

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT

HAVANT

1. INTRODUCTION

English Heritage has initiated a national series of Extensive Urban Surveys. Several counties have commenced such projects including Hampshire County Council which is undertaking the survey of the small towns of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. The survey is intended to provide an up-to-date view of the archaeological resource in each of the towns building on earlier surveys (e.g. Hughes, 1976; Basford, 1980) and consists of three phases: Data Collection, Data Assessment and Strategy. The first stage, Data Collection, draws together the accessible history of the town, the archaeological knowledge and historic buildings data. The Data Assessment phase of the survey leads to the production of a report which presents a brief history of the town, (this document is not intended as a definitive history) an analysis of the plan of the town, an assessment of the archaeological and buildings data and the state of modern development resulting in the identification of areas of archaeological importance. Information about the development of the town through the ages, including plan-form analysis and the identified areas of archaeological importance, is also presented in cartographic form at the end of the report. The Strategy phase of the survey, uses the information presented in the Data Assessment combined with current statutory and non-statutory constraints, and present and future planning policy to make recommendations for policies regarding the historic environment. The policies may be incorporated into Local and Unitary Development Plans, non-statutory policies, supplementary planning guidance and for use within development control.

2. LOCATION

Havant is located in the south-eastern corner of the county over-looking Langstone Harbour and is close to the crossing point to Hayling Island. The town is approximately 13km from Portsmouth and 14km from Chichester. The town lies at approximately 10m OD with a gentle slope to the south and south-west. To the north of the town centre the land remains relatively flat for 2km after which the land rises to around 50m OD.

Several springs rise in and around the town, including one spring, known as Homewell, which rises close to the church. These springs drain into a stream that flows to the south into Langstone Harbour.

3. BACKGROUND

ARCHAEOLOGY

Prehistoric

- A1 Prehistoric flint tools have been recovered from various locations around the town including Mesolithic and Neolithic tools from the line of the by-pass to the south of the town centre.
- A2 A prehistoric occupation site was found to the north of the town on the site of the former Oak Park School. Pottery, flint and a possible hearth were found but the site had been damaged by Romano-British occupation (Crosby, 1992).

Romano-British

The landscape around the town appears to have been relatively intensively occupied in the Romano-British period and there are several find-spots of Romano-British material within the historic core of the town (see Map B).

- A3 To the south of the town, near Langstone, there is the site of a villa. Pottery recovered from investigations on the site dated from the second and third centuries.

- A2 A Romano-British occupation site was located in an area that was formerly the playing fields of Oak Park School to the north of the town. The pottery indicated that the occupation of the site dated from the second and third centuries (Crosby, 1992).

Anglo-Saxon

- A4 The only record of Anglo-Saxon material from the area of the town in the county Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) is for pottery recovered from an area behind the property plots on the southern side of East Street.

Medieval

- A5 To the south-east of Havant there was the scattered hamlet of Warblington that has now been partly subsumed into the expanding town. An estate of this name was recorded in the Sussex section of the Domesday Book. To the south of the A27, away from the main centre of the hamlet, is the church and remains of the castle. The church contains elements of an Anglo-Saxon church but mainly dates from the twelfth and thirteenth centuries and was historically the parish church of the small-town of Emsworth to the east. The castle was an early sixteenth-century moated manor house, built on the site of an earlier manor, and was largely demolished in the English Civil War (Pevsner and Lloyd 1967, 639-41).
- A6 Approximately 1.5km to the west of Havant was the small village of Bedhampton. The manor was recorded in the Domesday Book in the late eleventh century (Munby 1982, fol 43a).

HISTORY

Anglo-Saxon

The first record of Havant dates to AD 935 when 7 *mansae* of land at *Hamanfuntan* were granted to Wihthgar, a *minister* of King Athelstan (Sawyer 1968, 430). In 980 King Æthelred granted the reversion of land at Havant to the monks of the Old Minster, Winchester (St Swithun's) (*ibid*, 837).

The place-name is derived from the OE *funta* which usually means a spring and the personal name Hama. The name refers to the presence of many springs that rise in and around the town. The word *funta* is a borrowing from the Latin *fontana* (Coates 1993, 88).

