

The site is the former Zoar Strict Baptist Chapel, South Street, Reading, RG1 4QN

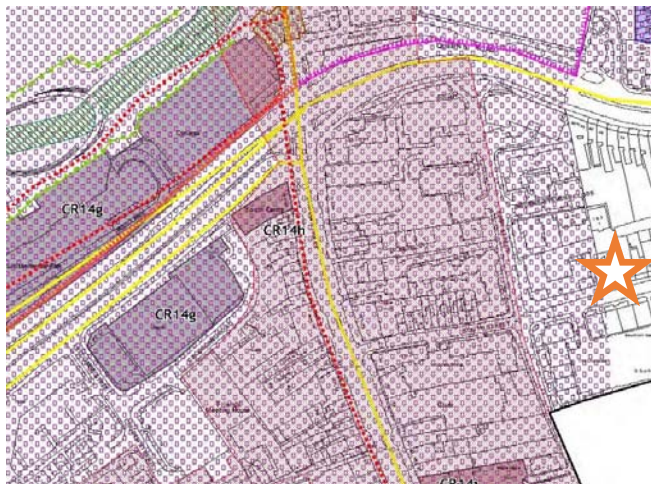
National Grid Reference (NGR) SU 71959 73116

Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological watching brief

Reading Council planning reference: 211063

1 Introduction

1.1 The approved plans are listed in the planning permission. The application site does not contain any designated heritage assets and is not in a Conservation Area.



The site is just outside “Area of archaeological potential” (policy EN2) and limited potential for any archaeological finds.

1.2 Accordingly, Condition 8 of the planning permission states that

No development shall take place within the site until the applicant, or their agents or their successors in title, has secured and implemented a programme of archaeological work (which may include more than one phase of work) in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall only take place in accordance with the detailed scheme approved pursuant to this condition.

1.3 Zoar Chapel was built in approx. 1868 and the foundations were extensive (see appendix one) and having had a basement (with a finished floor approx. +40.4m) were considerably lower than the existing street level (Approx. +43m. With the majority of the site having been disturbed (to approximately +39.4m) extensively during the original build and the proposed building sitting above this disturbed level the potential for discoveries is very limited.

1.4 This written scheme of investigation (WSI) responds to the Condition, describing the aims of and methods to be used during the watching brief. Construction of proposed will involve some excavations – eg to clear the working area, for the new foundations (Piles and ground beams) and new main services. Although the limited potential for discoveries the contractor will be required to be wary of any potential finds and alert a competent person to advise the correct way forward.

1.5 If discoveries are made the competent person will follow the following aims and methods:-

2 AIMS

2.1.1 The general aim of archaeological intervention on a proposed development site is

- To ensure that as much as possible of the archaeological resource affected by Scheme proposals is preserved *in situ*.
- To mitigate a Scheme's impact on archaeology (including buildings) through fieldwork methods designed to preserve by record any remains which cannot be retained *in situ*.

2.1.2 The specific aims of this project are to

- Identify and record any significant archaeological remains revealed by the groundworks, Identify and record any significant structural features, relationships or materials revealed by the building work.

2.1.3 The generic aims of the project will be:

- To carry out the watching brief and associated recording in line with the professional good practice, standards, guidance (eg CifA).
- To communicate the results of the project to the client and their agents, in the form of a detailed, illustrated report; to provide copies to Reading Council's Senior Archaeologist, the Berkshire Historic Environment Record, and Historic England.
- To complete an OASIS fieldwork summary record, and submit this to the Archaeology Data Service.
- To prepare an archive of the project, which is likely to consist largely of the digital photographic archive and the report, and deposit this with the Archaeology Data Service. If any archaeologically significant artefacts are retrieved, these would be deposited with the Reading Museum along with any necessary papers in hard copy as appropriate.
- To publish a summary or full report (depending on the significance of any results) in the county journal and/or other appropriate publication.



Existing Site Photos

METHODS

3.1 Watching brief

3.1.1 The main development impact is expected to be from excavations to form piles for the new building but will be limited areas only. Ground beam depths will be above the levels already disturbed from the original building. Ancillary work such as new service runs will also have minimal impact. Site clearance and other general/shallow works are less likely to disturb archaeological remains (but this cannot be discounted entirely).

3.1.2 The presence/absence of archaeological features will be noted. If such features are identified then sufficient archaeological excavation will be done to date, characterise and record the remains in accordance with the project objectives.

