



BREWERY WHARF, NEW PARK STREET Devizes SN10

County of Wiltshire

Archaeological Report

March 2026



**Brewery Wharf
New Park Street
Devizes
Wiltshire
SN10 1JW**

Site Code DZSWS: 44-1023
NGR 400244 161730
OASIS reference molas1-540959

Planning reference PL/2023/03573

Report on an archaeological monitoring and recording

Sign-off History:

Issue No.	Date:	Prepared by:	Checked/ Approved by:	Reason for Issue:
1	06.03.2026	Isca Howell	David Taylor	First issue

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Summary

This report presents the results of an archaeological monitoring and recording carried out by MOLA on the site of the former Wadworth Brewery in Devizes, Wiltshire, now known as Brewery Wharf. The report was commissioned from MOLA by Savills Heritage & Townscape for their client, Backhouse Building Ltd.

In accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (Savills 2024) an archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out on 14 test pits and 14 boreholes between the 27th of August 2025 and the 11th of September 2025, with an additional watching brief on the 6th and 7th November 2025.

Overall, the site has been truncated to level of the underlying drift geology by the development of the Site in the 19th and 20th centuries. The Site is highly contaminated, especially under the footprints of the recent standing structures. There was no conclusive evidence for the medieval town defensive ditch. Thick deposits of discoloured greensand were probably the result of the chemical staining of the upper natural deposits. Several structures were considered to pre-date the brewery. However, these were dated to the 18th century. Other archaeological deposits observed were considered to relate directly to the structures and usage of the site visible on historic mapping, including the former gas works. The site was heavily disturbed during the 19th and 20th century, and significant modern intrusions were observed to considerable depth.

Following these results, the archive, including the previous interventions, will be deposited in accordance with Written Scheme of Investigation (Savills 2024).

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1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

- 1.1.1 An archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out by MOLA on the site of the former Wadworth Brewery in Devizes, Wiltshire ('the Site') between the 27th of August 2025 and the 11th September 2025, and the 6th and 7th November 2025 (Fig 1). This document is the Report on that work.
- 1.1.2 This archaeological monitoring and recording continued a programme of archaeological works that began with a watching brief in 2023 and an evaluation in 2025 (see MOLA 2023 and MOLA 2025 respectively).
- 1.1.3 The current archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Savills Heritage & Townscape (Savills 2024) for their client, Backhouse Building Ltd.

1.2 Planning background

- 1.2.1 The legislative and planning framework in which the watching brief took place was fully set out in the WSI (Savills 2024, Section 1.6).
- 1.2.2 The archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out to fulfil a condition attached to the Planning Consent given by the Local Authority (Consent reference: PL/2023/03573).

1.3 Scope of the watching brief

- 1.3.1 An archaeological monitoring and recording is normally a limited fieldwork exercise. It is not the same as full excavation, though individual features may be fully excavated.
- 1.3.2 The archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out within the terms of the relevant Standard for watching brief specified by the Institute for Archaeologists (CIFA 2014).
- 1.3.3 All work was undertaken within the methodologies established in the WSI and the Archaeological Fieldwork Subcontractor's Method Statement (see Savills 2024, Section 3 and 4, and Appendix 2).

2 Topographical and historical background

This section is a brief resumé from the WSI (Savills 2024, Sections 1.6 and 2.2).

2.1 Topography

- 2.1.1 The Site sits on Upper Greensand Formation Sandstone overlain by slowly permeable seasonally wet loamy and clayey soils. Although, the upper deposits are likely to have been removed, or disturbed, by historic development.
- 2.1.2 The Site is flat, at c 132m OD, and is adjacent to the Kennet and Avon Canal.

2.2 Archaeology

- 2.2.1 Devizes was established in the 11th century with the construction of a motte and bailey castle, which was associated with the laying out of the town in the early medieval period, influenced by the multiple bailey plan. The echoes of the medieval castle bailey plan can still be seen today in the curvilinear street pattern.
- 2.2.2 The Site is located at the north end of the castle baileys and straddles the medieval town defences. The route of the defensive ditch is shown on Figs 2–5 for reference to the watching brief locations.
- 2.2.3 The Kennet and Avon Canal was cut through Devizes in 1810, or soon after. A gasworks to supply the town with coal gas for lighting was built in 1826. This was situated alongside the canal wharf, partly within the northern part of the Site. The gas works with two round gas holders can be seen in the north-east part of the Site in the tithe maps, dating from around the 1840s.
- 2.2.4 The Wadsworth Brewery was constructed within the Site in 1885.

