



Wallscourt Park, UWE Frenchay Campus Stoke Gifford, South Gloucestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief



South Gloucestershire Planning Ref: PT12/3809/O
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December 2016



**Wallscourt Park
UWE Frenchay Campus
Stoke Gifford
South Gloucestershire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

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Archaeological Watching Brief

Summary

Wessex Archaeology (WA) has been commissioned by Interserve Construction Ltd undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of new student accommodation at the Wallscourt Park Site, UWE Frenchay Campus, Stoke Gifford, South Gloucestershire. The watching brief undertaken in November 2016 follows previous archaeological work carried out by Bristol and Region Archaeological Services in 2013-14.

A single trench was excavated on the 16th November 2016 in between two of the surviving farm outbuildings associated with the reconstruction of Wallscourt Farm c.1853. The remains of a substantial stone-built culvert were exposed. No other archaeological deposits or features were revealed.



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Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Interserve Construction Ltd for commissioning the project and UWE for funding the work. We would also like to thank Joe Hawkins and Gavin Brace (Interserve Construction Ltd) for their assistance on site and Paul Driscoll (South Gloucestershire Council Archaeology & Historic Environment Officer) for his help and advice during the course of the project. The fieldwork was undertaken by Mike Fleming. This report was compiled by Tracey Smith, with illustrations by Nancy Dixon. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Cai Mason.



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Archaeological Watching Brief

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by Interserve Construction Ltd (hereafter 'the Client') on behalf of the University of the West of England (UWE) to carry out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of new student accommodation at Wallscourt Park, at the UWE Frenchay Campus, Stoke Gifford, South Gloucestershire (Planning Permission no. PT12/3809/O).
- 1.1.2 The watching brief comprised monitoring excavation of a single trench (centred on National Grid Reference NGR 61694 78047) to the north of the main Wallscourt Park construction area. An earlier phase of monitoring work was undertaken in 2014 around the main buildings of Wallscourt Farm (BaRAS 2014). This WA report supplements the previous BaRAS report and the results should be considered in conjunction with that document.

1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The single trench was located between two former farm out-buildings of the mid-19th-century Wallscourt Farm (hereafter referred to as 'The Site'), The Site is on the north side of an unnamed access route and approximately 100m north-west of the main Wallscourt Farm house and the original watching brief area (**Figure 1**).
- 1.2.2 The underlying solid geology comprises inter-bedded limestone and mudstone of the Wilmcote Limestone Member of the Blue Lias Formation of the early Jurassic period.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 For a detailed archaeological background, refer to the BaRAS (2014) report. Although Wallscourt Farm is referenced in medieval historical documents the farm was entirely rebuilt in the mid-19th century, in accordance with contemporary designs for a 'model farm'. Many of the outbuildings were demolished following sale of the land in the 1980s, however two of these survive close to the trench location.

2.2 Aims and objectives

- 2.2.1 The aims of the watching brief are set out in the BaRAS (2014) report.

2.3 Fieldwork methodology

- 2.3.1 The watching brief methodology is set out in the previously approved Written Scheme of Investigation (BaRAS 2013).



- 2.3.2 The fieldwork comprised monitoring of groundworks by an experienced archaeologist. Where practicable and without causing unreasonable delay to the construction programme, groundwork was temporarily halted whilst investigations were carried out by WA staff.
- 2.3.3 A full photographic record was maintained using a digital camera. Site survey was carried out using a Leica Viva series GNSS unit using the OS National GPS Network through an RTK network with a 3D accuracy of 30mm or below. All survey data was recorded using the OSGB36 British National Grid coordinate system.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

- 3.1.1 A small trench was excavated in the area between two surviving former outbuildings of Wallscourt Farm, to the north of the main construction site (**Figure 1**). This trench uncovered the remains of a stone-built culvert (**002**), constructed of limestone sides and capping, with a slate base (**Plates 1 and 2**). A greyish yellow silt deposit had accumulated within the culvert (**003**). A layer of modern stone scalplings (**001**) sealed the culvert, which had been briefly exposed during previous ground investigations and then reburied until archaeological monitoring could take place.

4 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 The exposed drain would have been associated with the re-construction of Wallscourt Farm in the mid 19th-century. Part of the farm rebuilding involved deliberate attempts to drain the heavy clay-soils, the solid construction apparent in culvert **002** reflects the importance placed on this.

5 STORAGE AND CURATION

5.1 Museum

- 5.1.1 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 that, subject to the wishes of the landowner, the archive will be donated to and deposited with Bristol Museum and Art Gallery as the designated repository. Provision has been made for the cost of long-term storage in the post-fieldwork costs.

5.2 Preparation of Archive

- 5.2.1 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 by Bristol Museum of excavated archaeological material by Bristol Museum and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; Brown 2011; ADS 2013; ClfA 2014c).
- 5.2.2 The project has been entered in the OASIS Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations as: wessexar1-183842. All appropriate parts of the OASIS online form will be completed including an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report.
- 5.2.3 All archive elements will be marked with the unique Wessex Archaeology Site code 115080, the Museum accession code and a full index will be prepared. Until final deposition with the museum, the archive will be stored at the offices of WA West in Bristol. A digital copy of the fieldwork report and shapefile data of the trench location will also be submitted to the South Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record.



