

***BROOK, TANFIELD LANE, WICKHAM, HAMPSHIRE: AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT***

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1 ABSTRACT

The following report details the results of an archaeological Watching Brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology between 13th and 21st June 2007 at Brook, Tanfield Lane, Wickham, Hampshire (NGR: SU 5701 1114). The project was commissioned by Rob Gerret on behalf of Parsons Construction.

The Watching Brief was carried out during the ground works for the construction of four dwellings. This involved the excavation of three foundation trenches within the footprint of the proposed development, along with ground reduction. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) SU 5701 1114, and is within land bounded by Tanfield Lane to the north-west, other properties on Tanfield Lane to the north-east (Spring Lea) and south-west (The Fields), and an open area to the south-east. It is approximately rectangular and measures 45m Northeast-Southwest and 30m Northwest-Southeast. (Figure 2). The area affected by the development covers a total area of approximately 1350m².
- 2.2 The site was previously occupied by a bungalow.

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The local planning authority is Winchester City Council. Archaeological advice to the council is provided by the Historic Environment Officer, Winchester City Council, Tracy Matthews
- 3.2 Planning permission to undertake the development has been granted under the Town & Country Planning Act (1990) (Ref No.: 06/03/169/FUL), subject to conditions. Condition 2 states that:

“No development or site preparation prior to operations which has any effect on disturbing or altering the level of composition of the land, shall take place within the site until the applicant, or their agents, or their successors in title has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation to be submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.”

This condition has been required in accordance with *Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning* (PPG 16) issued by the Department of the Environment in 1990 (DoE, 1990), and was recommended by the Historic Environment Officer, Winchester City Council.

- 3.3 None of the proposed structures will contain basements, but the design is for split levels on the ground floors due to the slope on the site, so there will be some ground reduction across at least part of the footprint of the buildings.
- 3.4 The site does not lie within an area of archaeological importance, as designated by the Local Planning Authority. However, within Wickham several areas have been designated as being Areas of High Archaeological Importance: the burgage plots around the square, the church, and the site of the manor house. Other parts of Wickham are designated as being Archaeologically Important Areas and the site is just outside one of these, which is on the north-west side of Tanfield Lane.
- 3.5 Accordingly a Written Scheme of Investigation was prepared (Aoc 2007) and the fieldwork was undertaken in June 2007. This document reports on the results of the archaeological Watching Brief.
- 3.6 A Desk Based Assessment has not been required as part of Archaeological Investigation, as Wickham is covered by the Extensive Urban Survey for Hampshire, and due to the limited scale of the development. As part of the investigation a search of Winchester City Council Site and Monuments Record was undertaken.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 4.1 The Wickham sections of the Extensive Urban Survey for Hampshire indicate that it lies on alluvium and river and valley gravels, with London Clay to the east and west.
- 4.2 The site slopes from Tanfield Lane along the north-west side of the site, at around 22.75m OD, down to around 19.50m OD along the south-east side.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 5.1 The following information is drawn from the Written Scheme of Investigation (Aoc 2007).
- 5.2 No previous archaeological investigations have been undertaken on the site itself.

Prehistoric (before c.AD 43)

- 5.3 Numerous prehistoric stone tools and debitage have been found to the south-east of Wickham. These include a Mesolithic mace-head from near Castle Farm, about 1km to the south-east of the site, and Neolithic flint tools from the area to the south of the site of the manor, about 600m to the east of the site.
- 5.4 A number of recent archaeological investigations, since the EUS was compiled, have identified late prehistoric to Roman activity in the area between Tanfield Lane and the Winchester Road. This includes settlement and industrial activity.

