

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

**NGR: SU 8119 6867 (centred)**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

May 2019  
Report No. 1301



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY, MANAGEMENT & FIELD SERVICES**

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**Quality Assurance**

This Document has been compiled and authorised in accordance with AMS's Quality Procedures (ISO 9001: 2015)

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## **SUMMARY**

On the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019 Foundations Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of a single storey rear extension to create kitchen facilities at Baileys House, Central Walk, Wokingham, Berkshire (NGR: SU 8119 6867 (centred)). The work was commissioned by Matthew R. Pickup of Pickup Town Planning on behalf of Trismire Limited.

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

The monitoring work revealed a minimum of 0.95m of modern 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. Archaeological finds consisted of two fragments of late Post-medieval red/orange glazed earthenware pottery, a fragment of clay pipe smoking stem and a piece of animal bone. No significant archaeological 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 On the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019 Foundations Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at Baileys House, Central Walk, Wokingham, Berkshire (NGR: SU 8119 6867 (centred)). The work was commissioned by Matthew R. Pickup of Pickup Town Planning on the behalf of Tristmire Limited.
- 1.2 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), prepared by Foundations Archaeology (2019). The WSI was produced in accordance with the general principles of NPPF18 (*National Planning Policy Framework 2018*) 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 single storey extension for commercial office use under Planning Reference (190200).
- 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 65m to the southwest of the site. The site is located in the vicinity of Grade II and II\* listed medieval buildings.
- 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 A previous watching brief was undertaken by Foundations Archaeology in 2017 during groundworks associated with the change of use from offices to a restaurant, which included the construction of a single storey rear extension to Baileys House. 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.
- 2.5 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 the existing substrates to excavate northeast and southeast foundation trenches to a total depth of 0.95m below existing ground level, as marked on Figure 2. Due to the presence of in-situ tarmac, concrete and hardcore layers, a toothed grading bucket was employed to remove these layers as well as manual hand excavation by the on-site workers.
- 4.2 Appropriate sections were recorded to be able to characterise the stratigraphy of the area impacted by the groundworks.
- 4.3 All excavation and recording work was undertaken in accordance with the WSI and the Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 3: Excavation Manual.

### **5 RESULTS**

- 5.1 The excavated foundation trenches were 0.45m wide and upto 0.95m deep. The lowest stratigraphic deposit present within the excavated area consisted of a dark grey brown sandy silt clay (106), which yielded late Post-medieval glazed pottery and a fragment of clay pipe stem. This deposit continued beyond the limit of excavation. This was sealed by a dark grey brown sandy silt clay layer (105), this was visually similar to (106), but contained frequent brick rubble throughout. Deposit (105) also contained a fragment of animal bone. Layer (105) was in turn sealed by a layer of gravel/hardcore (103), followed by concrete (102) and tarmac (101).

- 5.2 At the northwestern end of the northwest-southeast orientated foundation trench was a single Modern cut [104]. This feature cut through layers (105) and (106) and was sealed by Modern layer (102).
- 5.3 No natural deposits were encountered within the monitored area.

## **6 CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 The lowest stratigraphic layer present within the excavated area (106), contained late Post-medieval dating evidence. It is possible that this may constitute a former top or plough soil. This was sealed by a (105), which was similar in appearance to (106), but yielded a large quantity of brick rubble throughout, this appeared to be equivalent to the basal deposit encountered in the previous watching brief. It would seem likely that (105) is the result of disturbance to the upper levels of (106), probably during the previous construction of Bailey House. A Modern cut [104], was also identified during the works.
- 6.2 Archaeological finds consisted of two fragments of red/orange glazed earthenware pottery late Post-medieval, a fragment of clay pipe smoking stem and a piece of animal bone, frequent brick rubble was also identified but not retained. No significant archaeological 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.
- 6.3 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.
- 6.4 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.



## **Baileys House Extension, Central Walk, Wokingham: Archaeological Watching Brief**

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## **8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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**Baileys House Extension, Central Walk, Wokingham: Archaeological Watching Brief**

**APPENDIX 1: Stratigraphic Data**

<b>CXT</b>	<b>L(m)</b>	<b>W(m)</b>	<b>D(m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Later Than</b>	<b>Earlier Than</b>
101	8+	7.8+	0.05	Tarmac. Black. Modern ground surface.	102	n/a
102	8+	7.8+	0.2	Concrete layer. Modern	103, 104	101
103	8+	7.8+	0.1	Gravel/hardcore. Pinkish brown. Modern. Probable bedding layer for concrete.	105	102
[104]	4	0.45+	0.25	Modern cut: Contained fill (107). Only present in northwestern end of northwest-southeast orientated foundation trench.	105, 106	102
105	8+	7.8+	0.35	Deposit: Very dark greyish brown Sandy silt clay. Firm. No charcoal present. Frequent stones. Finds consist of one fragment of animal bone, with frequent brick rubble throughout.	106	104, 103, 102
106	8+	7.8+	0.1-0.3	Deposit: Very dark greyish brown Sandy silt clay. Less stones than (105). Firm. No charcoal present. Finds consist of one fragment of clay pipe smoking stem and two fragments of red/orange glazed earthenware pottery; 17th-19th century.	?	104, 105
107	4	0.45+	0.25	Fill of cut [104]. Dark yellow brown sandy clay silt. No charcoal or finds present.	105, 106	102



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**Site Code: BHW19**  
**Accession Code:**

N

0km 1km

**FIGURE 1: Site Location**





Plate 1: Section photograph, northeast facing



Plate 2: Section photograph, northwest facing



Plate 3: Site photograph, looking south



Plate 4: Section photograph, southeast facing

Site Code: BHW19
Accession Code:
<b>FIGURE 3: Photographs</b>