making sense of heritage

Market Street/Chapel Street, Glossop, Derbyshire

Watching Brief for Topsoil Strip, Removal of Japanese Knotweed and Clearance of Vegetation

Ref: 110570.01
October 2016

archaeology

Market Street/Chapel Street, Glossop, Derbyshire

Watching Brief for Topsoil Strip, Removal of Japanese Knotweed and Clearance of Vegetation

Prepared for:
CgMs Consulting
140 London Wall
London
EC2Y 5DN

On behalf of:
McCarthy & Stone Retirement Lifestyles Ltd

Prepared by:
Wessex Archaeology
Unit R6
Riverside Block
Sheaf Bank Business Park
Prospect Road
Sheffield
S2 3EN

www.wessexarch.co.uk

February 2016

110570.01

Quality Assurance

Project Code	110570	**Accession Code**		**Client Ref.**	PR/19363
Planning Application Ref.	HPK20150063	**Ordnance Survey (OS) national grid reference (NGR)**	403327, 393968		

Version	Status*	Prepared by	Checked and Approved By	Approver's Signature	Date
v01	I	*AKC*			01/02/2016
File:	S:\PROJECTS\110570_Reports\v1				
v02	E	*AKC*	*CS*	C. Swales	03/02/2016
File:	S:\PROJECTS\110570_Reports\v2				
v03	E	*AKC*	*CS*	C. Swales	25/10/2016
File:	S:\PROJECTS\110570_Reports\v3				
V04	E	*AKC*	*CS*	C. Swales	25/10/2016
File:	S:\PROJECTS\110570_Reports\v4				
File:					

* I = Internal Draft; E = External Draft; F = Final

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology were commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out a Watching Brief in advance of development, centred at NGR 403327, 393968.

The Watching Brief was carried out as part of planning condition, reference HPK20150063, condition 18. Following discussions between CgMs Consulting and Steve Baker, Derby and Derbyshire Development Control Officer, a scope of works for the maintenance of a Watching Brief was agreed. CgMs Consulting produced a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) outlining how the requirements of the work would be met (CgMs 2015a). The WSI was approved by the curator prior to work commencing.

A Desk Based Assessment (CgMs 2015b) had indicated the possibility that water management features associated with Shepley's Mill (to the west of the site) may have survived, together with other features, on the site; this proved not to be the case.

The initial phase of monitoring of groundworks will included removal of knotweed and the topsoil strip of large sections of the development area to make the Site ready for future development. The area of knotweed contamination was centred on the southern side of the site adjacent to the Glossop Beck. The knotweed was removed by the excavation of two large sondages to a maximum depth of 1.5 m below the existing ground level; the roots of the plant being removed by a specialist contractor.

The watching brief concluded that no structures associated with Shipley Mill or earlier features were present immediately beneath the topsoil. Indeed, the monitoring of the two sondages for the removal of Japanese knotweed identified made ground deposits across the Site to a depth of up to 1.5 m below ground level. This supports the previous geotechnical investigations, which identified significant made ground deposits across the Site with deposits of 4 m depth in the south-east corner.

It seems likely that if any structures relating to Shipley Mill survive within the development area that they would be identified at a depth greater than 1.5 m below the existing ground level.

It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with Buxton Museum and Art Gallery or in the event of a negative archive to be uploaded to the Archaeology Data Service. Buxton Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project. Deposition of any finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner. Until deposition the archive will be stored at the Sheffield office of Wessex Archaeology under project number 110570.

Market Street/Chapel Street, Glossop, Derbyshire

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Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting and is grateful to Peter Reeves in this regard.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Phillip Maier and Maria Calderon between the 15th and 17th September 2015. The report was written by Alex Cassells, with graphics produced by Chris Swales. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Chris Swales.

Thanks are also due to Steve Rimmer, a recent owner of the site, who was able to give advise on work undertaken on the site over the last two decades and on features that formerly existed on the site.

Market Street/Chapel Street, Glossop, Derbyshire

Watching Brief for Topsoil Strip, Removal of Japanese Knotweed and Clearance of Vegetation

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology were commissioned by CgMs Consulting (hereafter 'the Client') to carry out a Watching Brief in advance of development, centred at NGR 403327, 393968 (hereafter 'the Site').

