

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

AN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

OF

LAYDENE,

EAST MEON,

HAMPSHIRE

SU 6762 1924

On behalf of

DLA LTD

JUNE 2010

REPORT FOR

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Origins of the Report

This archaeological desk-based assessment was commissioned by DLA Ltd, on behalf of Deansmoor Properties Ltd. It was prepared in support of a planning application to redevelop the site for residential use. The report was first issued in January 2009 and the current version has been up-dated to take account of recent archaeological discoveries, the amended development proposals and the concerns raised by the SCU Laydene consultees.

1.2 Planning Guidelines and Policies

This report has been prepared in accordance with *Planning Policy Statement 5*, which sets out the Government planning policies for historic environment (PPS 5 2010); and with the relevant policies in the *South-East Plan* (6th May 2009); and the *Adopted East Hampshire District Local Plan* (Second Review adopted end March 2006). In format and contents this report conforms to the standards outlined in the Institute for Archaeologists' guidance paper for desk-based assessments (IFA October 2008).

1.2.1 Government Planning Policy Guidance

Planning Policy Statement 5, supported by the English Heritage practice guide, sets out the Government national policies for the historic environment within the planning process (PPS 5 2010; English Heritage 2010). The following policy points are key to this development:

“Local planning authorities should consider whether the exercise of permitted development rights would undermine the aims for the historic environment. If it would, local planning authorities should consider the use of an article 4 direction to ensure any development is given due consideration (Policy HE4.1).

Local planning authorities should require an applicant to provide a description of the significance of the heritage assets affected and the contribution of their setting to that significance. The level of detail should be proportionate to the importance of the heritage asset and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on the significance of the heritage asset. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets themselves should have been assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary given the application's impact. Where an application site includes, or is considered to have the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where desk-based research is insufficient to properly assess the interest, a field evaluation

(Policy HE6.1).

This information together with an assessment of the impact of the proposal should be set out in the application (within the design and access statement when this is required) as part of the explanation of the design concept. It should detail the sources that have been considered and the expertise that has been consulted (Policy HE6.2).

Local planning authorities should not validate applications where the extent of the impact of the proposal on the significance of any heritage assets affected cannot adequately be understood from the application and supporting documents (Policy HE6.3).

In decision-making local planning authorities should seek to identify and assess the particular significance of any element of the historic environment that may be affected by the relevant proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of:

- (i) evidence provided with the application;
- (ii) any designation records;
- (iii) the historic environment record and similar sources of information;
- (iv) the heritage assets themselves;
- (v) the outcome of the usual consultations with interested parties; and
- (vi) where appropriate and when the need to understand the significance of the heritage asset demands it, expert advice (from in-house experts, experts available through agreement with other authorities, or consultants, and complemented as appropriate by advice from heritage amenity societies (Policy HE7.1).

In considering the impact of a proposal on any heritage asset, local planning authorities should take into account the particular nature of the significance of the heritage asset and the value that it holds for this and future generations. This understanding should be used by the local planning authority to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposals (Policy HE7.2).

If the evidence suggests that the heritage asset may have a special significance to a particular community that may not be fully understood from the usual process of consultation and assessment, then the local planning authority should take reasonable steps to seek the views of that community (Policy HE7.3).

Local planning authorities should take into account:

- the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets, and of utilising their positive role in place-shaping; and
- the positive contribution that conservation of heritage assets and the historic environment generally can make to the establishment and maintenance of sustainable communities and economic vitality (Policy HE7.4)

Local planning authorities should take into account the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to the character and local distinctiveness of the historic environment. The consideration of design should include scale, height, massing, alignment, materials and use (Policy HE7.5).

Where there is evidence of deliberate neglect of or damage to a heritage asset in the hope of obtaining consent, the resultant deteriorated state of the heritage asset should not be a factor taken into account in any decision (Policy HE7.6).

Where loss of significance is justified on the merits of new development, local planning authorities should not permit the new development without taking all reasonable steps to ensure the new development will proceed after the loss has occurred by imposing appropriate planning conditions or securing obligations by agreement (Policy HE7.7).

The effect of an application on the significance of such a heritage asset or its setting is a material consideration in determining the application. When identifying such heritage assets during the planning process, a local planning authority should be clear that the asset meets the heritage asset criteria (Policy HE8.1)

There should be a presumption in favour of the conservation of designated heritage assets and the more significant the designated heritage asset, the greater the presumption in favour of its conservation should be. Once lost, heritage assets cannot be replaced and their loss has a cultural, environmental, economic and social impact. Significance can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction of the heritage asset or development within its setting. Loss affecting any designated heritage asset should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of a grade II listed building, park or garden should be exceptional. Substantial harm to or loss of designated heritage assets of the highest significance, including scheduled monuments,¹⁴ protected wreck sites, battlefields, grade I and II* listed buildings and grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional (Policy HE9.1).

Where the application will lead to substantial harm to or total loss of significance local planning authorities should refuse consent unless it can be demonstrated that:

- (i) the substantial harm to or loss of significance is necessary in order to deliver substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss; or
- (ii) (a) the nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the site; and
(b) no viable use of the heritage asset itself can be found in the medium term that will enable its conservation; and
(c) conservation through grant-funding or some form of charitable or public ownership is not possible; and

(d) the harm to or loss of the heritage asset is outweighed by the benefits of bringing the site back into use (Policy HE9.2).

When considering applications for development that affect the setting of a heritage asset, local planning authorities should treat favourably applications that preserve those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to or better reveal the significance of the asset. When considering applications that do not do this, local planning authorities should weigh any such harm against the wider benefits of the application. The greater the negative impact on the significance of the heritage asset, the greater the benefits that will be needed to justify approval (Policy HE10.1).

Local planning authorities should identify opportunities for changes in the setting to enhance or better reveal the significance of a heritage asset. Taking such opportunities should be seen as a public benefit and part of the process of place-shaping (Policy HE10.2).”

Government policy emphasises that early consultation regarding the results of an archaeological assessment, and a consideration of the implications of a development proposal, are the key to informed and reasonable planning decisions. An aim of this report is therefore to facilitate that process, and enable informed discussion to take place in order, if appropriate, to develop a strategy by which the impact of the development on the archaeological resource of the site can be mitigated.

1.2.2 The South-East Plan

The Hampshire County Structure Plan was replaced by the South East Plan published on 6th May 2009. This includes one general policy relevant to the historic environment, which reads:

“When developing and implementing plans and strategies, local authorities and other bodies will adopt policies and support proposals which protect, conserve and, where appropriate, enhance the historic environment and the contribution it makes to local and regional distinctiveness and sense of place. The region’s internationally and nationally designated historic assets should receive the highest level of protection. Proposals that make sensitive use of historic assets through regeneration, particularly where these bring redundant or under-used buildings and areas into appropriate use, should be encouraged (Policy BE6).”

1.2.3 The Adopted East Hampshire District Local Plan

The Adopted East Hampshire District Local Plan (Second Review adopted end March 2006) includes one policy relevant to archaeological sites and monuments, which states:

“Development will not be permitted which adversely affects important archaeological sites, buildings, monuments or features, whether scheduled or not, or their settings. If there is evidence that archaeological remains may exist whose extent and importance are unknown the District Council will require developers to arrange for an archaeological field assessment to be carried out before the planning application can be determined, thus enabling an informed and reasonable planning decision to be made. The District Council will seek mitigation of the impact of development proposals by securing suitable designs to minimise physical destruction. Where this is not possible or feasible then the District Council will not allow development to take place until satisfactory provision has been made for a programme of archaeological investigation and recording prior to the commencement of the development (Policy HE17).”

The Local Plan also includes the following strategy statement:

“The District Council recognises the requirement under Article 10 of the General Development Procedure Order 1995, to consult English Heritage on development proposals likely to affect the site of a Scheduled Ancient Monument.”

1.3 Desk-Based Assessment Aims and Objectives

The primary aim of the desk-based assessment is to provide a professional appraisal of the archaeological and historical potential of the site. This follows the PPS 5 Practice Guide (English Heritage 2010) by collating the available evidence of the historic environment and its significance at an early stage in the planning process. The report will provide the necessary synthesis for informed and reasonable planning decisions concerning the impact of the development on heritage assets and the need for mitigation measures including further archaeological work. The information will allow for the development of an appropriate strategy to mitigate the effects of development on known and potential heritage assets, if this is warranted.

In accordance with PPS 5, the report presents a desk-based evaluation of existing information. It additionally follows the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA) *Standard* definition of a desk-based assessment (IFA 2008). In brief, it seeks to identify and assess the known and potential archaeological resource within a specified area (‘the site’), collating existing written and graphic information and taking full account of the likely character, extent, quantity and worth of that resource in a local, regional and national context. It also aims to

define and comment on the likely impact of the proposed development scheme on the surviving archaeological resource.

The Institute for Archaeologists *Standard* states that the purpose of a desk-based assessment is to inform appropriate responses, which may consist of one or more of the following:

- The formulation of a strategy for further investigation, whether or not intrusive, where the character and value of the resource is not sufficiently defined to permit a mitigation strategy or other response to be devised.
- The formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the resource
- The formulation of a project design for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research

This desk-based assessment forms the first stage in the planning process as regards the historic environment as a material consideration. It is intended to contribute to the formulation of an informed and appropriate mitigation strategy. If warranted by the archaeological potential, it may lead to evaluation by fieldwork within the defined development area.

1.4 Desk-Based Assessment Methodology

The format and contents of this section of the report are an adaptation of the standards outlined in the Institute for Archaeologists' guidance paper for desk-based assessments (IFA 2008). The work has involved the consultation of the available documentary evidence, including records of previous discoveries and historical maps, and has been supplemented with a site walkover.

In summary, the work has involved:

- Identifying the client's objectives
- Identifying the cartographic and documentary sources available for consultation
- Assembling, consulting and examining those sources
- Identifying and collating the results of recent fieldwork
- Site walkover

The principal sources consulted in assessing this site were:

- The Hampshire Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record
- Earthwork recording survey in Hyden Woods (BAS 2009)
- The Hampshire Record Office
- The National Monuments Record

