

An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment at the Winklebury Playing-Fields Site, Winklebury Way,
Winklebury, Basingstoke, Hampshire

SU 618 524

Project No. 2486



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CONTENTS

- 1.0 Introduction**
- 2.0 Site Topography and Geology**
- 3.0 Cartographic Evidence**
- 4.0 Aerial Photographic Evidence**
- 5.0 Results of the Walkover Survey**
- 6.0 Archaeological Background and Potential**
- 7.0 Summary of Archaeological Potential**
- 8.0 Existing Impacts on Archaeological Potential**
- 9.0 Assessment of Future Impacts**
- 10.0 Recommendations**
- 11.0 Acknowledgements**

Bibliography

Appendix 1: Summary of Basingstoke Tithe Award (1841)

Appendix 2: Summary Table of SMR Entries

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1: Site Location Plan**
Fig. 2: Plan showing area of Proposed Works
Fig. 3: Study Area showing SMR Entries within a kilometre radius
Fig. 4: Geology Map (BGS) showing Site and Environs
Fig. 5: From original map of Basingstoke Enclosure Award (1788)
Fig. 6: OS Map 1" to Mile (1810)
Fig. 7: Tithe Map of Parish of Basingstoke (1841)
Fig. 8: OS Map 1st Edition 6" (1870)
Fig. 9: OS Map 1st Edition 25" (1870)
Fig. 10: OS Map 2nd Edition 25" (1897)
Fig. 11: OS Map 3rd Edition 25" (1910)
Fig. 12: OS Map 25" (1932)
Fig. 13: OS Map 25" (Revision of 1940)
Fig. 14: OS Map 6" (1961)
Fig. 15: OS Map 6" (1983)
- Plate 1: Land Boundary AA Looking S. Across Study Area**
Plate 2: School inside Winklebury Iron Age Hillfort
Plate 3: Aerial Photograph: February 1942
Plate 4: Aerial Photograph: July 1943
Plate 5: Aerial Photograph: August 1946
Plate 6: Aerial Photograph: August 1954
Plate 7: Aerial Photograph: July 1964
Plate 8: Aerial Photograph: August 1990
Plate 9: Pavilion Block 1
Plate 10: Subway under Railway (Study Area)
Plate 11: Land Boundary AA (Lynchet); S. End looking E.
Plate 12: Circular Ground Anomaly Block 3 (N. Side)

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Archaeology South-East (a division of the University College London Field Archaeology Unit) has been commissioned by the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council to carry out an archaeological desk-based assessment at the Winklebury Playing Field Site, Winklebury Way, Winklebury, Basingstoke, Hampshire (NGR SU 618 524) (Figs. 1 and 2).
- 1.2 The proposed development is to convert the existing playing field and playground into an upgraded series of senior, mini and girls soccer pitches. Towards the eastern end of the site New Hampshire FA Headquarters Offices and a 100 capacity stand with First XI Changing facilities, are also to be constructed (Fig.2).
- 1.3 The site at Winklebury lies inside the ancient boundary of the Parish of Basingstoke within the general area of a piece of land formerly known as the Chapel Field. The site today is located within the urbanised north-western quadrant of the present-day borough of Basingstoke and Deane (SU 618 524). The archaeological potential of the study area is enhanced by its proximity to the Winklebury Iron Age Hillfort, which lies c. 500 metres to the north-west (see below). The enclave of land has undergone minimal known development in the past and is comprised of soccer pitches a raised playground area and a small pavilion at the eastern end of the north boundary.
- 1.4 In keeping with general planning authority consent in which archaeological conditions are necessary:

No Development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted to the applicant and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

This condition as recommended by English Heritage, requires that an initial archaeological desk-based assessment should be carried out in order to provide information on the likely presence or absence and quality of any archaeological potential and to recommend any possible future archaeological mitigation measures in accordance with this condition.

- 1.5 The 'Study Area' for this desk-based assessment is taken as an area within a radius of c. 1 kilometre, centred over the site (Fig. 3; **Appendix 2**). Cognizance of a wider regional framework will also be considered and these together should provide a context for the assessment of the archaeological potential of the site.
- 1.6 It should be noted that this form of non-intrusive appraisal cannot be seen to be a definitive statement on the presence or absence of archaeological remains within any area but rather an indicator of the area's potential based on existing known information. Further intrusive investigations such as machine-excavated trial trenches are sometimes needed to conclusively define the

presence or absence, character and quality of any archaeological remains within a given area.

1.7 Cartographic sources and secondary documentary sources at the Hampshire Record Office and elsewhere were consulted. An aerial priority search was undertaken at the National Monuments Centre at Swindon. The County Sites and Monuments Record (hereafter referred to as the SMR) and further secondary sources were consulted. Detailed SMR records for the Study Area, centred on national grid reference SU 616 524 were obtained and are shown plotted on Fig.3 and listed in **Appendix 2**.

1.8 A preliminary walkover survey of the site was also made by the authors of this report on 9th May 2006. A digital photographic record of the site and environs was undertaken at this time.

2.0 SITE TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

2.1 According to the British Geological Survey (1: 50,000 Scale; Sheet No. 284; Fig. 4) the site lies on a loamy soil above Upper Chalk. The Study Area lies on a flat dome-shaped piece of land, presumed to be levelled at the time the football pitches were constructed. It is situated on the southern dip slope of a Downland block, which rises gently to the false crested plateau Iron Age Hillfort of Winklebury some 500 metres to the north-west.

2.2 The predominant longer distance views from the site are to the south. The site is bounded on its southern side by the South Western Railway. The tributary end of the River Loddon lies c. 200 metres to the south of the southern boundary and terminates a few hundred metres to the south west of the western end of the Study Area (Fig. 4). The superficial geology of the Loddon at this point is described as 'river brickearth' (Sheet 284). The proximity of this water source is likely to have been important to past communities and is likely to have been a significant factor in the original siting of the Iron Age earthwork.

2.3 The southern boundary and therefore the railway line appears to be sited at a point where there is an abrupt break in slope (personal obs). It is therefore located at the contact point where the final descent to the Loddon begins. In terms of past land utilisation this too may be significant (see below).

2.4 Although the British Geological Survey record no deposits of 'clay with flints' within the Study Area much of the surrounding chalklands contain extensive deposits (Fig. 4). The nearest occurrence of this deposit lie 100 metres south of the tributary end of the River Loddon and therefore c. 300 metres south of the site. Recent research has shown the regular occurrence of Palaeolithic flint tools within 'clay with flints' and the proximity of the water source may have attracted early hunter-gatherer groups to the area.

3.0 CARTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

3.1 The following maps and documents were consulted:

1788	Basingstoke Enclosure Award Map (Original; Ref. Q23/2/7/1)
1810	The Ordnance Survey 1" to 1 mile
1841	Tithe Map of the Parish of Basingstoke (Ref. 21M65/F7/13/2)
1841	The Tithe Apportionment/Award (Ref. 21M65/F7/13/1)
1870	The Ordnance Survey 1 st Edition 6" (Sheet 18)
1870	The Ordnance Survey 1 st Edition 25" (Sheet 18.7)
1897	The Ordnance Survey 2 nd Edition 25" (Sheet 18.7; Ref. 137M90/23)
1910	The Ordnance Survey 3 rd Edition 25" (Sheet 18.7)
1932	The Ordnance Survey 25" (Sheet 18.7)
1940	The Ordnance Survey 25" (Revision; Sheet 18.7)
1961	The Ordnance Survey 6" (SU 65SW Hants)
1983	The Ordnance Survey 6" (SU 65SW Hants)

- 3.2** Documentary references indicate that the earliest enclosure of common fields that occurred within the Parish of Basingstoke was during the period 1607 to 1691 (Chapman and Seeliger, 1997, 14). However, a further 3,286 acres of land were enclosed in the parish by an Enclosure Award Act of 1786 (Award Ref. 14012) (*ibid*).
- 3.3** The Enclosure Award Map of the Parish of Basingstoke dated 1788 (Fig. 5) shows a series of linear north-south fields, which run down to the water meadows of the Loddon. These commence immediately to the east of *Winclow Barrow* (Winklebury Iron Age hillfort). It is fortunate that the proposed line of the London and South Western Railway (which was constructed in 1840) has been subsequently inscribed on the 1788 map. This therefore indicates the southern boundary of the Study Area. By comparing the Enclosure Award map (1788) with later maps (eg. Figs. 8, 14 and 15) together with observations from the Walkover Survey it has been possible to show the approximate parameters of the Study Area on the 1788 map (Fig. 5)
- 3.4** Part of the field boundary AA (Fig. 5), which is the western linear boundary of the field (AA/BB) and owned by the Earl of Dartmouth in 1788, was observed as a substantial break-of-slope running north-south across the Study Area (Plate 1) (see **5.11** below). If the line of the boundary is projected northwards it can be seen to follow the route of Willoughby Way which was constructed between 1961 and 1983. This can clearly be seen by comparing Figs. 14 and 15. The boundary is partially depicted on Fig. 15. This boundary is therefore a remnant of a field boundary that was formed during the post-medieval enclosures. As no earlier map than 1788 was consulted it is not possible to say whether this or the adjacent fields were formed prior to the 1786 Enclosure Act. However, the straight field boundaries lack the sinuous curves characteristic of piecemeal enclosure of medieval arable strips, so it is likely that the pre-enclosure landscape was open sheepwalk.
- 3.5** The 1788 map (Fig. 5) shows that the large tract of land to the west of Field Boundary AA (incorporating the western sector of the Study Area) was enclosed to the line of the Roman road to the west. In 1788 this piece of land was in the ownership of the Rev. Thomas Sheppard. The whole block of land

including the Study Area, depicted in the Enclosure Map (Fig. 5) was known as Chapel Field and it is probable that most of this land had been in the ownership of elite colleges (eg Winton College etc) over a long period. In fact at the south-eastern end of the enclave of land known as Chapel Field, the 1870 map (Fig. 8) shows a large cemetery associated with a number of different chapels which may have had college affiliations at this earlier time.

