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# 35 Union Street Winchester, Hampshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report



Planning Ref: 14/02750/FUL  
Mus Acc: WINCM: AY595  
Ref: T19922.02  
June 2015



**35 Union Street  
Winchester, Hampshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

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**April 2016**

**Report Ref: T19922.02  
Mus Acc: WINCM: AY595  
Planning Application Ref:14/02750/FUL**



## Quality Assurance

<b>Project Code</b>	T19922	<b>Accession Code</b>	WINCM: AY595	<b>Client Ref.</b>	
<b>Planning Application Ref.</b>	14/02750	<b>Ordnance Survey (OS) national grid reference (NGR)</b>	448550 129637		

Version	Status*	Prepared by	Checked and Approved By	Approver's Signature	Date
v01	I	S Flaherty	A D Crockett		11/8/15
File:	\\projectserver\wessex\Tenders\T19922				
v02	E	S Flaherty	A D Crockett		19/11/15
File:	\\projectserver\wessex\Tenders\T19922\Reports				
v03	F	S Flaherty	A D Crockett		25/4/16
File:	\\projectserver\wessex\Tenders\T19922\Reports\Submitted				
File:					
File:					

\* I = Internal Draft; E = External Draft; F = Final

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# 35 Union Street Winchester, Hampshire

## Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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# 35 Union Street Winchester, Hampshire

## Archaeological Watching Brief Report

### Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Alexander Design to undertake an archaeological watching brief on land at 35 Union Street, Winchester, Hampshire. The archaeological watching brief comprised of the monitoring of the excavation for a flat concrete 'raft' foundation. The work was undertaken on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2015.

The excavation revealed a north east to south west aligned wall. It ran within the trench for approximately 3m. Its alignment and its position just below the topsoil suggested it was of similar date to the current extant building. No other archaeological features were encountered; this may in part be due to the shallow nature of the excavation.



# 35 Union Street Winchester, Hampshire

## Archaeological Watching Brief Report

### Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank John Alexander of Alexander Design for commissioning the works. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Tracy Matthews the Archaeological Officer for Winchester County Council who monitored the fieldwork, her assistance and advice is greatly acknowledged.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Simon Flaherty, who also wrote this report. The report illustrations were drawn by Nancy Dixon. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Andy Crockett.



# 35 Union Street Winchester, Hampshire

## Archaeological Watching Brief Report

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by Alexander Design (the Client) to undertake an archaeological watching brief on land at 35 Union Street, Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 8DU (centred on OS NGR 448550 129637), and hereafter referred to as the 'the Site' (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 Conditional planning permission (14/02750/FUL) was granted by Winchester City Council (WCC) for a single storey rear extension; repairs to flank wall and gable wall; loft space insulated and waterproofed with proposed dormer.
- 1.1.3 The Site lies just inside the Roman and later defences, close to the site of the Durngate. Although the city wall (which formed the 3rd phase of the Roman defences) lies to the east of the proposed development, remains of the earlier 2nd phase Roman rampart are known to extent westwards into the proposal area.
- 1.1.4 As a result of the archaeological potential of the Site (considered in greater detail below), Conditions 3 and 4 of the Planning Permission relate specifically to archaeology, as follows:
- **Condition 3:** *No development/demolition or site preparation shall take place until the applicant or their agents or successors in title has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological mitigation work (including a first phase of evaluation work) in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation that has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. No demolition/development or site preparation shall take place other than in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation approved by the LPA. The Written Scheme of Investigation shall include:*
    - 1 *An assessment of significance and research questions;*
    - 2 *The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording;*
    - 3 *Provision for post investigation assessment, reporting and dissemination; and*
    - 4 *Provision to be made for deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation (archive).*
  - **Reason:** *To mitigate the effect of the development upon any heritage assets and to ensure that information regarding these heritage assets is preserved by record for future generations, in compliance with policy HE.1 of the Winchester District Local Plan Review.*



- **Condition 4:** *Following completion of all archaeological fieldwork a report will be produced in accordance with an approved programme including where appropriate post-excavation assessment, specialist analysis and reports and publication*
- *Reason: To ensure that evidence from the historic environment contributing to our knowledge and understanding of our past is captured and made publicly available, in compliance with policy HE.1 of the Winchester District Local Plan Review.*

1.1.5 On the advice of structural engineers, and subsequent to conditional planning permission, it has been concluded that the single storey extension will be constructed on a flat concrete 'raft' foundation, with resultant below-ground impact unlikely to exceed 200-300mm depth (i.e. the depth of modern garden soil). The Winchester City Archaeologist therefore concluded that an archaeological watching brief was an appropriate response in order to satisfy and discharge Conditions 3 and 4.

