1 SUMMARY

In September 2005 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at The Mash Tun, Winchester on behalf of Ian Beach Associates Ltd. The aim of the evaluation was to assess the impact of proposed extension to The Mash Tun pub on any surviving archaeological remains.

The evaluation consisted of a single machine excavated trench measuring 8m x 1.8m. The results of this trench showed extensive truncation, primarily by a modern sewer, with no surviving archaeology recorded. An additional three boreholes were drilled to the east of the trench in an attempt to locate the medieval city wall which is thought to run through the site. These boreholes recorded approximately 1.50 m of made ground of possible archaeological interest, however no indication of the city wall was identified.

2 SITE LOCATION

2.1 The proposed development is situated within the administrative area of Winchester City Council, and is bounded by the River Itchen to the east, Eastgate Street to the west, other properties along Eastgate Street to the south, and an open area to the north. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) SU 4860 2952. The site is rectangular in shape, with the existing building occupying the north-west part of it. (Fig 1)

3 GEOGRAPHY AND TOPOGRAPHY

3.1 Winchester is situated in a narrow stretch of the Itchen valley, which is cut into chalk of the Upper Cretaceous period. The valley bottom is covered by alluvial deposits including flint gravels at the base, then peat and silt. The site itself is adjacent to the River Itchen, and it is likely that there is alluvial silt beneath the made ground.

3.2 The course of the Itchen on its floodplain within the City of Winchester was diverted in the Roman period and has probably been subject to some degree of management since that time, so the location of the pre-Roman natural channel is unknown. The present ground level of the valley floor in this locality is between 36.00m and 38.00m OD. The site is located at approximately 37.50m OD

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 In accordance with *Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning* (PPG 16) issued by the Department of the Environment in 1990 (DoE, 1990), and prior to the redevelopment of existing commercial premises, it was proposed that an archaeological evaluation be carried out, in order to determine impact caused on potential archaeological deposits during construction (Case No.: 05/01028/FUL; W Ref No.: W03480/09). At the recommendation of Tracey Matthews, the Sites and Monuments Officer for Winchester City Council, the Local Planning Authority was advised by Hampshire County Council that the site should be evaluated in order to determine the presence/absence of significant remains.

4.2 The proposed scheme is an extension of the buildings to the side and rear of the Mash Tun. The proposed extension is a single storey and does not contain a basement. The present foundation design involves the use of piles and groundbeams. This means that the impact will be concentrated in the upper part of the profile, at the level of the groundbeams, with more limited disturbance from the piling below this.

4.3 Prior to commencing the evaluation works on site, a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) was prepared by AOC Archaeology (AOC Archaeology 2005) and Hampshire County Council was notified before the evaluation started.

4.4 The site lies within an area of high archaeological importance, as defined by Winchester City Council, and within Winchester's Conservation Area. The city wall, the line of which passes through the site, is not scheduled or listed in the stretch near to the site.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 The historical and archaeological background has been outlined within the *Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2005),* a summary of which is incorporated below.

Prehistoric (before AD 43)

5.2 Much of the evidence for the earliest occupation of the area now occupied by Winchester comes from the western bank of the river, starting in the Middle Bronze Age, and culminating in the Middle Iron Age enclosure called Oram's Arbour. This would have gained importance from dominating the crossing point of the Itchen, although may not have fulfilled the role of an oppidum. Important Bronze Age occupation sites are also known from the east side of the river, to the north-east of the site, for example at the Winnall Down and Easton Lane sites. It has also been suggested that the High Street itself is a prehistoric route, leading to a natural ford created by an island in the middle of the river.

5.3 Stray finds from the centre of Winchester include Palaeolithic handaxes, residual Mesolithic blades from Cathedral Green, and a bronze rapier from the Middle Bronze Age found somewhere on the High Street.

Roman (c. AD 43 - 450)

5.4 The settlement originated at a fording place where the floodplain narrowed, and the river flowed around a chalk island produced by an underground spring bringing chalk 'tufa' to the surface.