1.1.2 The Watching Brief was carried out as part of planning condition, reference HPK20150063, condition 18, which states:

1.1.3 "a) No development shall take place until a Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological monitoring has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. The scheme shall include an assessment of significance and research questions; and 1. The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording 2. The programme and provision to be made for post investigation analysis and reporting; 3. Provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation 4. Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation 5. Nomination of a competent person or persons/organization to undertake the works set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation", "b) No development shall take place other than in accordance with the archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition (a).", "c) The development shall not be occupied until the site investigation and post investigation reporting has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition (a) and the provision to be made for publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition has been secured."

1.1.4 Following discussions between CgMs Consulting and Steve Baker, Derby and Derbyshire Development Control Officer, a scope of works for the maintenance of a Watching Brief was agreed. CgMs Consulting produced a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) outlining how the requirements of the work would be met (CgMs 2015a). The WSI was approved by the curator prior to work commencing.

1.2 Scope of this document

1.2.1 This document presents the results of watching brief commissioned to monitor the removal of Japanese knotweed prior to the commencement of groundworks associated with the development. This report has been prepared in accordance with all relevant guidelines, including those set down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfAa-d) and Historic England (HE 2015).

1.3 Site location and topography

1.3.1 The Site is located to the immediate south of Chapel Street and to the west of Market Street (now Philip Howard Road), close to the centre of the town of Glossop, Derbyshire. Glossop Brook forms the southern site boundary whilst George Street runs a short distance away on the western side of the Site (Figure. 1).

1.3.2 The superficial geology of the Site comprises Diamicton Till which overlies Mudstone and Siltstone of the Marsden Formation (British Geological Survey 2015). Previous geotechnical site investigation has identified significant made ground deposits across the Site with deposits of 4 m depth in the south-east corner. The northern half of the Site, a car park, is at *c.* 144 m Above Ordnance Datum (aOD) whereas the southern part of the Site is a derelict below ground workshop. The roof of the workshop is at approximately the same height as the car park.

1.3.3 The remaining areas of the Site comprise rough ground, which is bounded to the south by the retaining wall on the north side of Glossop Brook

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 As part of the planning application submitted to Derbyshire County Council an archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) fo the Site was completed (CgMs 2015b). A summary of the results of the DBA are included below.

2.2 Prehistoric and Roman

2.2.1 The potential for the discovery of archaeological assets belonging to the prehistoric periods on the Site is regarded as low/nil.

2.2.2 Glossop lies *c.* 3 km from the Roman fort of *Melandra* which is sited on elevated ground at the confluence of the Glossop Brook and the River Etherow.

2.2.3 Two major Roman roads have been identified serving the fort and associated vicus, one of which runs south-east from the fort to Brough (Webster 1973), the line of which is thought to pass to the south of Old Glossop through the modern built up area around Whitfield.

2.2.4 The potential for the discovery of archaeological assets of Roman date on the Site is regarded as low/nil.

2.3 Anglo-Saxon and Medieval

2.3.1 The potential for the discovery of archaeological assets of Saxon/Medieval date on the Site is regarded as low/nil.

2.4 Post-medieval and Modern

2.4.1 The 1880 Ordnance Survey shows the Bridge Inn on the corner of Chapel and Market Street with houses fronting Chapel Street. The leat feeding the millpond for Shepley's Mill (to the west) is observed running through the centre of the Site. A weir is shown in Glossop Brook with sluices from the leat to the brook annotated. The remainder of the Site comprises small plots of land. There is no change between the Ordnance Survey 1898 edition and the Ordnance Survey map of 1921. The Ordnance Survey Maps of 1967 and 1974 identify that the leat had been infilled and that some of the houses along Chapel Street have been demolished to create a car park.

2.5 Previous archaeological investigation

2.5.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment was undertaken for the site (CgMs 2015). The report established that Shepley's Mill was constructed to the west of the Site however the associated millpond was located within the northern part of the Site. The report established that the original leats, if they survive, pass below the footprint of the proposed development.

2.5.2 Steve Baker (Derby and Derbyshire Development Control Officer) has advised that the previous owner of the Site, Steve Rimmer, should be invited to attend the initial monitoring session. Mr Rimmer bought the Site in 1996, and his cousin had the yard bordering Market Street.

