

**November 2008
An Archaeological Watching Brief during Sewer Requisition Works
at East Anton, Andover, Hampshire.**

NGR 437200 147200

**Project No:3185
Site Code: EAA07**

**ASE Report No. 2008180
OASIS id:archaeol6-49424**



Sarah Porteus

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November 2008

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Abstract

Topsoil stripping of the easement and compound area and seventy five percent of the total trenching associated with the insertion of sewerage pipes by Holleran Mouchel Parkman Joint Venture (HMPJV) at East Anton, Andover, Hampshire, were archaeologically monitored by Archaeology South-East and recorded between the 31st of March and the 8th of May 2008. A total of eight contexts were uncovered comprising of natural deposits overlain by made ground of relatively recent date. No archaeological features, artefacts or ecofacts were uncovered during the course of the works. The high level of the water table on the site may have prevented settlement and use of the area in the past.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East, the contracting division of the University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology (UCLCAA) were commissioned by Holleran Mouchel Parkman Joint Venture (HMPJV) to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring, excavation and recording during intrusive ground works associated with the installation of a new sewer at East Anton, Andover, Hampshire (NGR 437200 147200) hereafter referred to as the site (Figures 1 and 2).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site lies on upper chalk according to sheet 283 (1:50 000) of the British Geological Survey. The site lies in a shallow valley and is currently in use as playing fields within a residential area.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 As HMPJV are committed to maintaining a high regard to local heritage and environmental issues they undertook a consultation with the Senior Archaeologist, Hampshire County Council (HCC), who recommended that a programme of archaeological monitoring, excavation and recording should be maintained during the ground works associated with the scheme.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The general aim of the archaeological work was to monitor the groundwork in order that any features, artefacts, ecofacts or finds of archaeological interest exposed and affected by the excavations are recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards.

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 This report represents the findings of the archaeological monitoring and recording phase of works only. The monitoring took place between the 31st of March and the 8th of May 2008 and was undertaken by Alice Thorne (Senior Archaeologist), Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologist) and Sarah Porteus (Archaeologist).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The archaeological background to the site is given in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI, ASE 2007), that information is reproduced below with due acknowledgement.
- 2.2** The route of the proposed sewer lies close to the junction between two Roman roads. Previous work in the area suggests that a small Roman settlement may have developed around this junction. Geophysical work here has identified a potential enclosure with associated pits, and a subsequent evaluation undertaken by Archaeology South-East to the east and south of the crossroads succeeded in identifying a number of Roman features including pits, postholes and ditches, largely of 3rd -4th century date, that are considered to represent elements of a small open settlement (ASE 2003).
- 2.2** More recently, fieldwork undertaken by AC Archaeology to the northeast of the crossroads has also identified features related to Roman occupation. Similar evidence has been forthcoming to the northwest of the crossroads, while Roman inhumation evidence has been recorded to the southwest (Hopkins *pers. comm.*). Other known archaeological remains in the area include two potential Bronze Age barrows (one confirmed through fieldwork). Bronze Age pottery has also been recovered from the vicinity of the site.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1** All topsoil stripping of the easement and site compound was monitored in addition to the excavation of a test pit and 50 percent of the total pipe trench excavations (Figure 2).
- 3.2** Excavations took place, where practicable, using a flat bladed bucket under archaeological supervision.
- 3.3** A digital photographic record was kept of the areas monitored.
- 3.4** Where no archaeological features were identified; the stratigraphic sequence of the site was recorded on UCLCAA pro forma recording sheets.
- 3.5** Spoil from the excavations was inspected by the on site archaeologist in order to recover any artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest.

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Number of Contexts | 8 |
| No. of files/paper record | 1 |
| Plan and sections sheets | 0 |
| Bulk Samples | 0 |
| Photographs | Digital only |
| Bulk finds | 0 |
| Registered finds | 0 |
| Environmental flots/residue | 0 |

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 The stratigraphy across site was broadly similar with no archaeological features identified. The test pit provided a general description of the stratigraphy of the north eastern end of the site. The pipe trench stratigraphy recorded from the pipe trench at the south western end provides a description applicable to the majority of the pipe trench.

