Wessex Archaeology

Forest Road/Southwick Road Denmead, Hampshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Report Reference 46334.02

2 June 1999

FOREST ROAD/SOUTHWICK ROAD, DENMEAD, HAMPSHIRE

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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Prepared for

Westbury Homes (Holdings) Limited
Monachus House
High Street
Hartley Wintney
Hampshire
RG27 8NW

By

Wessex Archaeology
Portway House
Old Sarum Park
Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP4 6EB

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Forest Road/Southwick Road, Denmead, Hampshire

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Westbury Homes Limited to carry out an archaeological watching brief within the site of a proposed development at the crossing of Forest Road and Southwick Road, Denmead (centred on National Grid Reference SU 65100 11650). The area under investigation, *c.* 0.2ha, was located within the northern half of a roughly rectangular parcel of land covering *c.* 0.8ha to the northeast of Forest Road.

Although little evidence exists for known archaeology in the area, a previous evaluation conducted on the site by Wessex Archaeology had revealed ditches orientated on varying alignments, from which many finds were retrieved. These included large sherds of pottery of a Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British date and much burnt flint, with charcoal also abundantly present. Several of these features were further defined by the watching brief and a number of additional ditches and related features were revealed. However, no patterning or enclosure definition was established in the ditch alignments.

A small quantity of artefactual material was recovered from the watching brief, comprising mainly burnt flint, and pottery dating from the Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British and post-medieval periods. A small quantity of post-medieval ceramic building material was also recovered. No further evidence for settlement was established.

The results do, however, appear to confirm the existence of an industrial site dating to the Early Romano-British period (later first century AD).

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Acknowledgements

Westbury Homes commissioned the project, and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Mark Lintell, in particular, for his assistance at various stages of the work. We are also grateful to Melvyn Keyte, formerly of Westbury Homes, and his successor, Brian Leeming, for kindly arranging site access. The collaborative role of Simon Thorpe, of Winchester Museum Services, throughout the course of the project is also acknowledged.

The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Joanne Donachie. The fieldwork was directed by Jamie Wright with the assistance of Caroline Appleton, Erica Hemmings, Steve Thomson and Gail Mabbott. The report was compiled by Jamie Wright with finds by Lorraine Mepham. Editing was by Joanne Donachie and the illustrations were prepared by Linda Coleman.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Westbury Homes (Holdings) Limited applied for planning permission to construct a residential estate, as a part of infill housing at the intersection of Forest Road and Southwick Road, on the western edge of Denmead, Hampshire (centred on National Grid Reference SU 65100 11650). The area comprised *c.* 0.8ha of land, bounded to the northwest and southwest by Forest and Southwick Roads, and to the northeast and southeast by fields, which were also being developed for housing (Wessex Archaeology 1999a).

1.1.2 An archaeological condition was placed on the development that required archaeological evaluation, comprising a series of test trenches, be undertaken prior to construction, with further archaeological work undertaken, if merited. The evaluation was carried out by Wessex Archaeology during March 1999, and concluded, from the quantities of pottery, dating to the Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British period, slag, burnt flint and charcoal which were recovered from ditches, that an industrial site was present or in the immediate vicinity (Wessex Archaeology 1999b, Appendix 1). The datable finds indicated an approximate date for occupation of the site from the end of the first century BC to the mid to late first century AD

1.1.3 Accordingly, a Written Scheme of Investigation was prepared in order to undertake an Archaeological Watching Brief in the northwestern section of the proposed development, an area of some 0.2ha (hereafter known as the 'Site', **Figure 1**). This area was where the majority of features and finds were recorded during the evaluation and, as such, was considered to be of archaeological potential. Westbury Homes (Holdings) Limited therefore commissioned Wessex Archaeology to undertake this second stage of investigation which was carried out between the 29th March and the 14th April 1999.

1.2 Topography, geology and land use

1.2.1 The Site is situated near the top of a slight valley, which drains to the east-south-east. A spring issues *c.*100m to the northeast of the Site, and drains down into the valley. Approximately 200m to the northwest, a second spring is mapped as draining to the northeast. At the time of the investigation there were few changes in height over the area which is recorded at 44m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

1.2.2 The underlying geology comprises Reading Beds of mottled clay deposits (Ordnance Survey 1:63,360 Geological Survey of England and Wales Sheet 316, 1971). The soils are Argillic brown earths or brown earths, clayey or loamy-over-clayey soils often with impeded drainage

1.2.3 The Site had been grazed pasture, of poor quality, with many hoof marks apparent in the field, suggestive of waterlogging.

1.3 Archaeological background

1.3.1 There is little evidence in the County Sites and Monuments Record for known archaeology in the immediate area although many sites are known regionally.

1.3.2 The site of a Neolithic long barrow, known as Bevis's Grave, lies *c.* 5km to the southeast of the site, on the narrow ridge of Camp Down (Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England 1979, 22-23). Some 2km to the northwest of the Site is a Bronze Age barrow cemetery (English Heritage 1996, 49, Monument Number 458).

1.3.3 The Chichester to Bitterne Roman Road passes 2km to the south of the Site (Margary 1955). A possible Roman villa or aisled farmhouse dated to second to fourth centuries was located close to the line of the Roman Road, some 2km to the southeast of the Site (Scott 1993, 84). A second, possible villa, dating from the late first to early fourth centuries, is also recorded, lying 1km to the east of the farmhouse (*ibid.*).

1.3.4 A Medieval ring and bailey earthwork exists *c.* 2km to the southeast of the Site in Place Wood (English Heritage 1996, 52 Monument Number 125) with a relict deserted medieval village recorded nearby. Two Medieval fish ponds are also located 1km to the north of the site with the remains of a possible Late Medieval chapel located *c.*5km beyond.

1.3.5 The place name of Denmead, which comes from the Old English 'meadowland in the valley'; was first documented in 1205 (Coates 1989, 65). It was certainly a settlement during the reign of Edward III (1327-77) as it is noted in the Lay Subsidies for Hampshire –taxation records for taxes levied on movabls which date from the 12th to 17th centuries (Schadla-Hall 1977, 150).

2 FIELDWORK

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The main objectives of the watching brief were to:

- Record any archaeological remains which may be encountered and which may add to our understanding of this area of Hampshire

- Record the location, extent, date, nature, character and relationships of the archaeological evidence.

2.2 Methods

2.2.1 Topsoil was stripped by a 360 degree tracked excavator using a toothless bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. Due to the waterlogged nature of the topsoil, dumper trucks could not be used to remove the spoil as this might have caused damage to underlying archaeological deposits.

