



making sense of heritage

10 Church Road, Idmiston, Salisbury, Wiltshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report



Planning Ref: 13/01181/FUL
Ref: 107430.03
May 2015



**10 Church Road, Idmiston,
Salisbury, Wiltshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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Quality Assurance

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10 Church Road, Idmiston, Salisbury, Wiltshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief at 10 Church Road, Idmiston, Salisbury, Wiltshire. The watching brief was to fulfil an archaeological condition placed on the consent for a planning application to Wiltshire Council (13/01181/FUL)

The development involved the division of the c. 0.54ha property, centred on National Grid Reference 419984 137233. The works included the extension of the current dwelling, 10 Church Road and demolition of a garage and outbuildings to create a plot footprint for a new dwelling and detached garage.

The watching brief revealed that the base of the coombe, in which Church Road is located, is filled with deposits of colluvium, over 1 m thick. The colluvium feathers out upslope and is replaced by periglacial chalk.

No significant archaeological features or deposits were observed during the groundworks.



Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by MHGL Properties Ltd, on behalf of Hurst Financial Services, and the assistance of Libby Watson is gratefully acknowledged. The project was monitored by Clare King, Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service (WCAS) and Wessex Archaeology acknowledges her help and assistance during the course of this project.

The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Andrew Manning. The watching brief and reporting were undertaken by Rachel Williams and Phil Harding. The illustrations were by Kitty Foster.



10 Church Road, Idmiston, Salisbury, Wiltshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by MHGL Properties Ltd, on behalf of Hurst Financial Services, to carry out a programme of archaeological watching brief at 10 Church Road, Idmiston, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP4 0AZ centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) 419984 137233 (hereafter the 'Site' (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 A planning application (13/01181/FUL) was submitted in June 2013 and permission was granted in June 2014. The works included the extension of the current dwelling, No 10 Church Road, to create a six bedroom dwelling and demolition of an associated garage and outbuildings to utilise the footprint to erect a two-storey 5 bedroom dwelling and detached garage, and associated landscaping and services.

1.1.3 An archaeological condition (Condition 6) was attached to the planning approval requiring that:

No development shall commence within the area indicated (proposed development site) until a written programme of archaeological investigation, which should include on-site and off-site work such as the analysis, publishing and archiving of the results, has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority. This approved programme of archaeological investigation shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details.

Reason: To enable the recording of any matters of archaeological interest.

1.1.4 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared to set out the manner in which Wessex Archaeology will implement the programme of archaeological watching brief required to discharge Condition 6. It has been prepared in accordance with best practice and will be submitted to the Client, Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service (WCAS) and finally to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) for approval prior to the commencement of the work programme.

1.2 The Site

1.2.1 Idmiston is located approximately 9.1km to the north-east of the centre of Salisbury and 5.7km to the south-east of Amesbury.

1.2.2 The Site lies on the south side of Church Road, which occupies the base of a steep sided coombe that drains north-west into the valley of the River Bourne. The south side of the coombe rises from 80m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) to 90m aOD respectively.

1.2.3 The south-west boundary of the site is formed by a lynchet which creates a prominent feature at the crest of the slope.



- 1.2.4 Landscaping to create a building platform for the former buildings created a level terrace area for the redevelopment at around 82m aOD. The underlying geology of the area is mapped as Upper Chalk (British Geological Survey, 1976).
- 1.2.5 The 0.54ha Site is bounded on the north-east by Church Road, to the south by fields, and to the north-west and south-east by residential buildings (**Figure 1**).
- 1.2.6 The areas of redevelopment comprised two units, 1 and 2, that were divided along the lines of the proposed properties. Unit 1 was occupied by a house and an associated garage and driveway, Unit 2 by grass and vegetable plots.

1.3 Archaeological background

Previous work

- 1.3.1 No archaeological investigations have been undertaken within the Site or its environs. An archaeological evaluation at Porton Down, (WA 2009), located approximately 500m to the east-south-east, identified a number of undated lynchets which related to agricultural land use.

Known sites

- 1.3.2 There are no Scheduled Monuments within the Site or its environs, although in the older part of Idmiston there are a number of Grade I, Grade II, and Grade II* listed buildings. Located 500m to the north-west of the Site is a Bronze Age Bowl Barrow (SMR no. SU12 NE28) and 340m to the south-west of the Site, a prehistoric or Romano-British enclosure (SMR no. SU13 NE67) has been identified. The line of the former Roman Road 'the Portway' runs within 80m of the boundary of the Site.

