



The Oaks, Max Mill Lane Winscombe, North Somerset

Archaeological Watching Brief



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The Oaks, Max Mill Lane, Winscombe, North Somerset

Archaeological Watching Brief

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by David Laver to conduct an archaeological watching brief to monitor drainage works related to the construction of a new self-build single storey family dwelling and associated landscaping. The works to be monitored covered an area of 0.28 ha centred on NGR 340405 157571, at the Oaks, Max Mill Lane, Winscombe, Somerset (**Fig. 1**).
- 1.1.2 The archaeological monitoring was undertaken on the 16th of May 2019 in accordance with the methods set out in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2019) and comprised the excavation of footings for a wall and associated structures to the east of the property.
- 1.1.3 The site is located on the edge of the Mendip Hills approximately 1.5 km to the west of Winscombe. The surrounding land comprises agricultural fields, predominantly of improved grassland, but with a notable area of marshy grassland to the north within the Max Bogs and Winscombe fields SNC1/SSSI. Pastureland, including ridge and furrow rush pasture occurs to the north and east. To the south is an arable field and to the west is sheep grazed pasture. Max Mill Lane runs parallel to the west.
- 1.1.4 The site lies on level ground at a height of approximately 24.0 m above Ordnance Datum.
- 1.1.5 The underlying geology is mapped as Mercia Mudstone Group - Mudstone and Halite-stone. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 201 to 252 million years ago in the Triassic Period. Local environment previously dominated by hot deserts. No superficial deposits are recorded (British Geological Survey online viewer).
- 1.1.6 No designated or non-designated heritage assets are recorded within the application site, a full historical background is available in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2019).
- 1.1.7 The monitored area was located to client plans that are related to OS mapping. This was achieved using hand-held measuring tapes and the basic principles of triangulation.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

- 2.1.1 The archaeological monitoring of foundation excavations at The Oaks, Max Mill Lane, revealed a 0.05 m to 0.07 m thick deposit of modern hardcore, redeposited clay and building material debris, sealing a homogenous silty clay, with occasional inclusions of iron panning. This clay was the natural geology of the area.
- 2.1.2 No finds or artefacts were recovered from the site, with only obviously modern building materials present within the upper deposits.

3 CONCLUSIONS

- 3.1.1 From monitoring of the foundation trenching and examination of the construction area, no archaeological deposits or features were present at the site.



4 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

4.1 Museum & Preparation of the archive

- 4.1.1 The archive resulting from the watching brief is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Bristol. Somerset Museums Trust has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project, under the accession code WESTM 2019.14.
- 4.1.2 The archive, comprising paper records and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of archaeological material by Somerset Museum Trust and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 4.1.3 All archive elements will be marked with the site/accession code and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:
- 1 files/document case of paper records;

4.2 Selection policy

- 4.2.1 Wessex Archaeology follows national guidelines on selection and retention (SMA 1993; Brown 2011, section 4).

4.3 Security copy

- 4.3.1 In line with current best practice (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.

4.4 OASIS

- 4.4.1 An OASIS online record (<http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main>) has been initiated (wessex-ar1-351929), with key fields and a .pdf version of the final report submitted. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service ArchSearch catalogue.

5 COPYRIGHT

5.1 Archive and report copyright

- 5.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. 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 conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*. In some instances, certain regional museums may require absolute transfer of copyright, rather than a licence; this should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.
- 5.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.



5.2 Third party data copyright

- 5.2.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material.

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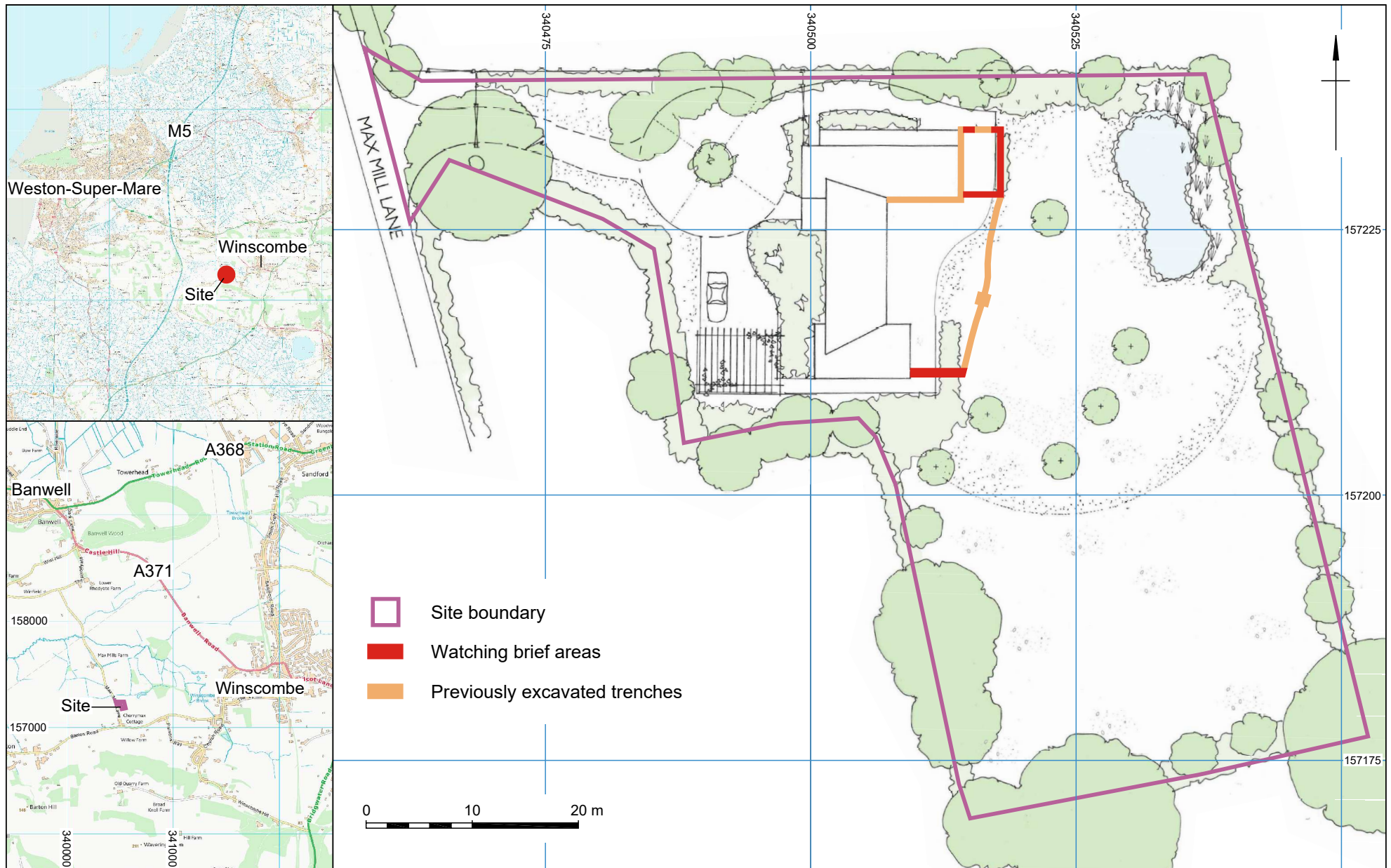
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 Coordinate system:
 OSGB36
 (OSTN15/OSGM15)

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Site and trench location plan


Figure 1



Plate 1: North facing representational section of footings. Scale 1 x 1 m



Plate 2: West facing representational section of footing. Scale 1 x 1 m

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