



## Former 'Merrie Monk' Public House 34 New Street, Andover, Hampshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report





**FORMER 'MERRIE MONK' PUBLIC HOUSE,  
34 NEW STREET, ANDOVER, HAMPSHIRE**

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

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## QUALITY ASSURANCE

SITE CODE	<b>74070</b>	ACCESSION CODE		CLIENT CODE	
PLANNING APPLICATION REF.	<b>TVBC: 10/00058/FULLN</b>	NGR	<b>436689 145908</b>		

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\* I= INTERNAL DRAFT E= EXTERNAL DRAFT F= FINAL

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**Figure 1: Overall Site Plan and photographs of representative sections**

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**FORMER 'MERRIE MONK' PUBLIC HOUSE,  
34 NEW STREET, ANDOVER, HAMPSHIRE**

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

**Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Turley Associates, on behalf of Sentinel Housing Association to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the redevelopment of the former 'Merrie Monk' Public House, 34 New Street, Andover, Hampshire. The development comprises the demolition of the existing building on the Site and construction of a residential unit of 15 flats.

The watching brief was required as a condition of planning permission for the development granted by Test Valley Borough Council (Reference 10/00058/FULLN). The condition followed the advice of the Hampshire County Archaeological Officer.

The watching brief was carried out on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2010.

No archaeological features or remains were observed during the watching brief. The Monitoring ascertained that the Site had been subject to landscaping and foundation impacts, which had reduced ground levels into the underlying chalk. It is concluded that these impacts appeared to have removed any archaeological potential the Site may once have had.

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT**

**Acknowledgements**

Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Sentinel Housing for commissioning the watching brief through their agent Turley Associates and to David Hopkins of Hampshire County Council for his advice and assistance.

The fieldwork was carried out by Jon Smith. This report was prepared by Jon Martin and the illustrations were prepared by Linda Coleman. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Paul McCulloch.

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**FORMER 'MERRIE MONK' PUBLIC HOUSE,  
34 NEW STREET, ANDOVER, HAMPSHIRE****Archaeological Watching Brief Report****1 INTRODUCTION****1.1 Project Background**

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was appointed by Turley Associates, on behalf of Sentinel Housing Association to carry out a watching brief during the redevelopment of the former 'Merrie Monk' Public House, 34 New Street, Andover, Hampshire, hereafter 'the Site', centred on NGR 436689 145908 (Figure 1). The development comprises the demolition of the existing building on the Site and construction of a residential unit of 15 flats.

1.1.2 A planning application for the proposed development has been submitted to Test Valley Borough Council (Planning Ref: 10/00058/FULLN), the Local Planning Authority (LPA). In response to the application, the County Archaeological Officer, advisor to the LPA, requested that the following condition should be attached to any permission granted for the proposed development:

*"No development shall take place (excluding above ground site clearance within the application site / area indicated red) until the applicant or their agents or successors in title has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation and mitigation, which has been submitted by the developer and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority"*

1.1.3 In keeping with the condition Wessex Archaeology prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation (Wessex Archaeology 2010), which was submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority in advance of Site works.

1.1.4 The watching brief was carried out in June 2010.

**1.2 The Site, location and geology**

1.2.1 The Site lies close to historic core of Andover and is flanked to the west by New Street and to the north by Corunna Main. The Site is in a relatively elevated position, to the east of the valley floor of the River Anton, and lies at approximately 70m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The geology beneath the Site is chalk.

**1.3 Archaeological background**

1.3.1 Andover contains and lies within an area of known archaeological sites and monuments of later prehistoric, Roman, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval date. These have been described in an Extensive Urban Survey (HCC 1999), which assessed the archaeological potential of Andover, including the Site. The Site lies within an area identified as having limited archaeological potential owing to the impact of modern development that has expanded the town around its medieval core.



- 1.3.2 Evidence for prehistoric settlement and funerary monuments has been recorded in the vicinity of the town. This includes an area of Iron Age settlement found along Vigo Road to the east of the Site. An Iron Age enclosure and Romano-British small town is recorded at East Anton 2km north-east of the town centre at the intersection of the Silchester to Old Sarum and Winchester to Cirencester Roman roads. This site, other settlement evidence and two hillforts to the south-west of the town highlight the significant level of settlement activity that was established in the area of Andover in the late prehistoric and Romano-British periods.
- 1.3.3 The Site lies east of the medieval core of Andover and close to its postulated origin, the possible site of an Anglo-Saxon '*villa Regalis*' or royal estate centre, and a Minster. Although no direct archaeological evidence for this centre has been found, there is good historical evidence for it and it appears likely to have been close to the Church of St Mary, which lies south-west of the Site. Given the Site's proximity to the possible royal estate centre, it has the potential to lie within an area of Anglo-Saxon settlement; any archaeological evidence for this from the Site would be significant.
- 1.3.4 New Street appears to be an addition to the medieval core and attracted ribbon development in the medieval and post-medieval periods, archaeological evidence for which could extend into the Site.

