

**Allotment Site, Churchill Way West,  
Basingstoke, Hampshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation**

by Steve Ford

Thames Valley Archaeological Services

Site Code CWW98/82B

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Report 98/82B

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on an area of allotments on the western margins of Basingstoke town centre, Hampshire (Fig 1) (SU 6285 5238). The work was commissioned by Mr. Andrew Josephs, Principal Archaeologist, of Entec UK Limited, 160-162 Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6BZ, on behalf of Grosvenor Estate Holdings.

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on an area of former allotments as part of a planning application submitted to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council for the provision of alternative car parking space to facilitate major redevelopment of the town centre. This was in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Policy and Planning Guidance Note, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG 16, 1990) and Borough policies covering archaeology. A specification for the evaluation was prepared according to a brief produced by Mr Andrew Josephs of Entec UK and approved by Mr David Hopkins of Hampshire County Council Environment Section. The fieldwork was undertaken by Steve Ford, Sarah Coles and Steven Weaver between the 7th and 21st of December 1998. A mapping error led to the evaluation of an area of in-use allotments which were not intended to form part of the planning application. The report to accompany the planning application (Ford 1999) excluded the evaluation of the latter areas and this report has been prepared for incorporation of the information within the County Sites and Monuments Record only.

## CHURCHILL WAY WEST

### Location, Topography and Geology

The allotment area is located approximately 1 km to the west of the town centre (Fig 1). It comprises a roughly rectangular plot of land of c. 1 hectare bounded to the north by the Basingstoke-Andover railway, to the south by an access road to pumping stations, and to the west by the pumping station buildings. The site is occupied by allotments, some cultivated and some abandoned. The site lies on ground that slopes gently to the south towards

the river Loddon from *c.* 95 m to *c.* 87 m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying geology is Upper Chalk (BGS 1981).

### **Archaeological Background**

The brief provided by Andrew Josephs of Entec UK Limited included extracts from the Hampshire County Sites and Monuments Record. The main interest in this location stems from the presence of finds of Roman date made in 1879 (SU65sw49) which lie to the south-east of the proposal area. The quantity of finds, which includes pottery, glass, metalwork, and building material such as roof tiles and flue bricks, suggests that a substantial building, perhaps a villa, may be present. If this is a correct interpretation, then a more extensive complex of buildings and enclosures should also be present, and may extend into the proposal area.

### **Objectives and Methodology**

The purpose of the investigation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development.

The trench numbering (12–14) follows on from that used in the evaluation carried out to the east. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

### **Results**

Three trenches were dug ranging in length from 28 m to 33 m as shown on Figure 2. The trenches showed a uniform stratigraphic sequence which typically comprised *c.* 0.25 m of topsoil (turf) overlying chalk. The bedrock occasionally comprised chalk with clay patches and periglacial stripes (coombe rock). Some of the trenches had a clayey subsoil (eg Trench 13). Deeper deposits were only encountered where parts of trenches were close to the allotment trackways. None of the trenches revealed any deposits of archaeological significance. A search of the trench spoilheaps located only two finds of struck flint, both from Trench 14.

## **The Finds**

### *Struck flint*

Two struck flints were recovered from Trench 14. These comprised a broken flake and a spall, both of which were patinated. None of the pieces are chronologically distinctive and only a broad later Neolithic to later Bronze Age/early Iron Age date can be suggested.

## **Conclusion**

The evaluation of this part of the site did not reveal deposits of archaeological significance.

