

Antler Homes

**Braborne  
Winchester Road  
Kings Somborne  
Hampshire**

*ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT*

NGR SU 3570 33140

Planning Application TVS.05112/9

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October 2001

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Kings Somborne  
Hampshire**

***ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT***

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## SUMMARY

*Between July and October 2001 the Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Braborne, Winchester Road, Kings Somborne, Hampshire (SU 3570 3140). The work was commissioned by Antler Homes in advance of the demolition of the existing dwelling and garage and the erection of five new dwellings with carports. The watching brief revealed no archaeological remains.*

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Location and scope of work (Figs 1 and 2)

1.1.1 Between July and October 2001 the Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Braborne, Winchester Road, Kings Somborne, Hampshire (SU 3570 3140). The work was commissioned by Antler Homes in respect of a planning application for the demolition of the existing dwelling and garage and the erection of five new dwellings with carports (Planning Application No. TVS.05112/9).

1.1.2 A project brief was set by the County Archaeological Officer due to the potential disturbance of below ground archaeological deposits, in line with PPG16 and local plan policy.

1.1.3 OAU prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation detailing how it would meet the requirements of the brief.

#### 1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The area containing the proposed development is bounded by The Cross to the west, Church Road to the south-west and Winchester Road to the north.

1.2.2 The village lies approximately 11 km to the west of Winchester on the A3057 running from Romsey to Andover. The site lies at 35 m OD, sloping gently toward north-west. The geology is upper chalk.

#### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological background to the watching brief was prepared for the WSI for the project (OAU, 2001) and is reproduced below.

1.3.2 The site lies to the east of the historic centre of the village. There is some evidence for mid-late Saxon occupation within the village, for example a sunken floored building with associated post holes is recorded to the south-west. There are also a number of archaeological features within the parish, which are recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record. These include a field system to the north-west, between Kings Somborne and How Park Farm and two Bronze Age barrows to the south of the village, most notably at Dirty Mound to the south-east of Furzedown. There is

also a potential settlement of indeterminate date at Marsh Court to the north of the village. This has been identified by aerial photography and comprises a large sub-rectangular ditched enclosure, with groups of pits and smaller ditches.

- 1.3.3 St Peter and St Paul's Church lies close by to the west of site. The earliest parts of the church date to the 13th century (part of the south arcade and part of the chancel arch), although a number of 19th century alterations and additions have been made.
- 1.3.4 The hamlet of Horsebridge, to the west of Kings Somborne, is the site of the Roman crossing of the River Test, and the line of the Roman road passes through the south of the parish.
- 1.3.5 The manor of Kings Somborne was recorded in the Domesday Book as *Somborne Regis*, and probably originated as a royal possession in the Saxon period.
- 1.3.6 John of Gaunt's deer park lay between the River Test and Kings Somborne and the site of John of Gaunt's Palace is believed to lie to the south of the church.
- 1.3.7 To the north-east of the church is an almost square area bounded by roads that contain the Old Vicarage and Parsonage Farm and may have been the vicar's manse.
- 1.3.8 Buildings of interest in the parish range from Marsh Court, designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens in 1901-04, to the many attractive cottages such as the cruck-framed cottage on the road to Little Somborne.

## 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 watching brief entailed the observation of all ground-works associated with the development.
- 2.2.2 Recording followed procedures detailed in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed D Wilkinson, 1992).

## 3 RESULTS (*Figs 3 and 4*)

### 3.1 Description of deposits

- 3.1.1 The watching brief monitored the excavation of strip foundation trenches for 5 new houses and the landscaping of the existing bank to the south of the site (Fig. 3).



3.1.2 The natural chalk sloped gently toward north-west, and was overlain by a layer of reddish brown clay colluvium. This colluvium increased in thickness down-slope from 0.20 m at the south-east end of site to 0.80 m, and was overlain by modern topsoil. At the north-west end of the site, the area in front of the house which had formerly stood on this property had been artificially levelled at some point in the recent past, with the result that the colluvium was absent from this area and the chalk had been truncated. This area also contained a septic tank 2.30 m x 1.20 m d 1.70 m deep, and a number of pipes associated with it.

