



making sense of heritage

Building 37 Car Park, Trenchard Lines, Upavon, Wiltshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report



Ref: 88440.01
January 2013



**BUILDING 370 CAR PARK,
TRENCHARD LINES,
UPAVON,
WILTSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
REPORT**

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
REPORT**

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Figure 1: Site Location



**BUILDING 370 CAR PARK,
TRENCHARD LINES,
UPAVON,
WILTSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
REPORT**

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by WYG Planning & Environment to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the initial groundwork associated with the construction of a new car park at building 370, Trenchard Lines, Upavon, Wiltshire, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 415660 154791.

Planning consent was granted by Wiltshire Council for the change of use from a grassed area with a tennis court to a 100 space car park within Trenchard Lines, subject to a condition requiring a programme of archaeological works to be undertaken. The Assistant County Archaeologist advised an archaeological watching brief should be undertaken during the works due to the potential for archaeological remains to be present within the site.

The watching brief was carried out between 7th and 17th January 2013 during the topsoil removal and the ground level reduction of the proposed car park. The watching brief did not reveal any archaeological features or artefacts and no evidence for the previously recorded military practice trenches within the site was noted.



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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
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Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by WYG Planning & Environment and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Martin Brown and Kirsten Holland of WYG Planning & Environment for their help and assistance during the project. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Rachel Foster of Wiltshire Council who monitored the project on behalf of Wiltshire Council.

The fieldwork was carried out by Oliver Good. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Sue Farr. This report was compiled by Oliver Good and the illustrations were by Elizabeth James.



BUILDING 370 CAR PARK, TRENCHARD LINES, UPAVON, WILTSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by WYG Planning & Environment (the Client) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the initial groundwork associated with the construction of a new car park at Building 370 car park, Trenchard Lines, Upavon Wiltshire, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 415660 154791 (hereafter the 'Site').
- 1.1.2 Planning consent (E/2012/1166/FUL) was granted by Wiltshire Council for the change of use from a grassed area with 1 no. tennis court to a 100 space car park, with entry onto the existing access road, within Trenchard Lines subject to a condition requiring a programme of archaeological works to be undertaken.
- 1.1.3 The Assistant County Archaeologist at Wiltshire Council advised that an archaeological watching brief should be undertaken during the works due to the potential for archaeological remains to be present on the Site.
- 1.1.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (WA 2013) detailing the methodology to be used during the archaeological watching brief and the final reporting was submitted to, and approved by, Wiltshire Council before the commencement of work.
- 1.1.5 The field work was carried out between the 7th and the 17th of January 2013.

1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology

- 1.2.1 The Site forms an irregular parcel of land located within Trenchard Lines, Upavon to the north of the A342 Upavon to Everleigh road and the Upavon Airfield. It is centred on NGR 418911 154791 (**Figure 1**).
- 1.2.2 The Site was under grass with a few trees located around a disused tennis court near the centre of the area and lies at an elevation of 110m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 1.2.3 The underlying geology is Cretaceous Upper Chalk (Geological Survey of Great Britain 1959 1:50,000 Sheet 282, Devizes). Soils are generally thin brown rendzina soils.

1.3 Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 The Site was situated in an area of archaeological potential within the extensive and highly significant prehistoric funereal and monumental landscape of the Salisbury Plain Training Area, featuring many important sites and find spots of prehistoric and later date.



