



Land to the rear of 56 High Street Southampton

Archaeological Watching Brief on Ground Investigation Works



Planning Ref: 19/00460/FUL
Ref: 214992.04
SOU 1887
October 2021

Document Information

Document title	Archaeological Watching Brief on Ground Investigation Works
Document subtitle	Archaeological Watching Brief
Document reference	214992.04
Commissioned by	Alpine Homes Limited
Address	Three Oaks Botley Road Bishops Waltham Southampton SO32 1DR
Site location	To the rear of 56 High Street Southampton
County	Hampshire
National grid reference (NGR)	442086 111218 (SU 42086 11218)
Statutory designations	Assessed as being part of the curtilage of a Grade II and possibly a Grade II* listed building
Planning authority	Southampton City Council
Planning reference	19/00460/FUL
Museum name	Southampton City Council Archaeological Collections
Museum accession code	TBC
OASIS Id	wessexar1-432473
WA project code(s)	214992
SOU Code	SOU1887
Date(s) of fieldwork	31/08/2021 – 01/09/2021
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Quality Assurance

Issue	Date	Author	Approved by
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Quality Assurance

Issue	Date	Author	Approved by
1	11/10/2021	OG	



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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Alpine Homes LTD to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground investigation (GI) works associated with the proposed re-development of land at the rear of 56 High Street, Southampton, SO14 2NS, centred on NGR 442086 111218. The work monitored the excavation of one cable percussion borehole to a depth of 20 m and five window sample boreholes to a depth of 4 m.

The sequence of deposits revealed during the work was fairly consistent across the site. There were three main types of deposit identified below the modern concrete surface, as well as possible structures of undetermined date. Below the modern concrete surface there was approximately 1.0 m of made ground containing a mix of broken red brick, concrete, tile and glass. This layer was noted above darker brown and grey silty/clay deposits that could be seen to continue to at least 4 m deep in most of the boreholes. Where these darker deposits were shallow, a yellowish-brown silty clay was identified, which likely represents river terrace deposits of brickearth. River gravel and sedimentary bedrock were also identified from the cable percussion drilling position.

The narrow window provided by the boreholes does make interpreting the results somewhat difficult. However, the darker soils encountered below modern deposits are likely at least in part, to represent remains of backyard deposits of either the medieval or post-medieval periods. The small assemblage of finds does not provide much evidence to date the darker soils, although contexts (204), (502) and (1005) have been tentatively dated to the post medieval/medieval periods. No evidence of Late Saxon settlement was recorded, although it is possible the darker clay and silt soils could be a continuation of the ditch recorded in previous work there is no way of differentiating them from later contexts.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Alpine Homes LTD, for commissioning the archaeological watching brief, in particular Chris Fields. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of archaeological planning advisor Ingrid Peckham, Planning Archaeologist / Historic Environment Record Officer (PA), who monitored the project for Southampton County Council (SCC), and to Geo-Environmental for their cooperation and help on site.



Land to the rear of 56 High Street, Southampton

Archaeological Watching Brief

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Alpine Homes LTD, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground investigation (GI) works associated with the proposed re-development of land at the rear of 56 High Street, Southampton, SO14 2NS (**Fig. 1**), centred on NGR 442086 111218,
- 1.1.2 The re-development of the site comprises the erection of a six-storey building to provide 29 duplex flats with associated cycle/refuse storage and landscaping. In order to facilitate the re-development, buildings associated with the former Fruit and Vegetable Market located on the eastern side of the site require demolition. These buildings lie to the rear of the Grade II* Listed Red Lion Inn (NHLE 1092055) and the Grade II listed 56 High Street (NHLE 1339963).
- 1.1.3 A planning application (19/00460/FUL) submitted to Southampton City Council (SCC) for the re-development of the site was granted on 11 November 2020, subject to conditions. These conditions are detailed within the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Wessex Archaeology 2021b) and therefore will not be repeated here. The recommendation for the conditions attached to the approved planning application followed consultation by SCC with their archaeological planning advisor Ingrid Peckham, Planning Archaeologist / Historic Environment Record Officer (PA).
- 1.1.1 The results of these GI works will inform the final designs of the proposed re-development, subsequently enabling completion of the archaeological damage assessment required under Condition 20 of the planning agreement (ref. 19/00460/FUL). Due to the potential for the presence of archaeological features and deposits, the PA at SCC deemed it necessary to monitor the works. Indeed, the site is positioned on the line of a Late Saxon ditch, sections of which have been found to the north and south (SOU 1669; SOU 1039) and settlement activity is known both within and without the defended area. Activity pertaining to such, particularly the form of the Late Saxon settlement is of interest and forms one of the main focuses of archaeological research within Southampton (Ingrid Peckham, Consultee Response, 30/04/2019). The site also has the potential to contain the remains of backyard deposits (such as rubbish pits) dating to the medieval and post-medieval periods.
- 1.1.2 Following the advice of the PA at SCC, the watching brief monitored all ground disturbance works, as well as observation of the opening of individual boreholes and recording of any potential archaeological deposits or artefacts that were encountered.
- 1.1.3 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed (Wessex Archaeology 2021b). The PA at SCC approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning



Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing. The watching brief was undertaken on the 31/08/2021 and 01/09/2021.

1.2 Scope of the report

- 1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the results of the watching brief, to interpret the results within their local or regional context (or otherwise), and to assess their potential to address the aims outlined in the WSI, thereby making available information about the archaeological resource (a preservation by record).

