

**An Archaeological Evaluation at Lansdowne Nursery,  
Angmering, West Sussex**

**Planning Ref: A/114/04/**

**NGR 507055 103520  
(TQ5070 1035)**

**Project No: 3586  
Site Code: LNA09**

**ASE Report No. 2009205  
OASIS id: 69764**

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**Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East were commissioned by Mr Barry Boxall to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of development of residential housing on the land at Lansdowne Nursery, Angmering, the site (NGR: 507055, 103520). The works comprised the excavation of 2 x 25 metre evaluation trenches. A residual fragment of burnt flint and a residual worked flint core were recovered from the subsoil. These were not associated with any archaeological features and no archaeological features were identified.*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East were commissioned by Barry Boxall to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of development of residential housing on the land at Lansdowne Nursery, Angmering, the site (NGR: 507055, 103520; Figure 1).

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

- 1.2.1 The site lies on flat ground currently the grassed lawn of the house which stands on the site. The underlying geology is Brickearth.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

- 1.3.1 Arun District Council, advised on archaeological matters by West Sussex County Council (WSSCC), imposed an archaeological planning condition, (Condition 15), on the proposed development, planning ref: A/114/04/. As part of the compliance with this condition, (Condition 15), two evaluation trenches were excavated in order to assess the presence or absence of archaeological deposits on the site in order that appropriate mitigation measures can be put in place for the development if necessary.

### **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

- 1.4.1 The general aim of the work is to ascertain the age, character and degree of survival of archaeological remains on the site and the potential impact of any proposed development upon them and to publish the results.
- 1.4.2 The specific objective is to ascertain whether ditches identified in excavations at Roundstone Lane, or features related to them, exist on site.

### **1.5 Scope of Report**

- 1.5.1 This report represents the findings of the archaeological evaluation undertaken on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December 2009 by Sarah Porteus and Robert Cole (Archaeologists). The project was managed by Neil Griffin and Dan Swift (field work) and Dan Swift (post-excavation). The site was monitored by John Mills of West Sussex County Council.

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

**2.1** An archaeological background was given as part of the written scheme of investigation (ASE 2009). That information is summarised below with due acknowledgement.

### **2.2 Bronze Age (2350-701BC)**

2.2.1 The earliest activity identified near to the site dates to the Bronze Age. Middle Bronze Age funerary evidence was uncovered at nearby excavations on Roundstone Lane. Also identified at Roundstone Lane were a series of late Bronze Age or early Iron Age ditches, gulleys and pits.

### **2.3 Iron Age (800BC-42AD)**

2.3.1 Only two probable late Iron Age ditches were identified at Roundstone Lane.

### **2.4 Roman (43-409AD)**

2.4.1 The Roundstone Lane excavations revealed Romano-British ditches and pits. Within the wider area around the site a number of bath houses with coins, pottery, tiles, querns and cremations of Roman date have also been found.

### **2.5 Early Medieval (410-1065AD)**

2.5.1 An early medieval, or Anglo-Saxon, date ditch was recorded at Roundstone Lane with numerous place names within the area believed to be of Anglo-Saxon origin.

### **2.6 Medieval (1066-1539AD)**

2.6.1 Little evidence of medieval activity has been recovered within the immediate area of the site.

### **2.7 Post-Medieval**

2.7.1 Cartographic evidence of land use at the site in the post-medieval period suggest the land was under agricultural use at this time.



### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1** Two 25m by 1.8m trenches were excavated (Figure 2). Excavations were undertaken by machine fitted with a 1.4m flat bladed ditching bucket. In the centre of Trench 2 a modern soak away was identified, this was left in place and excavations continued either side.
- 3.2** Machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the 'natural' substrate in the absence of any archaeological deposits.
- 3.3** The surface of the excavated area was cleared of loose spoil by hand following machine excavation. All removed spoil was scanned with a metal detector to recover any artefacts.
- 3.4** The location of the trenches was surveyed using DGPS Lecia surveying equipment.
- 3.5** All archaeological deposits were recorded on standard pro forma context recording forms.
- 3.6** A digital photographic record was kept of the excavations.
- 3.7** An finds recovered were bagged separately and clearly labelled by context and retained for examination by ASE specialists.
- 3.8** Following signing off by the WSCC Archaeological Officer the trenches were left to be backfilled by the owner, no reinstatement was undertaken.

Number of Contexts	6
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	0
Bulk Samples	0
Photographs	0
Bulk finds	1 box
Registered finds	0
Environmental flots/residue	0

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

## 4.0 RESULTS

4.1 No archaeological features were identified in either trench.

4.2 The stratigraphy across both trenches was virtually identical. The 'natural' Brickearth substrate ([1/002] and [2/002]) was encountered at a minimum depth of 10.21mAOD. This was overlain by a dark brown clayey silt subsoil deposit ([1/003] and [2/003]) with occasional chalk inclusions. The subsoil was of 0.30m thickness in Trench 1 and of variable thickness of between 0.20 and 0.40m thickness in Trench 2. Overlying the subsoil in both trenches was a loose brown clayey silt humic topsoil ([1/001] and [2/001]) of 0.20m thickness which contained occasional fragments of pottery and modern building materials.