2.2.2 Machining was undertaken down to the level where archaeological features were encountered (*c.* 0.10m-0.15m below the level of topsoil). These strata were then hand-cleaned to enable archaeological features to be planned using a Total Station Theodolite.

2.2.3 A sufficient sample of archaeological features were hand excavated in order to establish the date, nature, extent and condition of the archaeological remains, with finds retained by context number. Excavated features were recorded and planned using Wessex Archaeology's pro-forma record sheets, and a full photographic record was compiled. The full project archive, including finds, will be deposited with Winchester Museums Service under the site code DE99.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 A précis of each context sheet for the archaeological features is presented below in **Appendix 1**. The locations of the principal archaeological features are shown in **Figure 2**.

3.2 Soil profile

3.2.1 The geological deposits were of orange (yellowish brown) clay of the Reading Beds, with much pale grey brown, dark orange brown and blue mottling. The clay was difficult to clean using a trowel, and often tore in large lumps.

3.2.2 The subsoil was a brown silty clay loam with frequent very small chalk fragments.

3.2.3 Topsoil was a dark grey silty loam of 0.10m to 0.15m depth.

3.2.4 It is assumed that the chalk in the subsoil had been imported and ploughed in to lighten a heavy soil prone to waterlogging. According to a local informant, some years previously turves had been cut and removed and imported topsoil spread in their stead in order to utilise part of the field as a cricket pitch. Certainly, this explanation would account for the marked difference between topsoil and subsoil.

3.3 Archaeological deposits

General description and survival of archaeology

3.3.1 The archaeological remains comprised three kinds: linear and curvilinear ditches, spreads of contiguous flint nodules and fragmented flint, and spreads of soil containing considerable quantities of pottery, burnt flint, large pieces of unworked flint and charcoal.

3.3.2 At the level of machining many of the ditches could be seen to contain pottery, burnt flint and residues from burning. While charcoal could not always be identified, the soils were frequently almost black suggesting the presence of decayed charcoal.

3.3.3 The material seen in the spreads of soil was identical to that in the ditches, thus it can be assumed that ploughing of the field after the abandonment of the Site in the Late Iron Age/Romano British period had destroyed the ditches and spread their contents.

3.3.4 The ditches varied in width, with the southwest section of ditch **1027** measuring 2.0m wide, narrowing to 0.5m wide in its eastern section. Ditch **1038** appeared in plan to have two terminals separated by a 3.5m wide causeway. However, excavation demonstrated that the ditch did, in fact, continue and that the 'causeway' was simply a narrowing of the feature from 0.70m to 0.51m wide (segment **1039**; see below). Ditch **1035** also varied in width from 0.29m to 0.03m. Therefore, it must be assumed that truncation had removed all but the bases of the deepest features on the Site. This interpretation is confirmed by the rusty colour of fills of the narrower ditches, where only the lowest fills, those subjected to repeated flooding and drying, and subsequent migration and accumulation of iron salts, have survived.

3.3.5 The ditches themselves did not form any discernible patterns or appear to delineate areas. However, it is tempting to view curvilinear ditch **1027** as delimiting a corner.

3.4 Stratigraphic relationships

Ditches 1027and 1029 and Pit 1023

3.4.1 Ditch **1027** was one of the most prominent features exposed during the watching brief. Measuring *c.* 2m in width at its southern extremity, it runs in a roughly north-south direction for some 22m before turning eastwards to continue beyond the stripped area. At this point, the width of the ditch has diminished considerably to 0.2m.

3.4.2 Excavation confirmed the ditch had gently sloping sides and an irregular almost flat base that was 0.35m deep. The fill (**1020**), a mottled pale grey and orange silty clay, produced only ceramic building material and a single piece of clay pipe.

3.4.3 Ditch **1027** is cut by ditch **1029**. A segment was excavated to investigate the relationships between the two ditches and an oval-shaped pit **1023**, which had been dug into the fill of ditch **1027** near its southern end. The sondage established that ditch **1027** was the earliest feature (**Figure 3, Section 2**). A

second segment of ditch **1027** was excavated, confirming the same shallow profile referred to above, and no drawing is presented here. The finds from the fill of this segment, **1016,** were dominated by the quantity of burnt flint, with Romano-British pottery and fired clay and a single piece of ceramic building material also present.

3.4.4 Before excavation it was clear that pit **1023**, measuring *c.* 4.2m by 2.0m, cut fill **1028** of ditch **1027** but its relationship with ditch **1029** was unclear. The section (**Figure 3, Section 2**) showed that the pit, *c.* 0.10m deep, was, in fact, cut by ditch **1029**. The pit fill, **1024**, was dark brown or black and contained common burnt flint and charcoal fragments; none of the burnt flint was retained.

3.4.5 Ditch **1029**, the most recent of the three features, was excavated and revealed the ditch to be 0.12m deep with shallowly sloping sides and a flat base. The fill, **1022**, was a brown silty clay which produced no finds. A second section was excavated (**Figure 3, Section 3**; segment **1025** and fill **1026**), which confirmed the established depth and profile of the ditch. Finds from this segment were a mixture of Romano-British pottery and ceramic building material with a fragment of clay pipe.

Ditch 1033 and feature 1017

3.4.6 Ditch **1027** was clearly joined at right angles near its southern end by a second ditch, **1033**, *c.* 1.8m in width. Both ditches were in use contemporaneously and had similar fills.

3.4.7 Ditch **1033** ran due west for some 2m before being interrupted by a patch of large flint nodules, demarcating a roughly rectangular area, some 0.3m by 0.5m. Two segments were excavated through this flint feature: a 0.50m wide slot (**Figure 3, Section 1**) which exposed ditch **1033** continuing under the flint surface, while removal of the eastern quadrant of the nodules, a section some 2.6m long by 1.6m wide, confirmed the northeastern edge of the ditch. Excavated as segment **1032**, ditch **1033** was at least 0.35m deep with sides sloping at *c.* 45°. The fill of this segment, **1018**, was a greyish brown silty clay containing small fragments of Romano-British pottery, burnt flint and two fragments of slag.

3.4.8 The sections confirmed the flint feature to be a layer one nodule deep (*c.* 0.10m), lying over and beyond ditch **1033**. It is possible that the nodules were deliberately laid as a surface or were used to infill a soft hollow. Finds from the eastern quadrant of the flint layer were retained as context **1042** and comprised a mixture of Romano-British pottery, ceramic building material, burnt flint and a piece of iron.

