



Former BAS Site (Print Works),
Orange Lane, Over Wallop,
Hampshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report





**FORMER BAS SITE (PRINT WORKS)
ORANGE LANE
OVER WALLOP
HAMPSHIRE**

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Prepared for:

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Kitewood Estates Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief following demolition of a former print works at Orange Lane, Over Wallop, Hampshire, hereafter referred to as the 'Site'. The Site, centred on National Grid Reference 428521 138667, has planning permission (TVN.00252/6) for redevelopment to provide residential accommodation.

Although the rear or northern part of the Site has been terraced away the Heritage Officer, Test Valley Borough Council, was concerned that the site may contain archaeological deposits fronting onto Orange Lane. The archaeological watching brief was therefore undertaken as a condition of planning permission.

Following demolition and clearance the Site was found to have been completely terraced, probably at the time that the former print works were constructed.

No archaeological features were observed. No residual artefacts were retrieved from the subsoil nor were they observed during Site clearance.

Generally the Site had been truncated far more severely than anticipated.

Discussion with Hampshire County Council, archaeological advisors to Test Valley Borough Council, regarding Wessex Archaeology's observations on Site concluded that there was no requirement for further work.

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Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by Kitewood Estates Ltd (the Client) and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank David Minns, Prime Meridian (Client agent), for acting on their behalf. The collaborative role of Frank Green, Test Valley Borough Council, and David Hopkins, Hampshire County Council, is acknowledged.

The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Peter Reeves. The site visits were undertaken by Peter Reeves and Sian Reynolds.

The report was compiled by Peter Reeves. Illustrations were by Kitty Brandon.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Kitewood Estates Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief on land off Orange Lane, Over Wallop, Hampshire (the Site) (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 The Site is proposed for re-development to provide residential accommodation, with associated car parking and landscaping.
- 1.1.3 This report refers to the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken in August 2007.

1.2 Planning Background

- 1.2.1 Planning Permission has been granted by Test Valley Borough Council for the development of residential units with associated car parking and landscaped areas (TVN.00252/6). Mr F Green, the former Heritage Officer for Test Valley Borough Council (the position is no longer in existence and Mr D Hopkins, Hampshire County Council, now acts as heritage advisor for the district) had advised that, due to the archaeological potential of this site, an archaeological watching brief should be undertaken on the Site.
- 1.2.2 The disturbance of archaeological deposits during development is a material consideration within the planning process. PPG16, paragraph 18 states:

'Developers and local authorities should take into account archaeological considerations and deal with them from the beginning of the development control process'.
- 1.2.3 Condition 5, attached to the Planning Permission stated that the site is of potential archaeological significance in accordance with policies E4 and D1.17 of the Test Valley Local Plan.
- 1.2.4 The approved Written Scheme of Investigation comprised an archaeological watching brief, possibly leading to further archaeological investigation if significant archaeological deposits were uncovered either following demolition or during the excavation of foundation trenches.

2 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 The Site

- 2.1.1 The Site (**Figure 1**) is centred on NGR 428521 138667, and is defined to the south by Orange Lane. To the west the site is bounded by residential properties and to the east by an open field. The Site is fenced and secure.
- 2.1.2 Two thirds of the Site area was previously covered by the print works which have since been demolished. The western third of the Site was previously used as a car park.
- 2.1.3 A Site visit undertaken in 2005 established that the northern two thirds of the Site had been terraced into the hillside and that the possibility existed that the southern portion may also have suffered the same truncation. The latter could not be clearly determined as the area was completely covered in concrete or tarmac hard standing.

2.2 Topography and Geology

- 2.2.1 The Site is level. A Site visit undertaken in 2005 noted that the ground immediately adjacent to the north boundary of the Site was 1+ m higher than the ground within it.
- 2.2.2 The underlying geology of the area is mapped as Cretaceous Upper Chalk. Removal of the hard standing and demolition of the buildings confirmed that the underlying bedrock consisted of chalk with very little in the way of unconformities.

2.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 2.3.1 No previous archaeological field work has been undertaken on the Site.
- 2.3.2 The site lies within an area potentially of archaeological significance, as set out in Test Valley Borough Local Plan Policies E4 and D1.17.
- 2.3.3 The centre of Over Wallop lies to the east of the Wallop Brook which flowing to the south passes by Middle Wallop and Nether Wallop. Together the three settlements form a lengthy straggly village along the eastern edge of the brook.
- 2.3.4 No material from the prehistoric or Roman periods is known from the area however this may be a reflection of the lack of development in the area usually a precursor for archaeological investigation. It is possible that activity related to this period may be present (ref 2.3.6 below).
- 2.3.5 Although the Domesday Book (AD 1068) records a Manor at Over Wallop it is thought that this was an amalgamation of two former Saxon manors. Although no Saxon material has been found in the village the place name may originate from this period (*waella* – street and *hop* – valley). In itself the suffix *waella* may indicate the presence of an earlier prehistoric trackway.