Medieval

The monks of St Swithun's were still holding the estate of *Havehunte* when it was recorded in the Domesday Survey in 1086. The taxable value of the estate had been reduced from 10 hides to 7 hides, there was a recorded population of 20 villagers and there were two mills and three salt-houses (Munby 1982, fol 43a).

In 1200 King John granted the town a market charter (Longcroft 1857, 9). The late twelfth and early thirteenth century was a period when there were many grants of market charters and, in Hampshire, the bishops of Winchester were founding new towns. The gaining of a market charter for Havant by the prior of St Swithun's may represent an attempt to stimulate development in the town but there is no evidence that the town ever gained 'urban' status. There are no references to burgage tenure or burgesses and no members of parliament were returned to represent Havant. Instead, the settlement appears to have functioned as an important local market village (Hughes 1994, 202).

During the thirteenth century relations between the priors of St Swithun's and bishops of Winchester were often strained, but a settlement was made between the two parties in 1284 and as part of the settlement the manor of Havant was transferred to the Bishopric (Longcroft 1857, 10).

The bishop was granted a second market and a two day fair in 1450-1 (Page 1908, 123) although another version of the details in the grant states that the existing market charter was confirmed rather than a new market being granted, and dates the document to the 39th regnal year of Henry VI (1460-1)

(Longcroft 1857, 11). There was a second fair held in the town up to the nineteenth century, but the origin of this fair is not known (*ibid*, 49).

Post-medieval

In the mid-eighteenth century the town suffered a severe fire that destroyed almost all of the buildings in West Street, and some buildings in North Street and East Street (Longcroft 1857, 73).

In the post-medieval period Havant was famous for the parchment produced there and which was regarded as being of superior quality (Longcroft 1857, 82). However, the parchment-making industry in the town can only be traced through documentary sources to the first half of the nineteenth century (RCHME 1997). There were also several tanneries, especially to the south of West Street and malting and brewing were also important to the town with there being up to thirteen establishments connected with these industries in the nineteenth century (Longcroft 1857, 81-2). Cloth working was undertaken in the town from the sixteenth century at least and it has been suggested that West Street formed the centre of the cloth trade in the town (Page 1908, 122).

4. ANALYSIS

ROMANO-BRITISH SETTLEMENT (Map B)

There is a substantial corpus of archaeological evidence, mainly pottery, from the area of the town to suggest that there was occupation around the cross-roads in the Romano-British period. However, there is little evidence to allow the nature of the settlement to be characterised. The east - west road through the town (West Street and East Street) approximately follows the course of the Winchester - Chichester Roman road (Margary 421). A north - south route (Margary 425) is considered to be on, or near, the line of North Street and South Street. This road would have linked the settlement with the pottery producing area near Rowland's Castle, and possibly the Alice Holt kilns to the north, and Hayling Island to the south. The line of the northern route has been confirmed to the north-east of the town but its continuation along the line of North Street is conjectural (Hughes 1976, 71). Excavations at two other cross-roads sites in the county, East Anton near Andover, and Neatham near Alton, have revealed evidence for small towns and these settlements have been used to suggest that the settlement at Havant was possibly a small unwalled town or market centre (*ibid.*).

Nineteenth-century alterations in the church discovered that the pillar bases stood on a floor level that was interpreted as being Roman as it was made from crushed Roman brick and tile, and several Roman coins were found in association with the floor. Roman floor levels have also been seen on two sites approximately 800m to the west of the church and Romano-British pottery has been recovered from sites along West Street and East Street.

It has been suggested that the plan of the town as shown on nineteenth-century maps bears strong similarities to the plan of Chichester which is known to be based on the Roman street plan. Both settlements are focused on a cross-roads, the church stands in the south-western angle of the cross-roads in both cases, and there is an area in each town with the name 'Pallant' (Hughes 1976, 74-5). It is unclear whether there is any significance in the church being located in the south-western angle of the road junction rather than in any of the other three angles, and there is no evidence from either Chichester or Havant to indicate the importance of the areas called Pallant (which are in different areas of the two towns). Excavations within the area bearing the Pallant name in Chichester have not encountered any buildings interpreted as part of a palace complex. A large, elaborately carved architectural fragment is regarded as having come from the *proscenium* of a theatre or may have come from a temple (Wacher 1976, 247). It is also claimed that the layout of the minor streets in Havant is similar to the plan at Chichester but these claims are more tenuous. Given the suggested planned nature of many of the property blocks in the medieval town (see below), it should not be surprising if they were provided with a system of back- and cross-lanes that are at right angles and parallel to the main streets. Planning in the Roman and medieval periods usually involved use of squares and rectangles and so similarities are almost inevitable. At the other Romano-British small towns in Hampshire mentioned above there is little or no evidence for them having elaborate street plans.