2.5.3 Mr Rimmer has advised that extensive groundworks were undertaken within the Site during his ownership of the land. Mr Rimmer also has many of the original deeds/maps for the Site. Given the level of knowledge regarding the below ground structures previously unearthed, and presumably no longer surviving, it would be advantageous that Mr Rimmer should be consulted prior to the issue of any final report on the results of the archaeological works.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims and objectives

3.1.1 A monitoring and recording exercise (a watching brief) had been requested to monitor groundworks associated with the construction of a new residential development. The Watching Brief will focus on ground reduction, grubbing up of existing foundations and subsequent landscaping in the vicinity of buildings associated with Shepley's Mill mill pond and leat marked on the 1880 Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 2).

3.1.2 The initial phase of monitoring of groundworks will included removal of knotweed and the topsoil strip of large sections of the development area to make the Site ready for future development.

3.1.3 The general aims of the archaeological works were:

- To record and excavate any features encountered during the course of the groundworks, and determine the character, quality and date of each feature or group of features.

3.1.4 Within these parameters, the evaluation and watching brief of the Site presented an opportunity to address the following objectives and questions:

- To determine the presence of any activity pre-dating the construction of Shapley Mill in the 19th century;
- To determine the presence of any structures associated with the operations of Shapley Mill. How did these remains relate to cartographic evidence?;
- Can the function of these structures be established? What is their relationship to other structural remains identified on Site?; and
- To establish the environmental context of the deposits identified, including provision for geoarchaeological sampling/analysis of appropriate deposits at the Site.

3.2 Fieldwork methodology

3.2.1 The work was carried out in accordance with the approved WSI (CgMs 2015a) and Wessex Archaeology and industry standards and guidelines (CIfA 2014a-d, HE 2015).

3.2.2 On project initiation the project was notified to the appropriate receiving museum using the notification form at Appendix 1 of the Procedures document (MOD 2003), with a copy to the relevant development control archaeologist. An accession number was issued. The appropriate museum for this project is Buxton Museum and Art Gallery.

3.2.3 The watching brief comprised the monitoring of the removal of Japanese knotweed prior to the commencement of groundworks associated with the development. The area of knotweed contamination was centred on the southern side of the site adjacent to the Glossop Beck (Figure 1). The knotweed was removed by the excavation of two large sondages to a maximum depth of 1.5 m below the existing ground level; the roots of the plant being removed by a specialist contractor. Areas of topsoil and additional vegetation were machine stripped to a shallow depth to aid the clearance of the Site for future development.

3.2.4 The removal of overlying made ground/topsoil deposits was undertaken by mechanical excavator where practicable, with removal of all undifferentiated deposits down to the formation horizon. The machine removed a level spit of no more than 0.25 m depth. Successive spits were similarly removed until the first significant archaeological horizon was reached. That level was cleaned in plan using a toothless bucket. The machine was not used to cut arbitrary trial trenches down to natural deposits, without regard to the archaeological stratification and leaving a section record only. All machine work was carried out under archaeological supervision and ceased immediately when significant evidence was revealed.

3.2.5 All archaeological deposits were recorded using an appropriate pro forma to ensure relevant data was collected in a standardised recording system. This written record is hierarchically based and centred on the context record. Each context record fully described the location, extent, composition and relationship of the subject and was cross-referenced to all other assigned records.

3.2.6 A full photographic record was maintained using both digital images of at least 10 megapixels. The photographic record illustrates both the detail and the general context of the monitored areas.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Summary

4.1.1 Geotechnical investigations across the Site had identified made ground deposits of up to 4 m in depth (CgMs 2015a). The archaeological watching brief on the removal of Japanese knotweed confirmed a significant depth of made ground deposits on Site. A series of made ground deposits were noted extending across the Site to a depth of 1.5 m below ground level (bgl) consistent with recent landfilling. The upper deposit was darker than the material below it which in turn overlaid a lighter material which included redeposited natural sand and gravel.

4.2 Topsoil, strip

4.2.1 A dark grey brown silty topsoil (1001/2001) covered the bulk of the development area. The topsoil was on average 0.3 m thick and contained frequent modern waste and

construction debris including crushed brick, concrete and plastic. This topsoil material was machine stripped from the majority of the Site (Plates 1 and 2). No features of archaeological interest were identified beneath the topsoil

4.3 Sondage 1

4.3.1 Sondage 1 cut through part of the Brook bank and was 6.0 m wide, 9.7 m long and was excavated to a depth of 1.5 m bgl (Figures 1 and 2, Plates 3 & 4). The sides of the sondage were sloped at an angle of 45 degrees to ensure that all plant roots were exposed. The roots were removed by a specialist contractor.