- 3.6** A vestige of the earlier open strip field-system may be seen abutting the north side of Winklebury Hillfort (*Winclow Barrow*)(Fig. 5) with the now enclosed narrow strips projecting northward from the earthwork. Their visual survival at this location may be due to the immediate proximity to the parish boundary (see **4.4**; **6.11.2** below).
- 3.7** The 1810 1" Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 6), as with the 1788 map (above), indicates no structures or buildings lay within the designated area. However, the later map shows, albeit indistinctly, the Bury Farm complex abutting the south-western outer perimeter of the Iron Age earthworks. This lays a few hundred metres to the north-west of the Study Area. A track runs due south from the farm (west of the site) to the Worting Tollgate close to the tributary end of the Loddon, depicted on the map as the Town Brook. Bury Farm is not shown on the Enclosure Award Map (Fig. 5) and was presumably constructed between 1788 and 1810.
- 3.8** West Ham Farm is now shown 2/300 metres due south of the Study Area close to the river (Fig. 6) and is likely to have developed around this time (viz. 1810). The contact point close to the base of the dip slope (**2.3** above), which is later to become the railway and the southern boundary of the site, is indicated by the contrast of the shaded and non-shaded areas on the 1810 map.
- 3.9** The 1841 Tithe Map of the Parish of Basingstoke (Fig. 7) shows a number of new developments had occurred since 1788. Land boundary AA (Fig. 7) is extant within the Study Area (see **5.0** below) and provides an important reference point. The linear fields which run north south from the east side of Winklebury Hillfort to the Loddon continue to provide the main framework to the Study Area (eg AA/BB/CC; compare Figs. 5 & 7). However, the London and South Western Railway had been completed the year before and now bisects the lower and southern parts of the piece of land and field formerly owned (1788) respectively (from west to east) by the Rev. T. Sheppard, the Earl of Dartmouth and Daniel Jackson (for Winton College). The railway line now forms the southern boundary of the site.
- 3.10** Firstly, the large tract of land to the west of Land Boundary AA (Figs. 5 & 7; **3.5** above) has been further enclosed and sub-divided by 1841 (eg Fields 137, 145 & 146; Fig. 7). This is almost certainly because of the construction of Bury Farm since 1788, which flanks the south-western perimeter of the Iron Age earthwork. The eastern end of Field 146 lies within the Study Area and the Tithe Apportionment (**Appendix 1**) shows this to be an arable field in the ownership of Richard Eyles. Thus the land immediately to the west of Field 130 (Fig. 7) is in the ownership of Bury Farm and R. Eyles. In fact all of this

western enclave of land is under arable cultivation and this includes the interior of *Winclow Barrow* (IA Fort).

- 3.11** The linear field, formerly owned by the Earl of Dartmouth (AA/BB; Fig. 5) has by the time of the Tithe Map (1841; Fig. 7) been sub-divided into Field Nos. 129 and 130 by the creation of a north-south track. This passes under the railway as a sub-way and is extant today and lies within the Study Area (see Figs.15/16). This track probably predates the railway and appears to have been an important access route to the north for the expanding West Ham Farm in the early decades of the 19th century. The southern part of Fields 129 and 130 (Fig. 7) lie within the Study Area and in 1841 were in the ownership of CE Sefroy and under arable cultivation. These two fields as well as those to the east (eg No. 126; **Appendix 1**) are still referred to as part of the Chapel Field enclave. In fact Field/Plot 126, to the immediate east of the Study Area, is under the ownership of Winchester College in 1841 (**Appendix 1**; see **3.5** above).
- 3.12** The 1841 Tithe Map indicates that no structures or buildings etc lay within the Study Area (Fig. 7).
- 3.13** The 1st Edition OS 6” map of 1870 (Fig. 8) indicates that no major changes had occurred since 1841 within the Study Area. The fields defined by the north-south land boundaries AA/BB/CC (Figs. 5, 7 & 8) continue to provide the main framework for the site. The north-south track, which crosses the site and runs under the railway to West Ham House to the south is clearly shown. Interestingly the sub-divided fields to the west of Land Boundary AA and which formerly (Fig. 7) surrounded Bury Farm are no longer depicted (just two tracks going south and west of the farm). Whether they are just not shown at this time or whether the field boundaries have been removed, is not certain.
- 3.14** The proximity of the source/tributary end of the River Loddon is clearly shown to the immediate south of the site on the 1870 map. Although well outside of the Study Area this map indicates the large cemetery and group of chapels at the far south-eastern end of the Chapel Field enclave of land mentioned above (see **3.5** and **3.10** above). The Study Area lies within this enclave of land.
- 3.15** Although the 25” OS map of 1870 (Fig. 9) is in a poor condition it does show in great detail the very few elements the Study Area consisted of at that time and confirms the total absence of structures/buildings.
- 3.16** Similarly the 1897 2nd edition 25” OS map (Fig. 10) shows a virtually unchanged situation. The 1897 map however, does show an avenue of trees flanking the north-south track, which passes under the railway. Furthermore, there is evidence of quarrying on the east side of this track just before it enters the subway under the railway (Fig. 10). In 1897 the tract of land surrounding Bury Farm to the west of Land Boundary AA remains undivided.
- 3.17** By 1910 the 3rd edition 25” OS map (Fig. 11) shows no further change has occurred within the Study Area. The quarry on the east side of the track

adjacent to the subway is confirmed as an 'Old Chalk Pit'. However, the linear north-south fields, which flank the track have been sub-divided by two east-west boundaries, immediately north of the Study Area. Two rectangular copses may now be seen to the south of 'Winklebury Camp'.

- 3.18** The 1932 25" OS map shows some significant developments have occurred within the enclave of land south of Winklebury Camp to the railway line and immediately north and west of the Study Area (Fig. 12). These developments are likely to have happened during the post 1st World War era and probably date to the 1920's. This piece of land has been sub-divided into a number of plots and allotments containing buildings most of which are presumed to be houses (Fig. 12).
- 3.19** Furthermore, the western interior of the Winklebury Iron Age hillfort has undergone some sub-division and three buildings probably of an agricultural nature may be seen within the ramparts of the earthwork. The 1932 map (Fig.12) also indicates the removal of an east-west boundary to the east of the track (compare Figs. 11 & 12) and a new boundary has been constructed further to the south of this and close to the north-eastern boundary of the Study Area.
- 3.20** At or very close to the far eastern boundary of the Site a single track railway running from the main railway line to the Park Prewett Mental Hospital to the north of Winklebury Camp, has been constructed sometime between 1910 and 1932 (Fig. 12). Park Prewett is a late Victorian mental institution, taking its name from a nearby farm. Despite these construction developments in the immediate vicinity of the Site, no buildings or structures have occurred within the Study Area itself.
- 3.21** The 25" Revision OS map of 1940 (Fig. 13) once more shows no further changes have occurred within the Study Area. The developments, which we see on the 1932 map to the north and west of the Site (above) have not been significantly altered during the immediate pre-war years. Some of the plots appear to have encouraged the growth of orchards, otherwise there is little evidence for any constructional growth in this period. The Park Prewett railway line is still evident on the site's eastern boundary (Fig. 13).
- 3.22** The 1961 6" OS map (Fig. 14) shows the immediate post-war period to have undergone virtually no developmental changes within or close to the Study Area. All the boundaries of the immediate pre-war period remain unchanged and no buildings or structures may be seen within the Site.
- 3.23** In 1961, Basingstoke was officially designated an overspill town for London and subsequently acquired New Town status. The following twenty years saw an unprecedented expansion of the town during which time the population nearly tripled in size. The limit of expansion to the north-west of the newly formed Borough of Basingstoke and Deane lay along the Roman Road just 200 metres north and west of Winklebury Hillfort (Fig. 14: Rooksdown Lane).

