

UPLANDS PARK, DROXFORD, HAMPSHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Issue 1: Issued for approval

Local Planning Authority: South Downs National Park Authority

Planning Reference: SDNP/16/04613/FU

NGR: SU 60913 18743

Site Code: AY708

Commissioning Client: RPS Consulting

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DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

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Type of project: Archaeological Evaluation

Report: R14208

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code			K6538
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Project Manager Sign-off	Paul McCulloch		24/08/2020

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CONTENTS

1 Abstract	4
2 Introduction	5
3 Aim	7
4 Results	8
5 Archive Preparation and Deposition	10
6 Acknowledgements	11
7 References	12
Appendix 1: Trench Index	13
Appendix 2: Photographs (Plates 1-8)	15
Appendix 3: OASIS Record	19

Figures

- Figure 1: Site Location**
- Figure 2: Detailed Site Location**
- Figure 3: Plan of Trenches 7 & 8**
- Figure 4: Sections**

1 ABSTRACT

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) was appointed by RPS Consulting Services Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Uplands Park, Droxford, Hampshire. The site is the subject of a development that will comprise the construction of 22 self-contained holiday lodges together with an on-site managers lodge, facilities/reception buildings and spa with parking and landscaping improvement following demolition of vacant hotel buildings.

The archaeological evaluation forms part of a staged approach to understanding the archaeological implications of the proposed development and follows the advice of the Winchester City Council Historic Environment Team Archaeologist, advisor to the South Downs national Park Authority. This document provides the results of the archaeological evaluation, which comprised the excavation of 13 trial trenches. The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation between the 10th and 17th August 2020.

The evaluation revealed no significant archaeological remains within the site. An undated linear feature and a modern posthole were recorded. The Site would appear to have been subject to remodelling and landscaping, which is likely to have reduced any significant archaeological potential that may have previously existed.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Project Background

2.1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) was appointed by RPS Consulting Services Ltd (RPS) to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Uplands Park, Droxford, Hampshire, (NGR SU 60913 18743) hereafter 'the Site' (**Figure 1**). The Site is the subject of a development that will comprise the construction of 22 self-contained holiday lodges together with an on-site managers lodge, facilities/reception buildings and spa with parking and landscaping improvement following demolition of vacant hotel buildings.

2.1.2 The archaeological evaluation forms part of a staged approach to understanding the archaeological implications of the proposed development and follows the advice of the Winchester City Council Historic Environment Team Archaeologist (HETA), advisor to the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA). The evaluation aimed to inform decisions concerning the future treatment of any archaeological remains found to survive within the Site.

2.1.3 This document provides the results of the archaeological evaluation, which comprised the excavation of one 13 trial trenches. This document has been prepared in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation (Cifa 2014, updated 2020) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (Historic England, 2015).

2.2 Location, Topography and Geology

2.2.1 The Site, an area of approximately 2.7 ha, is located on the east side of Garrison Hill, Droxford, which lies towards the eastern extent of the Winchester City District. The Site is bound to the east by the River Meon, to the south and north by agricultural fields and to the west by the A32 Gosport – Alton road. The Site is partially developed, with a former hotel occupying the southwestern portion of the Site, with the remaining part of the Site open with a pond located in the north-eastern corner.

2.2.2 The Site slopes towards the River Meon, from approximately 72m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) on Garrison Hill to approximately 55m aOD at the eastern boundary. The area occupied by the former hotel is relatively level and has been subject to limited landscaping activities.

2.2.3 The underlying bedrock geology is mapped as Seaford and Lewes Nodular Chalk Formations. The majority of the Site has no mapped superficial deposits, however river terrace deposits are mapped along the northern boundary and alluvial deposits along the eastern boundary.

2.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

2.3.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment for the Site was prepared by RPS Heritage (formerly CgMs) and will not be repeated in detail here (CgMs 2016). The following is the summary of the findings:

- Land at Upland Park, Garrison Hill Droxford Hampshire has been considered for its below ground archaeological potential.
- The site can be considered to have a potential for the prehistoric, Anglo-Saxon and Medieval periods, due to a combination of archaeological discovery within the study area and the sites conducive topographical location, adjacent to a watercourse.
- The bulk of the site appears to have remained open land throughout its documented history. A dwelling followed by a hotel facility developed within the southwestern corner of the site during the later twentieth century.

