

5a RECTORY ROAD, OAKLEY, HAMPSHIRE
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

National Grid Reference: **SU 57300 50150**

Planning Application Ref: **BDB/63971**

By: AOC ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP

On Behalf of: **B. J. CHAMPION**

Commissioned by: **SCOTT WILSON**

JANUARY 2007

National Grid Reference: SU 57300 50150

Site Code: A2006.77

Commissioned by: Scott Wilson Ltd
8 Greencoat Place
London
SW1P 1PL

Prepared by: Chris Clarke

Evaluation by: Chris Clarke
Charlotte Vallance

Illustrations by: Jon Moller

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Enquiries to: AOC Archaeology
Unit 7
St. Margaret's Business Centre
Moor Mead Road
Twickenham TW1 1JS

Tel: 020 8843 7380

Fax: 020 8892 0549

E-mail: admin@aocarchaeology.co.uk

**5a RECTORY ROAD, OAKLEY, HAMPSHIRE:
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

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1 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group between the 28th and 30th November 2006 at the site of 5a Rectory Road, Oakley, on behalf of B J Champion and commissioned by Scott Wilson. The aim of the evaluation was to assess the impact of the proposed residential redevelopment on any surviving archaeological remains.

The evaluation comprised six machine excavated trenches, four of which measured 10m by 2m, with the remaining two trenches measuring 8m by 2.5m. Three trenches were recognised as containing archaeological features. These features comprised an Iron Age pit and two postholes, plus two truncated late post-medieval red brick walls.

The evaluation trenches showed that modern horizontal truncation of deposits had occurred in the northwest of the site, and in the southwest area, where the late post-medieval walls were discovered. The evaluation trenches also demonstrated that undisturbed subsoil and topsoil deposits were present across the remaining area of the site, up to a depth of 1.3m.

Overall, the potential for archaeological deposits to be present on the remainder of site is good. This is due to the multiple phases of activity present, albeit of a low intensity nature, combined with the high level of preservation of the archaeological horizon across the majority of the site.

2 INTRODUCTION

Site Location (Figures 1 & 2)

- 2.1 The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) SU 57300 50150, and is within land bounded to the north by school playing fields, to the south by Rectory Road, and residential properties to the east and west. The area covered by the site is approximately 3,000m² (0.3ha).

Planning Background

- 2.2 A planning application was submitted for the construction of new residential properties (Ref. BDB/63971) on the location of the site. Condition 27 states that:
'No development shall take place on the site until the implementation of a programme of archaeological work has been secured in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.'
- 2.3 The site is located partially within an Area of High Archaeological Potential as defined by Hampshire County Council.
- 2.4 AOC Archaeology Group Ltd were commissioned by Scott Wilson to carry out the field evaluation. Subsequently a *Method Statement* was prepared (AOC 2006) to supplement the methodology provided by the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by Scott Wilson (2006) (Report No. D114104). These documents detailed how the evaluation, comprising of six trenches, would be undertaken.
- 2.5 Prior to commencing work a unique code for the project was provided by Hampshire Museum Service (A2006.77).
- 2.6 On site field work was undertaken between 28th and 30th November 2006.

Geology and Topography

- 2.7 The following information has been extracted from the WSI produced by Scott Wilson (2006).
- 2.8 The underlying geology of the area is recorded as Upper Chalk.
- 2.9 The site lies on relatively flat ground, at an average level of c.120m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD).

- 2.10 Geotechnical investigations carried out on site indicated that a limited quantity of made ground deposits were present across the site, up to 0.3m in places. This is in addition to c.0.5m of topsoil and subsoil deposits overlying natural clay.

3 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.

- 3.1 The information in this section has been drawn from the WSI produced by Scott Wilson (2006).

Prehistoric (before c.AD 43)

- 3.2 Hampshire Historic Environment Record (HHER) contained a single entry giving evidence of prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the site. This records the discovery of a single broken Mesolithic blade found approximately 100m south of the development site.

Roman (c. AD 43-410)

- 3.3 In approximately the same location as the prehistoric find, forty-six sherds of Roman pottery were recorded. No features dating to this period were recorded.

Medieval (1066 - 1485)

- 3.5 The settlement of East Oakley is first referred to in documents dating to 1236, and it is known to have been a nucleated settlement focused upon a village green and pond, at the junction of three roads. The settlements of East Oakley and Church Oakley are both thought to have remained as small rural settlements throughout the medieval period.

Post-medieval (1485 – modern)

- 3.6 The Tithe map of 1841 is the first cartographic evidence that details the presence of structures existing within the boundary of the site. Two or three structures are noted in the southern area of the site, with smaller, possibly workshop buildings present to the east. The remainder of the site is represented by arable land.
- 3.7 The Ordnance Survey map of 1872 shows buildings on a different alignment to those represented on the 1841 Tithe map. These new structures are thought to be outbuildings or workshops.
- 3.8 By the mid 20th century the layout of the properties has changed again, and this is the layout which still exists today.

4 STRATEGY

Aims of the Investigation

- 4.1 The aims of the project as noted in the WSI (Scott Wilson 2006) were recorded as being:
- To establish the presence, absence, nature and character of the possible archaeological resource.
 - To determine the condition or state of preservation of any archaeological deposits or features encountered.
 - To determine the range, date, quality and quantity of artefactual and environmental evidence present.
 - To evaluate any medieval and earlier deposits associated with previous buildings to an appropriate level.
 - To provide a factual and interpretative report on the archaeological remains identified in order to inform further archaeological mitigation design, where necessary.
 - To disseminate the results of the investigation through the deposition of an ordered archive of the fieldwork report at the HHER.

Research Design

- 4.2 Scott Wilson designed the evaluation strategy, which envisaged the excavation of six evaluation trenches. A Method Statement was then prepared by AOC Archaeology (2006).
- 4.3 Site procedures were defined in the WSI (Scott Wilson 2006) and Method Statement (AOC 2006). All practices were carried out in accordance with appropriate guidelines (IFA 1994). Provision was made for a report as defined in the Method Statement.

Methodology

- 4.4 During the fieldwork the size and location of several trenches had to be altered, in agreement with Scott Wilson, to avoid obstructions and aid site logistics (Figure 2). The alterations are as follows:
- Trench 1 - Orientation altered slightly to enable full length to be excavated within the back garden area.
 - Trench 2 - Orientation altered to an approximate northeast-southwest alignment due to obstructions present in the front garden area.

