

**An archaeological evaluation at  
Avenue Park, North Stoneham,  
Eastleigh, Hampshire**

**Centred on NGR: SU 4370 1820**

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**Report to Eastleigh Borough Council**

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### **Summary statement**

An archaeological evaluation was requested by Eastleigh Borough Council in advance of restoration proposals for Avenue Park, a former part of North Stoneham Park. The latter has evolved from a medieval deer park, and was associated with Lancelot 'Capability' Brown in the later 18<sup>th</sup> century. Archaeology has been proposed to identify the site of specific features within this landscape so that restoration proposals can be drawn up to coincide with their positions. The specific features are the site of the entrance lodges, and the course and structure of the carriage drive to the house from the lodges.

C K Currie and Neil Rushton of CKC Archaeology carried out the work in March/April 2000. The client requested that the work should involve the local community, and special provision was made to incorporate volunteers into the project.

The remains of the Winchester Lodges were located near the NW corner of Avenue Park, formerly part of North Stoneham Park. The area still contains the remains of formal tree avenues, probably belonging to the 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup> century. Capability Brown was employed in landscaping the park in the 1770s, but there is little definite evidence of his work in Avenue Park beyond the possible break up of the formal avenues. The park was reorganised following the building of a new house on a different site about 1818. This reorganisation included the realignment of the northern approach drive. The Winchester Lodges were probably built as part of this work, between 1818 and 1846.

The lodge houses were found to be a pair of irregular octagonal structures, either side of a pair of iron gates. The houses were of one room each, with shallow foundations suggesting they were only one storey high. Although largely built in red brick, the outer faces of both lodges were made of yellow brick. This material can be found in Park Farm and on the site of the 1818 mansion, and suggests that all the estate buildings of this phase were faced in this material. The lodge houses went out of use between 1895 and 1908, and were demolished. This coincided with the Fleming family's decision to move their principle residence to Chilworth Manor. After this the estate became increasingly run down, and a number of structures became derelict.

It is possible that the shallow foundations of the lodge houses is a sign of cheap construction. They were probably in need of repair when the Flemings moved to Chilworth, and it became a matter of economy to allow their demolition, making them an early casualty of their loss of interest in the park.

Archaeological excavation also located the line of the new drive. This replaced an earlier drive that survived until after 1818, but had gone by the early 1840s. After the abandonment of the lodges, the new gravel drive seems to have fallen out of regular use, and it became overgrown with grass. The original alignment around the east end of Avenue Pond was found to be more curving than later alignments suggested.

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## **An archaeological evaluation at Avenue Park, North Stoneham, Eastleigh, Hampshire (centred on NGR: SU 4370 1820)**

This report has been written based on the format suggested by the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological evaluations* (Birmingham, 1994). The ordering of information follows the guidelines given in this document, although alterations may have been made to fit in with the particular requirements of the work.

### **1.0 Introduction (Fig. 1)**

An archaeological evaluation was requested by Eastleigh Borough Council in advance of restoration proposals for Avenue Park, a former part of North Stoneham Park. The latter has evolved from a medieval deer park, and was associated with Lancelot 'Capability' Brown in the later 18<sup>th</sup> century. Archaeology has been proposed to identify the site of specific features within this landscape so that restoration proposals can be drawn up to coincide with their positions. The specific features are the site of the entrance lodges, and the course and structure of the carriage drive to the house from the lodges.

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### **2.0 Site Description**

#### **2.1 Historical background**

The abbot of Hyde had a small deer park at North Stoneham in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. After the Dissolution of the Monasteries the manor passed to the Wriothesley Earls of Southampton, and then, c. 1599, to the Fleming family. It was originally thought that the medieval park formed the nucleus for a designed landscape that evolved around the Fleming manor house from c. 1600 onwards (Currie 1989). Recent research has shown that this may not have been the case, and that the original parkland to North Stoneham House was laid out to the north of the mansion, over what is now known as Avenue Park (Currie 1992).

Between 1775-78, the Flemings employed Lancelot 'Capability' Brown to redesign a park for them in the latest fashion (Turner 1999, 185). It was during this phase that the land to the south of the old house, where the medieval park had formerly been, was probably brought into the new park. It is uncertain how great Brown's involvement was, and Dorothy Stroud (1975) suggested that he may not have actually visited the site, but had the work done by his employees. There is little that can be positively attributed to Brown, although the ha ha to the south of the old house could have been his work, as possibly was the planting in the medieval deer park (now removed for playing fields). Whatever he did do, the park was radically altered after 1818 when a new house was

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built about 400m west of the old building. The latter was demolished, and a new lake was laid out to the south of the new house.