3 AIM

3.1 Archaeological Evaluation

3.1.1 The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the Site and, where present, determine their nature, extent, date, condition and significance, taking account of their potential to contain biological and palaeo-environmental remains.

3.1.2 This report on the results of the evaluation aims to provide sufficient information so that the future treatment of any archaeological remains remains, in respect of the proposed development, can be determined in consultation with the archaeological advisor to the SDNPA.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The following presents a summary of the results of the evaluation, based upon the Site archive, which comprises a site diary, trench recording sheets, drawings, digital photographs, retrieved artefacts and environment samples. A summary of recorded contexts is provided in a Trench Index in **Appendix 1** and photographs of the trenches are provided in **Appendix 2**. A copy of the OASIS report is provided in **Appendix 3**. The archive is held at PCA's Winchester office under the site code **AY708** and will in due course be deposited with Hampshire Cultural Trust.

4.2 Methodology

4.2.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken following the methodology that was detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (PCA 2020), which was approved by the SDNPA in advance of the commencement of works and on the advice of the HETA.

4.2.2 The evaluation comprised the excavation of one 10m X 2m trial trench, seven 20m X 2m trial trenches and five 30m X 2m trial trenches (**Figure 2**). The array of trenches was intended to provide a reasonable sample of the Site in order to establish its archaeological potential. A total of fifteen trenches were proposed across the site. All but two of the proposed trenches were opened and investigated between the 10th and 17th August 2020. Trench 3 was not possible owing to an ecological constraint and 12 lay in dense overgrowth. Trench 6 was divided into two parts in order to avoid a buried service.

4.3 Summary of Deposit Sequence

4.3.1 Based on current land use, the Site can be divided into two areas, the field, comprising the eastern and northern part of the Site where trenches 1, 2 & 4-11 were opened and the hotel in the south-west part of the Site where trenches 13-14 were opened. The deposit sequence varies between these two areas, however natural chalk was observed in all trenches (**Plates 1-3**).

4.3.2 Subsoil was observed in trenches 4-11; this was a mid-greyish/orangey brown clayey silt. The subsoil measured between 0.13m thick (Tr 7) and 0.30m thick (Tr 11). Above this lay a topsoil of a dark grey brown clayey silt. The topsoil measured between 0.14m thick (Tr 4) and 0.3m thick (Tr 6) (**Figure 4, Plate 4**).

4.3.3 In trenches 6 and 7 a layer of redeposited chalk, measuring between 0.2m thick (Tr 6) and 0.45m thick (Tr 7) was observed above the sub soil (**Figure 4, plate 5**).

4.3.4 Within trenches 13 & 15 made ground comprising alternating layers of chalk and clay was observed beneath the modern ground surface. These layers were observed up to a depth of 0.92m below ground level (BGL) in trench 15 and 1.06m BGL in trench 13 (**Figure 4, plate 6**).

4.3.5 Within trench 14 a layer of topsoil 0.21m thick was observed immediately above the chalk.

4.4 Archaeological Features

4.4.1 Discrete archaeological features were observed in trenches 7 and 8 cut into the natural chalk.

4.4.2 Trench 7 contained one feature. Feature [706] was a posthole in the south-west extent of the trench (**Figure 3, Plate 7**). It had a diameter of 0.3m and a depth of 0.23m. It contained a single fill (705) which consisted of dark grey, silty clay. No finds were recovered from the fill, but degraded fragments of a post remained *in situ*, suggesting a modern date.

4.4.3 Trench 8 contained one feature. Feature [805] was a linear feature in the south-eastern extent of the trench, aligned east – west (**Figure 3, Plate 8**). It had a shallow concave profile and measured approximately 0.2m deep and 0.84m wide. It contained a single fill (804) which consisted of dark orange-brown, clayey silt. No finds were recovered from this feature.

4.5 Conclusion

4.5.1 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the approved scheme and appears to have met the aim of the evaluation. Thirteen of the fifteen trenches were excavated and indicate the Site to contain no significant archaeological potential. A modern posthole was recorded in Trench 7 and a shallow and narrow linear feature, undated, was recorded in Trench 8.

4.5.2 The Site would appear to have been subject to remodelling and landscaping, which is likely to have reduced any significant archaeological potential that may have previously existed.

