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Kingsbridge Mead, Stratford Road Stratford sub Castle, Wiltshire

Archaeological Watching Brief



Planning Ref: 15/06126/FUL
Ref: 110750.02
October 2015



**Kingsbridge Mead, Stratford Road
Stratford sub Castle, Wiltshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

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**Report Ref: 110750.02
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Quality Assurance

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Kingsbridge Mead, Stratford Road Stratford sub Castle, Wiltshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

Contents

Summary	iii
Acknowledgements.....	iv
1 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Project background	1
1.2 The Site.....	1
2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	1
2.1 Introduction	1
2.2 Prehistoric	2
2.3 Romano-British	2
2.4 Saxon	2
2.5 Medieval and post-medieval	2
2.6 Post-medieval and modern.....	3
3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	3
4 METHODOLOGY	4
4.1 Introduction	4
4.2 Watching Brief.....	4
4.3 Recording.....	4
5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS.....	4
6 DISCUSSION.....	4
7 STORAGE AND CURATION	5
7.1 Museum	5
7.2 Archive	5
7.3 OASIS	5
7.4 Discard policy	5
7.5 Copyright.....	5
7.6 Security Copy	5
8 REFERENCES.....	6
8.1 Bibliography	6



9	APPENDIX.....	8
9.1	OASIS form.....	8

Figures

Figure 1: Site location plan showing watching brief area

Plates

Cover: Watching brief area, looking north
Plate 1: Excavation of foundation trench, looking south
Plate 2: Typical deposit sequence, looking south-east



Kingsbridge Mead, Stratford Road Stratford sub Castle, Wiltshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

Summary

Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by Mr Knut Dalen to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of a single story rear extension at Kingsbridge Mead, Stratford Road, Stratford sub Castle, Wiltshire (Planning ref. 15/06126/FUL). The watching brief was undertaken on the 15th of September 2015.

The watching brief revealed a simple sequence of natural sand, overlain by 0.7 m of modern made ground and topsoil, which was probably deposited during the construction of Kingsbridge Mead in the late 20th century.

Despite the location of the Site within the known extents of the Romano-British settlement of *Sorviodunum*, no archaeological finds, features, or deposits were noted during the watching brief. The absence of Romano-British remains can be explained by the very limited extent of the groundworks and the fact that the Site is situated 100 m to the south of the principal road through the settlement, which is likely to have been the focus of occupation during this period.



Kingsbridge Mead, Stratford Road Stratford sub Castle, Wiltshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank the Mr Knut Dalen for commissioning and funding the archaeological work. We would also like to thank Clare King (Assistant County Archaeologist for Wiltshire), for her assistance throughout the project.

The watching brief was undertaken by Lee Newton. This report was compiled by Cai Mason. The illustrations were produced by Nancy Dixon. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Bruce Eaton.



Kingsbridge Mead, Stratford Road Stratford sub Castle, Wiltshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by Mr Knut Dalen (hereafter 'the Client') to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of a single-storey rear extension at Kingsbridge Mead, Stratford Road, Stratford sub Castle, Wiltshire (Planning ref. 15/06126/FUL), hereafter referred to as 'the Site' (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 Planning permission for the development was granted on the 13th of August 2015, subject to conditions. Condition 4 stated that a programme of archaeological investigation be undertaken in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI), which was submitted to, and approved by, the Local Planning Authority (LPA) in August 2015 (WA 2015).
- 1.1.3 The WSI outlined the programme of archaeological investigations, which comprised of a watching brief, to be undertaken during all intrusive groundworks. The aim of the watching brief, which was undertaken on the 15th of September 2015, was to identify and record any archaeological remains within the development Site.

1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The Site comprised a 0.15 ha plot, near the centre of Stratford Sub-Castle village, which is situated to the north-west of Salisbury, Wiltshire (centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) SU 13549 31777). Kingsbridge Mead is bounded by Stratford Road to the north, houses fronting Shakespeare Road and Shelley Drive to the south and east, and National Cycle Route 45 to the west.
- 1.2.2 The Site is level and lies at a height of approximately 51 m above Ordnance datum (aOD). The solid geology comprises Cretaceous chalk of the Newhaven Chalk Formation, which is overlain by superficial Quaternary river terrace deposits of sand and gravel (British Geological Survey 2015).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The archaeological background to the Site is drawn from records held by the Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment Record (WSHER) and other primary and secondary sources. Scheduled Monuments are identified by their National Heritage List for England (NHLE) number.