### 4.3 Trench 1 (Figures 3 and 4)

#### List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
1/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25	10.76
1/002	Deposit	Brickearth	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	10.21
1/003	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30	10.46

### 4.4 Trench 2 (Figures 5 and 6)

#### List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
2/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20	10.77
2/002	Deposit	Brickearth	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	10.17
2/003	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20-0.40	10.57



## 5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation, mainly from the topsoil deposits [1/001] and [2/001], but also from subsoil deposits [1/003] and [2/003]. A summary can be found in Table 2.

Context	Pot	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Flint	Wt (g)	FCF	Wt (g)	Fe	Wt (g)
1/001	2	48			2	30				
1/003			1	12	1	72				
2/001									1	44
2/003							1	32		

Table 2: Quantification of the finds.

### 5.2 The Pottery by Elke Raemen

5.2.1 Two fragments of pottery were recovered from topsoil [1/001]. Included is an unglazed red earthenware flowerpot body sherd, dating to the mid 19<sup>th</sup>- to mid 20<sup>th</sup>-century. A 19<sup>th</sup>- to early 20<sup>th</sup>-century white stoneware base fragment was recovered as well.

### 5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Sarah Porteus

5.3.1 A single fragment of brick in an orange sandy fabric with coarse black iron rich inclusions and very coarse flint inclusions was recovered, the piece was highly abraded and of unknown date.

### 5.4 The Flintwork by Lucy Allott

5.4.1 A total of three worked flints were collected during archaeological work at Lansdowne Nurseries, Angmering. This small assemblage comprises a small but fairly extensively worked core from context [1/003] and two flakes from context [1/001]. One of these flakes has a small amount of possible retouch/use damage on the distal end while the other is broken with only the proximal end present.

### 5.5 Other Finds by Elke Raemen

5.5.1 A single iron circular rove was recovered from [2/001]. The piece is of late post-medieval date.

### 5.6 Potential

5.6.1 The assemblage is mainly unstratified, late in date and small. As it stands, it is therefore not considered to hold any potential for further analysis. No further work is required.

**6.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES**

6.1 No archaeological features were identified for sampling.

**7.0 CONCLUSIONS**

7.1 The excavation of two 25m evaluation trenches revealed no archaeological features and only a small number of residual finds suggesting the area has not been subject to intensive occupation in the past. It seems likely that the site has been in agricultural use for a majority of its history and that the potential for other features in the development area is low.

7.2 No evidence of ditches or features which could be related to those found in the Roundstone Lane excavations was found.

7.3 The trial trenching has effectively tested the archaeology of the area to be affected by development.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

*ASE 2009 Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological evaluation at Lansdowne Nursery, Land South of Willow Tree (Willowood) Close, Mayflower Way, Angmering, West Sussex. Unpublished Report.*

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ASE would like to thank Mr Barry Boxall for commissioning the work and John Mills of West Sussex County Council for his guidance.

**SMR Summary Form**

Site Code	LNA09					
Identification Name and Address	Lansdowne Nursery, Mayflower Way, Angmering					
County, District &/or Borough	West Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	507055 103520					
Geology	Brickearth					
Arch. South-East Project Number	3586					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. √	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field √	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 22.12.09	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Barry Boxall					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Sarah Porteus					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>Two 25 metre evaluation trenches were excavated on land proposed for residential development. A residual fragment of burnt flint and a residual worked flint core were recovered from the subsoil. No archaeological features were identified.</i></p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-69764

Project details

Project name	An archaeological evaluation at Lansdowne Nursery, Angmering, West Sussex
Short description of the project	Two 25metre evaluation trenches were excavated at Lansdowne Nursery, Angmering in advance of development of residential housing. No archaeological features were identified. A fragment of burnt flint and a possible worked core were found in the subsoil.
Project dates	Start: 22-12-2009 End: 22-12-2009
Previous/future work	No / No
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	'Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX ARUN ANGMERING Lansdowne Nursery, Angmering, West Sussex
Postcode	BN12 6
Study area	60.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 507055 103520 50.8724132412 0.142171735618 50 52 20 N 000 08 31 E Point
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Archaeology South-East
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin
Project supervisor	Sarah Porteus
Type of	Developer

sponsor/funding  
body

Name of  
sponsor/funding  
body            Barry Boxall

Project archives

Physical Archive  
recipient            Worthing Museum

Physical Contents    'Ceramics','Worked stone/lithics'

Digital Archive  
recipient            Worthing Museum

Digital Contents    'none'

Digital Media  
available            'Images raster / digital photography'

Paper Archive  
recipient            Worthing Museum

Paper Contents    'none'

Paper Media  
available            'Context sheet','Report','Unpublished Text'

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1

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