



Duct Installation Castle Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

Online archive report



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Portway House
Old Sarum Park
Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP4 6EB

www.wessexarch.co.uk

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**DUCT INSTALLATION, CASTLE STREET,
SALISBURY, WILTSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

prepared for
Data Optics
High View Yard
The Barracks
Hook
Hampshire
RG27 9NW

by
Wessex Archaeology
Portway House
Old Sarum Park
SALISBURY
SP4 6EB

Ref: **52211**
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SUMMARY

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Data Optics to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the installation of a cable duct in Salisbury, Wiltshire. The watching brief was carried out on a section of the duct installation, along Castle Street and Mill Stream Approach, where it was considered there existed potential for archaeological remains to be revealed by ground works.

No archaeological deposits or features were recorded within the trench. No artefacts were recorded within the spoil from the trench excavation. The complete depth of the trench comprised modern made ground representing levelling and resurfacings of earlier phases of the present Castle Street.

The single archaeological find of note included a limestone block found in the very base of the trench, which did not appear to be in-situ. This was located at NGR:414375 130364. The limestone block (probably derived from the Isle of Purbeck) was at least 0.22m(+) wide and 0.55m long. Within the confines of the narrow trench it could be ascertained that the block was roughly dressed at both 'ends' and was unmortared. The block was not removed after being recorded.

The block was located immediately adjacent to No.3 Castle Street (part of the Hussey's Almshouses complex) where the medieval Castle Gate coat of arms was removed to in 1908. The block may be a remnant of the medieval Castle Gate constructed in the 15th century(?), partially demolished in 1788 and totally demolished in 1906. However, it could also be derived from other medieval or post-medieval structures in the vicinity.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The work was commissioned by Data Optics and the co-operation of Stuart Geeves is duly acknowledged. The project was monitored on behalf of Salisbury District Council, the Local Planning Authority by Helena Cave-Penney (Assistant Archaeologist, Wiltshire County Council). Thanks are also due to the contractors for their assistance and general interest in the archaeological works during the watching brief.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Simon Skittrell. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Paul McCulloch. This report was compiled by Chris Ellis and the illustration was prepared by Marie Leverett.

CONTENTS

Summary.....	i
Acknowledgements	ii
1. INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND	1
1.2 THE ROUTE.....	1
1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	1
2. OBJECTIVES.....	2
3. METHOD	2
3.1. WATCHING BRIEF	2
3.2 REPORT WRITING, ARCHIVING AND PUBLICATION.....	2
4. RESULTS	3
4.1 SUMMARY	3
5. CONCLUSIONS	3
6. REFERENCES.....	4

Fig. 1 – Location plan and route of duct installation

**DUCT INSTALLATION, CASTLE STREET,
SALISBURY, WILTSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1. Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Data Optics to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the installation of a cable duct in Salisbury, Wiltshire.
- 1.1.2. Planning permission for the cable duct, granted by Salisbury District Council (Planning Reference S2002 1724), was subject to a condition requiring that ground work for its installation be monitored by an archaeological watching brief. The condition has been applied on advice provided to the District Council by the Assistant Archaeologist of Wiltshire County Council.
- 1.1.3. The watching brief was to be carried out on one section of the duct installation only (the 'Route'), along Castle Street, and along Mill Stream Approach, from NGR: 414391 130257 in the south to 414297 130417 in the north. It was considered that there existed the potential for archaeological remains to be revealed by the ground works in this area (**Fig. 1**).
- 1.1.4. This report summarises the results of the archaeological watching brief which was undertaken between the 4th – 7th November 2002.

1.2 The Route

- 1.2.1 Castle Street and Mill Stream Approach lie in the northern part of the centre of Salisbury, east of the River Avon. The duct Route ran from Rowan Moor House, 46-50 Castle Street, into the carriageway then northwards to the junction with Mill Stream Approach into which it turned.
- 1.2.2 The Route comprised the machine excavation of a 0.22m wide by 0.8m deep trench, through existing road surfacing, into which the duct was laid. It was expected that the trench would pass entirely through made ground.

