MULTI USE GAMES AREA
LAND OFF TEXAS DRIVE
OLIVER'S BATTERY
WINCHESTER
HAMPSHIRE

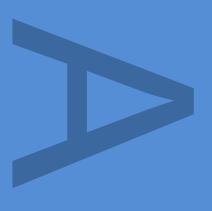


ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF
REPORT



REPORT NO: R11251

JULY 2012



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

MULTI USE GAMES AREA, LAND OFF TEXAS DRIVE OLIVER'S BATTERY, WINCHESTER, HAMPSHIRE Archaeological Watching Brief Report

PCA Report No.: R11251

National Grid Reference: 445940 127132

Planning Ref: 09/02312/FUL

Site Code: WINCM: AY492

Commissioning Client: Oliver's Battery Parish Council

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DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

MULTI USE GAMES AREA, LAND OFF TEXAS DRIVE OLIVER'S BATTERY, WINCHESTER, HAMPSHIRE Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Quality Control

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) was appointed by Oliver's Battery Parish Council to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundwork to form a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) (**Appendix 4**) on land off Texas Drive, Oliver's Battery, Winchester, Hampshire (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 This report details the results and working methods of the archaeological watching brief comprising the excavation of a c.0.15ha area (**Figure 2**).
- 1.1.3 The watching brief comprised the archaeological monitoring of the machine excavation of topsoil and subsoil to the top of the natural chalk and/or first archaeological horizon.
- 1.1.4 The watching brief was only able to identify one possible undated archaeological feature that was cut into the natural chalk. The feature is likely to be a tree bowl that was filled with subsoil and is likely to represent a recent event. Elsewhere across the site a number of tree throws were identified. A sherd from a porcelain cup was recovered from the fill of one of the tree throws, indicating that all the features represent a recent event of the removal of trees.
- 1.1.5 The watching brief was undertaken on the 2 and 3 July 2012.

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2 INTRODUCTION

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- 2.1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) was appointed by Oliver's Battery Parish Council to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundwork to form a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) (**Appendix 4**) on land off Texas Drive, Oliver's Battery, Winchester, Hampshire, (**Figure 1**)
- 2.1.2 The watching brief was a requirement of a condition of planning permission for the MUGA granted by the Local Planning Authority Winchester City Council (Planning reference 09/02312) in 2010, based on the advice of the Winchester City Council's Historic Environment Officer (HEO).
- 2.1.3 A written scheme of investigation (WSI) (PCA 2012) detailing the method by which the watching brief would be undertaken was prepared prior to and submitted to the HEO at Winchester City Council.
- 2.1.4 This report and the WSI were prepared in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (IfA 2008), Archaeological Excavation (IfA 2008), English Heritage 'The Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment' (EH 2006) and The Institute for Archaeologist's Code of Conduct (IfA 2010).
- 2.1.5 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.
- 2.1.6 The watching brief comprised the archaeological monitoring of the machine excavation of topsoil (**Plate 1**) and subsoil (**Plate 2**) to the top of the natural chalk and/or first archaeological horizon (**Plate 3**).
- 2.1.7 The watching brief was only able to identify one possible undated archaeological feature that was cut into the natural chalk (**Figure 2**). The feature is likely to be a tree bowl that was filled with subsoil and is likely to represent a recent event. Elsewhere across the site a number of tree throws were identified. A sherd from a porcelain cup was recovered from the fill of one of the tree throws, indicating that the features represent a recent event of the removal of trees
- 2.1.8 The Watching Brief was undertaken from 02 to 03 July 2012.

