

# Desk Based Assessment & Archaeological Observation

Proposed Site of Youth Centre & Sports Facilities

Former TVBC Horticultural
Department Nursery
West Portway
Charlton
Andover
Hampshire

NGR: SU340 467 Report No: BA0409PYCP

## BORDER ARCHAEOLOGY

PO Box 36 Leominster Herefordshire HR6 0YQ

#### **Technical Services**

Chapel Walk
Burgess Street
Leominster
Herefordshire
HR6 8DE

August 2004



## Contents

CONTENTS		
1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY	4	
2. INTRODUCTION	5	
3. DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT	5	
3.1 Methodology 3.1.1 Research Aims 3.1.2 Research Methods	<b>5</b> 5 5	
3.2 Site Location and Description	6	
3.3 Geology	6	
3.4 Historical and Archaeological Background 3.4.1 General 3.4.2 Site Specific Analysis	<b>7</b> 7 8	
3.5 Conclusion	9	
4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION	13	
4.1 Methodology	13	
4.2 General Works	14	
4.3 Foundation Pits	20	
5. SUMMARY & CONCLUSIONS	20	
6. REFERENCES	21	
6.1 Bibliography	21	
6.2 Cartographic Sources	22	
7. COPYRIGHT	22	



8.	CONTEXT REGISTER	23
FIG	URE 1 SITE LOCATION	6
FIG	URE 2 1872-73 OS 1ST EDITION 6 INCH MAP SHEET 23	10
FIG	URE 3 1912 OS 3RD EDITION 6 INCH MAP SHEET 23 NE	11
FIG	URE 4 1938 OS 6 INCH MAP SHEET 23 NE	12
FIG	URE 5 SITE PLAN	13
	ATE 1: GENERAL SITE SHOT (FACING WEST)	
	ATE 2: AREA B FOLLOWING BACKFILLING OF DRAINAGE SUMP PIT	
	(LOOKING NORTH)	15
PLA	ATE 3 AREA A (LOOKING WEST)	
	ATE 4: SMALL RECTILINEAR CÚT (FACING SOUTH)	
	ATE 5: RECTILINEAR UTILITY TRENCH CUT (FACING SOUTH)	
	ATE 6: CONCRETE INSPECTION CHAMBER AND PIT (FACING SOUTH)	

Report Specification

Desk-Based Assessment: Archaeological Observation: Thomas Wellicome BSc Report edited by:

Stephen Priestley MA George Children MA



## 1. Non-Technical Summary

The Portway district of Andover has been identified as an area of archaeological significance showing evidence of continuous settlement and funerary activity from the Bronze Age to the 6th century AD, after which it appears to have been largely given over to arable cultivation and pasture.

Ordnance Survey maps show that most of the area was fields until the development of the industrial estate, the Portway Nursery and other buildings in the late 1970s.

Immediately north of the specific study area, there is one site of archaeological importance, a settlement and boundary ditch of Iron Age-Roman date. At the present time, the available data has not been published to establish the extent to which these remains were disturbed or destroyed by the Nursery buildings.

However, an archaeological watching brief in 1999 on the southern part of the Nursery site, which includes the specific study area, revealed no archaeology whatsoever. The report concluded that the intrusion into the chalk was minimal and that the Nursery had heavily disturbed the topsoil. A similar evaluation carried out on the western part of the Nursery site, prior to construction of the Andover FC stadium in 1988, also revealed no archaeological features.

The findings of the archaeological observation undertaken by Border Archaeology reflect those of the previous archaeological work carried out on the site. A uniform stratigraphy of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural chalks was revealed over most of the site, all non-natural soils showing evidence of severe modern disturbance.



#### 2. Introduction

Border Archaeology was instructed by the Calford Seaden Partnership, acting on behalf of Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC), to undertake both a Desk-Based Assessment and Archaeological Observation of (part of) the site of the former TVBC Horticultural Department Nursery at West Portway in Andover, the criteria for which were stipulated by Frank Green, Heritage Officer of Test Valley Borough Council and remitted to Border Archaeology via William Josey, Planning Officer (Planning Ref: TVN.2361/11).

#### Desk-Based Assessment

#### 3.1 Methodology

#### 3.1.1 Research Aims

The purpose of this assessment is to identify any known or potential archaeological resources within the site, to establish their character, extent, quality and importance in a local and national context, and to evaluate the possible effect of the proposed development on the archaeological resources in the study area.

#### 3.1.2 Research Methods

The main source of information for this report was Hampshire County Council's (HCC) Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record (AHBR) held at HCC's Planning Department offices in Winchester, which includes the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) for HCC and Test Valley Borough Council and the Historic Buildings Record (HBR).

Summary lists from these records, covering the study area, were supplied by HCC in paper form. Backup files held at HCC's Planning Department offices in Winchester were also examined, including copies of published and unpublished reports on excavations and archaeological watching briefs carried out in the vicinity of the study area.