- 3.24** As a consequence of this expansion the 1983 6" OS map (Fig. 15) shows a massive housing complex with schools and other infrastructural facilities, to the north and west of the site, infilling the whole enclave of land between the development site and the Roman Road which passes to the north and west of Winklebury Camp. The Iron Age earthwork now has houses and roads abutting its entire perimeter and in 1976 the interior of the Fort underwent an area excavation prior to the building of a new school (Plate 2) (Smith 1977; Robertson-Mackay 1977). As a result of these developments all of the 1920's buildings to the west of the Study Area (3.17 above) together with Bury Farm and West Ham Farm to the south, have now gone. The Winklebury Playing Fields Site has by now come into existence and defines an area which is not known to have previously contained any structural evidence of buildings etc.
- 3.25** The map regression exercise has shown that the Study Area has no recorded buildings or other structures since 1788 within its bounds. Although some cut and fill will have occurred when the site was made into playing fields in the 1970's it is probable that minimal sub-surface disturbance to potential archaeological deposits has occurred. The 1983 map (Fig. 15) and the walkover survey indicate the small pavilion and raised playground area outlined in 1.3 above remain the only two extant structures on the site. Figure 15 also shows the line of Land Boundary AA as a boundary discussed in 3.4 etc above, and was identified during the walkover survey.
- 3.26** The other observation from the 1983 map (Fig. 15) and which has no real impact on the proposed development, is that the former railway to Park Prewett Hospital had now become part of the new ring-road system. This and the other changes outlined were all part of the 1970's transformation period of the town. This road forms the far eastern boundary of the proposed developments. The housing developments to the north and west of the Study Area and abutting Winklebury Way/ Willoughby Way etc are now complete.

4.0 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

- 4.1** A priority search was conducted of the vertical and oblique aerial photographic collections of the National Library of Air Photographs held at the National Monuments Centre, Swindon. The search was centred on SU 618 524 and produced 74 aerial photographs taken between February 1942 and August 1995. Of the 74 photographs 13 were selected for scrutiny and 6 of these have been reproduced here. The 13 photographs studied are summarised in Table 1 below and those reproduced are marked with an asterisk (*).

Table 1: List of Vertical, Oblique and Specialist Aerial Photographs Studied from the National Library of Air Photographs of English Heritage

Sortie No.	Frame Nos.	Date	Scale
Verticals			
RAF/CPE/UK/1931	3139/3140	17/1/47	1 : 9,840
RAF/82/1006	157*	31/8/54	1 : 15,000
RAF/13A/UK797	45/46*	14/2/42	1 : 10,000

RAF/16C/AC361	5017*	1/7/43	1 : 14,400
RAF/106G/UK/1710	4036*/4037	30/8/46	1 : 8,385
OS/64101	82*/83	13/7/64	1 : 7,500
Specialist			
NGR Index No.			6 Fig. NGR
SU6152/31	22*	14/8/90	SU618525
SU6252/1	6	4/3/70	SU620528
Military Oblique			
SU6151/15	0186	14/5/50	SU618519

- 4.2** The earliest aerial photograph of the site reproduced here (February 1942) is a vertical (Plate 3; Ref. RAF/13A/UK797, Fr 46). This photograph shows the entire Study Area to the south and east of Winklebury Camp and bordering the railway line. Land Boundaries AA/BB and the central north-south track passing under the line to West Ham Farm in the far south of the photograph is very clear. Other elements of this photograph include the 1920's buildings and plots to the north and west of the Study Area, the Bury Farm enclave abutting Winklebury Camp and the Park Prewett single line railway running north-south from the eastern border of the site
- 4.3** What is likely to be a modern feature (adjacent dark lines) may be seen running from close to the north end of Land Boundary BB and heads towards the trackway. This feature abuts the latter at a point c. hundred metres or so north of the Study Area. It seems to impinge on what looks like a very small agricultural structure (Plate 3). The depression seen close to the trackway at the northern end of Land Boundary AA is situated at the location of the 2nd World War site of an Anti Aircraft Battery (SMR No. 37526).
- 4.4** Plate 4 is a vertical AP taken from south-east of the Study Area in July 1943 (Ref. RAF/16C/AC361). No further anomalies may be seen within the Study Area on this photograph. The line of the Roman Road to the west of Winklebury Camp can clearly be seen and defines an area to the west where there are a known series of late prehistoric and Romano-British cropmarks (Appleby pers. comm). The narrow enclosed piece of land projecting eastwards from the north side of Winklebury Camp is probably a remnant of the former open field system which has been encapsulated here because of its proximity to the parish boundary (see **6.11.2**).
- 4.5** The photograph taken in August 1946 (Plate 5; Ref. RAF/106G/UK/1710) indicates the arable nature of the agricultural landscape that existed within the environs of the Study Area in the immediate post-war period. This is emphasised by the neatly arrayed corn-stooks in the eastern part of the Site and adjoining fields. The Anti Aircraft Battery Site is apparent to the right (east) of Winklebury Camp.
- 4.6** Plate 6 is a view from south of the site looking north. This vertical AP which was taken in August 1954 (Ref. RAF/82/1006) indicates little encroachment on the Study Area has yet to occur since the war. The Site and immediate area remains essentially agricultural. In the far south-west of the Study Area adjacent to the western side of the southern end of Land Boundary AA a small

enclave of land appears either as an allotment or orchard. The walkover survey identified a single mature cherry tree of 50 years+ in the far south-western corner of the Study Area, so it was probably a small orchard area.

- 4.7** The next aerial photograph in the sequence heralds the beginning of major changes occurring within and in the vicinity of the Study Area. This photograph which post-dates the 1961 designation of Basingstoke as an overspill town, was taken in July 1964 (Plate 7; Ref. OS/64101, Fr. 82) and shows the initial phase of the infra-structural changes which have occurred since in the Winklebury area.
- 4.8** The photograph (Plate 7) shows the initial excavation phase of the eastern end of Winklebury Way which today abuts the northern side of the Study Area. The underlying chalk can clearly be seen along this eastern section of the road. This newly to be constructed road crosses the north-south track which passes under the railway and in the photograph goes as far west as Land Boundary AA at the junction where Willoughby Way going north will later be constructed. The line of Winklebury Way going west from the latter junction can now be seen.
- 4.9** The 1964 photograph (Plate 7) shows the central part of the Study Area (between AA and the N-S track: Block 2) containing what appears to be exposed chalk or more likely a dumping area for excavated chalk from the road and adjacent housing developments. The central part of this area appears to have been left relatively free of chalk. It is probable that some of the excavated chalk from the line of the road and elsewhere may have subsequently been used for levelling part of the Study Area when the playing fields were constructed.
- 4.10** Although the Study Area slopes to the south (towards the railway) the relatively gentle inclination suggests that the present day sports facility within the proposed development site would not have required extensive 'cut and fill' from within the site at the time. The photograph (Plate 7) suggests that the stockpile of chalk from the excavated Winklebury Way and elsewhere may have been sufficient for levelling the site. If this is so then part of the central area (Block 2) of the proposed development site may be overlain by deposits of 'made' ground (probably chalk 'clunch'), with deeper deposits downslope towards the railway.
- 4.11** The final aerial photograph studied in the sequence reproduced here was taken in August 1990 (Plate 8; Ref. SU6152/31). The Winklebury Playing Fields Site may be seen in the centre of this photograph. The far eastern zone is laid out as a cricket pitch (Block 1) with two soccer pitches to the west (Block 3) divided by tennis courts (now a skate boarding area) and playground area (Block 2). The pavilion the only main structure on the site can be seen on the north side of the cricket pitch area.
- 4.12** Plate 8 also shows a number of discrete soil marks typically seen in the hottest months of the year – viz August. Block 3 at the western end of the Study Area clearly shows a gridded drainage system within the parameters of the football

pitch. In the northern part of Block 3 is a distinctive 'L'-shaped soil mark defined by two parallel lines, approximately 4m apart (as crudely scaled from the photograph), with a rounded corner at the north-western end. This feature appears to lie just outside of the football pitch area and on a slightly different orientation. The Roman sarcophagus (SMR No. 19643; Fig. 3) was found c. 50 metres to the east of this anomaly. The soil mark just described, lies within an area identified in the walkover survey where a possible wall line (terrace) and ground disturbance was noted (see **5.13** below). The evidence of the photograph suggests that the anomaly is a parch-mark, caused by the differential drying of the vegetation due to less-efficient water retention in the underlying soil. This may be caused by two processes, either the presence of impermeable or less permeable sub-surface deposits (e.g. stone) or by the compaction of the upper layers of the soil by weight applied from above (e.g. vehicular traffic). A number of possible interpretations are discussed below:

1. If the marks are made by underlying impermeable/less permeable material, this would suggest either stone or a very compacted soil layer such as clay. If this is the case, then the marks may relate to a stone building incorporating a long passageway such as a corridor. A likely candidate would be a Roman villa – numerous settlements of this period are known in the Basingstoke area. A corridor of width 4m is a comfortable size for an internal space within a building (the adjacent modern terraced houses are approximately 8m in width, and are typically two rooms deep). The absence of any correlation of alignment with surrounding land boundaries (all of which are probably post-medieval in date) may also have a chronological significance. The proximity of an important Roman burial is also a clear indication of settlement activity in the vicinity.

