



Castle Close Pound Lane, Wareham, Dorset

Archaeological Targeted Excavation Report



Planning Ref: 6/2015/0480
Ref: 11170.02
September 2016



**Castle Close
Pound Lane, Wareham
Dorset**

Archaeological Targeted Excavation Report

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September 2016

Report Ref 11170.02



Quality Assurance

Project Code	111170	Accession Code	tbc	Client Ref.	
Planning Application Ref.	6/2015/0480	Ordnance Survey (OS) national grid reference (NGR)	392181 087189		

Version	Status*	Prepared by	Checked and Approved By	Approver's Signature	Date
v01	F	G Wakeham	BME		19/09/2016
File:	\\projectserver\wessex\Projects\111170\ Reports				
File:					
File:					
File:					
File:					

* I = Internal Draft; E = External Draft; F = Final

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Castle Close Pound Lane, Wareham Dorset

Archaeological Targeted Excavation Report

Contents

Summary	iii
Acknowledgements.....	iv
1 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Project background	1
1.2 Site location, topography and geology.....	1
2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	1
2.1 Introduction	1
2.2 Prehistoric and Romano-British	2
2.3 Saxon and medieval.....	2
2.4 Post-medieval, 19th century and modern	3
2.5 Previous investigations.....	3
3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	3
4 METHODOLOGY	4
4.1 Introduction	4
4.2 Health and Safety.....	4
4.3 Excavation methodology	4
4.4 Artefacts and ecofacts.....	4
5 RESULTS	4
6 ARTEFACTUAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE	5
6.1 Finds	5
6.2 Environmental	5
7 DISCUSSION.....	5
8 STORAGE AND CURATION	5
8.1 Museum	5
8.2 Preparation and deposition of archive	5
8.3 OASIS record	6
8.4 Security Copy.....	6
8.5 Discard policy.....	6
8.6 Copyright.....	6



9	REFERENCES.....	7
	Online resources.....	8
10	APPENDICES.....	9
10.1	Appendix 1: context summary table.....	9
10.2	Appendix 2: OASIS summary form.....	10

Figures

Figure 1: Site location plan

Plates

Plate 1: General view of excavated area from the east (1m and 2m scales)
Plate 2: View from the north showing exposed modern brick foundations (0.5m and 2m scales)
Plate 3: East facing section showing water pipe and modern foundation trench cutting deposit 102 (1m scale)

Front cover: Working shot of machine removal of modern paving



Castle Close Pound Lane, Wareham Dorset

Archaeological Targeted Excavation Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by The Classic Architecture Company to undertake an archaeological watching brief and targeted excavation during the demolition, relocation and construction of a new porch at the modern dwelling of Castle Close, Pound Lane, Wareham, Dorset centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 392181 087189. The archaeological excavation was completed on the 9th November 2015.

The site is located within the boundary of a Scheduled Monument (no. 1003574) comprising part of the Anglo-Saxon town defences and part of the medieval motte and bailey castle; the sub-surface remains of the stone keep are known to lie in the locality of the present property. Therefore Scheduled Monument Consent was necessarily obtained and a programme of archaeological works was agreed.

Despite the high potential for associated buried archaeological remains to be present, no significant archaeological features or deposits were present within the small excavated area, which measured 3.6 m by 1.8 m by 0.46 m deep. Beneath the modern paved ground surface, an overburden deposit consisting of a dark sandy silty clay was the only deposit revealed, from which no archaeological finds were recovered. Although this overburden deposit is undated, it is likely to be a post-medieval soil and was observed to be cut by the foundations for the existing early 20th century house.

No earlier archaeological features, deposits or finds were uncovered within the confines of the investigation that could be associated with the medieval and Saxon scheduled remains known to exist within the Site. It is probable that if such remains survive within this specific locality they are likely to exist at a slightly greater depth i.e. more than 0.46 m below present ground level.



Castle Close Pound Lane, Wareham Dorset

Archaeological Targeted Excavation Report

Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by The Classic Architecture Company, and Wessex Archaeology are particularly grateful to John Sykes in this regard. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Keith Miller (Historic England Regional Inspector of Ancient Monuments) and Steve Wallis (Principle Archaeologist, Dorset County Council) who monitored the archaeological investigation.

The watching brief was undertaken by Matt Kendall. This report was written by Gail Wakeham. Report graphics were prepared by Nancy Dixon. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Bruce Eaton.



