Cotswold Archaeology

Andover Tennis Club
Brackenbury, Andover
Hampshire

Archaeological Evaluation

for
Perbury group Ltd

CA Project: 770345
CA Report:

February 2016

Andover Tennis Club
Brackenbury, Andover,
Hampshire

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 770345
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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

SUMMARY

Project Name:	Andover Tennis Club
Location:	Brackenbury, Andover
NGR:	SU 35587 45899
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	22-24 February 2016
Planning Reference:	12/02768/OUTN
Location of Archive:	
Site Code:	ANTC 16

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February 2016 at Andover Lawn Tennis Club. Five trenches were excavated revealing three ditches, a pit and a possible holloway/trackway/road located on the same projected alignment as the Port Way Roman road. Small quantities of worked flint, animal bone and degraded prehistoric pottery were recovered from across the features.

The tennis courts are terraced into the natural slope which runs from south (80m aOD) to north (78m aOD) over a 92m long site. There are two levels to the site – the upper level where three courts are laid out is cut 1m into the chalk and then a drop to a second lower level (where two courts are laid out) which is also cut 1m into the chalk. Therefore it is likely that any meaningful survival of deposits or remains is only likely in the very northern limit of the site – i.e. in the immediate vicinity of **Trench 6**.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In February 2016 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for the Perbury Group Ltd. at the Andover Lawn Tennis Club, Brackenbury, Andover, Hampshire (centred on NGR: SU 35587 45899; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to provide information about any archaeological resources within the site and in particular to provide information on the course of the Roman road known as the Port Way, which runs between Silchester and Old Sarum and which is thought to extend across the north-western part of the Site (Figure 1).

1.2 An application (ref: 12/02768/OUTN) has been made to Test Valley Borough Council for the development of 14 dwellings plus associated works on the site **.** Planning Condition 6 states:

- *No development shall take place (including site clearance within the application site until the applicant or their agents or successors in title has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work, in accordance with a written brief and specification for a scheme of investigation and mitigation, which has been submitted by the developer and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*
- ***Reason:*** *The site is potentially of archaeological significance in accordance with the Test Valley Borough Local Plan 2006 policy ENV11.*

1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2016) and approved by David Hopkins. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006).

The site

1.4 The proposed development within the Andover Tennis Club grounds is approximately 0.5ha in area, and comprises the tennis club courts with associated

buildings. The site is bounded by Blendon Drive to the west, Eardley Avenue to the south and Brackenbury (cul-de-sac) to the north and east. The Site lies at an elevation of approximately 77-79m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 No known archaeological investigations have been previously carried out within the Site. A heritage statement produced in support of the planning application (Wessex Archaeology 2012) is summarised below.

Prehistoric

2.3 The Harrow Way, an important trackway with Neolithic origins is believed to have passed through the Portway industrial estate immediately east of the site. This east-west route through southern England followed a ridge of high ground and crossed the River Anton in the process. A group of six barrows were historically recorded to the north-west of the site.

2.4 Extending southwards from the barrow group in a sinuous curve, a ditch was identified and excavated prior to a development, and was found to contain both Neolithic and Bronze Age pottery. It appeared to either respect or be respected by the position of two of the barrows at its northern end.

Iron Age and Romano-British activity

2.4 An excavation at 32 Blendon Drive (to the north-west of the Site), identified evidence of a Romano-British building, and an archaeological evaluation located approximately 25m from the northern boundary of Site encountered evidence associated with Iron Age settlement. In addition, a Romano-British ditch was located along the Portway indicating further activity to the west of the Site. The course of the major Roman road known as the Port Way, which runs between Silchester and Old Sarum is projected to cross the northern part of the Site (see figure 1).

2.5 At John Hanson PIaying Fields, (south-east of the site), a large circular cropmark and a linear cropmark were identified in 1995. Subsequent evaluation located a

Romano-British (or earlier) ditch, a probable medieval ditch and some undated gullies.

Saxon and medieval activity

2.11 At the southern end of the prehistoric ditch referred to above, a large Saxon cemetery was located prior to the development of the Portway. This cemetery contained both inhumations and cremation burials, including three possible early Saxon barrows.