4.1.1 List of recorded contexts

| Number | Type | Description | Max. Length | Max. Width | Deposit Thickness |
|--------|---------|-------------------------|-------------|------------|-------------------|
| 001 | Deposit | Topsoil | Tr. | Tr. | 0.18m |
| 002 | Deposit | Made ground | Tr. | Tr. | 0.12m |
| 003 | Deposit | Possible buried topsoil | Tr. | Tr. | 0.20m |
| 004 | Deposit | Subsoil | Tr. | Tr. | 0.15m |
| 005 | Deposit | Subsoil | Tr. | Tr. | 0.40m |
| 006 | Deposit | Natural chalk geology | Tr. | Tr. | 0.05m |
| 007 | Deposit | Subsoil | Tr. | Tr. | 0.70m |
| 008 | Deposit | Made ground | Tr. | Tr. | 0.20m |

Summary, north eastern end of site.

The natural chalk geology [006] was identified at a depth of 1.15 metres below surface level. Overlying this at a depth of 0.75 metres below surface level, was a 0.40 metre thick layer of flint gravels in a very dark silty clay matrix [005], possibly resulting from the presence of ground water at this level. A mid orangish brown silty clay deposit [004] 0.15 metres thick and containing frequent angular flint nodules of was identified at a depth of 0.60 metres below surface level. Overlying deposit [004] was a dark greyish brown friable clayey silt [003] measuring 0.20 metres in thickness and occurring at a depth of 0.40 metres below surface level, this deposit may represent a buried topsoil. Deposit [003] was overlain by 0.12 metre thick mid orangish brown silty clay made ground deposit [002] with frequent flint nodules and chalk inclusions at a depth of 0.28 metres below surface level. The uppermost deposit consisted of a 0.18 metre thick mid orangish brown silty clay [001] with frequent flint gravel and frequent chalk inclusions, the deposit lay at 0.10 metres below surface level underneath the turf overburden.

Summary, south western end of site.

A 0.40 metre thick layer of flint gravels in a very dark silty clay matrix [005], possibly resulting from the presence of ground water was the deepest deposit uncovered in this part of site at 0.90metres below surface level. This was in turn overlain by dark clayey silt [007] containing frequent flint nodules and may represent a made ground deposit. Overlying deposit [007] was a mid greyish brown silty clay [008] containing frequent chalk and flint with occasional inclusions of brick and builders sand again believed to be a made ground deposit.

4.2 Ground water was encountered at 1.10 metres below ground level and was observed to rise to 0.90 metres below surface level following heavy rain.

- 4.3** No archaeological features, artefacts or ecofacts were uncovered during the course of the works.

5.0 DISCUSSION

5.1 The general lack of archaeological artefacts or features is remarkable due to the proximity of a number of Iron Age and Roman sites. The majority of deposits on site appear to be made ground deposits, modern building material identified in context [008] suggests these deposits are relatively recent in date and may be related to the development of the nearby housing estate and playing fields. The deposits below the made ground were observed to be within the range of water table fluctuations with the highest observed water level being 0.90 metres below surface level. In Roman and Iron Age times the site may have been marshy or flooded, making it unsuitable for habitation and one possible reason for the lack of archaeology observed on site.

6.0 CONCLUSION

- 6.1** Topsoil stripping of the easement and compound area and seventy five percent of the total trenching associated with the insertion of sewerage pipes at East Anton, Andover, Hampshire, were archaeologically monitored and recorded. A total of eight contexts were uncovered comprising of natural deposits overlain by made ground of relatively recent date. No archaeological features, artefacts or ecofacts were uncovered during the course of the works. The high level of the water table on the site may have prevented settlement and use of the area in the past.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

ASE 2003 *An Archaeological Evaluation of land at East Anton Manor Farm, East Anton, Andover, Hampshire*. Unpublished ASE Report.

ASE 2007 *East Anton, Andover, Sewer Requisition, Hampshire, Written Scheme of Investigation*. Unpublished WSI report.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The co-operation and assistance of Holleran Mouchel Parkman Joint Venture (HMPJV) and David Hopkins, senior archaeologist of Hampshire County Council (HCC) are greatly acknowledged.