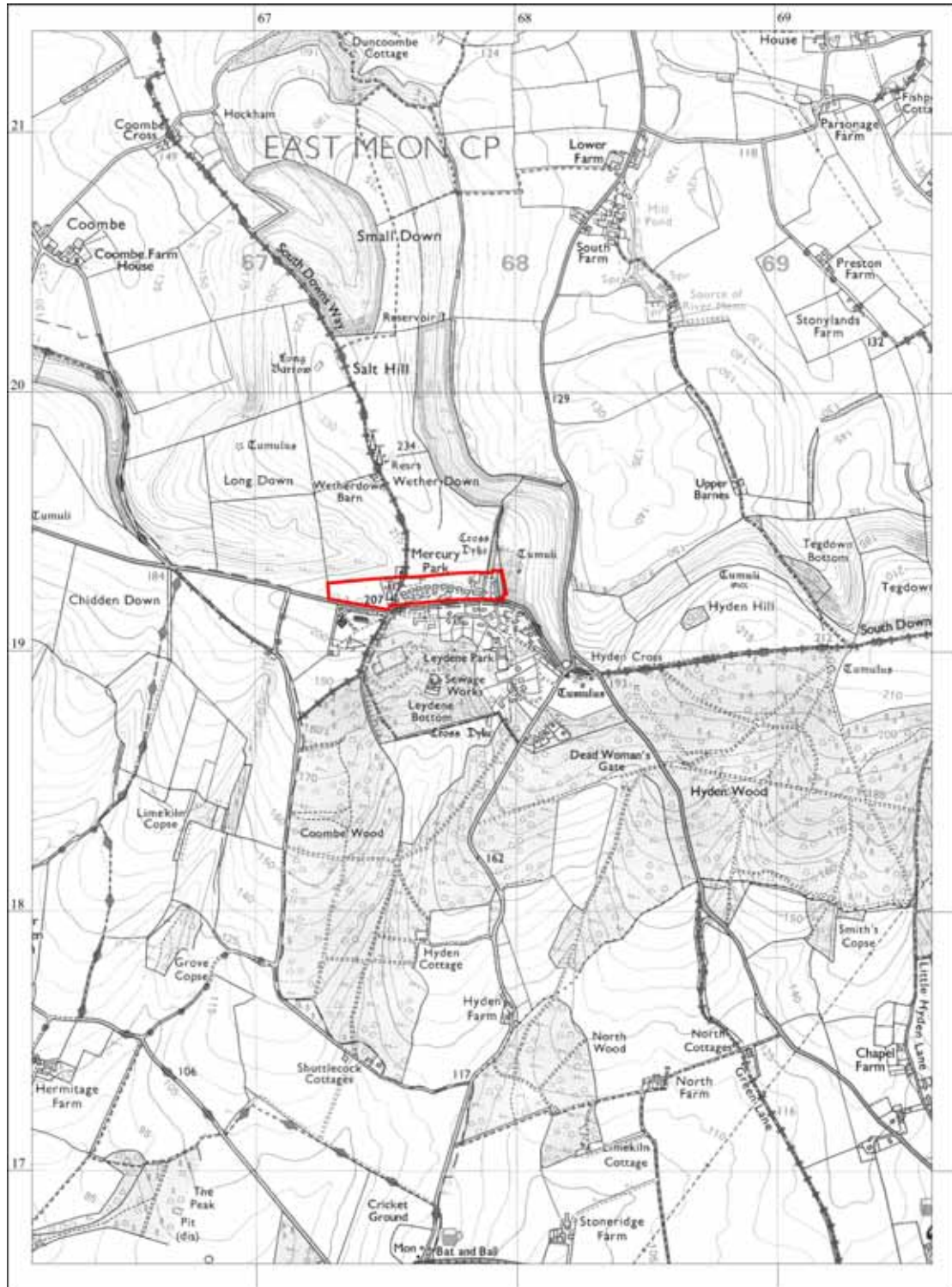


Figure 1: Site location (scale at 1: 25000)

The Hampshire Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record hold details of known archaeological and historical sites in the vicinity of the proposed development. The survey in Hyden Woods was carried out in the early spring of 2009 and recorded a number of significant earthworks in the north-western part of the woods within the one kilometre search radius adopted for this report (BAS 2009). Research at the Hampshire Record Office was confined to the historical maps and secondary sources, while work at the National Monuments Record focussed on the aerial photographic collection.

There has been no archaeological work carried out within the proposed development area. The assessment of its potential has, therefore, relied on predictive modelling based on the known distribution of remains within a one kilometre radius of the site (from a central grid reference of SU 6762 1924).

The available evidence is derived from casual finds, surface collections, surface observations, aerial photographs, an earthwork recording survey and an evaluation followed by a small area excavation. It should be stressed that the distribution represents the extent of current knowledge and is the product of chance. For this reason, apparently blank zones should not be automatically regarded as being devoid of remains.

The assessment of the likely condition of any potential archaeological remains has relied upon a study of the available historical maps, information in a short history of the naval establishment (Rickard 2006), aerial photographs and observations made during the site walkover, which provide evidence for the impact of previous development on the site.

There have been no restrictions on reporting or access to the relevant records. The copyright to the Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record and the historical maps (Figures 5 to 10) is held by Hampshire County Council. The copyright to the aerial photographs (Figures 11 to 12) belongs to English Heritage.

2 THE SITE

2.1 Location (Figure 1)

Laydene is situated in south-east Hampshire (East Hampshire District) in the southern part of the parish of East Meon. The proposed development area lies 2.8 kilometres to the south of East Meon village in the East Hampshire Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty within the newly created South Downs National Park where it is centred on National Grid Reference SU 6762 1924.

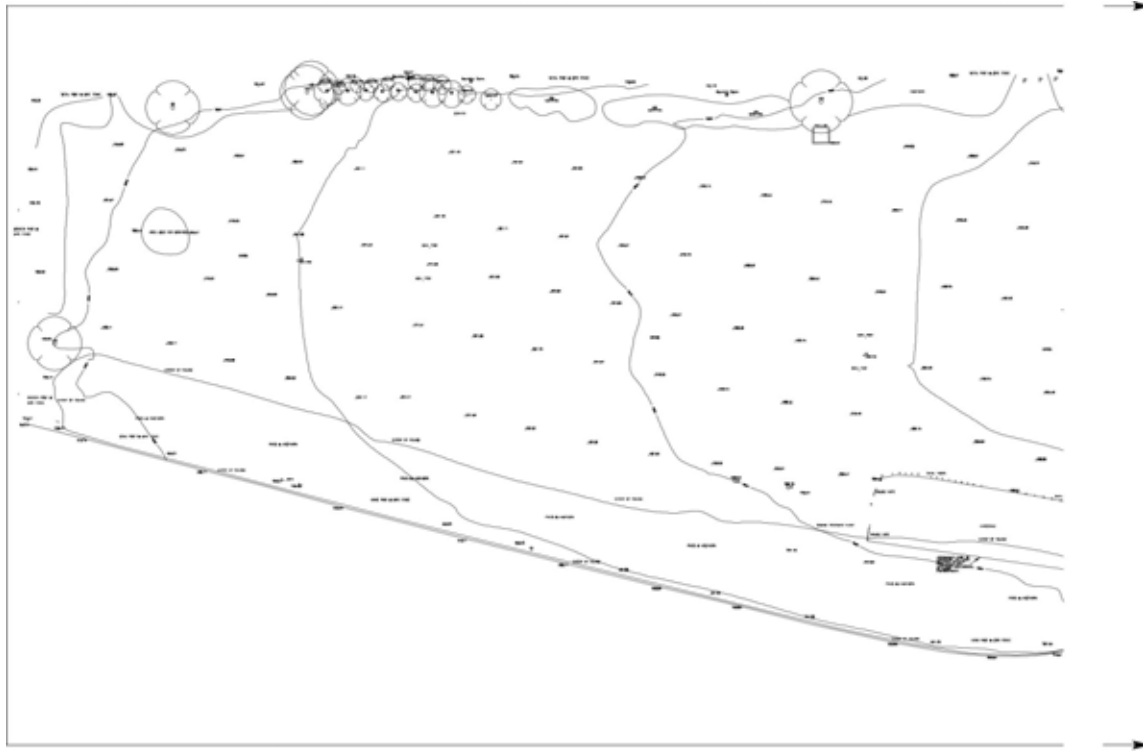
2.2 Description (Figure 2)

The site, which is approximately 6.7 hectares in extent, is currently subdivided by the existing fencing into three zones all bordered to the south by the Droxford Road. The westernmost area encompasses a former football pitch, which is now under rough grass. This is divided from the naval compound to the east by the Meon Valley Cycle Trail, which has a tarmac surface. The main entrance to the field is through a metal barred farm gate in the south-east corner at the junction between the cycle trail and the Droxford Road. This leads into a small car park with a tarmac surface, partly overgrown with moss and turf. There is a small sewage treatment plant at the western end of the car park.

A narrow belt of mature conifers with dense understorey vegetation extends along the southern edge of the field, screening it from the Droxford Road. A low wire fence followed by a tree-lined hedge defines the western boundary of the site, dividing it from the farmland beyond. The northern boundary is marked by a similar stranded wire fence and is followed by a shelter belt of young conifers planted along the playing field margins. Mature trees and associated scrubby vegetation extend along the eastern edge of this part of the site, where there is a derelict bungalow (Figure 2, Building 22) with garages to the south (Figure 2, Building 21). A small wooden shed on a concrete base stands on the northern edge of the football pitch.

The central part of the site is surrounded by a high security fence enclosing all of the standing buildings. The main entrance from the Droxford Road provides access via the south-eastern corner of this central compound. The naval buildings are laid out along a central road, which curves from west to east and is named 'Crescent Road'. Nine brick built accommodation blocks are spaced on the northern side of this road (Figure 2, Buildings 1 to 9). From west to east these are named after Admirals in the Royal Navy as 'Jackson', 'Inglefield', 'Somerville', 'Cunningham', 'Pascoe', 'Howe', 'Knowles', 'Blake' and 'Kempfenfelt'. All nine buildings occupy terraces cut into the south-facing hill slope, with ground reduction of approximately one metre on their northern sides where the slope is highest.

Two large buildings (Figure 2, Buildings 31 and 43) lie to the north of 'Somerville' and 'Cunningham' (Figure 2, Buildings 3 and 4). The most westerly is a sports hall with a large tarmac car park to the west and narrower car parking areas to the south and north (Figure 2, Building 43). This occupies a cutting set below the level of the surrounding tarmac by approximately 0.3 metres at the western end and 0.77 metres at the eastern end. Further ground reduction of some 0.5 metres on the northern side of the car park is indicated by a sharp and ragged scarp marking a drop between the undisturbed surface and the back of an extensive terrace. St. Vincent Block immediately to the east of the sports hall (Figure 2, Building 31) is also terraced into the slope, with the greatest ground reduction of approximately 0.6 metres on its eastern side.



Adapted from Drawing No. 3303/200/001
March 2005

Brunel Surveys Ltd

Not to scale

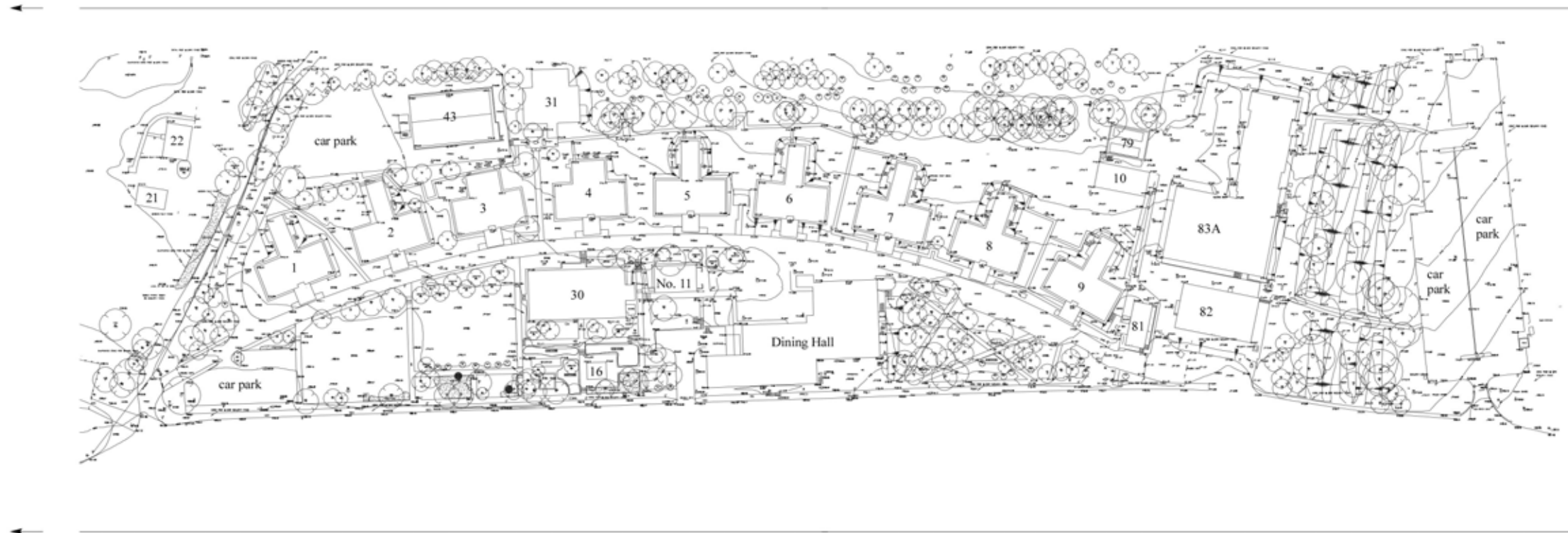


Figure 2: The existing layout (not to scale)

The combined boiler house and oil tanks (Figure 2, Buildings 10 and 79) are situated towards the eastern end of the central compound to the north of 'Kempenfelt' (Figure 2, Building 9). These occupy a cutting set between 0.5 and 1.0 metres below the level of the surrounding ground surface.

