



Coachmans House, Sandy Lane Shedfield, Hampshire

Archaeological Evaluation



Planning Ref: 22/01812/FUL
Accession Number: AY791
Ref: 276660.03
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Shedfield
Hampshire
SO32 2HQ

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Shedfield
County Hampshire
National grid reference (NGR) 455411 113616 (SU 55411 13616)
Planning authority Winchester City Council
Planning reference 22/01812/FUL
Museum name Hampshire Cultural Trust
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Quality Assurance

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1	02/04/2023	Draft, submitted to client	RLC	BWSM
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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by the landowner, to undertake an archaeological evaluation of an approximately 100 m² parcel of land located in in the grounds of Coachmans House Sandy Lane Shedfield Hampshire SO32 2HQ. The evaluation area was centred on NGR 455411, 113616.

When the trench locations were set out in the approximate positions proposed in the WSI, it became apparent that trench 1 crossed an above ground service and trench 2 crossed the septic tank. Due to tree canopies and utilities, only a single trench could fit in the available remaining space. The trial trench measured 6 m in length and 1.8 m wide.

A single archaeological feature was observed during the evaluation, it is possible this gully relates to drainage of the site, however as no finds were recovered it is not possible to determine the date of the feature. It is possible that the gully may be part of the wider agricultural landscape associated with the 1st–2nd century AD Romano-British ditched enclosure to the south of the site, or may relate to the Roman road projected to run within the west of the site. But equally the gully could be part of the medieval or post-medieval agricultural landscape.

The evaluation comprising one trial trench was undertaken 2 and 3 March 2023.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank the client for commissioning the archaeological evaluation. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of Historic Environment (Archaeology) Officer, who monitored the project for Winchester City Council, and to BPH plant hire for their cooperation and help on site.



Coachmans House, Sandy Lane, Shedfield

Archaeological Evaluation

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by the landowner, to undertake an archaeological evaluation of an approximately 100 m² parcel of land located in the grounds of Coachmans House Sandy Lane Shedfield Hampshire SO32 2HQ. The evaluation area was centred on NGR 455411, 113616 (Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 The proposed development comprises a detached single storey two Bedroom Holiday home in the garden of the dwelling with own drive. A planning application (22/01812/FUL) submitted to Winchester City Council, was granted, subject to conditions, two of which relate to archaeological investigation.

Condition 2 *No development or any works of site preparation shall take place until the applicant or their agents or successors in title have implemented a programme of archaeological mitigation works, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation that has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. No development or site preparation shall take place other than in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation approved by the LPA. The Written Scheme of Investigation shall include:*

The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording

Provision for post investigation assessment, reporting and dissemination

Provision to be made for deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation (archive)

Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation.

Reason: *To mitigate the effect of the development upon any heritage assets and to ensure that information regarding these heritage assets is preserved by record for future generations. Policy DM26 Winchester District Local Plan Part 2; Policy CP20 of the Winchester District Joint Core Strategy.*

Condition 3 *Following completion of archaeological fieldwork, within 9 months (unless otherwise agreed in writing) a report will be produced in accordance with an approved programme including where appropriate post-excavation assessment, specialist analysis and reports and publication. The report shall be submitted to and approved by the local authority.*

Reason: *To ensure that evidence from the historic environment contributing to our knowledge and understanding of our past is captured and made publicly available. Policy DM26 Winchester District Local Plan Part 2; Policy CP20 of the Winchester District Joint Core Strategy.*

- 1.1.1 The Historic Environment Archaeology Officer advisor to Winchester City Council was consulted and provided the following advice:



The application site lies within an area of high archaeological potential, to the west of the alignment of a long distance Roman road from Winchester to Chichester (via Wickham) and to the north-east of remains associated with a probable Romano-British settlement site located in the grounds to the west of the now divided Shedfield House.

These remains included a large boundary ditch and a complex of smaller ditches and post holes likely representing the remains of timber buildings, together with large quantities of early Roman pottery, quern stone fragments and slag, which may be suggestive of iron smelting activity. The presence of potential Roman industrial remains is significant as the surrounding area is known to contain a large number of Roman pottery kilns.

The Grade II listed Hatton Turnor House / Sheffield House originated as an early 16th century lobby entry house built on the site of an earlier house and subsequently extended. Previous archaeological investigations just to the east of the house have located a large square brick lined pit. This contained a large amount of 18th century domestic rubbish, including pottery, porcelain, table glass and wine bottles. Remains of a possible flint wall were also observed. The artefacts from the brick pit represent the detritus of life within this country house during the 18th century and are indicative of the resources and status of the occupants.

The presence of early Romano-British rural settlement remains within the grounds of Shedfield House, together with evidence relating to the occupation of the house in the post-medieval period, suggests that further buried archaeological remains may be present within the area.

Advice

Groundworks associated with the proposed development (for new foundations, services, drainage and associated landscaping etc.) have the potential to adversely affect any buried archaeological remains that may be present in the area.

Although there are no overriding archaeological concerns in respect of the current application, a programme of archaeological work to investigate, record, analyse and subsequently report on the archaeological evidence that would otherwise be destroyed by the proposed development should be secured through the attachment of suitable conditions to any planning consent that may be granted.

1.1.2 All works were undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed in order to undertake the evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2023). Historic Environment Archaeology Officer approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing.

1.1.3 The evaluation comprising one trial trench was undertaken 2 and 3 March 2023.

1.2 Scope of the report

1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a detailed description of the results of the evaluation, to interpret the results within a local, regional or wider archaeological context and assess whether the aims of the evaluation have been met.

1.2.2 The presented results will provide further information on the archaeological resource that may be impacted by the proposed development and facilitate an informed decision with regard to the requirement for, and methods of, any further archaeological mitigation.



1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 The evaluation area was located in the garden of Coachman House, which is surrounded by other residential gardens and an orchard, with Sandy Lane to the west and Coachman House to the East. There is a small business park to the north of Coachman House and a number of residential properties to its south that together form the Grade II listed property, Shedfield House. The land surrounding the residential area forms golf courses belonging to the Meon Valley Hotel, Golf & Country Club.
- 1.3.2 Existing ground levels are approximately 42 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 1.3.3 The bedrock geology is mapped as Whitecliff Sand Member – Sand sedimentary bedrock formed between 66 and 23.03 million years ago during the Palaeogene period (British Geological Survey 2023). An outcrop Wittering Formation - Sand, silt and clay sedimentary bedrock formed between 56 and 41.2 million years ago during the Palaeogene period may impact the site. (British Geological Survey 2023).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has not been previously assessed. There are no previous investigations related to this development. The following section summarises the recorded historical environment resource within a 500 m study area of the development (ref. HER1305). The results are presented below, with relevant entry numbers from the Winchester Historic Environment Record (WSHER) and the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) included. Additional sources of information are referenced, as appropriate.

2.2 Archaeological and historical context

Prehistoric (970,000 BC–AD 43)

- 2.2.1 No finds or features of this period have been found within a 500 m radius of the site.

Romano-British (AD 43–410)

- 2.2.2 A 1st–2nd century AD Romano-British ditched enclosure, together with several ancillary features was partially excavated immediately to the south of the site. Little direct evidence for associated buildings survived, but a large amount of occupation material, primarily consisting of pottery, tile and a daub-like material was obtained. Other material recovered was indicative of a domestic rural settlement; almost certainly involved with agriculture and iron smelting recovered (WHER MWC4038–MWC4046).
- 2.2.3 The main Winchester (Venta Belgarum) to Chichester (Noviomagus Regnensium) Roman road lies, 100 m east of the site (WHER MWC4357 Rr 420). It has been observed at various points and in 1973 the road was excavated at Shedfield House. It was reported to have been constructed of various layers of grey Bagshott pebbles set in sand and forming a camber, with evidence of repairs and a possible period of disuse. At Grange farm 200 metres to the north the road was also uncovered and was made of hard packed chalk with a gravel surface (WHER MWC3813).
- 2.2.4 An earlier findspot records Roman pottery found 100 m south-west of the site (WHER MWC4030).



