

making sense of heritage

## Quarr Abbey, Quarr Road Ryde, Isle of Wight

Archaeological Watching Brief Report



Accession No. Ref: IWCMS:2013.8498 Ref: 101710.01 April 2014

# I archaeology



### **Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

Prepared for: Cragg Management Services Ltd, Bolney Place, Cowfold Road, Bolney, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH17 5QT

#### Prepared by:

Wessex Archaeology Old Sarum Park SALISBURY Wiltshire SP4 6EB

www.wessexarch.co.uk

April 2014

Report Ref: 101710.01 Accession No: IWCMS: 2013. 8498 Planning Ref: TCOL/058248/N-P/003358/12



#### **Quality Assurance**

Project Code	101710	Accession Code	IWCMS: 2013. 8498	Client Ref.	
Planning Application Ref.	TCOL/058248/N- P/003358/12	Ordnance Survey (OS) national grid reference (NGR)	456160 092540		

Version	Status*	Prepared by	Checked and Approved By	Approver's Signature	Date
v01	F	PF/NB	FF-	A.D. Crochet	30/04/14
File:	X:\PRO	JECTS\101710\Re	port\101710_WB_F	Report v1.0.docx	
File:					
File:					
File:					
File:					

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

#### DISCLAIMER

THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT WAS DESIGNED AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF A REPORT TO AN INDIVIDUAL CLIENT AND WAS PREPARED SOLELY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THAT CLIENT. THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT DOES NOT NECESSARILY STAND ON ITS OWN AND IS NOT INTENDED TO NOR SHOULD IT BE RELIED UPON BY ANY THIRD PARTY. TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY WILL NOT BE LIABLE BY REASON OF BREACH OF CONTRACT NEGLIGENCE OR OTHERWISE FOR ANY LOSS OR DAMAGE (WHETHER DIRECT INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL) OCCASIONED TO ANY PERSON ACTING OR OMITTING TO ACT OR REFRAINING FROM ACTING IN RELIANCE UPON THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT ARISING FROM OR CONNECTED WITH ANY ERROR OR OMISSION IN THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THE REPORT. LOSS OR DAMAGE AS REFERRED TO ABOVE SHALL BE DEEMED TO INCLUDE, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, ANY LOSS OF PROFITS OR ANTICIPATED PROFITS DAMAGE TO REPUTATION OR GOODWILL LOSS OF BUSINESS OR ANTICIPATED BUSINESS DAMAGES COSTS EXPENSES INCURRED OR PAYABLE TO ANY THIRD PARTY (IN ALL CASES WHETHER DIRECT INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL) OR ANY OTHER DIRECT INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL LOSS OR DAMAGE.

### **Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

#### Contents

Summa	ry	iii
Acknow	ledgementsi	v
1	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	Project background	1
1.2	The Site	1
2	ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	2
2.1	Introduction	2
2.2	Prehistory (10,000BC-43AD)	2
2.3	Romano-British (AD43-410)	2
2.4	Saxon and later	2
2.5	Undated	3
2.6	Abbey remains	
2.7	Modern Quarr Abbey	
2.8	Fishponds	4
3	METHODOLOGY	
3.1	Aims and objectives	
3.2	Fieldwork methodology	
3.3	Health and safety	
3.4	Best practice	
4	ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS	5
5	ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE	5
6	CONCLUSIONS	5
7	STORAGE AND CURATION	5
7.1	Museum	5
7.2	Archive	5
7.3	Copyright	6
7.4	Security copy	6
8	REFERENCES	6
8.1	Bibliography	6
9	APPENDICES	8
9.1	Appendix 1: OASIS form	8



#### Figures

- Figure 1: Location of Site and watching brief areas
- Plate 1: Area 1, view from the east
- Plate 2: South facing representative section, Area 2
- Front cover: View from Area 2 towards the Abbey

### **Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

#### Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Cragg Management Services Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during works undertaken at Quarr Abbey, Quarr Road, Ryde, Isle of Wight (NGR 456160 092540).

The watching brief observed the stripping of a new access road as well as excavations for new drainage. The current abbey is a modern Grade I listed structure but an earlier medieval abbey and other medieval remains are located nearby.

No archaeological features or deposits were found during the watching brief. The monitoring was undertaken on the 9<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

### Archaeological Watching Brief Report

#### Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by Cragg Management Services Ltd, and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Megan Scofield in this regard.

