



Land at Long Lane Business Park Newton Abbot, Devon

Archaeological Watching Brief



Teignbridge District Council Planning Application Ref: 11/02053/MAJ
Accession Number: tbc
Ref: 114800.01
February 2017



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Land at Long Lane Business Park, Newton Abbot, Devon

Archaeological Watching Brief

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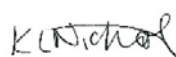
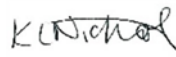
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Quality Assurance

Project Code	114800	Accession Code	TBC	Client Ref.	-
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Land at Long Lane Business Park, Newton Abbot, Devon

Archaeological Watching Brief

Summary

Wessex Archaeology has been commissioned by Atkins on behalf of Centrax Engineering Limited (the Client) to undertake an archaeological watching brief to cover material operation works under Planning Application 11/02053/MAJ – specifically the excavation of service trenching at the Long Lane Business Park, Newton Abbot, Devon, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR 288555 070551), hereafter referred to as “the Site” (Figure 1).

No archaeological finds or features were identified; the soils recorded being natural geology, over which were several layers of dumping, made ground and topsoil.

The watching brief fieldwork took place between 30th and 31st January 2017.



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Archaeological Watching Brief

Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by Atkins, and thanks go to Kate Rhodes and Sarah Generalski-Sparling for monitoring the project on their behalf. The fieldwork was undertaken by Roy Krakowicz, and the report written by Tracey Smith, with illustrations by Nancy Dixon. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Kirsty Nichol.



Land at Long Lane Business Park, Newton Abbot, Devon

Archaeological Watching Brief

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Project background

- 2.1.1 Wessex Archaeology has been commissioned by Atkins on behalf of Centrax Engineering Limited (the Client) to provide an archaeological watching brief to cover material operation works under Planning Application 11/02053/MAJ. This part of the watching brief pertains specifically to the excavation of service trenching associated with access at the Long Lane Business Park, Newton Abbot, Devon.
- 2.1.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) had previously been approved by Stephen Reed of the Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (HET), the County Archaeological Officer (CAO) acting on behalf of Teignbridge District Council the Local Planning Authority (LPA).

2.2 The Site

- 2.2.1 The Site is located on the eastern outskirts of Newton Abbot within one of two former playing fields separated by an established hedge line and lying immediately east of the Milber Industrial Estate. To the north the Site area is bounded by Haccombe path and to the east by Long Lane. To the south is undeveloped agricultural land (**Figure 1**).
- 2.2.2 Topographically, the site is located on a ridge of high ground overlooking the River Teign which flows approximately 1.6km to the north. Ground level slopes gradually to the west from a maximum height of approximately 100m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 2.2.3 The underlying geology is mapped as Upper Greensand Formation Sandstone of the Cretaceous period. There are no recorded superficial deposits (BGS 2016).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 *Designated heritage assets*

There are no designated heritage assets within the Site.

3.1.2 *Summary from the Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment (WA 2016a)*

3.1.3 Less than 100m to the south of the Site boundary is the Scheduled Monument of Milber Down Camp (NHLE 1003178). This is a small multivallate hill-slope fort which



survives as three (or four, depending on sources) concentric rectangular enclosures with an outwork to the south-west all defined by banks with partially buried outer ditches. It was partially excavated in 1937-8 which produced finds from the 1st century BC and 1st century AD. An evaluation at Milber Abattoir to the south of the Site revealed traces of an Iron Age enclosed farmstead known as Little Milber Camp, which is contiguous with the south-eastern rampart of the hillfort and included within the Scheduled Area (Farnell 2009). The Site was occupied by the forces of William of Orange in the 17th century as an artillery emplacement.

