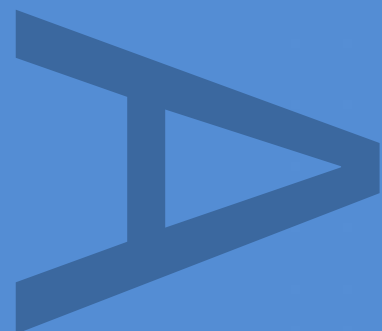


**BRAMSHILL LAKE  
UPGRADE TO DAM AND SLUICE  
THE POLICE STAFF TRAINING  
COLLEGE, BRAMSHILL  
HAMPSHIRE  
RG27 0JH**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
WATCHING BRIEF REPORT**

**REPORT NO: R11175**

**MARCH 2012**



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY**

**Bramshill Lake Upgrade of Dam and Sluice, NPIA Bramshill, Hampshire  
RG27 0JH  
Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

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**PCA Report No.:** R11175

**Central National Grid Reference:** 475795 160245

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## DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

Bramshill Lake Upgrade of Dam and Sluice  
The Police Staff Training College, Bramshill, Hampshire RG27 0JH  
Archaeological Watching Brief Report

### Quality Control

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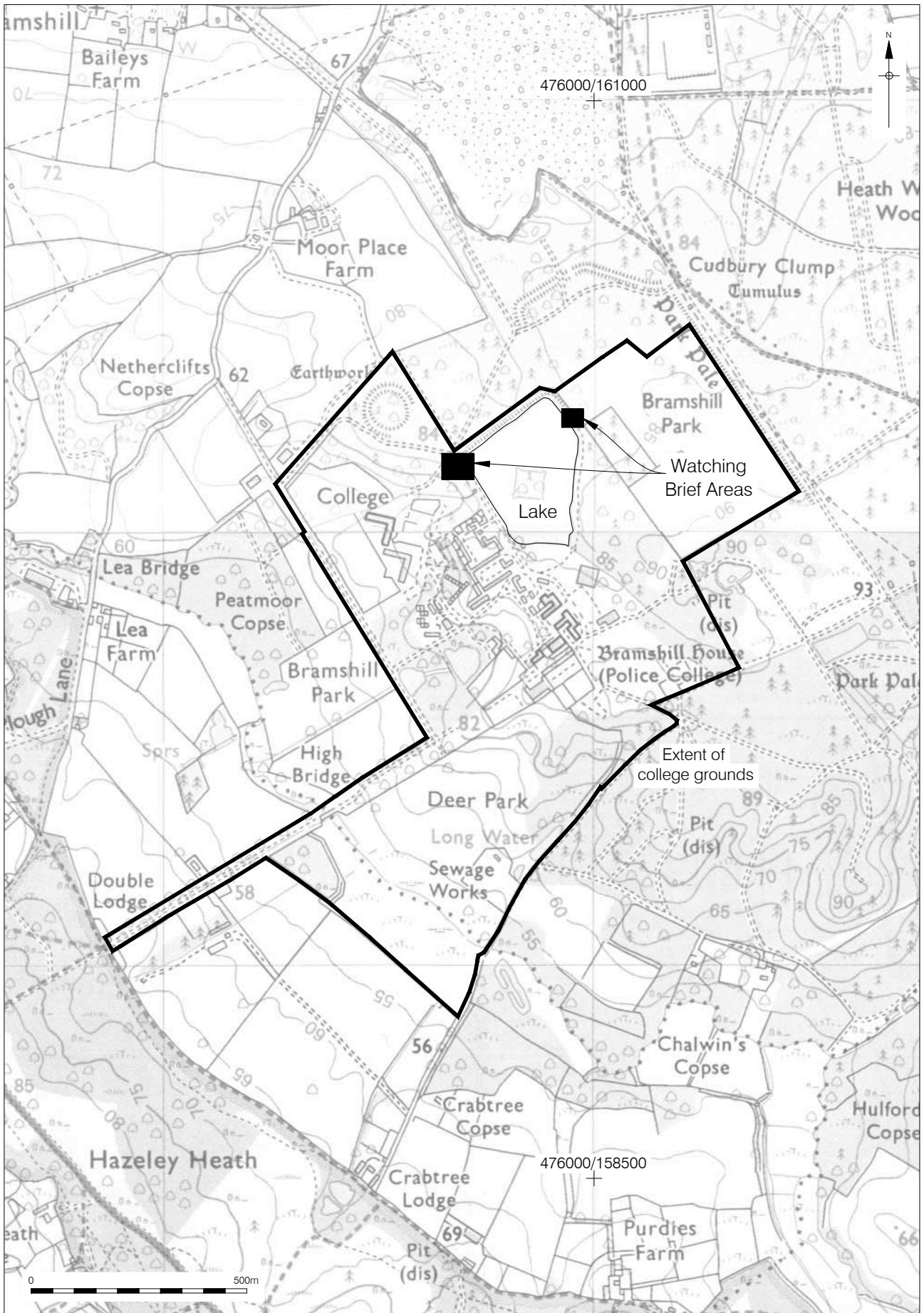
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## **1 ABSTRACT**