Frank Green, Heritage Officer of TVBC, provided copies of a number of archaeology files relating to the study area, held at the offices of Test Valley Borough Council Planning Department in Romsey.

The Andover tithe map (1850) and various 19th-20th century Ordnance Survey maps covering the study area, held by the Hampshire Record Office, Winchester, were examined and copied. Collections of 19th-20th C. photographs, plans and secondary sources relating to Andover, held at the Andover Museum and the local history section of Andover Library, were also consulted.

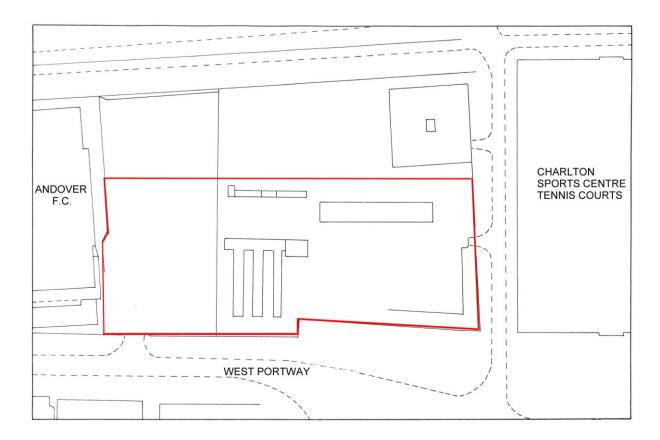
A bibliography of published sources consulted is provided together with a list of all the cartographic and photographic sources referred to in this report.



#### 3.2 Site Location and Description

The study area is located on West Portway, immediately to the N of the Portway Industrial Estate, approximately 2.75 km NW of the centre of Andover (**Fig. 1**: NGR SU 340 467). It consists of the SE section of the former Portway Horticultural Nursery site, situated between the Andover Football Club Stadium (built in 1989-90), which occupies the W half of the former Nursery site, and a car park adjacent to the Charlton Sports and Leisure Centre.

Fig. 1: Site location plan



#### 3.3 Geology

The former Portway Nursery buildings stand on a spur of the Upper Chalk overlooking the valley of the River Anton to the N. Excavations carried out by Test Valley Archaeological Trust in 1999 in the SE corner of the Nursery site (TVN. 2093/17-18), as part of an archaeological watching brief, provided information about the surface geology of the study area. They revealed a thick, dark brown clay-loam soil 180mm in depth on the N side of the site, overlying 200mm of orangey soil with flint inclusions, which in turn overlay the natural chalk, which included large pieces of flint. It was concluded that the topsoil had been heavily disturbed by the Portway Nursery buildings, which were built in the 1970s (TVAT, 1999).



#### 3.4 Historical and Archaeological Background

#### 3.4.1 General

From the earliest date, the environs of the River Anton have been a focus for human activity and settlement. The discovery close to the river of flint artefacts dating from the Palaeolithic (c. 500,000-10,000 BC) and the Mesolithic (c. 8,500-4,000 BC) periods shows that hunter-gatherers were attracted by the river environment as a plentiful source of food and water while the earliest traces of settlement activity in the Anton valley area, dating from the Neolithic period (c. 4,000-2,000 BC), have been identified at Balksbury Camp (Wainwright & Davies, 1995).

Direct evidence of occupation of the Anton valley during the Bronze Age (c.2, 000-800 BC) is limited, although a watching brief carried out in Joule Road, at the southern end of the Portway Industrial Estate, identified several features suggesting Bronze Age settlement in the area, including ditches, pits and postholes (AHBR Ref. 41163/SU34NW 179). There are clear indications of Bronze Age funerary activity in the Anton valley, particularly in the vicinity of the Portway area. A group of six Bronze Age round barrows in East Portway was discovered and excavated in 1973-75 before its destruction by industrial development (Cook, A.M. and Dacre, M.D., 1985). Meanwhile, to the W of the Portway area, a concentration of 11 ring ditches, also of Bronze Age date, has been identified by aerial photography, aligned roughly E-W between the Charlton stream and the ancient route known as the Harrow Way.

There is substantial evidence of settlement activity in the Anton valley environs generally and more specifically in the Portway area during the Iron Age and Romano-British period (c. 800 BC-410 AD). Early Iron Age hilltop enclosures have been excavated at Old Down Farm (Davies, 1994) and Balksbury Camp (Wainwright & Davies, 1995), while later Iron Age hillfort settlements in the rural district of Andover, such as Danebury and Bury Hill, have been the subject of extensive archaeological investigations.