Castle Close Pound Lane, Wareham Dorset

Archaeological Targeted Excavation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by The Classic Architecture Company to carry out an archaeological watching brief and targeted excavation during the demolition of an existing porch and construction of a new porch at Castle Close, Pound Lane, Wareham, Dorset centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 392181, 087189 (hereafter the 'Site') (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 The Site is located within the boundary of a nationally important Scheduled Monument (no. 1003574) '*Part of the defences of the Anglo-Saxon fortified centre of Wareham and part of the motte and bailey castle with shell keep*'. Therefore both planning permission from Purbeck District Council and Scheduled Monument Consent from Historic England were obtained on the 28th September 2015, with conditions attached relating to a programme of archaeological works.
- 1.1.3 The archaeological investigation was carried out in accordance with the methodologies and standards set out in a written scheme of investigation (WSI; Wessex Archaeology 2015). This WSI was submitted to and approved by the Principle Archaeologist, Dorset County Council, and Historic England prior to the commencement of fieldwork.
- 1.1.4 The archaeological investigation was completed in one day (9th November 2015).

1.2 Site location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The Site lies within the historic core of Wareham in Dorset immediately to the north of the River Frome (**Figure 1**). The Site is bounded by Pound Lane to the north, other residential properties to the east, the River Frome to the south and part of the Saxon defences and further residential properties to the west.
- 1.2.2 The Site lies at approximately 11 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The underlying geology is mapped as the Broadstone Sand Member overlain by superficial deposits of river terrace sand and gravel (British Geological Survey on-line viewer).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The following section provides a summary of the archaeological and historical background of the Site. Relevant National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE) and National Heritage List for England entries (NHLE) are included where appropriate.

2.2 Prehistoric and Romano-British

- 2.2.1 Early evidence of human activity have been found within the vicinity of the Site includes a Palaeolithic hand axe (NRHE ref. 456737) and Neolithic polished stone axe (NRHE ref. 456734). Bronze Age socketed axes and palstaves have also been found at Wareham (NRHE ref. 456728, 456733) suggesting some activity in this area at this time.
- 2.2.2 Later Prehistoric finds and features suggest the establishment of a small settlement in Wareham during the early Iron Age and continuing into the Romano-British period (Penn 1980, 106). These include a ditch or pit in Tinker's Lane to the north-west of the Site (NRHE ref. 887385), two Iron Age pits from under West Walls (NRHE ref. 456690) and Iron Age pottery found during excavations for a water pipe at East Walls (NRHE ref. 1152892). Romano-British activity in the vicinity of the Site includes Roman finds in Tinker's Lane, considerable amounts of Roman pottery found residually in the rampart at West Walls and at other locations within the town as well as a number of finds of Roman coins including a hoard in North Street (NHRE ref. 456690).
- 2.2.3 Immediately to the west of Wareham are two linear earthwork features throughout to be of Late Prehistoric or Romano-British date (NHLE 29076, 29085). These are likely to have defined a series of trackways related to stock enclosure.

2.3 Saxon and medieval

- 2.3.1 A church and associated settlement probably existed from the 7th century and the town is more fully documented from the late 9th century onwards (Penn 1980, 107; Keen 1984, 213). It was certainly fortified by the 10th century as it is recorded in the Burghal Hidage, a contemporary document of the fortified sites within the Kingdom of Wessex. It is thought that the major street pattern (North Street, South Street, West Street and East Street) may date to this time (Penn 1980, 107). The defences were rebuilt in the 10th and 11th centuries and the ditch was re-cut in the 12th century.
- 2.3.2 The mottle and bailey castle which occupies the Site is thought to have been established shortly after the Norman Conquest and is documented from the early 12th century. The stone keep, which lies within the location of the current house is thought to date to the 12th century and may be associated with the remodelling of the West Walls (Penn 1980, 110). The town and castle came under siege during The Anarchy (1135-1154), the succession war between Stephen of Blois an Empress Matilda, and the keep may have been damaged or even destroyed at this time (Penn 1980, 110).
- 2.3.3 Occupation within the town in the medieval period is thought to have been concentrated within the southern part of the settlement near the castle and investigations in the area of South Street, Bonnett's Lane and Howard's Lane have identified 12th-14th century medieval settlement activity (Wessex Archaeology 1994; 1995a; 1995b). To the east of the Site, in the area of Lady St Mary's Church, is thought to be the location of a possible 7th century nunnery, later re-founded in the 10th century and also the site of a later Benedictine and Carthusian foundation (NRHE ref. 456709). The Church of the Holy Trinity, a 14th century building on the site of an earlier church, lies to the east of the Site on South Street (NHLE 1153598). The river during this time ran closer to the castle, church and priory (Penn 1980, 112).
- 2.3.4 A port is thought to have been associated with Wareham (Kenn 1984, 214), this had been expected to provide ships for the King and is last documented in the mid-14th century (Penn 1980, 110). Further quays are thought to lie at the south edge of the town (Penn 1980, 109).