4.3.2 Although all of the excavated material was made ground it was possible to differentiate between layers. The upper deposit (1001) had a depth of *c.* 0.3m bgl and comprised dark brown silty sand with a frequent distribution of debris including stone, brick and plastic. A lower deposit (1002) had a depth of *c.*1.0m bgl and was pinkish black silty sand with patches of yellowish brown rubble and sandstone. In common with (1001) the layer had inclusions consistent with demolition debris/made ground. At the lowest level of excavation the deposit (1003) became lighter and comprised yellowish brown sand with common large gravel and sandstone inclusions. Whilst still contaminated with demolition debris the deposit was clearly largely comprised of disturbed natural.

4.4 Sondage 2

4.4.1 The second sondage, again located close to the Glossop Brook, was 4.0 m wide, 7.0 m long with a depth of *c.*1.0 m (Figures 1 and 2, Plate 5). The sides of the sondage were angled to 45 degrees. Deposits were similar to those located in the first sondage. The upper layer (2001) had a depth of 0.3 m bgl and comprised dark brown/black silty sand with abundant destruction debris. The lower layer (2002) had a depth of 0.7m bgl and comprised greyish black silty sand with yellow sand patches with abundant inclusions of demolition debris.

4.5 Conclusions

4.5.1 The watching brief concluded that no structures associated with Shipley Mill or earlier features were present immediately beneath the topsoil. Indeed, the monitoring of the two sondages for the removal of Japanese knotweed identified made ground deposits across the Site to a depth of up to 1.5 m bgl. This supports the previous geotechnical investigations, which identified significant made ground deposits across the Site with deposits of 4 m depth in the south-east corner.

4.5.2 It is unlikely that any structures relating to Shipley Mill survive within the development area and if any features related to the mill pond were to survive these would be at a depth of 1.5 m or greater. Throughout the duration of the watching brief, no structures, archaeological deposits or residual artefacts from any period were noted above this depth.

5 STORAGE AND CURATION

5.1 Museum

5.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with Buxton Museum and Art Gallery or in the event of a negative archive to be uploaded to the Archaeology Data Service. Buxton Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project. Deposition of any finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

5.2 Preparation of archive

5.2.1 The complete Site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Buxton Museum and Art Gallery, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; CIfA 2014c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

5.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site/accession code, and a full index will be prepared. An accession code will be issued upon deposition of the archive. The physical archive currently comprises the following:

- 01 files/document cases of paper records & A3/A4 graphics

5.3 Discard policy

5.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in Selection, Retention and Dispersal (SMA 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. Any discard of artefacts will be fully documented in the project archive.

5.3.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995, UKIC 2001).