When the focal point of the park was moved, it is possible that a number of significant changes needed to be made to the landscape. Avenue Park may have become an area of lesser importance, as it was no longer directly visible from the new house. The latter had an unfortunate history, being badly damaged by fire in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Flemings subsequently abandoned it as their main residence, and had moved to nearby Chilworth Manor by the end of the century. Thereafter the park passed into a period of neglect. The Minute Books of Southampton Piscatorials, who had the lease on the fishing in the lakes within the grounds of the house from c. 1898, record frequent problems relating to the neglect of the estate and the increasing vandalism in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (Currie 1992).

The house was demolished soon after the outbreak of the Second World War, and the estate continued to decline even more rapidly thereafter. Areas of the park were gradually sold off and became playing fields. Only the Avenue Park survived as pasture farmland beyond the early 1970s, when the park was further broken up, and converted into areas for various sporting amenities. Avenue Park itself was subjected to increasing vandalism, and a number of the features within it, or on its fringes, were destroyed. Vandals burned down both Doncaster Farm and the Fleming War Memorial on Cricketeers' Hill. The Avenue Pond, a focal feature of this part of the park, had been allowed to silt up by the late 1960s. Customs Angling Club (now Eastleigh and District Angling Club) rescued this pond by redigging it in the late 1960s, but it has since been badly obscured by inappropriate conifer planting (itself a reaction to the vandalism to hide the pond) and undergrowth in the park itself.

## **2.2 Condition of the site**

Avenue Park lies on slightly rising ground, called locally Cricketeers' Hill, on the SW side of the late 19<sup>th</sup>-century railway town of Eastleigh. The soils are largely clayey gravels. It is part of a designated Green Belt between Eastleigh and Southampton. A busy road, Chestnut Avenue, forms its northern boundary, with playing fields on its east and west sides. The southern boundary is formed by the buildings of Park Farm, and the overgrown remains of the former house and its walled garden. The latter are largely concealed within a woodland strip about 200m wide in places that divides Avenue Park from further playing fields to the south.

The site is presently in a dilapidated condition, with signs of vandalism apparent in a number of places. There are still a reasonable number of trees belonging to the design present, in particular on the north-east part of the site near where Doncaster (Middle) Farm once stood (now a car park). These are mainly mature limes estimated as being over 200 years old. The line of the old drive from the site of Winchester Lodge towards Park Farm is still thought to be visible as a wide footpath with patches of gravel showing through in places. The site of the lodges is marked by what are thought to be the

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foundations of stone gate piers projecting from the grass near the north-west corner of the site.

Between the brow of Cricketeers' Hill and the north-west corner of the site there were once many more trees. This area has only a few trees within it today. A number of trees here had been hit by lightning and had died; their dead remains having been removed in the last 25 years or so. Localised areas of former parkland grass have now been invaded by bramble and other scrub, particularly on the north side of Avenue Pond. The Council has allowed a BMX cycle track to be built on the hill north of the War Memorial. This looks unsightly in the landscape, and attracts vandals to the area. This part of the parkland is also used by under-age motorbike riders and scramble motorbikes, causing localised damage.

On the top of the hill overlooking Avenue Pond there was a War Memorial to one of the Fleming family killed in the First World War. This had been in the Arts & Crafts style, and was surrounded by a beech hedge. This was increasingly vandalised during the 1960s, with the wooden roof eventually being burnt down. Only the heavily vandalised shell with the beech hedge grown inappropriately to small trees remains.

Avenue Pond survives in the hollow below the hill. This had silted up by the late 1960s, but was dug out by a local fishing club. It is now owned by Eastleigh and District Angling Club, who have generally maintained the pond in good condition. However, they have deliberately encouraged vegetation to grow up along the boundaries of their property to hide the pond from the local vandals and discourage them from entering. This has caused the pond to be divorced from the parkland. The field to the south of the pond is still used for agricultural pasture. This contains a small number of ornamental trees from the designed landscape, and is perhaps the least altered area of the surviving park.

### **3.0 Strategy**

The evaluation strategy will follow that outlined in the IFA Guidelines for evaluations cited above. Five trenches were excavated, two on the site of the Winchester Lodge Houses, and three across the conjectured line of the drive.

