



New Workshop, Belle Vue Garage Castle Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

Online archive report



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**NEW WORKSHOP
BELLE VUE GARAGE
CASTLE STREET, SALISBURY, WILTSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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August 2000

NEW WORKSHOP, BELLE VUE GARAGE CASTLE STREET, SALISBURY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

SUMMARY

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by the Wilts & Dorset Bus Company to undertake a watching brief during groundworks associated with construction of a new workshop at the Belle Vue Garage, Castle Street, Salisbury. This work was required under as a result of a planning condition imposed by the Local Planning Authority.

The site is located on the northern side of the City of Salisbury at NGR SU 1445 3045, on the eastern side of Castle Street. The watching brief was maintained during the excavation of a construction trench for the foundations of a new 3-bay workshop. The only potential archaeological feature identified during the course of the watching brief was a possible pit that contained post-medieval pottery and brick.

**NEW WORKSHOP, BELLE VUE GARAGE
CASTLE STREET, SALISBURY**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The project was commissioned and funded by the Wilts & Dorset Bus Company, and Wessex Archaeology would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mike Stockley. The collaborative role of Helena Cave-Penney, Assistant Archaeologist at Wiltshire County Council, is also acknowledged.

The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Mick Rawlings. The watching brief was carried out by Tessa Gent and Susan Fielding, who also compiled this report. The illustration was prepared by Rob Goller.

NEW WORKSHOP, BELLE VUE GARAGE CASTLE STREET, SALISBURY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Wilts & Dorset Bus Company to undertake a watching brief at the Belle Vue Garage, Castle Street, Salisbury. This work was required under condition (No. 5) imposed by the Local Planning Authority on the Planning Consent (8/99/1480/TP) granted for the construction of a new workshop. The archaeological watching brief was to be maintained during groundworks associated with the new development.
- 1.1.2 A method statement for the work (Wessex Archaeology 48471.1) was submitted to and approved by the Wiltshire County Council Archaeology Service (CAS) prior to the commencement of the construction work.
- 1.1.3 The watching brief was carried out on 2/8/00 and 7/8/00.

1.2. Site location and description

- 1.2.1 The site is located on the northern side of the City of Salisbury at NGR SU 1445 3045, on the eastern side of Castle Street (Fig. 1). This lies outside the walls of the medieval town, but on a major access route running northwards towards Old Sarum. Linear settlement along the route appears on the earliest maps of Salisbury (Speed *c.* 1600: Naish 1716), and it seems likely that this expansion of the town northwards began as early as the 15th century. It was therefore thought that evidence of late medieval and post-medieval settlement activity might be found at the site.

2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1. The archaeological watching brief aimed to monitor the groundworks associated with the construction of a new workshop, and to record any archaeological features and deposits that were observed.

3. METHODOLOGY

- 3.1. The work comprised the monitoring of all groundworks associated with the construction of a new 3-bay workshop within the garage site. A tracked mechanical excavator with a toothed bucket was used to excavate a foundation trench measuring approximately 59.50m in length, 0.90m wide

and c. 1.50m deep. The trench was excavated around the four sides of the new building (Fig. 1).

- 3.2.** The trench, and any archaeological features and deposits within it were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system producing a full written, graphic and photographic record. Sections of relevant features and representative trench sections were drawn at 1:10, and were sketched due to the depth of the unshored trench.

4. RESULTS

- 4.1.** The trench was excavated through the natural basal geology along its entire length. This consisted of an orange-brown alluvial clay that contained very occasional gravel inclusions and was very heavily stained by diesel contamination in some areas. In the north-eastern corner of the trench was a patch of greenish-grey sandy alluvium that underlay the alluvial clay.
- 4.2.** All four lengths of trench were initially excavated through a modern concrete or tarmac surface. Below this surface lay between 0.20m and 1.00m of modern demolition material/made ground consisting of concrete, gravels and building rubble.
- 4.3.** In the eastern section of the trench, a modern disturbance filled with brick rubble and flint continued below the depth of the excavated trench; the full extent of this is not known. It did not continue to appear in the western section. Immediately to the north of this disturbance, but terminating just short of the recorded section was a small brick and chalk wall. Very little was uncovered but it is likely to be later post-medieval in date.
- 4.4.** Two other wall foundations were visible; one in the northern section and one in the western section of the trench. Both of these belonged to existing modern buildings which bordered the present site.
- 4.5.** In the southern section of the trench, another modern disturbance cut a large feature filled with 18th century pottery along with fragments of brick and tile. This feature was probably a pit, but again the full dimensions were not uncovered. Brick samples were recovered but were subsequently discarded.

5. DISCUSSION

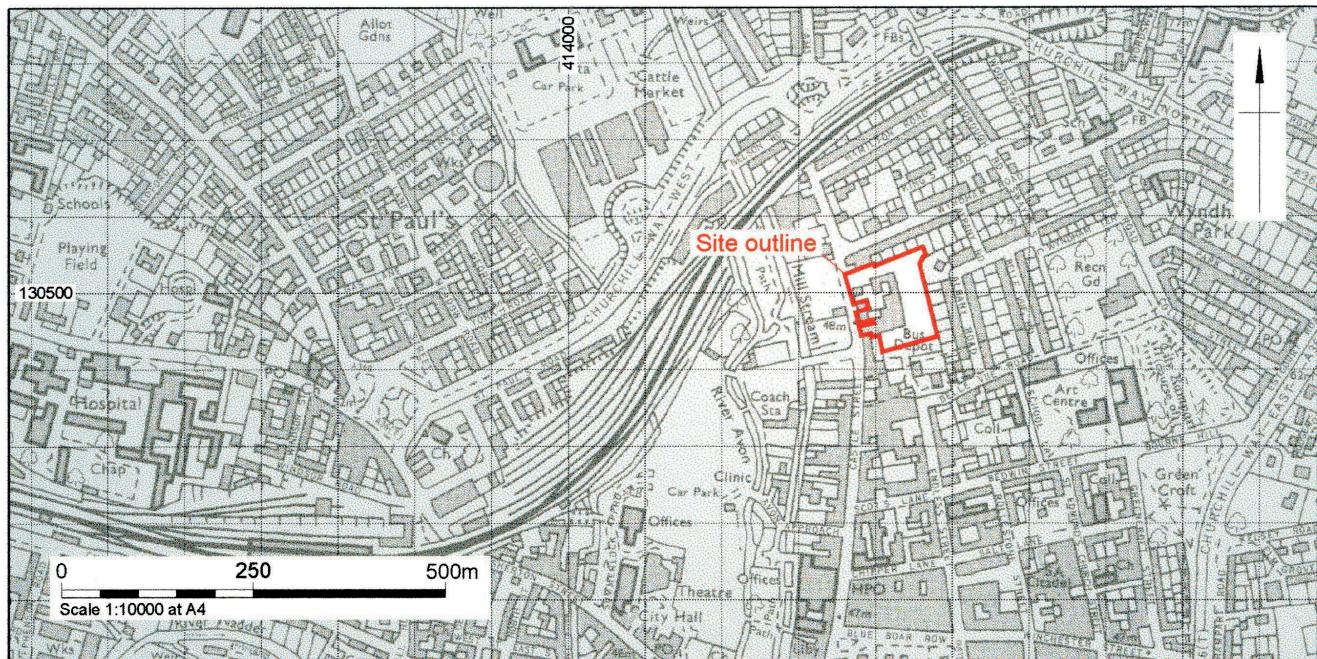
- 5.1** The watching brief at the Belle Vue Garage has revealed that there has been considerable build up of the ground level here in the modern period. Prior to this there appears to be limited activity during the post-medieval period, and no evidence of medieval or early post-medieval settlement was recorded.

6. THE ARCHIVE

- 6.1.** The project archive is currently held at the Old Sarum offices of Wessex Archaeology under the project code 48471. In due course it will be deposited at the Museum of Salisbury and South Wiltshire.

7. REFERENCES

Wessex Archaeology 2000, *New Workshop, Belle Vue Bus Garage, Castle Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire, Project Design for an Archaeological Watching Brief*, unpublished report ref. 48471.1



Site location and area of watching brief

Figure 1



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