3.4.9 Two further areas of flint nodules, **1004** and **1005,** were also recorded in this area of the Site. **1005** appears to overlie ditch **1029**.

Ditch 1035

3.4.10 A further length of ditch **1035** was exposed, measuring *c.* 24m in total length and orientated on a roughly north-south alignment. As with other ditches, its

width varied from 0.28m at the southern extremity, tapering to less than 1m. There was no obvious relationship with the two other main lengths of ditch, **1027** and **1029**, however it is cut by ditch **1036** (see below).

Ditches 1036 and 1037

3.4.11 Two narrow, straight-edged lengths of ditch were exposed, both measuring some 14m in length and up to 0.6m in width. Both were orientated on similar northwest-southeast alignments and lay some 7m apart. Ditch **1036** clearly cut the earlier ditches **1027** and **1035**. The fill of **1036,** (**1009**), was calcareous and similar in appearance to subsoil **1044**, and so may have been contemporaneous with or later than the formation of the subsoil, discussed above.

3.4.12 Similarly, ditch **1037,** exposed by one of the earlier evaluation trenches (Wessex Archaeology 1999b, Trench 3, feature 307) cut underlying ditch **1038** (discussed below). Excavation demonstrated the ditch to be a shallow concave gully, 0.85m wide and 0.18m deep which contained fragments of Romano-British pottery, burnt flint and charcoal.

Ditch 1038

3.4.13 A sinuous length of ditch, **1038**, orientated northeast-southwest, was traced for some 23m. Its northern edge was truncated by the edge of the Site, while the southern edge, a section of which had been excavated in the evaluation (*ibid.*), could not be traced beyond the trial trench.

3.4.14 A segment (**1039**) of ditch **1038** was excavated at its midway point to establish the authenticity of a possible causeway or entrance across the feature (**Figure 3, Section 4**). The section clearly demonstrated, however, that the ditch was, in fact, continuous, although slightly narrower for a distance of 3.50m, in the vicinity of the possible causeway. Comprising gently sloping sides and a rounded base, it measured between 0.21m and 0.23m deep. Two fills were identified (**1040** and **1041**) both of which produced burnt flint, and the higher fill also contained two sherds of Romano-British pottery. The soil matrix within and around this area (layer **1002**) was similar to that of the subsoil (**1044**).

4 FINDS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 A small quantity of artefactual material was recovered from the watching brief, comprising mainly burnt flint, ceramic building material and pottery. Quantities by context are summarised in **Table 1** below.

TABLE 1. Artefactual material recovered from watching brief

Context	Burnt Flint		CBM		Clay Pipe		Fired Clay		Glass		R-B pot		p-med pot		Shell		Slag		Stone		Iron	
1001	41	1752	47	1930	6	16			2	18	119	1105	16	215	1	2	2	50	2	21	3	22
1002											8	152										
1003					1	4					24	242										
1004											24	283										
1005													1	52								
1007			4	200									2	17								
1008			1	2							11	46									1	4
1009			4	46							1	8										
1010			7	132							6	106										
1011	42	1252	25	630	4	12			1	4	59	796	5	87							1	76
1012	3	478									34	232										
1014			5	288																		
1015			1	8							2	310										
1016	386	14938	1	14			10	76			18	140										
1018	2	91									3	12					2	44				
1020			8	248	1	4																
1026			6	139	2	8					4	17										
1028					1	2					9	356										
1034	1	10									89	4257										
1040	14	411									2	18										
1041	1	23																				
1042	2	23	4	33							20	191									1	4
Total	**492**	**18978**	**113**	**3670**	**15**	**46**	**10**	**76**	**3**	**22**	**433**	**8271**	**24**	**371**	**1**	**2**	**4**	**94**	**2**	**21**	**6**	**106**

Key:
CBM – ceramic building material; R-B pot - Romano-British pottery (Late first century AD)
p-med pot- post-medieval pottery (1500-1700 AD).

N.B. The second column of each category refers to weight in grammes.

4.2 Burnt Flint

4.2.1 Just under 19 kg of burnt, unworked flint was recovered, deriving mainly from one segment of ditch **1027** (segment **1006**, context **1016**); smaller groups came from clearance levels (context **1001**) and from the fill of ditch **1038** (context **1011**). This material type is intrinsically undatable; it is frequently associated with prehistoric activity although, in this instance, there are no other prehistoric artefacts present and associated pottery indicates instead an early Romano-British date.

4.3 Ceramic Building Material

4.3.1 This material type includes fragments of brick and roof tile; all is of Post-Medieval date. Just under half came from clearance levels, and a smaller group came from the fills of ditches **1020** and **1029** (contexts **1020** and **1026**); other fragments were recovered in small quantities from several other features across the Site.

4.4 Pottery

4.4.1 The pottery assemblage includes material of Early Romano-British and post-medieval date. The Romano-British assemblage (433 sherds) can be divided into two main groups: flint-tempered (or sandy/flint-tempered) fabrics (152 sherds), used for jars of varying sizes, and coarse greywares (264 sherds). Both types occur in the same contexts in this instance, although ditch **1033** (context **1034**) produced a large group (89 sherds) of flint-tempered sherds only.

4.4.2 The flint-tempered jars are characteristic of the native Iron Age tradition in the area; their association here with 'Romanised' greywares demonstrates their continued currency into the Early Romano-British period (later 1st century AD). Similar Early Romano-British assemblages have been recorded from elsewhere in Hampshire, such as Nursling, Southampton (Seager Smith 1997) and Twyford Down, Winchester (Seager Smith in press).

4.4.3 Approximately half of the coarse greywares (146 sherds) occur in a distinctive pale grey sandy fabric with iron oxide inclusions giving a 'speckly' appearance; this is comparable to fabrics dominant in the earliest levels at Fishbourne (pre-AD 75) and identified as products of the Rowlands Castle kilns, which are located approximately 8 km to the east of the Site (Cunliffe 1971, 252-3). Given the proximity of these kilns to the Site, some, at least, of the other greywares may also originate there.

4.4.4 In addition, a small quantity of post-medieval pottery was recovered, mainly from clearance levels but also in three other contexts (see **Table 1**). These comprise coarse earthenwares (redwares and Verwood types), stoneware and industrial whitewares.

4.5 Other finds

4.5.1 Other finds comprise fragments of clay pipe stem, fired clay, ironworking slag, roofing slate and iron nails. With the exception of the fired clay, which is undiagnostic but possibly of Romano-British date, all of this material is demonstrably or probably post-medieval.