Excavations carried out at the Portway West Industrial Estate in 1974-75 by Dr S. Champion of the University of Southampton revealed a rectangular ditched settlement with numerous storage pits and traces of circular buildings, which appears to have originated in the early Iron Age and remained in occupation until the early Roman period (c. 600 BC-100 AD)

In 1979, further excavations were carried out in the same industrial estate by Max Dacre of the Andover Archaeological Society to investigate three boundary ditch systems associated with the native settlement excavated in 1974-75. Sections across the ditches revealed that they were of an early Iron Age or possibly late Bronze Age origin and that they continued in use during the Roman period. Part of the ditch route ran through a quarry in which three adults and 12 infants were buried; the interment was dated to the 3rd century AD on the basis of pottery sherds and coin evidence.

There is evidence of Saxon settlement and funerary activity in the Anton valley area from about the 6th century AD onwards. Pagan Saxon domestic sites dating from the 6th-7th centuries have been discovered at Old Down Farm (Davies, 1994) and at Charlton (Wessex Archaeology 1995 unpublished). The medieval settlement at Foxcottes Manor, to the N of the study area, which was extensively excavated in the early 1990s, also appears to have originated in the 7th century AD.



A virtually complete 6th century Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Portway East Industrial Estate, Andover, was excavated in 1974; 67 inhumations and 80 urned and un-urned cremations were located. Study of the pottery and artefacts showed that burial commenced around 550 AD and continued until the end of the 6th century (Cook, A.M. and Dacre, M.D., 1985). Excavations on the Portway West Industrial Estate in 1982 revealed another cemetery, containing 17 Saxon burials dating from the 7th century AD (AHBR No.16914/ SU34NW 38).

From about the 10th century onwards, Andover itself began to grow in size and importance. The West Saxon kings had established a royal hunting lodge or vill at Andover by the 10th century, and it appears to have been a favoured royal residence from the time of King Edgar (958-75 AD) onwards (Raper, 2001, 20-22). Royal patronage aside, another factor contributing to Andover's growth in size and prosperity was its emergence as a centre for the local wool trade during the medieval period. While Andover expanded as a focus of settlement in the Anton valley during the later medieval period, it appears that outlying settlements such as Foxcottes gradually declined and were mostly abandoned and given over to arable cultivation and livestock grazing. In the Portway area, however, there is little archaeological evidence of settlement activity later than the 7th century AD.

#### 3.4.2 Site Specific Analysis

A consultation of the AHBR at Winchester provided information about an evaluation on the specific study area by Test Valley Archaeological Trust in 1999, as part of a watching brief carried out to monitor the clearance of the southern part of the former Nursery site for conversion to a skate park (AHBR Ref. 41792/SU 34 NW 183). The clearance of the site involved the removal of the thick humic topsoil, which had built up as a result of the use of the site as a Horticultural Nursery and its subsequent disuse (since 1989), the cutting of a service trench around the perimeter of the stripped area to a depth of 0.42m and the digging of four holes for the spotlights at each corner of the proposed skate park, to a depth of 1.2m. No archaeological features were found during the watching brief, although it was observed that intrusion into the chalk was minimal and the topsoil had been heavily disturbed by its former use as a Horticultural Nursery.

It should be noted that an archaeological evaluation by TVAT of the W part of the Nursery site (NGR SU 3390 4610), which was levelled prior to the construction of Andover Football Club stadium in 1988, failed to uncover any features of archaeological interest, either during the machine trenching for building foundations or during the removal of the topsoil over an area of 0.8 hectares (AHBR Ref. 30038/SU 34 NW 77).

In 1979, excavations were undertaken by Max Dacre of the Andover Archaeological Society, immediately to the N of the specific study area (NGR SU 3410 4680), which uncovered evidence of a settlement and boundary ditch, dating from the Iron Age-Roman period (AHBR Ref. No. 41167/SU 34 NW 180). Unfortunately, the results of these excavations have not yet been published, so it has not been possible to obtain detailed information about the nature of the archaeological remains found in the course of excavations on this site.

A map regression analysis was also carried out, chiefly using the extensive collection of maps and plans held at the Hampshire Record Office. These included: a plan of the



Manor of Foxcottes made in 1614 (Oxford, Bodleian MS Rolls Hants 44; extract printed in Russel, 1985, 192), the 1784 enclosure map of Andover (HRO Ref. Q23/2/4), the 1850 Andover tithe map (HRO Ref. 21M65/F7/6/1-2), the Ordnance Survey (OS) 1st Edition 6 Inch map of 1872-73 (**Fig. 2**), the OS 3rd Edition 6 Inch map of 1912 (**Fig. 3**), the OS 6 Inch map of 1938 (**Fig. 4**), the OS 6 Inch map of 1961 and the 1: 10000 OS sheet of 1989.

