PARK AND RIDE, BAR END, WINCHESTER

Report on archaeological watching brief 2003

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Summary

Between June-July 2003, Winchester Museums Service undertook a watching brief during groundwork for the extension of the park and ride at Bar End, Winchester. Topsoil stripping revealed part of a shallow Roman ditch that is likely to have formed part of an enclosure system. The presence of noticeable quantities of Roman building material, both within the ditch, and across the site in general indicates the presence of substantial Roman structure(s) in the vicinity of the site, although none were found. Traces of activity of probable prehistoric date were also found.

Acknowledgements

Winchester Museums Service would like to thank Hampshire County and Winchester City Councils and their contractors for their co-operation. Also to Pete Higgins and James Morris of Southern Archaeological Services Ltd for the animal bone and environmental assessment reports.

1. Introduction

1. This report details the result of an archaeological watching brief that was carried out between 30th June and 29th July 2003 at Bar End, Winchester. The work was commissioned by Hampshire County Council, and was carried out by the Archaeology Section, Winchester Museums Service.

2. The archaeological work was carried out as a condition of planning consent (Refs.: W0311/04 and W0311/05) for the extension of the park and ride at Bar End, Winchester. In order to fulfil the archaeological condition, Hampshire County Council prepared a Specification for an archaeological watching brief and its conditions were implemented by Winchester Museums Service.

