

T H A M E S V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Fieldfare, Palm Hall Close, St Giles's Hill,
Winchester, Hampshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by James McNicoll-Norbury

Site Code: AY456

(SU 4905 2936)

**Fieldfare, Palm Hall Close, St Giles's Hill,
Winchester, Hampshire**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mrs A Stewart

by JamesMcNicoll-Norbury
ThamesValleyArchaeologicalServicesLtd

SiteCodeAY456

April 2011

Summary

Site name: Fieldfare, Palm Hall Close, St Giles's Hill, Winchester, Hampshire

Grid reference: SU 4905 2936

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 22nd March 2011

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: James McNicoll-Norbury

Site code: AY 456

Area of site: 150 sq m within overall site of 0.1ha

Summary of results: No archaeological deposits were identified nor artefacts of interest recovered

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Winchester Museums Service in due course, with accession code AY456.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 06.04.11 Steve Preston ✓ 06.04.11

Fieldfare, Palm Hall Close, St Giles's Hill, Winchester, Hampshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by James McNicoll-Norbury

Report 10/132

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Fieldfare, Palm Hall Close, St Giles's Hill, Winchester (SU 4905 2936) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mrs Anna Stewart, of Fieldfare, Palm Hall Close, St Giles's Hill, Winchester, SO23 0JL.

Planning permission (10/01595/FUL) has been granted by Winchester City Council to construct an extension to the existing house on site. The consent is subject to a condition relating to archaeology which requires the implementation of a programme of archaeological work during the groundworks.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's Planning Policy Statement, *Planning for the Historic Environment* (PPS5 2010), and the City Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Tracy Mathews, Historic Environment Officer (Archaeology) of Winchester City Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by James McNicoll-Norbury on 22nd March 2011 and the site code is AY 456.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Winchester Museums Service in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on a parcel of land on the east side of Palm Hall Close, at the top of St Giles's Hill in Winchester (Fig. 1) and is currently occupied by a detached house and associated gardens (Fig. 2). Immediately to the east is the site of the former St Giles's Chapel and its cemetery. The site lies at a height of c. 82m above Ordnance Datum and the underlying geology is mapped as Upper Chalk (BGS 1993).

Archaeological background

The site lies within an area which has revealed human burials of various dates. An early Saxon cemetery has been located at the top of St Giles's Hill and an undated inhumation to the south of the site. Medieval burials are associated with the site of the church and churchyard of St Giles which is immediately to the east of the site. The medieval fair of St Giles took place within the environs and a medieval structure thought to relate to the fair has

been located to the north. Recent fieldwork to the south-west revealed a range of deposits including a Late Neolithic Grooved Ware pit, undated inhumation burials and a large ditch of post-medieval date which is probably a civil war redoubt (Milbank 2010).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. This was to include monitoring of foundation trench digging and other intrusive groundworks such as ground reduction and the excavation of services trenches if they were of sufficient depth to impinge on the archaeologically relevant levels.

Results

The ground was initially reduced prior to the digging of foundation trenches which were 0.60m wide and up to 1.00m deep (Figs 3 and 4, Plate 1). The area immediately adjacent to the house was reduced down to natural chalk geology whilst in other areas the reduction only reached the subsoil.

The stratigraphy consisted of 0.12m topsoil and up to 0.46m of brown chalky silty clay subsoil overlying natural chalk. No archaeological deposits were identified in the reduced ground area or in the exposed footings. The northern section of the footings passed through the area occupied by a former garage, where natural geology was not observed.