3.2 Recording

3.2.1 In principle, recording standards will be the same as for formal excavations but the particular practical difficulties and constraints of watching brief recording are acknowledged. Features will be recorded in plan at an appropriate scale (usually 1:20) and accurately located in relation to the National Grid. Each context will be recorded on pro-forma sheets which will include the following minimum details: character; contextual relationships; detailed description (dimensions and shape; soil components, colour, texture and consistency); associated finds; interpretation and phasing as well as cross-references to the drawn, photographic and finds registers. Normally each context would be recorded on an individual record, but on occasion it may be necessary to write abbreviated multiple context descriptions on a single watching brief record sheet. Sections will be drawn through all significant cut features (and along foundation/service trenches) and levelled to ordnance datum.

3.2.2 A full photographic record will be maintained including images of all significant features and overall/general photographs of each area or trench. Digital photography will form the prime record for archive and reporting purposes. The location and direction of photographs will be recorded on the provided plans. Full index sheets will be maintained. All work will conform with guidance prepared by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2016).

3.2.3 If organic and other environmental material is encountered on this project, it will be excavated, sampled, processed and fully reported on as appropriate. Such material, and artefacts, will be bagged/boxed and subject to preliminary recording on site, but will then be fully processed and recorded off-site. Conservation work if needed would be undertaken at recognised laboratories by experienced and qualified personnel. All processing will conform to all UKIC guidelines. Finds of "treasure" must be reported to the Coroner in accordance with the Treasure Act procedures. Human skeletal remains, if found, will be dealt with under a Ministry of Justice burial licence. This can usually be applied for and granted in the same working day, or on the following working day if discovery and thus notification to the Ministry only takes place during the later afternoon. Neither 'treasure' nor human remains are anticipated on this site.

3.2.4 If an unexpected discovery is made the County's Senior Archaeologist will be informed as soon as possible. Initially consideration would be given to preservation in-situ but if this is not practical then such discoveries may give rise to a salvage excavation funded from the project contingency. This will comprise deployment of one or more archaeologists (as appropriate/required) to carry out excavation and recording to a sufficient level as rapidly as possible, thus avoiding undue delay on the overall project construction programme. It is impossible to pre-determine when the contingency may need to be called on, where, in what circumstances, or the number of people/amount of time

that will be required. We will ensure that the archaeological resource is fully and appropriately preserved by record during any such contingency-based work, while not unduly impacting on the development programme. Inevitably this will require careful coordination with the client, architect and appointed building contractor, as well as with the County's Senior Archaeologist