A machine was used to remove turf and topsoil from the areas of the proposed trenches. Machining continued until either significant archaeological layers, or undisturbed subsoil is reached. Once significant archaeological layers were encountered, the trenches were hand-excavated by a team of volunteers supervised on site by C K Currie MIFA and Neil Rushton MA. Archaeological features recovered were normally fully excavated at the discretion of the project director. The work was scheduled to take approximately three to four days, spread over two weekends to enable volunteers to participate, and the local community, in general, to visit the works.

The trenches were recorded in plan and by sections at a scale of 1:20 unless special circumstances require planning at 1:10. The trenches were excavated stratigraphically,

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according each context with a separate number. Single-feature planning was undertaken where suitable remains were encountered. All features were recorded by monochrome and colour photography, using appropriate scales.

The trenches were backfilled by machine before leaving the site at the completion of the fieldwork.

All relevant finds were retained, with the exception of post-medieval brick and tile and oyster. The latter was discarded on site after having been suitably examined.

## **4.0 Results (Figs. 8-11)**

### **4.1 Trench 1 (Figs. 8-9)**

This trench was excavated on the site of the north Winchester Lodge House. It was dug to ensure that the full plan of the lodge house was revealed, plus the area between the lodge and the northern gate pier. Its dimensions were 7.5m by 5.1m.

An almost complete plan of an octagonal brick structure was recovered in this trench [context 02]. The foundations were exceptionally shallow. In most cases only the bottom course survived intact, although in places traces of a second course was visible. The bottom course comprised a wall averaging 0.48m wide, and on all sides except the west was made up of two bricks aligned headers outwards. There were fragments of bricks inserted between the inner and outer courses to fill a gap about 60mm wide. The lowest course was made entirely of red bricks. The west side comprised a line of headers on the external face, with a line of stretchers behind. It seems that there was supposed to have been another line of stretchers behind this, but this had been almost entirely removed during demolition, leaving a gap filled with only a few brick fragments where the internal face was expected to be. The internal width of the lodge was about 3.48m.

Where the second course survived, it was made of a line of stretchers on the internal and external faces, with a single course of bricks laid lengthways filling the wall cavity, thus creating a structure in English Bond. Between the cavity filling course and the internal face was a gap of about 70mm, filled with brick fragments and mortar. It would seem that the external face was supposed to be made of yellow 'London stock' type bricks where it was above ground level. The bricks behind this face, and those below the conjectured ground level were of the red variety.

The lengths of the external faces of the sides were uneven, making the octagonal shape irregular. The lengths of the sides were as follows: N 2.2m (estimated), NE 1.5m (estimated), E 1.9m, SE 1.4m, S 2.4m (estimated), SW 1.6m, W 1.9m, and NW 1.5m.

The complete plan was interrupted by the absence of the corner between the north and north-east wall. It was uncertain if this had been removed during demolition or if it represented a gap for a door. On balance, it is considered that demolition was the more likely cause of this gap. The south wall was also interrupted by a brick drain [context 08]

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cutting through it at its approximate mid point. It was noted that to the west side of this gap, the cavity of the brick wall contained a piece of reused carved stone, possibly part of a door or window jamb from another building.

The brick drain only partially survived, but its form was obvious from the survival of another intact example [context 07] elsewhere. For the most part, all that survived of context 08 was the bottom of the drain. This comprised a line of unmortared bricks aligned with their headers outwards. The drain extended from the gap in the south wall for 3.1m. After 3m there were signs that the drain divided into two arms forming a Y-shape. In two places the two sides of the drain survived as bricks aligned on their narrowest sides, leaving a void about 80-100mm wide between them. From previous knowledge of this type of drain, and the intact example found elsewhere within the trench, there would have been a line of header-outwards bricks acting as a cover to the feature.

Where this drain exited through the south wall, it divided it two arms. Both turned through right angles, one to the east [context 06] and the other to the west [context 05]. Both arms were thought to be of identical construction to context 08. Only the bottom course of bricks survived in drain 06, but in drain 05, both sides survived fully intact. Drain 06 extended for 1.8m before being removed, presumably by demolition. About 0.8m to the NE, the remains of a circular tile drain [context 09] could be seen projecting about 0.4m from the edge of the trench. It would seem that this would have met up with the brick drain, possibly taking over its drainage function.

