

**An archaeological watching brief at
Crookhorn Surgery, Purbrook,
Waterlooville, Hampshire**

NGR: SU 68500746

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Summary statement

Planning Application 98/58845/3 was submitted to Havant Borough Council for a one and a half storey extension to the east elevation of the existing surgery in Crookhorn Lane, Purbrook, Waterlooville. In view of the archaeological potential of the site the County Planning Officer's Archaeological Section advised that provision should be made for an archaeological watching brief. It is considered that the implementation of the specification issued by the Planning Department would meet the concerns raised. The work was carried out by C K Currie MPhil MIFA and Neil Rushton MA for CKC Archaeology. The work was carried out between Monday 6th and Wednesday 8th September 1999.

The development site revealed no archaeological features. Only two residual sherds of Roman ceramic were recovered despite the site being within 100-150m of a known Roman kiln site. The only feature found was a linear cut containing a modern ceramic drain, probably put in during housing development in the 1970s. Historical research has revealed that the area was one of dispersed settlement in the medieval and post-medieval periods, and remained heavily wooded until the present century. Prior to dissafforestation in 1810 the area had been within the Royal Forest of Bere Portchester.

An archaeological watching brief at The Surgery, Crookhorn Lane, Purbrook, Waterlooville, Hampshire (NGR: SU 68500746)

This report has been written based on the format suggested by the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs* (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

Planning Application 98/58845/3 was submitted to Havant Borough Council for a one and a half storey extension to the east elevation of the existing surgery in Crookhorn Lane, Purbrook, Waterlooville. In view of the archaeological potential of the site the County Planning Officer's Archaeological Section advised that provision should be made for an archaeological watching brief. It is considered that the implementation of the specification issued by the Planning Department would meet the concerns raised. The work was carried out by C K Currie MPhil MIFA and Neil Rushton MA for CKC Archaeology. The work was carried out between Monday 6th and Wednesday 8th September 1999.

2.0 Historical background

The site stands within the historic parish of Farlington on the north side of Portsdown Hill. The Surgery stands on the corner of Crookhorn Lane and Zeus Lane, serving a large, modern housing development. The area here was well wooded in the past, having once been part of the Royal Forest of Bere Portchester. Local settlement was restricted to scattered farms and hamlets before modern post-war development spread widely over the area.

A Roman road formerly passed about 200m to the south of the site. This was Margary Route 421, leading from Wickham in the west to Chichester via the nearby small Roman town of Havant. In 1974 development in the area begun in earnest with the construction of a large housing estate with its own school and other services. During this development significant Roman remains were found on either side of Zeus Lane, between 70 and 150m from the present development site. This comprised an aisled building cut through by a later clay pit thought to be related to a late Roman tilery. These features were thought to be associated with the Crookhorn Roman villa known to be c. 550m further to the south-east of Scratchface Lane (Soffe *et al* 1989).

Little is known about the area after the demise of the Roman Empire. It is generally considered that the region reverted to woodland and woodland pasture, supporting only scattered settlements. After the Norman Conquest, these lands were taken into the Royal Forest of Bere. The name Crookhorn is thought to derive from a small sub-manor called Creuker that lay within the larger manor of Farlington. Both manors passed into the hands of Southwick Priory in June 1346, the result of a royal grant, following the forfeiture of the lands by Hugh Despenser (Hanna 1988, I, 208). The *Victoria County History* considers that Crookhorn Farm, a small farmstead formerly about 100m SE of the present development site was the site of the manor of Creuker or Creuquer (Redstone *et al* 1908, 149-50).

The Royal Forest of Bere was dissafforested in 1810 (Pile 1989, 113), but the area remained heavily wooded well into the later 19th century. At the time of the tithe map, there was a large wood of over 118 acres called Crookhorn Copse to the south of Crookhorn Farm. About 0.5km south of the development site there was a brickworks to the west of Crookhorn Lane, demonstrating that the clay soils were still considered suitable for making building materials (HRO 21M65/F7/89/1-2). The development site itself seems to have fallen within the SW corner of tithe map field number 245, one of three adjoining fields known as Crookhorn Field. The name Crookhorn is a Norman-French word meaning 'break-heart', an indication of the poor quality of the soils in the area (Pile 1989, 113).

3.0 Strategy

The methodology followed that laid down in the Planning Department specification in the first instance. When it became clear that topsoil stripping was going to remove soils to a depth of over 1m, it was decided to dig four informal test pits within the four quadrants of the site with a machine to examine the depth of the local stratigraphy. This seemed to suggest that archaeological layers only extended to 0.5m, with very little evidence of any human activity within them. Later, when it was clear that the soil stripping had not revealed any significant features, and was removing soils to over 0.5m below the top of undisturbed ground, it was decided that no further archaeological presence was required. The Planning Department Archaeological Section was informed of this action, and agreed with the decision. A further day was spent on site, following the completion of the soil stripping, cleaning the ground surface to make absolutely sure that there were no cut features, and recording what sections had been left by this activity. Two further small trenches were cut by hand on the line of a modern drainage trench containing a 20th-century ceramic drain.

4.0 Results

The land proposed for the extension comprised an area of raised ground approximately approximately 15m E-W by 25m N-S. To the east was a tarmaced playground belonging to the local school, and on the west the surgery. The Project Manager thought that the raised area might have been the result of dumping from the cutting away of soil undertaken to make both the playground and the surgery. This proved not to be the case. Although there were signs that the ground level had been reduced to build both surgery and playground, there was no evidence to indicate that it had been dumped on the ground in between. Instead the raised ground was, in reality, an island of undisturbed soil.