1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 The Route along Castle Street lies in the historic core of Salisbury, a medieval town laid out in the thirteenth century. Formerly Minster Street, Castle Street is the western-most of the medieval town's north-south streets and provided access to the town from the north (Crittall 1962, 88). By the fifteenth century, Salisbury was enclosed by a ditch and rampart, and roads leading in and out of the town were provided with gates or bars (*ibid*, 88). Castle Street Gate was erected by 1473 and stood until 1788 when it was effectively demolished (RCHME 1980, 51). The remnant east buttress stood

until 1906 (*ibid*, 51) and the coat of arms, which it bore, now lodges in the wall of Hussey's Almshouse, adjacent to the site of the gate (see cover).

- 1.3.2 The Route passed over the site of the Castle Street Gate. Archaeological evidence of the gate may have survived below ground which would have been affected by ground work for the duct installation. This constituted the perceived archaeological potential of the Route.

2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The aim of the watching brief was to monitor ground works for the presence of archaeological remains and to investigate and record any remains that may be revealed.

3. METHOD

3.1. Watching brief

- 3.1.1 Regular inspections were made during the excavation, both of the trench and spoil, which may have contained artefactual material.

- 3.1.2 If archaeological remains were encountered, Data Optics and their ground work contractor were to be informed. All investigations were carried out by hand. All investigation were located in relation to the Ordnance Survey national grid, and all archaeological features related to Ordnance Survey Datum and recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system, so far as practical and circumstances allowed. A sufficient sample of archaeological remains, if revealed, would be excavated in order to establish, if possible, their date, nature, extent and condition.

3.2 Report writing, archiving and publication

- 3.2.1 This report presents a summary of observations made during the course of the trenching programme. The paper records have been compiled to form an indexed and cross-referenced archive, currently stored at the offices of Wessex Archaeology at Old Sarum, Salisbury under the project code **52211**. The archive will be deposited in due course with Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum. The archive contains:

File No.	NAR Cat.	Details	Format	No.
1	-	Archive Index	A4	1
1	A	Watching Brief Report	A4	10
1	-	Project Brief	A4	8
1	B	Day Book (photocopy)	A4	4
1	B	Graphics Register	A4	1
1	B	Site Graphics	A4	1
1	B	Photographic Register	A4	1
2	D	Site digital photographs (CD)	-	1

- 3.2.2 It is not intended to fully publish the results of the watching brief. However, a brief summary will be sent for publication in the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine.

4. RESULTS

4.1 Summary

- 4.1.1 No archaeological deposits or features were recorded. All the deposits recorded in the 0.80m depth of the trench were post-medieval in date. The sections of the trench contained the tarmac surface of the present road overlying mixed layers of gravel-rich deposits including concrete and brick fragments as well as gravel make-up layers for earlier road levelling and surfacings.
- 4.1.2 No artefacts were recorded within the spoil from the trench excavation. The single archaeological find of note comprised a limestone block found in the very base of the trench at 0.80m depth from the present ground surface, which was overlaid entirely with post-medieval made ground.
- 4.1.3 The limestone block was at least 0.22m(+) wide and 0.55m long. Within the confines of the narrow trench it could be ascertained that the block was roughly dressed at both 'ends' and was unmortared. The block was not removed after being recorded.
- 4.1.4 It was located immediately adjacent to No.3 Castle Street (part of the Hussey's Almshouses complex) where the Castle Gate coat of arms was removed to in 1908 (**Fig. 1**).
- 4.1.5 All sections of the trench were observed during the groundworks and the spoil was scanned for artefacts. Confidence of the reliability of the results of the archaeological investigations is high. Both sections of the trench were always visible for inspection.

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 No archaeological deposits or features were recorded along the length of the cable trench. No artefacts were recorded from the excavated spoil, which consisted of mixed post-medieval deposits of made-ground for successive road levelling and surfacing, including very common brick, tarmac and concrete components.
- 5.2 The only find of note was a roughly dressed, unmortared limestone block (probably derived from the Isle of Purbeck) in the base of the trench. It was recorded adjacent to the known location of the medieval (15th century?) Castle Gate which was finally demolished in 1906. The block did not appear to be in-situ, and may well be a remnant of the gate partially demolished in 1788. However, it could also be derived from other medieval or post-medieval structures in the vicinity.

