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The Old Rectory Winterbourne Stoke, Wiltshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report



Planning Reference: 14/07761/FUL
Ref: 107220.01
October 2015



**The Old Rectory
Winterbourne Stoke, Wiltshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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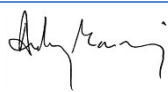
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**WA ref. 107220.01
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Quality Assurance

Project Code	107220	Accession Code		Client Ref.	
Planning Application Ref.	14/07761/FUL	Ordnance Survey (OS) national grid reference (NGR)	407790 140710		

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The Old Rectory Winterbourne Stoke, Wiltshire

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The Old Rectory Winterbourne Stoke, Wiltshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by The Classic Architecture Company, on behalf of Mr Jonathan Dutton, to undertake an archaeological watching brief on land at the Old Rectory Winterbourne Stoke, Wiltshire. The archaeological watching brief comprised of the monitoring of the excavation of below ground excavations to create a terraced landscape and for a croquet lawn. The work was undertaken on the 20th, 28th- 30th January and the 2nd and 3rd of February 2015.

A single pit was discovered during the course of the watching brief. It contained two pieces of peg tile which suggest a 19th century date for the feature. No other archaeological material was discovered.



The Old Rectory Winterbourne Stoke, Wiltshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank James Cox of The Classic Architecture Company who commissioned the work on behalf of Mr Jonathan Dutton. The help and assistance of Lee (J.Pyke) was greatly appreciated during ground works. We would also like to thank Claire King of Wiltshire County Council for her assistance throughout the project.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Mike Dinwiddy, Pete Fairclough, and Simon Flaherty. The report was written by Simon Flaherty and Ruth Panes and edited by Andrew Manning. The illustrations were drawn by Nancy Dixon. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Andy Crockett.



The Old Rectory Winterbourne Stoke, Wiltshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology were commissioned by Mr Jonathon Dutton (the Client), through his agent The Classic Architecture Company (the Consultant), to undertake an archaeological watching brief on land at the Old Rectory, Church Street, Winterbourne Stoke, Wiltshire, SP3 4SW centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 407790 140710 (hereafter the Site) (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The Site was the subject of planning proposals and planning permission (14/07761/FUL) was granted by Wiltshire Council for the following developments on condition (Condition 5) that a programme of archaeological work was undertaken as part of the proposed works which comprised of:

- *the construction of a retaining wall;*
- *a reduction in site levels;*
- *the construction of 2 flights of steps between levels and terrace;*
- *the addition of porch over the back door;*
- *the removal of yew adjacent to drive;*
- *the construction of gate piers and gates; and*
- *the construction of a greenhouse with cold frames to the North of house.*

1.1.3 The condition (condition 5) specified that;

'No development shall commence within the area indicated (proposed development site) until:

- A written programme of archaeological investigation, which should include on-site work 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; and
- The approved programme of archaeological work has been carried out in accordance with the approved details.

REASON: To enable the recording of any matters of archaeological interest'



- 1.1.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (WA 2014) for the Site detailing the methodologies and standards to be employed in order to undertake the watching brief was issued and approved by the Wiltshire Assistant County Archaeologist in November 2014.
- 1.1.5 The archaeological works comprised of the maintenance of an archaeological watching brief during all groundworks undertaken beneath the present ground surface.
- 1.1.6 The work was undertaken on the 20th, 28th to the 30th January and the 2nd and 3rd of February 2015.

1.2 The site

- 1.2.1 The Site comprises an area of land measuring c. 1.79 ha located to the north of St. Peter's Church and to the east of Church Street within the village of Winterbourne Stoke (**Figure 1**).
- 1.2.2 The Site lies on slightly undulating ground at a height of c. 90 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), on the eastern side of the Till Valley.
- 1.2.3 The underlying geology of the Site is Upper Chalk which gives rise to drift Valley Gravels (BGS 2015).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The Site lies within an area of enhanced archaeological potential, with known medieval settlement remains located on all sides of the Site. To the immediate south lies the Parish Church of St Peter, this was built in the late 12th century to 13th century and restored during the 14th century. The church is of the traditional cruciform plan, comprising of an unaisled 12th century nave, north and south transept chapels to 13th century crossings, and a chancel rebuilt during the early 19th century with a lean-to south organ recess. A font in the church dates to 12th century. The Wiltshire Historic Environment Record (WHER) reveals there are a number of other Listed Buildings located in the village.
- 2.1.2 In a broader context, the landscape around Winterbourne Stoke contains numerous both extant and denuded round barrows of a broad Bronze Age date, reflecting the location of the village very much within the archaeological landscape of Stonehenge, even though outside the boundary of the World Heritage Site designated area.
- 2.1.3 The WHER indicates the closest barrow group is the Winterbourne Stoke West round barrow cemetery (SM 1015019) approximately 1 km to the north on the eastern slope of High Down overlooking the River Till, and comprising eight bowl barrows, three disc barrows, two pond barrows and one saucer barrow – all surviving as extant earthworks.
- 2.1.4 Most of the barrows are enclosed within a later irregularly shaped earthwork embankment known as the Coniger (and also covered under the scheduling). Dating for this monument is uncertain, though it clearly post-dates the barrow cemetery. Etymology¹ would suggest the Coniger was constructed to utilise the barrow cemetery as an pseudo-artificial rabbit warren, and hence likely to be no earlier than Anglo-Norman, and potentially even post-medieval (Smythe Palmer 1882).

