

**Micheldever Church of England Primary School,
Church Street, Micheldever, Hampshire**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Hampshire County Council

by Andrew Mundin

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code MCM 06/78

November 2007

Summary

Site name: Micheldever Church of England Primary School, Church Street, Micheldever, Hampshire

Grid reference: SU 5140 3915

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 1st August 2006

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Jennifer Lowe

Site code: MCM 06/78

Summary of results: No archaeological features or finds were recovered during the groundworks for the new drainage trenching.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Hampshire Museum Service in due course.

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 02.11.07
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Report 06/78

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Micheldever Church of England Primary School, Church Street, Micheldever, Hampshire (SU 5140 3915) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr. David Kirkby, Property Services, Hampshire County Council, Three Minsters House, 76 High Street, Winchester, Hampshire, S023 8BR.

An application for planning permission was made to Hampshire County Council for extensions and alterations to the existing school buildings with associated external works such as drain services and landscaping. In view of the archaeological potential of the site, the Senior County Archaeologist advised that provision should be made for an archaeological watching brief to be carried out during sensitive groundworks. The original building on the site dates from c. 1850 and is Listed; the site is also within an area of Special Landscape Quality and a Conservation Area.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the County's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a written scheme of investigation (WSI) approved by Mr David Hopkins, County Archaeologist for Hampshire County Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Jennifer Lowe on 1st August 2006. The site code is MCM 06/78.

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

Location, topography and geology

The site is an irregular rectangle of land on the east side of Church Street, Micheldever, Hampshire, centred on SU 5140 3915 (Fig. 1). The site is occupied by school buildings with some car parking. The school is situated opposite St. Mary's Church on the eastern side of Church Street (Fig. 2). The underlying geology is mapped as Upper Chalk (BGS 1993). Friable sandy chalk was observed on site. The site slopes down from south to north towards the river Dever, at around 77m above Ordnance Datum, the land to the south rising to about 90m.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location within the historic (medieval) core of the settlement in close proximity to the village church. It is usually assumed that the village church lies close to the centre of the medieval and possibly late Saxon settlement and occupation deposits of these periods are anticipated for this location. Phases of fieldwork to the north of the proposal site at the manor house revealed a small number of medieval deposits comprising small pits and an undated ditch (Taylor 2002; Taylor and Jenkins 2004). The original school building is a listed structure.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to identify and where necessary excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the development. This would involve the inspection of intrusive groundworks, in particular any ground reduction and the digging of foundation trenches and service runs. Any archaeological deposits threatened during the construction work would be excavated and recorded. Sufficient time would be allowed in the groundworkers schedules to carry this out but without causing undue delay to the timetable.

Results

This project was divided into two phases. Phase 1 would primarily complete the drainage network and footing layout for the new school extension. Phase 1two would complete the demolition of existing outbuildings and construction of the link between the original school building and new extension. Phase 2 would also demolish the original kitchen to the south of the school (Fig, 3).

Only part of the drainage trenching could be viewed, though this encompassed the north-eastern corner of the new extension and eastern length of the building showing a section for any possible features running across the site from the east. The entire length of the trench though only visible in part was seen to show no truncation of the stratigraphy with no evidence of modern or earlier cuts evident in the exposed sectioning. The general stratigraphy showed a hard standing mat of crushed concrete and scaplines had been laid over original topsoil of the ground to the east of the original school building (Fig. 4). This overlay a mid brown-orange silty clay subsoil, which contained no finds or intrusive cuts. This lay at a general depth of *c.*1.1m. Beyond this depth, to the base of excavation at *c.*2m, was undisturbed natural geology of chalky sand. Parts of the trenching could not be viewed, since due to the depth of excavation, shuttering was used to shore exposed sections.

None of the building between the link of the new construction was viewed due to the fact that the footprint matched the demolished building and the depth of footings would only affect previously disturbed ground for the demolished outbuildings.