5 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 Soil samples were taken from a selection of features during the evaluation stage. Of the six, two fell within the area of the watching brief, from ditches **1037** and **1038.** However, due to the shallow nature of these features, the result of considerable truncation, there was no guarantee that the context was uncontaminated. Processing was, therefore, considered to be inappropriate. In addition, any palaeo-environmental evidence recovered from the sample was considered to be unable to add significantly to the interpretation of the site.

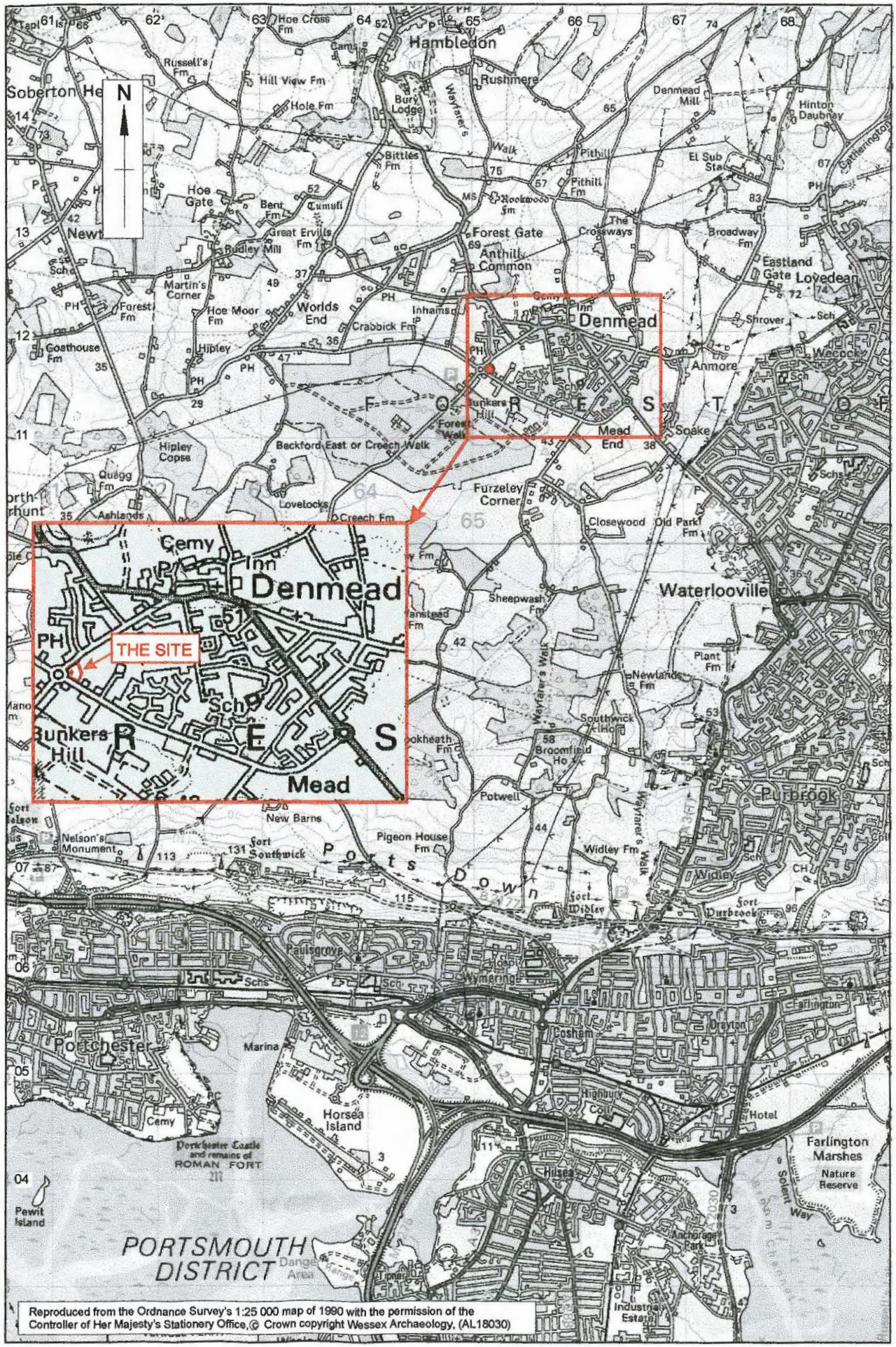
6 SUMMARY

6.1.1 The Site comprises a series of ditches or parts of ditches, which do not form any coherent patterning or demarcate enclosed areas. However, a later first century AD date can be attributed to the main features, based on pottery recovered from the fills. Also, the large quantities of burnt flint recovered, deriving mainly from one segment of ditch **1027,** can also be dated to this period, based the associated pottery.

6.1.2 The presence of such large quantities of burnt flint could be indicative of some form of industrial activity taking place or may simply represent the deliberate disposal of debris. However, the presence of decayed charcoal in ditch fills gives added weight to the former hypothesis. Certainly, the underlying clay deposits and impeded drainage of the site would seem to militate against arable use.

6.1.3 Although no further evidence for settlement was located, considerable truncation has occurred over the area, so shallower features may have been ploughed out. It is also possible that any activity was located on the higher ground northwest of Southwick Road.

6.1.4 The only further evidence for the Site's use dates to the post-medieval period, with fragments of brick and roof tile and pottery recovered from clearance levels. Two possible land drains, **1036** and **1037** were also identified and probably date to this period.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THE SITE
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Hambledon
Waterlooville
Purbrook
Portchester
Horsea Island
Farlington Marshes
Nature Reserve
PORTSMOUTH DISTRICT
Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey's 1:25 000 map of 1990 with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown copyright Wessex Archaeology, (AL18030)