- 1.1.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological watching brief undertaken during remedial works to update the dam and sluices on Bramshill Lake at The Police Staff College Building, Bramshill, Hampshire (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 The watching brief monitored the machine excavation of two areas for the installation of new main and auxiliary spillways through the south-west and north-east crest of the encircling lake embankment.
- 1.1.3 No archaeological features and or deposits were identified during the course of the watching brief

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Atkins on behalf of the National Police Improvement Agency (NPIA), to undertake an archaeological watching brief during remedial works to upgrade the dam and sluices at Bramshill Lake (hereafter 'the Site') centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 475795, 160245 (**Figures 1 and 2**).
- 2.1.2 Bramshill Lake forms part of the Grade II Listed Historic Park and Garden landscape of the Grade I Listed Bramshill House, a mansion built in the early seventeenth century.
- 2.1.3 The remedial works were informed by a feasibility study carried out by Jacobs (2011) that identified failings in the Bramshill Lake Dam and Sluice installations, causing leakage of water from the lake and deterioration of the earthwork lake dam.
- 2.1.4 A written scheme of investigation (PCA 2012) detailing the method by which the watching brief would be undertaken was prepared prior to the commencement of the fieldwork in accordance with consultation with the County Archaeological Officer for Hampshire and the Institute for Archaeologists standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs.
- 2.1.5 The watching brief monitored the machine excavation for the remedial groundworks comprising the construction through the lake embankment of a main spillway area on the south-western side of the lake and an auxiliary spillway area on the north-eastern side of the lake (**Figure 2**).
- 2.1.6 The aim of the watching brief was to identify and record any surviving archaeological remains and/or deposits that may have been impacted upon by the groundworks.
- 2.1.7 No archaeological remains and/or deposits were identified during the course of the watching brief, although the make-up of the encircling lake embankment was revealed in section.
- 2.1.8 The watching brief was undertaken between the 31 January and 27 February 2012 through a total of five Site visits.



