

**WEST DOWNS 1, UNIVERSITY OF
WINCHESTER, ROMSEY ROAD,
WINCHESTER, HAMPSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING
BRIEF REPORT**

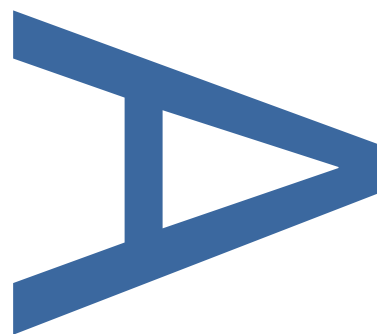
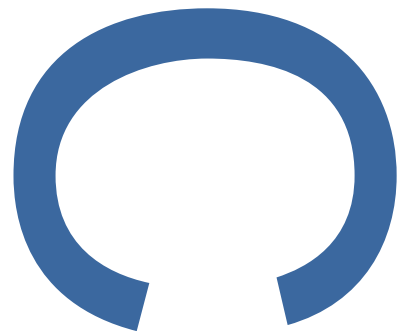
**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:
WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL**

**PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBERS:
16/03520/FUL**

PCA REPORT NO: R13483

SITE CODE: AY631

AUGUST 2018



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

**WEST DOWNS 1, UNIVERSITY OF WINCHESTER, ROMSEY ROAD, WINCHESTER,
HAMPSHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT**

Local Planning Authority: Winchester City Council

Central NGR: SU 46881 29402

Site Code: AY631

Planning Reference: 16/03520/FUL

Commissioning Client: University of Winchester

Prepared by: Thomas Hayes BA(Hons.) MRes, (ACIfA)

Contractor: Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (Winchester)
5 Red Deer Court
Elm Road
Winchester
Hampshire SO22 5LX

Tel: 01962 849 549
E-mail: pmcculloch@pre-construct.com
Web: www.pre-construct.com

© Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

August 2018

© The material contained herein is and remains the sole property of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited and is not for publication to third parties without prior consent. Whilst every effort has been made to provide detailed and accurate information, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited cannot be held responsible for errors or inaccuracies herein contained.

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

**Site Name: West Downs 1, University of Winchester, Romsey Road,
Winchester, Hampshire**

Type of project: Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Report: R13483

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code		K5068
Text Prepared by:	Hayes, T	
Graphics Prepared by:	Murphy, R.	
Graphics Checked by:	Roughley, M.	
Project Manager:	Hayes, T	

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

CONTENTS

1	ABSTRACT.....	4
2	INTRODUCTION.....	5
3	AIM.....	7
4	RESULTS.....	8
5	ARCHIVE PRERARATION AND DEPOSITION	10
6	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	11
7	REFERENCES.....	12
	APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHS (PLATES 1 – 3).....	13
	APPENDIX 2: OASIS RECORD.....	15

Figures

Figure 1 - Site Location

Figure 2 – Detailed Site location

Figure 3: Watching Brief Location

1 ABSTRACT

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) was appointed by the University of Winchester to undertake an archaeological watching brief on land at West Downs Campus, Romsey Road, Winchester, Hampshire. The Site is the subject of a proposed new development.

The watching formed the final part of a staged approach to addressing the archaeological implications of the development and was informed by the results of an archaeological Desk-based Assessment prepared by ARCA (2016a) and a Ground Penetrating Radar Survey (ARCA 2016b).

The watching brief was conducted during groundworks carried out between the 12th December 2017 and 1st May 2018. No significant archaeological remains were revealed. The site appears to have been landscaped during the late post-medieval period. The presence of 19th century material lying directly on top of natural deposits indicates that any post-medieval landscaping of the site was extensive, removing any earlier deposits. This suggests that any in situ archaeological features or deposits were destroyed at this time.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Project Background

- 2.1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) was appointed by the University of Winchester to undertake an archaeological watching brief at West Downs 1, Romsey Road, Winchester, Hampshire, (SU 46881 29402), hereafter 'the Site' (**Figure 1 & 2**). The Site is the subject of a proposed development of a new university building at the University of Winchester's West Downs Campus; comprising an auditorium, teaching accommodation, library, dining and associated accommodation arranged over five stories.
- 2.1.2 The archaeological watching brief, and this report, were required as conditions 13 and 14 of planning permission for the development of the site granted by the Local Planning Authority (LPA) Winchester City Council (Planning Ref: 16/03520/FUL). The conditions are based on the advice of the Council's Historic Environment Team Archaeologist (HETA) and reflect the potential of the site to contain archaeological resources that may be put at risk by the development.
- 2.1.3 This document provides a report on the results of the watching brief, carried out between the 12th December 2017 and 1st May 2018 and has been prepared in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs (CIfA 2014) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (Historic England, 2015).

