

**Winklebury Playing Fields, Winklebury, Basingstoke
An Archaeological Evaluation Report (WPF 06)**

(SU 6180 5240)

By

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**ASE Project No. 2531
Planning Reference No. BDB 62931**

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Archaeology South-East

Archaeology South-East is a division of the University College London Field Archaeology Unit one of the largest groupings of academic archaeologists in the country. Consequently, Archaeology South-East has access to the conservation, computing and environmental backup of the college, as well as a range of other archaeological services.

The Field Archaeology Unit and South Eastern Archaeological Services (which became Archaeology South-East in 1996) were established in 1974 and 1991 respectively. Although field projects have been conducted world-wide, the Field Archaeology Unit retains a special interest in south-east England with the majority of our contract and consultancy work concentrated in Sussex, Kent, Greater London and Essex.

Based in the local community, the Field Archaeology Unit sees an important part of its work as explaining the results to the broader public. Public lectures, open days, training courses and liaison with local archaeological societies are aspects of its community-based approach.

Drawing on experience of the countryside and towns of the south east of England the Unit can give advice and carry out surveys at an early stage in the planning process. By working closely with developers and planning authorities it is possible to incorporate archaeological work into developments with little inconvenience.

Archaeology South-East, as part of the Field Archaeology Unit, is a registered organisation with the Institute of Field Archaeologists and, as such, is required to meet IFA standards.

Abstract

Archaeology South East was commissioned by Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Winklebury Playing Fields, Winklebury, Basingstoke, Hampshire. The work was carried out in advance of the proposed construction of three football pitches and three associated changing rooms and spectator stands on the 15th and 16th August 2006.

Four trenches were excavated. The playing field was found to have been landscaped and no archaeological deposits or finds observed.

CONTENTS

1	Introduction.....	1
1.1	<i>Planning Background.....</i>	<i>1</i>
1.2	<i>Aims and Objectives.....</i>	<i>2</i>
2	Archaeological Background.....	3
3	Archaeological Methodology	4
4	Results	5
4.1	<i>Stratigraphic (Fig. 2).....</i>	<i>5</i>
5	Discussion	7
6	Acknowledgements	8
7	References	9
8	Appendix.....	10
8.1	<i>OASIS Form.....</i>	<i>10</i>

FIGURES

- Fig. 1 Site Location
Fig. 2 Trench Location

1 INTRODUCTION

Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Field Archaeology Unit, was commissioned by Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Winklebury Playing Fields, Winklebury, Basingstoke, Hampshire, hereafter referred to as 'the site' (Fig. 1). The work was carried out in advance of the proposed redevelopment of the site as football pitches with associated stands, changing rooms and services on the 15th and 16th August 2006.

The site is bounded to the south by a railway line to the east by a car park to the north by Winklebury Way and to the west by recreation ground. The site is covered with grass and is currently in use as a park (Fig. 2).

The modern ground surface across the site varied from 102.78m in the north to 101.99m OD in the south.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Jon Sygrave (Senior Archaeologist), Caroline Russell and Jim Webster (Archaeological Assistants) and Maggie Henderson (Surveyor) on 15th and 16th August 2006. The project was managed by Darryl Palmer (Senior Project Manager).

1.1 Planning Background

Archaeological evaluation work was carried out on site in order to comply with the following planning condition (Planning Reference No – BDB 62931):

“No development shall take place within the area indicated on the approved plan until the implementation of a programme of archaeological work has been secured in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority”.

Steven Appleby (Hampshire County Council's Senior Archaeologist) requested an archaeological desk based assessment of the site be carried out prior to the current phase of archaeological evaluation, which outlined the archaeological potential of the site (ASE 2006).

As the site was considered to have archaeological potential, Hampshire County Council recommended that an archaeological evaluation be carried out on the site as part of the pre-determination work, prior to construction works commencing on site.

Prior to the Archaeological Evaluation ASE produced a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (ASE 2006), which was approved by Steven Appleby.

This report outlines the results of a Stage 1 Archaeological Evaluation.

1.2 Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of the evaluation were:

- To fully determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered, as dictated by current best practice.
- Characterise the nature of the main stratigraphic units encountered in terms of their physical composition (stone, sand, gravel, organic materials etc) and their archaeological formation (primary deposits, secondary deposits etc).
- Assess the overall presence and survival of structural remains relating to the main periods of occupation revealed and the potential for the recovery of additional structural information given the nature of the deposits encountered (e.g. extent of later disturbance etc).
- Assess the overall presence and survival of the main kinds of artefactual evidence (including pottery, brick, tile, stone, glass, metal, bone, small finds, industrial residues etc), its condition and potential, given the nature of the deposits encountered.
- Assess the overall presence and survival of the main kinds of ecofactual and environmental evidence (including animal bone, human bone, plant remains, pollen, charcoal, mollusca, soils etc.), its condition and potential, given the nature of the deposits encountered.
- Appraise the relative value of the main stratigraphic units revealed.

Specific aims are to:

- Assess whether remains of Iron Age/Romano-British date exist/survive on the site associated with Winklebury Hillfort and the nearby Roman settlement.