5.5 Despite the abandonment of Oram's Arbour in the Late Iron Age, Winchester's importance continued into the Roman period with the creation of the civitas of Venta Belgarum, a regional capital of the Belgae tribe, in the 1st century AD. Claudian timber buildings have been found, and Biddle suggested that a fort was established on the tufa island soon after the Claudian invasion in 43 AD. Apart from suggestions of cultivation on the island from this period, it is more likely that occupation of the valley bottom started in the Flavian period (69-96 AD). At the end of the 1st century the street grid was formally laid out in the floodplain. The town was periodically flooded until the end of the 2nd century, when the river was diverted and defences were built. A 1st century drainage channel running parallel to an E-W street illustrates the establishment of a drainage system soon after settlement.

5.6 Attempts have been made to reconstruct the street grid using data from archaeological excavations in Winchester, and comparative data from across the Roman Empire. The High Street runs on a similar alignment just to the north of the main Roman E-W road, itself perhaps a prehistoric trackway. The forum was to the south of this road, in the Cathedral Green area. Excavations prior to the building of the Brooks shopping centre revealed Roman properties, one with a hypocaust, just to the west of a N-S street under Middle Brook Street. Another building, on Upper Brook Street had mosaic flooring: these high status properties were in use until the 4th century: there is a complete sequence of Roman occupation in Winchester. Following this a layer of 'dark earth' suggests that the river was able to flood the town once more, as the Roman drainage works fell into disrepair. However, there is some evidence for the use of the Roman buildings for industrial purposes after they fell into disrepair.

Anglo-Saxon (c.1451-1065)

5.7 The Saxon period saw Wintanceaster reach the height of its importance as a religious and political centre. The Old Minster, founded c.648 AD, was made a cathedral in 676 AD, while King Alfred founded New Minster in 901 AD and Ealhswith, his queen, Nunnaminster in 903 AD, all on the south end of the chalk island. There is evidence that St John's Hospital was founded in 935, making it the oldest charitable foundation in the country. Re-founded in 1289, it became a centre of civic life in the Middle Ages.

5.8 At the same time Alfred also established a new street pattern for his capital, seemingly with defence against the Vikings in mind. Its relationship to the Roman grid is unclear: Scobie suggests that the N-S Brook Streets were inherited from the Roman streets, while Biddle argues for a clean slate; further excavations beneath the modern roads would be needed to resolve this. From the Saxon period, we can start to reconstruct the street pattern using documentary sources too, notably Edward the Confessor's survey of the city's properties. The High Street remained as the principal E-W route, with the Brooks Streets running north from it. Parallel to the High Street, narrower lanes bisected the N-S streets, of which Silver Hill is an example. Further lanes emerged without central planning. At what point the Brook Streets received their characteristic streams is unclear: in 964 AD Bishop Ethelwold enclosed the Minsters and his reorganisation of the city also extended to the north, where his 'making of the conduits' is identified with the creation of the Brook Streets, although others credit Alfred's earlier planning. These streams are still visible in Godson's 1750 map, and were open until the mid 19th century. As a whole the Saxon street layout, established by the end of the 10th century, provides the basis for the modern street plan, with subsequent alterations, as shown in the cartographic evidence below. Tanner Street, Saxon Tannerestret, was the original name of the whole of Lower Brook Street, indicating that the open streams were used by the leather working industries from that time. Documentary sources also suggest that these streets contained royal property in this period, with Edward the Confessor's treasurer, Henry, living on Wongar Street (Middle Brook Street).

Medieval (c.1066 - 1485)

5.9 Political power gradually moved away from Winchester following the Norman Conquest, although it was the centre for the compilation of the Domesday Book. Keene's Survey of Medieval Winchester (1985) suggests that the running water of the Brooks streets ensured that it continued as an industrial area. Between the 12th and 14th centuries it seems that the needs of cloth finishing, particularly dyeing, displaced the leather workers downstream, while parchment making shifted east from Parchment Street to the better-watered Brooks. Archaeological evidence for tanning has been found in Buck Street (Busket Lane) in the form of wood-lined pits. Other trades also flourished in this area, with a fishmonger, vintner, baker, goldsmith and carpenter also attested in the area of the development site during the Middle Ages. These people lived in the tenements that lined the streets, but there was also space for gardens to the rear. Biddles' excavations in 1962-3 revealed a row of medieval houses along the west of Lower Brook Street within the development area: timber buildings later replaced by stone. To the north of this area, between Upper and Middle Brook Street, there was a Franciscan friary, illustrating that religion still dominated the Winchester townscape.

