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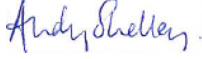

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON GI INVESTIGATIONS

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Figure 1: Location plan and site plan showing GI interventions

Figure 2: Plate 1: Test Pit 1, looking south-east (Scale – 0.6m)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Outline

- 1.1.1 Gifford was commissioned by DLA Architecture on behalf of MODern Housing Solutions (part of the Ministry of Defence (MOD), The Client) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during a geotechnical ground investigation (GI) in advance of a proposed residential development adjacent to New Ward Road and Kashmir Road at Bulford Camp near Salisbury, Wiltshire (Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 The watching brief was commissioned in order to provide the opportunity to test for the existence and/or survival of any below-ground archaeological remains within the development site and formed a recommendation of an archaeological desk-based assessment of the site prepared by Gifford in August 2011 (report no. 19417/CHA/R01).
- 1.1.3 This report has been prepared in accordance with guidance issued by Wiltshire Council for archaeological investigations and the relevant published standards of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008).

1.2 Limitations

- 1.2.1 This report has been prepared for DLA Architecture Ltd and MODern Housing Solutions and shall not be relied upon by any third party unless that party has been granted a contractual right to rely on this report for the purpose for which it was prepared. The findings and opinions in this report are based upon information derived from a variety of information sources. Gifford cannot accept any liability for the accuracy or completeness of any information derived from third party sources; however, reasonable measures have been taken to confirm the accuracy of third party data where it is used.
- 1.2.2 This report has been prepared on the basis of the proposed land-use defined by the Client. If this proposed land-use is amended it may be necessary to review the findings of this report.
- 1.2.3 It should be noted that some of the aspects considered in this study are subject to change with time. Therefore, if the development is delayed or postponed for a significant period then it should be reviewed to confirm that no changes have taken place, either at the site or within relevant legislation.

1.3 Report Objectives

- 1.3.1 As defined by the guidelines of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008), an Archaeological Watching Brief:

“...is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive.”

- 1.3.2 In accordance with the guidance, the objective this report is to provide information relevant to the potential impact of the proposed residential development upon any surviving archaeological remains. This is in keeping with policies of the Local Planning Authority regarding the treatment of archaeological remains, known and unknown, in the planning process, as guided by Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS 5) 'Planning for the Historic Environment', published by the Dept. for Communities and Local Government in 2010.

2. THE SITE

2.1 Location

- 2.1.1 The study site is located towards the northern edge of Bulford Camp, which itself is located immediately to the east of the small village of Bulford and c. 2km east of the village of Durrington. The site lies approximately 17km NNE of the city of Salisbury and is centred on National Grid Reference SU 18440 43991 (Figure 1). It lies within an area of army housing, to the east of New Ward Road (see Section 3).
- 2.1.2 The site comprises a total of 27 service family accommodation properties fronting New Ward Road, to the west and Horne Road to the south, with a number of the properties within a small close accessed from New Ward Road. The study area is bounded to the west by New Ward Road, to the south by Horne Road, to the east by a former MOD health centre and recreation ground, and to the north by further MOD properties fronting New Ward Road.

Cartographic evidence shows that the study site was formerly occupied by open farmland and was not developed until the early 20th century. By the early 1920s much of the study area was occupied by barrack blocks. Many of these to the north were removed prior to WWII. Post-war, there was further development within the area, leading to the construction by the early 1970s of the buildings that currently occupy the site.

- 2.1.3 No details of existent services have been provided at the time of writing. However, the developed nature of the site suggests a variety of services should be presumed to be present across the area.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Archaeological Desk-based Assessment

- 3.1.1 The archaeological desk-based assessment prepared by Gifford (2011) has provided the archaeological background to the site. Based on consultation with the Wiltshire Historic Environment Record and cartographic and historical sources, along with consideration of the existing site, it concluded:

"The site lies within a wider landscape which was used throughout the prehistoric period, although it is during the Bronze Age that the area close to the site becomes more utilised. A number of barrows are recorded to the north-east of Bulford Barracks, and another just within the Barracks to the northeast of the site was associated with a Bronze Age cemetery. The available data suggests a dearth of archaeological evidence for the prehistoric, and indeed all, periods within the immediate vicinity of the site, but as has been said this may well be the result of a lack of opportunity for investigation rather than a lack of presence.

The periods from the Iron Age to the Roman are represented in the wider landscape by hill-forts and occupation sites which developed from the proximity to the River Avon and, thereafter, a Roman road or trackway very close by. A settlement at Bulford village in the Anglo-Saxon

period may have originated from these antecedents, and in turn settlement based around light industry powered from the river and an agricultural economy controlled by Bulford manor continued into the post-medieval periods. The site has always been located well beyond the boundaries of that continued settlement, located within an agricultural landscape in which associated features such as ditches, and chance finds, could be expected. None of these, however, are considered to be of archaeological significance.

The development of the area of the site through the modern period is considered to have had a substantial but localised impact upon the site. The barrack blocks built from the early 20th century are thought (although not confirmed) to have been built upon strip footings with some associated disturbance caused by the installation of services and roadways. The current layout of the site, a post-war development, is considered to have had a similar impact – strip footings anchored into geology, service runs, some landscaping but also potentially some terracing of the building footprints to create a level surface into the gentle hill slope on which to build.

4. AIM

4.1 Watching Brief

- 4.1.1 In keeping with the recommendation of the archaeological desk-based assessment, the aim of the watching brief was to monitor a geotechnical investigation in order to explore the potential for archaeological remains to survive within the site, and to confirm or disprove the level of truncation, or impact, within it. This strategy was intended to inform the Assistant County Archaeologist concerning the future treatment of the site's archaeological potential in respect of the proposed residential development.

5. METHOD

5.1 Geotechnical Investigation (GI)

- 5.1.1 The GI was carried out on the 10th and 11th of October 2011 by Glover Site Investigations Ltd and comprised the formation of eight window samples and two test pits (Figure 1). The window samples were formed, in the base of a 0.35m² by 1m deep pit, using a crawler-mounted Dando Terrier Drive Sampler, to a depth of 4m below ground level. The test pits were formed using a JCB 3X wheeled excavator and measured 2.5m by 1.6m in plan and were excavated to a depth of 2m below ground level.
- 5.1.2 The watching brief monitoring of the GI was carried out on behalf of Gifford by a suitably qualified field archaeologist appointed by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA Ltd). A site archaeological record of the GI interventions was compiled including standard PCA Ltd Test Pit Recording Sheet *pro-forma* and digital photographs. These records, forming the site archive, are currently held by PCA Ltd's Winchester office under site code WBNW11. It is intended the archive is eventually deposited with the Wiltshire History Centre, Chippenham, Wilts.
- 5.1.3 The results of the watching brief, set out below, are based on the site archive and the window sample and test pit logs compiled by Glover Site Investigations Ltd, copies of which were issued to Gifford and forwarded to PCA Ltd.

6. RESULTS

6.1 Window Samples (WS 01 to 08)

- 6.1.1 The array of eight window samples (Gifford drawing 19417-GE-001-03 rev. B) across the site of the proposed development provided an opportunity to obtain below-ground deposit information that could be used to determine the depth of existing impacts on the site, and as an indicator of the potential for any archaeological remains to have survived and be demonstrable.
- 6.1.2 The formation of each window sample was monitored by the appointed archaeologist and a record of each was made. These records and the window sample logs provided by Glover Site Investigations Ltd broadly correlate and demonstrate a consistent sequence of deposits below ground level across the site.
- 6.1.3 Natural chalk was recorded in each window sample. The depth below ground at which it was encountered varied between 0.45m and 1m. The chalk was generally found below a layer of made ground below topsoil. The made ground comprised silty clay mixed with sand and pebbles in which fragments of brick and concrete were observed.
- 6.1.4 The exception to the general sequence was recorded at WS 08, formed in the north-east corner of the site. Here, the natural chalk, at 0.6m below ground level, appeared to be capped with a 0.11m layer of clean light brown sandy-clay loam containing occasional chalk flecks; this is considered to be an *in situ* natural tertiary capping of the chalk. It was sealed by made ground and topsoil.
- 6.1.5 No archaeological deposits, features or artefacts were observed.

6.2 Test Pits 1 and 2

- 6.2.1 Test Pit 1 revealed natural chalk at a depth of 0.57m below ground, sealed by a 0.28m thick layer of compacted brown clay loam with chalk fragments, in turn sealed by crushed chalk made ground containing modern building materials. No archaeological deposits, features or artefacts were present. A modern pit containing building materials including asbestos was observed at the south end of the test pit.
- 6.2.2 Test Pit 2 revealed modern rubble, containing asbestos and a projectile shell casing, to a depth of 0.5m, at which depth the test pit was abandoned.

7. CONCLUSION

7.1 Deposit Sequence

- 7.1.1 The deposit sequence indicated by the GI appears to be fairly consistent across the site. The natural chalk was generally sealed by made ground, below topsoil, although a thin layer of natural tertiary capping sealing the chalk was observed in WS 08 and a layer of compacted brown loam was recorded overlying the natural chalk in Test Pit 1. The made ground appears to be of relatively recent date, attested by the presence of modern building materials within it.
- 7.1.2 No archaeological deposits, features or artefacts were observed within the deposit sequence.

7.2 Existing Impact

- 7.2.1 The presence of modern made ground directly over the natural chalk across the site, would appear to indicate that the area of the site was significantly impacted on by the construction of the existing residential development, if not by earlier 20th-century development within the site. This existing impact suggests that the pre-20th-century landscape has been significantly truncated and removed, leaving no trace of, for example, a former land surface.

7.3 Archaeological Potential

- 7.3.1 The site would appear to have been significantly truncated by the impact of modern 20th-century development and localised impacts such as modern pits. It appears likely that these impacts will have removed any archaeological potential that the site may once have had. Exceptionally deep archaeological features, such as ditches forming significant earthworks, could have survived the level of truncation indicated, but no other evidence that any such features may have existed within the site has been identified and the possibility that they did appears to be slight. On the basis of the observations made during the GI it is concluded that the site appears to retain no significant archaeological potential.

8. REFERENCES

Gifford, 2011, *MOD Bulford Housing Archaeological Desk-based Assessment*, report no. 19417/CHA/R01.

Institute for Archaeologists, 2008, 'Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief'.

Appendix 1: The archive

PCA Ltd Site Code: WBNW11

Contents:

Paper records (1 X A4 ring bound folder)
Test pit recording sheet X 10
Photographic register X 1
Site diary X 2 sheets
Report
Digital photographs X 31