2 **ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

In summary, the site's greatest archaeological potential relates to the Iron Age and Romano British periods. Winklebury Iron Age Hillfort lies 500m to the north and several major Iron Age sites have been identified in the land surrounding Basingstoke. Of particular significance was the discovery of a Roman sarcophagus on the site, probably associated with nearby settlement.

For a full description of the sites archaeological background, please refer to the Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (ASE 2006).

3 **ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

The trench layout was agreed prior to the evaluation with Steven Appleby (Hampshire County Council's Senior Archaeologist) and was designed to provide a representative sample of the redevelopment area (Fig. 2). The evaluation consisted of four trenches: two 5m by 2m trenches along the proposed service trench and two 10m by 2m trenches in the footprints of the new changing rooms and spectator stand.

The trenches were excavated using a 13 Tonne tracked machine fitted with a smooth grading bucket and the trenches were excavated through undifferentiated topsoil and modern made ground in spits of no more than 0.25m until archaeological deposits or the top of the underlying natural sediments was reached. Care was taken so that archaeological deposits were not damaged due to over machining. Trenches were to be excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m due to health and safety requirements, with any greater depths requiring stepping or shoring as appropriate.

All recording was undertaken in accordance with accepted professional standards according to the UCLFAU Fieldwork Manual (draft) and the WSI (ASE 2006).

The spoil from the excavations was inspected by the archaeologist in order to recover any artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest.

A photographic record of the trenches was kept.

The trenches were levelled in relation to a nearby temporary bench mark (TBM).

The trenches were surveyed into the agreed positions with a Total Station (see Fig. 2).

Trench record sheets were filled out for each trench and measured sketch sections produced.

An online OASIS form was filled out for the site, a copy of which is reproduced as an appendix to this document.

The archive is presently held at the Archaeology South East office in Ditchling and will be offered to a suitable museum in due course. All finds are the property of the landowner, but will be donated to a suitable museum.

4 RESULTS

The results are presented by trench.

4.1 Stratigraphic (Fig. 2)

Trench 1

Trench 1 was located in the south of the site. The trench measured 5m x 2m, and was dug to a maximum depth of 1.06m. The modern ground surface adjacent to Trench 1 was recorded as 101.99m OD. The sequence of deposits in the trench was as follows:

Depth from surface	Description
0 - 0.32m	Made ground (c. 1960) with re deposited topsoil and turf.
0.32m - 0.88m	Mid brown buried topsoil containing 19 th /20 th Century brick and tile.
0.88m - 1.06m	Large flint nodules < 500m in chalk (Natural)
1.06m >	Clean compact natural chalk

Trench 2

Trench 2 was located in the south central area of the site. The trench measured 10m x 2m and was dug to a depth of 0.5m. The modern ground surface adjacent to Trench 2 was recorded as 102.22m OD. The sequence of deposits in the trench was as follows:

Depth from surface	Description
0 - 0.3m	Made ground (c. 1960) with re deposited topsoil and turf.
0.3m - 0.65m	Mid brown buried topsoil containing 19 th /20 th Century brick and tile.
0.65m - 0.85m	Large flint nodules < 500m in chalk (Natural)
0.85>	Clean compact natural chalk inclusions

Trench 3

Trench 3 was located in the north central of the site. The trench measured 10m x 2m and was dug to a depth of 0.5m. The modern ground surface adjacent to Trench 3 was recorded as 102.60m OD. The sequence of deposits in the trench was as follows:

Depth from surface	Description
0 - 0.3m	Mid brown topsoil containing 19 th /20 th Century brick and tile.
0.3m - 0.5m	Large flint nodules < 500m in chalk

	(Natural)
0.5m>	Clean compact natural chalk

Trench 4

Trench 4 was located in the north of the site. The trench measured 5m x 2m, and was dug to a maximum depth of 0.35m. The modern ground surface adjacent to Trench 4 was recorded as 102.78m OD. The sequence of deposits in the trench was as follows:

Depth from surface	Description
0 - 0.3m	Mid brown topsoil containing 19 th /20 th Century brick and tile.
0.3m>	Clean compact natural chalk

5 DISCUSSION

The archaeological evaluation showed that the trenches contained no archaeological deposits. The site appears to have been landscaped, probably during the construction of Winklebury Housing Estate, resulting in material being removed from the north of the site and ground made in the south of the site.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology South-East would like to thank Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council for commissioning the work.

7 REFERENCES

ASE 2006, *Written Scheme of Investigation*, unpub ASE grey report

ASE 2006, *An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment at the Winklebury Playing-Fields Site, Winklebury Way, Winklebury, Basingstoke, Hampshire*
unpub ASE grey report

8 APPENDIX

8.1 OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-17435

Project details

Project name	Winklebury Playing Fields
Short description of the project	30m trenching negative evaluation
Project dates	Start: 15-08-2006 End: 16-08-2006
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	2531 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	WPF06 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Amenity area (e.g. public open space)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

Country	England
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Site location	HAMPSHIRE BASINGSTOKE AND DEANE DEANE Winklebury Playing Fields
Postcode	RG23
Study area	1.00 Hectares
National grid reference	SU 46210 15240 Point
Height OD	Min: 101.99m Max: 102.78m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Darryl Palmer
Project supervisor	Jon Sygrave
Sponsor or funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic','Survey'
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic','Survey'



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