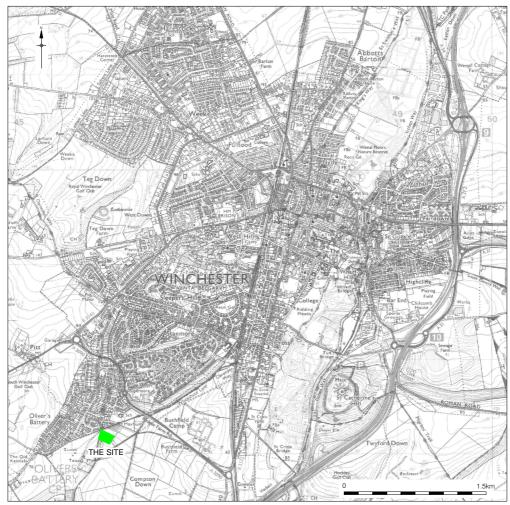
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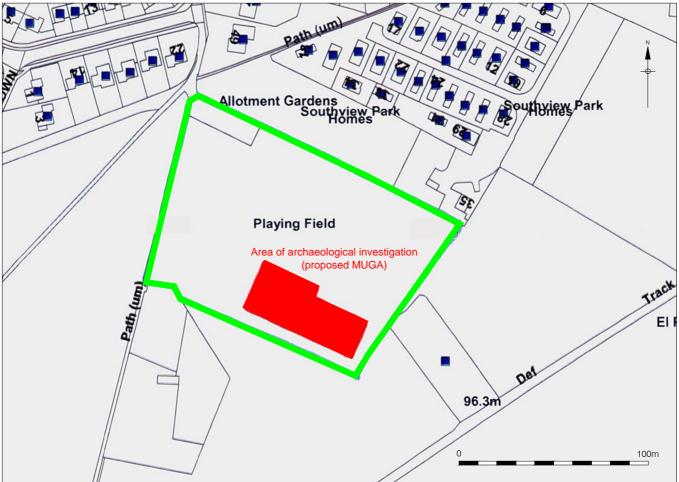
3 THE SITE

3.1 The Site, topography and geology

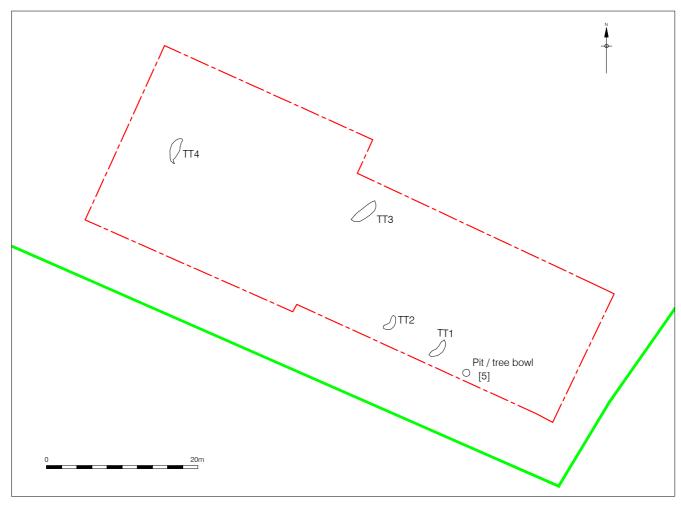
- 3.1.1 The site (NGR 445940, 127132) lies within an area of recreational open grassland, of 1.6ha extent, owned by Oliver's Battery Parish Council. It lies immediately south-east of Texas Drive and the modern settlement of Oliver's Battery, which lies on the south-western side of Winchester. The MUGA covers an area of approximately 0.15ha.
- 3.1.2 The site lies on gently sloping ground, consistent with its location within undulating Downland to the west of the River Itchen valley, and overlooks a dry valley to the south. It is dominated by Compton Down to the south and higher ground to the north.
- 3.1.3 Ground level across the site slopes generally down from the north at c.96.50m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) to the south at c.94.50m aOD.
- 3.1.4 The site lies on Upper Chalk (BGS Sheets 315 & 316)

