

Archaeological Evaluation Report

# LAND WEST OF TEST VALLEY SCHOOL

---

For Barratt David Wilson Southampton

---

Cornelius Barton BA AIfA

---

L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Archaeological Evaluation Report

# LAND WEST OF TEST VALLEY SCHOOL

---

Client: Barratt David Wilson Southampton

---

Local Authority: Test Valley Borough Council

---

NGR: 434740, 135092

---

Planning App: N/A

---

Author(s): C. Barton

---

Doc Ref: LPI374L-AER-V1.1

---

Site Code: TVSI3

---

Date: February 13

---

**L-P:ARCHAEOLOGY**

A trading name of L - P : Heritage LLP.

The Truman Brewery | 91 Brick Lane | London, E1 6QL | +44 [0]20 7 770 6045 | +44 [0]20 7 691 7245

**[www.lparchaeology.com](http://www.lparchaeology.com)**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

*Table of Figures*

*Table of Plates*

*Table of Tables*

*Table of Appendices*

*Abstract*

1. Introduction

2. Site Background

3. Aims

4. Methodology

5. Results

6. Summary and Conclusions

7. Archive

*Sources Consulted*

*Figures*

*Appendices*

## TABLE OF FIGURES

Figure 1 - Site Location General

Figure 2 - Site Location Detail and Trench Plan

## TABLE OF PLATES

Plate 1: Trench 19 from west, 2x1 m scales

## TABLE OF TABLES

Table 1 - Pottery

## TABLE OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Oasis Record

# Abstract

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land west of Test Valley School, Roman Road, Stockbridge, Hampshire. 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.

No previous archaeological work has been carried out on the site, but an archaeological desk-based assessment showed the site to be close to an Iron Age hill fort.

The objectives of the evaluation were to assess the potential of the site to contain archaeological remains.

No archaeological remains were found on any part of the site and as such no further archaeological works are recommended.

# 1. Introduction

- 1.1. This evaluation report has been prepared by Cornelius Barton of L - P : Archaeology on behalf of Barratt David Wilson Southampton. The fieldwork was carried out by Cornelius Barton of L - P : Archaeology between 28<sup>th</sup> January and 8<sup>th</sup> February 2013.
- 1.2. The site is located at Roman Road, Stockbridge, Hampshire (FIGURE 1). The NGR is 434740, 135092.
- 1.3. The site code is TVS13.
- 1.4. The work was carried out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Cornelius Barton of L - P : Archaeology (BARTON 2013).

## 2. Site Background

### 2.1. PLANNING

- 2.1.1. A site at Roman Road, Stockbridge is being considered for development. The site does not fall within an Area of Archaeological Potential. The site does not contain any scheduled monuments or listed buildings.
- 2.1.2. In March 2012 the Department for Communities and Local Government issued the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT 2012). Section 12 of this document sets out planning policies on the conservation of the historic environment. In considering any planning application for development the Local Planning Authority, Test Valley Borough Council, considers the policies provided by NPPF.
- 2.1.3. Test Valley Borough Council must also consider the saved policies within the Borough's Local Plan (BLP) (adopted 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2006, saved 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2009). The relevant policy contained within the Local Plan is ENV11.
- 2.1.4. On matters concerning archaeology and the historic environment Test Valley Borough Council take advice from Hampshire County Council's Historic Environment Officer.
- 2.1.5. In accordance with government guidelines and best practice, and following consultation with the Historic Environment Officer, the works described in this document were carried out to inform a future planning application of any archaeological concerns affecting the development site.

### 2.2. GEOLOGY

- 2.2.1. The British Geological Survey GeoIndex shows the site to be located on a bedrock of white chalk subgroup ([WWW.BGS.AC.UK/GEOINDEX](http://WWW.BGS.AC.UK/GEOINDEX)). This data is at relatively low resolution and offers only a rough indication of the site geology.
- 2.2.2. The results of the evaluation concur with this analysis, showing weathered chalk below the plough soil at 0.20m-0.60m below ground level.

