

# New Play Area, National Motor Museum Beaulieu, Hampshire

Archaeological Watching Brief



Planning Ref: 19/00269 Accession Number: A2019.47 Ref: 226180.2 November 2019



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# **Document Information**

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Document subtitle Archaeological Watching Brief

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Address John Montagu Building

Beaulieu Hampshire SO42 7ZN

Site location National Motor Museum, Beaulieu

County Hampshire

National grid reference (NGR) 438685 102670

Planning authority New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA)

Planning reference Ref. 19/00269

Museum name Hampshire Cultural Trust (HCT)

Museum accession code A2019.47

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Date(s) of fieldwork 08.10.2019 – 28.10.2019

Fieldwork directed by Rachel Williams, Alistair Zochowski, Joe Whelan

Project management by Ruth Panes

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Graphics by Karen Nichols

# **Quality Assurance**

Issue number & date		Status	Author	Approved by
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## **Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by RPS Consulting Services on behalf of Beaulieu Enterprises, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the alterations and upgrade to a children's play area and food/beverage outlet; toilet block, located within the Beaulieu Estate, immediately north of the walled garden within the precinct of the former Beaulieu Abbey.

The watching brief comprised monitoring of 88 hand excavated pits each measuring approximately  $0.5 \text{ m} \times 0.5 \text{ m}$  and 0.6 m deep, as well as 29 augered boreholes. The boreholes were 0.35 m in diameter and up to 0.6 m deep. No archaeological features were uncovered during the course of the watching brief.

## **Acknowledgements**

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Mick Rawlings of RPS Consulting Services for commissioning the archaeological watching brief. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of Frank Green (Curator Archaeologist) who monitored the project for the New Forest National Park Authority, and to Jim Wales and Jack Coleman from CAPCO for their cooperation and help on site.

The fieldwork was directed by Rachel Williams, Alistair Zochowski, and Joe Whelan. The report was written by Piotr Orczewski and Steven Froud and edited by Ruth Panes. Graphics were prepared by Karen Nichols and the project was managed by Ruth Panes on behalf of Wessex Archaeology.



# Play Area, National Motor Museum, Beaulieu

# **Archaeological Watching Brief**

#### 1 INTRODUCTION

# 1.1 Project and planning background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Beaulieu Enterprises Ltd, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the alterations and upgrade to a children's play area and food/beverage outlet; toilet block. The monitored works were centred on NGR 438685 102670, at the National Motor Museum, Beaulieu, Hampshire SO42 7ZN (**Fig. 1**).
- 1.1.2 The watching brief was carried out as a condition of planning permission, granted by New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA) (Ref. 19/00269), as part of a programme of archaeological works.
- 1.1.3 A number of conditions were attached to the planning consent. Condition No. 4 states:
  - A) No demolition/development shall take place/commence until a programme of archaeological work including a Written Scheme of Investigation has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. The scheme shall include an assessment of significance and research questions; and:
  - 1. The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording;
  - 2. The programme for post investigation assessment;
  - 3. Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording;
  - 4. Provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation;
  - 5. Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation;
  - 6. Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation.
  - B) No demolition/development shall take place other than in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition (A).
  - C) The development shall not be occupied until the site investigation and post investigation has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written scheme of Investigation approved under Condition (A) and the provision made for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition has been secured
- 1.1.4 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed (RPS 2019). The Curator Archaeologist approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority



(LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing. The watching brief was undertaken between the 8th and 28th of October 2019.

# 1.2 Scope of the report

1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the results of the watching brief, to interpret the results within their local or regional context (or otherwise), and to assess their potential to address the aims outlined in the WSI, thereby making available information about the archaeological resource (a preservation by record).

