Land at Hill Farm Road, West Tisted, Monkwood, Hampshire

Archaeological Evaluation

by Genni Elliott

Site Code: WTH13/236
(SU 6700 3050)
Land at Hill Farm Road, West Tisted, Monkwood, Hampshire

An Archaeological Evaluation

for Drew Smith

by Genni Elliott
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code WTH 13/236

January 2014
Summary

Site name: Land at Hill Farm Road, West Tisted, Monkwood, Hampshire

Grid reference: SU 6700 3050

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 7th January 2014

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Genni Elliott

Site code: WTH 13/236

Area of site: 7560 sq m

Summary of results: The evaluation found no evidence for a Roman road crossing the area of development and no other deposits nor artefacts of archaeological significance were encountered. The site is considered to have low archaeological potential

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Hampshire Museum Service in due course, with accession code A2014.02.
Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land at Hill Farm Road, West Tisted, Monkwood, Hampshire, SU 6700 3050 (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Lloyd Exley of Drew Smith Group, Drew Smith House, Mill Court, The Sawmills, Durley, Southampton, SO32 2EJ. Planning permission (SDNP/12/03018/FUL) has been granted on appeal (ref. APP/Y9507/A/13/2199593) by South Downs National Park Authority to construct 8 new affordable dwellings on the site. This is to comprise three units, with ancillary parking and landscaping. The consent is subject to a condition (11) requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological works prior to development. This was to take the form, initially, of a field evaluation, based on the results of which a further phase of work might be required to mitigate the impact of the development on any archaeological assets present.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government’s National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012), and the Authority’s policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Dr Hannah Fluck, Senior Archaeologist for Hampshire County Council, the archaeological adviser to the Authority. The fieldwork was undertaken by Genni Elliott and Dan Strachan on 7th January 2014 and the site code is WTH 13/236. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Hampshire Museum Service in due course, with accession code A2014.02.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located to the north of the village of West Tisted, and south of Monkwood, south-west of Alton (Fig. 1). It is situated on the south side of Hill Farm Road (Fig. 2) and is currently used as a paddock (Pl. 1). In general the site is relatively flat at approximately 186m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying geology is described as Clay with Flints above Upper Chalk (BGS 1975). Clay with flints was found in the base of every trench.
Archaeological background

The site lies within an area with a modest range of archaeological sites and finds recorded in the Hampshire Archaeology and Historic Building Record for the immediate vicinity of the site but with a range of sites and finds at slightly greater distance. To the north-west and west several probable settlement enclosure complexes have been identified by aerial photography and to the south-east field survey has recorded scatters of Neolithic and Bronze Age struck flint representing occupation and settlement (Shennan 1985) To the south-west Merryfield Farm is recorded as having medieval origins. A survey by a local resident has identified the possibility of a Roman road crossing the site.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development. The specific research aims of this project were:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on the site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present; and
- to provide sufficient information to enable an appropriate mitigation strategy to be produced if necessary.

Three trenches were to be dug 18m long and 1.6m wide, targeting the positions of the buildings and landscaping. Topsoil and overburden was to be removed by a JCB-type or 360° machine to expose the natural geology under constant archaeological supervision. Where archaeological features were present these were to be cleaned and excavated by hand to satisfy the above aims and objectives. Spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds.

Results

Four trenches were eventually excavated ranging in length from 18.20m to 30m by 1.6m wide and all were 0.30m deep. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.
Trench 1 (Fig. 3)
Trench 1 was aligned north-west to south-east and was 30m long and 0.30m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil and 0.10m subsoil overlying natural clay-with-flints geology. No features were present and no finds were recovered.

Trench 2 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl 2)
Trench 2 was aligned north to south and was 30m long and 0.30m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil and 0.10m subsoil overlying natural geology. No features were present and no finds were recovered.

Trench 3 (Fig 3; Pl. 3)
Trench 3 was aligned north-east to south-west and was 30m long and 0.30m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil and 0.10m subsoil overlying natural geology. No features were present and no finds were recovered.

Trench 4 (Fig 3; Pl. 4)
Trench 4 was aligned north-east to south-west and was 18.2m long and 0.30m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil and 0.10m subsoil overlying natural geology. No features were present and no finds were recovered.

Conclusion
The evaluation found no deposits of archaeological significance and in particular no evidence for a posited Roman road crossing the area of development.

References
### APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at south and west ends

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trench</th>
<th>Length (m)</th>
<th>Breadth (m)</th>
<th>Depth (m)</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>1.60</td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td>0–0.20m topsoil, light brown, silty clay; 0.20–0.30m subsoil, mid brown, silty clay; 0.30m+ natural geology, reddish brown, silty clay with flints.</td>
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<td>0–0.20m topsoil; 0.20–0.30m subsoil; 0.30m+ natural geology. [Pl. 3]</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>18.20</td>
<td>1.60</td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td>0–0.20m topsoil; 0.20–0.30m subsoil; 0.30m+ natural geology. [Pl. 4]</td>
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</table>
SITE

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Figure 1. Location of site within Monkwood and Hampshire.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Hill Farm Road.
Figure 3. Location of trenches.
Figure 4. Representative section.

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0 1m
Plate 1. View across the site looking East.

Plate 2. Trench 2, looking North, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.
Plate 3. Trench 3 looking North East, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m

Plate 4. Trench 4, looking North East, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.
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