- Trench 3 - Size of the trench was altered to 8m by 2.5m due to obstructions adjacent to the trench.
 - Trench 4 - Orientation altered to north-south alignment due to obstructions present in the yard area.
 - Trench 5 - Size and location unaltered.
 - Trench 6 - Size of the trench was altered to 8m by 2.5m due to the limited width of the yard area.
- 4.5 Levels for each context were established relative to Ordnance Datum, taken from a spot height on the road outside 7b Rectory Road (120.80m Above Ordnance Datum). The spot height derived from documents supplied by Scott Wilson. A Temporary Bench Mark (TBM) was established on site at 119.23m AOD.
- 4.6 The evaluation was conducted by the author under the overall management of Ron Humphrey. The site was monitored by Helen Clough on behalf of Scott Wilson and Stephen Appleby, Archaeological Officer for Hampshire County Council.

5 RESULTS

Trench 1

5.1 Surface of Trench = 120.11m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth	Context Number	Description
120.11-119.71m	0.00m	(1/001)	Topsoil. Soft, dark grey/black, clayey silt.
119.71-119.31m	0.40m	(1/002)	Subsoil. Soft, dark greyish brown, silty clay.
119.31-118.91m	0.80m	(1/003)	Subsoil. Firm, mid greyish brown, silty clay.
118.91-118.88m (NFE)	1.20m	(1/004)	Natural. Firm, mid orangey brown, flinty clay.

5.2 The earliest recorded deposit was a firm, mid orangey brown, clay (1/004), with frequent small flinty inclusions. This was interpreted as natural undisturbed clay deposits, and at its highest was observed at 118.91m AOD. This was overlain by a 0.8m of silty clay subsoil deposits, (1/002) and (1/003). Subsoil was sealed by 0.4m thick layer of organic clayey silt topsoil (1/001), which contained occasional fragments of 19th and 20th century pottery.

5.3 No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified in Trench 1.

Trench 2 (Figure 3)

5.4 Surface of Trench = 120.24m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth	Context Number	Description
120.24-119.81m	0.00m	(2/001)	Topsoil. Soft, dark brown, clayey silt.
119.81-119.72m (NFE)	0.40m	(2/002)	Natural. Firm, mid orangey brown, flinty clay.

5.5 The earliest recorded deposit was a firm, mid orangey brown, clay (2/002), with frequent small flinty inclusions. This was interpreted as natural undisturbed clay deposits, and at its highest was observed at 119.81m AOD.

- 5.6 Cutting into the natural were two red brick structures, [2/005] and [2/007], both an approximate east-west alignment. The more substantial of the two walls [2/005] was an east – west wall with a north – south return, forming the southeast corner of the structure. The wall survived to a minimum of five courses. Due to the limited area of the wall exposed, the full surviving height could not be ascertained. It was also noted that the interior face of the wall had appeared to have been whitewashed. The bricks incorporated into the wall measured 227mm by 106mm by 56mm, and were bonded by a hard, light grey lime mortar. Brick wall [2/007] was the less substantial of the two features, comprising of a single course 0.1m wide. The bricks incorporated into the wall measured 280mm by 110mm by 55mm, and were bonded by a cementitious sandy yellowish brown lime mortar. Analysis of the brick type and fabric, in association with the mortar type, indicated that both walls are thought to date from structures built in the 18th or early 19th century.
- 5.7 Backfilling the interior of both structures, [2/005] and [2/007], was an identical dark brown clayey silt deposit (2/006) & (2/008), containing a moderate quantity of pottery and glass fragments dating to the late 19th or 20th century.
- 5.8 In the northern area of the trench, the natural clay had been cut by a modern service run (2/003) & [2/004]. The service run, and both brick features exposed in the trench, were sealed by a 0.4m thick deposit of clayey silt topsoil (2/001).
- 5.9 No finds of archaeological significance were recovered from Trench 2.

Trench 3 (Figure 4)

- 5.10 Surface of Trench = 119.59m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth	Context Number	Description
119.59-119.54m	0.00m	(3/001)	Tarmac.
119.54-119.29m	0.05m	(3/002)	Made Ground. Soft, dark brown, silty clay.
119.29-119.09m	0.25m	(3/003)	Subsoil. Firm, light brown, silty clay.
119.09-118.98m	0.50m	(3/004)	Natural. Firm, mid orangey brown, flinty clay.
118.98-118.88m (NFE)	0.60m	(3/005)	Natural. Hard, light grey, chalk.

- 5.11 The earliest recorded deposit was a hard, light grey chalk (3/005), interpreted as being as being the underlying geology. Deposited above this was a firm, mid orangey brown clay, (3/004), with frequent small flinty inclusions. This was interpreted as a natural undisturbed clay deposit, and at its highest was observed at 119.09m AOD.
- 5.12 Truncating the natural clay was a pit [3/006], which was partially present in northern area of the trench (Plate 1). The pit [3/006] was circular, measured 1.6m wide by 0.5m deep, and had a slightly under cutting profile curving gradually to a flat base. The compacted clay backfill (3/007) had a mixed appearance, containing poorly sorted inclusions of chalk and charcoal flecks. Finds recovered from the fill consisted of early to middle Iron Age pottery and several fragmented baked clay loom weights.
- 5.13 Sealing pit [3/006] and natural layer (3/004) was a 0.2m thick layer of firm, light brown clayey silt (3/003) across the area of the trench. Above this a 0.25m band of made ground (3/002), acting as a make-up layer for the tarmac yard surface (3/001).



Plate 1. South Facing Section of Pit [3/006] (1m scale)

Trench 4

5.14 Surface of Trench = 119.11m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth	Context Number	Description
119.06-118.96m	0.00m	(4/001)	Tarmac.
118.96-118.76m	0.10m	(4/002)	Subsoil. Firm, mid brown, clayey silt.
118.76-118.08m (NFE)	0.30m	(4/003)	Natural. Firm, mid orangey brown, flinty clay.

5.15 The earliest recorded deposit was a firm, mid orangey brown, clay (4/003), with frequent small flinty inclusions. This was interpreted as natural undisturbed clay deposits, and at its highest was observed at 118.76m AOD. Deposited directly above natural was a 0.20m thick layer of soft, mid brown clayey silt subsoil (4/002), which was sealed by Tarmac yard surface (4/001).