Roman (c. AD 43 - 450)

- 5.5 The name Wickham possibly denotes a small Roman town or villa complex.
- 5.6 The line of the Roman road between Chichester (*Noviomagus Regnum*) and Bitterne (*Clausentum*) passes through Wickham on a Northwest-Southeast alignment. The road has been seen on the eastern side of the River Meon during an excavation at School Lane. On the west side of the river it is considered to lie on the boundary between the Tanfield Park estate and the golf course, which may have resulted in the different ground levels on either side of the boundary. The likely route was therefore across Tanfield Lane, very close to the site. To the west of Wickham the road divided with one route leading to the Northwest and Winchester (Margary 420) whilst the other (Margary 421) continued to the west towards Bitterne. The junction of the roads appears to have been in the area of Cold Harbour Farm (a name that is often found associated with Romano-British remains).
- 5.7 Romano-British pottery has been found in several places in Wickham, such as the southern end of The Square, Cold Harbour Close and near the church. Settlement and industrial activity have recently been identified in the area between Tanfield Lane and the Winchester Road. The suggestion has been made that if there was a Romano-British small town at Wickham it was recorded in the Antonine Itinerary as *Clausentum*, although this is more often associated with Bitterne.
- 5.8 Pottery and brick has also been recovered near Wickham Common, about 1.2km to the east of the site. This might indicate additional, dispersed, settlement in that area.

Anglo-Saxon (c.451-1065)

- 5.9 The earliest documentary record of Wickham was in AD939, when the boundaries of Droxford, the neighbouring estate to the north, were recorded. This referred to 'the boundary of the people of Wickham'. The Domesday Book records that there had been two manors at Wickham before the Conquest.
- 5.10 Excavations have been conducted on the site of the manor house on the east side of the River Meon, just to the south of the church and 500m to the east of the current development site, when it was anticipated that this area would be affected by a road scheme. Ditches, gullies and post-holes were recorded in the earliest phase, which may be associated with one of the pre-Conquest manors.

Medieval (c.1066 - 1485)

- 5.11 Although Wickham is near where the Roman road crossed the Meon and a junction in the road, the road does not seem to have been re-used in the medieval period, as a different road network had developed by then.
- 5.12 The site of the manor house continued in use throughout the medieval period, with several phases of manorial buildings being recorded during the

excavations there. A large aisled hall was built in the late 11th century, and the timber hall was replaced by a smaller stone-built one in the 13th century. At about this time a moat was dug around the complex and a series of manorial fish-ponds were created to the south of the manor, about 600m from the current development site.

- 5.13 The Domesday Book records that after the conquest the two manors were amalgamated into one twelve-hide estate held by Hugh de Port. It gives the population on the manor as 26, with two mills.
- 5.14 Permission for a church and burial ground was granted by Bishop Henry de Blois in the first half of the 12th century. Before that the Minster church at Titchfield had been responsible for Wickham. A payment of 20s per year was ordered to be paid to Titchfield as recompense for the loss of income from mortuaries and tithes. Restoration in the mid 19th century removed many of the church's medieval elements, but it retains a reset Norman doorway and some other features.
- 5.15 Wickham's regular plan and large market place on the west side of the river Meon may date to 1268, when the lord of the manor, Roger de Scures, received a grant of free warren, a market and a fair. The market lies at right angles to the main Winchester to Fareham road in a T-shaped arrangement that is also seen in other medieval town plans. Bridge Street, connecting the market to the manor house and church, has medieval buildings and is likely to predate this re-organisation of the western side of the river. Its curved line suggests it is not part of the planned town, while the burgage plots appear to butt up against the rear boundaries of the properties facing Bridge Street.
- 5.16 It is suggested that there was a deer-park at Wickham from the fourteenth century; the area between the town and Cold Harbour is marked as Park on a map of the manor of Wickham dated 1726, and Park Place Farm may continue the name.

Post-Medieval (c.1485 - modern)

- 5.17 The final phase of the manorial buildings found in the excavations to the south of the church dated to the seventeenth century. This site was abandoned when Rookesbury House was built in 1835 to the east of Wickham to replace the manor house.
- 5.18 A mid-sixteenth-century survey first distinguished the borough from the manor, indicating a greater level of urbanisation by this date.
- 5.19 Tanfield Lane is called Townfield Lane on early OD maps, which suggests that it led to the open fields of the medieval town. The name is therefore not likely to refer to tanning.
- 5.20 There is no evidence for specific industries being particularly important to Wickham in the medieval and post-medieval periods.

