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Archaeological Monitoring during development at Chew Court, Chew Magna, Bath & NE Somerset NGR ST 5775 6316

Scheme of Work for Archaeological Watching Brief

For approval by
The Archaeological Officer for Bath & NE Somerset Council
(Mr R Sermon)

BNES Planning Reference no. (11/01351/FUL)

Summary

This Scheme of Work sets out the methodology for a programme of archaeological observation and recording work (Watching Brief) to be undertaken during redevelopment at Chew Court, Chew Magna (NGR ST 5775 6316). The site (Figures 1 and 2) has a footprint of approximately 1 hectare and is situated adjacent and south of St Andrew's Church, immediately west of Chew Court Farm and north of the B3130 Winford Road and the village cricket ground. The principal redevelopment of the site will involve the construction of garden walls and a replacement tennis court with an associated outbuilding/changing room, plus associated landscaping. The Watching Brief is to be undertaken on behalf of the site owner, Mr and Mrs S Oliphant, through their appointed agents Novell Tullett, and is designed to monitor archaeologically all intrusive ground work associated with the redevelopment and to ensure all significant archaeological deposits and structures revealed during the course of such work are identified, fully recorded and reported.

Introduction

1 A programme of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording during ground disturbance has been requested by the Archaeological Officer for Bath & NE Somerset Council as a Condition (Condition 4) of planning consent (11/01351FUL), in accordance with the guidelines set out in PPS5 (Planning for the Historic Environment 2010) and those set out in MoRPHE ('Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment'). The archaeological programme is required to monitor all intrusive ground works relating to the development and to fully record all unforeseen archaeological deposits, structures and finds revealed during the course of the development, prior to their destruction.

Bath & NE Somerset Structure Plan Policy

2 The Joint Replacement Structure Plan for the Unitary Authorities of Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset was adopted in September 2002. The following policy is relevant to the built and historic environment and the requirements of the present project:

POLICY 19 – Local Plans will, through existing national/international designations, and other policies and initiatives:

protect that part of the cultural heritage that consists of the built and historic environment of the area and manage development and land use change in a manner that respects local character and distinctiveness, ensuring that new development and other land use changes respect and enhance local character through good design and conform with any local character statement guidance produced locally;

protect Scheduled Ancient Monuments and other nationally important archaeological remains, which should be preserved in situ and their settings maintained and enhanced; and

require development proposals affecting archaeological sites of local importance to demonstrate an overriding need for the development, to provide for a mitigation strategy where necessary, and to provide for appropriate prior investigation and recording of the site.

3 Avon Archaeological Unit Limited (The Unit) have been commissioned by Novell Tullett to carry out the work as above and in accordance with the Relevant Guidelines of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, English Heritage's "Management of Archaeological Projects (2)" and the standard procedures of Avon Archaeological Unit. All standard aims, objectives and procedures for this type of archaeological work, as set out by the Archaeological Officer for Bath & NE Somerset Council, are to be followed.

4 No desk-based study has been carried out for the study area as a precursor to the present project although the village of Chew Magna is known to have at least Roman settlement origins and was an important medieval centre for the wool industry. The manor appears to have been an episcopal property during the Anglo-Saxon period when it was held by a certain Giso, the last Saxon bishop. Thereafter the manor was held by the Bishops of Bath & Wells between AD1062 to 1548 and as a result was called *Chew Episcopi* or Bishop's Chew. The bishops built a palace near the church of St Andrews, which was visited by Henry III in about 1250 and the present Chew Court, largely rebuilt in 1656, incorporates surviving parts of that palace. More recently, since around 1600, the name has been Chew Magna because this has been the most important of the several villages along the banks of the River Chew. In a wider context the site is located in a rural agricultural landscape that has yielded nationally important evidence of prehistoric settlement and ritual activity, the latter most notably at the Stanton Drew megalithic complex located some 2km to the east of the present site. Evidence of later prehistoric (Bronze and Iron Age) and Romano-British activity has been recorded in the village, the former at Chew Magna Manor to the west, whilst the location of the 12th century St Andrew's parish church, immediately adjacent to the study area, is considered by some authorities (Dr Nick Corcos pers. comm.) to reflect an earlier, possibly Roman, settlement focus.

Methodology

5 All disturbances and development ground work will be monitored by a qualified and experienced archaeologist, unless the disturbed ground can be shown

clearly to be modern tipping or similar non-significant deposits. Observation and Recording will be extended to record all other associated development ground works, for example new buried services, as are found to be necessary. All archaeological excavation of significant archaeological deposits after preliminary machine removal of the topsoil and non-significant deposits, will be carried out by hand under the direct supervision of a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist employed directly by Avon Archaeological Unit and supervised by Andrew Young BA AlFA of the Unit.