5.16 No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified in Trench 4.

Trench 5

5.17 Surface of Trench = 35.62m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth	Context Number	Description
118.88-118.68m	0.00m	(5/001)	Tarmac.
118.68-118.38m	0.20m	(5/002)	Made Ground. Compacted brick rubble.
118.38-118.08m	0.50m	(5/003)	Subsoil. Firm, dark brown, clayey silt.
118.08-117.78m	0.80m	(5/004)	Subsoil. Firm, mid brown, silty clay.
117.78-117.28m (NFE)	1.15m	(5/005)	Natural. Firm, mid orangey brown, flinty clay.

- 5.18 The earliest recorded deposit was a firm, mid orangey brown, clay (5/005), with frequent small flinty inclusions. This was interpreted as natural undisturbed clay deposits, and at its highest was observed at 117.78m AOD. This was overlain by a 0.65m of slightly varying subsoil deposits, (5/003) and (5/004). Subsoil was sealed by 0.30m thick layer of modern made ground (5/002), culminating in a tarmac yard surface (5/001).
- 5.19 No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified in Trench 5.

Trench 6 (Figure 5)

- 5.20 Surface of Trench = 119.05m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth	Context Number	Description
119.05-118.95m	0.00m	(6/001)	Tarmac.
118.95-118.85m	0.10m	(6/002)	Made Ground. Compacted brick rubble with chalk.
118.85-118.40m	0.20m	(6/003)	Subsoil. Soft, dark brown, silty clay.
118.40-118.04m (NFE)	0.65m	(6/004)	Natural. Firm, mid orangey brown, flinty clay.

- 5.21 The earliest recorded deposit was a firm, mid orangey brown clay, (6/004), with frequent small flinty inclusions. This was interpreted as natural undisturbed clay, and at its highest was observed at 118.40m AOD.
- 5.22 Cut into the natural in the central area of the trench were two small postholes, [6/005] and [6/007]. Both were approximately the same size, 0.25m in diameter and 0.10m deep, and possessed a similar concave profile. The fills of both postholes, (6/006) and (6/008), were also similar, containing soft dark brown silty clay. A single sherd of pottery was recovered from fill (6/006), and dated to the early Iron Age period.
- 5.23 Sealing both postholes [6/005] and [6/007], was a 0.45m thick dark brown silty clay subsoil deposit (6/003). Above this was 0.20m of made ground and tarmac (6/002) and (6/001).

6 FINDS

- 6.1 Finds were retrieved from deposits (2/001), (2/002), (2/004), (2/005), (2/006), (2/007), (3/007) and (6/006). The late post-medieval finds recovered from Trench 2 were recorded and disposed of. The pottery fragments from (3/007) were dated to the middle Iron Age (Appendix C). The fragments of fired clay found with the pottery were identified as loom weights, or alternatively interpreted as being associated with burning processes (Appendix D). The pottery fragment from (6/006) was dated to the early Iron Age period. Brick samples were taken from walls [2/005] and [2/007]. They were both identified as being 18th century or early 19th century in date.

7 INTERPRETATION

- 7.1 During the course of the works on site the nature and extent of the archaeological potential was defined, in addition to the associated disturbance of this potential. The most significant features encountered were dated to the Iron Age. This included early Iron Age postholes in Trench 6, and a middle Iron Age pit in Trench 3. These features demonstrate that prehistoric deposits survive, indicating that activity from this period occurred within the area of the site.
- 7.2 The presence of an Iron Age pit and postholes is suggestive of settlement activity dating to this period in proximity to the site. The loom weights recovered from the pit, in association with the pottery, indicate weaving and cloth production may also have been taking place.
- 7.3 The other archaeological features encountered during the evaluation were the remains of two walls found in Trench 2. The dating of the bricks ties in well with the cartographic evidence, indicating that these two structures are associated with the post-medieval occupation of the site. It is likely that the two walls were constructed at different times, due to the differing mortar and bricks utilised. Demolition of both structures appears to have occurred in the first half of the 20th century as part of a programme of landscaping in the area adjacent to the road.
- 7.4 The sequence of deposits recorded in Trench 1 and 5 indicate that disturbance in the eastern area of the site is limited, allowing a substantial soil sequence to accumulate over time.
- 7.5 The limited sequence of deposits recorded in Trench 4 suggests this northwestern area of site has undergone significant horizontal truncation in the past fifty years, reducing the possibility of archaeological remains surviving in this area.

8 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The evaluation successfully characterised both the stratigraphic sequence and archaeological potential of the site. Natural flinty clay deposits were observed in all trenches, between a height of 117.78m and 119.81m AOD. This is consistent with the general topography of the land rising gently from northeast to southwest.
- 8.2 The archaeological evaluation identified that, of the six trenches excavated, three contained archaeological features. The features demonstrated multi-period activity on the site, representing activity from the early to middle Iron Age and the post-medieval periods.
- 8.3 The evidence for Iron Age activity suggests low intensity settlement activity, which appears to be focused in the central area of the site. In addition, the evidence also indicates that there was a continuity of activity from the early through into the middle Iron Age period. The nature and the depth of the overburden deposits across the site, except in the northwest and southwest areas, indicates high potential for other surviving archaeological features.
- 8.4 Due to the limited quantity of evidence from the local area relating to these periods, it suggests that these features should be given at least a local level of significance.
- 8.5 The post-medieval structural remains discovered in the southwest area of the site appeared limited in size and highly truncated. Dating evidence from the brickwork correlates with the cartographic evidence, and therefore firm evidence for their age, location, and extent can be presented. What is less clear is the purpose of the structures.
- 8.6 The significance of the brick structures is limited, primarily due the established historic nature of the village, with many buildings still standing that date from this period.
- 8.7 Overall, a low density of archaeological significant features was encountered, all of which were in a good state of preservation. Truncation of the archaeological horizon was limited, indicating good potential for further archaeological features to survive, primarily in the central area of site.

9 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 The archaeological evaluation at 5a Rectory Road revealed features belonging several periods, the most important of which were identified as belonging to the Iron Age period. The high level of preservation and significance of these features

suggests further archaeological investigation should be carried out to mitigate the damage to the archaeological remains that will be caused by the planned future work to redevelop the site. The distribution of features in the central area of site indicates this is the most critical area to investigate archaeologically.