Finds

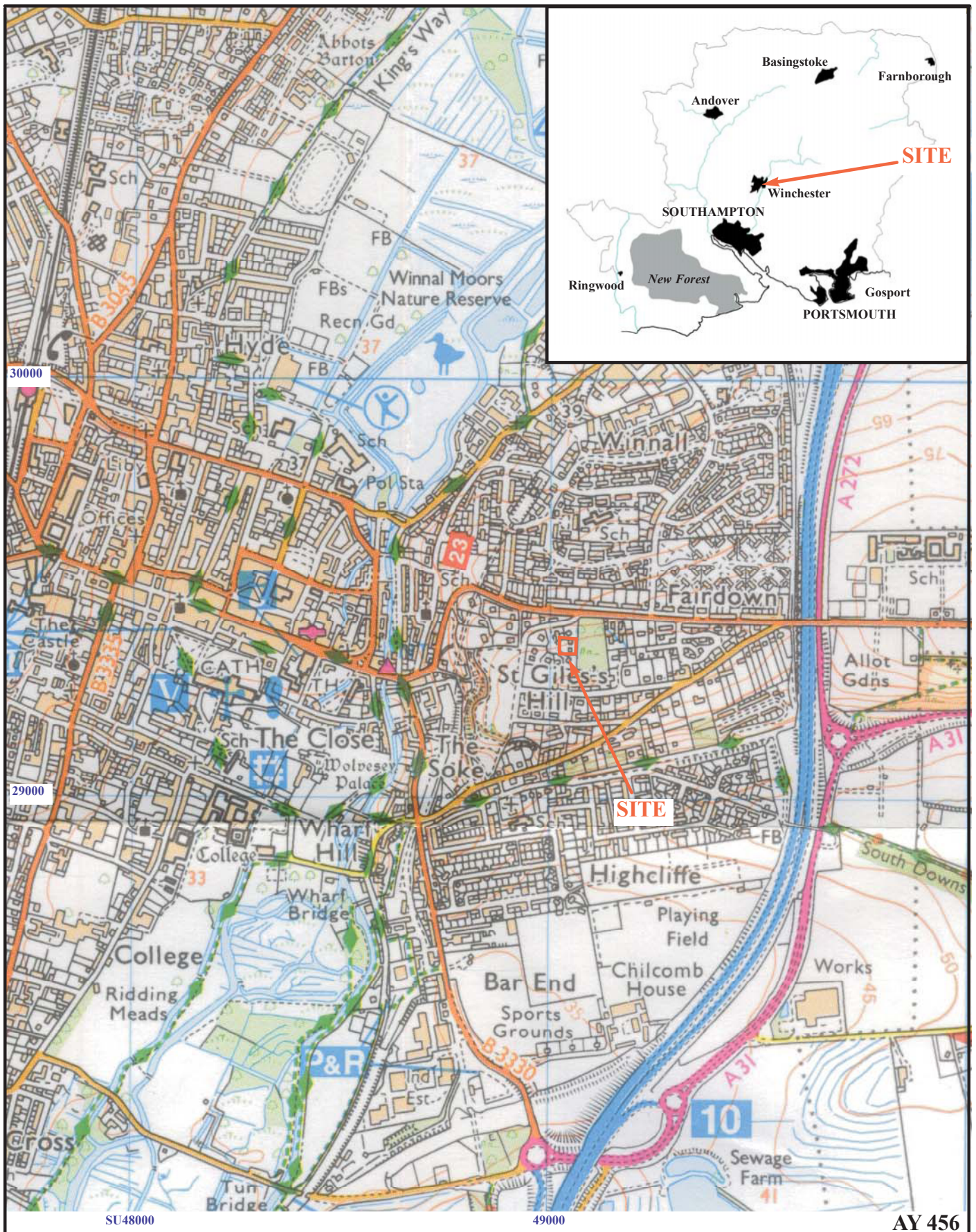
No finds were recovered.

Conclusion

Despite the site being located in an area with high archaeological potential no archaeological deposits nor artefacts were identified.

References

- BGS, 1993, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 299, Drift Edition, Keyworth
Milbank, D, 2010, 'A Neolithic Grooved ware pit, undated burials, and a Civil War earthwork at Northbrook Avenue, St Giles, Winchester: draft publication report', Thames Valley Archaeological Services rep 09/64, Reading
PPS5, 2010, *Planning for the Historic Environment*, The Stationery Office, Norwich



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Figure 1. Location of site within Winchester and Hampshire.

