



making sense of heritage

# 10 West Development, University of Bath Claverton Down, Bath

Archaeological Monitoring Report



Accession Number: BATRM 2014.224  
Planning Reference: 14/00953/FUL  
Ref: 106770.01  
January 2015



**10 West Development, University of Bath,  
Claverton Down, Bath**

**Archaeological Monitoring Report**

**Prepared for:**

Vinci Construction Ltd  
C1 Vantage Office Park  
Old Gloucester Road  
Hambrook  
Bristol  
BS16 1GW

**Prepared by:**

Wessex Archaeology  
Portway House  
Old Sarum Park  
Salisbury  
SP4 6EB

[www.wessexarch.co.uk](http://www.wessexarch.co.uk)

**January 2015**

**Report Ref: 106770**

**Bath Museum Accession Number: BATRM 2014.224**

**Bath & North-East Somerset Planning Application: 14/00953/FUL**



# 10 West Development, University of Bath, Claverton Down, Bath

## Archaeological Monitoring Report

### Quality Assurance

<b>Project Code</b>	106770	<b>Accession Code</b>	BATRM 20104.224	<b>Client Ref.</b>	
<b>Planning Application Ref.</b>	14/00953/FUL	<b>Ordnance Survey (OS) national grid reference (NGR)</b>	376997 164539		

Version	Status*	Prepared by	Checked and Approved By	Approver's Signature	Date
v01	I	David Fallon and Luke Jarvis	Andy King		29/01/2015
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.



# 10 West Development, University of Bath, Claverton Down, Bath

## Archaeological Monitoring Report

### Contents

Summary .....	ii
Acknowledgements.....	iii
<b>1 INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>4</b>
1.1 Project background .....	4
1.2 The Site.....	4
<b>2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3 METHODOLOGY.....</b>	<b>5</b>
3.1 Aims and objectives .....	5
3.2 Fieldwork methodology .....	5
<b>4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>5 DISCUSSION.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>6 STORAGE AND CURATION .....</b>	<b>7</b>
6.1 Museum .....	7
6.2 Preparation of Archive .....	7
6.3 OASIS.....	7
6.4 Discard policy.....	7
6.5 Copyright.....	7
6.6 Security Copy.....	7
<b>7 REFERENCES.....</b>	<b>8</b>
7.1 Bibliography .....	8
<b>6 APPENDICES.....</b>	<b>9</b>
6.1 Appendix 1: Context Summary .....	9

### Figures

Figure 1: Site Location Plan

### Plates

Plate 1: Service diversion trench from the East

Plate 2: Representative section showing made ground from the South

Plate 3: Representative section showing redeposited ground from the East



# 10 West Development, University of Bath, Claverton Down, Bath

## Archaeological Monitoring Report

### Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Vinci Construction Ltd, to carry out archaeological monitoring of initial groundworks for construction of a new six storey academic building, known as the 10 West development, at the University of Bath, Claverton Down, centred on National Grid reference (NGR) 376997 164539 (hereafter referred to as the Site). The monitoring of ground level reduction within the site boundaries, in advance of the proposed development, took place from the 28<sup>th</sup> of October 2014 to the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

The groundworks revealed widespread landscaping had previously occurred within the development footprint resulting in extensive disturbance of the natural substrata, with substantial amounts of made-ground also being deposited across the site.

No archaeological features or deposits were observed.



# 10 West Development, University of Bath, Claverton Down, Bath

## Archaeological Monitoring Report

### Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Steve Bourne of Vinci Construction Ltd who commissioned the work on behalf of University of Bath. The on-site assistance of Simon Prendergast and Leighton Ebdon of Vinci Construction Ltd was greatly appreciated. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Richard Sermon, Archaeological Officer for Bath and North East Somerset, for his advice.

The fieldwork was undertaken by David Fallon with the assistance of Luke Jarvis and Ray Ducker. This report was written and compiled by David Fallon and Luke Jarvis. The illustrations were produced by Karen Nichols. The project was managed by Andy King.



# 10 West Development, University of Bath, Claverton Down, Bath

## Archaeological Monitoring Report

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Vinci Construction Ltd on behalf of the University of Bath, to undertake a programme of archaeological mitigation during groundworks for the construction of a new six storey academic building (Planning Application Ref. 14/00953/FUL) at 10 West, University of Bath, Claverton Down, centred on National Grid reference (NGR) 376997 164539 (hereafter referred to as the Site).

1.1.2 The watching brief was undertaken between the 28<sup>th</sup> October 2014 and 15<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

#### 1.2 The Site

1.2.1 The Site (centred on NGR 376997 164539) is located c 1.5km to the east of Bath City centre, in the western car park of the University of Bath's Claverton Down Campus (**Figure 1**). The Site is bounded by a sports field to the south, by landscaped grounds and the 8 West University building to the east, by Quarry Road to the north and by further car parks to the west. Principal access to the Site was from the western car parks which themselves were accessible from North Road to the west.

