



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

AT

**OAK PARK HOSPITAL, HAVANT,
HAMPSHIRE**

(NGR SU 720 071)

On behalf of

Gifford Ltd

September 2008

REPORT FOR Gifford Ltd
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Summary

John Moore Heritage Services conducted an archaeological evaluation of the proposed development site on 9th and 10th September 2008. Six trenches, totalling approximately 180 metres in length, were excavated to reveal the underlying natural geology. Archaeological deposits were very limited. Three pits and a stake-hole were located; one pit may be Roman in date. A single sherd of Iron Age pottery was also recovered.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The area of the proposed development is located to the north of Havant town centre at NGR SU 720 071. It covers an area of about 2 hectares. Clock-wise, it is bounded to the north by Crossland Drive; to the north-east by a stream for a distance of c. 64m; to the east and south east by offices and associated grounds; to the south by Lavant Drive; and to the west by Leigh Road.

The British Geological Survey 1:50,000 map (Sheet 316, 1998) shows the underlying deposits of the proposed development site to be predominantly (c. 80%) Head Gravel (clayey gravel) of the Quaternary. A north-south strip on the west side of the site is situated above Aeolian Deposits ('Brickearth: mainly fine sandy silt, locally contaminated with gravel') of the Quaternary. An evaluation to the immediate south of Lavant Drive in 2004 (AHBR 6915) revealed 'reddish gravels of mixed clast size, with patches of silt which may be attributed to glacial activity'.

1.2 Planning Background

A Community Hospital is to be constructed (Granted Outline Planning - Application Number 03/68066/000, 21.06.04) at the site west of River Close, Havant, Hampshire. The proposed area of development is the former site of Oak Park School, and the proposed hospital is to be named Oak Park Hospital. Due to the presence of known archaeological remains a predetermination field evaluation has been required. This is in line with PPG16 and Local Plan Policy.

1.3 Archaeological Background

Although there have been no known archaeological investigations at the proposed development site, within the wider study area (500m radius) a number of archaeological discoveries have been made. An archaeological excavation undertaken c.90m to the southeast of the Study Area in 1992 revealed evidence of occupation in the Early Neolithic period (AHBR¹ 32430). Two areas of prehistoric activity were discovered. One of these areas consisted of pottery and a possible hearth, which had been disturbed in the Roman period, the other area comprised pottery, post-holes and a large amount of burnt flint.

1 AHBR : Hampshire County Council's Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record.

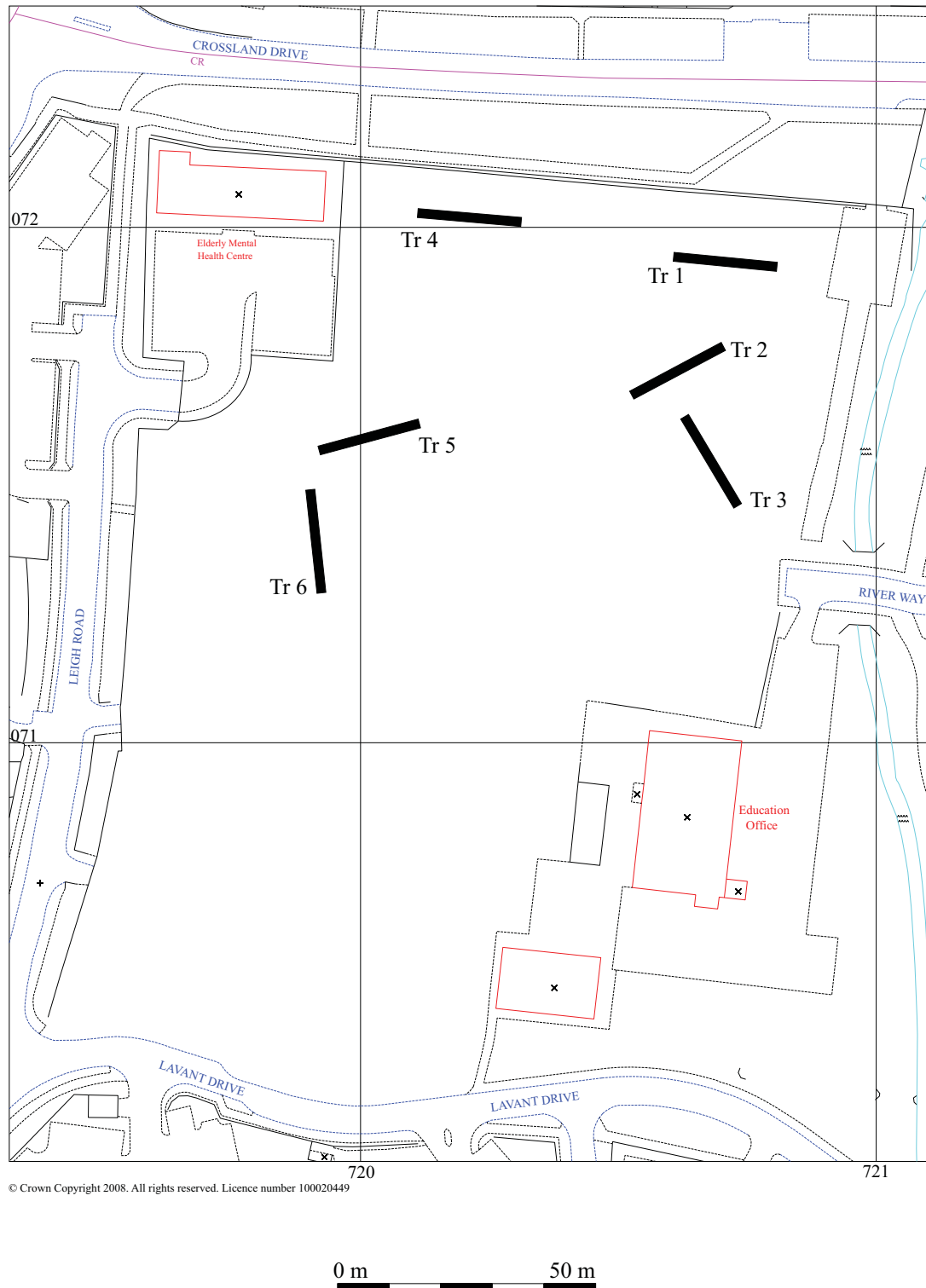


Figure 1. Site and trench location

Excavation in 1992, c.90m to the southeast of the proposed development site exposed evidence of occupation dating to the Early Bronze Age to Late Iron Age (AHBR 32431). This comprised a stone-packed post-hole and another smaller possible posthole containing burnt flint and prehistoric pottery.

The area in which the proposed development site is located was the scene of activity in the Romano-British period. Havant was a Roman settlement, with a cross-roads plan, similar to Chichester, thought to have been located close to the site of the Homewell Spring. East Street and West Street are believed to form part of the Roman Road from Bitterne to Chichester (Margary, no. 421, map 11), whilst a second Roman Road may be represented by North Street and South Street, linking Hayling Island to the South Downs (Havant Borough Council, 1994, 1). The proposed development site is located c.30m west of the course of a Roman Road which was proved in the 1960s by trial trenching, and c.100m west of a Romano-British site discovered in 1992 (AHBR 32450). The latter site comprised a series of substantial ditches, three on the west side of the stream (AHBR 32444), and three on the east side (AHBR 32445). Pottery found within the ditches dated the occupation of the site to the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD. Approximately 1200 sherds of pottery were recovered from a single ditch.

In view of the discovery of Roman site at the east end of Lavant Drive and the proximity of the Roman Road the potential, two archaeological evaluations (trial trenches) guided by PPG16 took place in 2004, in the vicinity of the Study Area. One of these investigations was west of Leigh Road (AHBR 55634), the other south of the western extent of Lavant Drive (AHBR 56105). No archaeological remains or features were uncovered, due to relatively recent ground levelling which had removed any archaeological layers that might have been present.

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

The aims of the investigation as laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation were as follows:

- To determine as far as reasonably practicable, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains.
- To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features encountered.

In particular:

- To determine whether any Roman activity is present

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

In response to Gifford's Specification for a Scheme of Investigation and Mitigation a written scheme of investigation was prepared by JMHS and agreed with Hampshire

County Council, Gifford and the applicant. The work was carried out by JMHS and involved the excavation of trial trenches across the site (Fig. 1).

Site procedures for the investigation and recording of potential archaeological deposits and features were defined in the *Written Scheme of Investigation*. The work was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1999) and the procedures laid down in MAP2 (English Heritage 1991).

3.2 Methodology

The trenching sample required was achieved through the excavation of six trenches each 30m in length. All trenches were 2m wide and were excavated by a 5 tonne excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The resultant surfaces were cleaned by hand prior to limited hand excavation of any identified archaeological deposits.

Standard John Moore Heritage Services techniques were employed throughout, involving the completion of a written record for each deposit encountered, with scale plans and sections drawings compiled where appropriate. A photographic record was produced. The trenches were backfilled after recording.

