



Project Allenby / Connaught, Bulford, Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report



**PROJECT ALLENBY / CONNAUGHT,
BULFORD, WILTSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

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Report reference: 56252. 04

June 2008

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Figure 1 Site and trench location plan

Figure 2 Trench plan showing selected photos and sections

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Aspire Defence Capital Works (the Client), to undertake an archaeological evaluation in support of an application for planning permission (S/2008/0725) for the construction of a new building comprising a two storey training classroom wing and a single storey lecture theatre, situated on the site of an existing car park, centred on National Grid Reference 418315, 143715 (hereafter the 'Site').

The evaluation comprised the excavation of a single 15m x 2m north-east to south-west orientated trench situated towards the southern end of the proposed development footprint. The location of the trench was agreed upon in consultation with Aspire Defence during an on-site meeting as a result of constraints such as services and the need to maintain the current car parking facilities throughout the course of the works.

The trench revealed two modern brick walls with concrete foundations. Three archaeological features were also revealed; two pits (**103** & **104**) and a posthole [**105**] were identified and excavated at the southern end of the trench. Pit [**104**] produced a single sherd of pottery dating to the Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age period. Pit [**103**] produced several fragments of a fired clay loomweight of a similar date and posthole [**105**] produced a single animal bone.

The results of the evaluation indicate that there is potential for archaeological features dating to the prehistoric period to survive within the area of the development footprint.

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by Aspire Defence Capital Works Ltd and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank them for their assistance especially that of Mr Andy Goodey for his patience and help throughout the works. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank the team from Raymond Brown (on-site contractors) for their help and enthusiasm during the project.

The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Nick Truckle and Caroline Budd. The fieldwork was directed by Kevin Ritchie, with the assistance of Christo Nicolle. This report was written by Kevin Ritchie and edited by Caroline Budd, with input from Lorraine Mephram (finds). The figures were prepared by Linda Coleman.

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Aspire Defence Capital Works (the Client) to undertake an archaeological evaluation in support of an application for planning permission (S/2008/0725) for the construction of a new building comprising a two storey training classroom wing and a single storey lecture theatre (hereafter the Site, see **Figure 1**).

1.1.2 Wiltshire County Archaeological Service (WCAS) have advised that the application should be supported by an assessment of the archaeological implications of the development. The archaeological evaluation is designed to facilitate an assessment of the archaeological potential of the Site (in line with Planning Policy Guidance 16: archaeology and planning (November 1990) and subsequently assist in any further decisions with regards to any additional mitigation which may be required.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1.1 Bulford Camp is located on gently sloping ground, at the foot of, and overlooked by Beacon Hill. The underlying geology is Cretaceous Upper Chalk. Within the Camp the ground slopes evenly from east-west, dropping from c.130m above Ordnance Datum to c.95m above Ordnance Datum.

2.1.2 The proposed new build is situated on an area currently utilised as a car park. The car park is broadly level and is located at National Grid Reference (NGR) 418315, 143715.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1.1 Bulford Camp is set within the archaeologically rich, nationally significant Salisbury Plain which is noted for its highly preserved prehistoric landscapes. The predominant cultural heritage resources at the site are the upstanding and non-extant Bronze Age archaeological remains which are distributed across the area. Most of the upstanding Bronze Age and presumed Bronze Age archaeological sites are designated as Scheduled Monuments. The area of the Camp contains one round barrow of a pair that are Scheduled together.

3.1.2 The Wiltshire Sites and Monuments Record indicates that a number of finds of prehistoric date have been recorded from the vicinity of the Site. These include a number of probable unscheduled round barrows, three of which are provisionally located approximately 150m to the south west of the Site. These finds and features raise the possibility that further prehistoric archaeological finds may be disturbed by the current development proposals. There is also a low potential for archaeological deposits associated with other periods to survive at the Site, including the Iron Age, Romano-British, Saxon, Medieval and Post-Medieval.

3.2 Previous Archaeological Work

3.2.1 Wessex Archaeology recorded archaeological remains during an evaluation of the Public Sector Comparator (Wessex Archaeology, 2003) which suggests that although there are areas of localised 20th century disturbance, the potential exists for further significant remains to survive within the limits of the Camp.

3.2.2 Further evaluation (Wessex Archaeology, 2003) also carried out by Wessex Archaeology within 50m of two surviving Bronze Age round barrows and within the area of Picton Barracks did not record any significant archaeological deposits but did identify areas of undisturbed ground which have the potential to contain archaeological deposits.

