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Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Church Crookham, Hampshire

Addendum to Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Illustrated by Ann Kilgour

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Fig. 1 Trench Location Plan



Summary

During March and April 2012, Oxford Archaeology South (OAS) carried out a programme of archaeological evaluation at Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Church Crookham, Hampshire (centred on NGR: SU 814 512). The work was carried out on on behalf of Taylor Wimpey (West London) in advance of the construction of residential units, business units, a school, sports facilities and other community facilities.

A total of 5 trenches were excavated in the Phase 1D area of the site, these being in addition to an array trenches excavated in 2011, in order to investigate areas previously occupied by military structures.

The evaluation revealed two post-medieval field boundary ditches and three modern post-holes.



1 Introduction

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 During March and April 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 (West London) prior to the proposed construction of residential units, business units, a school, sports facilities and other community facilities.
- 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 works were carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Oxford Archaeology 2011a) approved by the Senior Archaeologist at Hampshire County Council.
- 1.1.4 The work comprised the excavation of five trenches in the Phase 1D area, in addition to those excavated in 2011 (Figure 1). The locations of the additional trenches were agreed with the Senior Archaeologist at Hampshire County Council prior to excavation. This report serves as an addendum to the 2011 Evaluation Report (Oxford Archaeology 2011b). Geological data, archaeological and historical background information and a comprehensive description of the site methodology can be found in the original report and therefore is not reproduced here.

1.2 Previous evaluation

1.2.1 Six trenches were previously excavated in the Phase 1D area (Trenches 9 – 13 and 20). Most of the features recorded were post-medieval or modern in date. However, in two trenches (Trenches 10 and 11), three undated ditches were recorded. Their stratigraphic position beneath a subsoil deposit suggests that they may have been earlier in date.

1.3 Acknowledgements

1.3.1 Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Taylor Wimpey for their assistance during the course of the investigation.



2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Phase Specific Methodology

- 2.1.1 Five additional evaluation trenches (Trenches 23 27) were excavated in the Phase 1D area, consisting of two 50m and three 30m trenches. These were located in areas which had been occupied by military buildings during the original investigation.
- 2.1.2 Prior to and during excavation, all trench locations were scanned with a Cable Avoidance Tool to identify any unrecorded services. The trenches were excavated to the first significant archaeological horizon using a tracked 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket under direct archaeological supervision.
- 2.1.3 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).



3 Results

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation 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 in places by a sandy subsoil. Both subsoil and natural were overlain by a layer of modern demolition debris.

3.3 Trench descriptions

- 3.3.1 All of the trenches contained frequent modern building rubble pressed into the surface of the natural geological deposits or filling shallow scoops, presumably as a result of the demolition of the barracks buildings.
- 3.3.2 No archaeological features were present in Trenches 25 27.
- 3.3.3 Trench 23 contained a single NE-SW orientated boundary ditch (2302). The ditch was 2.6m wide and 0.38m deep and contained glass and fragments of frogged brick, of 19th or 20th century date.
- 3.3.4 Trench 24 contained one NE-SW orientated ditch (2403) and three post-holes (2405, 2407 and 2409).
- 3.3.5 Ditch 2403 was 0.9m wide and 0.24 m deep and contained glass and fragments of frogged brick, of 19th or 20th century date. Of the post-holes, only 2405 was excavated. It was 0.36m wide and 0.05m deep and a fragment of concrete was recovered from its fill. A concrete fragment was also recorded on the surface of post-hole 2407 and its is likely that all three post-holes are of modern origin.

3.4 Finds summary

3.4.1 Modern glass and brick fragments were recovered from ditches 2302 and 2403 but were not retained.



4 Discussion

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 A high degree of truncation was noted within the trenches, caused by the construction and demolition of the military buildings.