2.2 Location, Topography and Geology

- 2.2.1 The proposed development is to be located in the University of Winchester's West Downs Campus, immediately to the north of Romsey Road and adjacent to current university buildings (Figure 2 & 3). The new building will be constructed within an open area to the south of the university halls of residence.
- 2.2.2 The site is relatively level and only falls from approximately 110m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) along the western boundary of the site to approximately 105m aOD along the eastern boundary of the site
- 2.2.3 The site's underlying geology is mapped as Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation (LECH). Although no superficial geology is mapped as being present on site, geotechnical works carried out within the footprint of the proposed development in 2015 identified between 0.50m and 2m of made ground overlying the natural chalk bedrock (Tweedie Evans Constructing 2016).

2.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 2.3.1 A detailed account of the archaeological and historical background was considered in a desk based assessment produced in support of the planning application for the site (ARCA 2016, *West Downs Campus, Romsey Road, Winchester: Archaeological Desk-Based*

Assesment. Report no. 1516-26). This summarized the potential for archaeological remains as follows:

'The site lies west of the historic centre of the city of Winchester, immediately north of the projected course of the Roman road between Winchester and Old Sarum. An archaeological watching brief at Sarum Court, 140m to the west of the site, identified a series of recut ditches flanking the north side of the Roman road. As such there is potential for Roman remains associated with the road to Old Sarum within the south-eastern and southern parts of the site. It is likely that the proposed structure will partially obscure the present Listed West Downs School building when viewing from the east; however, the extent to which this will happen cannot be modelled with presently available data'

2.3.2 Subsequent to the completion of the desk based assessment a ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey was undertaken on the site, in order to help develop an appropriate mitigation strategy (ARCA 2016, West Downs Campus, University of Winchester: Ground Penetrating Radar Survey. Report no. 1617-4). The results of this survey were summarised as follows:

'ARCA employed a pulseEKKO Pro GPR unit equipped with 250 MHz antennas to carry out the survey. The equipment enabled the stratigraphy to a depth of 3m to be penetrated. Chalk of the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation was found to outcrop below 0.6 (in the north of the site) and 2.0m (in the extreme south-west) of the ground surface, and to slope downwards from north to south.

The GPR survey recovered data showing sub-surface linear features that are likely to pre-date West Downs School, namely two field drains and a possible field boundary. Most other sub-surface features date from the last three decades (1990-2016) and comprise service trenches, hard standing for temporary classrooms and tarmac surfaces. A 2m deep cut and fill feature in the extreme south-west of the study area most probably dates from the 1930-1950s, but it is possible that the cut could be for the Roman road between Venta Belgarum and Soriodunum.'

2.3.3 Recommendations given by the LPA's HETA highlighted further archaeological investigations in the wider landscape which could bare relevance to the potential unknown below ground. This highlighted that other archaeological investigations carried out along Romsey Road have uncovered evidence of quarrying pits, likely dating to the Roman period, containing medieval remains.

3 AIM

3.1 Archaeological Evaluation

- 3.1.1 The aim of the archaeological watching brief was to monitor ground works for the presence of archaeological resources and, if present and where necessary, i.e. where the impact of the groundwork will impact those resources, to investigate and record the resources and determine, as may be possible, their character, including their date, nature and extent.
- 3.1.2 A further aim was to prepare an archive of the results of the investigations leading to the preparation of this final report, so that the future treatment of any archaeological resources beneath the Site, in respect of the proposed development, may be determined.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The following presents a summary of the watching brief results based upon the Site archive, which comprises a Site diary, digital photographs. Photographs of the site under groundwork appear in **Appendix 1**. The archive of all stages of the archaeological work is held at PCA's Winchester office under the site code **AY631** and will in due course be deposited with the Hampshire Cultural Trust.

4.2 Methodology

4.2.1 The archaeological watching was undertaken following the methodology detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (PCA 2017), which was approved by the Local Planning Authority in advance of the works and on the advice of their archaeological advisor Tracy Matthews, HETA.

4.2.2 The watching brief comprised monitoring groundworks, related to the programme of construction, undertaken by Osborne Construction.

4.2.3 Multiple monitoring visits were maintained during the ground work phases of construction. Five phases of excavations were undertaken, covering the creation of the site access piling mat, wider foundations and deeper excavations.

4.3 Results

4.3.1 The monitoring of general ground works took place in four phases, relating to different parts of the construction programme. No significant archaeological resources were identified in any of the monitoring phases.