4 AIMS

4.1 General

4.1.1 To establish within the constraints of the agreed strategy the presence or absence, location, extent, date, character, condition, and depth of any surviving remains which may be affected by the proposed development.

- 4.1.2 In particular the evaluation will clarify the impact upon the archaeological resource of any groundwork necessary for the construction of the new development and will inform any mitigation measures that may be required.

5 EVALUATION STRATEGY

5.1 Fieldwork

- 5.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the standards set out within the Specification (WA2008) which was submitted to and approved by WCAS and conducted in compliance with the standards outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologist's Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations (as amended 1994), excepting where they are superseded by statements made below.

- 5.1.2 A single trial trench orientated north-east to south-west was excavated within the proposed development footprint by a JCB mechanical excavator using a toothless bucket and under constant archaeological supervision (**Figure 1**). Machine excavation proceeded to the top of the archaeological levels, or the top of natural deposits, whichever was the higher.

- 5.1.3 The location of the trench was agreed upon in consultation with Aspire Defence during an on-site meeting as a result of constraints such as services and the need to maintain the current car parking facilities throughout the course of the works.

- 5.1.4 The trench was surveyed using a Global Positioning System (GPS) and tied in to the Ordnance Survey.

- 5.1.5 All exposed archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system.

5.2 Health and Safety

- 5.2.1 All work was carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992, and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.

6 RESULTS

- 6.1.1 The following section provides a summary description of the results of the evaluation. A tabulated summary of the trench is provided in **Appendix 1** of this report. For a plan of the trench with section drawings and photographs of features and deposits see **Figure 2**.

- 6.1.2 The sequence of deposits above chalk bedrock, recorded within Trench 1, consisted of Tarmacadam (107) overlying c.0.17m of medium course sorted gravel (108) which in turn overlay a thin (c.0.03m) layer of compacted crushed chalk (109). On the eastern side of the trench (108) lay above a thin deposit (0.04m) of loose Tarmacadam type material (110).
- 6.1.3 Layer 112, a dark brown silty clay loam up to 0.40m in depth was sealed by chalk layer (109) on the western side of the trench and by Tarmacadam layer (110) on the eastern side.
- 6.1.4 Two modern walls were recorded in the north-eastern half of the trench which probably represent the south-eastern corner of a building. A single course of frogged bricks (111) bonded with a sandy mortar and set on a foundation of concrete (113) was recorded at the north-eastern end of the trench. The wall and foundation extended along the eastern side of the trench for c.7.50m. To the south-west wall (111) was observed to overlie (114), a modern wall oriented north-west to south-east comprising two rows of frogged bricks bonded with a sandy mortar and set on a foundation of concrete (115). Wall (111) was sealed by modern overburden deposits (110), (114) and (112).
- 6.1.5 Two shallow pits [103], [104] and a posthole [105] were recorded at the south-western end of the trench. Pit [103] was sub-rectangular in plan, aligned north-east to south-west and measured 0.45m long, 0.30m wide and 0.30m deep with steep, near vertical sides and a gently sloping base. The single fill of the pit (100) comprised a dark brown chalky silty, sandy loam which produced several fragments of a fired clay loomweight dated to the Middle Bronze Age period.
- 6.1.6 Pit [104] protruded from the north-western edge of the trench and measured 0.57m wide and 0.13m deep with a flat base, its sides were steep to almost vertical on the north-eastern side and shallowed out to a gentle slope on the south-western side. The fill (101), a dark brown chalky silty, sand loam produced a single sherd of Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age pottery.
- 6.1.7 Posthole [105] was circular in plan with a diameter of 0.25m and was 0.24m deep with steep sides and slightly sloping base. The single fill (102), comprising a dark brown chalky silty, clay loam produced a single fragment of animal bone.

7 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING

7.1 Finds

7.1.1 The only finds recovered from the evaluation works comprised four joining fragments from a ceramic loomweight from pit [103] (fill 100), a small sherd of pottery from pit [104] (fill 101), and a small and much abraded fragment of animal bone (species unknown) from posthole [105] (fill 102).

7.1.2 The pottery sherd from pit [104] is undiagnostic, but is in a sparsely flint-tempered fabric that can be tentatively dated to the Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age, while the ceramic loomweight from pit [103] is of cylindrical form and can be dated as Middle Bronze Age.

7.2 Environmental

7.2.1 No features or deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified during the course of the evaluation.

8 CONCLUSION

8.1.1 The archaeological evaluation has broadly achieved the aims as listed in section 4 of this report. The fieldwork revealed a small number of prehistoric features indicating that truncation across the Site is likely to be negligible with the potential for further archaeological remains of prehistoric date to survive within the Site.