5.10 During the excavations for the Brooks centre, the house of a wealthy merchant, John de Tyntyng, was discovered, with an estimated floor space of 5100 ft^2. This went out of use in the 15th century, as Winchester's economic fortunes declined, with the Dissolution of the Monasteries in the 16th century further affecting its prosperity.

Post-Medieval (c.1485 - modern)

5.11 The evidence from the maps from 1611 onwards suggest that the Brooks continued to be well populated, albeit not densely. This changed in the 19th century with a major increase in Winchester's population, partly due to industrialisation and the coming of the London-Southampton railway in 1839. The result was an infilling of the Brooks area and surrounding town with cramped housing. In 1953 a slum clearance in this area resulted in the relocation of some industry, as well as the destruction of a number of medieval buildings. The redevelopment continued in the late 1980s, with the Brooks shopping centre, the excavations for which provided useful insights into Roman, Saxon and Medieval Winchester

6 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE INVESTIGATION

6.1 The aims of the investigation as set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2005b) were in the first instance to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. This applied to remains of all periods, and included evidence of past environments.

6.2 The general aims of the investigation were:

- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the site.
- To determine the extent (lateral and vertical), condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
- To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological features and deposits.
- To determine the extent of previous truncations of the archaeological deposits.
- To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation in order to inform the mitigation strategy as part of the planning process.
- To enable the Sites and Monuments Officer for Winchester City Council to make an informed decision on the status of the planning application, and any possible further work required before the condition is discharged.

6.3 More specific objectives of the evaluation were:

- To establish the presence/absence and exact location of the remains of the city wall within the site.
- To characterise the nature of the archaeological activity on the inside of the city wall.

6.4 The final aim was to make available to any interested parties the results of the investigation subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

7 METHODOLOGY

Archaeological Evaluation

7.1 All fieldwork procedure followed AOC Archaeology Group Ltd Fieldwork Sector On-Site Handbook, dated May 2003 (AOC 2003).

7.2 The excavation and recording conformed with current best archaeological practice and local and national standards and guidelines:

- English Heritage – Management of Archaeological Projects (EH 1991).
- English Heritage – Archaeological Assessment and Evaluation Reports (Guidelines) (EH 1992).
- English Heritage – Archaeological Guidance Paper 3: Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork (EH 1998a).
- English Heritage – Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation (EH 2002).
- Institute of Field Archaeologists – Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (IFA 1994).
- Institute of Field Archaeologists – Code of Conduct (IFA 1997).
- Museum of London – Archaeological Site Manual (Third Edition) (MoL 1994).
- United Kingdom Institute for Conservation – Conservation Guidelines No.2 (UKIC 1983).
- United Kingdom Institute for Conservation – Guidance for Archaeological Conservation Practice (1990).

All works were also informed by:

- Institute of Field Archaeology – Standards and Guidance and Guidelines for Finds Work (IFA 1992).
- Council for British Archaeology – First Aid For Finds (Second Edition) (CBA 1987).

7.3 Before excavation commenced, a unique site code was assigned to the site (Mew 05).

7.4 The evaluation comprised of one 8m x 1.8m trench (Fig 2). This was machine excavated by a JCB 3CX using a toothless ditching bucket under the constant supervision of the Archaeological Project Supervisor. Undifferentiated topsoil or overburden of recent origin was removed in successive level spits.

7.5 Excavated material was examined in order to retrieve artifacts and to assist in the analysis of their spatial distribution.

7.6 On completion of machine excavation, all faces of the trench that required examination or recording were cleaned using appropriate hand tools. All investigation of archaeological horizons was by hand, with cleaning, inspection, and recording both in plan and section.

