



Pheasant Hotel, Winterslow, Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report





**PHEASANT HOTEL, WINTERSLOW
WILTSHIRE**

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Prepared for:
Sebastian Kelly
Wenmans Cottage
Glassenbury Road
Cranbrook
Kent
TN17 2QF

by
Wessex Archaeology
Portway House
Old Sarum Park
SALISBURY
Wiltshire
SP4 6EB

Report reference: 72130

July 2009

PHEASANT HOTEL, WINTERSLOW WILTSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Contents

Summary	iii
Acknowledgements.....	iv
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Project Background	1
1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology	1
2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	2
3 EVALUATION AIMS.....	2
3.1 General.....	2
4 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY	2
4.1 Introduction.....	2
4.2 Fieldwork	3
4.3 Health and safety.....	3
4.4 Service location	3
4.5 Survey	3
4.6 Depth of excavation.....	3
4.7 Recording	4
5 EVALUATION RESULTS.....	4
5.1 Introduction.....	4
5.2 Stratigraphy	4
5.3 Archaeological remains	4
5.4 Finds.....	4
5.5 Environmental Sampling.....	4
6 DISCUSSION.....	4
7 PROJECT ARCHIVE.....	4
8 BIBLIOGRAPHY	5
APPENDIX 1: EVALUATION TRENCH SUMMARIES	6
APPENDIX 2: ARCHIVE INDEX	6

List of Figures and Plates

Figures

Figure 1 Site and evaluation trench location

Plates

Front cover Trench 2 under excavation
Plate 1 Trench 1 viewed from north-east
Plate 2 Trench 1 typical soil sequence
Plate 3 Trench 2 viewed from north-east
Plate 4 Trench 2 typical soil sequence

PHEASANT HOTEL, WINTERSLOW WILTSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Sebastian Kelly to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of development on land situated at the Pheasant Hotel, Winterslow, Wiltshire.

Following consultation with the Assistant County Archaeologist at Wiltshire Council, and in line with PPG 16 requirements, an archaeological evaluation was required in order to provide further information regarding the archaeological potential and inform the nature of any surviving archaeology on the Site.

The Site covers an area of approximately 0.8 hectares, immediately north of the A30, London Road and 9 kilometres east of Salisbury and a number of Bronze Age barrows are recorded to the north of the Site.

Two machine excavated trenches were dug within the proposed development area. No archaeological features were identified in either of these trenches and no artefacts were recovered from the excavated soils.

PHEASANT HOTEL, WINTERSLOW WILTSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by Sebastian Kelly and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to him in this regard. The Site was monitored by Helena Cave-Penney (Assistant County Archaeologist) for Wiltshire County Archaeology Service (WCAS).

The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Sue Farr. The evaluation was undertaken by Bob Davis, assisted by Catrin Matthews. This report was compiled by Bob Davis and the illustrations prepared by Liz James.

PHEASANT HOTEL, WINTERSLOW WILTSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by Sebastian Kelly, to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of development on land situated at the Pheasant Hotel, Winterslow, Wiltshire (hereafter the Site, see **Figure 1**). The development proposes alterations and conversion of the hotel and associated outbuildings and construction of 2 houses with associated parking and landscaping.

1.1.2 Following consultation with the Assistant County Archaeologist at Wiltshire Council, and in line with PPG16 requirements, an archaeological evaluation was required in order to provide further information regarding the archaeological potential and inform the nature of the archaeological survival on the Site.

1.1.3 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Wessex Archaeology 2009), which was agreed in advance of the fieldwork by the Assistant County Archaeologist. All works were carried out in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the '*Standards for Archaeological Assessment and Field Evaluation in Wiltshire*' (Archaeology Service, Wiltshire County Council 1995) and in the Institute For Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2008).

1.1.4 The evaluation fieldwork took place on 22nd July 2009.

1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology

1.2.1 The Site covers an area of approximately 0.8 hectares, The Pheasant Hotel is a detached property and positioned in mature gardens with a detached outbuilding immediately north of the A30, London Road and 7 miles east of Salisbury.

1.2.2 The Site is bounded on the west by a single house and to the north and east by farm land, separated by a mature shrub hedge. It is centred on NGR 423176, 134814.

