

**GREYFRIARS CLOSE
SALISBURY, WILTSHIRE**

Archaeological Evaluation

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FIGURES

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Relph Ross Partnership on behalf of the Shaftesbury Housing Association to carry out an archaeological evaluation of land adjacent to Greyfriars Close, Salisbury.

The proposed development area was approximately 0.643 ha. in extent, centred on NGR SU 14670 29400. The evaluation consisted of two trenches located within unused former car parking areas along the north and east sides of the site.

The trenches revealed extensive and deep modern disturbances to at least 1.2m in depth below current ground level. No features or finds of archaeological interest were found.

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Acknowledgements

The work was commissioned and funded by the Shaftesbury Housing Association through the Relph Ross Partnership, and Wessex Archaeology would like to acknowledge the assistance of Jonathan Ross. The collaborative role of the Wiltshire County Archaeology Services is also acknowledged.

The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Mick Rawlings. The fieldwork was directed by Kevin Ritchie, with the assistance of Nick Wells. This report was compiled by Kevin Ritchie and the illustrations were prepared by S E James.

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Archaeological Evaluation

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by the Relph Ross Partnership on behalf of the Shaftesbury Housing Association (the client) to carry out an archaeological evaluation of land at the Friary Estate, Salisbury. The proposed development area, hereafter referred to as the Site, comprised an irregular parcel of land covering approximately 0.643 hectares adjacent to and south of Greyfriars Close. The site is centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid reference SU 14670 29400 (Fig. 1).

1.1.2 The archaeological evaluation was requested by the Wiltshire County Archaeology Service (the CAS), acting as archaeological advisors to Salisbury District Council. This request is in line with national planning guidance for archaeology and development (*Planning Policy Guidance 16: Archaeology and Planning* – DOE 1990) and with county and district structure plan policies.

1.1.3 A Brief for the evaluation was prepared by the CAS (ref.HCP/MJL/99HCP025.br – 24 June 1999). A Project Design was prepared by Wessex Archaeology (ref. 46877.1); this document elaborates and expands on the Brief.

1.2 Topography, Geology and Land Use

1.2.1 At the time of the evaluation the Site was predominately reinstated grassland, (formerly the site of three substantial blocks of flats), with tarmac and concrete car parking areas on the northern and eastern sides. The Site is generally level, and lies at a height of c. 44.9m – 45.5m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

1.2.2 The British Geological Survey map for the area (sheet 298) indicates that the underlying drift geology is floodplain alluvium over Avon Valley gravels.

1.3 Archaeological Background

1.3.1 The Site lies to the south-east of the site of a Franciscan Convent which was founded in AD 1230 and demolished in AD 1538 as part of the Dissolution. The area within which the Site is actually located is known on the earliest maps of the city as *Bugmore* and was probably a tract of low-lying swampy ground which had to be drained prior to any development. Tenements may have been laid out and occupied on either side of Friary Lane in the late medieval period, but there is little actual evidence for this.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The aims and objectives of the evaluation were, as far as was reasonably possible:
- To ascertain the presence, date, nature and significance of any archaeological remains that may be surviving within those parts of the Site which would be subject to impact as a result of the proposed development
 - Assess the levels of truncation of the potential archaeological levels in order to gauge likely archaeological survival across the rest of the Site

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The evaluation fieldwork comprised a total of two machine-excavated trenches located within the footprints of the proposed residential buildings. Trench 1 measured 22.30m in total and was excavated in three sections; Trench 2 measured 16.20m.
- 2.2.2 The full length of each of the trenches was dependant on buried services which were located using a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT).
- 2.2.3 The evaluation trenches were excavated under constant archaeological supervision using a 180° wheeled excavator. Due to the nature of the deposits it was necessary to use a toothed bucket during all machine excavation. Deposits were removed by machine in a series of level spits down to a maximum depth of 1.65m, or to the top of *in situ* archaeological or geological deposits, whichever was encountered first.
- 2.2.4 All features or deposits requiring clarification were cleaned, recorded and excavated by hand. Written, drawn and photographic records were compiled in accordance with the Wessex Archaeology Field Recording Manual.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 The results of the evaluation trenches are presented below, with detailed trench descriptions available in Appendix 1. The locations of the trenches are shown on Figure 1.

3.2 Trench 1

- 3.2.1 Trench 1 measured 22.30m long and 2.1m wide and was orientated east/west. Modern made ground in excess of 1.2m deep with associated wall footings was encountered in the western part of the trench. In the eastern part of the trench the made ground (104) extended to 1.4m below current ground level. (Fig. 2). This sealed 0.25m of darker, humic, silty clays which contained small chalky and sandy inclusions (105; 106) and which directly overlay natural clay (107). Groundwater was encountered at a depth of 1.4m. No archaeological features or deposits were present.

3.3 Trench 2

- 3.3.1 Trench 2 was 16.20m long and 2m wide and was orientated north-east/ south-west. Modern made ground (201-203) was encountered to a depth of 0.90m below current ground level (Fig. 2). This sealed 0.2m of darker, humic, silty clays, the upper part of which contained modern building debris. No archaeological features or deposits were present.

4 FINDS

- 4.1 The only finds noted during the evaluation comprised modern ceramic building material and other material of 20th century origin, including glass bottles and plastic and metal objects. These objects were recovered from the made ground. All finds were discarded following identification.

5 DISCUSSION

- 5.1 The Site was found to have been substantially built-up in the modern period, probably as part of the landscaping prior to the construction of the Friary Estate. Made ground was recorded to a depth of 1.4m below current ground level, and although *in situ* brick and concrete wall footings within this made ground may represent earlier buildings, these are still likely to be of 20th century date. Sealed beneath the made ground were silty clays rich in organic material; these may represent earlier soils over the alluvial clays.
- 5.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were found.

6 PROJECT ARCHIVE

- 6.1 The project archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury, site code reference 46877. It is hoped that the archive will be deposited in due course at the Museum of Salisbury and South Wiltshire, Salisbury.
- 6.2 The archive currently comprises the following components:

File/Role no.	Details	No. of sheets	Format
1	Machine trench record.	2	A4
	Photographic record (B + W & C T).	2	A4
	Graphics register.	1	A4
	Drawings.	5	A4
	Survey data.	2	A4
	Daybook entries.	3	A4
	Client map of site.	1	A4
	OS map of area.	1	A3

APPENDIX 1: Trial trench summary sequences

M aOD = metres above Ordnance Datum

Depth (m) indicates the approximate depths of the surface and base of the deposit context below current ground level.

Trial Trench 1		22.30m x 2.10m	East / West	Surface height. E:45.19m aOD W:45.35m aOD
Context	Description			Depth (m)
100	Tarmac.			0 – 0.10
101	Hardcore base for tarmac.			0.10 – 0.25
102	Crushed brick and concrete hard standing, in west half of trench above brick structure only.			0.25 – 0.40
103	Brick and concrete structure aligned slightly off east/west, only in west end of trench.			0.40
104	Made ground: dark greyish-brown, sticky, silty clay with frequent brick rubble and stone fragments and lenses of sands and gravels.			0.25 – 1.40
105	Dark grey, sticky, silty clay with frequent small chalk fragments.			1.40 – 1.60
106	Dark brown, sticky, silty clay – humic, almost peaty with frequent small chalk and sand inclusions.			1.60 – 1.65
107	Dark grey (glayed) becoming bluish-grey, sticky silty clay, rare small chalk fragments.			1.65

Trial Trench 2		16.20m x 2m	North-west/ South-east	Surface height. NW:44.91m aOD / SE:44.97m aOD
Context	Description			Depth (m)
200	Tarmac and hardcore mix.			0 – 0.30
201	Grey gravel hardcore.			0.30 – 0.50
202	Yellowish-brown hardcore gravel, disappears towards south-west end of trench.			0.50 – 0.70
203	Loose chalk rubble, disappears towards south-west end of trench.			0.70 – 0.90
204	Dark greyish-brown, sticky, silty clay with frequent small chalk rubble and building debris inclusions.			0.90 – 1.10
205	Dark brown, sticky, silty clay – humic, almost peaty with occasional small chalk and gravel inclusions.			1.10
206	Dark greyish-brown, sticky, silty clay with frequent, small, rounded and sub-angular stone inclusions, only in south-west end of trench.			0.50 – 0.90