2.12 The Domesday Survey (1086) records a population of one hundred villagers, smallholders and freedmen, and six slaves for the royal manor of Andover (English Heritage, Hampshire County Council 1999). This settlement was centred on the east side of the River Anton. The two main foci of settlement activity during the medieval period were within the historic core of Andover and at the village of Charlton to the north.

Post-medieval and modem activity

2.13 During the post-medieval and early modern periods the Site continues to lie beyond the established areas of settlement. As illustrated by both the 1850 tithe map and the 1848 apportionment, the Site lay within an extensive area of arable land. The field within which the Site was located was itself within a parcel of land situated between two droveways. The field within this plot and some of those either side were recorded as 'Harroway' in the tithe apportionment reflecting their position along the known prehistoric track.

2.14 Though the urban extent of Andover grew significantly during the 20th century, the Site and its environs remained largely rural until the 1960s. The residential housing seen today appears to have been largely constructed in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

2.15 Andover Lawn Tennis Club was originally known as the Folly Tennis Club and moved to its current location, then known as Drove Courts in 1945. Though the club moved away from this location during the 1950s and 1960s it moved back and purchased the courts in 1976. Tennis courts in the southern half of the Site are first depicted on the 1970-1975 Ordnance Survey Map.

2.16 The underlying bedrock is recorded as the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation (BGS).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objectives of the evaluation are to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality, in accordance *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014). This information will enable Test Valley Borough Council to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

Specific Aims

3.2 Specifically the evaluation sought to assess whether any remains associated with the Neolithic trackway known as the Harroway and the Roman road, known as the Port Way survived within the site.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of five trenches with varying dimensions in the locations shown on the attached plan (Figure 2) (**Trench 1** measured 11m in length, **Trench 2**, 7m, **Trench 3**, 8m, **Trench 5**, 18m and **Trench 6**, 24m. **Trenches 1**, **2**, **3** & **6** measured 1.9m in width whilst **Trench 5** measured 1m in width). The locations of several trenches were modified on site in the face of live services, fences, hedgerows and a footpath. **Trench 1** was moved slightly to the south to avoid the canopy of a tree**, Trench 2** was reduced in length to avoid a wooden gate/picket fence. **Trench 4** could not be excavated due to the presence of live buried services and a laurel hedge. **Trench 5** with restricted access was reduced in width and **Trench 6** was moved slightly to the north to avoid live buried services. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual*.

4.2 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or

the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.

4.3 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* and no deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.

4.4 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Andover, subject to the agreement of the legal landowner they will be deposited with Hampshire County Council Museums and Archives Service. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIGURES 2-9)

5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A, B and C respectively. The topsoil across site consisted of a dark brown clayey silt with a maximum depth of 0.15m, subsoil was recorded in each trench consisting of a light brown clayey silt up to a maximum of 0.30m in depth. The natural observed in each trench consisted of chalk with patches of light brown clayey silt.

Trench 1 (Figures 2 & 3)

5.2 **Trench 1** which ran much deeper to the north was capped by a modern carpark surface consisting of compacted aggregates up to 0.20cm in depth, this sealed topsoil (**100**) and which overlay two distinct subsoil horizons (**102** & **103**). The depth of the natural chalk was exposed at 0.32m bgl to the south and 0.87m to the north. No archaeological features or finds were recovered.

Trench 2 (Figures 2 & 4)

5.3 Topsoil (**200**) with a depth of 0.08m overlay modern aggregates (**201**) and a band of redeposited chalk (**202**) to a combined depth of 0.48m. And subsoil (**203**) up to a depth of 0.70m overlay the natural chalk (**204**). A single modern service trench (**205**) crossed the trench at its southern end. No archaeological features or finds were recovered.

Trench 3 (Figures 2 & 5)

5.4 Topsoil (**300**) extended to a depth of 0.15, bgl and overlay (**301**), a buried topsoil horizon containing modern inclusions of tarmac up to a depth of 0.50m. Subsoil (**302**) was evident from a depth of 0.50m to 0.80m. At the southern end of the trench, a modern cut, (possible service trench (**304**)), was recorded and contained modern glass and plastic (**305**). No archaeological features or finds were recovered.