Drain 05 extended for 1m west, cutting through a yellow brick wall foundation [context 03], only 0.1m to the south of the octagonal structure. The yellow brick foundation was only one brick wide, laid headers outwards. The bricks were not mortared, and only a single course survived. The features extended southwards from the south wall of the octagonal structure for 1.48m. It butted against the octagonal structure, but was not bonded into it. At the south end of context 03 was a squarish brick foundation [context 04].

This feature was 0.88m N-S and 1.04m E-W. Only one course was exposed. This was not bonded by mortar, although there was mortar on the upper surface of the surviving bricks, suggesting that the course above had been mortared. Butting against the south side of this feature was a squarish stone block [context 18]. This stone block was 0.5m square with the remains of an iron rod in the centre about 80mm square. The stone block was the only part of the site that had been visible above ground before the excavations began. Another similar feature could be seen on the other side of the conjecture drive. Local tradition ascribed them as being the stones into which the iron gates of the Winchester Lodge had been fixed. If this was the case, structure 04 would seem to represent a brick gate pier, with structure 03 a short wall connecting the gate pier with the octagonal lodge building.

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#### **4.2 Trench 2 (Figs 8, 11)**

This trench (5.5m by 1.4m) was excavated across the conjectured line of the carriage drive leading across the park from the Winchester Lodges. It was excavated approximately half-way between the lodges and the ruins of the Fleming War Memorial on Cricketers Hill.

Immediately beneath the turf was a layer of moderately gravelly topsoil, up to 0.35m thick [context 10]. This overlay a dense light brown gravel layer [context 12], approximately 3m wide, with a slight camber on it. Over lying the ends of this layer were darker brown gravel layers [contexts 12 and 13].

Context 12 was interpreted as being the gravel surface of the original carriage drive.

#### **4.3 Trench 3 (Figs. 8, 11)**

This trench (7.8m by 1.3m) was excavated across the conjectured line of the carriage drive where it passed under Cricketers Hill, turning south towards the house.

Immediately beneath the turf was a light brown gravel layer [context 16], no more than 0.1m thick. This was up to 4.2m wide. The ends of this layer was overlain by a loamy topsoil [context 15], although this was barely present near the centre of the context 16, which was directly below the turf. The gravel overlay a gravelly clay loam [context 17], which was interpreted as undisturbed soil.

Context 16 was interpreted as being the gravel surface of the original carriage drive. The additional width found here was explained by the fact that the drive had swung through a bend at this point.

#### **4.4 Trench 4 (Figs. 8, 10)**

This trench was excavated on the site of the south Winchester Lodge House. It was excavated to reveal approximately half of the outer walls of the house, to determine if the plan was identical to that of the north lodge house. The trench was T-shaped, the N-S arm being 7.6m long and 1.25m wide, the E-W arm was 5.1m long and 1.65m wide. The area was heavily disturbed by tree and shrub roots.

Immediately below the turf, the remains of an octagonal lodge house were found. The foundations [context 20] were relatively shallow, only one or two courses of brick surviving for the most part. Three sides, the west, north-west and north, were fully exposed, with about half of the north-east and south-west sides. The foundations were 0.53m thick on average. The lengths of the sides were not exactly equal, making the octagonal slightly irregular. The north side was 2.5m long externally, with the north-west side measuring 1.5m, and the west side 2.1m. The internal width of the structure was calculated as 3.85m.

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The foundations were made of brick. Both external and internal faces comprised stretchers, with a single brick course placed lengthways within the internal cavity. The foundations were mainly in red brick, with yellow 'London stock' bricks formed the outer face above ground level. The lowest course of the outer face was presumably below ground level, and made of red brick.

Butting against the north wall of the octagonal structure was a red brick wall two bricks (0.25m) wide [context 21]. This was crudely made, and did not appear to be mortared.

#### **4.5 Trench 5 (Figs. 8, 11)**

This trench was excavated across the conjectured line of the carriage drive as it passed through the parkland south of Avenue Pond. It was 8m long by 1m wide, with a baulk of 0.9m just over midway along its length where it was not possible to dig because of the presence of a barb wire fence.

A gravel layer [context 23], up to 0.2m thick in places, was found almost immediately beneath the turf. This began about 1m from the east end of the trench, and continued for about 4.2m westwards. There was a noticeable thickening of the layer towards the centre, giving the impression of a camber on the edges. This gravel layer overlay the normal subsoil for the area, a moderately gravelly clay [context 25].