4 RESULTS

All deposits and features were assigned individual context numbers. Context numbers in [] indicate features i.e. pit cuts; while numbers in () show feature fills or deposits of material.

4.1 Excavation Results (Figure 2)

The lowest deposit recorded was the natural (Head Gravel) comprising light reddish-brown to orange-brown clay with flints (1/05), (2/05), (3/05), (4/04), (5/04) and (6/03).

Trench 1

Cut into the natural (1/05) were two small circular pits or possibly truncated postholes. The first [1/06] was 0.4m in diameter, 0.14m deep with sides at roughly 45°. It was filled with a light reddish-brown silty clay (1/07) that was flecked with charcoal. The second [1/08] was also about 0.4m in diameter, 0.1m deep but with far shallower sides than the first. It too was filled with a light reddish-brown silty clay (1/09) that was flecked with charcoal

These were sealed with 0.2m of pale brown silty clay (1/10) that contained the odd charcoal fleck. Above this was a dark red-brown silty clay (1/04) that was 0.3m thick and contained modern brick fragments. Overlying this was a layer of pale orange-brown silty clay (1/03) that was 0.15m thick. It contained modern brick fragments. Above this was a 0.15m-0.2m thick layer of flint nodules in an orange-brown silty clay matrix (1/02). The uppermost layer was a dark grey-brown loam (1/01) topsoil

that was between 0.05m and 0.1m thick. Modern services were cut into the eastern end of the trench.

Trench 2

Lying directly over the natural (2/05) was a 0.1m thick layer of pale brown silty clay (2/04) that contained the odd charcoal fleck. Above this was a layer of mid-grey clay (2/03) with charcoal flecks and a small quantity of flint nodules that was 0.15m thick. This layer also contained modern brick and tarmac chunks. Above this was a pale brown silty-clay (2/02) that was 0.1m thick and again contained modern brick and tarmac chunks. The uppermost layer was a dark grey-brown loam (2/01) topsoil that was 0.15m thick.

Trench 3

This trench displayed a similar sequence to that recorded within Trench 2. Lying directly over the natural (3/05) was a 0.2m thick layer of pale brown silty clay (3/04) that contained some charcoal flecking. Above this was a layer of mid-grey clay (3/03) with charcoal flecks and a small quantity of flint nodules that was 0.25m thick. This layer also contained modern brick and tarmac chunks. Above this was a pale brown silty-clay (3/02) that was 0.25m thick and again contained modern brick and tarmac. The uppermost layer was a dark grey-brown loam (3/01) topsoil that was 0.2m thick.

Trench 4

Overlying the natural clay with flints (4/04) was a deposit of sterile pale brownish-orange silty clay (4/03) that upon investigation was seen to be 0.6m thick. This layer would appear to be a natural deposit. Above this was a 0.2m thick layer of flint rubble and bricks in a pale orange-brown silty clay matrix (4/02). Capping this was a 0.05m thick skim of tarmac (4/01).

Trench 5

Above the natural (5/04) was a 0.15m thick layer of mid-grey silty clay (5/03) with small quantities of flint and flecked with charcoal and CBM. Over this was a layer of mottled orange-brown to grey clay (5/02) with flint gravel that was 0.12m thick. The grey clay within this layer in places formed a distinct band at the bottom of the deposit 0.02m thick. Some small brick fragments were noted in places. The uppermost layer was a 0.05m thick tarmac surface (5/01). A recent geo-technical pit was cut within the eastern end of the trench.

Trench 6

Cut into the natural (6/03) were a small circular pit and a stake-hole. The pit [6/04] was 0.3m in diameter, 0.08m deep with sides at roughly 60°. It was filled with a mottled reddish-brown-grey silty clay (6/05) that was flecked with charcoal. The stake-hole [6/06] was about 0.1m in diameter, 0.1m deep with steep sides. It too was filled with a light reddish-brown silty clay (6/07) that was flecked with charcoal.

