible Victorian garden soil, recorded to a maximum depth of 0.80m below the current ground level.
- 4.1.2 A single wall **106** (**Figure 1, Plates 2 and 3**) was located between the former building at 66 North Street and North Street itself. The remnant structure consisted of up to four courses of predominantly limestone faced stone with occasional brick. The courses were bonded with mortar and appeared to be built directly upon the natural clay. The exposed wall section measured 2.60 in length and 0.50m in width. The minimum height of the wall was 0.09m, and the maximum was 0.48m, and was north-west to south-east aligned.
- 4.1.3 The wall appears to represent the foundations of a likely post-medieval structure.

5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

- 5.1.1 A very small quantity of finds was recovered, deriving from four contexts (**103, 104, 107, 202**), consisting of pottery, animal bone, vessel glass, oyster shell and metal fittings. With the exception of one piece of medieval (13th/14th century) pottery from context **107**, all datable finds were of modern date (19th/20th century). None of the finds have been retained for long-term curation.



6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

- 6.1.1 No archaeological features or deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified during the course of this work.

7 DISCUSSION

- 7.1.1 The watching brief identified limited evidence for archaeological remains within the areas investigated on the Site. A single wall foundation **106** was exposed, positioned between the location of the former building at 66 North Street and North Street itself. The wall was north-west to south-east aligned, and ran parallel with the now demolished building.
- 7.1.2 It is likely that the wall foundation relates to a period of activity on the Site towards the end of the 19th century. The Site stands in what was the Wareham Gas Company, which was formed at North Bridge in 1839, enabling the first gas lighting in the town to be switched on in 1840. In 1852 the works were extended and by 1855, an additional parcel of land was acquired and new workshops and storehouses built (WA 2013).
- 7.1.3 The 1888 Ordnance Survey map shows a long rectangular building on the Site, which extended up to the street frontage, and is last depicted on the 1938 OS map. At some point between this map and the 1954 OS map, the long rectangular building had been replaced by 66 North Street. Although wall foundation **106** does not directly overlay the building footprint shown on the 1888 mapping, it may be associated with an internal wall foundation relating to this building. Alternatively, the foundation may relate to a slightly earlier building which fronted onto North Street and formed part of the post-medieval suburb at Wareham.
- 7.1.4 The scarcity of archaeological features is likely to be the result of the high levels of modern disturbance observed during the watching brief. It is probable that the majority of the archaeological evidence has been removed due to the previous groundworks and construction on the Site.

8 STORAGE AND CURATION

8.1 Museum

- 8.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with Dorchester Museum. The Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project. Deposition of any finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

8.2 Preparation of Archive

- 8.2.1 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Dorchester Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; IfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 8.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site code **86220**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following:
- *1 files/document cases of paper records & A3/A4 graphics*
 - *Digital data (site photographs, survey data, drawings, Word and pdf files)*



8.3 Discard policy

- 8.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal* (Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. Any discard of artefacts will be fully documented in the project archive.
- 8.3.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2002).

8.4 Copyright

- 8.4.1 The 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-profitmaking, and conforms with the *Copyright and Related Rights regulations 2003*.
- 8.4.2 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

8.5 Security Copy

- 8.5.1 In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

9 REFERENCES

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Wessex Archaeology 2012. 66 North Street, Wareham, Dorset: *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Mitigation Strategy*, unpublished client report, ref: 86220.01

Wessex Archaeology 2013. 66 North Street, Wareham, Dorset: *Level 1 Historic Building Record*, unpublished client report, ref: 86220.02

10 APPENDICES

10.1 Appendix 1: OASIS form

10.2 66 North Street, Wareham, Dorset - Wessex Archaeology

OASIS ID - wessexar1-168163

Versions

View	Version	Completed by	Email	Date
View 1	1	Gareth Chaffey	g.chaffey@wessexarch.co.uk	9 January 2014