# 1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 The watching brief was located within the Beaulieu estate, immediately north of the walled garden which is within the precinct of the former Beaulieu Abbey. No buildings of features associated with the former Cistercian abbey have been identified in that area and the Church of St Mary is located approximately 65 m south east of the development site.
- 1.3.2 The topography of the area rises slightly to the north but is generally level at around 7 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 1.3.3 The underlying geology is mapped as clay, silt and sand of Headon Formation. Local environment was previously dominated by swamps, estuaries and deltas. Underlying geology is overlain by river terrace sand and gravel formed up to three million years ago (British Geological Survey online viewer).

#### 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

#### 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The historical background was detailed in the WSI (RPS 2019) which the below summary is taken from:

# 2.2 Archaeological and historical context

- 2.2.1 This area is within the precinct of the former Beaulieu Abbey but in an area for which no buildings or features associated with the former Cistercian abbey have been identified. The site of the Church of St Mary is located approximately 65 m south-east of the development site.
- 2.2.2 The walled garden was established in the late 19th century, with only the northern boundary being built as a wall and the other boundaries being planted as hedges. The northern wall incorporated a cottage (the Gardener's Cottage) which faces into the walled garden, along with other structures related to the operational use of the garden. To the north of the walled garden the 1897 Ordnance Survey 25" map shows a number of glass houses; a row of three parallel glass houses and part of another larger one are within the development site.
- 2.2.3 The glasshouses are no longer present and much of the development site is currently laid to grass, with some children's play equipment and a food and beverage outlet.
- 2.2.4 Further details regarding the historic use of the development site are provided in a Heritage Statement that was submitted in support of the planning application (HLM 2019).
- 2.2.5 The use of the development site in the later 20th and 21st centuries could have impacted on any archaeological remains that may be present. Such impacts would arise from the installation of hard and soft landscaping, structures and rides.



#### 3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

#### 3.1 Aims

- 3.1.1 The aims of the watching brief as defined in the ClfA's *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014a), 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 the development or other works;
  - 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 guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.

# 3.2 Objectives

- 3.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the general objectives of the watching brief, were:
  - To determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified works area;
  - To record and establish, within the constraints of the works, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains (a preservation by record);
  - To place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
  - To make available information about the archaeological resource on the site by preparing a report on the results of the watching brief.

#### 3.3 Research Questions

- 3.3.1 The WSI (RPS 2019) stated that the current archaeological research framework for this area is the Solent-Thames Research Framework for the Historic Environment (Hey and Hind 2014). The Research Agenda for the Later Medieval Period includes a number of topics regarding further sturdy. Regarding to monastic houses, these topics include:
  - Better understanding of subsidiary buildings, economic activities, water management and gardens;
  - Monastic life, diet, health and death.
- 3.3.2 If remains associated with the former Beaulieu Abbey were identified within the development site, investigation of such remains would provide information that could contribute towards these research questions.



#### 4 METHODS

#### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methodology set out within the WSI (RSP 2019) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in CIfA guidance (CIfA 2014a). The methods employed are summarised below.

#### 4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

- 4.2.1 The watching brief comprised monitoring of hand excavation of 88 pits, each measuring approximately 0.5 m x 0.5 m and 0.6 m deep, as well as 29 augered boreholes. The boreholes were 0.35 m in diameter and up to 0.6 m deep.
- 4.2.2 Where necessary, the surface of uncovered archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand, and any suspected features and deposits identified were hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the watching brief.
- 4.2.3 Spoil derived from archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. Where found, artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, although those from features of modern date (19th century or later) were recorded on site and not retained.

## Recording

- 4.2.4 All exposed archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system.
- 4.2.5 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

# 4.3 Artefactual and environmental strategies

4.3.1 Appropriate strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of artefacts and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (RSP 2019). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (ClfA 2014b) and Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation (English Heritage 2011).

# 5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

# 5.1 Soil sequence and natural deposits

5.1.1 The stratigraphy consisted of plastic grass over deposits of made ground that comprised of a mid greyish-brown clayey sand, and garden soil of a mid greyish-brown silty-clay. Inclusions in the garden soil comprised of gravel, slate and sparse fragments of 19<sup>th</sup> century ceramic building material. The depth of the stratigraphy described was consistent across the development area down to the contractor's maximum working depth of 0.6 m below ground level. Natural geology was not encountered during the archaeological monitoring.



