

Land to the rear of Winchester Road Andover



Archaeological Watching Brief Report



March 2006

Client: Hyder Consulting

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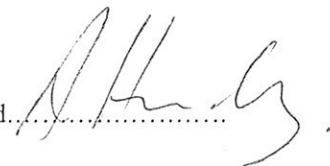
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Land at Rear of 4 Winchester Road, Andover, Hampshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

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Cover Plate: View of reduction of lower terrace fronting on to South Street.

SUMMARY

In February 2006 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Land on rear of 4 Winchester Road, Andover, Hampshire (NGR SU 36429 45063). The work was commissioned by Hyder Consulting on behalf of Rosey Homes Ltd in advance of new housing development on the site. The watching brief revealed no archaeological features or deposits pre dating the 20th century building and gardening on the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 In February 2006 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Land at rear of 4 Winchester Road, Andover, Hampshire (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Hyder Consulting on behalf of Rosey Homes Ltd in respect of a planning application for redevelopment of site for new residential buildings (Planning Application No. TVN.02766/2).

1.1.2 A project brief was set by Jim Hunter of Hyder Consulting.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The site lies on Upper Chalk at 63.28 m above OD. The site is situated between the rear of properties on Winchester Road and South Street (Fig. 2) and is on a steep scarp running from east to west. It is 0.23 hectares in area.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological background to the watching brief was prepared in a Desk Base Assessment (DBA) by Hyder Consulting for the project (HC, 2006) and is summarised below.

1.3.2 No Palaeolithic or Mesolithic flint tools, flakes or lithic waste material have been found on the site or in its immediate vicinity. Therefore, although it is recognised that material from these periods is often, by its very nature, difficult to find, the lack of evidence locally points to a low or nil potential for the occurrence of this material on the study site.

1.3.3 There are no records of artefactual or other evidence of Neolithic or Bronze Age date within the site. The prehistoric trackway known as the Harroway ran to the north of the town. On the south-western edge of the modern town lies Barksbury Camp, an Iron Age hillfort, that has also been found to hold evidence of occupation from the Neolithic and Bronze Age. There have also been Iron Age finds within the modern built up area. For example a settlement site was excavated at Vigo Road, to the north east of the town, in the 1970s.

- 1.3.4 By analogy with other areas where more evidence is available, it can be postulated that the landscape may have consisted of a series of relatively small, nucleated settlements within clearings distributed at a low density across an otherwise wooded landscape, or to have comprised a more dispersed pattern of individual farms, each with its own managed area of arable, pasture and woodland.
- 1.3.5 In the Roman period Andover was certainly settled with evidence of occupation having been found in the town, particularly at Chantry Street, and Roman burials were found to the east of Winchester Street at SU 36581 45234 (AHBR 55845) *c* 250 m to the north-east of the current site. Additionally, in AD 1869, a burial (AHBRs 23125) and a mosaic pavement fragment, (AHBRs 23126) were found at SU 364 451, although the latter is not thought to have been *in situ*. The precise location is not given but if these finds were associated with the construction of the terrace of houses on the west side of South Street, then the finds may have been as little as 50 m from the current site.
- 1.3.6 Again, there is no settlement or artefactual evidence for the Roman period within the site itself. However, the presence of finds nearby suggests that activity spread across a wide area to the south of the current town, which may extend on to the current site and a moderate to high potential is identified.
- 1.3.7 There is no evidence for early or middle Saxon activity in the immediate vicinity of the site or within the town of Andover.
- 1.3.8 Andover continued to develop in the medieval period. It has been suggested that there was an early minster church in Andover. The town was sacked in 1141 during the Civil War in Stephen's reign and gained its charter from Henry II in 1175. Wool and cloth production seem to have been the basis for the town's prosperity and growth although there were other industries including tanning, parchment making and iron working. The Winchester Road area was associated with several industrial processes from the medieval period onwards. Although there are no records of activity extending onto the current site it is possible that such remains may exist.
- 1.3.9 It is not uncommon for towns to expand during this period of economic growth in the medieval period, particularly as the economy and climate encouraged the agricultural population out of the countryside and into the towns. This resulted in suburban development which did not necessarily survive into the later post-medieval period. Thus by the time of the first reliable maps (often the middle 1800s) such sub-urban development had been drawn into denser more central occupation. It has been suggested that the Winchester Road area is such an area but that this does not extend onto the current site. This seems a sensible interpretation since the medieval cemetery at SU 36567 45144 (AHBR 54419) probably marked the southern limit of settlement.
- 1.3.10 In the Post-medieval period the understanding of settlement, land-use and the utilisation of the landscape is enhanced by cartographic sources which can give additional detail to data contained within the SMR.