1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 The watching brief was located in the centre of Southampton on Market Place, Southampton, SO14 2NS (**Fig. 1**). The site comprises an 'L' shaped area, measuring approximately 747 m² to the rear of 55 – 56 High Street, formerly part of the Fruit and Vegetable Market.
- 1.3.2 To the west the site is bounded by 55 (The Red Lion Inn) and 56 High Street, both of which are listed buildings (Grade II* and Grade II respectively). The former Head Post Office (57 High Street), positioned to the south-west, is also Grade II Listed and the vault beneath is designated a Scheduled Monument. The Market Place bounds the site to the north, whilst the eastern boundary comprises Back of the Walls. Four-storey development occupying the rest of the former Fruit and Vegetable Market and part of the Post Office surrounds the site to the north, east and south.
- 1.3.3 Existing ground levels mapped during the topographic survey are 6.50 m above Ordnance Datum in the west and 6.39 m aOD in the east.
- 1.3.4 The underlying geology is mapped as sand, silt and clay of the Earnley Sand Formation, sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 41 – 48 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period, with overlying River Terrace Deposits 1 of clay and silt (sometimes referred to as brickearth) (British Geological Survey 2021). The clay and silt brickearth component of the sequence present in this area has been observed to overlie river terrace gravels, as seen in various investigations undertaken within the area.
- 1.3.5 It is noted, however, that a borehole survey carried out in the plots to the south of the site, 57 – 64 High Street (ESH1753), recorded deposits of black silty peat with gravel, overlying dark grey organic silt. The lower peat and silt deposits are considered to be archaeological in origin rather than natural.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Previous investigations related to the development

Archaeological Investigations (2014-2017)

- 2.1.1 Programmes of excavation and monitoring were undertaken in the immediate vicinity in association with development comprising Phases 1 to 3, Fruit and Vegetable Market in Back of the Walls, Bernard Street and Queensway (SOU 1669; ESH2400; Wessex Archaeology 2018). Sites to the immediate north and east of the proposed excavation produced evidence indicating that the line of the historic medieval town wall and defences lies to the east of the current site, along the eastern edge of Back of the Walls. A late Saxon ditch was also recorded, as well as numerous medieval and post-medieval pits and occupation layers, and some structural remains.



2.1.2 Earlier work to the north of the site, also revealed remains of what are likely to have been 19th century domestic and light industrial or commercial buildings (SOU 1669; ESH2288). The remains comprised infilled cellars and garden deposits. Demolition layers derived from the buildings (largely domestic housing) were also recorded and highlighted that construction occurred at different times throughout the first half of the 19th century, with widespread clearance of much of the area having occurred by the end of the 1940s following bomb damage.

2.2 Archaeological and historical context

Palaeolithic – Bronze Age (970,000 – 700 BC)

2.2.1 The earliest archaeological evidence recorded in the wider Southampton area comprises worked flint dating to the Palaeolithic period, recovered from gravel terraces of the River Test. Similar gravel terraces are recorded underlying the site which have the potential to preserve Middle Palaeolithic archaeology. Indeed, two Palaeolithic handaxes were recovered from Terrace 2 deposits on the High Street, approximately 150 m north of the site (MSH224; Wessex Archaeology 1993).

2.2.2 Elsewhere, Mesolithic and Neolithic activity is attested by discoveries of residual flint tools, most of which are of uncertain date, beneath occupation layers or within features of a later date (SOU 1474; MSH5642; MSH5645; SOU 266; MSH870).

2.2.3 A lump of copper recorded during ground works undertaken in the late 19th / early 20th century behind a house in the High Street, is putatively dated to the Bronze Age (SOU 827; MSH225).

Iron Age – Romano-British (700 BC – AD 410)

2.2.4 Iron Age settlement has been located to the north of the site, within the Bargate area (Southampton City Council Archaeological Unit 2009). Residual artefacts dating to the period have been reported sporadically during a small number of investigations within approximately 150 m of the site (SOU 252; MSH1333). These have included general occupation evidence characterised by pits, postholes and a number of pottery sherds (SOU 266; MSH870; MSH165; SOU 134; MSH707).

2.2.5 The Romano-British settlement at Bitterne Manor (*Clausentum*) is located approximately 2 km to the north-east of the site. The settlement became an important centre in the region within a few decades of the Roman conquest of AD 43 and functioned as a trading port serving the cantonal capital at Winchester – *Venta Belgarum* (Cotton and Gathercole 1958).

2.2.6 Analysis of findspots relating to Romano-British activity within approximately 250 m of the site demonstrates a concentration of activity towards the west, north-west and south-west. This concentration coincides approximately with the historic core of Southampton and the earliest known settlement area.

2.2.7 The individual findspots typically comprise pottery, coins and metalwork (MSH164; MSH167; MSH4864; SOU 125; MSH716). A number of archaeological features pertaining to the period have also been recorded. These include ditches, pits and postholes, as well as evidence for more permanent structures (tile, ceramic building material) (SOU 256; MSH712; SOU 127 MSH796; SOU 161; MSH881; SOU 1230; MSH2900).

2.2.8 Whilst no in-situ remains have been recorded within the immediate vicinity of the site, that which has been found does indicate probable nearby settlement.



Saxon (AD410 – 1066)

- 2.2.9 The mid-Saxon town of Hamwic, initially focused on an early cemetery located at St Mary's Stadium, lay approximately 1 km to the east of the proposed excavation (Birbeck et al 2005). The town developed in the late 7th century to become an important trading and production centre, forming a major international trading port and one of the largest towns in England by the 8th century. Throughout the 8th and 9th centuries, Hamwic expanded and extended as far as Cook Street, approximately 450 m to the north-east of the site. Hamwic is believed to have been abandoned by the mid-9th century, likely due to dwindling trade networks and threat of attack, as the town could not be effectively defended.
- 2.2.10 In the early 10th century the new settlement of New Hampton (Southampton) is thought to have been established on the higher grounds by the River Test, south-west of the site of Hamwic. The core of the settlement was located immediately west of the site. Although smaller and not achieving the same importance as Hamwic, the Late Saxon settlement appears to have been defended on its southern and eastern side as suggested by the presence of large ditches (Birbeck et al 2005).
- 2.2.11 Investigations undertaken across the centre of Southampton have recorded further sections of large ditches, several of which (not all) have been securely dated to the Anglo-Saxon period and are presumed to form a defensive system, though it is noted that these ditches do not define the extent of the Late Saxon settlement and as such may have only functioned as defences for a short period of time.
- 2.2.12 Possibly comprising an inner and outer ditch with rampart banks, the line of the outermost of the ditches, as recorded by the SCCHER, has been extrapolated to traverse the middle of the site on a north to south alignment (MSH346) (**Fig. 1**).
- 2.2.13 Archaeological investigations undertaken within the Anglo-Saxon town have encountered extensive in-situ Late Saxon deposits and features, typically comprising pits, ditches, occupation layers and structural evidence (postholes and beamslots). The western extent of the site lies within the enclosed area and therefore has the potential to contain archaeological traces of the Late Saxon town (including pits, timber structures and occupation layers).
- 2.2.14 Though the eastern extent of the site lies outside of the defensive ditches, settlement remains may also be present in this area. Investigations in the vicinity have revealed evidence that settlement activity extended beyond the enclosed limits of the Saxon town (SOU 1061; MSH2312).

