



Former Oaklands School Fairisle Road, Southampton

Archaeological Evaluation



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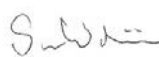
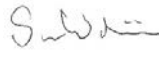
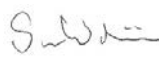
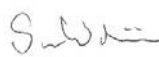
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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Drew Smith Group, to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a 3 hectare parcel of land located in Former Oaklands School, Fairisle Road, Southampton, centred on NGR 438524 116032. Prior to the proposed redevelopment of the Site and construction of 103 dwellings a planning application (15/00340/OUT) was submitted to, and granted by Southampton City Council, subject to a number of conditions, five of which relate to archaeology (no 21–25). This report relates to Condition 21.

The evaluation (21st October to 5th December 2019) comprised twenty trenches, targeted to ascertain the degree of truncation and landscaping from the construction of the former school, as well as to assess the significance of any archaeological deposits.

The evaluation successfully identified four ditches, two pits, one hearth and a post-hole. Three of the ditches and one of the pits have been dated by pottery to the late Iron Age/early Roman period. Environmental samples recovered are possibly suggestive of industrial activity in the vicinity (through the presence of a small quantity of slag). There was also nothing to suggest the processing of crops. The features and deposits were found across the southern part of the site. The evaluation also demonstrated the construction of the school had removed soils, often to a considerable depth across the northern part of the site

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Drew Smith Group, for commissioning the archaeological evaluation, in particular Ross Blakemore and the Site Manager Pawel Dudkiewicz. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of Ingrid Peckham, Planning archaeologist for Southampton City Council, who monitored the project for Southampton City Council, and to BPH for their cooperation and help on site.

The fieldwork was directed by Rachel Williams, with the assistance of Finn Cresswell, Dave Murdie, Tom Slater and Orlagh Walsh. The following watching brief phase were conducted by Rachel Williams and Alistair Zochowski. This report was written by Rachel Williams and reviewed by Simon Woodiwiss. The project was managed by Simon Woodiwiss on behalf of Wessex Archaeology.



Former Oaklands School, Fairisle Road, Southampton

Archaeological Evaluation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Drew Smith Group, to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a 3 ha parcel of land located in Former Oaklands School, Fairisle Road, Southampton, centred on NGR 438524 116032 (the Site; **Fig. 1**).

1.1.1 The proposed development comprises the redevelopment of the Site to provide 103 dwellings in two and three storey buildings (41 flats, 62 houses) with associated access, parking and landscaping (involves diversion of existing cycleway and footways).

1.1.2 A planning application (15/00340/OUT) submitted to Southampton City Council (SCC), was granted, subject to conditions. The following conditions relate to archaeology:

Approval Condition 21: Archaeological evaluation

No development shall take place within the site until the implementation of a programme of archaeological work has been secured in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: to ensure that the archaeological investigation is initiated at an appropriate point in development procedure.

Approval Condition 22: Archaeological evaluation work programme

The developer will ensure the completion of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority

Reason: To the sure that the archaeological investigation is completed

Approval Condition 23: Archaeological Investigation (further works)

The developer will secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which will be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority

Reason: To ensure that the additional archaeological investigation is initiated at an appropriate point in development procedure.

Approval Condition 24: Archaeological work programme (further works)

The developer will secure the completion of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority

Reason: To the ensure that the archaeological investigation is completed.



Approval Condition 25: Archaeological damage-assessment

No development shall take place within the site until the type and dimensions of all proposed groundworks have been submitted to and agreed by the Local Planning Authority. The developer will restrict groundworks accordingly unless a variation is agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To inform and update the assessment of the threat to the archaeological deposits.

- 1.1.3 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 2018a). The Planning Archaeologist for Southampton City Council (PA to SCC) approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing. Since issue of the WSI several adjustments were made to the location of trenches for safety, tree conservation reasons. This also included the relocation of Trench 6 from the central mound into the vicinity of Trench 5 as the central mound was to be retained with only minor groundworks.
- 1.1.4 A variation to the approved WSI was agreed (correspondence concluded 31 October 2019) following the initial evaluation to include the monitoring of the removal of the concrete slabs and the below ground demolition works which would also enable the evaluation to be completed. This issue of the evaluation report covers the whole of the Site with the results of the watching brief on demolition in the vicinity of Trenches 5, 6, 13, and 14 (**Fig. 1**), being used for the purposes of evaluation. This issue of the report is to facilitate agreement to further works (where necessary) and allow the construction programme to proceed.
- 1.1.5 The WSI relates to Approval Condition 21 and seeks to define the works that will allow Approval Condition 22 to be discharged. An additional WSI (Approval Condition 23) will be produced for any further works (Approval Conditions 24) that may be required.
- 1.1.6 The initial evaluation comprising twelve sample trenches was undertaken 21st–29th October 2019 and was followed immediately by the watching brief undertaken over nine days between 30th October and 5th December 2019.
- 1.1.7 The trenches were located to test areas of former buildings, hardstanding and grass, aiming to give an idea of differential preservation. They were also located to preserve as far as practicable known existing utilities for both safety and environmental reasons (for instance the storm drainage will be retained where possible within the new development). Trenches 7 and 8 were interrupted to avoid storm water drains.
- 1.1.8 The existing wooded bunds within the Site are due to be incorporated into the proposed development as woodland spaces and are not to be impacted by the proposed development. The excavation of trenches in wooded areas is also impractical and may affect tree stability creating a significant hazard. A large number of the trees had Tree Preservation Orders of had been identified for retention. The central mound (very probably created as part of the school) also was designed to be retained within the development. For these reasons, these areas have been omitted from the proposed area due to be investigated.
- 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 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 Site is located in the Lord's Hill district of Southampton, is irregular in shape, and encompasses a total area of 3 ha (**Fig. 1**). The Site was formerly occupied by the Oaklands Secondary School which closed in 2008 and was subsequently demolished. The school tennis courts and staff car parks remain. Much of the perimeter of the Site contains mature trees and there is a significant bund along the south-eastern boundary, both presumably established as part of the school development.

1.3.2 Modern residential development borders the Site to the north and east. The Site is bordered to the south by the Lord's Hill District Centre. To the west the Site is bordered by further residential housing and by the Fairisle Junior and Infant School.

1.3.3 Existing ground levels within the Site range from 32 m to 40 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The ground slopes from the north-east towards the south-west and forms a level plateau along the south-west, south and south-eastern boundaries. The Site has clearly been subject to significant groundworks during the construction of the school, but the pre-existing topography is shown on a map of 1931 (kindly supplied by the PA to SCC but not reproduced here for copyright reasons). This indicates the Site is on the south-east facing slope down towards a watercourse. There is a large, irregular mound in the central portion of the Site, this was not evaluated as it will not be significantly impacted by the proposed development. The location of the former school buildings had been terraced.

1.3.4 The underlying geology is mapped as the London Clay Formation with superficial River Terrace 4 deposits (British Geological Survey 2019).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background was assessed through the use of historic environment record (HER) data obtained from the Southampton HER (SHER) and Hampshire HER (HHER), within a 1 km radius of the Site. A summary of the results is presented below, with any relevant entry numbers from Southampton and Hampshire HER included. Additional sources of information are referenced, as appropriate.

2.1.2 The Site lies within a Local Area of Archaeological Potential (LAAP) as defined in the Southampton Local Plan and Core Strategy; LAAP 16 (Rest of the City), and adjacent to LAAP 2 (Nursling Plantation). No previous archaeological work has been conducted within the Site though excavation in the immediate vicinity has demonstrated that prehistoric archaeological deposits survive in the surrounding area (see details below).

2.1.3 Limited historic mapping has been consulted for this report and show little or no change from continued agricultural use. The maps have, however, been used to provide information relating to the context of the site (see below).

2.2 Archaeological and historical context

Prehistoric (970,000BC–AD43)

2.2.1 The Site is adjacent to LAAP 2: Nursling Plantation and Lower Brownhill Road. The area was established because of the high potential for encountering archaeological remains of



prehistoric date. A series of streams originate from this area (also indicated on the 1931 map) making it a likely location for prehistoric settlement with finds dating from the Neolithic to Iron Age recovered from the LAAP. Several small Bronze Age and Iron Age settlements have also been found.

