



Hudson's Field Campsite Salisbury, Wiltshire

Archaeological Watching Brief



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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Salisbury City Council to undertake an archaeological watching brief on land at Hudson's Field Camping and Caravan Club Site, Castle Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP1 3SA, centred on NGR 413915, 131805. The works to be monitored consisted of the excavation of 23 pits for the purpose of planting trees.

Planning permission for the works was granted by Wiltshire Council (17/07621/FUL), on the condition that an archaeological watching brief was carried during all intrusive works conducted as part of the scheme.

No significant archaeological deposits were encountered during the course of the watching brief. No deposits or finds were identified relating to the Roman settlement at Stratford-sub-Castle or the wider Romano-British landscape surrounding the site.

Chalk and gravel natural was encountered in each of the excavated pits.

The finds assemblage consisted of a single King George V penny dating to 1930, and recovered from the topsoil. No environmental samples were recovered from site.

The archive will be retained at the Salisbury office of Wessex Archaeology under project number 118840 until deposition can be arranged. Wiltshire Heritage Museum has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner to transfer title of all finds to the museum.



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The fieldwork was directed by Lee Newton. This report was written by Lee Newton and Kristin Sylvia Ragnarsdottir and edited by Chris Swales. Finds were assessed by Lorraine Mepham with graphics undertaken by Karen Nichols and Nancey Dixon. The project was managed by Andrew Manning and Simon Woodiwiss of Wessex Archaeology.



HUDSON'S FIELD CAMPSITE, SALISBURY

Archaeological Watching Brief

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Salisbury City Council ('the client'), to undertake an archaeological watching brief during tree planting works at Salisbury Camping and Caravan Club Site, Castle Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP1 3SA, centred on NGR 413915 131805 (Fig. 1, hereafter referred to as 'the Site').
- 1.1.2 The planting works are part of an ongoing wider enhancement programme taking place on the Site, and the only part of the works deemed to have a potential archaeological impact.
- 1.1.3 The watching brief was carried out as a condition of planning permission, granted by Wiltshire Council, (17/07621/FUL), subject to conditions. The following condition relates to archaeology:

Condition 4 No development shall commence within the area indicated (proposed development site) until:

- A written programme of archaeological investigation, which should include on-site work and off-site work such as the analysis, publishing and archiving of the results, has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority; and*
- The approved programme of archaeological work has been carried out in accordance with the approved details.*

REASON: To enable the recording of any matters of archaeological interest.

INFORMATIVE:

- 1. The work should be conducted by a professionally recognised archaeological contractor in accordance with a written scheme of investigation approved by this office and there will be a financial implication for the applicant.*

- 1.1.4 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed (Wessex Archaeology 2017).
- 1.1.5 The Assistant County Archaeologist of the Wiltshire County Archaeology Service (WCAS), who advises and acts on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), approved the WSI, on behalf of the LPA, prior to fieldwork commencing.
- 1.1.6 The watching brief was undertaken on 30 January 2018.

1.2 Scope of the report

- 1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to present the results of the watching brief, to interpret the results within their local or regional context (or otherwise), and to assess their potential to



address the aims outlined in the WSI, thereby making available information about the archaeological resource (a preservation by record).

1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 The watching brief area was located at Salisbury Camping and Caravan Club, which is situated 2 km north of Salisbury city centre, and 600 m south of the scheduled Iron Age hill fort and multi-period settlement site at Old Sarum (NHLE 1015675).
- 1.3.2 The Site lies on a south-west facing slope and ranges in elevation from approximately 64 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) to 54 m aOD. Local topography slopes down gently to the west and south-west towards the River Avon, some 450 m beyond the western edge of the Site.
- 1.3.3 The underlying bedrock geology is mapped as Cretaceous Chalk of the Newhaven Chalk Formation, overlain by superficial deposits defined as Head, 1 – Gravel (British Geological Survey online viewer).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (Fig.1)

2.1 Prehistoric

- 2.1.1 The Site lies within an area which contains widely distributed and significant evidence of prehistoric activity, from the Neolithic onwards. This is most prominently attested to by the Iron Age hillfort to the north which, as discussed above, continued to be a major focus of activity into the Roman period, and the Saxon and early medieval periods (as detailed in WCAS 2005).