4.3.2 Monitoring during the phase 1 works and, in particular, the creation of the site access demonstrated that although natural geology was present on the site, it appeared that the current topography had been greatly altered (Figure 3 and Plate 1). A significant amount of later Victorian/early 20th century material had been brought on to site to create the sharply raised bank that separated the site from Romsey Road (Plate 2). This material continued across the more level area of the site, laying directly upon the natural geology (Plate 3).

4.3.3 A consistent deposition sequence was identified across all phases of the monitoring, mirroring what was seen during the construction of the site access:

- Turf/Topsoil
- Subsoil
- Modern build-up material
- Natural Geology (chalk)

4.4 Discussion and Conclusion

- 4.4.1 No significant archaeology was identified on site during the course of this archaeological watching brief
- 4.4.2 The site appears to have been landscaped during the late post-medieval period. The presence of 19th century material lying directly on top of natural deposits indicates that any post-medieval landscaping of the site was extensive, removing any earlier deposits. This suggests that any *in situ* archaeological features or deposits were destroyed at this time.

4.4.3

5 ARCHIVE PRERARATION AND DEPOSITION

5.1 The Site Archive

5.1.1 The Site archive, to include all project records and cultural material produced by the project, will be prepared in accordance with 'Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage' (UKIC 1990) and the Institute for Archaeologists 'Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives' (ClfA 2014). On completion of the project PCA will arrange for the archive to be deposited with the Hampshire Cultural Trust.

5.2 Copyright

5.2.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the site will be retained by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved. The Novium however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profitmaking, and conforms to the Copyright and Related Rights regulations 2003. Further distribution and uses of the report either in its entirety or part thereof in paper or electronic form is prohibited without the prior consent of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.

5.2.2 The licence extends to the use of all documents arising from this project in all matters relating directly to the project, as well as for bona fide research purposes (which includes the Winchester HER).

5.2.3 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd has made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the content of this report. However, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd cannot accept any liability in respect of, or resulting from, errors, inaccuracies or omissions this report contains.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd is grateful to the University of Winchester for commissioning the watching brief and to Tracy Matthews, Winchester City Council Historic Environment Team Archaeologist, for her advice.

The watching brief was carried out by Rhiannon Campbell and Gareth Hatt, PCA Ltd.

7 REFERENCES

ARCA 2016a, *"West Dpwns Campus, Romsey Road, Winchester: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment"*

ARCA 2016b, *"West Downs Campus, University of Winchester: Ground-Penetrating Radar Survey"*

PCA, 2017, *"West Downs 1, University of Winchester, Romsey Road, Winchester, Hampshire: WSI for an Archaeological Watching Brief"*.

Appendix 1: Photographs (Plates 1 – 3)



Plate 1 Phase 1 Excavations, showing post-medieval deposits lying on natural geology



Plate 2 East facing section showing evidence of site landscaping



Plate 3 North facing view of excavations showing post-medieval deposits and natural chalk

Appendix 2: OASIS Record

8

OASIS ID: preconst1-335309

Project details

Project name	West Downs 1, University of Winchester, Romsey Road, Winchester, Hampshire
Short description of the project	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) was appointed by the University of Winchester to undertake an archaeological watching brief on land at West Downs Campus, Romsey Road, Winchester, Hampshire. The Site is the subject of a proposed new development. The watching formed the final part of a staged approach to addressing the archaeological implications of the development and was informed by the results of an archaeological Desk-based Assessment prepared by ARCA (2016a) and a Ground Penetrating Radar Survey (ARCA 2016b). The watching brief was conducted during groundworks carried out between the 12th December 2017 and 1st May 2018. No significant archaeological remains were revealed. The site appears to have been landscaped during the late post-medieval period. The presence of 19th century material lying directly on top of natural deposits indicates that any post-medieval landscaping of the site was extensive, removing any earlier deposits. This suggests that any in situ archaeological features or deposits were destroyed at this time.
Project dates	Start: 12-12-2017 End: 01-05-2018
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	AY631 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	HAMPSHIRE WINCHESTER WINCHESTER West Downs 1, University of Winchester, Romsey Road, Winchester, Hampshire
Postcode	SO22 5DF
Study area	0.52 Hectares
Site coordinates	SU 46881 29402 51.061504858959 -1.330937923139 51 03 41 N 001 19 51 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 0m Max: 0m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	PCA Winchester
Project brief originator	Winchester City Council
Project design originator	Thomas Hayes
Project director/manager	Thomas Hayes
Project supervisor	Rhiannon Campbell
Type of sponsor/funding body	University
Name of sponsor/funding body	University of Winchester