- 2.2.2 Thirty-four Palaeolithic hand axes were found in a gravel pit recorded as being 800 m to the west of the Site (51497). The entry for the record states, however, that the precise location of the gravel pit is not known.
- 2.2.3 Neolithic flints have been found in the study area. A flint axe was recovered 650 m to the southeast of the Site (MSH85), while a layer of flints including a scraper was recorded 600 m to the south (MSH86). An extensive flint spread was discovered 550 m to the north-west of the Site (41651). Seven waste flakes were found 700 m to the north-west (25319) and a stray flint was recorded 600 m to the north (25354). A site that recovered 450 flint flakes, 600 m to the north-west, has been assigned a broad date of 'prehistoric', though they could be of a similar age to the flints found in the vicinity of the Site (25320). Overall, the evidence indicates a potentially significant flint working site may have existed to the north-west of the Site.
- 2.2.4 Approximately 550 m to the south-east of the Site is the prehistoric earthwork known as Aldermoor Camp (MSH119). Aldermoor Camp is a roughly pear-shaped enclosure consisting of a bank with an outer ditch. The earthwork is thought to have been used as a stock enclosure rather than as a settlement and may have had a relationship to known Iron Age hillforts in the area. Four trenches were excavated through the bank and ditch of the camp in 1986, however, no artefactual or environmental evidence was recovered (SOU255).
- 2.2.5 Though no artefactual evidence was found at the camp, prehistoric artefacts have been encountered directly west of the earthworks at the former Aldermoor School. Fourteen trenches were excavated across the Site (SOU666), with some prehistoric flakes recovered (MSH597). No archaeological features were identified. However, this may be due to the heavy disturbance that was recorded across the site as a result of modern landscaping.
- 2.2.6 An archaeological evaluation was conducted on land at Erskine Court (SOU1657) 410 m to the north-east of the Site. A possible prehistoric pit was located in Trench 2 which contained flint flakes and large quantities of burnt flint (MSH5419).
- 2.2.7 An archaeological excavation was undertaken at the Fairisle School (SOU1162; 200 m to the south-west) in 2001. Residual and unstratified finds including undiagnostic flint flakes, burnt flints and pottery dated to the Bronze Age and Iron Age were recovered (MSH2324).
- 2.2.8 A watching brief took place on the groundworks for a new tennis club and fitness centre 810 m to the south-west of the Site (SOU1041). Fifty sherds of Bronze Age pottery were recovered from brickearth subsoil and a small oval feature, with a single sherd of Bronze Age pottery was recorded (MSH1370).
- 2.2.9 Perhaps the most significant archaeological discovery in the study area was of an Iron Age settlement at Baron's Mead, 570 m to the south of the Site (MSH663). The settlement was found during an archaeological watching brief in 1998/9 (SOU946). The settlement appears to have been occupied from the 4th to 2nd century BC, with the archaeological evidence recorded suggesting potential iron smithing occurred at the site (SCC Archaeology Unit 2000:MSH2767). Excavations conducted in the area following the discovery have found the



settlement did not continue to the west (SOU804) but, did potentially continue to the south with a single sherd of pottery recovered during a watching brief (MSH583:SOU801).

- 2.2.10 Six features of prehistoric date were recorded during archaeological works 970 m to the south-west of the Site (SOU1679), to the south of the Iron Age settlement. These comprised one gully, one linear feature, three pits and one posthole (MSH5515). Burnt flints and flint flakes were recovered from all six features. These may have some relationship with the Iron Age settlement found to the north (see above).
- 2.2.11 An archaeological watching brief conducted on land 970 m to the north of the Site recovered a series of unstratified flints of prehistoric date (29924).
- 2.2.12 A single prehistoric feature was encountered during archaeological works 380 m to the west of the Site (MSH4880:SOU1545 and MSH5289:SOU1554). A single gully was found in area E and contained pottery of Iron Age date and burnt flints. Several features found within the vicinity of the gully may also be prehistoric, but no evidence was recovered to substantiate this.

Romano-British (AD43–410)

- 2.2.13 One Romano-British find spot has been recorded by the HHER. Several fragments of Samian ware were recovered in 1921 from the side of a gravel pit, 940 m to the south-west of the Site (25254). These were recovered in close proximity to a possible Roman road (see below).
- 2.2.14 The Roman road that ran from Otterbourne to the New Forest has been mapped by the HHER and SHER, 460 m to the north of the Site (MSH5498). A further possible Roman road has also been mapped by SHER. Bakers Drove and Redbridge Lane may follow the course of a previous Roman road, but this has never been confirmed (MSH5499); this road may be Anglo-Saxon in origin.

Anglo-Saxon (AD410–1066)

- 2.2.15 The Site lies between two stream valleys according to mapping provided by the SHER. The stream located to the east of the Site is thought to be the Fearinga broc referred to in Millbrook land charters of AD956 and 1045. Fearinga broc in old English means 'brook of Fearn's people' and was mentioned in the land charters a boundary. The AD956 charter also states that the area of Lord's Hill, which includes the Site, was farmland within the manor of Millbrook.
- 2.2.16 Nursling village, its church and mill are first mentioned in AD800. The village is thought to have been located 880 m to the north-west of the Site (28448). The village was identified during the RCHME medieval settlement project and is recorded in the Domesday Book (see 2.2.17).

Medieval (AD1066–1500)

- 2.2.17 The nearest settlement to the Site recorded within the Domesday Book is the village of Nursling. The settlement had been part of the Hundreds of Buddlesgate within the county of Hampshire and was considered quite large. The settlement had 30 households comprised of 21 villagers, eight smallholders and one slave. Resources of the settlement included 140 acres of meadow, woodland and one mill. The settlement had belonged to the Bishops of Winchester in AD1066 who retained their lordship following the Norman Conquest.

- 2.2.18 Located 1 km to the south-west of the Site is the former medieval village of Wimpson (MSH3010). Manor rolls dated from AD1410 to 1422 mention the place name Wimpson (Wynmanston) which had “1 messuage and 22 acres of land”. However, the precise location of the village has yet to be found. Places labelled Wimpson have been depicted on mapping from the 17th to 19th century but do not highlight the specific site of a village.
- 2.2.19 The remains of a medieval field system have, however, been found in close proximity to the proposed area of the medieval village (MSH586). Documentary sources dating to the 15th and 16th centuries state this area of land was part of an enclosed pasture known as “Pevevelles” and held by Corpus Christi College. The Langdon map dated to 1615 also shows the existence of a field system in this area. A single large field boundary of medieval date thought to have been part of the field system was recorded during the archaeological watching brief conducted on the site in 1998/99 (SOU946).
- 2.2.20 A medieval moated manor house has been recorded 540 m to the north of the Site (29931). The manor house is thought to have been known as Rowhams. The moated site was excavated in 1994. An investigation conducted on the site in 1969, however, also recorded the remains of a medieval field system including a series of field banks (25300).

Post-medieval (AD1500–1800)

- 2.2.21 Post-medieval records within the study area indicate that it was agricultural in character. Located 830 m to the north-east of the Site was a droveway known as Chilworth Drove (MSH1664). Droveys were used to move livestock safely and date back to the prehistoric period. This droveway is thought to have either been used to move livestock, most likely cows, between pastures or to a nearby market. The droveway has been assigned a post-medieval date due to its inclusion on Isaac Taylor’s map of Hampshire dated to 1759, though it may have constructed earlier. An excavation was conducted on the droveway in 1998 (SOU931) however, no archaeological finds were recovered.
- 2.2.22 Post-medieval boundary ditches have also been recorded at Brownhill Road 880 m to the south of the Site (MSH585 and MSH2766) during archaeological works (SOU946 and 804). The first ditch (MSH585) was aligned south-west to north-east, 1.5 m wide and 1 m deep. The second (MSH2766) was aligned east-north-east to west-south-west and was 50 m long.
- 2.2.23 Oak Cottage is a post-medieval single storey building located 985 m to the south-west of the Site (MSH3941). The cottage is said to date from 1700.
- 2.2.24 Further monuments that have been assigned a post-medieval date by the HHER include a miniature lake, 805 m to the north-west of the Site (33625), a single field boundary 640 m to the north-west of the Site (63987) and the former site of the gardens associated with Rowdens House, 780 m to the north (51917).
- 2.2.25 A series of field boundaries 920 m to the south-west and 550m to the north-west of the Site (69173) were recorded during an evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2016). They are thought to be related to agricultural use.

19th century (AD1801–1900) and modern (AD1901–present)

- 2.2.26 Aldermoor House, located 970 m to the south-east of the Site, was built circa 1800 on part of Nursling Common (MSH3620). By 1840 the house had acquired significant land holdings totalling 72 acres (52150). The house and the grounds were subsequently bought by Southampton Corporation and redeveloped for housing.



- 2.2.27 Further historic buildings recorded in the study area include Aldermoor farmhouse (MSH2087), Brownhill House (MSH3960), 1 and 2 Lower Brownhill Road (MSH3961), Belmont Cottage (MSH3945) and Crabwood House and its associated grounds (MSH2166 and MSH3678). The remains of a well and well-house have also been recorded at 108 Rownhams Road (MSH2167).
- 2.2.28 One park and garden evident on Ordnance survey (OS) mapping has been recorded by the HHER. Fennyhurst landscape park, recorded 450 m to the north of the Site, had included a large fishpond, lodge and woodland which surrounded the house known as Fennyhurst (35496).
- 2.2.29 The three records for the modern period relate to former air raid shelters located at 27 Brownhill Road (MSH2416), Oaklands Secondary School directly east of the Site (MSH5284) and in the grounds of Field Farmhouse (41649).

Undated and negative

- 2.2.30 Several of the SHER sites are of archaeological remains or former standing structures that remain undated. Archaeological remains of an unknown date include a ditch found 550 m to the north of the Site (MSH588/SOU360), stone shot/cannon ball 780 m to the north-east (MSH3024), a boundary ditch 120 m to the north (MSH2276), a land drain 550 m to the north (MSH2277), a gully 630 m to the west (MSH5289/SOU1638), undated features 920 m to the south (MSH587/SOU457) and seven undated features at Cedar School 500 m to the west (MSH4892/SOU1574).
- 2.2.31 Former buildings include Belmont House and grounds 240 m to the north of the Site (MSH3676) and the City Arms Public House, located 500 m to the west (MSH5493).
- 2.2.32 An old brickfield located in Lord's Hill, first evident on the 1870 OS map has been recorded 400 m to the east of the Site (54408). A toll gate first shown on the same map has been recorded 600 m to the south (58905). Both are likely to have been in use earlier than 1870.