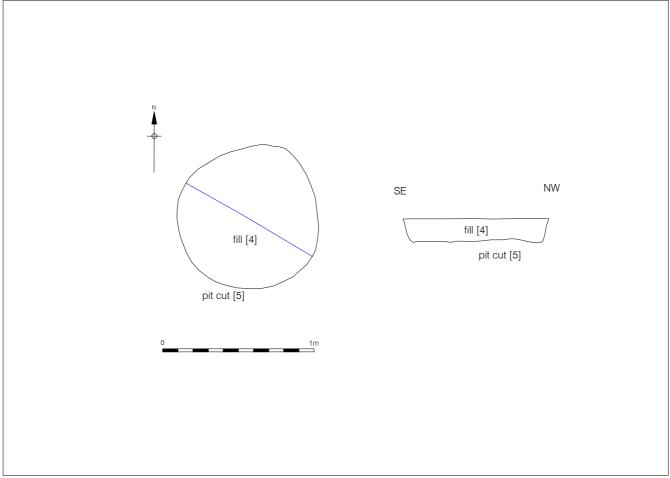
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4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

4.1.1 The site lies in an area of known archaeological sites and monuments of prehistoric and later periods. Two Bronze Age bowl barrows (National Monument no. 12145) lie 350m south-west of the site, north of Texas Farm (**Plate 4**), and two more (National Monument no. 12121) lie 950m south-east of the site north of Attwoods Drove Farm. Previous archaeological discoveries nearby made in the 19th century and in the 1960's include evidence of a cemetery thought to be of prehistoric date. Taken with the barrow, the area of the site would appear to have been used for funerary purposes in the prehistoric period.

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5 AIMS

5.1 Archaeological Watching Brief

5.1.1 The aim of the watching brief was to establish the presence, location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quantity of any archaeological resources, to ensure that any archaeological remains or deposits present were appropriately investigated and recorded and to report on the results of the watching brief.

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6 METHODOLOGY

6.1 Fieldwork

- 6.1.1 The watching brief fieldwork was designed to monitor the programme of site works to excavate a c.0.15ha area for the construction of a MUGA (**Figure 1** and **Appendix 4**).
- 6.1.2 The groundworks monitored the topsoil and subsoil stripping of the excavation area to the top of the archaeological horizon and/or natural chalk, whichever was encountered first (**Plates 1** to **3**). The top of the archaeological horizon was identified as the top of the natural chalk.
- 6.1.3 All excavation was undertaken by a 360° machine excavator under the constant supervision of the attending archaeologist.
- 6.1.4 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.
- 6.1.5 A digital photographic record of the watching brief was maintained.
- 6.1.6 All works were undertaken in accordance with the guidelines set out by English Heritage and the Institute for Field Archaeologists.

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7 RESULTS

7.1 Watching Brief Area

- 7.1.1 The groundworks consisted of the machine excavation of a c.0.15ha area. Excavation comprised the initial stripping of topsoil (1) (Plate 1) to the top of the underlying subsoil (2) (Plate 2). The subsoil was then stripped to the top of the natural chalk (3) (Plate 3). The excavation identified that the topsoil was c.0.10m deep, overlying the c.0.20m deep subsoil, which overlay the natural chalk (Plate 5).
- 7.1.2 One archaeological feature, a possible pit or tree bowl (5), was recorded to be cutting the natural chalk. The circular feature (**Plates 6** and **7**), which had a diameter of 1.0m and was 0.15m deep contained a single fill (**4**) (**Plate 8**). The fill (**4**) was a friable to moderately compacted, mid brown sandy clay with very frequent inclusions of small and medium flint pebble, which was the same as the overlying subsoil (**2**). This suggests that the feature represents a fairly recent event, most probably the uprooting of a tree that has naturally infilled with the subsoil.
- 7.1.3 Four further features (**Plates 9 to 12**) were observed across the site that have been interpreted as tree throws. A sherd from a modern porcelain cup was recovered from the fill of one of these features, suggesting that the removal of the trees was most probably a fairly recent event. All the features were filled with subsoil (2).