7.7 Due to the large number of services encountered in the trench excavation was limited to a single 0.50m wide slot at the north-east corner of the trench. This was excavated to a depth of 35.43mOD.

Borehole Survey

7.8 Three boreholes were excavated along the line of the proposed piles to at the eastern side of the development (Fig 2). The borehole gouge samples (BH1, BH2 and BH3) were recovered using an Eijkelkamp gouge set driven by an Atlas Copco 2-stroke percussion engine (dimensions of gouge: 100 x 7.5cm). Since the aim of the investigation was to establish the presence of a relatively shallow archaeological feature it was deemed appropriate that all three boreholes should be terminated at a depth of 4m from the present ground surface (Tim Carew pers. comm.). The gouge samples were not retained.

7.9 The lithostratigraphy was recorded in the field using standard procedures for the characterisation of unconsolidated sediment. This involved noting the physical properties (e.g. colour), composition (gravel, sand, silt, clay, peat and organic detritus) and inclusions (e.g. artefacts). (ArchaeoScape 2005)

8 RESULTS

8.1 The evaluation work was undertaken on 19-09-05 by the author under the overall supervision of Tim Carew, Project Officer. A temporary bench mark was set up on Eastgate Street valued at 37.62mOD (Fig. 2). This was taken from a bench mark on the Willow Tree Public House which had a value of 37.41mOD.

8.2 The borehole survey was undertaken by ArchaeoScape on 23-09-05 the report on their investigations is included as Appendix A.

Archaeological Evaluation

8.3 The southern section of the site has been truncated to a depth of over 3.00m by a modern sewer. All the deposits encountered in the evaluation were of modern date and relate to the construction of this sewer. A slot excavated at the eastern end of the evaluation trench confirmed the sewer continued on an east-west alignment. It also showed the sewer to be a ‘cut and cover’ construction. The base of the sewer is at approximately 34.76mOD.

Borehole Survey

Depth (m from surface)	Description
4.00-3.90	Flint gravel in a light grey sandy matrix
3.90-3.70	Wet chalky gravel
3.70-3.30	Orange and light grey silty clay; flints
3.30-3.00	Wet chalky gravel
3.00-2.90	Chalk
2.90-2.00	Light orange silty clay; chalk; charcoal
2.00-0.50	Dark brown silty clay; large flint; brick; charcoal; chalk
0.50-0.00	Yellowish brown sand (made ground)

8.4 **Borehole 1**

Depth (m from surface)	Description
4.00-3.70	Flint gravel in orange sandy matrix
3.70-3.50	Light grey clayey silt with chalk and flint clasts
3.50-3.40	Chalk
3.40-3.30	Mid grey: clayey silt with chalk and flint clasts
3.30-3.00	Orange and light grey silty clay; flints
3.00-2.80	Light greyish silt; chalk
2.80-2.00	Light orange silty clay; chalk; charcoal
2.00-1.30	Chalk gravel in a dark brown silty clay matrix; brick; charcoal
1.30-0.50	Dark brown silty clay; large flint; brick; charcoal; chalk
0.50-0.00	Yellowish brown sand (made ground)

8.5 **Borehole 2**

8.6 **Borehole 3**

Depth	Description

(m from surface)	
4.00-3.50	Sub angular flints in a light grey sandy matrix
3.50-3.00	Void
3.00-2.80	Chalk gravel in a light greyish brown matrix
2.80-2.00	Light orange silty clay; chalk; charcoal
2.00-1.70	Chalk in a dark brown silty clay matrix; charcoal; burnt bone and brick
1.70-1.55	Dark brown silty clay; charcoal and brick
1.50-1.00	Light greyish brown silty clay with chalk; charcoal; brick
1.00-0.30	Light greyish brown silty clay; chalk; flint gravels; brick and charcoal
0.30-0.20	Dark brown silty clay; large flint; brick; charcoal; chalk
0.20-0.00	Yellowish brown sand (made ground)

9 FINDS

9.1 No finds were recovered.

10 INTERPRETATION

10.1 The single evaluation trench identified considerable modern truncation relating to a 20th century sewer. This sewer runs on an east-west alignment and appears to have truncated all archaeological remains in the southern section of the development.

