

Roman Way, Andover, Hampshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report



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November 2012



Archaeological Evaluation Report

Prepared for: Aster Homes Sarsen Court Horton Avenue Cannings Hill Devizes Wiltshire SN10 2AZ

by Wessex Archaeology Portway House Old Sarum Park SALISBURY Wiltshire SP4 6EB

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QUALITY ASSURANCE

SITE CODE	66826	ACCESSION CODE		CLIENT CODE	
PLANNING APPLICATION REF.	11/00689/OUTN	NGR	43	6650, 147800	0

VERSION	STATUS*	PREPARED BY	APPROVED BY	APPROVER'S SIGNATURE	DATE	FILE
I	I	TW/SDT	SF	- A	02/11012	\\PROJECTSERVER\WESSEX\PROJECTS\66826
E	2	SF	REG		12/11/12	\\PROJECTSERVER\WESSEX\PROJECTS\66826

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



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Archaeological Evaluation Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by Aster Homes (the Client), to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of development on land at Roman Way School, Andover, Hampshire, centred on NGR 436650, 147800. This report outlines the results of the archaeological evaluation.

A geophysical survey had previously been undertaken within the site and identified a number of anomalies of possible archaeological interest. Following recommendations by the County Archaeologist at Hampshire County Council, an archaeological evaluation was carried out to assess the archaeological potential.

Four evaluation trenches were positioned over possible and probable archaeology and blank areas, to assess the archaeological potential of the site. No archaeological features were recorded during the course of the evaluation and the geophysical anomalies were proven to be the result of variations in the underlying natural geology or natural features.

The results of the evaluation suggest that the potential for archaeological remains to be present on the site is low.

The fieldwork was conducted between the 31st of October and the 1st of November 2012.

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Amanda Swan of Aster Homes who commissioned the archaeological works. Thanks are also due to Hannah Fluck and David Hopkins who provided advice on behalf of Hampshire County Council.

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Steve Thompson and Tom Wells. This report was written and compiled by Tom Wells with report illustrations prepared by Elizabeth James

The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Sue Farr.



Archaeological Evaluation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 **Project Background**

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by Hampshire County Council (the Client), to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of development on land to the north Roman Way Primary School, Roman Way, Andover, Hampshire (**Figure 1**), centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 436650, 147800 (hereafter 'the Site').
- 1.1.2 Outline planning consent (112/00689/OUTN) has been granted by Test Valley Borough Council for the erection of 12 dwellings on condition (Condition 08) that a programme of archaeological work is undertaken to assess and record anything of archaeological interest.
- 1.1.3 A Project Design (WA 2011) setting out the methodology for the field evaluation was 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). It was submitted to and approved by the County Archaeologist at Hampshire County Council prior to fieldwork commencing.

1.2 Site location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The Site, centred on NGR 436650, 147800 (**Figure 1**) is located in the north of Andover and bounded to the west, south and east by Newbury Road, Roman Way and Witan Close respectively, and to the north by housing.
- 1.2.2 The Site is generally flat and lies at approximately 85m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The underlying geology of the Site is Cretaceous Upper Chalk (BGS Sheet 283).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background to the Site is covered in detail in the Desk-Based Assessment (Wessex Archaeology 2007), and is therefore presented below in summary form only.

2.2 Archaeological Background

Palaeolithic (500,000 - 10,000 BC)

2.2.1 Palaeolithic finds are rare in Andover and the surrounding area and are more likely to occur in the gravels adjacent to the river Anton. The Desk-Based Assessment records a single Palaeolithic hand-axe to the south of the Site found in association with gravel deposits adjacent to the river Anton.

Mesolithic (8500 – 4000 BC)

2.2.2 No confirmed Mesolithic sites or finds are recorded in Andover or the wider area (English Heritage, Hampshire County Council 1999).

Neolithic and Bronze Age (4000 – 700 BC)

2.2.3 Neolithic activity is represented by a combination of stray single finds and scatters of worked flint to the east and west of the Site. West of the Site two Bronze Age cremation burials have been unearthed and to the south a possible Bronze Age barrow is recorded on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1881, close to King Arthur's Way.

Iron Age (700 BC – AD 43) and Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)

- 2.2.4 An investigation undertaken during development in 1971, at what is now Genoa Court, to the south of the Site, recorded extensive Iron Age and Romano-British deposits (Dacre 1997). Subsequent investigations undertaken approximately 50m to the south of the Site, identified extensive Iron Age settlement activity including pits, hearths and enclosure ditches.
- 2.2.5 Further investigations to the north along Roman Way, identified Iron Age deposits alongside a number of unstratified finds, dating from the prehistoric, Iron Age and Romano British periods (Ford & Ford 1992, Weaver 1997).
- 2.2.6 The level of settlement activity appears to have continued into the Romano-British period, with settlement continuing and the addition of an associated cremation cemetery. In addition to those found at Genoa Court, two burials are located adjacent to the course of Roman roads to the east and south of the Site. Roman cemeteries are often located alongside roads, adjacent to settlements and further funerary activity along the projected course of the Roman roads is possible.