2.2 Romano-British

- 2.2.1 The principal archaeological interest in the Site relates to the scheduled Roman settlement at Stratford-sub-Castle (NHLE 1004688), the boundary of which lies some 200 m to the north-west. The settlement seems to have developed along the line of a Roman road, 'the Portway', which traversed what is now Hudson's Field from north-east to south-west, and the projected crossing point over the River Avon, to the west. The road was one of five radiating out from the site of the earlier hillfort at Old Sarum, which has also produced evidence of Romano-British occupation, and appears to have continued on to Badbury Rings. The roadside settlement seems to have covered an area of some 16–25 ha, stretching out along the line of the road for a distance of some 500 m (James 2002, p.17).
- 2.2.2 There is some uncertainty, as detailed by James (2002), over the location, size and precise function of the Antonine Itinerary's settlement of *Sorviodunum*; at various times, Old Sarum has been proposed as the site of *Sorviodunum*, although other authorities suggest that the roadside settlement south of the hillfort at Stratford-sub-Castle is more likely.

2.3 Previous investigations

- 2.3.1 A series of excavations targeting the Roman settlement in Stratford-sub-Castle were undertaken by the Salisbury Museum Archaeological Research Group (SMARG) between 1962–1977 (Algar 2002). The excavations produced 'considerable evidence of settlement', including the remains of several stone and timber buildings, chalk floors, pits, a cobbled area, a small oven and spreads of occupation debris, as well as large assemblages of cultural material including coins, pottery, box tile, stone and ceramic roofing tile, and wall plaster (Algar 2002, p.8). The Roman road was also exposed in several locations, revealing the agger, roadside ditches and evidence of sequential re-surfacing with layers of flints.



Subsequent investigations along Stratford Road in 1999 and 2001, summarised by Algar (2002), revealed further evidence for extensive occupation.

2.3.2 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Salisbury City Council to undertake a watching brief during enhancement works on a 1.4 ha site immediately north of the Site in May 2010. The watching brief revealed no evidence of Romano-British activity, indicating that the site lay outside of the maximum extent of the roadside settlement. One pit, however, was identified at the north-eastern end of the site and a further pit and postholes were recorded at the south-western extremity of the watching brief area. The north-eastern pit contained large amounts of burnt flint, the other to the south-west contained struck flint and two sherds of late prehistoric pottery. One of the three postholes contained struck flint (Wessex Archaeology 2010).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

3.1.1 The aims of the watching brief, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2017) and as defined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014a), were:

- *To allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of the development or other works;*
- *To provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard; and*
- *To guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.*

3.2 Objectives

3.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the objectives of the watching brief, also defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 20167) were:

- *To determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified works area;*
- *To record and establish, within the constraints of the works, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains (a preservation by record);*
- *To place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and*
- *To make available information about the archaeological resource on the Site by preparing a report on the results of the watching brief.*



4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methodology set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2017) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in ClfA guidance (ClfA 2014a–e). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.1.2 The planting works entailed the excavation of 23 tree pits, to a depth of approximately 0.40 m. The bases of the excavated tree pits were then broken up to a depth of up to 0.20 m to aid the establishment of the new trees. Accordingly, these works were deemed to attain a sufficient depth to risk impacting on any archaeologically significant remains that may be present within their footprint. Each of the 23 pits measured approximately 1m x 1m.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

4.2.1 The watching brief monitored the initial excavation of the tree pits down to the upper surface of the underlying geology. The client's project also involved the installation of caravan hardstanding areas, but this did not involve significantly deep excavation (Plate 4).

4.2.2 Spoil derived from both machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. Where found, artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained.

Recording

4.2.3 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long-term accessibility of the image set.

4.3 Monitoring

4.3.1 The Assistant County Archaeologist of the WCAS on behalf of the LPA, was kept informed of the results of the watching brief and given opportunity to undertake a monitoring visit.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 No significant archaeological deposits were identified during the course of the watching brief.