2. The site

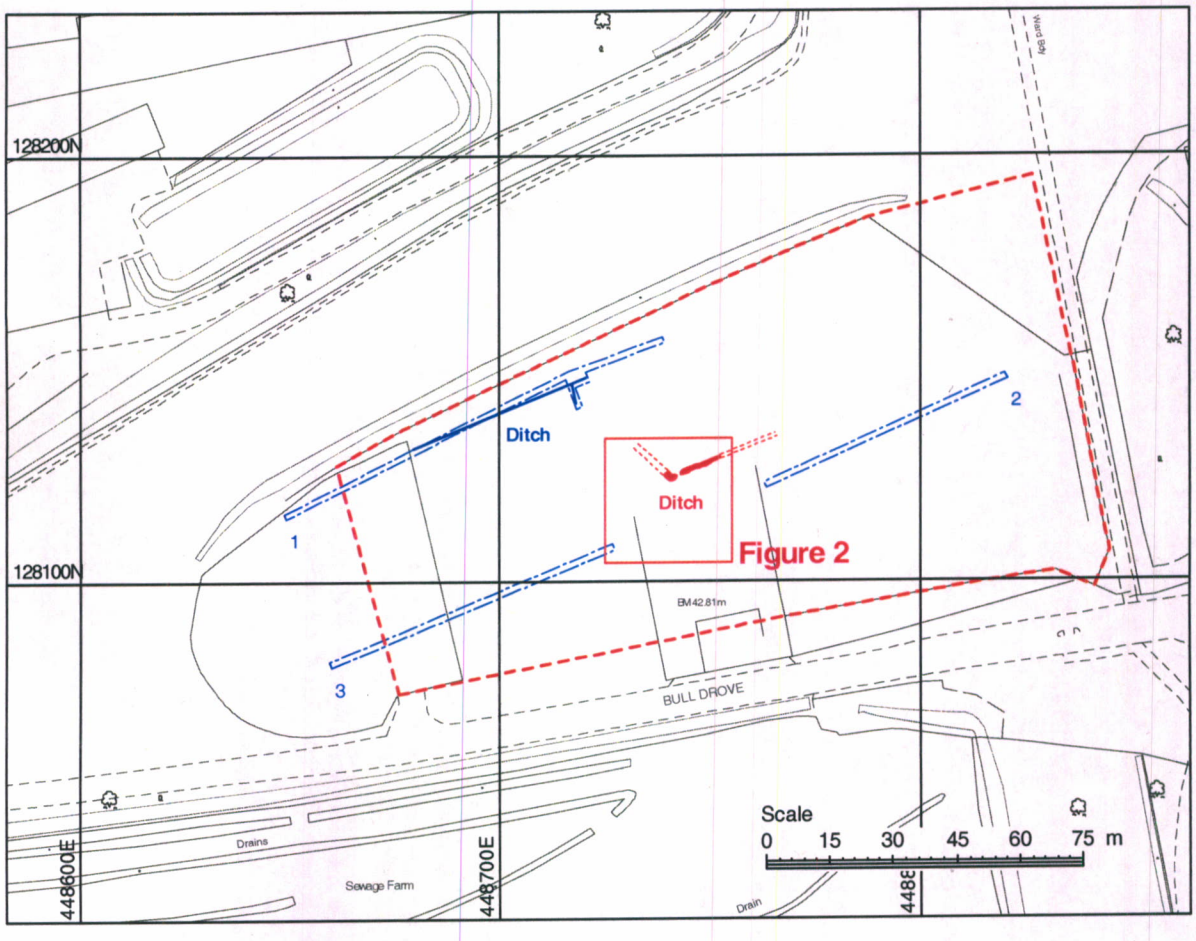

Fig. 1: Location of site, showing area observed (in red - dashed) and the 1996 evaluation trenches (blue)

1. The area of the new park and ride is located on the southern outskirts of Winchester (NGR SU4825 2815 centre).

2. The site comprises two broad topographical zones:

   - The old Winchester By-pass which is generally an area of flat reclaimed roadway.
   - To its south, a field of rough overgrown pasture that slopes away to the north from c.43m OD, and bounded by the old By-pass and by the road known as Bull Drove to the south. Its extreme southern part was as a recovery compound during the construction of the M3 motorway.

3. The site is located on chalk.

3. Archaeological background

1. The site lies just north-east of the important Iron Age fort of St Catherines Hill and is bounded on the east side by the postulated line of the Roman road leading from Winchester to Wickham.

2. In 1996, Winchester Museums Service undertook an archaeological evaluation within the area of the pasture field in advance of earlier proposals for a park and ride scheme. The area of the reclaimed By-pass was not evaluated and is considered archaeologically sterile (Winchester Museums Service 1996, *Specification for Archaeological Evaluation*). A single ditch was found, containing Roman ceramic building material and fragment of marble, and was located close to the northern edge of the field, perpendicular to the line of the Roman road (see Fig. 1, above).

4. Project objective

1. The general aim of the project was to record such evidence that may add to our understanding of past land-use in this area, and present such evidence in a format for public dissemination.

5. Project methodology

1. The general project methodology conformed to that as stipulated in the *Specification.*

- All significant ground-works carried out during the course of the project were monitored by an archaeologist from Winchester Museum Service.

- All topsoil and sub-soils was stripped (where appropriate) to the top of the natural chalk, utilising a machine fitted with a toothless bucket.

- Archaeological records were compiled using the recording systems of the Archaeology Section, Winchester Museum Service, as laid out in its

Archaeological Site recording systems: A Guide to the Compilation of the Site Record (2001).

- Colour slide photographs were taken using 1m scaling rods, as appropriate.
- All finds and soil samples were retained, securely bagged and labelled with the site code and relevant context numbers and removed to Winchester Museum Service for appropriate processing. There were no sensitive finds requiring conservation.