Saxon (AD 410 – 1066)

2.2.7 Despite fairly extensive archaeological investigations no Saxon period sites or find spots are recorded within or close to the Site. The focus of Saxon activity lies around the centre of Andover, *c*. 1km south of the Site.

Medieval (AD 1066 – 1500)

2.2.8 To the north and east of the Site, Knights Enham and East Anton are likely to have been the centres of settlement activity, with all recorded medieval sites or find spots location close to these two settlements, including the Grade I Listed Church of St. Michael which dates to the 12th century.

2.3 Previous Archaeological Work

2.3.1 A geophysical survey was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology on the playing fields immediately to the north of the proposed development area (WA 2008). Three features were interpreted as being of probable archaeological origin.

3 AIMS AND METHODS

3.1 Introduction and General Objectives

- 3.1.1 All works were conducted in compliance with the standards outlined in the Institute for Archaeologist's Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (IfA 2008), excepting where they are superseded by the following statements.
- 3.1.2 The general aims and objectives of the archaeological works were to:
 - clarify the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the Site that may be disturbed by development;
 - identify, within the constraints of the investigation, the date, character, condition and depth of any surviving remains within the Site;
 - assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits; and
 - produce a report which will present the results of the evaluation in sufficient detail to allow an informed decision to be made concerning the Site's archaeological potential.

4 METHODS

4.1 Health and Safety

- 4.1.1 All work was carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the 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.
- 4.1.2 Wessex Archaeology supplied a copy of their Health and Safety Policy and a Risk Assessment to the Client before the commencement of the fieldwork. The Risk Assessment was read and understood by all staff attending the Site before any groundwork commenced.

4.2 Service Location

- 4.2.1 The Client provided information regarding the presence of any below/above ground services prior to commencement of the fieldwork. The Site was walked over and inspected to visually identify, where possible, the location of above and below ground services.
- 4.2.2 All evaluation trench locations were scanned before and during excavation with a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) in order to verify the absence of any live underground services.
- 4.2.3 No underground services were identified during the course of the fieldwork.

5 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

- 5.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the standards set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation (WA 2010).
- 5.1.2 All works were conducted in compliance with the standards outlined in the Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations* (IfA 2008), excepting where they are superseded by statements made below.
- 5.1.3 The programme of evaluation comprised the excavation of four evaluation trenches, each measuring 20m x 1.8m. The positioning of the trenches was informed by the results of the geophysical survey (WA 2008), and the trenches were located as illustrated on **Figure 1**. The trenches were targeted on anomalies identified by the geophysical survey in order to establish the presence/absence of any archaeological features/deposits, confidence in the results of the geophysical survey and the potential for the survival of archaeological remains within the proposed development site.
- 5.1.4 The trenches were laid out using a GPS in general accordance with the pattern given in **Figure 1**. A minor adjustment was made to the position of Trenches 1 and 4 in order to avoid a previously excavated geotechnical pit visible above ground. The trench locations remained targeted on the anomalies and were tied in to the Ordnance Survey.
- 5.1.5 The trenches were excavated using a tracked excavator fitted with a toothless bucket, under constant supervision by Wessex Archaeology. Mechanical excavation continued in spits through topsoil and subsoil down to the uppermost natural deposits. Topsoil and subsoil were stored separately in order that the trenches could be backfilled in stratigraphic order.
- 5.1.6 Trenches completed to the satisfaction of the Client and the Senior Archaeologist were backfilled using the excavated material in the approximate order in which they were excavated by Wessex Archaeology and left level on completion. The backfilled material was compacted intermittently to avoid air pockets and soft spots. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.

5.2 Monitoring

5.2.1 The Senior Archaeologist at Hampshire County Council (HCC) was informed prior to the commencement of the fieldwork and provision was made for an on-site monitoring meeting. During the fieldwork Hampshire County Council were kept informed of the progress of the evaluation, but given the lack of archaeological features revealed in the trenches, it was agreed that a monitoring meeting was not required.

5.3 Recording

5.3.1 All exposed deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system with unique numbers allocated for individual contexts. A representative section of each trench was recorded showing the depth of the overburden deposits. These were hand-drawn at a scale of 1:10 and were

referred to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD) height of all levels was calculated and this information is included on the sections.