10.2 The boreholes recorded flint and chalk natural at 2.80m below the surface. This was sealed by between 0.80-0.90m of light orange silty clay with occasional chalk and charcoal inclusions. This appears to be a layer of re-deposited material, possibly a result of alluvial action. This was overlaid by 1.50m of dark brown silty clay with flint, brick, charcoal and chalk inclusions; this was a lighter grey colour in Borehole 3. This appears to represent an accumulation of possible archaeological deposits. Chalk and flint were recovered from the boreholes however the modest quantity of these materials and lack of any associated mortar suggests it is very unlikely the town wall is survives in this location.

10.3 The final deposit of modern made ground was recorded as being between 0.30m and 0.50m thick. This was recorded to c.37.37mOD

11 CONCLUSION AND RECOMENDATIONS

11.1 The proposed development requires both groundbeams and the drilling of two lines of piles. The evaluation trench, although only partially excavated, conclusively shows extensive modern truncation along the full length of this east-west pile line. The results from the borehole survey along the north-south pile line suggest that while archaeological horizons may survive no evidence of the town wall was located.

11.2 The ground beams will have a little or no impact on any archaeological remains present due to their limited depth. The greatest potential impact on the archaeology from the proposed development are the four boreholes at the northern end of the north-south pile line. As the town wall is not on this alignment the impact on the archaeology will be very limited. The deposits affected, even if archaeological, appear extensive in relation to the limited impact of the boreholes.

11.3 In conclusion it is our opinion that no more fieldwork is required prior to the proposed development works.

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Figure 1 – site location

Figure 2 – trench location

Appendix A – Borehole Survey Report

G.E. Swindle and C.P. Green

INTRODUCTION

This report summarises the overall findings arising out of the geoarchaeological field investigation undertaken by *ArchaeoScape* in connection with the proposed development at the Mash Tun Pub, Eastgate Street, Winchester (National Grid Reference: SU 4860 2952). The field investigation (in collaboration with AOC Archaeology) permitted an examination of the local sediment successions, and thus an opportunity to establish the presence of a wall of archaeological importance. The investigation consisted of: (1) recovery of continuous borehole gouge samples from three locations (BH1, BH2 and BH3), and (2) recording of the lithostratigraphy from the borehole gouge samples to provide a record of the sedimentary sequence and to establish the presence of the wall.

GEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

The site forms the paved garden area to the rear of the Mash Tun Pub, facing onto Eastgate Street, Winchester. The location of the site is in the eastern part of the ancient City of Winchester and on the valley floor of the River Itchen. The site is *ca.* 10m to the west of the River Itchen. However, the course of the Itchen on its floodplain within the City of Winchester was diverted in the Roman period and has probably been subject to some degree of management since that time, so the location of the pre-Roman natural channel is unknown. The present ground level of the valley floor in this locality is between 36m and 37m OD. The bedrock beneath the valley floor deposits of the River Itchen is the Upper Chalk.

METHODOLOGY

The borehole gouge samples (BH1, BH2 and BH3) were recovered using an Eijkelkamp gouge set driven by an Atlas Copco 2-stroke percussion engine (dimensions of gouge: 100 x 7.5cm). Since the aim of the investigation was to establish the presence of a relatively shallow archaeological feature it was deemed appropriate that all three boreholes should be terminated at a depth of 4m from the present ground surface (Tim

Carew pers. comm.). The gouge samples were not retained. The location of the boreholes was determined by Tracy Matthews of Winchester City Council (Figure 2).

The lithostratigraphy was recorded in the field using standard procedures for the characterisation of unconsolidated sediment. This involved noting the physical properties (e.g. colour), composition (gravel, sand, silt, clay, peat and organic detritus) and inclusions (e.g. artefacts). The results are presented in Tables 1 to 3 and Figure 3.

RESULTS AND INTERPRETATION OF SEDIMENTARY SEQUENCES

The three boreholes (BH1, BH2 and BH3) at the Mash Tun Pub, Eastgate Street, Winchester, were put down from closely similar ground levels and all penetrated into gravel, orangey silty clays/clayey silts, dark brown silty clays containing anthropogenic material and made ground. BH1 terminated in flint gravel at 3.90m; BH2 and BH3 recorded flint gravel in a light grey or orange sandy matrix at 3.70 and 3.50m respectively.

