

**VALE HOUSE DENTAL SURGERY, 44 ST ANN STREET,
SALISBURY, WILTSHIRE**

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Produced on behalf of
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Figure 1 Site and excavated Area Location Plan

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Dr Thomas, acting through his agent Mr D. MacLeod, to carry out an archaeological watching brief during ground works at his dental surgery at 44 St Ann Street, Salisbury (Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference 4147 1295). The ground works were associated with a proposed increase to facilities, comprising an extension to an existing building and the provision of an additional covered parking area. The site lies on the line of what is believed to be the precinct wall of the Franciscan Priory founded to the south of St Ann Street in 1230.

The areas excavated by contractors and observed during the watching-brief comprised made ground and no archaeological deposits were detected.

Acknowledgements

The project was managed by Rob Perrin and undertaken by Kevin Ritchie and Jonathan Smith, who also compiled this report. The illustration was prepared by Linda Coleman.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 This document has been prepared by Wessex Archaeology for Dr Thomas, acting through his agent Mr D. MacLeod, who proposed to increase facilities at his dental surgery at 44 St Ann Street, Salisbury (hereafter referred to as the Site), by extending an existing building and providing an additional covered parking area.
- 1.1.2 The requirement for archaeological investigations on the Site was set down by Salisbury District Council in Condition 3 of the planning permission for the development (ref. S/2004/2259). This condition required that no development should take place until the implementation of an agreed programme of archaeological work had been secured (Development Control ref. 04HCP153). The site was considered to be potentially of archaeological significance as it lay on the line of what is believed to be the precinct wall of the Franciscan Priory, founded to the south of St Ann Street in 1230.
- 1.1.3 The programme of archaeological work comprised a watching brief and the preparation of a report on the results of the fieldwork. The watching brief was undertaken during the groundworks for the construction of the extension and car parking area.
- 1.1.4 The methodology employed by Wessex Archaeology in carrying out the watching brief was set out in a project design which was submitted to the Wiltshire County Archaeology Service for approval prior to the commencement of any works on site.
- 1.1.5 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the guidance given in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (1994).

1.2 Site Location and Description

- 1.2.1 The Site, currently occupied by a dental surgery, lies at the southern end of the plot known as 44 St Ann Street, Salisbury. It is approximately centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference 41478 12959 and is located to the south east of Salisbury city centre. It is bordered to the north and most of the east by domestic rear gardens, by residential properties to part of the east and the south and by St Ann Place to the west (Fig. 1).
- 1.2.2 The Site lies at a height of approximately 45m aOD. The underlying geology is Valley Gravel.

2 OBJECTIVE

- 2.1 The objective of the watching brief was to record, as far as was reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, nature, character and relationships of any surviving archaeological remains observed during the contractor's groundworks.

3 METHOD STATEMENT

- 4.1 Two visits were made on 29/03/05 and 31/03/05 during the removal by contractors by hand of top soil to the base foundation level required for the car parking area (Area 1) and the extension (Area 2). Area 1 measured around 5m by 4m and was excavated through a raised flowerbed to a depth of approximately 1.2m. Area 2 measured around 3m by 2.70m was excavated through a shallow flowerbed to a depth of approximately 0.2m. The watching brief was maintained until it became apparent that no archaeological deposits had been or would be disturbed by the ground works.
- 3.1.2 The deposits and features observed during the watching brief were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording sheets. A photographic record was compiled comprising 35mm black-and-white negatives and colour transparencies, and digital colour images.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 Deposits excavated both areas by the contractors comprised made ground of rubble and brick mixed with topsoil, a dark-brown silty clay.
- 4.2 No archaeological deposits were observed during the removal of the made ground or were visible in the base level of the areas excavated.
- 4.3 The spoil was scanned for artefacts but none were retrieved.
- 4.4 No samples for charred plant remains (charcoal and charred seeds etc) were taken.

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1.1 The watching brief established that no archaeological remains were disturbed by the ground works.
- 5.1.2 No artefacts were recovered.

6 THE ARCHIVE

- 6.1 The project archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury, under the site code 59610.
- 6.2 It is proposed in principle that, subject to the wishes of the landowner, the entire archive will be deposited with the Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum Service.

7 REFERENCES

Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1994, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*.

Wessex Archaeology
May 2005

Appendix: Trench Summary tables

Area 1

	Length = 5m	Width = 4m	Max depth = 1.2m
Context	Type	Description	Depth
101	Deposit	Made ground – brick and rubble mixed with topsoil	0 – 1.2m

Area 2

	Length = 3m	Width = 2.7m	Max depth = 0.2m
Context	Type	Description	Depth
201	Deposit	Made ground – brick and rubble	0 - 0.2m