Informal trial holes were excavated into this ground prior to soil stripping proper started. This revealed largely soils undisturbed other than by possible ploughing. On average the topsoil was about 0.2m deep, comprising a dark brown loam (Munsell Colour 10YR 3/2). This overlay a loamy clay subsoil of mainly yellow-brown colour (Munsell Colour 10YR 6/8) with occasional small gravel stones, and about 0.3m deep. This, in turn, overlay a brown clay (Munsell Colour 10YR 5/8) that was, apart from the uppermost part, undisturbed. There were very few artefacts recovered from any of these soils. The topsoil contained only occasional pieces of modern china and late post-medieval glazed

coarsewares. Only two pieces of Roman material were found in the loamy clay subsoil. The first of these was a small fragment of Roman tile weighing 30 grms. This was oxidised on the outside but with a thick reduced grey core. The second was a piece of heavily abraded Roman pottery weighing 8 grms. This was a similar plain silty fabric to the tile fragment, with an oxidised exterior and reduced grey core.

The soil stripping was watched. This removed over 1m of soil in places to reduce down to the level of the present surgery. No archaeological features of significance were seen. The only feature observed was a modern drainage cut, running just inside the present eastern fenceline on a N-S alignment. This contained a modern ceramic pipe, and was thought to be related to the housing development laid out in the 1970s.

5.0 Discussion

Historical research on the site suggests that the post-Roman landscape was one of dispersed settlement within the heavily wooded Royal Forest of Bere Portchester. Earlier a Roman road had passed south of the site, and a villa and tilery had grown up on its north side to the east of the present development site. During the Dark Ages this complex had been abandoned, to be replaced by a 'woodland settlement' type common in medieval southern Hampshire.

The evidence recovered seems to indicate that the Roman remains did not extend westwards over the development site. Nonetheless one might have expected cultivation to shift the Roman materials westward on to the site as the nearest Roman remains were barely 100m to the east. A possible explanation for this may be that the area was marginal land that was only cultivated intermittently. The general historical settlement distribution, and the poor local soils seems to support this contention. Nevertheless, one might have expected more residual Roman pottery than the two sherds that were found.

6.0 Conclusions

The development site revealed no archaeological features. Only two residual sherds of Roman ceramic were recovered despite the site being within 100-150m of a known Roman kiln site. The only feature found was a linear cut containing a modern ceramic drain, probably put in during housing development in the 1970s. Historical research has revealed that the area was one of dispersed settlement in the medieval and post-medieval periods, and remained heavily wooded until the present century. Prior to dissafforestation in 1810 the area had been within the Royal Forest of Bere Portchester.

7.0 Archive

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

8.0 Acknowledgements

Thanks are given to all those involved with this project. In particular, David Tones, the Portsdown Group Practice Business Manager, for providing plans and liaison with the various parties involved. The groundworkers and machine driver are thanked for their co-operation and assistance. Ian Wykes monitored the project for Hampshire County Council. C K Currie undertook recording on the first day of the watching brief, with Neil Rushton taking over thereafter.

9.0 References

9.1 Original sources in the Hampshire Record Office (HRO):

HRO 21M65/F7/89/1-2 Tithe map & award for Farlington, 1838

9.2 Original sources in print

K A Hanna (ed), *The cartulary of Southwick Priory*, 2 vols, Winchester, 1988-89

9.3 Secondary sources

English Heritage, *The management of archaeological projects*, London, 1992, revised edition

Institute of Field Archaeologists, *Standard and guidance for archaeological watch briefs*, Birmingham, 1994

J Pile, 'Aspects of the Forest of Bere from the Late Iron Age to the Middle Ages', *Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society*, 45 (1989), 113-19

L J Redstone, G A Laughton & E M Hartland, 'Farlington', in W Page (ed), *The Victoria history of the county of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight*, vol. 3, London, 1908, 148-51

G Soffe, J Nicholls & G Moore, 'The Roman tilery and aisled building at Crookhorn, Hants, Excavations, 1974-75', , *Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society*, 45 (1989), 43-112

Appendix 1: 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 professional 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.

Burnt flint: in prehistoric times, before metal containers were available, water was often boiled in pottery or wooden containers by dropping stones/flints heated in a fire into the container. The process of suddenly cooling hot stone, particularly flint, causes the stone to crack, and form distinctive crazed markings all over its surface. Finds of large quantities of such stone are usually taken as a preliminary indication of past human presence nearby.

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.

Environmental evidence: evidence of the potential effect of environmental considerations on man's past activity. This can range from the remains of wood giving an insight into the type of trees available for building materials etc, through to evidence of crops grown, and food eaten, locally.

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.

Hedgebanks: banks of earth, usually with a ditch, that have been set up in the past on which is planted a stock-proof line of shrubs. There is written evidence that they were made from at least Roman times, but they are suspected as existing in prehistoric times.

Lynchets: bank of earth that accumulates on the downhill side of an ancient ploughed field as the disturbed soil moves down the slope under the action of gravity.

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.

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.

Worked flint or stone: usually taken to mean pieces of chipped stone or flint used to make prehistoric stone tools. A worked flint can comprise the tools themselves (arrowheads, blades etc.), or the waste material produced in their making (often called flint flakes, cores etc.).

Archive list for The Surgery, Crookhorn Lane, Purbrook, Hants

The archive contains:

1. One pack of Black/White photographs with negatives.
2. Plastic sleeve containing colour slide film.
3. Project brief, 2 sheets.
4. Original permatrace drawings, total one sheet.
5. Report with illustrations, 10 sheets.
6. Correspondence concerning site, total 1 sheet.
7. One large plan of site showing proposals.