3 The watching brief

3.1 Field methodology

- 3.1.1 The ground was broken out and cleared by contractors under MOLA supervision. Test pits were excavated by machine by the contractors and monitored by a member of staff from MOLA. All deposits and features visible within test pits were recorded, together with digital photographs of each test pit.
- 3.1.2 Fourteen test pits were excavated. Test pit 1 was extended to define the diameter of a gas holder. Fourteen boreholes of various types, including 6 window samples, were also monitored. An additional watching brief was carried out later to define the results from test pits 9 and 11.
- 3.1.3 The archaeological monitoring and recording will cause minimal disruption to site works and will take place within agreed constraints. Archaeological monitoring and recordings are not recommended in circumstances where important or complex archaeological remains are liable to be discovered, resulting in a risk of conflict between the need to record archaeological finds and the need to allow building works to proceed.
- 3.1.4 It was not possible to calculate Ordnance Survey levels because of the nature of the fieldwork. Therefore, all levels have been given as depths below ground level (bgl).

3.2 Recording methodology

- 3.2.1 A written and drawn record of all archaeological deposits encountered was carried out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (Savil 2024, Section 3).

3.3 Site archive

Number of site note sheets, including day notes and site records (plain paper)	18
Number of trench record sheets	7 (2 formats)
Number of borehole log sheets	8
Number of overall location plans	1
Number of Context sheets	2
Number of photographs	154 (pending selection prior to deposition with local archive)
Number of Plan sheets	2

4 Results of the watching brief

4.1 Trial Pits

- 4.1.1 14 trial pits were excavated for contamination testing and to locate structures related to the old gas works (see *Fig 2*). Test pits 6–9, 11 and 13 were on elevated ground, which was c 1m above the exterior ground level of the Site. Chemical contamination to referred simply as contamination in the following text.

Test pit 1 (TP1)

Location	By the northern boundary of the Site
Dimensions	4.10m by 2.00m and 2.60m depth Extended to 19.10m and where extended to 0.50m depth
Base of modern fill	0.50m bgl
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any)	2.10m (later post-medieval)
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	2.60m bgl
Top of surviving natural observed at	Not seen
Level of base of trench	2.60m bgl

- 4.1.2 TP1 was located along the northern boundary of the Site. The initial test pit measured 2.00m wide by 4.10m long with a depth of 2.60m bgl. However, to determine the diameter of the gas holder observed, the test pit was extended to 19.10m in length with a depth of 0.50m bgl in the extension. TP1 contained several structures including a gas holder, a red brick cellar foundation wall and an arched brick culvert. The gas holder measured c 12m in diameter and had a depth from 0.50m to 2.60m+ (the gas holders are 6.20m at full internal depth based on the GHBH boreholes; see Section 4.2). The gas holder is surrounding by a deposit of dark blue black highly hydrocarbon contaminated clay, likely a backfill around the gas holder. The gas holder truncates through a NE–SW aligned red brick cellar foundation wall observed in the northern section wall of the test pit. The cellar appears to date to the late-18th or early-19th century and ran parallel to the canal located to the north of the site. The cellar wall was observed to truncate an arched brick culvert in the northeast corner of TP1. The brick culvert was aligned NE–SW and based on the visible brick was spot-dated to mid-18th century. This culvert is believed to have possibly been used to divert water during the construction of the canal.

Test pit 2 (TP2)

Location	By the northern boundary of the Site
Dimensions	4.00m by 2.00m wide and 4.00m depth
Base of modern fill	0.50m bgl
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any)	3.50m (later post-medieval)
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	4.00m bgl
Top of surviving natural observed at	Not seen
Level of base of trench	4.00m bgl

- 4.1.3 Located along the northern boundary of the Site. TP 2 measured 2m wide by 4.0m

long with a depth of 4.0m bgl. TP 2 was dug into the northeast corner of a gas holder. The internal backfill of the gas holder consisted of highly-contaminated dark blackish brown silty clay with occasional loose brick, which was waterlogged. The gas holders were constructed of indurated concrete with coarse brick inclusions. The test pit was abandoned at 4m depth when the southern side started to collapse.

