

Land off Station Road, Tidworth, Wiltshire:

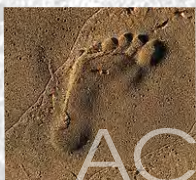
Results of an archaeological evaluation

NGR SU 23858 48454

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On behalf of:
Sydenhams
Ltd

Document No: ACW1213/2/0

Date: August 2019



AC archaeology

LAND OFF STATION ROAD, TIDWORTH, WILTSHIRE (NGR: SU 23858 48454)

Results of archaeological evaluation

SUMMARY

Archaeological evaluation, consisting of the machine-excavation of two trenches on land off Station Road, Tidworth, Wiltshire (SU 23858 48454) was undertaken by AC archaeology Ltd, in July 2019. The investigation was undertaken in support of a planning application for the proposed construction a new hardware and DIY store with associated warehouse and open storage as well as 8 residential units, with associated landscaping and parking.

The evaluation has shown no evidence for any in-situ archaeological cut features or deposits in either of the trenches. No residual finds were recovered or retained during the excavation.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document sets out the results of archaeological evaluation on land off Station Road, Tidworth, Wiltshire (SU 23858 48454). The work was commissioned by Sydenhams Ltd., the site owners.
- 1.2 The two-trench evaluation was undertaken as a condition of a planning consent granted by Wiltshire Council (18/02400/FUL). The location of the trenches is shown on Fig. 1.
- 1.3 The proposed development is located on the former NAAFI north of Station Road, Tidworth, Wiltshire. The trenches were located within the footprint of the proposed building that will avoid the siting of the previous NAAFI building and the former station sidings. The underlying geology of the site area comprises Newhaven Chalk Formation formed in the Cretaceous Period. This is described as soft to hard smooth white chalk with numerous marl seams and flint bands. (BGS online)

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A detailed account relating to the archaeological and historical background to the site was presented in the Historic Environment Assessment (Hall, 2018), a summary of this report is included below:

Prehistoric (900,000 BC-AD 43)

- 2.2 Activity relating to the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age is evident within and around Tidworth (Hall, 2018). The Historic Environment Record has records relating to this period c.150m to the

south-west of the proposed development. Archaeological evaluations undertaken in 2005 and a subsequent strip, map and record undertaken during the construction of the car park for the Tesco Superstore, uncovered pits, ditches and postholes of late Bronze Age to early Iron Age date; these were accompanied by an undated burial (SU24NW557 and 558)

Romano-British & Saxon (AD43-1066)

- 2.3 No evidence for any Romano-British activity has to date been found within the environs of the site.

Medieval (AD 1066-1450)

- 2.4 A medieval equal-armed cross was found c.120m south-west of the site in 1984. This site is now under the western car park of the Tesco superstore (SU24NW455).

Post-medieval & Modern (AD 1451-present)

- 2.5 The proposed development is situated on the site of the former sidings relating to the southern terminus of Tidworth Railway Station, built in 1900 for the Midland and South-Western Railway. Most of the railway infrastructure has since been removed following the closure of the station in the 1960s, and the original footprint of the station and sidings has been re-profiled with the post 1960s building works in the area. One of the structures in existence is the reception centre built to receive the wounded from the First World War (MW176238). This is located c.60m to the north-east of the site. The Gate posts to the station yard and a former building relating to the station still survives to the west of the site off Station Road (Hall, 2018).

3. OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken to determine, as far as reasonably possible, the location, extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains that may be present on the site, as dictated by current best practice.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The evaluation was undertaken in response to a planning consent granted by Wiltshire Council and in accordance with a project design prepared by AC archaeology Ltd (Trott, 2019) and approved prior to commencement on site. This was done in consultation with the Wiltshire Council Assistant Archaeology Officer (WCAAO), with the aim to identify any heritage assets that may require mitigation.
- 4.2 All spoil removal was undertaken under the control and direction of the Site Archaeologist. Generally, the modern overburden was removed by mechanical excavator, using a wide toothless bucket, however, due to the presence of concrete it was necessary on occasion to use

a breaker and small toothed bucket. Excavation ceased at the level at which archaeological deposits or natural stratum were exposed.

4.3 Each trench was recorded using the full range of the standard AC archaeology *pro forma* recording system.

4.4 The archive has been prepared using the site code ACW1213.

5. RESULTS

Trench 1 (Plan 1, Fig. 1; Plates 1 and 2)

5.1 This trench measured 20m in length and 1.2m in width and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.6m. A sequence of modern construction layers, overlying natural sub-stratum, was encountered. No archaeological cut features were revealed anywhere within the trench. The recorded layer sequence is summarised in Table 1.

Table 1: Trench depositional sequence

| Context | Thickness (mm) | Description | Interpretation |
|---------|----------------|--|---------------------------------|
| 100 | 150 - 250 | Paving slabs/concrete | Surface hard standing - Modern. |
| 101 | 600 - 800 | Layers of crushed rock aggregate, asphalt, lean-mix concrete | Made Ground - Modern |
| 102 | 300 - 600 | Compacted chalk, occasionally mixed with pale brown marly chalk | Made Ground - Modern |
| 103 | 400 - 600 | Pale brown to very pale creamy brown marly silt with some relict roots | Made Ground - Modern |
| 104 | Not determined | Chalk, some marl and flint | Natural |

Trench 2 (Plan 1, Fig. 1; Plates 3 and 4)

5.2 The trench measured 20m in length and 1.2m in width and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m. A sequence of modern construction layers overlying natural sub-stratum was encountered. No archaeological cut features were revealed anywhere within the trench. The recorded layer sequence is summarised in Table 2.

Table 1: Trench depositional sequence

| Context | Thickness (mm) | Description | Interpretation |
|---------|----------------|--|---------------------------------|
| 200 | 150 - 250 | Paving slabs/concrete | Surface hard standing - Modern. |
| 201 | 100 - 600 | Layers of crushed rock aggregate, asphalt, lean-mix concrete | Made Ground - Modern |
| 202 | 100 - 200 | Pale brown marly silt with gravel of chalk | Made Ground - Modern |
| 203 | Not determined | Chalk, some marl and flint | Natural |

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The evaluation trenches revealed a succession of modern construction layers overlying natural chalk.
- 6.2 Topographically, the development area has a sloping aspect, from east down to west. Prior to construction the area had been stripped of overburden and the underlying chalk subject to cut and fill to provide a level ground surface. At least some of the excavated chalk material being used to fill lower areas, the compacted chalk infill sealed with a capping layer of lean mix concrete. Overlying the concrete, layers of crushed rock aggregate capped with a layer of bituminous-coated material, this in turn is overlain with crushed rock and recycled material, probably from the demolition of a former structure. Sealing the crushed rock and recycled material were concrete paving slabs laid on a reinforced cement mortar screed. It is likely the successive construction phases have removed evidence of historic structures like the former sidings relating to the southern terminus of Tidworth Railway Station, built in 1900 for the Midland and South-Western Railway.
- 6.4 The evaluation trenches revealed no evidence for any other in-situ archaeological cut features or deposits. No residual finds were recovered during the excavation of the evaluation trenches.

7. REFERENCES

Hall, N. 2018. *An Archaeological Desk Based Assessment of Land at the former NAFFI site, Station Road, Tidworth, Wiltshire*. Unpublished client report.

Trott, K. 2019. '*Station Road, Tidworth, Wiltshire: Project Design for an Archaeological Evaluation*', AC archaeology Document No. ACW1213/1/0, July 2019



Plate 1: Trench 1, view from the south-west.
(scale 1m)

