

Wakefords Copse
Queen Elizabeth
Barracks
Church Crookham
Hampshire



Archaeological
Evaluation Report

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Wakefords Copse, Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Church Crookham, Hampshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

In October 2011 and January 2012, Oxford Archaeology South (OAS) carried out a programme of archaeological evaluation at Wakefords Copse, Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Church Crookham, Hampshire (centred on NGR: SU 814 512). The work was carried out on behalf of Taylor Wimpey (South West Thames) in advance of the construction of residential units. A total of 7 trenches were excavated in the area.

In addition, an archaeological watching brief was carried out in September 2011 during the construction of a bat roost and a temporary sales area at the site

The evaluation and watching brief produced very little evidence for archaeological remains. Three post holes, of probable 20th century date, were revealed in the northern part of the area. A layer of made ground, probably associated with the construction of the existing houses in the later 20th century, was recorded in the western part of the site.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 In October 2011 and January 2012, Oxford Archaeology South (OAS) carried out an evaluation of land at Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Church Crookham, Hampshire. The evaluation was carried out on behalf of Taylor Wimpey (South West Thames) prior to the proposed construction of residential units, business units, a school, sports facilities and other community facilities. A hybrid planning application for the scheme (planning ref: 11/00001/MAJOR) has been submitted to the Local Planning Authority and has been granted permission.
- 1.1.2 The development area is located to the south of Church Crookham (centred on SU 814 512), a suburb of Fleet in Hampshire (Fig. 1).
- 1.1.3 The work forms Phase 1 of a sequence of works to be carried out at the site. The Phase 1 area is divided into four parts, Phases 1A - 1D. This document reports on the results of evaluation trenching in Phase 1C. Trenching in Phase 1A, 1B and 1D areas was conducted in May and June 2011 and has been reported on separately (Oxford Archaeology 2011c).
- 1.1.4 This report also contains the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out in September 2011 during the construction of a bat roost and temporary sales area.
- 1.1.5 The works were carried out in accordance with separate Written Schemes of Investigation (Oxford Archaeology 2011b and 2011d) approved by the Senior Archaeologist at Hampshire County Council.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The proposed development area is a former military barracks and is located to the south of Church Crookham, a suburb of Fleet in Hampshire. The site is bounded to the east by the B 3013 Beacon Hill Road and to the west and south by minor roads.
- 1.2.2 The Wakefords Copse site currently consists of areas occupied by the buildings and gardens of housing associated with the former barracks.
- 1.2.3 The geology of the area is represented by both the Bracklesham and Bagshot Beds, which manifest as deposits of sand with a heavy clay content.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background to the site has been described in detail in a desk-based assessment (Oxford Archaeology 2004) and in Chapter 12 of the Environmental Statement (Oxford Archaeology 2011a) and is not reproduced here.
- 1.3.2 The archaeological potential for all periods except the modern period was determined to be low. However, there has been a lack of previous intrusive archaeological investigation in the area.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 Oxford Archaeology would like to thank David Hopkins (Hampshire County Council) for his advice during the course of the investigation. Oxford Archaeology would also like to thank Andy McClelland (Taylor Wimpey) for his assistance on site. The Phase 1C fieldwork was conducted by Laura King, Katrina Anker, Jacek Gruszczynski and Kevin Moon.



2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The aims of the evaluation, as set out in the WSI, were:

- (i) To determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains which may survive.
- (ii) To determine or confirm the approximate extent of any surviving remains.
- (iii) To determine the date range of any surviving remains by artefactual or other means.
- (iv) To determine the condition and state of preservation of any remains.
- (v) To determine the degree of complexity of any surviving horizontal or vertical stratigraphy.
- (vi) To assess the associations and implications of any remains encountered with reference to the historic landscape.
- (vii) To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence, and the forms in which such evidence may survive.
- (viii) To determine the implications of any remains with reference to economy, status, utility and social activity.
- (ix) To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present.

2.1.2 The aims of the watching were to observe the excavation of foundation trenches and pads and any topsoil stripping and to record, as far as is reasonably practicable, the distribution, nature, date and extent of any archaeological remains which are revealed.

2.2 Methodology

Evaluation

2.2.1 Fourteen evaluation trenches were previously excavated in the Phase 1A, 1B and 1D areas (Oxford Archaeology 2011c). Phase 1C evaluation comprised seven trenches, each 25m x 2m (Fig. 2).

