

New Emergency Access, Bishop Wordsworth's School, Exeter Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire

Historic Building Recording and Archaeological Watching Brief Report



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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Bishop Wordsworth's School to carry out a programme of historic building recording and archaeological watching brief on the west boundary wall at Bishop Wordsworth's School, Exeter Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP1 2ED.

The wall is a Grade II listed building named 'WALL RUNNING NORTH OF LODGE, PARALLEL WITH ROAD' (list entry no. 1355831) and is located at Nation Grid Reference 414414 129527. The list entry dates the wall to the late 16th century. The recording occurred prior to and during construction of a new emergency access through the wall that took place in March and October 2019 respectively.

The lower part of the wall is constructed of a mix of stone rubble, flint and red brick with some occasional tile. Probably in the later 18th or early 19th century the wall was raised, and an opening infilled leaving a narrow pedestrian doorway. In the late 19th century, prior to the construction of the school, this narrow opening lay at the west end of a pathway between Exeter Street and Bishop's Walk within the Cathedral Close. Structural remains possibly associated with this path were revealed during an earlier watching brief in 2016-7.

The creation of the new emergency access removed the later narrow doorway and reinstated the width of the earlier opening.

There is evidence that indicates the wall terminals of the new emergency access were rebuilt prior to the raising and infilling of the wall, but no earlier than the 18th century. The brick lacing courses to the north of the entrance may indicate that this section of wall was also wholly or substantially rebuilt at this time, perhaps in the earlier part of the 18th century. Conversely, the absence of brick lacing to the south suggests this part of the wall was probably repaired rather than rebuilt and thus largely survives from an earlier, possibly late 16th century date.

Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by Bishop Wordsworth's School (BWS) and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Barry Smith (Bursar, BWS) and Amy Roberts (Senior Principal Planner, Bell Cornwell) in this regard. The assistance and advice of Martin Brown (former Assistant County Archaeologist at Wiltshire Council) and Graham Keevil (Archaeologist to Salisbury Cathedral) is gratefully acknowledged. Thanks are also due to the groundworkers of Hammond & Sons Ltd for their assistance and interest during the watching brief.

The historic building recording and archaeological watching brief was carried out by Grace Flood and Phil Andrews respectively, who also prepared this report. Additional illustrations were prepared by Will Foster. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Matt Rous and Andrew Manning.



New Emergency Access for Bishop Wordsworth's School, Exeter Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire

Historic Building Record and Watching Brief Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Bishop Wordsworth's School (hereafter 'the Client') to undertake a programme of historic building recording and an archaeological watching brief associated with the construction of a new proposed emergency access in the School's west boundary wall of Bishop Wordsworth's School, Exeter Street, Salisbury, SP1 2ED. The wall is centred on National Grid Reference 414414 129527 (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 The works comprised the conversion of an existing pedestrian gateway within the boundary wall into a wider vehicular emergency access / mass pedestrian way. During the course of the works, existing 19th century brickwork used to infill an earlier, and wider opening was removed and a new ramp introduced to balance ground levels either side of the Grade II wall, which is likely to date (in parts) to the late 16th century.
- 1.1.3 An initial Heritage Statement produced in support of the proposed works (Bell Cornwell 2018) contained an archaeological background of the immediate area and assessed that the area of wall to be removed for the emergency access appeared to be later infilling in brick of an earlier, wider opening defined by stonework. The Heritage Statement also noted that the opening and construction of a ramp to balance ground levels either side of the Grade II listed wall had the potential to reveal and impact historic details associated with the wall and for buried archaeological features, deposits and finds.
- 1.1.4 In consultation with the Local Planning Authority (LPA) Conservation Officer, the Assistant Archaeological Officer at Wiltshire County (AAOWC) and Historic England, it was agreed that the proposed works would require archaeological mitigation, including an Historic England Level 2 (descriptive) survey of the existing wall and archaeological monitoring during demolition and ground works associated with the development.
- 1.1.5 In November 2018, a planning application for development (Ref: 18/11404) and Listed Building Consent (LBC) (Ref: 18/11582) were submitted to Wiltshire Council. The applications were granted on 18 February 2019, subject to certain conditions. The following conditions relate to conservation (4) and archaeology (3):

Application Reference Number: 18/11582/LBC Condition 4

No works shall commence to widen the existing entrance in the listed wall until a full photographic survey and photographic record of the listed wall structure (existing east and west elevations, including the existing access point, brick wall sections and stone buttresses) has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

REASON: The matter is required to be agreed with the Local Planning Authority before development on the listed wall commences in order that the development is undertaken in an acceptable manner, to secure the proper recording of the listed wall.