Trench 5 (Figures 2 & 6)

5.5 **Trench 5** was excavated through a modern tarmac footpath where a mixture of topsoil and path-make up measured up to 0.32m in depth. Beneath which subsoils (**503**/ **509**) ran to a maximum depth of 0.62m. At the north end of the trench roughly on the projected line of the Roman road a possible holloway (**507**) was recorded crossing the trench on a north-east/south-west orientation. The Holloway, **507** measured 5.4m in width by at least 0.28m in depth and was filled with **508**, a light reddish brown clayey silt. The holloway remains undated. A modern service trench (**504**) was also observed to truncate it at the southern end of **Trench 5** running west – east.

Trench 6 (Figures 2 & 7)

5.6 **Trench 6** located in the car park was sealed with a modern aggregate surface up to 0.20m in depth. This sealed a redeposited topsoil layer (**601**) which in turn covered an earlier tarmac surface to a combined depth of 0.62m, beneath which, a light brown clay/silt subsoil **(603**) covered the natural chalk to a combined depth of 0.80m. Cutting the chalk was a large shallow pit and three narrow ditches, each of the ditches were aligned north-east/south-west. Pit **605** - which could possibly be two intercutting pits extended out of the trench to the north, east and south and

measured at least 3.30m in length by 0.47m in depth. It was filled with **606,** a pale yellowy brown clayey silt with chalk inclusions. A single piece of burnt flint, a possible core fragment and a badly degraded sherd of late prehistoric pot was recovered from this fill.

5.7 The three U-shaped ditches consisted of **607**, which measured 0.56m in width by 0.20m in depth and was filled with **608**, a light brown clay/silt which contained a single piece of burnt flint. Ditch **610** 0.52m in width and 0.17m in depth was filled with **611**, a mid-brown clay/silt. And ditch **612** which measured 0.73m in width and 0.37m in depth and was filled with **613**, a pale brown clay/silt 0.18m in depth which underlay **609**, a mid-brown clay/silt 0.20m in depth.

6. THE FINDS

6.1 Artefactual material from evaluation was hand-recovered from two deposits (pit and ditch fills). The recovered material dates to the prehistoric period. Quantities of the artefact types are given in Appendix B. The pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric.

6.2 ***Pottery***

Fill **606** of pit **605** produced six crumbs (totalling 0.8g) of pottery in a soft-fired fabric tempered with quartz (QZ). This pottery is tentatively dated to the Late prehistoric period, which spans the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age.

6.3 ***Lithics***

Single pieces of burnt flint were retrieved from fill **606** of pit **605** and fill **608** of ditch **607**. The item from pit fill **606** probably originated as a core for producing flakes. However, the surfaces are too heavily burnt to allow certainty and it is not a closely dateable type.

7. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

7.1 Archaeological features were recorded in two of the five excavated trenches. **Trench 5** was located to record the projected north-east/south-west alignment of the

Port Way Roman road. Whilst no obvious road surface was recorded, a possible undated holloway (potentially earlier) on the same orientation of the Port Way was recorded crossing the trench.

7.2 **Trench 6** contained three shallow undated ditches each on the same orientation as the Port Way. Of these undated features ditch **607**, contained burnt flint of probable prehistoric date. A pit, or possibly two intercutting pits were also recorded extending out of the east end of the trench. This shallow feature contained a degraded sherd of late prehistoric pottery and a burnt worked flint core and is an indicator of prehistoric activity on the site.

7.3 **Trenches 1-3** did not contain archaeological features. Although trench one did record the original topography of the landscaped site within the trench the natural geology ran steeply down to the north from the south. Trenches two and three demonstrated modern made ground datable to the construction of the tennis courts, suggesting the site has been built up and terraced up rather than truncated in the past. Modern services were recorded in **Trenches 2**, **3** and **5**.