SMR Summary Form

| | | | | | | |
|--|--|---------------|---------------------------|--------------------|--------|-------|
| Site Code | EAA07 | | | | | |
| Identification Name and Address | Sewer Requisition, East Anton | | | | | |
| County, District &/or Borough | Andover, Hampshire. | | | | | |
| OS Grid Refs. | 437200 147200 | | | | | |
| Geology | Upper Chalk | | | | | |
| Arch. South-East Project Number | 3185 | | | | | |
| Type of Fieldwork | Eval. | Excav. | Watching Brief ✓ | Standing Structure | Survey | Other |
| Type of Site | Green Field ✓ | Shallow Urban | Deep Urban | Other | | |
| Dates of Fieldwork | Eval. | Excav. | WB. 31/3/08- 8/5/08 | Other | | |
| Sponsor/Client | Holleran Mouchel Parkman Joint Venture (HMPJV) | | | | | |
| Project Manager | Diccon Hart | | | | | |
| Project Supervisor | Alice Thorne | | | | | |
| Period Summary | Palaeo. | Meso. | Neo. | BA | IA | RB |
| | AS | MED | PM | Other : Modern | | |
| 100 Word Summary. | | | | | | |
| <p>Topsoil stripping of the easement and compound area and seventy five percent of the total trenching associated with the insertion of sewerage pipes at East Anton, Andover, Hampshire, were archaeologically monitored and recorded. A total of eight contexts were uncovered comprising of natural deposits overlain by made ground of relatively recent date. No archaeological features, artefacts or ecofacts were uncovered during the course of the works. The high level of the water table on the site may have prevented settlement and use of the area in the past.</p> | | | | | | |

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-49424

Project details

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Project name | An Archaeological Watching Brief on Sewer Requisition works at East Anton, Andover, Hampshire. |
| Short description of the project | Topsoil stripping of the easement and compound area and seventy five percent of the total trenching associated with the insertion of sewerage pipes at East Anton, Andover, Hampshire, were archaeologically monitored and recorded. A total of eight contexts were uncovered comprising of natural deposits overlain by made ground of relatively recent date. No archaeological features, artefacts or ecofacts were uncovered during the course of the works. The high level of the water table on the site may have prevented settlement and use of the area in the past. |
| Project dates | Start: 23-04-2008 End: 08-05-2008 |
| Previous/future work | Not known / Not known |
| Type of project | Recording project |
| Current Land use | Other 14 - Recreational usage |
| Monument type | NONE None |
| Significant Finds | NONE None |
| Investigation type | 'Watching Brief' |
| Prompt | Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16 |

Project location

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Country | England |
| Site location | HAMPSHIRE TEST VALLEY ANDOVER East Anton |
| Postcode | SP10 4 |
| Study area | 300.00 Square metres |

Site coordinates SU 437200 147200 50.9297228419 -1.377815314080 50 55 47 N
001 22 40 W Point

Project creators

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Name of Organisation | Archaeology South-East |
| Project brief originator | Hampshire County Council |
| Project design originator | Archaeology South-East |
| Project director/manager | Diccon Hart |
| Project supervisor | Alice Thorne |
| Type of sponsor/funding body | Client |
| Name of sponsor/funding body | Holleran Mouchel Parkman Joint Venture (HMPJV) |

Project archives

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Physical Archive Exists? | No |
| Physical Archive recipient | n/a |
| Digital Archive recipient | Hampshire County Council Museums Service |
| Digital Contents | 'none' |
| Digital Media available | 'Images raster / digital photography' |
| Paper Archive | Hampshire County Council Museums Service |

recipient

Paper Contents 'none'

