

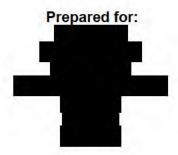
Statement of Results on an Archaeological Watching Brief



Wiltshire Council Planning Ref: 16/07635/FUL Ref: 115000.02 January 2017



Statement of Results on an Archaeological Watching Brief



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North-facing section through possible modern cut feature 104, exposed within foundation trench at the southern edge of the Site (Scale: 1 m) Plate 3:

Overview of watching brief area (southern extension area) from the south-west Front cover:



Statement of Results on an Archaeological Watching Brief

Summary

Wessex Archaeology were commissioned by to carry out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of extensions to the side and rear of the centred on National Grid Reference 417554 134827. The watching brief was undertaken on 13, 14 and 21 December 2016.

The watching brief entailed the monitoring of groundwork and ground reduction, including excavations associated with new foundations, service runs and drainage works, through previously undisturbed soils.

Despite being located within the historic core of Winterbourne Dauntsey and in close proximity to the medieval church, no archaeologically significant finds, features or deposits were encountered during the watching brief. However, evidence of earlier ground disturbance and possible truncation of the natural stratigraphic sequence was observed throughout the site. This was possibly the result of works associated with the construction of the existing property, and may account for the removal of any buried archaeological remains once present within the site.



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watching brief.					

The fieldwork was undertaken by John Powell and Al Zochowski, and this report was compiled by Tom Wells. The report illustrations were prepared by Nancy Dixon and the project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Gareth Chaffey.



Statement of Results on an Archaeological Watching Brief

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) were commissioned by out an archaeological watching brief at centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 417554 134827 (hereafter the 'Site') (Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 The Client submitted a planning application (ref. 16/07635/FUL) to Wiltshire Council (WC) in August 2016 seeking approval for proposed extensions to the side and rear of The Wilderness, along with rendering of the brick walls of the existing property.
- 1.1.3 The following comments were issued by the Assistant County Archaeologist at the Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service (WCAS) on the 13 September 2016 as part of a formal consultation response with regard to the aforementioned planning application:
 - This site is of archaeological interest as it lies within the historic core of Winterbourne Dauntsey, which dates to at least the medieval period. It is close to the church, which was originally built in the 13th century, as confirmed in archaeological excavations in 2000.
- 1.1.4 The watching brief was commissioned in response to an archaeological condition attached to the planning consent, which was granted on 11 November 2016, on the advice of the Assistant County Archaeologist at WCAS. The condition outlined the requirement for a programme of archaeological investigation to be undertaken in association with the initial groundworks for the development. The Assistant County Archaeologist at WCAS subsequently indicated that the programme of archaeological investigation should take the form of a watching brief.
- 1.1.5 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (WA 2016) setting out the aims and objectives of the watching brief, and the methods by which these would be achieved, was prepared in accordance with the standards and guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a) and Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE, Historic England 2015).
- 1.1.6 The WSI was submitted to and approved by WCAS in advance of the fieldwork, which was undertaken on 13, 14 and 21 December 2016.

2 SITE DESCRIPTION

- 2.1 Location, topography and geology
- 2.1.1 The Site is situated within the core of the village of Winterbourne Dauntsey, which lies on the eastern side of the River Bourne Valley, approximately 6 km north east of Salisbury.



- 2.1.2 The Site coincides with the property boundary of The Wilderness, a modern brick built detached bungalow, located on Gaters Lane. The Wilderness is surrounded by lawned private gardens. The gardens currently contain a brick garage, located to the north-west of the house, and a shed and blockwork outbuilding to the east.
- 2.1.3 The Site is situated on a gentle incline, which slopes down to the west towards the River Bourne, at an elevation of approximately 59 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 2.1.4 The underlying bedrock geology throughout the Site is mapped by the British Geological Survey as Cretaceous Chalk of the Seaford Chalk Formation, overlain by Holocene Alluvium composed of Clay Sand and Gravel, laid down along the valley of the River Bourne.