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07/03/12 MR

Figure 1  
Site Location  
1:12,500 at A4



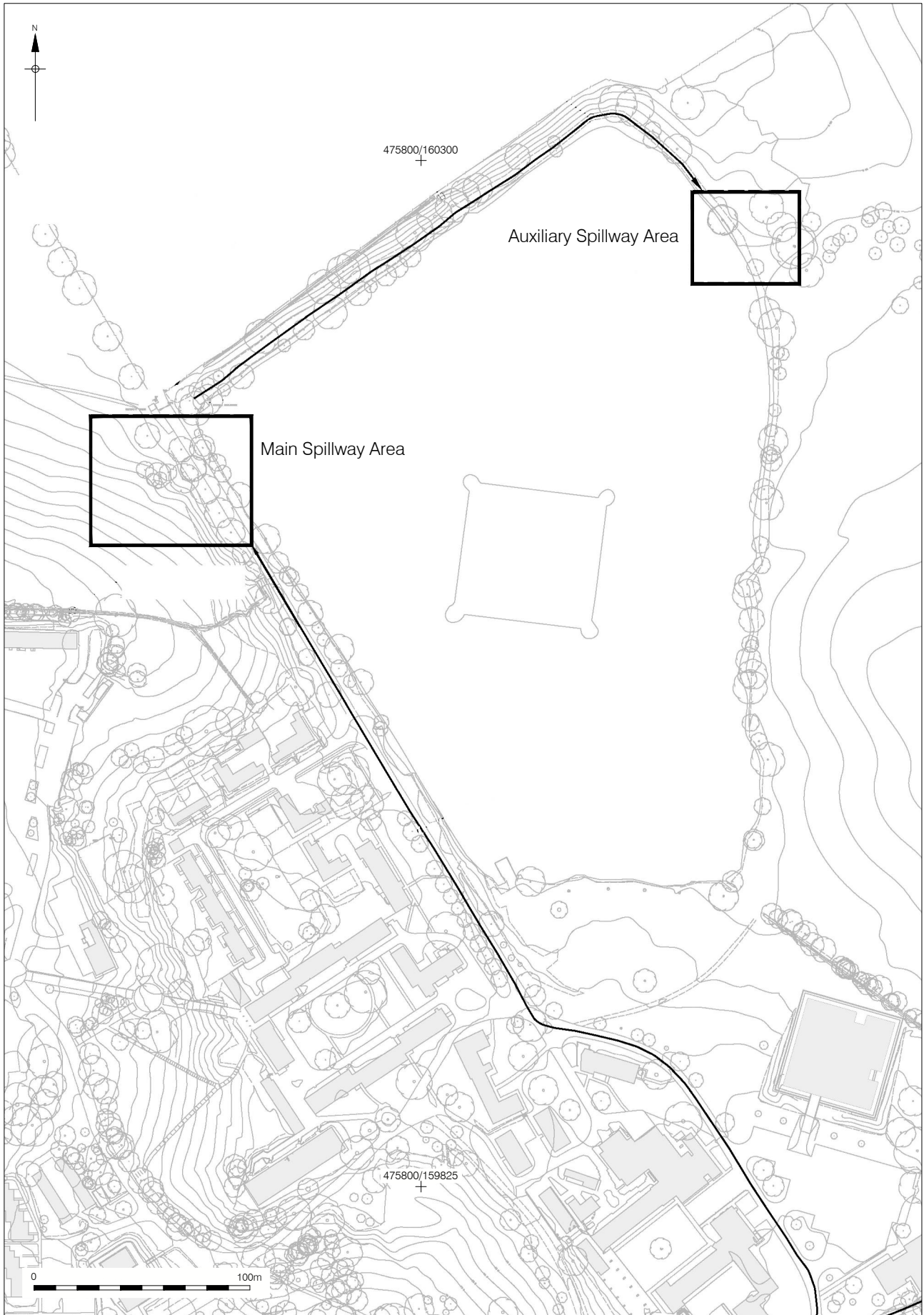


Figure 2  
Location of Watching Brief Areas  
1:2,500 at A4

### **3 THE SITE**

#### **3.1 The Site**

3.1.1 Bramshill is located in the north of Hampshire, south of the River Blackwater, between the settlements of Hartley Wintney and Eversley.

3.1.2 Bramshill Lake lies to the north east of the NPIA Bramshill House campus and within the historic parkland of Bramshill House (**Figures 1 and 2**). The lake covers an area of c. 6 hectares and is retained by earthwork dams on its north-west, south-west and north-east sides.

#### **3.2 Geology**

3.2.1 The geology of the Bramshill area consists of lowland clays and gravels which formed to the north of the Southern England Chalk Formation of the South Downs. These are overlain by naturally deposited sands and gravels.

## **4 PLANNING BACKGROUND**

### **4.1 National Policy: Planning Policy Statement (PPS5)**

4.1.1 In March 2010 the Department for Communities and Local Government issued Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS5), which provides guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the investigation and preservation of heritage assets defined as a building, monument, site, place, area or landscape positively identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions.

