Land at Werg Garden, Mildenhall, Marlborough, Wiltshire

Project specification for an archaeological watching brief

8th August 2019
Revised 3/11/23

Ref: 19e81wb

Thames Valley Archaeological Services, 47-49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 5NR
Tel: 0118 9260552; Email: tvas@tvas.co.uk, web site www.tvas.co.uk

Land at Werg Garden, Mildenhall, Marlborough, Wiltshire
Project specification for archaeological watching brief

1.0 Background

1.1 Planning permission has been granted to construct a new Eco House at Werg Garden, Mildenhall, Marlborough, Wiltshire (PL/2022/0914). The consent gained is subject to a condition relating to archaeology that a watching brief to be carried out during groundworks.

1.2 The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a briefing document prepared for a previous proposal (19/00957/FUL), which is almost identical to the current application. The briefing note was produced by Ms Rachel Foster, archaeological officer at Wiltshire Council. In summary the potential of the site stems from its location just to the north of the Roman town of *Cunetio,* which is a scheduled monument (1004726*).* Earthworks defining the town wall lie just to the south of the proposal site, but there is the possibility of extra mural settlement both before or after the wall was built. Extramural areas were also used as burial grounds, and there is potential for inhumation or cremation burials to have survived on the site.

2.0 Requirement for Work

2.1 As a condition on the granting of planning permission, a watching brief is anticipated to be requested as set out in NPPF (2021) *National Planning Policy Framework* and the Council policies on archaeology. This is to take place during groundworks as a result of the possibility of damage or destruction of archaeological deposits.

2.2 This is to take place according to a written scheme of investigation approved by the Wiltshire Council archaeological officer.

3.0 Aims and Objectives

3.1 The aims of the project are to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. This will involve examination of all areas of intrusive groundworks, in particular overburden removal and ground reduction.

4.0 Methodology

4.1 Archaeological deposits which are identified during the groundworks will be recorded and investigated. Sufficient time will be allowed to carry this out within the groundworker's schedules.
All invasive groundworks will be archaeologically monitored. Use of excavating plant for digging in archaeologically relevant levels will be fitted with a toothless bucket.

4.2 In general, all finds and artefacts will be retained. All but a sample of some classes of building material will be discarded after recording. The categories of artefacts to be discarded will be discussed with the recipient museum and the Council archaeological officer.

4.3 Conservation on site will follow guidelines in First Aid For Finds with any other specialist conservation work subcontracted to the project conservator (see project team below).

4.4 A programme of environmental sampling will take place should sufficient well stratified subsoil deposits be located. Typically, this involves samples of up to 40 L depending on the size of the feature examined. These will be sampled in consultation with our environmental consultants, and the Council archaeological officer. Sampling will take place according to Historic England guidance (HE 2015b).

4.5 Discovery of any human remains will be reported to the coroner and Council archaeological officer. and will be excavated, if necessary, following guidelines issued by the Ministry of Justice and on receipt of an appropriate licence. The burials will be excavated in accordance with the TVAS Field Recording

Manual (8th edition 2018) and according to national guidelines (Brickley and McKinley 2004). The remains will be deposited with Devizes Museum and will not be re-interred.

4.6 All gold and silver any associated objects or prehistoric base metal objects will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner and finds liaison officer according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act (1996) and its subsequent amendments. Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft. No title will be assumed by the finder of any items of value.

4.7 In the unlikely event of an unexpected discovery of exceptional archaeological findings, such as extensive human remains or other complex archaeological deposits, this may require an additional level of mitigation to enable preservation in-situ (such as by a modification to the groundworks scheme) or further archaeological recording. The scope of this mitigation will have to be determined in consultation with the client and the Council archaeological officer. In such circumstances a modest delay to the works on site may ensue whilst this consultation and resultant mitigation takes place.

5.0 Recording Methodology

5.1 A single context recording system will be used in accordance with the TVAS Field Recording Manual (8th edition 2018). Descriptions of individual deposits and features will be recorded on pro-forma context recording sheets.

5.2 All archaeological deposits exposed will be planned at a scale of 1:20 and sections drawn at a scale of 1:10. All site drawings will be by pencil on drafting film.

5.3 Heights above OD will be taken and recorded on plans and sections.

5.4 The locations of the trenches, and of all plans and sections will be tied into the National Grid.

5.5 A photographic record will be made of the watching brief project, consisting of digital image. It will record the principal features and finds discovered, both in detail and in their general context.

6.0 Post-fieldwork

6.1 Finds and sample processing and analysis will commence immediately following the completion of the fieldwork in accordance with guidelines in MoRPHE (HE 2015a), CIfA guidance (CIfA 2019) and TVAS post-excavation procedures (6th edition 2013).

6.2 Artefacts/ecofacts will be cleaned, conserved and prepared for long term museum storage.

6.3 Specialist reports will be prepared on the artefacts recovered. Particular attention will be paid to correlating the pottery recovered with local or regional fabric type sequences.

