



Gosport Household Waste Recycling Centre, Grange Road, Gosport, Hampshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report





**GOSPORT HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRE,
GRANGE ROAD,
GOSPORT,
HAMPSHIRE**

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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QUALITY ASSURANCE

SITE CODE	77330	ACCESSION CODE		CLIENT CODE	
PLANNING APPLICATION REF.		NGR	458690 100002		

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* I= INTERNAL DRAFT E= EXTERNAL DRAFT F= FINAL

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Front Cover Working shot

**GOSPORT HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRE,
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Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Mildren Construction Limited to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundwork associated with the extension of the existing Gosport Household Recycling Centre, Gosport, Hampshire (hereafter, 'the Site'), centred on National Grid Reference 458690 100002.

The Site, which accommodates the Recycling Centre, comprises a rectangular plot of land of c. 0.53ha and is located to the west of Gosport. The Site is positioned within an Area of Archaeological Potential as defined in the Historic rural Settlement in Hampshire. Prior to the development of the Site in the 1990s, an archaeological evaluation and subsequent excavation were undertaken which identified a small unenclosed Bronze Age settlement site.

The current watching brief comprised archaeological monitoring of groundwork in two areas: during excavations for a new customer vehicle exit lane (**Area 1**) and during works associated with a new customer vehicle stacking lane and eight tree planting pits (**Area 2**).

No archaeological features or deposits were revealed in the course of the watching brief. Modern made ground deposits, likely associated with the initial construction of the Recycling Centre, were recorded across the Site. The natural geology, comprising river gravels, was only revealed in the southern part of **Area 1**, as the excavation depth within the rest of the Site was insufficient to expose the natural deposits.

The watching brief fieldwork was conducted during March and April 2011.

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Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by Mildren Construction Limited and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Dave Stokes in this regard. The assistance of Kevin Blackman, the Site Manager, was also appreciated.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Oliver Good and Vasilis Tsamis. This report was compiled by Julia Sulikowska. The illustrations were prepared by Rob Goller. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Richard Greatorex, who also edited this report.

**GOSPORT HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRE,
GRANGE ROAD,
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Archaeological Watching Brief Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by Mildren Construction Limited (the Client) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundwork associated with the extension of the existing Gosport Household Recycling Centre, Gosport, Hampshire (hereafter, 'the Site'), centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 458690 100002 (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The watching brief was required as part of the planning permission issued to the Client by Hampshire County Council (Planning Reference K/8971/5), the local authority, for an extension to the existing centre. The proposal is to remove the health and safety issue for customers exiting the Site via the container servicing area, to reduce the traffic congestion and to increase the storage area for recyclable materials.

1.1.3 Prior to the construction of the Recycling Centre in the early 1990s, an archaeological evaluation and subsequent excavation (TVAS 1992) identified a small unenclosed Bronze Age settlement on the Site.

1.1.4 A *Written Scheme of Investigation* was prepared by Wessex Archaeology (WA 2011) detailing the strategy, techniques and methods employed during the fieldwork. It was submitted for approval to Gosport Borough Council prior to the commencement of the fieldwork.

1.1.5 The watching brief was conducted in March and April 2011.

1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology

1.2.1 The Site, which accommodates the Recycling Centre, comprises a rectangular plot of land of c.0.53ha and is located to the west of Gosport. The Site is bounded to the north by Littlewoodham Lane, to the east by Grange Road and the south and west by the River Alver and associated Nature Reserve (**Figure 1**).

1.2.2 The Site lies at approximately 5m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The underlying geology is mapped as Quaternary superficial River Terrace Deposits of Sand and Gravel overlying formations of Bartonian – Lutetian Barton Clay (Geological Survey of Great Britain, sheet 331).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1.1 The Site is positioned within an Area of Archaeological Potential as defined in the Historic Rural Settlement in Hampshire.

- 2.1.2 Prior to the development of the Site in the 1990s, an archaeological evaluation and subsequent excavation (TVAS 1992) were undertaken which identified a small unenclosed Bronze Age settlement site. A number of pits and post holes were excavated and two burnt patches (possible hearths) were identified. Quantities of pottery sherds and four saddle querns were retrieved.
- 2.1.3 Further evidence of prehistoric activity is attested to the east of the Site, where a number of worked flints have been found. These have been tentatively dated to the Mesolithic period. In addition a bowl barrow is recorded less than 1km to the south-west.
- 2.1.4 To the north of the Site, a motte and bailey castle is recorded at Apple Dumpling Bridge and dates to the 11th century.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1.1 The general aim of the watching brief was to establish, within the constraints of the agreed watching brief strategy, the presence or absence, location, extent, date, character, condition, and depth of any surviving remains which may be affected by the proposed works.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the methodology set out in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WA 2011) and carried out in compliance with the standards outlined in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2008).

