



The Deaf Centre Love Lane, Salisbury

Archaeological Watching Brief
Interim Statement



**The Deaf Centre
Love Lane
Salisbury**

**Archaeological Watching Brief
Interim Statement**

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The Deaf Centre Love Lane Salisbury

Archaeological Watching Brief Interim Statement

Wessex Archaeology has been commissioned by Michael Lyons Architecture Architects on behalf of Stephen Thomas (the Client) to undertake an archaeological watching brief at The Deaf Centre, Love Lane, Salisbury, Wiltshire (hereafter 'the Site') centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 414755,129695 (**Figure 1**).

Planning permission (S/2007/2478) with conditions has been granted for the Site for the demolition of the existing (vacant) Deaf Centre and construction of three two bedroom terraced houses with conversion of the neighbouring St. Luke's Chapel to a two bedroom dwelling.

The Wiltshire County Archaeological Service (WCAS) acting on behalf of the Local Planning Authority have requested that an archaeological watching brief should be undertaken to monitor groundworks during the demolition and construction work at the Site.

This interim statement has been prepared following completion of the first phase of the watching brief, which was conducted following the demolition of the Deaf Centre and during the removal of the concrete floor slab and northern concrete foundations on the 15th to 17th December 2009.

The c.15cm basement slab was removed first and was seen to overlay hardcore and modern made ground of undetermined depth. No archaeological deposits could be determined below the slab. A central north to south concrete foundation was observed to be running across the centre of the Site. The foundation has undoubtedly had an adverse impact on any archaeological deposits that may survive below the level of the concrete slab.

The only part of the Deaf Centre foundation that was removed during this phase of works was the east-west aligned northern portion of the perimeter foundation (**Figure 1**). The removal of the foundation resulted in a trench that was 14m in length, 1m wide and between 1.2 and 1.35m in depth (Trench 1).

In the northern section of Trench 1 archaeological deposits were preserved immediately beneath the concrete slab. An up to 0.60m layer of garden soil **102** was recorded below the slab from which two sherds of post medieval Verwood Ware pottery were recovered. At the western end of the trench, two cut features (**117** and **119**), possibly sealed by the garden soil (the edges being ill defined where not cut in to the underlying natural), could be seen in profile (**Plate 1**). These may be large pits or ditches associated with backyard activity for buildings either facing on to Love Lane to the west or buildings to the north

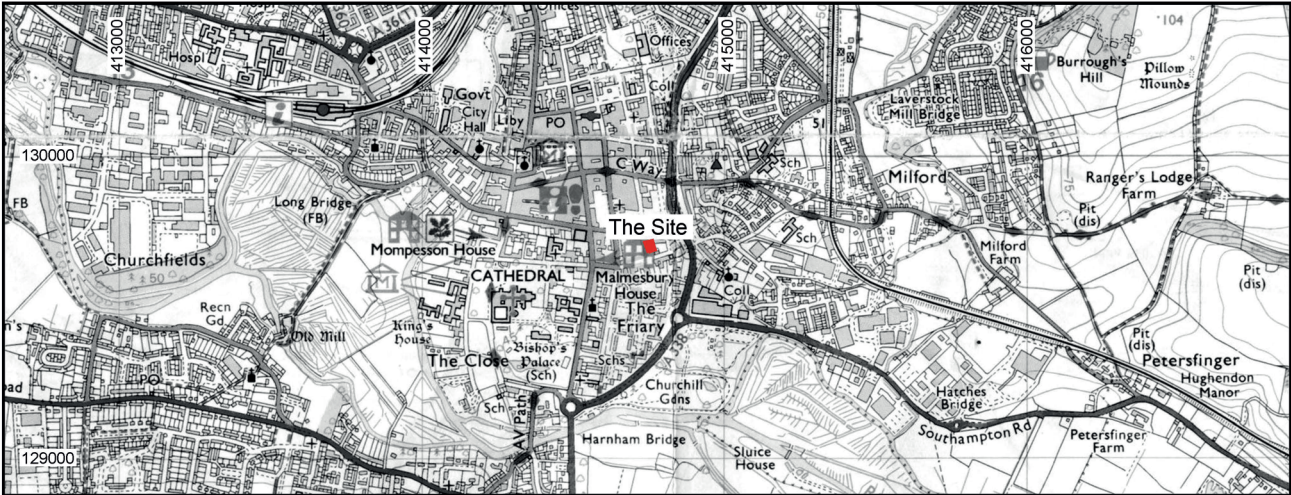
and south. No finds were recovered from the features in order to help determine whether they dated to the medieval or post-medieval.

At the eastern end of the trench structural remains were recorded in section (**Plate 2**). The structural remains are between 0.80m and 1 m below the basement slab and are capped by garden soil **102**. The foundations and related structural deposits of possibly up to three building foundations were recorded in section (**Plate 2**). The two earliest foundations **107** and **112** were of flint and mortar construction. These lay either side of a later chalk foundation **109**. The chalk foundation **109** was capped with clay and medieval roofing tile **115** which may have supported a timber superstructure. A layer of crushed chalk **113**, which would have been the lowest level of floor make-up associated with the chalk foundation, was also partially preserved.


The foundations may relate to a late medieval or early post medieval building/s that occupied the Site in this part of the Pound Chequer. Although somewhat stylised, John Speeds map of 1611 indicates buildings being present on the Site. By the time of William Naish' map of Salisbury in 1716 no buildings are shown to occupy the Site, suggesting that the buildings had been removed in the intervening period.

This document represents an interim statement following the completion of the stage one demolition phase of the development. Further monitoring will be undertaken during the stage two construction phase, which is due to be carried out sometime in 2010. The results of the second stage of monitoring may help to further clarify and enhance the work already undertaken. Further groundworks below the level of the concrete slab should also help to determine whether archaeological features or deposits are present in what appears to be a heavily truncated area.

A full report of all the findings will be prepared on completion of the two construction phase of the development.



The Site
 Demolished building
 Foundation trench



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Site location plan, showing Phase 1 watching brief

Figure 1



Plate 1: Pits 117 and 119, view from south



Plate 2: Possible medieval structural remains, view from south

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