5 ARCHIVE PREPARATION 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 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. Winchester City Council, 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 Historic Environment Record Record).

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 is grateful to RPS Consulting for commissioning the evaluation and to Tracey Mathews of Winchester City Council for her advice. The evaluation was supervised by Gareth Howland assisted by Tom Warburton and Holly Brown. This report was prepared by Gareth Howland, with graphics prepared by Diana Valk. The project was managed by Paul McCulloch.

7 REFERENCES

CGMS Consulting, 2016, '*Archaeological Desk Based Assessment: Upland Park, Garrison Hill, Droxford, Hampshire*', Doc Ref RM/CC 22666

PCA, 2020, '*Uplands Park, Droxford, Hampshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*'

Appendix 1: Trench Index

Trench No.	Section No.	Photo No.s	Context	Type	Description	Depth (m) BGL
1	6d	8636-8638	101	layer	dark grey brown, clayey silt	0-0.25
	6d	8636-8638	102	layer	chalk	0.25+
2	6e	8639-8641	201	layer	dark grey brown, clayey silt	0-0.3
	6e	8639-8641	202	layer	chalk	0.3+
3	-	-	-	-	unexcavated	-
4	4b	8602-8603	401	layer	mid grey brown, clayey silt	0-0.14
	4b	8602-8603	402	layer	mid orange brown, clayey silt	0.14-0.35
	4b	8602-8603	403	layer	chalk	0.35+
5	4a	8599-8600	501	layer	mid grey brown, clayey silt	0-0.22
	4a	8599-8600	502	layer	light orange brown, clayey silt	0.22-0.5
	4a	8599-8600	503	layer	chalk	0.5+
6	6a + 6b	8625-8631+8604	601	layer	dark grey brown, clayey silt	0-0.3
	6a + 6b	8625-8631+8604	602	layer	mid orange brown, clayey silt	0.4-0.7
	6a + 6b	8625-8631+8604	603	layer	chalk	0.7+
	6a + 6b	8625-8631+8604	604	layer	redeposited chalk	0.3-0.4
7	6c	9632-8633+8635	701	layer	dark grey brown, clayey silt	0-0.2
	6c	9632-8633+8635	702	layer	redeposited chalk	0.2-0.65
	6c	9632-8633+8635	703	layer	mid orange brown, clayey silt	0.65-0.78
	6c	9632-8633+8635	704	layer	chalk	0.78+
	7a	8642-8643	705	fill	dark grey, silty clay - some fragments of post remaining	0.78
	7a	8642-8643	706	cut	circular cut, steep side, concave base	0.78
8	5b	8614-8616	801	layer	dark grey brown, clayey silt	0-0.2
	5b	8614-8616	802	layer	mid grey brown, clayey silt	0.2-0.38

	5b	8614-8616	803	layer	chalk	0.38+
	5c	8617-8621	804	fill	dark orange brown, clayey silt	0.38
	5c	8617-8621	805	cut	shallow irregular linear cut	0.38
9	5a	8611-8613	901	layer	dark grey brown, clayey silt	0-0.17
	5a	8611-8613	902	layer	light grey brown, clayey silt	0.17-0.35
	5a	8611-8613	903	layer	chalk	0.35
10	4d	8608-8610	1001	layer	mid grey brown, clayey silt	0-0.23
	4d	8608-8610	1002	layer	mid orange brown, clayey silt	0.23-0.4
	4d	8608-8610	1003	layer	chalk	0.4+
11	4c	8605-8607	1101	layer	mid grey brown, clayey silt	0-0.2
	4c	8605-8607	1102	layer	mid orange brown, clayey silt	0.2-0.5
	4c	8605-8607	1103	layer	chalk	0.5+
12	-	-	-	-	unexcavated	-
13	3a	8596-8598	1301	layer	dark grey brown, clayey silt	0-0.22
	3a	8596-8598	1302	layer	chalk/mid brownish grey clay	0.22-1.06
	3a	8596-8598	1303	layer	chalk	1.06+
14	2a	8593-8595	1401	layer	dark grey brown, clayey silt	0-0.21
	2a	8593-8595	1402	layer	chalk	0.21+
15	1a + 1b	8588-8592	1501	layer	chalk	0.92+
	1a + 1b	8588-8592	1502	layer	redeposited chalk	0.18-0.32
	1a + 1b	8588-8592	1503	layer	yellow gravel	0.32-0.61
	1a + 1b	8588-8592	1504	layer	redeposited chalk/ dark grey brown, clayey silt	0.61-0.92
	1a + 1b	8588-8592	1505	layer	mid greyish brown, clayey silt	0.11-0.31

Appendix 2: Photographs (Plates 1-8)



Plate 1. Overview of trench 1, taken looking northwest.



