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Canadian Estate, Bulford, Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report



Ref: 76850.04 February 2013





Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Archaeological Evaluation Report

Contents

	ry	
Acknow	ledgements	iii
1 1.1 1.2	INTRODUCTION	1
2 2	ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	
3	METHODOLOGY	
3.1 3.2	Aims and objectives Methodology	
3.3	Health and Safety	3
3.4	Best practice	3
4	ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS	3
5	ARTEFACTUAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE	4
6	CONCLUSIONS	4
7	STORAGE AND CURATION	4
7.2	Copyright	
7.3	Security Copy	5
8	REFERENCES	
8.1	Bibliography	5
APPEN	DIX 1: STRATIGRPAHIC SUMMARIES	6
APPEN	DIX 2: OASIS RECORD FORM	8
Canadia	n Estate, Bulford, Wiltshire - Wessex Archaeology	8 <i>8</i>
Figures Figure 1 Plate 1: Plate 2: Plate 3: Plate 4:		



Archaeological Evaluation Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Bovis Lend Lease to undertake an archaeological field evaluation ahead of groundwork at the Canadian Estate, Bulford, Wiltshire, centred on National Grid Reference 417830, 143585.

Although large parts of the site were developed in the 1960s to house service families, areas of surface water drainage attenuation and strategic landscaping works were proposed to the north, east and west of the residential development, in undisturbed areas of the site and the Assistant County Archaeologist requested an evaluation to determine the archaeological potential of the site.

Seven evaluation trenches were excavated in the three areas as part of a phased evaluation. The first phase, which consisted of four trenches to the north-west and south-east of the main site, was undertaken in March 2011. A further two trenches were excavated to the north-east of the main development site in January 2013.

No archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the evaluation and it was established that areas to the south-west and north-east of the main development site, which were previously thought to have suffered little disturbance, had been built up and heavily disturbed, particularly to the north-east.



Archaeological Evaluation Report

Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by Bovis Lend Lease and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Emma Southcott and Richard Carson for all their help and assistance. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Claire King (Assistant County Archaeologist) for all her help and advice.

The evaluation was undertaken by Oliver Good and Naomi Brennan with assistance from Ben Cullen and Andy Sole. This report was written and compiled by Naomi Brennan with illustrations 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 was commissioned by Bovis Lend Lease (the Client), to undertake an archaeological field evaluation ahead of groundworks at the Canadian Estate, Bulford, Wiltshire, located at National Grid Reference (NGR) 417830, 143585 hereafter 'the Site' (Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 Although large parts of the Site were developed in the 1960s to house service families, areas of surface water drainage attenuation and strategic landscaping works were proposed to the north, east and west of the residential development, in areas of the Site which were considered to be relatively undisturbed by the earlier development.
- 1.1.3 The Assistant County Archaeologist at Wiltshire Council advised that an archaeological evaluation was required in the areas not previously disturbed, to provide further information on the archaeological potential of the Site.
- 1.1.4 Due to difficulties accessing all areas of the Site, a two-phased evaluation was proposed; Phase 1 comprised the machine excavation of four trenches and was undertaken in March 2011. The second and final stage of evaluation was completed in January 2013.
- 1.1.5 This document sets out the results of the programme of archaeological trial trench evaluation.

1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The residential development covers an area of around 8.7ha and is located along the south-western boundary of Bulford Camp, approximately 1km west of Bulford. The existing camp adjoins the north and eastern boundaries. Bulford Road forms the southern boundary of the residential development.
- 1.2.2 Three adjoining parcels of land are included in the scheme to the north (1.0ha), east (0.4ha) and west (1.0ha) of the residential area, to enable adequate surface water drainage attenuation and strategic landscaping works.
- 1.2.3 The Site is located on the side of a dry valley, centred to the south-west of Bulford Road, leading to the Nine Mile River to the north. The head of the valley is around 1.5km to the south-east at which point the ground rises steeply in an escarpment topped by Beacon Hill.
- 1.2.4 The underlying geology of the Site is Cretaceous Upper Chalk (British Geological Survey).