### 3.2 **Finds**

3.2.1 No artefactual evidence was recovered.

### 3.3 **Palaeo-environmental remains**

3.3.1 No deposits or features suitable for environmental sampling were encountered.

## 4 **DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

4.1.1 No archaeological deposits or features were observed in the course of the watching brief, although the limited impact of the strip foundations may be a factor in this. The modern levelling of the north-east end of the site associated with the recently demolished house and the burying of the septic tank and associated pipes are likely to have destroyed any archaeological remains which may have existed in this area. Potential truncation resulting from the former house and garage are limited to their foundations.

## APPENDICES

## APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

| <i>Context</i> | <i>Type</i> | <i>Depth</i> | <i>Width</i> | <i>Height</i> | <i>Comments</i> | <i>Finds</i> |
|----------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1              | Layer       | 0.30 m       |              |               | Modern topsoil  |              |
| 2              | Layer       | 0.80 m       |              |               | Colluvium       |              |
| 3              | Layer       | 0.80 m       |              |               | Natural chalk   |              |

## APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

- Wilkinson, D (ed) 1992 *Oxford Archaeological Unit Field Manual*, (First edition, August 1992),  
 OAU 2001 *Braborne, Winchester Road, Kings Somborne, Hampshire. Archaeological Watching Brief. Written Scheme of Investigation.*

## APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

**Site name:** Braborne, Winchester Road, Kings Somborne, Hampshire

**Site code:** A2001.15

**Grid reference:** SU 3570 3140

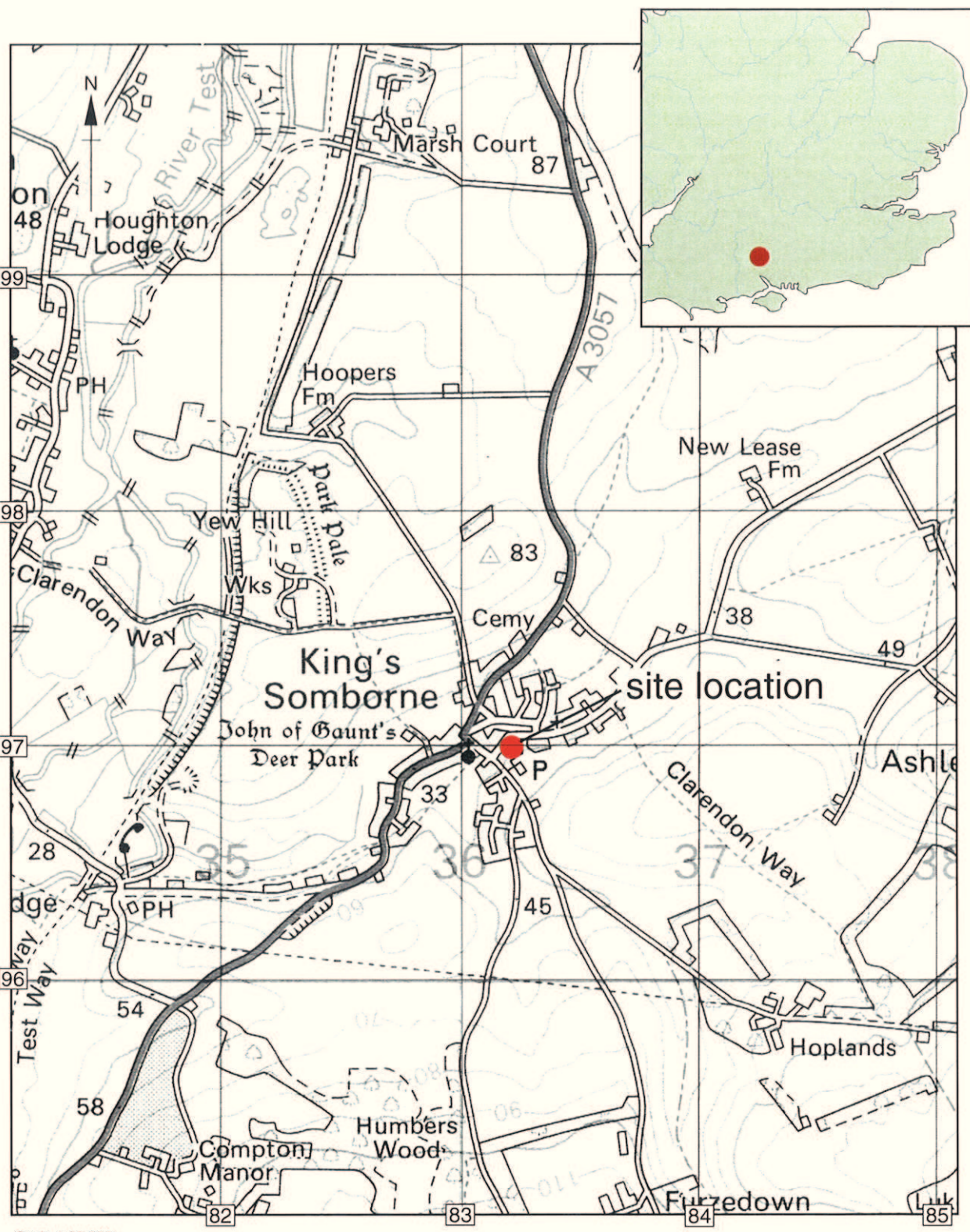
**Type of watching brief:** Building development