- 1.3.2 The Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment Record shows the Site is positioned within an area of former military trenching, identified by aerial photography in 1995.
- 1.3.3 Within the vicinity there is evidence of settlement, field systems and enclosures dating to the later prehistoric period (Middle-Late Bronze Age and Iron Age), with Chisenbury Camp Iron Age hillfort lying to the south of the Site, although its ramparts were mostly levelled in 1931. There is also evidence for Romano-British activity, including a burial to the south of the Site, although this cannot be securely located from historic records.
- 1.3.4 Historic activity predating the establishment of the airfield consists mainly of features indicating periodic cultivation of the downland, including possibly medieval ridge-and-furrow and 19th century field barns. The land was purchased for military training in 1897, and Upavon Airfield was established in 1912 as the home for the Central Flying School, the oldest flying training school in the world, and was an important World War I airfield.
- 1.3.5 An archaeological evaluation undertaken at the airfield to the south of the Site identified a large sub-circular enclosure that dated to the early to middle Iron Age and continued in use until the Late Romano-British period (WA 2007). A subsequent geophysical survey (Archaeological Surveys Ltd 2007) revealed that the enclosure has a large concentration of internal features, and is respected by three later sub-rectangular enclosures that may be Roman in date.

2 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

- 2.1.1 The objective of the watching brief was 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.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork

- 3.1.1 In line with the approved WSI the removal of the old tennis court, topsoil and remaining overburden was undertaken using a mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket, which operated under the constant supervision of Wessex Archaeology staff. All overburden was removed to the top of the construction level or the top of the archaeological deposits, whichever was higher
- 3.1.2 All Site attendance and recording was conducted in compliance with the standards outlined in the Institute For Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (IfA 2008), excepting where they were superseded by statements made below.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Deposit Sequence

- 4.1.1 A mid greyish brown silty clay loam topsoil containing moderate sub-angular flint (<0.05) and common fine grass roots was found across the Site, overlying the natural geology of Cretaceous Upper Chalk.



4.2 Archaeology

- 4.2.1 No archaeological features, finds or deposits were revealed during the course of the watching brief.

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1.1 Despite the potential nothing of archaeological interest was revealed during the course of the watching brief.

- 5.1.2 Although former military practice trenches are recorded along the western edge of the Site from aerial photographs, no military activity was noted across the area. The soil sequence was generally consistent across the Site, and with the exception of the modern tennis court, had remained relatively undisturbed.

6 ARCHIVE

6.1 Preparation and Deposition

- 6.1.1 The archive is currently held at Wessex Archaeology's office building under the site code **88440**. 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* (Brown 2007).

- 6.1.2 At a later date, the archive will be deposited with the Wiltshire Heritage Museum in Devizes under the site code **88440**. The archive will be prepared in accordance with the Museum's archive preparation standards.

6.2 The Archive

- 6.2.1 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 ring-bound file containing a watching brief attendance form, site 'day book', trench record sheets, photographic register and *Written Scheme of Investigation*.

- 6.2.2 Details of the Site will be submitted online to the OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations) database.

6.3 Copyright

- 6.3.1 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.

7 REFERENCES

Archaeological Surveys Ltd 2007, *Upavon Airfield: Magnetometry Survey for Wessex Archaeology*, unpublished client report, Ref. no. 203.



Wessex Archaeology 2007a, *Watchkeeper UAV, Upavon Airfield, Wiltshire. Report for an Archaeological Field Evaluation*, unpublished document WA ref 66371.01

Wessex Archaeology 2013, *Building 370 Car Park, Trenchard Lines, Upavon, Wiltshire. Project Design for an Archaeological Watching Brief*, unpublished document WA ref 88440.01



APPENDIX 1: OASIS RECORD FORM

7.1 Building 370, Upavon, Wiltshire - Wessex Archaeology

OASIS ID - wessexar1-143179

Versions

View	Version	Completed by	Email	Date
View 1	1	S Farr	s.farr@wessexarch.co.uk	7 February 2013

