

**BAILEYS HOUSE,
CENTRAL WALK,
WOKINGHAM,
BERKSHIRE.**

NGR: SU 8118 6867 (centred)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



October 2017
Report No. 1219



ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY, MANAGEMENT & FIELD SERVICES

**BAILEYS HOUSE
CENTRAL WALK,
WOKINGHAM
BERKSHIRE.**

NGR: SU 8118 6867 (centred)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

October 2017

Report No. 1219

Quality Assurance

This Document has been compiled and authorised in accordance with AMS's Quality Procedures (BS EN ISO 9001: 2008)

Author: Diana King BA MCIfA

Date: 17th October 2017

Approved: Roy King BA MCIfA

QA Checked: Tracy Michaels BSc ACIfA

This report has been compiled with all reasonable skill care and attention to detail within the terms of the project as specified by the client and within the general terms and conditions of Archaeological Management Services Ltd trading as Foundations Archaeology but no explicit warranty is provided for information and opinions stated. AMS Ltd accepts no responsibility whatsoever to third parties to whom this report or any part thereof is made known. Any such party relies on this report at their own risk. Copyright of this document is retained by AMS Ltd, but unlimited licence to reproduce it in whole or part is granted to the client and/or their agents and/or assignees on payment of invoice.

CONTENTS

Summary

Glossary

- 1 INTRODUCTION
- 2 PROJECT BACKGROUND
- 3 AIMS
- 4 METHODOLOGY
- 5 RESULTS
- 6 ARCHIVING, STORAGE & PUBLICATION
- 7 BIBLIOGRAPHY
- 8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Site Location

Figure 2: Watching Brief Location

SUMMARY

Between 15-16th June 2017 Foundations Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with a change of use from offices to a restaurant, including the construction of a single storey rear extension at Baileys House, Central Walk, Wokingham, Berkshire (NGR: SU 8118 6867 (centred)). The work was commissioned by Tim Solomons of Cornice Group on behalf of FI Real Estate Management.

The watching brief comprised the archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with the construction of the new extension.

The monitoring work revealed a minimum of 0.60m of made ground to the full depth of the excavations, beneath the pre-existing tarmac and concrete surface. No natural ground was revealed during the course of the works and no archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within the monitored areas, but may survive at a greater depth.

GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Archaeology

For the purpose of this project archaeology is taken to mean the study of past human societies through their material remains from Prehistoric times to the Modern era. No rigid upper date limit has been set, but AD 1900 is used as a general cut-off point.

CBM

Ceramic building material.

Medieval

The period between the Norman Conquest (AD 1066) and *c.* AD 1500.

Natural

In archaeological terms this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site.

NGR

National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid.

OD

Ordnance datum; used to express a given height above sea-level.

OS

Ordnance Survey.

Post-medieval

The period from *c.* AD 1500 onwards.

Prehistoric

The period prior to the Roman invasion of AD 43. Traditionally sub divided into; Palaeolithic – *c.* 500,000 BC to *c.* 12,000 BC; Mesolithic – *c.* 12,000 BC to *c.* 4,500 BC; Neolithic – *c.* 4,500 BC to *c.* 2,000 BC; Bronze Age – *c.* 2,000 BC to *c.* 800 BC; Iron Age – *c.* 800 BC to AD 43.

Romano-British

Term used to define the fusion of indigenous Iron Age traditions with invasive Roman culture. Traditionally dated AD 43 to *c.* AD 410.

Saxon

The period between AD 410 and AD 1066.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Between 15th-16th June 2017 Foundations Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at Baileys House, Central Walk, Wokingham, Berkshire (NGR: SU 8118 6867 (centred)). The work was commissioned by Tim Solomons of Cornice Group on behalf of FI Real Estate Management.
- 1.2 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), prepared by Foundations Archaeology (2016). The WSI was produced in accordance with the general principles of NPPF12 (*National Planning Policy Framework 2012*) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*, issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014).
- 1.3 This document presents the findings of the archaeological works and complies with the specification set out in MoRPHE (English Heritage, 2006).