However, there is no evidence to suggest any further structures adjacent to the linear feature, such as rooms. This may be because leveling of the field to create a playing field has obscured the remainder of the anomaly beneath deeper soil. However, visual inspection of the field suggests that only the extreme southern end, adjacent to the railway, has actually been raised. The remainder of the field correlates well with surrounding slopes (as compared with the minimal terracing evident in the houses immediately to the west and the slope of Dover Close and Willoughby Way) to suggest that this western playing field has experienced little in the way of ground disturbance and effectively preserves the original slope. Consequently, the lack of further parchmark anomalies may reflect the absence of sub-surface stimuli. In other words, interpretation as a possible Roman villa or allied structure is not adequately supported by the available evidence.

2. The most likely explanation for soil compaction from above would be from repeated passage by heavy machinery, such as maintenance vehicles. The anomaly looks at first glance like a set of wheel tracks, an interpretation supported by their parallel nature. However, they appear to be far too wide to be caused by standard maintenance

vehicles, and the site is clearly inappropriate for the use of heavy agricultural vehicles such as combine harvesters that might possess such an axle-width. Another possibility is that the anomaly reflects the passage of foot traffic down a set route. However, it is difficult to envisage a situation requiring such controlled channeling of access, and pedestrians left to their own devices tend to wander at will.

3. A third possibility is that the anomaly represents an earlier phase of underground drainage, with the parching effect produced by the presence of ceramic pipes (although this might be expected to be offset by the presence of looser fill in the trench, plus the possibility of leakage from the pipes). However, such a drainage system would be expected to be more extensive across the site, and the presence of two drains only 4m apart seems unusual.
4. A fourth possibility may be that the anomaly represents a double-ditched trackway of prehistoric date, utilized as a driveway to allow stock to be moved across a landscape of field systems. The later prehistoric context of the surrounding area is discussed later, and such features would certainly be expected in the area between Winklebury hillfort and the Loddon valley. Similar trackways are known from other sites in the area, such as Brighton Hill South (Fasham, Keevil & Coe 1995, 4), although they tend to be wider (up to 10m) and more sinuous in nature. There is also no trace of a surrounding field system.
5. The fifth possibility is that the anomaly represents an unrecorded feature excavated during the Second World War. An anti-aircraft position is known from aerial photographic evidence to the north of the site. Slit trenches were often dug into open areas to provide basic cover, although such systems were usually of a zig-zag pattern to limit blast damage. In addition, the site was not within a populated area at the time.

As the above discussion indicates, interpretation of anomalies from air photographs is often difficult. The anomaly appears to be only partially visible. It is very difficult to offer a definitive interpretation from the available evidence, but the general archaeological potential of the area, particularly the presence of a high status Roman burial in the vicinity, means that an archaeological origin is a possibility.

- 4.13** Land Boundary AA can be seen running north-south across the western edge of Block 2 lining up with Willoughby Way (Plate 8). The area to the south of the railway has now been developed as an industrial estate. The later 1960's and 1970's houses may be seen abutting Winklebury Way to the north and west of the Study Area. No further structures appear on the site.

5.0 RESULTS OF THE WALKOVER SURVEY

- 5.1** The authors visited the site on Tuesday 9th May 2006 and examined the playing fields, open spaces, pathways, structures and boundaries. In addition a

tour was made of the surrounding area in order to place the site in its wider context.

- 5.2** The site measures approximately 600m by 150m. It is bounded to the east by the western portion of the Basingstoke ring road and associated slip road. To the south lies the mainline rail track. It abuts a housing estate to the west and Winklebury Way defines the entire northern boundary. That road separates the playing fields from an extensive housing estate filling the ground up to Winklebury Hillfort.
- 5.3** The study area comprises an un-interrupted grassed open space, cut only by a north-south paved sunken footpath and a north-south break-of-slope AA (eg Figs.5 & 7). For the purposes of this report it is divided into three blocks. Block 1 runs from the eastern boundary of the study area up to the pedestrian cutting and railway subway. Block 2 runs from this cutting to the north-south boundary AA. Block 3 is the remaining ground to the west.
- 5.4** Block 1 is a large corner plot defined by the southern railway, the ring road complex to the east and corner of Winklebury Way. There are two buildings, the larger of which was originally a pavilion. This has been blocked up to prevent vandalism. Both buildings are sited on the original ground surface, now appearing as a raised terrace (approx. 1.4m in height) which runs WSW to ENE along the northern portion of Block 1 (Plate 9) due to the slight cutting into the slope of the northern end of the adjacent playing field. The northern boundary is largely unaltered since the original landscaping of the 1970s. Trees along this edge are up to c.40 years old and there is a mature beech hedge. An earth mound (30m in diameter and up to 2m high) fronts the western edge of a car park, north east of the pavilion, It is also likely to date from the 1970s. Mature trees, c. 40 years of age, are rooted in this small raised knoll.
- 5.5** A path running southwards to a subway under the railway line defines the western boundary of Block 1 (Plate 10). This surfaced linear track drops 4m along its route. The railway was built in 1840 and there are some trees more than 100 years old (largely sycamores with some horsechestnuts) directly above this pedestrian cutting. The subway arch and tunnelling appear to be original 1840 structures. The survival of 100+ year old trees fronting the cutting suggests that the southern part of this boundary was not disturbed when the 1970's recreation ground was established. It suggests that Block 1 did not require the same extent of levelling as parts of Block 2 in the 1970s. In fact, only the northern end of the playing field in Block 1 appears to have undergone any ground reduction, and this only to a maximum of 1m in depth. At the south western corner of Block 1 the pedestrian cutting is at its deepest and widest point, a legacy of chalk quarrying into the bank, recorded in the cartographic evidence (see Fig. 11).
- 5.6** The southern boundary of Block 1 follows the course of the railway. From this vantage point it was observed that the ground rises slightly to the north and west. It is largely flat, domed slightly on the edges. The trees along the southern boundary are approximately 50-70 years old. The east-west footpath

running alongside the railway fencing is 1.5 m below the main horizon of the playing field. The entire surface of the playing field is grassed. However, at the base of a pine tree at SU 6213 5242, on the southern boundary, the ground was bare and three pieces of fire-cracked flint were exposed. This material is often associated with later prehistoric sites in Southern England.

- 5.7** An avenue of sycamores defined the eastern boundary of Block 1 (less than 40 years old). They run alongside fencing above the ringroad and associated slip road.
- 5.8** Block 2 is the central and largest portion of the study area. Its south-eastern corner is filled by a tarmaced and fenced multi-use games area and the north-eastern corner by a small playground. Both of these areas abut the north-south pedestrian sunken footpath. To the immediate west of the games and playground areas a north-south linear terrace was observed running from SU6188 5248 down to SU 6189 5242. It suggests that a boundary line or slight terrace runs north-south from Winklebury Way through Block 2.
- 5.9** From the eastern boundary vantage point, it is apparent that Block 2 up to boundary AA has a domed surface.
- 5.10** The northern boundary of Block 2 is defined by Winklebury Way running WSW to ENE. A line of lime and sycamore trees, less than 30 years old, grow along this edge up to boundary AA.
- 5.11** Boundary AA marks the western edge of Block 2 (Plate1). Trees on the northern end of this border are 50+ years of age and suggest that the NW sector of Block 2 has suffered little alteration in any operations to level off the playing area. From this north western corner of Block 2, boundary AA runs south progressively deepening and eventually forms a 3-4m high terrace above the railway line. On the southern side of the railway the boundary line continues to run south. It is defined by a line of 100+ year old trees. This boundary was first recorded in 1788 and originally separated the lands of the Revd Thomas Sheppard and the Earl of Dartmouth (Fig. 5). It probably originated as a hedgerow bank established during the enclosure of the surrounding land. The ground level on its eastern side has subsequently been brought up flush as part of the playing field levelling, thereby transforming it from a linear bank to a break-of-slope.
- 5.12** The southern boundary of Block 2 drops steeply down to the railway track fencing. It is obviously 'made ground' to elevate this southern end of the playing field.
- 5.13** Block 3 runs from the pronounced boundary AA westward to abut a number of 1970/1980's houses. This area has one characteristic difference from the other two. While the ground is well kept it has an undulating surface particularly in its northern sector. At SU 6167 5245 there are slight depressions in the ground and differential vegetation growth i.e. the grass may be growing on ground with a higher nitrogen content than elsewhere (Plate 12). A 70m linear feature was also observed – possibly an old boundary/wall

or a more recent terrace running east west from SU 6170 5245 to SU6163 5244. It lies 18m away from Winklebury Way at its eastern end. This zone of ground matches the area identified on the August 1990 aerial photograph above (Plate 8; 4.12). Visual inspection of Block 3, and comparison with the surrounding urban landscape, suggests that this Block has received little or no ground disturbance, other than at its southern end, and largely reflects the pre-existing slope.