Overlying the gravel in all three boreholes was up to 1.5m of orange or grey silty clay or clayey silt containing chalk and occasional flecks of charcoal. Within this unit in BH1 a unit of chalk, 10cm in thickness was recorded at 3.00 to 2.90m. In BH2 a unit of chalk, 10cm in thickness was recorded at 3.50 to 3.40m. These are potential indicators of the presence of archaeological features such as walls although the relative thinness, lack of associated evidence (e.g. mortar) and absence of the unit at the same level in the boreholes makes this unlikely. Overlying the orange silty clays and clayey silts in all three boreholes were dark brown silty clays containing medium to large sized flint gravels, chalk, brick and charcoal. Within this unit in BH3 two fragments of burnt bone were also recorded at 1.80m. This unit was overlain by sandy made ground in all boreholes.

The flint gravels at the base of all three boreholes at the Mash Tun site seem likely to be natural sediments overlying the bedrock Chalk forming a simple sequence of flint gravel,

usually incorporating some chalk overlain by orange or grey silty clays, which contain occasional flecks of charcoal and bands of chalk. These are overlain by dark brown silty clays, which contain anthropogenic material, interpreted here as archaeological backfill. This is overlain by sand (made ground).

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The aim of the geoarchaeological investigation at the Mash Tun Pub, Eastgate Street, Winchester was to record the sedimentary sequence and to establish the presence of a wall. Although the sedimentary sequence is of some geological and archaeological interest, it is highly unlikely that a wall is present at the site. No further work is recommended, although the results will usefully form part of the growing archive of information on the geology and archaeology of Winchester.

Depth (m from surface)	Description
4.00-3.90	Flint gravel in a light grey sandy matrix
3.90-3.70	Wet chalky gravel
3.70-3.30	Orange and light grey silty clay; flints
3.30-3.00	Wet chalky gravel
3.00-2.90	Chalk
2.90-2.00	Light orange silty clay; chalk; charcoal
2.00-0.50	Dark brown silty clay; large flint; brick; charcoal; chalk
0.50-0.00	Yellowish brown sand (made ground)

Table 1: Lithostratigraphic sequence from borehole 1 <BH1>, Mash Tun Pub, Winchester

Depth (m from surface)	Description
4.00-3.70	Flint gravel in orange sandy matrix
3.70-3.50	Light grey clayey silt with chalk and flint clasts
3.50-3.40	Chalk
3.40-3.30	Mid grey: clayey silt with chalk and flint clasts
3.30-3.00	Orange and light grey silty clay; flints
3.00-2.80	Light greyish silt; chalk
2.80-2.00	Light orange silty clay; chalk; charcoal
2.00-1.30	Chalk gravel in a dark brown silty clay matrix; brick; charcoal
1.30-0.50	Dark brown silty clay; large flint; brick; charcoal; chalk
0.50-0.00	Yellowish brown sand (made ground)

Table 2: Lithostratigraphic sequence from borehole 2 <BH2>, Mash Tun Pub, Winchester

Depth (m from surface)	Description
4.00-3.50	Sub angular flints in a light grey sandy matrix
3.50-3.00	Void
3.00-2.80	Chalk gravel in a light greyish brown matrix
2.80-2.00	Light orange silty clay; chalk; charcoal
2.00-1.70	Chalk in a dark brown silty clay matrix; charcoal; burnt bone and brick
1.70-1.55	Dark brown silty clay; charcoal and brick
1.50-1.00	Light greyish brown silty clay with chalk; charcoal; brick
1.00-0.30	Light greyish brown silty clay; chalk; flint gravels; brick and charcoal
0.30-0.20	Dark brown silty clay; large flint; brick; charcoal; chalk
0.20-0.00	Yellowish brown sand (made ground)

Table 3: Lithostratigraphic sequence from borehole 3 <BH3>, Mash Tun Pub, Winchester