Medieval

- 2.2.15 The Late Saxon settlement of New Hampton subsequently developed into the important and prosperous medieval port of Southampton. The core of the medieval town radiated out from the quay to the south, along High Street (then English Street) and French Street, and around the focal points represented by the parish churches and the castle (MSH3392) (MSH3402) (MSH3403) (MSH3403) (MSH3421).
- 2.2.16 Construction of the town defences, initially comprising a ditch and rampart, began in the early 13th century. Though some ambiguity remains about the subsequent development of these defences, it is likely that several stages of construction and modification occurred at different points around the town's circumference at various times.



- 2.2.17 The eastern town defences extended parallel to the Late Saxon defensive ditches (MSH1339; possibly MSH2693), though further to the east. The stone-built town wall (MSH217) appears to have been completed in the 14th century. During investigations undertaken in association with the redevelopment of the Fruit and Vegetable Market in the immediate vicinity, an extent of the town wall was exposed. The results of this investigation confirmed that the town wall is located along on the eastern side of Back of the Walls (SOU 1669; Wessex Archaeology 2018).
- 2.2.18 The rampart (MSH63), on the inside of the wall, appears to have been built up during the digging of the earlier, inner town ditch, raised further when this section of the town wall was built and the outer ditch dug. The section of the rampart in particular proximity to the site is likely to have coincided with the modern line of Back of the Walls and may have extended into the eastern extent of the development area. The inner ditch (MSH3425), which ran parallel to the outside face of the wall is likely of early 13th century origin. The outer ditch (MSH3424) may have been cut during the late 14th century. The two town ditches were separated from one another and from the town wall by berms.
- 2.2.19 The town wall was punctuated along its length by a number of towers, three of which are suspected to have been located within the Study Area, though each of these has since been demolished. The exact locations of the demolished towers are uncertain. However, the so-called 'fourth tower' (MSH216) is suggested to have been located in the vicinity of the junction of Bernard Street and the Back of the Walls, while the 'fifth tower' (MSH219) is suggested to have been located approximately mid-way along the section of Back of the Walls which lies adjacent to the eastern boundary of the site.
- 2.2.20 Observations (SOU 329) carried out during the excavation of a trench for a gas main along Back of the Walls in 1988 identified a limestone wall, which may have corresponded with the 'fifth tower'. Earlier observations (SOU 366) to the north of those of 1988 recorded walls (MSH1338) extending to the east of the town wall, though these may have been part of a cellar or other structure.
- 2.2.21 The site lies within the intramural area, between the town defences and major route formed by what is now the high street. Investigations undertaken elsewhere within the walled medieval town have frequently encountered extensive and complex archaeological remains. In the immediate vicinity of the Site, archaeological investigations (SOU 1039; SOU 1061) have recorded such remains including: occupation deposits, which are often thickly stratified, along with structural remains of stone built and timber buildings.
- 2.2.22 During the investigations immediately north of the site (SOU1669; ESH2400, Wessex Archaeology 2018) medieval features dating from the 11th – 16th century were revealed. In addition to the 11 m section of the town wall which was exposed, a large number of pits were revealed – some of which defined a property boundary extending back from the High Street. The foundations of at least one ancillary building and ditches forming part of an extramural field system, the latter overlain by a late medieval ploughsoil, were also recorded.
- 2.2.23 The buildings on the west side of the site (to be demolished to ground level) are physically connected to the Grade II* Listed Red Lion Inn (NHLE 1092055) and the building that fronts 56 High Street. The Red Lion Inn is a late 15th – early 16th century public house, although the façade is a 20th – century sham timber frame. There is a medieval vault below the Inn hall, which is probably a remnant from an earlier house on the site (MSH3159).



- 2.2.24 In the medieval period, the 1454 Terrier indicates the land comprising the site was subdivided between two properties. Land occupied by the Red Lion public house and the northern half of the site formed one plot, and the land occupied by the building fronting 56 High Street and the southern half of the site formed the second plot.
- 2.2.25 Beneath 58 High Street to the south-west of the site is a Scheduled medieval vault (NHLE 1001831). The property was once the location for the Head Post Office and is a Grade II listed building (NHLE 1092012).
- 2.2.26 The Church of Holy Rood, now located less than 70 m to the north-north-west of the site in a prominent position at the corner of High Street and Bernard Street (NHLE 1001881) originally stood in the middle of the High Street, in front of its present position (MSH64). The first church is thought to have originated in the Late Saxon period, perhaps between 950 and 1066 AD. The church was demolished and rebuilt on its present site in c.1320 (MSH2223). It was then bombed during the Second World War and the ruin was restored in 1957 as a memorial to merchant seamen.