- 9.2 The remaining features observed, comprising two late post-medieval brick structures, are of lesser significance. If their survival was threatened by proposed redevelopment, and were deemed important enough to warrant further investigation, these features would be suited to a low intensity investigation, such as an archaeological watching brief. The primary aim of the watching brief would be to establish extent and function of these structures in the southwest area of site.

10 PUBLICATION

- 10.1 Due to the nature of the project, publication is expected to be incorporated into the reporting of any further work undertaken on site. This is in addition to a summary in the Hampshire Archaeology Round-up and publication via the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) (Appendix E).

11 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

- 11.1 The archive, consisting of paper records, finds, and digital photographs, will be deposited with Hampshire Museum Services.

12 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Scott Wilson (2006). *Archaeological Design. Trial Trench Investigation. 5a Rectory Road, Oakley, Hampshire.*

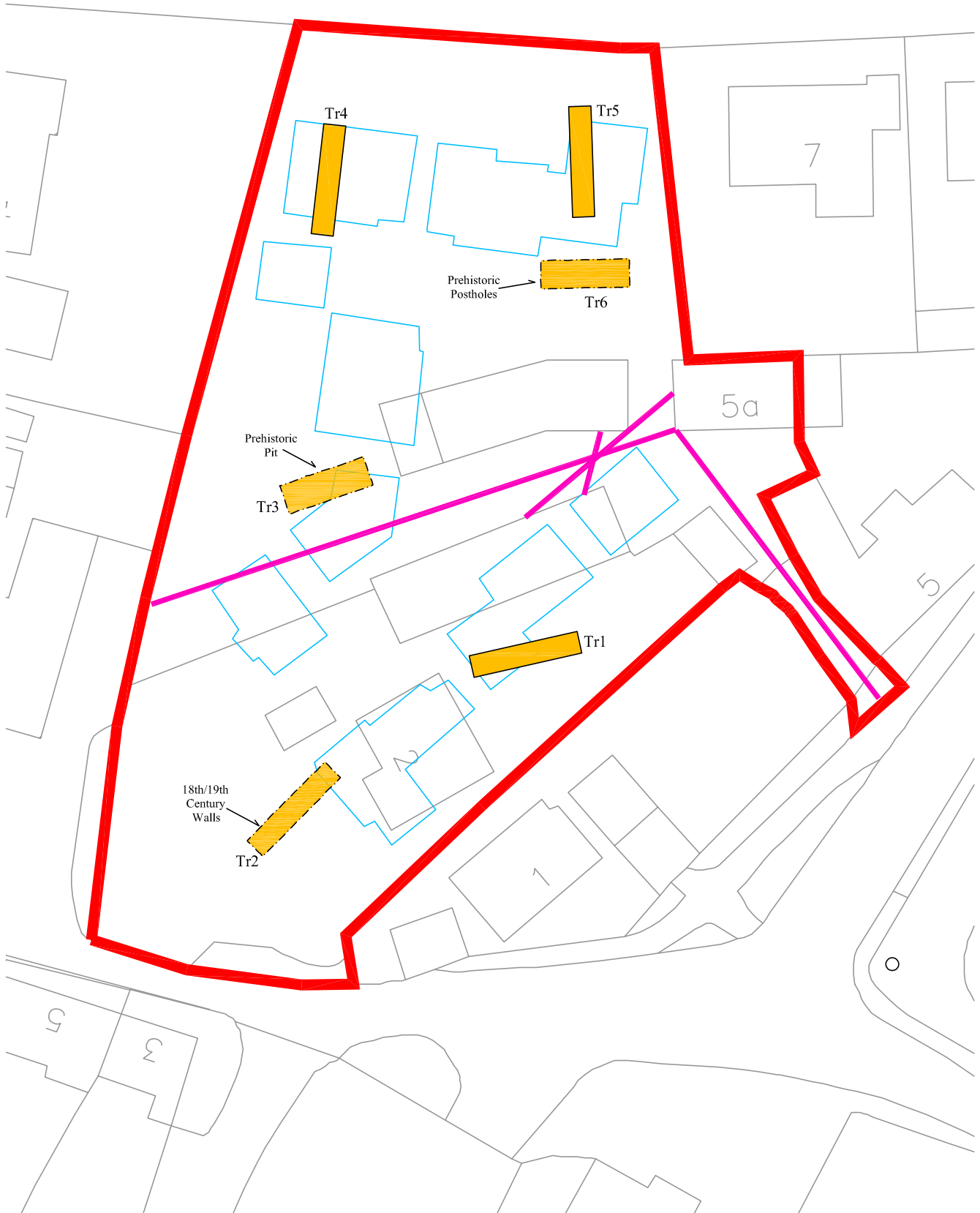
Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994). *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations.*



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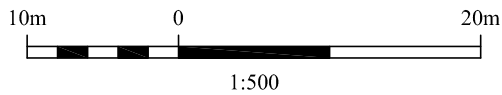
Figure 1: Site Location



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Figure 2: Trench Location Plan