Listed Building Consent Application Reference Number: 18/11404/FUL Condition 3

No development shall commence within the area indicated (proposed development site at Exeter Street) until:

i) A written programme of archaeological investigation, which should include on-site work and off-site work such as the analysis, publishing and archiving of the results, has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority; and

ii) The approved programme of archaeological work has been carried out in accordance with the approved details.

REASON: To enable the recording of any matters of archaeological interest.

1.1.6 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the historic building recording and watching brief was submitted to the AAOWC for approval in advance of the works (Wessex Archaeology 2019a).

1.2 Fieldwork dates and interim report

- 1.2.1 A record was made of the part of the wall to be impacted on 22nd March 2019, prior to the commencement of construction works.
- 1.2.2 The results of this initial recording work were presented in an interim report (Wessex Archaeology 2019b). This was submitted to the LPA for approval in order to assist with the discharge of Condition 4 of the listed building consent. It was discharged on 8th April 2019.
- 1.2.3 The archaeological monitoring of the construction works (watching brief) was carried out between 28th–29th October 2019.

1.3 Scope of document

1.3.1 This report provides the combined results of the historic building recording and watching brief. It will be submitted to the LPA for approval in order to assist with the discharge of Condition 3 of the planning application.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The programme of archaeological recording is commensurate with the requirements of a Historic England (HE) Level 2 (descriptive) historic building record (HE 2016). It adheres to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) standards and guidance for archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures and archaeological watching briefs (CIfA 2014a and b).
- 2.1.2 Details of the approved methodology are provided in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2019a).

2.2 Historic Building Recording

- 2.2.1 Historic building recording was undertaken of the section of wall to be impacted, prior to the commencement of construction works. On site recording comprised:
 - a photographic survey



- Photographs were taken in a high-quality digital format with a Canon Eos 5D MkIII full frame digital camera;
- o A photographic scale of an appropriate size was included where appropriate
- The location and direction of photographic views was recorded on a sketch plan and, accompanying photographic registers recorded the direction of the view and a brief description of the subject and location
- a hand-measured metric survey to produce plan and elevation drawings
 - Measurements were taken using a hand measuring tape and Leica Laser
 Distance Meter and recorded as dimensioned sketches
 - Subsequently the site drawings were digitised and enhanced in line with accepted HE drawing conventions (HE 2016) to produce the drawn record.
- 2.2.2 This report contains a brief written description of the section of wall to be impacted, illustrated with a site location plan, plan and elevation drawings of the impacted section of wall and selected images from the photographic survey.

2.3 Archaeological Watching Brief

- 2.3.1 An archaeological watching brief, which followed the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (ClfA) standard and guidance (ClfA 2014b), was carried out during the demolition and removal of the later infilling within the wall in order to provide information on the form and construction of the structure.
- 2.3.2 Subsequent to demolition, all invasive works associated with ground reduction to the west of the wall were archaeologically monitored, these works primarily comprising the excavation of two holes for gateposts. In addition, all invasive works associated with ground reduction to the east of the wall were monitored, within the 3 m wide grass verge between the wall and Bishop's Walk.

3 SITE CONTEXT

- 3.1.1 Bishop Wordsworth's School is secondary education school located within and on the east side of Salisbury Cathedral Close.
- 3.1.2 Construction of the new Cathedral at Salisbury began in 1220. It was consecrated in 1258 and building work continued into the early 14th century. The Close was constructed around the same time. The first recorded building in the Close is documented in 1218 but the outer walls of the Close were not built until c. 1327-42. In the later medieval period, the part of the Close now occupied by Bishop Wordsworth's School, may have been subdivided into cannonries (RCHME 1990, 6-9 and 39).
- 3.1.3 The Bishop's School, as it was then called, opened on its current site on the 16th April 1890 with 45 boys, girls were welcomed in 1902. There are now around 1000 pupils across the school, about 300 of whom are in the Sixth Form (Bishop Wordsworth School website). The majority of the school buildings are modern but, since 1947, it also includes the mid-late 17th century house at no. 11 The Close (RCHME 1990, 85-88).
- 3.1.4 The impacted wall currently forms the west boundary of Bishop Wordsworth's School and separates the school from Salisbury Cathedral (**Cover**). A pedestrian doorway provides



- access from the school playground to Bishop's Walk, which runs parallel to the wall along its west side (**Figure 1**; **Plates 1-2**).
- 3.1.5 The approved works increase the width of the existing doorway to form a larger gateway that will serve as a new emergency access wide enough for vehicles.

