

No. 35 THE CLOSE, SALISBURY, WILTSHIRE

Archaeological Excavation

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SUMMARY

In July 1998 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Mr S J Linard (acting on behalf of Admiral Christopher Bevan and Mrs Patricia Bevan) to undertake a programme of archaeological work in the garden of No. 35 The Close, Salisbury, Wiltshire, (centred on NGR SU 14195 29657). The programme of work was undertaken in advance of and during the construction of a garden room, loggia, store and pond. A watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of foundations for the garden room, loggia and store, while the area of the pond was archaeologically excavated prior to its construction.

A house has existed on the site of No. 35 The Close since the later 16th century. The south elevation of the existing building lies on the line of the northern boundary wall to the graveyard of the Cathedral, while a length of medieval wall in the north of the house probably survives from a building or enclosure that stood outside the graveyard.

The watching brief only recorded deposits of garden soils. No certainly medieval deposits were recorded during the excavation of the trench for the new pond. The stratigraphically earliest deposit, a soil layer, was undated, while residual medieval material, including a silver coin and ceramic building material, was recovered from later deposits. The earliest archaeological feature identified during the excavation was an east to west aligned robber trench containing a sherd of post-medieval pottery. This robber trench almost certainly represents the remains of the northern wall of the Cathedral graveyard and, therefore, suggests the remaining areas of excavation lie without rather than within the graveyard.

Subsequent deposits recorded in the excavation comprised a series of post-medieval deposits including a robber trench, floor surface, rubbish pits and demolition layers probably associated with the construction, use and demolition of out-buildings, yards and gardens from the 17th century onwards within the curtilage of No. 35 The Close.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The evaluation was commissioned by Mr S J Linard (acting on behalf of Admiral Christopher Bevan and Mrs Patricia Bevan), and Wessex Archaeology is grateful for his assistance during the course of the work. The collaborative role of Tim Tatton-Brown (Consultant Archaeologist to the Dean and Chapter) and Helena Cave-Penney (Assistant Archaeologist, Wiltshire County Council) is duly acknowledged.

Roland J C Smith managed the project for Wessex Archaeology. Nicholas Cooke directed the fieldwork with the assistance of John Pouncett. Mark Dunkley compiled this report. Lorraine Mephram, Pippa Smith and Nicholas Cooke assessed the finds and the illustrations were prepared by S E James.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 In July 1998 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Mr S J Linard (acting on behalf of Admiral Christopher Bevan and Mrs Patricia Bevan) to carry out a programme of archaeological work in the garden of No. 35 The Close, Salisbury, Wiltshire, (centred on NGR SU 14195 29657). The programme of work was undertaken in advance of and during the construction of a garden room, loggia, store and pond.
- 1.1.2 The programme of archaeological work was required as a condition of planning permission following the advice of the County Archaeological Service (CAS) and the Consultant Archaeologist to the Dean and Chapter, Salisbury Cathedral. They had both advised that important buried archaeological remains might be disturbed by the proposed development.
- 1.1.3 The watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of foundations for the garden room, loggia and store, while the area of the pond was archaeologically excavated prior to its construction. The works were undertaken in accordance with an Archaeological Brief prepared by the CAS (ref: HCP/MJU/98HCP003) and an outline brief prepared by the Consultant Archaeologist (dated 24 July 1998).
- 1.1.4 The watching brief was undertaken in July 1998 and the excavation was undertaken on the 27th and 28th August 1998. Details of the work are available in the project archive.

1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The proposed development is situated immediately to the west of the extant main building at No. 35 The Close, Salisbury (Fig. 1). The site is located c.100m north-west of Salisbury Cathedral, facing Choristers Square, within the Cathedral Close.
- 1.2.2 The ground level in the immediate vicinity is around c.46m OD and the area is currently laid to lawn.
- 1.2.3 The basal geology of the area comprises Upper Chalk of the Cretaceous period below River Gravels and alluvium of the River Avon, which lies 0.25 km to the west (*Geological Map of Great Britain*, 1:625000, Sheet 2).

1.3 Historical and Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological potential of the development area was set out in the Archaeological Brief, which stated that:

The site lies within The Close of Salisbury Cathedral laid out in the Medieval Period. The present building at 35 The Close is from a number of different periods which includes 'a length of medieval flint masonry incorporated in the North Wall which presumably survives from a building or enclosure which stood outside the graveyard' (RCHME, 1993). The garden, therefore lies within the graveyard.