3.3 Post-excavation work and project report

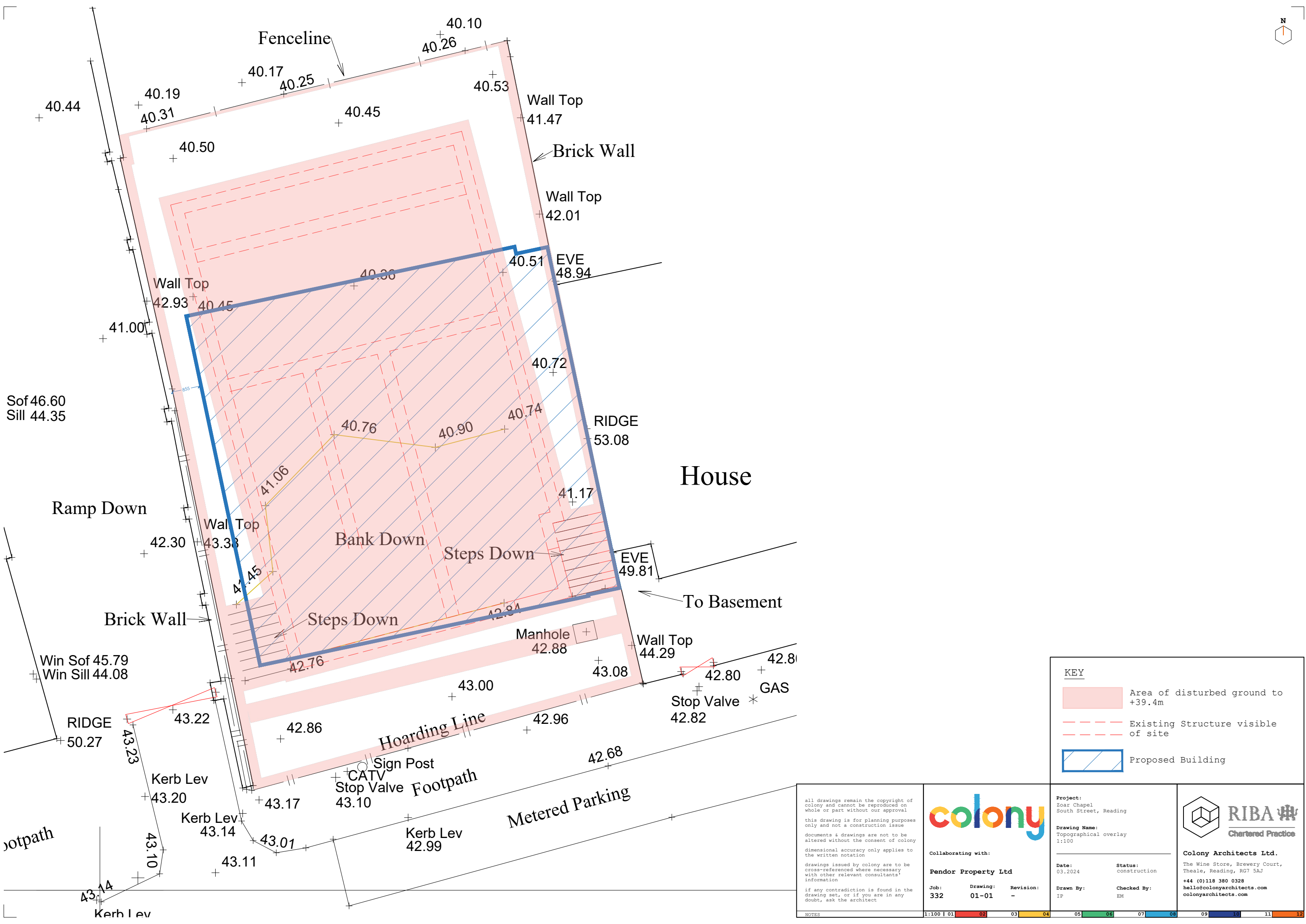
3.3.1 The stratigraphy of all recorded features encountered will be fully described and interpreted in a project report. The report detailing the results of the project will be produced and deposited with West Berkshire Council (including a copy for the Historic Environment Record) within a period to be agreed at the end of fieldwork in accordance with the significance of the remains encountered. This is usually within 4-6 weeks for a watching brief. The report will be illustrated with a site location plan at a scale of 1:1250 or 1:2500 according to the relevant OS coverage, and can be presented in hard copy and/or digital form in accordance with the Council's requirements. An OASIS fieldwork summary form will be submitted to the Archaeology Data Service, with a copy in the final report.

3.4 Publication and archive

3.4.1 A summary report will be submitted for the newsletter of the Council for British Archaeology regional group for Wessex. This will include details of the client, OS grid reference, personnel involved in the fieldwork and other relevant technical data. It may also be appropriate to submit a summary to a relevant national journal (eg *Britannia*, *Post-Medieval Archaeology*) or the *Berkshire Archaeological Journal*, published by the Berkshire Archaeological Society. If full publication of the results is required this will usually be prepared within one year of the completion of field work unless otherwise agreed in writing with the local planning authority.

3.4.2 The site and research archives will be fully ordered and indexed as part of the post-excavation process. It is anticipated that any paper archive and finds will be deposited with Reading Museum; the digital photographic archive and report file would be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service in line with Reading Council's policy. In the event of a negative watching brief, the submission of the digital report to OASIS and the Berkshire HER may be sufficient, following discussion with the Reading archaeology service.

Appendix One



 Area of disturbed ground to +39.4m
 Existing Structure visible of site
 Proposed Building

Checked By:
EM

Colony Architects Ltd.
The Wine Store, Brewery Court,
Theale, Reading, RG7 5AJ
+44 (0)118 380 0328
hello@colonyarchitects.com
colonyarchitects.com

all drawings remain the copyright of colony and cannot be reproduced on whole or part without our approval

this drawing is for planning purposes only and not a construction issue

documents & drawings are not to be altered without the consent of colony

dimensional accuracy only applies to the written notation

drawings issued by colony are to be cross-referenced where necessary with other relevant consultants' information

if any contradiction is found in the drawings, or if you are in any doubt, ask the architect

Revision:

NOTES	1:100	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12
-------	-------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----