3.2 Previous archaeological investigations

Excavation in 1962

3.2.1 This excavation was carried out prior to the construction of the school's swimming pool, centred approximately 82 m south-east of the new emergency access. It located traces of the Bishop's Stables.

Wessex Archaeology Evaluation 1994

- 3.2.2 Archaeological evaluation in 1994 comprised six hand-dug and five machine excavated trenches within the school area (Wessex Archaeology 1994) located between 55-85 m to the east and north-east, and 55-92 m to the south-east of the new emergency access.
- 3.2.3 To the south-east:
 - Trench 7 identified the remains of a capped brick-lined well, likely to be of a postmedieval or later date.
 - Trench 8 revealed an east-west running wall 0.40 m below the present ground level, with a chalk floor immediately to the south. The wall was cut by two irregular features which may be later pits. These features and deposits were preserved in situ with no further excavation undertaken. Although no artefacts were recovered, the character of the structural remains suggests a medieval date.
 - Trench 9 contained 0.60 m of post-medieval and modern rubble overlying another 0.60 m of silty clay material containing post-medieval finds. These deposits sealed an organic rich layer, though to represent a dump of manure and cess within a large pit, possibly associated with the nearby mid-19th century stables.
 - Trench 10 uncovered another east west wall line, which was present immediately below the topsoil. The layer beneath the wall contained a single sherd of medieval pottery.
- 3.2.4 Similar deposits to Trench 9 were seen in Trench 11, located east of the new emergency access. Also, part of a possible wall footing was revealed, orientated east-west below approximately 1.10 m of deposits.

Archaeological Site Investigations Historic Building Recording 1998

3.2.5 A gateway in the Close Wall made c.1889 (when the school was built) was widened by 1.5 m in 1998. It was recorded prior to and during dismantling (ASI 1998 cited in Blockley 2012).

AC Archaeology 2001

3.2.6 Three trenches were excavated to evaluate an area for development but no significant archaeological evidence was identified (AC 2001 cited in Blockley 2012).

Wessex Archaeology Evaluation 2002

3.2.7 A single trench was excavated on the site of the Bishop's Stables.



Cambrian Archaeological Projects Evaluation, 2010

3.2.8 A trench excavated to the east of the Site near the Close wall located a substantial medieval stone-lined drain approximately on the line indicated early 18th to the mid-late 19th century cartographic evidence (Blockley 2011 and 2012). This open drain runs on an east-west alignment approximately 34 m south of the emergency access. It may be a medieval boundary related to the original setting out of the Close in the very early years of the 13th century. It is last shown on mid to late 19th century maps and was filled in before the school foundation in 1889.

Wessex Archaeology Watching Brief 2016-7

- 3.2.9 In 2016-7 an archaeological watching brief monitored the ground reduction works associated with the construction of a new classroom block. It covered a 0.8 ha area centred on NGR 414461 129495, to the south-east of the emergency access.
- 3.2.10 The investigation revealed evidence that could be separated into six phases: natural deposits, land reclamation, demolition rubble, construction of the buildings, use of the buildings, and modern activity.
- 3.2.11 Two structures were discovered during the course of the watching brief. Both features were present at relatively shallow depths below the modern hardstanding and made ground deposits and were relatively undisturbed by modern intrusions.
- 3.2.12 The southernmost of these structures (Structure 1) expanded on a previous investigation and is believed to represent part of the 19th century Bishop's Stables, built in 1843 and demolished following a fire in 1965. The walls identified differed in construction, one was coursed reclaimed rubble masonry, and the other was flint rubble built. They represent three sides of a WNW-SSE oriented rectilinear space 8.5m wide (east -west) by 5 m long (north -south), floored with rammed chalk. It is located approximately 60 m (minimum) to southeast of the emergency access.
- 3.2.13 Structure 2 in the northern part of site consisted of a shallow, chalk rubble wall footing (approximately 38 m (minimum) to the south-east of the emergency access) and associated mortar/gravel spread. Although undated, the wall and deposit appear to follow the orientation of a path shown on the 1880 OS 1:500 scale Salisbury Town Plan.
- 3.2.14 Beneath the structures was an extensive and thick deposit of made ground containing medieval material, on which the buildings had been constructed. Beneath made ground were extensive deposits of alluvial silt.

4 BUILDING RECORDING RESULTS

4.1 Description of the boundary wall

4.1.1 The boundary wall is designated as a Grade II listed building named 'WALL RUNNING NORTH OF LODGE, PARALLEL WITH ROAD' (NHLE no. 1355831). The list entry describes it as:

1594 Wall running north of Lodge, parallel with road...Stone rubble and flint wall, approximately 6 ft high with brick hands [sic. bands?] and coping. Probable reuse of old material or mediaeval in part.