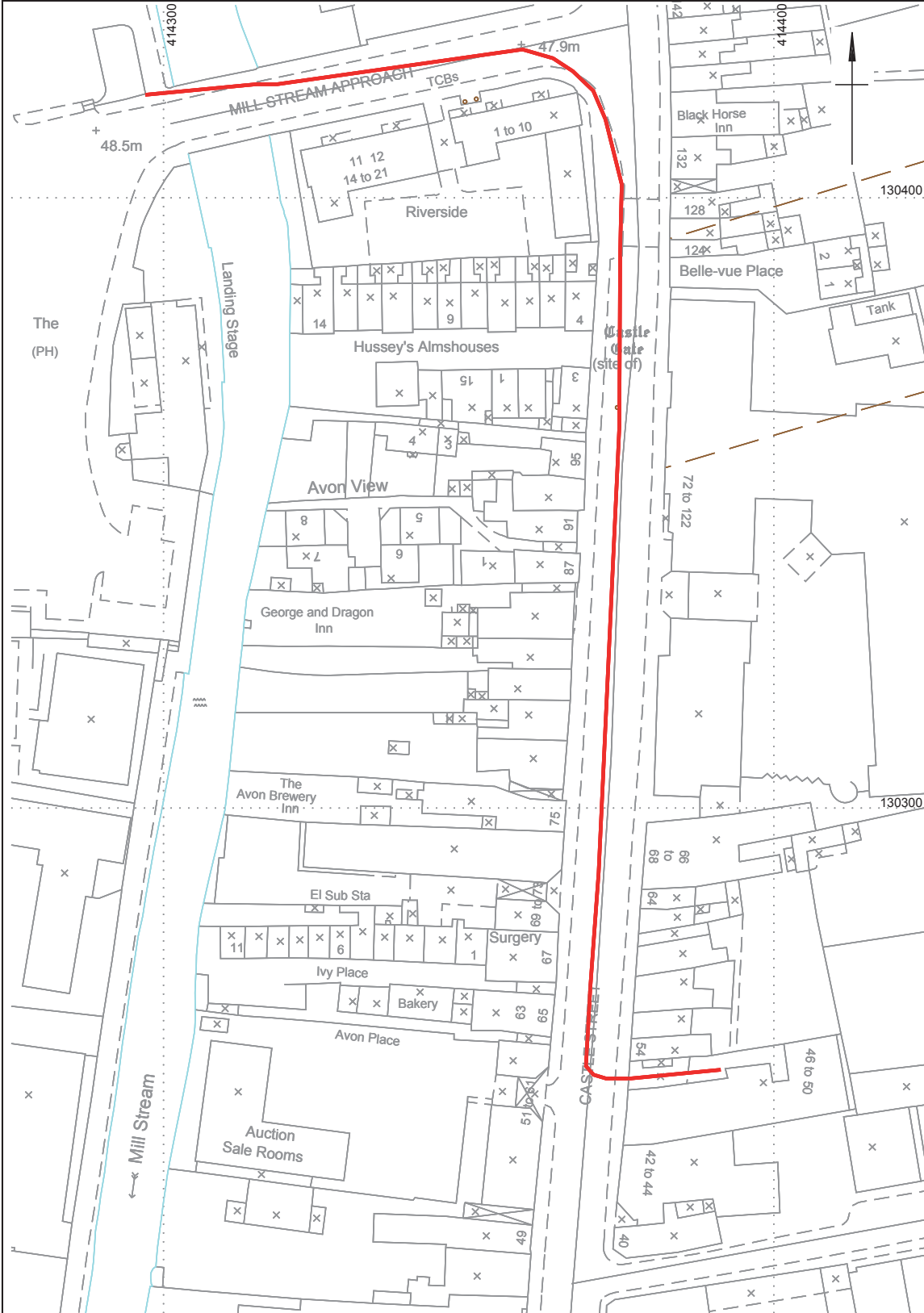
6. REFERENCES

Crittall, E. (ed) 1962 *A History of Wiltshire: Volume VI*. Oxford University Press.
London

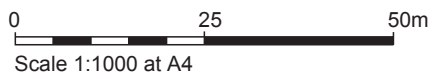
RCHME, 1980 *Ancient and Historical Monuments in the City of Salisbury: Volume 1*.
HMSO. London.

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Client report



Route of duct installation, Castle Street, Salisbury.

Figure 1





Wessex Archaeology Ltd registered office Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB
Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk

