

Archaeological Evaluation Report

# **STAKES ROAD PURBROOK**

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For Barratt David Wilson Southampton

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Cornelius Barton BA AIfA

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L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Archaeological Evaluation Report

# STAKES ROAD PURBROOK

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Client: Barratt David Wilson Southampton

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Local Authority: Havant Borough Council

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NGR: 468404, 107804

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Planning App: APP/12/00205

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Author: C. Barton

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Doc Ref: I275L-AER-v.1.2

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Site Code: STA12

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Date: August 12

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**L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY**

A trading name of the L – P : Heritage LLP.

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# Abstract

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Stakes Road, Purbrook, Hampshire, PO7 5PL. The evaluation was implemented because of the potential for archaeological remains on the site. The work was carried out by L - P : Archaeology. This report has been prepared by Cornelius Barton of L – P : Archaeology on behalf of Barratt David Wilson Southampton.

Although remains of Roman and Medieval date are known to exist in the area around the site there have been no archaeological excavations previously on the site itself. The only known development on the site prior to the present application has been the construction of a sports pavillion and associated small buildings.

The objective of the evaluation was to determine the potential for the survival of archaeological remains on the site.

The results of the evaluation indicate that the site has undergone severe truncation associated with landscaping works in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, and that the potential of the site to contain surviving archaeological remains is very low.

Based on these results it appears that further work is unlikely to be required.

# 1. Introduction

- 1.1. This evaluation report has been prepared by Cornelius Barton of L - P : Archaeology on behalf of Barratt David Wilson Southampton.
- 1.2. The fieldwork was carried out by Cornelius Barton and Jon Martin of L – P : Archaeology between 18<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2012.
- 1.3. The site is located at the former Purbrook Park School playing field, Stakes Road, Purbrook, Hampshire, PO7 5PL (FIGURE 1). The National Grid Reference is 468404, 107804.
- 1.4. The site code allocated by L – P : Archaeology is STA12.
- 1.5. The work was carried out in accordance with the Specification for Archaeological Evaluation (SAE) prepared by Kelly Madigan of L – P : Archaeology (MADIGAN 2012).

## 2. Site Background

### 2.1. PLANNING

- 2.1.1. Planning consent is being sought for redevelopment including the construction of c.76 houses with associated landscaping, services and access roads. The application reference is APP/12/00205. The works described in this document were carried out in response to a request from the local planning authority Havant Borough Council (HBC) for further information prior to determination of the planning conditions for the site.
- 2.1.2. The study site does not fall within an Archaeological Priority Area. The site does not contain any scheduled monuments or listed buildings.
- 2.1.3. In considering any planning application for development HBC is bound by the policy CS11 within the Local Development Framework (adopted 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011). On matters concerning archaeology and the historic environment HBC take advice from the Principle Archaeologist at Hampshire County Council (HCC).
- 2.1.4. Barratt David Wilson Southampton and HBC have agreed the methodology for these works in the SAE (MADIGAN 2012). The SAE was based on advice from Dr. Hannah Fluck of Hampshire County Council.

### 2.2. GEOLOGY

- 2.2.1. The British Geological Survey GeoIndex shows the site to be located on Bracklesham and Barton groups of undifferentiated sand silt and clay. This data is at relatively low resolution and offers only a rough indication of the site geology ([HTTP://WWW.BGS.AC.UK/GEOINDEX](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex)).
- 2.2.2. The results from the evaluation confirm the drift geology to be coarse sands and gravel.

### 2.3. TOPOGRAPHY

- 2.3.1. The site is situated 2.6km east of Purbrook Heath and 2.6km north of the coast at Langstone Harbour. The site is 1.6km southeast of Waterlooville and lies to the northeast of Portsdown Hill (FIGURE 1).

2.3.2. The site is a disused school playing field. The field is polygonal in shape and is bounded by hedgerows with some mature trees on the northern boundary.

2.3.3. The land adjacent to the southern and eastern site boundaries is raised at an approximate level of 53m AOD. However, the land immediately beyond the northern boundary, slopes sharply down to an approximate level of 46m AOD. The site is situated at approximately 53m AOD. This topography creates a sunken effect for the field from the main road.

## **2.4.SITE CONDITIONS**

2.4.1. The site is currently not in use and is under turf.

## **2.5.ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY**

2.5.1. A Desk Based Assessment of the site was carried out in 2011 by L – P : Archaeology (MADIGAN 2011). Information from the Hampshire Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record (AHBR) is referenced with the Monument ID in brackets e.g. (12345).