An analysis of the cartographic evidence shows that, prior to 1961, the site of the Portway Nursery was an enclosed field of roughly rectangular shape. The boundaries of this particular field are clearly visible in earlier editions of the OS maps and in the Andover tithe map of 1850. The apportionment to the Andover tithe map, dated 1851, reveals that this field was known as the Twelve Acres and was then under arable cultivation, its acreage being 12 acres and 24 perches. At the time it was owned by one Martha Gale and Reverend Thomas Hinseman and was in occupation of Robert Dowling. The boundary of this field is also visible in a map of the Manor of Foxcottes drawn up in 1614 by one John Walker Junior for the owner of the manor, Sir Edward Barrett.

The OS 3rd edition map of 1912 (**Fig. 3**) shows the line of a racecourse running N-S through the E half of the field in which the specific study area is situated. A racecourse is known to have existed at Andover since the mid-18th century; one is shown on Taylor's map of Hampshire (1759), and racing is known to have been held there throughout the 19th century. However, the 1759 map shows the racecourse located to the E of Andover. It should also be noted that the OS 1st edition map of 1872-73 (**Fig. 2**) does not show a racecourse in the location shown on the 1912 map. Presumably the site of the racecourse was moved to a new site to the W of Andover at some point between 1873 and 1912. The racecourse was still in use during the 1930s and is still visible on the OS 6 inch map of 1938 (**Fig. 4**); however, racing there appears to have ceased shortly afterwards, with the coming of the Second World War.

The evidence of the map regression analysis shows that the site of the Portway Nursery, encompassing the study area, was formerly an enclosed field under arable cultivation in the middle of the 19th century and probably much earlier. Its boundaries are visible in the 1961 OS map and can be traced back via the Andover tithe map of 1850 to the 1614 plan of the Manor of Foxcottes.

#### 3.5 Conclusion

The Portway district of Andover, within which the study area is located, displays evidence of continuous settlement and funerary activity from the Bronze Age to the 6th century AD. There is little evidence of settlement activity in this area subsequently, and it appears that it was largely given over to arable cultivation and pasture. OS maps show that the Portway area mostly consisted of fields until the building of the industrial estate, the Portway Nursery and other buildings in the late 1970s. The HCC's Archaeological Alert Map for the Andover area, drawn up in 1993, identifies the Portway district as an area of archaeological significance.

Immediately N of the specific study area, there is one site of archaeological importance, the settlement and boundary ditch of Iron Age-Roman date excavated by Dacre in 1979.



At the present time, it is unknown to what extent these remains have been disturbed or destroyed by the Nursery buildings subsequently erected on the site.

However, the archaeological watching brief carried out by TVAT on the southern part of the Portway Horticultural Nursery site, which includes the specific study area, revealed no archaeology whatsoever. The conclusions of the watching brief report pointed out that the intrusion into the chalk was minimal and the topsoil had been heavily disturbed by the Nursery (TVAT, 1999). A similar evaluation carried out on the western part of the Nursery site, prior to the construction of Andover FC stadium in 1988, also revealed no archaeological features.