Test pit 3 (TP3)

Location	By the northern boundary of the Site
Dimensions	3.10m by 2.00m and 0.90m depth
Base of modern fill	Not measured
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any)	Uncertain (later post-medieval if any)
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	0.90m bgl
Top of surviving natural observed at	Not seen
Level of base of trench	0.90m bgl

- 4.1.4 Located along the northern boundary of the Site. TP3 measured 2.00m width by 3.10m in length and was dug to a depth of 0.90m bgl. The TP was abandoned at 0.90m as it came down onto the contaminated and waterlogged backfill material of the gas holder seen in TP2.

Test pit 4 (TP 4)

Location	North of the Site
Dimensions	2.80m by 1.10m and 2.40m depth
Base of modern fill	0.60m bgl
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any)	1.80m (late pot-medieval or modern)
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	2.40m bgl
Top of surviving natural observed at	Not seen
Level of base of trench	2.40m bgl

- 4.1.5 Located to the south of TP 3. TP 4 measured 2.80m by 1.10m with a depth of 2.40m BGL. TP 4 was dug into a cellar or tank, which appeared to be constructed of wooden panelled sides with an iron plate base and iron gridders covering the top of the structure. The structure contained a dark greyish black fine sand with inclusions of 19th—20th-century red brick, white and blue porcelain ware and an earthen ware glaze jug. The finds were not retained because the fill appeared contaminated. This structure was interpreted as a gas tanks, as distinct from the gas holders.

Test pit 5 (TP 5)

Location	North of the Site
Dimensions	2.80m by 1.10m and 1.80m depth
Base of modern fill	Not measured
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any)	Uncertain (later post-medieval if any)
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	0.90m bgl
Top of surviving natural observed at	Not seen
Level of base of trench	0.90m bgl

- 4.1.6 Located to the northeast of TP 4, TP5 measured 2.80m by 1.10m with a depth of 1.8m. Came down onto similar material as TP2 and 3 suggesting it was located over the same gas holder. Abandoned at 1.80m because of water ingress.

Test pit 6 (TP 6)

Location	West of the Site
Dimensions	2.60m by 1.20m and 2.40m depth, with 2.60m extension
Base of modern fill	2.40m bgl
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any)	None
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	-
Top of surviving natural observed at	2.40m bgl (possibly disturbed)
Level of base of trench	2.40m bgl

- 4.1.7 TP 6 was located in loading bay of a warehouse at the western end of the Site. The bay was c 1m above the external ground level. TP 6 was originally dug as a 1.2m by 2.60m test pit. However, it was extended by 2.60m in a "T" shape because of presence of a large and deep concrete footing. Greensand was encountered at 2.40m bgl. However, this may be disturbed greensand as it was slightly discoloured. A concrete footing was encountered between 1.5m and 2.4m+ bgl. It did not appear to relate to the current standing structure, likely related to an earlier 19th- or 20th-century building.

Test pit 7 (TP7)

Location	West of the Site
Dimensions	2.60m by 1.20m and 3.40m depth
Base of modern fill	1.50m bgl
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any)	None
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	-
Top of surviving natural observed at	2.40m bgl (disturbed)
Level of base of trench	3.40m bgl

- 4.1.8 Located to the east of TP6 and within the same loading bay. TP 7 measured 1.20m by 2.60m to a depth of 3.40m. A concrete footing was encountered to the southeast end between 1.5m and 3.4m+ bgl. Disturbed greensand was encountered at 2.4m bgl, which was overlain by 20th-century made ground, with inclusions of blue transfer ware pottery, between 1.5m and 2.4m bgl.

Test pit 8 (TP8)

Location	West of the Site
Dimensions	2.40m by 1.40m and 2.90m depth
Base of modern fill	1.20m bgl
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any)	None
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	-
Top of surviving natural observed at	2.00m bgl (disturbed)
Level of base of trench	2.90m bgl

- 4.1.9 TP8 located 4m to the northeast of TP7 and inside the same loading bay. It measured 1.40m by 2.40m with a depth of 2.9m. Concrete footings were encountered in the northeast and southeast sections between 1.7m and 2.9m+ bgl. Similar to TP 6 and 7, disturbed greensands were encountered at 2.00m bgl with overlying 19th- or 20th-century made ground between 1.20m to 2.00m bgl.