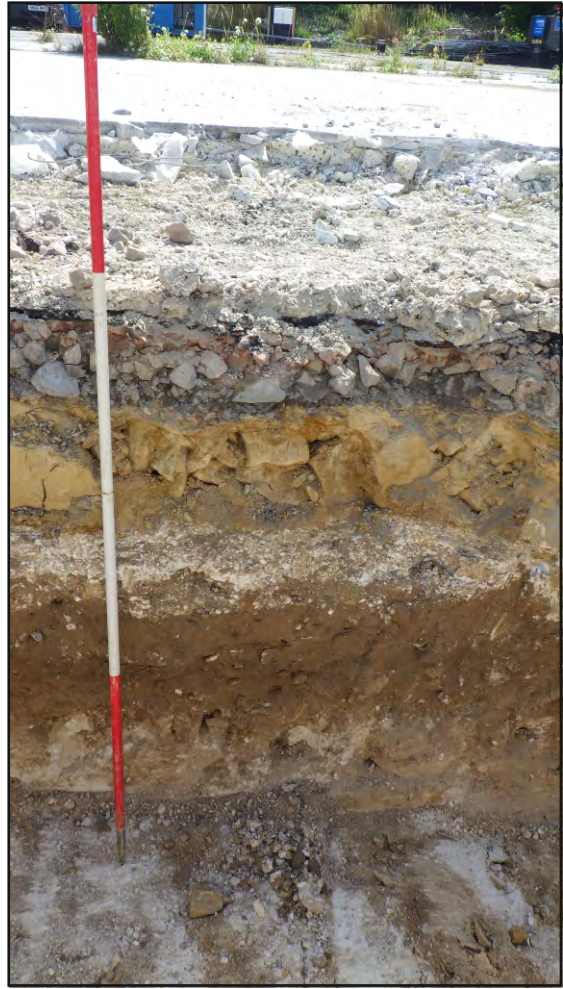


Plate 2: North-west facing section of Trench 1.
(scale 2m)



Plate 3: Trench 2, view from the east.
(scale 2x1m)

