

**23 NEWBURY STREET,  
LAMBOURN**

**NGR: SU 327 788**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**26/11/04**

**Andrew Hood BSc.(Hons.) AIFA**

November 2004  
Report No. 384

23 Newbury Street,  
Lambourn

NGR: SU 327 788

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## **SUMMARY**

**Site Name:** 23 Newbury Street, Lambourn.

**Grid Reference:** SU 327 788.

**Site Activity:** Watching Brief.

**Date and Duration of Project:** 24th-25th November, 2004. 2 Days.

**Project Manager:** Roy King.

**Site Supervisor:** Andrew Hood.

**Site Code:** NSL 04.

**Area of Site:** Approximately 21m<sup>2</sup>.

### **Summary of Results:**

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken in November 2004 by Foundations Archaeology at the rear of 23 Newbury Street, Lambourn (NGR: SU 327 788). The watching brief involved the archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with the construction of an extension to an existing residence.

No archaeological features or artefacts were present within the excavated area.

Preservation conditions were good.

## 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 *circa* 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 *circa* AD 1500 onwards

### *Roman*

The period from AD 43 to AD 410

### *Saxon*

The period from *circa* AD 410 to AD 1066

## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In November 2004 Foundations Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief at 23 Newbury Street, Lambourn (NGR: SU 327 788). The work was commissioned by Ms. S. Bruce in response to a condition of planning permission (Application Ref: 04/00491) and subsequent archaeological Brief prepared by West Berkshire County Council (2004).
- 1.2 The watching brief was concerned with an area of land immediately to the rear of 23 Newbury Street, Lambourn, upon which a single storey house extension was to be constructed. The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994, revised 2001), Archaeological Guidance Paper 4: *Archaeological Watching Briefs: (guidelines)* issued by English Heritage (London Region) the Brief, prepared by West Berkshire County Council and the Project Design prepared by Foundations Archaeology (2004).
- 1.3 This document presents the findings of the archaeological watching brief and conforms to the specification set out in Appendices 4 and 5 of *The Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991).

## 2 SITE LOCATION

- 2.1 The study area was located immediately to the south of Newbury Street and approximately 150m southeast of the Market Place. The local geology consisted of chalk with flints.

## 3 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 3.1 No. 23 Newbury Street lies close to the centre of the historic core of Lambourn. Lambourn was mentioned in King Alfred's will in *circa* 888 AD and may have been a royal residence during this time. Astill (1978) postulates that the Saxon settlement extended onto the south eastern side of the Market Place and, as a result, it possible that the study area may fall within the area of Saxon settlement.
- 3.2 The study area was located near to the centre of the Medieval town. The town appeared to have extended down High Street and Newbury Street when granted borough status in the 12<sup>th</sup> century.
- 3.3 Previous studies close to the site have revealed archaeological deposits. Work at the Red Lion Pub, High Street, yielded cut features of early-middle Saxon, late Medieval and post-Medieval date (Foundations Archaeology 1999). An evaluation within Bourne House Stables, Oxford Road, contained Roman, Saxo-Norman and Medieval features within the paddock to the rear of the stable complex (Foundations Archaeology 2000). A watching brief at 16-18 Oxford Road revealed a Medieval and an undated pit, along with residual

Roman pottery (TVAS 2004). Work at 18-20 High Street revealed a number of domestic pits of possibly Medieval and 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date (TVAS 2003). Also a watching brief at 2 Newbury Street revealed two Medieval rubbish pits and one early post-Medieval rubbish pit, suggesting that the current buildings on the site occupies a plot which has been occupied since early Norman times (TVAS 2003).

- 3.4 The study area therefore, contains the potential for the preservation of archaeological features and deposits, predominantly associated with the Roman, Saxon, Medieval and post-Medieval periods. This will in no way prejudice the works against the recovery of finds or features relating to other periods.

## **4 AIMS**

- 4.1 The aims of the watching brief were to gather high quality data from the direct observation of archaeological deposits in order to provide sufficient information to establish the nature, extent, preservation and potential of any surviving archaeological remains.

- 4.2 These aims were to be achieved by the pursuit of the following specific objectives as stated in the Project Design (Foundations Archaeology 2004).

i) to define, identify and record any 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.