6. Project results

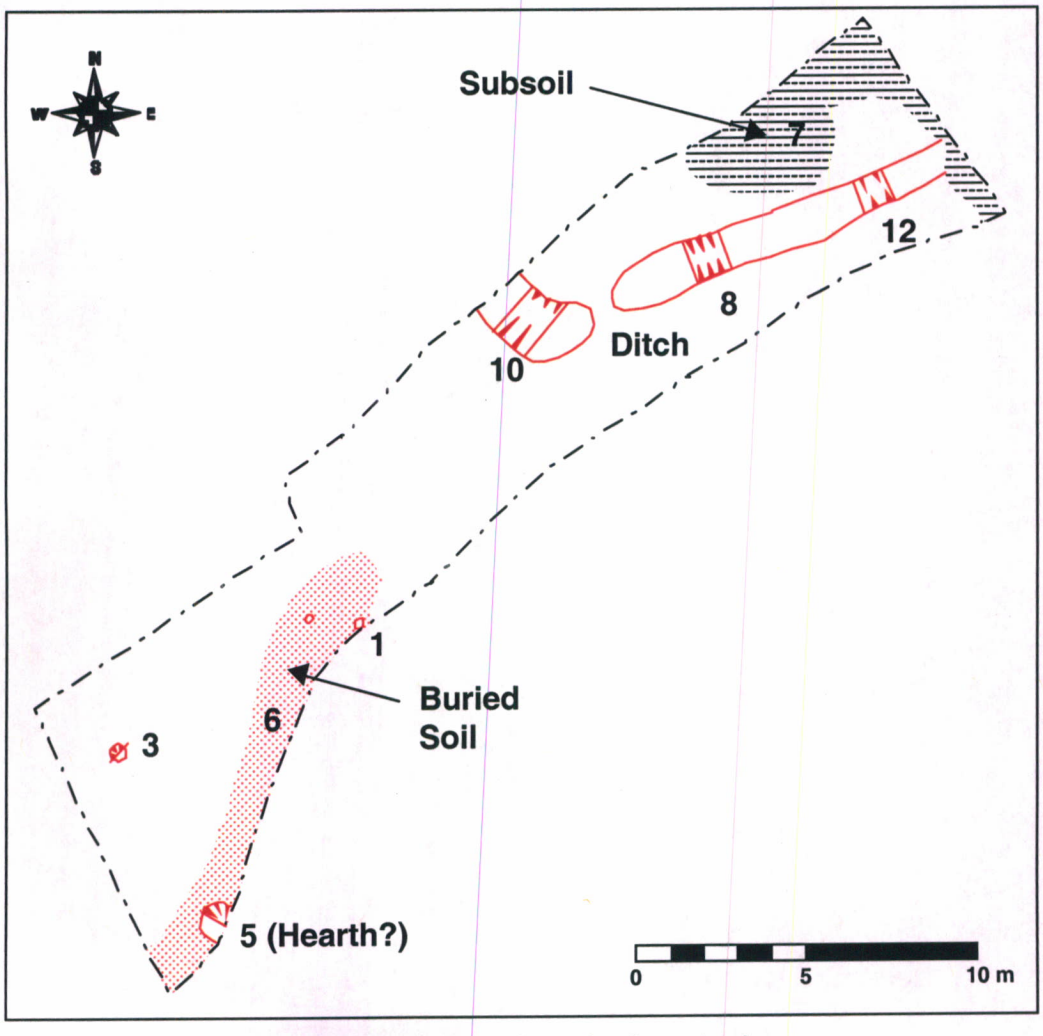

Fig. 2: Plan of observed features (see Fig. 1 for location)

6.1. General

1. Initial preparation of the site comprised of the stripping of the modern topsoil to the underlying subsoil or chalk, as appropriate. Stripping generally progressed towards the east from the western end of the site. Subsequent excavations were limited to those areas that required terracing for the formation of the parking bays, mainly within the central area of the site.

2. After topsoil clearance, chalk bedrock was only exposed on the higher slopes of the site, towards the south, where there was no underlying subsoil. Here the chalk was found to be somewhat weathered and decayed and on inspection apparently devoid of features. Modern debris was noted throughout the depth of the shallow topsoil to the top of the chalk, suggesting that the chalk had been previously exposed in the recent past.

3. Elsewhere on the site the topsoil directly overlaid on clean, silty and homogeneous pale light brown subsoil containing small chalk lumps and flecks. It was almost devoid of other components although occasional fragments of Roman ceramic building material were noted throughout the site. Other surface finds collected comprised early Roman pottery including amphora, oxidised greyware, and Samian and sherds of a flint-tempered fabric - possibly of Early Iron Age date. No features other than those that were considered recent were found to cut into the subsoil. However, the rather warm and dry conditions that prevailed throughout the project rendered identification of any such archaeological features cutting this soil difficult.