- 5.14** The western boundary of Block 3 stops at the edge of a 1970/1980's housing estate. The trees growing here are less than 20 years old. In the south western corner of Block 3 stands a cherry tree, at least 60 years old. It is a remnant of a late 1940s/early 1950s orchard recorded in Plate 6, dated 1954.
- 5.15** A path running alongside the fenced railway line marks the southern boundary of Block 3. It is noticeably different from its Block 2 counterpart. Whereas the ground surface of the recreation ground in Block 3 tapers down gradually to the same height as the railtrack, in Block 2 the playing surface is elevated 4m above the railway line. A steep bank along the southern boundary of Block 2 drops down to the railway fencing. That sharp cambering down to the rail line suggests that Block 2 has more made ground than its neighbouring blocks to the east and west.

6.0 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND AND POTENTIAL

- 6.1** The archaeological record is initially considered by period, and then in terms of its potential significance.
- 6.2** The time scales of the archaeological periods referred to in this report are given below. The periods are given their usual titles. It should be noted that for most cultural heritage purposes the boundaries between them are not sharply distinguished, even where definite dates based on historical events are used. Subdivisions within periods are not generally considered separately.

Prehistoric: Palaeolithic	(c.500,000BC – c.10,000BC)
Prehistoric: Mesolithic	(c.10,000BC – c.4,300BC)
Prehistoric: Neolithic	(c.4,300BC – c.2,300BC)
Prehistoric: Bronze Age	(c.2,300BC – c.700BC)
Prehistoric: Iron Age	(c.700BC – c.AD.43)
Romano-British	(c.AD 43 – c.AD 410)
Anglo-Saxon	(AD 410 – AD 1066)
Medieval	(AD1066 –AD 1485)
Post-Medieval	(AD1485 to present day)

6.3 Palaeolithic

- 6.3.1** The Palaeolithic period in Britain began around 500,000 years ago ending around 10,000 BC with the beginning of the current interglacial or Holocene era. It was characterised by a series of ice ages interspersed with temperate periods. Habitation was possible during those periods of rising temperatures. In Hampshire there is an absence of any form of cultural evidence for man's

presence except for stone artefacts. Palaeolithic tools have been found in northern Hampshire in zones of periglacial deposits on the upper chalk. The nearest deposit (a band of superficial clay-with-flint) occurs south of the River Loddon, 300m from the study area (see 2.4 above). Palaeolithic tools were found at SU 61750 51600 close to the western end of this band of clay-with-flints (see Fig. 4; SMR Number 19450). Baigent and Millard note that Palaeolithic tools found in Basingstoke, were collected by antiquarian friends (1889, 6). The site geology of upper chalk, capped by loamy soils (2.4 above), suggests that the potential for Palaeolithic finds is low.

6.4 Mesolithic

6.4.1 The Mesolithic marks the start of the current interglacial called the Holocene. It is a time when the land bridge linking Britain to the European Continent was breached by a significant rise in relative sea levels. The bulk of the evidence from the last hunter-gatherers comes from surface collections and stray finds. In Hampshire, Mesolithic resource exploitation extended over all the major soil types – the Chalk, Clay with Flints, London Clay and Greensands (Jacobi 1981, 15). Jacobi notes that where fine sieving techniques have been used in Hampshire excavations, Mesolithic material is recorded (ibid. 15). For example, developer-funded work at Riverdene, Basingstoke (2.5km ESE of the Study Area) revealed flint microliths, blades and cores of a Mesolithic date near to a superficial deposit of clay-with-flints (Hall-Torrance & Weaver 2003, 98). A Mesolithic roughout for a tranchet axe was found on the site at SU 6178 5248 (SMR 19541; Fig. 3). Also to the west of the study area, Mesolithic flintwork was picked up close to the Roman Road (SU 6175 5160). The potential for Mesolithic finds on the site is low.

6.5 Neolithic

6.5.1 The Neolithic period is a time of warmer temperatures and more settled human occupation, allowing the slow development of more permanent farming in which transhumance and sporadic land clearances occur. Woodland regeneration suggests episodic arable cultivation with a growing dependence on domesticated animals. The Neolithic is characteristically an ancestral landscape – dotted with earthworks commemorating the dead. They include causewayed enclosures and long barrows.

6.5.2 Neolithic monuments are not common in Hampshire and few occur in the Basingstoke area (Allen et al. 1995, 181). However, there appears to be a cluster of monuments close to the source of the River Loddon of Late Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age transitional date. Within a 2 sq km zone there are four monuments. An oval barrow on Kempshott Lane (SU 6018 5013) is considered to be Early Bronze Age, based on the pottery recovered (Allen et al. 1995, 182). A barrow group at Down Grange (SU 6110 5056) is dateable to the Late Neolithic - Early Bronze Age (ibid. 182). In addition there is a possible long barrow identified in air recognisance on the Putting Green, 1km WSW of the Study Area (SMR 36308; Fig. 3). The fourth site is the Buckskin Barrow. Here a large stake-circle and avenue monument was found beneath a conspicuous Early Bronze Age bell barrow (Allen et al. 1995, 158). These

monuments lie directly on the social corridor linking the Hampshire and Thames Basins. Neolithic flints have been found just over half a kilometre to the south of the Study Area, on the other side of the Loddon valley (see SMR 19451; Fig. 3). The potential for finding Neolithic evidence is judged to be low.

6.6 Bronze Age

6.6.1 The Early Bronze Age (2,300 – 1,500 BC) is represented by several barrows around Basingstoke, including the Buckskin Barrow (1.5 km SW of the Study Area), the South Ham barrows (2km WSW of the study area). The Buckskin Barrow was excavated by Barbara Applin in 1967-8, prior to the development of a housing estate. In 1967 an Early Bronze Age cremation was discovered just to the north of Winklebury Hillfort (SU 6140 5320; SMR19612; Fig. 3). It was disturbed during water mains trenching on a new estate.

6.6.2 It was during the Later Bronze Age (1,500-700 BC) that the South East of England became politically and socially dominant, with a dramatic expansion in settlement. Newly established communities increased their wealth by farming blocks of land, chosen because they provided the best access to external trade. The resulting farming surpluses were used to compete for status objects, particularly the fabulous bronze metalwork used for ornaments and weaponry. The richest zone of activity lay downstream along the Loddon where it joined the Middle Thames Valley.

6.6.3 In Hampshire, there are few surviving examples of the Bronze Age field systems that once created chequer board field blocks on the chalk downlands. Agricultural activity in the 19th and 20th century destroyed the larger systems and most of them existed only as crop marks even at the beginning of the 20th century (Fasham and Schadla-Hall 1981, 33). There is evidence that some coaxial systems were abandoned and supplanted by the construction of linear ditches or ‘ranch boundaries’ (Cunliffe 2004). Over 800km of such ditches have been plotted in Hampshire. They seem to continue in use and to be constructed throughout the Late Bronze Age- Early Iron Age transition (Fasham and Schadla-Hall 1981, 33). A triple ditch is still visible as a crop mark, approximately one kilometre west of the Study Area (Fig. 3). This apparently created a barrier above the head of the Loddon valley and is possibly a fragment of a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age ‘ranch’ boundary. It suggests that Bronze Age and LBA/EIA land divisions demarcated land-holding on these downlands.

6.6.4 The argument that land around Winklebury Hill and along the Loddon Valley was marked out by regimented field systems can be supported from work associated with the excavation of Winklebury Hillfort in the 1970’s.

6.6.5 In the last three decades, the work of Francis Pryor in East Anglia has shown the sophistication and scale of livestock management in the late second and early first millennium BC. Large herds of cattle and flocks of sheep were being controlled in purpose-built stock compounds, stock pens with batching gates, community stockyards, sheep runs and droveway systems. In the 1977

excavation of the interior of the Winklebury hillfort Smith records a large rectilinear enclosure (feature 2911). It measures over 83m by 36m (Smith 1977, 50 and 85, plus figure 25) bounded by very insubstantial gullies and is orientated NW to SE. Its features include double flanking ditches to the west and east (features 3908/3405 and 2900/3396), structured to allow animals to be moved either in or out of the enclosure. In the south western corner of the enclosure was a small rectangular area measuring 4m by 1m which might have allowed individual animals to be inspected or treated (ibid. 52).

