

T H A M E S V A L L E Y
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
S E R V I C E S

**Land off 10-22 Kings Road,
Alton, Hampshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Tim Dawson

Site Code: KRA10/113

(SU 7095 3913)

**Land off 10-22 Kings Road,
Alton, Hampshire**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
For Southcott Homes**

by Tim Dawson
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

SiteCodeKRA10/113

November 2010

Summary

Site name: Land off 10-22 Kings Road, Alton, Hampshire

Grid reference: SU 7095 3913

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 28th October - 16th November 2010

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Natasha Bennett, Tim Dawson, David Platt

Site code: KRA 10/113

Area of site: c. 0.35 ha

Summary of results: Despite overburden remove from the vast majority of the site to fully expose the archaeologically relevant levels, no finds or features of archaeological interest were identified

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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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 21.11.10 Steve Preston✓ 18.11.10

Land off 10-22 Kings Road, Alton, Hampshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Tim Dawson

Report 10/113

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out on land to the rear of 10-22 Kings Road, Alton, Hampshire (SU 7095 3913) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Martin Stevens of Southcott Homes, Bramble House, Furzehall Farm, 112 Wickham Road, Fareham, Hampshire, PO16 7JH.

Planning consent (52428) has been granted by East Hampshire District Council to construct new houses and access to the rear of 10-22 Kings Road, Alton. This consent is subject to a condition (12) which requires the implementation of an archaeological watching brief to be carried out during the works.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the District's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Hannah Fluck, Senior Archaeologist, Landscape, Planning & Heritage at Hampshire County Council, archaeological adviser to the District Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Natasha Bennett, Tim Dawson and David Platt between 28th October and 16th November 2010 and the site code is KRA 10/113.

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 located in a 20th-century housing development in the western suburb of Alton. The town of Alton lies at the source of the River Wey, south-east of Basingstoke (Fig. 1). The site itself lies on the northern side of Kings Road and was previously in use as the rears of the back gardens belonging to numbers 10 to 22 Kings Road and includes the whole of the property of 17 Knights Way (Fig. 2). Topographically, the site lies at the top of a ridge that runs steeply down to the north-west to the source of the River Wey and to the south-east to the Lavant Stream. Due to its proximity to the top of the ridge, the site itself only slopes gently downwards towards its northern end. The underlying geology is mapped as Middle Chalk (white chalk without flints) (BGS 1990) and was observed throughout the site during works. The site is at a height of *c.* 125m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The site lies at some distance from the historic (medieval) core of Alton. However, the archaeological potential of the area stems from its proximity to the site of a medieval manor and church at Will Hall Farm, just to the north-west of the site, around which it is possible that there was a medieval or late Saxon village (HCC 2002). A findspot of a Roman coin of Claudius II (AD268–9) (HER no 17109) is also recorded from the site itself. In general there are a range of sites and finds of various periods from the environs of the town, with a small Roman town to the north-east at Neatham and a Saxon cemetery to the south. Various stray finds of prehistoric struck flints and pottery and Roman pottery from the Alton area town point to additional locations where there is a likelihood of the presence of contemporary occupation sites. Several recent small-scale investigations within the area west of the town centre have failed to produce any archaeological evidence earlier than the post-medieval except the occasional find of late medieval pottery (Jenkins and Pine 2006; Taylor 2007; Lowe 2008; McNicoll-Norbury 2008).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the works. This involved examination of all areas of intrusive groundworks, in particular the stripping of the site in preparation for the digging of footing trenches.

Results

The areas of the site to be disturbed by the building work were stripped in three phases. The majority of the site was stripped of its top- and subsoil to expose the underlying chalk geology (Fig. 3, Pl. 1). This was achieved using a small 360°-type mechanical digger with a ditching bucket. All possible archaeological features were hand cleaned and investigated to establish their character. Spoil heaps were monitored for finds. The topsoil removed varied between 0.17–0.25m deep. Where the overburden was deepest, the topsoil generally overlay a layer of mid brownish grey subsoil which extended to a depth of between 0.29–0.37m. Several possible features were noted but on further investigation these all proved to be tree boles and root disturbance and, in one case, a modern truncation containing rubble, glass and plastic. No finds or features of archaeological interest were observed.

