

**An archaeological watching brief at
Lyndum House, 12-14 High St,
Petersfield, Hampshire**

NGR: SU 747 233

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Report to Tarrock Construction Ltd

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Summary statement

It has been proposed to build eight one-bedroomed flats with associated parking at the rear of Lyndum House, 12-14 High Street, Petersfield, Hampshire. An archaeological watching brief was requested by Hampshire County Council's Archaeological Officer, on behalf of East Hampshire District Council, following a planning condition being imposed on the site (planning application F.35083/FUL). This condition was required to secure appropriate recording of the archaeological impact of the development.

The work was carried out by C K Currie of CKC Archaeology for Tarrock Construction Ltd, the developer.

There was little in the way of evidence for medieval activity on this site short of the occasional residual sherd of contemporary pottery. All of the features that could be dated appeared to derive from the post-medieval period. The remains of a stone building of at least two phases were found at the southern end of the site. Its function could not be determined from the evidence recovered. To the north of this, the only features encountered were the occasional post-medieval pits. Although one or two were of large size, they seemed to be generally lacking in artefacts. It is thought that if they had contained bone or other organic rubbish, this had been destroyed by the acidic sandy soils found on the site.

An archaeological watching brief at Lyndum House, 12-14 High St, Petersfield, Hampshire (NGR: SU 747 233)

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 an IFA-Registered Archaeological Organisation (reference: RAO no. 1).

1.0 Introduction (Figs 1 & 2)

It has been proposed to build eight one-bedroomed flats with associated parking at the rear of Lyndum House, 12-14 High Street, Petersfield, Hampshire. An archaeological watching brief was requested by Hampshire County Council's Archaeological Officer, on behalf of East Hampshire District Council, following a planning condition being imposed on the site (planning application F.35083/FUL). This condition was required to secure appropriate recording of the archaeological impact of the development.

The work was carried out by C K Currie of CKC Archaeology for Tarrock Construction Ltd, the developer.

2.0 Historical background (Figs 3 & 4)

The development site is on the north side of High Street, Petersfield, the main street of the medieval town. It is next door to the Petersfield Physic Garden, a historic garden site open to the public, with a large car park to the north. Previous archaeological work in the town centre has recovered prehistoric, Roman and medieval material (Torrance & Ford 1993; Fox & Hughes 1993; Currie 1997), indicating a long sequence of human activity on or near the present settlement.

Petersfield is not listed separately at the time of Domesday Book (1086). It is thought that in the later 11th century it was included in the manor of Mapledurham in Finchdean hundred (Brough 1908, 116). The present town appears to have originated as a planted medieval borough in the 12th century. In the reign of Henry II (1154-89), William, Earl of Gloucester, granted the burgesses all the liberties and free customs then enjoyed by the citizens of nearby Winchester. These liberties were confirmed by King John in 1198 when he was Count of Mortain (ibid, 113). The town flourished as a small market town from this time onwards. The cloth industry was of particular importance until the 17th century, alongside leather and tanning industries (op cit, 115).

The tenure of the properties making up the present Lyndum House (12-14 High Street) has been traced back to the early 17th century by the Petersfield Area History Society. Number 12 High Street was in the hands of John Wyatt in 1613, having previously been held by the 'late' William Bold. A Doctor Wheeler held the property in 1699, and in 1752, and again in

1773, it was in the hands of Thomas Booker, 'baker'. Number 14 High Street was held by Francis Clement in 1613. It passed through a number of hands over the next 200 years, the most distinguished person to hold it possibly being the Reverend Davies in 1752 (Petersfield Area History Society 1984).

3.0 Strategy

The strategy for this work is outlined in the project design (Currie 2000). Copies of this document are deposited with the project archive, and with the Hampshire County Council Sites & Monuments Record (hereafter SMR).

4.0 Results (Figs 5 & 6)

4.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was the number allocated to the footing excavated at the far southern end of the site. Subsequent trenches move gradually northwards across the site as they were excavated in sequence.