2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1.1 A short Heritage Statement was prepared and submitted with the application. This confirmed that no designated sites fall within the Site. Nevertheless, it did identify 'limited potential' for archaeology in areas not previously disturbed by development.
- 2.1.2 Although no known sites or find spots have been recorded within the Site itself, Bulford is set within the archaeologically rich and nationally significant Salisbury Plain Training Area, which is noted for its highly preserved prehistoric landscapes.
- 2.1.3 Scheduled barrows are recorded to the north of the Site at Rawkinson Road and although previously damaged, an extant bell and disc barrow are recorded. Further extant barrows are recorded to the south of Bulford Road on Bulford Down, all of which form part of a network of prehistoric monuments on Salisbury Plain, comprising some 470 barrows and funerary monuments, of which many, such as the barrows immediately to the north of Bulford Camp at Sheepbridge Road are grouped together as cemeteries.
- 2.1.4 The Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment Record (WHER) indicates that 25 heritage assets are recorded within 1km of the Site. Bronze Age pottery, worked flints and a possible Bronze Age ditch are all recorded within the camp to the north. Furthermore, a number of probable round barrows are recorded and depicted on the 1808 Ordnance Survey mapping, including three within 300m of the Site.
- 2.1.5 To the north of the Site, modern military activity in the form of military trenches has been recorded by the RCHME.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims and objectives

- 3.1.1 The aims of the archaeological field evaluation were to:
 - Clarify the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the Site that may be impacted by development;
 - Identify, within the constraints of the evaluation, 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 would present the results of the evaluation in sufficient detail to allow an informed decision to be made concerning the Site's archaeological potential.

3.1.2 Specifically to:

- Record the soil sequence present within the trial trenches and assess the geoarchaeological and palaeo-environmental potential of colluvial deposits, where present; and
- Assess the degree of preservation of remains across the whole evaluation area.

3.2 Methodology

3.2.1 The full detailed methodology of the archaeological works was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (Wessex Archaeology 2011a), and is summarised below:



- 3.2.2 A total of seven trenches were initially proposed for excavation measuring 30m x 1.8m. The trenches were excavated using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a wide toothless bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. Mechanical excavation continued in spits through topsoil and subsoil down to either the uppermost archaeological features or natural deposits, whichever was encountered first. Topsoil was separated from subsoil and any other arisings and stored at a minimum of 1m from the trench edge. The spoil from the trenches was scanned for artefacts. The trenches were backfilled with the excavated spoil, topsoil last in order to preserve the soil stratigraphy.
- 3.2.3 Where archaeological features were encountered they were investigated by hand, with a sufficient sample of each layer/feature type excavated in order to establish, as may be possible, their date, nature, character, extent and condition.
- 3.2.4 Any archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system with a unique numbering system for individual contexts. Archaeological features and deposits were hand-drawn at either 1:10 or 1:20, including both plans and sections, these were referred to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD) height of all principal features and levels were calculated. A representative section of each trench was recorded showing the depth of the overburden deposits.
- 3.2.5 A digital photographic record was compiled showing the trenches and their location within the general context of the Site. Digital images have been subject to a managed quality control and curation process which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and ensures the long term accessibility of the image set.
- 3.2.6 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.
- 3.2.7 A unique site code **76850** was allocated to the Site, and was used on all records and finds.

3.3 Health and Safety

- 3.3.1 Health and Safety considerations were of paramount importance in conducting all fieldwork. Safe working practices will override archaeological considerations at all times.
- 3.3.2 All work was carried out in accordance with the *Health and Safety at Work etc. 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.

3.4 Best practice

3.4.1 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1.1 The evaluation consisted of an initial Phase 1 investigation of four evaluation trenches in 2011, followed by a further two trenches in 2013. Full details of the stratigraphic sequence can be found in **Appendix 1**.



- 4.1.2 **Trenches 1-4** were positioned to the south and west of the main development area and due to the expected delay before the final phase of works, an interim statement of the results was issued (WA 2011b).
- 4.1.3 **Trench 1**, which lay to the north-west, contained a simple stratigraphic sequence of modern ploughsoil **101**, overlying colluvium **102**. The underlying natural geology comprised the natural chalk **103**. The relatively deep depth of colluvium (0.44m) was concluded to be a result of material being eroded downslope from the east.
- 4.1.4 **Trenches 2, 3** and **4** lay to the south-west of the development area. Here modern levelling layers (**202, 203, 302** and **402**) were recorded above the natural colluvium. No archaeological features were encountered though modern utility trenches were observed in **Trenches 3** and **4**.
- 4.1.5 The second and final phase of trenches consisted of the mechanical excavation of two trenches to the north-east of the main development site (**Trenches 5** and **6**), within the current Site compound. Here a substantial depth of made ground deposits were encountered in each trench; excavation continued to 1.2m without encountering the natural geology.
- 4.1.6 Groundworkers on the Site relayed that before establishing the Site compound, there was a high retaining wall along the south-west edge of the compound area with over a dozen steps leading down to the main development area. Even within the main development area to the south, they had encountered a depth of several metres of made ground.
- 4.1.7 Upon consultation with the Assistant County Archaeologist it was determined that given the high level of disturbance, excavation of **Trench 6** could cease. Moreover, it was concluded the excavation of **Trench 7**, proposed in between **Trenches 5** and **6** was unnecessary given the extent of the ground disturbance across the Site.
- 4.1.8 A modern utility was also encountered in **Trench 5**.