#### **5.0 Discussion (Figs. 2-7)**

The excavations undertaken during this project located the site of the Winchester Lodges where they were expected. A number of anomalies were solved in passing that were unclear from the documentary record. This had suggested that the lodge houses had been constructed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century between 1818 (SRO D/2 639; Fig. 2) and 1868 (OS 6" plan, sheet 57; Fig. 4), and were demolished between 1895 and 1908 (OS 25" plans, sheet 57.11; Figs. 5-6).

The octagonal structures revealed by excavation represented the foundations of the lodge houses. It was noted that the structures had been made of red brick, but with an outer face of yellow bricks, known colloquially as 'London stocks'. This name does not necessarily mean the bricks were made in London, as it was possible to produce yellow bricks from Hampshire clays (White 1971, 87, 90). The yellow outer face suggests a date for the building of the lodges. Yellow brick was used in nearly all the buildings put up in North Stoneham Park from 1818, when they were used in the new house and in Park Farm. It is suspected, therefore, that the lodges were built as part of the redesigning of the estate from 1818.

This work may have made much of the earlier landscaping of Capability Brown redundant. Moving the mansion house, the central focus of the estate, some 400m west would have required parts of the estate to be relandscaped. A major new lake was constructed to the south of the new house, and the slopes between the house and the lake

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were terraced. Prosser, writing in 1830, makes it quite clear that this work had been undertaken many years after Brown's death.

'Before the south and east fronts [of the new house], are handsome terraces and flights of steps descending into elegant parterres, inclosed with stone balustrades, the piers being surmounted by vases, etc. in the Italian style. Below these terraces is an ornamental piece of water, formed about ten years ago, and supplied by springs in the park, the bold declivities forming embankments being planted with American shrubs, and the remarkably fine oaks and other timber which surround it, add much to the beauty of the site and the embellishment of the pleasure grounds, which extend eastward of the mansion' (Prosser 1839, part ix).

From this it can be seen that the lake and pleasure grounds were redesigned after 1818, the latter spreading over the site of the earlier house. Other changes included the approaches to the new house both from the west, east and the north. These can be seen by comparing the 1818 survey map (SRO D/2 639), when the changes were still incomplete, with the tithe map of the early 1840s (HRO Tithe survey for North Stoneham; Fig. 3). One of these changes was the alteration of the approach from the north. The 1818 map, which reflects earlier maps by Taylor (1759) and Milne (1791), shows the north approach dividing just beyond Avenue Pond, one arm passing through Doncaster Farm and the other leaving the park at where the present Chestnut Avenue reaches the crest of Cricketeers Hill. It is not until the tithe map of c. 1840 that the drive is shown bending westwards towards the Winchester Lodges. It is therefore likely that the lodges belong to the post-1818 phases of relandscaping that followed the erection of the new mansion.

With this in mind, one has to consider that the landscaping of Avenue Park passed through three possible phases of landscaping, if not more. Firstly, there was the formal landscape laid out in conjunction with the first Fleming mansion. This was erected after they acquired the manor of North Stoneham from the Wriothesley family c. 1599. An inventory of the house taken in 1638 shows that the house was then a very considerable mansion comprising at least 29 rooms (HRO 1638A058/2). A contract for works in the early 1680s refers to the formal landscape around the house, describing walled compartments and at least two ponds (HRO 102M71/E3). In an earlier study of the estate, it has been suggested that Avenue Park was the main parkland area attached to the house before the 1770s, and that Brown's work may have been mainly concerned with landscaping newly acquired lands to the south of the house, that had formerly been the medieval deer park (Currie 1992). It is probable that it was the limited scope of Brown's work that enabled significant portions of the formal avenues to survive in Avenue Park to this day.

If Brown undertook any work in Avenue Park, it was probably restricted to partly breaking up the formal avenues. There is nothing else here that can definitely be attributed to his hand. The next major restructuring of this area belongs to the post-1818 changes, and much that can be seen today dates from either before Brown or after 1818. If one makes allowances for the small scale of the map, the drive shown in 1818 is more

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or less as shown on Taylor's map of 1759 (Margary 1976). By the 1840s, the approach had been altered to pass into the park through its NW corner, where the remains of the lodges were discovered. However, it should be noted that the old northern entrance continued to be marked as path leading into the park as late as 1933 (OS 25" map, sheet 57.11; Fig. 7). The current BMX track would seem to have been made over the line of the older drive, thereby obscuring any remains.