This trench was 8.9m long and 0.6m wide. Topsoil to a depth of about 0.2m had been removed from the site prior to excavation. This was quite deep and at least a further 0.2m was left on site to be recorded in the section. This was a dark grey-brown sandy loam [context 01] that contained much late post-medieval pottery. During the removal of the topsoil, no other types were noted in any quantity. Little medieval pottery was seen, the earliest relatively common pottery type to be found on the site being 17th-century tin-glazed earthenware. Recovery was not thorough and so it is possible that small fragments of earlier wares were missed, but it did seem to suggest relatively little activity in this area before the post-medieval period.

Below the topsoil was a dirty brown soil [context 06] that was about 0.3m deep. This was followed by a thick layer of mid brown clayey sand [context 02]. This was much disturbed by tree roots, but there was little other evidence for disturbance within it. For the large part it seems to have been part of the 'natural' undisturbed horizons across the site. The depth of this layer varied considerably, starting at about 0.5m below the reduced ground surface, and extending down to between 1.4m and 1.9m. It appeared to be deeper at the west end of trench 1. Immediately below this layer was undisturbed yellow sand [context 03], very similar to 'builder's' sand in colour.

The only features noted in this trench were associated with possible stone buildings on the site. These included a crude stone foundation [context 05] and a possible destruction cut [context 07] for a further stone foundation. The former was below topsoil layer 01, but cutting through context 06 and the top layers of context 02. It was 0.7m deep and 0.35m wide, and was made of crude lumps of a local greyish stone (known as 'malmstone') bonded together with coarse sandy mortar. The wall appeared to be aligned N-S, being approximately parallel with the boundaries leading back from the High Street.

The destruction cut [context 07] was filled with mortar and fragments of malmstone [context 08]. This was below the topsoil layer, but cutting through contexts 06 and 02 to a depth of about 0.7m. The length of this cut seen in the section was just over 2m in length.

Also identified in the safety step cut at the east end of the trench was another stone footing [context 09]. This appeared to be below the present topsoil layer, but was of a shallow depth, being only 0.2m deep. The footing was 0.3m wide and included some roof tile in its make-up.

4.2 Trench 2

A number of wall footings and demolition cuts were identified in this trench, which was parallel to and a few metres to the north of trench 1. Stone footing 05 continued through this trench as feature 17. This comprised a cut [context 17] filled by a malmstone footing [context 18] of similar dimensions and build to context 05 in trench 1. This feature extended right across the trench, but seems to have turned through a right angle to the west just beyond the southern baulk of the trench (this was identified in plan form in the top of the trench before excavation). This stone footing [context 21] extended for about 1.7m west of context 17/18.

On the south side of this trench another stone wall footing [context 16] was found extending at right-angles to wall footing 18. This ran parallel to context 21, but only extended for 1m. It was exposed by the cutting of the southern safety step in the trench. The trench was about 2m wide on account of these safety steps. Wall 16 did not match wall 21 in length, but this might be accounted for by a door in wall 16 if the features were contemporary.

There were the remains on another stone footing [context 12] 3.9m to the west of wall 18. This was only one course wide (0.16m), and about 0.4m deep. The topsoil layer [context 01] had been partly removed prior to excavation in this trench. At right angles to wall 12 was another demolition cut [context 13] filled with mortar and stone fragments [context 14]. This extended for 1.9m east of wall 12, and did not appear to cut the topsoil layer, unlike wall footing 12.

To the immediate east of wall 18 was a linear cut [context 19] containing substantial quantities of brick rubble [context 20]. This feature was 0.5m wide and over 0.9m deep. It was uncertain if this was a demolition cut for a wall or a drainage feature.

4.3 Trenches 3, 6 & 7

No cut features or structural remains were seen in these trenches. The general stratigraphy was similar to that recorded in trench 1. Trench 3 was the N-S footing on the east side of the building. Trenches 6 & 7 were E-W trenches running parallel to trenches 1 and 2.

4.4 Trench 4

This was another E-W trench, parallel to trenches 1 and 2. The stratigraphy was much the same as recorded in trench 1. The only feature seen was a cut at the west end of the trench.

That part seen was in the south facing section. It was 1m deep and 0.8m wide, cutting through layers 01, 06 and the top part of 02. A single sherd of glazed post-medieval earthenware was removed from it.