Post-medieval – present day

- 2.2.27 A detailed account of the post-medieval development of the city can be pieced together from the numerous historic maps and plans available. A detailed map regression is provided within the preceding DBA and, to avoid repetition, will not be repeated here. Instead details regarding the development of the site itself and its immediate environs during the period are discussed below. Should the results of the proposed excavation be such that it is deemed necessary, a full map regression will be included within the archaeological report.
- 2.2.28 Evidence revealed during excavations carried out at 57 – 58 High Street comprised structural remains, backyards and garden deposits (ESH1753; MSH2692). To the rear of this site, on the eastern boundary, archaeological investigations recorded evidence consistent with the use of the area as a backyard for the property or properties fronting onto the High Street during this period (SOU 1669; ESH2288; Sou 604; ESH604).
- 2.2.29 A trial trench evaluation undertaken approximately 30 m to the north of the site boundary (SOU 1669; ESH2400) provided a 20 m long transect through the back lands of a single medieval and post-medieval property. The investigated section lay between approximately 60 and 80 m from the High Street frontage in the west and 20 m from the town wall in the east. Structural remains and related surfaces and deposits were found, as well as a brick-lined cess pit, several pits and garden soils, most of which dated to the 17th/early 18th centuries.
- 2.2.30 The eastern town defences were not maintained during the post-medieval period and by the 16th century the outer ditch had been partly infilled, while the wall was slowly robbed of stone and partly demolished. The inner town ditch is thought to have been largely infilled by the early 18th century (Clelland, 2006; 1771 Map by Mazell).
- 2.2.31 North-east of the site, during the 2014 – 2017 investigations (SOU1669; ESH2400; Wessex Archaeology 2018) revealed structural remains including a brick and stone structure to the west of Back of the Walls. With a possible vaulted roof, the location of the remains correspond with the eastern side of a known cellar which may have been of earlier post-medieval date, though a later date was considered more likely. A garden soil was also located to the north of the current site, through which pits dating to the post-medieval period were found. The homogenous garden deposit was located immediately beneath the more recent demolition and levelling deposits. Remains pertaining to the



Southampton - Salisbury canal were also recorded, along with later walls, a brick lined well and cess pit, and remains of a WWII public air raid shelter.

- 2.2.32 The former Southampton to Salisbury Canal (MSH2954), the construction of which was authorised by an Act of Parliament in 1795, was cut along the route of the former town ditches, less than 20 m to the east of the site boundary. The canal was in use in the early 19th century for a very short period. A number of archaeological investigations have recovered structural evidence for the limestone walls and stone-lined base of the canal (SOU 1108; SOU 1201; MSH1789; SOU 1263; MSH2651; SOU 1260; MSH2652) and what has been interpreted as a canal-side walk (MSH4616) (MSH4617). In addition, deposits indicating natural silting of the canal and the ultimate backfilling which occurred by the mid-19th century were recorded.
- 2.2.33 As depicted by the 1846 Royal Engineers Map, the site was densely built up with structures, predominantly residential properties or commercial premises, by the mid-19th century. A house is also shown to the rear of the Red Lion tenement, later indicated as a tap bar which closed in the 1870s, and is not shown on mapping from 1896. Cellars to those buildings depicted on the 1846 Royal Engineers map are known to exist on the site.
- 2.2.34 The northern half of the site formed part of the Red Lion property until the early 20th century, transferring to 56 High Street between 1910 and 1933. The Grade II listed 56 High Street (NHLE 1339963) was built c. 1920.
- 2.2.35 Despite the bombing raids of the Second World War resulting in the destruction of earlier buildings within the surrounding area, including the loss of the original frontages of 56 High Street and the Red Lion Inn, the large building to the east of the site survived. Ordnance Survey mapping from the 1950's records that the bomb-damaged portions beyond the east of the site remained largely undeveloped until the establishment of the Market Place, Fruit and Vegetable Market and car park in 1957.
- 2.2.36 From this period onwards, the footprint of the buildings within the site has remained largely unaltered but with sporadic episodes of redevelopment associated with the use of the Market.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

- 3.1.1 The aims of the watching brief, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2021b) and as defined in the ClfA *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014a), were to:
- allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of the development or other works;
 - provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard; and
 - guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.



3.2 Objectives

3.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the objectives of the watching brief, also defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2021b), were to:

- determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified works area;
- record and establish, within the constraints of the works, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains (a preservation by record);
- 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 on the site by preparing a report on the results of the watching brief.

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methodology set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2021b) 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 GI works comprised the following intrusive works:

- One numbered cable percussion borehole to a depth of 20 m below ground level (bgl) with in situ testing and sampling at regular intervals;
- Five numbered dynamic sampler boreholes to depths of up to 4 m bgl, depending on drilling conditions;
- Installation of three groundwater monitoring wells to a depth of 3 m bgl to facilitate return monitoring

4.2.2 A sixth dynamic sampler borehole was proposed within the Land Contamination Investigation scope (Geo-Environmental 2020) but was not completed due to the ongoing demolition works at the western end of the site.

4.2.3 The position of the individual boreholes was also limited by the ongoing demolition works, causing all except WS01 to be moved from their proposed location.

4.2.4 The watching archaeologist monitored all mechanical excavations within the specified area.

4.2.5 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. 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.



Recording

- 4.2.6 All exposed archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system and the 1975 edition of the Munsell Chart. A complete record of excavated deposits was made.
- 4.2.7 The Window Samples were recorded with context numbers corresponding to their assigned number. eg. WS01 = context 101, 102 etc. To provide separate context numbers the cable percussion borehole CP01 was assigned numbers starting at 1001.
- 4.2.8 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.
- 4.2.9 There were two occasions where the window sampling rig failed to recover any material. This was in WS05 and WS03.

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 2021b). 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), ClfA's *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting* (Type 1: Description) and the *Standards for the Creation, Compilation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives* (SCC 2016).

4.4 Monitoring

- 4.4.1 The PA at SCC monitored the watching brief on behalf of the LPA.