2.2 Archaeological and historical background

- 2.2.1 There is considerable evidence of activity within the valley of the River Bourne during prehistoric periods. This is perhaps most prominently attested to by Figsbury Ring, the site of a scheduled Late Neolithic henge and slight univallate hillfort of late Bronze Age or Iron Age date (National List entry 1005647), located on a prominent hill overlooking the river valley, approximately 1.4 km to the east south-east of the Site.
- 2.2.2 Other notable prehistoric sites in the wider area include a scheduled barrow cemetery (National List entry 1010293) at Winterbourne Gunner, located approximately 800 m to the north-east of the Site. The barrow cemetery also appears to have been the focus of a Saxon inhumation cemetery.
- 2.2.3 The earliest recorded evidence of activity in the local vicinity of the Site is provided by a small assemblage of worked flint of Mesolithic date, recovered from The Poplars at Winterbourne Gunner (Wiltshire and Swindon HER ID. MWI10439).
- 2.2.4 Three Neolithic pits, one surrounded by stake-holes, were excavated at The Croft, on the western side of the River Bourne at Winterbourne Dauntsey in the early 1930's. The pits contained pottery including Peterborough, Mortlake and Hembury wares, flint implements including an axe/adze, scrapers, blades and flakes, and animal bone (Stone 1934). An early Iron Age ditch with internal postholes was also excavated at the same site. Further evidence of Iron Age activity was uncovered on the western side of the Bourne valley, approximately 1.5 km west of the Site during the installation of a gas pipeline in 1969 (Rescue and Research Work in the Salisbury Area 1970, p.208).
- 2.2.5 Excepting the findspot of a Roman coin at Orchard Cottage (Wiltshire and Swindon HER ID. MWI10894), there is currently little recorded evidence of activity during the Romano-British period in the vicinity of the Site. However, two Roman roads are projected to pass through the modern parish of Winterbourne. The first of these, the Portway, ran from Calleva Atrebatum (Silchester) to Sorviodunum (Old Sarum), while the second joined Sorviodunum to Venta Belgarum (Winchester).
- 2.2.6 Winterbourne Dauntsey is known to have medieval, if not earlier origins. The Site is located approximately 40 m to the south-west of the site of the former Church of St Edward, which presumably formed the nucleus of the medieval settlement. It is thought that the church, first mentioned in three Salisbury Charters of 1253-59 (Lush 2006, p.250), was built in the 13th century, possibly replacing, and incorporating parts of an earlier foundation. The church was demolished in 1867. Today, the only surviving vestiges of the church are the slight earthworks that mark the position of the former building, and the



- graveyard, which contains a number of prominent (and in some cases, listed) tombs and gravestones.
- 2.2.7 The Manor House, a Grade II* Listed Building (National List no. 1135722) located to the south of the Site, is of early 18th century date. However, it is possible that the house was built on the site of an earlier, medieval pre-cursor.
- 2.2.8 The relative paucity of direct archaeological evidence of medieval activity within the local vicinity is likely to reflect the limited extent of previous investigation. However, a 13th century iron working site comprising a building and iron blooms were recorded during road widening at Winterbourne Dauntsey in the mid 1970's (Pastscape Monument No. 969984).
- 2.2.9 A rapid appraisal of early editions of Ordnance Survey maps indicates that the Site was contained within an orchard or plantation by the late 19th century. The Site appears to have remained undeveloped until the mid-20th century, when a small dwelling occupying approximately the same footprint as The Wilderness is depicted. However, it is unclear if this building represented the existing property, or an earlier structure.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims and objectives

- 3.1.1 As specified within the scheme-specific WSI (WA 2016), the aims and objectives of the watching brief were:
 - 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 and state of preservation of the remains; 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 All works were undertaken in accordance with the methodology set out within the WSI (WA 2016) and in compliance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 2014a).