Historic map regression

- 2.2.33 The earliest cartographic source used for this assessment is an 1867–83 Ordnance Survey (OS) map this seems to show the Site lying wholly within one field, and this is the same for an OS map dated 1896–7 and, continues on until 1933 (Ingrid Peckham pers comm). The majority of the area was either agricultural fields or coppice plantations though several large houses, including the ones mapped by the SHER, are evident along the major roads running through the study area.
- 2.2.34 While minor developments occurred in the area along the major routeways as evident on the 1908 OS and the 1940 OS maps (not reproduced) there appears to have been no change to the Site itself. This would suggest the Site remained in use as agricultural land from 1895 to 1940.
- 2.2.35 Oaklands Community School was constructed on the Site in 1982, officially opening in September 1982 and closed in 2008.



3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General aims

3.1.1 The general aims of the evaluation, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2018a) and in compliance with the ClfA's *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a), were:

- To provide information about the archaeological potential of the site; and
- To 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;
- To establish, within the constraints of the evaluation, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains;
- To place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
- To make available information about the archaeological resource within the site by reporting on the results of the evaluation.
- To identify and record the nature, dimensions, and relationship of natural deposits and assess the potential significance of these deposits to contain or conceal archaeological evidence.

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2018a) 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 Site (**Fig. 1**) covered an area of approximately 30,782 m², within which some 11,811 m² was inaccessible (an area at the southern end of Zone B containing a hedge, site access track and layout side of the fenced site boundary) or was to be retained with no significant groundworks and, in the central, and around the south-eastern boundary, occupied by large earthworks. These earthworks were very likely to be associated with the construction of the school. The available area (18,971 m²) was sampled by 753 m² of evaluation trenches and areas investigated for evaluation purposes during the watching brief. This produced an overall sample of 4%.



- 4.2.2 An area of the south-western part of the Site was identified in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2018a) as being inaccessible being occupied by dense vegetation (former boundary) which was not retained and was outside of the then existing site boundary.
- 4.2.3 The trench locations were set out using GPS, in the approximate positions as those proposed in the WSI, though Trench 13 had to be reduced in size and slightly moved from its original position because of on-site obstacles including located services (**Fig. 1**). Trench 2 was originally intended to extend into the bund to the south to test for the survival of a pre-school buried soil, but this was prevented by the intended retention of trees in this area and services. The trench was relocated just to the north. Trenches 5 (as relocated at the request of the Client to the north of Trench 6), 6 and 14 were not accessible during the initial phase of evaluation due to health and safety considerations, the presence of substantial reinforced concrete slabs and large temporary mounds of rubble (see 4.2.5). Trench 16 was abandoned following the removal of topsoil when cable ducting was revealed. Further investigations within this area identified the presence of gas, water, and telecoms services.
- 4.2.4 Eleven trenches (1–4, 7–12 and 15), measuring between 5 m to 30 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 either the archaeological horizon or the natural geology was exposed. A small Trench 13 (4 x 1.8 m) was excavated within an area of concrete close to its intended location indicated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2018a).
- 4.2.5 A different strategy was adopted for sampling the areas intended to be covered by Trenches 5, 6, 13 and 14, that could not be excavated until after the concrete slabs had been removed by a demolition team. There were two areas of concrete slabs one to the north-west (the Higher Area) and one to the south-east (the Lower area Area). These were sampled by the cleaning of areas by the demolition team using a toothless bucket, the areas exposed and recorded as Trench 6 for the Lower Area and Trenches 14 and 17–21, to which may be added Trench 13, for the Higher Area.
- 4.2.6 Trench 6 (south-east area) was moved slightly to the west due to the presence of a live electric cable and includes a separate and substantial stripped area to the north-east (**Fig. 1**), both termed Trench 6. The two areas of Trench 6 were separated by a significant change in depth of the concrete surface, that to the south-west was significantly deeper. The primary purpose of Trench 6 was to test the south-eastern extent of the ground reduction undertaken during construction of the school. Trenches 13, 14 and 17–21 were intended to sample the area of concrete floors which raised in steps from the south-west to the north-east. This would have roughly followed the pre-school topography but was suspected to have included areas of cut and fill and there by affected the survival of significant deposits.
- 4.2.7 Where necessary, the base of the trench/surface of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand. A sample of archaeological features and deposits identified was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the evaluation.
- 4.2.8 Spoil derived from both machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. Artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, although those from features of modern date (19th century or later) were recorded on site and not retained.
- 4.2.9 Trenches completed to the satisfaction of the Client and the PA to SCC 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

- 4.2.10 All exposed archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A Munsell soil colour chart was used (2000 edition). A complete drawn record of excavated features and deposits was made including both 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. The Ordnance Datum (OD: Newlyn) heights of all principal features were calculated, and levels added to plans and section drawings.
- 4.2.11 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 OSGM15 and OSTN15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.
- 4.2.12 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 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 **Artefactual and environmental strategies**

- 4.3.1 Appropriate strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of artefacts and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2018a). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *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, *Standards for the Creation, Compilation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives* (SCC 2016).

4.4 **Monitoring**

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

5 **ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS**

5.1 **Introduction**

- 5.1.1 Four of the twelve excavated sample trenches contained significant archaeological features and deposits, indicating archaeological remains are present across the site (**Fig. 1**).
- 5.1.2 The features comprising ditches, pits, a posthole and a hearth represent one main period of activity: Late Iron Age/early Romano-British, though several features remain of uncertain date.
- 5.1.3 The following section presents the results of the evaluation with archaeological features and deposits discussed by period.
- 5.1.4 Detailed descriptions of individual contexts are provided in the trench summary tables (**Appendix 1**). **Figure 1** shows all archaeological features recorded within the trenches.

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

- 5.2.1 Ten of the twelve excavated trenches contained modern made ground, either surfaces of tarmac for carpark and play areas, founded on roadstone or gravel, or beneath the concrete foundation slab of the former school. All of these trenches had a layer of disturbed ground where the natural had been weathered and modern artefacts such as concrete, tarmac and bricks pushed in (**Plate 1**). Trench 4 (**Fig. 1**) contained over 1.2 m of loose gravels, a sondage established brickearth at 1.30 m. No further excavations were possible in this trench due to the loose, collapsing nature of the gravels. Two trenches (12 and 15) were excavated through grassed areas. Trench 15 contained a modern topsoil overlying a lens of made ground, there was a very sharp, clear horizon between the soil and the natural in this trench. Trench 12 contained a turf covered topsoil, overlying a 0.14 m thick deposit of soil (**Plate 2**).
- 5.2.2 The natural recorded across the site varied with a clean silty clay brickearth deposit being recorded in the areas around Trenches 1–4, 7 and 8 and 9–12. The two trenches recorded on the downslope in the vicinity of the former building (Trenches 13 and 15) only noted clay and gravel natural (**Plate 3**).

5.3 Late Iron Age/ early Romano-British (100 BC–AD 410)

- 5.3.1 Three intercutting ditches (205, 206 and 208) were recorded in Trench 2 (**Front cover, Fig. 1**). Ditch 208 cut Ditch 206 (**Plate 5, Fig. 1 top**). Ditch 205 aligned north-west to south-east, had steep, straight sides and a concave base, it measured 0.49 m wide, 0.27 m deep and contained a single homogenised fill (**Plate 4**). Ditches 206 and 208 aligned east to west and together measured 1.26 m wide, the deepest ditch was 208 at 0.49 m deep with Ditch 208 cutting 206, both had steep, irregular sides, the base of Ditch 208 was flat (**Plate 5, Section 1**). A relationship slot was excavated between ditches 205 and 208, however, due to the homogeneity of the fill it was not possible to ascertain a relationship between them. The fill of the ditches was indistinguishable from the upper part of the brickearth during the evaluation.
- 5.3.2 A pit (1105) was recorded in Trench 11 (**Fig. 1**). The measurable dimensions of this feature were 0.90 m by 0.58 m by 0.29 m (**Plate 6**). This pit had moderate concave sides and a concave base. It may be that this feature is the terminus of a ditch, rather than a pit.

5.4 Uncertain date

- 5.4.1 Possibly of a similar date, Pit 1306 had measurable dimensions of 0.88 m long, 0.82 m wide, 0.25 m deep and also continued beyond the trench (**Plate 7, Fig. 1**). This pit was beneath the former building and protected by a layer of redeposited natural (**Section 2**). Some weight is given to this being Late Iron Age/early Romano-British in date due to the observation in the field of an item of flint tempered pottery which was very fragile and did not survive to be retained.
- 5.4.2 Hearth 1107 measured 0.35 m by 0.33 m by 0.04 m and contained a single blacked, charcoal rich fill, a ring of burnt natural indicates *in situ* burning (**Plate 8, Fig. 1**). This feature may be prehistoric in origin, but no datable material was recovered.
- 5.4.3 A broad, shallow concave ditch (0.98 m wide, 0.16 m deep) was the only feature recorded in Trench 8 (**Plate 9**). Aligned north to south, the southern end of this ditch had been truncated by a modern pit.



5.4.4 Finally, a small, possible posthole (0.30 m diameter by 0.06 m) was recorded in Trench 9 (**Plate 10**). This feature was only visible after the removal of a substantial depth of brick-earth and it is possible that this is a natural feature.

5.5 Main school buildings

The Lower Area (Trench 6)

5.5.1 Within the north-east part of Trench 6 the same mid reddish-brown silty clay (5YR 5/3) observed in Trenches 17–21 was revealed at a height of 36.3 m aOD. Three modern concrete footings and several drain runs were observed (Plates 4 and 5).