Finds

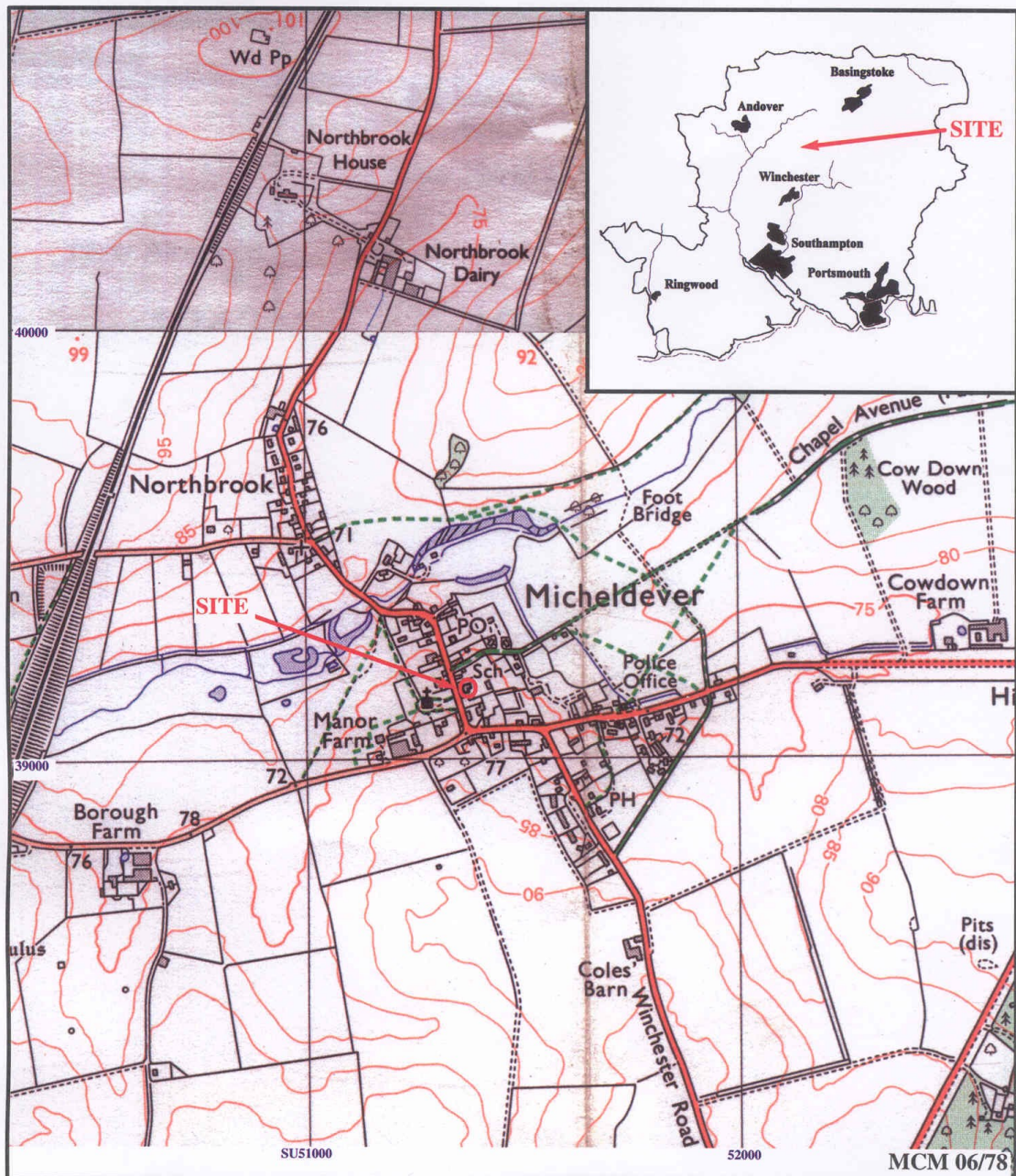
No finds of archaeological interest were recovered during the groundworks.

Conclusion

Undisturbed subsoil was observed during the pipe trenching of Phase 1 but no archaeological features or finds were recorded.

References

- BGS, 1993, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 299, Drift Edition, Keyworth
- PPG 16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO
- Taylor A 2002, Land at Dever Close, Micheldever, Hampshire, an archaeological evaluation, Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 02/11, Reading
- Taylor a and Jenkins P, 2004, Land at Dever Close, Micheldever, Hampshire, an archaeological watching brief, Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 02/11b, Reading