Completed sections in current version

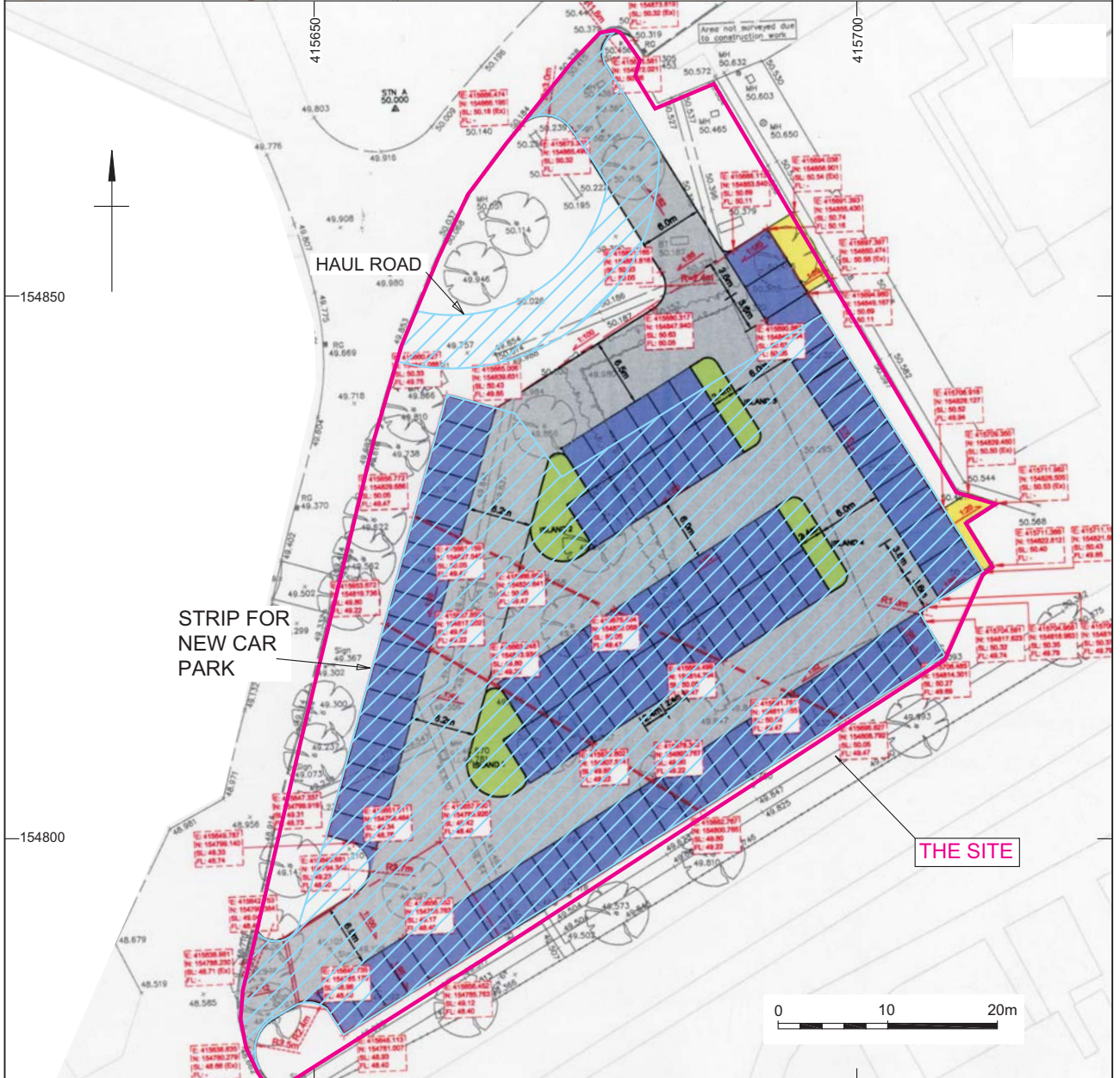
Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1/1



Validated sections in current version

Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
No	No	No	No	0/1

File submission and form progress

Grey literature report submitted?	No	Grey literature report filename/s
Images submitted?	No	Image filename/s
Boundary file submitted?	No	Boundary filename
HER signed off?		NMR signed off?



-  Site boundary
-  Areas monitored during the watching brief



Site plan supplied by Client
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Date:	23/01/13	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:25000 and 1:600 @ A4	Illustrator:	SEJ
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Site location

Figure 1



salisbury rochester sheffield edinburgh



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