### **PREHISTORIC**

2.5.2. There is little evidence from the Prehistoric period in the area. A handaxe dating to the Palaeolithic period was recovered approximately 460m southwest of the study site (23257) and a Mesolithic tranchet axe was identified from the pipeline trench that was cut through the area 680m southwest of the site (23259).

2.5.3. The area of Portsdown Hill southwest of the study site is known to have been a focus of later Prehistoric activity. This included mortuary monuments established in the Bronze Age and enclosures yielding evidence of domestic settlement in the Iron Age (BAMFORTH 2010). This activity was 2km southwest of the study site.

### **ROMAN**

2.5.4. A Roman Villa is known to have existed approximately 450m southeast of the study site at Crookhorn. The footings of the main villa building were discovered in 1925 and Mr G Smith excavated part of the villa the following year, leaving



most of the rooms undisturbed. It appears to have been a corridor villa design with two rows of rooms behind it. Two phases of building on different alignments were found. A midden was also found associated with the villa, which contained animal bone, charcoal and wall plaster (23245).

2.5.5. A farm building associated with the villa complex is described as large, rectangular and approximately 21m x 11.8m wide was excavated in advance of a housing estate development in 1974, 400m southeast of the study site. The building was divided into three aisles by postholes which contained traces of massive timber roof supports. A corn drying oven in a building 5m<sup>2</sup> was excavated to the northwest of the aisled building and ditches were found to the east and west of the complex (23298).

2.5.6. The Roman road that ran from Chichester in the east to Bitterne in the west is thought to run on an east west axis approximately 300m to the south of the site. It is listed by Margary as road 421 and the road was likely laid out from the high points of ground in the Purbrook area from where the engineers could survey greater distances (MARGARY 1969: 92).

#### **EARLY MEDIEVAL AND MEDIEVAL**

2.5.7. There are no entries in the AHBR dating to the Early Medieval period. The nearest Saxon settlements are known to have been at Havant, Portchester and Bedhampton (PEMBROKE 2005:25).

2.5.8. A house platform with two flint packed postholes was found during the leveling of an area immediately south of Scratchface Lane, 230m southeast of the study site and was dated to the Medieval period (23310). A midden composed of waste shells was also found associated with the housing platform (23311). Two pits and a probable well were also identified at the site (23312). A boundary ditch was identified and located to the east of the housing platform. It had a v-shaped profile and contained Medieval and Roman tile fragments (23313).

2.5.9. A v-shaped ditch located approximately 500m southwest of the proposed development site, was recorded on a southeast to northwest axis. The AHBR records that five pieces of possible Prehistoric pottery were found in the ditch

but that due to its similar alignment to Scratchface Lane it is thought to be a Medieval drainage ditch, with the Prehistoric sherds residual material (57402).

#### **POST MEDIEVAL**

2.5.10. There is a notable increase in activity in the area of the proposed development site during the Post Medieval period. The landscape is characterized with a series of dispersed country houses with small estates appearing in the local area. They take advantage of the nearby London Road 1km to the west of the site with its access to the capital and the maritime city of Portsmouth (MADIGAN 2011).

2.5.11. According to the AHBR the fishpond of Purbook Park was located 650m southwest of the study site. Today this is an area known as 'The Bog' and is probably an unkept remnant of the fishpond of the estate. Purbrook Park Lodge is cited in the AHBR as being 500m southwest of the site (50726). Cartographic evidence suggests that this is different to Park House that was situated to the immediate northwest of the study site.

2.5.12. A map regression study carried out for the Desk Based Assessment Shows minimal development on the site area prior to the Ordnance Survey map of 1897.

#### **20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY**

2.5.13. The 1908 Ordnance Survey Map indicates that additional buildings have been constructed to the north of the school site and a further building has been constructed upon the proposed development site. This is possibly a sports pavilion for use by the school. The western boundary of the site is adjacent to a former field boundary that has since been removed (MADIGAN 2011).

2.5.14. The 1936 Ordnance Survey Map depicts no major change within the study site. The east west footpath has slightly altered course and the building in the northwest of the site is smaller, possibly indicating a replacement building and the demolition of the old one. By the time of the 1954 Ordnance Survey Map the proposed development site is marked as a 'playing field' for use by the school. The east, south and northwest boundaries of the site are depicted with

hashers indicating the slopes for terracing that has gone into the creation of the playing field, presumably involving some degree of landscaping.

2.5.15. For a more detailed summary of the archaeology and history please refer to the DBA (MADIGAN 2012).

## **2.6. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT**

2.6.1. The proposed development will involve the construction of approximately 76 new houses with associated access roads and services. The houses are to have foundations measuring 900mm deep.