6 All significant archaeological deposits will be cleaned and excavated by hand and fully recorded by the supervising archaeologist using the appropriate written, drawn and photographic methods. The supervising archaeologist will have the authority to temporarily suspend construction work for the minimum time to enable an accurate and sufficient record to be made of all significant archaeological deposits or structures. Environmental residues and technology residues will be sampled at an appropriate level. Excavation will not be undertaken where an amended scheme, preserving significant remains in-situ, can be agreed.

Finds

7 All artefacts, ecofacts and bone will be recovered, identified by stratigraphic unit, marked, catalogued and prepared for long term storage after analysis, if appropriate. Provision is included as a contingency for the sampling and assessment reporting of environmental and technology samples if suitable archaeological deposits are encountered.

Emergency conservation, if required, will be undertaken by Wiltshire Conservation Services, Chippenham. Specialist reporting of artefacts, for example pottery, will be commissioned as necessary during the post excavation assessment reporting stage.

Recording

8 All structural and cut soil features will be defined and an appropriate sample of all types of archaeological deposit will be excavated by hand to ascertain the date, character and function of the activity represented. In all cases excavation will be sufficient to enable significant archaeological deposits and features to be characterised and dated so far as the archaeology present will allow.

A written, drawn, and photographic record of all significant archaeological deposits will be compiled, to include.

- A pro-forma context-based record for each stratigraphic unit
- Plans of each area excavated showing: the extent of the area (tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid and located on a digital CAD based mapping), the extent of all significant stratigraphic units, and appropriate detail within stratigraphic units. Overall site plans will be at a scale of 1:100; plans of stratigraphic units usually be at 1:20 scale.
- Sections or profiles (at a scale of 1:10 in areas of detailed excavation) will be drawn of all significant stratigraphic units, and related in level to the Ordnance Datum.

- A black and white and a digital colour photographic record of all significant stratigraphic units will be compiled and in addition a representative photographic record of the progress of the archaeological work will be made.

Special circumstances

9 Appropriate procedures under the relevant legislation will be followed in the event of the discovery of artefacts covered by the provisions of the Treasure Act 1996, and the Burial Act of 1857. If articulated human remains are located at any stage they will be protected and remain in-situ until the County Archaeological Officer has been notified of the find. Excavation of human remains, if unavoidable, will not be undertaken until an appropriate licence has been issued by HM Ministry of Justice.

Post excavation, archive, and report preparation: archive deposition

10 On completion of the on-site work, the following sequence of tasks will be undertaken:

- the preparation of an indexed and internally consistent project archive
- the processing, assessment and reporting of all artefacts and finds
- the preparation of a descriptive report setting out the results of the Watching Brief and the conclusions that can be drawn from the collective data
- the preparation of an appropriate note for publication
- the deposition of the finds and the project archive with The Roman Baths Museum, Bath

11 The archive and the finds are to be deposited in an appropriate local museum, in this case the Roman Baths Museum, Bath. Before the commencement of the project on site contact will be made with the landowners and with the appropriate local museum to make the relevant arrangements. Arrangements for deposition will be agreed in advance with the museum accession officer.

12 Two copies of all archaeological reports arising out of the project shall be given to the BNES HER and the County Archaeological Officer. A digital copy in Word format on a CD-Rom will supplement this. Publication of the results will be made in an appropriate medium at an appropriate detail, depending on the results of the recording exercise. At the least, a note will be submitted to the annual journal Bristol and Avon Archaeology.

Contingency arrangements

13 In the event of the discovery of unexpected significant archaeological remains, work will cease in the affected area and the County Archaeological Officer and a representative of the landowner will be notified in order that an assessment of the importance of the remains and any provision for their more detailed recording or other appropriate treatment may be made.

Other Notes

14 The post excavation archive and reporting work to be undertaken by AAU Ltd will be completed to draft stage within six working weeks from the completion of fieldwork. The Final Report will be prepared by a qualified archaeologist at AAU. It should be clearly understood that the availability and timetable of any specialist reports or other specialist contributions, which may be required to satisfy the County Archaeological Officer, are outside the control of Avon Archaeological Unit.

15 Overall project management will be the responsibility of Andrew C Young BA AIFA, Principal Archaeologist.

16 HEALTH & SAFETY WILL TAKE PRIORITY OVER ALL ARCHAEOLOGICAL MATTERS AT ALL TIMES. All archaeological work will be conducted in accordance with the guidelines set out by The Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers (SCAUM) in *'Health & Safety in Field Archaeology'* (SCAUM 2002).

General References

BNES Council (undated) - Archaeology in Bath and North East Somerset - Supplementary Planning Guidance.

English Heritage 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects (2)*. HMSO London.

PPS5 2010 Planning for the Historic Environment – Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide. TSO 2010

Chew Court, Chew Magna, BNES
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Figure 1

Chew Court, Chew Magna, BNES – Location of the Study Area



Figure 2

Chew Court, Chew Magna, BNES – Boundary of the Study Area