It might be noted that the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS 1" scale map of c. 1810 shows the drive coming from the vicinity of the Winchester Lodges (Margary 1976). This should not be regarded as reliable. The version that survives was revised to include the later railways, and may be a mix of information from different dates. North Stoneham park is particularly poorly depicted. The lakes shown on the more detailed 1818 map are not shown, and the line of the drive contradicts the later survey, which one would expect to be more accurate.

Another point of interest concerning the lodges is their octagonal shape. The Ordnance Survey maps of the early 1870s seems to show a rectangular structure. The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 25" plan of 1895 shows what appears to be two circular lodges (sheet 57.11). The accuracy of both plans would seem to have been wanting, as the lodges were clearly octagonal. There is no evidence to suggest they were altered at any time. OS plans further show that the lodges had disappeared by 1908, suggesting they were demolished between 1895 and this date.

It would seem, therefore that the lodges lasted less than 100 years, being built c. 1820, and demolished between 1895 and 1908. It would seem that, historically, the more important approaches to North Stoneham House were from the north and south. This may help explain the short-lived nature of these lodges. Nevertheless, the new approach from the north avoided the steep ascent of Cricketers Hill, and this improvement might have made this approach more popular. It would seem that other factors might have contributed to the abandonment of the lodges. The foremost of these could have been poor construction, which may have resulted in defects to the building.

The archaeology has demonstrated that the foundations to the lodges were extremely shallow, being no more than two or three courses below ground level. Such shallow foundations could not have led to a long life expectancy for the buildings. Although, the construction techniques for the structure itself seems to have been satisfactory in that the walls were of adequate thickness, the shallow foundations could have led to structural defects. There is not any clear evidence for this in the surviving remains, but it is difficult to believe that a building with such shallow foundations could have been expected to last very long. Structural problems may have been at least part of the reason for the lodges' abandonment.

Another reason was that the family had abandoned North Stoneham as their main home by the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. A series of disasters had befallen the new house, including a fire in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. It is said that it was never fully rebuilt following this, although there are many early photographs that seem to contradict this tradition. With the family living elsewhere, the upkeep of the lodges to the least important entrance may

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have been considered a superfluous luxury. They may have been still viable for repair by 1895-1908, but other circumstances led to their demolition. Nevertheless, one should not see this as the final dereliction of the parkland landscape. The Flemings still felt sufficiently attached to the place to built a War Memorial on the top of Cricketeers Hill. This commemorated the loss of their son in the First World War. The erection of this structure may have led to some additional landscaping in its vicinity. If nothing else, the view down to Avenue Pond would have been kept open from the Memorial.

The size of the lodges suggests that they would not have been very roomy, although the south lodge appeared to be slightly larger than the north in internal width (3.85m opposed to 3.48m). The shallow foundations indicate that they are unlikely to be more than a single storey. Local tradition claims that the occupants lived in one lodge, and had to sleep in the other. The remains, as excavated, might be taken to concur this belief. The abundant drains connected with the north lodge might suggest that this contained the kitchen or living quarters. No drains were observed on the south side (although full excavation might have changed this), and this might suggest this was the sleeping quarters.

Each lodge appeared to be linked to a squarish brick gate pier by a short length of wall. Where the foundations were found, these were very shallow and unmortared. On the north side, the wall was made of yellow brick, but on the south side it was of red brick. It is uncertain if the south side was only red brick below ground level. The brick base to the gate pier was also in red brick. Again it is uncertain if this was below ground level only or for its entire height.

Archaeological excavations on the conjectured line of the drive located this feature as a cambered gravel surface. It averaged about 100mm thick, and was between 3m and 4.2m wide, being wider as it swept around the bend below the hill. A low earthwork bank followed the NE side of the drive at this point, giving a clue to its location. It was noted that the drive was wider (4.2m) where it curved through the park to avoid certain features like Cricketeers Hill and Avenue Pond. Where the drive followed a roughly straight alignment for about 250m east of Winchester Lodge, the width was only 3m. The greater depth of burial of the drive surface here, compared with trenches 3 and 5, suggests that there may have been subsequent dumping of soil in that area. The drive surface was immediately below the turf in trenches 3 and 5.

The drive was found to be slightly off the alignment designated for it by later fences south of Avenue Pond. Here the surface, as excavated, was found to align with a slight linear earthwork marking its east edge. This cut across the line of the present fence, and seemed to suggest that the drive had passed through an area of former brambles to the SW of the pond. This suggests that the drive had been abandoned some time ago for the brambles to take root on its line. It showed that the drive performed a gentle S-curve around the end of Avenue Pond, allowing the carriages to turn through a less steep curve where the drive turned south by the east end of Avenue Pond.