- 3.2.2 The watching brief entailed the monitoring of groundwork and ground reduction, including excavations associated with new foundations, service runs and drainage works, through previously undisturbed soils, within the locations indicated in **Figure 2**.
- 3.2.3 Excavations carried out by mechanical excavator were monitored under constant archaeological supervision. Excavation was undertaken in discrete 0.20 m spits and ceased at the upper surface of significant archaeological features/deposits or at the depth of the formation level, whichever was encountered first.
- 3.2.4 The footprint of the new extensions was reduced to the formation level, which was reached at approximately 0.5 m below ground level (bGL). Deeper excavations for drainage runs and the new foundations were also monitored to their maximum depth of approximately 1 m bGL.
- 3.2.5 Where practicable and safe to do so, all archaeological deposits and features observed during the watching brief were cleaned manually and planned and/or drawn in section and located on a site plan. The excavated spoil from the groundworks was scanned for artefacts.
- 3.2.6 All features and deposits were assigned a unique number and recorded using WA's *proforma* recording system.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

- 4.1.1 The stratigraphic sequence was observed to be generally consistent across the Site (Plate 2). The surface topsoil, or garden soil (101) consisted of a friable dark grey brown clay loam, which incorporated common flint gravel/pebbles and chalk fragments, as well as modern detritus (plastic, glass and brick). This attained a maximum thickness of 0.38 m, and was observed to be more thickly accumulated to the east of the bungalow, possibly as a result of earlier levelling/remodelling associated with the construction of the existing property.
- 4.1.2 The topsoil horizon overlaid a friable dark brown silty clay loam (**102**), incorporating rare flints and chalk fragments, as well as modern and 19th century pottery, ceramic building material and animal bone. The upper surface of the deposit was observed between 0.3 m and 0.75 m bGL. It attained a maximum thickness of 0.45 m, although this thinned out towards the west. The deposit was interpreted as a possible subsoil horizon. However, it was considered that the deposit may have been formed of re-worked garden soils, disturbed during the construction of the existing property.
- 4.1.3 The subsoil horizon/reworked garden soils overlaid the upper surface of the solid geology (103), which was observed at between 0.4-1.10 m bGL. This consisted of a light-yellowish white silt loam, with common flints and chalk pellets. No solid chalk was observed during the watching brief, with the underlying geology appearing to be formed of a marly/soliflucted chalk. Gravel filled solution hollows were observed in the upper surface of the chalk in a number of locations.
- 4.1.4 Two cut features of anthropogenic origin were encountered during the watching brief, although both of these appeared to be of recent origin. The first of these (104; Plate 3) was partially exposed at the southern edge of the southern extension, and appeared to be sub-oval in plan. The feature was cut through the natural chalk and sealed by the subsoil/reworked garden soil layer. It measured approximately 3.4 m in length by at least 2 m in width, attained a maximum depth of 0.6 m and had moderately sloped concave sides and a flat base. The feature was infilled with a mixed backfill deposit (105). This



- feature was interpreted as the result of gardening activities, or remodelling associated with the construction of the existing property.
- 4.1.5 The second cut feature (**106**) was a circular soakaway, which was cut through the subsoil/reworked garden soil layer, and was located approximately within the centre of the footprint of the western extension. This measured approximately 0.8 m in diameter and infilled with flint gravel and cobbles (**107**).
- 4.1.6 No other potentially significant archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were encountered during the watching brief.

5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

5.1.1 No archaeologically significant artefactual material was recovered during the watching brief.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1.1 No deposits suitable for palaeoenvironmental sampling were observed during this investigation.

7 DISCUSSION

- 7.1.1 Despite being located within the historic core of Winterbourne Dauntsey and in close proximity to the medieval church, no archaeologically significant finds, features or deposits were encountered during the watching brief. Given the methodology employed, and the extent of the area exposed to the upper surface of the natural substrate, it is considered that any surviving archaeological remains present within the locations monitored during the watching brief would have been detected.
- 7.1.2 However, evidence of earlier ground disturbance and possible truncation of the natural stratigraphic sequence, which was presumably the result of works associated with the construction of the existing property, was observed throughout the Site. As such, it is possible that prior disturbance and/or truncation was responsible for the removal of any buried archaeological remains once present within the Site.

