

Hursley Garage, Hursley, Winchester

Archaeological Evaluation Report



WINCM Code: AY463

Ref: 78130.03 June 2011



Archaeological Evaluation Report

WINCM Code: AY463

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June 2011

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Archaeological Evaluation Report

WINCM Code: AY463 **DISCLAIMER**

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QUALITY ASSURANCE

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PLANNING APPLICATION REF	10/02284/FUL	NGR	44	2839, 125362	

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Parsons Construction Services Limited to undertake an archaeogical evaluation on the site of the former Hursley Garage, Hursley, centred on NGR 442839 125362, prior to development.

The evaluation consisted of the excavation of three trenches located across the site. These were 1.9m wide and differed in length due to constraints from utility locations and space issues. The work aimed to identify the date, extent, character, and preservation of any surviving archaeological remains and inform decisions with regard to any potential further archaeological works.

The evaluation encountered no significant archaeology. The only feature identified was the remains of a calf which was of modern date.

The evaluation was carried out on the 31st of May 2011.



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Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by Parsons Construction Services Limited and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Chris Weeks for his co-operation. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Tracey Matthews of Winchester City Council for her collaboration on this project.

The project was managed by Richard Greatorex, who also edited this report. The report was compiled by Matthew Kendall. The finds were assessed by Lorraine Higbee (animal bone) and the report graphics were prepared by Elizabeth James.

The archaeological evaluation was directed by Matthew Kendall with the assistance of Thomas Burt.



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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 **Project Background**

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Parsons Construction Services Limited, to carry out an archaeological evaluation at the site of the former Hursley Garage, Hursley, Winchester, Hampshire, SO21 2JS (hereafter referred to as 'the Site'). The Site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 442839 125362. The development has been granted planning permission subject to compliance with the appropriate conditions, one of which, Condition 2, requires the implementation of a programme of archaeological work prior to any development commencing. Planning permission has been granted for the construction of four dwellings.
- 1.1.2 The archaeological evaluation was intended to further inform the Historic Environment Officer (HEO) at Winchester City Council concerning the archaeological potential of the Site and aid any decisions with regard to any further archaeological works that might be required either prior to or during construction.
- A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by Wessex 1.1.3 Archaeology and approved by Winchester City Council in advancement of the evaluation (WA 2011). This document laid out the methods and standards to be employed throughout the work. It has been prepared in accordance with standards and guidance of the Institute for Archaeologists and 'Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment' (MoRPHE), English Heritage (2006).

1.2 Site location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The Site (Figure 1) comprises an area of some 0.135 ha, located close to the core of the present day settlement, off Port Lane. The Site is bordered to the north by arable fields and garden plots, to the east by Port Lane, to the south by the King's Head public house and by houses to the west, which front onto the A3090.
- 1.2.2 The natural topography in the vicinity of the Site slopes relatively steeply from the north-east down to the south-west, with the Site lying at around 170m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). Ground level within the Site has been cut into the slope.
- 1.2.3 While the Site lies on Upper Chalk, just to the south of Hursley is the interface between the Upper Chalk and the Reading Beds.



2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistoric (12,000BC - AD 43)

- 2.1.1 Sites and findspots of prehistoric date have been recorded in the area of the Site. Mesolithic findspots in the area included three Tranchet axes recovered from Merden, a hamlet little more than a kilometre north-north-west of the Site. Also, two kilometres to the north-west at Farley Mount, a Mesolithic pick was recovered.
- 2.1.2 Approximately 400m to the north-west of the site, two Neolithic axes have (archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archsearch/record.jsf? been recovered titeld=1029716).
- 2.1.3 A Bronze Age Bivalliate earthwork has been identified at Mount Down, approximately two kilometres north-north-west or the Site.
- 2.1.4 In the later Iron Age, a univalliate hillfort was contructed at Merden (archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archsearch/record.jsf?titleld=1029704).
- A hilltop enclosure of probable Iron Age date is located approximately 190 2.1.5 metres north-west of Farley Mount. The enclosure is roughly circular, and encloses an area of around 2.5 hectacres. Ploughing has caused significant disturbance to the central and southern parts of the enclosure, though the ramparts here remain visible on aerial photographs, which indicate two parallel banks flanking a ditch. The ramparts survive better to the north, where they appear as a shallow, flat bottomed ditch, flanked on both sides by banks up to 7 metres wide and 0.7m high. On the eastern side of the monument, a single ditch projects approximately 35m to the east. This would originally have been used to guide stock into the enclosure. The interior of the enclosure is divided by a ditched bank which creates an inner enclosure the north-western corner (archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/ archsearch/record.jsf?titleld=1029709).
- Approximately 1.5km to the north-north-east of the Site, between Farley 2.1.6 Mount and Pitt Down, a series of cropmarks have been recorded, which appear to represent the footprint of a banjo enclosure, some rectilinear enclosures and a field system. Similar sites in Hampshire, which have been excavated (such as one at South Wonston), have been found to be Late Iron Age farmsteads later adapted in the Romano-British period.

Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)

- 2.1.7 The Site lies south-west of the Roman town of Venta Belgarum, later historic Winchester, c.2km west of a Roman road linking Venta to the south, and c.2km south of another Roman road linking Venta to the west. The Site therefore lies within a landscape that would have provided important agricultural supplies to this important Roman centre.
- 2.1.8 Approximately 2km north of the Site, at Pitt Down, a Phrygian cap, bronze mask, and two Roman coins were recovered (archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/ archsearch/record.jsf?titleld=1029729).



Saxon -medieval (AD 410 - 1500)

- 2.1.9 At Mount Down to the east of Farley Mount, an Anglo-Saxon iron shield boss was recovered during troop entrenchment training prior to deployment in the First World War. Further burials are thought to have been disturbed.
- 2.1.10 Hursley House and Park, comprises a late medieval/post-medieval country house and deer park, just to the east of the Site. The house was remodelled in the 18th century and then again in the early 20th century.

3 AIMS AND METHODS

3.1 Introduction and General Objectives

- 3.1.1 The aim of the evaluation was to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains that might survive on Site and that might be threatened by the proposed development. The evaluations aim was to also aid in any decision on further archaeological works on the Site prior to the commencement of the development.
- 3.1.2 A total of three trenches were excavated (Figure 1). The trenches differed from the proposed lengths set out in the WSI due to constraints from the pre-existing buildings and utilities.

3.2 Monitoring

3.2.1 The trench excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision using 360° tracked excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket (1.8m). The mechanical excavation proceeded in spits to the top of the uppermost archaeological horizon or solid geological deposits (Chalk or Clay-with-Flints), which ever was encountered first. The machine excavated arisings were stored at the side of the trench and were scanned for artefacts at regular intervals from both the topsoil and subsoil.

3.3 Recording

- 3.3.1 Archaeological features and deposits were subsequently hand cleaned and sample excavated as per the methodology set out in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2011). Features and deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma record sheets and a unique numbering system for individual contexts, and were planned at a scale of 1:20. Sections were drawn at 1:10. All principal strata and features were related to the Ordnance Survey datum. The monitored areas were located using a Leica GPS survey system. Following all investigation and recording, the areas were then backfilled.
- 3.3.2 A photographic record of the evaluation was maintained through digital images well as colour transparencies and black and white negatives. The photographic record illustrated both the detail and general context of the archaeological remains revealed, and the Site as a whole.

3.4 **Finds and Environmental Strategies**

3.4.1 All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, except those from features or deposits of obviously modern date. All artefacts, as a minimum, have been washed, weighed, counted and identified.



ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

The following summary details the results of the trial trench evaluation of the 4.1.1 Site which was carried out on the 31st of May 2011. In the WSI, the trench lengths were stated as follows; Trenches1 and 3, 15m x 1.8m, and Trench 2, 10m x 1.8m. However, due to constraints imposed by the pre-existing building and its associated utilities, it was impractical to excavate to these lengths and so the best efforts were made to evaluate as much of the Site as possible.