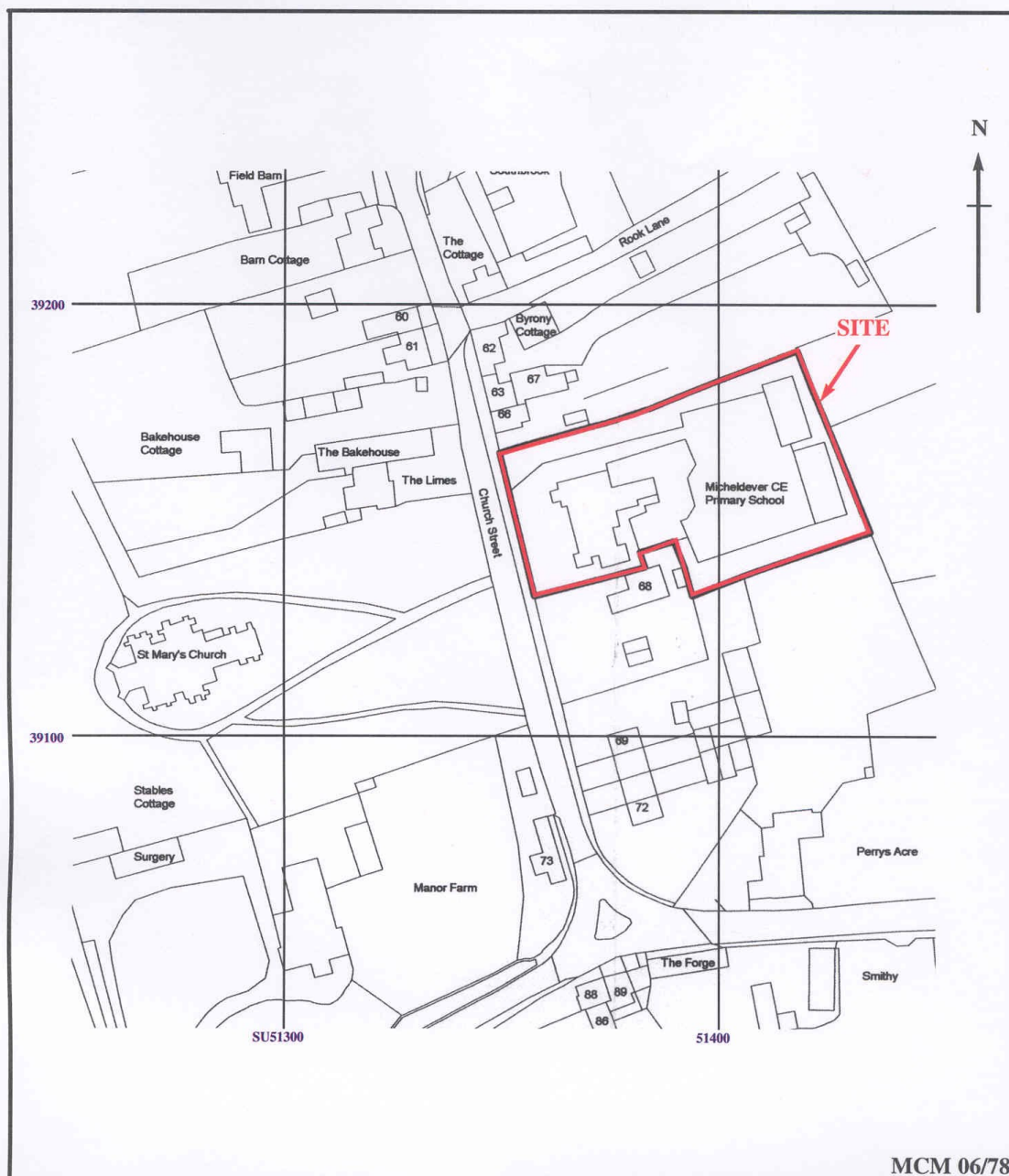


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Archaeological watching brief

Figure 1. Location of site within Micheldever and Hampshire.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Church Street.

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Micheldever Primary School, Micheldever, Hampshire, 2006



Figure 3. Location of areas observed during watching brief.

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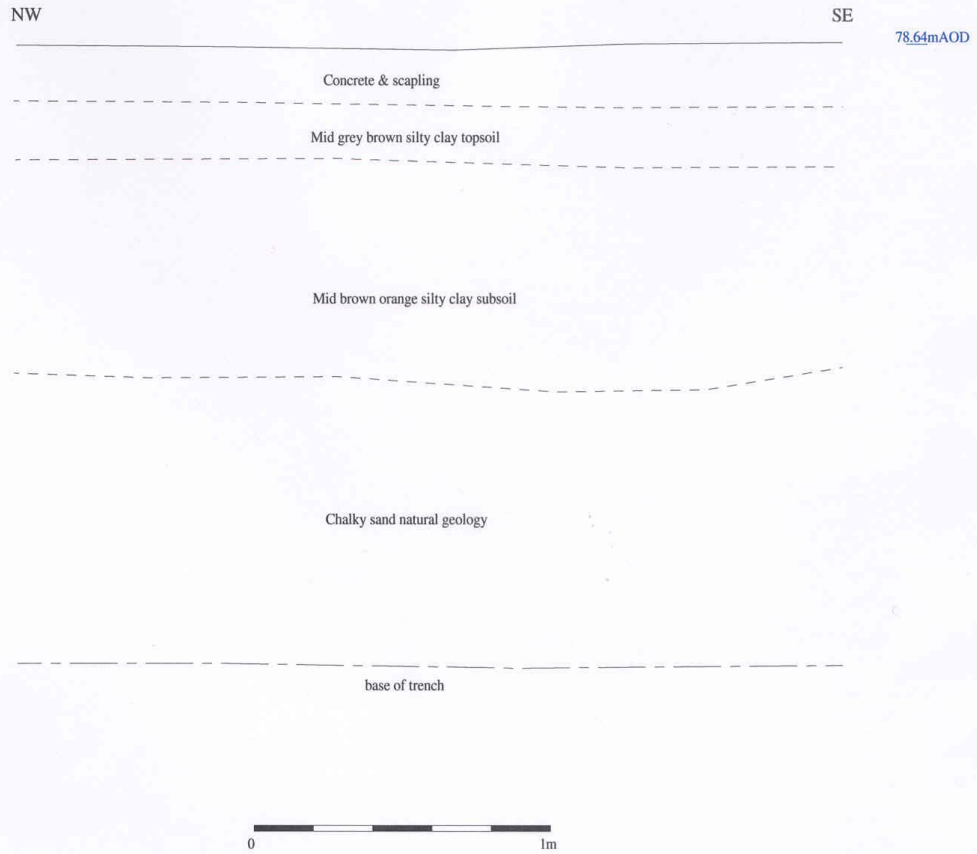


Figure 4. Representative section of pipe trench.