8 STORAGE AND CURATION

8.1 Site archive

- 8.1.1 The complete project archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, and digital data, will be prepared, compiled and presented in accordance with the requirements of the recipient museum, and following nationally recommended guidelines (ADS 2013; Brown 2011; CIfA 2014c; SMA 1995;). All archive elements will be marked with the Site/accession code and a full index will be prepared.
- 8.1.2 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the fieldwork be deposited with the Salisbury & South Wiltshire Museum, though it should be noted that this is currently a closed repository. Until final deposition, the archive will be temporarily stored at the offices of WA in Salisbury.
- 8.1.3 The physical archive comprises the following:
 - 1files/document cases of paper records & A4 graphics



8.2 Conservation

8.2.1 No objects considered to warrant further conservation treatment were recovered during the watching brief.

8.3 Copyright

8.3.1 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 recipient museum 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.

8.4 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 the omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.



9 REFERENCES

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10 **APPENDICES**

10.1 Appendix 1: OASIS form

OASIS ID: wessexar1-274270

Project details

The Wilderness, Winterbourne Dauntsey Project name

Short description of the project

Wessex Archaeology were commissioned by Mr C. Boyd to carry out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of extensions to the

side and rear of National Grid Reference 417554 134827. The watching brief was undertaken on 13, 14 and 21 December 2016. The watching brief entailed the monitoring of groundwork and ground reduction, including excavations associated with new foundations, service runs and drainage works, through previously undisturbed soils. Despite being located within the historic core of Winterbourne Dauntsey and in close proximity to the medieval church, no archaeologically significant finds, features or deposits were encountered during the watching brief. However, evidence of earlier ground disturbance and possible truncation of the natural stratigraphic sequence was observed throughout the site. This was possibly the result of works associated with the construction of the existing property, and may account

for the removal of any buried archaeological remains once present within the site.

Project dates Start: 13-12-2016 End: 21-12-2016

Previous/future

work

No / Not known

Any associated project reference

codes

115000 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference

codes

16/07635/FUL - Planning Application No.

Type of project Recording project

Site status None

Current Land use Residential 1 - General Residential

NONE None Monument type NONE None Significant Finds Investigation type "Watching Brief"

Prompt Planning condition

Project location

Country England

WILTSHIRE SALISBURY WINTERBOURNE The Wilderness, Winterbourne Dauntsey Site location

Postcode SP4 6ER

0.02 Hectares Study area

SU 417554 134827 50.91874155391 -1.405913866665 50 55 07 N 001 24 21 W Point Site coordinates

Lat/Long Datum Unknown

Height OD / Depth Min: 59m Max: 59m



Project creators

Name of Organisation Wessex Archaeology

Project brief originator

Wessex Archaeology

Project design originator

Wessex archaeology

Project director/manager Gareth Chaffey

John Powell Project supervisor Project supervisor Al Zochowski

Type of

sponsor/funding

body

Developer

Name of sponsor/funding

body

Project archives

Physical Archive

Exists?

No

Digital Archive

Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum

recipient

Digital Archive ID 115000.02

Digital Contents

"none"

Digital Media available

"Text", "Images raster / digital photography"