5.5.2 The earliest deposit encountered within the south-western area of Trench 6 were the underlying natural gravels, these gravels were yellow in colour (10YR 8/8) and observed at a height of 34.7 m aOD. Overlying these was a thin layer of made-ground comprising of a dark reddish-brown silty clay (2.5 YR 2.5/3). The final deposit in the sequence was another thick layer of made-ground, comprising of crushed concrete and bricks derived from the removal of the overlying concrete slab. (**Plates 11 and 15**).

5.5.3 No archaeological features or deposits were observed within either parts of Trench 6. This was due to the high levels of truncation caused by the initial excavation and construction of the school. The gravels exposed had a distinct boundary with the overlying deposits and was not weathered, suggesting that a substantial quantity of ground had been removed.

The Higher Area (Trenches 13–14 and 17–21)

5.5.4 The area of the combined trenches covered an area of 239.25 m² across an area of concrete of approximately 1,480 m² producing a sample of 16% for the higher level of concrete surface.

5.5.5 Trench 13 as recorded above contained the shallow remains of a pit which most likely does date to a late Iron Age/early Roman.

5.5.6 Trenches 14 and 17–21 (see example **Plates 13–14 and 16–17**) varied in size and depth but on average were dug to a minimum depth of 1 m. The earliest deposit encountered in all of the trenches apart from Trench 17 was a mid-red brown silty clay (5YR 5/3), encountered an average depth of 0.50 m (bgl; 37 m aOD).

5.5.7 Overlying the clay layer and only present within Trenches 17, 20 and 21 was a thin band of brickearth. This brickearth was a mid-yellowish red (5YR 5/8), This was not however observed in Trenches 18 and 19, excavated further east, suggesting that the layer either petered out or had been removed during the levelling of the site prior to the construction of the school buildings.

5.5.8 The final deposit observed within these trenches was a layer of made ground, comprising of crushed concrete and general building debris. Again, no archaeological features or deposits were observed within these trenches with the high levels of truncation and numerous concrete footings likely to have destroyed any potential for significant archaeology to survive. In none of the trenches was a buried soil identified. If it had, then better preservation may have been anticipated for the south-western parts of each “step” in the concrete floor. Where observable gravels, clay or brickearth had a distinct boundary with the overlying made-ground deposits and was not weathered, suggesting that a substantial quantity of ground had been removed from this area during the construction of the school. It is interesting to note this occurring in Trenches 20 and 21 which are on the south-western edge of one of the “steps”, the absence of any buried soils indicating that



they had been removed and the unweathered nature of the top of the natural deposits indicating that ground levels had been reduced more deeply into the natural deposits.

6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 A small quantity of finds was recovered, from Trenches 2 and 11. The assemblage is of prehistoric to modern date. The finds been cleaned and quantified by material type in each context; this information is summarised in Table 1.

6.2 Pottery

6.2.1 Pottery of Late Iron Age/early Romano-British date was recorded from Ditch 205, Ditch 208, Gully 211 and Pit/ditch 1105. The assemblage is predominantly flint-tempered (10 sherds, 79 g) and includes a high-shouldered cordoned jar with pulled bead rim (Ditch 205) and a necked jar (Ditch 208). Other fabrics include one sherd (5 g) in a fabric with flint and organic inclusions, and one sherd (5 g) in a sandy ware.

6.2.2 Post-medieval and modern material comprises one sherd in a redware fabric, and one of refined whiteware, both from Layer 202.

6.3 Flint

6.3.1 A single flint flake came from Pit/ditch 1105; it is not chronologically distinctive.

6.3.2 Burnt flint (49 pieces, 659 g) was recorded from Ditch 208 and Pit/ditch 1105. Although not intrinsically datable, this material type is frequently associated with prehistoric activity.

6.4 Glass

6.4.1 A single fragment of clear modern bottle glass was recovered from Layer 202.

Table 1 Quantification of finds

Context	Pottery		Flint		Burnt flint		Glass	
	No.	Wg (g)	No.	Wg (g)	No.	Wg (g)	No.	Wg (g)
202	2	18					1	4
204	2	44						
209	3	16			38	420		
211	5	12						
1105	2	17						
1106			1	1	11	239		
Total	14	107	1	1	49	659	1	4



7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 Two bulk sediment samples were taken from a ditch and a hearth of suspected Late Iron Age/early Romano-British chronology and were processed for the recovery and assessment of the environmental evidence.

7.2 Aims and Methods

7.2.1 The purpose of this assessment is to determine the potential of the environmental remains preserved at the site to address project aims and to provide data valuable for wider research frameworks. The nature of this assessment follows recommendations set up by Historic England (Campbell *et al.* 2011).

7.2.2 The samples were a total of 21 litres in volume and were processed by standard flotation methods on a Siraf-type flotation tank; the flots retained on a 0.25 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 4 mm and 1 mm fractions. The coarse fractions (>4 mm) were sorted by eye and discarded. The environmental material extracted from the residues was added to the flots. The fine residue fractions and the flots were scanned using a stereo incident light microscopy (Leica MS5 microscope) at magnifications of up to x40 for the identification of environmental remains. Different bioturbation indicators were considered, including the percentage of roots, the abundance of modern seeds and the presence of mycorrhizal fungi sclerotia (e.g. *Cenococcum geophilum*) and animal remains, such as burrowing snails, or earthworm eggs and insects, which would not be preserved unless anoxic conditions prevailed on site. The preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains, as well as the presence of other environmental remains such as terrestrial and aquatic molluscs and animal bone was recorded.

7.3 Results

7.3.1 The flots from the bulk sediment samples were generally small (**Table 2**). There were low numbers of roots and modern seeds that may be indicative of little stratigraphic movement and the low possibility of contamination by later intrusive elements. No environmental evidence was preserved in the bulk sediment samples apart from mature wood charcoal which was present in moderate amounts in Ditch 208, Fill 209 and in small quantities in Hearth 1107, Fill 1108. Slag was noted in small amounts in the flots and the fine residue fractions for both samples.

7.4 Discussion

7.4.1 The absence of charred plant assemblages suggests that there were no domestic crop processing activities occurring in this area. The presence of moderate amounts of wood charcoal in Ditch 208, Fill 209, may indicate the remains of a natural fire or waste products from industrial activities. Although slag was noted, it is not present in large enough quantities to support the industrial hypothesis. Similarly, Hearth 1107, Fill 1108 produced such a small amount of wood charcoal and slag (albeit from a very small volume) that it is unlikely to be the original deposit resulting from any industrial burning activity.

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Summary

8.1.1 The evaluation has successfully identified a small number of features, mainly dating to the Late Iron Age/early Romano-British period, and a small number of undated features. Nearly all the recorded features were located on the lower portions of the Site, below 36 m aOD,



and cut through the brickearth natural. The northern parts of the Site contained the bulk of the former school buildings. This area has been subjected to significant degree of terracing. In some areas it may be that the terracing has the potential to have protected archaeological deposits, in other areas the terracing appears to have caused significant truncation.

- 8.1.2 Further evidence for truncation caused by the terracing was shown during the watching brief conducted in the centre of the Site. The area of Trench 6 shows clear truncation caused by the excavation and construction of the school, the brickearth natural was encountered within the small stripped area located to the north-east was at a height of 36.3m aOD and the base of the south-west area of Trench 6 was at a height of 34.7m aOD. The higher level shows clear evidence of truncation and the lower is only more so.
- 8.1.3 The central portion of the site (Zone D) where the former school buildings were showed more evidence for truncation. Trenches 17–21 all focused on the removal of concrete footings and showed that the underlying brickearth natural had been highly disturbed by their initial installation. Trench 14 was excavated and showed that the patchy brickearth natural was evident at a depth of 38m aOD and showed clear evidence of truncation in the form of two concrete foundations cut directly through the natural and a single modern drain.

8.2 Discussion

Pre-school topography

- 8.2.1 Reconstructing the pre-school topography of the Site, is not straightforward, though clearly the building of the school has involved significant groundworks, by both reducing and increasing ground levels. For the former, the difference in ground levels in the region of 3 m between the two large areas of concrete slabs (the Higher and Lower Areas) is dramatic and occurs over too short a distance to reflect anything like the pre-school topography. Increasing ground levels is exhibited most clearly in the wooded bunds that partially edge the Site, especially to the south-east. In all likelihood the central area of higher ground also results from raising of ground levels. The most likely reconstruction, taking into account early maps and observation of the surrounding topography, will be for the highest point of the Site to be at the northern most corner, with the ground falling gently to the south-west and south-east.

Character of significant archaeological deposits

- 8.2.2 Across the site generally significant archaeological features recorded during the evaluation are all from the Late Iron Age/ early Romano-British period. These features include a series of intercutting ditches, which, from the homogeneity of the fills and pottery recovered from them are probably contemporaneous in Trench 2. Of a similar date is Pit 1105. The spread of these features across the Site, together with low densities of artefacts, slag and plant remains, may indicate a field boundary or land management use rather than occupation. The focus of settlement in Southampton during the Romano-British period is believed to concentrate at *Clausentum*, near modern Bitterne on the other side of the River Itchen. There is, however, evidence for Roman settlement, probably rural in character, for instance in St Denys, in the city centre (especially at Houndwell Park and along Shirley Road in Freemantle (Ingrid Peckham pers comm). The present site is located close to a known Roman Road (see section 2.2.14 above), and evidence for Iron Age and Romano-British settlement has been recorded close to Adanac Park (Wessex Archaeology 2018b). There is then a growing body of evidence for a hinterland of rural settlement and occupation around the historic core.

Zones

- 8.2.3 For the purposes of this archaeological evaluation the Site has been divided into five zones.