5.3 Copyright

- 5.3.1 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*.

5.4 Security Copy

- 5.4.1 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.

6 REFERENCES

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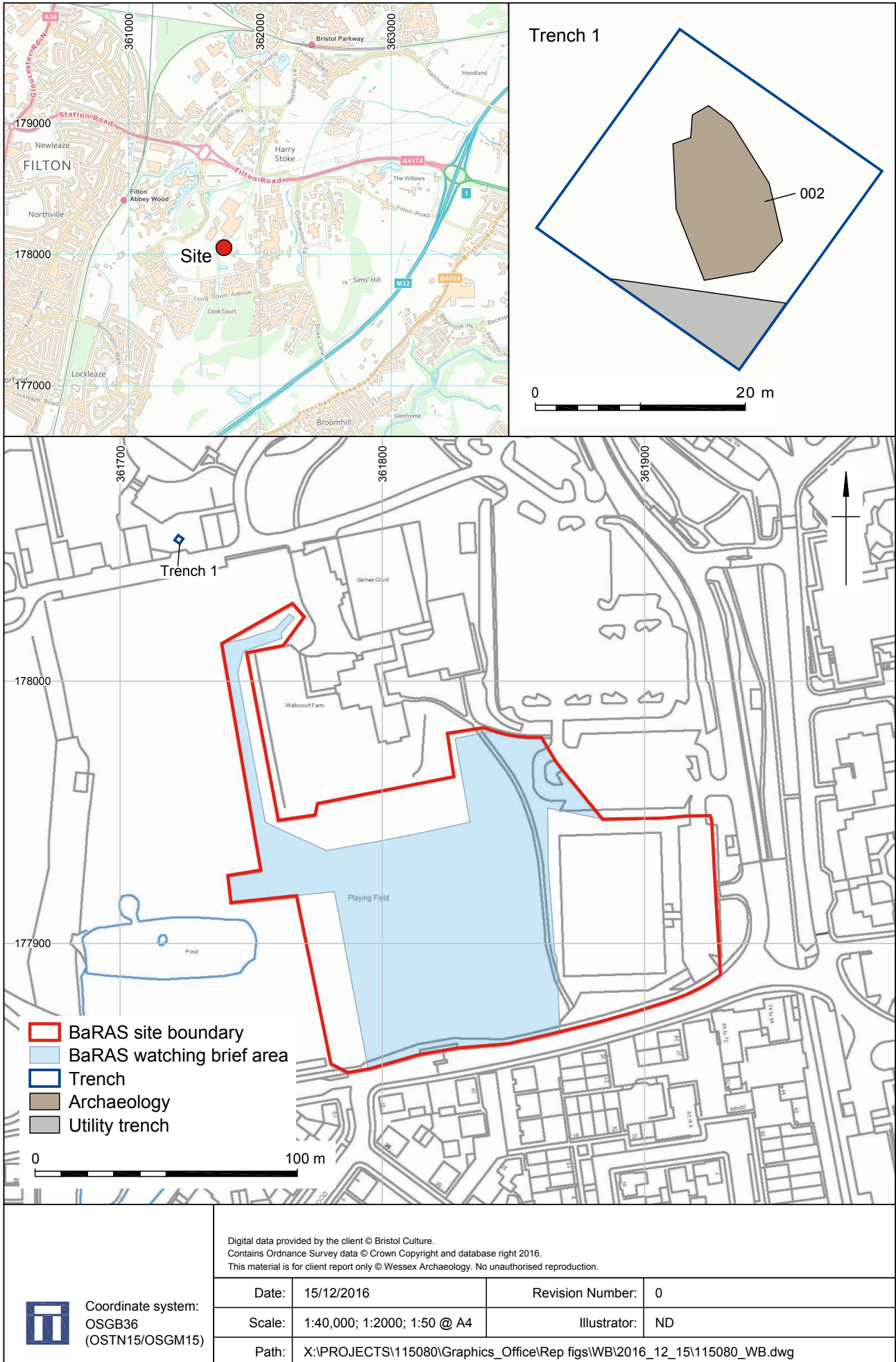
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7 APPENDICES

7.1 Appendix 1: Context list

Context	Category	Description	Depth (bgl)
001	Layer	Contemporary made ground, stone chippings	0-0.60m
002	Layer	Stone built culvert oriented north-south	0.40-1.10m
003	Layer	Mid grey-yellow silt build-up within culvert 002	0.96-1.00m



Site location plan showing BaRAS watching brief area and additional area to north


Figure 1



Plate 1: Culvert 002 in plan, viewed from the north.
0.5 m scale



Plate 2: View north along interior of drain 002

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