## **5 METHODOLOGY**

- 5.1 The layout of the groundworks is shown in Figure 2. All trenches were manually excavated. All significant groundworks within the study area were observed by an archaeologist. When features or deposits of potential archaeological significance were noted, they were closely examined, defined, manually excavated (where appropriate) and recorded.

## **6 RESULTS**

- 6.1 The development was undertaken in two phases: Phase 1 comprised a topsoil strip, phase 2 consisted of foundation trench cutting.

- 6.2 **Phase 1:** Topsoil (102) was removed by hand across a rectangular area measuring *circa* 5.80m long and 3.60m wide. Layer (102), up to 0.42m thick, consisted of a dark brown humic garden topsoil which contained occasional CBM fragments. Context (102) directly overlaid layer (101).
- 6.3 **Phase 2:** The foundation footing trench, 13.30m long and 0.50m wide, was manually excavated to an average depth of 1.35m. Natural deposits, which consisted of chalk with flints, were encountered at an average depth of 1.17m below the current ground surface. Layer (101), up to 0.76m thick, directly overlaid the natural and consisted of a mid brown compact clay silt subsoil which contained frequent flint nodules. No artefacts or charcoal flecks were present within this context.
- 6.4 Feature [103] was 1.80m wide and 0.95m in depth and consisted of a substantial cut with vertical sides and a flat base. Fill (104) comprised a black humic garden soil which contained frequent tile and brick fragments. Feature [103] was cut through layers (101) and (102) and occurred immediately southwest of the existing kitchen. Fill (104) abutted the kitchen wall foundation at the northeast.

## 7 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 Feature [103] was a modern cut which was probably associated with the construction of the kitchen for No. 23 Newbury Street.
- 7.2 No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were present within the excavation area.
- 7.3 In general, preservation conditions were good.

## 8 NATURE OF THE RECORD

- 8.1 The stratigraphic archive for the site consists of the following elements:
- Context Sheets  
Sections
- 8.2 The on-site methodologies used to recover any evidence were set out in the Foundations Archaeology Project Design (2004). In summary the following excavation methods were utilised; observation of all groundworks associated with the construction of the new building. All site recording was undertaken in accordance with the Project Design. The records are available in the archive.
- 8.3 Following the completion of the Watching Brief an ordered, indexed, and internally consistent site archive has been compiled in accordance with Appendix 3 of The Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage 1991). This archive is currently held at Foundations Archaeology and will be deposited at an appropriate museum within six months.



- 8.4 A summary of the contents of this report is available from Project OASIS at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>

## 9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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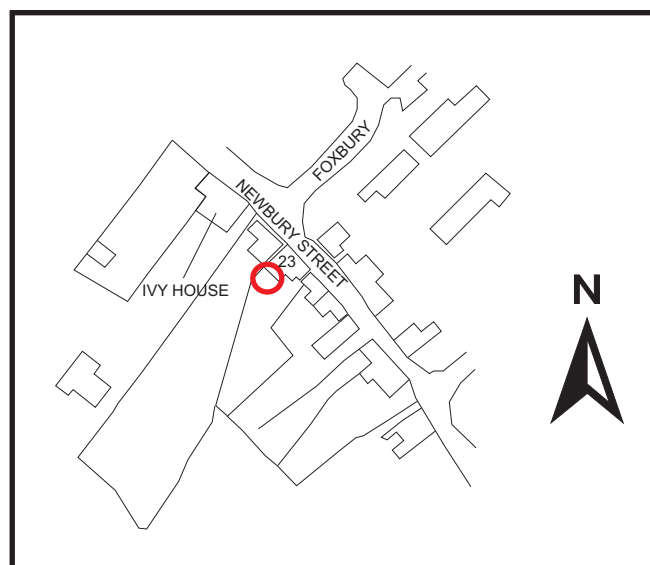
West Berkshire County Council 2004. *23 Newbury Street, Lambourn: Brief for an Archaeological Watching Brief*.