4. Within the central area of the site (Figures 1 and 2) the subsoil was removed to the underlying chalk revealing several archaeological features. Here the depth of the subsoil rapidly deepened to in excess of 0.60m. The archaeological features were recorded and sampled and are described below.

6.2. The ditch

1. Part of a shallow ditch was exposed, aligned east-west, discontinuous at its west end, before turning northwards at approximately right-angles. Three excavated sections (**8, 10, and 12**) revealed it to be 1.3-1.8m in width and only 0.12m in depth at its deepest point. It had near vertical sides and a slightly irregularly flat base. It was traced for a length of 13m eastwards before being obscured by the overlying subsoil (**7**).

2. The excavated sections produced a noticeable quantity of fragments of Roman ceramic building material and animal bone. The few sherds of pottery present included undiagnostic Roman greyware and a sherd with flint tempering, possibly of Late Bronze Age date.

6.3. The buried soil

1. Towards the south of the area was a clean dark brown soil (**6**) up to 0.28m thick, apparently filling a natural hollow in the chalk. Its 'spongy' nature showed characteristics of decayed turf. Therefore, it seems reasonable to suggest that it may represent the surviving ancient turf, prior to its concealment by the subsoil (**7**). No finds were apparent within it.

6.4. The ?hearth

1. Overlying into the surface of the buried soil (**6**) was a small area containing burnt flints and charcoal (**5**), possible the remains of a hearth. Although not fully revealed, it was approximately circular and 0.46m across.

2. It contained a small sherd of comb-decorated Beaker of Early Bronze Age date and a fragment of fired clay.

6.5. The postholes

1. Cutting into buried soil were two small post-holes, one of which was sampled. Posthole **1** was near circular and 0.37m in diameter and rather shallow at 0.07m in depth. It was filled with charcoal rich brown silt indicating that the post has been burnt *in-situ*. A second similar posthole was located close-by.

2. Some 7m to the south-west was a third posthole (**3**), 0.40m in diameter and 0.17m deep. It was filled with a fairly charcoal rich brown silt and contained two small flint flakes.

7. Discussion

1. The watching brief have confirmed the general lack of intensive archaeological activity that was established during the evaluation of the site, at least on the upper slopes of the southern part of the site. However, the chalk bedrock was generally not exposed on the lower lying northern part of the site where it lay under a thick accumulation of subsoil.

2. The ditch is contemporary with the ditch that was found during the evaluation and together may form part of at least two rectangular (?) enclosures aligned at approximately right angles to the projected line of the Roman road to the east. Enclosure ditches of this date are a common feature pertaining to the management of the chalk downland around Winchester and indicate the presence of settlements, farmsteads and fields.

3. The presence of appreciable quantities of Roman building material from the ditches and across the site in general implies the presence of substantial Roman building(s) on or within the vicinity of the site. They may pertain to an intramural settlement such as the one that has recently been recognised to lie below southern part of Highcliffe, flanking the eastern side of the Roman Road.

4. If the hearth and postholes are contemporary, they may pertain to a small but distinct area of activity, perhaps dating to the prehistoric period, since no extensive evidence was found during the watching brief or the earlier evaluation. It therefore may be suggested that this activity represents short-term activity on the site and its close proximity to the settlement on St. Catherine's Hill is noted.

8. Further dissemination and publication

1. The results of the watching brief warrant no further work beyond this report. A short note summarising its outcome however will be published in the following periodicals.

- Archaeology in Hampshire 2003 (Hants County Council)
- Winchester Museums Service Newsletter
- The Council for British Archaeology (Wessex) Newsletter

9. Archive deposition

1. With the consent of the landowner, its is intended that all components of the archaeological archive, including correspondence, records, and reports, will be deposited with Winchester Museums Service.

