

**25 Market Place  
Chippenham  
Wiltshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

*for*

**M J Church Plant Ltd**


CA Project: 5069  
CA Report: 14455

October 2014

25 Market Place  
Chippenham  
Wiltshire

## Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 5069  
CA Report: 14455

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date	1 October 2014
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date	09 October 2014
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signed	
date	09 October 2014
issue	01

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Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)

Fig. 2 The site, showing location of groundworks (1:250)



## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	25 Market Place
<b>Location:</b>	Chippenham, Wiltshire
<b>NGR:</b>	ST 9227 7315
<b>Type:</b>	Watching Brief
<b>Date:</b>	18 September 2014
<b>Planning Reference:</b>	N/10/03285/FUL
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	Chippenham Museum
<b>Site Code:</b>	MCH 14

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks at the site associated with the construction and erection of two new buildings.

The watching brief ensured that an 18th century cellar vault was not damaged by the groundworks and observed the remains of the previous structure to occupy the site. Its western walls had traditional limestone rubble foundations whilst its eastern walls had reinforced concrete foundations.

No archaeological features or deposits were revealed during the course of the watching brief and no artefacts were recovered. The remnants of walls belonging to outbuildings and stores demolished in 2004 were observed and were determined to be modern in date.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In September 2014 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for M J Church Plant Ltd at 25 Market Place, Chippenham, Wiltshire (centred on NGR: ST 9227 7315; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent for the demolition of existing disused and derelict outbuildings and stores and erection of two new buildings; one to contain two 2 bed flats, the other two 1 bed flats (Planning ref: N/10/03285/FUL).
- 1.2 Planning was granted in May 2011 by Wiltshire Council, the Local Planning Authority (LPA) and Melanie Pomeroy Kellinger, County Archaeologist at Wiltshire Council, recommended that a programme of archaeological investigation comprising a watching brief secured by condition should be undertaken during the course of the development. Archaeological work comprising watching briefs (BAT 2004 and Green 2010) had already been undertaken at the site in response to previous applications for the site of which the current permission is a renewal. During previous stages of work the outbuildings were demolished and the concrete slab/flooring removed from the southern part of the site.
- 1.3 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2014) and approved by the LPA acting on the advice of Melanie Pomeroy Kellinger. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2009), and the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991), the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006).

### **The site**

- 1.4 The site comprises of a flat yard area to the rear of 25 Market Place, and lies at approximately 55m above Ordnance Datum (AOD). It was previously occupied by outbuildings prior to their demolition before 2010, and lies at the southern end of the medieval Market Place, on the east side of the Causeway. It is bounded to the north by an alley between the Market and the churchyard and to the east by the extended churchyard itself (Fig 1).
- 1.5 Beneath the northern part of the site is a vaulted cellar of at least 18th century date or earlier, overlain by a modern concrete slab, which was to be removed during the

current programme of works (Fig 2). The southern part of the site had its concrete slab/flooring previously removed in 2004.

- 1.6 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Sandstone, Siltstone and Mudstone of the Kellaways Formation of the Jurassic Period. No superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2014). Natural deposits were not observed on site due to the shallow nature of the ground works.

### ***Archaeological background***

- 1.7 The site lies in an archaeologically sensitive area, close to the medieval market place and church and possibly in the core of the Saxon burgh of Chippenham.
- 1.8 Previous investigations undertaken at the site in response to previous applications comprised of a watching brief during geotechnical investigations (BAT 2004) and to monitor groundworks in the southern part of the site where the concrete slab/flooring had previously been removed in 2004 along with the demolition of the outbuildings (Green 2010). The investigations revealed medieval and post medieval features (drainage culvert and pits) along with pottery dating to the Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods. During the 2004 watching brief part of an 18th century vault was discovered, which belongs to a surviving cellar that lies within the northern part of the site, and possibly belongs to an earlier building that would have occupied the site prior to the current buildings which possible date back to the 17th century. The cellar will be preserved beneath the proposed new northern residential building, which will be supported by a raft above the vaulting.

### ***Archaeological objectives***

- 1.7 The objectives of the archaeological works were:
- to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks;
  - to ensure that during the course of the groundworks in the northern part of the site that no damage occurs to the vaulting of the cellar;

- at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

### **Methodology**

- 1.8 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2014). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising of the excavation of foundation trenches for the northern building of the two buildings to be erected on site (Fig. 2). During the course of the excavation the northern wall of the cellar was found to extend 0.4m further north than previously thought. As a result the foundations were modified and the central ground beam was moved 0.4m to the north to avoid the remains of the cellar.
- 1.9 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2013).
- 1.10 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Chippenham Museum. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## **2. RESULTS (FIG 2)**

- 2.1 The watching brief consisted of observing the excavation of foundation trenches for the ground beams of the northern building to be erected on site. These were 0.3m deep below present ground level (bpgl), except along the northern side of the building, against the alleyway where they were 0.7m bpgl.
- 2.2 The excavations revealed the outer face of the north wall of the cellar (109) surviving 0.1m bpgl. This was 0.4m further north than expected and suggests that the cellar walls may be at least 0.75m thick. It was not possible to observe the roof or the other walls of the cellar as they were covered by later walls and a layer of cement. Nor was it possible to confirm the internal dimensions of the cellar as all access points were blocked.

