



Hall & Woodhouse Brewery,
Blandford St Mary,
Dorset

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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Contents

| | | |
|----------|---|----------|
| 1 | INTRODUCTION | 1 |
| 1.1 | Project background..... | 1 |
| 1.2 | Location, Topography and Geology | 1 |
| 2 | ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS | 1 |
| 2.1 | Introduction..... | 1 |
| 2.2 | Soil sequence and natural deposits (Plates 2-4) | 1 |
| 3 | CONCLUSION..... | 2 |
| 3.1 | Summary | 2 |
| 4 | BIBLIOGRAPHY | 2 |
| | APPENDIX 1 PLATES..... | 3 |

List of Plates

- Plate 1** General view of the Site location, pre work commencement. View from the south.
Plate 2 General view of the removal of tarmac and start of the works. View from the Northeast.
Plate 3 Northeast facing representative section of the made ground layers over layering the natural.(Scale 0.5 m)
Plate 4 View of the top of the natural sandy clay and flint gravel across the excavation area. (Scale 0.5 m and 0.4 m)
Plate 5 Northeast facing representative section down to the of the construction level. (Scale 0.5 m)

List of Tables

- Table 1** Context Summary



Hall & Woodhouse Brewery, Blandford St Mary, Dorset

Archaeological Watching Brief

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Woodmace Ltd ('the client'), to undertake an archaeological Watching Brief during groundworks associated with the construction of a wastewater storage tank. The works to be monitored covered an area of c.91m² centred on NGR 388820 105809, at The Brewery, Blandford St Mary, Blandford Forum, DT11 9LS

1.1.2 As agreed with Dorset Council's Senior Archaeologist, the archaeological advisor to the local planning authority, the archaeological investigation was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation prepared by AC Archaeology (AC 2009)

1.2 Location, Topography and Geology

1.2.1 The proposed watching brief is located within the north-eastern extent of Blandford St Mary, south of the River Stour and Blandford Forum. The Site sites on the eastern edge of the brewery complex approximately 80 m north northeast of breweries gated entrance. It comprises, a flat area of tarmac located immediately northeast of a small grey brewing house and adjacent to Stour Park road (**Plate 1**). The River Stour is located approximately 60 m to the north west and 180 m to the north.

1.2.2 The site is located within a fairly undulatory landscape and is, itself, positioned on a north-east facing slope with the ground level recorded at 34 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

1.2.3 The underlying geology is mapped as chalk of the Seaford and Newhaven Chalk Formations, sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 72 – 90 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period. Superficial alluvial deposits of clay silt and sand are recorded, with a band of clay, silt, sand and gravel Head deposits located to the north (British Geological Survey online viewer).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 Detailed descriptions of individual contexts are provided in the summary tables 1.

2.1.2 No archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the watching brief.

2.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits (**Plates 2-4**)

2.2.1 The whole site was sealed by a layer of 0.10 m thick tarmac (**Plate 2**), this overlay a series of made ground layer associated with the construction of the modern Brewery. These layers were very distinct; the upper layer consisted of brick and concrete rubble while the lower layer consisted of a compact dark grey coarse sand with stone and brick rubble (**Plate 3**). The made ground was recorded to a depth of 0.67 m below ground level (BGL).



- 2.2.2 Underlying the made ground were natural deposits of sandy clay with patches of flint gravel and a layer of loose sand and gravel. This is consistent with known superficial geological deposits in this area. (Plate 4 and 5)

Table 1 Context Summary

| Trench No 1 | | Length 9.20 m | Width 9.90 m | Depth 1.60 m |
|----------------|-------------------------|--|--------------|---------------|
| Context Number | Interpretative Category | Description | | Depth BGL (m) |
| 101 | Tarmac | Ground surface previously used for storage and parking. | | 0 - 0.1 |
| 102 | Made ground | Mix of compact brick, tarmac, concrete rubble and mid brown sand. 90% rubble 10% sand. | | 0.1 - 0.39 |
| 103 | Made ground | Compact dark grey coarse sand and rubble. 50% sand 50% rubble. The rubble consists of sub-angular stone and brick fragments up to 170mm diameter. Rare fragments of modern bottle glass also observed. Glass not retained. | | 0.39 - 0.67 |
| 104 | Natural | Soft, mid yellowish brown sandy clay. 75% sand 25% clay. This was interspersed with patches of dark brown flint gravel, flint 5mm to 30mm. | | 0.67-1.42 |
| 105 | Natural | Loose, light brownish yellow sandy and flint gravel. 25% sand 75% gravel. Flint between 5mm to 70mm diameter. | | 1.42-1.60+ |

3 CONCLUSION

3.1 Summary

- 3.1.1 No archaeological features or deposits were observed during the watching brief. The top of the natural was recorded at 0.69 m BLG. The natural was overlain by modern made ground layers, indicating the Site has been significantly truncated / disturbed during earlier construction works associated with the modern brewery.

4 BIBLIOGRAPHY

AC Archaeology 2009 *Blandford Brewery Development, Bournemouth Road, Blandford St Mary, Dorset. Archaeological written scheme of investigation.* Unpublished report ref. ACW236/1/1

British Geological Survey online viewer
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> (accessed 10/03/2021)

APPENDIX 1 PLATES



Plate 1: General view of the Site location, pre work commencement.
View from the south.



Plate 2: General view of the removal of tarmac and start of the works.
View from the Northeast.



Plate 3: Northeast facing representative section of the made ground layers over layering the natural. (Scale 0.5 m)



Plate 4: View of the top of the natural sandy clay and flint gravel across the excavation area. (Scale 0.5 m and 0.4 m)



Plate 5: Northeast facing representative section down to the of the construction level. (Scale 0.5 m)



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