The northwest corner of the site, where the made ground is deepest will be an open area and no groundworks are proposed to take place on this area (FIGURE 2). There has already been a considerable negative impact upon archaeological deposits on the site with the levelling of the site for use as a school playing field during the early to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### 3. Aims

3.1. The general aims of the archaeological evaluation were to assess the character, date, type, state of preservation, and extent of any archaeological remains on site.

3.2. The specific aims of the archaeological evaluation, as defined by the SAE were:

- ◆ To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains on those areas of the site not covered by make-up deposits associated with 20<sup>th</sup> Century landscaping activity.
- ◆ To identify any remains as may be associated with the Roman Road running approximately 300m to the south of the site (see 2.5.6).

3.3. The objective of this report is to provide enough information for a suitable mitigation strategy to be devised.

## 4. Methodology

- 4.1. For a full description of the archaeological methodology please refer to section 4 of the SAE (MADIGAN 2012).
- 4.2. The original methodology of the SAE detailed 7 trenches, 6 of which measured 30m by 2m and one of which measured 15m by 2m. After discussion of preliminary results with Dr. Hannah Fluck of HCC, the plan of works was modified to concentrate on the area around the north west of the site. Five trenches measuring 30m by 2m were dug, with an additional 3 shorter trenches in the edge of the truncation area dug measuring 10m by 2m, 11m by 2m and 6m by 2m (see FIGURE 2).
- 4.3. Trench 1 was originally situated under the entrance ramp to the site, and was moved to the north west in order to avoid restricting access to the site.
- 4.4. Trenches were dug by a 360° tracked mechanical excavator under the supervision of a qualified archaeologist. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10, trench plans at a scale of 1:50.

## 5. Results

5.1. No archaeological deposits were present in any of the trenches. Results are given below by trench. Trench is abbreviated below to Tr. Deposit numbers are given in (parentheses) and cut numbers are given in [square brackets]. Heights given are in metres OD unless otherwise stated.

### 5.2. TRENCHES 3 - 6

5.2.1. Trenches 3, 4, 5 and 6 were dug in the central and western area of the site (see FIGURE 2). The stratigraphic sequence in each of these trenches was similar, consisting of a thin layer of topsoil directly overlying natural sands and gravels (see FIGURE 3 and FIGURE 4).

5.2.2. The topsoil was in a highly disturbed state, containing large, unabraded fragments of broken brick and other assorted building debris. The topsoil was uniform in nature across the site area, but varied in thickness between 0.20m in Tr 4, at the south west of the site, and 0.45m in the north end of Tr 5 at the north.

5.2.3. The natural sand and gravels were present at a depth of 53.18m OD (0.20m below ground level) in Tr 3 in the south east, and 51.64m OD (0.45m below ground level) in Tr 5 in the north. The natural deposits were very clean, with no sign of weathering and very little root disturbance (see PLATE 1).



Plate 1 - Trench 4 facing west (1m Scale)

5.2.4. The stratigraphic sequence in these trenches indicates that the ground was severely truncated during the landscaping of the site, with the ground level being reduced to below the original top of the natural sand, and subsequently covered by imported topsoil.

### 5.3. TRENCHES 1, 2, 7 AND 8

5.3.1. These trenches were cut in the western area of the site. In these trenches the stratigraphic sequence consisted of the same imported topsoil as seen in Tr. 3 and 6 overlying deposits of modern make-up material. This material consisted of mixed clays and sand with inclusions of crushed brick and other building debris; it was clearly not the original subsoil. This make-up layer was thinnest in Tr 2 at 0.25m thick and extending to a depth of 51.72m OD (0.40m below ground level) – see FIGURE 3.

5.3.2. In Trenches 1, 7 and 8 the modern make-up deposit increased in thickness, to a maximum depth of 50.40m OD, 1.30m below ground level (see FIGURE 8). Below the make-up material was the same clean natural sand as seen in the other trenches.

### 5.4. SUMMARY

5.4.1. No archaeological features were present in any of the trenches. The only artefacts found were fragments of modern glazed china, broken brick and other building debris. This was noted but not retained.

5.4.2. The results would indicate that the site has undergone severe disturbance. The north east, south east and south west of the site have been reduced and the upcast material used as make-up material to level the site. Undisturbed subsoil was not encountered in any of the trenches. Based on these results, it would appear that reduction to natural sand or below took place on all areas of the site to the south and east of the line marked on Figure 2 as “break of slope”, and that the original ground surface fell away steeply to the north and east of this line. The level of the modern building to the north of the site would appear to corroborate this.