- 2.3.6 Throughout the Medieval Period the village appears to remain a backwater. The principal activity in the area is agriculture and the lords of the manor tended to stay away at other properties closer to the Kings Court.
- 2.3.7 The post-medieval period sees little change other than the ushering in of more intensive and efficient farming practises.
- 2.3.8 The modern period has observed some expansion of all of the settlements and during the Second World War an army air base, still operational, was constructed at Middle Wallop.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1.1 The objectives of the watching brief were to:
- Record, as far as reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, nature, character and relationships of any archaeological remains observed during construction for the residential units on the Site.
 - To determine the amount of truncation that has occurred on the Site.
 - Produce a report which presents the project information in sufficient detail to allow interpretation without recourse to the project archive.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Methodological Standards

- 4.1.1 The Watching Brief and preparation of this report have been undertaken in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), which was prepared by Wessex Archaeology (Wessex Archaeology, 2005 ref 61510.01). This was approved by the former Heritage Officer, Frank Green, for Test Valley Borough Council, prior to commencement of the work.
- 4.1.2 All archaeological works were undertaken in compliance with the standards outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologists'; *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2001).

4.2 Health and Safety

- 4.2.1 Health and Safety considerations were of paramount importance in conducting all fieldwork. Safe working practices overrode archaeological considerations at all times.
- 4.2.2 The work was undertaken in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992, and all other relevant Health and Safety legislations, regulations and codes of practice which are in force.
- 4.2.3 A Risk Assessment was produced by Wessex Archaeology prior to the commencement of work. This was reviewed as the project progressed.
- 4.2.4 As part of the project briefing, all staff were made aware of their responsibilities and site specific hazards identified under the Risk Assessment.

4.3 Fieldwork Programme

- 4.3.1 The Watching Brief comprised the observation and recording of the Site clearance prior to the excavation of foundation trenches. The removal of the demolished buildings and the areas of hard standing revealed that the Site had been terraced into the underlying chalk.
- 4.3.2 An inspection was made of the first foundation trenches which confirmed that the construction level was seated on natural chalk and not a layer of chalk infill/levelling.

5 THE RESULTS

- 5.1.1 The Site visits revealed that the whole Site had been terraced into the slope of the hill (**Plates 1 and 2**).
- 5.1.2 As observed on a pre-construction Site visit, the terrace was deepest at its northern end (**Plate 3**).
- 5.1.3 The edges of the cleared area and the non construction material elements of the spoil were visually scanned for finds.
- 5.1.4 The terraced section at the north end of the Site was inspected for evidence of archaeological cut features.
- 5.1.5 An inspection of the foundation trenches was undertaken to confirm that they were cutting through natural chalk and not re-deposited chalk that had been conveyed to the site at some point in the past.
- 5.1.6 A photographic record was also compiled using digital images.
- 5.1.7 The results of the watching Brief were conveyed to Mr David Hopkins, Hampshire County Council (Heritage advisors to Test Valley Borough Council) and it was determined that no further archaeological intervention was required on the Site.
- 5.1.8 No archaeological artefacts were retrieved from the Site.
- 5.1.9 The watching Brief did not identify any archaeological features or deposits and as a consequence no environmental samples were retrieved.

6 THE ARCHIVE

- 6.1.1 The project archive, covering the Watching Brief, is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in London under the Wessex Archaeology project code WA 61511.
- 6.1.2 The project archive will be prepared in accordance with the guidelines outlined in Appendix 3 of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991) and in accordance with the *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage* (UKIC 1990).
- 6.1.3 The resulting archive will be put onto microfiche to the standards accepted by the National Monuments Record (NMR).

- 6.1.4 Following the conclusion of the project and with the permission of the landowner the archive will be prepared for deposition with the appropriate museum.

7 CONCLUSION

- 7.1.1 With regard to the aims of the Watching Brief the following conclusions have been reached. No Archaeological features were encountered on the Site.
- 7.1.2 The Watching Brief has produced no evidence for occupation on the site other than that associated with the construction of the now demolished former BAS Print Works.
- 7.1.3 The whole Site had been terraced and this most probably occurred at the time that the print works were constructed.
- 7.1.4 Although terracing may have removed traces of previous activity on the Site this is thought to be unlikely. The terrace at the southern end was extremely shallow and deeper cut archaeological features would have survived.
- 7.1.5 It was concluded, having observed the results obtained from the Site clearance, that no further archaeological intervention was required on the Site.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Victoria County History 1911, History of the County of Hampshire Volume 4

*Wessex Archaeology 2005, BAS Former Print Works, Over Wallop, Hampshire.
Project Design for Archaeological Watching Brief. Report Reference
61510.01*



 Site boundary	Digital data reproduced from Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright (2007) All rights reserved. Reference Number: 100020449. Inset: Digital Map Data © (2005) XYZ Digital Map Company This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.			
	Date:	20/09/07	Revision Number:	0
	Scale:	1:1250	Illustrator:	KJB
	Path:	London Y:\Projects\61511\Drawing Office\Report Figures\WB\07-09-20		

Site location plan

Figure 1



Plate 1. View south west across site following clearance



Plate 2. View north across site following clearance



Plate 3. North boundary of the site illustrating depth of terracing



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