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The works were associated with a change of use from offices to a restaurant, including the construction of a single storey rear extension to create kitchen facilities permitted under Planning Reference (161414).
- 2.2 Baileys House is located in the Conservation Area of Wokingham, within the Medieval core of the town. The development area is located less than 50m northwest of Rose Street, which is first mentioned in 1219 AD and is one of the principal streets from the town's early development. Broad Street, which is thought to be the original Medieval High Street, is located around 55m to the southwest of the site.
- 2.3 The underlying geology is recorded as *Bagshot Formation – Sand, Sedimentary Bedrock* with superficial deposits recorded as *River Terrace deposits – Sand and Gravel* (BGS on line viewer).
- 2.4 In the light of the established archaeological potential of the area, the archaeological advisor to Wokingham District Council recommended that a programme of archaeological monitoring should be undertaken during the groundworks.

3 AIMS

- 3.1 The aims of the archaeological recording were to gather high quality data from the direct observation of archaeological deposits.
- 3.2 These aims were achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:

- i) to define and identify the nature of archaeological deposits on site, and date these where possible;
- ii) to attempt to characterise the nature of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning of features present on the site;
- iii) where possible to recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence and recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 All intrusive groundworks were monitored and recorded under constant archaeological supervision in order to identify any archaeological finds, features or deposits. Initial groundworks comprised the removal of existing tarmac across the entirety of the footprint of the new extension (7.8m x 6.7m), to a depth of 0.18m-0.2m below existing ground level, as marked on Figure 2. A toothless grading bucket was employed during these works.
- 4.2 The extension area was subsequently excavated down to an average depth of 0.6m below the existing Modern ground level following the removal of the tarmac. The entirety of the excavations was observed.
- 4.3 Appropriate sections were recorded to be able to characterise the stratigraphy of the area impacted by the groundworks.
- 4.4 All excavation and recording work was undertaken in accordance with the WSI and the Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 3: Excavation Manual.

5 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- 5.1 The stratigraphic sequence consisted of a layer of tarmac over concrete to a depth of 0.18-0.20m, beneath which was a deposit of dark grey silty sand made ground, with frequent brick and concrete rubble fragments throughout. A substantial Modern service on a northeast-southwest alignment was present in the centre of the excavation for the entire width of the watched area. The made ground extended beyond the excavated depth for the extension.
- 5.2 No natural deposits comprising were encountered within the monitored area.
- 5.3 No archaeological finds, features or deposits were observed during the monitoring works. It should be noted however, that since natural deposits were not encountered, it is possible that archaeological features survive at a greater depth.

6 ARCHIVING, STORAGE & PUBLICATION

- 6.1 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology, but will be deposited in due course with a suitable museum once one becomes available. Copies of the report in paper and digital format will be supplied to Berkshire Archaeology and an additional copy will be deposited with the site archive.
- 6.2 The report will be published in an appropriate form in a relevant journal, within 12 months from completion of fieldwork. An OASIS record will also be completed and submitted on completion of the project.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

