



The Former Royal British Legion, Rodway Road Patchway, South Gloucestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief



South Gloucestershire Planning Application: PT15/5099/F
Accession Number: tbc
Ref: 114780.02
November 2016



**The Former Royal British Legion, Rodway Road,
Patchway, South Gloucestershire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

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**WA Ref:114780.02
South Gloucestershire Planning Application: PT15/5099/F**



Quality Assurance

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The Former Royal British Legion, Rodway Road, Patchway, South Gloucestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief

Contents

Summary	iii
Acknowledgements.....	iv
1 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Project background	1
1.2 The Site.....	1
2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	2
2.1 Introduction	2
2.2 Prehistoric and Romano-British	2
2.3 Saxon and medieval.....	2
2.4 Post-medieval and modern.....	2
3 METHODOLOGY.....	2
3.1 Aims and objectives	2
3.2 Fieldwork methodology	3
4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS.....	3
4.1 Introduction	3
4.2 Stratigraphic Summary.....	3
5 STORAGE AND CURATION	4
5.1 Museum	4
5.2 Archive	4
5.3 Storage	4
5.4 Discard policy.....	4
5.5 Copyright.....	4
5.6 Security Copy.....	4
6 REFERENCES.....	5
6.1 Bibliography	5
7 APPENDICES.....	6
7.1 Appendix 1: OASIS	6



Figures

Figure 1: Site and trench location plan

Plates

Plate 1: Representative section of foundation trenches

Plate 2: Typical foundation trench



The Former Royal British Legion, Rodway Road, Patchway, South Gloucestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by MCDI Homes Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with redevelopment at the former Royal British Legion centre on Rodway Road, Patchway, South Gloucestershire.

The watching brief took place on the 25th October 2016, no features or deposits of archaeological significance were encountered.



The Former Royal British Legion, Rodway Road, Patchway, South Gloucestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief

Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by MCDI Homes Ltd. The fieldwork was undertaken by Mike Fleming. The report was compiled by Sam Fairhead with illustrations by Nancy Dixon.

The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Bruce Eaton.



The Former Royal British Legion, Rodway Road, Patchway, South Gloucestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by MCDI Homes Ltd (hereafter 'the Client') to undertake an archaeological watching brief to monitor groundworks during proposed redevelopment at the former Royal British Legion centre, Rodway Road, Patchway, South Gloucestershire, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 360022 181514 (hereafter 'the Site').
- 1.1.2 A planning application for the 'demolition of existing building and erection of eight dwellings with parking, landscaping and associated works.' was submitted by the Client on 25th November 2015 (South Gloucestershire Council Planning Application Ref: PT15/5099/F) and planning permission was subsequently granted on 11th December 2015.
- 1.1.3 Due to the proximity of the Site to Filton Airfield, and given the results from previous investigations there, the South Gloucestershire County Archaeological Officer (SGCAO), imposed Condition 3 on the planning permission, which stated;

'Prior to the commencement of development a programme of archaeological investigation and recording for the site shall be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority. Thereafter, the approved programme shall be implemented in all respects, unless the Local Planning Authority agrees in writing to any variation.'

Reason

In the interest of archaeological investigation or recording, and to accord with Policy CS9 of the South Gloucestershire Local Plan: Core Strategy (Adopted) December 2013 and the National Planning Policy Framework.'

- 1.1.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared and submitted to the SGCAO for approval prior to the commencement of fieldwork (WA 2016).
- 1.1.5 The watching brief took place on the 25th October 2016.

1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The Site was located on the south side of Rodway Road, in the centre of the Bristol suburb of Patchway. Prior to the current development the Site comprised single-storey late twentieth-century buildings on the eastern and southern part, latterly in use by the Royal British Legion, as well as hard-standing for car parking.
- 1.2.2 The underlying geology was limestone and mudstone of the Westbury Formation and Cotham Member (British Geological Survey 2014). The Site was fairly level at a height of c. 78 m above Ordnance Datum (OD).



2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The following section provides a summary of the archaeological and historical background of the Site, and draws on various online resources as well as a DBA undertaken by Wessex Archaeology for the Filton Aerodrome site to the south-west (WA 2012).