## 6. Conclusions

- 6.1. A site at Stakes Road, Purbrook is proposed for development. The proposed development will involve the construction of approximately 76 new houses with associated access roads and services, to be excavated to a maximum depth of 0.9m. The northwest corner of the site, where the made ground is deepest will be an open area and no groundworks are proposed to take place on this area- this part of the site is marked as “open area” on FIGURE 2.
- 6.2. Examination of the available data indicates that the site does not contain any scheduled ancient monuments or listed buildings.
- 6.3. Results from the evaluation indicate that the site has been severely impacted by landscaping activity. The area to the north east, south east and south west of the site has been heavily truncated, and the upcast material used to build up the north west area. It appears that the potential of the site to contain surviving archaeological remains is therefore extremely low.



## 7. Archive

7.1. The paper archive consists of:

- ◆ 1 x Drawing Register
- ◆ 9 x Drawing Film
- ◆ 1 x Photographic Register
- ◆ 1 x CD Digital Images
- ◆ 1 x Context Register
- ◆ 8 x Trench record Sheets

7.2. The archive is to be deposited with Hampshire Museum Service.

# SOURCES CONSULTED

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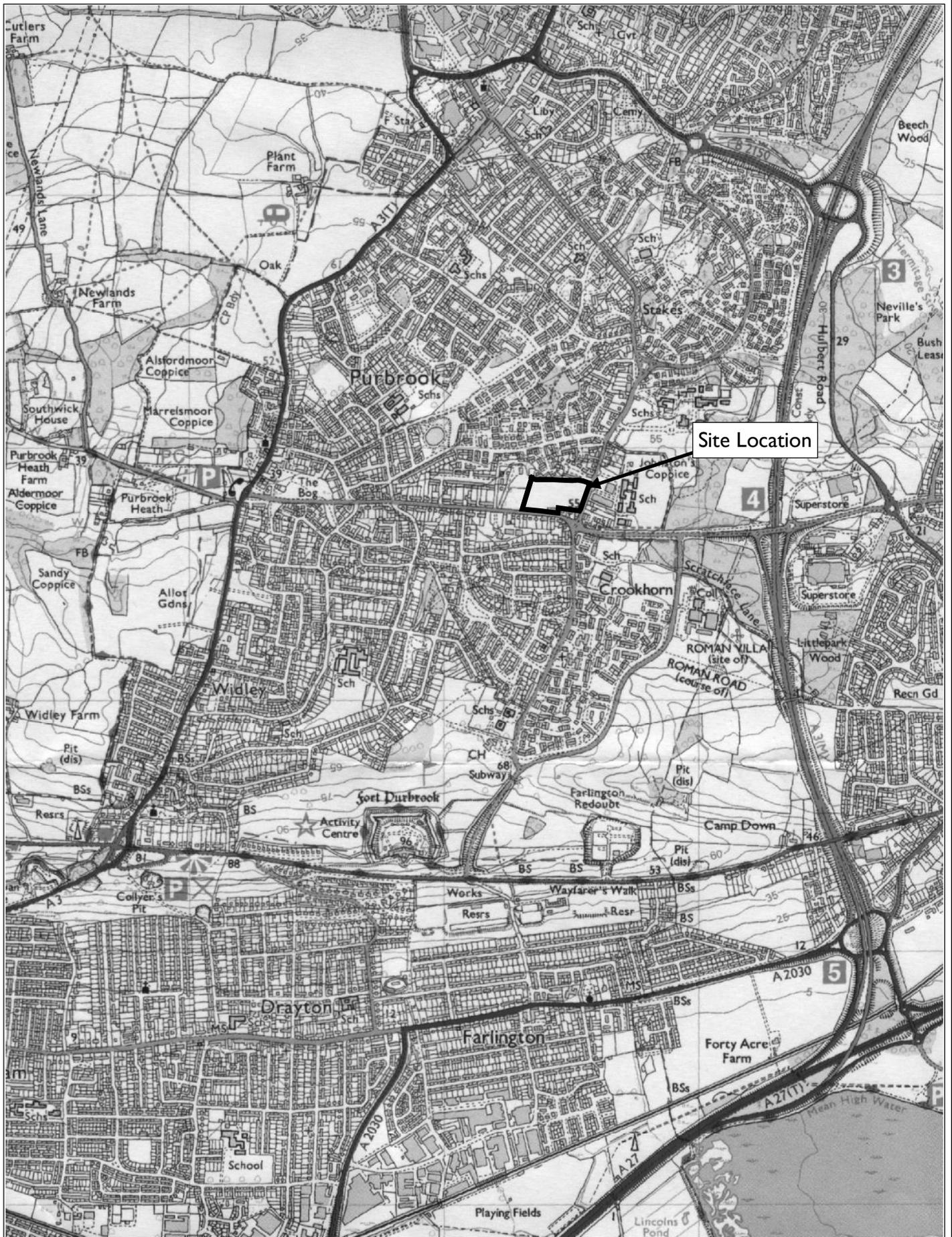
Kingdom Institute for Conservation.