MEDIEVAL AND POST-MEDIEVAL TOPOGRAPHY (Map C)

Introduction

Although the historical evidence appears to indicate that Havant functioned as no more than a market village in the medieval period, nineteenth-century maps of the town (e.g. The Tithe map of 1842 HRO 21M65/F7/110/2) suggest that there was a significant level of planning and organisation in the properties of the settlement. The form of some of the property plots, especially those on the northern side of West Street, are similar to the property plots found in many of the new towns and settlements that developed into towns in the late twelfth and early thirteenth centuries. The extent of planning may indicate that there was an intention to develop Havant into a market town, possibly around 1200 when the market charter was granted, but that there was insufficient growth or development to warrant the creation of a borough.

Market, roads, streets and bridges

Market

Although there was a market in the town from the early thirteenth century there is no large open area or wide main street as found in many of the settlements that developed into towns in this period. From later evidence it appears that the market was primarily held in South Street near the church. In the fifteenth century a piece of 'waste below the burial ground' measuring 120ft x 8ft was rented out to accommodate butcher's and fishmonger's stalls (Longcroft 1857, 12). The market hall adjoined the eastern side of the churchyard and was recorded as being in poor repair in the late seventeenth century. The building was not repaired and eventually fell down in 1710. A new market hall was built and this, in turn, was replaced by another hall, built in the late eighteenth century and demolished in 1828 (Longcroft 1857, 75).

Roads and streets

Havant is focused around the junction of four roads forming a cross-roads, West Street, North Street, East Street and South Street. Some of the blocks of properties on these streets have small back- and cross-lanes such as Prince George's Street that runs behind the properties on the eastern side of North Street. Within the north-eastern angle of the cross-roads there is a street called The Pallant. It is thought that the name is derived from the Latin word *pal(l)antia* meaning 'palace' or, as it is used in the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, meaning 'enclosure' (Hughes 1976, 73).

Bridges

There were several bridges crossing the small streams that ran through the town including Star Bridge, Ruttle Bridge and Hermitage Bridge (Longcroft 1857, 76). There appears to be little information about the history of these bridges and their dates of construction of is not known. A bridge called Hamwell was in ruins in the early seventeenth century (Longcroft 1857, 44).

Property plots

West Street properties C1

On the northern side of West Street there is a block of properties which, on nineteenth-century maps, have the appearance of being planned development. The plots are long and narrow and although there is evidence of either plot amalgamation and sub-division, it is possible to discern a general regularity in plot width. This block of properties is separated from another block of equally regular, but smaller plots, by a lane and a stream that fed into the mill pond of Havant Mill.

The plots on the southern side of West Street are in marked contrast to the main block on the northern side. They are smaller and do not have the long back-lands of the northern plots. Behind these plots there are several small, rectangular, closes. At the western end of West Street, opposite the block of smaller plots on the northern side, there is a block of plots of

similar proportions to those on the northern side of the street, which also displayed evidence of regularity.

There was a row of shops along the northern edge of the churchyard. Within this row was a building known as the Church House where certain utensils and cooking facilities were provided for the poor of the town. This building later became the almshouse (Longcroft 1857, 75). These buildings had been demolished by the mid-nineteenth century as they were not shown on the Tithe map (HRO 21M65/F7/110/2).

North Street C2

The properties on the western side of North Street butt against the long, narrow, plots of West Street. The North Street plots are relatively short and there is little evidence in the block for regularity. On the eastern side of the street there is a unit that is bounded by cross- and back-lanes. In the nineteenth century the North Street frontage was not completely built up but the frontage onto the southern-most cross-lane, known as The Pallant, was completely developed.