Fig. 2: 1872-73 OS 1st Edition 6 Inch Map Sheet 23

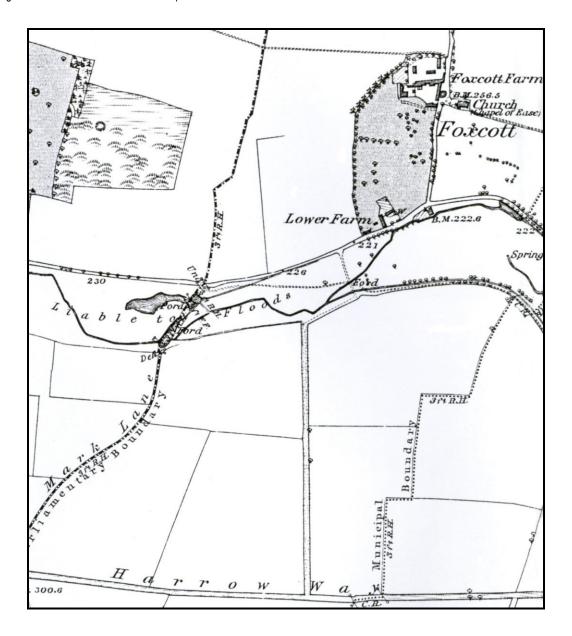


Fig. 3: 1912 OS 3rd Edition 6 Inch Map Sheet 23 NE

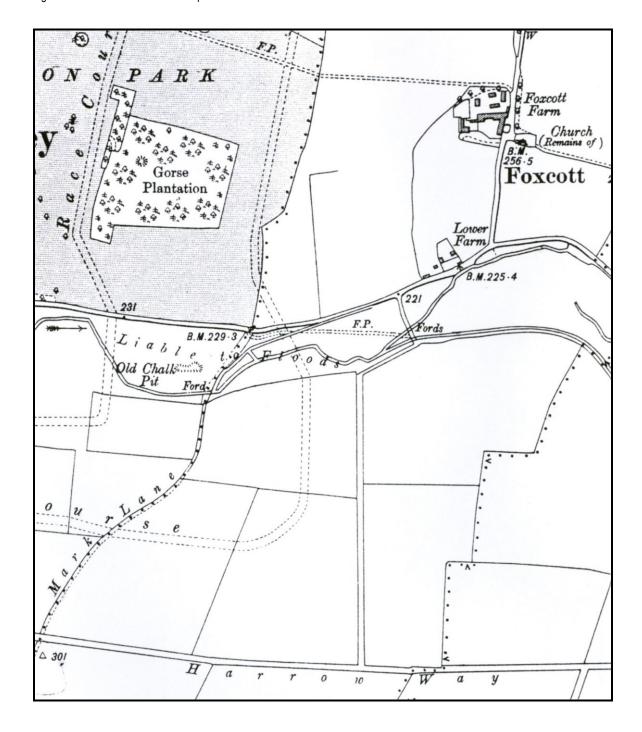
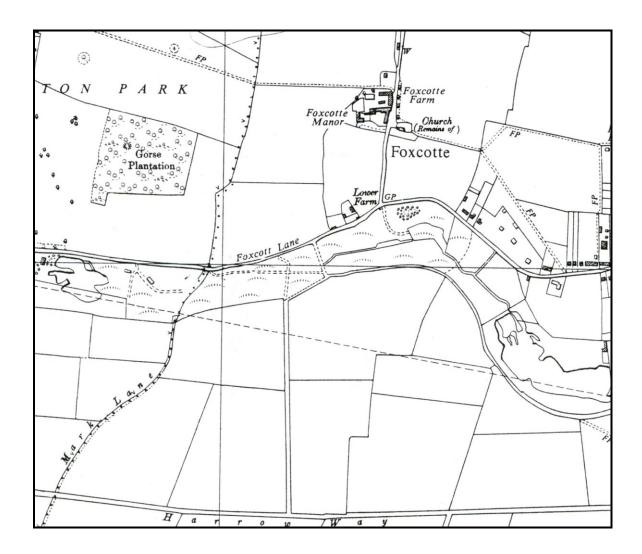




Fig. 4: 1938 OS 6 Inch Map Sheet 23 NE





## 4. Archaeological Observation

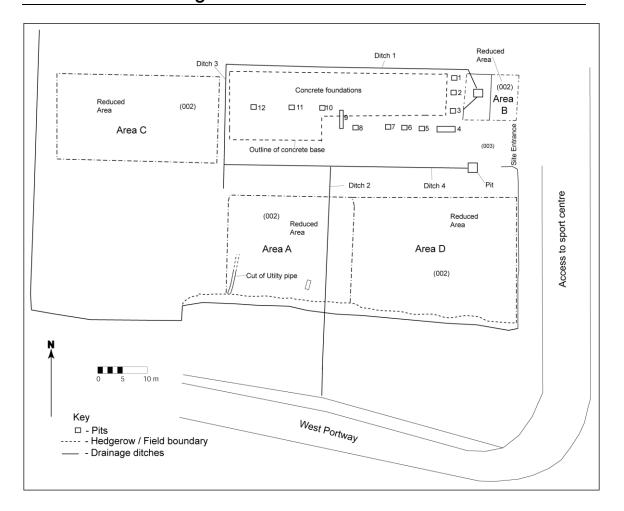


Fig. 5: Site plan

#### 4.1 Methodology

The aim of the programme of archaeological work was to locate and record any archaeological remains revealed during the groundworks phase of the development.

A series of foundation trenches were machine excavated to a maximum depth of 1.1m below existing ground level. A grading bucket was used for levelling purposes. All spoil was scanned for artefacts. These were recorded but not retained.

The depth and complexity of deposits across the site was assessed. Written and photographic records of machine-excavated areas were made in accordance with best archaeological practice. Records included an overall trench and site plan annotated onto existing architects' plans (**Fig. 5**).



#### 4.2 General Works



Plate 1: General site shot (facing W)

The first of the groundworks undertaken involved the excavation of several drainage ditches to the N and towards the eastern and central areas of the site. The first of these ditches (Ditch 1) was 0.6m wide and ran along the northern boundary for a distance of approximately 49.0m. The uppermost context comprised medium brown moderately compacted silty chalky loam topsoil (001) with occasional small flint inclusions, chalk and variable quantities of post-medieval ceramic building material (CBM) fragments. This overlay moderately off-white chalk with moderate amounts of flint (002). Context (002) appeared to be the natural soils/geology. The depth of the trench varied slightly along its length but was generally no greater than 0.6m below existing ground level.

At the eastern end of the site the drainage ditch turned SE for 5.0m before terminating at a large drainage sump. Prior to the excavation of this pit the level of the ground in Area B was reduced by between 0.4m (northern side) and 0.6m (eastern side). This effectively removed the topsoil (001) and the upper part of context (002). No features were identified during the excavation of this area. After completion of the reduction and levelling of the ground, the drainage sump, measuring 1.2m x 1.1m x 1.0m, was excavated within context (002). No further contexts were revealed during the excavation of this pit.