- 5.3.2 A full photographic record was maintained during the evaluation using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images were subject to managed quality control and curation processes which embed appropriate metadata within the image and ensure long term accessibility of the image set. The record illustrates both the detail and the general context of the Site as a whole.
- 5.3.3 The survey was carried out with a Leica Viva series GNSS unit using the OS National GPS Network through an RTK network with a 3D accuracy of 30mm or below. All survey data was recorded using the OSGB36 British National Grid coordinate system.
- 5.3.4 A unique site code **66826** was allocated to the Site, and was used on all records.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 The location of the evaluation is shown on **Figure 1** and descriptions of all the deposits are provided in **Appendix 1**.
- 6.1.2 No archaeological features were identified during the course of the evaluation. All targeted geophysical anomalies proved to be related to changes in the underlying geology or other natural features rather than archaeological features.
- 6.1.3 The following Results Section should be read in conjunction with Appendix1.

6.2 Natural deposits and soil sequences

6.2.1 The natural soil sequence observed was consistent across the Site (Plate 1). The topsoil comprised a 0.15m thick mid-dark reddish brown clay silt covered with well developed turf. Below the topsoil was a mid reddish brown clay silt subsoil varying from 0.12m to 0.24m in thickness. The underlying geology comprised a light-mid reddish brown clay silt likely derived from the decalcification of the underlying chalk. This layer averaged 0.15m in thickness except where it exceeded this to an unknown depth within in-filled periglacial striations and hollows in the surface of the weathered natural chalk beneath.

6.3 Geophysical anomalies

6.3.1 No archaeological features or deposits were identified during the course of the evaluation. With the exception of a tree throw located in Trench 1 (Plate 2), all geophysical anomalies were proven to correspond with changes in the underlying geology (Plate 3).

7 FINDS

7.1.1 No artefacts of an earlier date than late twentieth century were observed or retained.

8 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

8.1.1 No material suitable for environmental analysis was demonstrated to be present within the excavated area.

9 CONCLUSIONS

- 9.1.1 The archaeological evaluation has achieved the aims set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WA 2010).
- 9.1.2 No archaeological features were recorded during the course of the evaluation and all geophysical anomalies were confirmed to be the result of variations in the underlying geology or tree hollows.
- 9.1.3 The results of the evaluation suggest that the potential for archaeological remains to be present on the Site is low. The County Archaeologist will need to be consulted to determine if any further works are required within the Site.

10 ARCHIVE

10.1 Preparation and Deposition

- 10.1.1 The archive will eventually be deposited with local museum. The primary archive, including copies of all photographs, will be deposited with the museum or another suitable depository no later than six months after completion of all required fieldwork and post-excavation work.
- 10.1.2 The project archive was prepared in accordance with the guidelines outlined in Appendix 3 of Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) (English Heritage 2006), and the Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage (UKIC 1990).
- 10.1.3 Details of the Site will be submitted online to the OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations) database. Digital images will be curated under arrangements agreed for the Wessex Archaeology Digital Image Archive Trial and will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (University of York) as part of the submission of an OASIS record for the project.

10.2 Copyright

10.2.1 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 Museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence 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.

10.3 Security Copy

10.3.1 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 Museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence 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.

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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.

Trench	Dimensions :	20m x 1.8m x 0.53m	Gr	ound	87.95m
1 Coordinates (NGR):		436587.13, 147765.31 sur 436592.80, 147784.52 leve		rface /el:	aOD
Context	Category	Description		Dept	h (bgl)
100	Layer	Topsoil : Dark – mid reddish brown cla silt. Rare sub-angular and sub-rounder flints <80mm, rare chalk <10mm. Frequent fine roots. Overlain with well developed turf.	d	0 – 0	.15m
101	Layer	Subsoil : Mid reddish brown clay silt. Common sub-angular and sub-rounded flints <80mm, common chalk <20mm.			
102	Layer	Natural : Light – mid reddish brown clay silt. Occasional sub-angular and sub- rounded flints <100mm, rare chalk <10mm. Decalcified chalk clay.			n+
103	Layer	Natural : Weathered surface of chalk. 0.53m+			

Trench	Dimensions :	20m x 1.8m x 0.49m	Gro	ound	88.13m
2 Coordinates				face	aOD
	(NGR):	436601.96, 147781.42	level:		
Context	Category	Description		Dept	h (bgl)
200	Layer	Topsoil : Dark – mid reddish brown cla silt. Rare sub-angular and sub-rounder flints <80mm, rare chalk <10mm. Frequent fine roots. Overlain with well developed turf.		0 - 0	.15m
201	Layer	Subsoil : Mid reddish brown clay silt. Common-frequent sub-angular and sub- rounded flints <80mm, common chalk <20mm.			– 0.27m
202	Layer	Natural : Light – mid reddish brown clay		0.27m+	
203	Layer	Natural: Weathered surface of chalk.		0.49n	n+