2.2 Prehistoric

- 2.2.1 The Site is situated 0.4 km to the south-west of Old Sarum (NHLE 1015675), a hilltop location that has been occupied from the Neolithic onwards. During the Iron Age, Old Sarum was fortified by constructing a massive double bank and ditch around the hill, with an entrance on the eastern side. At the time of the Roman Conquest, the hillfort at Old Sarum, probably formed part of the territory of the Atrebates.

2.3 Romano-British

- 2.3.1 The Site is situated within the known extents of the Romano-British town of *Sorviodunum* (WCAS 2005, fig 9), parts of which are designated as Scheduled Monuments (NHLE 1004688 and 218545). The line of the principal road through the Romano-British settlement was situated 100 m to the north of the Site. Excavations in and around Stratford sub Castle have shown that the settlement extends for over 1 km along the road frontage. *Sorviodunum* was occupied throughout the Romano-British period.

2.4 Saxon

- 2.4.1 Old Sarum was purportedly captured by Cynric, King of Wessex in AD 552, and it remained part of the Kingdom of Wessex thereafter. The settlement appears to have been largely abandoned until the 9th century, when Viking invasions led King Alfred to restore its fortifications. By this date the settlement was known as *Searoburh* (WCC 2011).
- 2.4.2 In the early 9th century, it was a frequent residence of Egbert of Wessex, and in 960, King Edgar assembled a national council there to plan a defence against the Danes in the north. In 1003, the residents of *Searoburh* and Wilton fled an attack by King Sweyn Forkbeard, who burnt and sacked both settlements. Wilton's mint was subsequently moved to *Searoburh*.
- 2.4.3 There are no records of Saxon activity in the immediate vicinity of the Site.

2.5 Medieval and post-medieval

- 2.5.1 Four years after the Norman Conquest of 1066, William I constructed a motte-and-bailey castle in the centre of Old Sarum, and in 1075, the Council of London established Herman as the first Bishop of Salisbury. He, together with Saint Osmund, began the construction the first Salisbury Cathedral, but neither lived to see its completion in 1092.
- 2.5.2 Stratford (sub Castle) is not specifically listed in the Domesday Book of 1086, but it is recorded in a 1091 document. The name refers to the point where the Roman road crosses the Avon. The medieval settlement of Stratford sub Castle was focussed in an area approximately 1 km to the north of the Site.
- 2.5.3 Two other national councils were held at Old Sarum: one by William Rufus in 1096 and another by Henry I in 1116; the latter has sometimes been described as the first English parliament.
- 2.5.4 Salisbury Cathedral was consecrated on the 5th of April 1092, but suffered extensive damage in a storm. The cathedral was extended in the 1110s. These works doubled the cathedral's original length and involved large-scale levelling of the north-west quadrant of the town.
- 2.5.5 The late 12th-century canon Peter of Blois describes his prebendary as 'barren, dry, and solitary' and other records suggest that clerics brawled openly with the garrison troops. This led to Bishop Herbert receiving permission from King Richard I to move the

Cathedral. Pope Honorius III thereupon issued an indulgence to relocate the cathedral on the 29th of March 1217. The settlement that grew up around the new cathedral was called New Salisbury.

2.6 Post-medieval and modern

- 2.6.1 During the post-medieval period Stratford sub Castle gradually expanded southwards along Stratford Road, and by the time Andrews and Dury's Map of Wiltshire was surveyed in 1773, there were scattered cottages along the Stratford Road frontage as far south as the Site.
- 2.6.2 The 1881 Ordnance Survey (OS) 1:2500 plan shows a building within the Site adjacent to the Stratford Road frontage. The rest of the Site lay within a garden of another property, which is identified on the 1926 and 1936 1:2500 OS plans as 'The Wilderness'. The 1982 1:2500 OS plan shows that by this date, The Wilderness and the building on the Stratford Road frontage, had both been demolished and replaced by modern detached houses.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1.1 With due regard to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standards and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 2014b), the aims of the watching brief were to establish the presence/absence of any archaeological remains on the Site, and to record them prior to their destruction.
- 3.1.2 Prior to the commencement of works, a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) (WA 2015) was written which set out the agreed aims of the archaeological watching brief and the methods by which these aims would be achieved.
- 3.1.3 The overall objectives of the watching brief were to:
- *to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works; including*
 - *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, state of preservation and significance of the remains and to place them within their historical context; and*
 - *To determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present.*
 - *to provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard; and*

- To prepare a report on the results of the watching brief.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 All works were carried out in accordance with the WSI (WA 2015) and the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014b).