5 ARTEFACTUAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

5.1.1 No finds were located during either phase of the evaluation and no environmental samples were taken.

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1.1 No archaeological features or deposits were encountered during this evaluation.
- 6.1.2 The evaluation has established that areas to the south-west and north-east of the main development site, which were previously thought to have suffered little disturbance, had been built up, particularly to the north-east.

7 STORAGE AND CURATION

- 7.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the fieldwork be deposited with Salisbury & South Wiltshire Museum. The Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project.
- 7.1.2 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records and graphics, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Salisbury & South Wiltshire Museum, and in general



- following nationally recommended guidelines (Walker 1990; SMA 1995; Richards and Robinson 2000; Brown 2007).
- 7.1.3 An OASIS online record http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/projects/oasis/ will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators Forms. All appropriate parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to the WSHER. This will include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy will also be included with the archive).

7.2 Copyright

7.2.1 This report may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), 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.

7.3 Security Copy

7.3.1 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 Archaeological Record (English Heritage), a second diazo copy will be deposited with the paper records, and a third diazo copy will be retained by Wessex Archaeology. Alternatively, the security copy may be in the form of a pdf file.

8 REFERENCES

8.1 Bibliography

British Geological Survey information available at: http://www.bgs.ac.uk/data/services/digmap50wms.html

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APPENDIX 1: STRATIGRPAHIC SUMMARIES

bgl = below ground level

TRENCH 1						
Dimensions: 19.20x1.80m Max. depth: 0.8		Max. depth: 0.85m		Ground level: 77.52-77	.65m aOD	
Easting: 417655				Northing: 1439	939	
Context	Descripti	on				Depth (m)
101	Topsoil					0.00-0.27 bgl
102	Layer				0.27-0.70 bgl	
103	Natural	Natural ch	alk geology with occ	asional flint nodu	iles.	0.70+ bgl

TRENCH	2					
Dimensions: 26.80x1.80m Max. depth: 0.96m			١	Ground level: 81.29-81	.61m aOD	
Easting:	417785			Northing: 1436	690	
Context	Descripti	on				Depth (m)
201	Topsoil	8cm. Fair		oderately loose a	6 flint, sub-angular, <1- and friable. Bioturbated.	0.00-0.42 bgl
202	Layer	Levelling Overlies 2	•	orange sand. V	ery loose and friable.	0.42-0.48 bgl
203	Layer		layer. Hardcore. Pa 1-5cm. Compact. Ov		and. 20% stone, sub-	0.48-0.59 bgl
204	Layer		. Mid red-brown silt		t, sub-angular, <1-8cm. riable. Overlies 205.	0.59-0.86 bgl
205	Natural	Natural ch	alk geology with occ	asional flint nodu	iles.	0.86+ bgl

TRENCH	3					
Dimensions: 29.60x1.80m Max. depth: 0.88m			1	Ground level: 83.34-84	.24m aOD	
Easting: 417836			Northing: 1435	586		
Context	Descripti	on				Depth (m)
301	Topsoil	4cm. Fairl	Modern topsoil. Dark brown-grey silty clay. 1% flint, sub-angular, <1- 0.00-0.32 4cm. Fairly homogeneous. Loose and friable. Bioturbated. Under scrub bgl vegetation. Overlies 302.			
302	Layer	Levelling I	Levelling layer. Re-deposited chalk and topsoil. Overlies 303.			0.32-0.44 bgl
303	Layer	Fairly hom	Colluvium. Mid orange-brown silty clay. 2% flint, sub-angular, <1-5cm. Fairly homogeneous. Moderately compact but friable. Overlies 304.			0.44-0.76 bgl
304	Natural	Natural ch	alk geology with occ	asional flint nodu	les.	0.76+ bgl

TRENCH	4					
Dimensio	Dimensions: 27.30x1.80m Max. depth: 0.64m		1	Ground level: 84.26-84	.97m aOD	
Easting: 4	417862			Northing: 1435	554	
Context	Context Description					Depth (m)
401	Topsoil				% flint, sub-angular, <1- bus. Loose and friable.	0.00-0.25 bgl
		Bioturbated. Under scrub vegetation. Overlies 402.				
402	Layer	Levelling layer. Re-deposited chalk. Overlies 403.			0.25-0.35 bgl	
403	Layer		. Mid orange-brown : nogeneous. Fairly loo		it, sub-angular, <1-6cm. verlies 404.	0.35-0.56 bgl
404	Natural	Natural ch	alk geology with occ	asional flint nodu	les.	0.56+ bgl