The Site and the wider landscape

- 1.3.3 There is substantial prehistoric settlement in the surrounding area with two large Neolithic flint mines at Easton Down and Martin's Clump. Bronze Age round barrows are a feature of the landscape and a Late Bronze Age farmhouse was identified on Thorney Down. Excavations at Porton Down, (WA 2011 and WA 2014), identified and excavated a Bronze Age barrow and a Wessex linear which ran across the Site. During the Iron Age there were various small farms and these probably continued into the Romano-British period.
- 1.3.4 On Roche Court Down there is an early 6th century Anglo-Saxon cemetery which contained a total of 35 graves. It is thought that Anglo-Saxon settlement in the area took place soon after this as by the early 10th century Glastonbury Abbey held 20 hides (Wiltshire Council Website). The Domesday Book (1086) mentions Idmiston and its names seems to have been derived from the 'farm or homestead of Idmaer'.
- 1.3.5 Idmiston developed as a farming community with the chief crops in the early 19th century being wheat, barley and oats, although there were some livestock kept. There was a slight increase in population after 1854 when the railway was built near the village, and some of the local population became railway labourers. After the construction of Porton Camp during the First World War, and its continued expansion to the present day, the size of Idmiston increased dramatically.



2 AIMS AND METHODS

2.1 Methodology

- 2.1.1 The methods for the watching brief were set out in the WSI prepared in accordance with current best practice and to the guidance outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* ('MoRPHE', English Heritage 2008) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standards and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (CIfA, 2014a).
- 2.1.2 The aims of the watching brief were to establish the presence or absence, location, extent, date, character, condition, and depth of any surviving remains which may be affected by the proposed development, and to clarify the significance of any impact of the proposed construction groundwork upon the archaeological resource, and ensure its preservation by record.
- 2.1.3 The watching brief involved monitoring the initial ground reduction on the footprint of one of the new houses. A full digital photographic record was made of the groundworks, with the photo locations marked on a plan of the Site.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 The watching brief was undertaken on two separate occasions; Unit 2 was monitored on the 19th January 2015 and Unit 1 on 11th May 2015. The results, however, are presented in numerical order.
- 3.1.2 Preliminary topsoil stripping was undertaken to a depth of c. 0.1m across both units before the archaeological watching brief commenced. Work ceased at this point to allow all other deposits to be removed under archaeological supervision.
- 3.1.3 Topsoil was also removed across land to the north east of Unit 1 for construction of a garage and car parking. This area, which can be seen in the photograph on the front cover of this report, was not impacted severely by the development. All foundation trenches for the garage were observed and the character of the deposits established before the trenches were filled with concrete.

Unit 1

- 3.1.4 Observations in this part of the Site were directed towards topsoil stripping and foundation trenching for an extension approximately 10m north-south and 4m east-west adjoining the south east facade of No 10 Church Road (**Plate 1**).
- 3.1.5 The dark grey brown silty clay topsoil was heavily rooted and contained moderately well sorted small chalk pellets that had migrated down through the soil profile. This horizon overlay the thin gritty subsoil colluvium, approximately 0.10 m thick which sealed the basal periglacial chalk (**Plates 2 and 4**).
- 3.1.6 The contact surfaces of these components were diffuse, largely due to the relative thinness of the deposits and the extensive root infiltration.



- 3.1.7 The colluvium thickened to the north east towards the base of the coombe. This was confirmed by a shovel pit that was dug against the trench section to a depth of 0.60 m from the ground surface.
- 3.1.8 Observations of foundation trenches for the replacement garage near the north east boundary of the Site indicated that the colluvium in the base of the coombe is over 1m thick, with increased numbers of flint nodules at the base. This deposit may be a primary gravel deposit related to periglacial activity.
- 3.1.9 It was not possible to enter the trench to examine the deposits in detail or to establish whether the colluvium was itself entirely periglacial or was, in any part, attributable to agriculture.
- 3.1.10 No archaeological features were observed in this part of the Site and no artefacts were recovered.