4.5 Trench 5

This E-W trench contained similar general stratigraphy to that excavated in trench 1, and all subsequent trenches. It contained two large pits that cut into layer 02. The most westerly [context 25] cut into this layer to a depth of 1.4m, being about 1.1m wide at the top. The fill [context 26] contained a tiny fragment of tin-glazed ware of late 17th- or 18th-century date and a fragment of bottle glass. The second cut [context 27] extended beyond the east end of the trench. That bit recorded was 2.1m in length and 0.9m deep. It extended through the full width of the trench and was seen in both sections.

4.6 Trench 8

A modest-sized pit [context 29] was seen at the far west end of this trench. It spanned the full width of the trench, but did not extend into the east facing section of trench 9. The width of that part seen was 0.7m, and it cut into layer 02 by 0.65m. The fill was a dirty sandy loam, much invaded by roots [context 30]. No artefacts were seen except for two tiny fragments of brick or roof tile. It was assumed that this pit was post-medieval in date.

4.7 Trench 9

This trench was the N-S footing on the west side of the site. The only feature seen in this trench was a moderate-sized pit [context 29] at the junction with trench 8 (see above).

4.8 Trenches 10 & 11

Nothing of note was seen in either of these trenches. From trench 5 northwards the site had seemed largely devoid of significant archaeology. Following discussion with Mr Ian Wykes of Hampshire County Council, it was decided not to observe the digging of the last two E-W footings, and the watching brief was called off.

5.0 Discussion

The lack of any significant archaeology on the site resulted in the watching brief being called off before all the footings were excavated. It is not possible to explain why this particular site was so apparently lacking in any archaeology of real interest. Even residual medieval sherds were rare, and there did not appear to be any sign of medieval activity in the form of cut features or structures. This was considered slightly unusual considering that other sites in the vicinity have produced good evidence for medieval activity (Torrance & Ford 1993; Currie 1997). A possible explanation is that the development site was set some way back from the street frontage. Even so there are records of burgage plots here from at least 1613, and there is good reason to suspect that these plots date back to medieval times.

A number of stone wall footings and demolition cuts were found at the south end of the site. Some of these had appeared to make a small building about 3.5m square as observed in plan prior to excavation. A sherd of 19th-century ceramic in the mortar had led to the conclusion that the building had still been in use at this time. This is confirmed by the 1st edition 25" Ordnance Survey map of c. 1870, which shows a small complex of outbuildings on this spot. These are not shown on the 25" OS map of 1909, when the back plot seems to have been cleared of outbuildings. However, the walls and demolition cuts observed during excavation seem to suggest at least two different phases of building. The OS map of about 1870 seems to show a large square building, with a thin E-W building attached on the north side. This is possibly what appears from the excavated evidence. Despite the use of stone in these features, there was no evidence to date them to the medieval period, and the little evidence that was seen would suggest at least one phase of these structures was post-medieval in date.

Elsewhere a series of pits were observed. Where these could be dated, they contained post-medieval materials. The lack of bone, both within the pits and across the site in general, was attributed to the acidic nature of the local sandy soils.

6.0 Conclusions

There was little in the way of evidence for medieval activity on this site short of the occasional residual sherd of contemporary pottery. All of the features that could be dated appeared to derive from the post-medieval period. The remains of a stone building of at least two phases were found at the southern end of the site. Its function could not be determined from the evidence recovered, although archaeological evidence for its existence in the late 19th century was confirmed from contemporary Ordnance Survey maps. These show that these buildings were demolished between about 1870 and 1909. To the north of this, the only features encountered were the occasional post-medieval pits. Although one or two were of large size, they seemed to be generally lacking in artefacts. It is thought that if they had contained bone or other organic rubbish, this had been destroyed by the acidic sandy soils found on the site.

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 relevant local planning authority for the use of such documents by them in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the project design, and for *bona fide* research purposes.

8.0 Archive

The archive for this work has been deposited with the Hampshire County Museum Services (Accession number A2001.03). Copies of the report were lodged with the client, the Hampshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), and the National Monuments Record in Swindon, Wiltshire.