- 2.2.5 Archaeological monitoring was requested during works in the garden of Hatton Turn House, 50 m to the south-west, on other side of Shedfield House, in response to the nearby Roman activity. The watching brief revealed no significant archaeological features, deposits or artefacts and observed that the site appeared to have been heavily disturbed in the modern era (PCA 2021).
- 2.2.6 A programme, including fieldwalking, geophysical survey and evaluation, was carried out 1.2 km to the west at Raglington Farm because '*a number of Roman Pottery kilns were known and there was also evidence of iron working sites*'. No archaeology was recovered (WHER EWC12175).
- Post Roman (410–1066)*
- 2.2.7 No finds or features of this period have been found within a 500 m radius of the site.
- Medieval and post-medieval (1066–1800)*
- 2.2.8 The villages of Shedfield and Waltham Chase are a relatively recent developments, although settlement is recorded in the Domesday Survey (1086) at Bishop's Waltham, Wickham and Droxford. Bishop's Waltham, at that time just known as 'Waltham', had a population of 115 households and was owned by the Bishop of Winchester from at least 904 AD, with Waltham 'Chase' reputed to involve an element of noble hunting. To the south of Bishop's Waltham lay Wickham, which then had a population of 26 households, while to the north-east was Droxford, which had a population of 31.5 households.
- 2.2.9 Shedfield House (NHLE 1095661, WHER MWC4047) is a Grade II listed building dating to the 16th century and extended considerably over time before being split into a number of residential properties and a business park. Coachmans House is part of the estate buildings. Other sources suggest that an 13th century farmhouse forms the original building which was largely rebuilt in the 17th century.
- 2.2.10 The property was purchased in 1866 by Admiral Augustus Phillimore, Commander-in-Chief Plymouth and remained in the family until broken up in the 1980s.
- 2.2.11 Excavations to the south-west of the site uncovered a pit containing mass of domestic rubbish probably deposited around 1770. It consisted chiefly of domestic pottery, porcelain and table glass of the first half of the 18th century (WHER MWC4033). The works also revealed a concentration of large flints may have represented floors or fallen walls (WHER MWC4035).
- 2.2.12 Field boundaries of medieval or later date, visible as earthworks on aerial photographs 400 m north-west of the site (WHER MWC7751). 500 m north-east on the golf course a flint platform or foundation with associated medieval pottery is reported (WHER MWC4054).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General aims

- 3.1.1 The general aims of the evaluation, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2023) and in compliance with the ClfA *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a), were to:
- provide information about the archaeological potential of the site; and



- inform either the scope and nature of any further archaeological work that may be required; or the formation of a mitigation strategy (to offset the impact of the development on the archaeological resource); or a management strategy.

3.2 General objectives

3.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the general objectives of the evaluation were to:

- determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified area;
- establish, within the constraints of the evaluation, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains;
- place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
- make available information about the archaeological resource within the site by reporting on the results of the evaluation.

3.3 Site-specific objectives

3.3.1 Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the site and the regional research framework (Hey and Hind 2014), the site-specific objectives defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2023) were to:

- Determine whether Roman remains excavated to the south-west continue into the site;
- Examine evidence for remains of a Roman road that may exist within the site (one is known from the HER and projected to cross to the west of the evaluation area);
- Assess the potential for the recovery of artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region.

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2023), although the trench locations were altered, and in general compliance with the standards outlined in ClfA guidance (ClfA 2014a). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

4.2.1 The trench locations were set out using a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), in the approximate positions proposed in the WSI, it became apparent that trench 1 crossed an above ground service and trench 2 crossed the septic tank. Due to tree canopies and utilities, only a single trench could fit in the available remaining space.

4.2.2 The trial trench measured 6 m in length and 1.8 m wide, were excavated in level spits using a 360° excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, under the constant supervision and



instruction of the monitoring archaeologist. Machine excavation proceeded until the archaeological horizon and the natural geology was exposed.

- 4.2.3 Where necessary, the base of the trench/surface of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand and archaeological features and deposits was hand-excavated. Spoil from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. Artefacts were collected and bagged by context.
- 4.2.4 Trenches completed to the satisfaction of the client and the Historic Environment Archaeology Officer were backfilled using excavated materials in the order in which they were excavated, and left level on completion. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.