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8 FINDS AND ENVIRONEMNTAL

8.1 Finds

8.1.1 No archaeological finds were identified during the course of the watching brief.

8.2 Environmental

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

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9 DISCUSSION

- 9.1.1 The aim of the watching brief was to monitor the groundworks for the construction of a new Multi Utility Games Area (MUGA), and to identify and record any archaeological features and/or deposits that may have been present and impacted upon by the groundworks.
- 9.1.2 The watching brief recorded only a single undated possible archaeological feature, which is likely to be a fairly recent tree bowl. Elsewhere across the site a number of features were identified that are likely to be tree throws of fairly recent date as shown by the recovery of a sherd of a modern porcelain cup from the fill of one of these features.
- 9.1.3 No further evidence of any barrows or other funerary activity as demonstrated by the funerary landscape to the south-west and south-east of the site was revealed.

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10 REFERENCES

English Heritage 2006, Management of Research Projects In The Historic Environment (MoRPHE)

IfA 2010, Code of Conduct, Institute for Archaeologists

IfA 2008, Standards and Guidance for Excavation, Institute for Archaeologists

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

McCulloch 2012, Multi Use Games Area, Land off Texas Drive, Oliver's Battery, Winchester, Hampshire. Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, unpublished Client document.

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11 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

11.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Oliver's Battery Parish Council for commissioning the work. The help and advice of Tracy Matthews, Historic Environment Officer for the City of Winchester is also gratefully acknowledged. The author would like to further thank the groundwork contractors 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 Josephine Brown for preparing the illustrations.

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APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: View of the Site looking north-west during topsoil strip



Plate 2: View looking south-west showing exposed natural chalk during subsoil strip

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Plate 3: View looking west showing exposed natural chalk



Plate 4: View looking south-west from site of Bronze Age barrow (12145)

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Plate 5: View looking north showing representative section.



Plate 6: View looking west of Pit 5, pre-excavation

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Plate 7: View looking south of excavated Pit 5



Plate 8: View looking south of half section through Pit 5 showing Fill 4

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Plate 9: View looking south of Tree Throw 1



Plate 10: View looking south of Tree Throw 2

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Plate 11: View looking north of Tree Throw 3



Plate 12: View looking south of Tree Throw 4

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APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT SUMMARY TABLE

Context	Description	Depth BGL(m)
1	Topsoil: - loose compaction, friable, dark brown sandy loam.	0m - 0.10m
2	Subsoil: - friable to moderate compaction, mid brown sandy clay with very frequent flint pebble and nodules	0.10m - 0.30m
3	Natural: - Chalk - weathered on the exposed upper surface with occasional flint nodules enclosed within the chalk	0.30m+
4	Fill of pit/treebowl 5 : friable to moderate compaction, mid brown sandy clay with very frequent small and medium flint pebble. Same as subsoil 2	0.30m – 0.45m
5	Pit/tree bowl containing fill 4 . Circular, with very steep to vertical sides breaking sharply on to a flat base. 1m x 1m x 0.15m deep.	0.30m - 0.45m (94.50m - 94.35m aOD)

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APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1 - 129637

Project details

Multi Use Games Area, Land Off Texas Drive, Oliver's Battery, Winchester, Hampshire Project name

the project

Short description of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) was appointed by Oliver's Battery Parish Council to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundwork to form a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) on land off Texas Drive, Oliver's Battery, Winchester, Hampshire. The watching brief comprised the machine excavation of a c.0.15ha area, which saw the stripping of topsoil and subsoil c.0.30m deep to the top of the natural chalk. One undated archaeological feature, a possible pit or tree bowl, was recorded cut into the chalk. Four tree throws of fairly recent date (a sherd of a porcelain cup was recovered from the fill of one tree throw) were also recorded. No further archaeology was present.