6.4 Specialist analysis and reporting will be carried out by the following specialist staff or consultants as appropriate:-

Pottery	Dr J Timby, Ms S Anderson (consultants) or Dr C Mateos-Leal (TVAS)
Stone	Dr K Hayward (Consultant)
Animal bone	Dr M Holmes (consultants) or Dr C Falys (TVAS)
Human bone	Dr C Falys (TVAS)
Struck flint	Dr S Ford (TVAS)
Charred plant remains/environment	Professor M Robinson (Oxford University), Ms R McKenna (consultant)
Metalwork	Mr A Colyer (TVAS) or Dr R Taylor (consultant)
Coins	Dr P Manisse (TVAS)
Radiocarbon	Queens University, Belfast
Conservation	Wiltshire County Council Conservation Centre

6.5 The scale of analysis of any environmental samples taken will be discussed in consultation with the Council archaeological officer.

7.0 Report and Dissemination

7.1 A report on the results of the fieldwork should be available within two-three weeks following completion of the fieldwork.

7.2 The report will follow our established format, comprising a descriptive text, illustrations and catalogues in appendices as appropriate.

7.3 The text will address the aims and objectives of the project, the methodology employed, describe the basic nature of the archaeological deposits discovered, and report on the artefacts recovered. It will then attempt to place the significance of the findings in their local, regional and national setting if appropriate.

7.4 The report will include a frontsheet providing the following information:

*Site name
*Grid reference
*Site activity (eg. evaluation trenching, geophysical survey, fieldwalking, watching brief, excavation etc.)
*Date and duration of project
*Site code
*Area of site
*Summary of results
*Monuments identified (referenced to the RCHME Thesaurus of Monument Types)
*Location and reference of archive

7.5 The illustrations will include:
a site location plan
a plan of archaeological deposits
profiles/sections of excavated features

7.6 Any findings of academic merit will be published as a note in an appropriate journal such as *Wiltshire Archaeological Magazine.* Non-published report(s) will be made available for inspection or download on the TVAS web site.

7.7 Copies of the results will be supplied to the Wiltshire HER in paper and digital (format).

7.8 Copies of photographs (digital images) will be supplied to Wiltshire HER for publicity or lecture purposes if requested.

7.9 A digital version of the report will be provided to the OASIS project.

8.0 Archive Deposition

8.1 The finds and site archive will be prepared in accordance with guidelines in MoRPHE (HE 2015a), CIfA guidance (CIfA 2020a) and after consultation with the recipient museum. Guidance produced by the Museum and Galleries Commission's Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections (1992), the Society of Museum Archaeologist's Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections (1993) and the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage (1990) will be followed. The records will be copied onto microfiche and a copy sent to the National Archaeological Record.

8.2 The site archive will be deposited with Devizes Museum or Archaeology Data Service with accession number DZSWS04-2019.

8.3 With the agreement of the landowner, the finds will be deposited with Devizes Museum with accession number DZSWS04-2019.

8.4 The records will be copied onto microfiche for the National Archaeological Record.

9.0 General Items

9.1 The project will be managed on a regular basis by a Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists with an appropriate area of competence (S. Ford or J. Pine). The fieldwork will be supervised and carried out by staff of other categories of membership of the CIFA.

9.2 The project will be carried out in accordance with the CIFA Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching brief (2014b) and Code of Conduct (2014c) and the quality control mechanisms set out in the TVAS fieldwork and post-fieldwork manuals.

9.3 Safe working practices will be adopted as set out in the TVAS health and safety manual and current health and safety standards will be adhered to.

9.4 Our insurance cover comprises £10 million for public liability, £10 million for employee liability, cover for any hired-in plant, and professional indemnity cover of £5m.

10.0 References

CIfA, 2019, Code of Conduct, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Reading

CIfA, 2020a, Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Reading

CIfA, 2020b, Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Reading

HE, 2015a, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*, MoRPHE project planning, Historic England, London

HE 2015b, *Environmental Archaeology*. Centre for Archaeology Guidelines 1, Historic England, Portsmouth. (3rd edn)

HE 2017, *Research Agenda*, Historic England, London.

Mitchell, P D, and Brickley, M (eds), 2017, *Updated Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains*, CIfA and BABAO, Reading

NPPF 2021, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Department of Communities and Local Government, London (TSO)



Proposed Site Plan
1 : 100

X:\Server\Greenspace Jobs 2022\22-20 House at Mildenhall\2.0 Architectural drawings\2.2 Models\Central\22-20 Werg Planning Scheme Design v6.rvt

Rev	Revision Description	Drawn	Check	Date
C	Drainage altered. Notes and entrance canopy added	KS	WH	17/11/20226
B	Amendments to land notes, trees and gate	WH	KS	20/10/2022
A	Fully revised for planning	WH	KS	27/07/2022

Southern Office:
St Marys Court
The Rosseleys
Amersham
Buckinghamshire HP7 0UT

Greenspace Architects Ltd
The Old Town Hall
The Square, Ellesmere
Shropshire SY12 0EP
Tel 44(0)1691 623889

e-mail:
greenspace@greenspacearchitects.co.uk
web: www.greenspacearchitects.co.uk

Project: House at Werg Garden, Werg, Mildenhall, Wiltshire SN8 2LY

Title: Proposed Site Plan showing Roof

Scale @ A1	Scale @ A3	Drawn By	Checked By	Date
1 : 100	1 :200	WH	KS	13/07/2022

Drawing Number	Job No.	Sheet No.	Rev.
	22-20	A100	C