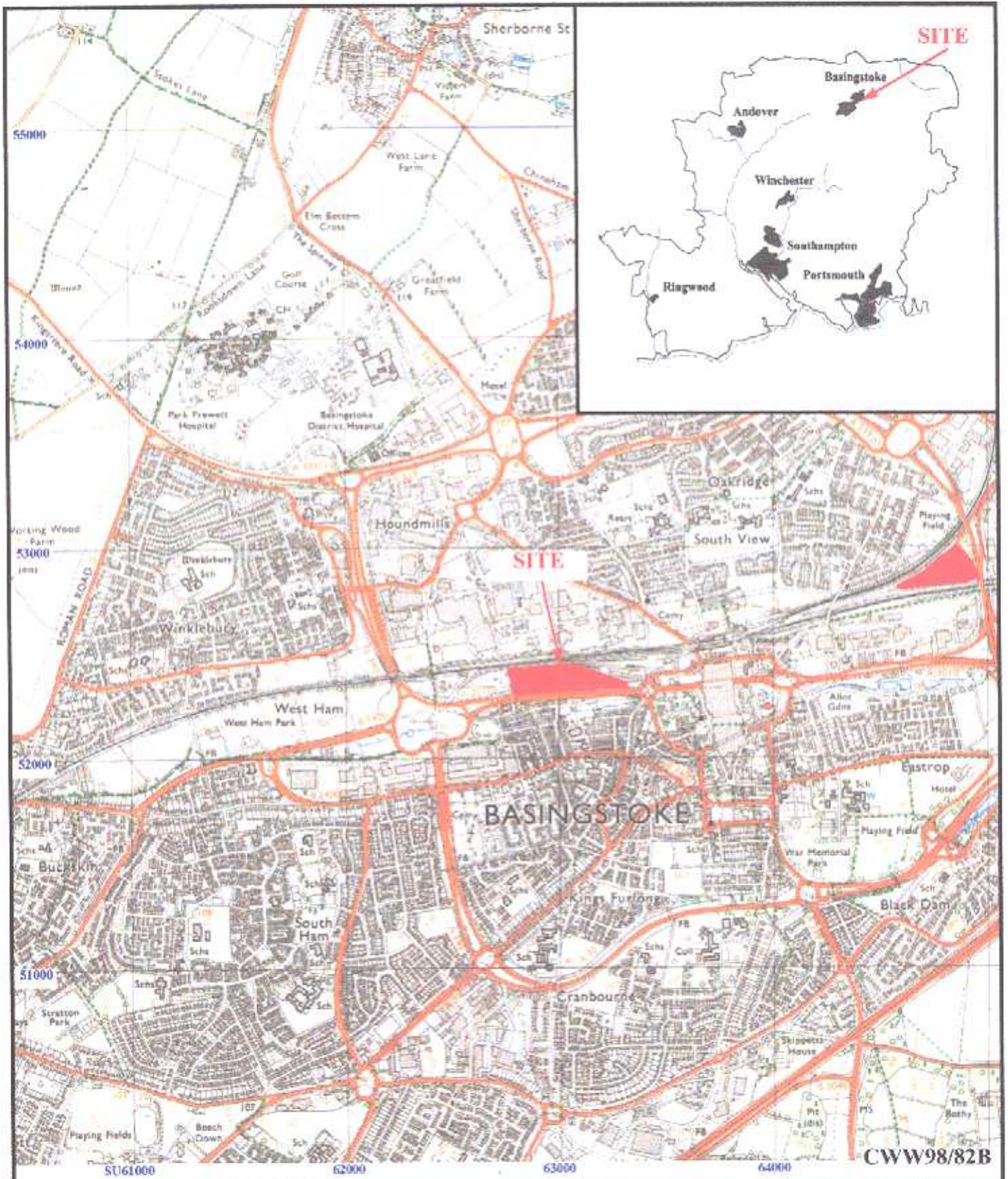
## **References**

- BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 284, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Ford, S, 1999, Churchill Way West and Gresley Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire, An Archaeological Evaluation, Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 98/82, Reading
- PPG 16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Department of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance Note 16, HMSO

## Appendix 1. Churchill Way West. Description of trenches

(0 m at south or west end of trench)

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
12	31.8	0.35N 0.55S	Topsoil above chalk with coombe rock stripes. Modern stripe at 24 m.
13	33.0	0.38	Topsoil above clayey subsoil above chalk/clay. Modern patch at 20 m.
14	28.0	0.26	Topsoil above chalk.



**Churchill Way West, Basingstoke, Hampshire,  
1998**

Figure 1. Location of site within Basingstoke and Hampshire.