1.2.3 The underlying solid geology comprises Upper Chalk (Geological Map of Great Britain, 1:50,000, Sheet 252).

1.2.4 The Site lies at an elevation of approximately 95.56m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1.1 A brief search for archaeological and historical sites within a 1km radius ('the Study Area') of the Site via the Wiltshire Sites and Monuments Record website (<http://localview.wiltshire.gov.uk/smr/InTheArea.aspx>) indicates the presence of 25 sites, predominantly of a prehistoric date.
- 2.1.2 A number of Bronze Age barrows are recorded to the north of the Site. These include a group of eight extant round barrows located on the side of a shallow dry valley on the eastern side of Winterslow Firs, 320m north-west of the Site. Known collectively as the Winterslow Hut Barrow Group, they form part of a wider but scattered group, which includes examples on the opposite side and head of the coombe. Some of these additional barrows are the subject of separate schedulings and others, which survive as ring ditches, have been recorded from aerial photographic transcriptions.
- 2.1.3 A Romano-British fibula is recorded to the south of the A30, less than 200m from the Site.
- 2.1.4 South-east of the Site, a Saxon burial was excavated in the 19th century. A bronze brooch and sword scabbard were found in association with the burial.

3 EVALUATION AIMS

3.1 General

- 3.1.1 The aims of the archaeological field evaluation were to:
- clarify the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the Site that may be threatened by development.
 - identify, within the constraints of the evaluation, the date, character, condition and depth of any surviving remains within the Site.
 - assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits.
 - produce a report which will present the project information in sufficient detail to allow interpretation without recourse to the project archive. This will facilitate judgements on the status of any archaeological features identified and allow the formulation of an appropriate response ('a mitigation strategy') to the impact of the proposed development on any surviving archaeological deposits, if required.

4 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The following methodology was proposed in order to meet the aims of the evaluation. All works were undertaken in accordance with the standards set out within the WSI and the requirements of the Client and Assistant County Archaeologist. All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the guidance and standards outlined in the 'Institute For Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (as amended 2008).

4.2 Fieldwork

- 4.2.1 A total of two trenches were excavated (**Trench 1** and **Trench 2, Figure 1**) by mechanical excavator under archaeological supervision. Both trenches were at least 1.50m wide and 15m long. The trenches were positioned to correspond with the footprint of the proposed buildings and located using a DGPS (Differential Global Positioning System) and triangulated taped measurements.

4.3 Health and safety

- 4.3.1 All work was carried out in accordance with Health and Safety at work etc Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety regulations 1992 and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation and regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.
- 4.3.2 Prior to the commencement of the fieldwork a Risk Assessment was produced. All staff involved in works signed and complied with this document.

4.4 Service location

- 4.4.1 Prior to and during excavation, the trenches were scanned to verify the absence of any underground services using a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT).

4.5 Survey

- 4.5.1 The trial trenches were laid out in advance and in general accordance with the pattern given in **Figure 1**. Trench 1 was located and surveyed by hand as a GPS signal could not be established. Layout measurements were taken from a 1:500 scale plan offset from established site boundaries. It was subsequently levelled using a dumpy quick set level and back sighted onto a TBM (Temporary Bench Mark) set up using a GPS. Trench 2 was surveyed using DGPS (Differential Global Positioning System).
- 4.5.2 All trenches were excavated by a wheeled JCB excavator under constant archaeological supervision. All machining was carried out using a 1.5m wide toothless bucket in discrete level spits of approximately 0.10m maximum depth. Hard standing material, topsoil and underlying deposits of soil were stored adjacent to the trenches in preparation for reinstatement. All trenches were machined to the upper surface of archaeological features and/or underlying geology (Upper Chalk) whichever was encountered first.
- 4.5.3 On completion of the trenches to the satisfaction of the Assistant County Archaeologist, the trenches were backfilled using the excavated material in the order in which they were excavated and left level and compacted by the machine. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.

4.6 Depth of excavation

- 4.6.1 Neither of the trenches exceeded 1.2m in depth and therefore required no stepping or battering in profile.

4.7 Recording

- 4.7.1 Written recording was undertaken using Wessex Archaeology *pro-forma* recording sheets. Representative soil profile sections of the trial trenches were drawn at a scale of 1:10. The location of the trenches was surveyed using DGPS and hand measurements.