4.2 Fieldwork

- 4.2.1 The watching brief comprised archaeological monitoring of groundwork made beneath the present ground surfaces for the purposes of excavation, landscaping and associated services. This groundwork consisted of excavations for a new customer vehicle exit lane (**Area 1**), a new customer vehicle stacking lane and eight tree planting pits (**Area 2**).
- 4.2.2 **Area 1**, which was located in the northern extent of the Site, measured approximately 16m x 12m and was excavated up to 1.47m below the current ground surface. The fieldwork within **Area 2**, located within a modern bund alongside the southern and the eastern edge of the Site, comprised the monitoring of the excavation of eight 2m x 2m x 1m deep pits (test pits **101-801**) and a 6m x 0.6m x 0.6m deep trench (trench **901**).
- 4.2.3 The excavations were carried out using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless bucket under archaeological supervision. Machining continued to the first recognizable archaeological horizon, the underlying geological deposits or the construction level, whichever was encountered first.

4.3 Recording

- 4.3.1 All recording was undertaken using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system. A unique site code (77330) was issued for the investigation.
- 4.3.2 A photographic record, which contains digital images, was maintained throughout the investigation, illustrating both the detail of the excavated areas and the Site as a whole.
- 4.3.3 The areas observed during the watching brief were surveyed using Global Positioning System (GPS) and tied in to the Ordnance Survey.

4.4 Health and Safety

- 4.4.1 All work was carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, the Management of Health and Safety regulations 1992 and Health and Safety in Field Archaeology 1997, and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.
- 4.4.2 Prior to the commencement of the fieldwork a site-specific Risk Assessment was produced. All site staff involved in the works signed and complied with this document.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The following section provides the summary of the information derived from the watching brief. The monitored areas are presented in **Figure 1**. Detailed descriptions of the contexts (by area) are included in **Appendix 1: Trench Tables**.

5.2 Stratigraphic Sequence

- 5.2.1 In **Area 1**, three layers of modern made ground were recorded to overlie natural deposits (**1004**) of gravels comprising a yellow sand/clay matrix (**Figure 2, Plate 1**). The natural geology was exposed in the southern part of the area, at 1.39m below the ground surface.
- 5.2.2 In the tree pits in **Area 2**, topsoil **101**, characterised by dark brown silt/clay, overlay three layers of modern made ground, forming the modern bund enclosing the Recycling Centre (**Figure 2, Plate 2**). In trench **901**, only a made ground deposit was recorded. In this area, the depth of the excavation was insufficient to expose natural deposits or archaeology.

5.3 Archaeological features

- 5.3.1 No archaeological features or deposits were observed in the course of the watching brief.

6 FINDS

- 6.1.1 No finds other than of modern date were retrieved during the fieldwork. These finds were not retained.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL

7.1.1 No features or deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified during the watching brief.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1.1 Despite the location in the vicinity of the previously recorded Bronze Age settlement, no archaeological features or deposits were revealed in the course of the watching brief.

8.1.2 Modern made ground deposits, likely associated with the initial construction of the Recycling Centre, were recorded across the Site. The natural geology, comprising river gravels, was only revealed in the southern part of **Area 1**, as the excavation depth within the rest of the Site was insufficient to expose the natural deposits. It can be assumed therefore that archaeological features or deposits could remain preserved under areas of made ground within the current development footprint.

9 ARCHIVE

9.1 Preparation and Deposition

9.1.1 The complete project archive will be prepared in accordance with Wessex Archaeology's *Guidelines for Archive Preparation*, the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-Term Storage* (Walker 1990) and the nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995). On completion of the project, the archive will be deposited with an appropriate museum repository, to be agreed with Hampshire County Council.

9.2 Archive

9.2.1 The archive is currently stored at Wessex Archaeology's Salisbury office under the project code 77330. All archive elements have been marked with the site code and a full index has been prepared.

9.2.2 The project archive comprises an A4 ring-bound file containing the following:

- 4 Trench Record Sheets
- 3 Photographic Record Sheets
- 5 sheets of Day Book
- A copy of the WSI

9.3 Copyright

9.3.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the site will be retained by Wessex Archaeology Ltd under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved. The recipient museum, however, will be granted an exclusive license for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profit making, and conforms to the Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003.

9.4 Security Copy

- 9.4.1 In line with current best practice, on completion of the project a security copy of the paper records will be prepared, in the form of microfilm. The master jackets and one diazo copy of the microfilm will be submitted to the National Monuments Record Centre (NMR) (English Heritage) in Swindon; a second diazo copy will be deposited with the paper records at the appropriate local museum, and a third diazo copy will be retained by Wessex Archaeology.