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# Churchill Way West, Basingstoke, Hampshire, 1998

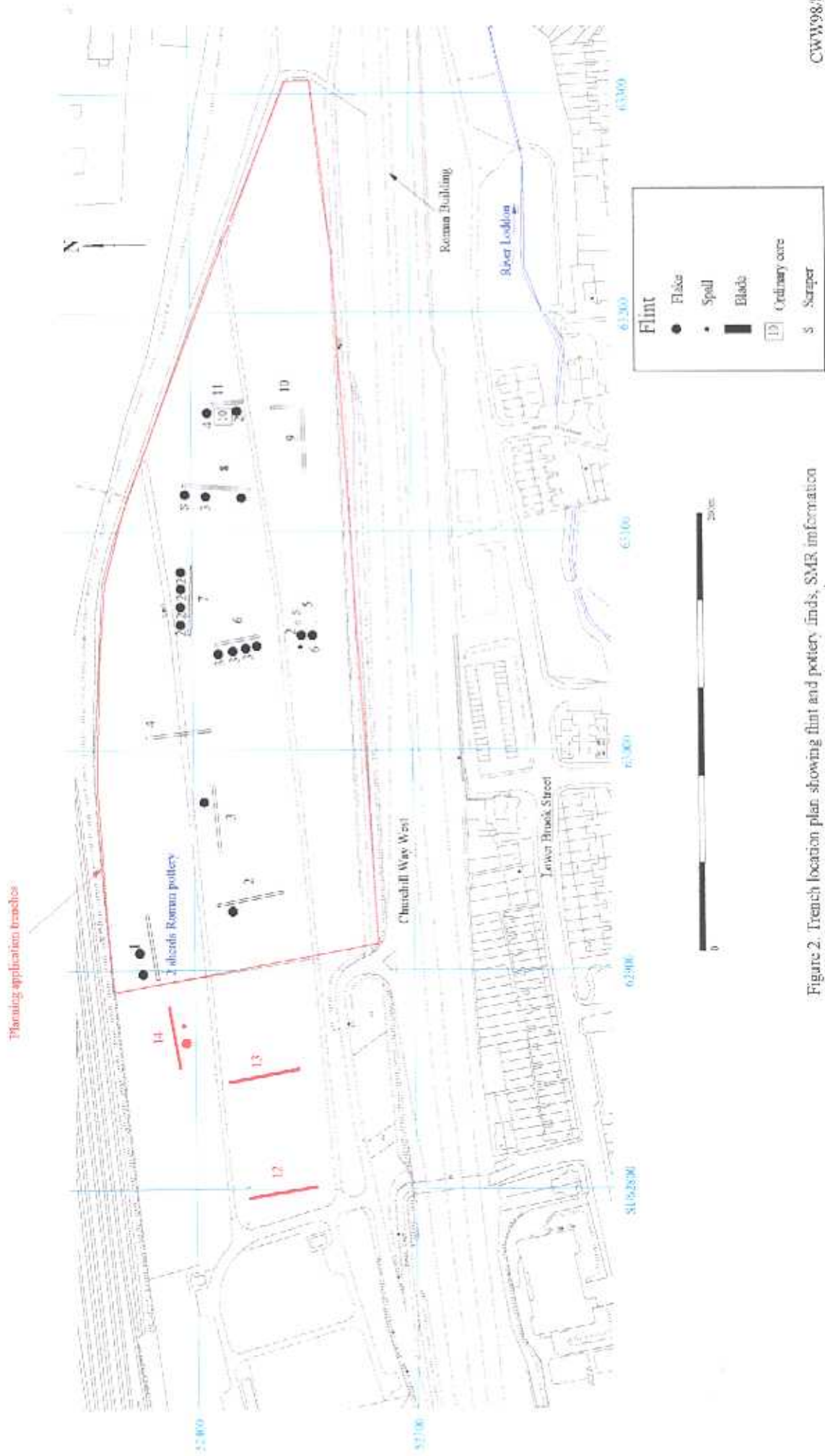


Figure 2. Trench location plan showing flint and pottery finds, SMR information and location of main planning application trenches.