- 1.3.2 The south elevation of No. 35 The Close stands approximately on the line of the Graveyard Wall but no medieval masonry is seen (RCHME 1993, 146).

2 AIMS

- 2.1 The aim of the archaeological programme was to ensure the adequate observation, excavation and recording of any archaeological deposits to be disturbed by the proposed development. The results of the programme of work are to be disseminated through an appropriate report and publication and the project archive is to be deposited with the Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum.

3 METHODS

- 3.1 Observations for the watching brief were undertaken during the hand-excavation of foundation trenches for the footprint of the proposed garden room and store, details of which are recorded in the project archive. These trenches were excavated to a maximum width of 1m and depth of 0.5m. In all cases, trenches were excavated within a garden soil comprising a friable dark brown loam with inclusions of brick/tile, mortar flecks, charcoal, chalk and slate.
- 3.2 The trench for the proposed pond was excavated entirely by hand and measured 2.6m long, 2m wide and 0.79m deep, that is to the anticipated depth of the new pond (Fig. 1).
- 3.3 Where possible, sufficient evidence of each archaeological deposit or feature was then excavated in order to enable the nature of the deposit and any stratigraphic relationships to be ascertained. Intrusive investigation was kept to a minimum in order to maintain the integrity of the archaeological deposits as far as was practicable. A detailed Trench Summary is presented as Appendix 1.
- 3.4 All observed features and deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system, including scale drawings (sections 1:10, plans

1:20) and a full photographic record comprising black and white negatives and colour slides.

- 3.5 A trench location plan was prepared and linked to the main house and the garden wall (Fig. 1). A site datum was established by traverse from the 46.84m OD benchmark on the North Canonry building located to the south-west. In view of the relatively complex stratigraphy encountered within a small area excavated, the principal method of recording was to draw the four trench sections and these are illustrated in Figure 2.
- 3.6 The trenches were back-filled following completion of the fieldwork and all artefacts recovered from excavated contexts were retained.
- 3.7 All written, graphic and photographic records and finds are currently retained at the offices of Wessex Archaeology, Salisbury, under the project code 45464. In due course the paper archive will be submitted to the Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum Service for storage in perpetuity. Subject to the permission of the landowner, it is hoped that the finds will be deposited along with the paper archive.

3 RESULTS

- 4.1.1 The stratigraphically earliest deposit (22 *and* 23) comprised a mid/dark brown mixed sandy loam. Only animal bone was recovered from it.
- 4.1.2 This deposit was cut by an east-west aligned robber trench [20] of undetermined dimensions from which one sherd of post-medieval pottery was recovered. This robber trench was only recorded in the south-west of the trench as it had been cut away by a later wall trench [17] and pits in the south-east.
- 4.1.3 Robber trench [20] was sealed below a rammed chalk floor surface (10) that had also been severely disturbed by wall trench [17] and pits [5], [12] and [30]. The structure with which the chalk floor (10) was associated was not apparent within the excavation trench.
- 4.1.4 Robber trench [17] was aligned north-south. Its full width and depth was not recorded as it continued beyond the east of the trench. The robber trench was filled with a silty loam (18 *and* 19) from which post-medieval pottery and clay pipe was recovered. Robber trench [17] was cut by pit [13] and three further pits [5, 11 *and* 30] were probably contemporary on stratigraphic grounds. These pits contained post-medieval pottery, glass, clay pipe and ceramic building material.
- 4.1.5 The pits were sealed below mixed deposits of chalk (26), loam (9), ash (4) and rubble (3). The stratigraphically latest of these mixed layers (3) was cut by a pit [7] containing post-medieval pottery, glass and clay pipe and a medieval silver coin. Pit [7] was sealed below topsoil (2), which was cut by a modern drain [28], and turf (1).

5 THE FINDS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A small quantity of artefactual material was recovered during the excavation. All finds have been cleaned (with the exception of the metalwork) and quantified by material type within each context; this information is presented in Table 1. All finds have been subjected to a scanning exercise, during which spot dates were recorded for all datable material (pottery, clay pipes) and broad details of the nature, range and condition of the various material types noted. The finds are briefly discussed by material type below.

5.1.2 The date range of the assemblage is predominantly post-medieval, with some residual medieval material in the form of ceramic tiles and a silver coin.

5.2 Animal Bone

5.2.1 The species noted were, in descending order of frequency, cattle, sheep or goat, pig, chicken and horse. One worked bone object is present, comprising part of a double-sided, single-piece comb (pit 7). Similar items from Southampton are dated as 17th century (Platt and Coleman Smith 1975, fig. 249).