Zone A

- 8.2.4 Largely with natural gravels and no brickearth. Impacts from house road, house, utility construction, with gardens to rear (to north-west). Trenches 15 and 16 exhibited evidence of ground reduction during school construction (especially Trench 15) and, existing utilities (especially Trench 16). No significant or potentially significant archaeological deposits.

Zone B

- 8.2.5 Brickearth present. Impacts from house, road, and utility construction, with gardens to rear (towards site boundary). Potential survival of significant deposits demonstrated by features such as Pit 1105 and Hearth 1107, though the latter was very shallow. Other potentially significant deposits were identified in Trenches 8 and 9 but, both were shallow. With half of the trenches in this zone containing no significant deposits the impression is given that there is a low density of features, and few artefacts.

Zone C

- 8.2.6 Brickearth present but surface of brickearth at much greater depth at south-western end of zone, the top of the brickearth rising towards the north-east. Impacts from house, road, utility construction. Trench 2 contained the greatest number of artefacts from the Site and several ditches, which would have been substantial if they had been identifiable at a greater height.

Zone D

- 8.2.7 For the Lower Area Trench 6 has demonstrated that significant ground reduction has been undertaken at least up to the south-western edge of the area investigated, and as we know the pre-school topography rose to the north, this area of up to 3 m of "cut" will have removed any significant archaeological deposits.
- 8.2.8 For the Higher Area the anticipated better preservation to the south-western part of each step in the concrete floor has not been demonstrated by the available evidence and groundworks for the school's construction will have adversely affected any significant archaeological deposits comprehensively over this area. The shallow pit in Trench 13, in all likelihood of late Iron Age to early Roman date may be regarded as a feature that it very likely to be an isolated survivor, the expectation being that would be very little here that would enable meaningful characterisation of contemporary activity.

- 8.2.9 Brickearth present again at much deeper level, but highly truncated by terracing and ground reduction during school construction (especially Trenches 14 and 17–21). The observation of brickearth, albeit heavily truncated, is especially interesting as it indicates that the it extended higher and is at least likely to have extended over the whole site.

Zone E

- 8.2.10 Retained topography with minor groundworks intended on the central area of higher ground. Retained tree cover. Central and south-eastern area most likely to have resulted from raising ground levels during construction of the school.

A note on the brickearth

- 8.2.11 Brickearth is aeolian (wind-blown) loess (fine material) that has been reworked and deposited by fluvial action (by water; Historic England 2015, 11). Archaeological features, such as those identified on this site, will have been cut through the brickearth. The difficulty in the identification of these features at higher levels within the brickearth deserves some consideration, though research aiming to produce definitive explanations of this issue falls outside of the scope of this report. At this site the success of identification of potentially

significant archaeological deposits has been variable for instance the ditches in Trench 2 and hearth in Trench 11 were not identified until lower down through the brickearth; yet the larger pit in Trench 9 was identified at a higher level, though even then only because attention to this area was drawn to the attention of the excavator by a flint artefact, rather than observation of any soil differentiation.

8.2.12 The following explanations are offered; though it seems most likely that these factors operate in combination.

- Brickearth is itself a reworked material, a characteristic shared with archaeological deposits, and therefore less likely to yield contrasting differences.
- A topsoil developed over the brickearth which is believed to be identifiable on this site, albeit affected by more recent groundworks such as the operation of plant across the topsoil surface, most likely to be associated with construction of the school. The interface of the soil and brickearth is not a distinct one and the two merge gradually; suggesting that any features will start to become visible at greater depths where greater proportions of the topsoil have been removed.
- Where the nature of the fills of the archaeological features contain fewer indicators of activity (artefacts, charcoal etc), resulting from a lower intensity of this activity, the proportion of reworked local material is likely to form a greater proportion of the feature fills, and therefore will be more similar to the surrounding material.
- The level at which the archaeological features and fills formed has been overlain by redeposited material (Ingrid Peckham pers comm) eroded from higher ground, and not readily discernible. The pre-school topography of the site is that the ground level does rise to the north.
- Two characteristics of archaeological evaluations are common. Sample trenches produce limited areas of exposed deposits, whereas archaeological features are more readily identifiable over larger areas. Also, evaluation fieldwork occurs over a very short period, where the opportunity to allow for “weathering” is not available. Weathering being a commonly observed phenomenon whereby clean exposed surfaces are allowed to stand for a while and archaeological deposits become more clearly distinguishable, through for instance, differential drying.

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. Southampton City Council Archaeological Collections has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project, under the accession code **SOU1848**. 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

9.2.1 The archive, which includes paper records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Southampton City Council Archaeological Collections, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).



9.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the **site code SOU1848**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:

- 1 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type;
- 1 files/document cases of paper records and A3/A4 graphics.

9.3 Selection policy

9.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows national guidelines on selection and retention (SMA 1993; Brown 2011, section 4). In accordance with these, and any specific guidance prepared by the museum, a process of selection and retention will be followed so that only those artefacts or ecofacts that are considered to have potential for future study will be retained. The selection policy will be agreed with the museum and, is fully documented in the project archive.

9.3.2 It is recommended that the pottery and flint flake should be retained. The burnt flint and glass have little or no research potential and have not been selected for long-term storage. As regards the environmental samples the analysis of the wood charcoal could provide some information on the species composition and management and exploitation of the local woodland, but the moderate quantity and absence of secure dating would make this analysis not very informative. Therefore, the assemblages recovered so far have little potential and require no further analysis but should be included in prospective reports and publications. The flots are recommended for deposition and the residues for discard.

9.4 Security copy

9.4.1 In line with current best practice (eg, 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 record (<http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main>) has been initiated, with key fields and a .pdf version of the final report submitted. 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 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*. In some instances, certain regional museums may require absolute transfer of copyright, rather than a licence; this should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.



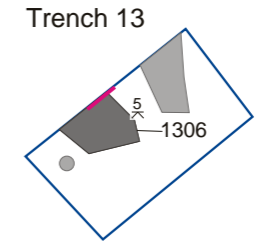
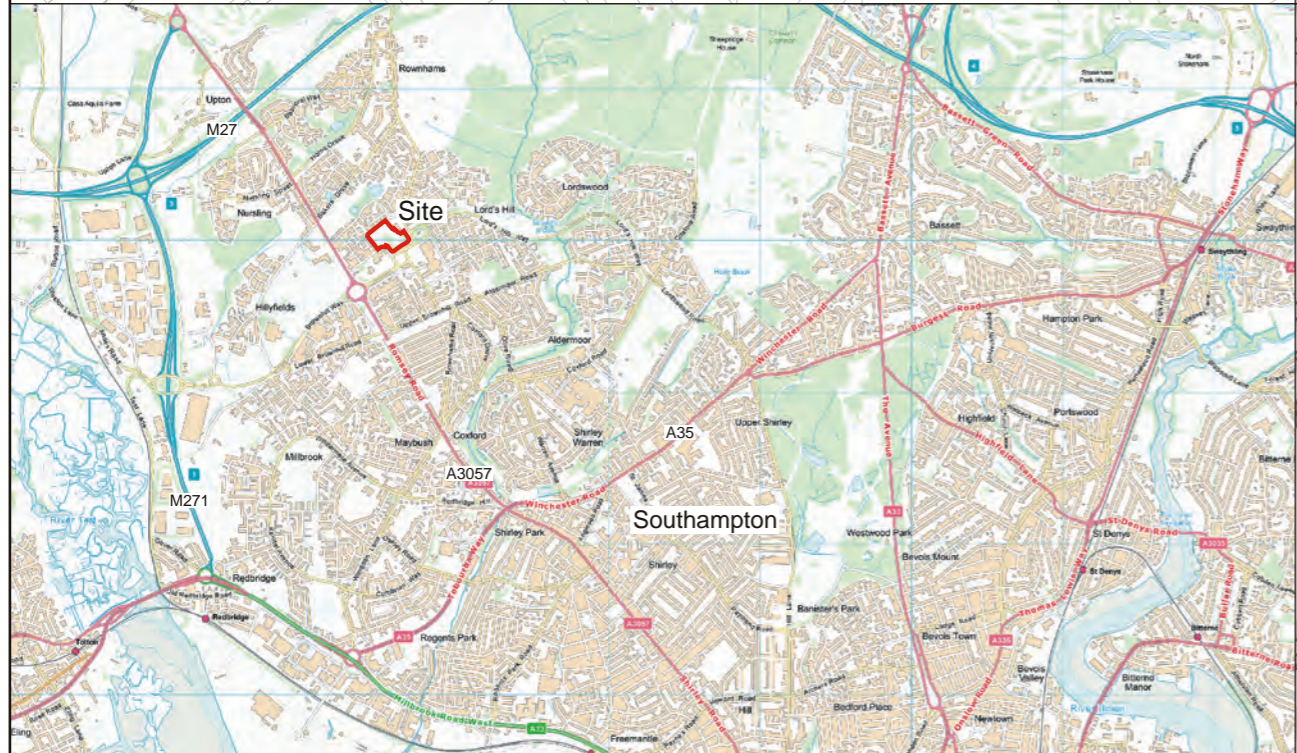
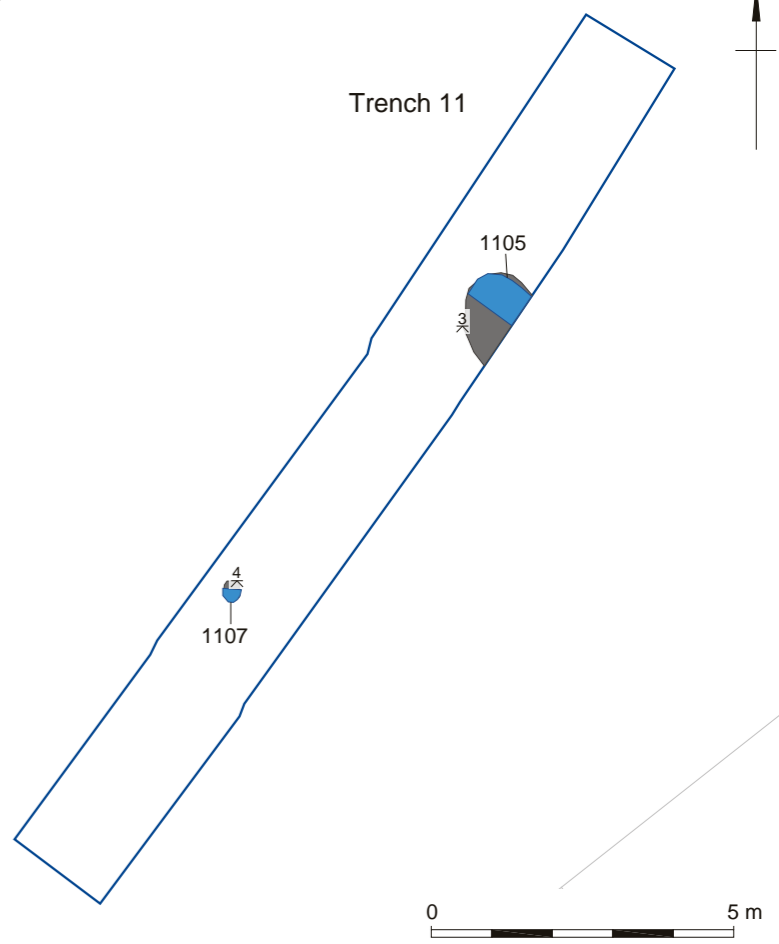
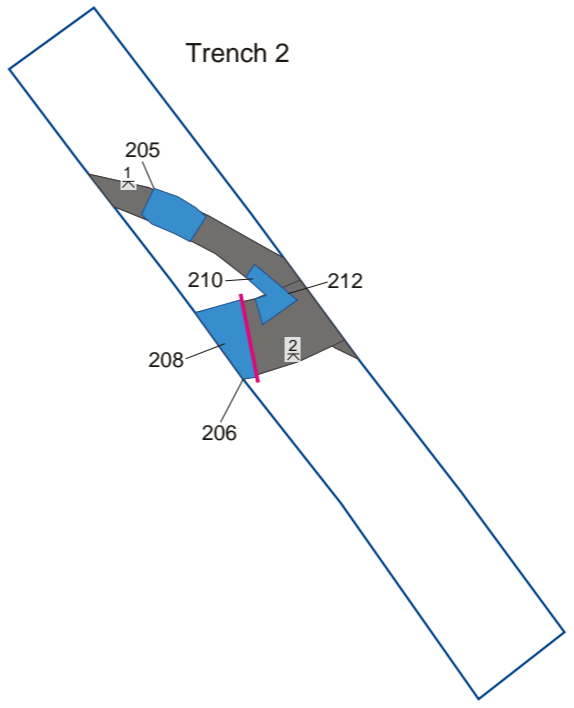
10.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.