4.2 Natural deposits and soil sequences

- 4.2.1 Trenches 1 - 3 were situated in the land surrounding the pre-existing building on the Site which had a level topography, varying from 49.89m aOD to 49.43m AOD. Trench 2 was situated across a small slope going from north-west to south-east which was a result of landscaping undertaken for the construction of the pre-existing building.
- 4.2.2 The underlying geology of the site was mixed with Trench 1 being on slightly degraded Upper Chalk while Trench 3 was on Clay-with-Flints. Trench 2 had a mix of both with a clear division running across the middle of the trench (Plate 1).

4.3 Summary of the evaluation results

- 4.3.1 Trenches 2 and 3 contained no archaeological features.
- 4.3.2 Modern layers of modern building material and rubble were identified in Trenches 1 and 3 (Plate 2) and related to the groundwork and construction of the pre-existing building located on the Site.
- 4.3.3 Tr 1 contained one animal burial [1002], which was a grave for a calf, Animal Bone Group (ABG) 1. Measuring 0.73m x 0.44m, it was filled with loose off-white redeposited chalk. This and the semi-articulated nature of the skeleton indicate that is of modern date and that the animal was buried after it had died of illness or natural causes.

5 **ARTEFACTS**

5.1 Introduction

Artefacts contained in the topsoil and subsoil of the three trenches were of 5.1.1 Modern date and were not retained for further examination

Animal Bone 5.2

The semi-articulated remains of a complete calf skeleton (ABG 1) were 5.2.1 recovered from fill 1003 of feature 1002. The bones are well-preserved and only a few of the smaller skeletal elements (e.g. carpals, tarsals and unfused epiphyses) are missing. All of the post-cranial bones have unfused epiphyses and are relatively small and porous, which suggests that the animal was extremely young. Analysis of tooth eruption and wear suggests an age between 1-8 months (mandibular wear stage B after Halstead 1985). The wear on the deciduous fourth premolar is very slight indicating that the animal is more likely to have been closer to the lower end of this age range.



There are no obvious signs of pathology on any of the bones, however natural mortalities in the first few months of life are to be expected and any disease is likely to lead to death before it shows any evidence on the skeleton. The carcass does not appear to have been utilised, or at least no butchery marks were apparent on any of the bones.

6 **ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE**

No material suitable for environmental analysis was demonstrated to be 6.1.1 present within the monitored areas.

7 CONCLUSIONS

- While there is evidence of human activity on the Site with the burial of the 7.1.1 calf, there is a lack of human settlement present. This can be explained by the landscaping and subsequent construction of the pre-existing building as well as the unmodified topography of the surrounding area.
- 7.1.2 There is a low risk of any archaeology being encountered during the development of the Site and no further work should being needed during the construction of the buildings

8 **ARCHIVE**

8.1 **Preparation and Deposition**

8.1.1 The complete archaeological project archive will be prepared in accordance with Wessex Archaeology's Guidelines for Archive Preparation and in accordance with Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation (AAF 2007). It is intended that the archive should ultimately be deposited with the Winchester Museums Service; until that time the archive will be held at Wessex Archaeology's offices.

8.2 The Archive

- 8.2.1 The project archive was prepared in accordance with the guidelines outlined in Appendix 3 of Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage 1991) and in accordance with the Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage (UKIC 1990). It comprises a ringbound file containing a watching brief attendance form, site 'day book', trench record sheets, photographic register and Written Scheme of Investigation. Details of the fieldwork will also be entered into the online "Oasis" database maintained by the Archaeological Date Service (ADS).
- The archive is currently held at Wessex Archaeology's office building under 8.2.2 the site code 78130.