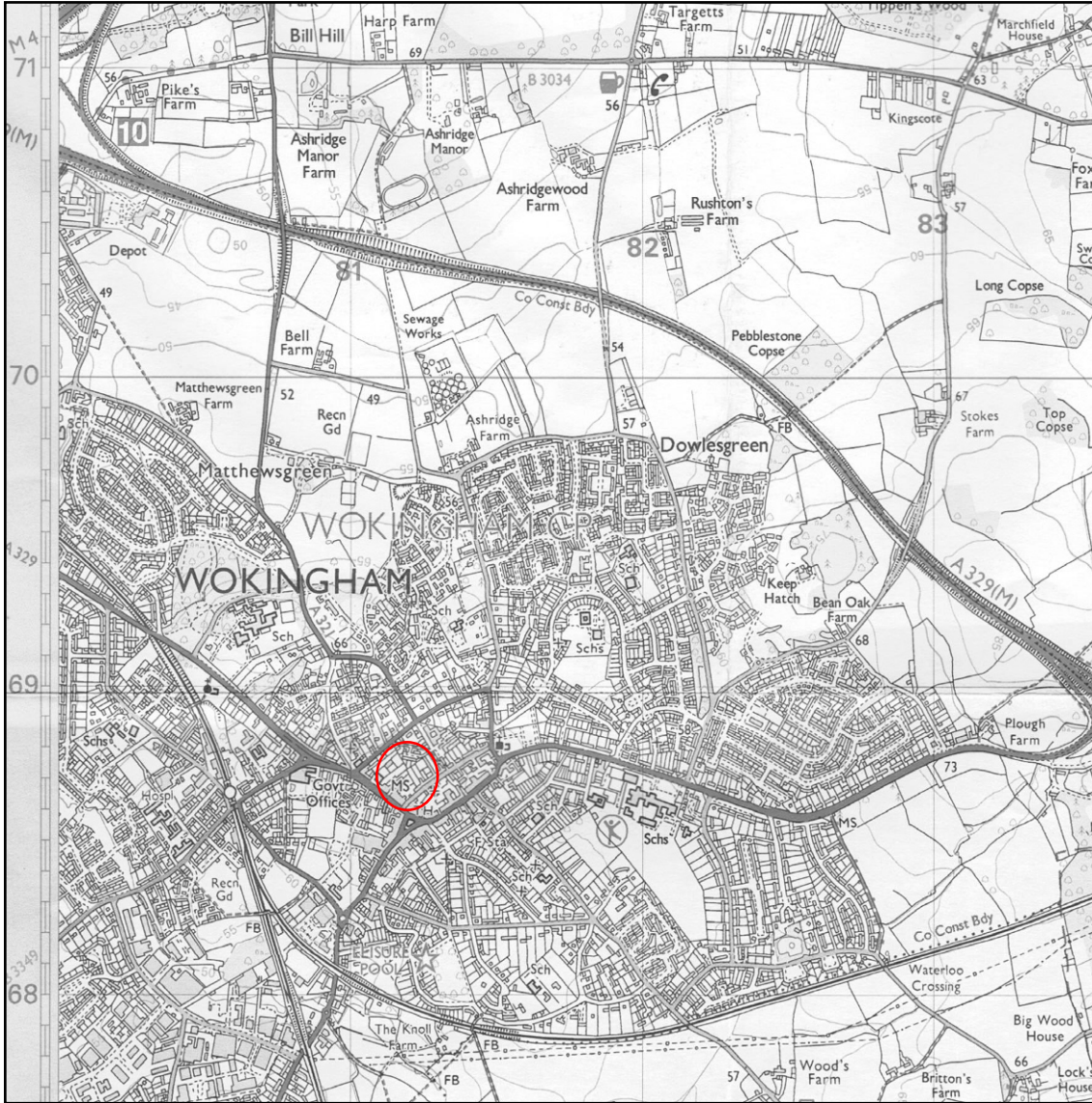
Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*, Reading.

English Heritage, 2006, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*, Swindon.

Foundations Archaeology, 2016, *Baileys House, Wokingham, Berkshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*. Unpublished

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Foundations Archaeology would like to thank Ellie Leary of Berkshire Archaeology, Tim Solomons of Cornice Group, Clive Beard of Beasons Construction and Development Ltd. and the on-site groundworkers for their help during the course of the project.