5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

5.1 Soil sequence and natural deposits

- 5.1.1 The sequence of deposits was fairly consistent across the site. There were three main types of deposit identified below the modern concrete surface, as well as three somewhat anomalous deposits in the context of the cores retrieved while on site. River gravel and sedimentary bedrock were also identified from the cable percussion drilling position.
- 5.1.2 Below around 0.30 m of concrete and reinforced steel bars there was a layer of modern made ground that largely consisted of a mix of broken concrete, crushed red brick, occasional elements of sandy mortar and broken tile/slate. WS05 also revealed a fragment of broken glass and a single sherd of pottery. The depth of this deposit was consistently between 0.80 m and 1.20 m below the modern ground level.
- 5.1.3 Beneath the modern made ground deposits of dark grey/brown silts and clays were encountered in all six of the bore holes with slight variations in colour and texture. These often-contained fragments of marine shells, elements of brick and mortar, charcoal, tile/slate as well as bone. Fragments of a glass bottle were recovered in WS04 at a depth of around 1.80 m. The depth of these deposits was seen to extend to beyond the limit of excavation (4 m bgl) within WS01, WS02 and WS04. These darker soil deposits ceased from around 3 m bgl in WS03 and WS05 and 3.9 m in CP01.

- 5.1.4 The soil recovered below these darker deposits was a yellowish-brown silty clay that probably represents the layer of brickearth known to exist in the area. Due to the relatively shallow depth of the window samples the river gravel was only encountered during cable percussion drilling at CP01. Here the gravel was recorded to a depth of 6.50 m and was a slightly sandy yellowish-brown gravel, which overlaid the natural sedimentary bedrock of stiff, yellowish brown sandy clay.
- 5.1.5 Two of the slightly anomalous deposits were recorded in WS01 with the remaining one found in WS04. Context **(404)** seen in **Plate 5** was located between 2.0 m – 2.20 m and was recorded as a crushed pale brown stone/concretion with rounded voids. Context **(103)** from 0.80 m – 2.0 m deep was a very pale brown stone, possibly sandstone or limestone, again crushed due to the window sample excavation. This context also contained a yellowish-brown sandy matrix. The third of these slightly anomalous deposits was **(105)** and was a slightly silty fine sand of various yellow hues, which overlaid a black peaty silt with common charcoal, fine flint gravel and rare tiny flakes of shell. Contexts from WS01 can be seen in **Plate 6**.

6 FINDS EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 A very small assemblage of finds was recovered, deriving from five contexts in four of the boreholes excavated. All finds are listed in.
- 6.1.2 Datable finds include the pottery and glass. One sherd of medieval pottery was found in layer **1005** (Borehole CP01); this is a tiny body sherd of South Hampshire redware, dating c 1250–1350, one of the commonest medieval glazed wares found in Southampton (Brown 2002, 14–15). Given the size of the sherd it would be unwise to place too much reliance on its use as a dating tool in this context. The second sherd, from made ground/rubble layer **502** (Borehole WS05) is a post-medieval Verwood-type earthenware from east Dorset. These wares are amongst the most frequent 17th- and 18th-century earthenware finds in Southampton (*ibid.*, 21). The single piece of glass (layer **204**, Borehole WS02) is from the neck of a free-blown green glass wine bottle dating to the late 17th century.
- 6.1.3 Other finds comprise animal bone and a single piece of prehistoric worked flint. The latter was recovered from a gravel layer at the base of the sequence excavated in Borehole CP01 (layer 1007).

Table 1 Finds by context

Context	Borehole	Material Type	Count	Wt. (g)	Description
104	WS01	ANIMAL BONE	2	26	Cattle: vertebra, pelvis (calf)
204	WS02	ANIMAL BONE	1	1	Burnt; unidentifiable to species
204	WS02	GLASS	1	36	Free-blown green wine bottle neck: late C17
502	WS05	POTTERY	1	9	Post-medieval Verwood-type earthenware (VER), glazed



1005	CP01	POTTERY	1	1	Medieval South Hampshire redware (SHR), glazed
1007	CP01	FLINT	1	8	Cortical flake

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1.1 No contexts suitable for sampling were encountered during fieldwork.

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Summary

8.1.1 The results of the Watching Brief have confirmed there is potential for archaeological features and deposits to be preserved below the modern made ground and is consistent with what could be expected to find under the conditions imposed. The extremely limited window provided by the boreholes severely impedes any interpretation of the available data and the lack of finds makes accurately dating most of the darker soil deposits impossible.

8.1.2 The presence of the darker silty soils and what is likely to be brickearth at around 3.0 m bgl demonstrates that there is potential to find archaeological remains similar to the excavations at the Fruit and Vegetable Market in 2018 (SOU 1669; ESH2400; Wessex Archaeology 2018).

8.2 Discussion

8.2.1 Due to the nature of the borehole excavations, it is impossible to be certain of exactly what was encountered. However, much of the darker silt and clay deposits encountered from between around 1.0 m – 4.0 m bgl likely represent remains of backyard deposits of either the medieval or post-medieval periods. It is also possible that WS03 and WS04 could be located over the position of the line of a Late Saxon ditch, but no dating evidence was recovered to confirm this.

8.2.2 Layers **404** and **103** possibly relate to extant walls or stone structures but again, this is uncertain due to the nature of the borehole sampling. Due to its location being immediately below the modern made ground, layer **103** was initially interpreted to be part of a more recent phase of construction. However, given that WS01 was located towards the edge of the site, it is possible that the stone could very tentatively be interpreted a possible boundary wall.

9 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 Museum

9.1.1 The archive resulting from the watching brief 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 site code SOU1887. 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 physical archive, which includes paper records, graphics, artefacts and ecofacts, 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).

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

- 1 box of artefacts and ecofacts
- 1 file of paper records

Digital archive

9.2.3 The digital archive generated by the project, which comprises born-digital data (eg 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, ie 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), generic selection policies (SMA 1993) and Southampton City Council Archaeological Collections' own selection strategy and follows ClfA's 'Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives'. It should be agreed by all stakeholders (Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists, local authority, museum) and fully documented in the project archive.

