

CASTLERING ARCHAEOLOGY

ROSE HOUSE
STATION ROAD
OVERTON
WREXHAM CBC
SJ 37383 41904

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

JUNE 2012



Fig. 1 Site location (google-earth 2012)

1. INTRODUCTION

This short report contains the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken on land to the rear of Rose House, School Lane, Overton, LL13 0ES, during ground disturbing works in association with an extension to the property, as indicated in Fig. 3 *following*.

Rose House lies within the Conservation Area and historic core of the village, where the garden plots that extend to the north side of School Lane are thought to be medieval in origin. The manor of Overton is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086. In view of the archaeological potential of the site, the watching brief was placed as a condition of planning approval by Mark Walters, Curatorial Section, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, acting as adviser to Wrexham CBC planning department (Planning ref. P/2010/0928).

Castlering Archaeology were contracted by the owners Mr and Mrs Harrison, to complete the watching brief, and the work was undertaken on June 15th and 20th 2012.

2. OBJECTIVE

The objective of the archaeological monitoring is to ensure the works are carried out to the satisfaction of the archaeological curator and to secure the preservation by record of any archaeological remains or artefacts that may be encountered during the excavation.

3. WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY

The watching brief was undertaken by the archaeological contractor, who is a Member of the Institute for Archaeologists, using proven archaeological techniques which comply with Guidelines and Codes of Conduct set out by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA); in particular the *Standard & Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (revised October 2008).

4. RESULTS OF THE WATCHING BRIEF

Rose House is a brick-built property dating back to the early 19th century. The property was last owned by a local builder who extended the property to the rear and the east side in an ad hoc manner during the late 1960s / 70s period (Fig. 2 *following*).

The watching brief monitored the re-excavation of a sample of the existing footings that had formed the foundations of the late 60s / 70s additions to the rear of the property, together with the new trenches required for the proposed new build (Fig. 3 *following*).

Only two section of the footings trenches, being the north-eastern angle, cut through ground that was not already occupied or crossed by old concrete footings and / or service pipes. These trenches exposed 0.45m of dark brown topsoil, which included fragmentary building material of 19th century to modern date. The topsoil sealed medium to light brown soft sandy silts, which in these two sections were undisturbed. The trenches were excavated to a maximum 0.6m wide by 0.9m deep. Fig. 2 and Plate 4 *following* show the northernmost trench, viewed from the west.

Elsewhere the trenches were excavated into disturbed ground. No archaeological features were revealed and no finds were recovered.

5. DISCUSSION

The excavations were disappointing in archaeological terms. The watching brief has recorded the considerable amount of excavation that was undertaken to the rear and the east side of the property in the late 60s / 70s, when the property was extended in several short stages.

6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Castlering Archaeology would like to thank Mr and Mrs Harrison, the present owners, for contracting the archaeological work and the ground-workers on site for their full co-operation.