10.2 **Third party data copyright**

10.2.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (eg, 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 which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material.

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- Site boundary
- Unexcavated trench
- To be retained
- Inaccessible
- Evaluation trench
- Watching brief trench / area
- Archaeology
- Disturbance
- Geology
- Tree throw
- Slot
- Section line

- Levels (m OD):
- 1 - 36.28
 - 2 - 36.27
 - 3 - 34.87
 - 4 - 34.82
 - 5 - 37.06

Coordinate system:
OSGB36 (OSTN15/OSGM15)

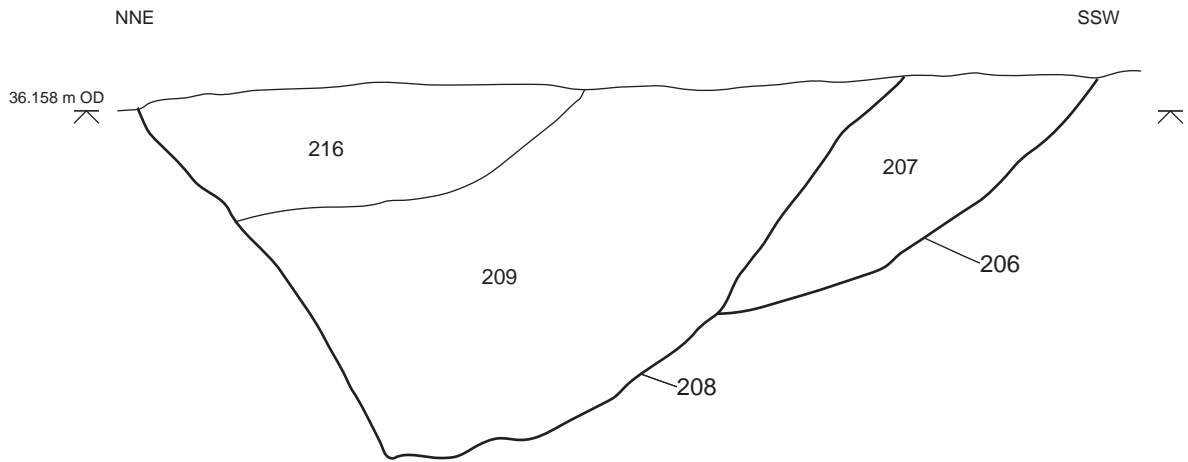
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Date:	16/01/2020	Revision Number:	0
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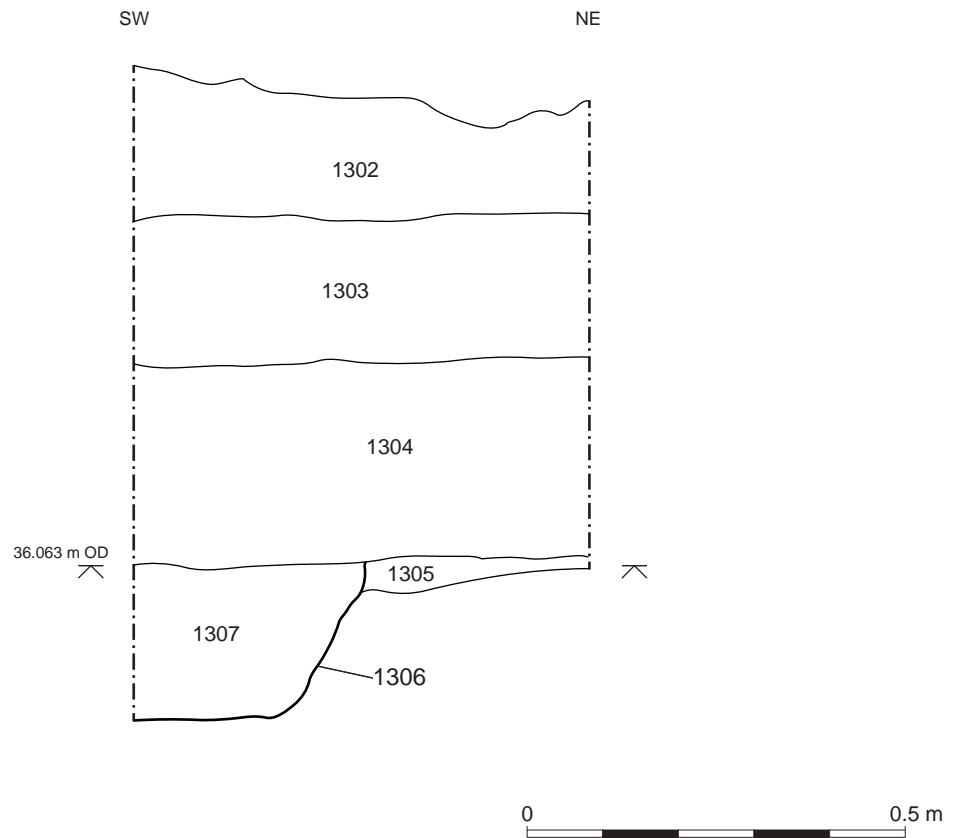
Site location and trench layout

Figure 1

West-south-west facing section of ditches 206 and 208



South-east facing section of pit 1301



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Plate 1: West facing representative section Trench 10. Scale is 1 m



Plate 2: South-east facing representative section Trench 13. Scale is 1 m


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Plate 3: South facing representative section Trench 12. Scale is 1 m



Plate 4: West facing section of Ditch 205. Scale is 0.5 m


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Plate 5: Oblique view of Ditches 206 and 208. Viewed from the north-west. Scale is 0.5 m



Plate 6: North-east facing section of Pit 1105. Scale is 1 m


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Plate 7: North-east facing section of Pit 1306. Scale is 0.5 m



Plate 8: South facing section of Hearth 1107. Scale is 0.2 m


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Plate 9: North facing section of Ditch 806. Scale is 1 m



Plate 10: North-west facing section of Posthole 908. Scale is 0.2 m


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Plate 11: Trench 6, viewed from the south-west. Scales are 1 m and 2 m



Plate 12: Trench 14, viewed from the east. Scale is 1 m


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Plate 13: Trench 17, viewed from the south



Plate 14: Trench 19, viewed from the south. Scale is 1 m


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	Scale:	Not to scale	Illustrator:	ND
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Plate 15: Trench 20, viewed from south-east, no scale