4.1.2 The plan and elevation drawings in **Figure 2** and **Plates 1-7** illustrate the wall prior to the creation of the new emergency access.



- 4.1.3 This section of wall (that forms the west boundary of the school) measures 27.2 m in length including the new emergency access opening. It is interrupted at its north and south ends by the gateways of adjacent properties (**Plate 2**). The emergency access is centred approximately 18 m from the next opening to the south and is directly opposite the east end of Salisbury Cathedral (**front cover**). The line of the wall continues further to the north and south but its form and materials change. Sections to the north are listed buildings designated under separate entries (NHLE nos. 1251993 and 1023584).
- 4.1.4 The boundary wall has been built/rebuilt in phases. The lower parts of the wall either side of the emergency access are constructed of a mix of stone rubble, flint and red brick with some occasional tile (**Plates 3-4**). The watching brief revealed evidence that the ends closest to the infill were likely rebuilt in the 18th or early 19th century (discussed below) reusing earlier material (stone rubble and flints) and red bricks. The bricks incorporated into this lower part of the wall are suggestive of rebuild and/or repair. In particular, the buttress on the north-east side of the emergency access contains a substantial amount of brickwork compared to elsewhere in the lower wall (**Plate 5**). The lower part of the wall is approximately 0.5 m in width excluding the buttress and stands 1.35 m high above ground level (measured on the north-west side of the new emergency access).
- 4.1.5 The height of the wall has been raised. The upper part is constructed in red brick laid in English Garden Wall bond. The form and appearance of the bricks is consistent with an 18th or 19th century date.
- 4.1.6 The new emergency access reinstates an earlier opening which measures 3.7 m (approximately 12 feet) in width. It replaces a brick infill section of the wall (0.375 m thick) which contained a pedestrian doorway (**Plates 3-4**). The infill brickwork was contiguous with the brickwork that forms the upper wall either side. This indicates that the increase in height, infill and creation of the pedestrian doorway was one phase of work. The alteration must have occurred before 1883 because the 1:500 scale Ordnance Survey map of Salisbury of that date shows a pedestrian-sized opening in the wall.
- 4.1.7 Single and double brick lacing courses feature in the lower part of the wall to the north of the new emergency access. The lacing courses on the west side are clearly defined (Plates 2 and 6) whereas those on the east are interrupted and untidy (Plate 4). The lacing course bricks are similar in size and appearance to the brickwork in the upper part of the wall and removed infill (the bricks from here being unfrogged and measuring 225 x 110 x 70 mm). rebuilt, perhaps not long before it was raised and the entrance largely infilled in probably the later 18th or early 19th century. The lacing courses are not present to the south of the new emergency access, and this part of wall was probably repaired rather than rebuilt.
- 4.1.8 On the east side of the wall within the later raised section and infilled entrance were two protruding brick string courses laid in stretchers (**Plate 4**). The lower string course lay wholly within the brick infill and has been removed.
- 4.1.9 The top of the wall is capped with a series of coping stones and bricks (**Plate 2**). The majority of the wall stands approximately 2.2 m above ground level (measured on the north-west side of the new emergency access). Prior to its removal, the wall stepped up above the pedestrian doorway. It measured 2.55 m from the base of the doorway to the apex of the coping. Masonry coping stones feature(d) either side of the new emergency access and above the removed section (these have been retained by the cathedral masons for re-use elsewhere). Further along the wall in both directions, the upper (brick) part narrows and the copings change to half round bricks (**Plate 4**).



5 ARCHAEOLOGIAL WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The areas observed are indicated on **Figure 1**. The results of the demolition of the former wall blocking are included above, this serving to re-expose the wall terminals of the earlier, wider entrance (**Plates 7** and **8**).

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

5.2.1 Limited ground level reduction took place to the east of the new emergency access, within a 3.6 m x 1 m strip of the tarmac-surfaced school playground, although it was of insufficient depth (< 0.2 m) to reveal anything other than a gravel sub-base overlying brick rubble makeup. This in turn sealed 0.35 m of dark greyish brown silty clay loam (layer 2), probably buried topsoil which butted up against the two wall terminals (layers 3 and 4).