Terracing around Ashmore Block to the east (Figure 2, Building 83A) and its car park is even more marked and is indicated by steep scarps demonstrating ground reduction of between 1.74 and 2.20 metres. The drill shed to the south (Figure 2, Building 82) is set on a lower terrace, while a steep scarp with a drop of 1.5 metres defines the back of another cutting above the main gate and nearby guard house (Figure 2, Building 81).

The area to the south of Crescent Road is also occupied by a series of buildings and associated platforms. There is a tarmac car park at the western end of this zone with an extensive terrace under grass immediately to the east. This is marked by scarps to the north and east and was occupied by two accommodation blocks, which were demolished in 1993. The scarps indicate ground reduction of between 1.0 and 0.6 metres across this area.

Rodney Block immediately to the east (Figure 2, Building 30) is the westernmost of the standing buildings in this part of the site. It too occupies a level area cut back into the hill slope by approximately 2.0 metres. The generator, diesel tanks and Building 16 to the south (Figure 2) occupy another terrace cut into the ground by 0.5 to 0.6 metres.

Ground reduction around the supply block and dining hall (Figure 2, Building 15) is particularly marked. Here the southern part of the structure is set about 3.0 metres below the level of the adjacent land surface.

Other areas of confined disturbance are indicated by concrete markers, which identify a service trench to the rear of the nine accommodation blocks on the northern side of Crescent Road (Figure 2, Buildings 1 to 9). Similar trenches carrying electricity cables between the street lights probably run below the concrete path alongside the southern perimeter fence, and between the security lights around and in other parts of the compound.

The most extensive area of apparently undisturbed ground in the central compound lies to the north of Crescent Road. The land between and to the north of the various accommodation blocks (Figure 2, Buildings 1 to 9), extending westwards from the oil tank and boiler house (Figure 2, Buildings 10 and 79) to St. Vincent Block (Figure 2, Building 31) is under grass with a belt of conifers along its northern margins. The small zone to the east of the dining hall (Figure 2), which also appears to have escaped earlier development, is under grass and a copse of young trees.

The eastern part of the site is enclosed by another security fence defining a second compound (Figure 2, east of Buildings 82 and 83A). The western side of this is occupied by the prominent earthworks of the cross dykes, comprising two broadly parallel banks with an intervening and flanking ditches. These

are part of Leydene Ditches, a scheduled ancient monument, which can be seen running northwards beyond the site to the edge of the chalk escarpment. There are a few young trees growing on the earthworks, which are under very rough grass and are largely obscured by a dense tangle of brambles.

A tarmac car park surrounded by street lights occupies the eastern side of this compound. The surface appears to follow the natural contours with little evidence for ground reduction. Locked double gates provide access for vehicles from the Droxford Road. The car park was built in the late 1970's for use by the Special Communications Unit, working in Ashmore Block immediately to the west of the compound (Figure 2, Building 83A). Pedestrian access between the compounds was provided by two concrete pathways crossing the northern and southern ends of the scheduled cross dyke (Figure 2). These are set into the top of the three banks and run on causeways built up over the ditches. Both paths were constructed in 1944 just before the land was requisitioned by the Admiralty and the Nissan huts of North Camp were built on either side of the earthworks (see Section 4.3).

2.3 Topography (Figure 1)

The site is on the chalk downs to the south and east of the River Meon, where it lies at the confluence between two spurs of high ground. One of these extends northwards to form the summits of Wether Down and Salt Hill, rising gently from the 217 metre AOD (Above Ordnance Datum) contour on the northern margins of Laydene to 234 metres AOD close to Wetherdown Barn. The second spur follows a west to east axis with the highest part of the plateau encompassing the proposed development area between the 206 and 214 metre contours. This is part of a ridge running in a west-north-westerly direction across Chidden Down and Teglease Down towards the Iron Age hillfort on Old Winchester Hill.

The eastern flanks of Wether Down and Salt Hill, to the east and north of Laydene form an escarpment overlooking the Meon Valley and the source of the river. A steep sided dry valley running between Long Down and Chidden Down lies to the north-west, while the land falls more gently into a series of combes to the south.

The ground falls gradually from east to west across the western part of the site from 214 metres AOD around St. Vincent Block (Figure 2, Building 31) to 206 metres AOD on the western margins of the football pitch. In the central compound to the east of St. Vincent Block the principal slope is steeper and runs southwards from 217 metres AOD on the northern edge of the site to 210 metres AOD alongside the Droxford Road. The topography of the eastern compound is characterised by slighter south-east facing slope, which falls from 214 to 209 metres AOD.

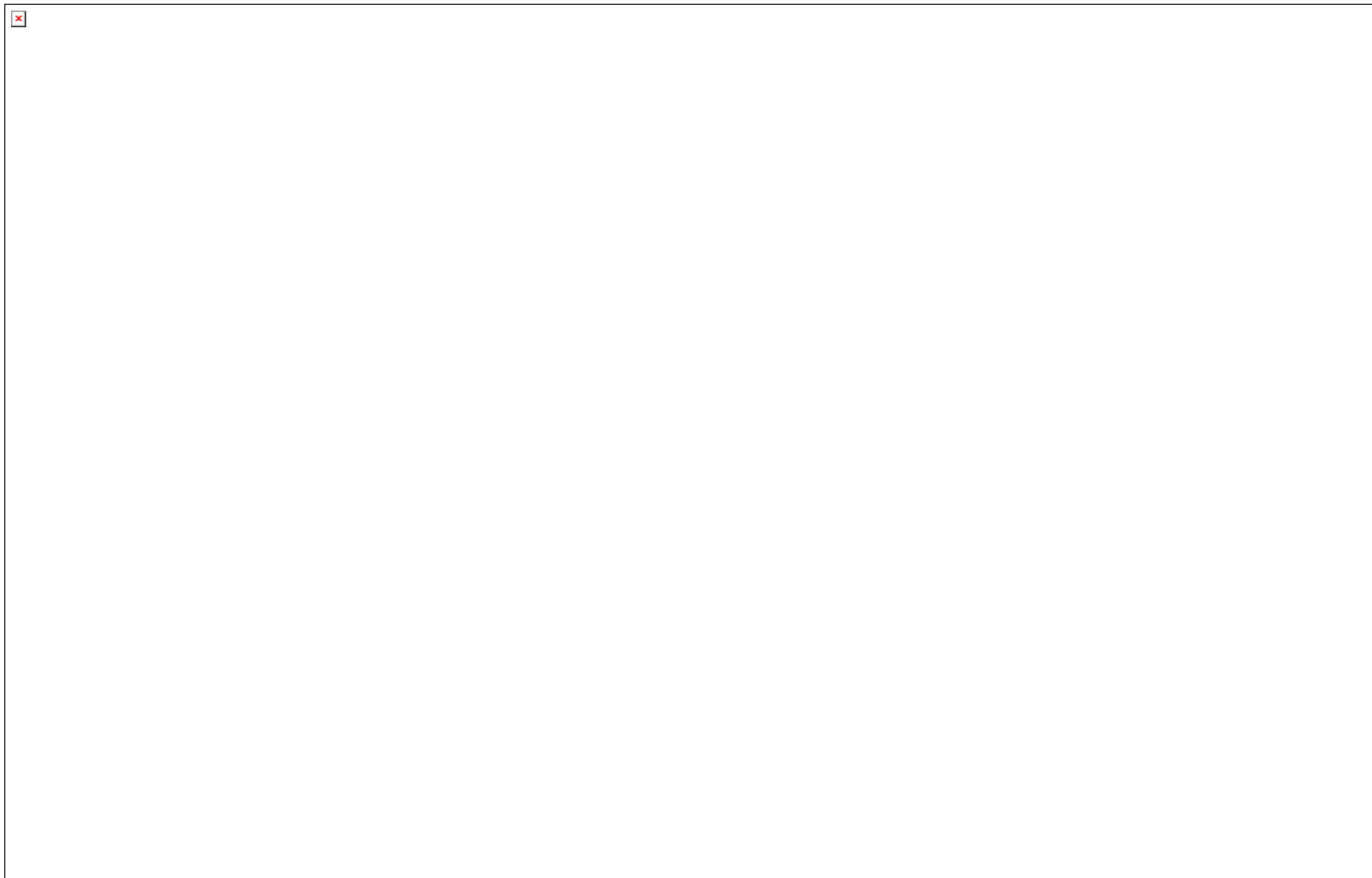


Figure 3: The proposed development scheme (not to scale)

2.4 Geology and Soils

The site is located on the Upper Chalk, which is an Upper Cretaceous deposit laid down under marine conditions between 80 and 65 million years ago (Melville and Freshney 1982). This formation is composed of a soft white limestone, incorporating deposits of chalk rock and seams of abundant flint nodules. The upper horizon of the formation tends to be mixed in character as a result of the periglacial conditions that prevailed during the Pleistocene, with bedded planes of chalk occurring only below the level of permafrost. These general conditions were identified locally during an archaeological evaluation immediately to the south of the site (Montague 1994). In this location the chalk natural was found to be very weathered with an undulating surface and had been scoured by linear periglacial features (ibid.).

The Upper Chalk carries superficial deposits of Clay-with-Flints, which are not mapped in any detail. These are of Pleistocene age and generally consist of stiff reddish brown to dark brown clay with a high proportion of flint nodules and pebbles.

The overlying soils on the higher chalk slopes tend to be shallow rendzinas with a maximum depth of 0.3 metres. Many have been subjected to a long history of cultivation and include a high proportion of shattered chalk and flint. The archaeological investigations to the south of the site took place in an area of previous development where there were very few undisturbed soil profiles. The only record of the depth of such deposits above the chalk is for one of the trial trenches to the south of the proposed development, which was 0.8 metres deep (Montague 1994). This suggests that some of the recorded soils are likely to have been colluvium eroded down-slope by ploughing.

3 PROPOSED SCHEME OF DEVELOPMENT (Figure 3)

The proposed scheme is for a low density residential development confined to the central compound. The existing naval buildings, access roads and hard standings will be demolished.

The proposals are for 20 four and five bedroom houses of conventional height (two storeys), all with double garages. These will be ranged around three closes with the principal access routes leading northwards from the Droxford Road.