## 10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

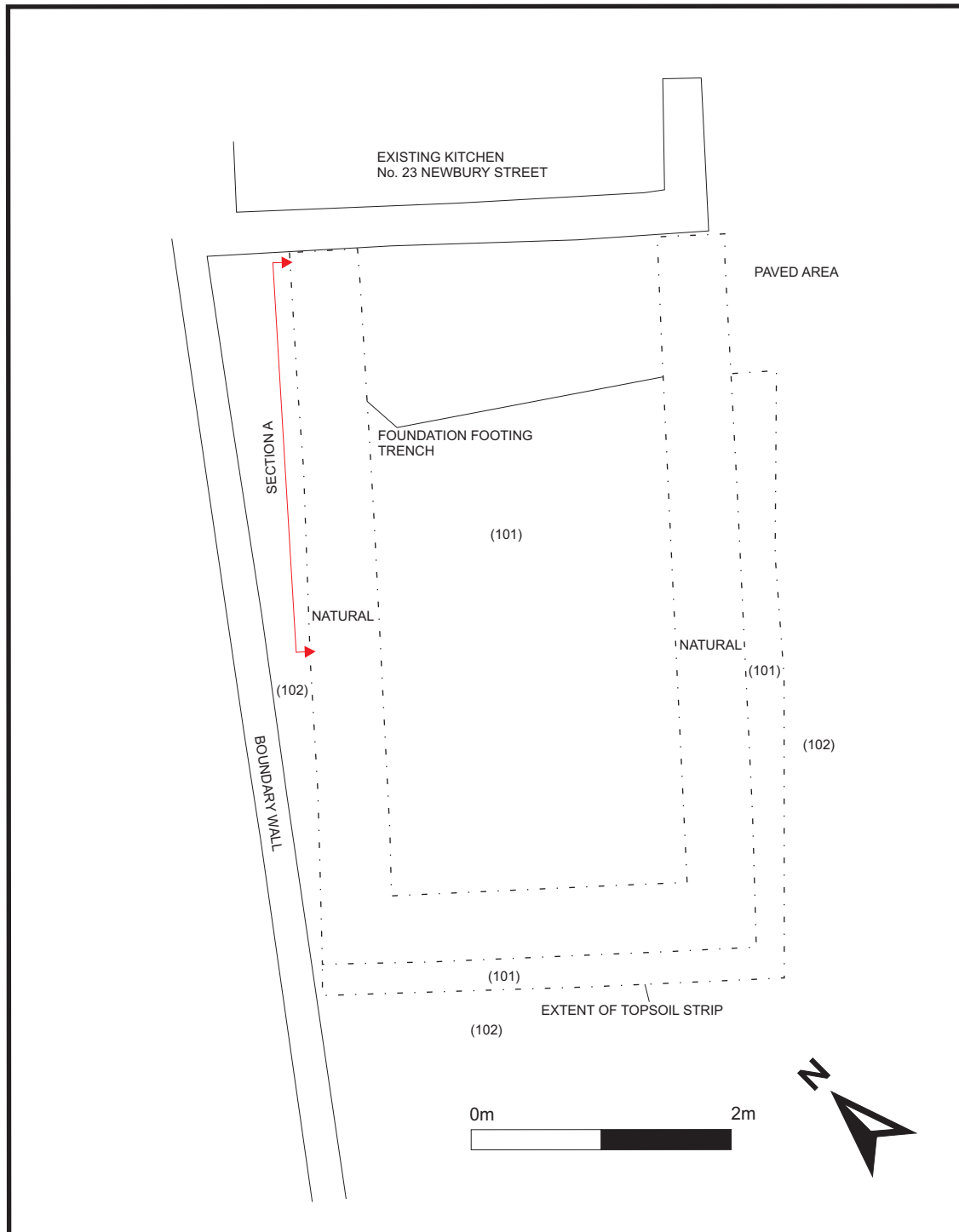
Foundations Archaeology would like to thank Ms. S. Bruce and Duncan Coe for their assistance during the course of the project.



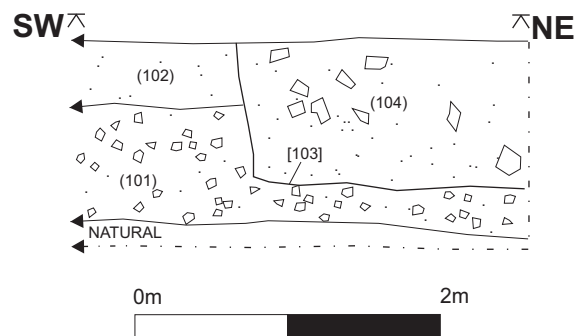
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**FIGURE 1: Site Location**



### SECTION A



**FIGURE 2: Site Plan and Section**