Recording

- 4.2.5 All exposed archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete record of excavated features and deposits was made, including plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections) and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid.
- 4.2.6 A Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service surveyed the location of archaeological features. All survey data is recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSTN15 and OSGM15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.
- 4.2.7 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 16 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

4.3 Finds and environmental strategies

- 4.3.1 Strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of finds and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2023). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b), *Environmental Archaeology. A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011), and ClfA's *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting* (Type 2: Appraisal).

4.4 Monitoring

- 4.4.1 The Historic Environment Archaeology Officer monitored the evaluation on behalf of the LPA. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with the client and the Historic Environment Archaeology Officer.

5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The excavated trial trench contained a single gully feature (Fig. 1). The following section presents the results of the evaluation with archaeological features and deposits.



- 5.1.2 Detailed descriptions of individual contexts are provided in the trench summary tables (Appendix 1). Figure 1 shows the archaeological feature recorded within the trench, figure 2-5 are photographs of the work undertaken.

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

- 5.2.1 The trench cut through an area of pebbles, gravel and patchy grass which overlaid a dark-brown silty loam garden soil (0.2 m thick). Beneath the garden soil (0.3 m thick) lay a subsoil of mid-brown silty clay with intrusive pebbles from the deposit above. The natural geology of light to mid-orange brown clay was exposed at 0.5 m below ground level (Figs 2–4).

5.3 Archaeological results

- 5.3.1 A single north–south aligned gully (204; Figs 4 and 5) was present at the western end of the trench. The gully (0.6 m wide by 0.33 m deep) had an asymmetrical profile, the eastern side was stepped and the western side was steep and straight. The sides formed a V-shaped, sloping to a narrow base. The gully contained a single fill (205) of mid-grey brown silty clay with rounded pebbles and manganese flecking. To retrieve dating, the exposed gully was fully hand excavated, although no finds were recovered.

6 FINDS EVIDENCE

- 6.1.1 No finds were recovered during the evaluation.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

- 7.1.1 No deposits were deemed suitable for environmental assessment therefore no samples were taken during the evaluation.

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Summary

- 8.1.1 The archaeological evaluation was successful in investigating the archaeological potential of the site and in fulfilling the aims and objectives as set out in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2023).

- 8.1.2 A single archaeological feature was observed during the evaluation, it is possible this gully relates to drainage of the site, however as no finds were recovered it is not possible to determine the date of the feature.

8.2 Discussion

- 8.2.1 No archaeological features or material dating to the Romano-British period was identified as per the site-specific aims in the WSI, which is inconsistent with the findings of other archaeological works in the vicinity of the site. It is possible that the gully may be part of the wider agricultural landscape associated with the 1st–2nd century AD Romano-British ditched enclosure to the south of the site or may relate to the Roman road projected to run within the west of the site. But equally the gully could be part of the medieval or post-medieval agricultural landscape.

- 8.2.2 There does not appear to be widespread truncation across the site as seen at Hatton Turn house. Within the trench the soil sequence remains intact, suggesting that the archaeological horizon is undamaged across the site.

9 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 Museum

9.1.1 The archive resulting from the evaluation is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury. Hampshire Cultural Trust has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project, under the accession code AY791. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner to transfer title of all finds to the museum.

9.2 Preparation of the archive

Physical archive

9.2.1 The archive, which includes paper records, graphics, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Hampshire Cultural Trust, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (Brown 2011; ClfA 2014c; SMA 1995).

9.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the accession code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:

- 1 files/document cases of paper records

Digital archive

9.2.3 The digital archive generated by the project, which comprises born-digital data (e.g., site records, survey data, databases and spreadsheets, photographs and reports), will be deposited with a Trusted Digital Repository, in this instance the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), to ensure its long-term curation. Digital data will be prepared following ADS guidelines (ADS 2013 and online guidance) and accompanied by metadata.