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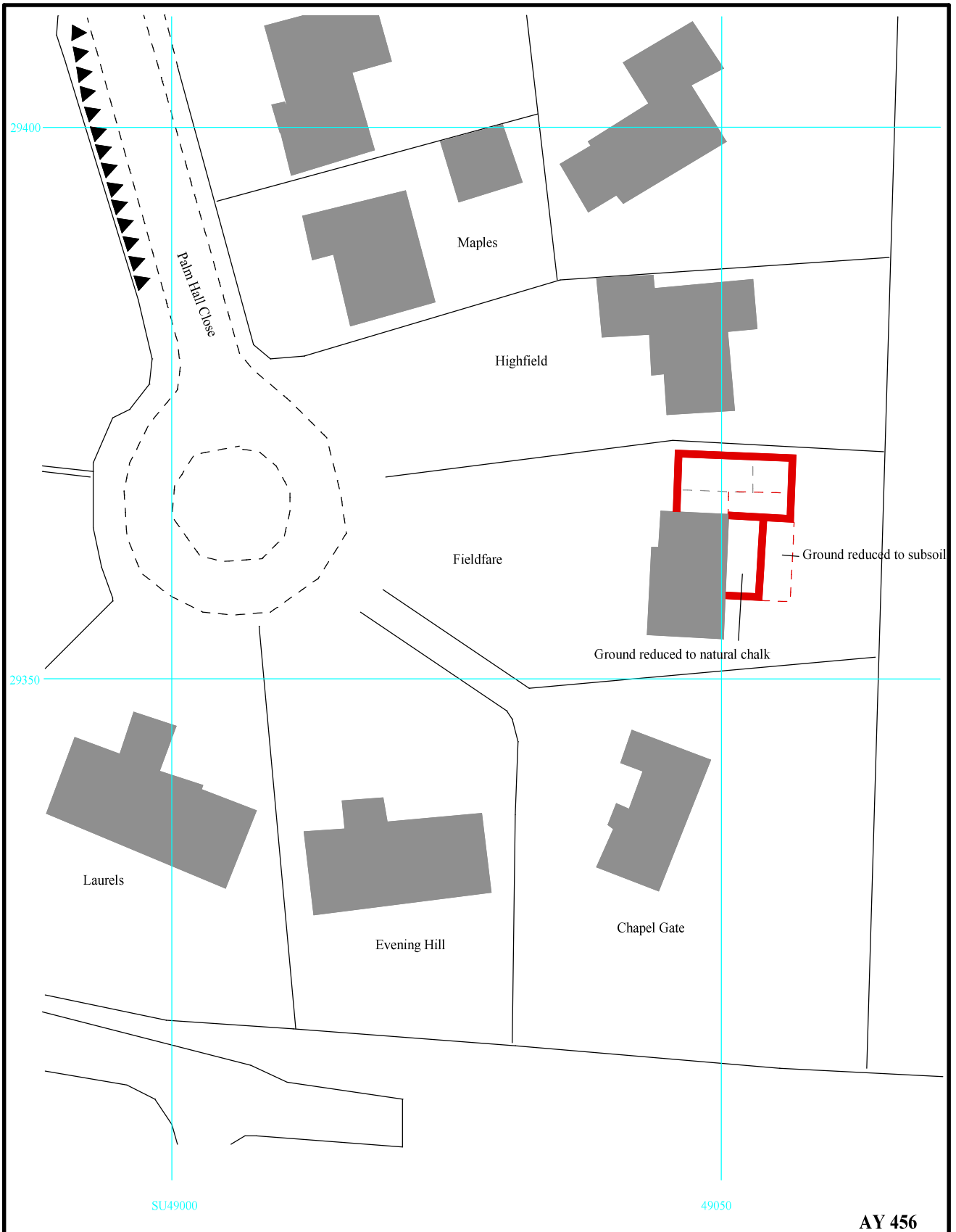
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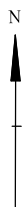
Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Palm Hall Close.

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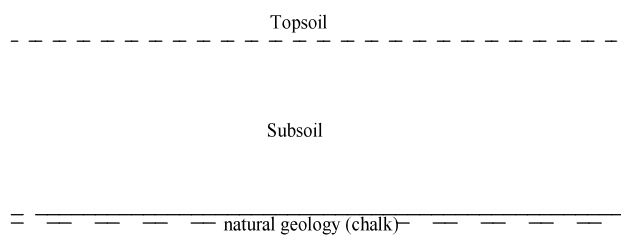


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Figure 3. Location of groundworks



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Figure 4. Representative section of footing trench.





Plate 1. Ground reduction and trench footing, looking north, Scales: 2m and 1m.

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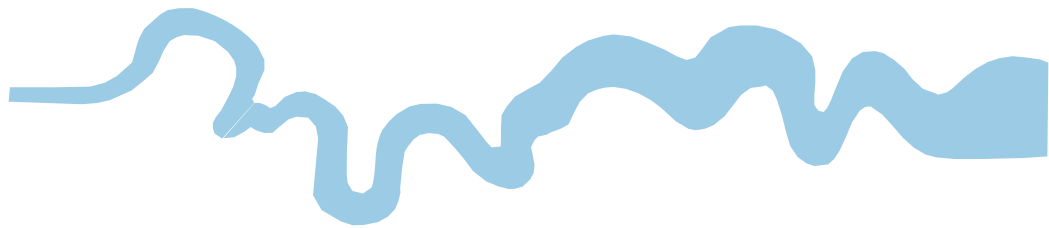
Fieldfare, Plam Hall Close, St Giles's Hill, Winchester,
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Plate 1.

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TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43
Iron Age _____	BC/AD 750 BC
Bronze Age: Late _____	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle _____	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early _____	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC





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