5.1.2 A complete list of the deposits recorded across the Site is included within Appendix 1. A summary of the finds assemblage is given within Section 6 of this report. The location of the areas monitored during the watching brief is recorded within Figure 1.

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

5.2.1 Topsoil (context 1001) was recorded within all planting pits across the Site. The topsoil was a dark brown silty loam some 0.2 m thick (Plates 1–4).

5.2.2 No subsoil was observed across the Site with topsoil sat directly above the natural geology.

5.2.3 Natural geology was represented by a mixture of chalks (1003) and gravel deposits (1002). Layer 1002 was a dark yellow/brown gravel below topsoil in the lower-lying southern portion



of the Site, sloping down towards the River Avon. Layer 2003 was a light greyish/white deposit below the topsoil, the top of weathered chalk was observed within the northern, higher (eastern) portion of the Site.

6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

6.1 King George V penny

6.1.1 The only artefact recovered from the Site during the works was a King George V penny dating to 1930. This was recovered from topsoil.

7 CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Summary

7.1.1 The watching brief has met the aims and objectives as set out in the WSI.

7.1.2 No significant archaeological deposits were encountered during the course of the watching brief. No features or finds were identified relating to the Roman settlement at Stratford-sub-Castle or the wider Romano-British landscape surrounding the Site.

7.1.3 Chalk and gravel natural was encountered in each of the excavated pits.

7.1.4 The finds assemblage consisted of a single King George V penny dating to 1930, and recovered from the topsoil. No environmental samples were recovered from Site.

7.2 Discussion

7.2.1 The watching brief has met the aims and objectives as set out in the WSI.

7.2.2 Given the large unexplored areas between the small tree pits, the negative results of the watching brief do not necessarily indicate an absence of archaeologically significant deposits on the Site. This view is supported by the recording of significant archaeological features in an earlier investigation (Wessex Archaeology 2010) immediately to the north of the Site, and the close proximity of Portway, a Roman road.

8 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

8.1 Museum

8.1.1 The archive resulting from the watching brief is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury. Wiltshire Heritage Museum has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner to transfer title of all finds to the museum.

8.2 Preparation of the archive

8.2.1 The archive, which includes paper records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Wiltshire Heritage Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

8.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the site code **118840**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:



- 1 cardboard box or airtight plastic box containing 1 artefact;
- 1 file of paper records.

8.3 Selection policy

8.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows national guidelines on selection and retention (SMA 1993; Brown 2011, section 4). In accordance with these, and any specific guidance prepared by the museum, a process of selection and retention will be followed so that only those artefacts or ecofacts that are considered to have potential for future study will be retained. The selection policy will be agreed with the museum, and is fully documented in the project archive. Material not selected for retention may be used for teaching or reference collections by the museum, or by Wessex Archaeology.

8.4 Security copy

8.4.1 In line with current best practice (eg, Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

8.5 OASIS

8.5.1 An OASIS online record (<http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main>) has been initiated, with key fields and a .pdf version of the final report submitted. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service ArchSearch catalogue.

9 COPYRIGHT

9.1 Archive and report copyright

9.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*. In some instances, certain regional museums may require absolute transfer of copyright, rather than a licence; this should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

9.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.

9.2 Third party data copyright

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Context descriptions

Context	Description	Depth
1001	Topsoil. Dark brown, sandy soil with frequent amount of gravel and small stones <5-10cm and roots. Topsoil was present across the site to a depth of approximately 0.4m. Contained a King George V penny dating to 1930 and some CBM fragments	0-0.2 m
1002	Dark yellow/brown gravels below topsoil in the lower-lying southern portion of the site, sloping down towards the River Avon	0.2 m+
1003	Natural. Light greyish/white deposit below the topsoil, the top of weathered chalk natural was observed within the northern, higher portion of the Site	0.2 m+



Location of watching brief

Figure 1



Plate 1: Section showing topsoil 1001 and natural 1003



Plate 2: Planting pit showing topsoil 1001 and natural 1003



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Plate 3: Section showing topsoil 1001 overlaying gravel deposit 1002



Plate 4: Topsoil strip for caravan hardstanding

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