2.2 Prehistoric and Romano-British

- 2.2.1 A number of cropmarks were noted at Filton airfield to the south of the Site, including a potential Neolithic enclosure and possible pits and ring ditches (SGHER 8729). There have been several isolated flint findspots in the surrounding area and a tumulus was recorded 1.3 km to the west.
- 2.2.2 An Iron Age settlement (SGHER 11299), comprising a roundhouse, pits and postholes, surrounded by substantial enclosure ditch and field system, was identified at Cribbs Causeway, 2 km to the south-west of the Site.
- 2.2.3 The modern B4055 Station Road and the A4018 Cribbs Causeway may follow the line of the principal Roman road (SGHER 11108) between *Portus Abonae* (Seamills) and *Glevum Colonia* (Gloucester), approximately 2.4 km to the west of the Site.

2.3 Saxon and medieval

- 2.3.1 Charlton village, the centre of which now lies beneath the runway of Filton Aerodrome, was mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086. This suggests that the settlement is likely to have existed by the Late Saxon period.
- 2.3.2 Dating from at least the 13th century, Over Deer Park (SGHER 2845) was located to the west of the Site. Probable ridge and furrow earthworks have also been noted at Filton Aerodrome.

2.4 Post-medieval and modern

- 2.4.1 The most significant changes to the surrounding landscape were the construction of the Bristol and South Wales Union railway line and Patchway station to the east of the Site in the mid-19th century, and the development of Filton Aerodrome to the south of the Site from 1911 onwards.
- 2.4.2 The first edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1881 shows that the Site was part of an agricultural field, probably for Callicroft Farm situated to the north-west. It appears that it stayed agricultural in nature until after WWII when Patchway rapidly expanded as a residential suburb of Bristol.
- 2.4.3 The war memorial to the front of the Royal British Legion site was considered for Listing as part of the English Heritage's First World War Commemoration Project in 2015.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims and objectives

- 3.1.1 With due regard to the ClfA's *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014a), the principle aim of an archaeological watching brief is to record the archaeological resource during development within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices, and in compliance with the *Code of conduct* and other relevant by-laws of ClfA.



3.1.2 In furtherance of the project aim, the following objectives were defined:

- *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*

3.2 Fieldwork methodology

3.2.1 A detailed description of the watching brief methodology is set out in the WSI (WA 2016).

3.2.2 The fieldwork consisted of the monitoring of groundwork and ground reduction, including service runs by at least one experienced archaeologist subject to the number of site operations being undertaken at any one time. The mechanical excavation was, where possible, undertaken using a toothless ditching bucket and under constant supervision by WA. Machine excavation proceeded to the required construction levels or the top of archaeological levels whichever was the higher. Where practicable and without causing unreasonable delay to the groundwork programme, groundwork was temporarily halted whilst investigations were carried out by WA staff.

3.2.3 A full photographic record was maintained using digital cameras, and archaeological features and deposits were surveyed using a GPS and related to Ordnance Survey.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 No features or deposits of archaeological significance were encountered during the groundworks.

4.2 Stratigraphic Summary

4.2.1 The natural geology, typically encountered at 0.3m below ground level (bgl), consisted of mid yellowish-grey clay with common small and medium sub-angular limestone cobble inclusions. The natural geological deposits were directly overlain by a layer of made ground 0.2-0.3m thick and made up of dark greyish-brown clay and 19th/20th century rubble and rubbish. The existing carpark tarmac surface was laid on top of this made ground.



5 STORAGE AND CURATION

5.1 Museum

5.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the watching brief will be deposited with Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery as the designated repository. The Curator of Archaeology was contacted in advance of the fieldwork for an accession number/Site code and to obtain information regarding the appropriate archive preparation standards. Deposition of any finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

5.2 Archive

5.2.1 The complete Site archive, which will 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 appropriate Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; Brown 2011; ADS 2013; ClfA 2014b).

5.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the Site/accession code (tbc) and a full index will be prepared.

5.2.3 The site archive will be prepared for long-term storage in accordance with current guidelines (e.g. Walker 1990; MGC 1994 *etc.*). It is proposed in principle that, subject to the wishes of the landowner, the entire archive will be donated to and deposited with Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery.