- 6.6.6** These features (of enclosure 2911) bear close comparison to the stockpens and community stockyards identified by Pryor at Flag Fen (Pryor 1996, 316). Stock enclosures of this type in East Anglia are normally components of complex Bronze Age/Early Iron Age field systems. If we accept that the Winklebury structure is a type of community stockyard, it suggests to the authors of this report an early first millennium date¹. It also suggests that enclosure 2911 was an integral feature of coaxial land divisions spreading over the immediate landscape.
- 6.6.7** Smith did not have the benefit of the East Anglian discoveries but did suggest that many of the field boundaries and associated features seen on aerial photographs of the area surrounding the hillfort might be related (Smith 1977, 109). The study area provides an opportunity to test his interpretation.
- 6.6.8** Baigent and Millard note that friends had collected Bronze *Hatchets* in Basingstoke (1889, 6) Those artefacts are likely to be Late Bronze Age socketed axes. The potential for Bronze Age features and artefacts within the Study Area is moderate.

6.7 Iron Age

- 6.7.1** The Iron Age is characterised by the evolution and spread of enlarged earthwork enclosures and by the end of the Iron Age, the re-adoption of coaxial field systems – a design-form abandoned at the close of the Bronze Age. Change also comes in the form of new types of monument structure, new ways of treating the dead and new metal and ceramic technologies. The development of defensible sites, in effect protected grain repositories, reflects increased tension within society. During the Iron Age, settlement density is thought to have increased and evidence suggests that both arable and pastoral uses of the landscapes became highly organised in the pre-Conquest years.
- 6.7.2** During the Iron Age there was intensive use of the countryside around Basingstoke. Gibson lists several major Iron Age sites around the town i.e. Cowdrey's Down, Daneshill Ditch, South View, Oakridge, Winklebury Hillfort, Mother's Copse, Worting, Ructstalls Hill, Brighton Hill South, Small Copse, Laverstoke Wood, Blackwood, Lower Wyle Farm, New Grange and Worthy Down (Gibson 2004, figure 1). Her work at Jays Close, just over 2km SE of the Study Area, revealed evidence of a Late Iron Age –Romano-British sub-rectangular enclosure. The site at Hatch Warren over 3km to the south of

¹ The site archive would merit further scrutiny. Robertson-Mackay who excavated the ramparts, suggests a Late Bronze Age date for the earliest phasing of the enclosure (1977, 145).

the Study Area adds to the evidence of the intensity of Iron Age settlement and landuse (Howell & Durden 2005).

- 6.7.3** Three hillforts in Hampshire have undergone large-scale excavation; Danebury, Barksbury and Winklebury. Winklebury is just 500m north of the Study Area. It is similar in size to Danebury (Cunliffe 2005; figure 15.33). The Camp at Winklebury is an Iron Age 'plateau fort'. It occupies a hill of Upper Chalk, which has been isolated from the main mass of the North Hampshire Downs by two river valleys, both tributaries of the River Loddon. The natural slope line connects the encampment to the Study Area. Little work was done on the Camp prior to 1975 when a major rescue excavation was undertaken because of the impending destruction of 1.9 ha. of the interior to build a new school (Smith 1977, 33). The excavation yielded numbers of pits, postholes, gullies, and stakeholes and three working hollows (ibid. 33). As early as 1831 the bank and ditch were being levelled by ploughing, and over the decades the interior stratigraphy had been severely disturbed (ibid. 31).
- 6.7.4** Whilst Danebury was intensively settled throughout its occupation, Winklebury was not (Smith 1977, 109). An extended research programme at Danebury has included an investigation of its contemporary landscape and revealed the intensity of extra-mural settlement and land exploitation of the surrounding countryside (Cunliffe 2005, 609). Like Winklebury it is sited close to a reliable source of fresh water, and its territory may have been defined in part by a river (Cunliffe 2005, figure 15.27). The River Loddon 700m downslope of Winklebury Camp provided the nearest source of fresh water. The study area forms an east-west transect across the ground separating the camp from the water source – a zone likely to have been well trodden by the hillfort occupants. The fort was used in part for corralling stock (Smith 1977, 111), which makes investigation of the land lying between the valley bottom and the encampment particularly important in terms of recording stock handling enclosures and droveways.
- 6.7.5** Unlike Danebury the lands abutting the hillfort at Winklebury have never been systematically investigated. The encroaching housing development took place well before the era of developer-funded excavations. The discovery of a possible Iron Age grave, found in 1967 approximately 300m north of the site during sewer trenching on the Winklebury housing estate resulted from rescue work by local archaeologists (see figure SMR 19562; Fig. 3).
- 6.7.6** Activity at the Hillfort continued beyond the 1st century AD into the third century AD. Recent work by the Thames Valley Archaeological Trust has suggested that a large sub-rectangular hollow represented clay digging for daub and weight production. An enclosure may have adjoined the hillfort ramparts. The unit's work also confirmed Late Bronze Age activity on the hilltop (SMR 42706; Fig. 3). The potential for Iron Age finds in the Study Area is moderate to high.

6.8 Romano-British

- 6.8.1** Roman rule lasting 400 years saw the emergence of towns, a long-distance integrated road system, industrial intensification, the creation of major coastal fortifications and the construction of a series of large villa estates in the countryside for the native British elite.
- 6.8.2** In the Roman period *Calleva Atrebatum* (Silchester) 10km to the north of Basingstoke was the nearest urban centre. A Roman road linked Silchester to Winchester. The roadway forms the western boundary of Basingstoke.
- 6.8.3** A Roman sarcophagus carved out of a single piece of oolitic limestone, weighing one and a half to two tonnes was found on the site in 1964 during drainage operations on Winklebury housing estate. It is finely made and in remarkably good condition - save for the lid, broken by the mechanical excavator. Because it contained an undisturbed male skeleton and intact grave goods it is likely to have lain in situ. The burial contained two coins, one of which was a sestertius of Faustina II minted in AD 180. It is unlikely to have been buried in isolation, and may have marked the northern-most portion of a cemetery. The southern extent of the cemetery/ cremation grounds may be found in the Study Area. The high status of this burial has considerable significance. It is the most important single Roman find in Basingstoke and is likely to be associated with nearby settlement. Roman pottery was retrieved at Houndsmills, under a kilometre to the NE of the Study Area (SMR 19635; Fig. 3) and to the south on the other side of the Loddon valley, again almost a kilometre away (SMR19504; Fig. 3). An early Roman settlement may have been sited 3km to the east at Riverdene (Hall-Torrance & Weaver 2003, 86). The settlement at Jays Close was even further away (Gibson 2004). All of these sites are some distance from the sarcophagus find and suggest that associated Roman buildings remain undiscovered much closer. If that is the case, it is interesting to note that there are no recorded Roman finds to the immediate north – artefacts which would easily have been recognised during the construction of Winklebury housing estate. Nor were there reports of finds during the construction of the western section of the Basingstoke ring road, which defines the eastern boundary of the Study Area. It suggests settlement lies nearby. In this regard the ‘L’-shaped soil mark anomaly discussed in 4.12 above and the ground disturbance recorded in the walkover survey (5.13 above) may be of considerable significance. Baigent and Millard allude to a Roman villa lying near to the River Loddon in Basingstoke (1889). The potential for Romano-British finds is high.

6.9 Anglo-Saxon

- 6.9.1** Important early Saxon settlements near to Basingstoke have been discovered at Cowdrey’s Down (4.5 km ENE of the Study Area) and Riverdene (Hall-Torrance & Weaver 2003). Timber-built buildings were excavated on both sites. The Riverdene sunken-featured buildings are likely to date from the 7th and 8th centuries AD (ibid.63). At Popley a number of probable Saxon graves were found during building operations.
- 6.9.2** Either Basingstoke or Basing was the scene of a battle between the Danes and Ethelred, son of King Ethelwulf and brother of Alfred the Great around AD

870. The Danes won. The favoured burial place for the slain is either Winklebury Camp or the farm of Lickpit (lich = corpse) according to Baigent and Millard (1889, 7). The authors suggest that Basing was the settlement of a Saxon tribe whose latinised name was the Basingae. They suggest that *stoke* in Basingstoke implies a fortified position or a place stockaded or fenced with stakes (ibid. 8). An alternative place name interpretation suggests that Basingstoke means ‘ a dependent settlement of Basing’ (Edwards 1999, 3). This lesser status for Basingstoke is also reflected in the ecclesiastical pecking order. The church at Basing is thought to be a minster church, and any church at Basingstoke would have been a later foundation and dependent on the mother church at Basing (ibid. 3)

6.9.3 Old Basing to the east of Basingstoke was recorded in Saxon charters and was a separate manor before the Norman Conquest. Old Basing remained the location for higher status sites in the post-Conquest era, when the Sheriff of Hampshire established his ‘caput’ there in the form of an earthwork castle (Edwards 1999, 2). The massive 12th century ringwork castle (4km ESE of the Study Area) later became the core of a Tudor mansion named Basing House (Allen 2002, 29).

6.9.4 A Saxon burial, with grave goods, was discovered in a railway cutting at West Ham just over half a kilometre from the site (SMR19687; Fig. 3). The archaeological potential for Anglo-Saxon finds is low.