## **2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

### **2.1 Watching Brief**

- 2.1.1 The aim of the watching brief was to monitor groundwork associated with the development, including demolition and Site preparation works, to ensure that any archaeological remains that may have been revealed were investigated and recorded, without causing unreasonable delay to the progress of the work

## **3 WATCHING BRIEF**

### **3.1 Monitoring, Investigating and Recording**

- 3.1.1 Arrangements were made with Sentinel Housing Association and their appointed Site contractor in order that due notice of the commencement of groundwork was provided to Wessex Archaeology. This allowed for effective monitoring to be carried out.
- 3.1.2 The watching brief monitored Site preparation works, grubbing out of slabs, stripping of the Site and formation of new foundations, following demolition of the existing building to ground level.
- 3.1.3 All recording was undertaken using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system. Full written, drawn and photographic records were compiled, as necessary. A digital photographic record was compiled including general views of the Site and of exposed deposits.

### **3.2 Results.**

- 3.2.1 It was observed that the chalk natural lay immediately beneath the existing surfaces of topsoil or hardcore and tarmac. In limited areas a shallow subsoil (0.10-0.15m deep) was recorded. The soil beneath the tarmac contained





quantities of modern hardcore, brick, tile and mortar etc. No finds were retained from the topsoil layer.

- 3.2.2 No archaeological features or remains were observed during the watching brief. Monitoring observed that the Site had been subject to landscaping and foundation impacts, which had reduced ground levels into the underlying chalk. It is concluded that these impacts appeared to have removed any archaeological potential the site may once have had.

#### **4 ARCHIVE**

- 4.1.1 The project archive, consisting of an A4 ring binder and a collection of digital photographs is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology at Old Sarum, Salisbury, Wiltshire under the project code 74070. It is intended that the archive is deposited with Hampshire County Museums Service and that a copy of this report and the digital photographic archive is supplied to the Archaeology Data Service.

- 4.1.2 No further work on the archive is recommended. A copy of this report will be issued to the Hampshire County Archaeological Officer and the information it contains entered into the Hampshire Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record.

#### **5 REFERENCES**

English Heritage, 1991, *'Management of Archaeological Projects'*, English Heritage

English Heritage, 2006, *'Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment'*, English Heritage

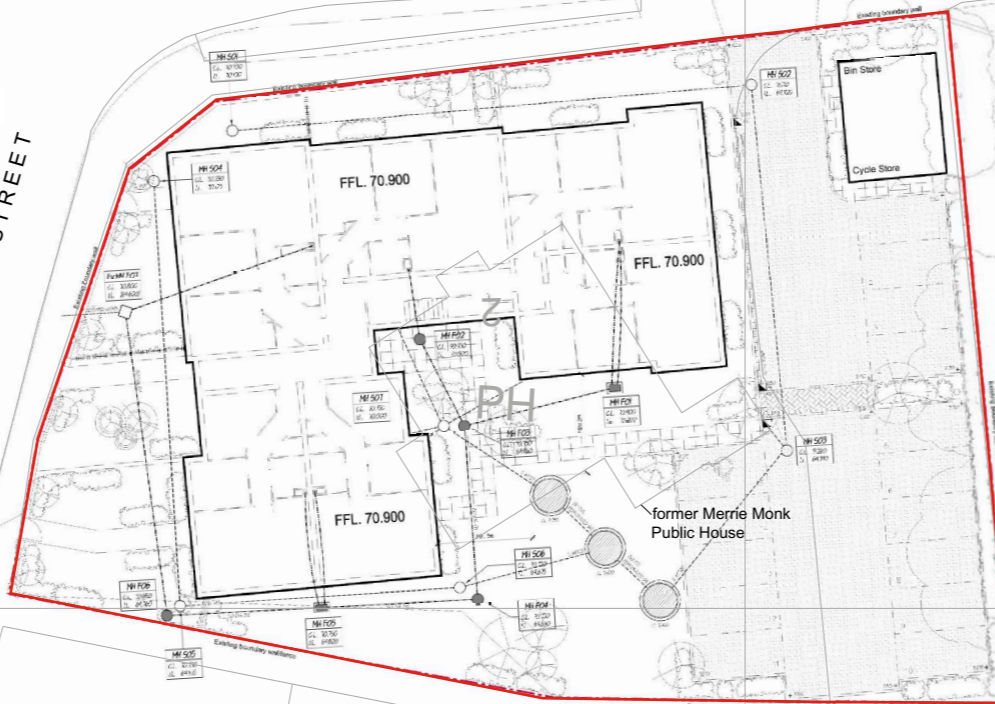
Hampshire County Council, 1999, *'Extensive Urban Survey: Archaeological Assessment Document – Andover'*.

Wessex Archaeology, 2010, *Former 'Merrie Monk' Public House, 34 New Street, Andover, Hampshire, Written Scheme of Investigation: Project Design for Watching Brief*, Client document ref: 74040.01.



Plate 1: Exposed section showing reduced ground level within site

NEW STREET



CORUNNA MAIN

1 to 16  
Spindle House

former Merrie Monk  
Public House

Area of watching brief



Plate 2: North-west facing section of foundation trench showing profile of topsoil and chalk



Plate 3: Exposed section showing truncated natural chalk beneath modern deposit

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