¹ Derived from *cony-garth*, *conegar* or *coneygree*, itself originating from the monastic Latin term *cunicularium* (pertaining to the rabbit)



3 METHODOLOGY

3.1.1 General aims and objectives

3.1.2 The aims of the watching brief were:

- *to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains, and, should 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 and discuss the results in relation to their wider historical context*

3.1.3 Fieldwork methodology

3.1.4 All works were undertaken in accordance with the methodology set out within the WSI (WA 2014) and in compliance with the ClfA's *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (ClfA 2014a), excepting where they were superseded by statements made below.

3.1.5 Prior to machining, the Site was scanned by the principal contractor using a cable avoidance tool. The site was excavated under constant archaeological supervision using a tracked mechanical excavator employing a toothless ditching bucket.

3.1.6 A complete drawn record of archaeological features and deposits was compiled and included both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections), and with reference to a site grid tied to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD) height of all principal features and levels was calculated and plans/sections were annotated with OD heights.

3.1.7 All potential features and deposits of possible archaeological origin were partially excavated to ascertain their nature and function and were fully recorded using WA's *pro forma* recording system. All deposits were assigned a unique number and soil descriptions were based on the *Soil Science Handbook*.

3.1.8 A photographic record was maintained during the watching brief using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images have been 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 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The following sections provide a summary of the information held in the site archive. Details of individual excavated contexts and features are retained in the site archive.

4.2 Natural deposits and soil sequences

4.2.1 The natural stratigraphy varied slightly across Site the towards the western and northern side of the slope a 0.12 m layer of topsoil comprising of a silty loam with flint inclusions. This sat upon the compacted plated chalk natural with flint inclusions. The soil sequence changed slightly on the south western corner of site (**Plate 1**), it was situated upslope from the previous interventions and comprised of a topsoil that was up to 0.23 m thick. This sat upon a layer of subsoil/colluvium that was up to 0.25 m and was a mid brown grey silty loam with chalk and flint inclusions. The natural chalk was encountered here at a depth of 0.48 m.

4.3 Post-medieval

4.3.1 A single Post-medieval Pit, **109 (Figure 1, Plate 2)**, was encountered during the watching brief, it had a width of 1 m and was 1.3 m deep, with straight steep sides and a concave base. The pit contained two pieces of peg tile that date the feature to the 19th century. The pit was only partially exposed within the section of the eastern side of the excavation area.

5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Two pieces of peg tile were recovered from layer **110** within Pit **109**. The peg tile is post-medieval and dates to the 19th century.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1.1 No material suitable for environmental analysis was present within the monitored areas

7 CONCLUSION

7.1.1 A single Pit **109** was encountered during the watching brief that dates to the 19th century. The location of Pit **109** in close proximity to the rectory building suggests it may be associated with the rectory building. There were no other deposits or features of archaeological interest encountered during the course of the watching brief. This suggests that the feature was isolated, although it was encountered at the eastern edge of the strip and was only partially exposed. The lack of any further archaeological features identified and the soil sequence observed on the Site also indicates that there has been limited archaeological activity within the area monitored during the watching brief works, despite the fact the is located within an area of high archaeological potential.

8 STORAGE AND CURATION

8.1 Museum

8.1.1 The site falls within the collecting area of the Salisbury Museum, which at present is not accepting archaeological archives. The project archive will therefore be retained at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury until such time as this situation can be resolved.



8.2 Archive

- 8.2.1 The complete site archive, which may 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 the Salisbury Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014b; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 8.2.2 An OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/projects/oasis/> 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 Wiltshire HER. A copy of the OASIS entry has been included in this report (Appendix 1).
- 8.2.3 All archive elements will be marked with the **107220** code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following:
- 01 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts & ecofacts, ordered by material type
 - 01 files/document cases of paper records & A3/A4 graphics

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 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.