Plate 2. Overview of trench 7, taken looking southwest.



Plate 3. Overview of trench 10, taken looking southeast.



Plate 4. Southeast facing section of trench 11, taken looking northwest.



Plate 5. Northeast facing section of trench 6, taken looking southwest.



Plate 6. Southwest facing section of trench 15, taken facing northeast.



Plate 7. Southwest facing section of posthole [706]. Taken looking northeast.



Plate 8. East facing section of linear [805], taken facing west.

Appendix 3: OASIS Record

OASIS ID: preconst1-402049

Project details

Project name	UPLANDS PARK, DROXFORD, HAMPSHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
Short description of the project	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) was appointed by RPS Consulting Services Ltd. (RPS) to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Uplands Park, Droxford, Hampshire. The site is the subject of a development that will comprise the construction of 22 self-contained holiday lodges together with an on-site managers lodge, facilities/reception buildings and spa with parking and Landscaping improvement following demolition of vacant hotel buildings. The archaeological evaluation forms part of a staged approach to understanding the archaeological implications of the proposed development, following the advice of the Winchester City Council Historic Environment Team Archaeologist (HETA). This document provides the results of the archaeological evaluation, which comprised the excavation of one 10m X 2m trial trench, seven 20m X 2m trial trenches and five 30m X 2m trial trenches. The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation between the 10th and 17th August 2020. The evaluation revealed limited archaeological activity within the area. With only a single undated ditch and modern posthole being uncovered. The evaluation has also demonstrated that some parts of the site have been more affected by modern activity than others.
Project dates	Start: 10-08-2020 End: 17-08-2020
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	AY708 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	SDNP/16/04613/FU - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation

Site status	National Park
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	LINEAR FEATURE Uncertain
Monument type	POSTHOLE Modern
Significant Finds	NONE None

Project location

Country	England
Site location	HAMPSHIRE WINCHESTER DROXFORD Uplands Park, Droxford
Postcode	SO32 3QL
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	SU 60913 18743 50.964338659771 -1.132492209866 50 57 51 N 001 07 56 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	PCA Winchester
Project brief originator	RPS Consulting Services Ltd
Project design originator	Thomas Hayes
Project director/manager	Thomas Hayes
Project supervisor	Gareth Howland
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

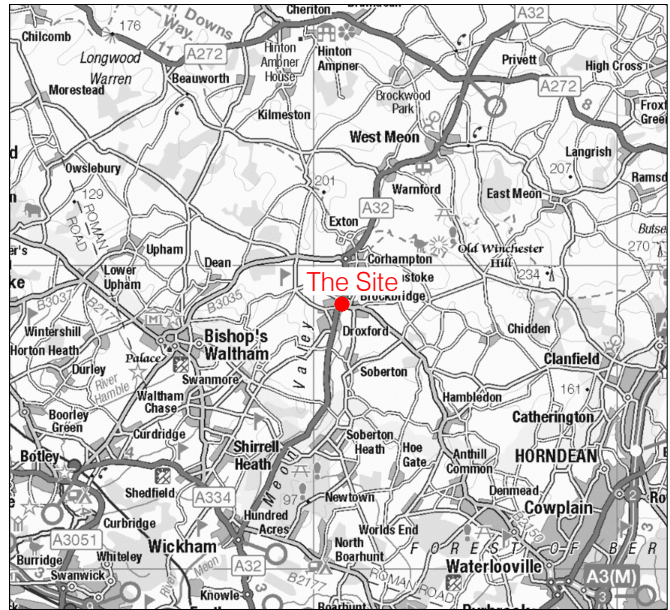
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Hampshire Cultural Trust

Digital Archive ID	WINCM: AY708
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Digital Media available	"Spreadsheets", "Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Hampshire Cultural Trust
Paper Archive ID	WINCM: AY708
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Plan", "Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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 21/08/20 DV

Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:2,000,000 & 1:250,000 & 1:25,000 at A4