Plate 2: Area B following backfilling of drainage sump pit (looking N)

On the eastern side of the ditch, a further drainage ditch measuring 7.0m x 0.6m x 0.7m was excavated to the S.

At its western end, the more northerly of the drainage ditches turned  $90^{\circ}$  to the S, following the edge of the concrete base (Ditch 3) for approximately 24.0m at a variable depth of around 0.9m. The uppermost layer of the ditch comprised tarmacadam (003) over a loosely compacted reddish-brown organic soil (004). Underlying both (003) and (004) was moderately compacted reddish-brown sandy loam with occasional flints and chalk fragments (005). Context (005) overlay a natural chalk soil (006 - same as 002). Located 1.2m from the southern end of Ditch 3 and underlying context (005) was part of a roughly circular but poorly defined feature [006] measuring approximately 1.3m x 0.6m. Two layers of deposition were visible, the uppermost of these being a loosely compacted dirty chalky soil with occasional re-deposited brown loamy soil lumps incorporated within its makeup (007). Underlying (007) was a moderately compacted medium brown silty chalky soil (008). Neither context produced finds, while both showed evidence of heavy root activity, with the remains of roots still present. The undefined edges and the root activity suggest this feature might be a tree root bowl.

Located 4.0m from the southern terminus of Ditch 3 was its junction with Ditch 4, which ran E-W and measured approximately 30.0m x 0.6m x 0.6m. Four contexts were observed within this trench. A layer of tarmacadam (003) and sub-base (009) overlay a moderately compacted dark brown silty organic soil (010 - same as 001). Underlying context (010) was the natural chalk (011 - same as 002). No archaeology was observed within the trench.



Plate 3 Area A (looking W)

Within the central southern part of the site an area measuring approximately 20.0m x 20.0m (Area A) was reduced and levelled by up to 1.0m at the southern end and less than 0.2m at the northern end, bringing the ground level down to that of the adjacent skate park and road areas. Once again the stratigraphy was uniform, consisting of loosely compacted dark brown silty loam topsoil (001) overlying a moderately compacted medium brown silty chalky loam (012), which in turn overlay the natural chalky soils (011). Cutting into this context were two post-medieval features, the first of which was a small (1.2m x 0.45m) rectilinear cut [013] lying 9.0m W of the edge of Area A and 2.0m N of the southern boundary of the nursery. The cut was filled by a dark brown silty organic soil, similar to the topsoil and containing occasional fragments of post-medieval CBM (014). The origin of this cut could not be determined, although it may have been created during the works on the adjacent skate park or during the archaeological excavations carried out on the site during the 1990s.



Plate 4: Small rectilinear cut (facing S)

Running S from the southern end of the site in Area A and approximately 12m to the W of this feature was the cut of a rectilinear electricity service cable trench [015]. The trench measured 6.2m x 0.2m and was not excavated. Filling the trench was a loosely compacted dark brown silty loam soil with occasional small pieces of chalk (016).



Plate 5: Rectilinear utility trench cut (facing S)

After the level of the ground had been reduced in Area A, a drainage channel ditch (Ditch 2) measuring approximately 65.0m x 0.7m was excavated from Ditch 4 through Area A and beyond the site boundary to the verge of the Portway Industrial Estate ring road to the S. As the topsoil had already been removed in Area A the majority of this trench was excavated through the natural chalk soils. Initially, as the trench passed beyond the site boundary and onto the verge, a thin layer of topsoil (001), generally measuring no more than 0.10m in depth, covered the natural chalk. At a point some 5.0m from the road, the trench reached a large concrete inspection chamber lying within the cut of a modern pit [017] with a depth greater than 3.5m. Filling the pit was a dirty redeposited chalk material (018). The verge appeared to have been heavily landscaped during construction of the road and associated services, leaving very little of the original topsoil.



Plate 6: Concrete inspection chamber and pit (facing S)

To the W of the concrete foundations of the former Portway Nursery, the ground levels were reduced by 0.3m, which resulted in the removal of most of the topsoil in this area (Area C). The topsoil consisted of a medium to dark brown silty loam with frequent post-medieval demolition debris, such as concrete and CBM (019).

Near the site entrance to the S of the access road, a pit for a drainage sump measuring  $2.0m \times 2.0m \times 1.0m$  was excavated. The stratigraphy of the pit was similar to that revealed elsewhere on the site, comprising a dark brown, silty soil (001) underlying the tarmacadam surface (003).

The final area to be excavated was Area D, which was located directly to the E of Area A. The majority of Area D had been originally covered with a layer of concrete, which



was removed before the excavation began. The area ground levels gradually sloped down from the S of the site to the access road running through the centre and therefore the depth of excavation varied considerably. At its deepest, nearest the southern end of the site, the total depth of the excavation was 1.40m below the existing ground level. Four contexts were observed within the excavated area. Topsoil (001) overlaid, for the majority of the area, the natural chalk soils (002). On the eastern side, extending approximately 2.5m towards the W, were thin layers of cement (024) and gravelly sand (025). Underlying (025) were the natural chalk soils. Again, as elsewhere on the site, it appears that the majority of this area had been severely affected by the construction of the nursery and later Portway Youth Centre.

#### 4.3 Foundation Pits

A total of 12 foundation pits were excavated, nine of which were placed around the eastern and southern perimeter of the concrete foundations of the former Portway Nursery, while the remaining three were located within the concreted area. The nine contained a uniform stratigraphy consisting of loosely compacted dark brown silty loam topsoil (001), measuring less than 0.10m in thickness, overlying natural chalk soils (002).

- Pit 1: 0.75m x 0.75m x 0.50m. Located at NE corner of foundations.
- Pit 2: 0.75m x 0.75m x 0.50m. Located approximately 5m S of Pit 1.
- Pit 3: 3.00m x 0.75m x 0.52m. Located 3m S of Pit 2. Orientated E-W.
- Pit 4: 0.75m x 0.73m x 0.50m. Located approximately 3m W of Pit 3.
- Pit 5: 0.75 x 0.71 x 0.53m. Located approximately 2.8m W of Pit 4.
- Pit 6: 0.76m x 0.70m x 0.54m. Located approximately 2.5m W of Pit 5.
- Pit 7: 0.75m x 0.74m x 0.49m. Located approximately 2.6m W of Pit 6.
- Pit 8: 0.76m x 0.76m x 0.49m. Located approximately 2.7m W of Pit 7.
- Pit 9: 4.00m x 0.70m x 0.50m. Located approximately 2.7m W of Pit 8. Oriented N-S.

Of the three remaining pits, two (10 & 11, each measuring  $0.6m \times 0.6m \times 0.8m$ ) contained concrete (020) overlying a tightly compacted orangey-brown sandy soil (021) with a layer of blue plastic damp proof membrane lying on the interface between the two. The third (Pit 12, measuring  $0.6m \times 0.6m \times 0.8m$ ) contained concrete (020) and subbase (022) overlying a tightly compacted medium brown loam (023).

## 5. Summary & Conclusions

The Portway Nursery site revealed no significant archaeological features, the findings reflecting those of an earlier watching brief and excavation, which found that the nursery



had heavily impacted the site. A uniform stratigraphy of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural chalks was revealed over most of the site, all non-natural soils showing evidence of severe modern disturbance. One possible pit feature was found but this appeared to be the result of tree root activity (no finds were discovered and the pit was heavily root disturbed).

#### 6. References

#### 6.1 Bibliography

Bickley F.L. 1911. "Andover Hundred" in Page, W. (ed.), Victoria County History of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight 4, 333-399

Champion, S., 1973. *Andover, The Archaeological Implications of Development*, The Andover and District Excavation Committee

Cook, A.M. and Dacre, M.D., 1985. *Excavations at Portway, Andover 1973-1975*, Oxford University Committee for Archaeology Monograph No. **4**, Oxford

Dacre, M. and Earney, B. 1975. *Andover, The Last 4,000 Years*, Andover Fair and Festival of the Arts, Cricklade College

Davies, S.M. 1979. "Excavations at Old Down Farm, Andover; part 1: Saxon", *Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeology Society* **36**, 161-80

Davies, S.M. 1994. "Old Down Farm, Andover, Hampshire", in Fitzpatrick, A.P. and Morris, E.L. (eds.) *The Iron Age in Wessex*, 57-62. Trust for Wessex Archaeology, Salisbury

English Heritage, 1998. *Historic Andover, Archaeological Assessment Document*, An Extensive Urban Survey of Hampshire's Historic Towns

Raper, A.C., 2001. Andover's Past, Phillimore, Guildford.

Russel, A.D., 1985. Foxcotte: The Archaeology and History of a Hampshire Hamlet, *Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeology Society*, **41**, 149-224.

Russel, A.D., 1993. *The Archaeology and History of a Hampshire Hamlet*, Test Valley Archaeological Trust Report Series **1**, TVAT

Test Valley Archaeological Trust (TVAT),1999. Portway Nursery, Charlton Sports and Leisure Centre, Charlton, Andover, Hants: Report on Archaeological Watching Brief (Report No. TVAT 07/00 Acc. No. A 1999.56)

Wainwright, G.J. and Davies, S.M., 1995 *Balksbury Camp, Hampshire, Excavations* 1973 and 1981 English Heritage Archaeological Report **4** 



Wessex Archaeology, 1995, "Pits and Postholes at Saxon Fields, Charlton, Nr. Andover", unpublished client report