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## 6.0 Conclusions

The remains of the Winchester Lodges were located near the NW corner of Avenue Park, formerly part of North Stoneham Park. The area still contains the remains of formal tree avenues, probably belonging to the 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup> century. Capability Brown was employed in landscaping the park in the 1770s, but there is little definite evidence of his work in Avenue Park beyond the possible break up of the formal avenues. The park was reorganised following the building of a new house on a different site about 1818. This reorganisation included the realignment of the northern approach drive. The Winchester Lodges were probably built as part of this work, between 1818 and 1846.

The lodge houses were found to be a pair of irregular octagonal structures, either side of a pair of iron gates. The houses were of one room each, with shallow foundations suggesting they were only one storey high. Although largely built in red brick, the outer faces of both lodges were made of yellow brick. This material can be found in Park Farm and on the site of the 1818 mansion, and suggests that all the estate buildings of this phase were faced in this material. The lodge houses went out of use between 1895 and 1908, and were demolished. This coincided with the Fleming family's decision to move their principle residence to Chilworth Manor. After this the estate became increasingly run down, and a number of structures became derelict.

It is possible that the shallow foundations of the lodge houses is a sign of cheap construction. They were probably in need of repair when the Flemings moved to Chilworth, and it became a matter of economy to allow their demolition, making them an early casualty of their loss of interest in the park.

Archaeological excavation also located the line of the new drive. This replaced an earlier drive that survived until after 1818, but had gone by the early 1840s. After the abandonment of the lodges, the new gravel drive seems to have fallen out of regular use, and it became overgrown with grass. The original alignment around the east end of Avenue Pond was found to be more curving than later alignments suggested.

## 7.0 Finds

The finds comprised mainly pottery of 19<sup>th</sup>-century date. This included sherds of creamware, pearlware and Mocha ware vessels, glazed earthenware pans, with some later 19<sup>th</sup>-century willow-pattern type wares. There was very little pottery that could be dated much outside the period 1780-1900. What little there was before c. 1820 was thought to be long-lived pieces that were kept until broken.

The only other item of note was a half-guinea piece of George III dated 1790. This had a hole in its top, suggesting it had been worn around the neck as an ornament. It was therefore likely to have been a coin no longer in circulation at the time of its loss.

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## **8.0 Archive**

The archive for this work has been deposited with the Hampshire County Museum Services. Copies of the report were lodged with the client, the Hampshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), Eastleigh Museum, and the National Monuments Record in Swindon, Wiltshire.

## **9.0 Acknowledgements**

Sincere thanks are given to all those involved with this project. In particular, the many volunteers who attended the event. Special thanks are given to Maureen Taylor BA, a local archaeologist, who supervised and planned trenches 2 and 3 for the author. James Watson of Eastleigh Borough Council is thanked for organising the event, and liaising with the volunteers. He also drove the excavating machine and provided plans of the site. Neil Rushton assisted the author in the supervision of the site, supervising trenches 1 and 4, and planning trench 4. Harold Barstow is thanked for providing historical information.

## **10.0 References**

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**Appendix 1: list of contexts excavated**

Context number	Description
01	Loamy gravel layer (Trench 1; Munsell colour 10YR 3/2)
02	Octagonal brick structure (Trench 1)
03	Unbonded brick structure (Trench 1)
04	Brick base (Trench 1)
05	Unmortared brick drain (Trench 1)
06	Unmortared brick drain (Trench 1)
07	Unmortared brick drain (Trench 1)
08	Unmortared brick drain (Trench 1)
09	Circular ceramic drain (Trench 1)
10	Loamy gravel soil (Trench 2; Munsell colour 10YR 3/2)
11	Gravel layer (Trench 2; Munsell colour 10YR 4/6)
12	Loamy gravel layer (Trench 2; Munsell colour 10YR 4/2)
13	Loamy gravel layer (Trench 2; Munsell colour 10YR 4/2)
14	Clay layer (Trench 2; Munsell colour 10YR 5/4)
15	Loamy gravel layer (Trench 3; Munsell colour 10YR 4/2)
16	Gravel layer (Trench 3; Munsell colour 10YR 4/6)
17	Clay loam layer (Trench 3; Munsell colour 10YR 4/3)
18	Stone structure (Trench 1)
19	Loamy gravel layer (Trench 4; Munsell colour 10YR 4/2)
20	Octagonal brick structure (Trench 4)
21	Brick structure (Trench 4)
22	Loamy gravel layer (Trench 5; Munsell colour 10YR 3/2)
23	Gravel layer (Trench 5; Munsell colour 10YR 5/6)
24	Clayey gravel layer (Trench 5; Munsell colour 10YR 3/4)
25	Clayey gravel layer (Trench 5; Munsell colour 10YR 3/4)