4.1.2 In considering any planning application for development, the Local Planning Authority will be guided by the policy framework set by government guidance, in this instance PPS5, and by Local Plan policies, in addition to other material considerations.

### **4.2 Planning Status**

4.2.1 The works do not constitute development and do not require planning consent. As a 'permitted development' The National Policing Improvement Agency are not required to obtain consent and therefore no archaeological planning conditions apply to the project. The National Policing Improvement Agency therefore undertook to fund the watching brief as a goodwill gesture.

### **4.3 Listed Buildings**

4.3.1 Bramshill Lake forms part of the Grade II Listed Historic Park and Garden landscape of the Grade 1 Listed Bramshill House, a mansion built in the early seventeenth century that replaced an earlier manor of fourteenth century and possibly earlier date.

## **5 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **5.1 Introduction**

5.1.1 A short background history for the Site was established via internet searches, the results are outlined below.

### **5.2 Early Medieval**

5.2.1 Reference to Bramshill (or Bromeselle) can be traced back to Saxon times.

### **5.3 Late Medieval**

5.3.1 In the 14th century Bramshill was the home of Thomas Foxley, who rebuilt Windsor Castle for the Crown. He appears to have used masons from Windsor in erecting a small castle or fortified manor house at Bramshill in 1327.

### **5.4 Early Post-Medieval**

5.4.1 C.1467 this house seems to have fallen into disrepair and its history is obscure until 'lodge' is mentioned at Bramshill in 1595.

5.4.2 The current Jacobean Bramshill House was built between 1605-12 for Edward, Lord Zouche of Harringworth. It was constructed on an old site and incorporates a certain amount of earlier work. In the vaults beneath the southernmost tower the construction compares with vaulting in the Steward's room and servants' hall at Windsor, which are dated to the latter half of the 14th century.

5.4.3 The Jacobean house had an entrance originally flanked by wings, one being destroyed by fire, c.1640 and the other removed 1695-1703. Foundations of wings have also been reported found at the east front. The south entrance front has a recessed centre, an elaborate projecting three storey stone porch and flanking wings that are each three windows wide and which date to 1703.

### **5.5 Modern**

5.5.1 In 1960 Bramshill House became the permanent home of the principal police staff training college in the UK. Since April 2007 it has also housed part of the National Policing Improvement Agency, a body established to provide police with support and expertise in areas that include serious crime analysis and the development of new policing technologies.

5.5.2 Since 2009 Bramshill House has been undergoing a refurbishment programme which is due for completion in 2014.

## **5.6 Previous Archaeological Work**

- 5.6.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology have undertaken a series of watching briefs at the Police Training College since 2005 the details of which are provided in the bibliography below (Mattinson 2005; Watson 2005 and Moore 2011). The watching briefs have been undertaken to monitor the installation and upgrading of utilities and services on the exterior of Bramshill Mansion and within the grounds of the college.

## **6 METHODOLOGY**

### **6.1 Fieldwork**

- 6.1.1 The watching brief fieldwork was designed to monitor the programme of Site works to repair the lake dams and repair/install spillways (**Figure 2**).
- 6.1.2 The groundworks monitored by the archaeological watching brief consisted of two new spillway units over the south-west and north-east embankments. The main spillway was excavated across and to either side of the colleges' rear access road on the south-west embankment of the lake. The auxiliary spillway was located on the north-eastern crest of the embankment (**Figure 2**).
- 6.1.3 The watching brief fieldwork aim was to determine the location extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains. The watching brief also aimed to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions and hence assess the degree of survival of archaeological deposits of whatever period.
- 6.1.4 All excavation was undertaken by a 360<sup>o</sup> machine excavator under the constant supervision of the attending archaeologist.
- 6.1.5 Recording was undertaken using Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited's recording system. This has been developed using the Site Manual of the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS 1994) and is fully compatible with the recording system most widely used elsewhere in the County of Hampshire.
- 6.1.6 A digital photographic record of the groundworks was maintained.
- 6.1.7 All works were undertaken in accordance with the guidelines set out by English Heritage and the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

## 7 RESULTS

### 7.1 Auxiliary spillway

7.1.1 The groundworks for the auxiliary spillway (**Figure 2**) consisted of the topsoil stripping of an area c.20m by 10m by 0.30m deep on the north-eastern crest of the lake embankment (**Plate 1**). A c.20m long by 0.40m wide by 0.40m deep north to south orientated slot was excavated along the western side of the strip for the construction of a reinforced concrete beam (**Plates 2 and 3**).