5 EVALUATION RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 No archaeological features were found in either trench and no artefacts were recovered from the excavated material. Detailed trench summaries are contained in **Appendix 1**.

5.2 Stratigraphy

- 5.2.1 The general soil sequence encountered across the Site was inconsistent and a result of the differing land use in each area; Trench 1 was located in a grassy paddock and the soil sequence consisted of a pale brown, dry soil overlying the natural geology of Upper Chalk. Trench 2 was located mainly within a tarmac car parking area and a hard compacted base layer overlay a band of flinty pale brown topsoil. The underlying natural geology of Upper Chalk was identified in both of the trenches (**Plates 1-4**).

5.3 Archaeological remains

- 5.3.1 No archaeological features were found in either **Trench 1** or **Trench 2**.

5.4 Finds

- 5.4.1 No artefacts were recovered from the excavation.

5.5 Environmental Sampling

- 5.5.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were exposed.

6 DISCUSSION

- 6.1.1 The trial trench evaluation did not identify any archaeological remains within the surveyed area.
- 6.1.2 Despite the archaeological potential, the absence of any artefactual evidence within the topsoil indicates a lack of occupational evidence in the immediate vicinity of the site.

7 PROJECT ARCHIVE

- 7.1.1 The project archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury under the project reference 72130. The contents of the archive are listed in **Appendix 2**

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Institute For Archaeologists 1994 (revised 2008). *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*.

Wessex Archaeology 2009, Pheasant Hotel, Winterslow, Wiltshire. Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Field Evaluation.

APPENDIX 1: EVALUATION TRENCH SUMMARIES

Evaluation Trench 1		Max Depth: 0.63m Ground Level (m aOD): 95.81m	Length: 15m	Width:1.50M
Context	Type	Description		Depth (m)
100	layer	Topsoil: pale brown clay loam with very rare inclusions, clear interface onto..		0-0.53m
102	layer	Natural: mottled 'weathered chalk with 'pea' sized chalk marking interface with more solid underlying Upper Chalk. Glacial striping and patching present.		0.53-base of trench, 0.63m
Evaluation Trench 2		Max Depth: 0.63m Ground Level (m aOD): 95.94m	Length: 15m	Width:1.50M
Context	Type	Description		Depth (m)
200	layer	Tarmac car park		0-0.15m
201	layer	Scalpens and compacted layer for tarmac		0.15-0.34m
202	layer	Thin band of flinty soil, flints are naturally broken. Fairly loose		0.34-0.55m
203	layer	Naturally occurring Upper Chalk. Weathered surface with distinct areas of flinty soil filled hollows. Hollows irregular sides and bases no signs of archaeology		0.55 to base of trench 0.60m

APPENDIX 2: ARCHIVE INDEX

File No.	NAR Cat	Detail	Format	No. Sheets
1	-	Index to Archive	A4	1
1	A	Client Report	A4	1
1	-	Project Specification	A4	1
1	B	Day book (photocopy)	A4	1
1	B	Trial trench records	A4	2
1	B	Context Records	A4	-
1	B	Graphics Register	A4	1
1	B	Levels (photocopy)	A4	1
1	D	Photographic Register	A4	3
1	B	Site Graphics	A4	3
1	-	B+W Negatives	35mm	16
1	-	Colour slides	35mm	16
1	-	Digital images	-	18
FINDS		None		



Site and evaluation trench location

Figure 1



Plate 1: Trench 1 viewed from the north-east



Plate 2: Trench 1 typical soil sequence



	This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.		
	Date:	24/07/09	Revision Number: 0
	Scale:	N/A	Illustrator: SEJ
	Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\72130\Drawing Office\Report Figs\Eval\09_07_24\A4_PLATES 1&2.cdr	



Plate 3: Trench 2 viewed from the north-east



Plate 4: Trench 2 typical soil sequence

	This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.		
	Date:	24/07/09	Revision Number: 0
	Scale:	N/A	Illustrator: SEJ
	Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\72130\Drawing Office\Report Figs\Eval\09_07_24\A4_PLATES 3&4.cdr	



WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED.

Registered Head Office: Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB.

Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk

Maidstone Office: The Malthouse, The Oast, Weaving Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 5JN.

Tel: 01622 739381 info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk

