

5, St Michael's Road, Wareham, Dorset

NGR SY92158737

Results of archaeological evaluation

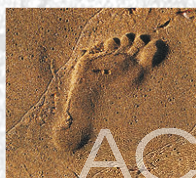
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Prepared by:  
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On behalf of:  
AMB Developments Ltd

Document No: ACW428/1/2

Date: February 2012



archaeology

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# **5, ST MICHAELS ROAD, WAREHAM, DORSET**

## **NGR: SY92158737**

### **Results of Archaeological Evaluation**

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#### **SUMMARY**

*An archaeological evaluation, comprising the machine-excavation of a single trench, was undertaken by AC archaeology Ltd, on land at 5, St Michael's Road, Wareham, during February 2012. The work was undertaken in support of a planning application for the erection of a new residential dwelling. A depth of homogenous black sandy soil, up to 1.2m in thickness, was excavated throughout the trench. This soil represents a post-medieval horizon widely recorded across the town. A small quantity of medieval and post-medieval artefacts, including two sherds of 12th to 13th pottery, was retained from this layer. There was no evidence for archaeological deposits of Medieval or earlier date on the site.*

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1** This report sets out the results of an archaeological evaluation for a proposed new dwelling on land at 5, St Michael's Road, Wareham, Dorset (SY92158737). The location of the site is shown on Fig.1.
- 1.2** The work, carried out by AC archaeology Ltd during February 2012, was on behalf of AMB Developments Ltd the site owners. It was undertaken in order to provide supporting information prior to the determination of a planning application (PA 6/2011/0816), for a proposed new dwelling. It was undertaken following consultation with the Dorset County Council Senior Archaeologist (DCCSA), advisor to Purbeck District Council.
- 1.3** The proposed development area comprises approximately 0.019 hectares, of which c. 50m<sup>2</sup> is within the footprint of the new building. The location of the new building was formerly occupied by garages and associated out-buildings. The topography comprises level ground and lies at around 10mOD; the underlying geology comprises tertiary sand and gravels of the Poole Formation

## **2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1** There are no previously recorded sites and monuments within the proposed development area. However the site lies within the walls of the Saxon burh and immediately opposite the former location of St Michael's Church. The church was first documented in AD1340 and was still in use in 1540 (Dorset Historic Towns Survey).

## **3. OBJECTIVES**

- 3.1** The evaluation was undertaken to determine, as far as reasonably possible, the location, extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any heritage assets present on the site, as dictated by current best practice.

## **4. METHODOLOGY**

- 4.1** The investigations comprised the excavation of a single trench measuring 7.5m in length and c. 0.5m in width and positioned within the proposed development area as shown on Fig. 1. This constituted a c. 7.5% sample of the footprint of the new building.
- 4.2** All spoil removal was undertaken under the control and direction of the Site archaeologist. Overburden was removed by mechanical excavator, using a toothed bucket, and ceased at the level at which archaeological deposits or natural subsoil was exposed. It was not possible to access the due to the depth and instability of the trench sides.
- 4.3** The trench was recorded using the AC archaeology *pro forma* recording system and the archive has been prepared using the site code ACW428.

## **5. RESULTS**

- 5.1** The trench measured 7.5m in length and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m. Prior to commencement, a depth of 0.5m of modern overburden had been removed from the site.
- 5.2** No archaeological features were present. The recorded layer sequence is summarised in Table 1.

**Table 1: Trench depositional layer sequence**

Context	Depth b.g.s.	Description	Interpretation
100	0 – 1.2m	Black humic sandy loam	Occupation soil horizon – post-medieval in origin.
101	1.2m+	Yellowish brown sand and gravels.	Natural.



**Plate 1: View of trench from the east**

## **6. THE FINDS**

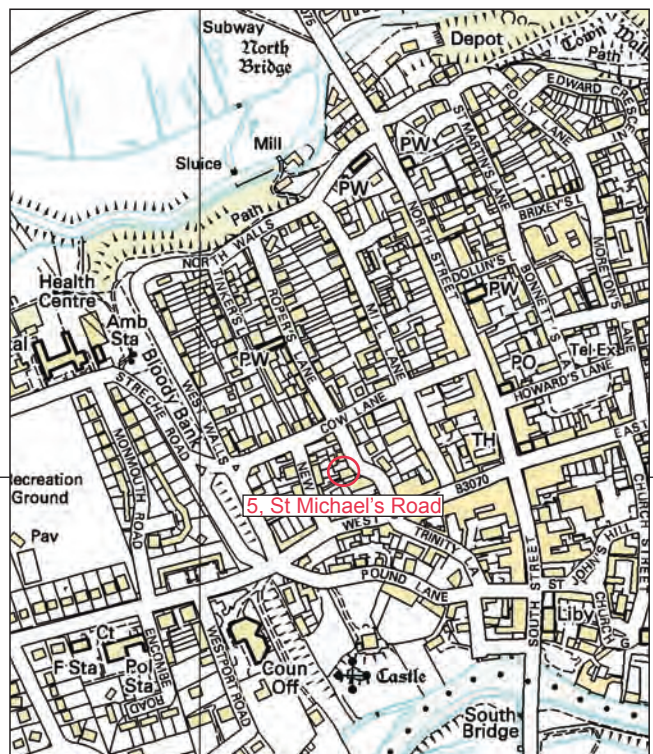
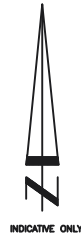
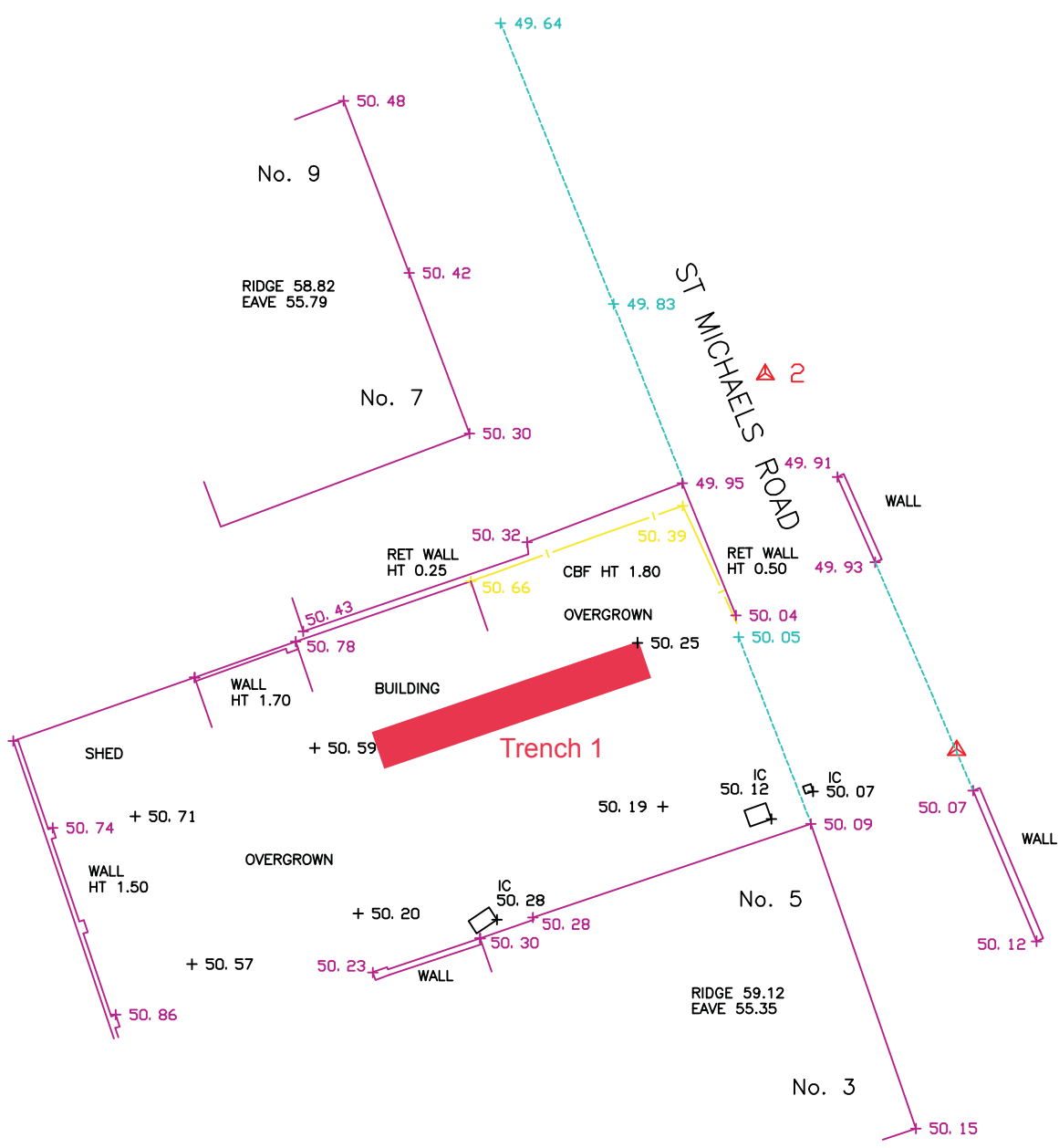
### **Summary**

- 6.1** A small quantity of finds was recovered from the topsoil (context 100) during the course of the evaluation and comprises four fragments (35g) of animal bone and three sherds of pottery. The animal bone included fragments of sheep or goat bone and included a mandible.
- 6.2** The pottery comprises two medieval sherds (68g) and a post-medieval sherd (47g). The medieval pottery comprises a south-east Wiltshire and east Dorset rim sherd

from a jar, with a developed rim and a plain body sherd in a micaceous clay, with leached calcareous temper that might derive from the Crockerton area, north of Shaftesbury. Both these sherds date from the 12th to 13th centuries. The post-medieval sherd is a base sherd of possible Hermitage type ware, with a clear glaze on its external surface. The fabric of this sherd is hard, inclusion free, oxidised red and is thought to date from the 16th century.

## **7. COMMENT**

- 7.1** With the exception of a small quantity of pottery and animal bone recovered from layer (101), the evaluation has proved wholly negative. The presence of these artefacts however, does not rule out the possibility of archaeological activity elsewhere on the site, but it is considered to have a low potential.
- 7.2** There is no evidence for any structural remains on the site related to the church, nor for the presence of human remains in an associated graveyard.
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PROJECT 

5, St Michael's Road, Wareham

TITLE

Fig. 1: Location of site and trench

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