Test pit 9 (TP 9)

Location	Centre of the Site
Dimensions	5.10m by 1.00m and 3.60m deep
Base of modern fill	1.70m bgl
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any)	1.90m (possible medieval)
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	3.60m bgl
Top of surviving natural observed at	3.60m bgl
Level of base of trench	3.60m bgl

- 4.1.10 Located within the eastern end of a demolished warehouse, near the centre of the Site, TP 9 was 1m above exterior ground level. TP 9 was unlike any of the surrounding test pits, which appeared to all have been truncated by the brewery or the gas works development. TP 9 measured 1m wide by 5.10m in length with a depth of 3.60m. Natural greensand was encountered at 3.60m bgl which was overlain by a 1.9m thick deposit of very humic material (from 1.70m to 3.6m). This humic deposit [905] was thought to be the infill of the medieval town defensive ditch. It consisted of a dark greenish brown to greenish black humic silty clay, which contained frequent animal bone, occasional marine shell, rare pieces of small sandstone and one sherd of pottery. No brick or tile was present. The infill was overlain by a layer of 19th- or 20th-century made ground between 0.50m and 1.70m bgl. Capping the test pit was the concrete and hardcore layer of the warehouse foundation.

Test pit 10 (TP 10)

Location	South central of the Site
Dimensions	2.90m by 1.40m and 3.50m depth
Base of modern fill	0.80m bgl
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any)	None
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	-
Top of surviving natural observed at	1.40m bgl
Level of base of trench	3.50m bgl

- 4.1.11 Located inside the southeast corner of a standing warehouse, TP 10 measured 2.90m by 1.40m to depth of 3.5m bgl. Natural greensands were encountered at 1.40m bgl, which was equivalent to the exterior ground level. The natural was overlain by disturbed/ deposited greensand between 0.80m and 1.4m bgl, which in turn was overlain by a layer of made ground with 20th century brick inclusions from 0.30m to 0.80m. TP 10 was capped by 0.30m of concrete slab foundation for the standing structure.

Test pit 11 (TP 11)

Location	Centre of the Site
Dimensions	2.50m by 1.40m and 3.30m deep

Base of modern fill	2.20m bgl
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any)	1.00m (probable post-medieval/modern disturbed natural deposits)
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	3.30m bgl
Top of surviving natural observed at	Not seen
Level of base of trench	3.30m bgl

- 4.1.12 Located 5m to the southeast of TP 9 and inside the footprint of a demolished warehouse on a 1m elevated pad. TP 11 measured 1.40m by 2.50m to a depth of 3.30m. TP 11 exposed a backfilled cellar at 1.90m-2.20m bgl. The cellar was constructed with a cinderblock wall, visible in the southwest edge of the test pit, and its associated concrete floor (similar concrete composition as the gas holder) encountered. This foundation would have truncated any archaeology, ie the defensive ditch. Cellar was backfilled with material that included 20th-century brick. Underlying the cellar was a layer of disturbed greensand between 2.3m to 3.3m bgl, with occasional inclusions of red brick fragments.

Test pit 12 (TP 12)

Location	Southwest central of the Site
Dimensions	2.40m by 1.40 by 2.70 depth
Base of modern fill	1.70m bgl
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any)	1.00m (unknown, contaminated deposit)
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	2.70m bgl
Top of surviving natural observed at	Not seen
Level of base of trench	2.70m bgl

- 4.1.13 Located inside standing Brewery warehouse, TP11 measured 1.40 wide by 2.40m in length with a depth of 2.70m bgl. Dark blueish black highly contaminated natural sand was observed at 1.7m which was overlain by 20th-century made ground composed of contaminated dark blackish green clay silt with frequent concrete pieces and brick from 0.20m to 1.7m in depth bgl. The made ground was capped by concrete and the warehouse tile floor.