Project dates 02/07/2012 to 03/07/2012

Previous/future

No/No

work

Any associated 09/02312/FUL - Planning Application No.

project reference

AY492 - Sitecode

codes

Type of project Recording project

Site status None

Current Land use Other 14 - recreational usage

Monument type Pit - uncertain

Tree throws - uncertain

None Significant Finds

Investigation type Watching Brief

Development type **PPS**

Prompt Planning Condition

Project location

Site location HAMPSHIRE WINCHESTER OLIVERS BATTERY Multi Use Games Area, Land off Texas

Drive, Oliver's Battery, Winchester, Hampshire

Postcode SO22 4HG

Study area 0.15 Hectares

LL - 445940 127132 (decimal) Site coordinates

LL - 445940 00 00 N 127132 00 00 E (degrees)

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Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 94.50m Max: 96.50m

Project creators

Name of

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Organisation

Project brief

Historic Environment Officer Winchester City Council

originator

Project design

Paul McCulloch

originator

Project Paul McCulloch

director/manager

Project supervisor Damian De Rosa

Type of

Parish Council

sponsor/funding

body

Name of

Oliver's Battery Parish Council

sponsor/funding

body

Project archives

Physical Archive

Winchester Museums and Archives Service

recipient

Physical Contents No physical archive

Digital Archive

recipient

Winchester Museums and Archives Service

Digital Contents None

Digital Media

'Images raster / digital photography', 'Text'

available

Paper Archive

Winchester Museums and Archives Service

recipient

Paper Contents none

Paper Media

, 'Context sheet', 'Drawing', 'Notebook - Excavation, Research, General Notes', 'Report'

available

Project

bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Multi Use Games Area, Land Off Texas Drive, Oliver's Battery, Winchester, Hampshire-

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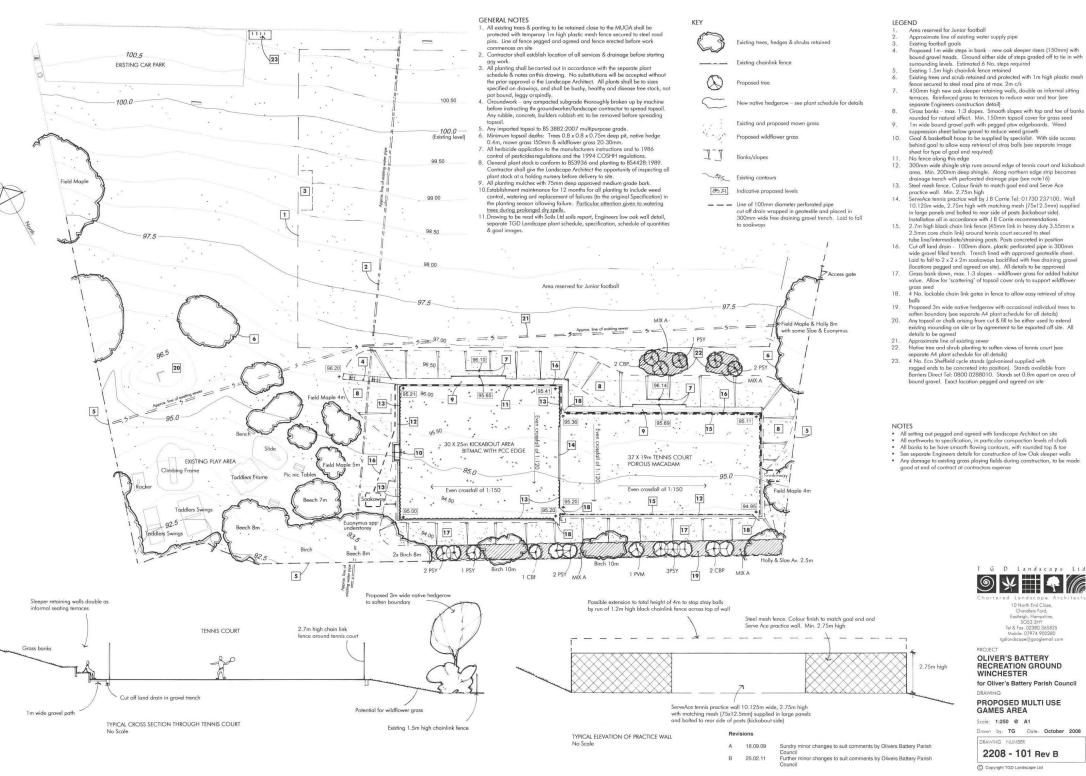
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APPENDIX 4: PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