- 1.3.11 The Andover tithe Map of 1850 indicates that the site was a meadow. The town continued to be a centre for the textile industry, parchment making and tanning as well as a market centre for the surrounding rural community and a staging post to London. To the north and east of the site is a brickworks and digging ground. This attests to the industrial use of the area: it is not inconceivable that this activity extended on to the current site, although there is no positive evidence of this.
- 1.3.12 The Ordnance Survey (OS) 1st edition of 1874 shows no change on the site. This continues until 1937 when three dwellings are shown on the Winchester Road frontage. The western part of the site, which consists of most of the development area, continued as a field, however. Following the construction of Wilton Court (1990) it is shown as part of that property. Since the site seems to have been in agricultural use during this period a low archaeological potential is identified.

2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 To identify and record the presence/absence, extent, condition, quality and date of archaeological remains in the areas affected by the development.
- 2.1.2 To make available the results of the archaeological investigation.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The site was stripped of topsoil and the ground reduced in the two areas of construction. This was carried out by two 360⁰ machines under archaeological supervision (Fig. 2).
- 2.2.2 All archaeological features were planned at a scale of 1:100 and where excavated their sections drawn at scales of 1:20. All excavated features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. A general photographic record of the work was made. Recording followed procedures detailed in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (OA 1992).

3 RESULTS

3.1 Description of deposits (Fig. 2)

- 3.1.1 The ground works for the new development consisted of two terraces cut into the slope. One at the base of the slope along the east side of South Street and the second at the top of the slope. Both terraces cut into the natural chalk (6), which was overlain by a very pale orange silty chalk (5) colluvium. This layer was very thick (approximately 0.5 m) at the base of the slope and only 0.12 m thick on top of slope, but also filled a number of natural geological features running off edge of slope. Sealing layer 5 was a 0.2 - 0.3 m thick layer of orange brown silty clay (4) colluvium with a 0.3 m thick very dark grey silty clay (3) topsoil. From the middle of the site westwards topsoil (3) had been covered by a 0.2 - 0.3 m thick deposit of very dark

grey brown silty clay (2) ground make-up with a 0.2 m thick very dark grey silty clay (1) modern topsoil. This appears to be material building up and levelling of the slope for the garden.

3.2 Finds

3.2.1 No finds were recovered from the site.

3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains

3.3.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified during the watching brief.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1.1 The watching brief revealed no archaeological deposits or features on the site. A number of natural geological features were observed on the top of the east to west slope across the site. From the top of the slope at the middle of the site and downwards to the west to alongside South Street there were two layers of material, make up and levelling of the slope of the former gardens.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

| <i>Context</i> | <i>Type</i> | <i>Depth</i> | <i>Comments</i> |
|----------------|-------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| 1 | Layer | 0.20 m | Modern topsoil |
| 2 | Layer | 0.20 - 0.30 m | Ground make up |
| 3 | Layer | 0.30 m | Original topsoil |
| 4 | Layer | 0.20 - 0.30 m | Culluvium |
| 5 | Layer | 0.12 - 0.50 m | Natural chalk & culluvium |
| 6 | Natural | | Natural chalk |

APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

HC 2006 Archaeological Desk Based Assessment, Land to the rear of 4 Winchester Road, Andover.

OA 1992 *Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson, first edition, August 1992)

APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Land to the rear of 4 Winchester Road, Andover, Hampshire

Site code: A2006.4

Grid reference: NGR SU 36429 45063

Type of watching brief: Ground works for the construction of new residential buildings.

Date and duration of project: Four site visits from the 6/2/2006 to the 9/2/2006.