9.3 Selection strategy

9.3.1 It is widely accepted that not all the records and materials (artefacts and ecofacts) collected or created during the course of an archaeological project require preservation in perpetuity. These records and materials will be subject to selection in order to establish what will be retained for long-term curation, with the aim of ensuring that all elements selected to be retained are appropriate to establish the significance of the project and support future research, outreach, engagement, display and learning activities, i.e., the retained archive should fulfil the requirements of both future researchers and the receiving Museum.

9.3.2 The selection strategy, which details the project-specific selection process, is underpinned by national guidelines on selection and retention (Brown 2011, section 4) and generic selection policies (SMA 1993; Wessex Archaeology's internal selection policy) and follows ClfA's *Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives*. It should be agreed by all stakeholders (Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists, external specialists, local authority, museum) and fully documented in the project archive.

9.3.3 In this instance, given the relatively low level of finds recovery, the selection process has been deferred until after the fieldwork stage was completed. Project-specific proposals for selection are presented below. These proposals are based on recommendations by Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists and will be updated in line with any further comment by other stakeholders (museum, local authority). The selection strategy will be fully documented in the project archive.



- 9.3.4 Any material not selected for retention may be used for teaching or reference collections by Wessex Archaeology.

Documentary records

- 9.3.5 Paper records comprise site registers (other pro-forma site records are digital), drawings and reports (written scheme of investigation, client report). All will be retained and deposited with the project archive.

Digital data

- 9.3.6 The digital data comprise site records (tablet-recorded on site) in spreadsheet format; finds records in spreadsheet format; survey data; photographs; reports. All will be deposited, although site photographs will be subject to selection to eliminate poor quality and duplicated images, and any others not considered directly relevant to the archaeology of the site.

9.4 Security copy

- 9.4.1 In line with current best practice (e.g., Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

9.5 OASIS

- 9.5.1 An OASIS (online access to the index of archaeological investigations) record (<http://oasis.ac.uk>) has been initiated, with key fields completed (Appendix 2). A .pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by the Historic Environment Archaeology Officer on behalf of the LPA. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) ArchSearch catalogue.

10 COPYRIGHT

10.1 Archive and report copyright

- 10.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*.

- 10.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.

10.2 Third party data copyright

- 10.2.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g., Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for