2. The agreed accession number is **WINCM: AY161.**

10. Staffing

Project Manager	Steven Teague Archaeology Projects Officer Winchester Museums Service
Project Archaeologists	Steven Teague Andrew White
Finds Officer	Helen Rees Finds Officer Winchester Museums Service

Appendix A: The faunal remains assessment

James Morris BSc (Hon), MSc (Southern Archaeological Services Ltd)

1. Introduction

1. This report concerns the faunal remains from archaeological evaluation AY161, carried out by Winchester Museum Services at Bar End Winchester. The work resulted in the collection of 156 bone fragments by hand during the excavation. The bones are from three contexts of unknown date, contexts 9, 11 and unstratified (U/S).

2. Methods of analysis

1. All animal bones were recorded individually into a Microsoft Access database. Where appropriate, the following information for each fragment was recorded: context; phase; find number; species; anatomy; zone(s) of bone present; percentage of bone surviving (10%, 25%, 50%, 75%, 100%); fusion data; taphonomic condition; tooth ageing data; pathological data; butchery data; metrical data; other comments. Where necessary, identifications were confirmed by reference to the comparative skeleton collection housed in the School of Conservation Sciences, Bournemouth University.

2. Counts of the number of individual specimens present (NISP) include any identified limb bone shaft fragments, dorsal ends of ribs, skull fragments, loose teeth and vertebral bodies. Tooth eruption and wear descriptions for cattle, sheep/goat and pig follow the methods of Grant (1982). It was not possible to take measurements of any of the fragments, butchery marks and pathology was not identified on any of the elements.

3. Condition

1. The assemblage was in relatively poor condition. Many of the fragments were eroded and fragmented. Two cattle mandibles from context 9, are fragmented to such a high degree that they consist of 84 fragments. The high degree of fragmentation of these two bones appears to be due to two factors. Overburden seems to have crushed the bones, resulting in fragmentation, also modern damage has occurred increasing the amount of fragmentation.

2. Elements from context 11, seems to have suffered from erosion, with 28% (18) of the elements displaying visible erosion. Erosion is where the outer layer of lamellar bone has been abraded and two of the main causes weathering and trampling (Lyman 1994: 186). This indicates that some of the elements deposited within context 11 were possibly left above ground for a period of time before deposition.

4. Analysis

1. It was possible to identify 102 (65%) of the faunal assemblage to species and element. Where it was not possible to identify to species, the fragment was placed into one of six categories: unidentified bird, unidentified fish, unidentified mammal, unidentified small mammal (cat-size and smaller), unidentified medium mammal (sheep/goat and pig-size), and unidentified large mammal (cow and horse-size). This is a relatively high degree of identification for an assemblage that is fragmented and eroded. The level of identification is so high because of the 84 fragments from context 9 which make up two cattle mandibles. The

identified assemblage consists entirely of domestic mammals, cattle, horse and sheep/goat.

Table 1 Species and element NISP per context

Species	Element	Context U/S	Context 9	Context 11	Total
Cattle	Caudal vertebra			6	6
	Mandible		84 (2)		84 (2)
Horse	Radius			2	2
	Ulna			1	1
	Tibia			1	1
	Metatarsal	1			1
Sheep/Goat	Mandible			1	1
	Scapular			1	1
	Pelvis			3	3
	Femur	1			1
	Metacarpal	1			1
UM	Fragment			7	7
	Skull fragments			9	9
UMM	Rib			3	3
	Vertebra fragment	5		18	23
	Long bone fragment			4	4
ULM	Long bone fragment			8	8
Total		8	84 (2)	64	156

2. Context 9 only contains two bones, both cattle mandible, but crushed to such a high degree that they are made up of a combination of 84 fragments. The mandibles were probably deposited together and complete, and were fragmented post-deposition. The mandibles may be from the same individual cow, as the Grant (1982) mandible wear stages for each mandible is the same. Both mandibles have a wear stage of 46, which suggests an age of senile, (Hambleton 1999:65). Meaning that the cow was probably over 12 years old.