1.1.6 The archaeological watching brief took place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2015.

## 1.2 The Site

1.2.1 The Site is located within the City of Winchester in Hampshire. The Site lies within the core of the historic city, just within the north-east corner of the Roman and later walled defences. The redline boundary for the development area measures approximately 180m<sup>2</sup>, and the current ground surface of the rear garden wherein the construction will occur is generally level at an approximate height of 35m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

1.2.2 The braided course of the River Itchen flows north to south to the east of the Site, and the underlying solid geology of the Site is chalk, overlain by superficial River Terrace deposits of sand and gravel (British Geological Survey, 2015).

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

### 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 A 150m buffer (hereafter the 'Study Area') around the Site was considered in order to provide a sufficient archaeological background to the Site and its environs. This baseline was prepared using the Winchester Urban Archaeological Database (Winchester UAD) sourced from Winchester City Council as well as nationally designated site and buildings in the National Heritage List for England (NHLE). The full dataset can be found in the project archive.

### 2.2 Statutory and local heritage designations

2.2.1 Within the Study Area lies a single Grade II Listed Building, 1 and 2, Rosemary Close (list entry 1095409). This was formerly the Magdalen Hospital and dates to the 16th and 17th century.

2.2.2 No Scheduled Monuments or other Listed Buildings lie within the immediate Study Area, although several lie in the wider vicinity and reflect the medieval and post-medieval development of the city.

### 2.3 Archaeological and historical context

#### *Prehistoric*

2.3.1 The Site lies within the historic core of Winchester, a city which has a long history; with settlement in the nearby area of Oram's Arbour to the north-west dating to the Bronze Age and Iron Age. It is thought that the pre-Roman course of the River Itchen was westward of its present course passing some 50m to the south-east of the Site near the junction of Union

Street and Eastgate Street. A tributary can be seen in this approximate position today, although the main channel now lies further to the east. As a result the Site may have lain within the river floodplain at this time.

#### *Romano-British*

- 2.3.2 The Roman town of *Venta Belgarum* was established in the 1st century AD and by the beginning of the third century was the fifth largest walled town in Roman Britain. The Site is situated within the north-eastern part of the Roman town adjacent to its defences (MWC6491, MWC6492). Remains of the Roman wall and associated earth rampart may lie within the north-eastern part of the Site, though in other areas it has been found to have been entirely truncated away by modern development.
- 2.3.3 To the west of the Site the remains of a possible north–south aligned street have been located (MWC6673), cut by a later Roman wall thought to form part of a building (MWC6566). Within the eastern city wall c.20m to the south-east of the Site a sluice gate has been found, constructed through the town wall but thought to be contemporary with these defences (MWC6687).
- 2.3.4 Within Roman laws and custom burial took place outside the town and an extensive eastern cemetery is thought to lie outside the line of the Roman defences in the eastern part of the Study Area (MWC6658).