UNITED KINGDOM INSTITUTE FOR CONSERVATION 1983 *Packaging and Storage of Freshly Excavated Artifacts from Archaeological Sites*. Conservation Guidelines No. 2.

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# FIGURES

FIGURE I // Site Location - General



Scale 1:10,000 @ A4

0 500m

PROJECT // I275L- Stakes Road, Purbrook

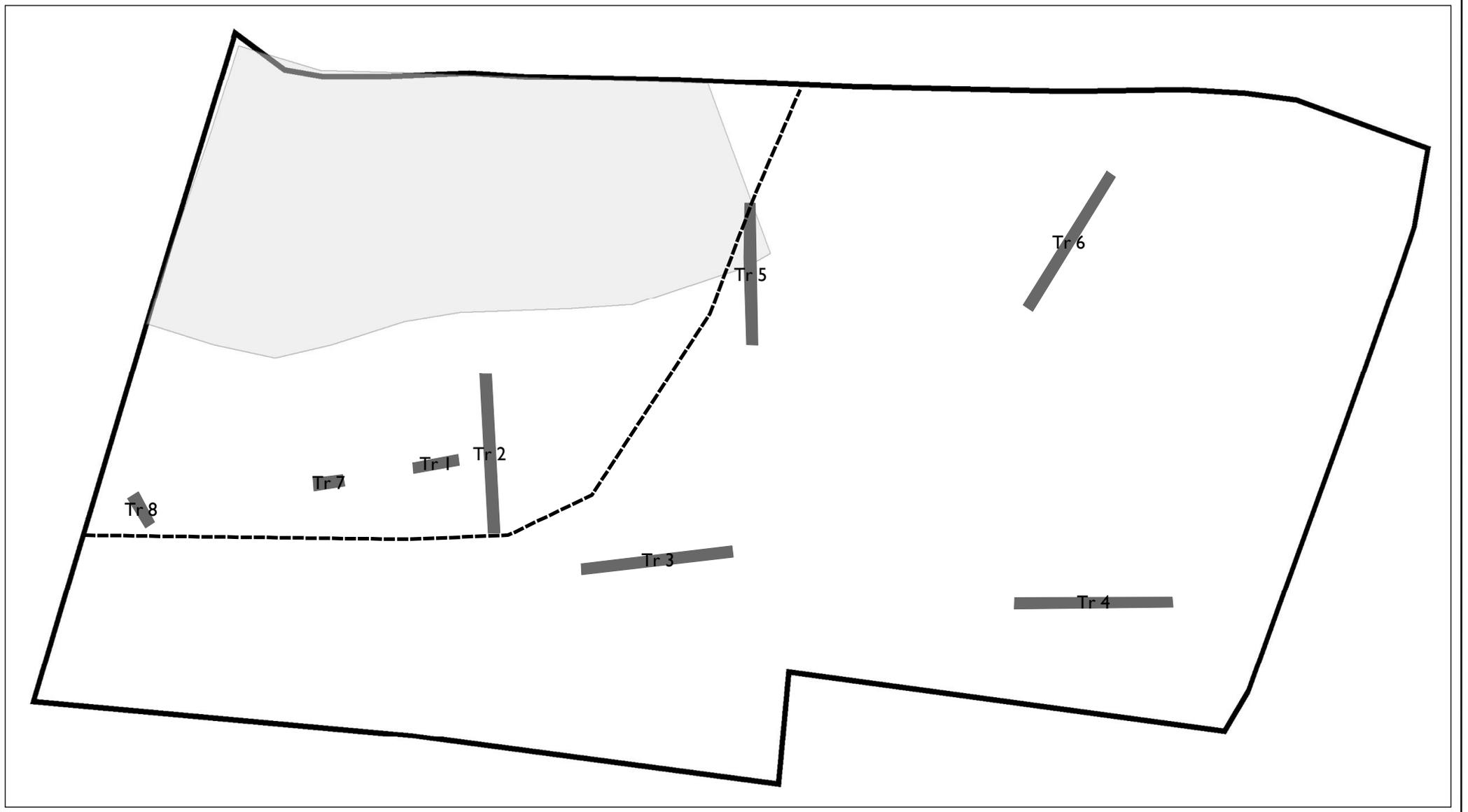
DESCRIPTION // General Location of Site

