

Land at Park Walk
Shaftesbury
Dorset

An Archaeological Evaluation

January 2017

ASSESSMENT REPORT

Information matrix

| SITE DETAILS | |
|---|--|
| Site address | Land at Park Walk, Shaftesbury, Dorset |
| Site postcode | SP7 8JS |
| Site NGR | Centred on ST 86220 22923 |
| Site area | c. 280 sq m |
| Site aOD height (min/max.) | c. 218m |
| Topography | Flat site |
| Ground conditions | Urban garden |
| Site geology (solid) | Boyne Hollow Chert Member - Sandstone |
| Site geology (drift) | None recorded |
| PROJECT DETAILS | |
| Client | Mr & Mrs T Morgan |
| Client project reference | N/A |
| Development proposal | Erection of a single dwelling |
| Local Planning Authority | North Dorset District Council |
| Planning reference | Pre-application |
| Planning Condition no. | N/A |
| INVESTIGATION | |
| C1 site code | C1/EVA/16/PWS |
| Investigation type | Field evaluation through trial trenching |
| Number of trenches | 1no. x 10m x 1.6m, 1no. x 5m x 1.6m |
| Fieldwork dates | 11/01/17, 12/01/17 |
| Fieldwork team | Peter Fairclough |
| Post-excavation specialists | N/A |
| ARCHAEOLOGICAL DETAILS | |
| Previous events for Site | None |
| Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) | Written Scheme of Investigation for Land at Park Walk, Shaftesbury, Dorset |
| Historic Environment Record reference | Dorset TBA |
| Collecting Museum | N/A |
| Museum accession code | N/A |
| OASIS reference | contexto1-274206 |
| REPORT | |
| Draft report date | 23/01/17 |
| Final report date | 25/01/17 |
| Text prepared by | Stuart Milby |
| Illustrations prepared by | Tara Fairclough |
| Internal review by | Cheryl Green |
| Checked and approved by | Cheryl Green |
| ARCHIVING | |
| Site records & images | C1 cloud storage only |
| Artefacts/ ecofacts | None recovered |
| C1 STAFF | |
| Projects Director, Historic Buildings Archaeologist | Richard McConnell BA (Hons), PCIfA |
| Fieldwork Manager, Osteoarchaeologist | Stuart Milby BSc (Hons), MSc, PCIfA |
| Post-excavation Manager, Historic Buildings Archaeologist, Stone Specialist | Cheryl Green FSA, BA Hons, PhD |
| Illustrator, Project co-ordination, Historic Buildings Archaeologist | Tara Fairclough BA (Hons), PCIfA |
| Archaeological Officer, Animal bone Specialist, Archivist | Clare Randall FSA, BA (Hons), BSc (Hons), MSc, PhD, PCIfA |
| Senior Field Archaeologist | Peter Fairclough BA (Hons) |

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Summary

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd (COAS) carried out an Archaeological Field Evaluation through trial trenching in support of a planning application for the construction of a new residential dwelling on land at Park Walk, Shaftesbury, Dorset. The project was commissioned by Mr David Sharp (Architect, bta Architects) on behalf of his client, Mr and Mrs T Morgan.

The evaluation was advised following submission of a preapplication on the basis that while there are no records of any previous archaeological activity on the Site, a range of multi-period Heritage Assets are recorded in the vicinity, many relating to the Scheduled Monument of Shaftesbury Abbey. The Site backs on to Shaftesbury Abbey and there was a recorded instance of human remains recovered during works on an adjacent property. Historic map regression assessment shows the presence of some small buildings and an old boundary, possibly a wall, located within the footprint of the new dwelling.

Despite this potential, no archaeological features or deposits were found on Site through evaluation trenching. Notably, no human remains were found and neither was there any evidence associating the Site with the medieval cemetery.

Brief consideration is given to the impact that the proposed development may have on the setting of the Scheduled Monument of Shaftesbury Abbey, which is close to the Site. It is suggested that the proposed development will have a neutral impact on the evidential, historic and communal values of the monument. Any impact upon aesthetic value cannot be assessed until a design proposal has evolved.

This report is produced solely for the benefit of an individual client and for the proposed uses stated in the report, and should not be relied upon for other purposes or by other parties unless specifically agreed by us in writing. The different elements of the report are designed to be integral to each other and therefore do not necessarily stand alone. Opinions and information provided in this report are on the basis of C1 using reasonable skill and care, however no investigative method can eliminate the possibility of obtaining partially imprecise, incomplete or less than fully representative information. This report is limited to the scope and limits agreed with the client under our appointment. Any investigative work undertaken as part of the commission will have been subject to limitations imposed by such factors as timescales, budgets, seasonal variations and weather conditions.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Context One Archaeological Services Ltd (COAS) carried out an Archaeological Field Evaluation through trial trenching in support of a planning application for the construction of a new residential dwelling on land at Park Walk, Shaftesbury, Dorset (the 'Site') (**Figure 1**). The project was commissioned by Mr David Sharp (Architect, bta Architects) on behalf of his client, Mr and Mrs T Morgan.
- 1.2 The evaluation was advised by Mr Steve Wallis (Senior Archaeologist, Dorset County Council (DCC)) following submission of a preapplication to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), North Dorset District Council (NDDC). In an email consultation response from Mr Wallis to Mr Sharp regarding the archaeological implications of the proposals, Mr Wallis stated:

"According to the Dorset Historic Environment Record, a human skull has been recorded at an adjacent property (8 Church Lane), which may indicate the presence of a cemetery, perhaps associated with Shaftesbury Abbey. The site is also close to, and at one point adjacent to, the Shaftesbury Abbey Scheduled Monument. And, of course, it is within the historic town of Shaftesbury as well".

Mr Wallis also advised that a separate desk-based appraisal should be undertaken prior to the evaluation, to provide contextual information for the investigation and to help determine the most suitable trench locations. It was also requested that the archaeological contractor consider the potential impact of the proposed development on the setting of the Scheduled Monument of Shaftesbury Abbey (HE ref: 1002672) as part of the investigation works.

- 1.3 The programme of archaeological works comprised five elements: the production of a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which sets out the project strategy; production of a fieldwork companion document regarding the known heritage assets in the immediate vicinity; field evaluation through trial trenching; post-excavation and assessment report production (this document); and archive deposition.
- 1.4 The requirement follows advice by Central Government as set out in paragraph 128 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012). This states:

"In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation."

2. Aims & Objectives

- 2.1 The objective of the evaluation was to provide information about the archaeological resource within the Site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality, in accordance with *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). This information will enable the LPA to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of any proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the conservation of the heritage asset and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012).

3. Methodology

- 3.1 All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with and *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA), 1994, rev. 2001, 2008, 2014). COAS adhered to the *Code of Conduct* of the ClfA (1985, rev. 2000, 2014), and *Regulations for Professional Conduct* (ClfA, 2014, rev. 2015) at all times during the course of the evaluation. The fieldwork methodology is summarised below.

- 3.2 COAS gave notification of the commencement of archaeological works to the Senior Archaeologist at DCC to visit the Site and monitor archaeological fieldwork as appropriate. A Site visit was not deemed necessary by the Senior Archaeologist at DCC.
- 3.3 A desk-based appraisal pack comprising Historic Environment Record data and historic map regression was prepared and supplied to COAS archaeological field staff prior to the commencement of ground excavations.
- 3.4 The archaeological evaluation comprised two trenches, one measuring 10m long x 1.6m wide and the other measuring 5m long and 1.6m wide. The trenches were laid out according to a pre-defined trench plan (see **Figure 1**) using Ordnance Survey (OS) co-ordinates with a TopCon GRS-1 RTK GPS unit.
- 3.5 A 0.75 tonne tracked machine equipped with a 0.45 toothless (grading) bucket was used to remove topsoil/overburden under the constant supervision of COAS archaeological staff. The size of the machine was restricted by the Site access, which was through a doorway. Machine excavation continued until archaeological features/natural geology was encountered or to the base of a safe working depth (c. 1.2m). Spoil was stockpiled to either side of each trench, not less than 1m from the trench edge. Topsoil and subsoil were piled separately and on backfilling were returned to the trench in the order in which they were initially excavated.
- 3.6 In the absence of archaeological features and deposits, a section of one long face of each trench was examined to define the sequence of deposits. A representative section was then recorded using COAS *pro forma* evaluation trench sheets in digital format to illustrate the soil morphology. A digital photograph was also taken of each section as well as the long axis of each trench. All photographs included an appropriate scale.
- 3.7 A photographic record of the work was prepared and involved the use of digital images. This included shots of the excavated area and working shots to illustrate the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.
- 3.8 On conclusion of the field evaluation, both trenches were backfilled and the ground firmed.

4. Results

- 4.1 The evaluation was carried out during dry, sunny, cold weather conditions. Neither trench encountered rising groundwater.
- 4.2 In the text, context numbers for cuts appear in square brackets, e.g. [1004]; layer and fill numbers appear in standard brackets, e.g. (1002). All deposits were recorded as individual contexts and ascribed a unique number. Contexts referenced in this report are presented in standard terms, e.g. (1-100), (1-203), prefixed with the recorder's personal identifying number. The last two digits refer to a particular context and are prefixed by the number of the trench, except where topsoil, subsoil and natural contexts extend across trenches in which case the trench number is replaced with a dash. Where a feature is discussed, it is referenced with its cut and associated fill numbers.
- 4.3 The evaluation trenches (**Figure 2**) varied between c. 1.20m and c. 1.50m deep and demonstrated a similar deposit sequence across the Site (see **Appendix 1** for full context summary). The topsoil and subsoil observed remained consistent across both trenches (**Plates 1-4**). Topsoil was a very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) silty clay with frequent green sand fragments and gravel fragments; subsoil was a dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) silty clay with gravel with frequent angular to rounded green sand fragments; the deposit underlying the subsoil was a brown (10YR 5/3) silty clay with mortar lenses and frequent angular to rounded green sand fragments.
- 4.4 No visible features or deposits of archaeological interest were encountered within either Trench. Machine excavation of the trenches ceased at 1.2m in line with current health and safety guidelines. As natural sediments were not observed at this depth, a 0.6m wide sondage was excavated within Trench 1 to a depth

of 1.5m. This also did not reveal any natural sediment. Further probe testing was carried out in the trench bases but no structural remains were struck.

5. The finds

- 5.1 A small assemblage of finds was observed during the evaluation and comprised mass produced 20th century material including pottery, animal bone and oyster shell. All finds were observed within subsoil (7-101)/(7-201). None of the finds were deemed significant enough to retain.

6. Discussion

- 6.1 The archaeological potential of the Site stems from proximity to the medieval Shaftesbury Abbey, with a recorded instance of human remains on an adjacent property suggesting there may perhaps have been an association with the abbey cemetery. Despite this, no burials or cemetery remains were encountered during the evaluation, and indeed no other archaeological features, deposit or finds were present. The soils encountered are consistent with the post-medieval and modern use as a garden, with maps dating between 1887 and 1965 showing the Site encompassing a large garden and part of what was the adjacent garden to the east. This was divided by a boundary running north-north-west to south-south-east. By 1984 the boundary is no longer depicted on mapping as the Site occupied a single plot, however the boundary is still extant as a stone wall. The evaluation took place within the land to the west of the boundary wall, with the land to the east occupying considerably lower ground. The western end of trench 2 coincides with a small building shown on 1901 and 1929 maps, however no remains were encountered.
- 6.2 The proposed development is close to the Scheduled Monument of Shaftesbury Abbey, and as such the setting of this highly significant designated heritage asset should be considered as part of the planning process. Shaftesbury Abbey derives significance from all four values as defined by English Heritage (2008); evidential, historical, aesthetic and communal. Given that the Site is surrounded by existing properties occupying land between the Abbey precinct and the High Street, it is considered that the proposed dwelling would have a neutral impact on the evidential, historic and communal values of the monument. In terms of aesthetic value, while there is no intervisibility with the Abbey precinct at ground level, this will be considered further once a design proposal has evolved.

7. Archive

- 7.1 As no archaeological evidence was encountered, all relevant data has been incorporated into this report. As such, the digital archive will either be held on the COAS cloud storage or destroyed.
- 7.2 Copies of this report will be deposited with the client/agent and included as part of the Dorset Historic Environment Record. A digital copy of the report will also be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service, via OASIS (On-line Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations – <http://oasis.ac.uk/england/>).

8. Bibliography

- | | |
|--|---|
| Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists (CIfA), December 2014 | <i>Code of Conduct</i> . Reading: CIfA |
| Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), December 2014 (rev. 2015) | <i>Regulations for professional conduct</i> . Reading: CIfA |
| Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), December 2014 (rev. 2015) | <i>Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i> Reading: CIfA |
| Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) 2012 | <i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> , London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office |



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Conservation Principles Policy and Guidance for the Sustainable management of the historic environment
London: English Heritage

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Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation: Land at Park Walk, Shaftesbury, Dorset. Context
One Archaeological Services Ltd unpublished

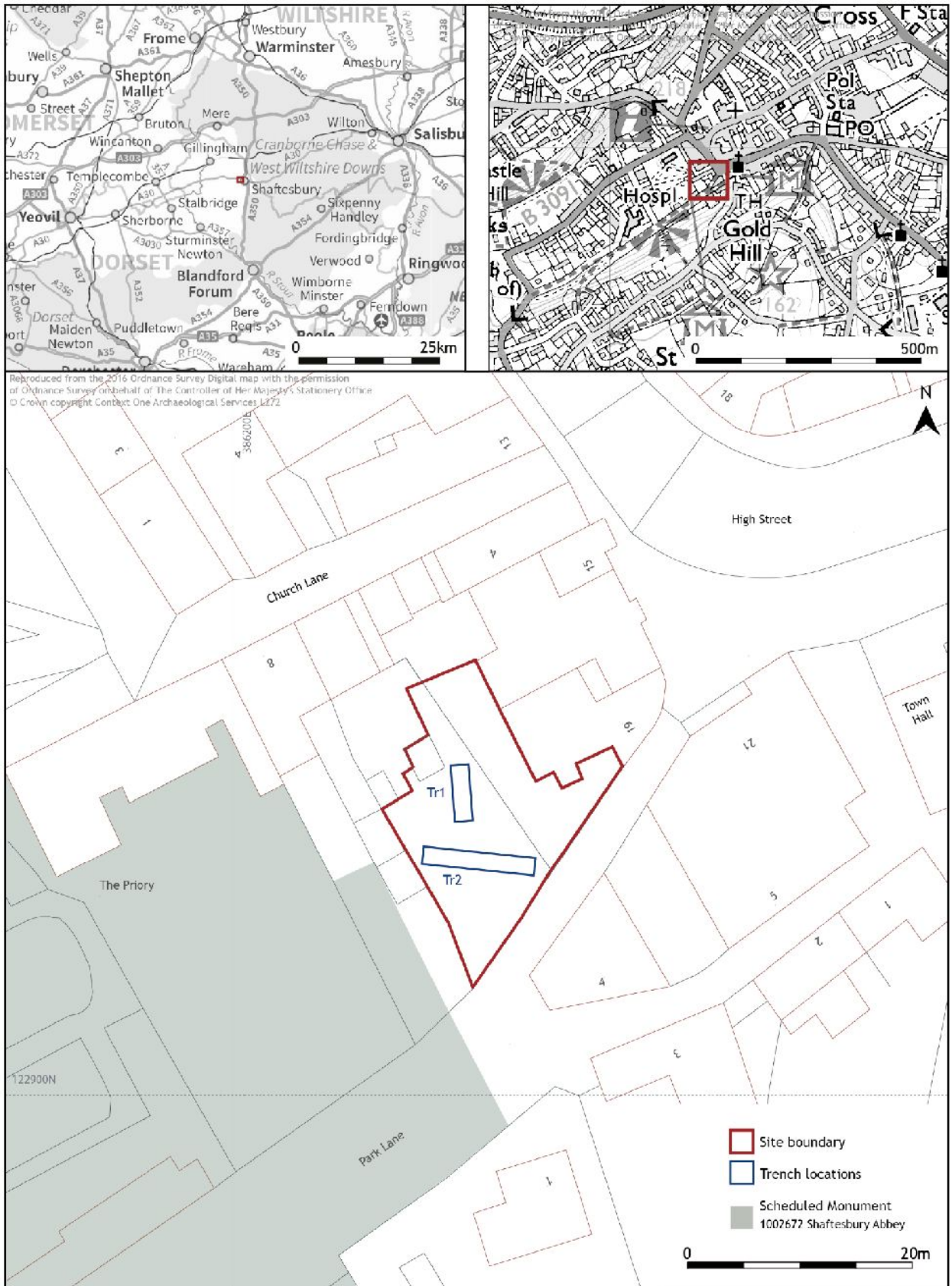




Plate 1. Trench 1 (from N; 2 x 1m scale)



Plate 2. Trench 1 profile (from E; 1 x 1m scale)



Plate 3. Trench 2 (from E; 2 x 1m scale)



Plate 4. Trench 2 profile (from S; 1x 1m scale)

Appendix 1: Context summary

| CONTEXT NO. | PERIOD | TYPE | DESCRIPTION | EARLIER THAN | CONTEMP. WITH | LATER THAN | LENGTH | WIDTH/DIAMETER | THICKNESS/DEPTH (m) |
|-----------------|--------|-------|---|--------------|---------------|------------|--------|----------------|---------------------|
| Trench 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| 7-100 | Modern | Layer | Topsoil. Very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) silty clay with frequent green sand fragments and gravel fragments <0.20m | NA | - | 7-101 | - | - | 0.20 |
| 7-101 | Modern | Layer | Subsoil. Dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) silty clay with gravel with frequent angular to rounded green sand fragments <0.20m | 7-100 | - | 7-102 | - | - | 1.00 |
| 7-102 | Modern | Layer | Made ground. Brown (10YR 5/3) silty clay with mortar lenses and frequent angular to rounded green sand fragments <0.20m | 7-101 | - | NA | - | - | >0.20 |
| Trench 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| 7-200 | Modern | Layer | Topsoil. Very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) silty clay with frequent angular green sand fragments and gravel fragments <0.20m | N/A | - | 7-201 | - | - | 0.40 |
| 7-201 | Modern | Layer | Subsoil. Dark grey (10YR 4/1) silty clay with gravel with frequent angular green sand fragments <0.20m | 7-200 | - | 7-202 | - | - | 1.00 |
| 7-202 | Modern | Layer | Made ground. Dark grey (10YR 4/1) green sand | 7-201 | - | N/A | - | - | >0.20 |

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