5.3 Ceramic Building Material

5.3.1 This category includes fragments of floor and roof tile. The single floor tile fragment derives from a glazed tile with encaustic decoration; the fragment is too small for the overall design to be ascertained. The roof tile includes both flat (peg) tile, some glazed, and one glazed ridge tile. All of this ceramic building material, particularly the ridge tile, floor tile and other glazed fragments, are likely to be of medieval date; similar material has been found from contexts dating from the 13th century onwards elsewhere in Salisbury. All fragments occurred as residual material in post-medieval contexts.

5.4 Clay Pipes

5.4.1 Fragments of clay tobacco pipes found include both stem and bowl fragments, and both categories include examples stamped with makers' marks. The plain stem fragments are not closely datable within the post-medieval period. All of the bowls date from the mid or late 17th century; makers' marks present include a crude 'monkey's paw' variant of the common Gauntlet heel stamp (c.1670-80), a Fox heel stamp (c.1650), a fleur-de-lis heel stamp (c.1670), four stems with the mark of Thomas Hunt (c.1685-1710, a Marlborough pipemaker), and two stems with the mark of William Herd (c.1690-1700, a Salisbury pipemaker).

5.5 Glass

- 5.5.1 The glass includes both window and vessel glass, the latter consisting mainly of dark green wine bottle fragments. All the vessel glass is likely to be of post-medieval date; many of the green wine bottle fragments can be dated to the mid 17th to mid 18th century date. Other identifiable fragments include the base from a small bottle or phial (pit 5), and one pointed base of uncertain origin (topsoil). The window glass is not closely datable, but again is likely to be of post-medieval date; all fragments are plain.

5.6 Pottery

- 5.6.1 The pottery is all of post-medieval date. The small assemblage consists mainly of coarse earthenwares of Verwood type, from east Dorset; these types flooded the Wessex market from the 18th century. Also present are coarse redwares, tinglazed earthenwares, Staffordshire-type slipware, stonewares, porcelain, creamware and pearlware. The potential date range is 18th to early 19th century.

5.7 Shell

- 5.7.1 The shell consists entirely of oyster shell; both left and right valves are present, i.e. oysters were prepared as well as consumed here.

5.8 Metalwork

- 5.8.1 This category includes one object of silver, one of copper alloy and six of iron. One silver coin was recovered. This is a small hammered halfpenny/farthing with a 'Long Cross' reverse. The coin is too worn and corroded to enable the identification of the king for whom it was minted. It is certainly residual in this context (cut 7). Long Cross coinage was introduced in 1247 and coins of this style were minted into the second half of the 15th century. The copper alloy object is a perforated 'tag' (topsoil), and the six iron objects comprise five nails and one strip fragment, none closely datable.

6 DISCUSSION

- 6.1 No certainly medieval deposits were recorded during the excavation of the trench for the new pond. The stratigraphically earliest deposit, a soil layer, was undated, while residual medieval material, including a silver coin and ceramic building material, was recovered from later deposits. The earliest archaeological feature identified during the excavation was an east to west aligned robber trench containing a sherd of post-medieval pottery.
- 6.2 The alignment of this robber trench is close to the line of the south elevation of No. 35 The Close and which stands approximately on the line of the 12th century northern boundary wall of the graveyard around the Cathedral. This wall was demolished in the mid 16th century when Nos 34 and 35 The Close were built (RCHME 1993, 146; Tatton-Brown pers. comm.). Robber trench [20] was probably the remains of this wall and, therefore, suggests the remaining areas of excavation lay without, rather than within, the graveyard.

- 6.3 Subsequent deposits recorded in the excavation comprised a series of post-medieval deposits including a robber trench, floor surface, rubbish pits and demolition layers probably associated with the construction, use and demolition of out-buildings, yards and gardens from the 17th century onwards within the curtilage of No. 35 The Close.

7 REFERENCES

Platt, C. and Coleman-Smith, R., 1975, *Excavations in Medieval Southampton, 1953-1969. Vol 2: The Finds*, Leicester University Press.