2.2.2 Phase 1C is located in the north eastern part of the site in an area currently occupied by buildings associated with the former barracks in Wakefords Copse. The proposed trenches in this area (six 25m and one 21.5m long trenches) represented c. 1% sample of the development area.

2.2.3 All of the trenches in this area had to be relocated from their proposed locations (Oxford Archaeology 2011b) due to local obstacles (including building foundations and metal fencing surrounding the area). The trenches were relocated to the nearest suitable space to ensure that the areas of the greatest impact from proposed development were investigated

2.2.4 Prior to and during excavation, all trench locations were scanned with a Cable Avoidance Tool to identify any unrecorded live services. The trenches were excavated to the first significant archaeological horizon using a tracked 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket under direct archaeological supervision.



- 2.2.5 Following mechanical excavation, all areas of the trench that required examination or recording were cleaned using appropriate hand tools. Recording took place in accordance with the OA fieldwork manual (Wilkinson 1992).

Watching brief

- 2.2.6 Archaeological monitoring was undertaken during the removal of topsoil and subsoil carried out by the main contractor during the construction of the bat roost and temporary sales office and associated car parking.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

- 3.1.1 The results of the evaluation and watching brief are presented below, beginning with a stratigraphic account of the trenches which contained archaeological remains, followed by an overall discussion and interpretation. An index of all trenches is also presented in tabular form in Appendix 1.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

- 3.2.1 The underlying geology comprised sandy deposits interspersed with patches of orange clay sealed by a sandy subsoil. In Trenches 15, 16 and 18 the subsoil was overlain by a layer of made ground and the modern turf line. In the foundation trenches associated with the bat roost, the subsoil was overlain by a former topsoil deposit which in turn was overlain by a layer of made ground. Made ground was absent from the remaining trenches.
- 3.2.2 Topsoil only was removed during the construction of the temporary sales office and associated car parking.
- 3.2.3 The soil was well drained and the trenches remained dry throughout the course of the investigation.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

- 3.3.1 The investigated area produced very little archaeological evidence. Three post holes, all of which cut through the subsoil, were recorded in Trenches 14 and 22, in the northern part of the Phase 1C area. No archaeological features were present in the remaining trenches or in the watching brief areas.

3.4 Trench descriptions

- 3.4.1 Phase 1C comprised Trenches 14 to 18 and 21 to 22. The trenches were located mainly along the site boundary in areas of highest impact from proposed development.
- 3.4.2 Trench 14 contained two post holes (1403 and 1405) which were cut through the subsoil, suggesting a relatively recent date (see Trench 22, below).
- 3.4.3 Trenches 15 to 18 and Trench 21 and the foundation trenches for the bat roost were devoid of archaeology. Trenches 15 and 16 contained modern buried services which were cut into the subsoil and sealed by a layer of made ground.
- 3.4.4 Trench 22 contained one post hole (2203) which was cut through the subsoil. It contained three fragments of machine-made brick probably dating to the 20th century.



3.5 Finds summary

3.5.1 Three fragments of modern brick were recovered from the fill of post hole 2203.

3.6 Environmental samples

3.6.1 No deposits containing remains suitable for palaeoenvironmental reconstruction were encountered and no environmental samples were taken.



4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 The trenches were located in such a manner as to maximise the probability of exposing archaeological deposits within areas where impact from the proposed development would occur. All trenches were excavated in conditions conducive to the recognition of archaeological remains.
- 4.1.2 The date and density of archaeological remains recorded within the trenches is therefore felt to be representative of the likely date and density of remains throughout the areas of potential impact.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

- 4.2.1 The general aims of the watching brief and evaluation were to establish the presence or absence of any archaeological deposits and to assess the extent, condition, character, quality and date of these remains.
- 4.2.2 These aims were met, with the both investigations showing a near absence of archaeological deposits across the evaluated area.

4.3 Interpretation

- 4.3.1 The results of the watching brief and evaluation indicate a very low density of archaeological activity within the investigation area.
- 4.3.2 Three post holes were recorded towards the northern boundary of Phase 1C, one of which produced fragments of 20th century brick. The post holes are located in the back gardens of the existing houses on the site, which were constructed in the later 20th century, and it is probable that all three post holes date to the period of occupation of these houses.
- 4.3.3 Deposits of made ground were recorded, largely in the western part of the site, and these are likely to be associated with the construction of the existing houses.



APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 14						
General description				Orientation	E-W	
Trench contained two post holes, cut through a clayey sand natural and sealed by a layer of subsoil.				Avg. depth (m)	0.44	
				Width (m)	1.8	
				Length (m)	25	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1400	Layer	-	0.21	Topsoil	-	-
1401	Layer	-	0.23	Subsoil	-	-
1402	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1403	Cut	0.31	0.43	Post hole	-	-
1404	Fill	-	0.43	Post hole fill	-	-
1405	Cut	0.4	0.25	Post hole	-	-
1406	Fill	-	0.25	Post hole fill	-	-

Trench 15						
General description				Orientation	NW-SE	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Modern topsoil and overburden related to construction of extant buildings sealed the original topsoil/ subsoil horizon.				Avg. depth (m)	1	
				Width (m)	1.8	
				Length (m)	25	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1501	Layer	-	0.2	Modern topsoil	-	-
1502	Layer	-	0.24	Modern made ground	-	-
1503	Layer	-	0.4	Buried topsoil	-	-
1504	Layer	-	0.08	Buried subsoil	-	-
1505	Layer	-	-	Natural		

Trench 16						
General description				Orientation	NW-SE	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Modern overburden related to construction of existing building sealed the topsoil/subsoil horizon. Modern services were found cut into the buried topsoil.				Avg. depth (m)	0.85	
				Width (m)	1.8	
				Length (m)	21.5	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date



1600	Layer	-	0.38	Modern made ground	-	-
1601	Layer	-	0.22	Buried topsoil	-	-
1602	Layer	-	0.25	Buried subsoil	-	-
1603	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 17						
General description				Orientation		N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. The natural comprised sandy clay overlain by sandy subsoil.				Avg. depth (m)		0.51
				Width (m)		1.8
				Length (m)		25
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1700	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
1701	Layer	-	0.23	Subsoil	-	-
1702	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 18						
General description				Orientation		N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. The natural comprised sandy clay overlain by sandy subsoil.				Avg. depth (m)		0.35
				Width (m)		1.8
				Length (m)		25
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1800	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
1801	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-	-
1802	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 21						
General description				Orientation		N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. The natural comprised clay overlain by silty subsoil.				Avg. depth (m)		0.34
				Width (m)		1.8
				Length (m)		25
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2100	Layer	-	0.12	Topsoil	-	-
2101	Layer	-	0.22	Subsoil	-	-
2102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-



Trench 22						
General description				Orientation	NW-SE	
Trench contained three post holes, two of which were modern. The natural comprised clay overlain by silty subsoil.				Avg. depth (m)	0.45	
				Width (m)	1.8	
				Length (m)	25	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2200	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-
2201	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil	-	-
2202	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
2203	Cut	0.45	0.09	Post hole	-	-
2204	Fill	-	0.09	Post hole fill	CBM	



APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

Oxford Archaeology, 2004 Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Fleet. Archaeological Desk Based Assessment, unpublished

Oxford Archaeology, 2011a Chapter 12, Archaeology, in DPP Environmental Statement, Queen Elizabeth Barracks and Wakefield Copse, Church Crookham, unpublished

Oxford Archaeology, 2011b Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Church Crookham, Hampshire: Archaeological Evaluation (Phase 1): Written Scheme of Investigation, unpublished

Oxford Archaeology, 2011c Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Church Crookham, Hampshire: Archaeological Evaluation Report, unpublished

Oxford Archaeology, 2011d Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Church Crookham, Hampshire: Phase 1C Archaeological Watching Brief: Written Scheme of Investigation, unpublished

OA, forthcoming Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Fleet, Hampshire. Standing Buildings Report

Wilkinson, D (Ed.), 1992 Fieldwork Manual, unpublished



APPENDIX C. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Wakefords Copse, Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Church Crookham, Hampshire.