4.2 Interpretation

- 4.2.1 A total of five features were recorded during this phase of work, all of which are likely to be of post-medieval or modern origin. Two ditches, 2302 and 2403, are probably the remains of agricultural field boundaries.
- 4.2.2 The five trenches all contained evidence of recent disturbance associated with the demolition of the barracks buildings, or with previous building works associated with the use of the barracks, and it is likely that such disturbance extends across the entirety of the Phase 1D area.
- 4.2.3 No evidence of a continuation of the potentially earlier ditches recorded in the first phase of evaluation was present. Although ditch 2403 (Trench 24) is on a similar alignment to ditch 1106 (Trench 11), its stratigraphic position indicates that the former post-dates the latter, an interpretation strengthened by the presence of recent brick and glass in ditch 2403.

4.3 Significance

4.3.1 The results of the evaluation indicate a generally low density of archaeological activity within the investigation area.



APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 23	3						
General c	descriptio	n			Orientat	ion	NW-SE
			Avg. dep	oth (m)	0.2		
Trench coorange sa		_	Width (n	1.9			
oralige sa	iliuy Clay I	iaturai.			Length (m)	48
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
2300	Layer	-	0.3	Demolition deposit	-	-	
2301	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-	
2302	Cut	2.6	0.38	Ditch	-	-	
2303	Fill	2.6	0.38	Ditch Fill	Glass, CBM	Post-me	edieval

Trench 24	1						
General d	lescriptio	n	Orientation		NW-SE		
Trench co	ntained o	ne NF-SW	Avg. depth (m) 0.4		0.4		
						Width (m)	
of sandy clay.						1)	49.3
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
2400	Layer	-	0.25	Demolition deposit	-	-	
2401	Layer	-	0.18	Subsoil	-	-	
2402	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-	
2403	Cut	0.9	0.24	Ditch	-	-	
2404	Fill	0.9	0.24	Ditch Fill	Glass, CBM	Post-medie	eval
2405	Cut	0.36	0.05	Post-hole	-	-	
2406	Fill	0.36	0.05	Post-hole fill	Concrete	Modern	
2407	Cut	0.45	Unexc	Post-hole	-	-	
2408	Fill	0.45	Unexc	Post-hole fill	-	-	
2409	Cut	0.38	Unexc	Post-hole	-	-	
2410	Fill	0.38	Unexc	Post-hole fill	Concrete	Modern	



Trench 25										
General description Crientation E-W										
			Avg. de	oth (m)	0.25					
			ists of demolition material	Width (m)		1.9				
overlying a natural of silty clay.						Length (m)				
Contexts							•			
context no type Width Depth (m) comment finds date										
2500	Layer	-	0.25	Demolition deposit	-	-				
2502	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-				

Trench 26	;						
General d	escriptio	n			Orientat	ion	N-S
		Avg. de	Avg. depth (m)				
		٠.		s of demolition material and	Width (r	n)	2.10
subsoil overlying a natural of silty clay.						Length (m)	
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
2600	Layer	-	0.2	Demolition deposit	-	-	
2601	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil	-	-	
2602	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-	

Trench 27	7						
General d	lescriptio	n			Orientat	ion	E-W
			Avg. dep	0.3			
			ists of demolition material	Width (m) 2.10		2.10	
overlying a natural of silty clay.						Length (m)	
Contexts							•
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
2700	Layer	-	0.2	Demolition deposit	-	-	
2701	Layer	-		Natural	-	-	



APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

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

Oxford Archaeology, 2011b Elizabeth Barracks, Church Crookham, Hampshire: Archaeological Evaluation Report, unpublished client report.

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



Appendix C. Summary of Site Details

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

Site code: A2011.12

Grid reference: Centred on SU 814 512

Type: Evaluation

Date and duration: March-April 2012

Area of site: Phase 1D

Summary of results: During March and April 2012, Oxford Archaeology South (OAS) carried out a programme of archaeological evaluation at Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Church Crookham, Hampshire (centred on NGR: SU 814 512). The work was carried out on on behalf of Taylor Wimpey (West London) in advance of the construction of residential units, business units, a school, sports facilities and other community facilities.

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The evaluation revealed two post-medieval field boundary ditches and three modern post-holes.

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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