9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Wessex Archaeology, 2003, *Aspire Warminster/Bulford, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation*, unpublished client report ref: 54257.01

Wessex Archaeology, 2008, *Project Allenby/Connaught, Bulford, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Evaluation*, unpublished client report ref 56252.03

10 APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARY

Trench 1	Max Depth: 0.85m	Length: 15m	Width: 2m	MaOD: 103.39
Context No.	Type	Description	Depth	
100	Fill	Fill of pit [103], a dark brown chalky silty clay loam.	0.80 – 1.10m	
101	Fill	Fill of [104], a dark brown chalky silty sand loam.	0.79 – 0.92m	
102	Fill	Fill of [105], a dark brown chalky silty clay loam.	0.83 – 1.07m	
103	Cut	A sub-rectangular pit measuring 0.45m long, 0.30m wide, and 0.30m deep with steep, near vertical sides and a gently sloping base.	0.80 – 1.10m	
104	Cut	A pit protruding from section 0.57m wide and 0.13m deep with a flat base, steep/ vertical sides on the north-eastern side shallowing out to a gentle slope on the south-western side	0.79 – 0.92m	
105	Cut	A circular pit with a diameter of 0.25m and 0.24m deep with steep/ vertical sides and slightly sloping base.	0.83 – 1.07m	
106	Animal Disturbance	Irregular in plan, loose chalky clay loam fill.	0.86 – 1.06m+	
107	Layer	Tarmacadam, present ground surface of carpark.	0 – 0.10m	
108	Layer	medium course sorted gravel	0.10 – 0.27m	
109	Layer	Compacted crushed chalk.	0.27 – 0.30m	
110	Layer	Loose Tarmacadam type material.	0.30 – 0.34m	
111	Brick Wall	A single course of bricks bonded with a sandy mortar and set on a foundation of concrete (113) was recorded at the north-eastern end of the trench along south-eastern edge of trench.c.7.5m in length.	0.30 – 0.42m	
112	Layer	Dark brown silty clay loam with frequent chalk and occasional flint inclusions.	0.34 – 0.74m	
113	Concrete	Foundation below wall (111), no cut visible in plan or section.	0.74 – 0.89m	
114	Brick Wall	Wall oriented northwest to southeast comprising two rows of bricks bonded with a sandy mortar and set on a foundation of concrete (115).	0.74 – 0.86m	
115	Concrete	Foundation below wall (114), no cut visible in plan or section.	0.86 – 1m	
116	Natural	Natural chalk bedrock, upper 0.10/ 0.20m disturbed by bioturbation/solifluction.	0.74m +	



- Site Outline
- Proposed building
- Trench

0 50m



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Site and trench location plan

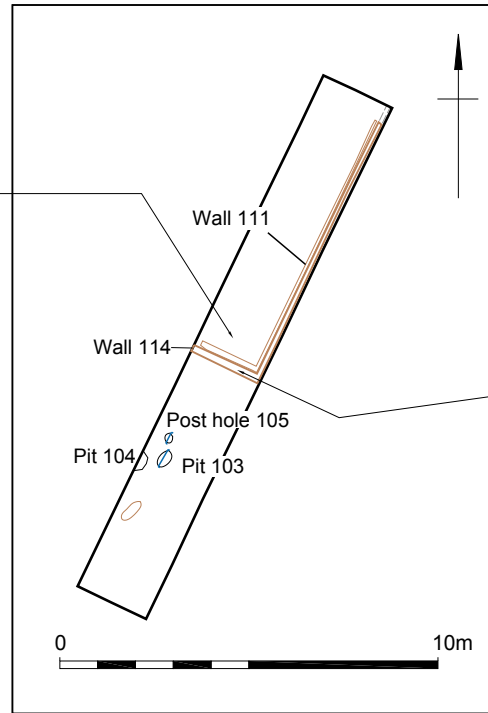
Figure 1



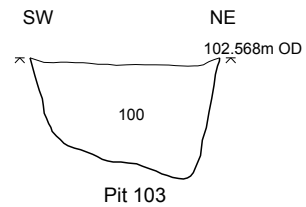
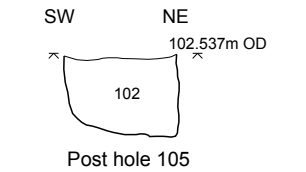
Walls 111 and 114 from north-west



Pit 104 from south-east



Wall 114 from south-east



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