Wessex Archaeology, 2001. River Anton Enhancement Strategy, Andover, Hampshire, Archaeological Desk-based Assessment (unpublished)

#### 6.2 Cartographic Sources

1614 Manuscript Map of the Manor of Foxcottes (Oxford Bodleian MS Rolls

1784 Andover Enclosure Map: Q23/2/4, and Award: Q1/20 (HRO)

1850-1 Andover Tithe Award: 21M65/F7/6/1, and Map: 21M65/F7/6/2 (HRO)

1938 Ordnance Survey 6 Inch Map Sheet 23 NE

1961 Ordnance Survey 6 Inch Map Sheet SU 34 NW.

1989 Ordnance Survey 1: 10000 Map Sheet SU 34 NW

2003 TVBC Portway Youth Centre: Site and Ground Floor Plans

### 7. Copyright

Border Archaeology shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of the report by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in any relevant Project Specification.



## 8. Context Register

Context Number	Description
(001)	Topsoil. Loosely compacted dark brown silty loam with occasional /
,	moderate quantities of post-medieval CBM. Covers the majority of the
	site and 0.10-0.40m in thickness. Overlies (002).
(002)	Natural soils. Loosely to moderately compacted chalk material.
,	Underlies the entire site.
(003)	Tarmacadam. 0.05-0.15m thick. Covers access road and large
,	proportion of central area of site.
(004)	Loosely compacted reddish-brown organic soil. Greater than length of
,	Trench 3 x >0.50m x 0.10m.
(005)	Moderately compacted reddish-brown sandy loam with occasional flint
,	and chalk fragments. Dimensions: Greater than length and width of
	Trench 3 x 0.40m thick. Occasional post-medieval CBM fragments.
[006]	Cut of possible pit. Semi circular in plan (not fully visible). Corners
	rounded (not fully visible). Dimensions: 1.30m x > 0.60m x 0.60m. Cuts
	(002), filled by (007) and (008). Break of slope top: sharp, sides:
	concave, break of slope base: gradual, base: concave. Underlies (008).
(007)	Loosely compacted dirty chalky soil with occasional re-deposited brown
,	loamy soil lumps incorporated in makeup. Dimensions: 1.30m x > 0.60m
	x 0.33m. Underlies (005). Overlies (008).
(800)	Moderately compacted medium brown silty chalky soil. Dimensions:
, ,	1.30m x > 0.60m x 0.27m. Underlies (007). Overlies [006].
(009)	Sub-base. Underlies all of current access road to depth of 0.20m.
(010)	Same as (001)
(011)	Same as (002)
(012)	Moderately compacted medium brown silty chalky loam. Dimensions:
, ,	20.0m x 20.0m x 0.30m.
[013]	Cut of post-medieval rectilinear feature. Shape in plan: rectilinear,
	corners: slightly squared. Dimensions/Depth: 1.20m x 0.45m x 0.20m.
	Break of slope top: sharp, sides: straight, break of slope base: sharp,
	base: slightly concave. Filled by (014). Cuts (011). Orientated N – S.
(014)	Dark brown silty organic soil, similar to (001) and containing occasional
	fragments of post-medieval CBM. Fills [013]
[015]	Cut of utility trench. Shape in plan: curving rectilinear. Corners: squared
	at southern end, tapers out at southern end. Dimensions: 6.2m x 0.20m.
	Depth not ascertained as unexcavated. Orientated N – S. Filled by
	(016). Cuts (011)
(016)	Loosely compacted dark brown silty loam soil with occasional small
	pieces of chalk. Dimensions: 6.2m x 0.20m. Not excavated so depth not
	ascertained. Fills [015]. Underlies (001)
(017)	Cut of inspection chamber pit. Shape in plan: poorly defined, corners:
	rounded. Dimensions: Not fully defined x >3.50m in depth. Break of
	slope top: sharp, sides: steep, base not observable due to excessive
/a · - ·	depth. Filled by (018). Cuts (011).
(018)	Tightly compacted dirty re-deposited chalk material. Dimensions: not
(0.15)	fully defined x >3.50m in thickness.
(019)	Same as (001), but with larger quantities of building debris.
(020)	Concrete layer. Base of former Portway Nursery building. Measured
	approximately 43m x 18m. At least 0.30m in thickness.

(021)	Tightly compacted orangey-brown sandy soil. Dimensions: >0.60 x 0.60m x up to 0.80m.
(022)	Sub-base. Dimensions: >0.60 x 0.60 x 0.35m. Underlies (020). Overlies (023).
(023)	Tightly compacted medium brown loam. Dimensions: >0.60 x 0.60 x 0.35m. Underlies (022).
(024)	Tightly compacted yellowish cement layer. 0.10m in thickness. Underlies (001). Overlies (025)
(025)	Tightly compacted reddish sandy gravels. 0.10m in thickness. Underlies (024). Overlies (002).