

Rear of 39-41 High Street, Ringwood: Conversion of outbuilding into single dwelling

Results of an archaeological watching brief

NGR: SU14670 05210

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On behalf of:
St. Peter's Ltd

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AC archaeology

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on 30th November 2020 during groundworks associated with the conversion of an outbuilding at 39 – 41 High Street, Ringwood into one dwelling. A foundation trench was monitored, but all the deposits encountered related to earlier foundations or services relating to the existing outbuilding. Prior to the groundworks being undertaken an initial visit to the site was made on 2nd September in order to take photographs of the existing building. The building is presumed to be of late 19th century date. The interior is one single open space and the floor with a doorway leading to the buildings fronting onto the High Street and double doors facing the rear of the property. Following severe storm damage the roof tiles have all been removed to expose the roof timbers.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** This document sets out the results an archaeological watching brief at the rear of 39-41 High Street, Ringwood BH24 1AD, and has been prepared on behalf of St Peter's Ltd. The work relates to a planning permission that involves converting an outbuilding into one dwelling, with fenestration alterations and new parking facilities. The site location is shown on Fig. 1.
- 1.2** New Forest District Council has granted permission (Planning Reference 17/11139), subject to a number of conditions. Condition 7 of the consent states that:

No development shall take place within the area indicated until the applicant, or their agents of successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

A) No demolition/development shall take place/commence until a programme of archaeological work including a Written Scheme of Investigation has been submitted and approved by the local planning authority in writing. The scheme shall include an assessment of significance and research questions; and:

- 1. The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording,*
- 2. The programme for post investigation assessment,*
- 3. Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording,*
- 4. Provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation,*
- 5. Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation,*
- 6. Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation.*

- B) *No demolition / development shall take place other than in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under paragraph A).*
- C) *The development shall not be occupied until the site investigation assessment has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under paragraph (A) and provision made for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition has been secured.*

Reason: The development is located in an area of archaeological significance where the recording of archaeological remains should be carried out prior to the development taking place in accordance with Policy DM1 of the Local Plan for the New Forest District outside the National Park (Part 2: Sites and Development Management).

- 1.3** The site area is situated at the northern end of Lynes Lane and to the rear of properties that front onto the High Street. These comprise three shops - Daisy Darling, Bombec and Colliers, which together are designated as a Grade II listed building (LEN number 143699). The structures are of mid-18th century date with two storeys and attics, altered in the 19th and 20th centuries. It is made from brick, with moulded brick and some tile-hanging to the rear.
- 1.4** The underlying solid geology comprises Branksome Sand Formation, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 41 to 48 million years ago. Superficial deposits consist of River Terrace Deposits of sand and gravel formed up to three million years ago in the Quaternary Period.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1** Ringwood is recorded in a charter dating to 961, in which King Edgar gave 22 hides of land in *Rimecuda* to Abingdon Abbey. Ringwood was also known from the 10th century as *Runcwuda* and *Rimucwuda*. The second part of the word *Wuda* means wood and *Rimuc* may be derived from *Rima*, meaning 'border. Therefore, the place-name may mean 'border wood' and could refer to Ringwood's position on the fringe of the New Forest. In Domesday (1086), Ringwood (Rincvede) had been appropriated by the Crown, and all but six hides were taken into the New Forest.
- 2.2** During the 12th and 13th centuries Ringwood changed hands on numerous occasions and by 1331 it was granted to William Montagu, 1st Earl of Salisbury, whose descendants held it for over 200 years. From 1541 it was held by Edward Seymour, 1st Duke of Somerset until his execution in 1552. By the middle of the 17th century the manor passed to the Arundells of Wardour, and a descendant, the eighth Baron, sold it in 1794 to John Morant of Brockenhurst. This family held the manor throughout the 19th century.
- 2.3** The New Forest Historic Environment Record (HER) includes records for properties in the High Street in Ringwood including for 39 -41 High Street (e.g. HER 11169 – 11161, which includes the listed building that front onto the High Street – see Section 1.5 above). There are further HER references for listed buildings in adjacent areas (HERs 11164 the Job Centre, 11165 the Department of Employment, 11174 the Ringwood Bookshop). All broadly date to the mid to late 18th century, with later 19th and 20th century additions.
- 2.4** Approximately 30m to the south of 39-41 High Street, at the rear of Lynes House, Bickerley Road, a plough soil of probable medieval or post-medieval date was identified, together with a ditch thought to be the town ditch. This was recorded running through the centre of the site (HER 42202). Further evidence for medieval boundary ditches with burgage plots was recorded at

Dewey's Lane during an archaeological evaluation in 1999, approximately 60m to the west of the site (HER 64022).

2.5 Based on the available evidence, it is considered likely that the site area lies within the original medieval settlement area of Ringwood.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

3.1 The principal aims of the archaeological watching brief were :

- To record any archaeological features and finds, which may be revealed or disturbed by the groundworks for the new construction on the site; and
- To provide an archive and interpretive report on the results of the monitoring.

3.2 The site works were undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) that had been approved by the New Forest District Council Senior Archaeologist (NFDCSA), who provide archaeological planning advice to the local planning authority (Clark 2020). Attendance by the site archaeologist was *comprehensive* (i.e. an archaeologist was present during all groundworks that had the potential to disturb archaeological deposits). All works were undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) standard for watching briefs (CIfA 2014).

3.3 Archaeological records were made of all exposed deposits of archaeological interest, using notebooks, context records, plans and sections at suitable scales and by photography (see Plates 1-4).

4. RESULTS

4.1 A single foundation trench measuring 6m by 0.5m in plan and 0.88m deep was monitored, together with a small trench to locate an electricity cable. The main trench was located inside the building and was orientated NNE to SSW and contained primarily modern material. A layer of concrete approximately 0.18m in depth sealed a layer of hardcore 0.5m in depth. Below this was a water / sewer pipe that ran along the length of the trench. Parts of the trench were excavated below the pipe to reveal material comprising a dark brown silty loam, which is thought to consist of foundation trench infilling.

4.2 No archaeological features or finds were identified during the watching brief.

5. COMMENT

5.1 A single foundation trench and a smaller trench designed to locate an electricity cable were monitored. No archaeological feature or finds were observed during this work. It is not proposed to deposit a formal archive for this project.

6. REFERENCES

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014. *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*. Professional guidance

Clark, R, 2020, *Rear of 39-42 High Street, Ringwood, BH24 1AD: Use of outbuilding as one dwelling: Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological watching brief*. AC archaeology Ltd Doc 1260/1/0

English Heritage, 1991. *The Management of Archaeological Projects. Second Edition (MAP2)*. Historic England: professional guidance



Plate 1: General view of building showing protective screening



Plate 2: General view of interior and roof timbers



Plate 3: Interior of building



Plate 4: Part of new foundation trench showing water / sewer pipe

High Street

37

39-41

43

existing compound around air conditioning units to be removed

path

walled garden

1800 high 220mm solid brick walls

passage

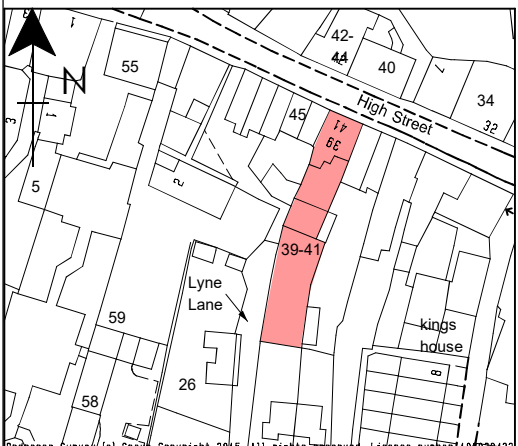
cycle store 1
store 2
bin store

car space 2
car space 1

car parking as existing

Lyne Lane

Existing storage building to be converted to private dwelling



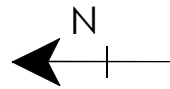
Key:



Application area



Foundation trench that was subject to watching brief



PROJECT

AC archaeology

39-41 High Street, Ringwood

TITLE

Fig. 1: Site plan showing foundation trench

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