5.4 Security copy

5.4.1 In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

6 REFERENCES

6.1 Bibliography

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7 APPENDICES

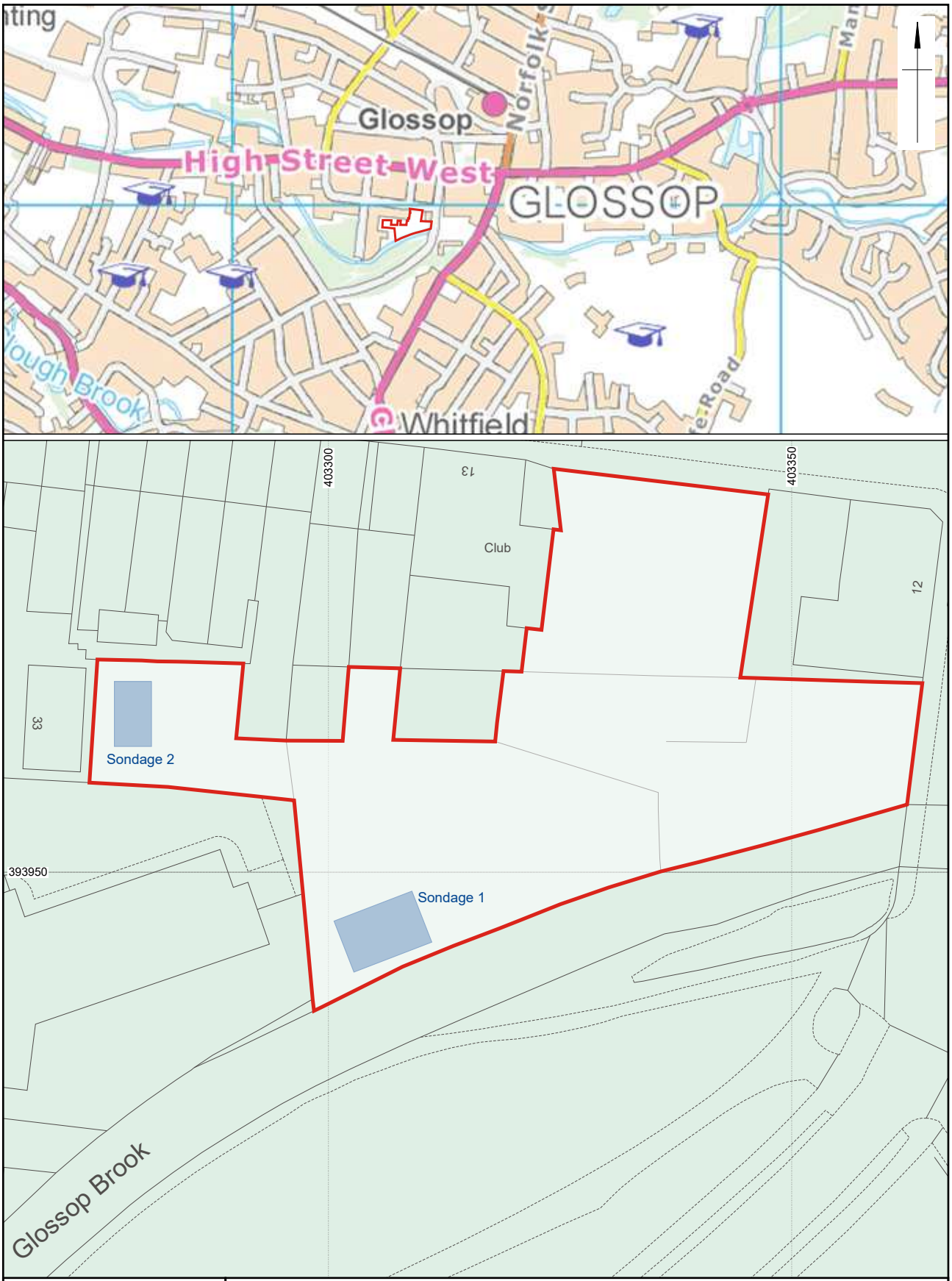
7.1 Appendix 1: Context descriptions

Sondage 1	**Description: Sondaget o remove Japanese knotweed**	**Dimensions: 9.7 x 6.0 m**
Context No.		**Depth: 1.5 m**
1001	Topsoil – Dark brownish-grey sandy silt with frequent demolition material	0 – 0.3 m
1002	Made ground – Mottled pink and black silt with frequent demolition material	0.3 – 1.2 m
1003	Redeposited natural: Yellow brown sand with frequent gravel and ssandstone inclusions	1.2 m +

Sondage 2	**Description: Sondaget o remove Japanese knotweed**	**Dimensions: 7.0 x 4.0 m**
Context No.		**Depth: 1.0 m**
2001	Topsoil – Dark brownish-grey sandy silt with frequent demolition material	0 – 0.3 m
2002	Made ground – Mottled pink and black silt with frequent demolition material	0.3 – 1.0 m

Topsoil strip	**Description: Sondaget o remove Japanese knotweed**	**Dimensions: Across Site**
Context No.		**Depth: 0.3 m**
1001	Topsoil – Dark brownish-grey sandy silt with frequent demolition material	0 – 0.3 m