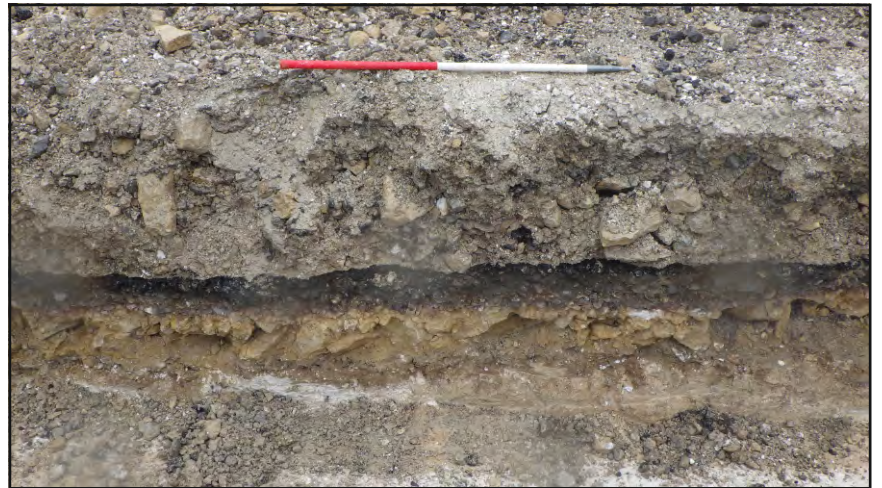
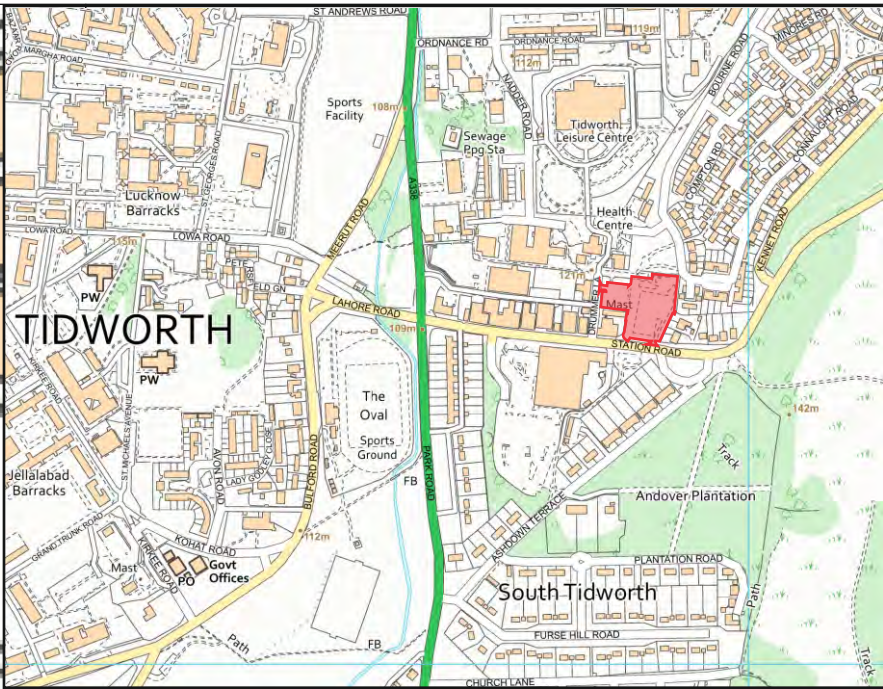
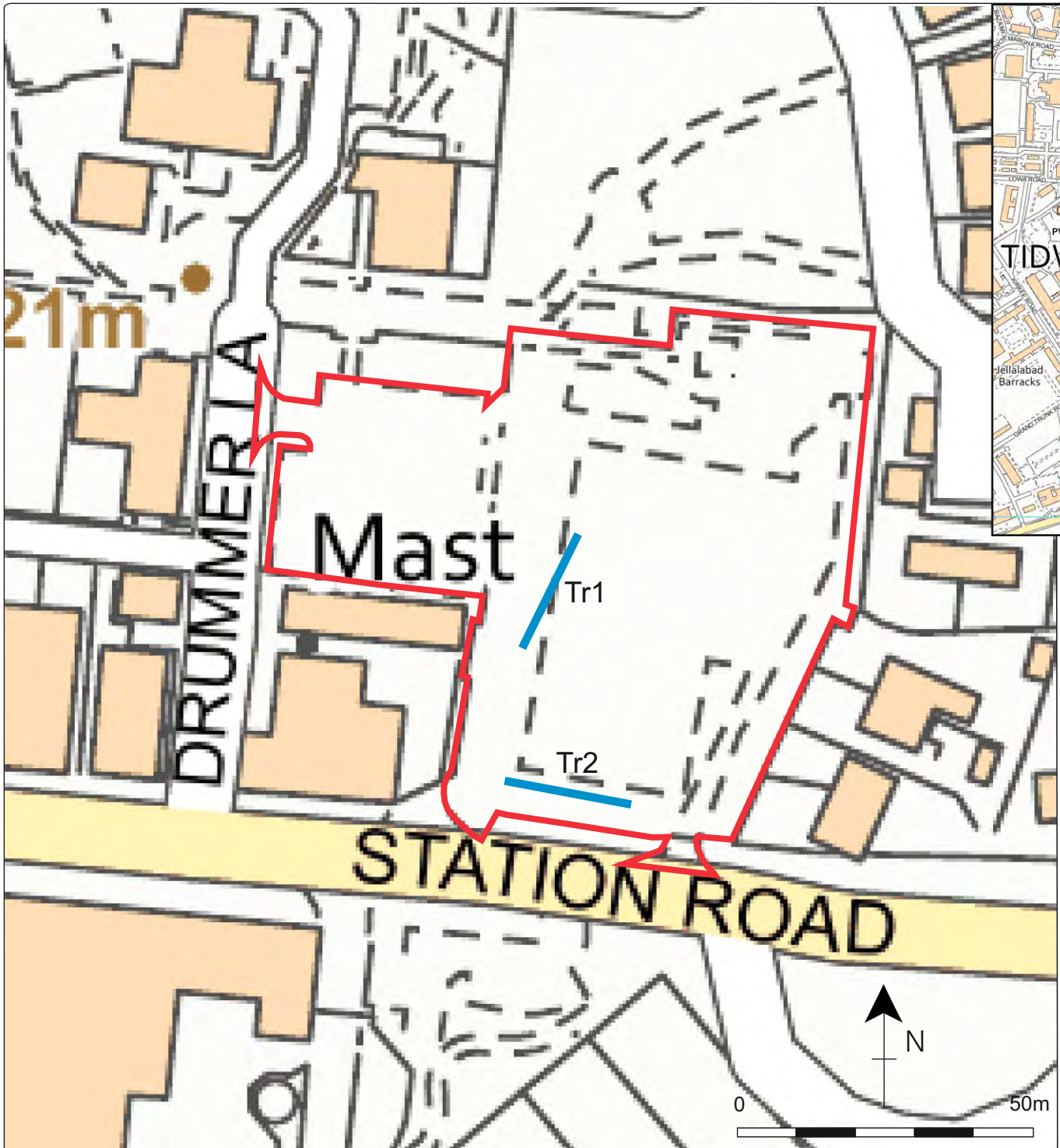


Plate 4: South facing section of Trench 2. (scale 1m)



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- Key:
- Site location
 - Trench



PROJECT
 Station Road, Tidworth, Wiltshire

TITLE
 Fig. 1: Site and trench location

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