3. Bones from context 11 were also possibly deposited together from the same individuals. The cattle remains from context 11 consist of 6 caudal (tail) vertebra, some of which articulate. They may therefore represent one deposition event of a cows tail. The horse radius and ulna fragments may also be from one individual. The two radius fragments are of a proximal and a distal end. It is unknown if these two fragments are from the same bone. The ulna fragment articulates with the proximal radius fragment indicating that they are from the same individual and were possible deposited articulated. The rest of the fragments from context 11 seem to represent individual bones being deposited.

5. Conclusion

1. The assemblage consists of 156 fragments. This fragment count is greatly increased because of the presence of two cow mandibles that have been highly fragmented. Both contexts contain elements that may have been deposited together from the same individual. The presence of possible articulated elements does indicate that the contexts have probably been undisturbed since the elements were deposited. This indicates that further investigation would properly yield more faunal material.

6. List of abbreviations

NISP = number of identified specimens

UM = unidentified mammal
UMM = unidentified Medium mammal (such as S/G or pig)
ULM = unidentified large mammal (such as cattle and horse)

7. Bibliography

Grant, A. 1982. The use of tooth wear as a guide to the age of domestic ungulates. In Wilson, R. Grigson, C. and Payne, S. (eds.) *Ageing and sexing animal bones from archaeological sites.* Oxford. BAR International series 109; 91-108.

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This report was Compiled by James Morris BSc (Hon), MSc of Southern Archaeological Services Ltd. On behalf of Winchester City Council Museums Service. It was edited by Pete Higgins and Brian Whitehead. January 2004

Appendix B: The environmental samples assessment

Pete Higgins (Southern Archaeological Services Ltd)

1. Introduction

1. Three small general biological samples were retrieved by Winchester City Council Museums Service during the course of archaeological investigations at Bar End and passed to Southern Archaeological Services Ltd for processing and comment.

2. The site code allocated by Winchester City Council Museums Service is AY161.

2. Methodology

1. The samples were processed by wet sieving, and flots and residues were then dried. The whole of each residue and flot was then sorted under low magnification.

2. Results were recorded on standard SAS environmental recording pro-formae. Pete Higgins of SAS undertook initial identification of all materials. All artefacts and ecofacts will be passed to Winchester City Council Museums Service for amalgamation with the bulk finds.

3. The data presented in this report has not been processed or analysed in detail. In particular, the results have not been adjusted to show counts per litre or counts per kilogram.

3. Results and discussion

Material	Count	Weight (g)	Comments
Slate	3	<1	
Glass	1	<1	Thin-walled vessel
Non-cereal seed	1	<1	cf *Alnus glutinosa*
Mammal bone	50	<1	All small, nearly all burnt. Undiagnostic.
Land snail	21	<1	See below
Egg shell	1	<1	
Arthropod	1	<1	Insect egg - Hymenopteran?

Table 1: Sample 1, Context 2

Material	Count	Weight (g)	Comments
Burnt flint	7	18	
Slate	2	<1	
Pottery	1	<1	c.1250? Rim sherd
Large mammal bone	50	2.5	All small, a few are burnt
Land snail	<120	<1	See below

Table 2: Sample 2, Context 5

Material	Count	Weight (g)	Comments
Burnt flint	5	8.5	
Slate	5	<1	
Pottery	2	<1	c.1250? Rim sherd
Mammal bone	16	<1	All small, c. half are burnt. Includes 2 vole teeth
Land snail	35	<1	See below
Arthropod	1	<1	Modern woodlouse

Table 3: Sample 3, Context 6

1. Apart from land snails, very few organic remains were found, and most of these could be intrusive. The presence of burnt flint indicates a burning event, but the absence of burnt soil or chalk suggests this was not *in situ*.