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

9.1 Bibliography

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10 APPENDIX 1: OASIS REPORT

OASIS ID: wessexar1-226029

Project details

Project name	The Old Rectory, Winterbourne Stoke, Wiltshire
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by The Classic Architecture Company, on behalf of Mr Jonathan Dutton, to undertake an archaeological watching brief on land at the Old Rectory Winterbourne Stoke, Wiltshire. The archaeological watching brief comprised of the monitoring of the excavation of below ground excavations to create a terraced landscape and for a croquet lawn. The work was undertaken on the 20th, 28th- 30th January and the 2nd and 3rd of February 2015. A single pit was discovered during the course of the watching brief. It contained two pieces of peg tile which suggest a 19th century date for the feature. No other archaeological material was discovered.
Project dates	Start: 20-01-2015 End: 03-02-2015
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	107220 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	PEG TILE Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WILTSHIRE SALISBURY WINTERBOURNE STOKE The Old Rectory, Church Street, Winterbourne Stoke, Wiltshire
Postcode	SP3 4SW
Study area	1.79 Hectares



Site coordinates SU 407750 140740 50.924129223265 -1.419795864899 50 55 26
N 001 25 11 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 90m Max: 90m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	A Crockett
Project supervisor	Mike Dinwiddy
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mr. J. Dutton