7.4 The evaluation has confirmed a low level of late prehistoric/and possibly early Romano-British activity on the site, confined to the north-west corner of the site. The tennis courts are terraced into the natural slope which runs from south (80m aOD) to north (78m aOD) over a 92m long site. There are two levels to the site – the upper level where three courts are laid out is cut 1m into the chalk and then a drop to a second lower level (where two courts are laid out) which is also cut 1m into the chalk. Therefore it is likely that any meaningful survival of deposits or remains is only likely in the very northern limit of the site – i.e. in the immediate vicinity of **Trench 6**.

8. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Joe Whelan, assisted by Steve Bush. The report was written by Joe Whelan. The finds and biological evidence reports were written by Jacky Sommerville. The illustrations were prepared by Sam O'Leary. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Richard Greatorex.

9. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2015, *Geology of Britain Viewer* http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology viewer google/googleviewer.html. Accessed February 2016

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015, *Andover Tennis Club, Eardley Avenue, Andover, Hampshire : Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

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Wessex Archaeology (2012), *Andover Lawn Tennis Club, Eardley Avenue, Andover, Hampshire: Heritage Statement*

Appendix A: Context table

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/ thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Modern aggregates	Modern aggregates for Carpark surface	>10.5	>2	0-0.22 (0.22)	Modern
1	101	Layer		Top soil	Dark brown clayey silt, loose	>10.5	>2	0.22-0.32 (0.1)	Modern
1	102	Layer		Subsoil	Light brown silty clay, friable	>5.2	>2	0.32-0.53 (0.21)	
1	103	Layer		subsoil	Mid brown clayey silt, loose	>10.5	>2	0.53-0.87 (0.34)	
1	104	Layer		Natural	Chalk Natural, solid, patches of light brown clayey silt present throughout. Flint inclusions.	>10.5	>2	>0.87	
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown silty clay, friable, located to west of trench.	>7	>2	0-0.08 (0.08)	Modern
2	201	Layer		Modern aggregates	Modern aggregates for levelling of land and carpark	>7	>2	0.08-0.34 (0.26)	Modern
2	202	Layer		Redeposited natural	Deposited chalk natural, levelling of land and covering modern service, located to the south of trench	>3	>2	0.34-0.48 (0.14)	Modern
2	203	Layer		Subsoil	Light brown clayey silt, loose	>7	>2	0.48-0.70 (0.52)	
2	204	Layer		Natural	Chalk Natural, solid, patches of light brown clayey silt present throughout. Flint inclusions.	>7	>2	>0.7	
2	205	Cut		Modern services	Cut of Modern services, NW– SE alignment	>3.5	>0.3	>0.44	Modern
2	206	Fill	205	Fill of 205	Modern aggregates filling modern service,	>3.5	>0.3	>0.44	Modern
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown silty clay, friable,	>8.3	>2	0-0.15 (0.15)	Modern
3	301	Layer		Redeposited topsoil	Redeposited topsoil, various building materials present	>8.3	>2	0.15-0.5 (0.35)	Modern
3	302			Subsoil	Light brown clayey silt, loose	>8.3	>2	0.5-0.8 (0.3)	
3	303	Layer		Natural	Chalk Natural, solid, patches of light brown clayey silt present throughout. Flint inclusions.	>8.3	>2	>0.8	
3	304	Cut		Modern trench	Cut of modern trench purpose unknown, NE – SW alignment	2.3	0.5	>0.8	Modern
3	305	Fill	304	Fill of 304	Redeposited topsoil with modern debris inclusions	2.3	0.5	>0.8	Modern
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown silty clay, friable,	>17.6	>1	0.06 (0.06)	Modern
5	501	Layer		Modern aggregates	Modern aggregates for levelling and path	>17.6	>1	0.06-0.2 (0.14)	Modern
5	502	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown silty clay, friable, covered by modern aggregates	>17.6	>1	0.2-0.52 (0.32)	
5	503	Layer		Subsoil	Light brown clayey silt, loose, cut by [507], located to south of trench 5	>10	>1	0.42-0.52 (0.1_	
5	504	Cut		Modern Service	Cut of modern service, E-W alignment	>1.1	0.25	>0.45	Modern