- Evaluation Trench
- Services
- Proposed Development



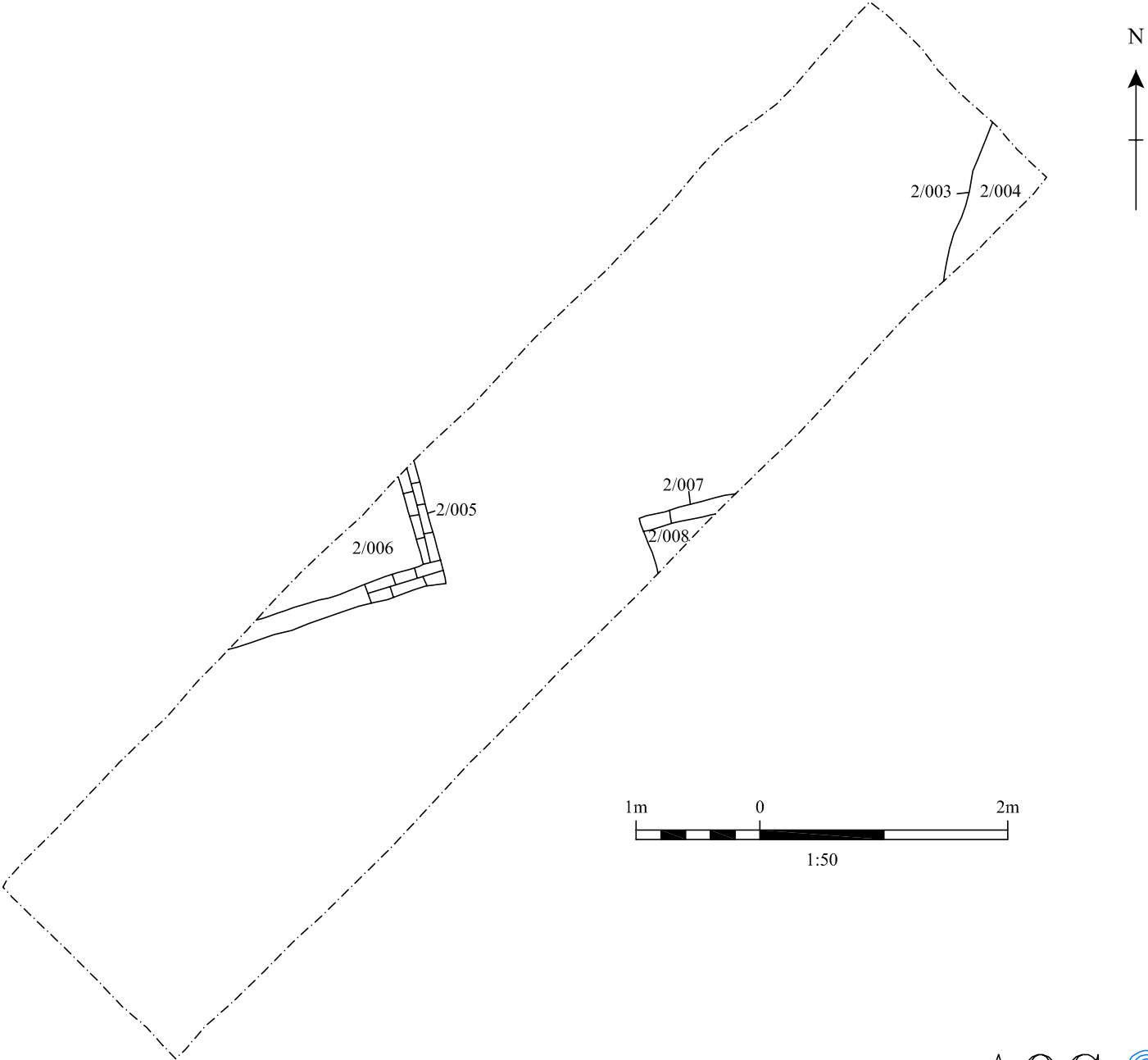


Figure 3: Trench 2: Plan

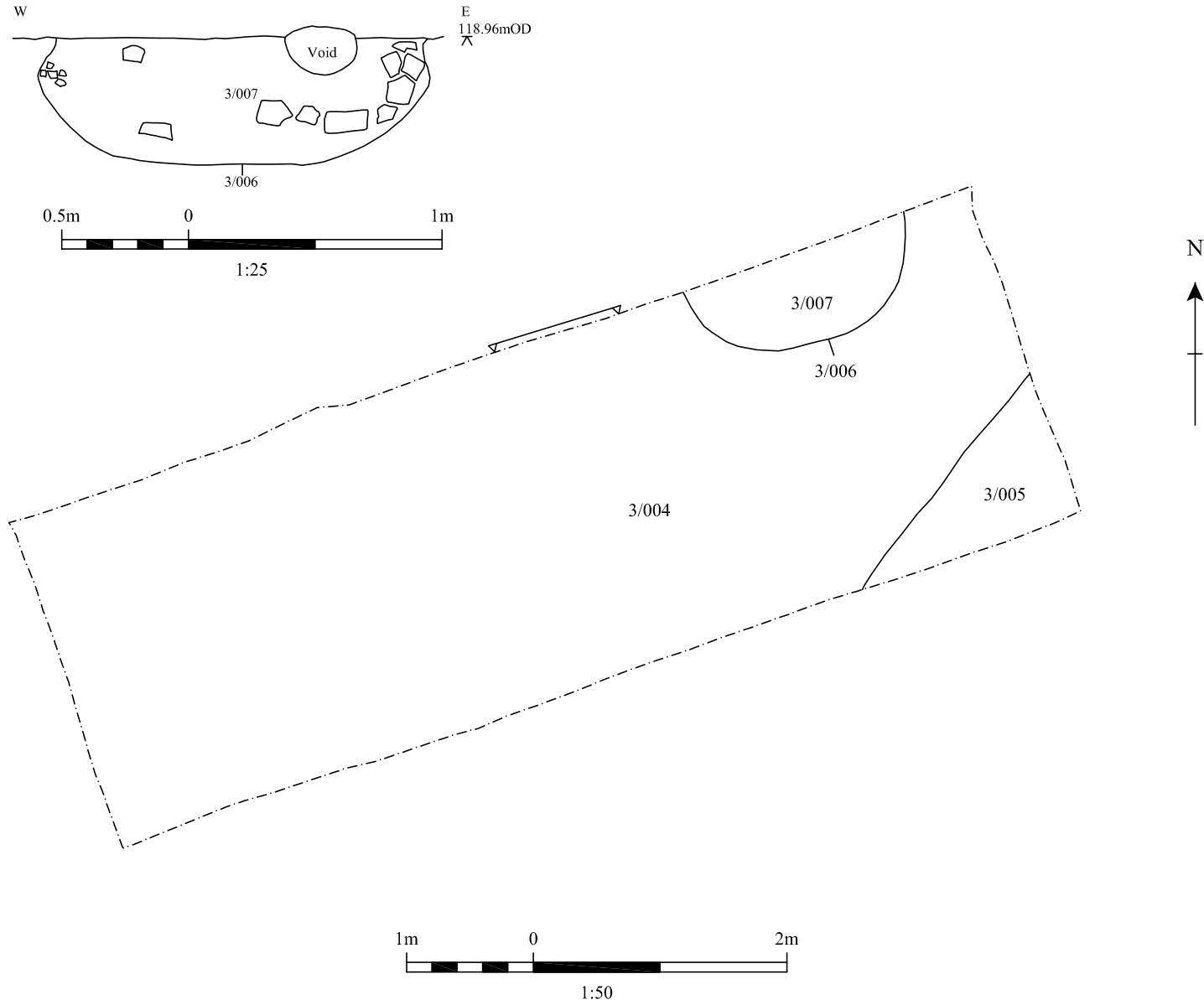


Figure 4: Trench 3: Plan

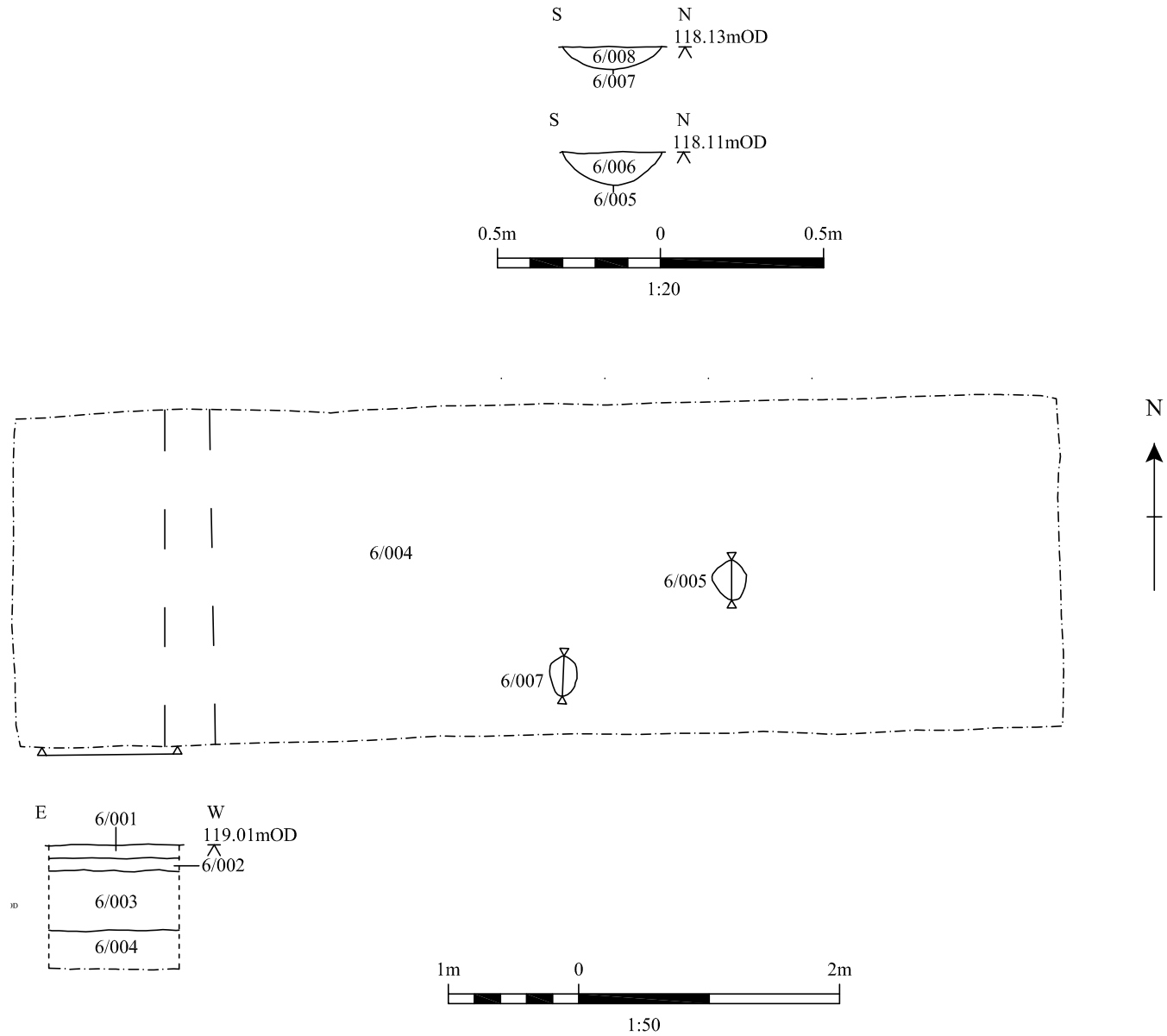


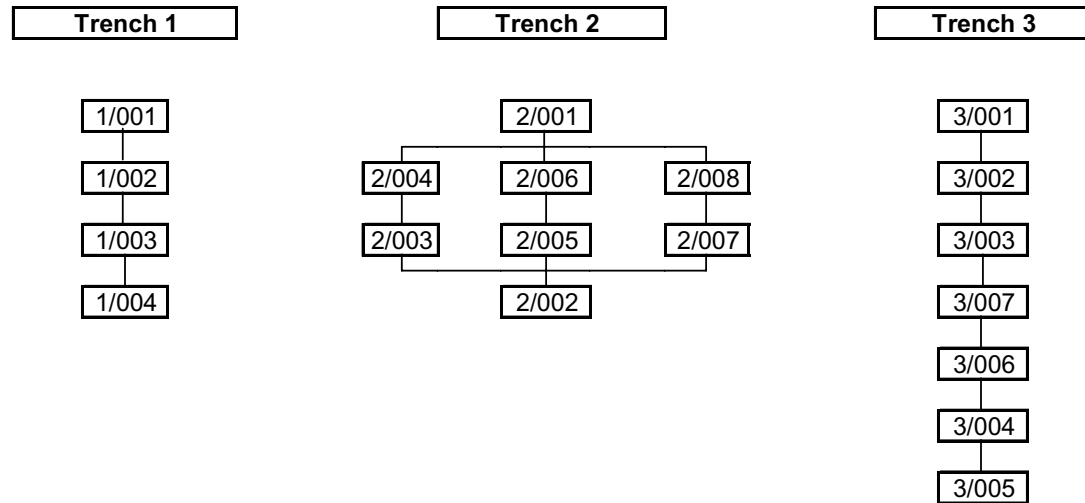
Figure 5: Trench 6: Plan

APPENDIX A – Context Register

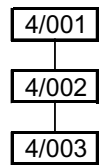
Context No.	Context Description	Length	Width	Depth
1/001	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.4m
1/002	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.4m
1/003	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.4m
1/004	Natural Clay	Trench	Trench	N.F.E
2/001	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.1m
2/002	Natural Clay	Trench	Trench	1m
2/003	Cut of Modern Service Trench	Trench	Trench	0.2m
2/004	Fill of Modern Service Trench	Trench	Trench	N.F.E
2/005	Brick Wall	1.8m	0.9m	0.2m
2/006	Backfill of Structure	1.6m	0.7m	0.2m
2/007	Brick Wall	0.7m	0.2m	N.F.E
2/008	Backfill of Structure	0.5m	0.3m	N.F.E
3/001	Yard Surface	Trench	Trench	0.05m
3/002	Made ground	Trench	Trench	0.25m
3/003	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.2m
3/004	Natural Clay	Trench	Trench	N.F.E
3/005	Natural Chalk	Trench	Trench	N.F.E
3/006	Cut of Pit	1.6m	0.7m	0.5m
3/007	Fill of Pit	1.6m	0.7m	0.5m
4/001	Tarmac	Trench	Trench	0.1m
4/002	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.2m
4/003	Natural Clay	Trench	Trench	N.F.E
5/001	Tarmac	Trench	Trench	0.2m
5/002	Made ground	Trench	Trench	0.3m
5/003	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.3m
5/004	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.35m
5/005	Natural Clay	Trench	Trench	N.F.E
6/001	Tarmac	Trench	Trench	0.1m
6/002	Made ground	Trench	Trench	0.1m
6/003	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.45m
6/004	Natural Clay	Trench	Trench	N.F.E

Context No.	Context Description	Length	Width	Depth
6/005	Cut of Posthole	0.3m	0.25m	0.1m
6/006	Fill of Posthole	0.3m	0.25m	0.1m
6/007	Cut of Posthole	0.3m	0.22m	0.07m
6/008	Fill of Posthole	0.3m	0.22m	0.07m

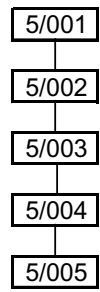
APPENDIX B- Trench Matrices



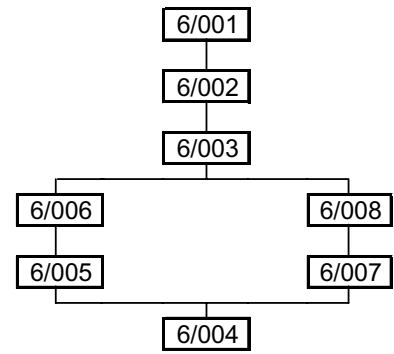