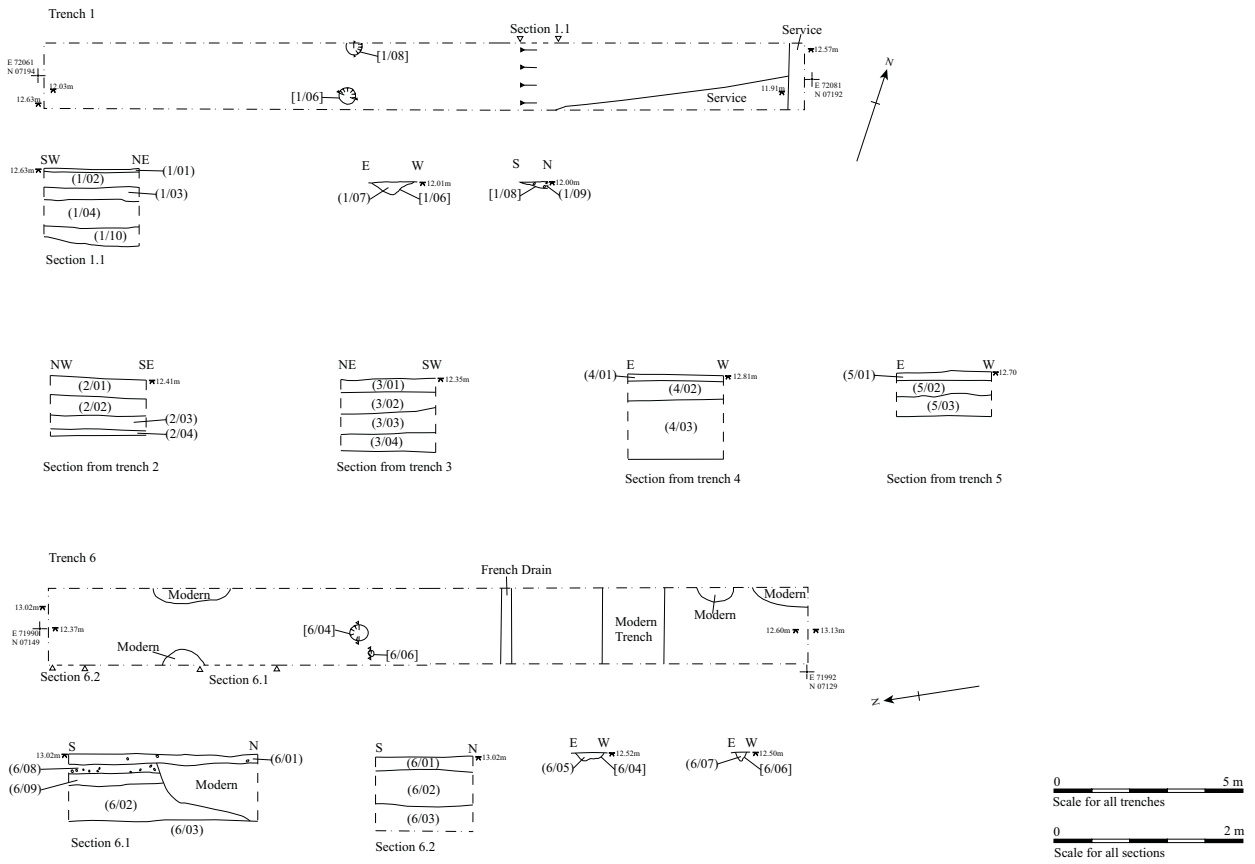


Figure 2. Trenches and sections

These were sealed by a mid-brown silty clay (6/02) that was up to 0.4m thick and flecked with charcoal. Above this towards the southern end of the trench a layer of dark grey silty-clay (6/09) was seen. This was 0.1m-0.15m thick and contained charcoal and brick fragments. Over this was a 0.1m-0.2m thick layer of orange-yellow clay with flint gravel (6/08).

The last two layers were not present at the northern end of the trench. Due to modern pits in the area their exact relationship is not clear. It would seem likely that (9/09) was an old land-surface that formed a hollow in the area, and was higher to the north. As part of a levelling process, (6/09) was removed from the north end exposing (6/02) while the hollow to the south was filled with (6/08). The area then being covered with a topsoil; a dark grey-brown loam topsoil that was up to 0.2m thick.

4.2 Reliability of Techniques and Results

The reliability of results is considered to be good, even though the evaluation took place during extremely wet conditions. This did make working conditions within the trenches somewhat difficult.

Bioturbation was a factor within Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 6. Root penetration was seen to be over 1m deep in Trench 6.

5 FINDS

5.1 Pottery (*By Lisa Brown and Paul Booth*)

A single sherd of pottery was recovered from (3/04). It is of a generic flint tempered fabric that probably dates from the Early to Middle Iron Age, but perhaps could be of Bronze Age date.

5.2 Lithics

A single piece of thermal fractured flint was recovered from Trench 3 (3/04).

5.3 CBM: Brick & Tile

A single fragment of CBM was recovered from pit [6/04] it is heavily abraded and may be of Roman date.

5.4 Environmental Remains

Due to the nature of the deposits encountered no environmental samples were taken.