# 5.2 Archaeological features

5.2.1 No archaeological features were uncovered during the course of the watching brief.

#### 6 ARTEFACTUAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

#### 6.1 Animal bone

6.1.1 A total of 43 fragments (or 439 g) of animal bone came from garden soil deposits (1504, 1604, 1905, 2104 and 2702). The identified fragments include several elements from cattle (horn cores, femur and rib), sheep/goat (loose teeth and humerus) and horse (loose deciduous teeth and metatarsal). The bone is in good condition and comprises mixed waste from different origins including the processing of carcasses of non-food animals (i.e. horse) for skins, bones and possibly meat.

# 6.2 Medieval and post-medieval/modern finds

- 6.2.1 Three sherds of pottery were recorded from garden soil 1504. All are medieval sandy wares of 13th-15th century date. Two conjoining sherds derive from a jar, and the third sherd from a bowl.
- 6.2.2 A small clear glass bottle was recovered from garden soil 2702. This bottle is mould-blown and has a laid-on rim.
- 6.2.3 One iron spike or peg, of square cross-section, came from garden soil 3102. This item is of probable post-medieval or modern date.
- 6.2.4 Two pieces of unworked limestone were recovered from garden soils 1504 and 2702.
- 6.2.5 A single left-hand valve oyster shell was recorded from garden soil 1604.
- 6.2.6 No environmental samples were collected during the course of the watching brief.

# 7 CONCLUSIONS

#### 7.1 Discussion

7.1.1 The relative lack of depth of intrusive works prevented the uncovering of possible archaeological features and as such no archaeological features were uncovered during the course of the watching brief.

# 8 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

#### 8.1 Museum

8.1.1 The archive resulting from the watching brief is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury. Hampshire Cultural Trust (HCT) has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project, under the accession code **A2019.47**. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner to transfer title of all finds to the museum.

#### 8.2 Preparation of the archive

8.2.1 The archive, which includes paper records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Hampshire Cultural Trust (HCT), and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).



- 8.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the **site code 226180 and accession code A2019.47**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:
  - 1 glass bottle to be retained and returned to the landowner
  - 1 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts, ordered by material type;
  - 1 files/document cases of paper records;

## 8.3 Selection policy

- 8.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows national guidelines on selection and retention (SMA 1993; Brown 2011, section 4). In accordance with these, and any specific guidance prepared by the museum, a process of selection and retention will be followed so that only those artefacts or ecofacts that are considered to have potential for future study will be retained. The selection policy will be agreed with the museum, and is fully documented in the project archive.
- 8.3.2 In this instance, given the very small quantity of artefacts recovered, their nature and date range (commonly occurring and well documented types of recent origin) and their provenance (garden soils), the assemblage is considered to have little or no further research potential, and does not warrant retention for long-term curation. The glass bottle will be retained by the landowner; all other finds have been discarded.

# 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.

## 8.5 OASIS

8.5.1 An OASIS online record (http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main) has been initiated (**Appendix 1**), with key fields and a .pdf version of the final report will be 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.

#### 9 COPYRIGHT

# 9.1 Archive and report copyright

9.1.1 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.



9.1.2 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.

# 9.2 Third party data copyright

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#### **APPENDICES**

# **Appendix 1 Oasis form**

#### 9.3 OASIS ID: wessexar1-374052

**Project details** 

Project name New Play Area, National Motor Museum, Beaulieu

Short description of

the project

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Beaulieu Enterprises Ltd, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during alterations and upgrade to

the children's play area and food/beverage outlet; toilet block. No

archaeological features were uncovered during the course of the watching

brief.