Trench 4



Trench 5



Trench 6



APPENDIX C – Pottery Report

**Assessment of Pottery
From Rectory Road, Oakley, Hampshire
By
Emily Edwards**

Introduction

This report assesses 46 sherds (552 g) sherds of pottery from contexts 6/006 (fill of posthole 6/005) and 3/007 (only fill of pit 3/006). A single sherd (4 g) dates to the early Iron Age (6/006) whilst the remaining 45 (548 g) are middle Iron Age (see Table 1). The assemblage from pit 3/006 contained refitting sherds, including rim fragments, from the upper and lower parts of a round-shouldered tripartite jar.

Table 1: Table breaking down prehistoric pottery assemblage from Rectory Road

CONTEXT	FEATURE	COUNT	WEIGHT (G)	DATE
6/006	6/005	1	4	EIA
3/007	3/006	45	548	MIA
		46	552	

Methodology

All the pottery was examined and the assemblage quantified by sherd count and weight. Classification of sherds was achieved through the analysis and recording of ceramic style and fabric.

Range and Variety of Material

The assemblage is Iron Age, with a single sherd (from posthole 6/005) dating to the early Iron Age (800-300 BC) and 45 sherds (from pit 3/3006) dating to the middle Iron Age (300-100 BC).

Condition of Assemblage

The pottery from pit 3/3006 appears to have suffered many post-depositional breakages and may have been deposited intact, representing roughly 45 % of the original vessel. The pit also contained several large and heavy fragments of triangular loomweights.

Concerning the single sherd from posthole 6/005, generally speaking, in excess of 20 sherds or several diagnostic sherds are required from a single prehistoric context to allow some precision of dating taking into account residuality. This may have an effect on the dating of this feature.

Early Iron Age

The single sherd from posthole 6/005 was fired to an even red-brown on both exterior and interior faces; the core was black and the surfaces smoothed. This sherd is acutely convex, with the beginnings of a cordon, and may be an upper body fragment of cordoned bowl.

Middle Iron Age