## **2.3. TOPOGRAPHY**

- 2.3.1. The site is located within the Test Valley approximately 14km northwest of Winchester, 20km north of Southampton and 10km south of Andover. The site is approximately 350m west of the centre of the town of Stockbridge on the A30.
- 2.3.2. The site is located on the western side of the Test Valley on the east facing slope of Meon Hill approximately 300m from the River Test. The site overlooks Stockbridge to the west of the river. The site is bounded by fields to the west and south, Test Valley School and a housing estate to the east and a small track to the north (**FIGURE 2**).
- 2.3.3. The site slopes from the west to east down into the Test Valley, approximately 80m OD in the west to approximately 65m OD in the east.

## **2.4. SITE CONDITIONS**

- 2.4.1. The site is currently under cultivation for cereal crops.

## **2.5. ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY**

- 2.5.1. A desk based assessment (DBA) was produced in 2012 by L – P : Archaeology (MADIGAN AND DUFFY 2012). A brief summary of the results follows. Information from the Hampshire Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record (AHBR) is referenced with the Monument ID in brackets e.g. (AHBR12345).

## **2.6. EARLY PREHISTORIC**

- 2.6.1. The AHBR recorded little in the way of Early Prehistoric finds with only two stray finds within the 1km search radius dating to the Early Neolithic. A stray find of a polished flint axe head was found to the east of Test Valley School (AHBR25197) and another was found within the area of Stockbridge (AHBR25209).

## **2.7. LATE PREHISTORIC**

- 2.7.1. The site is located within an area of Prehistoric activity mainly associated with the Bronze Age and Iron Age. Stockbridge is located at a narrow point within



the Test Valley between three enclosed Iron Age settlements, Danebury hillfort, Woolbury hillfort, and Meon Hill, which is located 500m to the west of the site.

- 2.7.2. A number of lynchets within a larger 'celtic' field system survive as earthworks in pasture land approximately 100m west of the site. These are dated to the Bronze Age (AHBR26467).
- 2.7.3. Excavations approximately 500m to the west of the site at Meon Hill revealed an Early Iron Age enclosure settlement, roughly circular in plan. The settlement was likely originally surrounded by a palisade and was later replaced by earthworks in the 4<sup>th</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> century BC (CUNLIFFE 1991:218). Hearths, post holes and daub indicating the presence of huts, shallow waster pits, pottery, as well as several metallic and bone small finds, hammerstones, querns, animal bones and flint objects were all uncovered surrounded by a V shaped ditch (AHBR25528).
- 2.7.4. Linear cropmarks running northwest to southeast and northeast to southwest across the slope of fields located between 50 and 400m southwest of the site have been dated to the Iron Age and are probably contemporary with the settlement at Meon Hill, a little to the north of the field system (AHBR29344).

## 2.8.ROMAN

- 2.8.1. The site is located in a region of known Roman activity located between Winchester and Salisbury, two major Roman towns. However, the search of the AHBR produced no results from the Roman period within 1km of the site.
- 2.8.2. A Roman fort has been postulated as being at Stockbridge as the Antonine Itinerary lists one as being between Winchester and Old Sarum. However, there is no archaeological evidence of a fort existing in the area surrounding the study site (AHBR25208).
- 2.8.3. Stockbridge is located at a narrow point in the Test Valley making it an ideal crossing point of the Test River and would be a good location for the construction of a bridge (SAXTON 2001:13). The name *Le Strete*, *Le Street* or *Lestrait* is associated with Stockbridge and is often used to refer to Roman roads (HILL IN SAXTON 2001:13). However, there is no recorded evidence for

Roman period activity and the nearest known road is 3km to the south at Horsebridge (SAXTON 2001:13).

## 2.9.EARLY MEDIEVAL

- 2.9.1. The search of the AHBR produced limited results for the Early Medieval period with only two entries identified.
- 2.9.2. In the northern quadrant of the Iron Age enclosure at Meon Hill an Anglo Saxon inhumation cemetery was excavated in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century (AHBR25539). Ten burials were extended with their heads to the south and have been interpreted as deliberate executions (AHBR25539). This may indicate that, at this time, Meon Hill was in use as an execution site for the surrounding area.
- 2.9.3. A coin mint was established at Stockbridge after the one at Southampton was destroyed in 992AD (AHBR25199). However, the site lies beyond the limits of the settlement at Stockbridge.