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DOC REF: LP1275L-AER-v1

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Figure 2 // Site Detail



-  Site Outline
-  Open Area
-  Break of Slope
-  Excavated Trenches

Scale 1:1000 @ A4

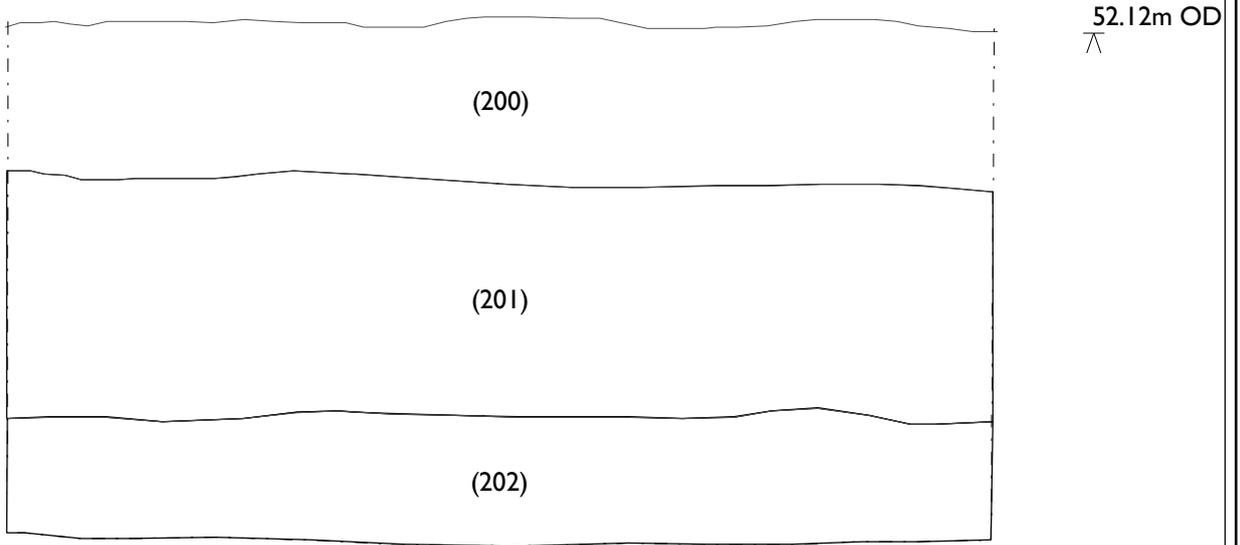


PROJECT // 1275L - Stakes Road, Purbrook

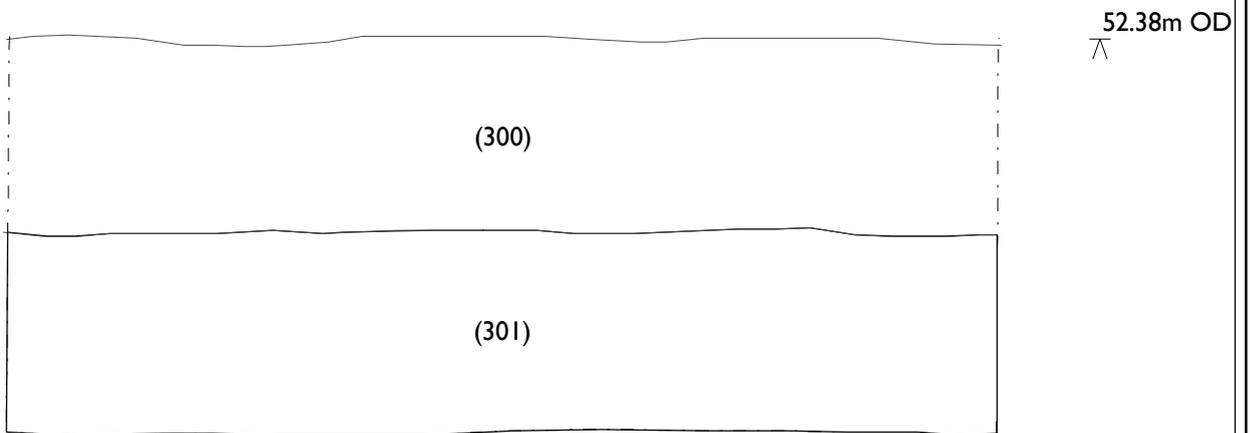
DESCRIPTION // Location of Excavated Trenches