2.4 Post-medieval, 19th century and modern

'Wareham is now, within the waulles fallen down, made into gardeins for garlike' (Toulmin Smith 1907, 254).

- 2.4.1 This observation by John Leland c1540 indicates that the prosperity of the town was in decline by this period with the areas of occupation likely contracted. A suggestion which is confirmed by Daniel Defoe c1724 who noted that 'it shows the ruins of a large town, and tis apparent has had eight churches, of which they have three remaining' (Defoe 1927).
- 2.4.2 A fire in 1762 destroyed significant areas of the town (Penn 1980, 111) and 19th century maps show the settlement largely confined within the former defences and focused on the main crossroads. In 1847 the railway line and station was opened to the north of the town facilitating the establishment and expansion of Northport in the mid and later 20th century.

2.5 Previous investigations

- 2.5.1 The stone keep located in the area of the present house was first discovered in 1910 (Renn 1960, 56). It was then later re-excavated in 1950-1 by the then owner H. J. S. Clark (*ibid*). Though the areas available for excavation were small he was able to locate and extrapolate the layout of the keep (**Figure 1**). The foundations were found to be constructed on gravel, with a layer of oyster shell suggesting some earlier occupation. The foundations were constructed of chalk and stone with evidence for a clay and sand floor in the interior. Pottery recovered from the excavations suggested Saxon and early Norman occupation prior to the keep's construction with the earliest floor layer corresponding to the late 11th and early 12th century. The pottery, albeit from only a small excavation, would seem to suggest that the keep was destroyed and abandoned in the second half of the 12th century. Excavations within the outer bailey of the castle in the area of Pound Lane and West Street, suggests that the outer bailey ditch was filled in sometime in the 13th century (Hinton and Hodges 1977, 77-78).
- 2.5.2 Archaeological works were carried out in connection with a new extension to the west of the house, comprising evaluation in 1999, excavation in 2005 and followed by a watching brief on utility trenching in 2008. This located some evidence for the western edge of the keep and was partially excavated through Clark's original investigations at 1.2m (Southern Archaeological Services 1999). However, in the areas undisturbed by Clark the depth of modern overburden ranged from 0.15 m to 0.40 m (*ibid*). Although 12th-14th century pottery was recovered from the investigations, in general the area to the west of the keep seems to be devoid of further medieval features or deposits (Southern Archaeological Services 2008). A stratified Roman sherd was also found during the excavation (Southern Archaeological Services 2005).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1.1 The general aims of the investigations as defined in the WSI (WA 2015) were to:
- *Examine the archaeological resource within the Site, including clarifying the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains;*
 - *Identify, within the constraints of the works, the date, character and condition of any surviving remains within the Site;*
 - *Assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits;*
 - *Analyse and interpret the results; and*

- Produce reports which will present the results of the works.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the methodology set out within the WSI (WA 2015) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in the ClfA's *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (ClfA 2014a).
- 4.1.2 A summary of the relevant sections of the WSI is provided below.

4.2 Health and Safety

- 4.2.1 Health and safety considerations were of paramount importance in conducting all fieldwork. Safe working practices will override archaeological considerations at all times. All work was carried out in accordance with the *Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974* and the *Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992*, and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.
- 4.2.2 WA supplied a copy of their Health and Safety Policy and a Risk Assessment to the Client before the commencement of any fieldwork. The Risk Assessment was read and understood by all staff attending the Route before any groundwork commenced.

4.3 Excavation methodology

- 4.3.1 The excavation area comprised a single trench for the proposed new porch measuring 3.6 m by 1.8 m, as located in **Figure 1**.
- 4.3.2 The mechanical excavation was, where possible, undertaken using a toothless ditching bucket and under constant supervision by an experienced archaeologist. Machine excavation proceeded to the required construction levels or the top of archaeological levels whichever was the higher.
- 4.3.3 WA staff investigated any archaeological deposits and features through excavation (by hand) and was fully recorded using WA's *pro forma* recording system. A full photographic record was also maintained to show detail of any features and deposits as well as to provide a record of the setting and progress of the works.

4.4 Artefacts and ecofacts

- 4.4.1 Appropriate strategies for the recovery of artefacts and environmental samples were in line those detailed in the WSI (WA 2015) and in compliance with industry guidance (ClfA 2014 and English Heritage 2011).

5 RESULTS

- 5.1.1 The results of the excavation are described below and context descriptions are tabulated in **Appendix 1**. The location of the 3.6 m by 1.8 m excavation area is shown in **Figure 1**.
- 5.1.2 Below the present ground surface which comprised concreted greenstone slabs (**101**), an overburden deposit consisting of a dark grey sand silty clay deposit with occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular pebbles (**102**) was revealed across the excavation area from 0.14–0.46 m below ground level (**Plates 1–3**). Excavation was ceased at this depth because construction formation level was reached. No archaeological artefacts were recovered from this deposit.



- 5.1.3 The modern brick foundation courses of the present house were also revealed along the southern edge of the excavation area and were seen to cut deposit **102 (Plate 2)** and a water pipe was revealed in the northwest corner (**Plate 3**).

6 ARTEFACTUAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Finds

- 6.1.1 No archaeological finds were recovered during the fieldwork.

6.2 Environmental

- 6.2.1 No environmental samples were taken as no suitable well sealed and dated deposits were uncovered.

7 DISCUSSION

- 7.1.1 This small-scale archaeological excavation uncovered an undated overburden deposit which extended across the excavated area. Although no artefacts were recovered from this deposit, it is perhaps likely to represent a post-medieval soil that was observed to be cut by the foundations of the present modern property.

- 7.1.2 No earlier archaeological features, deposits or finds were uncovered within the confines of the investigation that could be associated with the medieval and Saxon scheduled remains known to exist within the Site. It is probable that if such remains survive within this specific locality they are likely to exist at a slightly greater depth i.e. more than 0.46 m below present ground level.

- 7.1.3 Brick foundation courses of the present modern house were also exposed and were seen to post-date the overburden deposit, these built remains are not archaeologically significant as the property is an early 20th century dwelling. It was built in 1911 (Dorset Historic Towns Survey 2011) and comprises faced and dressed limestone walls with matching cut pilasters, moulded cornice detailing and recessed windows. A substantial 3-story extension was added to the west side of the dwelling approximately ten years ago and the property is not listed.

- 7.1.4 Considering the results of the archaeological excavation, no further work is proposed.

8 STORAGE AND CURATION

8.1 Museum

- 8.1.1 It is recommended that the archive be deposited with Dorset County Museum. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner, however in this case no artefacts were recovered.

8.2 Preparation and deposition of archive

- 8.2.1 The complete project 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 local museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; Brown 2011; ADS 2013 and ClfA 2014c).

- 8.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site/accession code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following:

- 1 files/document cases of paper records

8.2.3 The archive is currently temporarily stored at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury under the project/site code 111170, until final deposition with the recipient museum.

8.3 OASIS record

8.3.1 An OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/projects/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators Forms (**Appendix 2**). All appropriate parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to the county historic environment record (HER). This will include an uploaded pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy will also be included with the archive).

8.4 Security Copy

8.4.1 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.

8.4.2 The digital records will be submitted to the HER, with a copy retained in the Wessex Archaeology security-copied and backed-up digital archive storage facility, under its designated Wessex Archaeology project code 111170.

8.5 Discard policy

8.5.1 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.

8.5.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2011).

8.6 Copyright

8.6.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the site will be retained by Wessex Archaeology 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.