Unit 2

- 3.1.11 The foundations of the demolished outbuildings in Unit 2 were partially visible including the walls and rammed chalk floor of the former stable block (**Plate 3**).
- 3.1.12 Removal of the subsoil revealed the foundations of the former greenhouse. Modern defunct services, including an electricity cable and a drain, were observed cut in to the top of the underlying deposits.
- 3.1.13 The results confirmed the sedimentary sequence seen in Unit 1, where colluvium, overlay the natural periglacial chalk.
- 3.1.14 The colluvium thickened from c 0.2m at the south-western end of the stripped area to c 0.8m at its north eastern end. The colluvium comprised silty clay with chalk inclusions that contained a band of flint nodules towards the base.
- 3.1.15 This band of flint nodules apparently formed the primary fill of the coombe and may well constitute course gravel.
- 3.1.16 The basal periglacial chalk surface contained a number of pockets filled with decalcified material in the south-western part of the site.
- 3.1.17 No archaeological features were observed and no artefacts were recovered.

4 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

4.1 Finds

- 4.1.1 No finds were recovered during the course of the watching brief.

4.2 Environmental samples



- 4.2.1 No deposits appropriate for sampling were observed during the course of the watching brief and accordingly no samples were taken.

5 DISCUSSION

5.1 Conclusion

- 5.1.1 The archaeological watching brief at No 10 Church Road, Idmiston found no archaeological features or deposits within the Site. Despite the limited area of the redevelopment it has been possible to reconstruct the basic character of the location.
- 5.1.2 The composition, extent and condition of the deposits were largely defined by the coombe. Extensive deposits of colluvium have accumulated in the base of this feature and feather out further up the slope. Away from the base of the coombe the deposits are shallower and more typical of soil profiles on Chalk down-land sites.
- 5.1.3 The absence of lynchets, which are likely to have developed relatively easily on this sloping ground, suggests that the coombe was never ploughed. No finds of archaeological interest were discovered.
- 5.1.4 It remains possible that archaeological features were destroyed by previous development and landscaping, although this seems unlikely. The structure that remains on Unit 1 is built on a terrace that has been created in the side of the coombe. The depth of some of the surviving foundations from the greenhouse and sheds may suggest a degree of terracing or levelling in the area of Unit 2, although this is insubstantial.
- 5.1.5 In conclusion the absence of archaeological activity within the coombe may best be attributed to the fact that the Site is located on what was 'marginal' land, on a steeply sloping, north facing location.

6 ARCHIVE

6.1 Preparation and deposition

- 6.1.1 The complete Site archive, which includes paper records, photographic records, and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by the appropriate Museum (Salisbury and South Wiltshire), and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014b; Brown 2011; ADS 2013)
- 6.1.2 The complete Site archive is currently held at the Wessex Archaeology offices in Salisbury under the WA project code 107430.

6.2 Security copy

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.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX 1: OASIS SUMMARY

OASIS ID: wessexar1-211120

Project details

Project name	10 Church Road, Idmiston, Salisbury, Wiltshire
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by MHGL Properties Ltd, on behalf of Hurst Financial Services, to undertake an archaeological watching brief at 10 Church Road, Idmiston, Salisbury, Wiltshire. The watching brief was to fulfil an archaeological condition placed on the consent for a planning application to Wiltshire County Council (13/01181/FUL) The works included the extension of the current dwelling, 10 Church Road and demolition of a garage and outbuildings to create a plot footprint for a new dwelling and detached garage. The watching brief revealed that the base of the coombe, in which Church Road is located, is filled with deposits of colluvium, over 1 m thick. The colluvium feathers out upslope and is replaced by periglacial chalk. No significant archaeological features or deposits were observed during the groundworks.
Project dates	Start: 19-01-2015 End: 11-05-2015
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	107430 - Contracting Unit 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	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WILTSHIRE SALISBURY IDMISTON 10 Church Road
Postcode	SP4 0JU
Study area	0.45 Hectares
Site coordinates	SU 19201 36320 51.1253124067 -1.72559669296 51 07 31 N 001 43 32 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 81.00m Max: 82.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Wiltshire County Council



Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	Andrew Manning
Project supervisor	Rachel Williams
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	MHGL Properties Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Salisbury and South Wilts Museum
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Photograph","Report","Section","Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	10 Church Road, Idmiston, Salisbury, Wiltshire: Archaeological Watching Brief report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Williams, R and Harding, P
Other bibliographic details	107430.03
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Wessex Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Salisbury
Description	Standard soft back illustrated watching brief report, c. 11 pages
Entered by	Andrew Manning (a.manning@wessexarch.co.uk)
Entered on	13 May 2015





- Site
- Existing access/driveway
- Watching brief area

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Site location and watching brief areas

Figure 1



Plate 1: General view of Unit 1 from north-east section



Plate 2: Representative section of Unit 1 from the north-west

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Plate 3: General view of Unit 2 from the south-west



Plate 4: Representative section of Unit 1 from the north-west

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