9.3.3 In this instance, as further fieldwork is anticipated, the selection process has been deferred until after the final fieldwork stage has been completed.

Documentary records

9.3.4 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

9.3.5 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 (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 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 Southampton City Council Archaeological Collections 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 (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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Wessex Archaeology 2020b *Market Place, Fruit and Vegetable Market, Southampton: Heritage Statement*. Unpublished client report ref. 214990.02

Wessex Archaeology 2021a *Land to the rear of 56 High Street, Southampton: Archaeological Structure Record – Level 2 Interim Report*. Unpublished client report ref. 214991.02

Wessex Archaeology 2021b *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*. Unpublished report ref. 214992.04



APPENDIX 1 BOREHOLE DATA

Site Code: 214992		Site Name: Land to the rear of 56 High Street, Southampton		Borehole ID: CP01		
Coordinates (NGR) X:		Coordinates (NGR) Y:		Level (top):		
Length: 0.15		Width: 0.15		Depth: 20 m		
Context Number	Description	Interpretation	Depth m BGL	Depth m aOD	Samples	
1001	White/light Grey concrete (5yr8/1-5yr7/1) with reinforced steel bars.	Modern ground level	0-0.25			
1002	Mix of broken concrete fragments likely from layer above as well as very common Crushed red (2.5yr4/6) brick. Crushed due to excavation of inspection pit.	Modern made ground/building level	0.25-0.5			
1003	Slightly silty, slightly clayey dark brown (7.5yr3/4) gravel with abundant sub angular to sub rounded broken flints less than 0.08m in size, but generally less than 0.08m. very common brick fragments (as above) also present. This layer and layer above are indicative of several layers of various layers of made ground to a depth of 1.2m	Modern made ground.	0.5-1.2			
1004	Very dark brown (10yr 2/2) friable slightly sandy (very fine), slightly clayey silt with sparse shell (oyster?) Common brick fragments and common flints of sub rounded to sub angular shape and less than 0.06m in size. Common flecks and lumps of charcoal present throughout layer. Rare tile (incl. 1x fragment 0.05x0.04m) also present as well as rare pinkish grey (7.5yr 6/2) smears of sand. Fairly gradual change to new layer around 3.4m.	Interpretation difficult due to narrow window and crushed nature of components. However. This layer could represent backland pit features of post medieval date? Possibly related to features found in earlier excavations to the north?	1.2-3.4			
1005	Very similar layer to above except slightly lighter in colour (10yr 3/3). Also fewer fragments /coarse components present except for a tiny (0.02x0.01) piece of yellowish brown (0yr 5/8) glazed pottery.	Similar to above. Even harder to interpret given less material recovered.	3.4-3.9			



1006	Yellowish brown (10yr 5/4) (very fine) sandy silty clay (forms unbroken ring when wet) with very rare sub angular gravel less than 0.03m in size. Layer gradually becomes yellower (closer to 10yr 6/8) and more sandy (although still very fine) as we get deeper.	Possibly the brick earth as no anthropogenic material is present? Yellower colour as it increases in depth a result of excavating through weathered upper surface?	3.90-5.20		
1007	Slightly sandy yellowish brown (10yr 5/6) gravel. With some greyish elements within. Various shapes from rounded pebbles to angular fragments up to around 0.10m in size but generally much smaller (less than 0.05m. No obvious evidence of worked flint although the two most likely have been retained just in case.	River gravel.	5.20-6.5		
1008	Slightly sandy, slightly gravelly stiff clay of a light yellowish brown (2.5yr 6/4) hue. Some patches appear greyer, and some slightly yellower with gravel components thinning out by around 7m. Very fine sand component is more prevalent by 7m.	Natural, sedimentary bedrock.	6.5+		

Site Code: 214992		Site Name: Land to the rear of 56 High Street, Southampton		Borehole ID: WS05	
Coordinates (NGR) X:		Coordinates (NGR) Y:		Level (top):	
Length: 0.15		Width: 0.15		Depth:	
Context Number	Description	Interpretation	Depth m BGL	Depth m aOD	Samples
501	White/light Grey concrete (5yr8/1-5yr7/1) with reinforced steel bars.	Modern ground level	0-0.25		
502	A mix of crushed red brick, concrete and some rare mortar with rare sherds of glass and a single sherd of pottery.	Modern made ground/building rubble	0.25-1.0		
503	Dark grey (2.5yr 4) very slightly sandy silt with common flakes of tile and sandy mortar.	Interface between modern made ground and darker soils below? Difficult to interpret from window sample core.	1.0-1.20		



504	Very dark brown (10yr 2/2) slightly clayey slightly sandy silt with very common charcoal flecks, common fragments of brick, sparse shell, sparse tile and rare rounded flint pebbles around 0.02m in size. Rare sandy mortar is also present.	Possible rubbish pits/garden soils?	1.2-2		
505	No deposit recovered between these depths.	NA	2-3.1		
506	Yellowish brown (10yr 5/6) silty clay with a fine sandy component present in upper 0.1m. Occasional dark reddish brown (2.5 yr 2.5/4) veins are also visible in cross sections of this deposit	Possible brick earth although I am unsure of the reddish veins suggest it is something else.	3.1-4		

Site Code: 214992		Site Name: Land to the rear of 56 High Street, Southampton		Borehole ID: WS04	
Coordinates (NGR) X:		Coordinates (NGR) Y:		Level (top):	
Length: 0.15		Width: 0.15		Depth: 4 m	
Context Number	Description	Interpretation	Depth m BGL	Depth m aOD	Samples
401	White/light Grey concrete (5yr8/1-5yr7/1) with reinforced steel bars.	Modern ground level	0-0.20		
402	A mix of crushed concrete and a pink (5yr 8/3) sandy mortar.	Modern made ground/building rubble	0.20-1		
403	Very dark brown (10yr 2/2) slightly clayey slightly sandy silt with very common charcoal flecks, common fragments of brick, sparse shell, sparse tile and rare broken flint nodules around 0.06m in size. Rare sandy mortar is also present.	Very similar deposit to that seen in WS5. Could be a garden soil or backfill deposit.	1-2		
404	Pale brown (10yr 6/3) concretions/stone with rounded voids that appear to be some type of building material that has been damaged/crushed by WS excavator.	Uncertain. Part of a structure or made ground type deposit.	2-2.2		
405	Dark brown/ brown (10yr 4/3) daily stiff, slightly sandy silty clay with sparse charcoal flecks and shell as well as some yellowish sandy concretions.	Could be archaeological but very hard to say. Potentially a secondary fill of feature but could really be anything.	2.2-3.6		