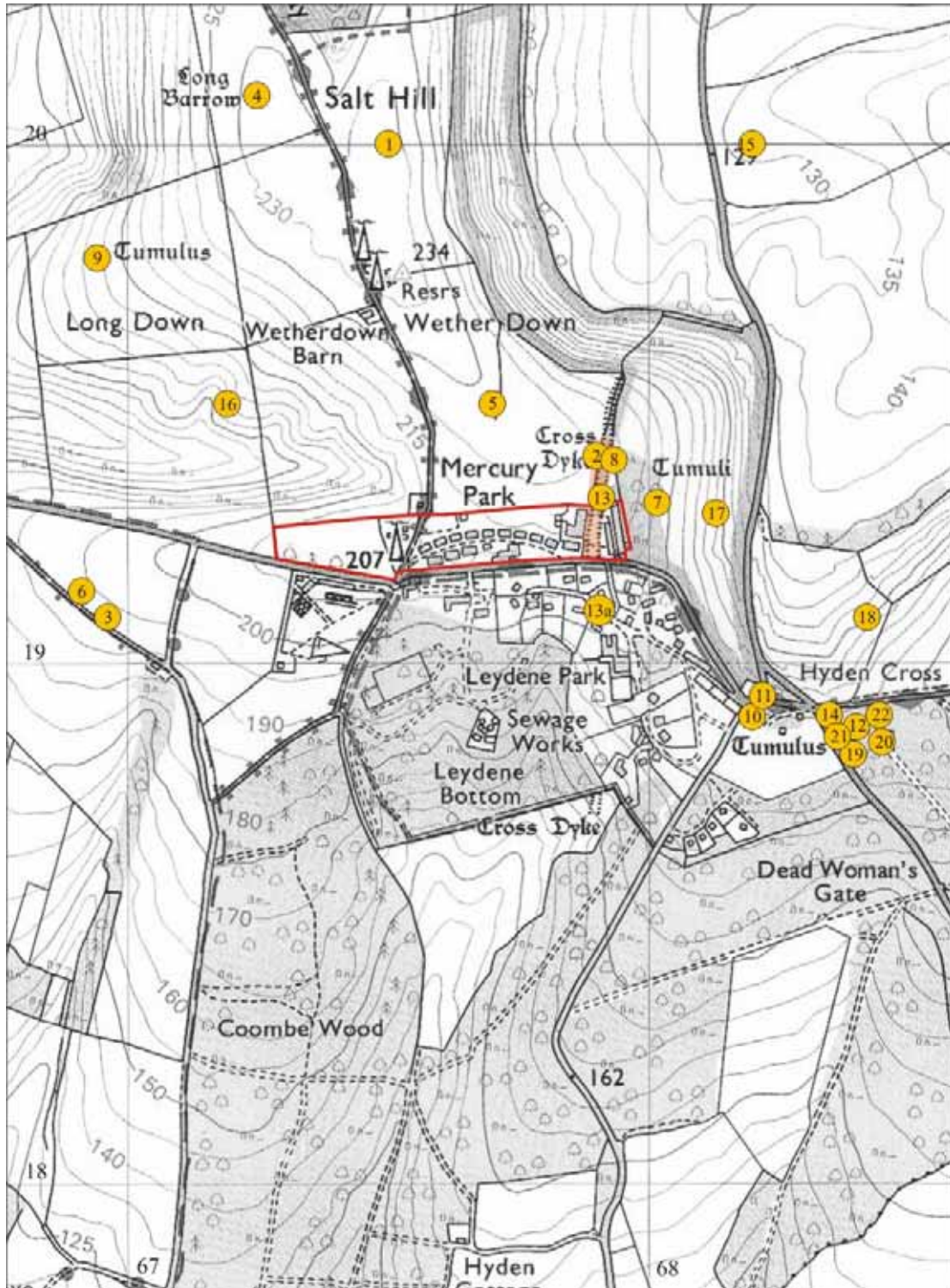


Figure 4: The distribution of archaeological remains (scale at 1: 12500)

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 Known Archaeological Sites (Figure 4)

The eastern end of the site is bisected by the well-preserved earthworks of Leydene Ditches, which is a scheduled ancient monument (SAM No: 340a). There are otherwise no previously recorded archaeological remains within the proposed development area. There are no listed buildings, historic parks and gardens or registered battlefields within a one kilometre radius of the site.

Laydene has not been the subject of archaeological fieldwork. An appraisal of the local evidence has, therefore, been used in the assessment of its potential. The search area, described in this report as the Study Area, includes all known heritage assets within a one kilometre radius of the site (from a central grid reference of SU 6762 1924).

The information is largely derived from surface observations, aerial photographs, the unsystematic collection of worked flint and chance finds. Archaeological investigations within the Study Area have been confined to a programme of trial trenching and test pitting in the former naval establishment to the south of the site (Montague 1994), which was followed up by a small area excavation (Wessex Archaeology 1996); and a systematic earthwork survey of Hyden Woods (BAS 2009).

The distribution of archaeological remains is shown in Figure 4 and a summary of this evidence is presented below in chronological order. Distances between these sites and find-spots and Laydene given in the text are measured from the boundaries of the proposed development area (the central compound). Local sites mentioned in the report are identified by unique numbers, corresponding with the numbers shown in Figure 4 and listed in the gazetteer (Section 7.2). This provides a brief description for each entry, an Ordnance Survey National Grid reference and the Hampshire Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record number. The sources of all data are duly referenced in the text or gazetteer, while all reports consulted are listed in the bibliography (Section 7.1).

4.1.1 The Mesolithic Period (8000 to 4000 BC)

The earliest evidence for activity in the vicinity of the proposed development dates to the Mesolithic period. The economy at this time was based on hunting and gathering. People are thought to have lived in fairly small groups and to have moved around the landscape as various wild resources became available with the changing seasons. This mobile lifestyle means that settlements tend to have been relatively transient and leave only ephemeral traces in the archaeological record. To a large extent current knowledge about the distribution and character of Mesolithic sites relies on scatters of worked flint identified in the topsoil.

Seven sites of this type have been recorded on Salt Hill, centred on a position approximately 700 metres to the north of Laydene (Figure 4, 1). These include two concentrations of approximately 63 and 178 pieces of worked flint (Wymer 1977, Sites 1 and 2). Both assemblages incorporate tranchet axes, microliths and a high proportion of cores, suggesting that they may well have been deposited in temporary camps. The other five sites are characterised by much lower quantities of worked flint (Wymer 1977, Sites 3 to 7), but again the principal components are similar, perhaps indicating that these were the scenes of comparable but more fleeting activity.

An indication that this encompassed the area closer to the proposed development on Wether Down is provided by two flint cores found in the field behind the accommodation blocks at the eastern end of Crescent Road. The grid reference for this material places the finds approximately 100 metres to the north of the site boundary (Figure 4, 2).

It would appear that Mesolithic activity also extended south-westwards towards Chidden Down. Another concentration of cores and blades, about 550 metres west-south-west of the proposed development (Figure 4, 3), has been interpreted as a small flint-working site.

4.1.2 The Neolithic Period (4000 to 2000 BC)

A mobile lifestyle is thought to have continued well into the Neolithic period, although the economy began to change with the domestication of various animals and the emergence of garden plot horticulture. This is also a time when traces of settlement are ephemeral, in sharp contrast to the highly visible funerary and ceremonial monuments.

One of these monuments, a long barrow which would have been used for communal burials, is situated on Salt Hill 830 metres to the north of the football pitch (Figure 4, 4). The earthwork has been scheduled by English Heritage and commands distant views in all directions except to the south.

Other evidence for activity during this period is confined to scattered worked flint. The finds include part of a polished axe from Wether Down, some 200 metres to the north of the site boundary (Figure 4, 5); and a Y-shaped implement from Chidden Down, approximately 600 metres west-south-west of the proposed development (Figure 4, 6).

4.1.3 The Late Neolithic to Middle Bronze Age (2400 to 1000 BC)

Changes in funerary rites during the late Neolithic are signalled by a shift from communal to individual burial and by the emergence of round barrows. Those within the Study Area are all bowl barrows, which have a central earthen mound surrounded by a circular quarry ditch. Although some are earlier, most were constructed over a broad time period between 2400 and 1000 BC.

The closest to Laydene is approximately 70 metres to the east of the eastern site boundary (Figure 4, 7). This is located in a copse of trees set just below the crest of an east-facing slope and is a scheduled ancient monument. A second scheduled round barrow lies alongside Leydene Ditches, 100 metres to the north of the site boundary (Figure 4, 8).

The remaining barrows in the Study Area have not been scheduled by English Heritage. An isolated example on Long Down is situated to the south-west of the long barrow, some 800 metres north-west of the proposed development (Figure 4, 9). The others form part of a large cemetery incorporating up to 13 mounds. The closest two in the group to Laydene are at Hyden Cross, about 450 metres to the south-east of the site (Figure 4, 10 and 11). The rest are clustered in the north-western corner of Hyden Woods between 600 and 750 metres from the proposed development (Figure 4, 12), where there are five well preserved bowl barrows and six other probable burial monuments visible as low earthworks (BAS 2009).

4.1.4 The Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age (1000 to 400 BC)

The Hampshire down-land is one of several areas in southern England where there are extensive systems of long running boundaries. These have late Bronze Age origins and appear to have been defining territorial divisions, which previously may have been marked by natural features or burial monuments. The earliest of the systems (1000 to 800 BC) were apparently marking a broad domestic landscape of dispersed open settlements and associated fields. This began to change with the emergence of enclosed settlements in the later part of the Bronze Age (800 to 600 BC); and by the Iron Age many of the boundaries had gone out of use, while others appear to have been dividing pastoral land from the arable fields.

Cross-ridge dykes fall into this broad group of late prehistoric territorial boundaries. Leydene Ditches running through the eastern part of the site (Figure 4, 13) cuts off the high spurs of ground on Salt Hill and Wether Down to the north and the ridge extending across Chidden Down, Teglease Down and Old Winchester Hill to the west. The monument is scheduled by English Heritage and consists of two broadly parallel banks separated by an intervening ditch and flanked by two additional ditches. The cross dykes run southwards from the chalk escarpment, some 280 metres north of the site boundary, and once continued southwards to Leydene Bottom, about 500 metres to the south of the Droxford Road. The earthworks within the site are well preserved and prominent with a total width of 27 metres and the crests of the banks rising approximately 1.5 metres above the silted up ditches.

Sections through the eastern and central ditches were excavated by Wessex Archaeology approximately 100 metres to the south of Laydene (Figure 4, 13a). There had been considerable ground disturbance in this area and all surface traces of the banks and ditches had been removed by previous

development (Wessex Archaeology 1996). The truncated ditches were 3.2 metres wide and 0.8 metres deep with broad U-shaped profiles (ibid.). Both features produced worked flint of Bronze Age character, while 20 sherds from an early Iron Age carinated vessel were recovered from the upper fill of one of the ditches (ibid.). It was thought from the paucity of carbonised remains that there was unlikely to have been a settlement near to the excavated sections (ibid.).

No other features were identified within the excavated area, which encompassed 0.15 hectares (Wessex Archaeology 1996). This is consistent with the results of the earlier evaluation, which only recorded one of the cross dyke ditches and a light scatter of worked flint (Montague 1994).

A prominent bank and ditch recorded recently in the north-western part of Hyden Woods some 600 metres to the south-east of the proposed development (Figure 4, 14) is also likely to be a cross-ridge dyke (BAS 2009). This bisects a plateau within the woods where it swings northwards on the same broad axis as Leydene Ditches (ibid.). Its alignment is picked up to the north of the woodland by a substantial embanked earthwork, which descends the steep slopes of the combe head (ibid.).

4.1.5 Un-phased Prehistoric Worked Flint

Some of the prehistoric worked flint from the Study Area has only been dated very broadly. The closest find-spot of this type is in the field behind the accommodation blocks on Crescent Road. A few waste flakes attributed to the Neolithic period or Bronze Age were collected from the surface close to the Mesolithic cores, approximately 100 metres to the north of the site boundary (Figure 4, 2).