Test pit 13 (TP 13)

Location	Centre of the Site
Dimensions	3.00m by 1.40m and 3.30m depth
Base of modern fill	3.20m bgl
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any)	0.10m (disturbed natural)
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	3.30m bgl
Top of surviving natural observed at	Not seen
Level of base of trench	3.30m bgl

- 4.1.14 Located c 2.5m to the east of TP 11, TP 13 measured 3.00m by 1.40m and 3.30m in depth. Disturbed/redeposited greensands at 3.20m bgl depth which was overlain by 0.40m thick deposit of contaminated made ground. The made ground was composed of a dark blackish brown sandy clay with an iron beam, frequent 19th-century brick and clinker. This made ground deposit was overlain by a concrete slab from 1.90m to 2.20m bgl in depth which appears to be a continuation of the cellar

observed in TP 11. The cellar was backfilled with modern debris from 0.20m to 1.90m and the test pit was capped by a concrete pad which formed the loading dock of the warehouse.

Test pit 14 (TP 14)

Location	Southwest of the Site
Dimensions	2.00m by 1.40m and 2.10m depth
Base of modern fill	0.70m OD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any)	None
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	-
Top of surviving natural observed at	2.10m bgl (contaminated)
Level of base of trench	2.10m bgl

- 4.1.15 Located in partially demolished building complex. TP14 measured 1.40m by 2.00m with a depth of 2.10m bgl. The test pit was abandoned at 2.10m bgl because of contamination. Contaminated natural greensand was observed between 0.70m and 2.10m bgl, which was overlain by a dark blackish green sand between 0.30m and 0.70m bgl. TP 14 was capped by the 0.3m thick concrete foundation of the building. TP 14 was located in a sunken part of the building which was roughly 1m below the exterior ground level of the site.

4.2 Boreholes

- 4.2.1 Several different types of boreholes were excavated across the site with the aim of providing soil samples for contamination testing, data for depths of natural bedrock and data for the depths of truncating gas holders (see *Fig 3*).

Boreholes GHBH 101, 102 and 103

Location	North of the Site
Dimensions	Borenore
Base of modern fill	6.20m bgl (gas holders)
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any)	None
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	6.20m bgl
Top of surviving natural observed at	Not recorded
Level of base of trench	Not recorded

- 4.2.2 Boreholes within the gas holders to determine level of contamination (visually very high) as well as depth of gas holders, which were found to be 6.2m bgl. No archaeological remains were recorded.

Borehole BH 101

Location	Northeast corner of Site
Dimensions	Borehole, 20.00m depth
Base of modern fill	0.80m bgl
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any)	0.90 (disturbed natural)
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	1.70m bgl

Top of surviving natural observed at	1.70m bgl
Level of base of trench	20.00m bgl

- 4.2.3 Deep borehole excavated to 20.00m bgl in the northeast corner of the Site. Natural bedrock was encountered at 12.50m bgl with natural greensand overlaying it between 1.70m and 12.5m bgl. A layer of redeposited/disturbed greensand was observed from 0.80m to 1.70m. Disturbed greensand was capped by a 0.4m thick layer of 19th/early 20th century made ground (0.4m to 0.80m bgl). The test pit was capped by modern car parking surface.

Boreholes VW 101, 102, 103, 104

Location	Northeast of the Site
Dimensions	Borehole, 2.00m depth
Base of modern fill	1.40m–1.70m bgl
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any)	0.60m (post-medieval brick wall and disturbed natural)
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	2.00m bgl
Top of surviving natural observed at	1.70m–1.90m bgl
Level of base of trench	2.00m bgl

- 4.2.4 Boreholes excavated for vent monitoring to a depth of 2m.
- 4.2.5 VW 101 encountered natural greensand at 1.90m under a red brick wall c 0.30m thick (between 1.60 and 1.90m bgl). The wall was overlain by a band of charcoal or coal-rich silty clay between 1.40 and 1.60m bgl. This was capped by a late 19th-/early 20th-century made ground deposit between 0.30m and 1.40m bgl.
- 4.2.6 VW 102 encountered a layer of disturbed or redeposited greensand between 1.70m and 2.00m bgl. This was sealed by 19th-/20th-century made ground between 0.20–1.70m bgl.
- 4.2.7 VW 103 and 104 encountered natural greensand at 1.7m bgl.

4.3 Window samples

- 4.3.1 Window samples WS 101, 102, 103, 104, 105 and 106 were excavated to a depth 5 or 6m bgl, with the aim to provide soil samples for contamination testing (see *Fig 4*).