Finds

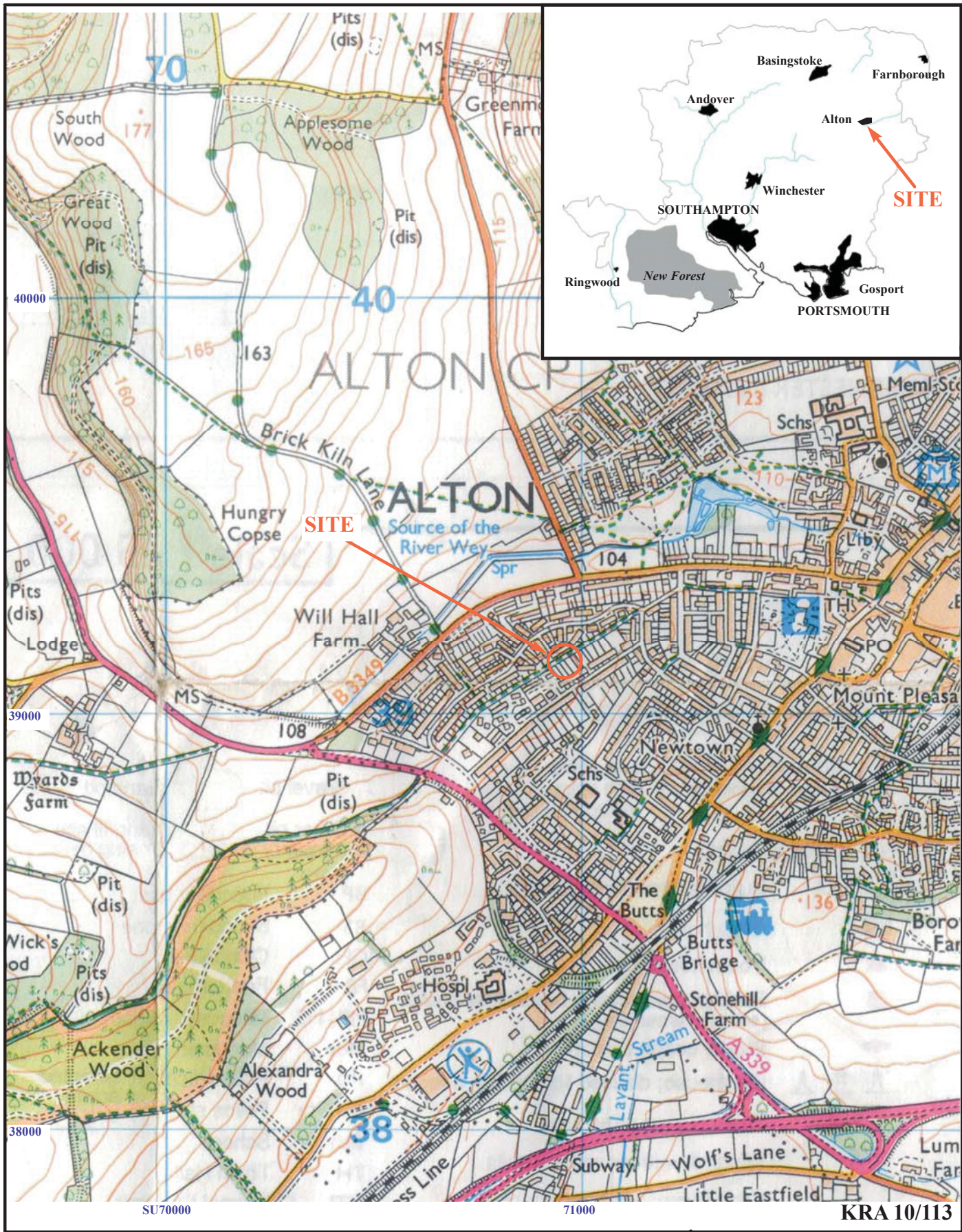
No finds of archaeological interest were recovered.

Conclusion

Despite having previously yielded a Roman coin, the site contained no finds or features of archaeological interest. Several areas of disturbance were identified but these were all positively attributed to the presence of plants, including some sizeable trees, from the gardens which previously occupied the site, and one modern pit. The site has no archaeological potential.

References

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- Lowe, J, 2008, '10 Turk Street/rear of 53 High Street, Alton, Hampshire; an archaeological watching brief', Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpubl rep 07/107b, Reading
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Figure 1. Location of site within Alton and Hampshire.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Kings Road.