The second assemblage was found at the foot of the Wether Down escarpment, some 700 metres north-north-east of Laydene (Figure 4, 15). This includes 145 pieces of worked flint thought to be of Mesolithic to Neolithic character.

4.1.6 Undated Features of Possible Prehistoric Origin

A series of parallel linear features thought to represent field boundaries have been recorded on the south facing slopes of the combe between Long Down and Chidden Down. The closest at the head of the combe extend to a position approximately 100 metres to the north of the site (Figure 4, 16). These are difficult to characterise and date because they are so fragmented. However, the spacing and alignment, which reflects that of the cross dykes, suggests that the features may have a later prehistoric origin.

Two isolated linears on the escarpment, some 250 metres to the east of Laydene (Figure 4, 17), may also be 'Celtic' field boundaries. They are relatively close to lynchets recorded on the north-facing slopes of Hyden Hill,

which run counter to the modern field layout. The closest of these features to the site lies some 350 metres away to the south-east (Figure 4, 18).

4.1.7 Undated Features of Probable Post-Medieval to Modern Origin

Four holloways recorded during a recent survey converge on the north-western corner of Hyden Woods, approximately 600 metres south-east of the proposed development (Figure 4, 19 to 22). All are likely to be of post-medieval to modern origin.

4.2 The Cartographic Evidence (Figures 5 to 10)

The study of the historical maps has relied on the material held at the Hampshire Record Office. The work has focussed on the land coinciding with the proposed development site, the former football pitch to the west and the scheduled cross dykes to the east. Research has been confined to those maps which show this area at a sufficient scale to provide specific details about its past character. A list of all maps and schedules consulted during the preparation of this report is provided in Section 7.3.

4.2.1 The Nineteenth Century (Figures 5 to 8)

The earlier nineteenth century maps only depict the western part of the site coinciding with the former football pitch (to the west of the Meon Valley Cycle Trail). The first view of this is provided by a plan of the Whitewool and Coomb Estates in 1819. The land is shown as an enclosed field and is named as 'Nine Acres' (Figure 5, Land Unit 76). The Droxford Road along the southern edge of this area is depicted continuing for a short distance beyond the crossroads to the east. The byway now followed by the Meon Valley Cycle Trail was also in place at the beginning of the nineteenth century. At this time the area to the east, corresponding with the proposed development area, was in the ownership of Lady Shirlock and was not mapped.

The same field was depicted again in 1853 on the East Meon tithe map, when it was under arable (Figure 6, Land Unit 1221). Once again the area to the east was omitted as one of several large estates comprising tithe-free lands. The accompanying apportionments name these as Manor or Court Farm, Fairfield Farm, Hiden Farm, Park Farm and Church Farm, but there is no evidence to indicate which of these properties coincided with the proposed development.

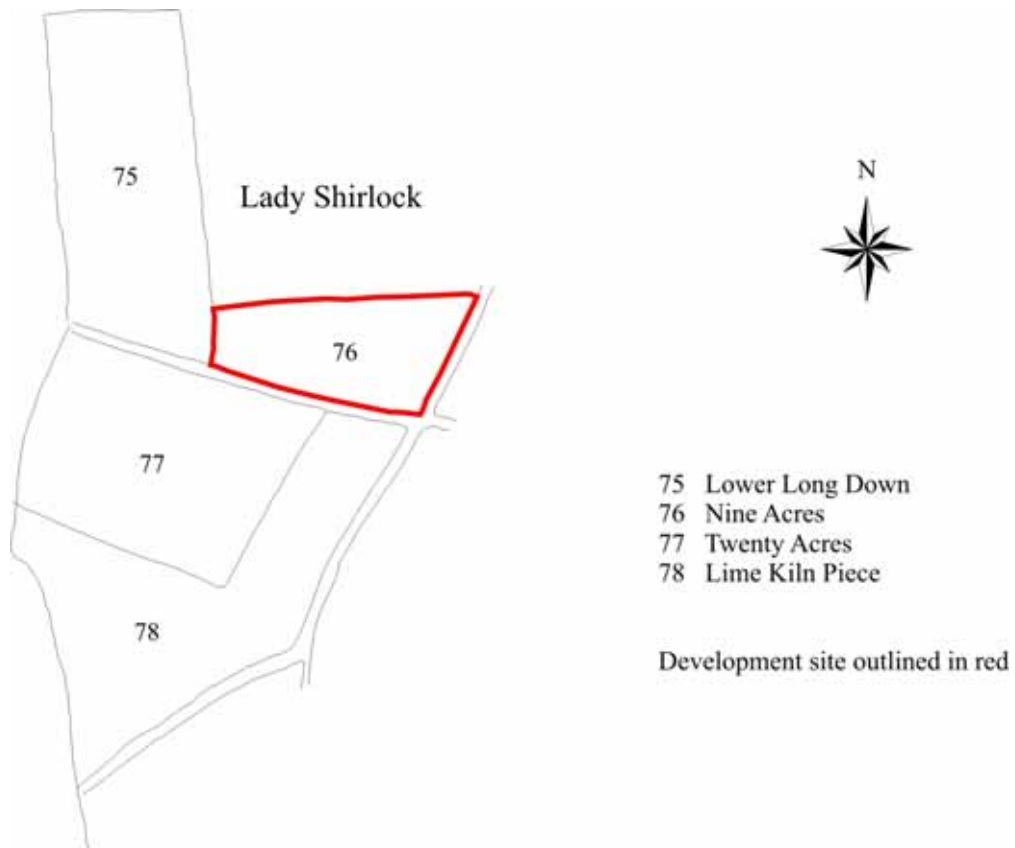


Figure 5: Extract from the plan of Whitewool and Coomb Estates in 1819 (not to scale)

The first complete view of the land corresponding with the proposed development is provided by the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1870 (Figure 7). The field coinciding with the former football pitch remained unchanged, while most of the land to the east appears to have been cleared, with scrubby down-land vegetation on its eastern and western margins. The route of the Droxford Road to the east of the crossroads is also shown for the first time. The western end of this originally swung further to the south in the vicinity of the scheduled cross dykes.

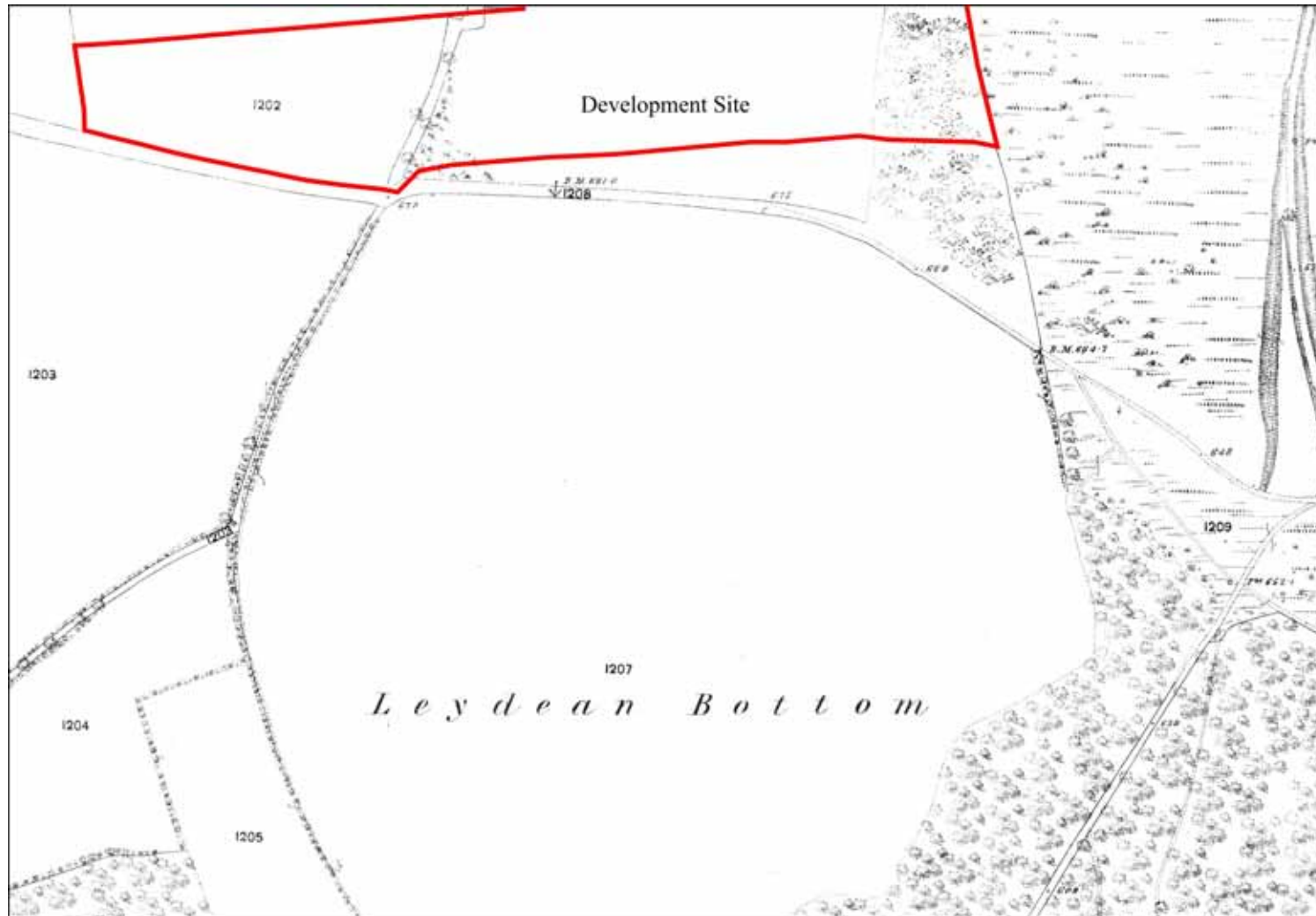
By 1898 the scrub had been removed from the western side of this area and a new field boundary had been established across its centre (Figure 8). The layout was otherwise unchanged.



			OWNER	OCCUPIER
1219	40 acres	arable	James John & William Thorngate	James Ray
1221	9 acres	arable	John Bonham Carter	James Ray
1222	Lime Kiln Field	arable	John Bonham Carter	James Ray
1226	Hyden Paddock	arable	Charles Manning	George Gregory

Site outlined in red

Figure 6: Extract from the East Meon tithe map of 1853 (not to scale)



first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1870, 25 inch version (LX.9)

Figure 7: Extract from the



second edition Ordnance Survey map of 1896, 25 inch version (LX.9)

Figure 8: Extract from the

4.2.2 The Twentieth Century (Figures 9 to 10)

There had been no further alterations by the time of the third edition Ordnance Survey map in 1909 (Figure 9). By 1932 two small buildings had been constructed in the western field and a line of scrubby vegetation had developed along its southern margins (Figure 10). The earthworks of the triple cross-dyke are shown for the first time bisecting the eastern side of the site, while the land to the west was under small and scattered trees. By this time Leydene House had been constructed to the south and the western end of the Droxford Road had been diverted northwards. The new route ran along the northern margins of the parkland establishing the existing southern edge of the site. The diversion was intended to provide the occupants of Leydene House with more privacy and to incorporate the garages and clock tower (Figure 10, buildings immediately to the south-west of the cross dykes) within the estate boundaries (Rickard 2006).