5.3 Storage

5.3.1 Until final deposition with the museum the archive will be stored at the offices of WA Western Region in Bristol.

5.4 Discard policy

5.4.1 WA follows the guidelines set out in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections* (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 is documented in the project archive.

5.5 Copyright

5.5.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the site will be retained by WA 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*.

5.6 Security Copy

5.6.1 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.



6 REFERENCES

6.1 Bibliography

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7 APPENDICES

7.1 Appendix 1: OASIS

OASIS ID: wessexar1-261904

Project details

Project name	The Royal British Legion, Rodway Road,
Short description of the project	Watching brief on groundworks associated with development of the former Royal British Legion, Rodway Road, Patchway. No archaeology encountered
Project dates	Start: 25-10-2016 End: 25-10-2016
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	PT15/5099/F - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	114780 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	CBM Modern
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE PATCHWAY The Former Royal British Legion, Rodway Road
Postcode	BS34 5PE
Study area	0.13 Hectares
Site coordinates	ST 60022 81514 51.530637666767 -2.576390188152 51 31 50 N 002 34 35 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 77.7m Max: 77.7m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	MCDI Homes Limited



Project design originator Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager Bruce Eaton
Project supervisor Michael Fleming
Type of sponsor/funding body Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body MCDI Homes Limited

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
Physical Archive recipient Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery
Digital Archive recipient South Gloucestershire HER
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery
Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Notebook - Excavation", "Research", "General Notes", "Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title The Former Royal British Legion, Rodway Road, Patchway, South Gloucestershire. Archaeological Watching Brief
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Entered on 3 November 2016



Site and trench location

Figure 1



Plate 1: Representative section of foundation trenches

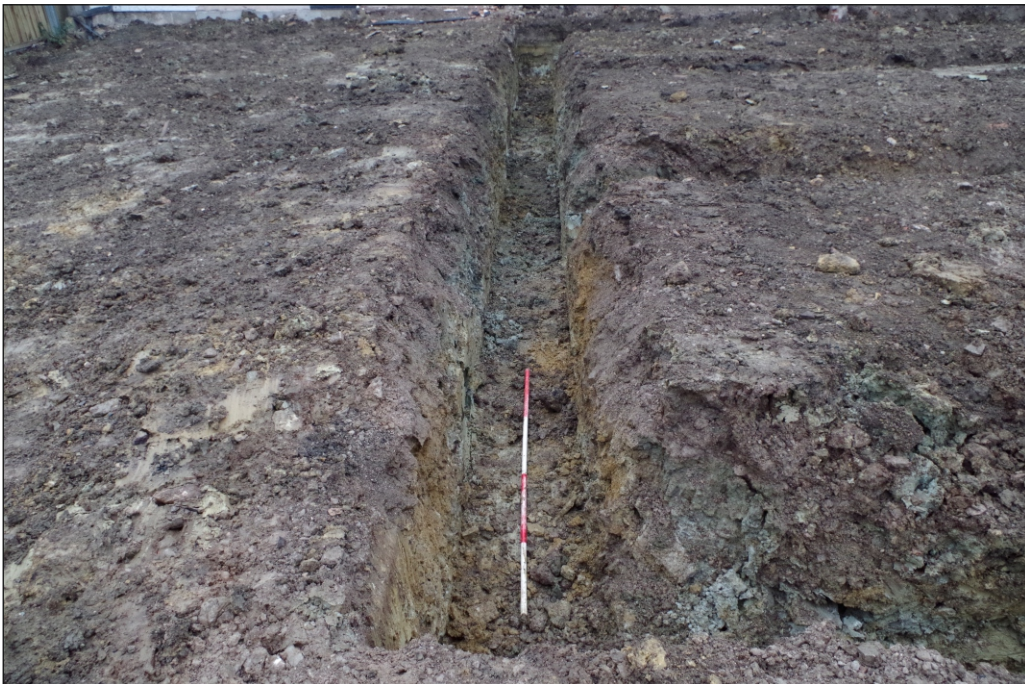



Plate 2: Typical foundation trench

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