6 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

6.1 The aims of the Watching Brief were defined as being:

- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the site.
- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
- To record and sample excavate 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 enable the Historic Environment Officer, Winchester City Council to make an informed decision on the status of the condition on the planning permission, and any possible requirement for further work in order to satisfy that condition.

6.2 The specific objectives of the Watching Brief were to:

- Determine the presence of any remains of prehistoric remains on the site.
- Determine the presence of any remains of Roman date on the site.
- Determine the presence of any remains of medieval or post-medieval date on the site.
- Assess the potential of the site to inform on the medieval or post-medieval development and chronology of Wickham.
- Assess the degree and extent of truncation of earlier deposits by the recent buildings on the site.

6.3 The final aim was to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

7 METHODOLOGY

7.1 A site code **WINCM: AY 327** was provided by Historic Environment Officer, Winchester City Council, as the unique site identity.

7.2 All works were conducted in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2007).

7.3 All works were carried out in line with Archaeological Guidance Paper (AGP): 3, Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork (English Heritage June 1998); and IFA Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (IFA October 1994).

7.4 The watching brief was conducted on the ground works for the foundation of the planned buildings.

- 7.5 Three sets of foundation trenches were excavated within the footprint of the development area. All the trenches were excavated to a maximum depth of 1.20m below ground level, using a 13 tonne 360° tracked excavator fitted with a 0.80m wide bucket.
- 7.6 The watching brief work was undertaken in 5 days by Paolo Guarino, Project Supervisor, under the overall direction of Tim Carew, Project Officer, and Ron Humphrey, Project Manager. The site was monitored by Tracy Matthews, Archaeological Advisor to Winchester City Council.

8 RESULTS

- 8.1 Although no archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered in any of the areas affected by the ground works, a full stratigraphic record was maintained.

Trench 1 – (Figures 2 and 3)

- 8.2 The earliest deposit identified was yellow-orange clay (1/003). There were no inclusions in this deposit, and it is interpreted as a natural clay deposit.
- 8.3 Overlaying the yellow clay (1/003), was another natural deposit, grey clay with gravel (1/002) which contained no inclusions. The natural layers (1/003) and (1/002) were sealed by the topsoil (1/001), which was a dark brown, loosely compacted, sandy soil (sample section Figure 3) In this layer frequents fragments of modern glass, plastic and building material were encountered.

Depth (BGL)	Context Number	Description
0.00 to 0.40m	(1/001)	Topsoil. Dark brown sandy soil.
0.40 to 0.70m	(1/002)	Natural. Grey clay with gravel.
0.70m to 1.20m, NFE	(1/003)	Natural. Yellow-orange clay.

Trench 2 – (Figure 2)

- 8.4 In trench 2 the topsoil (2/001) overlaid directly the natural yellow-orange clay deposit (2/002).

Depth (BGL)	Context Number	Description
0.00m to 0.20m	(2/001)	Topsoil brown sandy soil. Same as (1/001)
0.20m to 1.20m, NFE	(2/002)	Natural. Yellow-orange clay. Same as (1/003).

Trench 3 – (Figure 2)

- 8.5 As in Trench 2 the topsoil (3/001) overlaid directly the natural yellow-orange clay deposit (3/002).

Depth (BGL)	Context Number	Description
0.00m to 0.20m	(3/001)	Topsoil brown sandy soil. Same as (1/001)
0.20m to 1.20m, NFE	(3/002)	Natural. Yellow-orange clay. Same as (1/003).

9 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 The ground works at Tanfield Lane revealed no archaeological remains.
- 9.2 As there are no further excavations within the scheduled area and it is recommended that this concludes the archaeological Watching Brief. Due to the limited scale of the results, publication will be by OASIS form and include an electronic copy of the watching brief report which will be deposited with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS).