East Street and South Street C3

On both the northern and southern sides of East Street there are property plots with a relatively high degree of regularity in plot width and length. The southern block of properties was provided with a back-lane and a cross-lane at its eastern end.

On the eastern side of South Street there is a block of properties of similar proportions to the block on the southern side of East Street. The church occupies the northern part of the street on the western side but there were formerly properties on the eastern side of the churchyard. At least one plot was recorded as lying on the eastern side of the cemetery in 1301-2 (Page 1996, 235) but how these plots were used is not known. By the seventeenth century the market hall stood in this area (see above). To the south of the church there was a small number of properties in the nineteenth century but there was little evidence of regularity within the plots. The southern most property on the western side in the nineteenth century was a large house and garden.

The Manor C4

During the medieval period there was no manor house in the town as the lord, the bishops of Winchester, was not resident in the town. There is also no record of a residence that could be identified as a reeve's house.

In the post-medieval period the manor was rented out by the bishops and it is thought that one of the leasees of the manor built the large house shown on the Tithe map (HRO 21M65/F7/110/2) in The Pallant area behind the blocks of properties on the eastern side of North Street and northern side of East Street. The house may have been built in the late seventeenth century or, more likely, in the mid-eighteenth century. The earliest reference to the manor house dates from 1764 when the owner died there. In 1794 it became a school. The house was demolished in 1938 and the area was immediately developed (Marshall n.d.).

Buildings

Buildings

Due to the fire in the town in the eighteenth-century there are few surviving medieval buildings. One of the few that does survive is the Old House at Home to the south of the church on South Street. It is possible that behind some of the later, Georgian, facades evidence for earlier structures may survive as had been found in many other towns in Hampshire, for example, Fareham.

Workhouse B5

The workhouse was located on the western edge of the town, on the northern side of West Street.

Church B6

The church of St Faith is located in a prominent position at the heart of the town with the churchyard occupying the south-western angle of the cross-roads. Architectural evidence within the church indicates that there was a sizeable church with a central tower in the town by the twelfth-century. A new chancel was built in the thirteenth century, and were added in the fifteenth century. Victorian alterations resulted in the rebuilding of the nave and tower, which which was found to be structurally unsafe, and the mutilation of the chancel. The early Victorian nave was itself replaced with one that was supposed to have been on the lines of the original (Pevsner and Lloyd 1967, 275-7).

The origins of the church in Havant are unclear. It is not thought that the church was an Anglo-Saxon minster church but it certainly acted as a 'mother church' to the churches and chapels on the small manors surrounding the town, probably when the *parochia* or area of jurisdiction of the minster church broke up (Hase 1994, 53). This breaking-up of the *parochia* probably occurred in the tenth century and the granting of the manor to the bishop of Winchester in 980 was possibly part of the fragmentation. The provision of a church at Havant may date to the years immediately after the grant to the bishop. It was certainly in existence about 1100 as a confirmation charter for nearby land included the phrase 'at Leigh near St Faith's) (Longcroft 1857, 8).

Mills C7 and Map A

There appear to have been several mills on the wider estate of Havant in the medieval period but possibly only one, Havant Mill, close to the town. The mill was located to the west of the traffic island on the Havant by-pass to the south of the town, and was powered by water held in a mill pond to the north that has now been drained as is crossed by Park Road South. This mill was probably also known as Town Mill and was rebuilt in 1822 (Longcroft 1857, 3).

Salt-making (See Map A)

The Domesday Survey recorded three salt-houses on the estate in the late eleventh century. There was a saltern on the northern coast of Hayling Island, and another existed to the south of Wade Court on the northern side of Langstone Mill pond. This saltern was in use into the eighteenth century when it was abandoned (Longcroft 1857, 3) possibly because of the competition created through the import of foreign salt, the cost of bringing in coal to fuel the boiling pans and increases in the tax on salt.