1.2.2 The Site covered an area of approximately 0.41 hectares in an irregular rectangle.

1.2.3 The solid geology comprises Jurassic limestone of the Twinhoe Member (BGS 2014). The Site is located on a gentle south-facing slope that ranges between approximately 179.03m at the south and 182.03m aOD at the north.

### 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1.1 A detailed archaeological and historical background for the Site is included in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WA 2014), and is summarised here.

2.1.2 Though finds of Mesolithic and Neolithic worked flint attest to a human presence in the area of the Site no known habitations or other features of this date are recorded in the vicinity. The Site is situated in a landscape of Bronze Age funerary architecture with six known burial monuments in the area. The two closest of these lying 180m to the west (MBN 11848) and 80m to the east (MBN 11850), both of which were destroyed by earlier episodes of University development.

2.1.3 Bathampton Camp, an Iron Age hillfort, is located 200m to the north of the Site. There are also field systems of a possible Iron Age or Roman date 150m to the east. A previous archaeological evaluation immediately to the south of the site recovered a Roman inhumation burial (WA 2001).



- 2.1.4 From the Saxon to the Post-medieval periods very little activity is known in the area of the Site, there is a Saxon earthwork, West Wansdyke, at 100m to the north-west. However, it is very likely that the Site was agricultural land until the development of Bath University campus and its associated landscaping.

### 3 METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Aims and objectives

- 3.1.1 The aim of the archaeological works 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 constraints of the proposed ground works. Further aims are listed below:

- *To locate, identify and to investigate and record the presence/absence of archaeological features or deposits, within the Site that may be disturbed by groundworks*
- *If significant archaeological features or deposits are located or the potential for their survival, then the watching brief would establish the most appropriate location for subsequent excavation*
- *Both the initial watching brief and subsequent excavation, where possible, would confirm the extent, date, character, relationship, condition and significance of archaeological features, artefacts and deposits within the area impacted, and*
- *Assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document and record the extent of archaeological buried deposits and the inter-relationships with one another*
- *To inform the scope and nature of any requirements for any potential further fieldwork (whether additional watching brief, excavation or post-excavation work*
- *To place any identified archaeological remains within their historical context, particularly with reference to the known Romano-British features and finds found in the immediate and wider area.*
- *Produce a post excavation report appropriate to the level of archaeological mitigation undertaken (e.g. assessment report, watching brief report) and subsequent publication at least to summary level in the local archaeological journal, which will present the results of the archaeological work in their local and regional context.*

#### 3.2 Fieldwork methodology

- 3.2.1 The practical fieldwork was conducted according to the methods agreed in the WSI (WA 2014). A change to the construction programme and the rapid realisation that the Site had already been heavily disturbed by previous landscaping, negated the need for a Strip, Map and Record excavation and required only monitoring of the excavation of a service diversion trench (SDT) (**Plate 1**) and ground reduction across the footprint of the proposed development. This monitoring ensured that any archaeological features and deposits expected to be present, would be recorded and prevent any needless damage to the surviving archaeological resource.

- 3.2.2 The SDT was excavated by a 21 ton, 360° tracked excavator under constant archaeological supervision. Similarly, the ground reduction was undertaken by 21 and 31





ton tracked excavators, again under constant archaeological supervision. The resultant spoil was removed from the site.

- 3.2.3 The exposed deposits were assigned a unique context number and recorded using WA's *proforma* record sheets.
- 3.2.4 A full photographic record was maintained using digital photography. The photographic record illustrates both the detail and general context of the principle deposits 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.
- 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 The Local Planning Authority advisor, Richard Sermon (Archaeological Officer for Bath and North East Somerset Council), was kept informed of progress on Site by Andy King on behalf of WA.

## 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

- 4.1.1 Detailed descriptions of the exposed deposits are presented in **Appendix 1**; a summary of the results is provided below.
- 4.1.2 The stratigraphic sequence was consistent across the Site: made ground and levelling layers associated with the modern development of Bath University overlay natural. The natural ground was light brownish yellow compacted limestone fragments (**104**, **106** and **206**) and exposed at varying depths across Site. Typically the natural was cut by made ground (**102**, **103** and **112**) (**Plate 2**) and redeposited (**204** and **110**) (**Plate 3**) layers, impacting the potential for archaeological features.
- 4.1.3 The depth of made-ground **102**, **103** and **112** varied across the Site: 0.49m at the north, 1.04m at the west, 1.60m at the east, 1.10m at the south and 0.62m at the centre of the Site, all measured from the current ground level of the car park.
- 4.1.4 No archaeological features, finds, or deposits were uncovered in any area of Site.

