

Proposed Air Source Heating and Infrastructure, Stourhead- Summary Archaeological Assessment

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The proposed development comprises the installation of air source heat pump units and infrastructure at three locations on the Stourhead Estate, Stourton. They comprise

1. The area immediately to the west of the restaurant adjacent to the main car park (NGR ST 77797 33962)
2. The area to the rear of the Estate Office on (NGR ST 77599 34025)
3. The area to the rear of the 89 Church Green (NGR ST 77558 34002)

The assessment was carried out by consulting the National Trust HBSMR, Wiltshire Council HER and other documents and mapping held by the National Trust. A site visit was undertaken for each location on 12th February 2026.

Summary of Assessment

1 Stourhead Restaurant

There are no known archaeological sites or find spots within 80m of the proposed works. A small assemblage of Mesolithic worked stone was recovered during the monitoring of 8 test pits associated with the overflow car park in 2012 (Talits 2012). The area closest to the restaurant was characterised made ground over 0.8m deep.

The proposed works comprise the removal of an existing LPG tank and the erection three ASHP units in its place. The site has previously been developed and the proposed conduit route has been subject to limited ground disturbance for a picnic area and paving.

Due to the low archaeological potential of the area, previous disturbance and limited nature of the development no archaeological monitoring is considered necessary.



Plate 1 looking towards site of existing container and site of ASHP (looking SW)



Plate 2 northern side of restaurant and terrace (looking east)

2 Estate Office

The area behind the estate office comprises a steep slope and terrace. Although there are no known archaeological sites or find spots the site lies in what was part of the medieval village. This being said the landscaping associated with the construction of 19th century building and the installation of later services mean that the area has been significantly disturbed and is considered to be of low archaeological potential overall.

The proposed works comprise the excavation for a new concrete base for the ASHP and a trench for the power and heat conduit. Although this will result in some below ground disturbance, due to nature of the site no mitigation is considered necessary.



Plate 3 location of proposed ASHP
(looking NW)



Plate 4 terrace behind Estate Office (looking
SW)

3 89 Church Lawn

A similar situation persists at 89 Church Lawn the third location for proposed ASHP. The site is not located in proximity to known archaeological deposits and has been disturbed. The proposed works comprise the removal of an existing oil tank, the installation of a ASHP in its place and a short trench to link the heating unit to the building. As with the Estate Office no archaeological monitoring is considered to be necessary.