Project dates Start: 08-10-2019 End: 28-10-2019

Previous/future work No / No

Any associated

project reference

codes

226180 - Contracting Unit No.

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)

Current Land use Other 5 - Garden

Monument type CISTERCIAN ABBEY Medieval

Significant Finds NONE None

Methods & techniques "Augering", "Test Pits"

Development type Amenity area (e.g. public open space)

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - Direction 4

Position in the planning process

After full determination (e.g. As a condition)

**Project location** 

Country England

Site location HAMPSHIRE NEW FOREST BEAULIEU National Motor Museum, Beaulieu

Postcode SO42 7ZN

Study area 22 Square metres

Site coordinates SU 438764 102582 50.889586519633 -1.376126318945 50 53 22 N 001 22

34 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 7m Max: 7m



## **Project creators**

Name of Organisation Wessex Archaeology

Project brief originator New Forest National Park Authority

Project design originator

**RPS Consulting Services** 

Project director/manager

Ruth Panes

anootonmanagor

Project supervisor Rachel Williams, Alistair Zochowski, Joe Whelan

**Project archives** 

Physical Archive

Exists?

No

Digital Archive

recipient

226180

Digital Archive ID A2019.47

Digital Contents "other"

Digital Media available

"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"

Paper Archive

recipient

226180

Paper Archive ID A2019.47

Paper Contents "other"

Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Report"

**Project bibliography** 

1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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Author(s)/Editor(s) Orczewski, P.

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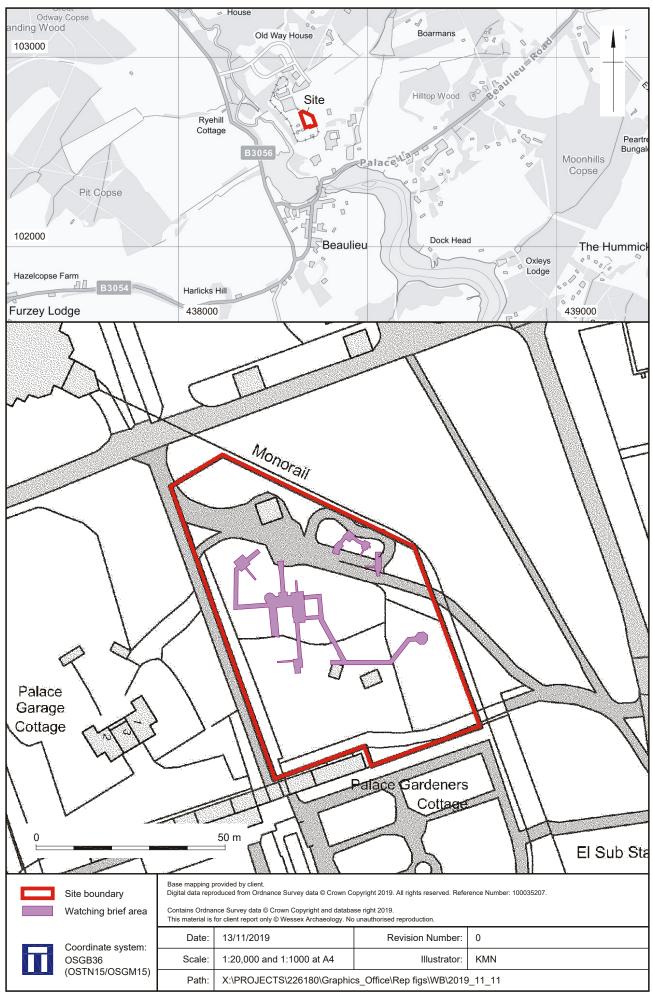
Issuer or publisher Wessex Archaeology

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Description A4 bound client report



Site location Figure 1



Plate 1: View of pit 10 from the east.



Plate 2: View of pit 15 from the west.

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Plate 3: View of borehole 47 from the east.



Plate 4: View of borehole 50 from the south.

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Plate 5: Working shot of hand excavation of pits.

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