4.2 Watching Brief

- 4.2.1 The watching brief comprised monitoring topsoil stripping and the excavation of a 0.6 m wide and 1m deep foundation trench for the new extension to Kingsbridge Mead. All groundwork was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision using a tracked excavator fitted with a toothless bucket.
- 4.2.2 Where practicable and safe to do so, all archaeological deposits and features were manually cleaned by the attending archaeologist, planned and/or drawn in section, and located on a site plan. All spoil was scanned for artefacts.

4.3 Recording

- 4.3.1 Recording of exposed deposits and features was undertaken using WA's *pro forma* recording sheets, with all features and deposits being assigned a unique context number. Representative soil profile sections were drawn to appropriate scales and located on the site plan.
- 4.3.2 A full photographic record of the fieldwork was made using a Pentax K50 digital camera with a 16 megapixel image sensor. The photographic record illustrated the general context of construction works, exposed features and deposits and general views of the Site as a whole. The digital images will be subject to managed quality control and curation processes which will embed appropriate metadata within the image and ensure long term accessibility of the image set.
- 4.3.3 The location of the excavated trenches was recorded in relation to the existing building, and related to the British National Grid coordinate system.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

- 5.1.1 The watching brief revealed a simple sequence of soft natural yellowish brown sand (**103** and **203**), overlain by 0.3-0.4 m of modern made ground (**102** and **202**), which comprised yellowish brown sand and clay with flint pebble, brick and tile inclusions. The made ground was sealed by a 0.2-0.4 m thick layer of imported mid brown silty clay topsoil (**101** and **201**). **Plate 1** shows a typical deposit sequence.

6 DISCUSSION

- 6.1.1 The watching brief demonstrated that natural deposits in this part of Stratford sub Castle are overlain by up to 0.7 m of modern made ground and topsoil, which were probably deposited during the construction of Kingsbridge Mead.
- 6.1.2 Despite the location of the Site within the known extents of the Romano-British settlement of *Sorviodunum*, no archaeological finds, features or deposits were noted during the watching brief. The absence of Romano-British remains is probably explained by the very limited extent of the groundworks, and the fact that the Site is situated 100 m to the south of the principal Roman road through the settlement.



- 6.1.3 Excavations at Portway Lodge (WA 2008) and 24 Shakespeare Road (McConnell and Mathews 2003) produced similarly negative results. These sites are also situated approximately 100 m to the south of the Roman road, which suggests that the road is likely to have been the main focus of activity during the Romano-British period. It should however, be noted that the above investigations were all very limited in extent, and it remains possible that there are other unidentified areas of Romano-British activity away from the road frontage.

7 STORAGE AND CURATION

7.1 Museum

- 7.1.1 With the full agreement of the landowner the project archive will be deposited for long-term storage with Wiltshire Heritage Museum. Prior to deposition the archive will be temporarily stored at Wessex Archaeology's offices in Salisbury under Site Code 110750.

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 Wiltshire Heritage Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

7.3 OASIS

- 7.3.1 An OASIS online record has been initiated for the work and key fields in regard of the evaluation has been entered under OASIS ID wessexar1-225842. All appropriate parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to the Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment Record. This will include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy will also be included with the archive).

7.4 Discard policy

- 7.4.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal* (SMA 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.

7.5 Copyright

- 7.5.1 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-profit making, and conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights* regulations 2003.

7.6 Security Copy

- 7.6.1 In line with current best practice (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.

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9 APPENDIX

9.1 OASIS form

OASIS ID: wessexar1-225842

Project details

Project name	Watching Brief at Kingsbridge Mead, Stratford Road, Stratford sub Castle, Wiltshire
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of a single story rear extension at Kingsbridge Mead, Stratford Road, Stratford sub Castle, Wiltshire. The watching brief revealed a simple sequence of natural sand, overlain by 0.7 m of modern made ground, which was probably deposited during the construction of Kingsbridge Mead in the late 20th century. Despite the location of the Site within the known extents of the Romano-British settlement of Sorviodunum, no archaeological finds, features or deposits were noted during the watching brief. The absence of Romano-British remains can probably be explained by the very limited extent of the groundworks and the fact that the Site is situated 100 m to the south of the principal road through the settlement, which is likely to have been the focus of occupation during this period.
Project dates	Start: 15-09-2015 End: 15-09-2015
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	110750 - Sitecode
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 SALISBURY SALISBURY Kingsbridge Mead, Stratford Road, Stratford sub Castle
Postcode	SP1 3LB
Study area	0.15 Hectares
Site coordinates	SU 13549 31777 51.084618548056 -1.806539980246 51 05 04 N 001 48 23 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
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Project brief originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	Bruce Eaton
Project supervisor	Lee Newton
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