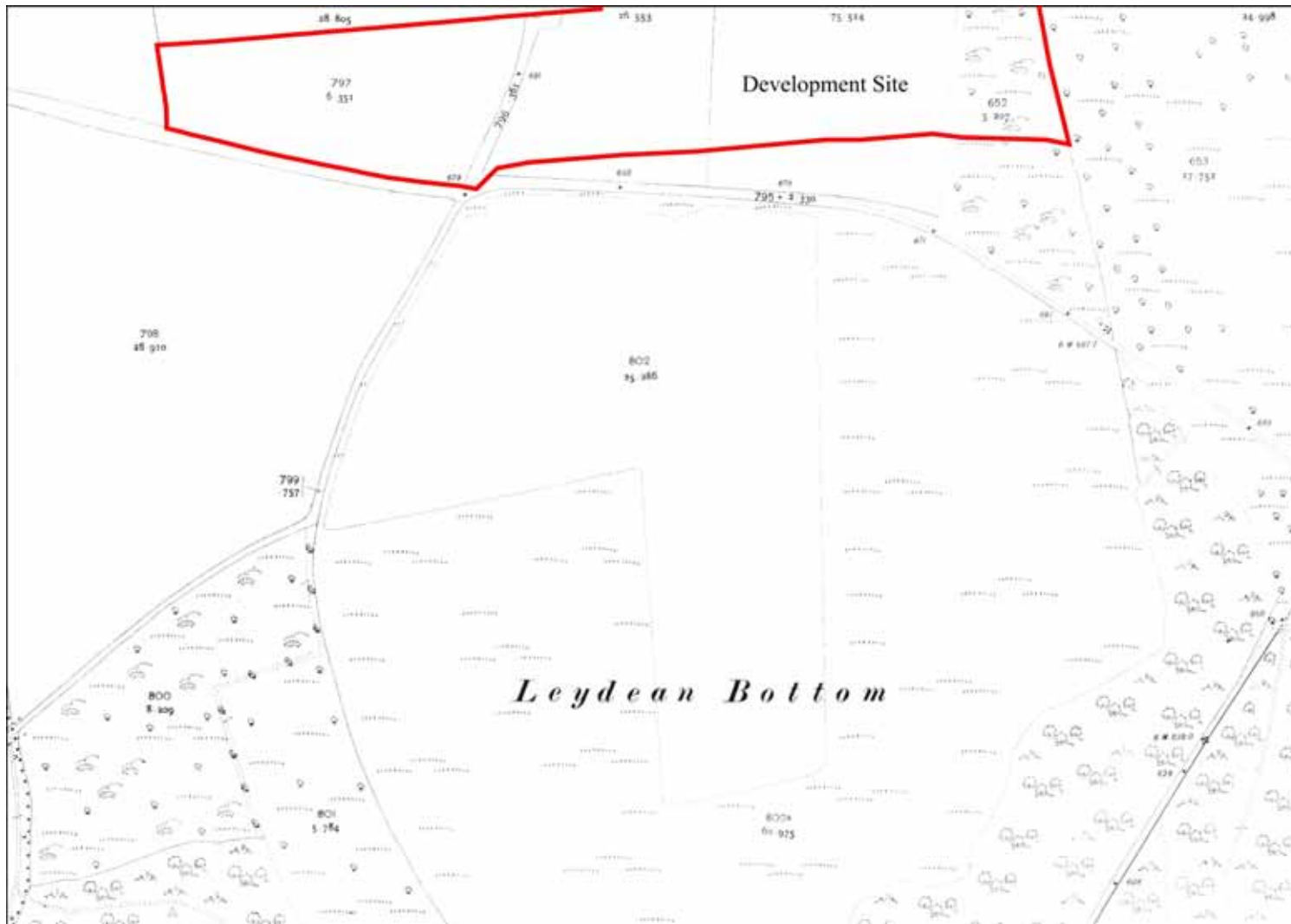
4.3 The History of the Site in the Twentieth Century

The summary of the twentieth century history of the site is based on a recent study by Chris Rickard (2006). This provides an account of the Royal Naval Signal School of HMS Mercury during and after the Second World War. The following synthesis focuses on details about the changing character of the area encompassed by the proposed development.

The site had been part of the Leydene Estate, purchased by Lord and Lady Peel from Lord Hothorn in 1913. The construction of the main house to the south of the site began in the spring of 1914, but because of the First World War it was not completed until 1925. The estate was selected for requisition by the Ministry of Health on 4th November, 1940, but was eventually requisitioned by the Admiralty on 20th April, 1941.

Prior to 1941 the Royal Naval Signal School had been located in the dockyard in Portsmouth, but this had become increasingly untenable due to heavy bombing. Up until this time the training and research branches of the school were combined, but it was decided to split the two sections once a decision to move had been reached. The training division was moved to the Leydene Estate and initially the classrooms and accommodation were in Leydene House.

The establishment expanded rapidly, beginning with the erection of Nissan huts in West Camp and East Camp to the south of the Droxford Road and the proposed development area during the autumn and winter of 1941. Land to the north of the road was requisitioned in January of 1945, but building work had already commenced in April 1944. This took place in an area known as North Camp, which encompassed the compound enclosing the eastern side of Laydene and extended westwards as far as the eastern end of Crescent Road (Figure 2, from the eastern site boundary to a line just east of Buildings 9, 10 and 79).



Survey map of 1909, 25 inch version (LX.9)

Figure 9: Extract from the third edition Ordnance

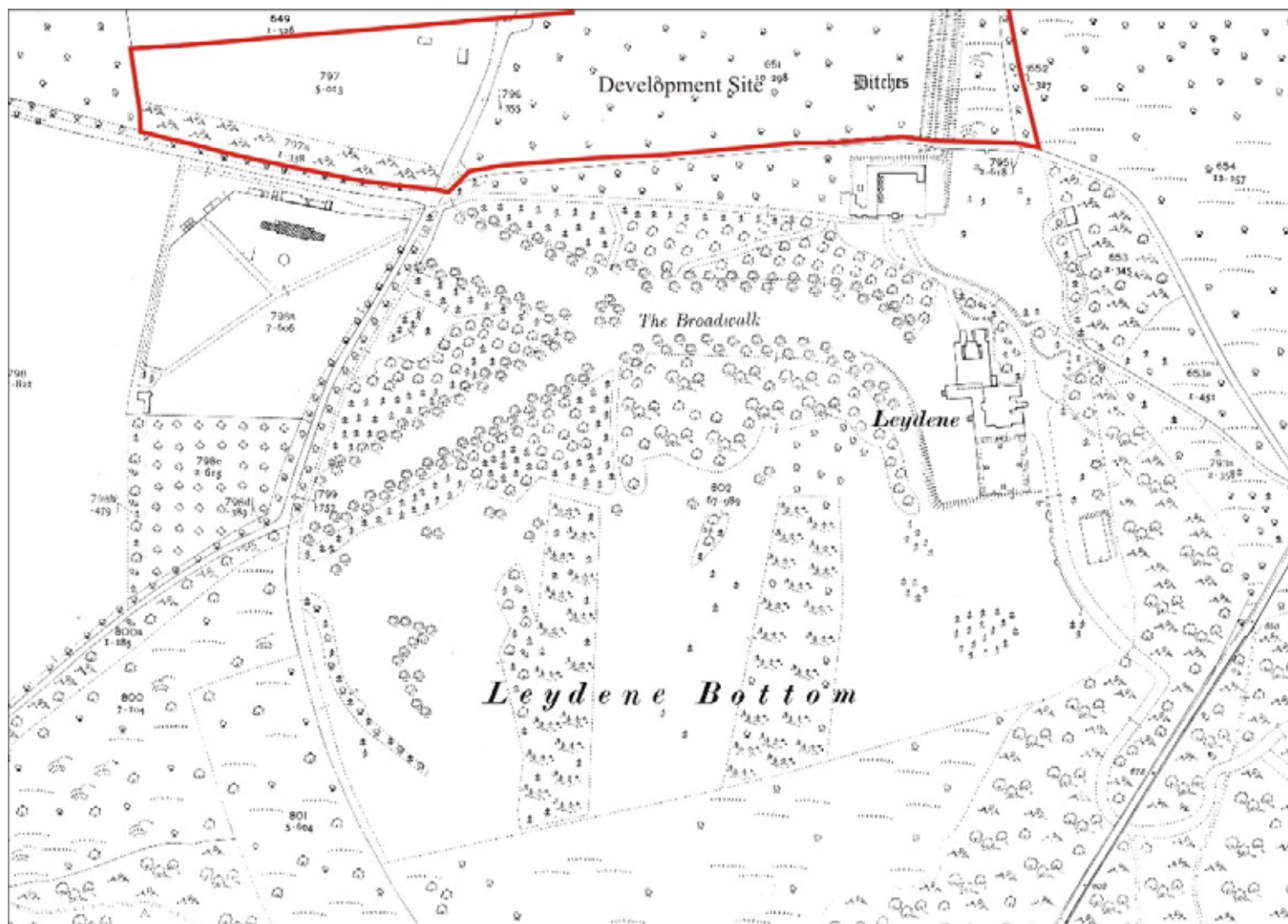


Figure 10: Extract from the revised edition Ordnance Survey map of 1932, 25 inch version (LX.9)

The earliest buildings in North Camp were semi-permanent in character, comprising Ministry of War huts. These were constructed in two areas on either side of the scheduled triple cross dykes, linked by the two concrete paths cutting the earthworks. The buildings were initially used in the training of Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve officers.

Further land was requisitioned next to North Camp in the late summer of 1945 to accommodate an 80 foot lattice mast, but there is no information as to where this was located. Immediately after the war the north-eastern part of North Camp was occupied by 'S' Branch, and the buildings were used as classrooms, workshops, administrative offices and a watch room.

In 1947 the Admiralty bought Leydene House and 120 acres of the estate by compulsory purchase. In the same year the land coinciding with the western side of the site (Figure 2, the sports field), known as 'High Trees', was selected as a sports field and cleared by bulldozers. It was enlarged subsequently to provide a small football pitch. The intervening area encompassing the central compound of Laydene as far as the eastern end of Crescent Road was purchased in June 1948 (Figure 2, from the boundary fence to the east of the cycle trail to a line just east of Buildings 9, 10 and 79) and was initially intended to provide land for additional football and rugby pitches, but these plans were changed because of the more pressing need for accommodation. The small bungalow on the eastern side of the football pitch was used initially as a classroom complex (Figure 2, Building 22). This and the garages to the south had been built between 1909 and 1932 (compare Figures 8 and 9).

The first building, 'A' Block, was constructed on the southern edge of the site immediately to the north of the Droxford Road in the vicinity of the later supply block and NAAFI (Figure 2, Building 11 and Dining Hall). This was to house 120 Senior Rates and was opened in November 1949. Crescent Road was laid out in September 1950 and seven accommodation blocks were built on its northern side, with annexes to the rear that included toilets and washing and laundry facilities (Figure 2, Buildings 1 and 2, and 5 to 9). Jackson and Inglefield at the western end of the crescent were for Petty Officers (Figure 2, Buildings 1 and 2). There was then a gap before the first of the five Junior Rates blocks, which from west to east comprised Pascoe, Popham (later Howe), Knowles, Blake and Kempenfelt (Figure 2, Buildings 5 to 9). A boiler house was also built to the west of North Camp behind Kempenfelt (Figure 2, on the site of Building 79).