- 3.1.4 There is relatively little evidence from early prehistory within the area surrounding the Site. Palaeolithic finds are generally associated with deposits of gravel and Alluvium, neither of which are mapped within the Site. There are no records of nearby activity from the Mesolithic or Neolithic periods on the site itself.
- 3.1.5 A possible oval enclosure has been identified as a cropmark within the vicinity of the proposed watching brief; although previous monitoring of a gas pipeline within the bounds of Site in 2001, just to the east of the watching brief area, did not find any evidence for this, perhaps due to the limited depth of excavation (WA 2016a).
- 3.1.6 Analysis of aerial photography for the surrounding area has identified a rectilinear enclosure with an east-facing entrance of likely prehistoric or Romano-British date, along with a possible linear feature linking it to Milber Down Camp, as well as field systems or antennae ditches to the east. It has also been suggested that Long Lane, which runs along the eastern boundary of the Site, may reflect the continuation of a possible Roman Road.
- 3.1.6 A medieval field system along with strip lynchets is recorded to the north-east of the Site. It is likely that the Site formed part of the agricultural hinterland of one of the nearby settlements during this period. Study of historic mapping reveals that the Site was agricultural fields in the 1840's, according to the Tithe map, with little change to the present day. However, the north of the Site was within a separate field which extended to the north-west. The southern boundary of which, running ENE-WSW is depicted in close proximity to the watching brief area. By the time that the First Edition Ordnance Survey Map had been drawn up in 1889 this had been removed and the Site remained as such until the mid-20th century when a small orchard is depicted in the centre of the Site (to the south of the watching brief area). This was subsequently removed and the area became playing fields.
- 3.1.7 A watching brief was undertaken on part of the Site in 2012 (Devon County Council Historic Environment Record) during works for service provision. This trench ran along the western boundary of the northern area, before running across the Site to the south of the present boundary and carrying on to the south-east. The watching brief revealed four east-west aligned ditches, although none contained any dateable archaeological material they were interpreted as being of likely post-medieval date. One of the ditches correlated with a known historic boundary.

3.2 Aims and objectives

- 3.2.1 With due regard to the ClfA *Standard and guidance: archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014b), the principle aim is to record the archaeological resource during development within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices, and in compliance with the *Code of conduct* and other relevant by-laws of ClfA.

3.2.2 In furtherance of the project aim, the following objectives were defined:

- *to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works; including*
- *To ensure their preservation by record to the highest possible standard;*
- *To confirm the approximate date or date range of the remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence;*
- *To determine or confirm the approximate extent of any remains;*
- *To determine the condition and state of preservation of the remains; and*
- *To determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present.*
- *To provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard; and*
- *To prepare a report on the results of the watching brief.*

3.3 Fieldwork methodology

- 3.3.1 A detailed description of the watching brief methodology is set out in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2016b).
- 3.3.2 The fieldwork consisted of the monitoring by an experienced archaeologist of the mechanical excavation of a 1.45m deep manhole and associated service trenches (**Figure 1**), using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 3.3.3 A full photographic record was maintained using a digital camera, and the trench locations were plotted using a GPS and related to the Ordnance Survey Datum. A written record was made of the deposits uncovered.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

- 4.1.1 The watching brief commenced with the machine excavation of a 2m x 2m square manhole, 1.45m deep. Once this was completed, a narrow trench, 0.70m wide and 3.40m long was excavated to a depth of 1.30m, running south-east from the south-eastern corner of the manhole. A second, longer section of trench was then opened which ran WNW from the western side of the manhole and was of the same width and depth as the first.
- 4.1.2 Natural geology was revealed in all parts of the excavated trenches at a depth of c. 0.60m below ground level. It comprised a heterogenous mix of clay, silt and fragmented bedrock, with colours ranging from orange to pink-brown, light yellow to pale grey – cream (106). It contained very occasional fragments of quartz stone and unstruck flint (up to coarse gravel size) (**Plate 1**).
- 4.1.3 Overlaying the natural across the excavated area was a 0.20m deep subsoil (105) which appeared largely undisturbed. This layer was a mix of silts and clay, similar to



106, of changeable yellow-brown colour, which contained infrequent fragments of degraded bedrock, water rolled pebbles, angular lumps of quartz and unstruck flint fragments. The appearance of this deposit suggested that it was developed through plough action; the top of the natural being disturbed by deep ploughing.