## 2.10.MEDIEVAL

- 2.10.1. The AHBR notes that Stockbridge was first mentioned in the Domesday Book as *Stoche* and describes its first mention as *Stocbrugge*, meaning 'bridge made of stocks or tree stumps', in 1086AD (AHBR28464). However, other authors suggest it is first mentioned as *Le Street* in the 12<sup>th</sup> century (VCH 1911) and first referred to as *Stocbrugge* in the 13<sup>th</sup> century (MILLS 1998 AND VCH 1911).
- 2.10.2. Stockbridge was originally thought to be part of the Manor of Somborne and in the 12<sup>th</sup> century consisted of a single long wide street which may have given it its early name of The Street (VCH 1911). Stockbridge grew in importance until the 15<sup>th</sup> century when it suddenly declined (VCH 1911).
- 2.10.3. The site itself is located at the boundary of three separate parishes. Longstock to the north, Houghton to the south and Stockbridge to the east. However, there were limited results of Medieval activity identified in the AHBR search.
- 2.10.4. The only remains were a linear feature that had been damaged by ploughing, which was interpreted as the parish boundary between Houghton and Stockbridge. This was located approximately 200m west of the site to the south

of Meon Hill (AHBR35631).

## 2.11.POST MEDIEVAL

2.11.1.During the 16<sup>th</sup> century Stockbridge increased in importance, after its decline at the end of the Medieval period, and was granted two Parliamentary members although the borough was known to be corrupt (VCH 1911). Stockbridge remained a largely linear settlement based along The Street, later called the High Street, leading to the crossing point of the River Test.

2.11.2.There are 36 listed buildings within the Stockbridge Conservation Area with a further 10 unlisted buildings recorded in the AHBR. Of these only a single building, Waterlow (AHBR7505), is Medieval in origin. The rest are dated from the Post Medieval development of the village with the exception of the telephone kiosk (AHBR 7511).

2.11.3.The AHBR recorded an archaeological evaluation undertaken at Providence House on Stockbridge High Street, 830m to the east of the site, where six sherds of pottery dating from the Roman to Post Medieval periods were found (AHBR54262).

2.11.4.A watching brief at Jacobs House, 880m east of the site, revealed a sequence of infill layers. Several of these layers were laid down in order to raise the level of the land above the flood level of the River Test (AHBR57143).

2.11.5.Water meadows are also recorded in the AHBR but are located to the east of the site between the site and Stockbridge to the east of the River Test (AHBR58835 and AHBR58847).

2.11.6.Ordnance Survey (OS) maps of the area show no development on the site, which appears to remain in agricultural use throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. This is likely to be a continuation of use extending from the Medieval period and earlier.

2.11.7.The 1871 OS map shows the site as part of a larger field with the track to the north and elsewhere bordered by fields. The 1896 OS map shows a similar picture as does the 1910 map. The 1971-73 OS map shows the larger field reduced by the construction of the school and housing estate on Roman Road

to the east. The western boundary of the site is defined subsequently and an area of trees planted to define this boundary (MADIGAN AND DUFFY 2012).

## 3. Aims

3.1.1. The aims of the archaeological evaluation were:

- ◆ To assess the character, date, location and preservation of any archaeological remains on the site.
  - ◆ To assess the nature and extent of any previous damage to archaeological remains on the site.
- ◆ To collect enough information to allow a suitable mitigation strategy to be devised, if required. Any such strategy could consist of further fieldwork followed by a programme of post excavation analysis, reporting and possible publication and dissemination.

## 4. Methodology

- 4.1. For a full description of the archaeological methodology please refer to section 4 of the WSI (BARTON 2013).
- 4.2. Twenty three trenches were excavated. Each trench measured 30m by 2m, for a total area of 1,380m<sup>2</sup> or approximately 5% of the total development area (FIGURE 2).
- 4.3. Minor changes were made to the position of some of the trenches to avoid overhead cables, but this did not affect coverage of the site.

## 5. Results

- 5.1.No archaeological features were found in any of the trenches. The stratigraphic sequence across the site consisted of a mid grey-brown silty clay ploughsoil (101) 0.25m thick, overlying a mid red-brown subsoil (102). (102) was well sorted and homogenous, and appeared colluvial in origin. This deposit varied between 0.20m and 0.40m thick, tending to be thickest approximately half-way down the slope. The presence of the colluvium suggests that there may have been a lynchett in the field previously, which has since been eroded by ploughing.
- 5.2.Below (102) was (103), a deposit of weathered natural chalk. The chalk was scored by frost-cracks in the common “tiger-stripe” pattern (see *Plate 1*). The soil horizons were clear and well-defined and it is highly unlikely that any remains were present and undetected.
- 5.3.No finds of archaeological interest were found during the evaluation. The only artefacts recovered were fragments of 20<sup>th</sup> century glazed pottery and glass which were present in small quantities. These were noted but not retained.