8.3 **Discard Policy**

8.3.1 Given the small quantity of finds recovered, and their date range, retention for long-term curation is not recommended, and these finds will be discarded prior to archive deposition

8.4 Copyright



8.4.1 This report may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey), or the intellectual property of third parties, which we are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferrable by Wessex Archaeology. You are reminded that you remain bound by the conditions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

9 REFERENCES

- Geological Survey of England and Wales 1971, Winchester, Drift Geology. Sheet 299 1:50,000
- Wessex Archaeology 2011, Hursley Garage, Hursley, Winchester, SO21 2JS, Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation, report ref. 78130.01, May 2011
- Halstead, P., 1985. A study of mandibular teeth from Romano-British contexts at Maxey, 219-24 in Pryor, F. and French, C., Archaeology and Environment in the Lower Welland Valley Vol. 1. East Anglian Archaeol. Rep. 27

Archaeology Data Service



APPENDIX 1: TABLE OF TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

All depths are below ground level. The order in which the deposits are listed represents their stratigraphic position, except where noted.

represent	P	phic pos	ition, except where noted.			
	Dimensions :	8.45m x 1.8m x 0.76m				
Trench 1	Land use:	Back gar				
	Coordinates:		12835.125, 125382.694, 49.225m aOD 2842.157, 125377.507, 49.17m aOD:			
Context	Category	20020 00	Description	Depth		
1005	Layer		Topsoil – Mid brownish grey silty clay containing occasional sub-angular flint inclusions (<0.03m). Root intervention.	0 – 0.2m		
1004	Layer		Modern layer – Mid brownish grey sandy silt with moderate brick rubble (<0.06m) and charcoal inclusions. Only appears in the southwestern half of the trench.	0.2 - 0.33m		
1001	Layer		Subsoil – Mid greyish brown silty clay containing sparse chalk fragments and flint inclusions (<0.03m)	0.33 – 0.64m		
1003	Fill		Single fill of [102] derived from redeposited chalk. Contains a calf skeleton (ABG 1)	0.64m		
1002	Cut		Cut of a modern animal burial (0.73m x 0.44m)	0.64m		
1000	Layer		Natural – Slightly degraded Upper Chalk containing occasional flint nodules (0.1m)	0.64m+		
	Dimensions :	14.25m	x 1.8m x 0.35m			
Trench 2	Land use:	Back gar	rden			
	Coordinates:		2847.125, 125385.07, 49.545m aOD 2857.945, 125375.396, 48.975m aOD:			
Context	Category	tot. A	Description	Depth		
2003	Layer		Topsoil – Dark greyish brown silty clay containing occasional sub-angular flint inclusions (<0.03m). Root intervention.	0 – 0.08m		
2002	Layer		Subsoil – Mid greyish brown silty clay containing occasional chalk fragments and sub-angular flint inclusions (<0.05m)	0.08 – 0.21m		
2001	Layer		Natural – Clay-with-Flints natural containing occasional to common sub-angular to sub-rounded flint inclusions (<0.1m). Prominent in the south-eastern half of the trench.	0.21m+		
2000	Layer		Natural – Slightly degraded Upper Chalk containing occasional flint nodules (0.12m). Prominent in the north-western half of the trench.	0.21m+		
	Dimensions :	4.2m x 1	2m x 1.8m x 0.78m			
Trench 3	Land use:	Front ga	rden			
	Coordinates:	(SW) 442856.879, 125362.355, 48.665m aOD (NE) 442859.635, 125365.236, 48.8m aOD:				
Context	Category		Description	Depth		
3000	Layer		Topsoil – Mid brownish silty clay containing occasional sub-rounded flint inclusions (<0.03m). Root intervention.	0 – 0.19m		
3001	Layer		Made ground – Fine grain yellow sand deposited when the current house was built. Possibly a levelling layer.	0.19 – 0.22m		
3002	Layer		Made ground – Dark blackish brown demolition layer made up of brick rubble inclusions and clinker fragments.	0.22 - 0.62m		
3003	Layer		Natural – Clay-with-Flints natural containing occasional to common sub-angular to sub-rounded flint inclusions (<0.09m)	062m+		



APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

List of Projects | Manage Projects | Search Projects | New project | Change your details | HER coverage | Change country | Log out

Printable version

OASIS ID: wessexar1-125742

Project details

Project name Hursley Garage, Winchester

Short description of the project

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Parsons Construction Services Limited to undertake an archaeogical evaluation on the site of the former Hursley Garage, Hursley, centred on NGR 442839 125362, prior to development. The evaluation consisted of the excavation of three trenches located across the Site. These were 1.9m wide and differed in length due to a range of constraint issues such as utility locations and proximity to existing structures. The evaluation aimed to identify the date, extent, character, and preservation of the underlying archaeological remains in order to aid any future decisions regarding the necessity or otherwise of archaeological mitigation works. The evaluation encountered no significant archaeology. The only feature identified was the remains of a calf which was of modern date.