Completed sections in current version

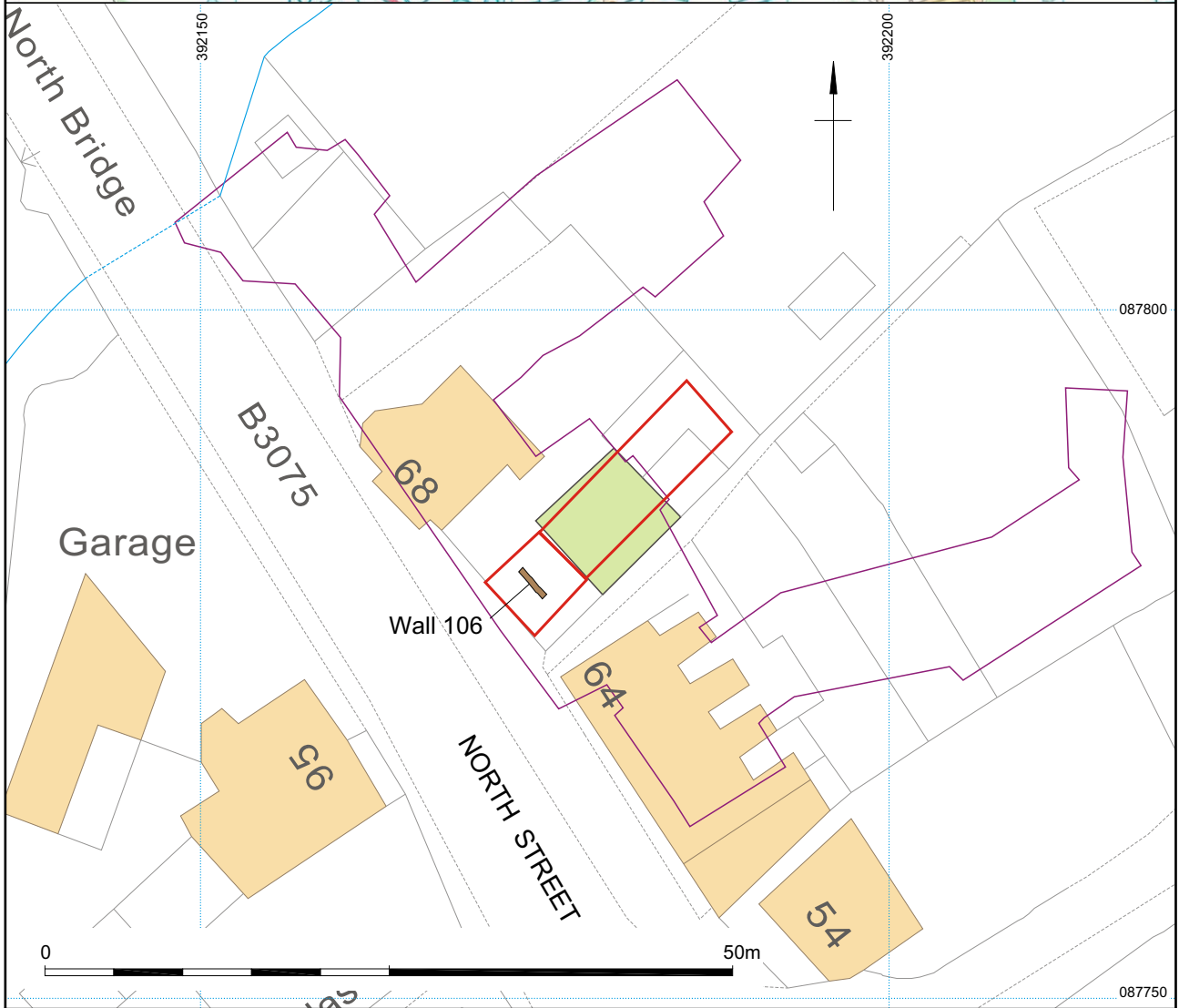
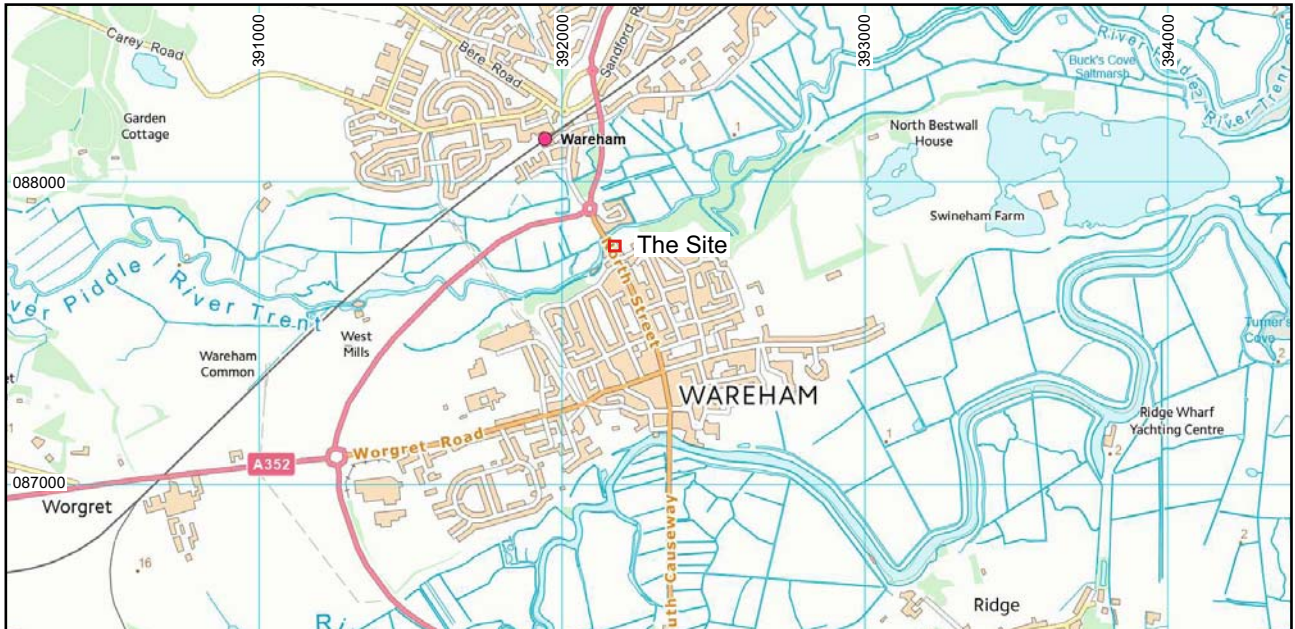
Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
No	No	No	No	0/0

Validated sections in current version

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

File submission and form progress

Grey literature report submitted?	No	Grey literature report filename/s	
Report release delay specified?	Yes	Release delay	Release into ADS library once signed off
Images submitted?	No	Image filename/s	
Boundary file submitted?	No	Boundary filename	
HER signed off?		NMR signed off?	



- Watching brief area
- Demolished building
- Outline of 'Gas Works' (from 1888 OS map)



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Site location plan

Figure 1




Plate 1: Representative section, view from south-east



Plate 2: North-east elevation of wall foundation **106**



Plate 3: South-west elevation of wall foundation **106**

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