- 2.3 In the base of the foundation trenches two soil layers were observed, 104 and 107 some 0.3m and 0.7m bpgl respectively. However, given the limited exposure of these layers it is not possible to determine their function or relationship with the cellar, beyond the fact that they predate the previous building on the site.
- 2.4 During the ground works it was possible to observe the foundations of the previous building to occupy the site. The western wall (111) has been left *in situ* and will be incorporated in to the new structure. It consists of a limestone rubble foundation with a single skin limestone ashlar wall surviving to roof high. The northern wall (demolished prior to the watching brief) consisted of two elements 102 and 112. 102 had a construction identical to 111 and may be part of the same structure. However 112 and also the internal wall 103 both have foundations of reinforced concrete, suggesting that they are possibly later additions or modifications to the structure.
- 2.5 The space between walls 102, 103, and 111 is occupied by rubble dump 101. This is likely to have been the sub-base to the concrete floor that occupied this space prior to commencement of works. On the eastern side of wall 103 a layer of rubbly concrete 105 may have had the same function or have been a floor surface in its own right. Below 105 in the north eastern corner of the site there was the dark soil and rubbish layer 106. The most likely explanation for this layer is that it is a garden soil and/or rubbish dump.
- 2.6 In the side of the foundation trench it was possible to observe the deposits under the alley, which runs along the northern side of the site. It is clear from these observations and the manholes along the alleyway that much of this area has been disturbed by modern services such as a water main (113).
- 2.6 Despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered during groundworks.

### 3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The watching brief ensured that the cellar was not damaged by the groundworks and demonstrated that the top of its roof is between 0.2m and 0.6m higher than surviving deposits (104 and 107) that predate the previous building to occupy this



site. However, it is unclear what temporal or physical relationship these deposits have to the cellar

- 3.2 All other remains observed during the watching brief seem to belong to the previous buildings to occupy the site that were demolished in 2004. The reinforced concrete foundation of walls 103 and 112 and the possible garden soil/rubbish dump, hint at the possibility that this structure was extended to the east during its life time.

#### 4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Peter Busby. The report was written by Peter Busby. The illustrations were prepared by Aleksandra Osinska. The archive has been compiled by Peter Busby, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Damian De Rosa.

#### 5. REFERENCES

Bath Archaeological Trust (BAT) *25 Market Place, Chippenham, Wiltshire: An Archaeological Watching Brief*. Ref: **BAT 2004.31 WB**

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2014 Geology of Britain Viewer [http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology\\_viewer\\_google/googleviewer.html](http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html) Accessed 1 October 2014

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 *25 Market Place, Chippenham, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

Green B.C. 2010. *Watching Brief Interim Report – Rear Of 25/26 Market Place, Chippenham, Wiltshire*.