The watching brief was undertaken by Pete Fairclough. This report was written and compiled by Pete Fairclough and Naomi Brennan with illustrations by Liz James. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Sue Farr.

### Archaeological Watching Brief Report

#### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by Cragg Management Services Ltd (the Client), to undertake an archaeological watching brief during works undertaken at Quarr Abbey, Quarr Road, Ryde, Isle of Wight, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 456160 092540, hereafter referred to as 'the Site' (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 Planning permission (TCOL/058248/N-P/003358/12) has been granted by the Isle of Wight Council for the alterations to the west elevation of Old House, alterations and conversion of the Old Stable Block to form a visitors centre, landscaping works to include new roads, passing places and footpaths, demolition of low walls in the stable courtyard and parking area, new bin store, installation of safety access, equipment and ladders, laundry vent and replacement grille, new roof to the barn and new roofing material on the piggery, on condition (Condition 5) that a programme of archaeological work is undertaken.
- 1.1.3 A Design and Access Statement (LUC 2012), submitted with the planning application, confirmed the archaeological significance of the Site which lies within the (now ruined) Cistercian Abbey of St Mary's at Quarr, founded in 1132AD.
- 1.1.4 As a result of the archaeological potential, the County Archaeological Officer advised that an archaeological watching brief be maintained during groundwork, specifically, any excavations below 400mm in depth, to record any archaeological features within the development area.
- 1.1.5 The watching brief was undertaken on the 9<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

#### 1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The Site is situated on the north-east coast of the Isle of Wight, and is owned and managed by the Quarr Abbey Community. At the centre of the estate is Quarr Abbey, which was built between 1907 and 1914. It is situated 3km west of Ryde and 0.5km east of Fisbourne, and occupies an area of approximately 80ha (**Figure 1**).
- 1.2.2 The Site lies on slightly undulating ground at a height of between 25m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) to 35m aOD.
- 1.2.3 The underlying geology of the Site is Bembridge Marls Formation, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 24 to 34 million years ago, and comprises clays and silts with occasional thin sands, marls and limestones.



#### 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

#### 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 Although the core interest in the Site relates to Quarr Abbey and its precursor, there are a considerable number of entries on the Isle of Wight Historic Environment Record (HER) in the immediate vicinity of the Site which demonstrates the high archaeological potential of the Site, with remains of prehistoric, Romano-British and later activity all recorded.

#### 2.2 Prehistoric activity (10,000BC-43AD)

- 2.2.1 Within the Study Area, worked and burnt flint has been found, including three Mesolithic flint axes at Wootton Creek to the west of the Site and a stone axe at Binstead Point approximately 1km to the east, along with a number of Neolithic flint tools including scrapers and arrowheads. Together they form a significant concentration of flint implements found along this stretch of coastline between Fishbourne and Ryde. A quantity of flintwork has also been noted during fieldwalking associated with the Wootton-Quarr hinterland and intertidal survey; recovered lithics include microliths, picks, scrapers, cores and waste flakes.
- 2.2.2 Approximately 700m to the west of the Site a scatter of burnt flint and several struck flakes were noted. Partial excavation of the site was undertaken in the mid-90s, and identified a pit and an irregular gully. Further to the west, immediately east of Fishbourne Lane, a large area of densely concentrated burnt flint was noted during a programme of fieldwalking, and although this material type is intrinsically undatable, it is often used as an indicator of prehistoric activity. A small number of flint tools and debitage was also noted within the assemblage.
- 2.2.3 A series of seaward-running posts and trackways were noted at extreme low water during the Wootton-Quarr survey. Radiocarbon dating of these has shown them to be of Neolithic and later date. They were constructed using various different methods, including staked hurdles, brushwood and longitudinal roundwood and split timbers. However, their position at extreme low water has meant that they are very rarely visible, so it has been difficult to record them adequately. A Bronze Age hurdle trackway was also noted on Ryde West Sands and a series of post-built structures of similar date have been recorded at Binstead Beach. A further post-alignment returned an Iron Age date when radiocarbon dated.