Tanning and parchment making C9

There was a large parchment works to the south-west of the church in the area behind the properties facing West Street and South Street. The works were shown on the Tithe map of 1842 (HRO 21M65/F7/110/2). The parchment making industry in the town cannot be traced in the historical record back to before the first half of the nineteenth century when the parchment works at Homewell was recorded. The buildings on the site mainly date from the nineteenth century (RCHME 1997) and are a rare survival of a group of building associated with this industry. There is only one other known parchment making complex in England.

Tanning appears to have been an important industry in the town from at least the seventeenth century and there were several tanneries to the south-west of the town centre (Page 1908, 122).

Railways C10

Havant lay on the Chichester and Portsmouth branch of the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway that was opened in 1847. In the 1850's a line to Godalming was completed (Longcroft 1857, 81).

5. RECENT DEVELOPMENT

Although there has been a high level of modern development around the core of the historic town, there has also been a relatively high level of redevelopment in the town centre including the construction of a shopping centre on the northern side of West Street and a multi-storey car-park to the south of West Street. The site of the manor house in The Pallant was developed for housing in the 1950s

6. IMPORTANCE AND POTENTIAL

CRITERIA FOR THE AREAS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE AND POTENTIAL

Introduction

The primary aim of the Data Collection and Data Assessment phases of the project is to enable the identification of areas of archaeological importance within each town to inform the Strategy phase of the project. Four such areas of importance have been defined, and the criteria for these are briefly described below. Although they are all described in this introduction, not all towns will have areas within each of these categories.

Levels of Archaeological Importance

The levels of importance are Areas Comprising Nationally Important Remains; Areas of High Archaeological Importance; Archaeologically Important Areas; and Areas of Limited Archaeological Importance.

As additional archaeological information becomes available, and a greater understanding of the archaeological resource of the town is achieved, it is possible that some areas will be re-assigned to different levels of importance.

Areas Comprising Nationally Important Remains

Areas of identified nationally important archaeological remains, whose location, character and importance have been demonstrably established. These remains merit physical preservation *in situ*. The criteria used to assess national importance is set out in Annex 4 of the Secretary of State's non-statutory guidance note PPG16, and are briefly noted below.

- Period
- Rarity
- Documentation
- Group Value
- Survival/Condition
- Fragility/Vulnerability
- Diversity
- Potential

This category will include Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

Areas of High Archaeological Importance

Areas considered to include other important archaeological remains, whose location, character and importance are inferred from observation, research and interpretation. Those remains are likely to merit preservation *in situ*. Where preservation is not justified appropriate archaeological recording will be required.

Areas of High Archaeological Importance may:

- Contain well preserved, archaeological deposits which may not be of national importance, but which are of importance to the understanding of the origins and development of the town;
- Be areas where the destruction, without archaeological record, of well preserved archaeological deposits means that the last surviving elements have an increased value for the understanding of the origins and development of the town;

- Have been identified as having significant water-logged deposits;
- Have a high number of existing medieval buildings. The survival of medieval buildings may also indicate that there is well preserved stratigraphy beneath the building;
- Be areas that are thought to have High Archaeological Importance due to their proximity to other, recognised, plan elements even though there is little direct evidence to indicate high importance. For example, the area around an isolated church that may have been the focus for earlier settlement may be defined as an Area of High Archaeological Importance.

It is possible that areas that areas of High Archaeological Importance may, through further archaeological or documentary work, be shown to include Nationally Important Remains.

Archaeologically Important Areas

Areas considered to contain archaeological remains of some importance. Where these remains cannot be preserved *in situ*, they are likely to require appropriate archaeological recording.

Such areas:

- Are significant elements in the plan but where there has been a moderate level of modern development or cellaring;
- Have had little archaeological work undertaken within them but cartographic or documentary sources suggest that they may have been within the historic core of the town or areas of important suburban development.

Surviving archaeological deposits in Archaeologically Important Areas will probably have a relatively high density but, due to pressures of development over many centuries, there may be a high level of fragmentation.

Areas of Limited Archaeological Importance

Areas considered to include archaeological remains of a character unlikely to provide significant information, or archaeological remains whose integrity has been severely compromised by development. These remains may require appropriate archaeological recording if threatened by development.