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Online resources

<http://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list> - information on designated assets

<http://oasis.ac.uk/england/> - data on sites, find-spots and excavations

<http://www.pastscape.org.uk/> - data on sites, find-spots and excavations

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> - British Geological Survey



10 APPENDICES

10.1 Appendix 1: context summary table

Context no.	Context type	Description	Depth from ground surface (m)
101	layer	Greenstone paving slabs over concrete forming present ground surface	0-0.14
102	layer	Dark grey sandy silty clay with sparse sub-rounded and sub-angular small pebbles	0.14-0.46+



10.2 Appendix 2: OASIS summary form

OASIS ID: wessexar1-262650

Project details

Project name	Castle Close, Pound Lane, Wareham, Archaeological Targeted Excavation Report
Short description of the project	Targeted excavation of new porch construction within the boundary of a Scheduled Monument (no. 1003574) comprising part of the Anglo-Saxon town defences and part of the medieval motte and bailey castle; the sub-surface remains of the stone keep are known to lie in the locality of the present property. Despite the high potential for associated buried archaeological remains to be present, no significant archaeological features or deposits were present within the small excavated area. The uncovered overburden deposit is undated, it is likely to be a post-medieval soil and was observed to be cut by the foundations for the existing early 20th century house.
Project dates	Start: 09-11-2015 End: 09-11-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	111170 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Site status (other)	no. 1003574
Monument type	GARDEN SOIL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Scheduled Monument Consent

Project location

Country	England
Site location	DORSET PURBECK WAREHAM TOWN Castle, Close, Pound Lane, Wareham



Postcode	BH20 4LQ
Study area	8 Square metres
Site coordinates	SY 92181 87189 50.68372586406 -2.110689894562 50 41 01 N 002 06 38 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	and Dorset County Council Archaeologist advice
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	Bruce Eaton
Project supervisor	Matt Kendall
Type of sponsor/funding body	Owner Occupier

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Dorset County Council Museum
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Dorset County Council Museum



Paper Contents "other"

Paper Media available "Context sheet","Diary","Photograph"

Paper Archive notes 1 File

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Castle Close, Pound Lane, Wareham, Dorset

Author(s)/Editor(s) Wakeham, G.