#### *Saxon, medieval and post-medieval*

- 2.3.5 By AD 450, *Venta Belgarum* had ceased to function as an urban centre; in c. AD 648 King Cenwalh founded the Old Minster within the Roman walls to serve as the seat of the Bishop of the Kingdom of Wessex. During the 9th century the town defences were refortified and reorganised as part of the creation of a Saxon burh (fortified town) at Winchester, the Roman walls were rebuilt and the external defensive ditches re-cut and a new street system was established.
- 2.3.6 A documentary reference dating to 961 AD may relate to a mill outside the Durngate (MWC7514), c.65m to the north-east of the Site. Further mills are documented at this location during the medieval period (MWC7515) and another in the 18th century (MWC7513). The Durngate is known to have formed one of the six gates of the medieval city with possible remains found in the roadway of North Walls (MWC6693). Road metalling discovered near Tanner Street is thought to be part of the late medieval route that ran to the Durngate (MWC6927). Another intermural street has also been located at North Walls (MWC6915).
- 2.3.7 By the 12th century Winchester had become recognised as a royal and ecclesiastical stronghold with a population of around 11,000. The defences and street plan were based on the Late Saxon layout with rebuilding and refacing of the city wall occurring in the 13th and 15th centuries (MWC6699). Boreholes dug near Ropewalk House in 2000 may have located the southern edge of the medieval ditch (MWC6698).
- 2.3.8 Within the city walls to the south-west of the Site is the cathedral complex, which dates from the 11th century. A Franciscan friary is known to have been situated between Middle and Lower Brook Streets to the north-west of the Site (MWC6906) while to the south-east lay a Dominican friary (MWC6905). Both ecclesiastical institutions date from the 13th century and were dissolved in the 16th century when the land and buildings were acquired by Winchester College. At the junction of Union Street and Durngate the 12th century Church of St John of the Ivy is thought to have been situated, although its existence is known only from documentary records (MWC7915). Medieval tenement plots are known to have been

located within the Study Area (MWC6881) and several water channels associated with these plots have also been found (MWC6927).

#### *19th century and modern*

- 2.3.9 19th century and early 20th century Ordnance Survey (OS) maps show Union Street fronted by a series of terrace properties of which 35 and the adjacent property number 34 are remaining examples, the rest of the houses apparently being demolished and redeveloped in the latter part of the 20th century.

#### *Undated*

- 2.3.10 A standing stone is documented in the 17th century near the river (MWC7527). This has now disappeared. The date of this feature is unknown though known examples include prehistoric monuments as well as later medieval and post-medieval boundary markers.

### **3 METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Aims and objectives**

- 3.1.1 The aims of the watching brief were:

- *to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains, and should remains be present, 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;*
- *to determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present; and*
- *to prepare a full report and post excavation analysis on the results of the watching brief.*

#### **3.2 Fieldwork methodology**

- 3.2.1 The watching brief was conducted according to the agreed WSI (WA 2015) and comprised the excavation of a 'raft' foundation this was approximately 18.6m<sup>2</sup> in size. The location of this area has been indicated on **Figure 1 (Plate 1)**. The methodology was set out within the agreed WSI and as such a summary is presented here.
- 3.2.2 The fieldwork consisted of the monitoring of groundwork beneath the present ground surfaces, which included the demolition and removal of made ground and the excavation of foundations. The foundation 'raft' was hand excavated and this work was monitored by an experienced archaeologist.
- 3.2.3 The watching brief was maintained throughout the initial excavations and was concluded when, in consultation with the WCC Archaeologist, It was clear the potential for archaeological remains to be exposed had been exhausted.
- 3.2.4 All potential features and deposits of possible archaeological origin were partially excavated to ascertain their nature and function and were fully recorded using WA's *pro forma* record sheets. All deposits were assigned a unique number.

- 3.2.5 A photographic record was maintained using digital photography. Digital photography adhered to the National Monuments Records Digital Imaging Guidelines. A full graphic record was maintained. The site drawings were at an appropriate scale, typically 1:10 for sections and 1:20 for plans.

## 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

### 4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The deposit sequence across the site consisted of 0.25m of a dark grey black clayey sandy silt (**101**, **Plate 2**). Beneath this was a dark grey brown clayey sandy silt subsoil/ made-ground which contained common pieces of building debris (**103**). Further excavation was not carried out as this was the required depth for the concrete 'raft'.

### 4.2 Summary

- 4.2.1 A single wall (**102**, **Plate 3**) was encountered during the excavation it was built on top of layer **103**. It ran for a length of 3m within the trench but was segmented. It ran in a north east to south west direction. It was 0.21m wide and was a single brick high. The frogged bricks appeared to be Victorian in date and that coupled with the similar alignment to the current standing building suggests this was a previous phase of the building.

## 5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

- 5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds were found from within the topsoil (**101**) This consisted of six pieces of late 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery including a piece of Verwood white slip ware, one piece of flat roof tile and a single piece of oyster shell.

## 6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

- 6.1.1 No material suitable for environmental analysis was present within the monitored areas.