Area of site: 65 m x 38 m

Summary of results: The watching brief revealed no archaeological features or deposits pre dating the 20th century building and gardening on the site.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Hampshire County Museum Service in due course.



Scale 1:25,000

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Figure 1: Site location

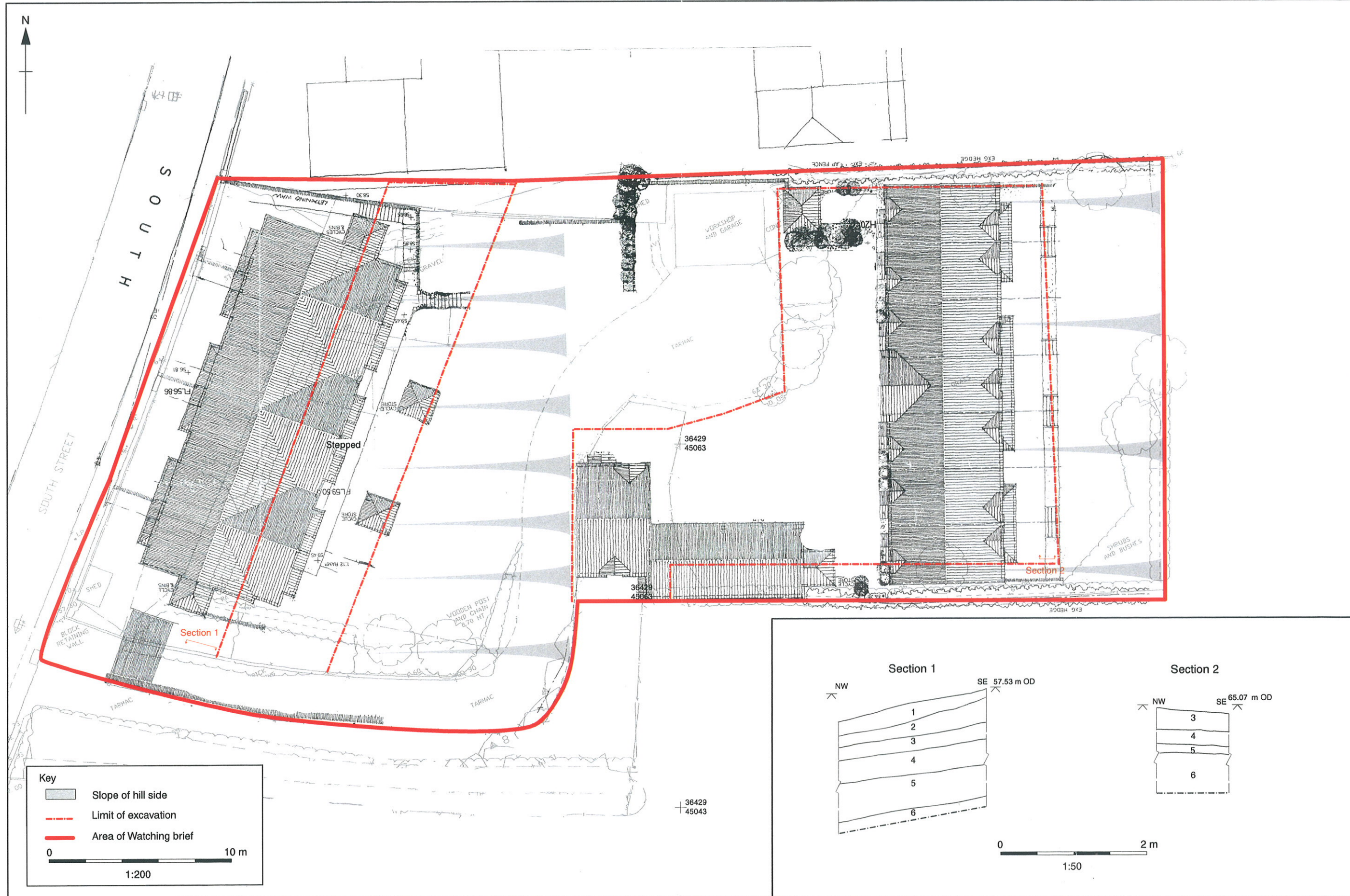


Figure 2: Plan and sections of area of watching brief



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