7.1.2 No archaeological features or deposits were revealed during the machine excavated strip and the material excavated consisted of topsoil overlying redeposited grey silty sand, which had most probably been originally excavated out of the lake and used to form the encircling embankment. Within the embankment material were moderately occurring fragments of red brick and tile of post-medieval date (**Plate 4**).

### 7.2 Main spillway

7.2.1 The groundworks for the main spillway (**Figure 2**) consisted of the machine excavation of an area c.20m long by 2.3m wide by up to 2.60m deep on the south-western corner of the lake embankment. The area was excavated from the edge of the lake, where a temporary cofferdam was constructed (**Plate 5**), and extended west across the line of the rear access road (**Plate 6**) and terminated further to the west of the road (**Plates 7 and 8**).

7.2.2 The excavation revealed the make-up of the encircling lake embankment (**Plate 9**), which consisted of up to 0.90m of topsoil and mixed redeposited sand, which overlay a 0.15m band of red brick and tile rubble, which had most probably been put in place to add a stable base and stability to the embankment. The brick and tile capped up to 0.70m of grey redeposited sand and gravel, which overlay a very thin buried topsoil with heavy rooting action. The buried topsoil overlay natural deposits of orange coloured sand with occasional gravel. This further overlay a yellow silty clay sand natural at the base of the excavated slot.

7.2.3 The brick and tile rubble was only evident on the eastern side of the road. On the western side of the road the excavated material contained no inclusions.

7.2.4 No archaeological features and/or deposits were revealed during the excavation of the main spillway area.

## **8 FINDS AND ENVIRONEMNTAL**

### **8.1 Finds**

8.1.1 No finds of any archaeological significance were identified during the course of the watching brief. However, occasional complete unfroged red brick and moderately occurring fragments of unfroged red brick and red tile were observed in the embankment fill of the auxiliary spillway area. In the main spillway area a band of complete and fragmentary unfroged red brick and tile was observed in section and most probably acted as a basal and stabilizing layer for the lake embankment. The complete red brick measured 250mm x 110mm by 50 to 60mm.

### **8.2 Environmental**

8.2.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified during the course of the watching brief.



## **9 DISCUSSION**

- 9.1.1 The aim of the watching brief was to monitor the groundworks for the construction of the main and auxiliary spillways to identify and record any archaeological features and /or deposits that may be present and impacted upon by the groundworks.
- 9.1.2 The watching brief established that no archaeological features and/or deposits were present within the footprint of the undertaken groundworks.
- 9.1.3 However, within the area of the main spillway area it was possible to discern the make-up of the encircling lake embankment. This comprised of topsoil and redeposited sand over a band of red brick and tile rubble, which had been used to add stability to the embankment. The brick band overlay a further deposit of redeposited sand and gravel, which overlay the natural deposits of orange to yellow coloured sand. It is likely that the embankment was formed out of the material excavated from the lake at the time of its construction.

## **10 REFERENCES**

### **10.1 Bibliography**

IfA, 2008, Standards and Guidance: Archaeological Watching Brief, Institute for Archaeologists

Mattinson, R. Nov 2005 Two Archaeological Watching Briefs at The Police Staff College, Bramshill, Hampshire. Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited unpublished report.

Moore P., Jan 2011 'A Written Scheme Of Investigation For An Archaeological Watching Brief On The Digging Of Drainage Survey Pits At The Police Staff College, Bramshill, Hampshire' Jan 2011 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited unpublished report

McCulloch 2012, A Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief during upgrading of the dam and sluices at Bramshill Lake, Bramshill, Hampshire. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, unpublished Client document.