## 7 CONCLUSION

- 7.1.1 A single archaeological feature was encountered during the watching brief this was a north east to south west aligned wall. Its position within the stratigraphic sequence, sitting upon the subsoil and its alignment with the current property, suggest a Victorian date for the structure. No other archaeological features were observed during the watching brief however this was due to the shallow nature of the excavations (0.25m).

## 8 STORAGE AND CURATION

### 8.1 Museum

- 8.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with **Winchester Museum Service**. The Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project. Deposition of any finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

### 8.2 Archive

- 8.2.1 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by **Winchester Museum Service**, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; IfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

8.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site accession code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following:

- 00 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts & ecofacts, ordered by material type
- 01 files/document cases of paper records & A3/A4 graphics

### 8.3 Discard policy

8.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal* (Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. Any discard of artefacts will be fully documented in the project archive.

8.3.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2002).

### 8.4 Copyright

8.4.1 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 Museum, however, 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.

### 8.5 Security Copy

8.5.1 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.

## 9 REFERENCES

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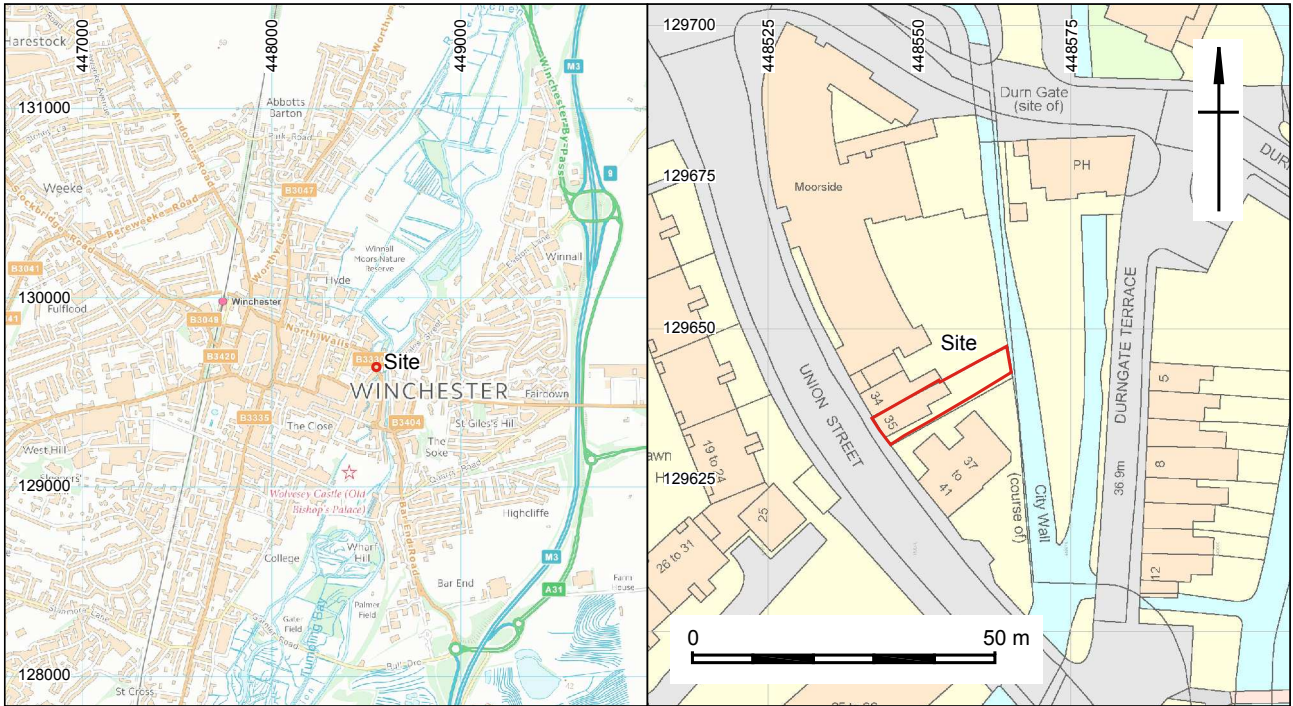



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 Site boundary

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Site location plan

Figure 1





Plate 1: Trench 1 shot of 'raft' excavation. View from the north-east



Plate 2: North-east facing representative section of Trench 1



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Plate 3: View from the south-west of wall 102

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