Figure 1

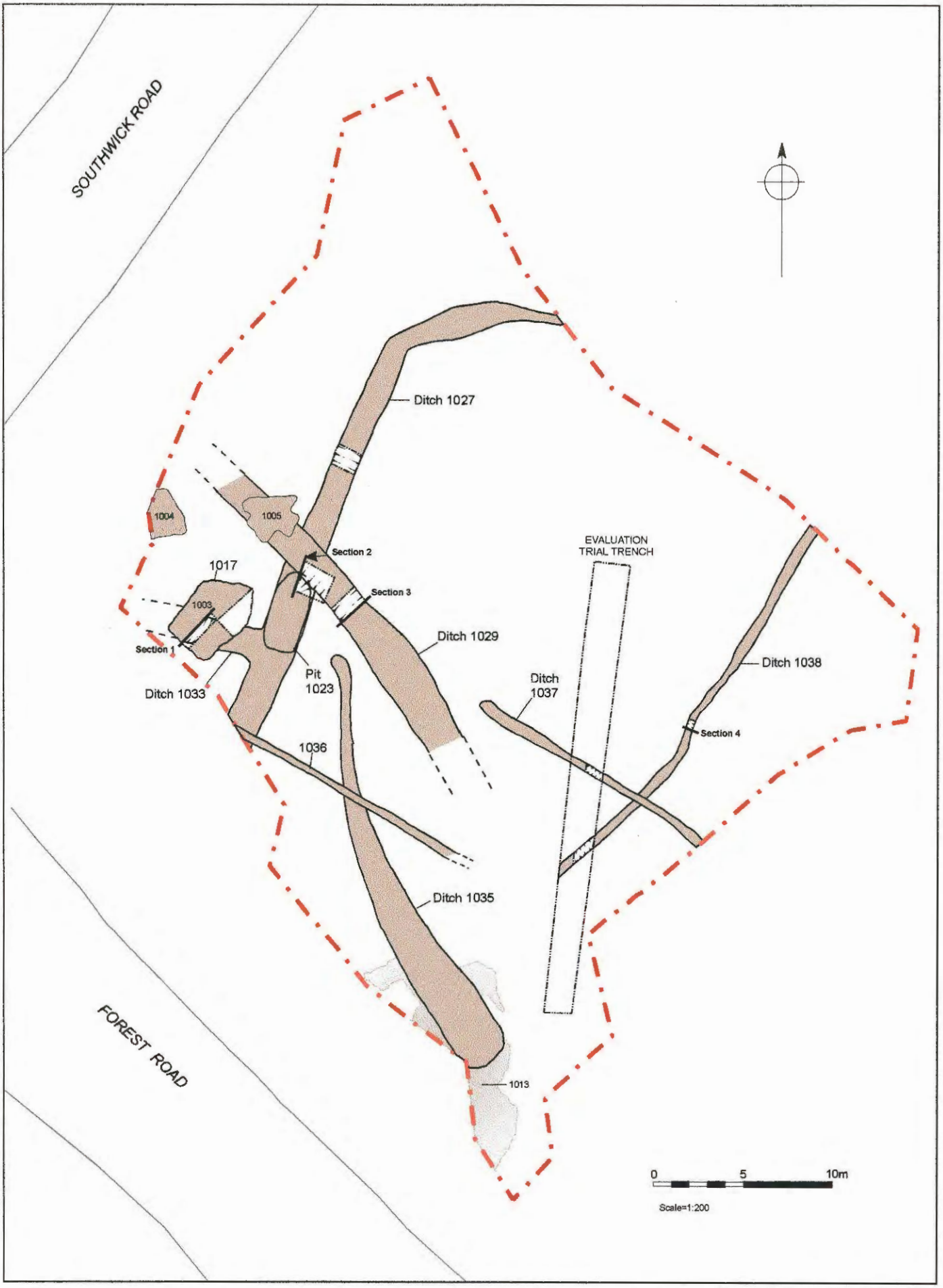
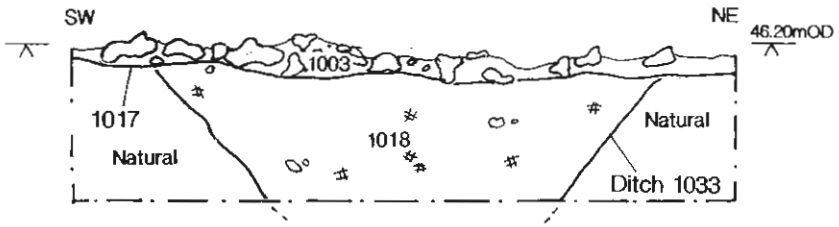


Figure 2: Area of watching brief

Section 1



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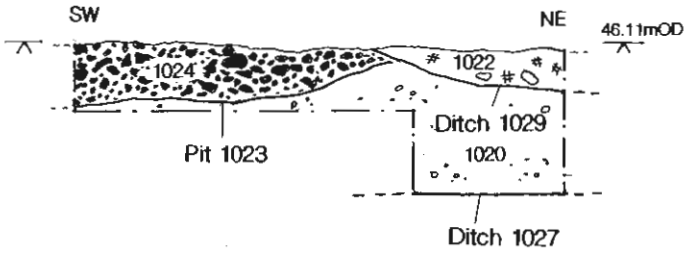

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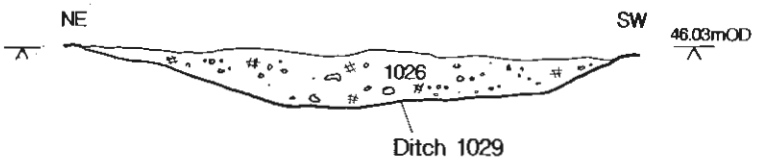

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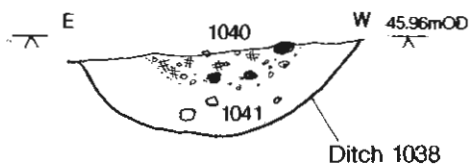

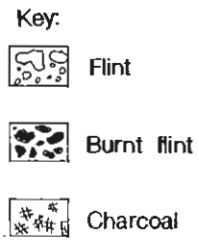

Figure 3: Sections 1-4

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APPENDIX 1: RESULTS OF MACHINE TRENCHING