TRENCH	TRENCH 5					
Dimensio	Dimensions: 15.40x1.80m Max. depth: 1.20m Ground level: 91.28-91.					
Easting:	417962			Northing: 1438	302	
Context	Descripti	on				Depth (m)
501	Layer	Levelling I	Levelling layer. Type 1 stone.			
502	Layer	Made ground. Mixed layers of built up material from re-deposited chalk, occasional orange-brown sandy silt deposits. 10% stone and flint, subangular, <1-12cm. Compact. Overlies 503.				
503	Layer	Made ground. Dark grey-brown silty clay. 5% flint, sub-angular, <1-5cm. Discontinuous. Overlies 504.				0.75-0.94 bgl
504	Layer	occasiona		y silt deposits. 8	from re-deposited chalk, 3% stone and flint, subd.	0.94+ bgl

Dimensio	ons: 9.0x1	1.80m	Max. depth: 1.20m		Ground level: 93.50-93.69m aOD	
Easting:	418030			Northing: 1437	'54	
Context						Depth (m)
601	Layer	Levelling	ayer. Type 1 stone.			0.00-0.16 bgl
602	Layer	occasiona	Made ground. Mixed layers of built up material from re-deposited chalk, occasional orange-brown sandy silt deposits. 8% stone and flint, subangular, <1-12cm. Compact. Overlies 603.			0.16-0.30 bgl
603	Layer		oil. 5% stone and flint		from re-deposited chalk <1-8cm. Compact. Not	0.30+ bgl



APPENDIX 2: OASIS RECORD FORM

Canadian Estate, Bulford, Wiltshire - Wessex Archaeology

OASIS ID - wessexar1-143450

Versions					
View	Version	Completed by	Email	Date	
View 1	1	Sue Farr	s.farr@wessexarch.co.uk	12 February 2013	
Completed se	ctions in current ve	ersion			
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 submissi	on and form progre	ss			
Grey literature report submitted?		No	Grey literature report filename/s		
Images submitted?		No	Image filename/s		
Boundary file submitted? No		No	Boundary filename		
HER signed off?			NMR signed off?		

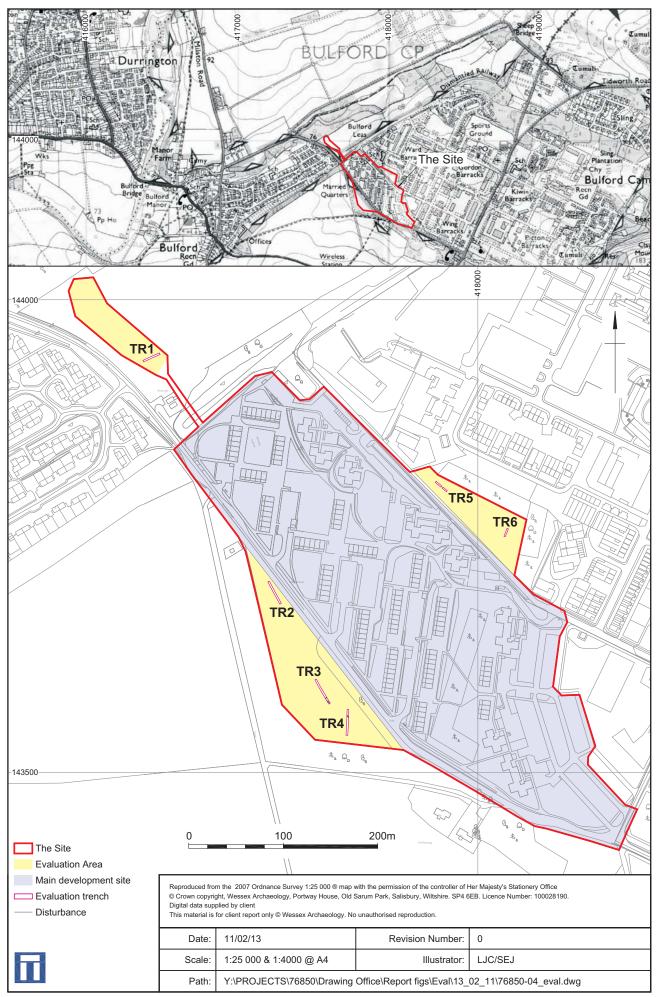




Plate 1: North-east facing section of Trench 3



Plate 3: Trench 5 view from south-east



Plate 2: Trench 3, view from north-west



Plate 4: South-west facing section of Trench 5

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