Site code: CHQZBEV

Grid reference: Centred on SU 814 512

Type: Evaluation and watching brief

Date and duration: Evaluation: October 2011 and January 2012
Watching brief: September 2011

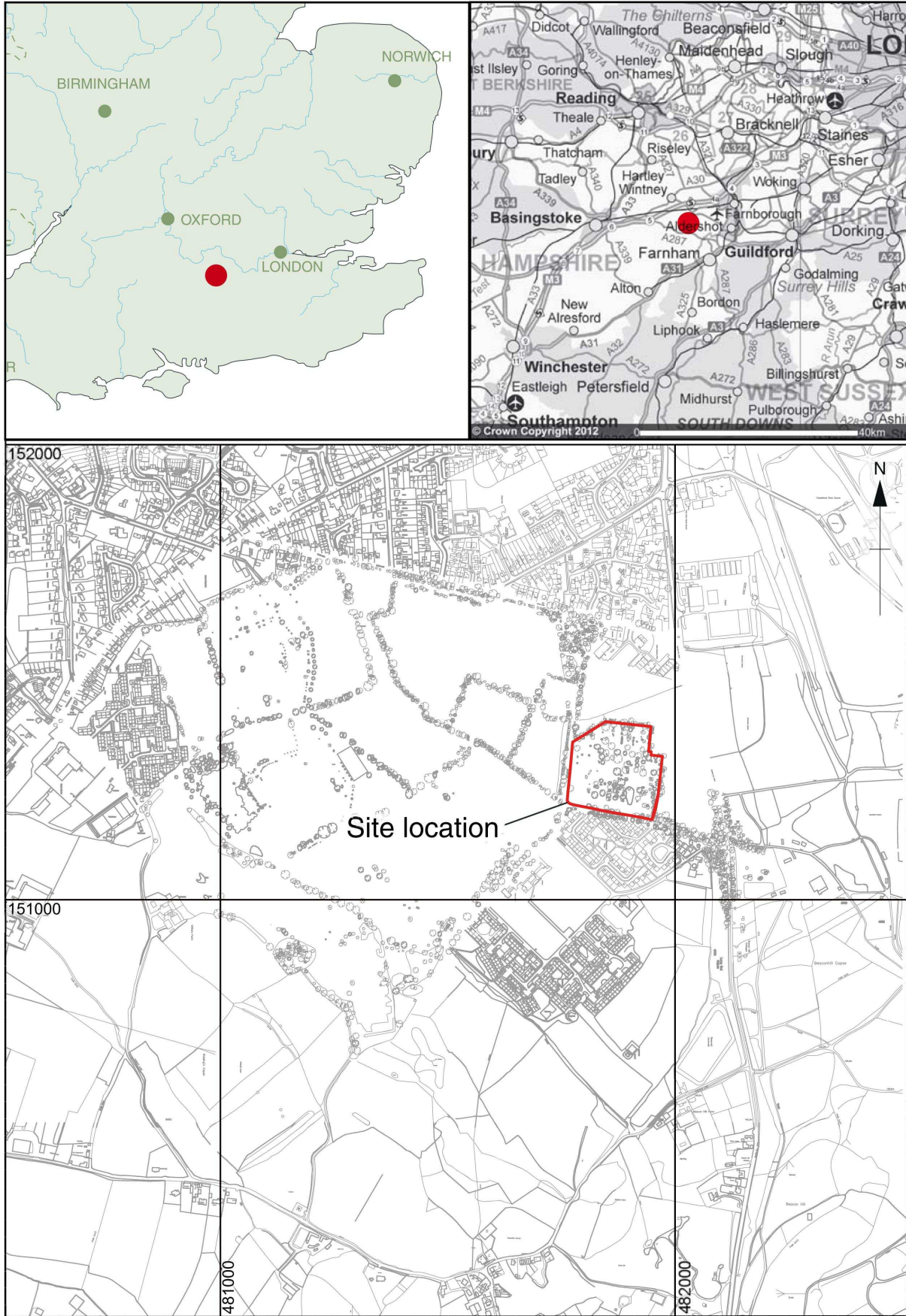
Area of site: Wakefords Copse

Summary of results: In October 2011 and January 2012, Oxford Archaeology South (OAS) carried out a programme of archaeological evaluation at Wakefords Copse, Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Church Crookham, Hampshire (centred on NGR: SU 814 512). The work was carried out on behalf of Taylor Wimpey (South West Thames) in advance of the construction of residential units. A total of 7 trenches were excavated in the area.

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



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Figure 1: Site location



481800
151400

482000
151400

Bat roost

Trench 14 1403 1405

Trench 22 2203

481800
151400

Trench 16

Trench 15

Temporary sales area

Trench 17






Trench 18

Trench 21

481800
151200

482000
151200



-  Evaluation trench
-  Watching brief areas
-  Site limit
-  Existing buildings
-  Proposed development

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0 50 m

1:1000

Figure 2: Trench and watching brief location plan



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