406	Black (10yr 2/1) fairly stiff clayey silt with very common charcoal flecks and lumps as well as rare grey concretions.	Again, a possible archaeological layer but very difficult to say what.	3.6-4		
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Site Code: 214992		Site Name: Land to the rear of 56 High Street, Southampton		Borehole ID: WS03	
Coordinates (NGR) X:		Coordinates (NGR) Y:		Level (top):	
Length: 0.15		Width: 0.15		Depth: 4 m	
Context Number	Description	Interpretation	Depth m BGL	Depth m aOD	Samples
301	White/light Grey concrete (5yr8/1-5yr7/1) with reinforced steel bars.	Modern ground level	0-0.30		
302	Mix of reddish crushed brick and concrete. The first 0.5m or so was not recovered.	Modern made ground/building rubble	0.30-1.0		
303	Very dark greyish slightly sandy clayey silt with sparse fragments of tile and brick.	Probably still modern made ground given Plastic below.	1.0-1.5		
304	Not recovered or at least appears to be only partially present.	NA	1.5-2		
305	Dark brown/ brown (10yr 4/3) fairly stiff, slightly sandy silty clay with sparse charcoal flecks and shell as well as some yellowish sandy concretions. Fragments of tile also present with plastic around 2.1m deep.	Similar to deposit 405, but plastic suggests this is still quite modern. Plastic could be within a separate layer but it is difficult to be sure just looking at core lengths.	2-3.3		
306	Yellowish brown (10yr 5/4) silty clay with some greyer elements within. Some very rare brown staining and charcoal flecks.	Natural. Possibly brick earth with intrusive charcoal from rooting/worms but hard to say.	3-4		

Site Code: 214992		Site Name: Land to the rear of 56 High Street, Southampton		Borehole ID: WS02	
Coordinates (NGR) X:		Coordinates (NGR) Y:		Level (top):	
Length: 0.15		Width: 0.15		Depth: 4 m	



Context Number	Description	Interpretation	Depth m BGL	Depth m aOD	Samples
201	White/light Grey concrete (5yr8/1-5yr7/1) with reinforced steel bars.	Modern ground surface	0-0.3		
202	Mix of building rubble mainly consisting of concrete with some dark brown/black sandy crushed material at lower end of core sample length.	Modern made ground/building rubble	0.3-0.80		
203	Broken reddish bricks with very yellowish sandy mortar.	Possibly an extant wall below modern made ground.	0.80-1.3		
204	A relatively thick deposit of very dark grey (10yr 3/1) very slightly sandy silty clay with rare fragments of brick, shell, tile, bone (small piece found at c2.5m) and very rare sub angular flint. A broken glass bottle fragment was recovered from around 1.80m.	Possibly archaeological in nature, but hard to say looking at core length. Given fragment if glass it's probably post medieval.	1.3+		

Site Code: 214992		Site Name: Land to the rear of 56 High Street, Southampton		Borehole ID: WS01	
Coordinates (NGR) X:		Coordinates (NGR) Y:		Level (top):	
Length: 0.15		Width: 0.15		Depth: 4 m	
Context Number	Description	Interpretation	Depth m BGL	Depth m aOD	Samples
101	White/light Grey concrete (5yr8/1-5yr7/1) with reinforced steel bars.	Modern ground level	0-0.30		
102	Very dark brown (10yr 2/2) slightly sandy silt with common building debris including red bricks, tile and charcoal.	Modern made ground/building rubble	0.30-0.80		
103	Very pale brown (10yr 7/3) stone (sandstone or limestone?) With a yellowish brown (10yr 5/8) sandy matrix.	Sand possibly mortar between stones? A made ground layer.	0.80-2.0		
104	Very dark greyish brown (2.5yr 3/2) slightly sandy clayey silt with common fine gravels less than 0.01m in size. Rare flakes of tile and shell present as well as 2 x fragments of bone at 2.5m.	Made ground with similar deposits as elsewhere.	2.0-3.1		



105	Various hues of yellow make it look slightly olive/brown in colour (2.5y 5/4) while its texture is a very slightly silty fine sand.	Probably not natural given layer below but uncertain of formation process.	3.1-3.4		
106	Black (10yr 2/1) peaty/silt with common charcoal and fine flint gravel as well as rare larger medium coarse flints. Some tiny flakes of shell also present.	Can't be natural considering charcoal. Possible this could be an archaeological deposit but impossible to be specific or certain.	3.4+		





APPENDIX 2 OASIS RECORD

OASIS ID: wessexar1-432473

Project details

Project name	56 High Street, Southampton
Short description of the project	<p>Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground investigation (GI) works associated with the proposed re-development of land at the rear of 56 High Street, Southampton. The work monitored the excavation of one cable percussion borehole to a depth of 20 m and five window sample boreholes to a depth of 4 m. The sequence of deposits revealed during the work was fairly consistent across the site. There were three main types of deposit identified below the modern concrete surface, as well as possible structures of undetermined date. Below the modern concrete surface there was approximately 1.0 m of made ground. This layer was noted above darker brown and grey silty/clay deposits that could be seen to continue to at least 4 m deep in most of the boreholes. Where these darker deposits were shallow, a yellowish-brown silty clay was identified, which likely represents river terrace deposits of brickearth. River gravel and sedimentary bedrock were also identified from the cable percussion drilling position. The darker soils encountered below modern deposits are likely, at least in part, to represent remains of backyard deposits of medieval or post-medieval periods. The small assemblage of finds doesn't provide much evidence to date the darker soils, although some contexts have been tentatively dated to these periods. No evidence of Late Saxon settlement was recorded, although it is possible the darker clay and silt soils could be a continuation of the ditch recorded in previous work.</p>
Project dates	Start: 31-08-2021 End: 01-09-2021
Previous/future work	No / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	214992 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	SOU 1887 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Monument type	BURIED LAND SURFACE Uncertain
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Uncertain
Significant Finds	GLASS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	SHERD Medieval
Significant Finds	SHERD Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	HAMPSHIRE SOUTHAMPTON SOUTHAMPTON 56 High Street