Window samples WS 101 and 105

Location	East of the Site
Dimensions	borehole
Base of modern fill	1.30m bgl–1.80m bgl
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any)	None
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	-
Top of surviving natural observed at	1.30m bgl–1.80m bgl
Level of base of trench	Not recorded

- 4.3.2 WS 101 and WS 105 had similar profiles with natural greensand overlain by 19th-/20th-century made ground (WS 101: 0.2m–1.80m bgl, and WS 105 0.60m–1.30m bgl) under the modern car park.

Window sample WS 102

Location	Centre of the Site
Dimensions	Borehole
Base of modern fill	0.80m bgl
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any)	0.70m (disturbed natural)
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	1.50m bgl
Top of surviving natural observed at	1.50m bgl
Level of base of trench	Not recorded

- 4.3.3 WS 102 encountered natural at 1.50m bgl overlain by a layer of redeposited/ disturbed greensand between 0.80m and 1.50m bgl, which in turn was overlain by 19th- to 20th-century made ground between 0.4m and 0.80m bgl and capped by modern car park deposits.

Window sample WS 103

Location	Centre of the Site
Dimensions	Borehole
Base of modern fill	0.50m bgl
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any)	1.80m (contaminated redeposited natural)
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	2.30m bgl (contaminated)
Top of surviving natural observed at	2.30m bgl (contaminated)
Level of base of trench	Not recorded

- 4.3.4 WS 103 encountered contaminated natural greensands at 2.30m bgl overlain by a thick layer of contaminated redeposited greensands between 0.5m and 2.30m bgl. This was overlain by a layer of 19th- to 20th-century made ground between 0.2m and 0.5m bgl and capped by tarmac.

Window sample WS 104

Location	South of the Site
Dimensions	Borehole
Base of modern fill	1.20m bgl
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any)	1.00m (disturbed natural)
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	2.20m bgl
Top of surviving natural observed at	2.20m bgl
Level of base of trench	Not recorded

- 4.3.5 WS 104 was located inside the standing building at the south end of the Site. Natural encountered at 2.20m bgl were overlain by disturbed/redeposited greensands between 1.20m and 2.20m bgl, which in turn was overlain by 20th-century made ground between 0.50m and 1.20m. The borehole was capped by a concrete foundation.

Window sample WS 106

Location	South of the Site
Dimensions	borehole

Base of modern fill	0.60m bgl
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any)	1.60m bgl (disturbed natural)
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	2.20m bgl
Top of surviving natural observed at	2.20m bgl
Level of base of trench	Not recorded

- 4.3.6 WS 106 encounter natural at 2.20m bgl overlain by disturbed/redeposited greensands from 0.6 to 2.2m bgl which was overlain by 20th-century made ground between 0.40m and 0.6m bgl and capped with modern carpark deposits.

4.4 Additional watching brief

An additional visit on the 6th and 7th of November 2025 monitored ground reduction in an area encompassing TP 9 and TP 11 (*Fig 5*).

Location	Centre of the Site
Dimensions	Approximately 15m by 10m and 2.60m bgl
Base of modern fill	1.90m bgl
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any)	0.7m (post-medieval fill and disturbed natural)
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	2.60m bgl
Top of surviving natural observed at	2.60m bgl
Level of base of trench	Not recorded

- 4.4.1 Clean undisturbed natural deposits were seen to the east of the area at 2.60m bgl. This was, where recorded, beneath 0.15m of an orange brown mottled deposit that could be the result of the chemical staining of the upper natural deposits. Between 1.90m and 2.45m bgl was a mixed deposit with frequent brick debris, similar to cellar backfill. This was sealed by a brick and concrete slab, possibly part of the brewery, which in turn was overlain by 20th-century made ground between 0.90m and 1.70m bgl. The upper deposits were similar to those seen in TP11.
- 4.4.2 There was no clear evidence of the deposit thought to be the infill of the medieval town defensive ditch nor any dating evidence or other finds to suggest any activity in the medieval period.

4.5 The finds

- 4.5.1 No finds were collected during the watching brief, mostly to avoid taking contaminated materials off the Site.
- 4.5.2 However, the sherd of pottery seen in deposit [905] was spot-dated by the archaeologist on-site as probably late medieval or early post-medieval.