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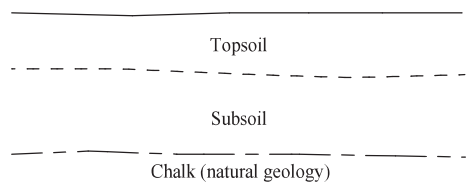


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Figure 3. Detail of area of watching brief.



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Figure 4. Representative section.





Plate 1. Stipping of initial road corridor of site adjacent to south eastern boundary, looking south west.

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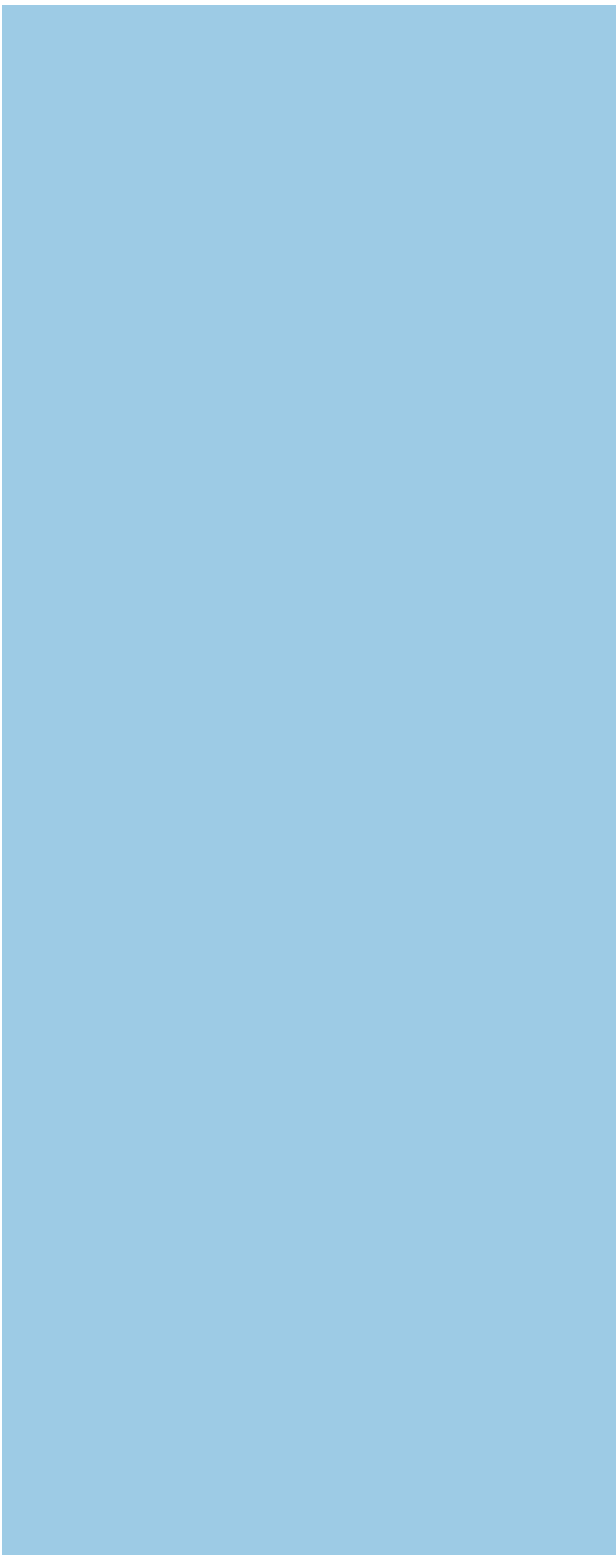
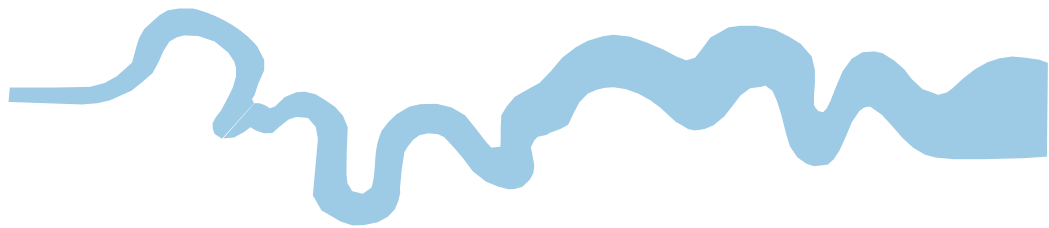
Plate 1

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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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