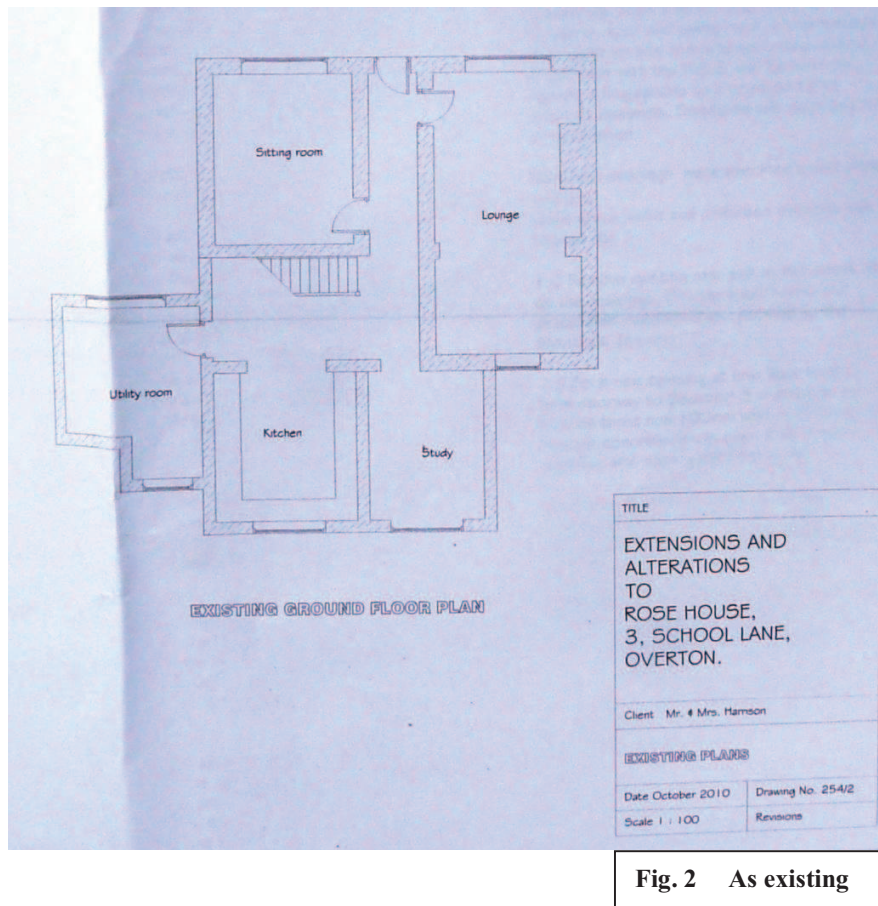


Fig. 2 As existing

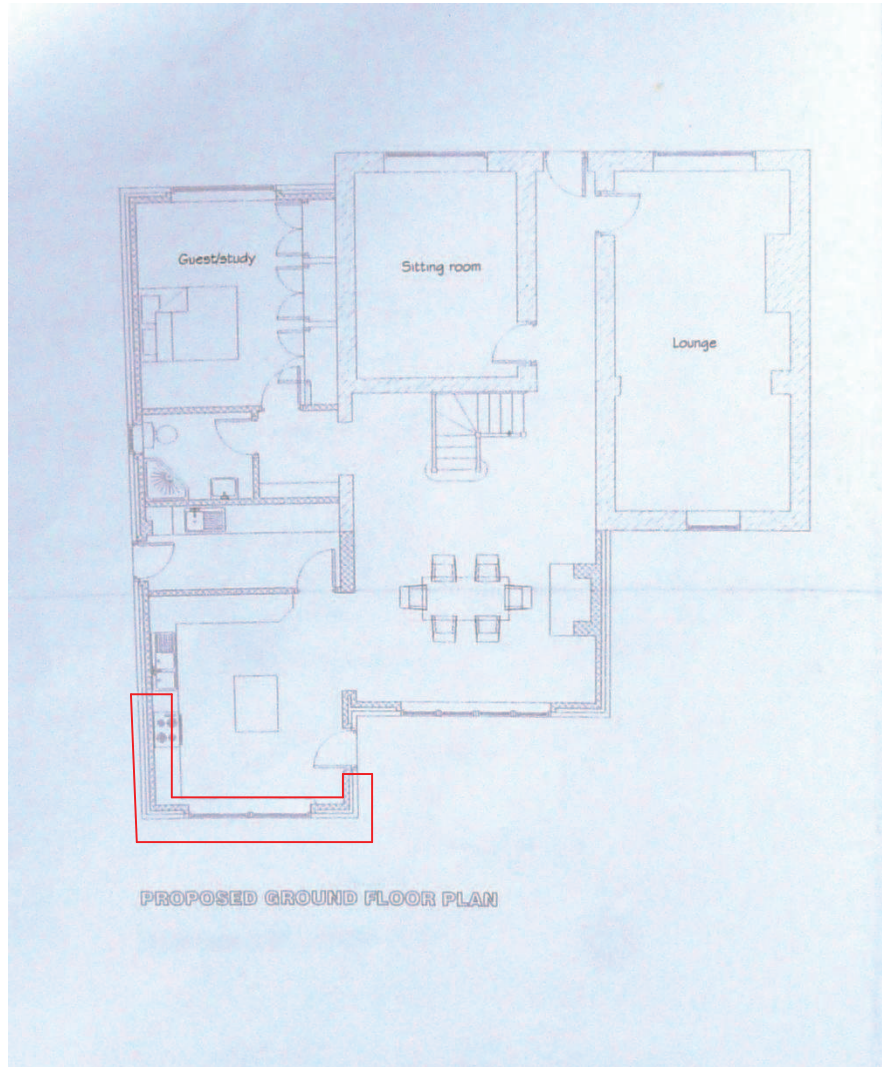


Fig. 3 As proposed

undisturbed footings



Plate 1

**Works undertaken at the rear of the property;
viewed from the west;
15.06.12**



Plate 2

**Clearing of demolition rubble; site of proposed works to the side of the property; viewed from the south;
15.06.12**



Plate 3

**Clearing of demolition rubble; excavations on the east side of the property; viewed from the south;
20.06.12**



**Plate 4: Undisturbed footing section,
viewed from the west; 20.06.12**



**Plate 5: Viewed from the north;
20.06.12**

Every effort has been made to provide accurate information within this report. However Castlering Archaeology cannot be held responsible for any errors and inaccuracies contained therein.

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