5 Archaeological potential

5.1 Conclusion

- 5.1.1 The purpose of the archaeological monitoring and recording was to monitor groundworks associated with the construction of the development in order to identify, investigate and record any surviving below-ground archaeological features that may be affected by the development (Savills 2024, Section 1.3.2).
- 5.1.2 Overall, the Site has been truncated to level of the underlying drift geology by the development of the Site in the 19th and 20th centuries. The Site is highly contaminated, especially under the footprints of the recent standing structures.
- 5.1.3 There was no conclusive evidence for the medieval town defensive ditch, initially suggested by TP9, as the later additional watching brief proved. Thick deposits of disturbed greensand, initially thought to be the result of upcast from the defensive ditch, were probably the result of the chemical staining of the upper undisturbed natural deposits, as also proved by the later additional watching brief.
- 5.1.4 Several structures were considered to pre-date the brewery, such as the red brick cellar and culvert in TP1. However, these were dated to the 18th century.
- 5.1.5 Other archaeological deposits observed were considered to relate directly to the structures and usage of the Site visible on historic mapping, including the former gas works.
- 5.1.6 The site was heavily disturbed during the 19th and 20th century, and significant modern intrusions were observed to considerable depth within several test pits.

5.2 Significance of the data

- 5.2.1 Whilst a few aspects of the Site could be considered to be of local importance, there was nothing to indicate anything of regional or national importance.

6 Publication and archiving

- 6.1.1 The results of the archaeological monitoring and recording, and the previous archaeological investigations under the site code DZSWS: 44-2023, will be made publicly available by means of a database in digital form, to permit inclusion of the site data in any future academic research into the development of Devizes.
- 6.1.2 In view of the limited potential of the material within the overall project there will be not publication.
- 6.1.3 The site archive containing original records and finds will be stored in accordance with the terms of the WSI (Savills 2024, Section 5.4).

7 Acknowledgements

7.1.1 The author would like to thank the following for their contributions and help in producing this report:

- Dr Rachel Scrutton (Associate Archaeologist, Savills)
- David Taylor (Project Manager, MOLA)
- Jake Warrender (formerly of MOLA)
- Sabrina Sheffield (freelance archaeologist)
- Rob Dunne (Site Supervisor, MOLA)

8 Bibliography

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Fig 1 Site location





Fig 3 Borehole locations



Fig 4 Window sample locations



Fig 5 Additional watching brief location

9 OASIS archaeological report form

OASIS ID)	molas1-540959
Project Name	Archaeological Intervention at Brewery Wharf, New Park Street, Devizes
Site name	Brewery Wharf, New Park Street, Devizes
Site code	DZSWS: 44-2026
Activity type	Archaeological Intervention
Planning Id	PL/2023/03573
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	MOLA
Project Dates	27-Aug-2025 - 07-Nov-2025
Location	Brewery Wharf, New Park Street, Devizes NGR: SU 00244 61730 LL: 51.35464402852913, -1.997882802426846 12 Fig: 400244,161730
Administrative Areas	Country: England County/Local Authority: Wiltshire Local Authority District: Wiltshire Parish: Devizes
Project Methodology	Monitoring of test pits, boreholes and additional watching brief
Project Results	Overall, the Site has been truncated to level of the underlying drift geology by the development of the Site in the 19th and 20th centuries. The Site is highly contaminated, especially under the footprints of the recent standing structures. There was no conclusive evidence for the medieval town defensive ditch, initially suggested by TP9, as the later additional watching brief proved. Thick deposits of disturbed greensand, initially thought to be the result of upcast from the defensive ditch, were probably the result of the chemical staining of the upper undisturbed natural deposits, as also proved by the later additional watching brief. Several structures were considered to pre-date the brewery, such as the red brick cellar and culvert in TP1. However, these were dated to the 18th century. Other archaeological deposits observed were considered to relate directly to the structures and usage of the Site visible on historic mapping, including the former gas works. The site was heavily disturbed during the 19th and 20th century, and significant modern intrusions were observed to considerable depth within several test pits.
Funder	Private or public corporation Savills
HER	Wiltshire and Swindon HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	David Taylor

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