6 DISCUSSION

The eastern side of the site appears to have been raised in order to level the entire area. Layers (1/04), (2/03) and (3/03) are buried land surfaces, although of a recent date, with the underlying layers forming a subsoil or old plough soil (1/10), (2/04) and

(3/04). This levelling had taken place at some point in the 20th century judging by the bricks found with in the deposits.

The two small pits or postholes in this area are undated, however, their proximity to one another may indicate that they form part of larger structure. The lowest layer of the buried soils (3/04) contained a sherd of prehistoric pottery. It is possible that these features are of a contemporary date.

The western side of the site has been subject to a soil strip and a subsequent reduction on ground level prior to the laying of the tarmac surface. The potential for archaeological remains to be present under the tarmac area is therefore very low.

The south-western corner again appears to have been deliberately raised in height. The small pit and stake-hole may be of Roman date. This area also displays considerable modern disturbance in the form of pits and services that will reduce the potential for archaeological remains to survive.

While not a dense concentration there is still evidence for archaeological features to survive in the area although these have been truncated by later activity. It is probable that those located date to the Roman period or earlier.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Institute of Field Archaeologists. 2001: *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*

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APPENDIX – ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Findings	Date
Trench 1			0.8	2	20		
1/01	Layer	Topsoil	0.05-0.1	Tr	Tr	CBM	Modern
1/02	Layer	Flint hardcore	0.15-0.2	Tr	Tr	CBM	Modern
1/03	Layer	Orange-brown silty-clay	0.15	Tr	Tr		
1/04	Layer	Red-brown silty-clay	0.3	Tr	Tr	CBM	Modern
1/05	Natural	Orange clay with flint	-	Tr	Tr		
1/06	Cut	Pit	0.14	0.4	0.4		
1/07	Fill	Red-brown silty-clay	0.14	0.4	0.4		
1/08	Cut	Pit	0.1	0.4	0.3		
1/09	Fill	Red-brown silty-clay	0.1	0.4	0.3		
1/10	Layer	Pale brown silty-clay	0.2	Tr	Tr		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Findings	Date
Trench 2			0.7	2	20		
2/01	Layer	Topsoil	0.15	Tr	Tr	CBM	Modern
2/02	Layer	Orange-brown silty-clay	0.15	Tr	Tr	CBM	Modern
2/03	Layer	Red-brown silty-clay	0.3	Tr	Tr	CBM	Modern
2/04	Layer	Pale brown silty-clay	0.1	Tr	Tr		
2/05	Natural	Orange clay with flint	-	Tr	Tr		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Findings	Date
Trench 3			0.9	2	20		
3/01	Layer	Topsoil	0.2	Tr	Tr	CBM	Modern
3/02	Layer	Orange-brown silty-clay	0.25	Tr	Tr	CBM	Modern
3/03	Layer	Red-brown silty-clay	0.25	Tr	Tr	CBM	Modern
3/04	Layer	Pale brown silty-clay	0.2	Tr	Tr	Pottery	Bronze - Iron Age
3/05	Natural	Orange clay with flint	-	Tr	Tr		

Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Findings	Date
Trench 4			0.25	2	20		
4/01	Layer	Tarmac	0.05	Tr	Tr		Modern
4/02	Layer	Brick & stone rubble	0.2	Tr	Tr	CBM	Modern
4/03	Natural	Brownish orange silty-clay	0.6	Tr	Tr		
4/04	Natural	Orange clay with flint	-	Tr	Tr		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Findings	Date
Trench 5			0.32	2	20		
5/01	Layer	Tarmac	0.05	Tr	Tr		Modern
5/02	Layer	Mottled orange-grey clay with gravel	0.12	Tr	Tr	CBM	Modern
5/03	Layer	Grey silty clay	0.15	Tr	Tr	CBM	Modern
5/04	Natural	Orange clay with flint	-	Tr	Tr		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Findings	Date
Trench 6							
1/01	Layer	Topsoil	0.2	Tr	Tr	CBM	Modern
1/02	Layer	Brown silty-clay	0.4	Tr	Tr		
1/03	Natural	Orange clay with flint	-	Tr	Tr		
1/04	Cut	Pit	0.08	0.3	0.3		
1/05	Fill	Mottled red-brown-grey clay	0.08	0.8	0.3	CBM	Roman?
1/06	Cut	Stake hole	0.1	0.1	0.1		
1/07	Fill	Mottled red-brown-grey clay	0.1	0.1	0.1		
1/08	Layer	Orange-yellow clay with flint	0.1-0.2	Tr	15		
1/09	Layer	Grey silty clay	0.1	Tr	15	CBM	Modern