border archaeology

Archaeological Observation



ne Quadrangie
3 The Close
Winchester
SO23 9LT
Hampshire

On behalf of

The Pilgrims' School Winchester

January 2021



GENERAL ENQUIRIES

e:info@borderarchaeology.com t: 01568 610101 w: borderarchaeology.com

Administration

The Plaza, Owen Way, Leominster Enterprise Park, Leominster, HR6 0LA

Post-Ex Facility – Leominster

t: 01568 610101

e: postex@@borderarchaeology.com

Post-Ex Facility – Milton Keynes

t: 01908 533233

e postexmk@borderarchaeology.com

REGIONAL OFFICES

Milton Keynes

Common Farm Calverton Lane Milton Keynes **MK19 6EU**

t: 01908 533233

Leeds

No 1 Leeds 26 Whitehall Road Leeds **LS12 1BE**

t: 0113 8187959

Shoreditch

The Old Fire Station 140 Tabernacle Street London EC2A 4SD

t: 02033 015670

Newport

Merlin House No1 Langstone Business Park

NP18 2HJ

t: 01633 415339

Bristol

First Floor, Citibase Bristol Aztec West Aztec Centre, Aztec West Almondsbury Bristol **BS32 4TD**

t: 0117 9110767

Winchester

Basepoint Business Centre Winnall Valley Road Winchester SO23 OLD

t: 01962 832777





MILTON KEYNES | SHOREDITCH | LEOMINSTER | BRISTOL | WINCHESTER | LEEDS | NEWPORT

COMPILATION

Amy Bunce BSc MA ACIfA

ARTWORK

Holly Litherland BA (Hons.)

FINAL EDIT & APPROVAL

George Children MA MCIfA

REPORT REFERENCE

BA2085PSW/REP

GRID REFERENCE

NGR: SU 4824 2907

OS LICENCE NUMBER

100055758

SMC REFERENCE

S00240479

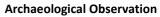
DATE

January 2021

Cover: View southwest showing Site works in progress

ISO 9001 | ISO 14001 | OHSAS 18001

Border Archaeology Ltd shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, with all rights reserved, excepting that it hereby provides a licence to the Client and the Council for the use of the report by the Client and the Council in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification to use the documentation for their statutory functions and to provide copies of it to third parties as an incidental to such functions.





The Quadrangle 3 The Close Winchester SO23 9LT January 2021

Contents:

1	Non-Technical Summary	1
2	Introduction	
3	Site Description	
	3.1 Soils & Geology	2
4	Aims & Objectives	2
5	Scheme of Work	2
6	Results	2
7	Conclusion	8
8	Copyright	8
9	References	
10	Appendix: Context Tabulation	10
	10.1 Test Pit 1	10
	10.2 Test Pit 2	10



Archaeological Observation

The Quadrangle 3 The Close Winchester SO23 9LT January 2021

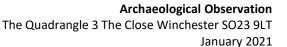
1 Non-Technical Summary

Border Archaeology was instructed by The Pilgrims' School Winchester to carry out Archaeological Observation of groundworks in the Quadrangle involving the replacement of an existing turf lawn with an artificial 'Astroturf' surface. The area is within Winchester Cathedral Close, a Scheduled Monument.

The turf was originally laid following construction of the school's Millennium Building in 1999-2000, when the ground level in the Quadrangle was also raised. The replacement works involved stripping the modern turf to a depth of not more than 100mm.

Two preliminary Test Pits were excavated to confirm that there would be no impact on any archaeological levels. Made ground was seen to underlie the turf in both areas and turf removal proceeded under archaeological supervision.

Made ground was observed to extend across the site, with no impact on any underlying archaeological features or deposits.





2 Introduction

Border Archaeology Ltd was instructed by The Pilgrims' School (hereafter, 'the Site') to carry out a programme of Archaeological Observation in the Quadrangle in connection with the replacement of an area of turf with an artificial surface ('Astroturf'). The area is within Winchester Cathedral Close (*fig.* 1), which is a Scheduled Monument (No: SM HA 585, HA 1005520). Scheduled Monument Consent was granted (SMC Ref: S00240479).

This Report has been compiled for submission to Alex Bellisario Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments Historic England; a copy will also be sent to Ms Tracy Matthews Historic Environment Officer (Archaeology) (HEOA).

3 Site Description

The Site is located at a height of c. 33m AOD within the Inner Close of Winchester Cathedral centred on NGR SU 4824 2907. The Quadrangle is flanked to the W by the main school building, which incorporates the core of the 14th Century monastic guest hall and guest master's accommodation. The Stancliffe Building opened in 1989 stands to the N and to the E is the Millennium Building of 1999- 2000, incorporating an earlier classroom block of 1973-4. To the S is a paved path alongside the Close Wall.

3.1 Soils & Geology

The Soil Survey of England and Wales (SSEW) classifies this as an unsurveyed urban area. However, a band of earthy eutro-amorphous (mainly humified) peat soils of the ADVENTURERS' 3 Series (1024c) is recorded running roughly N-S along the course of the River Itchen to the E. These deep peat soils overlie river alluvium and are associated with extremely calcareous mineral soils and high groundwater levels (SSEW 1983).

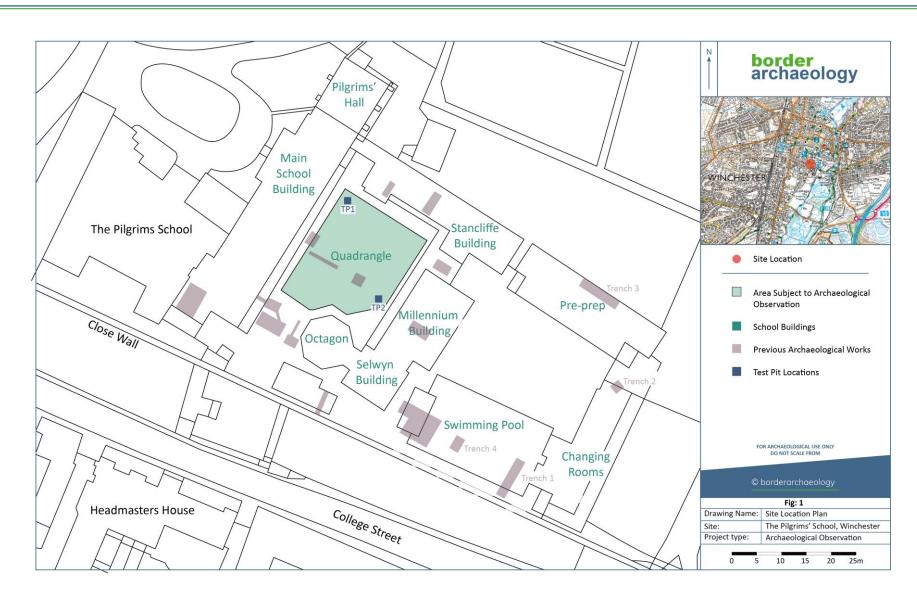
The British Geographical Society online map viewer identified bedrock of the New Pit Chalk Formation with superficial deposits composed of alluvium (BGS 2020).

Only modern turf and made ground deposits were encountered during the course of the Archaeological Observation.



Archaeological Observation

The Quadrangle 3 The Close Winchester SO23 9LT January 2021





4 Aims & Objectives

The aim of the programme of archaeological work was to identify and record any archaeological finds, features or deposits within the groundworks area and to confirm that no impact on the archaeological resource occurred during the course of the groundworks without its implementation.

5 Scheme of Work

The engineering methodology involved stripping the existing turf laid across the Quadrangle in 2000 to a depth of not more than 100mm and replacing it with an artificial 'Astroturf' surface.

Prior to turf removal, two Test Pits (TPs) were excavated to the required engineering depth under archaeological supervision to establish the impact of the proposed groundworks on any underlying archaeological features or deposits.

TP 1 was located in the N corner and excavated by hand; TP 2 was located in the SE corner. Each was located on a plan (fig. 1).

Both TPs revealed modern made ground beneath the existing turf layer; the made ground was observed to continue below the base of excavation in each of the TPs.

No archaeological features or deposits were revealed within the impact zone in either location and turf removal proceeded to the required depth across the Site under constant archaeological supervision.

A *proforma* context record was completed for each excavated context and a high-resolution (20 MPX) digital photographic record made of the TPs and subsequent groundworks (*Plates 1-4*).

6 Results

The uppermost context recorded in both TPs was a modern turf deposit composed of stone-free moderately compacted but plastic dark brown silty clay to an average thickness of 0.04m. This contained modern (21st Century) inclusions, such as confectionery wrappers and broken pencils.

Underlying the turf in each of the TPs was a modern made ground deposit consisting of firm dark grey brown sandy clay extending to an unknown depth below the level of engineering impact. This contained occasional to moderate inclusions of slate, CBM, Fe, bottle glass, bone, pottery and modern geotextile material, together with moderate natural flint inclusions.

No further deposits were seen during observation of the turf-stripping.



Each excavated context is described in full in the accompanying table (see Appendix)



Plate 1: View W of TP 1





Plate 2: View E of TP 2



The Quadrangle 3 The Close Winchester SO23 9LT January 2021



Plate 3: View NW showing TP 2 following removal of turf



The Quadrangle 3 The Close Winchester SO23 9LT January 2021



Plate 4: View S showing the Site following turf removal

Conclusion

Archaeological Observation of turf removal within the Quadrangle revealed only modern made ground formed during construction of the Millennium Building in 1999-2000, which contained post-medieval inclusions and modern materials such as late 20th Century geotextile. The groundworks had no impact on any underlying archaeological features or deposits.

Copyright

Border Archaeology Ltd shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, with all rights reserved, excepting that it hereby provides a licence to The Pilgrims' School, Historic England and Winchester City Council for the use of the report by The Pilgrims' School, Historic England and Winchester City Council in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification to use the documentation for their statutory functions and to provide copies of it to third parties as an incidental to such functions.



9 References

Border Archaeology, 2017, Archaeological Field Recording Manual.

CIfA, 2019a, Code of Conduct.

CIfA, 2020a, Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief.

CIfA, 2020b, Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.

Lee, E., 2015, Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide, Historic England.

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2019, National Planning Policy Framework, HMSO.

Ministry of Justice, 2011, 'Statement on the exhumation of human remains for archaeological purposes'.

Soil Survey of England & Wales, 1983, Soil Map of England and Wales Scale 1:250 000, Harpenden.



The Quadrangle 3 The Close Winchester SO23 9LT January 2021

10 Appendix: Context Tabulation

10.1 Test Pit 1

Context	Slot	Туре	Filled By	Fill Of	Description	Interpretation	Finds	Samples	Provisional Date
(1001)	-	Deposit	-	-	Moderately compacted but plastic dark brown silty clay (c. 15% sand, 35% silt, 50% clay); confectionery wrappers and broken pencils; 0.04m average thickness. stone-free. Overlying (1002). Same as (2001).	Turf	-	-	Modern
(1002)	-	Deposit	-	-	Firm dark grey brown sandy clay (c. 25% silt, 30% sand, 45% clay); occasional to moderate slate, CBM, Fe, bottle glass, bone & post-med. pottery, moderate natural flint. Underlying (1001). Same as (2002).	Made Ground	-	-	Modern

10.2 Test Pit 2

Context	Slot	Туре	Filled By	Fill Of	Description	Interpretation	Finds	Samples	Provisional Date
(2001)	-	Deposit	-	-	Moderately compacted, plastic dark brown silty clay (c. 15% sand, 35% silt, 50% clay); stone-free, modern inclusions; 0.04m average thickness. Overlying (2002). Same as (1001).	Turf	-	-	Modern
(2002)	-	Deposit	-	-	Firm dark grey brown sandy clay (c. 25% silt, 30% sand, 45% clay); occasional to moderate slate, CBM, Fe, bottle glass, bone, post-med. pottery & modern geotextile, moderate natural flint. Underlying (2001). Same as (1002).	Made Ground	-	-	Modern



Document Title		Document Reference				
_	on behalf of The Pilgrims' The Close Winchester SO23	B/120031 311/1121				
Compilation	Amy Bunce BSc MA ACIfA					
Artwork	Holly Litherland BA (Hons.)					
Issue No.	Status	Date	Approved for issue			
1	Final	January 2021	George Children MA MCIfA			