RCHME 1993 *Salisbury The Houses of The Close* Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England HMSO

TABLE 1: All finds by context

NB. Quantities are presented by number/weight in grammes, apart from metalwork (number only).
 CBM = ceramic building material; Ag = silver; Cu = copper alloy; Fe = iron

Context	Description	Animal Bone	CBM	Clay pipe	Glass	Pottery	Shell	Metal
unstrat.	-	16/64	-	5/22	3/2	8/96	-	1 Fe
1	Turf	1/24	-	-	2/10	19/334	-	-
2	Topsoil	8/44	1/122	1/4	3/38	6/54	8/162	1 Cu
3	Rubble layer	46/378	4/256	14/41	21/361	22/372	6/71	1 Fe
4	Ash layer	1/16	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	Fill of pit 5	428/2760	8/188	61/303	22/178	43/1315	24/378	4 Fe
8	Fill of pit 7	12/62	1/60	7/24	16/668	1/8	7/138	1 Ag
10	Chalk floor	6/46	-	-	-	-	1/8	-
12	Fill of pit 11	5/20	2/16	-	-	1/30	1/26	-
14	Fill of pit 13	5/24	-	-	-	1/4	-	-
16	Fill of pit 15	1/4	-	-	-	1/8	1/8	-
18	Fill of robber trench 17	2/18	1/96	3/16	-	3/18	2/58	-
21	Fill or robber trench 20	7/54	-	-	-	1/6	-	-
22	Soil layer	4/40	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL		542/3554	17/738	91/410	67/1257	106/2245	50/849	6 Fe; 1 Cu; 1 Ag

APPENDIX 1: Trench summary

Trench No. 1	Ground level (m OD): 45.875	Dimensions: 2.6mx2m Max. depth: 0.79m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>depth b.g.l.</i>
1	Turf layer. Mid greyish-brown friable silty loam with chalk, ceramic building material, pottery and animal bone inclusions.	0.00-0.16m
2	Topsoil. Dark greyish-brown firm silty clay loam with flint and chalk inclusions, with ceramic building material, pottery, oyster shell and animal bone.	0.16-0.26m
3	Mid greyish-brown loose clay loam with flint and chalk inclusions, with ceramic building material, pottery, human and animal bone.	0.26-0.52m
4	Black ashy loam with animal bone inclusions.	0.25-0.29m
5	Irregular pit, 0.73m x 0.59m, filled with (6).	0.48-0.75m
6	Mid brownish-grey loose sandy clay loam with flint and chalk inclusions, with ceramic building material CBM, pottery and animal bone. Fill of pit [5].	0.48-0.75m
7	Ovoid pit, >0.8m x 0.95m and 0.26m deep, filled with (8)	0.22-0.49m
8	Light greyish-brown sandy silt loam with ceramic building material, pottery chalk and flint inclusions. Fill of pit [7]	0.22-0.49m
9	Mid greyish-brown clay loam with chalk, flint and pottery inclusions.	0.32-0.44m
10	Chalk surface/floor	0.4-0.58m
11	Pit. 0.55m diameter and 0.23m deep, filled with (12)	0.36-0.58m
12	Mid brown sandy loam. Fill of pit [11].	0.36-0.58m
13	Pit, 1.25m in diameter and at least 0.18m deep, filled with (14)	0.56->0.62m
14	Dark brown sandy loam. Fill of pit [13]	0.56->0.62m
15	Pit filled with (16). Not recorded in section.	0.56-0.61m
16	Dark yellowish –brown sandy silt loam. Fill of pit [15].	0.56-0.61m
17	Robber trench, >0.88m wide, filled with (18) & (19).	0.42->0.61m
18	Fill of robber trench [17]. Mid yellowish-brown silty loam. Same as 19.	0.42->0.61m
19	Fill of robber trench [17]. Mid yellowish-brown silty loam. Same as 18.	0.42->0.61m
20	Robber trench, 1.26m wide, filled with (21).	0.48->0.59m
21	Light yellowish-brown sandy silt with greensand inclusions. Fill of robber trench [21].	0.48->0.59m
22	Mid/dark brown mixed sandy loam.	0.44->0.58m
23	Mid/dark brown mixed sandy loam.	0.44->0.58m
24	Cut filled with (25).	-
25	Dark brown clay loam. Fill of [24].	-
26	Chalk lens.	-
27	Chalk lens within (2).	0.08-0.18m
28	Modern drain, 0.68m wide, filled with (29).	0.11-0.48m
29	Fill of modern drain. Loose dark greyish-brown silt loam with frequent ceramic building material fragments.	0.11-0.48m
30	Pit, 0.55m in diameter and 0.16m deep, filled with (31).	0.28-0.43m
31	Dark greyish brown matrix with a frequent ceramic building material. Fill of pit [30].	0.28-0.43m

KEY: b.g.l. below ground level