## 5 DISCUSSION

- 5.1.1 The density of prehistoric and Romano-British archaeological features, previously recorded in the vicinity of the Site and the lack of usage from the Saxon period onwards, suggested a high potential for undisturbed archaeological remains to survive in the area of the proposed development and the route of an associated service-diversion trench. However, landscaping associated with the construction of University buildings adjacent to the Site and levelling work for the existing car park had removed any in-situ deposits and disturbed the natural substrata to such an extent that no archaeological features were present.
- 5.1.2 The monitoring has therefore found no evidence that archaeological remains survived within the site boundary.



## 6 STORAGE AND CURATION

### 6.1 Museum

- 6.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the watching brief be deposited with Roman Baths Museum and Pump Room. The Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project under accession code BATRM 2014.224.

### 6.2 Preparation of Archive

- 6.2.1 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 Roman Baths Museum and Pump Room, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

- 6.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the unique site/accession code BATRM 2014.224, and a full index will be prepared.

### 6.3 OASIS

- 6.3.1 An OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/projects/oasis/> has been initiated for the work and key fields in regard of the evaluation has been entered under OASIS ID wessexar1-201805. All appropriate parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to the Bath and North East Somerset HER. This will include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy will also be included with the archive).

### 6.4 Discard policy

- 6.4.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal...* (Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993). However, no artefacts or ecofacts were recovered from this site.

### 6.5 Copyright

- 6.5.1 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 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 to the *Copyright and Related Rights regulations 2003*.

### 6.6 Security Copy

- 6.6.1 In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown 2011) on completion of the project a security copy of the written records has been 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.

## 7 REFERENCES

### 7.1 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 2014 *Geology of Britain Viewer*, URL:  
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> [accessed 21 January 2015].

Brown, D.H., 2011 *Archaeological archives; a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*. Archaeological Archives Forum (revised edition).

CIfA, 2014a *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*. The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

CIfA, 2014b *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*. The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

English Heritage, 2002 *Environmental Archaeology; a guide to theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*, Swindon, Centre for Archaeology Guidelines.

English Heritage, 2006 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide*, Swindon, Centre for Archaeology Guidelines.

SMA, 1993 *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections*. Society of Museum Archaeologists.

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

WA 2001, *University of Bath, Claverton Down Bath, Archaeological Evaluation Report, Western Car Parks and Limekiln Field*, unpublished client report, ref: 49906.01.

WA 2008, *University of Bath Masterplan Development Proposal 2008, Archaeological Desk-based Assessment*, unpublished client report ref: 68150.01.






## 6 APPENDICES

### 6.1 Appendix 1: Context Summary

Context	Description	Depth of deposit (m)	
101	Topsoil	Mid brown silt loam.	0.20
102	Made ground	Modern mixed yellow and mid brown silt loam amongst weathered limestone fragments.	0.50
103	Made ground	Modern mixed yellow and greyish brown silt loam amongst weathered limestone fragments.	0.50
104	Natural	Yellow limestone bedrock.	0.25+
105	Topsoil	Mid brown silt loam modern possibly imported topsoil.	0.20
106	Natural	Yellow limestone bedrock.	0.80+
107	Modern	Gravel and sands of modern path.	0.30
108	Topsoil	Mid brown silt loam.	0.15
109	Modern	Tarmac earlier road surface.	0.22
110	Modern	Limestone bedrock with tarmac inclusions.	0.23
111	Event	Test pit of service trench diversion.	
112	Made ground	Light to mid brown soft sandy silt clay amongst limestone fragments.	0.55
113	Modern	Dark brownish grey clay disturbed ground.	0.06
114	Buried subsoil	Mid yellowish brown silty clay with frequent limestone fragments.	0.16
201	Topsoil	Mid brown silt loam.	0.40
202	Modern	Brick surface embedded in sand.	0.20
203	Modern	Compacted gravel bedding layer.	0.18
204	Modern	Redeposited limestone rubble bedrock.	0.50
205	Buried soil	Mid greyish brown sandy silty clay.	0.20
206	Natural	Limestone bedrock.	1.38+



	 Site boundary  Service diversion trench	Digital data reproduced from Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright (year) All rights reserved. Reference Number: 100022432. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright and database right 2015. This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.	
	Date: 29/01/2015	Revision Number: 0	
	Scale: 1:25,000 and 1:1000 at A4	Illustrator: KMN	
Path: X:\PROJECTS\106770\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\WB\2015_01_29			

Site location plan

Figure 1





Plate 1: Service diversion trench from the East



	This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.			
	Date:	28/01/2015	Revision Number:	0
	Scale:	N/A	Illustrator:	KMN
	Path:	X:\PROJECTS\106770\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\WB\2015_01_29		



Plate 2: Representative section showing made ground from the South



Plate 3: Representative section showing redeposited ground from the East

	This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.			
	Date:	28/01/2015	Revision Number:	0
	Scale:	N/A	Illustrator:	KMN
	Path:	X:\PROJECTS\106770\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\WB\2015_01_29		





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.