**Date and duration of project:** July-October 2001

**Summary of results:** No archaeological deposits or features were observed

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





Scale 1:25,000

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Figure 1: Site location.





Figure 2: Site Location Plan.

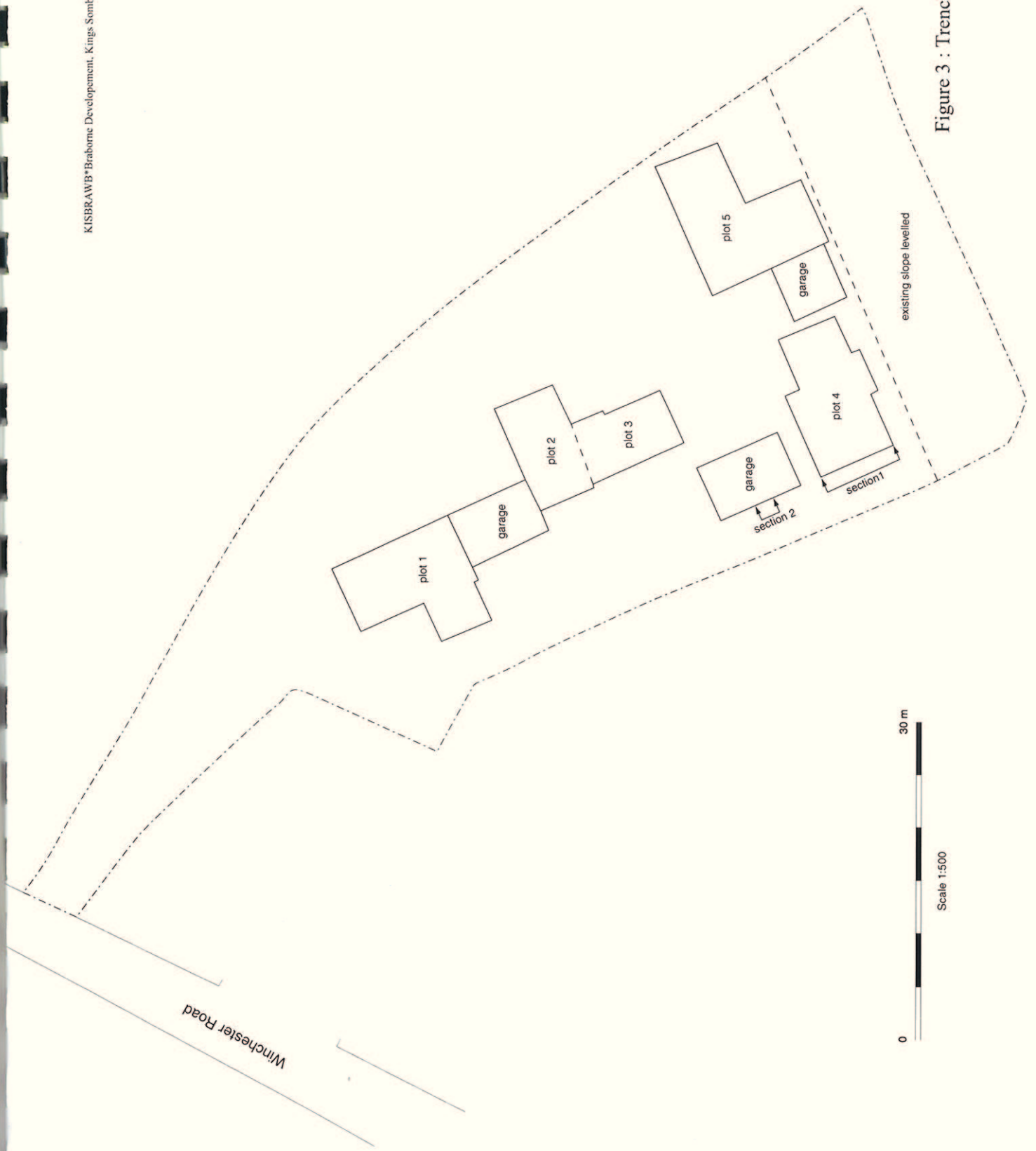