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## Appendix 2: glossary of archaeological terms

**Archaeology:** the study of man's past by means of the material relics he has left behind him. By material relics, this means both materials buried within the soil (artefacts and remains of structures), and those surviving above the surface such as buildings, structures (e.g. stone circles) and earthworks (e.g. hillforts, old field boundaries etc.). Even the study of old tree or shrub alignments, where they have been artificially planted in the past, can give vital information on past activity.

**Artefacts:** any object made by man that finds itself discarded (usually as a broken object) or lost in the soil. The most common finds are usually pottery sherds, or waste flint flakes from prehistoric stone tool making. Metal finds are generally rare except in specialist areas such as the site of an old forge. The absence of finds from the activity of metal detectorists is not usually given much credibility by archaeologists as a means of defining if archaeology is present

**Baulk:** an area of unexcavated soil on an archaeological site. It usually refers to the sides of the archaeological trench.

**Context:** a number given to a unit of archaeological recording. This can include a layer, a cut, a fill of a cut, a surface or a structure.

**Cut:** usually used to mean an excavation made in the past. The 'hole' or cut existed in time as a void, before later being backfilled with soil. Archaeologists give a context number to the empty hole, as well as the backfilled feature (called the 'fill').

**Desk-based assessment:** an assessment of a known or potential archaeological resource within a specific land unit or area, consisting of a collation of existing written or graphic information, to identify the likely character, extent and relative quality of the actual or potential resource.

**Earthwork:** bank of earth, hollow, or other earthen feature created by human activity.

**Evaluation:** a limited programme of intrusive fieldwork (mainly test-trenching) which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified land unit or area. If they are present, this will define their character, extent, and relative quality, and allow an assessment of their worth in local, regional and national terms.

**Munsell colour:** an objective method of defining soil colour using a specially designed colour chart for soils. The reading defines hue (an objective description of colour; eg YR means yellow-red), value (darkness or lightness of the colour) and chroma (the greyness or purity of the colour). For example 10YR 3/2 is a dark grey-brown.

**Natural [layer]:** in archaeological reports, this is a layer that has been formed by natural process, usually underlying man-made disturbance.

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**Period:** time periods within British chronology are usually defined as Prehistoric (comprising the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age), Roman, Saxon, Medieval and Post-medieval. Although exact definitions are often challenged, the general date ranges are as given below.

**Prehistoric** c. 100,000 BC - AD 43. This is usually defined as the time before man began making written records of his activities.

Palaeolithic or Old Stone Age 100,000 - 8300 BC

Mesolithic or Middle Stone Age 8300 - 4000 BC

Neolithic or New Stone Age 4000 - 2500 BC

Bronze Age 2500 - 700 BC

Iron Age 700 BC - AD 43

**Roman** AD 43-410

**Saxon** AD 410-1066

**Medieval** AD 1066-1540

**Post-medieval** AD 1540-present

**Pottery sherds:** small pieces of broken baked clay vessels that find their way into ancient soils. These can be common in all periods from the Neolithic onwards. They often find their way into the soil by being dumped on the settlement rubbish tip, when broken, and subsequently taken out and scattered in fields with farmyard manure.

**Project Design:** a written statement on the project's objectives, methods, timetable and resources set out in sufficient detail to be quantifiable, implemented and monitored.

**Settlement:** usually defined as a site where human habitation in the form of permanent or temporary buildings or shelters in wood, stone, brick or any other building material has existed in the past.

**Site:** usually defined as an area where human activity has taken place in the past. It does not require the remains of buildings to be present. A scatter of prehistoric flint-working debris can be defined as a 'site', with or without evidence for permanent or temporary habitation.

**Stratigraphy:** sequence of man-made soils overlying undisturbed soils; the lowest layers generally represent the oldest periods of man's past, with successive layers reaching forwards to the present. It is within these soils that archaeological information is obtained.

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