2. The land snails are of a range of taxa, including (in no particular order)

   Vallonia costata
   V. pulchella
   cf *V. excentrica*
   Pomatius elegans
   Oxychilus alliarius
   cf *O. helveticus*
   cf *O. cellarius*
   Aegopinella nitidula
   cf *A. pura*
   Nesovitrea hammonis
   Discus rotundatus
   Cochliaria lubrica
   Punctum pygmaeum
   Vitrea crystalline
   Pupilla muscorum

3. The assemblage from sample 2 is the largest, and is dominated by dry chalkland species, although more catholic species are also present. The samples are from fills of features, and therefore cannot be used for detailed environmental analysis.

4. The bone assemblage is small, fragmented, and not very informative, although the bone from sample 1 has been subjected to heat for longer than that from sample 2 Johnson, 1989.).

4. Conclusions

1. The presence of burnt flint and burnt bone in all samples suggests more than one burning event. The land snail assemblage is large enough to indicate that samples taken from the layers cut by the features from which the samples came may yield sufficient numbers to allow palaeoenvironmental analysis.

5. Scope for further work

1. The samples do not warrant further study.

6. Bibliography

Carter, S. 1990. The stratification and taphonomy of shells in calcareous soils: the implications for land snail analysis in archaeology. *Journal of Archaeological Science* **17**, 494-507

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This report was compiled by Pete Higgins of Southern Archaeological Services Ltd on behalf of Winchester City Council Museums Service. It was edited by Brian Whitehead. January 2004.

Appendix C: The ceramic building material

Helen Rees

The site produced 12.905kg of ceramic tile, mainly unstratified, but also from contexts *9*, *11* and *13*. Apart from one fragment of post-medieval brick, this material was Roman in date. Although the assemblage was in mostly very poor and abraded condition, *tegulae*, *imbrices* and chamfered tiles were identifiable.

A brief scan establishes that the material compares well with 1st and 2nd century Group 1 tiles from the Brooks (Robert Foot in Winchester Museums Archive BR), not only in fabric but also in size and high standard of manufacture. The implication is that the tile derived originally from a 1st or 2nd century building of some pretension.

MONID 54459

Park and Ride Car Park,

Bar End, Winchester (NGR SU4875 2185).

Report on Archaeological Evaluation October 1996.

1. Introduction

This report concerns the results of the archaeological evaluation of the proposed Park and Ride Car Park site at Bar End, Winchester (NGR SU4875 2815 centre). The evaluation was carried out on behalf of Winchester City Council and in respect of the Specification for Archaeological Evaluation (attached) issued by the Principal Archaeologist, Winchester City Council.

The written and finds record of the evaluation is held by the Winchester Museums Service under site code BUD96.

2. Background

The evaluation site lies below the Iron Age hillfort of St Catherines Hill and is bounded to the east by the line of the Roman road from Winchester to Chichester. Although the site is surrounded by land substantially altered by modern activity, including the line of the former A33 bypass, it was considered that its archaeological potential remained intact and untested.
The evaluation was required in order to identify any surviving archaeological features on the site so that:

-the impact on any such features by the proposed park and ride scheme could be assessed and,

-the need for recommendations for their preservation in situ or by record could be established.

3. Fieldwork summary

Following consultation with the Principal Archaeologist, and according to the Specification, three evaluation trenches were excavated. Trench 1 was located close to the northern boundary of the site, ran east-west, and was 100m long. Trenches 2 & 3 were excavated parallel to trench 1, 40m to the south, and were positioned either side of the disused compound on the site.

The trenches were mechanically excavated to the top of natural deposits, which occurred at approximately 300mm depth, in the top of which, it was expected, any archaeological features would be visible. Each trench was inspected for archaeological features and, where none were observed, was immediately backfilled.

4. Fieldwork results

A single archaeological feature was recorded in the evaluation, in trench 1. This was a ditch up to 2.5m wide and .5m deep traced over a distance of 45m and which ran approximately east-west. The ditch was sampled and finds retrieved from it included fragments of Roman building material including tile and small pieces of two types of marble. The ditch was sealed directly by topsoil and was cut into natural, abraded, chalk observed in all the trenches.

