

**An archaeological watching brief
at Valentine's, The Dene, Hurstbourne
Tarrant, Hampshire: phase 1**

Centred on NGR: SU 383 533

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Report to Andrew Holloway, property owner

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Summary statement

A programme of works was proposed on a Grade II Listed Building known as Valentine's in Hurstbourne Tarrant. An archaeological watching brief was agreed by Test Valley Borough Council following a planning condition being imposed on the site (planning application no TVN.05730/2; Listed Building consent TVN.LB.00465/3). This condition was required to secure appropriate recording of the archaeological impact of the development. Phase 1 of this work entailed cutting into the hillside behind the house to create a level area about 15m by 14m to build a new garage/barn and parking area. Phase 2, the building of a new extension on to the existing house, will be carried out later in the year, and will be reported on separately.

The work was carried out by C K Currie of CKC Archaeology for the property owner, Mr Andrew Holloway, between 19th and 29th January 2001.

No archaeological features or stratigraphy of any significance was encountered during the phase 1 works on this property. Undisturbed soils were encountered below the topsoil at a depth of approximately 0.45m. A single waste flake of Neolithic or Bronze Age date was the only find of relevance made. This had probably settled on the site because of hillwash from the steep hill above.

An archaeological watching brief at Valentine's, The Dene, Hurstbourne Tarrant, Hampshire: phase 1 (centred on NGR: SU 383 533)

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. All work is carried out according to the *Code of Conduct* and By-laws of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, of which CKC Archaeology is a IFA-registered archaeological organisation (reference: RAO no. 1).

1.0 Introduction

A programme of works was proposed on a Grade II Listed Building known as Valentine's in Hurstbourne Tarrant. This included demolishing an existing late 20th-century conservatory and garage, and adding a new extension over the site of the old garage, with a larger detached garage block. An archaeological watching brief was agreed by Test Valley Borough Council following a planning condition being imposed on the site (planning application no TVN.05730/2; Listed Building consent TVN.LB.00465/3). This condition was required to secure appropriate recording of the archaeological impact of the development.

This report documents a cutting into the hill about 30m behind the house. This cutting, approximately 15m by 14m, was made to create a level platform for a large garage and parking space. It also included extending the drive up to the new garage. Further works to build a new extension on to the existing house, proposed for later in the year, will be reported separately.

This current phase of work, here designated phase 1, was carried out by C K Currie for CKC Archaeology between Friday 19th January and Friday 26th January 2001.

2.0 Historical background

The village of Hurstbourne Tarrant has Saxon and medieval origins, being once part of royal demesne. It is recorded in the will of King Alfred (AD 873 x 888), and in a charter of King Edgar dated AD 961 (Sawyer 1968, nos 689, 1507). The latter document gives bounds of the estate, many of the marker points still being identifiable today. It is entered in the Domesday Book of 1086 as a substantial estate in the hands of the king, with 38 heads of households recorded, a church, and land for 16 ploughs (Munby 1982, 1.44). The church contains late Norman work, and there are many old houses in the village. The village centre is a Conservation Area (Pearce *et al* 1990, 61). It is described by Pevsner and Lloyd (1967, 302) as 'one of the most picturesque villages in Hampshire'.

The village probably takes its name from the stream that flows north-south through it. The 'Hurst' element is not a 'wood' name, as appears on first impression, but derives from '*Hyssa-Burna*', the warrior's bourne. The earliest known versions of the name are *Hyseburnam* (AD

901) and *Hisseburn* (AD 961), the 'Tarrant' suffix being added after 1266, when the manor was granted to Tarrant nunnery in Dorset (Grundy 1926, 153). The original core of the village is a regular row extending along the NNW-SSE Church Street (B3048), many of the buildings along the A343 Andover-Newbury road being more recent (Edwards 1995, 515-9). The church contained double aisles by 1230, suggesting a large community existed at that date (ibid, 516).

After the Dissolution of Tarrant Abbey the manor passed to the Crown, who granted it in 1547 to William Paulet, first Marquess of Winchester. It passed in the Paulet family until 1730, when it was divided into three shares between the remaining female co-heirs, the male line having become extinct. These three shares were successively purchased by James Wright between 1738 and 1765. He sold the re-united manor to Joseph Portal and John Mount. From here it was sold to George Dewar, a wealthy Scottish plantation owner, in 1782. It still remained with the Dewar family when the *Victoria County History* was being written (Brough 1912, 320).