In 1964 two new Junior Rates blocks, Sommerville and Cunningham (Figure 2, Buildings 3 and 4), were completed on the northern side of Crescent Road in the former gap between Inglefield and Pascoe (Figure 2, Buildings 2 and 5). The construction of the Drill Shed immediately east of Crescent Road (Figure 2, Building 82) began in September 1967 and a small car park and turning area for buses was laid alongside the building to the south.



of Laydene and 'Celtic' fields to the north and north-west taken on 6th March 1969

Figure 11: Aerial photograph

Three new ships' company blocks were built to the south of Crescent Road in 1969, named from west to east as Anson, Hawkes and Rodney (Figure 2, terraces to the west of Building 30 and Building 30). In 1970 'A' Block was demolished and replaced by a new supply block and NAAFI shop, which were completed in 1971 (Figure 2, Building 11 and Dining Hall). A duty part accommodation block, St. Vincent Block, was built on the northern edge of the site around the same time (Figure 2, Building 31). This was later used as a New Entry/Kelly Club.

The demolition of North Camp (west) started in 1975 and in 1977 Ashmore Block was completed (Figure 2, Building 83A) to the north of the Drill Shed (Figure 2, Building 82). This was used by the Special Communications Unit and was enclosed within a high security compound. In 1982 an extension was added on the southern side of Ashmore Block (Figure 2, Building 83A).

It was decided that the Special Communications Unit should remain on the site to the north of the Droxford Road following the closure of HMS Mercury. This decision led to a number of alterations. In August 1992 the old boiler house to the north of Crescent Road was demolished and replaced by a new combined boiler house and bonded oil tank (Figure 2, Buildings 10 and 79), completed in March 1993. The eastern side of North Camp was demolished around the same time to provide car parking for the Special Communications Unit (Figure 2, car park to the east of the scheduled cross dykes), and a new guard house with a sentry post and gun pits had been constructed at the eastern end of Crescent Road by September 1993 (Figure 2, Building 81). The perimeter fencing around the establishment to the north of the Droxford Road and the Crescent Road blocks was upgraded in the same year, and the sports hall was built (Figure 2, Building 43) to the west of St. Vincent Block (Figure 2, Building 31).

In December 1993 the area to the south of the Droxford Road was handed back to the Defence Land Agency. The proposed development site continued to be occupied by the Special Communications Unit Leydene; the Communications Requirements, Trials and Publications Section; the Royal Naval Language School; and the Fleet Electronic Warfare Support Group. Anson and Hawke Block to the south of Crescent Road were demolished at this time because they were no longer needed (Figure 3, terraces to west of Building 30). The establishment was very short-lived and closed soon afterwards.



Laydene, lynchets and possible 'Celtic' fields near Hyden Hill and a circular feature on the western side of the site taken on 2nd March 1988

Figure 12: Aerial photograph of

4.4 The Aerial Photographs (Figures 11 and 12)

Aerial photographs of the site held by English Heritage at the National Monuments Record were checked for archaeological features. A cover search was carried out for photographs at a scale of 1:20000 and larger, taken within a one kilometre radius of the site (from a central grid reference of SU 6762 1924). This produced 31 photographs from 12 sorties in the vertical collection, which are listed in Section 7.4. All of the photographs were inspected for archaeological features and evidence for the character of the site after it was requisitioned by the Admiralty. The work focused entirely on Laydene and its immediate surroundings.

The earlier of the two photographs reproduced in this report was taken on 6th March 1969 (Figure 11). At this time the field immediately to the north of the site was under plough. The aerial photograph shows a series of faint linear soil marks that may be the boundaries of 'Celtic' fields extending up to the northern margins of Laydene. Some of the possible field boundaries noted on the combe slopes to the north-west are also visible (Figure 4, 16). A circular feature to the west of Wetherdown Barn appears to be an unrecorded round barrow (Figure 11). The white lines of the football pitch can be seen in the western part of the site, with a Nissan hut to the south of the bungalow (Figure 11; Figure 2, Building 22), partly coinciding with the footprint of the present garages (Figure 11; Figure 2, Building 21). The nine accommodation blocks along Crescent Road are shown (Figure 11; Figure 2, Buildings 1 to 9), together with 'A' Block, which was replaced by the later supply building to the south (Figure 11; Figure 2, Dining Hall) and the original boiler house in the footprint of its later replacement (Figure 11; Figure 2, Building 79) to the north of 'Kempenfelt' (Figure 11; Figure 2, Building 9). At this time the North Camp Nissan huts were still in place at the eastern end of the site on either side of the scheduled cross dykes.

The later photograph, taken on 2nd March 1988 (Figure 12), shows the linear features and lynchets near Hyden Hill to the east and south-east of the site (Figure 4, 17 and 18). These seem to be part of a wider distribution of previously unrecorded 'Celtic' fields extending into a ploughed field at the foot of the escarpment to the north (Figure 12). A circular feature can be seen to the west of the football pitch at the western end of the site. The buildings to the east include 'Anson' and 'Hawke' Blocks to the south of Crescent Road, which occupied the grassed-over terraces in the south-western part of the central compound prior to their demolition in the early 1990's (Figure 2, west of Building 30). The Sports Hall (Figure 2, Building 43) to the west of St. Vincent Block (Figure 12; Figure 2, Building 31) and the guard house on the main gate (Figure 2, Building 81) had not been built in 1988, while the Nissan huts on the site of the car park to the east of the scheduled cross dykes were still standing.

4.5 Field observations

There is a low sub-circular mound with a diameter of approximately nine metres at the western end of the sports field (Figure 2). The earthwork is under a dense cover of nettles and mossy grass. When it was visited five years ago, a quantity of modern debris was noted in the centre of the mound. This is no longer apparent and there was only soil and flint visible in surface disturbances. The earthwork coincides with a circular feature on an aerial photograph taken in 1988 (Figure 12) and is recorded as the site of bonfires on the topographic survey (Figure 2). This and the character of the vegetation suggests that the mound is most likely to have a modern origin, but it is not possible to be absolutely certain from the surface evidence that this is the case, particularly as it appears to be composed at least partly of earth. The feature does resemble a plough-damaged round barrow and the possibility that a low earthwork of this type became the focus of recent bonfires cannot be ruled out. The aerial photograph taken in 1969 (Figure 11) indicates that the feature occupies a position well to the west of the marked out football pitch, suggesting that it might have escaped the bulldozers.

The only other earthwork in this part of the site is a negative lynchet followed by the northern fence of the sports pitch. This boundary was in place in 1819 (Figure 5) and while it is possible that it was aligned on the edge of an earlier field, a post-medieval origin seems most likely.

Apart from the modern building terraces, there are no earthworks within the central compound. The scheduled cross dykes are the only earthworks visible in the eastern compound.

5 DISCUSSION

5.1 The Archaeological Potential of the Site

The number of Mesolithic sites on the downs in the vicinity of Laydene indicates that the area was frequented by groups engaged in hunting and flint working. The larger concentrations of worked flint suggest that these communities were establishing temporary camps in the area, which are likely to have been occupied on a seasonal basis. On such sites the surface material is likely to be associated with buried features vulnerable to subsequent damage, such as hearths and shallow pits. The distribution suggests that there is a high potential for the presence of similar concentrations and scatters of Mesolithic worked flint and associated remains within the proposed development area.

By contrast, the evidence indicates two foci of Neolithic activity well away from the site on the long barrow to the north (Figure 4, 4) and possibly at the foot of the Wether Down escarpment (Figure 4, 13). There are no concentrations of worked flint nearby and the few artefacts that have been recovered may well represent chance losses.

The known late Neolithic to Bronze Age round barrows are all outside the development area. None are sufficiently close to introduce the possibility that associated funerary activity might encroach on the site. The nearest of the barrows has an east facing aspect (Figure 4, 7), suggesting that it is likely to have been used by communities living in this direction away from Laydene.

The scheduled cross dykes on the eastern side of the site (Figure 4, 12) indicate that the high ridges encompassing Laydene were part of an established territory, likely to have late Bronze Age origins. Evidence from elsewhere suggests that territories of this kind would have included small settlements, arable fields and pasture and may have been occupied by several closely related communities. Unfortunately it is not possible to use the existing information to predict the likely position of individual settlements. Occupation can occur alongside the boundary banks and ditches, but it is equally likely to have developed elsewhere within the territory. Leydene Ditches and the newly recorded cross-ridge dyke to the east (Figure 4, 14) define an extensive upland landscape and Laydene is one of many possible locations that might have been settled during the late Bronze Age.

The aerial photographs do suggest that a 'Celtic' field system may extend across the proposed development area (Section 4.4; and Figure 11). The layout appears to encompass the flanks of Long Down to the north-west (Figure 4, 16) and is characteristic of the later prehistoric to Roman period. If it is of late Bronze Age date, there is an increased risk of settlement occurring within the proposed development area.

While it is probable that the mound at the western end of the football pitch is of modern origin (Section 4.5), the possibility that it might be a plough damaged round barrow cannot be dismissed from the surface evidence. The character and origins of this feature can only be determined by field investigation.

5.2 The Potential of the Standing Buildings

Consultation with English Heritage has confirmed that the existing naval buildings are not considered worthy of designation. They are generic in character and for the most part they provided accommodation, service, administration, or physical training or recreational facilities for the main base to the south of the Droxford Road. The one exception with a direct Cold War function is Ashmore Block used by the Special Communications Unit, which was constructed on the eastern side of the proposed development area in 1977 and extended southwards in 1982 (Figure 2, Building 83A).

5.3 The Impact of Previous Land-Use and Development on Potential Archaeological Remains

The historical maps indicate that the western third of the site encompassing the football pitch was a field dating back at least as far as the early nineteenth century. This was certainly under arable cultivation in the mid-nineteenth century and it is probable that this land-use continued until it was purchased by the Admiralty in 1947. Most of the central compound occupied by the naval buildings was also open farmland during the later nineteenth century. The eastern side of the site around Leydene Ditches appears to have been the only potential area of ancient downland. With this one exception the rest of the site is likely to have been cultivated in relatively recent times. This will have disturbed any *in situ* scatters or concentrations of worked flint and is likely to have truncated the upper horizons of potential buried archaeological remains.

The development of the land after it was requisitioned by the Admiralty will have had a far more significant impact on the likely survival of any archaeological deposits. Although there are no obvious indications of ground reduction in the area of the former football pitch, the recorded use of a bulldozer suggests that there may well be some damage to this part of the site.

The central compound is the most disturbed with notable ground reduction on the terraces occupied by all of the naval buildings, both standing and demolished, and across many of the associated hard-standings. It is highly unlikely that buried archaeological features of prehistoric date would survive in these areas. The principal exceptions are to the north of the Crescent Road accommodation blocks, between the boiler house (Figure 2, Building 10) and St. Vincent Block (Figure 2, Building 31); and to the east of the dining hall (Figure 2, Building 15). In both locations the ground appears to be relatively undisturbed, providing good conditions for the preservation of potential archaeological features.

There is likely to have been some damage to the area occupied by the car park in the compound to the east of the scheduled earthworks. The ground preparation will have involved the removal of the topsoil, but there is no indication of associated terracing suggesting that disturbance may be confined to the upper horizons of any buried archaeological features.



Figure 13: Overlay to show the relationship between the proposed and existing layouts (not to scale)

5.4 The Impact of the Proposed Development on Potential Archaeological Remains (Figure 13)

The new houses will be confined to the central compound, where much of the impact of the proposed development coincides with areas of existing ground reduction (Figure 13). Half of the houses are situated on previously terraced ground, where potential archaeological features are likely to have been truncated or destroyed. These include two in the north-western corner of the site (Figure 13, Nos. 3 and 4), five to the south of Crescent Road (Figure 13, Nos. 1, 6, 7, 13 and 14) and three along the eastern side of the site (Figure 13, Nos. 18 to 20). Nos. 1 and 6 on the south-western side of the proposed development are included even though there are no existing buildings in this location (Figure 13), because they coincide with ground reduced areas occupied by the two naval accommodation blocks demolished in 1993 (Section 2.2).