#### 2.3 Romano-British activity (AD43-410)

- 2.3.1 In contrast, relatively few Roman finds and features are recorded in the vicinity of the Site.
- 2.3.2 A Roman tile was noted by Sherwin built into the kitchen at Quarr Abbey. Furthermore, unstratified sherds belonging to a Roman storage jar were found on Binstead Beach. Kiln material including pedestals, kiln bars, slab fragments and possible briquetage fragments associated with a small irregular shaped depression, was recorded on Fishbourne Beach, and further scatters of Romano-British pottery have been recorded at Fishbourne. There is also evidence of a Roman saltern on Quarr Beach.

#### 2.4 Saxon and later activity

2.4.1 The Wootton-Quarr survey combined intertidal survey with a study of the hinterland and offshore zone of this stretch of coastline. The most extensive structure recorded during the survey was a longshore alignment of posts stretching in a fragmentary form for *c*. 1.25km, visible at low water and dating from the 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> century AD.



- 2.4.2 Approximately 500m to the north of the Site a medieval rectangular enclosure and roof tile kiln was partially excavated in 1993. An L-shaped earthwork was also noted indicating the remains of a former building along with quantities of pottery sherds and roof tiles.
- 2.4.3 To the west of the Site a circular mound was noted during fieldwalking in 1993, and given its form and location is indicative of a beacon mound.
- 2.4.4 A number of quarries are shown on the first edition 1866 OS mapping for the area, and a survey of the quarry pits around Binstead formed a part of the Wootton-Quarr Project. A bell pit was also recorded at The Keys, Binstead.
- 2.4.5 To the north of the Site, three complete human skeletons were found on Quarr Beach by a local resident and dated to the post-medieval period.

#### 2.5 Undated

2.5.1 Several linear banks have been recorded to the immediate east of the Site at Quarr during a survey of quarries in the area. One of the earthworks is likely to be the remains of a leat extending from Puckers Copse fishponds to Quarr Abbey. Limestone rubble was visible in one of the banks to the south, which also showed slight evidence of a ditch on either side.

#### 2.6 Abbey remains

- 2.6.1 The Cistercian abbey of Quarr is scheduled (list entry: 1012714) and includes the upstanding and buried remains of a Cistercian monastery on the north-east coast of the Isle of Wight. It is positioned to the east of the modern abbey and approximately 250m to the east of the watching brief area. The upstanding remains are Listed Grade II, and largely contained within the original precinct boundary, which can be traced for most of its course. Some extra-mural features have been recorded beyond the precinct boundary.
- 2.6.2 The abbey was founded in 1132 under Benedictine rule by Baldwin de Redvers, Lord of the Island, as a daughter house of Savigny. Savigny with its daughter houses joined the order of Citeaux in 1147 with the result that Quarr changed to the Cistercian order.
- 2.6.3 At the time of the Dissolution, Quarr, with an income of less than 200 pounds a year, was considered a lesser house and was closed by order of the King's Commissioners on 22 July 1536.
- 2.6.4 The Cistercian abbey is known from partial excavation to largely conform to the usual ground plan of Cistercian houses, except that all the buildings are to the north of the church. The upstanding remains of buildings which can be identified are the cellarium, parts of the kitchen and refectory or frater, a wood house, the warming room and parts of the undercroft of the monks dorter and infirmary chapel. The remains of the other buildings within the precinct exist as buried features. In 1891 Mr P G Stone partly excavated the site and recorded the ground plan of the abbey. In addition, there are documentary references from 1535 to a mill to the east or south-east of the south gate, while the marshy area to the south of the abbey church is reputed to be the location of a fishpond inside the precinct wall.

#### 2.7 Modern Quarr Abbey

2.7.1 Quarr Abbey is a Grade I Listed abbey (list entry number: 1235008) and comprises a series of monastic buildings and church for a Benedictine order of monks, designed by Dom Paul Bellot in Expressionist style between 1907 and 1914.



2.7.2 The Refectory, Dormitory, Chapter House and north, west and east sides of the cloisters were built in 1907, the Abbey church to the south was built between 1911-12 and the entrance block, including guest accommodation and south and south-west sides of the cloister was completed in 1914.

#### 2.8 Fishponds

2.8.1 The fishponds at Quarr abbey to the south of the development area are scheduled (list entry: 1014729) and include two adjoining fishponds situated on an east facing slope and associated with the nearby monastery at Quarr. They are aligned north-south with a common dam between them, and a leat entering at the junction between the ponds.

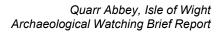
#### 3 METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Aims and objectives

- 3.1.1 The aims of the watching brief were:
  - to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains, and should such 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 any 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; and
  - to prepare a report on the results of the watching brief.