The area is well known for its archaeological remains. Although there has been little archaeological work of any great consequence in recent years, the area received considerable attention in the 1960s (Knocker 1963; Stead 1968). In discussing the background to the excavation of a Bronze Age barrow in Rags Copse to the SE of the village, Knocker (op cit, 126-7) identified a number of earthworks indicative of intense prehistoric activity in the area.

The development site is on the NE side of the village of Hurstbourne Tarrant on the south side of the A343. It is located on the eastern edge of the original core of the village. The oldest part of the present building is at the front. This is thought to date from the later 18th century. It is shown on the tithe survey of 1838-42 (HRO 21M65/F7/126/1-2), although the greater part of the garden area was within a separate plot. This was tithe plot number 44, known as Little Callows Meadow, and was in a different ownership to the house. The house was then owned and occupied by John Purver, with William Medhurst holding the meadow in hand (ibid). On the 1st edition Ordnance Survey 6" plan of 1873 (sheet 16), the meadow appears to be shown occupied by a pheasantry. This was not shown on the 1895 OS 25" plan (sheet 16.1), but by the 1910 edition the field had been subdivided. It is not known at what time the present plot layout was formed, but it must have been after this date.

From at least 1838 there was an outlying hamlet called 'The Dean' about 200m further NE along the A343. Until at least 1910 the land on the south side of the A343, from Valentines to this hamlet, remained undeveloped. The houses that presently occupy this space are all relatively modern, the lack of development probably reflected in the steep hillside rising southwards from the road. It was probably this steep incline that caused Valentines to be erected within such a confined space. It was required to excavate to a depth of nearly 3m at the back of the development area to create a level space for the building of the proposed garage.

About 30 years ago a two-storey extension was added to the rear of the property, with further extensions in the last ten years. There is good evidence to suggest that this required a

considerable cutting into the hillside behind. It is possible that this may have removed much of the archaeological stratigraphy that once existed there.

3.0 Strategy

The strategy for the watching brief is outlined in the project design issued by Currie (2000). Copies of this report were deposited with Test Valley Borough Council's Sites and Monuments Record (hereafter SMR) and in the project archive, to be held by Hampshire Museums Services.

4.0 Results

The area excavated cut into a steep hillside 27-28m to the south of the existing building. It was approximately 15m by 14m in extent. At the furthest point from the house this required excavation over 2.5m into the bedrock chalk. The topsoil stripping, plus the deeper excavations, were watched. No archaeological features were observed.

The topsoil was a clay loam (Context no 01; Munsell Colour 10YR 3/3) up to 0.35m deep. Underlying this was a light brown clayey subsoil, mixed with weathered chalk (Context no 02; Munsell Colour 10YR 5/4), that extended for a further 0.8m. At a depth of about 1.15m chalk bedrock (Context no 03; Munsell Colour 2.5Y 8/0) was reached. It was considered unlikely that the soils had ever been disturbed by human activity beyond the upper few centimetres of context 02. A waste flake, possibly of Neolithic or Bronze Age date, was the only find earlier than the modern era that was recovered from the topsoil.

Topsoil stripping along the line of the drive, with a parallel cutting for drainage failed to reveal any archaeological remains of significance. Some late 19th and early 20th-century ceramics, with occasional brick and tile fragments, were encountered on the line of the drive within the topsoil, but no features were observed. This material was not collected.

5.0 Discussion

The steepness of the hill behind Valentines indicates that occupation here was difficult. Historic maps suggest that there was little activity in the present back plot of Valentines likely to leave an impression on the archaeological record until the most recent centuries. The relatively late date of Valentines (late 18th century), plus the clear evidence of cutting into the hill to form a level area to build its existing extensions, suggests that development of the village plan in this direction may have been relatively late. There would appear to have been no houses in the village core further east of Valentines on the south side of the A343 until the 20th century, the steepness of the hill inhibiting development.

The single waste flake encountered in the topsoil appeared to be of Neolithic or Bronze Age date, suggesting prehistoric presence nearby. However, it can not be said with certainty that this was *in situ*, as it may have washed down the steep hillside over time.

6.0 Conclusions

No archaeological features or stratigraphy of any significance was encountered during the phase 1 works on this property. Undisturbed soils were encountered below the topsoil at a depth of approximately 0.45m. A single waste flake of Neolithic or Bronze Age date was the only find of relevance made. This had probably settled on the site because of hillwash from the steep hill above.