Areas of Limited Archaeological Importance may:

- Have a good survival of archaeological deposits, but where there is likely to be a low density of archaeological features;
- Be areas with significant modern development resulting in limited archaeological importance, either due to the scale of development or due to the limited nature of the archaeological resource before development;
- Be areas where the current hypothesis supports only a limited possibility of encountering archaeological remains.

THE POTENTIAL OF HAVANT

Areas of Archaeological Importance

Areas Comprising Nationally Important Archaeological Remains

There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments in the town of Havant.

The Parchment Works at Homewell should be regarded as being of National Importance. The site represents a rare survival of the complete range of buildings associated with the parchment making industry of the nineteenth century. It is currently understood to be one of only two such complexes surviving in England and so its rarity, together with its completeness and the level of documentation that survives for parchment making on this site from the 1830's makes the complex a nationally important industrial site.

Areas of High Archaeological Importance

The areas of the historic core of the town that have not been subjected to large scale recent redevelopment are Areas of High Archaeological Importance. These areas have the potential to contain evidence for the Romano-British settlement that probably clustered around the road junction, and for the medieval settlement that may have also utilised the cross roads as a focus for settlement. Therefore, important information regarding the development of settlement in both periods on this site, including evidence for the trades and industries carried out may be recovered. The question of possible continuity of settlement on the site may also be addressed through the archaeological record.

At the heart of the town is the church which may have originated in the tenth century. The church and churchyard have the potential to contain important information regarding the population of the settlement and the development of the church in Havant.

Archaeologically Importance Areas

There are three small Archaeologically Important Areas covering peripheral areas of the historic core of the town. The properties to the north and south of West Street may have originated in the later medieval period and so may contain information about the nature and extent of the town in the late medieval and early post-medieval periods. The area on the eastern side of North Street may also contain archaeological deposits associated with the medieval town although nineteenth-century maps suggest that this part of the town was not heavily developed.

Areas of Limited Archaeological Importance

Much of the medieval pattern of property plots on the northern side of West Street has been destroyed by recent developments. It is possible that the construction of the bus station has compromised any archaeological deposits in this area but some deeper cut features such as pits and ditches may survive and have the potential to provide information about the development of the properties in this part of the town, and any trades and industries that were carried out in the rear parts of the plots.

A small Areas of Limited Archaeological Importance covers the site of the manor house in The Pallant. Although it is thought that there was not a manor house in the town until the post-dissolution period, and probably not until the eighteenth century, the name The Pallant may suggest that the area contained a high status property, possibly in the Roman period. The manor house site was redeveloped in the 1950s and so it is likely that archaeological remains would have been damaged by the development and subsequent gardening but it is possible that some archaeological deposits survive which could shed light on the development of this part of the settlement in both the Roman and medieval periods.

Research Framework

- The line of the north-south Roman road

The line of the road has been assumed to be that of North Street and South Street but the street has not actually been seen in the town.

- The nature and extent of the Romano-British settlement

The amount of Romano-British material that has been recovered from the area of the town suggests that there was a relatively large settlement focused on the road junction in the Roman period. However, the character of the settlement, and the area it occupied is not known. It has been suggested that there was a small town at Havant which could be paralleled with the small towns at East Anton near Andover and Neatham, near Alton.

- The question of possible continuity between the Romano-British settlement and medieval settlement

The site of the town, with its abundant springs, would have been favourable for settlement of any period but it is not known whether there was a period of desertion of the Romano-British settlement before the site began to be occupied in the Saxon period.

- The tanning and parchment making industries

The springs in and around the town have been used to provide water for both tanning and parchment making and it is claimed that Havant was famous for its fine parchment. There is only one known parchment works in the town, that at Homewell, and so archaeological evidence is required to gain an understanding of the origins and development of the industry in Havant.

7. SOURCES

DOCUMENTARY

MAPS AND PLANS

1842 Tithing Apportionment map HRO 21M65/F7/110/2

1870 OS 1st Edition 6" map Sheet 76

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8. ABBREVIATIONS

c.	<i>circa</i> , about
Ed	Editor
n.d.	No date of publication given
NGR	National Grid Reference

OD	Ordnance Datum
OE	Old English
OS	Ordnance Survey
pers comm	personal communication
PPG	Planning Policy Guidance
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record