This vessel has a thickened and everted, slightly internally bevelled rim and a short and upright neck, with a gently rounded body. It has been fired to an even black throughout, tempered with poorly sorted, fine flint, and burnished (the internal walls are marked with horizontal striations, from the shaping and burnishing of the vessel). Decoration has been applied by means of shallow tooling, consisting of a band of horizontal lines above a pattern of nested chevrons.

This vessel finds a relatively close parallel in volume 2 of the Danebury publications (Brown 1984, 327, fig. 6.96 key group: pit 475, 521), wherein a similarly decorated, burnished and tempered, tripartite jar is described as being of ceramic phase 7 (middle Iron Age). Timby and Brown both suggest (*ibid*; Timby 1999, 10) that the flint tradition, as represented here, dates both to the later middle Iron Age and to the late Iron Age.

Conservation

At this stage, all of the material should be retained. The pottery is adequately bagged. Strategies for long-term storage should avoid boxing the pottery with the heavy loom weights.

Potential For further Work

The sherds from pit 3/006 should be refitted and the vessel illustrated. Further examination of the fabric and vessel style combined with research into regional parallels should also be carried out. If further excavation work is carried out, it is advised that this assemblage is considered in conjunction with any pottery recovered. It is likely, considering the nature of the artefact associations, that evidence for further settlement activity is present but yet to be identified.

Bibliography

Brown, L, 1984. The Iron Age Pottery. In Cunliffe, B. 1984. *Danebury: An Iron Age hillfort in Hampshire Vol. 2. The excavations 1969-1978: the finds*. CBA Research Report No 52, 231-331.

Timby, J, 1999, In Hardy, A, Cropper, C, Excavations at Larkwhistle Farm, Brimpton, Berkshire, Oxford Archaeological Unit Occasional Paper Number 2, 9-11.

APPENDIX D – Fired Clay Report

Assessment of Fired Clay
From Rectory Road, Oakley, Hampshire

By
Emily Edwards

Introduction

A total of 14 (3180 g) fragments of fired clay, possibly representing a maximum of five triangular loomweights, were recovered from Rectory Road (see Table 1).