© Crown Copyright and Database Right 2017.
 Ordnance Survey Licence 100015722

Site Code: BHW16

Accession Code:

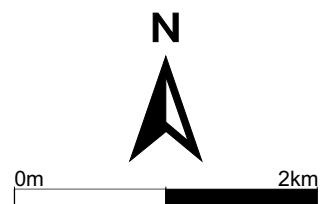
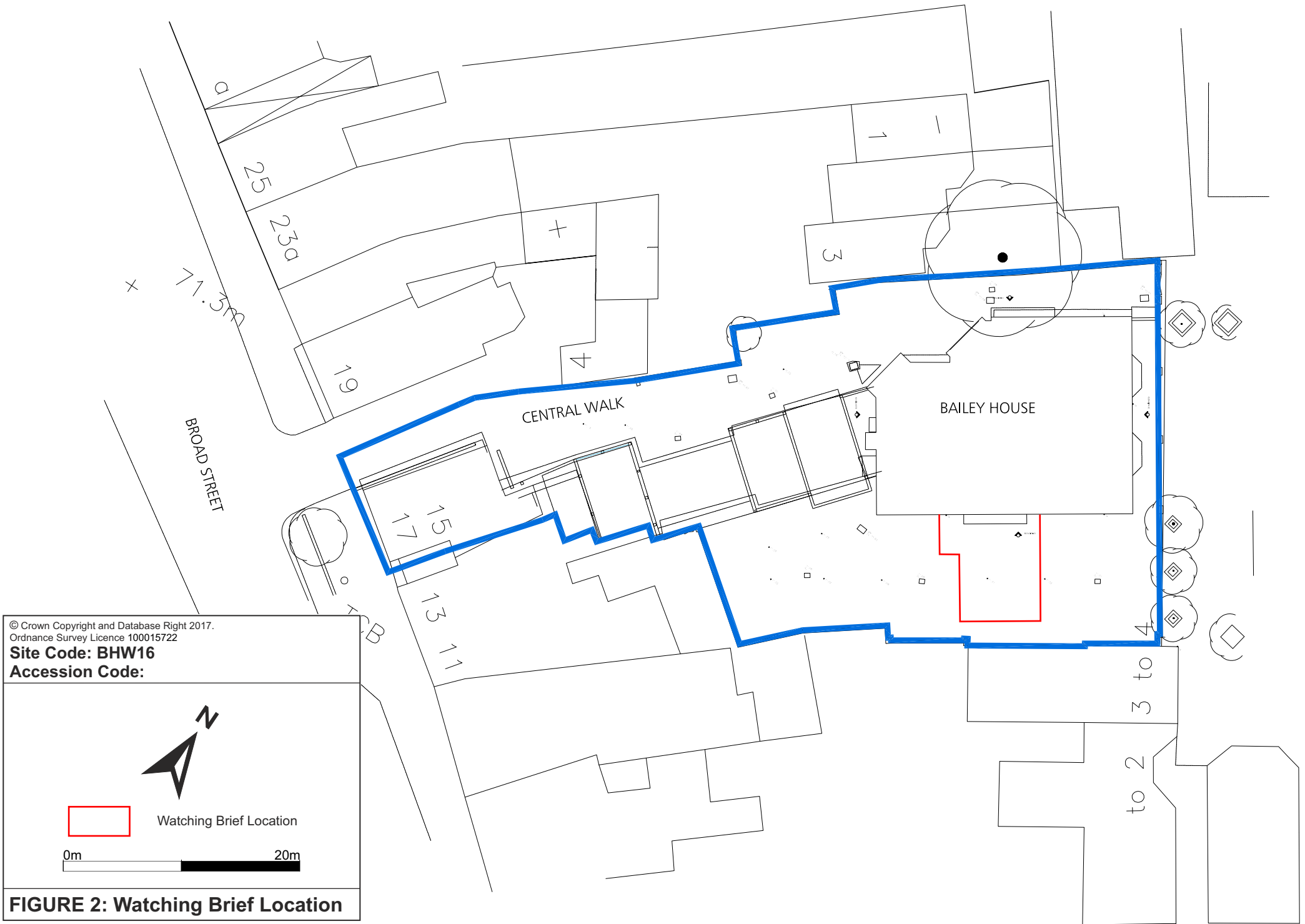


FIGURE 1: Site Location



© Crown Copyright and Database Right 2017.
 Ordnance Survey Licence 100015722

Site Code: BHW16
Accession Code:

FIGURE 2: Watching Brief Location