Other bibliographic details 111170.02

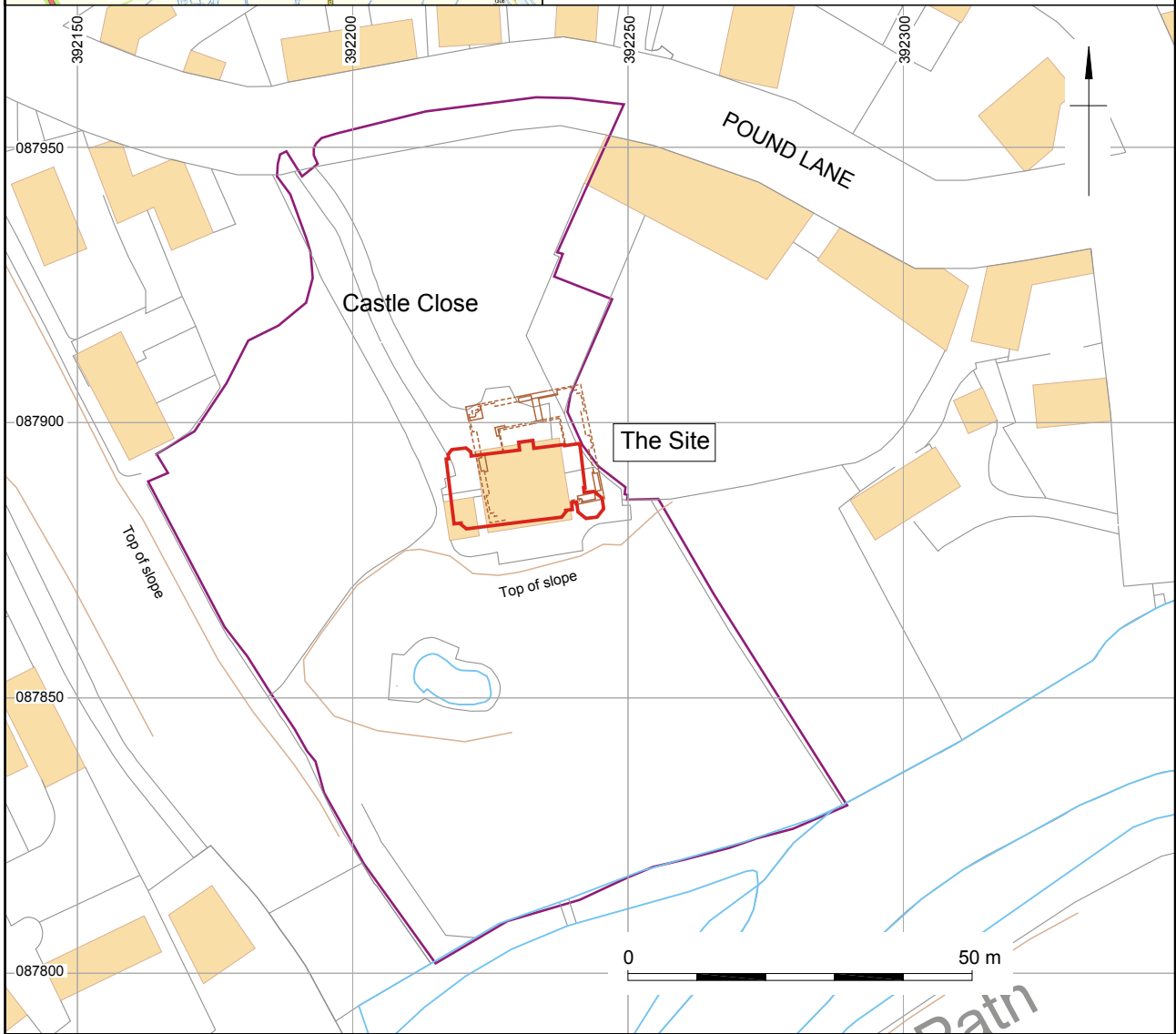
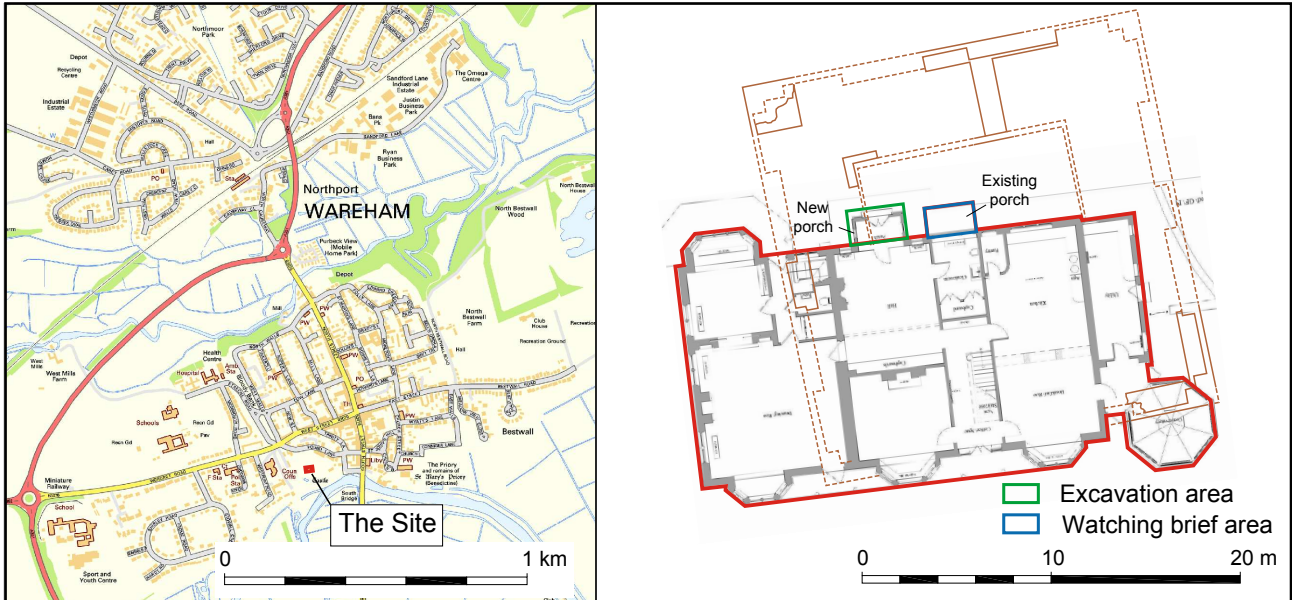
Date 2016

Issuer or publisher Wessex Archaeology


Place of issue or publication Salisbury

Entered by Gail Wakeham (g.wakeham@wessexarcch.co.uk)

Entered on 15 September 2016



- The Site
- Footprint of the Keep
(based on Renn 1960, Fig. 17)
- Scheduled Monument 1003574



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Site Location Plan

Figure 1



Plate 1: General view of excavated area from the east (1m and 2m scales)



Plate 2: View from the north showing exposed modern brick foundations (0.5m and 2m scales)



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Plate 3: East facing section showing water pipe and modern foundation trench cutting deposit 102 (1m scale)

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