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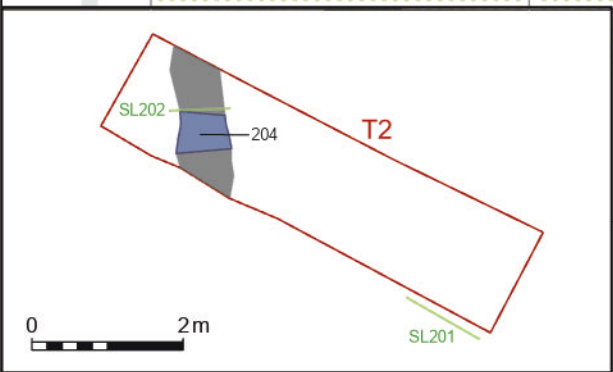
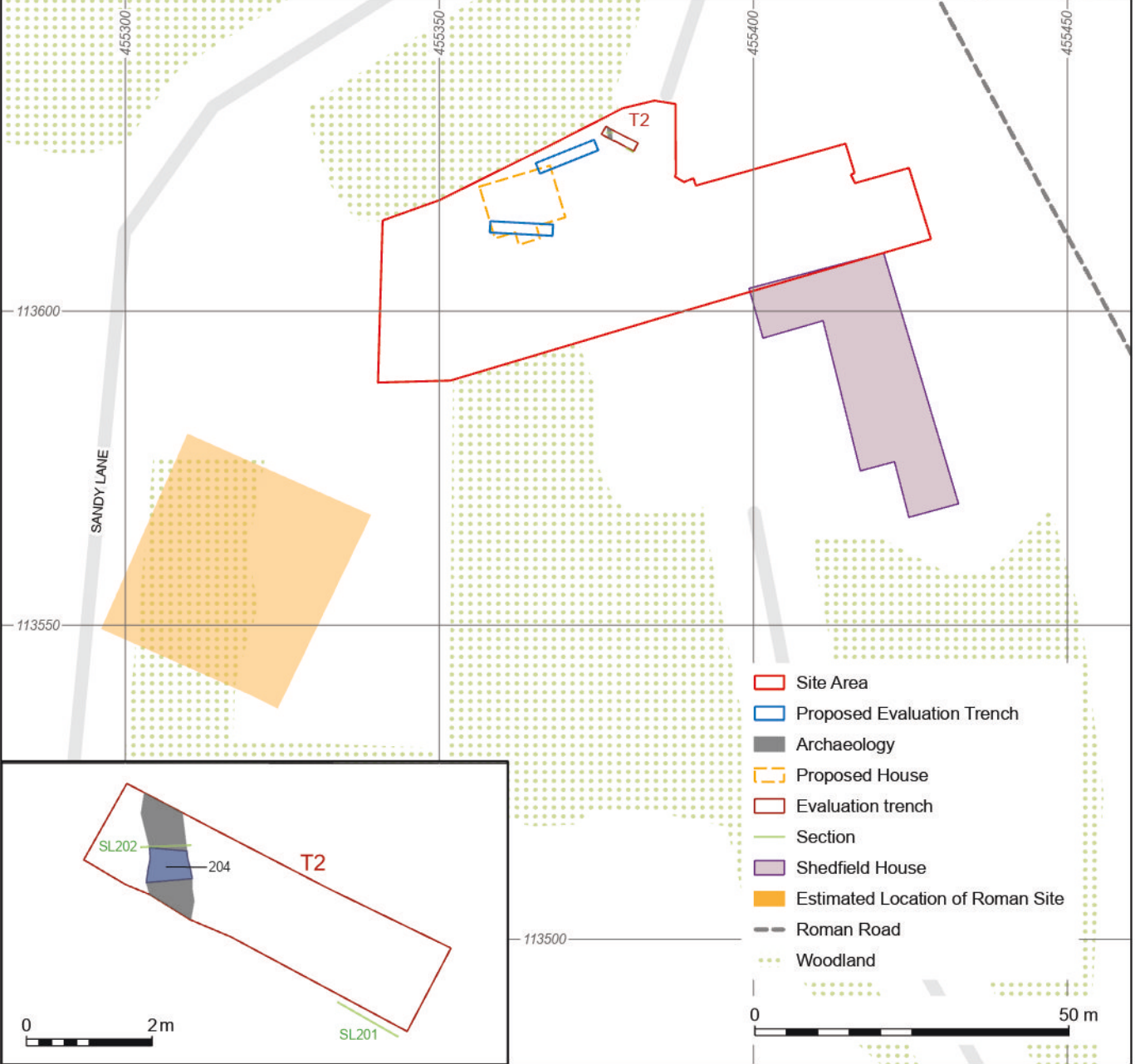


APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Trench summaries

NGR coordinates and OD heights taken at centre of each trench; depth bgl = below ground level

Trench No 2		Length 6 m	Width 1.60 m	Depth 0.85 m
Easting 455378.6441		Northing 113627.4699		42.02.04 m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
201		Garden soil	Ornamental rounded pebbles and angular stones and grassy patches, light to mid brown sandy silty loam with rooting.	0.00– 0.20
202		Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay with rounded pebbles - pebbles from top soil. Bioturbation	0.20 – 0.50
203		Natural	Light to mid orange and brown clay. Bioturbation	0.50 – 0.65
204	205	Gully	Linear gully aligned W -E with moderate, concave sides and a flat base. Length: >1.60 m. Width: 0.60 m. Depth: 0.33 m.	0.65– 1.18
205	204	Secondary fill	Mid brownish with orange FE mottling (manganese) silty clay with rounded pebbles ≤13cm	



Coordinate system: OSGB 1936 British National Grid
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Date: 21/04/2023	Created by: JLA	Revision: 0	Scale: 1:1,000 at A4 (Trench 2 inset: 1:100 at A4)
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Figure 1: Site location and trench plan





Figure 2: View of site from the east, trench backfilled.



Figure 3: North-east facing representative section trench 2. 1 m scale.



Figure 4: Trench 2 from the north-west, with gully 204 in the foreground. 1 m and 2 m scales.



Figure 5: South facing section of gully 204. 0.5 m scale.



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