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- - Approximate line of existing water supply pipe
 - Proposed 1m wide steps in bank new oak sleeper risers (150mm) with bound gravel treads. Ground either side of steps graded off to tie in with surrounding levels. Estimated 6 No. steps required
 - Existing 1.5m high chainlink fence retained
- Existing trees and scrub retained and protected with 1m high plastic mesh fence secured to steel road pins at max. 2m c/s
- 450mm high new oak sleeper retaining walls, double as informal sitting terraces. Reinforced grass to terraces to reduce wear and tear (see
- rounded for natural effect. Min. 150mm topsoil cover for grass seed
- 1 m wide bound gravel path with pegged ptsw edgeboards. Weed suppression sheet below gravel to reduce weed growth
- Goal & basketball hoop to be supplied by specialist. With side access behind goal to allow easy retrieval of stray balls (see separate image
- 300mm wide shingle strip runs around edge of tennis court and kickabout area. Min. 200mm deep shingle. Along northern edge strip becomes drainage trench with perforated drainage pipe (see note16)
- Steel mesh fence. Colour finish to match goal end and Serve Ace practice wall. Min. 2.75m high
- ServeAce tennis practice wall by J B Corrie Tel: 01730 237100. Wall 10.125m wide, 2.75m high with matching mesh (75x12.5mm) supplied in large panels and bolted to rear side of posts (kickabout side) Installation all in accordance with J B Corrie recommendations
- 2.7m high black chain link fence (45mm link in heavy duty 3.55mm x 2.5mm core chain link) around tennis court secured to steel
- 16. Cut off land drain 100mm diam, plastic perforated pipe in 300mm wide gravel filled trench. Trench lined with approved geotextile sheet Laid to fall to 2 x 2 x 2m soakaways backfilled with free draining gravel (locations pegged and agreed on site). All details to be approved
- Grass bank down, max. 1:3 slopes wildflower grass for added habitat value. Allow for 'scattering' of topsoil cover only to support wildflower
- 4 No. lockable chain link gates in fence to allow easy retrieval of stray
- Proposed 3m wide native hedgerow with occasional individual trees to soften boundary (see separate A4 plant schedule for all details)
- Any topsoil or chalk arising from cut & fill to be either used to extend existing mounding on site or by agreement to be exported off site. All
- Native tree and shrub planting to soften views of tennis court (see separate A4 plant schedule for all details)
- 4 No. Eco Sheffield cycle stands (galvanised supplied with ragged ends to be concreted into position). Stands available from Barriers Direct Tel: 0800 0288010. Stands set 0.8m apart on area of bound gravel. Exact location pegged and agreed on site
- All setting out pegged and agreed with landscape Architect on site
- Any damage to existing grass playing fields during construction, to be made

T G D Landscape Ltd

10 North End Close Eastleigh, Hampshire SO53 3HY Tel & Fox: 02380 365825 Mobile: 07974 900280

PROJECT

OLIVER'S BATTERY RECREATION GROUND

WINCHESTER for Oliver's Battery Parish Council

DRAWING PROPOSED MULTI USE

Scale: 1:250 @ A1

Drawn by: TG Date: October 2008

DRAWING NUMBER

2208 - 101 Rev B

C Copyright TGD Landscape Ltd

PCA

PCA SOUTHERN

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