9.0 Acknowledgements

Sincere thanks are given to all those involved with this project. Andrew Chapman of Tarrock Construction Ltd provided liaison between the archaeologist and the groundworkers on site. The groundworkers, working under the direction of Behrooz Bani-Sadr of Shoncee Construction Ltd, are thanked for their co-operation and assistance during the archaeological recording. Ian Wykes of the Archaeology Section of Hampshire County Council (Planning) monitored the work on behalf of East Hampshire District Council.

10.0 References

10.1 Original sources

Ordnance Survey maps in the HRO:

OS 25" 1st ed. (not dated, but c. 1870), sheet 52.16

OS 25" 3rd ed (1909), sheet 52.16

10.2 Secondary sources

F Brough, 'Petersfield Borough with Sheet', W Page (ed.), *The Victoria History of the County of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight*, vol. 3, London, 1908, 111-21

C K Currie, *An archaeological watching brief on repair works at the Donkey Cart, 1-2 The Square, Petersfield, Hampshire*, unpublished report in Hampshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record, The Castle, Winchester, Hants, 1997

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

R Fox & M Hughes, 'Excavations at Sheep Street, Petersfield, 1976', *Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club & Archaeological Society*, 49 (1993), 159-74

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Petersfield Area History Society, *High Street, Petersfield*, Petersfield Monographs no. 2, 1984

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Appendix 1: list of contexts excavated

Context No.	Description	Munsell Colour
01	T/1, sandy loam layer	10YR 3/2
02	T/1, clayey sand layer	10YR 4/4
03	T/1, sand layer (undisturbed)	2.5Y 7/8
04	T/1, linear construction cut for wall footing (05)	
05	T/1, stone wall footing (fill of 04)	
06	T/1, sandy loam layer	10YR 3/3
07	T/1, linear cut	
08	T/1, mortar and stone fragment fill of cut 07	2.5Y 7/4
09	T/1, stone and tile structure filling cut 10	
10	T/1, linear cut	
11	T/2, linear cut	
12	T/2, stone footing filling cut 11	
13	T/2, linear cut	
14	T/2, mortar fill of cut 13	2.5Y 7/4
15	T/2, linear cut	
16	T/2, stone wall footing filling cut 15	
17	T/2, linear cut	
18	T/2, stone wall footing filling cut 17	
19	T/2, linear cut	
20	T/2, brick rubble fill of cut 19	5YR 5/6
21	T/2, stone wall footing of cut 22	
22	T/2, linear cut	
23	T/4, cut	
24	T/4, sandy loam fill of 23	10YR 3/3
25	T/5, cut	
26	T/5, sandy loam fill of cut 25	10YR 4/3
27	T/5, cut	
28	T/5, sandy loam fill of cut 27	10YR 4/3
29	T/8, cut	
30	T/8, sandy loam fill of cut 29	10YR 3/3

Appendix 2: list of photographs taken

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

Photo no.	Description
1	Trench 1, north facing section from NE
2	ditto
3	Trench 1, wall footing 05 from N
4	ditto
5	Trench 2, north facing section showing features 11, 13, 15, 17 & 19
6	ditto
7	Trench 3, west facing section, southern 7m length
8	ditto
9	Trench 4, south facing section showing cut 23
10	ditto
11	Trench 5, south facing section showing cut 25
12	ditto
13	Trench 5, south facing section showing cuts 25 & 27
14	ditto
15	Trench 8, south facing section showing cut 29
16	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.

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.

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 Lyndum House, Petersfield, Hampshire (SU 747 233)

Hampshire Museum Services Accession number 2001. 3

The archive contains:

1. Context sheets, numbers 01-30
 2. Finds recording sheets, total 3
 3. Photographic recording sheets, total one
 4. Drawing record sheets, total one
 5. One pack of Black/White photographs with negatives
 6. One plastic sleeves containing colour slide film
 7. Project brief, 12 sheets.
 8. Original permatrace drawings, total one sheet.
 9. Report with illustrations, 13 pages text, 6 figures.
 10. Hampshire County Council Archaeology Section Specification, 2 sheets
 11. Correspondence, total 2 sheets.
- Client's plans, 2 sheets
-