Plate 1: Trench 19 from west, 2x1m scales

## 6. Summary and Conclusions

- 6.1. A site at Roman Road, Stockbridge, Hampshire is to be proposed for redevelopment. The proposed redevelopment will consist of residential structures with associated landscaping, services and a new bus and car park for Test Valley School. Access roads will also be constructed from the development onto Roman Road
- 6.2. The site does not contain any scheduled monuments or listed buildings.
- 6.3. The area around the site has been inhabited since the Bronze Age, and there is a known Iron Age settlement nearby. However no archaeological remains have been found on the site itself, and the site has never been developed.
- 6.4. No archaeological remains were found during the evaluation. It is possible that there are surviving discrete features between the trenches, but very unlikely that any structures or complex stratigraphy are present on the site, particularly given the lack of finds. The impact of the proposed development on the archaeological record is considered low.
- 6.5. No further work on the site is recommended.



## 7. Archive

7.1. The paper archive consists of:

- ◆ 1 x Drawing Register
- ◆ 5 x Drawing Film
- ◆ 1 x Photographic Register
- ◆ 1 x Context Register
- ◆ 23 x Trench Record Sheets

7.1.1. There are no finds or sample residues.

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

# SOURCES CONSULTED

## **BIBLIOGRAPHIC**

- CUNLIFFE B, 1991. *Iron Age Communities in Britain*. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. Routledge, London.
- BARTON C, 2013 *Land West of Test Valley School: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation*. L – P : Archaeology unpublished client report.
- MADIGAN K, AND DUFFY J, 2012 *Land West of Test Valley School: Archaeological Desk Based assessment*. L – P : Archaeology unpublished archive report.
- MILLS A D, 1998. *Dictionary of English Place-Names*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.
- SAXTON H, 2001. *A Portrait of Stockbridge*. George Mann Publications, Winchester.
- VCH, 1911. *A History of the County of Hampshire:Volume 4*. Victoria County History.