#### 3.2 Fieldwork methodology

- 3.2.1 The full detailed methodology of the archaeological works was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (Wessex Archaeology 2013), and this is summarised below:
- 3.2.2 An archaeological presence was maintained during the excavation work for the new access road (Area 1) and new drains (Area 2). The watching brief was maintained throughout initial excavations, and was concluded when it was clear that the potential for archaeological remains to be exposed had been exhausted.
- 3.2.3 A record was made of the on-site conditions and progress of groundworks using Wessex Archaeology's *pro-forma* record sheets.
- 3.2.4 A full photographic record was compiled using digital images. The record illustrates both the detail and the general context of 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 will ensure the long term accessibility of the image set.
- 3.2.5 Monitored works were referenced to the OS mapping.
- 3.2.6 A unique code **101710** was allocated to the Site, and was used on all records and finds.





- 3.3.1 Health and safety considerations were of paramount importance in conducting all fieldwork. Safe working practices override archaeological considerations at all times.
- 3.3.2 All work was carried out in accordance with the *Health and Safety at Work etc. Act* 1974 and the *Management of Health and Safety Regulations* 1992, and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.

#### 3.4 Best practice

3.4.1 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* (IfA 2008).

#### 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

- 4.1.1 **Area 1** comprised the new access road, and measured approximately 100m long and 10m wide. The area was stripped to a depth of approximately 0.4m, which was largely still within the subsoil horizon.
- 4.1.2 New drainage was proposed within **Area 2**, and was excavated to a depth of approximately 1.0m below ground level. Approximately 0.3m of a pale yellow-brown topsoil and 0.3m of a sandy yellow subsoil were recorded, overlying a weathered and fragmented bedrock. Some fragments of stone rubble were noted within the overburden which could be demolition debris. A building is shown adjacent to the path on the 1973-1974 Ordnance Survey (OS) map.
- 4.1.3 No archaeological deposits or features were found.

#### 5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

5.1.1 No artefactual material was found during the watching brief.

#### 6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1.1 No archaeological features or deposits were found during the course of the watching brief. Due to the depth of overburden across the Site, natural geology was not encountered across the large part of Area 1, and there remains the potential for archaeological features and deposits to survive within the monitored section below the depth of construction.

#### 7 STORAGE AND CURATION

#### 7.1 Museum

7.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with the Isle of Wight Heritage Service. The Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project currently under the accession code **IWCMS**: **2013.8498**.

#### 7.2 Archive

7.2.1 The complete Site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by the Isle of Wight Heritage Service,



and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; IfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

7.2.2 An OASIS online record <u>http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/projects/oasis/</u> 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 HER. This will include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report.

#### 7.3 Copyright

- 7.3.1 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.
- 7.3.2 This report may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright etc.), 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

#### 7.4 Security copy

7.4.1 In line with current best practice (Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the paper records will be prepared, in the form of a 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.

#### 8 **REFERENCES**

#### 8.1 Bibliography

ADS, 2013, *Caring for Digital Data in Archaeology: a guide to good practice*, Archaeology Data Service & Digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practice

British Geological Survey information available at: http://www.bgs.ac.uk/data/services/digmap50wms.html

- Brown, D.H., 2011, Archaeological archives; a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation, Archaeological Archives Forum (revised edition)
- IfA, 2008, Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs, Institute for Archaeologists
- IfA, 2009, Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives, Institute for Archaeologists
- LUC 2012, Quarr Abbey: Enhancement of the Visitor Access Arrangements Design and Access Statement



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

Wessex Archaeology, 2013, *Quarr Abbey, Quarr Road, Ryde, Isle of Wight: Written* Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief, ref T17789.01