DOC REF: LPI275L-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHAEOLOGY



West Facing



North Facing

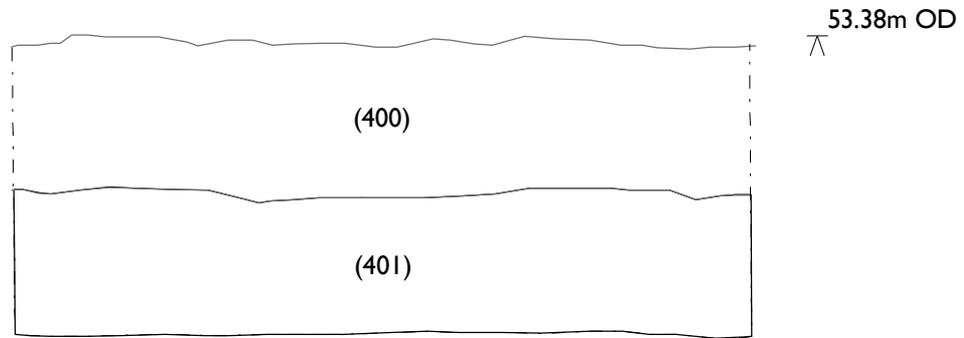


PROJECT // LPI275L - Stakes Road, Purbrook  
DESCRIPTION // Representative Sections Trench 2 and 3  
DOC REF: LPI275L-AER-v1