Plate 16: Trench 21, viewed from the south. Scale is 1m



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Plate 17: Trenching, north-west area, viewed from the south. Scale is 2 m

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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 1		Length 20 m	Width 1.80 m	Depth 0.65 m
Easting 438616.62		Northing 116013.44		37.30 m aOD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
100		Made ground	Tarmac.	0.00 - 0.08
101		Made ground	Abundant Gravel 90%, SR, poorly sorted between 0.02 m and 0.05 m	0.08 - 0.35
102		Natural	Mid reddish-brown (5 YR 5 / 4) silty clay. Gravels, abundant 50%, sub-rounded poorly sorted between .001m and .05m. Clear horizon between natural and made ground, however the upper parts of the natural are very dirty and have some diffusion between layers, leading to 0.10 m of disturbed and diffuse soils.	0.35 - 0.65

Trench No 2		Length 20 m	Width 1.80 m	Depth 0.83 m
Easting 438613.61		Northing 115993.03		37.09 m aOD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
200		Made ground	Tarmac.	0.00 - 0.07
201		Made ground	Shingle, irregular stone cobbles and pebbles, dark grey sand	0.07 - 0.34
202		Disturbed ground	Dark grey (7.5YR 4 / 1) clay, ground churned up by heavy plant during the previous levelling of the Site.	0.34 - 0.41
203		Natural	Clay brickearth, mid yellowish red (5YR 5 / 8) silty clay becoming more gravelly at the bottom grey lump, on south-west end darker at top as modern disturbed layer percolates down.	0.41 - 0.80
204	[205]	Secondary fill	Mid brown with a grey hue, (5YR 7 / 6) reddish-yellow silty clay with gravels, common 20%, sub-angular / sub rounded, poorly sorted, between 0.02 m and 0.05 m inclusions. Archaeological components: Pottery, worked flint, charcoal (rare 3%)	



205	(204)	Ditch	Curvilinear ditch with steep, concave sides and a concave base. Length: >2.00 m. Width: 0.49 m. Depth: 0.27 m.	
206	(207)	Ditch	Linear ditch with moderate, straight sides and a flat base. Length: >2.12 m. Width: 0.26 m. Depth: 0.25 m.	
207	[206]	Secondary fill	Red (2.5YR 4 / 8) clay with rare angular gravel inclusions	
208	(209), (216)	Ditch	Linear ditch with steep, straight sides and a flat base. Length: >2.12 m. Width: 1.00 m. Depth: 0.49 m.	
209	[208]	Secondary fill	Light reddish-brown (5YR 6 / 3) clay with sparse charcoal, rare rounded to sub-angular pebbles inclusions. Archaeological components: Struck flints, burnt flints, pottery	
210	(211)	Gully	Linear gully with moderate, straight sides and a concave base. Length: >0.90 m. Width: 0.54 m. Depth: 0.18 m.	
211	[210]	Secondary fill	Reddish-yellow (5YR 7 / 6) clay with rare charcoal inclusions. Archaeological components: Pot	
212	(213), (214)	Ditch	Linear ditch with steep, straight sides and a flat base. Length: >2.12 m. Width: 1.01 m. Depth: 0.42 m.	
213	[212]	Secondary fill	Light reddish-brown (5YR 6 / 3) clay with sparse charcoal, rare rounded to sub-angular pebbles inclusions	
214	[212]	Secondary fill	Reddish-yellow (5YR 7 / 6) clay with rare angular gravel and rare rounded pebbles inclusions	
215		Natural	Mid reddish-brown (5YR 5 / 4) sandy silty clay with abundant gravels.	0.80 +
216	[208]	Secondary fill	Mid yellowish red (5YR 5 / 8) silty clay	



Trench No 3		Length 20 m	Width 1.80 m	Depth 0.88 m
Easting 438586.80		Northing 115986.92		37.20 m aOD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
300		Made ground	Modern tarmac.	0.00 -0.07
301		Made ground	Layer of gravels, made ground, gravels abundant 90%, poorly sorted sub-rounded and SA, between 0.02 m and 0.06 m. Some diffusion with natural.	0.07-0.48
302	[303]	Deliberate backfill	Mid grey with abundant 90% gravels, poorly sorted, SR / SA, between 0.02 m and 0.06 m. Contains much modern material and piping. Not excavated.	
303	(302)	Land drain	Drain. Cut of modern drainage channel, aligned NE - SW. Not excavated.	
304		Natural	Mid reddish brown (2.5YR 5 / 4) silty clay brickearth. Some diffusion with (301). Towards the ESE there is more concentration of gravels in the natural.	0.48+

Trench No 4		Length 20 m	Width 1.80 m	Depth 1.30 m
Easting 438570.04		Northing 115969.82		37.16 m aOD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
400		Made ground	Tarmac, modern	0.00 - 0.07
401		Disturbed ground	Made ground, abundant Gravel 90%, sub-rounded / SA, poorly sorted, between 0.02 m and 0.0 5m	0.07 - 1.30+
402		Natural	Mid reddish-brown (5YR 5 / 3) silty clay, brickearth.	0.78m+
403	[404]	Deliberate backfill	Mid grey with abundant 90% gravels, poorly sorted, SR / SA, between 0.02 m and 0.06 m. Contains much modern material and piping. Not excavated. Same as (304)	
404	(403)	Land drain	Drain. Cut of modern drainage channel, aligned NE - SW. Not excavated. Same as [303].	



Trench No 6		Length 17.20 m and 13 m	Width 2 m and 7 m	Depth 0.40 m
Easting 438586.670		Northing 116022.122		34.831 m OD and 36.3 m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
601		Made ground	Comprising of crushed concrete and bricks	0-0.20
602		Made ground	Comprising of dark reddish brown silty clay and stones. 2.5YR 2.5/3	0.20-0.30
603		Natural	Natural gravels. 10YR 8/8 and 5YR 5/3	0.30m+

Trench No 7		Length 20 m	Width 1.80 m	Depth 0.78 m
Easting 438491.54		Northing 116000.70		35.69 m aOD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
701		Made ground	Shingle layer of light brown sand with sub-angular gravel pebbles and cobbles.	0.00 - 0.38
702		Disturbed ground	Dark grey (7.5YR 4/1) clay, ground churned up by heavy plant during the previous levelling of the Site.	0.38 - 0.48
703		Natural	Brickearth. Strong brown (7.5YR 4 / 6) silty clay with rare gravels.	0.48 - 0.78
704		Natural	Reddish-yellow (7.5YR 6 / 6) sandy clay with sparse sub-angular gravel	0.78+

Trench No 8		Length 20 m	Width 1.80 m	Depth 0.78 m
Easting 438464.98		Northing 115987.63		35.42 m aOD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
801		Made ground	Tarmac	0.00 - 0.07
802		Made ground	Layer of light pink clay sand for levelling ground for the tarmac	0.07 - 0.33
803		Disturbed ground	Dark grey (5YR 4 / 1) clay, ground churned up by heavy plant during the previous levelling of the Site.	0.33 - 0.50
804		Natural	Brickearth. Mid brown (7.5YR 4 / 4) silty clay with rare fine gravels inclusions.	0.50 - 0.74
805		Natural	Yellowish red (5 YR 5 / 6) silty clay with abundant gravels.	0.74+
806	(807)	Ditch	Linear ditch with shallow, straight sides and a concave base. Length: >2.20 m. Width: 0.98 m. Depth: 0.16 m.	
807	[806]	Secondary fill	Brown (10YR 5 / 3) silty clay with very rare fine gravels, manganese flecking inclusions	



Trench No 9		Length 30 m	Width 1.80 m	Depth 1.09 m
Easting 438444.46		Northing 116010.65		35.47 m aOD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
901		Made ground	Tarmac	0.00 - 0.08
902		Made ground	Pink clay base to tarmac.	0.08 - 0.17
903		Made ground	Shingle made ground abundant Gravel cobbles and pebbles, yellow sand matrix	0.17 - 0.51
904		Disturbed ground	Dark grey (2.5YR 4 / 1) clay trampled in by heavy plant prior to laying down tarmac.	0.51 - 0.64
905		Natural	Strong brown (7.5YR 4 / 6) silty clay natural, Brickearth.	0.64 - 1.09
906		Natural	Yellowish red (5YR 5 / 8) clay with moderate gravels	1.09+
907	[908]	Secondary fill	Brownish yellow (10YR 6 / 6) clay with sparse angular gravel, sparse sub rounded pebbles inclusions	
908	(907)	Posthole	Circular posthole with moderate, straight sides and a concave base. Length: 0.30 m. Width: 0.25 m. Depth: 0.06 m.	