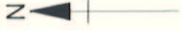
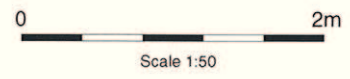
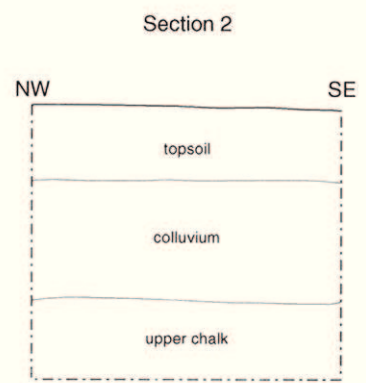
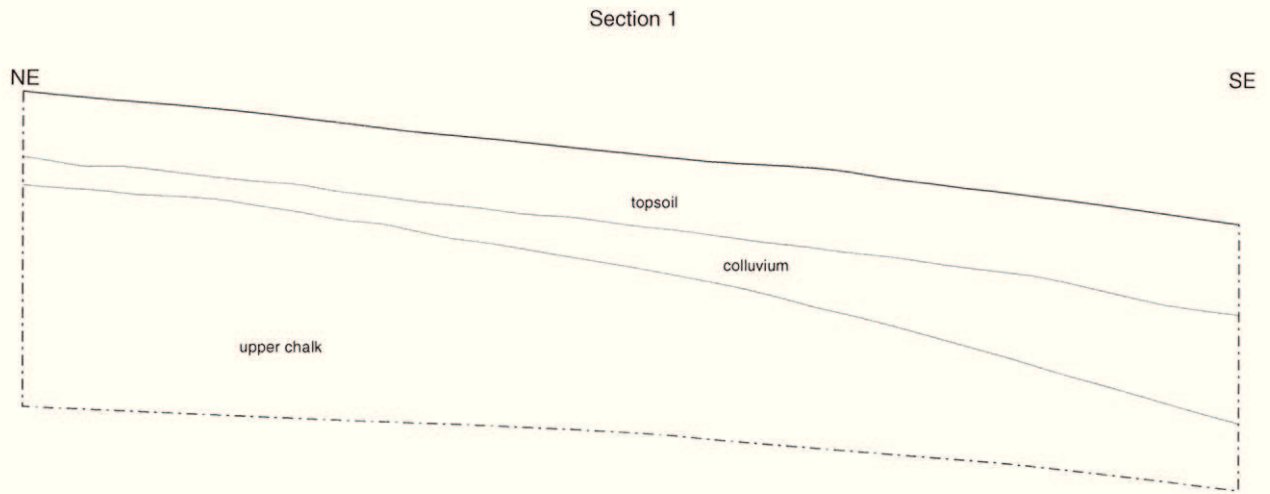


Figure 3 : Trench Location.





KISBRAWB\*Braborn: Development, Kings Somborne\* RMS\* 15.10.01

Figure 4 : Sections.



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