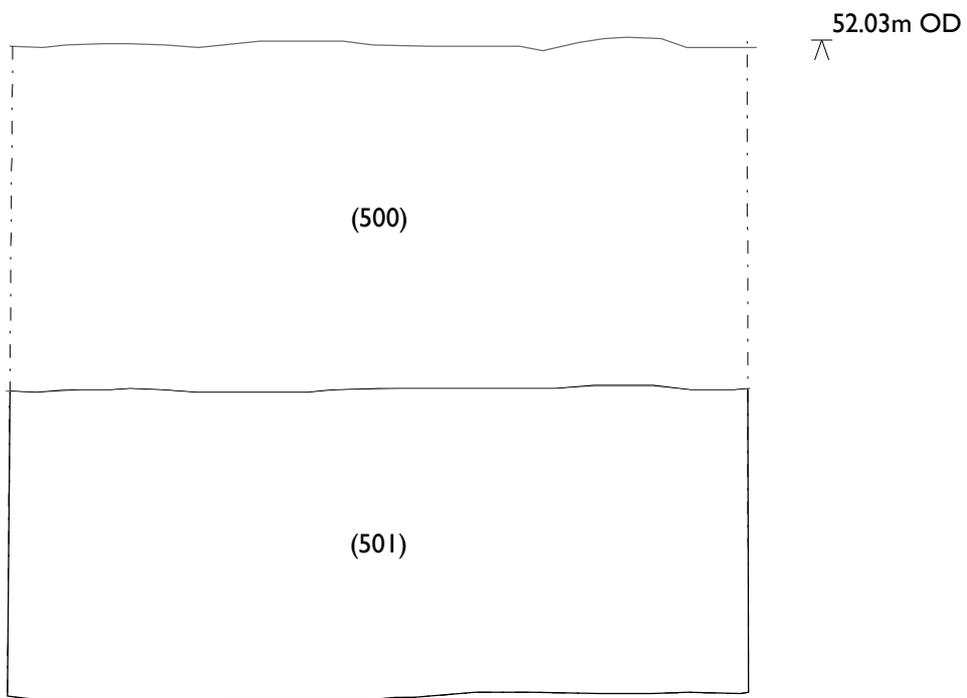
L-P:ARCHAEOLOGY



FIGURE 4 // Sections Trench 4 and 5



North Facing



West Facing



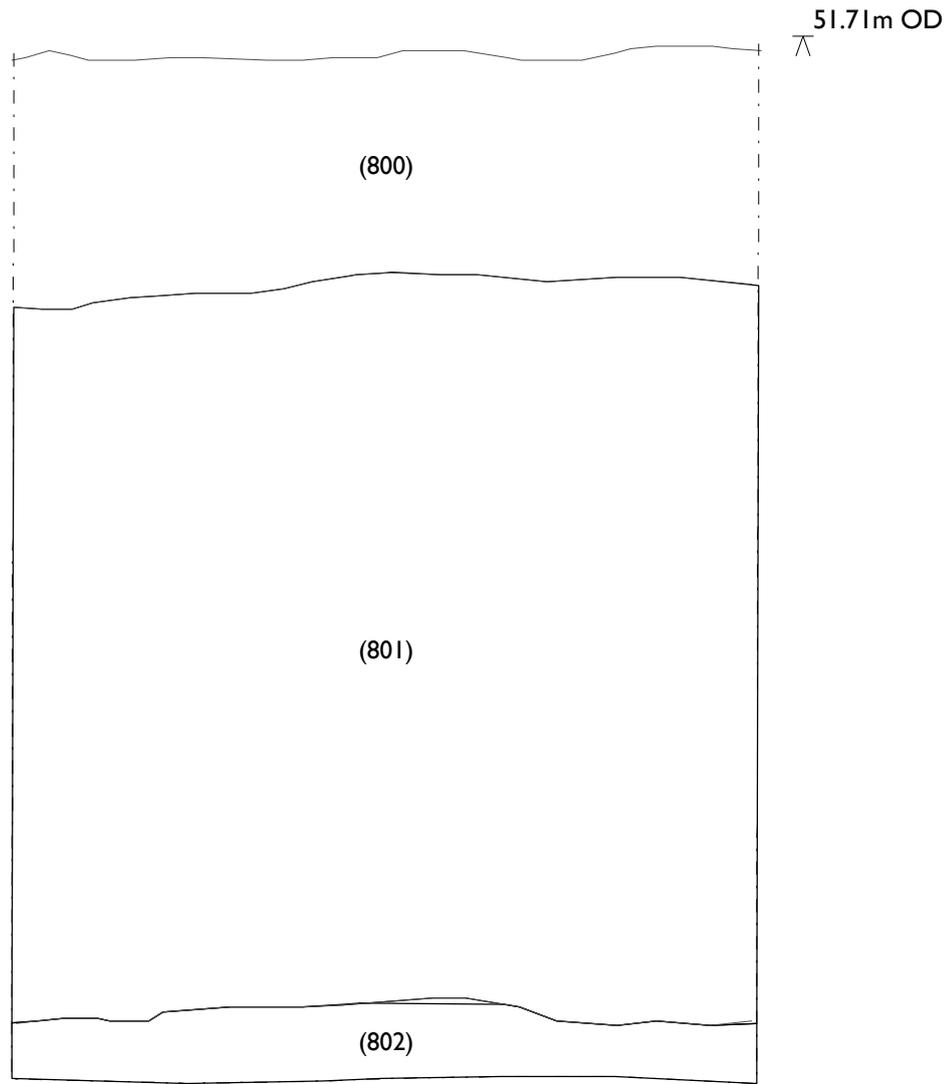
PROJECT // I275L - Stakes Road, Purbrook

DESCRIPTION // Representative Sections Trenches 4 and 5

DOC REF: LPI275L-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

FIGURE 5 // Section Trench 8



South West Facing

0 0.5m



PROJECT // 1275L- Stakes Road, Purbrook

DESCRIPTION // Representative Section Trench 8

DOC REF: LPI275L-AER-v1

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# OASIS FORM

## APPENDIX I

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**OASIS ID: Iparchae1-131446**

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### Project details

Project name	Stakes Road Purbrook
Short description of the project	Field Evaluation in advance of development
Project dates	Start: 18-06-2012 End: 22-06-2012
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	STA12 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	NONE None
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	Between deposition of an application and determination

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### Project location

Country	England
Site location	HAMPSHIRE HAVANT HAVANT Stakes Road Purbrook
Postcode	PO7 5PD
Study area	1.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	SU 468404 107804 50 -1 50 53 38 N 001 20 02 W Point

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Height OD / Depth	Min: 50.00m Max: 54.00m
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### Project creators

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Name of Organisation	I
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	L - P : Archaeology
Project director/manager	Kelly Madigan
Project supervisor	Cornelius Barton
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Barratt David Wilson Southampton

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### Project archives

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Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	Hampshire
Physical Archive ID	STA12
Digital Archive recipient	Hampshire
Digital Archive ID	STA12
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"GIS", "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Hampshire
Paper Archive ID	STA12
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey "

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### Project bibliography 1

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Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Stakes Road Purbrook Archaeological Evaluation report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Barton, C.
Other bibliographic details	LP1275L-AER-v1
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	L - P : Archaeology
Place of issue or	London

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publication

Description

A4 bound

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Entered by

C Barton (c.barton@lparchaeology.com)

Entered on

1 August 2012

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Wednesday 9 May 2012

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