10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

AOC Archaeology Group (2007). *Brook, Tanfield Lane, Wickham Hampshire: a Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*.

English Heritage (1998a). *Archaeological Guidance Paper 3: Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork*. (English Heritage London Region).

English Heritage (1998b). *Archaeological Guidance Paper 4: Standards and Practices in Archaeological Reports*. (English Heritage London Region).

Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994, revised 2001). *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*.

Museum of London (1994). *Archaeological Site Manual (3rd ed)*.

Figure 1: Site Location Plan

Figure 2: Detailed location plan

Figure 3: Trench 1, sample section.

APPENDIX A - CONTEXT REGISTER

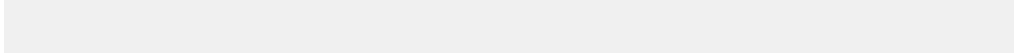
Context No.	Context Description	Length	Width	Depth
1/001	Topsoil Dark brown sandy soil.	Trench	Trench	0.00 to 0.40m
1/002	Natural. Grey clay with gravel.	7.5m	8m	0.40 to 0.70m
1/003	Natural. Yellow-orange clay.	Trench	Trench	0.20m to 1.20m, NFE
2/001	Topsoil Dark brown sandy soil	Trench	Trench	0.00m to 0.20m
2/002	Natural. Yellow-orange clay.	Trench	*	0.20m to 1.20m, NFE
3/001	Topsoil Dark brown sandy soil	Trench	Trench	0.00m to 0.20m
3/002	Natural. Yellow-orange clay.	Trench	Trench	0.20m to 1.20m, NFE

APPENDIX B - OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: aocarcha1-30657



Project details

Project name Brook, Tanfield Lane, Wickham, Hampshire

Short description of the project The following report details the results of an archaeological Watching Brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology between 13th and 21st of June 2007 at Brook, Tanfield Lane, Wickham, Hampshire (NGR: SU 5701 1114). The project was commissioned by Rob Gerret on behalf of Parsons Construction. The Watching Brief was carried out during the ground works for the construction of four dwellings. This involved the excavation of three foundation trenches within the footprint of the proposed development, along with ground reduction. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered.

Project dates Start: 13-07-2007 End: 21-07-2007

Previous/future work No / No

Any associated project reference codes AY 327 - Sitecode

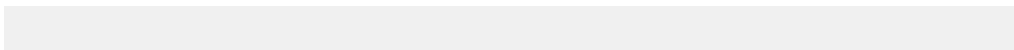
Type of project Recording project

Site status None

Current Land use Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed

Investigation type 'Watching Brief'

Prompt Planning condition



Project location

Country England

Site location	HAMPSHIRE WINCHESTER WICKHAM Brook, Tanfield Lane
Postcode	PO17 5
Study area	1350.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	SU 5701 1114 50.8963685591 -1.189261107920 50 53 46 N 001 11 21 W Point
Height OD	Min: 18.88m Max: 22.91m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	AOC Archaeology
Project brief originator	AOC Archaeology
Project design originator	AOC Archaeology
Project director/manager	Ron Humphrey
Project director/manager	Tim Carew
Project supervisor	Paolo Guarino
Project supervisor	Catherine Edwards
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Parsons Construction

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
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Physical Archive recipient	Winchester Museum
Physical Archive ID	AY 327
Physical Archive notes	Held at AOC untill transfer
Digital Archive recipient	Winchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	AY 327
Digital Contents	'none'
Digital Media available	'Database','Images raster / digital photography','Spreadsheets','Text'
Digital Archive notes	Held at AOC untill transfer
Paper Archive recipient	Winchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	AY 327
Paper Contents	'none'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Unpublished Text'
Paper Archive notes	Held at AOC untill transfer

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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Author(s)/Editor(s) Guarino, P.

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