Context	Description
1001	*General clearance layer of material recovered during hand and machine cleaning.*
1002	*Sub-oval spread of pottery, burnt flint and flint nodules, possibly remnant subsoil.*
1003	*Layer of very abundant flint nodules. Roughly rectangular.*
1004	*Irregular spread of flint nodules.*
1005	*Poorly defined area of flint nodules.*
1006	*Segment of ditch **1027**. Sides sloped at* c. *40°.*
1007	*Fill of **1029**. A brown silty clay containing chalk fragments and flint, with tile and pottery.*
1008	*A grey brown silty clay, the fill of ditch **1035**.*
1009	*A dark brown clay loam containing medium to small flint and some chalk fragments. Possibly the fill of a drain (**1036**).*
1010	*A grey brown silty clay. The fill of ditch **1037**.*
1011	*The fill of ditch **1038**. A brownish grey silty clay.*
1012	*A spread of pottery, charcoal burnt flint and flint nodules. Remnant subsoil.*
1013	*An irregular undefinable area of flint nodules or cobbling.*
1014	*An area of remnant subsoil similar to **1002**.*
1015	*An area of pottery, burnt flint and charcoal similar to **1002**.*
1016	*The fill of segment **1006**. A grey brown silty clay containing occasional stones, and producing much burnt flint.*
1017	*'Notional cut' containing flint nodules **1003**.*
1018	*The fill of 1032, a mottled greyish brown silty clay.*
1019	*A segment of ditch **1027**.*
1020	*The fill of segment **1019**, a pale orangey grey silty clay, containing* c. *10% burnt flint.*
1021	*A segment of ditch **1007**. Excavated at the intersection of ditches **1007** and **1027** to investigate their relationship.*
1022	*The fill of **1021**, a brown silty clay producing tile and pottery.*
1023	*A subcircular pit, which cut fill **1028**.*
1024	*The fill of pit **1023**. A dark brown or black soil containing much burnt flint.*
1025	*A segment of ditch **1029**. It had sloping sides and a flat base.*
1026	*The only fill of ditch segment **1025**. A brown silty clay which produced pottery and tile.*
1027	*Group number for a ditch running from the S of the site northwards before swinging E. Segments **1006** and **1019** excavated through this feature.*
1028	*The fill of **1027**, this number used to locate surface finds.*
1029	*Group number of NW-SE ditch. It is clearly defined in the middle of the site but becomes indistinct in SE and NW.*
1030	*Number not used.*
1031	*Natural. Orange clay (clay with flints).*
1032	*Segment of ditch **1033**. The sides sloped at c. 45°.*

1033	*Group number for a wide ditch in the W of the site. It was at a right angle to and contemporary with ditch **1027**.*
1034	*The fill of ditch **1033**. Although not excavated two or three charcoal and pottery rich lenses were visible.*
1035	*A 24m long curvilinear ditch.*
1036	*A narrow ditch in the W of the site. Without excavation it could be seen to cut fill **1008** of ditch **1035**.*
1037	*A linear ditch on the same alignment as the NW of ditch 1029. It cut fill **1011** of ditch **1038** (visible without excavation) and was excavated in the evaluation as feature 307.*
1038	*A narrow ditch in the E of the site Although it appeared to have a c. 3.5m gap segment **1039** revealed it to be continuous.*
1039	*A segment of ditch **1038**, where it appeared to butt. Excavation showed not, though it did become narrower (0.70m to 0.51m) and slightly shallower (0.23m to 0.20m).*
1040	*The top fill of **1039**, a pale grey (with some rust-coloured mottles) silty clay loam. Burnt flint, charcoal <10mm and two sherds of pottery were recovered.*
1041	*The lower fill of **1039**, a yellowish brown silty clay. This redeposited natural primary fill contained a piece of burnt flint and charcoal fragments <10mm.*
1042	*A quadrant, 2.6m long and 1.6m wide, of flint nodule spread **1003**. Excavated to define an edge of ditch **1033**.*
1043	*Topsoil. A dark grey silty loam. Its depth was difficult to determine because of the previous use of the field as grazing for horses, but about 0.10m to 0.15m.*
1044	*Subsoil. A brown silty clay loam containing frequent chalk fragments <10mm.*

FOREST ROAD/SOUTHWICK ROAD, DENMEAD, HAMPSHIRE

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Prepared on behalf of:

Westbury Homes (Holdings) Ltd
Monachus House
High Street
Hartley Wintney
Hampshire
RG27 8NW

By

Wessex Archaeology
Portway House
Old Sarum Park
Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP4 6EB

Project Number 46334

March 1999

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This written scheme of investigation has been prepared by Wessex Archaeology on behalf of Westbury Homes (Holdings) Ltd. It sets out the proposed strategy and methodology for an archaeological watching brief in advance of residential development by Westbury Homes (Holdings) Ltd.

1.2 The watching brief is the second stage in the archaeological process based on the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Wessex Archaeology on behalf of Westbury Homes (Holdings) Ltd., in accordance with a planning condition for archaeological work (Winchester Museums Service planning application number 98/1953/FUL). See section 3 below.

2 THE SITE

2.1 The proposed development (the site), covers an area approximately 0.8. ha and is located on the west side of the village of Denmead, Hampshire, (centred on SU 65100 11650). The underlying geology is clay. The land use is rough pasture.

3 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK

3.1 Evaluation fieldwork was conducted between 16-18 March 1999 by Wessex Archaeology following methodology set out in the Wessex Archaeology Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for Archaeological Evaluation, March 1999 (WA Ref. T 4790). A full account is given in Appendix 1.

3.1 In summary, pottery recoved from the recorded features has a date range from Late Iron (100 BC) to Early Roman. The fabric and style are similar to pottery recovered from sites at Twyford Down, Winchester (Seager Smith 1997) and Nursling Industrial Estate, Southampton (Walker *in press*). The presence of slag, charcoal and large quantities of burnt flint may indicate Late Iron Age/Early Roman industrial activity close to the site, possibly located on the higher ground east of Southwick Road.

4 OBJECTIVES OF THE WATCHING BRIEF

4.1 The main objectives are to:

- Record any archaeological remains which may be encountered and which may add to our understanding of this area of Hampshire
- Record the location, extent, date, nature, character and relationships of the archaeological evidence.

5 METHOD STATEMENT

5.1 An intensive watching brief (IFA *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* 1994) will be maintained during the stripping of the north-western half of the site, unless it becomes apparent that the area is heavily disturbed and that there is no likelihood of finding preserved archaeological deposits. Wessex Archaeology will then contact the Winchester Museums Service SMR Officer to discuss terminating the watching brief.

5.2 Where practicable, all archaeological deposits and features observed during the watching brief will be cleaned manually to an archaeological acceptable standard and planned and/or drawn in section and located on a site plan.

5.3 These features will be related to the Ordnance Survey national grid, but will not be related to Ordnance Survey Datum. They will be recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system, where time allows. Where practicable, a sufficient sample of each feature type will be excavated in order to establish the date, nature, extent and condition of the archaeological remains.

5.4 In the event of the identification of an exceptional number and complexity of archaeological deposits, sample excavation will elucidate the statigraphic sequence, where time allows.

5.5 The spoil from the groundworks will be scanned for artefacts, which may include the use of a metal detector.

5.6 The Winchester Museums Service will be informed of any discoveries of exceptionally high quality that may give cause for the archaeological specification to be revised.

5.7 All possible human burials will be totally excavated and appropriate samples taken. Home Office procedures will be followed at all times in regard to human remains.