The other ten properties and the associated access roads and parking areas extend to varying degrees beyond previously reduced ground (Figure 13). The soils on the hill slope in this part of the site are likely to be shallow increasing the probability that any buried archaeological deposits will be close to the surface. Here, topsoil stripping, additional terracing and trenching associated with the proposed development is likely to significantly truncate or destroy potential archaeological deposits.

5.5 The Impact of the Proposed Development on the Naval Buildings

The proposed development will involve the demolition of all of the existing naval buildings on the site. It will also entail the removal of Crescent Road and any hard standings, so that the current layout will no longer be discernible.

5.6 The Impact of Previous Development on the Scheduled Ancient Monuments and their Settings

The scheduled area of Leydene Ditches (Figure 4, 13) encompasses the earthworks of the cross-dykes together with a two metre stand-off on either side of the monument. These are crossed by the two walkways and their embankments, constructed in 1944 within North Camp. The modern security fence of the eastern compound additionally crosses the earthworks on the line of the northern and southern property boundaries. The scheduled monument is otherwise unaffected by previous development.

The existing naval establishment does, however, have a notably detrimental effect on the setting of Leydene Ditches. The extensive views of the surrounding downland, which are integral to a monument of this type, are dominated to the west by the tall and unsightly modern blocks. Ashmore Block and the Drill Shed some 10 metres to the west (Figure 2, Buildings 82 and 83A) block all views in this direction. The roof of Ashmore Block and its

southern extension rise to 221.34 and 222.93 metres respectively, while the ridge of the drill shed is at 221.22 metres. This is between 8.9 and 10.6 metres above the undisturbed ground surface to the west alongside the cross-ridge dykes. The setting of the monument is further marred by the car park and associated street lights immediately to the east. This is made even more jarring by the contrast with the pastoral surroundings of the earthwork beyond the property to the north.

The security fence partly obscures a clear view of the cross dykes as they continue northwards beyond the site boundaries and hinders any attempt to appreciate the monument as a continuous whole. The impression of fragmentation is enhanced by the appearance of the earthworks within the site. Although the cross dykes are prominent and survive in fine condition, they are so overgrown with brambles that they can only be glimpsed through the undergrowth.

Although close to Laydene, the scheduled barrow to the east (Figure 4, 7) occupies a setting below the plateau crest with an east facing aspect. It lies just below the 205 metre contour some 10 metres lower than the proposed development area, where views to the west are additionally screened by a copse of trees.

The setting of the scheduled barrow to the north (Figure 4, 8) just above the 215 metre contour takes advantage of the topography in a similar manner, with the principal view-shed overlooking the escarpment to the east. As with Leydene Ditches views to the south encompass the tall and unsightly naval buildings.

5.7 The Impact of the Proposed Development on the Setting of the Scheduled Ancient Monuments

Consultation with English Heritage has confirmed the detrimental and unsympathetic effect of the existing naval buildings on the setting of Leydene Ditches and the barrow to the north. English Heritage has stated that:

“Their replacement by a low-density housing development of appropriate design and elevation would represent a substantial improvement in terms of monument setting, and would enhance those heritage values inherent in the wider visibility of the monuments within the surrounding landscape”.

The three houses closest to Leydene Ditches (Figure 3, Nos. 18 to 20) will be set at least 15 metres to the west of the earthworks increasing the stand-off to the scheduled area. This coupled with the spacing of the houses will improve views in this direction in comparison to the current aspect. The eastern garden boundaries of the properties will be set approximately three metres to the west of the scheduled area.

6 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Potential Archaeological Remains

The known distribution suggests that traces of Mesolithic encampments and the boundaries of later prehistoric to Roman 'Celtic' fields could occur within the proposed development area. The possibility that a late Bronze Age settlement might have been located on the site, or that the mound at the western end of the football pitch is a plough damaged round barrow cannot be ruled out on present evidence.

In the southern, western and eastern parts of the site the impact of the proposed development on these potential remains is mitigated by the construction of the new houses principally in areas of existing ground reduction. The types of buried features that generally define the boundaries of 'Celtic' fields, or which occur on Mesolithic or late Bronze Age sites are unlikely to survive on the terraces occupied by the naval buildings. However, where ground reduction has been less severe (as in the car parks in the south-western part of the site and alongside the sports hall) it is conceivable that potential archaeological features might be present albeit in truncated condition.

Elements of the proposed development which encroach on undisturbed ground are more of a concern, as the conditions for the survival of archaeological deposits should be good beyond the terraced areas. In this respect the proposed development has the greatest potential impact on the land to the north of Crescent Road.

Given the lack of archaeological fieldwork on the site and its potential provision ought to be made for archaeological recording. In areas where the impact is confined in extent, it should be possible for this to be carried out to an appropriate standard as part of an archaeological watching brief. However, across the central part of the site to the north of Crescent Road, where the proposed scheme encroaches to a greater degree on previously undisturbed ground, this strategy carries a greater risk of causing delays to the ground works should significant archaeological deposits be present. Here, it would be advisable to determine the potential of the site by means of machine dug trial trenches located in the footprint of the proposed scheme. Since there is nothing to indicate that significant buried archaeology is definitely present on the site, it is recommended that this could be carried out as a planning condition once the application has been determined. It is also recommended that any such field evaluation should be done well in advance of the construction programme to allow plenty of time for additional phases of more extensive excavation and recording, should these be proved necessary by the results of the trial trenching.

6.2 The Standing Naval Buildings

The study by Chris Rickard (2006) already provides a useful account of the function and significance of the buildings in Laydene. Although the buildings are not worthy of designation both English Heritage and Hampshire County Council have advised a basic level of building recording prior to demolition because of their Cold War associations.

6.3 The Scheduled Ancient Monument – Leydene Ditches

If the scheduled cross dykes are to become part of an amenity area with improved public access some remedial work is recommended. It would be of great benefit both to the long-term stability of the monument and to its amenity value if the brambles and associated undergrowth were to be cleared. This would need to be carried out using methods that would avoid ground disturbance. Short turf with a low density of broad leaf trees should be established on the earthworks, creating stable conditions for their survival and replicating the appearance of the monument to the north of the property boundary. In line with the recommendations of English Heritage, a management plan ensuring that these conditions could be maintained into the future should also be implemented.

The removal of the security fence would help both to present the monument as a continuous and visually accessible feature, and to improve its setting. Replacement stock-proof fencing along the northern property boundaries and garden fencing along the eastern property boundaries would need to have an acceptable appearance. It would be advisable to re-use existing post settings across the scheduled area to prevent additional damage to the monument.

The Second World War walkways and their embankments should be left in place. These are of local historical interest and are the only extant remains of North Camp.

It would greatly improve the setting of the monument if the car park to the east were to be removed. It is recommended that any such work should be the subject of an archaeological watching brief to ensure that potential buried remains are recorded. Ideally the area ought to be completely reinstated and returned to some form of manageable natural cover in keeping with the down-land setting.

It should be stressed that according to the current legislation (The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979) written Scheduled Monument Consent would be required from the Secretary of State if any of the recommended remedial works were to be carried out within the scheduled area. It is quite likely that consent would be subject to an archaeological watching brief during some of the recommended works, namely the removal and replacement of fence posts.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND SOURCES CONSULTED

7.1 Books and Documents

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Wymer, J. J., 1977, "Salt Hill", *Gazetteer of Mesolithic Sites in England and Wales*, CBA Research Report, **20**, 112

7.2 Gazetteer of Known Sites (Shown on Figure 4; information derived from the Hampshire Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record and from the 2009 survey of Hyden Woods (BAS 2009))

Site	AHBR No.	NGR	Description
1	18817	SU 67500 20000	Seven Mesolithic sites on Salt Hill
2	26351 26352	SU 67900 19400	Two Mesolithic cores and later worked flint from Wether Down
3	26356	SU 66960 19090	Mesolithic cores and blades denoting flint working
4	18812	SU 67247 20093	Neolithic long barrow (SAM)
5	39816	SU 67700 19500	Part of Neolithic polished flint axe from Wether Down
6	26357	SU 66910 19140	Y-shaped Neolithic flint implement from Chidden Down
7	26410	SU 68017 19310	Bowl barrow (SAM)
8	26411	SU 67934 19392	Bowl barrow on Leydene Ditches (SAM)
9	26346	SU 66940 19780	Round barrow on Long Down
10	26368	SU 68200 18900	Bowl barrow in a copse to the south of Hyden Cross
11	26369	SU 68220 18940	Bowl barrow near Hyden Cross destroyed during road construction
12	-	SU 68400 18870	Barrow cemetery in the north-west corner of Hyden Woods (BAS 2009)
13	26412	SU 67910 19320	Leydene Ditches – late Bronze Age to early Iron Age cross-ridge dykes (SAM)
13a	39817 39821	SU 67906 19103	Excavated sections through two of the cross dyke ditches (Wessex Archaeology 1996)
14	-	SU 68364 18902	Prominent bank and ditch likely to be a cross-ridge dyke recorded in Hyden Woods (BAS 2009)
15	55278	SU 68000 20000	Worked flint of Mesolithic to Neolithic date
Site	AHBR No.	NGR	Description

16	37500	SU 67190 19500	A series of parallel linear features
			that may be field boundaries
17	37501	SU 68130 19290	Two linear features that may be field boundaries
18	37502	SU 68420 19090	Lynchets
19	-	SU 68360 18881	Holloway following west edge of
			Hyden Woods (BAS 2009)
20	-	SU 68452 18852	Holloway in Hyden Woods (BAS 2009)
21	-	SU 68357 18896	Holloway in Hyden Woods (BAS 2009)
22	-	SU 68441 18903	Holloway in Hyden Woods (BAS 2009)

7.3 Historical Maps and Schedules

- 1819 The Whitewool and Coomb Estates in East and West Meon and Hambledon (14M49/1)
- 1851 East Meon tithe apportionments (21M65/F7/66/1)
- 1853 East Meon tithe map (21M65/F7/66/2)
- 1870 First edition Ordnance Survey map, 25 inch version (LX.9)
- 1896 Second edition Ordnance Survey map, 25 inch version (LX.9)
- 1909 Third edition Ordnance Survey map, 25 inch version (LX.9)
- 1932 Revised edition Ordnance Survey map, 25 inch version (LX.9)

7.4 Aerial Photographs Consulted (vertical collection, black and white prints)

Sortie No.	Library No.	Frame Nos.	Date	Scale
RAF/3G/TUD/UK/155	8047	5301-5303	16/04/1946	1:10000
RAF/CPA/UK/1751	481	4331-4332	21/09/1946	1:10625
RAF/CPA/UK/1992	591	3180	13/04/1947	1:9800
RAF/CPA/UK/1992	591	4180	13/04/1947	1:9800
RAF/543/328	1840	174	09/07/1958	1:10750
RAF/58/2843	2314	256-257	06/05/1959	1:11000
RAF/58/2860	1920	235-236	14/05/1959	1:11200
RAF/58/2860	1920	294-295	14/05/1959	1:11200
MAL/61506	21224	96950-2	09/11/1961	1:6000
OS/69002	11000	162-164	06/03/1969	1:7500
OS/69257	11125	27-28	11/06/1969	1:7000
MAL/82002	7764	76	07/03/1982	1:15000
MAL/82002	7764	136	07/03/1982	1:15000
MAL/82003	7765	256-257	24/03/1982	1:15000
OS/88002	13213	155-157	02/03/1988	1:7900
OS/88002	13213	200-202	02/03/1988	1:7900