6.10 Medieval

6.10.1 The Medieval period starts in 1066 after the Norman Conquest and ends in 1485 with the victory of the Tudors.

6.10.2 The Domesday Book of 1086 records:-

“The King holds Basingstoches in demesne. It was always a royal manor: it never gave geld; nor was it ever assessed in hides. There is land for 20 ploughs. In the demesne are 3 ploughs and there are 20 villeins and 8 bordars and 12 ploughs. There are 6 serfs and 3 mills worth 30 shillings and 20 acres of meadow “ (Doubleday 1900, 456).

6.10.3 During the Medieval era the fortunes of the two neighbouring parishes were reversed. The church at Basingstoke became the mother church and Basing became a dependent chapelry. It is uncertain why and when Basingstoke became more important (Edwards 1999, 3). It became a market town, as did Odiham, Overton and Alton in the vicinity.

6.10.4 In 1240 Walter de Merton, founder of Merton College, Oxford was granted the manor of Basingstoke for five years. Lands around Winklebury Camp were in the possession of Merton College during the Middle Ages (Baigent and Millard 1889).

6.10.5 The Black Death of 1348-50 destroyed half the population of Britain. In Hampshire the death rate was even worse. The *pestilence* killed people in all

sectors of society: gentry, monks, nuns, parish priests, townspeople and peasants alike (James 1999, 1 and 21). In March and April 1349 the greater number of the benefices in Basing deanery fell vacant (ibid. 40). Further east the people in the parish of Eastrop were also decimated by the plague. The Bishop of Winchester appealed to the king for reductions in the taxes in Eastrop which was ‘ depopulated since the pestilence and reduced to penury so they can hardly subsist’ (Edwards 1999, 2). Faith in the church was rocked. Tenants left manors without permission, refused to pay rents and carry out services. The Black Death effectively broke the feudal system. Life was never the same again and for some it marked an end to the Medieval era (James 1999, 23).

6.10.6 The period between 1350- 1500 has been seen as a ‘golden age’ for women in Hampshire, as labour shortages increased wages. Female woolcombers benefited in particular (James 1999, 12). The manufacture of woollen goods was probably one of the principal industries in Basingstoke in the Middle Ages. A court roll of the 1450s lists a range of tradesfolk in the town involved in textile manufacture including fullers and dyers (Baigent and Millard 1889, 284).

6.10.7 The nearest possible Medieval hamlet to the site, West Ham, is located at the head of the River Loddon. It may be the High Farm or Hyghehamme first documented in AD 1250 (SMR 38646; Fig.3). Sited on the closest freshwater source for the occupants of the hillfort, this hamlet may predate the Medieval era. The potential for Medieval finds is judged to be low.

6.11 Post-Medieval.

6.11.1 The rich agricultural downlands continued to be the economic base for village communities between the 15th and 19th centuries. The rural landscapes of Hampshire owe much of their character to the enclosure movements of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Enclosure swept away all of the open fields and many of the commons, replacing the open landscape with a pattern of hedged fields (Chapman and Seeliger 1997, 1).

6.11.2 The land forming the Study Area had been enclosed by a series of agreements between 1607 – 1691. An Act of Parliament in 1786 legally protected the claims to enclosed lands south of Winklebury Hillfort. Three named holders owned land in the Study Area The Revd. Thomas Sheppard, the Earl of Dartmouth and Daniel Jackson (see Fig. 5). There is some hint of the open fields that may have preceded the various forms of enclosure in Basingstoke. On figure 5 there are three elongated strips or stints of fields to the NE of the hillfort (abutting the parish boundary with Sherborne St John) and a series of irregular fields towards Worting. The tithe map also shows land apportionments 131 and 128 (Fig. 7). They were obviously part of the same strip of land, once part of an open field system. The major enclosure boundary (AA; Figs 5/7) separating the lands of the Revd. Thomas Sheppard and the Earl of Dartmouth is still plainly visible in the Study Area (Plate 1). The size of the lynchet may well preserve palaeosoils.

- 6.11.3** Prosperity increased during the 19th and 20th century. Basingstoke was the natural thoroughfare for road and rail traffic between central-southern England and London. The population increased between 1801 and 1881 from 2589 to 6681 (Baigent and Millard 1889, 4). Before the railway, the town was an important coaching station and several of the public hostelrys were posting houses in the reign of Henry VIII. Fifty coaches a day are said to have passed through. The advent of the railways further boosted the strategic position of the town. The London and South-Western Railway had a branch line linking it to the Great Western Railway here. The eastern edge of the site was the former route of the Basingstoke to Park Prewett Hospital railway track (SMR 33562; Fig. 3). That branch line was replaced by the western ring road of Basingstoke.
- 6.11.4** One Second World War site is recorded on the SMR: the location of an Anti-Aircraft battery just to the east of the hillfort (SMR No. 37526; Fig. 3). There was significant urban growth from the 1960s. In 1961 Basingstoke was designated a London overspill area and the population rose from 26000 to 60000 by 1973. In consequence Winklebury Camp has suffered from gradual encroachment from surrounding housing estates particularly during the mid-1970's. The archaeological richness of the area is reflected in the number of finds rescued when the housing estates were built. Since 1990 all open-area excavations in the surrounding area have recorded significant archaeological remains especially of the Late Iron Age/Romano-British era (e.g. Howell & Durden 2005. Gibson 2004. Hall-Torrance & Weaver 2003). No structures appear to have been recorded within the Study Area since 1788 (except the pavilion/playground areas discussed above). The potential for Post-Medieval finds is low.

7.0 SUMMARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

- 7.1** A desk-based assessment can generally only consider the potential of a site in principle. Its conclusions usually require testing by fieldwork in order to confirm whether remains are actually present and, if this is the case, to establish their character, condition and extent and thus indicate the weight that ought to be attached to their preservation (PPG 16 Para 21). It must always be acknowledged that remains of a type for which there is no prior evidence may be found on a site by fieldwork.
- 7.2** The site has been assessed as having a generally low potential for the earlier prehistoric and post-Roman periods. For the late prehistoric period, most notably the Bronze Age and Iron Age together with the Roman period the site has been assessed as having a high potential for archaeological finds and deposits. This assessment has been based upon known archaeological sites and finds from within or in the vicinity of the Study Area. A contextual view of the location assisted by cartographic and aerial photographic evidence has aided this process.
- 7.3** Despite the contrasting potential of the periods there is a reasonable possibility that artefacts from most periods could be present though not necessarily *in situ* given a prolonged ploughing regime in the area, causing movement of artefacts downslope through time (the colluvial effect).

- 7.4** Throughout the later prehistoric (viz Bronze Age/Iron Age) and Roman periods Winklebury Camp and environs was a focal point for social and political activity. The land in the surrounding area was organised to sustain a growing population. Despite the destruction of much of the archaeological resource in the surrounding area during the housing developments of the 1960-1980's the frequency of rescue finds indicates the archaeological richness of the area. In terms of burials alone the discovery of an Early Bronze Age crouched inhumation, the retrieval of an Iron Age skeleton and the find of a rare Roman sarcophagus indicates the scale of what may have been lost. Wherever large-scale developer funded excavations are now taking place in the Borough they consistently yield a considerable range of finds, providing an important contribution to understanding Basingstoke's past.
- 7.5** The Study Area comprises a recreation zone for the extensive housing developments of the 1970's. The provision of football pitches, tennis courts and cricket pitch required that this sloping ground be levelled for the users. Examination of the site levels and comparison with the surrounding urban landscape strongly suggests that there has been minimal ground reduction within the site, with the only areas affected being the sunken trackway beneath Blocks 1 and 2, and the northern end of the playing field in Block 1. Far from the destruction of the potential archaeological resource within the Study Area, the use of imported chalk to level up the site is likely in part to have aided conservation. The importation of chalk from off-site is suggested by the aerial photograph of 1964 (Plate 7). This shows the routes taken by lorries transporting chalk onto Block 2 which was off-loaded along the southern strip and along the western boundary (AA). The central part of Block 2 is disturbed but contains no evidence for in-filling by chalk. In the walkover survey it was apparent that Block 2 had a domed surface (see 5.9). The in-filling operation would therefore appear to have concentrated on the southern flank of the dome (ie the area immediately adjacent to the railway). This in effect created an elevated terrace at the southern edge of Block 2. Levelling by contrast in Blocks 1 and 3 appears to have been minimal or non-existent.
- 7.6** In summary, the estimated potential for sites and/or findspots of archaeological significance being located within the immediate vicinity of the proposed development site is as follows:

Palaeolithic – Low
Mesolithic – Low
Neolithic – Low
Bronze Age – Moderate
Iron Age – Moderate/High
Roman – High
Anglo-Saxon – Low
Medieval – Low
Post-medieval – Low