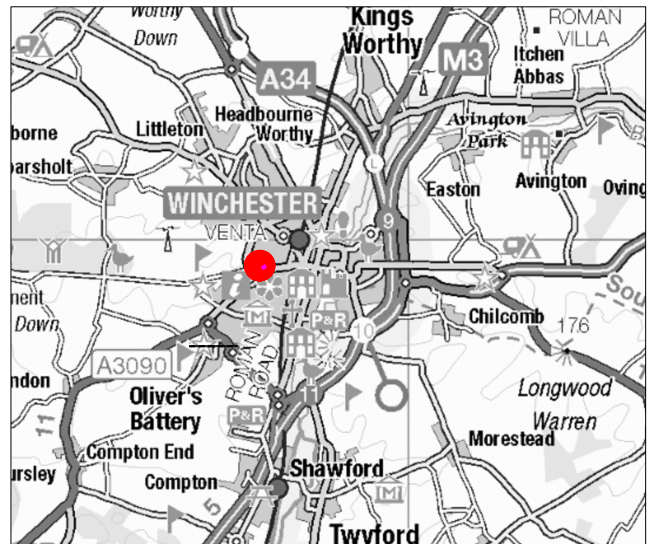
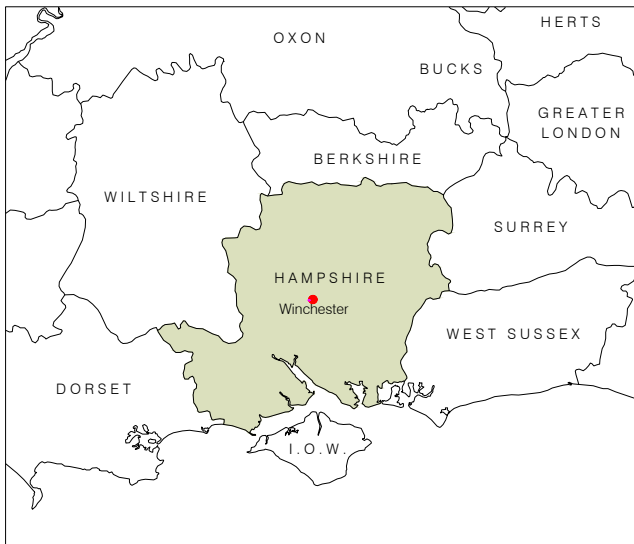
Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	Hampshire Cultural Trust
Digital Archive recipient	Hampshire Cultural Trust
Digital Archive ID	AY631
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Hampshire Cultural Trust
Paper Archive ID	AY631
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Photograph", "Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	WEST DOWNS 1, UNIVERSITY OF WINCHESTER, ROMSEY ROAD, WINCHESTER, HAMPSHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hayes, T
Other bibliographic details	R13483
Date	2018

Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Winchester
<hr/>	
Entered by	Thomas Hayes (thayes@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	29 November 2018



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2018
 © Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2018
 21/08/18 RM

Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:2,000,000, 1:250,000 and 1:20,000 at A4

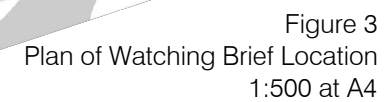


© Crown copyright 2018. All rights reserved. License number PMP36110309

© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2018

21/08/17 RM

Figure 2
Detailed Site Location
1:2,500 at A4



PCA

PCA CAMBRIDGE

THE GRANARY, RECTORY FARM
BREWERY ROAD, PAMPISFORD
CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB22 3EN
t: 01223 845 522
e: cambridge@pre-construct.com

PCA DURHAM

UNIT 19A, TURSDALE BUSINESS PARK
TURSDALE
DURHAM DH6 5PG
t: 0191 377 1111
e: durham@pre-construct.com

PCA LONDON

UNIT 54, BROCKLEY CROSS BUSINESS CENTRE
96 ENDWELL ROAD, BROCKLEY
LONDON SE4 2PD
t: 020 7732 3925
e: london@pre-construct.com

PCA NEWARK

OFFICE 8, ROEWOOD COURTYARD
WINKBURN, NEWARK
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NG22 8PG
t: 01636 370410
e: newark@pre-construct.com

PCA NORWICH

QUARRY WORKS, DEREHAM ROAD
HONINGHAM
NORWICH NR9 5AP
T: 01223 845522
e: cambridge@pre-construct.com

PCA WARWICK

UNIT 9, THE MILL, MILL LANE
LITTLE SHREWLEY, WARWICK
WARWICKSHIRE CV35 7HN
t: 01926 485490
e: warwick@pre-construct.com

PCA WINCHESTER

5 RED DEER COURT, ELM ROAD
WINCHESTER
HAMPSHIRE SO22 5LX
t: 01962 849 549
e: winchester@pre-construct.com