- 4.1.4 In the eastern half of the trenched area, a series of dumped material overlay 105. These appear to have been dumped and then spread across the area. The earliest of these deposits (104) was exposed at 0.35m below ground surface and was a dark brown silt containing small gravel type stones, quartz pebbles and fragments of degraded bedrock. It is likely to have been a remnant topsoil, subsequently buried by later dumping.
- 4.1.5 Overlying 104 was a black soot-rich silt with cinders, coal fragments and other fire residues (103). Whilst only 0.10m thick, this deposit would have aided drainage in what is otherwise a clay rich ground. Above this at 0.20m below ground level, was a layer of dark brown silt, possibly an imported topsoil spread to cover 103. This layer (102) contained small gravels, small fragments of quartz and flint. Two small sherds of modern Refined Whiteware were recovered from this layer, suggesting an early 20th-century date.
- 4.1.6 A dark pink 'gritty' clay-silt was deposited above 102, at a depth of 0.10m below ground surface, which contained abundant small angular stone fragments and may have been laid as a path or to level up a hollow (101).
- 4.1.7 Topsoil (100) overlay 101 and consisted of a dark brown silty loam, 0.10m thick. At the eastern side of the site it overlay the dumped deposits detailed above but the further west the trench was opened, the spread of material became less obvious, and by the end of the trench topsoil appeared to be directly overlying the plough horizon 105 (**Plate 2**).

5 STORAGE AND CURATION

5.1 Museum

- 5.1.1 In accordance with the HET as the fieldwork did not expose deposits of archaeological interest and yielded little or no artefactual material there is no requirement for Wessex Archaeology to prepare an archive for submission to museum storage. The results of the fieldwork will be held by the HET in the form of a digital report submitted by Wessex Archaeology, completion of an OASIS entry and uploading of the report.

5.2 Preparation of Archive

- 5.2.1 The complete Site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be marked with the unique Wessex Archaeology Site code 114800. As no museum deposition is required, the archive will be stored at the offices of WA West in Bristol pending further potential archaeological work on the site. The Oasis form identification is wessexar1-275374.

5.3 Discard policy

- 5.3.1 WA follows the guidelines set out in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections* (SMA 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. Any discard of artefacts will be fully documented in the project archive.



- 5.3.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993 and 1995; HE (formerly EH) 2011).

5.4 Copyright

- 5.4.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the site will be retained by WA 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-profitmaking, and conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*.

5.5 Security Copy

- 5.5.1 In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

6 REFERENCES

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7 APPENDICES

7.1 Appendix 1: Context list

Context	Category	Description	Depth (bgl)
100	Layer	Topsoil: Turf and dark brown silty-loam with root disturbance	0.00-0.10m
101	Layer	Made Ground: Pink 'gritty' clay silt with abundant stone inclusions	0.10-0.20m
102	Layer	Made Ground: Dark brown silt, possibly earlier turf line with occasional small stones, quartz and flint.	0.20-0.25m
103	Layer	Made Ground: Black soot-rich layer with ash, clinker and coal fragments, possible drainage layer	0.25-0.35m
104	Layer	Dark brown silt with occasional small stones, quartz fragments, flint, possible buried turf horizon	0.35-0.40m
105	Layer	Subsoil: Mid yellow – brown and yellow clay-silt, with occasional flint fragment, quartz and degraded bedrock fragments, plough horizon	0.40-0.60m
106	Natural	Natural clay with silts and degraded bedrock fragments, occasional quartz fragments and unworked flint fragments	0.60m +