5.3 Results

- 5.3.1 Two holes dug (mostly by hand) approximately 3.7 m apart for new gateposts, on the inside and immediately to the east of the wall, revealed deposits of archaeological interest below the gravel sub-base and brick rubble.
- 5.3.2 The holes for the gateposts measured 0.65–0.70 m square and 0.9 m deep, and both revealed similar sequences of deposits (**Plates 9** and **10**). Tarmac 0.05 m thick (layer 1) was laid over a 0.12 m layer of orange gravel sub-base (layer 2). This in turn sealed 0.35 m of dark greyish brown silty clay loam.
- 5.3.3 Below the buried topsoil was at least 0.35 m (base not reached) of demolition/levelling deposits (layers 5 and 6). These comprised a pale–mid greyish brown silty loam, becoming more clayey with depth, this containing common limestone and flint fragments (<0.1 m), mortar, some pieces of peg tile and a few oyster shells. These demolition/levelling deposits extended beneath the two wall terminals (no construction cut was visible).
- 5.3.4 Ground level reduction to the west of the new emergency access, between the wall and Bishop's Walk, involved stripping turf and topsoil from an area 3.5–7 m long by 3 m wide, as well as the removal (by grinding out) of the base of a tree stump approximately 1 m in diameter on the southern edge of the area (**Plate 11**). As to the east, reduction was of insufficient depth (0.3 m) to reveal anything other than the base of the topsoil, with no premodern features identified or finds recovered. Two recent service trenches were present, one associated with a drain along the eastern edge of Bishop's Walk and the other, crossing the area, containing a water pipe supplying the school.

5.4 Artefactual evidence

5.4.1 From the deposit in the southern gatepost hole (layer 5) came two non-joining sherds (including a rim) from a green and yellow glazed Verwood vessel, possibly a bowl, and a clay pipe stem with a small bore, both with a suggested date of 18th century or later (Lorraine Mepham pers comm.). From the northern gatepost hole (layer 6) came a single rim sherd from a second Verwood vessel, orange glazed and possibly also a bowl, again with a suggested date of 18th century or later. All recorded artefacts were discarded.

5.5 Environmental evidence

5.5.1 No archaeological deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified.



6 DISCUSSION

- 6.1.1 The results of the historic building recording and subsequent watching brief indicate that the infilling of an earlier opening (leaving just a narrow doorway) and raising in height of the Grade II listed wall probably took place in the later 18th or early 19th century, the wall terminals having been rebuilt prior to this but no earlier than the 18th century. The brick lacing courses to the north of the entrance may indicate that this section of wall was also wholly or substantially rebuilt at this time, perhaps in the earlier part of the 18th century, while the absence of brick lacing to the south suggests this part of the wall was probably repaired rather than rebuilt and thus largely survives from an earlier, possibly late 16th century date.
- 6.1.2 The undated wall footing and associated mortar/gravel deposit identified as Structure 2 that was revealed in the 2016-7 watching brief appears to follow the orientation of a path shown on late 19th century historical mapping (i.e. 1880 OS 1:500 scale Salisbury Town Plan). This path was orientated approximately east-west and extended from Exeter Street through to Bishop's Walk within the Close. The emergency access opening is located at what was the west end of this path. By 1901 this direct route had disappeared, disrupted by the construction of new boundaries and structures within the school grounds.

7 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

7.1 Deposition of the archive

- 7.1.1 The project archive resulting from the watching brief be deposited with Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum. The museum has been notified of the project and an accession number has been obtained (SBYWM:2019.90). Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Wiltshire Historic Environment Record (HER).
- 7.1.2 All archive elements are marked with the accession code **SBYWM:2019.90**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:
 - 01 files/document cases of paper records

7.2 OASIS

7.2.1 An OASIS (Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological investigationS) online record has been initiated (OASIS ID: wessexar1-376760), with key fields completed. Once the report is approved, a .pdf version of the final report will be uploaded and the online record completed. 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.

8 COPYRIGHT

8.1 Archive and report copyright

8.1.1 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.



8.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the 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.

8.2 Third party data copyright

8.2.1 This document, the historic building record report and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (eg, 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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Online sources

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- National Heritage List for England (NHLE) https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/
- All websites accessed 27/11/2019





Plate 1: Wall viewed from the south-east across the school playground



Plate 2: Wall viewed from the west





Plate 3: Doorway viewed from the west



Plate 4: Wall and doorway viewed from the east





Plate 5: Detail of lacing courses on the west side of the wall to the north of the new emergency access



Plate 6: Detail of stone and brick buttress to the north of the doorway viewed from the east





Plate 7: Detail of end of south section of wall following removal of blocking, viewed from the north



Plate 8: Detail of end of north section of wall and buttress following removal of blocking, viewed from the south





Plate 9: Hole for north gatepost, with surface of layer 6 exposed, viewed from the east



Plate 10: Hole for south gatepost, fully excavated, viewed from the east





Plate 11: Ground reduction in progress to west of wall, viewed from the north





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