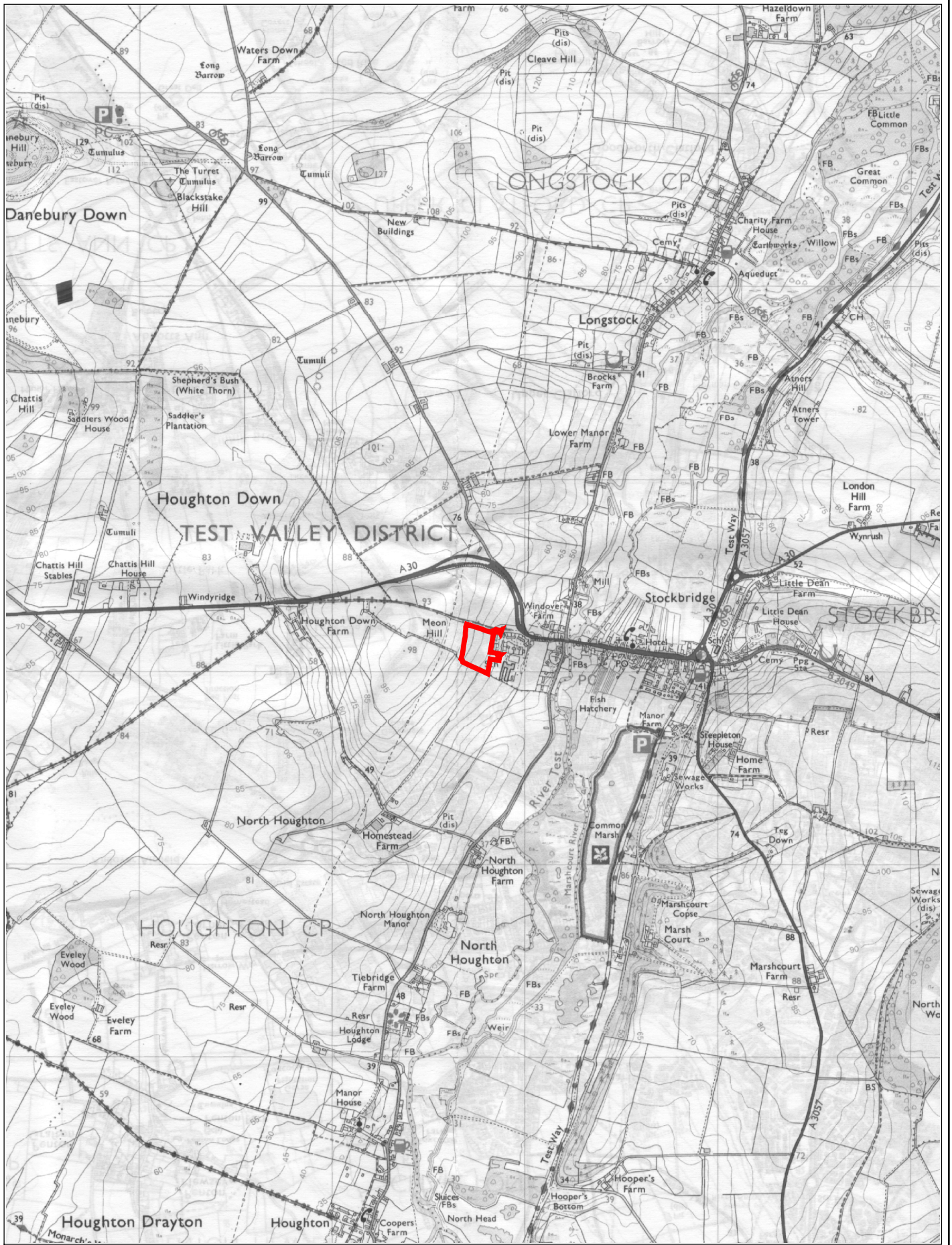
## **STATUTORY AND GUIDANCE**

STANDARD AND GUIDANCE FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION Institute for Archaeologists 2008

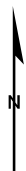
---

# FIGURES

FIGURE I // Site Location General



 Site Area



0  1 km

PROJECT // I374L - Land West of Test Valley School

DESCRIPTION // Site Location General

Reproduced by permission of the controller of HMSO, Licence 10053067

DOC REF: LPI374L-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

FIGURE 2 // Site Detail with Trenches



█ Trench  
█ Site Area

1:12500 @ A4

0 50m



PROJECT // LPI374L-Land West of Test Valley School

DESCRIPTION // Site Detail with Trench Locations

Reproduced by permission of the controller of HMSO, Licence 100030862

DOC REF: LPI374L-AER-v1.0

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

---

# OASIS FORM

## APPENDIX I

**OASIS ID: Iparchae1-143765**

---

---

### Project details

Project name	Land West of Test Valley School Stockbridge
Short description of the project	Trenching evaluation
Project dates	Start: 28-01-2013 End: 08-02-2013
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	TVS13 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 2 - Operations to a depth less than 0.25m
Monument type	N/A None
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

---

---

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	HAMPSHIRE TEST VALLEY STOCKBRIDGE Land West of Test Valley School, Stockbridge
Postcode	SO20 6HA
Study area	1.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	SU 434740 135092 50 -1 50 55 07 N 001 22 53 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 60.00m Max: 80.00m

---

---

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	L - P : Archaeology
Project brief originator	Contractor (design and execute)
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

---

---

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	Unknown TBC
Physical Archive ID	TVS13
Digital Archive recipient	Hampshire
Digital Archive ID	TVS13
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"GIS","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Hampshire
Paper Archive ID	TVS13
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Drawing","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "

---

---

### Project bibliography

1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land west of Test Valley School Stockbridge Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	C. Barton
Other bibliographic details	LP1374L-WBR-v1.0
Date	2013



---

Issuer or publisher	L - P : Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	A4 bound report and .pdf file

---

Entered by	C. Barton (c.barton@lparchaeology.com)
Entered on	15 February 2013

**OASIS:**

Please e-mail [English Heritage](#) for OASIS help and advice

© ADS 1996-2012 Created by [Jo Gilham and Jen Mitcham, email](#) Last modified

Wednesday 9 May 2012

Cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm> for this page

Figure List:

FIGURE 1 - SITE LOCATION GENERAL

FIGURE 2 - SITE LOCATION DETAIL AND TRENCH PLAN

Appendix List:

APPENDIX 1 - OASIS RECORD