Paper Media available 'Notebook - Excavation', 'Research', 'General Notes', 'Report', 'Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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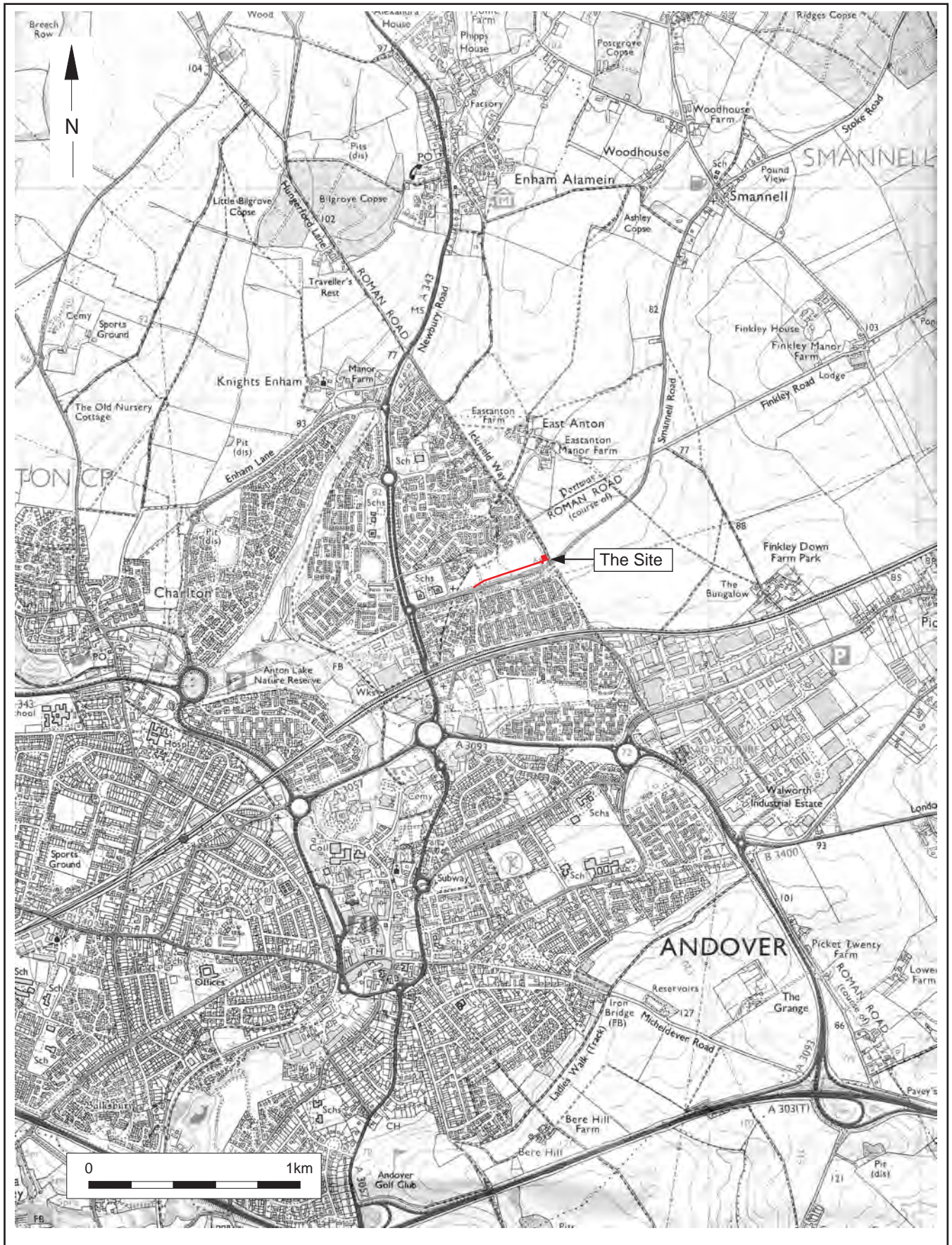
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| © Archaeology South-East | | East Anton, Andover | | Fig. 1 |
| Project Ref: 3185 | Nov 2008 | Site Location | | |
| Report Ref: 2008180 | Drawn by: DJH | | | |

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|--------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|--|--------|
| © Archaeology South-East | | East Anton, Andover | | Fig. 2 |
| Project Ref: 3185 | Nov 2008 | Location of areas monitored | | |
| Report Ref: 2008180 | Drawn by: DJH | | | |

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