The ditch, almost certainly a feature of Roman date, runs at right angles to the line of the Roman road leading south from Winchester, the line of which flanks the eastern boundary of the site. The presence of building material in the ditch may indicate that a building stood on or close to the site, but no further evidence of this was located in the evaluation.

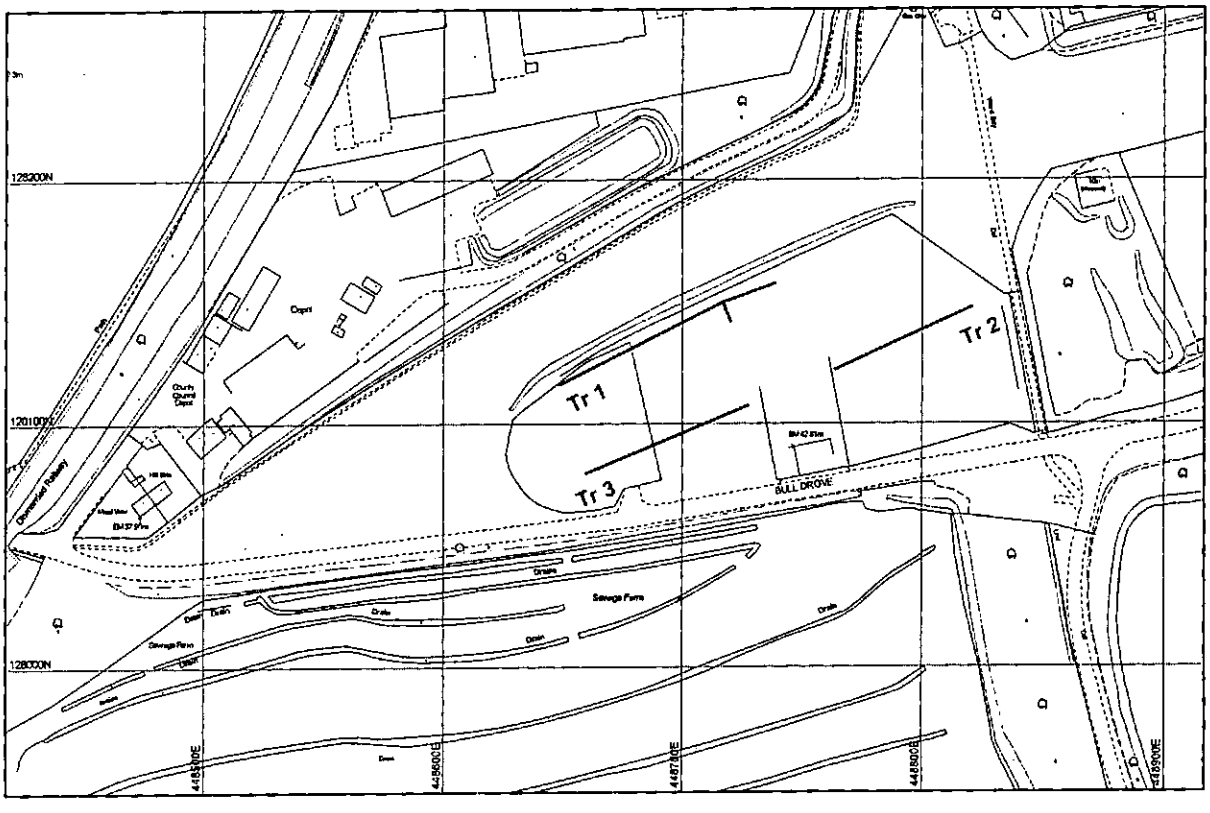

Figure 1: Location of trenches

The fragments of marble represent evidence for structural embellishment typical of wealthier Roman buildings. The fragments include pieces of Purbeck marble and a single piece of white marble with green streaks. The latter was probably imported from a foreign source.

5. Conclusion

The evaluation appears to have demonstrated that little archaeology is present or existed on the proposed park and ride car park scheme site. However, the Roman ditch identified in trench 1 is a significant feature and allowance should be made for appropriate excavation and recording of it where it may be affected by the car park scheme.