7.2 Appendix 2: OASIS form



Site boundary

WB Sondage

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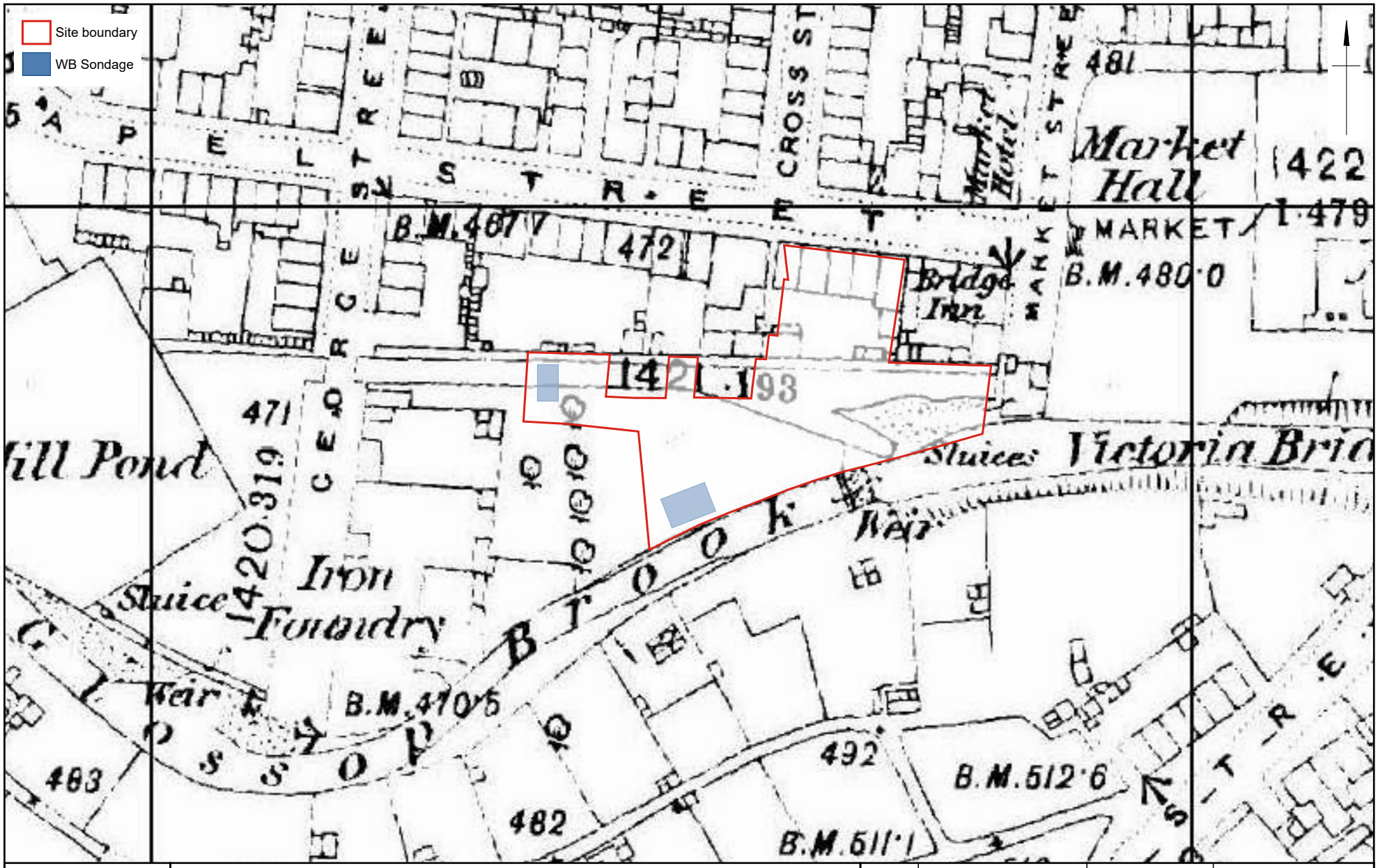
Site location showing location of watching brief area

Figure 1



Reproduced from the 1880 Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 / landmark ® map with the permission of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright, Wessex Archaeology, Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire. SP4 6EB. Licence Number: 100028190. Digital data reproduced from Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright (year) All rights reserved. Reference Number: 100020449. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright and database right 2016. This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.

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1880 Ordnance Survey Map showing location of watching brief area

Figure 2

Plate 1: General shot of topsoil strip at southern limit of Site

Plate 2: General shot of topsoil strip within vicinity of Sondage 1

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Plate 3: General shot of Sondage 1, view from west

Plate 4: General shot of Sondage 1, view from east

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Plate 5: General shot of Sondage 2, view from southeast

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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

FS 606559