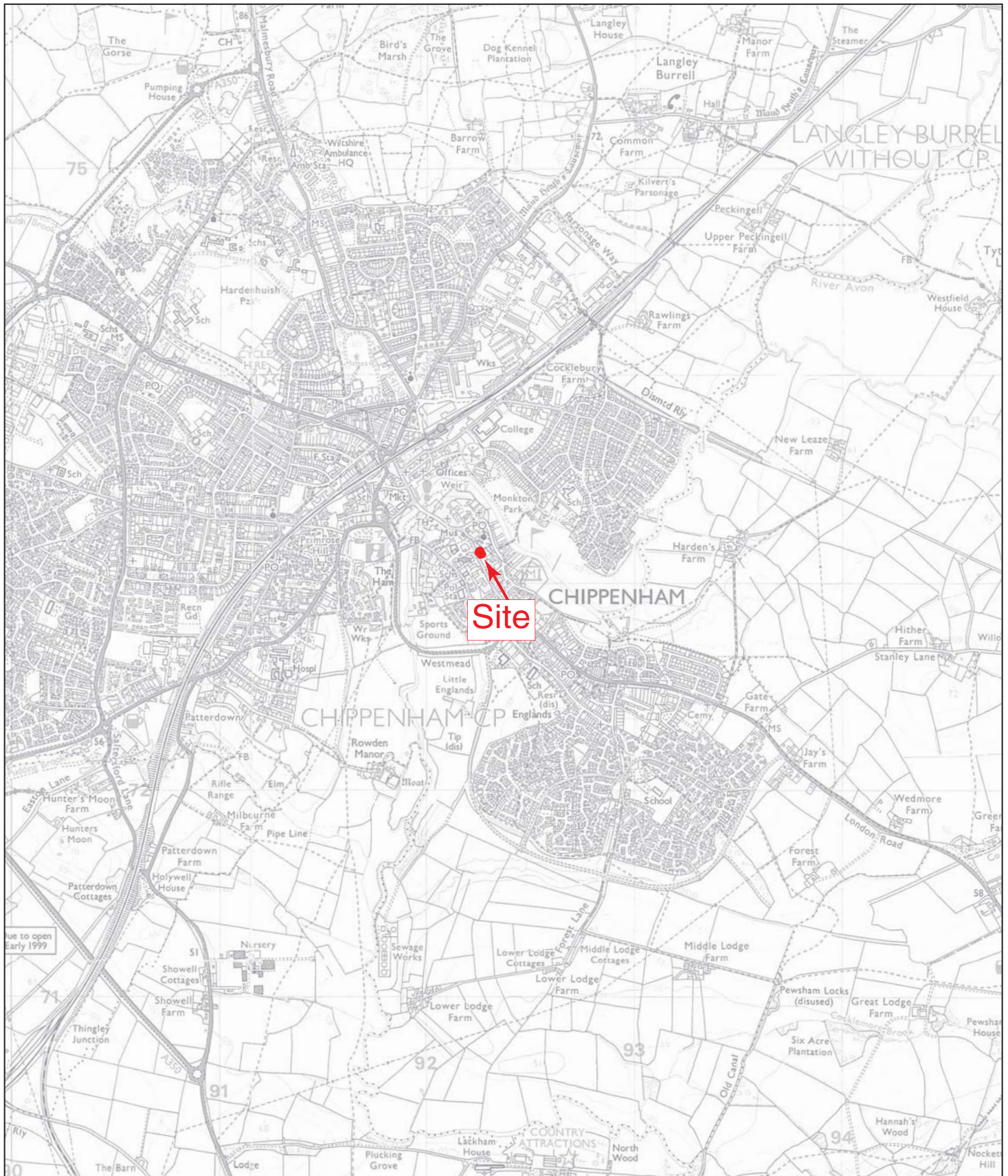


## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)
1	101	Layer		Rubble sub-base for concrete floor	Brick and stone rubble	>8.8	4.5	0.26
1	102	Structure		Wall foundation	Dressed limestone blocks sitting on limestone rubble boned with a light grey sandy lime mortar	4.5	0.5	0.7
1	103	Structure		Wall foundation	Light yellow brown gravel rich concrete with metal reinforcing bars	7.7	0.5	0.7
1	104	Layer		Layer	Very dark brown /black clay silt with 10% angular limestone gravel, charcoal and mortar flecks	>8.8	>2.9	
1	105	Layer		Floor	Light grey concrete	4.1	2.2	0.28
1	106	Layer		Relic garden soil	Dark brown clay silt with 15% china plates, glass bottles, oyster shells	4.1	2.2	0.38
1	107	Layer		Layer	Green brown silt clay	>0.2	>0.2	
1	108	Fill		Service Trench fill	Mixed rubble and brown silt clay	>7.7		>0.7
1	109	Structure		Wall foundation	Assorted limestone rubble and ashlar blocks forming a NE/SW wall foundation, boned by a light yellow brown lime mortar. Coursing not seen	>1.9	>0.4	>0.2
1	110	Void						
1	111	Structure		Wall and wall foundation	As 102	8.8		
1	112	Structure		Wall foundation	As 103	>10	0.5	0.7
1	113	Cut		Service Trench	NE/SW linear cut with vertical southern side, Base not seen	>7.7		>0.7

**APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	25 Market Place	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks at the site associated with the construction and erection of two new buildings. The watching brief ensured that an 18th century cellar vault was not damaged by the groundworks and observed the remains of the previous structure to occupy the site. Its western walls had traditional limestone rubble foundations whilst its eastern walls had reinforced concrete foundations. No archaeological features or deposits were revealed during the course of the watching brief and no artefacts were recovered. The remnants of walls belonging to outbuildings and stores demolished in 2004 were observed and were determined to be modern in date	
Project dates	18 & 19 September 2014	
Project type	Archaeological Watching Briefs	
Previous work	Bath Archaeological Trust (BAT) 25 Market Place, Chippenham, Wiltshire: An Archaeological Watching Brief. Ref: BAT 2004.31 WB  Green B.C. 2010. Watching Brief Interim Report – Rear Of 25/26 Market Place, Chippenham, Wiltshire.	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	25 Market Place, Chippenham, Wiltshire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)		
Site co-ordinates	ST 9227 7315	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator		
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Damian De Rosa	
Project Supervisor	Peter Busby	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>		
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>		
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical		None
Paper	Chippenham Museum	Trench sheets
Digital	Chippenham Museum	Digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 <i>25 Market Place, Chippenham, Wiltshire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report <b>14455</b>		



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 25 Market Place, Chippenham  
 Wiltshire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan

PROJECT NO.	5069	DATE	29/09/2014	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	AO	REVISION	00	<b>1</b>
APPROVED BY	LM	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	

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ST

- site
- observed groundworks
- building wall
- cellar



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 25 Market Place, Chippenham  
 Wiltshire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 The site, showing location of observed  
 groundworks

PROJECT NO.	5069	DATE	30/09/2014	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	AO	REVISION	00	<b>2</b>
APPROVED BY	LM	SCALE@A4	1:250	