10 REFERENCES

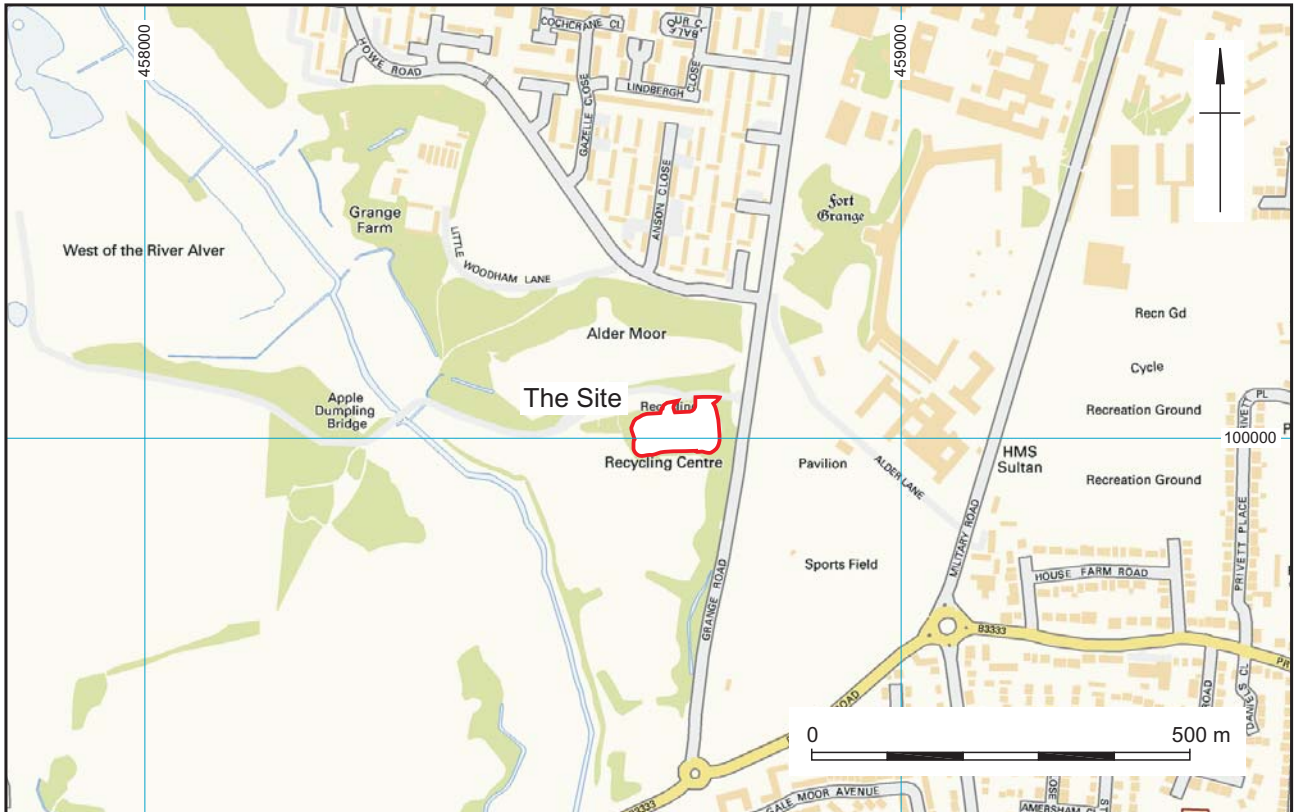
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APPENDIX 1: TRENCH TABLES

Area 1	Length: 16.0m	Width: 12.0m	Max Depth: 1.47m
Context	Description		Depth (m)
1001	Made ground – dark brown silty clay, heavily disturbed by roots. Contained modern brick etc.		0 – 0.80
1002	Made ground – dark brown silty clay with abundant flint inclusions and modern rubble		0.80 – 1.20
1003	Made ground – mid brown sand with rare flint incl.		1.20 – 1.39
1004	Natural – light reddish yellow sandy clay with abundant gravel		1.39 – 1.47+

Area 2 Test Pits 101- 801	Length: 2.0m (each)	Width: 2.0m (each)	Max Depth: 1.0m
Context	Description		Depth (m)
101	Topsoil – dark brown silty clay with root disturbance and modern rubble		0 – 0.47
102	Made ground – light yellowish brown silty clay with abundant flint incl.		0.47 – 0.63
103	Made ground – mid greyish yellow silty clay with modern rubble		0.63 – 0.84
104	Made ground – light yellow clay mixed with reddish yellow silty clay		0.84 – 1.0 +

Area 2 Trench 901	Length: 7.0m (each)	Width: 0.6m (each)	Max Depth: 0.6m
Context	Description		Depth (m)
901	Made ground – light yellowish brown silty clay with flint and rubble inclusions.		0 – 0.60+



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Site location plan


Figure 1



Plate 1: East facing representative section of Area 1



Plate 2: North-east facing section of test pit 101

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