#### 9 APPENDICES

### 9.1 Appendix 1:OASIS form

#### OASIS ID: wessexar1-176682

Project details		
Project name	Quarr Abbey, Isle of Wight	
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Cragg Management Services Ltd. to undertake an archaeological watching brief during works undertaken at Quarr Abbey, Quarr Road, Ryde, Isle of Wight (NGR 456160 092540). The watching brief observed the stripping of new access road as well as excavations for new drainage. The current abbey is a modern Grade I listed structure but an earlier medieval abbey and other medieval remains are located nearby. No archaeological features or deposits were found. The watching brief was undertaken on the 9th October 2013.	
Project dates	Start: 09-10-2013 End: 09-10-2013	
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known	
Any associated project reference codes	101710 - Contracting Unit No.	
Any associated project reference codes	IWCMS: 2013. 8498 - Museum accession ID	
Type of project	Recording project	
Site status	Listed Building	
Current Land use	Residential 2 - Institutional and communal accommodation	
Monument type	NONE None	
Significant Finds	NONE None	
Project location Country Site location	England ISLE OF WIGHT ISLE OF WIGHT RYDE Quarr Abbey, Isle of Wight	
Postcode	PO33 4ES	
Study area	0 Hectares	
Site coordinates	SZ 56160 92540 50.7291877966 -1.20419516824 50 43 45 N 001 12 15 W Point	
Height OD / Depth	Min: 25.00m Max: 35.00m	
Project creators Name of Organisation Project brief originator	Wessex Archaeology Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)	

Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	Sue Farr
Project supervisor	Pete Fairclough
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Cragg Management
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	Νο
Digital Archive recipient	Isle of Wight Heritage Service
Digital Archive ID	IWCMS: 2013. 8498
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive ID IWCMS: 2013. 8498	
Paper Media available	"Diary","Plan","Report"
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Quarr Abbey, Quarr Road, Ryde, Isle of Wight: Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Fairclough, P.
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Brennan, N.
Other bibliographic details	report number 101710.01
Date	2014
Issuer or publisher	Wessex Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Wessex Archaeology - Salisbury
Description	A4 bound client report

П

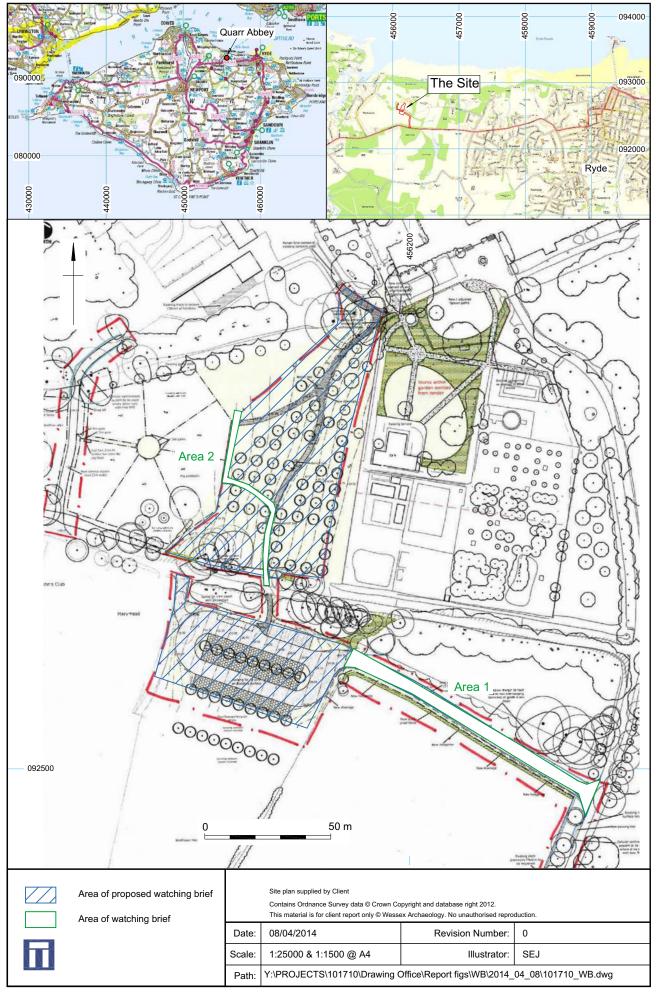




Plate 1: Area 1, view from the east



Plate 2: South facing representative section, Area 2

	This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.			
	Date:	08/04/14	Revision Number:	0
	Scale:	N/A	Illustrator:	SEJ
	Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\101710\Drawing Office\Report figs\WB\2014_04_08\101710_plates.cdr		





salisbury rochester sheffield edinburgh

Wessex Archaeology Ltd registered office Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk



Wessex Archaeology Ltd is a company limited by guarantee registered in England, company number 1712772. It is also a Charity registered in England and Wales, number 287786; and in Scotland, Scottish Charity number SC042630. Our registered office is at Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB.