

4A & 4B The Crescent  
Hill View Road  
Salisbury  
Wiltshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
MONITORING &  
RECORDING

Assessment Report

August 2020

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*Looking after the past, today...*





4A & 4B The Crescent  
Hill View Road  
Salisbury  
Wiltshire


for

**C1 project code: C1/AMR/20/CSW**

**Mundy Salisbury Ltd**

#### REPORT

Prepared by	Richard McConnell
Date	26/08/20

Approved by	Cheryl Green
Signed	
Date	28/08/20

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#### PROJECT DETAILS

Client project/scheme ref.	N/A
Planning Application ref.	18/03678/FUL
Planning Authority	Wiltshire Council
Historic Environment Record ref.	N/A
Collecting Museum	Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum
Museum accession code	N/A
OASIS reference	contexto1-401388

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Front cover image: Rear of the Site from the north © Context One Archaeological Services Ltd

## Summary

*Context One Heritage & Archaeology (C1) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording as a condition of granting planning permission for the reversion of 4A and 4B The Crescent, Hill View Road, to a single dwelling including a side/ rear extension. The project was commissioned by Mundy Salisbury Ltd.*

*Despite the Wiltshire Historic Environment Record noting Palaeolithic and medieval activity in the vicinity of the Site, monitoring only revealed evidence of modern ground disturbance and terracing. Several sherds of pottery dating to the 20<sup>th</sup> century attest to domestic activity since the main house was constructed in the 1920s/30s.*

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Context One Heritage & Archaeology (C1) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording as a condition of granting planning permission (planning reference: 18/03678/FUL) for the reversion of 4A and 4B The Crescent, Hill View Road, Salisbury (the 'Site') (**Figure 1**) to a single dwelling including a side/ rear extension. The monitoring was carried out on 20 August 2020. The project was commissioned by Mundy Salisbury Ltd.
- 1.2 The monitoring and recording was recommended by the Planning Authority, Wiltshire Council (WC) on the advice of the county Historic Environment Service (HES). The Consultation Response prepared by Mr Martin Brown (Assistant County Archaeologist, WC) dated 31 May 2018 on the proposal stated the following:

*"The proposed development is located in an area known to have potential for Palaeolithic remains, which has been demonstrated in recent months, immediately to the south, at the former Youth Hostel site. The proposed works have potential to afford extra information about the topography and archaeological potential of the Milford Hill area. It is this potential that has led to recommendations for archaeological work on previous applications for this site."*

*"Recommendation: Full condition*

*No development shall commence within the area indicated (proposed development site) until:*

- *A written programme of archaeological investigation, which should include on-site work and off-site work such as the analysis, publishing and archiving of the results, has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority; and*
- *The approved programme of archaeological work has been carried out in accordance with the approved details.*

*REASON: To enable the recording of any matters of archaeological interest. "*

- 1.3 The planning application dated 16 April 2018 was refused but was subsequently granted on appeal (APP/Y3940/W/19/3232092) on 20 November 2019. This upheld the archaeological recommendation which was enshrined in Condition 6 of the Appeal Decision:

*"No demolition/development shall take place on site until a written scheme of investigation shall have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The scheme shall include on-site work and off-site work such as the analysis, publishing and archiving of the results; the nomination of a competent person or persons/organization to undertake the works set out with the Written Scheme of Investigation. The approved programme of archaeological work has been carried out in accordance with the approved details."*

- 1.4 The programme of archaeological works comprised four elements: the production of a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which set out the project strategy; archaeological monitoring and recording; post-excavation and report production (this document); and archive preparation and deposition.
- 1.4 The requirement follows advice by Central Government as set out in paragraph 199 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) (DCLG 2019).

## 2. The Site

- 2.1 The Site is located within a mainly residential area close to Salisbury city centre at the eastern end of The Crescent, a small development originally of four houses accessed from Hillview Road (**Figure 1**). It comprises a semi-detached house converted into two flats, which are being amalgamated as part of the development, and a long and narrow rear garden bordered by mature trees with a raised bank at the rear. The new single-storey side/ rear extension (centred on NGR SU 14817 30103) covers c. 39.54 square metres and is situated on level ground at an average height of c. 63m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). Part of this area is occupied by an existing rear extension. The recorded geology for the Site is Chalk of the Newhaven Chalk Formation formed during the Cretaceous Period; no superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2020). The soils are characterised as freely draining lime-rich loam (CSAIS 2020).

- 2.2 The Site is located in the Milford Hill Conservation Area (MHCA), specifically within the Tollgate/ Rampart Road sub-area. The immediate environs are dominated by mostly Victorian style terraces of small houses, and the Site faces the grounds of the Grade II Listed Milford Hill House, a large Regency style villa.
- 2.3 The county Historic Environment Record (HER) identifies numerous heritage assets within a 200m radius of the Site, representing the Palaeolithic (500,000 – 15001 BC), Saxon period (AD 410-1065) and, most commonly, medieval (AD 1066-1539) and post-medieval (AD 1540-1900) features, find spots and buildings. Palaeolithic finds in the form of hand-axes are of particular interest and are included within *The Southern Rivers Palaeolithic Project* (Wessex Archaeology 1992). The closest find-spot to the Site is c. 100m to the north, in the area of Rectory House and No 46 London Road, where at least six hand-axes have been found (HER ref. SU13SW015). Evidence for 13<sup>th</sup> century buildings revealed in salvage excavations along London Road/ Rampart Road (HER ref. SU13SW504), only c. 80m west of the Site, and near the site of the medieval west gate to the City (HER ref. SU13SW521) is also noteworthy. Slightly further to the west was a further medieval building with evidence of copper alloy working (HER ref. SU13SW521).
- 2.4 Historic map regression assessment shows that the Site was on open ground prior to the construction of The Crescent at some point between 1923 and 1937.

### 3. Archaeological aims and research objectives

- 3.1 The principal aims of the archaeological monitoring were to:
- identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during groundworks;
  - determine the character of the archaeological remains, where present;
  - recover environmental information, which could provide further information relating to the local historic environment of the area;
  - provide sufficient information to enable further mitigation strategies to be determined, where appropriate
- 3.2 The research objectives were to:
- determine the potential for recovering Palaeolithic finds;
  - determine whether there was any evidence specifically relating to medieval and post-medieval settlement of the area.

### 4. Methodology

- 4.1 All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) (December 2014) and in accordance with the *Standards for Archaeological Assessment and Field Evaluation in Wiltshire* (CAS 1995). C1 adhered to the *Code of Conduct* of the CIfA (2014), and *Regulations for Professional Conduct* (CIfA, 2014, rev. 2015) at all times. The fieldwork methodology is summarised below.
- 4.2 C1 gave notification of the commencement of the works to the HES prior to the commencement of Site works. The excavation methodology was agreed with the client in advance so that the groundwork team were aware of the monitoring requirements.
- 4.3 An archaeologist was on Site to monitor all specified groundworks with the aim of identifying and recording any archaeological features/deposits present.
- 4.4 By default, core details of the deposit sequence across the Site were recorded on C1 *pro-forma* profile forms in digital format using iPad mini tablets. The frequency with which profiles were recorded was based entirely on any variation of the deposit sequence. Spoil was examined for the retrieval of artefacts.

## 5. Results & Discussion

- 5.1 In accordance with standard archaeological practice, each deposit recorded during the investigation was given a unique context number and is shown in standard brackets, e.g. (100). Deposit colours were matched on Site against a Munsell soil colour chart and described against the relevant hue and reference, e.g. brownish yellow (10YR 6/8). Details of all the recorded deposits are summarised below.
- 5.2 A small tracked machine fitted with a toothless bucket was used to excavate a continuous foundation trench for the external walls of the new extension. The trench measured c. 0.60m wide and was dug to an average depth of 1.70m. At the northern end, the trench skirted the foundations of a recently demolished extension and largely showed a re-worked deposit sequence reflecting the excavations associated with this (**Figure 2**). The profile taken here (P1) showed a very thick (0.55m), dark brown (10YR 3/3) silty clay topsoil (100) above a 1.00m thick, very dark greyish (10YR 3/2) silty clay mix of soil and sub-soil (101). This sat on the only likely *in-situ* deposit; a brown (10YR 4/3) soft silty clay (102), at least 0.20m thick, which included flecks of chalk perhaps indicating that the parent chalk geology was not much deeper. As the foundation trench was excavated away from the former extension, the deposit sequence changed abruptly and included a shallow topsoil above a deposit similar to (102) extending to the entire depth of the trench (**Figures 2 & 3**).
- 5.3 The properties along The Crescent have clearly been terraced into a natural slope and this is both evident above and below ground. The entire length of the Site from front to back on the eastern side is embanked and retained by a wooden sleeper wall or brick wall (**Figure 3**). The rear garden, however, is flat but the deposit sequence observed during the foundation excavations clearly shows that the bank continues to descend but has been remodeled to create a series of level house terraces when the properties along this row were constructed in the 1920s/30s. As such, the foundation trenches either penetrated the fill deposits for the terracing/ former extension foundations or the natural bank deposits themselves. Either way, despite the archaeological potential for prehistoric and medieval activity, there was no physical evidence for any archaeology preceding the construction of the present house.

## 6. The finds

- 6.1 Several sherds of 20<sup>th</sup> century glazed pottery was encountered during groundwork excavations and testify to the domestic activity since the construction of the main house in the 1920s/30s. These were considered to have no useful research value and were not collected.

## 7. Archive

- 7.1 The NPPF requires that an archaeological archive arising from development works is made publicly accessible (para. 199). The archive comprises two parts: the paper/digital archive including site records and images; and the artefact/ecofact assemblage.

### Paper/digital archive

- 7.2 Where archaeological features/deposits are recorded, the archive generated from this usually comprises site records, drawings and photographs either in paper format or born-digital data. Within three months of the conclusion of a project this is normally transferred into the care of a Trusted Digital Repository such as the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) as scanned paper records or native born-digital data. The digital archive will be compiled in accordance with the standards and requirements of the ADS, as set out on their website.
- 7.3 As no archaeological evidence was encountered, all relevant data has been incorporated into the assessment report and the paper/digital archive will be stored on the C1 cloud storage server or discarded.

### Physical archive

- 7.4 The artefact/ecofact assemblage is the legal property of the landowner (excluding human remains and any items that fall under The Treasure Act 1996). However, in accordance with NPPF (para. 199), there is a presumption that the landowner will transfer ownership of this assemblage to a receiving institution (usually a museum) once it has been fully assessed and/or analysed. Receiving institutions store the assemblage and

make it publicly accessible. In the event that the designated museum cannot receive the physical archive, the material will be stored for a time-limited period with C1.

7.5 In this instance, no artefacts/ecofacts merited retention.

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Figure 1. Site setting & deposit profile (P1) location





Figure 2. Profile 1 deposit sequence and bank (view from S, 1 x 1m scale)



Figure 3. Foundation trenches for new extension at northern end showing bank and terracing (view from SW, 1x 1m scale)



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