Start: 31-05-2011 End: 31-05-2011 Project dates

Previous/future work Not known / Not known

Any associated project reference codes

78130.01 - Contracting Unit No.

Type of project

Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Other 3 - Built over Monument type NONE None Significant Finds **BONE Modern** Methods & 'Targeted Trenches'

techniques

Development type Not recorded Prompt Planning condition

Position in the planning process After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country England

HAMPSHIRE WINCHESTER WINCHESTER Hursely Garage, Winchester Site location

Postcode Study area 0.14 Hectares

Site coordinates SU 442839 125362 50.9100412035 -1.370056133910 50 54 36 N 001 22 12 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 170.00m Max: 170.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Wessex Archaeology

Project brief originator

Wessex Archaeology

Project design originator

Wessex Archaeology

Project director/manager R Greatorex

Project supervisor Type of sponsor/funding

Matt Kendall Developer

Name of sponsor/funding

body

body

Parsons Construction Services Limited

Project archives

Physical Archive

Winchester Museum Service

recipient Physical Archive ID

'Animal Bones'

78130

Physical Contents Digital Archive

recipient

Winchester City Museum

Digital Archive ID 78130

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Digital Contents 'none'

Digital Media available

'Images raster / digital photography', 'Survey'

Paper Archive recipient

Winchester City Museum

Paper Archive ID 78130 Paper Contents 'none'

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'Context sheet','Diary','Plan','Report','Section'

Project bibliography 1

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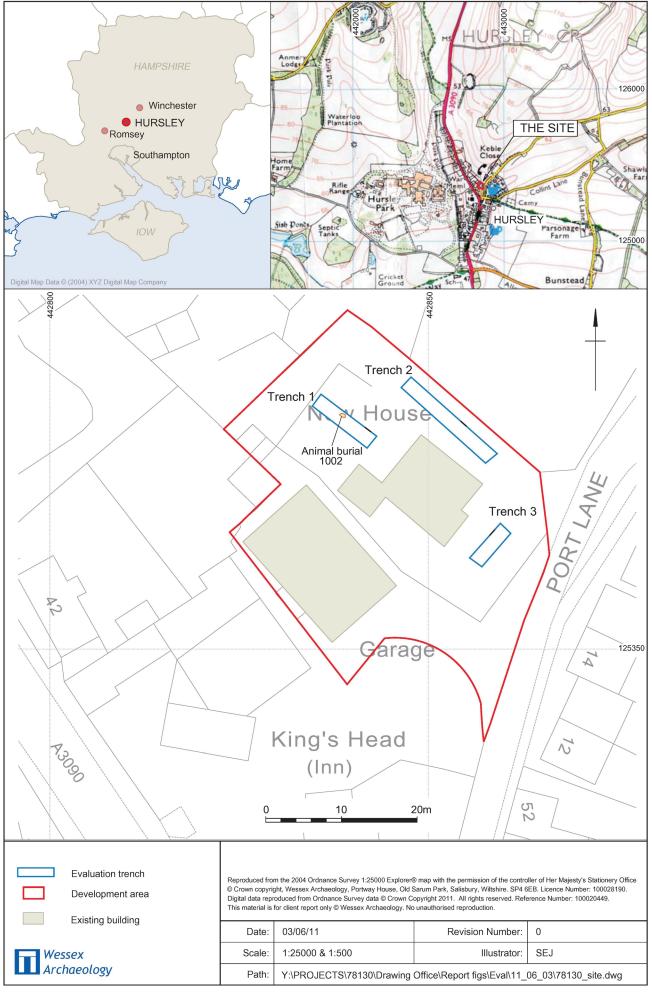
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Site and trench location Figure 1



Plate 1: South-eastern view of Trench 2 showing the change in natural geology



Plate 2: South-eastern representative section of Trench 3 showing modern disturbance layers

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