Watson, S. June 2005, "An Archaeological Watching Brief at The Police Staff College, Bramshill, Hampshire", Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited unpublished report

### **10.2 Web sources**

[http://www.pastscape.org.uk/hob.aspx?hob\\_id=244126](http://www.pastscape.org.uk/hob.aspx?hob_id=244126)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bramshill\\_House](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bramshill_House)

## **11 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 11.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Chris Vyse of Atkins for commissioning the work on behalf of the NPIA. The author would like to further thank the groundwork contractors Dean and Dyball for their help and cooperation during the course of the watching brief. The author would also like to thank Paul McCulloch for editing the report and Mark Roughley for preparing the illustrations.

## APPENDIX 1 – PLATES



**Plate 1: View looking north during excavation of auxiliary spillway**



**Plate 2: View looking north of slot for concrete beam**



**Plate 3: View looking south of completed slot for concrete beam**



**Plate 4: Excavated material from auxiliary spillway containing brick and tile rubble**





**Plate 5: View looking east of cofferdam and newly constructed culvert head.**



**Plate 6: View looking east of main spillway area on eastern side of rear access road**



**Plate 7: View looking south of main spillway area to west of rear access road**



**Plate 8: View looking south of main spillway area to west of rear access road showing culvert under construction.**





**Plate 9: View looking north of main spillway area on eastern side of rear access road showing section through lake embankment**



## APPENDIX 1: OASIS REPORT FORM

**OASIS ID: preconst1 - 120329**

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### Project details

Project name	Bramshill Lake, Police Training College, Bramshill, Hampshire. Watching Brief
Short description of the project	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Atkins on behalf of the National Police Improvement Agency (NPIA), to undertake an archaeological watching brief during work to upgrade the dam and sluices at Bramshill Lake. The watching brief monitored the machine excavation for the construction through the lake embankment of a main spillway area on the south-western side of the lake and an auxiliary spillway area on the north-eastern side of the lake. No archaeological features and/or deposits were revealed.
Project dates	31-01-2012 to 27-02-2012
Previous/future work	Yes/unknown
Any associated project reference codes	Preconst-91936 PBRC 11
Type of project	Recording project Watching Brief
Site status	Listed building and historic gardens
Current Land use	Open Fresh Water 2 – Standing Water
Monument type	Garden Feature
Significant Finds	None
Methods & techniques	
Development type	Permitted
Prompt	Permitted

---

<b>Project location</b>	NPIA, Bramshill, Hampshire
Country	England
Site location	HAMPSHIRE HART BRAMSHILL NPIA, Bramshill, Hampshire
Postcode	RG27 0JH
Study area	100m <sup>2</sup>
Site coordinates	NGR - SU 758 596
Height OD / Depth	

---

### **Project creators**

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Project brief originator Atkins

Project design originator PCA Ltd – Paul McCulloch

Project director/manager Paul McCulloch

Project supervisor Damian De Rosa

Type of sponsor/funding body Private

Name of sponsor/funding body Atkins

---

### **Project archives**

Physical Archive recipient

Physical Contents

Digital Archive recipient Hampshire Museums and Archives Service

Digital Contents Images raster / digital photography', 'Text'

Digital Media available

Paper Archive recipient Hampshire Museums and Archives Service

Paper Contents

Paper Media available , 'Diary', 'Report',

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### **Project**

#### **bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Bramshill Lake Upgrade of Dam and Sluice, Police Training College Bramshill, Hampshire RG27 0JH  
Bramshill Lake Upgrade of Dam and Sluice, NPIA  
Bramshill, Hampshire RG27 0JH

Author(s)/Editor(s) De Rosa, D.  
McCulloch, P

Date 2012

Issuer or publisher Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Place of issue or publication unpublished

Description Evaluation report in A4 format, with A4 figure drawings and 9 plates. PCA Ltd blue front cover

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