Paper Archive

Salisbury and South Wilts Museum

recipient

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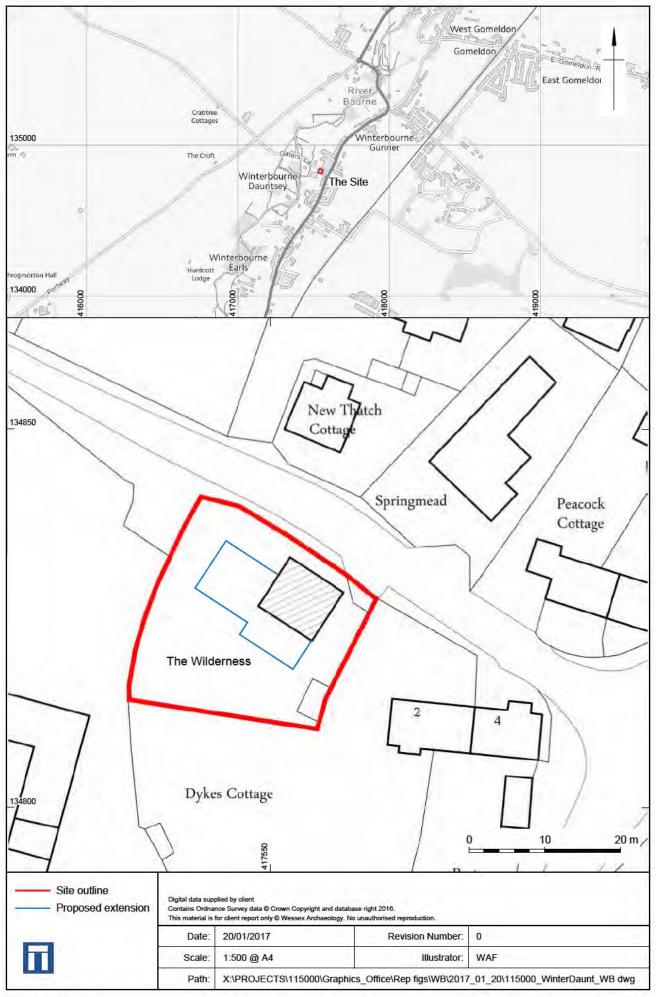


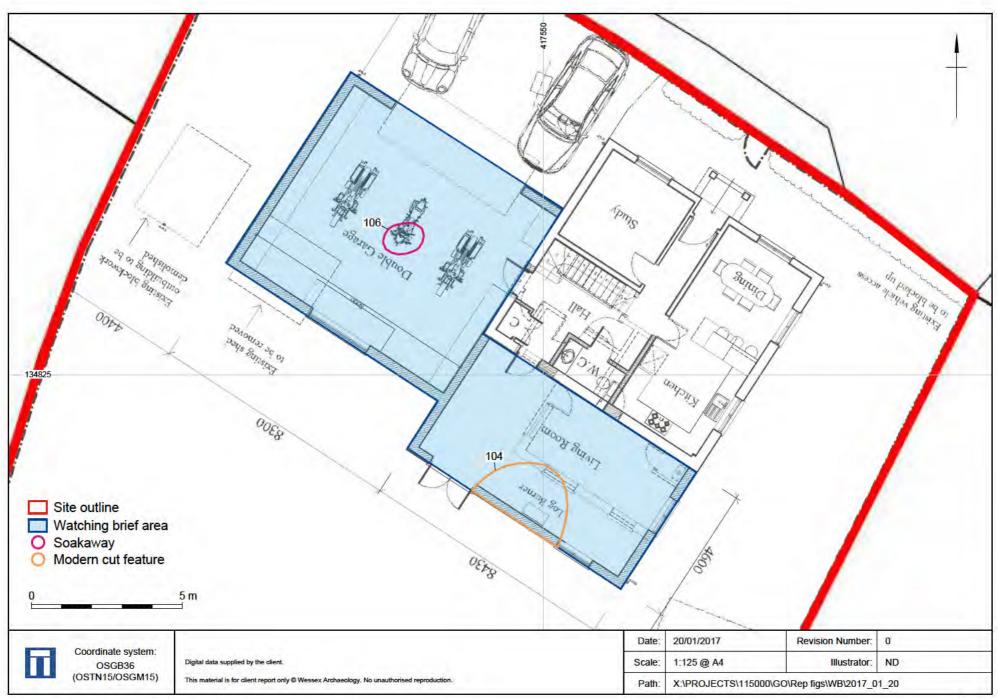
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