7.0 Copyright

C K Currie (trading as CKC Archaeology) shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports or other project documents written by himself or his agents, under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act* of 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client and the local planning authority for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the project design.

8.0 Archive

The archive for this work has been deposited with the County Museum Services (Accession number A2001.02). Copies of the report were lodged with the client, the District Council's SMR, Council Offices, Romsey, Hampshire, the Hampshire County SMR, The Castle, Winchester, Hampshire, and the National Monuments Record in Swindon, Wiltshire.

9.0 Acknowledgements

Thanks are given to all those involved with this project. Andrew Holloway, the property owner, provided site drawings and plans. Frank Green, the District Archaeological Officer for Test Valley Borough Council, monitored the project for the local authority. The author was assisted by the groundworkers, AWD, on the site.

10.0 References

Abbreviations used:

DoE Department of the Environment
HMSO Her Majesty's Stationary Office
IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

10.1 Primary sources in the Hampshire Records Office:

HRO 21M65/F7/126/1-2, Tithe map & award for Hurstbourne Tarrant, 1838-42

Ordnance Survey maps consulted:

OS 6" plan, sheet 16 (1873 ed)
OS 25" plan, sheet 16.1 (1895 ed)

OS 25" plan, sheet 16.1 (1910 ed)

10.2 Primary sources in print:

J Munby, *Domesday Book. Hampshire*, Chichester, 1982

10.3 Secondary sources:

F Brough, 'Hurstbourne Tarrant', in W Page (ed), *The Victoria history of the county of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight*, volume 4, London, 1912, 319-24

DoE, *List of buildings of special architectural or historic interest: Test Valley*, HMSO, London

R Edwards, *Historic rural settlement in Basingstoke & Deane and Test Valley, part 3.1 Test Valley*, unpublished report to Hampshire County Council, 1995

G B Grundy, 'The Saxon land charters of Hampshire with notes on places and field names', *Archaeological Journal*, 2nd series, xxxiii (1926), 91-253

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

G M Knocker, 'Excavation of a round barrow, in Rag Copse, near Hurstbourne Tarrant, Hampshire', *Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club & Archaeological Society*, 22 pt 3 (1963), 125-50

G Pearce, L Hems & B Hennessy, *Conservation Areas in London & the South East*, HMSO, London, 1990

N Pevsner & D Lloyd, *The buildings of England. Hampshire*, Harmondsworth, 1967

P H Sawyer, *Anglo-Saxon charters. An annotated list and bibliography*, London, 1968

I M Stead, 'Excavations in Blagden Copse, Hurstbourne Tarrant, Hampshire', *Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club & Archaeological Society*, 23 pt III (1968), 81-9

10.4 Other sources consulted

Hampshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) at the Castle, Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 8UE.

Appendix 1: Listed Building description

The Listed Building description (Hurstbourne Tarrant no 10/53) states:

Valentine and Orchard Cottage

'Pair of houses. Late C18 (Valentine) and early C19 (Orchard) in same style, with an extension set back at the south end. Flint with brick dressings, and a tile roof. Two storeys, Valentines 3 windows (centre blank) Orchard 2 windows. Brick dentil eaves, narrow horizontal flint panels, brick quoins, verticals, cambered openings to the ground floor, plinth. Casements, Valentines has 2 bays, one splayed the other rectangular, with concave lead roofs. Valentines has a plain doorway, with 6-panelled (2 top glazed) door beneath a moulded canopy, Orchard has a wide C19 tiled canopy on ornamental brackets.'

Appendix 2: photographs taken during fieldwork

Photographs were taken in both colour slide and monochrome print. In the archive the colour slides are pre-fixed with the site code, followed by 'S' to indicate photograph type, eg HTV/S/* (* indicating the photograph number). Monochrome prints are number HTV/M/*, following the same procedure as for slides.

Photo no	Description
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- | | |
|----|--|
| 1. | Levelled area (trench 1), north facing section from NW |
| 2. | Ditto |
| 3. | Levelled area (trench 1), west facing section from SE |
| 4. | Ditto |
| 5. | Levelled area (trench 1), east facing section from SW |
| 6. | Ditto |

Appendix 3: 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.

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.

Sondage: an arbitrary hole dug during archaeological excavation. Often dug after the main excavation is complete to quickly test for information that may be required to clarify points of the main excavation.

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.).