Project archives

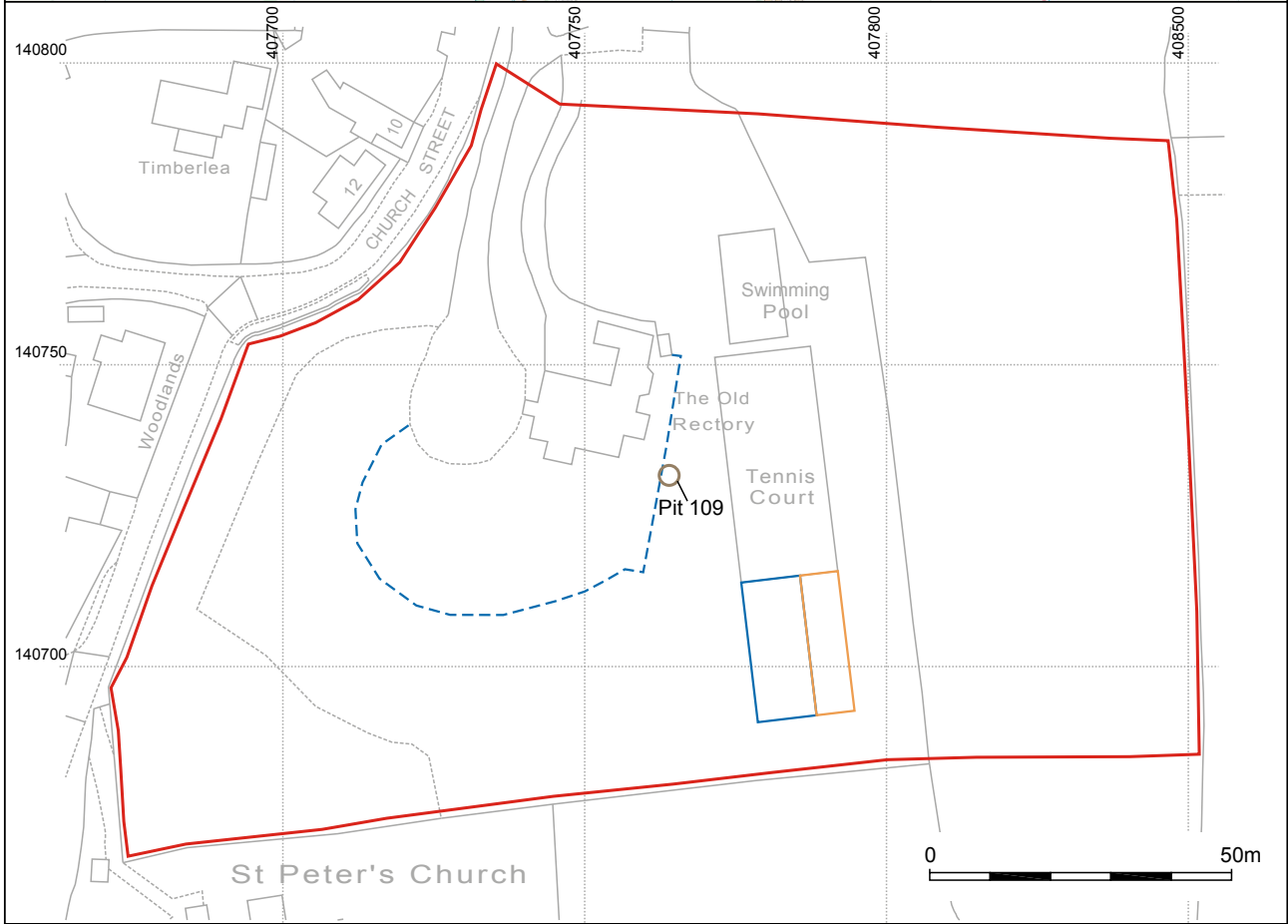
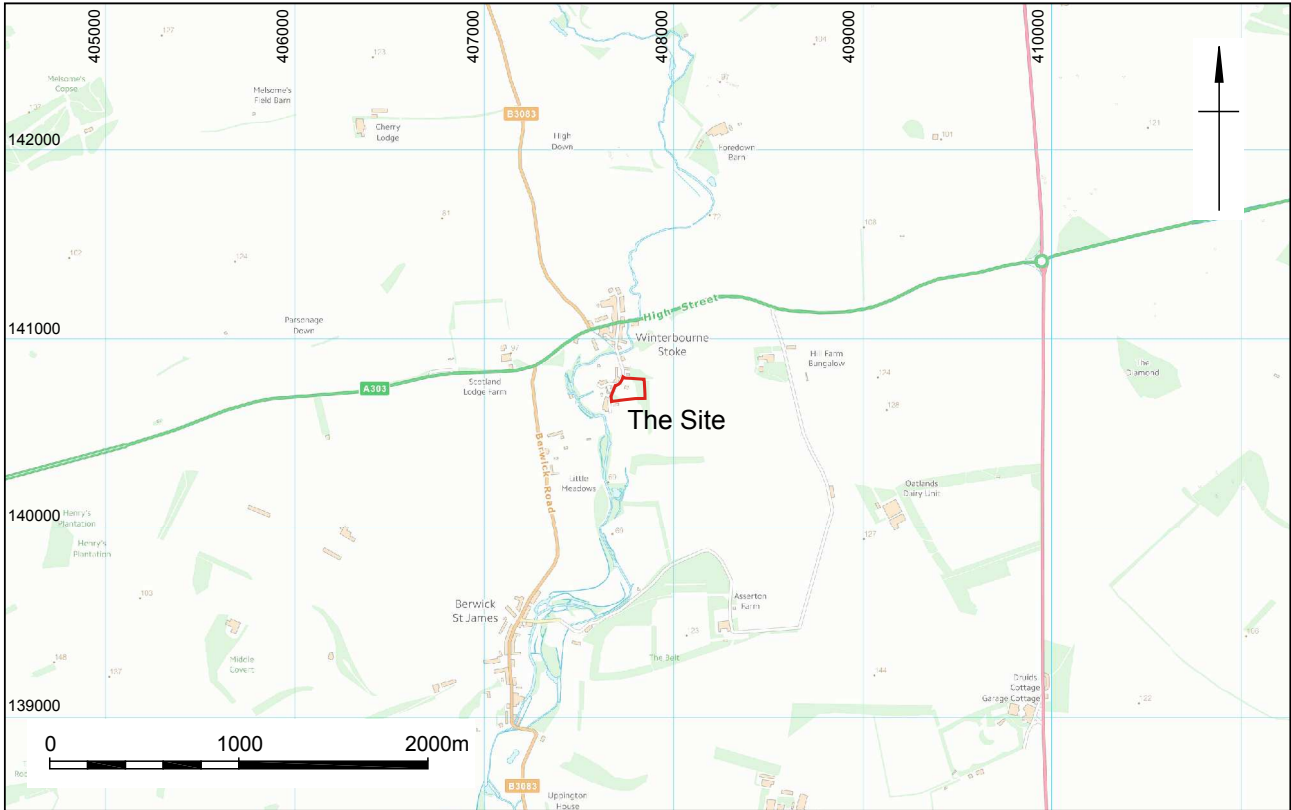
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Not yet transferred
Digital Archive ID	107220
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Not yet transferred
Paper Archive ID	107220
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Notebook - Excavation", ' Research', ' General Notes', "Report", "Section"



**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	The Old Rectory, Winterbourne Stoke, Wiltshire; Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Wessex Archaeology
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Entered on	8 October 2015



- Site outline
- Watched areas
- Stripped area



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Site location plan and watching brief areas


Figure 1



Plate 1: North facing representative section within proposed croquet lawn



Plate 2: West facing section of Pit 109

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