Trench	Dimensions :	20m x 1.8m x 0.51m	Gre	ound	88.59
Goordinates 436		436606.89, 147791.17 sui 436626.67, 147791.59 lev		rface /el:	aOD
Context	Category	Description		Dept	h (bgl)
300	Layer	Topsoil : Dark – mid reddish brown cla silt. Rare sub-angular and sub-rounder flints <80mm, rare chalk <10mm. Frequent fine roots. Overlain with well developed turf.	d	0 – 0	.15m
301	Layer	Subsoil : Mid reddish brown clay silt. Common-frequent sub-angular and sub- rounded flints <80mm, common chalk <20mm.			– 0.39m
302	Layer	Natural: Light – mid reddish brown clay silt. Occasional sub-angular and sub- rounded flints <100mm, rare chalk <10mm. Decalcified chalk clay.		0.39m+	
303	Layer	Natural : Weathered surface of chalk. 0.39m+			

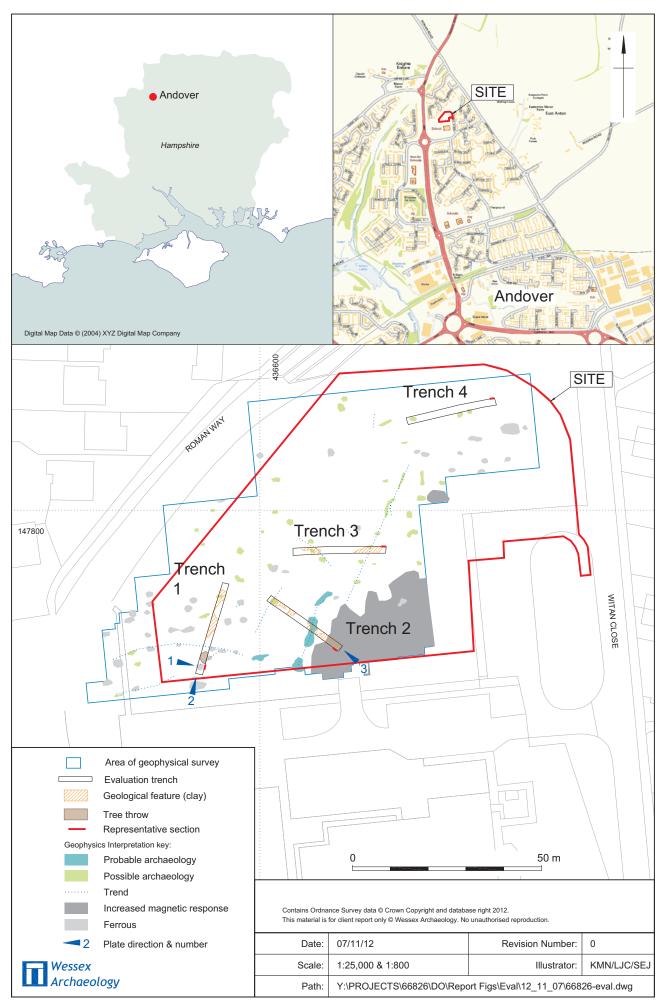
Trench	Dimensions :	20m x 1.8m x 0.51m	Gr	ound	89.21m
4 Coordinates (NGR):		436631.00, 147818.82 sur 436649.84, 147822.99 leve		rface /el:	aOD
Context	Category	Description		Dept	h (bgl)
400	Layer	Topsoil : Dark – mid reddish brown cla silt. Rare sub-angular and sub-rounder flints <80mm, rare chalk <10mm. Frequent fine roots. Overlain with well developed turf.	d	0 – 0	.15m
401	Layer	Subsoil : Mid reddish brown clay silt. Common sub-angular and sub-rounde flints <80mm, common chalk <20mm.	0.15	– 0.36m	
402	Layer	Natural : Light – mid reddish brown clay silt. Occasional sub-angular and sub- rounded flints <100mm, rare chalk <10mm. Decalcified chalk clay.			n+
403	Layer	Natural: Weathered surface of chalk.		0.51n	n+

APPENDIX 2: OASIS RECORD SUMMARY FORM

11.3 Roman Way, Andover, Hampshire - Wessex Archaeology

OASIS ID - wessexar1-137372

Versions						
View	Version	Completed by	Email	Date		
<u>View 1</u>	1	Sue Farr	s.farr@wessexarch.co.uk	12 November 2012		
Completed sections in current version						
Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications		
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1/1		
Validated sections in current version						
Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications		
No	No	No	No	0/1		
File submis	ssion and form p	rogress				
Grey lite submitted?	erature report	: No	Grey literature report filename/s			
Images sub	mitted?	No	Image filename/s			
Boundary fi	le submitted?	No	Boundary filename			
HER signed	off?		NMR signed off?			



Site and trench location plan, showing geophysical survey results



Plate 1: North-west facing representative section of Trench 1



Plate 2: View of Trench 1 from the south-west showing tree throw in foreground and weathered surface of chalk natural

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