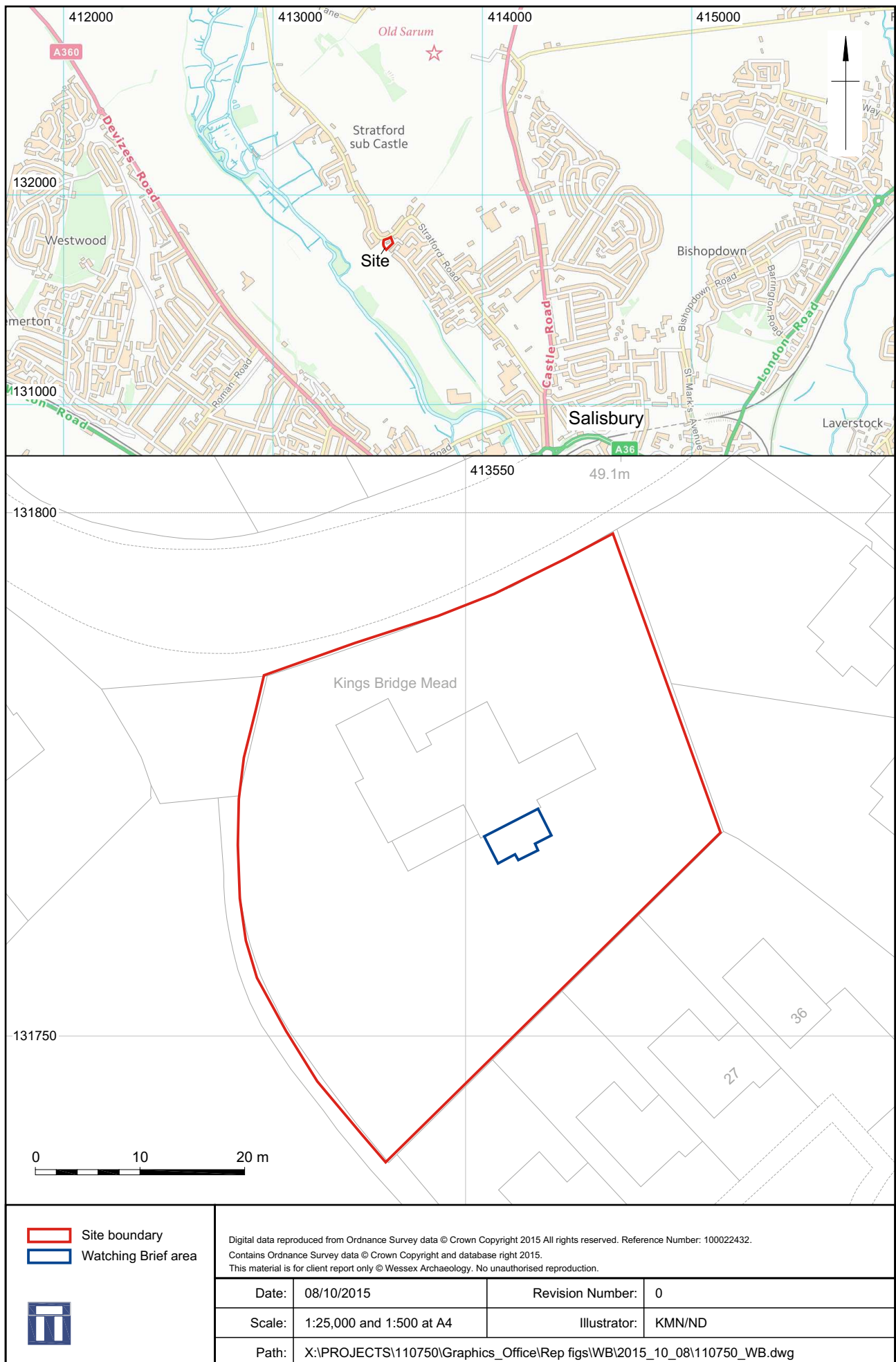
Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Wessex Archaeology
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Wessex Archaeology
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Notebook - Excavation", " Research", " General Notes", "Report"

Project bibliography

1

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Site location plan showing watching brief area


Figure 1



Plate 1: Excavation of foundation trench, looking south



Plate 2: Typical deposit sequence, looking south-east

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