Trench No 10		Length 18.80 m	Width 1.80 m	Depth 0.45 m
Easting 438458.88		Northing 116031.81		36.11 m aOD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1001		Made ground	Tarmac.	0.00 - 0.05
1002		Made ground	Levelling layer comprising reddish grey and light grey gravels (type 1). Compacted with a sharp horizon with (1002).	0.05 - 0.30
1003		Natural	Yellowish red (5 YR 5 / 6) silty clay with sparse sub-angular fine and medium gravels. The top 0.1 m had lumps occasional concrete and brick pushed in.	0.30 +



Trench No 11		Length 16.60 m	Width 1.80 m	Depth 0.80 m
Easting 438425.26		Northing 116030.42		35.35 m aOD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1101		Made ground	Tarmac. Reddish-brown pink thin clay layer below.	0.00 - 0.16
1102		Made ground	Levelling layer comprising of gravels (type 1)	0.16 - 0.38
1103		Natural	Brickearth. Strong brown (7.5YR 4 / 6) silty clay.	0.38 - 0.74
1104		Natural	Yellowish red (5 YR 5 / 8) silty sandy clay with rare sub-angular fine and medium gravels.	0.74+
1105	(1106)	Pit or ditch terminus cut	Incomplete pit or ditch terminus cut with moderate, concave sides and a concave base. Length: >0.90 m. Width: 0.98 m. Depth: 0.29 m.	
1106	[1105]	Secondary fill	Dark reddish-brown (5YR 4 / 2) grey clay with rooting, rare charcoal, sparse sub rounded pebbles inclusions. Archaeological components: Pot, burnt flints and struck flints	
1107	(1108)	Hearth	Circular hearth with shallow, concave sides and a flat base. Length: 0.33 m. Width: 0.35 m. Depth: 0.04 m.	
1108	[1107]	In situ burning	Black silty clay with moderate charcoal inclusions	

Trench No 12		Length 13 m	Width 1.80 m	Depth 0.52 m
Easting 438445.38		Northing 116048.11		36.18 m aOD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1201		Topsoil	Reddish brown (2.5 YR 4 / 4) sandy clay with rare sub-angular fine flint gravels. Turf covered with fine rooting throughout loose with a diffuse horizon to (1202).	0.00 - 0.28
1202		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown (2.5 YR 5 / 4) silty sandy clay with rare sub-angular gravels and occasional rooting. Moderately loose with an undulating horizon with (1203).	0.28 - 0.42
1203		Natural	Yellowish red (5 YR 5 / 8) silty clay with sparse sub-angular fine and medium gravels. A small area in the southern part of the trench was investigated further but was not considered to be an archaeological feature.	0.42 +



Trench No 13		Length 4 m	Width 1.80 m	Depth 0.90 m
Easting 438502.40		Northing 116058.37		37.77 m aOD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1301		Made ground	Concrete	0.00 - 0.10
1302		Made ground	Type 1 gravels.	0.10 - 0.40
1303		Made ground	Redeposited natural. Red (2.5 YR 5 / 8) sandy clay with common gravels. Sharp level horizon with (1304).	0.40- 0.60
1304		Natural	Brickearth. Strong brown (7.5YR 5 / 8) silty clay.	0.60 - 0.85
1305		Natural	Clay with flint. Red (2.5 YR 5 / 8) sandy clay with sparse gravels.	0.85 +
1306	(1307)	Pit	Incomplete pit with irregular, irregular sides and an irregular / undulating base. Length: >0.88 m. Width: 0.82 m. Depth: 0.25 m.	
1307	[1306]	Secondary fill	Strong brown (7.5YR 5 / 8) sandy silty clay with rare sub-angular gravels. rare manganese flecking inclusions. Archaeological components: Pottery (1 abraded sherd of flint tempered ware which did not survive excavation).	

Trench No 14		Length 9.5 m	Width 2 m	Depth 1.20 m
Easting 438542.583		Northing 116080.470		m OD 38.747
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1401		Made ground	Mixed building rubble and crushed concrete	0-0.15m
1402		Gravel layer	Dark yellow brown gravel with occasional concrete inclusions	0.15-1.10m
1403		Natural	Patchy Brick earth (10yr 6 / 7) and gravel	1.10m+



Trench No 15		Length 13.50 m	Width 1.80 m	Depth 0.45 m
Easting 438499.45		Northing 116089.53		38.86 m aOD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1501		Topsoil	Strong brown silty (7.5YR 5 / 6) clay with sparse sub-angular gravels, rare rooting. A level horizon with (1502).	0.00 - 0.22
1502		Subsoil	Very dark greyish brown (10YR 4 / 2) silty clay with rare gravels, rare rooting and rare CBM fragments. Sharp horizon with (1503).	0.22 - 0.40
1503		Natural	Mid yellowish brown (10YR 5 / 6) sandy clay and gravels.	0.40 +
1504	(1505)	Construction cut	Construction cut for modern building, excavated to try depth of modern intrusion.	0.00 - 0.80
1505	[1504]	Deliberate backfill	Concrete, tarmac and brick rubble	0.00 - 0.80

Trench No 16		Length 4 m	Width 1.80 m	Depth
Easting		Northing		
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
			Trench abandoned after initial excavation identified services	

Trench No 17		Length 29.5 m	Width 2.90 m	Depth 1 m
Easting 438504.495		Northing 116033.586		36.560 m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1701		Made ground	Type 1 crush.	0.00 - 0.30
1702		Construction cut	Construction cut for concrete ring beam. Not clearly discernible. No. given for stratigraphic integrity.	0.10 - 1.00
1703		Deliberate backfill	Concrete ring beam and pillars	0.10 - 1.00
1704		Deliberate backfill	Light yellowish brown silty clay with rare gravels.	0.10 - 1.00
1705		Natural Brick earth	Strong red (2.5 yr 5 / 8) silty clay with rare gravels.	0.30 +



Trench No 18		Length 4.50 m	Width 3 m	Depth 1.60 m
Easting 438512.252		Northing 116059.091		37.354 m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1801		Made ground	Mixed red sand and crushed concrete	0-0.30
1802		Natural	Reddish yellow sandy gravel, occasional gravel inclusions 5YR 6 / 8	0.30m+

Trench No 19		Length 7 m	Width 5 m	Depth 2 m
Easting 438518.593		Northing 116052.022		37.186 m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1901		Made ground	Made ground	0-0.25
1902		Brick earth	Brownish yellow silty clay, occasional inclusions of gravel 10YR 6 / 8	0.25-0.60
1903		Reddish yellow sandy gravel 5YR 6/8	Reddish yellow sandy gravel 5YR 6 / 8	0.60m+

Trench No 20		Length 8 m	Width 8 m	Depth 2 m
Easting 438503.405		Northing 116048.261		37.017 m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
2001		Made ground	Made ground	0-0.20
2002		Brick earth	brownish yellow silty clay 10YR 6 / 8	0.20-0.50
2003		Natural	Reddish yellow sandy gravel 5YR 6 / 8	0.50m+

Trench No 21		Length 5 m	Width 3 m	Depth 1.60 m
Easting 438504.530		Northing 116044.476		36.898 m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
2101		Made ground	Mix of crushed concrete and red sand	0-0.10m
2102		Natural	Reddish yellow sandy gravel 5YR 6 / 8	0.10m+



Appendix 2 Environmental Data

Table 2 Assessment of the environmental evidence/macrofossils/charred plant remains and charcoal

Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (l)	Flot (ml)	Sub-sample	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal > 2mm (ml)	Charcoal	Other (type and abundance)
208	209	1	19	60	100 <4mm residue	<1%, C, F, I	-	-	-	-	-	30	Mature	Slag (C)
1107	1108	2	2	20	100 <4mm residue	1%, C, F	-	-	-	-	-	3	Mature	Slag (C)

Key: Scale of abundance: A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = 30-10, B = 9-5, C = <5; Bioturbation proxies: Roots (%), Uncharred seeds (scale of abundance), F = mycorrhizal fungi sclerotia, E = earthworm eggs, I = insects.



Appendix 3 OASIS form

10.3 OASIS ID: wessexar1-328777

Project details

Project name	Former Oaklands School, Fairisle Road, Southampton
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Drew Smith Group, to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a 3 hectare parcel of land located in Former Oaklands School, Fairisle Road, Southampton, centred on NGR 438524 116032. Prior to the proposed redevelopment of the Site and construction of 103 dwellings a planning application (15/00340/OUT) was submitted to, and granted by Southampton City Council, subject to a number of conditions, five of which relate to archaeology (no 21-25). This report relates to Condition 21. The evaluation (21st to 5th December 2019) comprised twenty trenches, targeted to ascertain the degree of truncation and landscaping from the construction of the former school, as well as to assess the significance of any archaeological deposits. The evaluation successfully identified four ditches, two pits, one hearth and a post-hole. Three of the ditches and one of the pits have been dated by pottery to the late Iron Age/early Roman period. Environmental samples recovered are possibly suggestive of industrial activity in the vicinity (through the presence of a small quantity of slag). There was also nothing to suggest the processing of crops. The features and deposits were found across the southern part of the site. The evaluation also demonstrated the construction of the school had removed soils, often to a considerable depth across the northern part of the site
Project dates	Start: 21-10-2019 End: 05-12-2019
Previous/future work	No / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	211650 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	SOU1848 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	15/00340/OUT - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	DITCH Late Iron Age
Monument type	PIT Late Iron Age
Significant Finds	POT Late Iron Age
Significant Finds	WORKED FLINT Late Iron Age
Methods & techniques	""Targeted Trenches""
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)



Project location

Country	England
Site location	HAMPSHIRE SOUTHAMPTON SOUTHAMPTON Former Oaklands School, Fairisle Road, Southampton
Postcode	SO16 8BY
Study area	30782 Square metres
Site coordinates	SU 38524 16032 50.941892231447 -1.451617616478 50 56 30 N 001 27 05 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Southampton City Council
Project design originator	Wessex archaeology
Project director/manager	Simon Woodiwiss
Project supervisor	Rachel Williams
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Drew Smith Group

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Southampton Museum
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Environmental","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Southampton Museum
Digital Media available	"Database","Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Southampton Museum
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Notebook - Excavation"," Research"," General Notes"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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Entered by	Simon Woodiwiss (s.woodiwiss@wessexarch.co.uk)
Entered on	16 January 2020



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