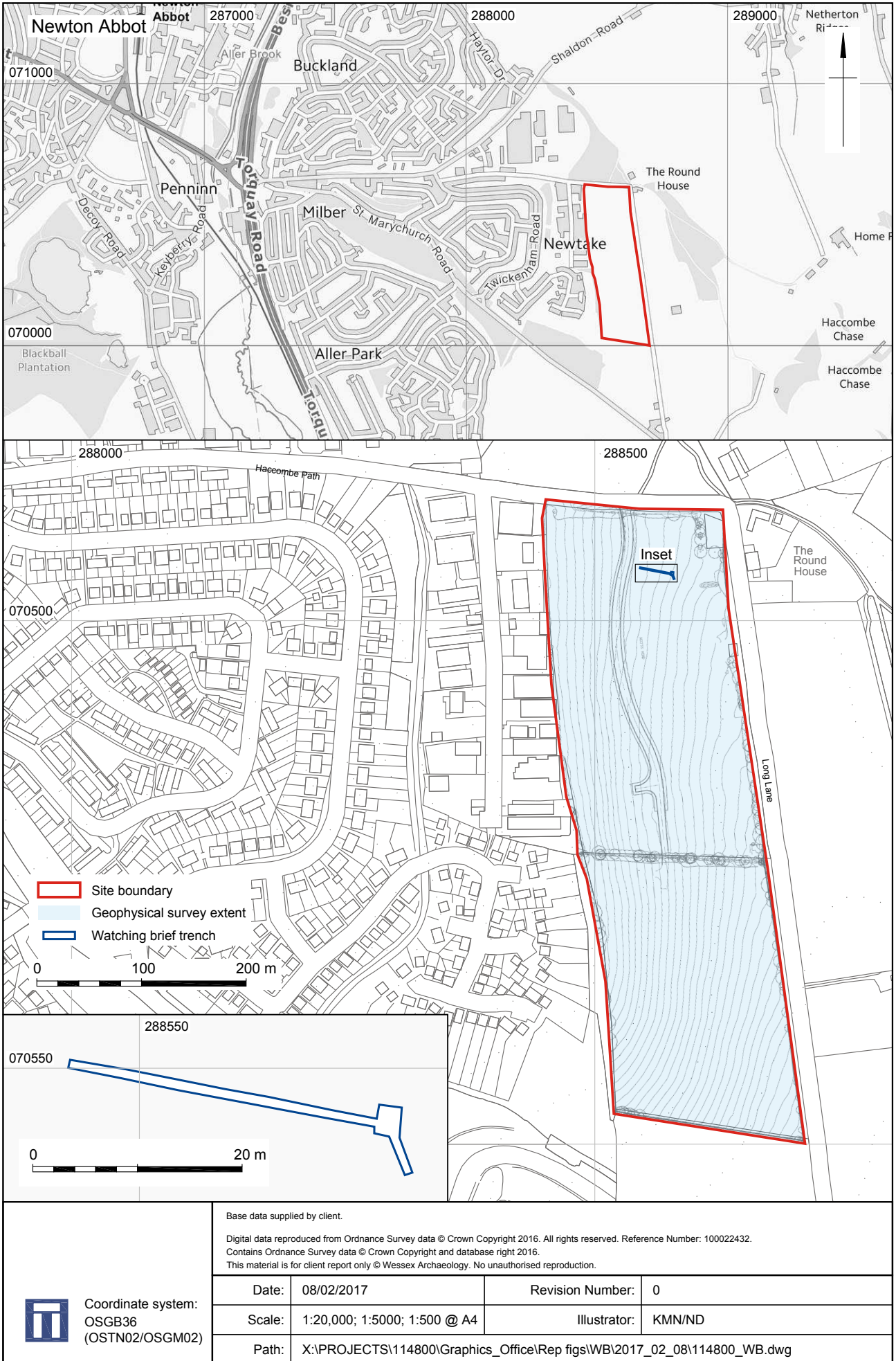


7.2 Appendix 2: Oasis

OASIS ID: wessexar1-264965

Project details

Project name	Land at Long Lane Business Park, Newton Abbot, Devon
Short description of the project	In January 2017 a watching brief during the machine excavation of a service trench in advance of works at land at Long Lane Business Park, Newton Abbott,
Project dates	
Start:	30-01-2017 End: 31-01-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	114800 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Brief from the County Archaeological Officer (CAO)
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	DEVON TEIGNBRIDGE NEWTON ABBOT Land at Long Lane Business Park
Postcode	
Study area	
Site coordinates	ST LL - 88555 70551 (decimal)
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project design originator	
Project director/manager	Kirsty Nichol
Project supervisor	Roy Krakowicz
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	no
Digital Archive recipient	
Digital Media available	
Paper Archive recipient	
Paper Media available	
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land at Long Lane Business Park, Newton Abbott, Devon. Archaeological Watching Brief
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Smith, T
Other bibliographic details	114800.01
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	Wessex Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Bristol



Site plan with trench location


Figure 1



Plate 1: West facing section of the manhole showing all deposits, looking east, 2m scale



Plate 2: South facing section in western end of the second trench, looking north, 2m scale

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