5.8 A photographic record will be made of all observed archaeological features.

5.9 Where appropriate and practicable, bulk 10 litre soil samples will be taken from well-dated and uncontaminated contexts or groups of features for the recovery of carbonised remains, plant macrofossils, small animal and fish bones and assemblages of small artefacts (flint debitage etc.). all samples would be floated through a 500µm mesh.

5.10 All artefacts will be retained from excavated contexts unless they are undoubtedly of modern or recent origin. In these circumstances sufficient material will only be retained to elucidate the date and function of the feature.

5.11 Specialist advice and conservation needs on site should unexpected, unusual or extremely fragile and delicate objects be recovered, will be sought. Costs will be agreed with the developer on discovery. Advice on dealing with conservation aspects of the archive will be sought from the developer-funded conservator based at the Wiltshire County Council Conservation Service, Salisbury as appropriate. Any artefacts requiring conservation or specific storage conditions will be dealt with immediately in line with *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson and Neal 1998).

5.12 All materials will be boxed for storage in line with guidance from the Museums and Galleries Association and Winchester Museums Service.

5.13 The methods used by the groundworks contractor, the site conditions and the weather will be recorded.

6 Access

6.1 Access is to be arranged by the developer.

7 Reinstatement

7.1 *No provision* has been made to backfill any areas of archaeological excavation undertaken during the watching brief.

8 Licences

8.1 Should human burials be identified a Home Office Licence for the removal of human remains will be obtained and the conditions of the Licence will be observed.

9 Reporting

9.1 General

9.1.1 The timescale for delivery of the report is usually within two working weeks of completion of the fieldwork. Two copies of the report will be submitted to Winchester Sites and Monuments Record

9.1.2 The project archive will be completed to the standards set out in Appendix 3 of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991).

9.1.3 The report will include:-

- a non-technical summary
- project introduction and methodology
- plans and sections, at an appropriate scale, locating the site, evaluation areas and archaeological deposits.
- a factual summary of the results of the fieldwork with preliminary interpretation
- additional supporting data in appendices or tables.
- references

9.1.4 In addition, Winchester Museums Service also require

- details of the archaeological organisation and Project Officer involved
- the date of works
- a site centred national grid reference
- a copy of the Brief/WSI appended to the back of the report.

9.2 The Archive

9.2.1 While all artefacts, excepting those covered by the Treasure Act 1996, remain the property of the landowner, every effort will be made to reach a formal agreement with the landowner for the deposition of the finds in the appropriate museum. If this should not prove possible a full copy of the non-artefact archive will be housed with the museum.

9.2.2 Gaining agreement of the landowner to deposit artefacts, a written agreement regarding the ownership and curation of any finds from the watching brief will be reached with Winchester Museums Service. The archive, including the artefacts, will be deposited with Winchester Museums Service on completion of the project. If appropriate, a museums accession number will be obtained after the completion of fieldwork.

9.2.3 The archive will be prepared in accordance with recommendations in *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991), in accordance with the requirements for archive preparation, storage and conservation of the museum or repository to be approved by Winchester Museums Service.

11 GENERAL CONDITIONS

11.1 The client will be responsible for arranging access to the land and for checking the position of all services prior to the project commencing.

11.1.1 Wessex Archaeology shall not be held responsible for any delay or failure in performing a contract resulting from circumstances beyond their reasonable control.

12 COPYRIGHT

12.1 The Trust for Wessex Archaeology Ltd shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of the report by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Written Scheme of Investigation.

13 QUALITY STANDARDS

13.1 Wessex Archaeology is an Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) Registered Organisation and fully endorses *The Code of Practice* and *The Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* of the IFA.

13.1 All staff will be directly employed by Wessex Archaeology and will be of a standard approved by Wessex Archaeology, and (where relevant) will be employed in line with The Institute of Field Archaeologists Codes of Practice and will usually be members of The Institute of Field Archaeologists.

13.2 Provision will be made for the monitoring of Wessex Archaeology's work by Winchester Museums Service SMR Officer.

13.3 Wessex Archaeology operates a computer-assisted Project Management System. Projects are undertaken under the direction of Project Managers who are responsible for the successful completion of all aspects of the project. The Deputy Director monitors their performance. The Unit Director has ultimate responsibility for all of the Unit's work and ensures the maintenance of quality standards within the organisation as a whole.

14 HEALTH AND SAFETY

14.1 Wessex Archaeology will ensure that all work is carried out in accordance with its company Health and Safety Policy, to standards defined in *The Management of Health and Safety at Work Act 1974,* and *The Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992*, and in accordance with the SCAUM (Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers) health and safety manual *Health and Safety in Field Archaeology* (1997).

14.1 A copy of Wessex Archaeology's Company Health and Safety Policy is available on request. Wessex Archaeology will require access to the health and safety policy of all other contractors and operators present at the work in compliance with *The Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992.*

14.2 Wessex Archaeology also has an Environmental Protection Policy and further details can be supplied on request.

15 STAFFING

15.1 The project will be managed and co-ordinated by a Project Manager who will be dedicated to the project throughout its duration. The Project Manager will provide the key interface with the Client and Winchester Museums Service including attendance at a site-monitoring meeting. The Project Manager will assume responsibility for all aspects of the project including finance, logistics, standards, health and safety, academic integrity etc. and will be acting under the overall direction of the Deputy Director.

15.2 The senior member of the field team will be an experienced Project Officer who is responsible for the day to day implementation of the fieldwork, under the direction of the Project Manager. Site assistants and supervisors as required will provide Field support.

15.3 The nominated **Project Manager** is **Jo Donachie** and **Jamie Wright** is the **Project Officer**. Further details of the personnel to be involved can be provided on request.

16 TIMETABLE

16.1 A start date of 29 March 1999 has been set for the watching brief.

16.2 It is anticipated that the fieldwork will take a team of three archaeologists five days.

16.3 The report will be completed within 20 working days of the end of the fieldwork.

APPENDIX 1

FOREST ROAD/SOUTHWICK ROAD, DENMEAD HAMPSHIRE

FIELD EVALUATION

PROJECT NUMBER 46334

The proposed development (the site) covers an area approximately 0.8ha and is located on the west side of the village of Denmead, Hampshire (centred on SU 65100 11650). The underlying geology is clay. The land use at the time of the evaluation was rough pasture.

The evaluation fieldwork was conducted between Tuesday 16/03/99 to Thursday 18/03/99. The methodology followed was set out in the Wessex Archaeology Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for Archaeological Evaluation, March 1999 (WA Ref. T4790).