8.0 EXISTING IMPACTS ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

- 8.1** The site is likely to have been under arable cultivation, at least on an intermittent basis, throughout the prehistoric period. The general agricultural history of the chalkland landscapes would suggest that medieval land use would largely have been as sheepwalk, with the possibility of arable use in periods of higher grain prices – traces of small blocks of open fields survived on historic mapping at Winklebury. Intensive cultivation by modern machinery has not taken place within the site. Consequently, the site will have escaped the severe truncation of the archaeological resource generally suffered by intensively farmed arable land, indicating that any sub-surface archaeological deposits from earlier periods may have survived in a reasonable state of preservation.
- 8.2** The site is currently used as playing fields. Visual inspection of the site and comparison with surrounding levels suggests that the site has suffered minimal ground reduction in the past. The construction of the existing pavilion is likely to have had a severe impact on any sub-surface archaeological deposits, although this impact will have been very localized given the small size of the building. The terracing of the northern end of the adjacent playing field, albeit only to a maximum depth of c.1m, may also have impacted on any sub-surface deposits. However, this possibility is impossible to gauge in the absence of any data relating to original topsoil depths in the area in question. The creation of the remaining playing fields appears, based on the results of visual inspection, to have been primarily a fill operation, with material brought in from elsewhere and dumped on top of the original ground surface (particularly Block 2). The playing fields are mainly grass, with no evidence of any required ground reduction in the preparation of the surface. The exception to this is the play area, surfaced with tarmac. However, any ground reduction associated with the construction of this facility is likely to have been entirely within made ground, with no apparent disturbance of pre-existing ground levels. The creation of the sunken footpath, and the associated chalk-pit, in the 19th century will have completely destroyed any archaeological deposits along its length, but the area affected is minimal.
- 8.3** The chalk bedrock is alkaline in nature. This will probably have improved the survival potential of bone material, metalwork and low-fired prehistoric and Saxon pottery. Other pottery, *i.e.* Roman, Medieval and Post-Medieval, will have survived in reasonable condition. It should be remembered, however, that many other factors, including ‘types of local bedrock, vegetation and human activity in the vicinity of the site can all influence acidity or alkalinity, either of which may differ widely over the geography of a single site’ (Watkinson & Neal 1998, 7). Sub-surface survival of flint, however, is likely to have been good.
- 8.4** Cropmark evidence on other sites indicates that the prehistoric and Roman landscape will not necessarily have respected the medieval and modern field and settlement pattern. Consequently, such prehistoric and Roman settlements that have existed and potentially survive as sub-surface deposits may not relate to the existing landscape form or boundary axes.

9.0 ASSESSMENT OF FUTURE IMPACTS

9.1 There is currently no available geotechnical data for the site that would provide details of sub-service sediment units and their respective depths and character.

9.2 *Construction*

There are several aspects of the redevelopment of Winklebury playing fields that need to be considered with regard to the potential impact on any surviving archaeological remains. The construction of the new Spectator Stand and FA Building (within Block 1) will have the greatest below ground impact., The extension to the existing pavilion, (Block 1), a moderate impact (in terms of footprint size) and the conversion of the existing playing fields (Blocks 1-3) no impact. These details are summarised below

The groundworks for the new Spectator Stand will consist of the excavation of strip foundations of 450mm to 750mm in width (generally 600mm) and 600mm in depth. In terms of area, this new build will have a footprint of approximately 20m x 15m.

The new FA building lies adjacent to the new Spectator Stand, immediately to the north. Its groundworks consist of strip foundations and pad foundations with a typical depth of 600mm. The building will have a footprint of 21m x 14m.

Intrusive service trenching associated with these buildings includes a foul drain run which connects to the existing system. This drain run requires a trench of approximately 95m in length across the west of Block 2. Two further soakaway trenches, both 15m x 2m in length and width (and of sufficient depth to truncate the underlying substrate) are proposed to the north and south of the new stand and FA building.

The existing pavilion is being extended to the south and east. This extension covers an area of 13m x 3m with a further small build of 4.5m x 3.5m and consists of strip foundations 600mm wide and 600mm deep. An access road (of approximately 30m in length) is proposed to the southeast of the pavilion which will require a degree of ground reduction along its length, The exact specifications of this ground reduction are not known at present.

The existing sports pitches will be converted as follows:

The present two western football pitches will be realigned through 90 degrees, allowing space for a further three smaller pitches in the west of this part of the site (Block 2). The existing five-a-side and basketball courts in the centre of the site are to be refurbished. At the east of the site, the smaller of the existing football pitches is to be turned into two training pitches and the main, largest pitch remains as it is. The conversion of these new pitches is not intrusive, requiring only the remarking of the white lines on new alignments and other

above ground works. There is no further drainage or other intrusive service trenching required.

10.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 The presence of a Roman sarcophagus within the study area, a cropmark of potentially archaeological origin and a high potential for archaeological remains from the Iron Age and Romano British periods suggests that further archaeological work will be required by Hampshire County Council if the proposed works are undertaken. A review of the pre-existing landuse history of the site has indicated that minimal ground disturbance has taken place, suggesting that sub-surface archaeological deposits could survive across most parts of the site.

10.2 A review of the impacts of the proposed development has indicated that elements of the works are likely to damage any existing sub-surface deposits. The greatest impact will concern the two new buildings and associated foul sewer trench, soakaways and access road. The alteration of the existing playing fields will have no below ground impact. This is the justification for the following suggested programme. Any programme of further fieldwork on the site will be subject to the approval and agreement of Hampshire County Council planning archaeologists.

10.3 It is recommended that the footprints of the new Spectator Stand and FA building and the two large soakaways should be investigated by trial trench evaluation. This would establish the presence or absence of any archaeological features, and would provide an economical method for establishing the character, date and degree of preservation of any sub-surface archaeological deposits. This information would then be invaluable in formulating an appropriate mitigation strategy for this aspect of the development. Given the possibility of truncation of the underlying substrate by the original construction of the Pavilion and the relatively small impact area of the new extension, a watching brief on the groundworks for the new build is appropriate mitigation. Similarly, any ground reduction for the new access road should take place under close archaeological supervision.

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Appendix 1 The Tithe Apportionment for the Parish of Basingstoke dated 1841

Plot No.	Landowner/Occupier	Description	Cultivation
126	Wardens & Scholars of Winchester College/C May	Chapel Field	Arable
128	W. Lyde/W Harris	Part of field	Arable
129	CE Sefroy/Himself	Chapel Field	Arable
130	CE Sefroy/C Downham	Chapel Field	Arable
135	Richard Eyles/Ann Hyde	Winklow's Barrow	Arable
136	Richard Eyles/Ann Hyde	Ring Round (Ramparts)	Rough ground
137	Richard Eyles/Ann Hyde	Arable	Arable
138	Richard Eyles/Ann Hyde	Homestead (Bury Farm)	-
145	Richard Eyles/Ann Hyde	Arable	Arable
146	Richard Eyles/Ann Hyde	Arable	Arable
151	SW Railway Co	Railway slopes	Arable
161	Richard Eyles/Ann Hyde	Arable	Arable
162	CE Sefroy/C Downham	Chapel Field	Arable
163	CE Sefroy/Himself	Chapel Field	Arable

Appendix 2 Summary Table of SMR Entries

Hampshire County Council SMR No.	SU NGR Grid reference.	Date	Description.
17570	61277 52763	Late Bronze Age structures. Iron Age to Roman hillfort.	Hillfort
17571	61350 52900	Iron Age	Roundhouses
17572	61351 52900	Iron Age	Granaries
17573	61350 52900	Iron Age	Pits
17574	61350 52900	Iron Age	Gullies
19450	61750 51600	Palaeolithic	Four palaeoliths.
19451	61750 51600	Neolithic	Flints
19504	62100 51550	Roman	38 pottery sherds in back garden of 19 Western Way.
19541	61780 52480	Mesolithic	Tranchet axe roughout WITHIN STUDY AREA
19562	61810 52660	Iron Age?	Inhumation burial found during sewer trenching on Winklebury Estate.
19612	61400 53200	Early Bronze Age	Crouched burial

			found during water pipe trenching on Clarke estate.
19635	62400 53100	Roman	Pottery
19643	61790 52480	Roman	Sarcophagus. Middle aged male skeleton. One coin minted AD 180. High status. WITHIN STUDY AREA
19687	62470 51880	Anglo-Saxon	Burial (with grave goods) in railway cutting
33562	62000 53300	Victorian	Basingstoke – Park Prewett hospital railway
36308	61040 52070	Neolithic?	Possible long barrow on Putting Green.
36401	61000 52000	Roman	Lead weight
37526	61700 52900	WWII	Anti Aircraft battery site
38646	62020 52010	Medieval	West Ham farmstead possibly Hyghehamme.
39680	62850 52380	No finds	No finds during developer-funded evaluation.
42706	61190 52720	800BC to 3 rd century AD	Enclosure adjoining Winklebury hillfort. Clay extraction. Late Bronze Age material.
54325	61517 51780	Post Medieval	Milestone
54548	61509 51636	Undated	Undulations in chalk bedrock.

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