

6 Church Street Wimborne Minster, Dorset

Archaeological Evaluation Report





6 Church Street, Wimborne Minster

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Prepared for:

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6 Church Street, Wimborne Minster, Dorset

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Figure 1 Site plan showing trench location

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Tim Pantlin to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at 6 Church Street, Wimborne Minster, Dorset, in advance of construction of new housing on the site. The site lay in the historic centre of Wimborne Minster. The work was carried out on 22nd January 2009.

A single evaluation trench measuring 3m by 1.3m was excavated within the footprint of the proposed development. A narrow gully was revealed within the trench, at a depth of 1.2m below ground level. The feature contained animal bone, flecks of ceramic building material and a single piece of burnt flint, but was not dateable.

No other features were identified, nor finds recovered from within the evaluation trench.

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Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by Tim Pantlin and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank him for his assistance.

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Chloe Hunnisett and Duncan Wright. This report was compiled by Chloe Hunnisett with the illustrations prepared by Kenneth Lymer. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Mark Williams.

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Archaeological Evaluation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Tim Pantlin (hereafter 'the Client') to carry out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at 6 Church Street, Wimborne Minster, Dorset, in advance of construction of a new dwelling (hereafter 'the Site'). The Site is centred on National Grid Reference NGR 400881, 100000

1.1.2 The archaeological evaluation was requested by the Senior Archaeologist, Dorset County Council to inform a planning application for the construction of a single dwelling.

1.1.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WA 65790.01) was drawn up setting out the methodologies and standards to be employed by Wessex Archaeology when undertaking the evaluation. It was prepared in keeping with the relevant standards and guidance of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

1.2 Location, topography

1.2.1 The Site is located close to the centre of Windborne Minster north-east of the Minster Church.

1.2.2 The site was used as a car park at the time of the evaluation.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The Site is located within an area of archaeological potential north of the current Minster church although little is know form the area this is likely to be form a lack of intrusive archaeological intervention.

2 AIMS

2.1.1 The aims of the archaeological evaluation were:

- To determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains and, should remains be found to be present, to ensure their preservation by record to the highest possible standard.

- To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of the remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence
- To determine or confirm the approximate extent, condition and state of preservation of the remains.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1.1 A single trial trench measuring 3m by 1.2m was excavated within the footprint of the proposed development.
- 3.1.2 The trench was excavated by a tracked mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless bucket. Once the concrete surfacing had been removed, machining continued in controlled spits, under the direction of the archaeologist. Machining ceased once archaeological deposits were encountered.
- 3.1.3 A representative sample of the archaeological features encountered was excavated by hand in order to sufficiently characterise and date them where possible.
- 3.1.4 A full written and graphic record, including hand drawn plans and sections, was created using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording systems. A digital photographic record of the site was also created.
- 3.1.5 The extent and location of the works were planned by hand as weather conditions and poor signal quality prevented the accurate use of a GPS on the Site. The locations of the trench and the archaeological feature were tied to the ordnance survey.
- 3.1.6 Spoil heaps were scanned for artefacts. Upon completion of recording, the trench was backfilled.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1.1 The evaluation revealed a rather deep sequence within the trench. The Site, in its' current usage as a car park, was surfaced with modern concrete, overlying modern gravel underlay. Below the made ground was dark brown loamy topsoil, a very loose garden soil deposit with common modern finds, which were noted but not retained. This deposit was c 0.3m thick, and overlay a yellow brown silty-clay subsoil, containing rare animal bone and ceramic building material (hereafter CBM). Natural deposits occurred at 1.1m BGL and consisted of orange brown silty clay with rare gravel.

4.1.2 A single feature was revealed within the trench, a narrow gully aligned north to south. The cut was shallow with steep to moderate sides and a concave base. The feature contained a single secondary fill, which was indistinguishable from the subsoil and accumulated gradually in situ. The fill contained very rare animal bone, a single struck flint and a single piece of burnt flint. The feature remains undated.

4.1.3 No other features were revealed within the trench.

5 FINDS

5.1.1 Finds were noted within the topsoil but were not retained, comprising mainly modern brick/CBM, modern glass and ceramics, plastic and animal bone.

5.1.2 Finds were retained from two contexts, the subsoil **(4)** and the fill of the gully, **(6)**.

Table of Finds by Context

Context	Animal Bone		Burnt Flint		Struck Flint	
	(Number)	(Weight)	(Number)	(Weight)	(Number)	(Weight)
(4)	5	131g	-	-	-	-
(6)	7	60g	1	56g	1	18g

5.1.3 Animal bone from the subsoil, context **(4)**, was identified as cattle bone.

5.1.4 Animal bone collected from the fill of the gully, **(6)**, was identified as cattle and pig. This fill contained in addition a single piece of burnt flint, and a single non-diagnostic struck flint flake.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL

6.1.1 No material suitable for environmental analysis was demonstrated to be present within the excavated areas

7 CONCLUSIONS

7.1.1 The archaeological trial trench evaluation revealed the presence of a single feature within the trench. This feature was however not dateable, and having yielded very few finds its function remains unclear

and these are residual artefacts, re-deposited within the fill of the gully at a later date.

- 7.1.2 In the absence of further dating evidence for the gully, the archaeological trial trench evaluation does not seem to have revealed any archaeological remains which can be regarded as significant. In light of this result, it is not anticipated that further mitigation will be required in advance of the proposed development at 6 Church Street, Wimborne Minster.

8 ARCHIVE

8.1 Preparation and Deposition

- 8.1.1 The project archive comprises a ring bound file that contains an archaeological trench record, context record sheets, graphics and a graphics record sheet, the risk assessment, the method statement, site location plans, a written record of the evaluation, and a digital photographic record sheet. This archive is currently held at Wessex Archaeology's office building under the site code 70990, but will ultimately be deposited for permanent storage at Dorset County Museum, Dorchester.

9 APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARY

TRENCH 1			
Length (m)	2.9m	Width (m)	1.3m
Depth (m)	1.3m		
Context No.	Description	Depth	
(1)	Concrete surfacing	0 – 0.07m	
(2)	Made Ground: Gravel underlay for concrete	0.07 – 0.33m	
(3)	Topsoil: Dark brown silty loam with rare gravel inclusions. Loose, friable garden soil-type deposit. Clear but undulating interface with subsoil (4). Contains tile, brick/ceramic building material (CBM), modern glass and china, and animal bone.	0.33 – 0.65m	
(4)	Subsoil: Mid yellow brown silty clay. Rare gravel inclusions. Fairly compact, bioturbated. Contains CBM and animal bone.	0.65 – 1.10m	
[5]	Cut of gully: Small, shallow linear running roughly north to south across the trench. Fairly steep sides and a concave base. Contains a single fill (6). Undated, and function unclear but possibly a drainage feature, of possible post-medieval date.	-	
(6)	Secondary fill: Fills gully [5]. Mid yellow brown silty clay with rare gravel inclusions. Indistinguishable from subsoil (4). Contains animal bone, CBM flecks, a burnt flint and a single struck flint.	-	
(7)	Natural: Mid orange silty clay with rare flint gravel inclusions. Compact, cohesive. Has a rather indistinct interface with (4). Root disturbance is common.	+ 1.10m	



Site plan showing trench location

Figure 1



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