5	505	Fill	504	Fill of 504	Mid brown silty clay with redeposited chalk natural	>1.1	0.25	>0.45	Modern
Trench No.	**Context No.**	**Type**	**Fill of**	**Context interpretation**	**Description**	**L (m)**	**W (m)**	**Depth/ thickness (m)**	**Spot-date**
5	506	Layer		Natural	Chalk Natural, solid, patches of light brown clayey silt present throughout. Flint inclusions.	>17.6	>0.65	>0.62	
5	507	Cut		Holloway	Cut of potential Holloway, NE – SW alignment	>1	5.4	0.5-0.78 (0.28)	
5	508	Fill	507	Fill of 507	Light red brown clayey silt, loose,	>1	5.4	0.5-0.78 (0.28)	
5	509	Layer		Subsoil	Light brown clayey silt, loose, cut by [507]	>2	>1	0.52-0.62 (0.1)	
6	600	Layer		Modern aggregates	Surface of modern carpark	>26	>2	0-0.2 (0.2)	Modern
6	601	Layer		Made ground	Light brown silty clay, loose	>26	>2	0.2-0.47 (0.27)	Modern
6	602	Layer		Modern aggregates	Modern carpark	>26	>2	0.47-0.62 (0.15)	Modern
6	603	Layer		Subsoil	Light brown clayey silt, loose	>26	>2	0.62-0.8 (0.18)	
6	604	Layer		Natural	Chalk Natural, solid, patches of light brown clayey silt present throughout. Flint inclusions.	>26	>2	>0.8	
6	605	Cut		Cut of two possible features	Cut of tow possible features	>3.2	>1.2	0.34-0.81 (0.47)	Prehistoric
6	606	Fill	605	Fill of 605	Pale yellow brown clayey silt, Firm	>3.2	>1.2	0.34-0.81 (0.47)	Prehistoric
6	607	Cut		Cut of Ditch	Cut of possible boundary ditch, NE – SW alignment,	>1	0.56	0.88-1.08 (0.2)	Prehistoric
6	608	Fill	607	Fill of 607	Light brown clayey silt, loose	>1	0.56	0.88-1.08 (0.2)	Prehistoric
6	609	Fill	612	Fill of 612	Mid brown clayey silt, friable, second fill of two	>1.2	0.73	0.88-1.08 (0.2)	Prehistoric
6	610	Cut		Cut of Ditch	Cut of possible boundary ditch, NE – SW alignment,	>1.2	0.52	0.88-1.05 (0.17)	Prehistoric
6	611	Fill	610	Fill of 610	Mid brown clayey silt, friable	>1.2	0.52	0.88-1.05 (0.17)	Prehistoric
6	612	Cut		Cut of Ditch	Cut of possible boundary ditch, NE – SW alignment,	>1.2	0.73	0.88-1.25 (0.37)	Prehistoric
6	613	Fill	612	Fill of 612	Light brownish yellow, friable	>1.2	0.48	1.08-1.25 (0.18)	Prehistoric

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
606	Late prehistoric pottery Burnt flint	Quartz-tempered fabric	QZ	6 1	0.8 135	Late prehistoric?
608	Burnt flint			1	18	-

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Andover Lawn Terrace Club, Andover, Hampshire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February 2016 at Andover Lawn Tennis Club. Five trenches were excavated revealing three ditches, a pit and a possible Holloway located on the same alignment as the Port Way Roman road. Small quantities of worked flint, animal bone prehistoric pottery were recovered from the features across the site.	
Project dates	22-24 February 2016	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Evaluation	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	None known	
Future work	Possible	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Andover Lawn Tennis Club, Brackenbury, Andover, Hampshire	
Study area (M^2/ha)	0.5ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SU 35587 45899	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	N/A	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Greatorex	
Project Supervisor	Joe Whelan	
MONUMENT TYPE	none	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	Potential prehistoric holloway	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		Flint, pot
Paper		Trench sheets, Context sheets,
Digital		Database, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 *Andover Tennis Club, Brackenbury, Andover, Hampshire: Archaeological Evaluation.* CA typescript report		

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