The WSI proposed the excavation of five trenches each 30m by 1.20m, amounting to a sample of *c.*2% of the site area. The location of the trenches was principally targeted to evaluate the footprint of the proposed buildings and access road. The trenches were located using triangulation and measuring of known existing boundaries.

The results of the evaluation trenches are presented below.

Trial Trench 1

Trench 1 was orientated north-west to south-east and was initially 30m by 1.20m, this was extended by 10m at the north-west end. No archaeological deposits were revealed within this trench.

Trial Trench 2

Trench 2 was orientated north-west to south-east and was 30m by 1.20m. A single shallow 'u' shaped ditch **204** was recorded at the north-west end of the trench, this was aligned north-east to south-west and was 1.30m wide and 0.55m deep. Archaeological components recovered consisted of pottery, burnt flint and slag.

Trial Trench 3

Trench 3 was orientated north to south and was 30m by 1.20m. Four gullies of an archaeological nature were recorded, these were:

305, a shallow concave gully 0.85m wide and 0.18m deep aligned east to west located at the north end of trench. Archaeological components recovered consisted of pottery and burnt flint, charcoal was noted as being present.

307, a shallow concave gully 1.30m wide and 0.30m deep aligned east to west located near north end of trench. Archaeological components recovered consisted of pottery and burnt flint; charcoal was noted as being present.

309, a shallow concave gully 0.50m wide and 0.18m deep aligned Southeast to north-west located near the south end of trench. Archaeological components recovered consisted of pottery and burnt flint; charcoal was noted as being present.

311, a shallow concave gully 0.59m wide and 0.14m deep aligned north-west to south-east located near the south end of trench. Archaeological components recovered consisted of pottery and burnt flint, charcoal was noted as being present.

Trial Trench 4

Trench 4 was orientated north-west to south-east and was 30m by 1.20m, No archaeological deposits were revealed within this trench.

Trial Trench 5

Trench 5 was orientated north-east to south-west and was 30m by 1.20m, No archaeological deposits were revealed within this trench.

THE FINDS

Initial scans indicates that pottery recovered from recorded features has a date range from the Late Iron Age (100 BC) to Early Roman (AD 43), pottery of a similar style and fabric have been recovered from sites at Twyford Down, Winchester, Hampshire (Seager Smith R.H. 1997), and Nursling Industrial Estate, Southampton, Hampshire (Walker, K.E).

CONCLUSION

The presence of slag, charcoal and large quantities of burnt flint may indicate a Late Iron Age/Early Roman industrial centre close to the site, possibly located on the high ground east of Southwick Road.

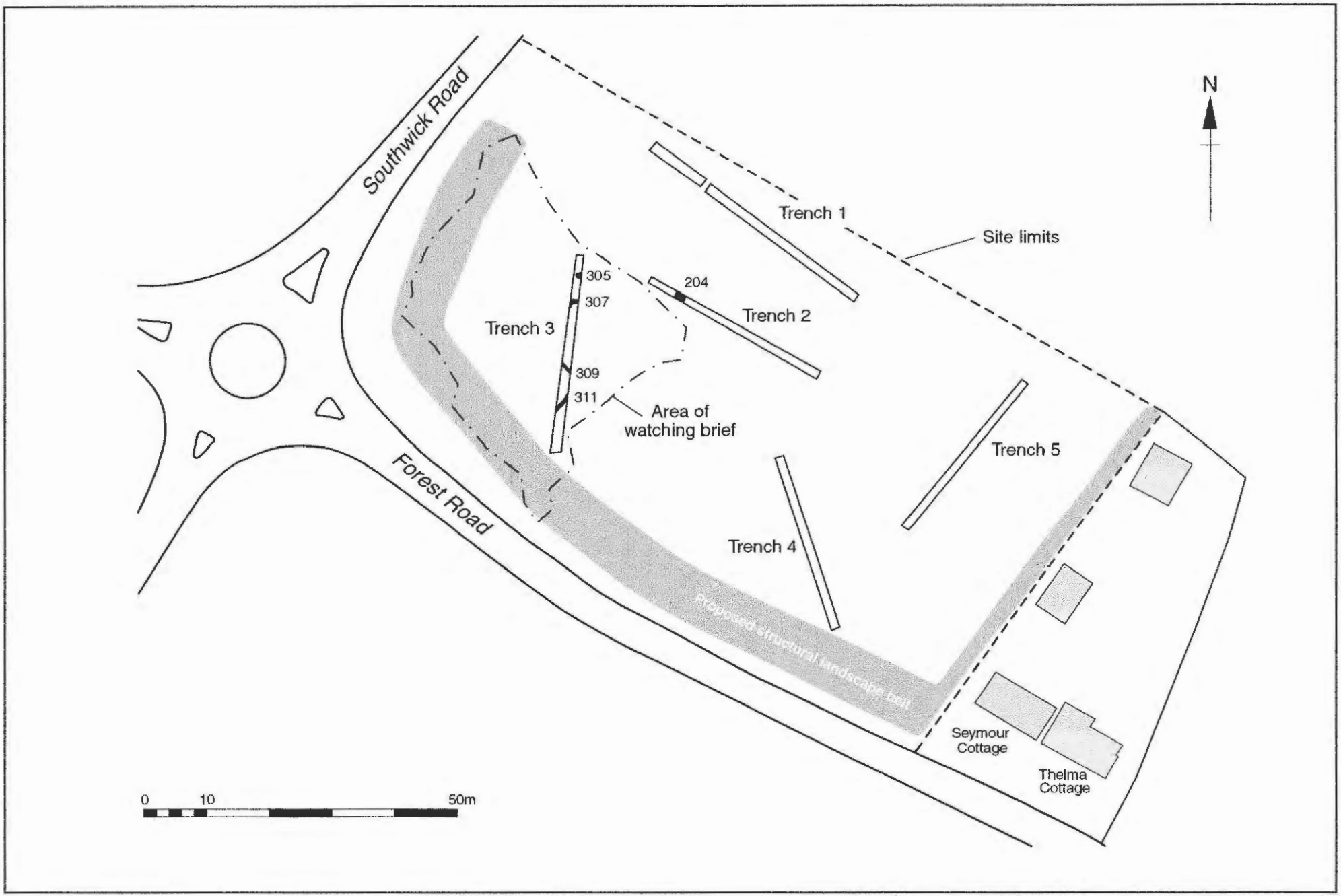

Figure 4: Location of evaluation trenches

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