Table 1: Table breaking down prehistoric pottery assemblage from Rectory Road

CONTEXT	FEATURE	COUNT	WEIGHT (G)	DATE
3/007	3/006	14	3180	MIA
		14	3180	

Methodology

The fired clay was scanned and examined, and the material was quantified by number of fragments and weight. A brief record was made of fabric.

Fired Clay by Category*Loomweights*

All of the fragments were pieces of fragmented loomweights. As some of these were in a very friable condition, it wasn't possible to ascertain how many weights were originally present and in what condition they were deposited. Where the perforations were clearly present, it was possible to establish that one end was 5 mm wider than the other. The best preserved represented 75 % of the original weight. It was noted that of each fragment, one face was black whilst the sides and alternative face were a bright red-brown colour.

The pit from which these were recovered is initially thought to be of middle Iron Age date.

Potential

Fired clay is a good indicator of domestic and industrial activities, which includes cooking, textile production and pottery manufacture.

The most common presumption, with regards to function, has been that these triangular, pierced objects are loom weights relating to warp weighted looms. This is, however, by no means absolutely certain. It is clear that similar shaped objects of a much larger size and heavier weight were not used on looms and it is accepted that they may have more than one likely function. Wild (Wild 2003, 32) asserts that it is the belonging of an object to a recognisable set which marks a loom weight out from any other kind of weight. In volume 6

of Cunliffe's Danebury series, Poole demonstrated reasonable doubt as to the function of triangular, pierced clay objects (Poole 1995, 285-6). She, furthermore, provided the results of research (based on a number of large assemblages throughout the south west) which suggested a heavy tendency for such objects to be associated with oven structure, daub and clay rather than with other textile related objects such as bone combs or pins. Poole made a distinction between chalk and clay triangular objects; use wear of a sort consistent with that expected on a loom weight is often observed on the former but much more rarely on the latter. These objects are typically early to middle Iron Age in date.

The placement of these objects within a pit containing a reasonable proportion of a decorated middle Iron Age fine ware vessel, may be indicative of a special deposit and it is reasonable to suppose that it may be related to a nearby settlement, hitherto undiscovered.

Conservation

These objects are fragile and should be stored individually in suitably robust containers.

Furtherwork

Although no further work is necessary, it is suggested that the objects are photographed for the record.

Bibliography

Barber, E.J.W. 1991. *Prehistoric Textiles*. Princeton University Press, Princeton.

Poole, C. 1995. Study 14: Loom weights versus oven bricks. In Cunliffe, B, 1995. *Danebury: An Iron Age Hillfort in Hampshire. Volume 6: A hillfort community in perspective*. CBA Res. Rep. No. 102. 286-286.

APPENDIX E – OASIS Form

2.11 OASIS ID: aocarcha1-21352

Project details

Project name 5a Rectory Road, Oakley

Short description of the project An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group between the 28th and 30th November 2006 at the site of 5a Rectory Road, Oakley, on behalf of B J Champion and commissioned by Scott Wilson. The aim of the evaluation was to assess the impact of the proposed residential redevelopment on any surviving archaeological remains. The evaluation comprised six machine excavated trenches, four of which measured 10m by 2m, with the remaining two trenches measuring 8m by 2.5m. Three trenches were recognised as containing archaeological features. These features were comprised an Iron Age pit and postholes, and two truncated late post-medieval red brick walls. The evaluation trenches also revealed that modern horizontal truncation of deposits had occurred in the northwest of the site, and to the southwest area where the late post-medieval walls were discovered. The evaluation trenches also demonstrated that undisturbed subsoil and topsoil deposits were present across the remaining area of the site, up to a depth of 1.3m. Overall, the potential for archaeological deposits to be present on site is good. This is due to the multiple phases of activity present, albeit of a low intensity nature, combined with the high degree of preservation to the archaeological horizon across the majority of the site.

Project dates Start: 28-11-2006 End: 30-11-2006

Previous/future work No / Yes

Any associated project reference codes A2006.77 - Museum accession ID

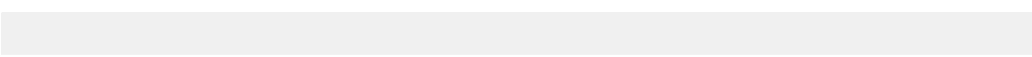
Any associated project reference codes A2006.77 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference codes 7688 - Contracting Unit No.

Type of project Field evaluation

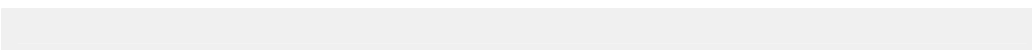
Site status Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)

Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 4 - Storage and warehousing
Monument type	PIT Iron Age
Monument type	POSTHOLES Roman
Monument type	WALLS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Iron Age
Significant Finds	
Significant Finds	LOOM WEIGHTS Iron Age
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches','Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	Between deposition of an application and determination



Project location

Country	England
Site location	HAMPSHIRE BASINGSTOKE AND DEANE OAKLEY 5a Rectory Road, Oakley
Postcode	RG23 7LJ
Study area	3000.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	SU 57300 50150 51.2471274481 -1.178953388780 51 14 49 N 001 10 44 W Point
Height OD	Min: 117.78m Max: 119.81m



Project creators

Name of Organisation	AOC Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Scott Wilson
Project director/manager	Ron Humphrey
Project supervisor	Chris Clarke
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	B J Champion

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Hampshire museums
Physical Archive ID	A2006.77
Physical Contents	'Ceramics','other'
Physical Archive notes	To be held at AOC until ready to be recieved by recipant museum.
Digital Archive recipient	Hampshire Museums
Digital Archive ID	A2006.77
Digital Contents	'Ceramics','Stratigraphic','other'
Digital Media	'Images raster / digital photography','Images vector','Text'

available

Digital Archive notes	To be held at AOC until ready to be recieved by recipant museum.
Paper Archive recipient	Hampshire Museums
Paper Archive ID	A2006.77
Paper Contents	'Ceramics','Stratigraphic','other'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Diary','Matrices','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section'
Paper Archive notes	To be held at AOC until ready to be recieved by recipant museum.

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	5a Rectory Road, Oakley, Hampshire- An Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Clarke, C.
Date	2006
Issuer or publisher	AOC Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	A4 text and illustrations

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