Postcode	SO14 2NS
Study area	0 Hectares
Site coordinates	SU 42086 11218 50.898351243849 -1.401471680162 50 53 54 N 001 24 05 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Alpine Homes Limited
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	Oliver Good
Project supervisor	Tom Dawkins

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Southampton City Council Archaeological Collections
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Glass", "Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Southampton City Council Archaeological Collections
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Southampton City Council Archaeological Collections
Paper Media available	"Miscellaneous Material", "Plan", "Section", "Unspecified Archive"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land to the rear of 56 High Street, Southampton; Archaeological Watching Brief
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Dawkins, T
Other bibliographic details	Unpublished report ref. 214992.04
Date	2021
Issuer or publisher	Wessex Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Salisbury
Description	PDF/A4 bound booklet



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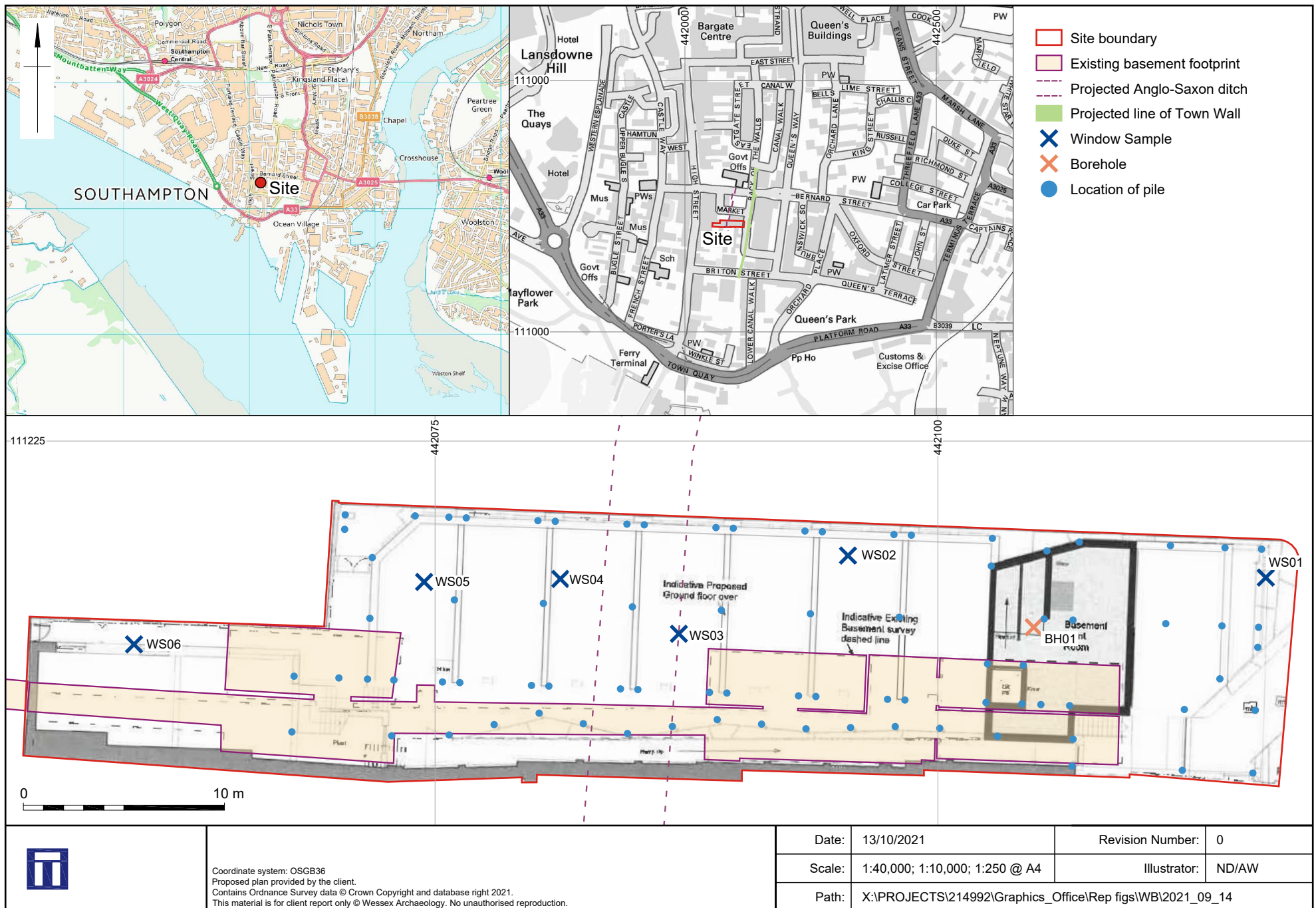
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Site location plan showing GI works

Figure 1



Site plan showing previous works

Figure 2



Plate 1: Working shot of Cable Percussion Drilling (Trench 10/BH01) – View from East



Plate 2: Cable Percussion drill inspection pit (Trench 10/BH01) – View from East


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Plate 3: Spoil from cable percussion drilling. Context () – View from East, 0.20 m scale



Plate 4: Working shot showing Window Sampling at WS02. View from West



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Plate 5: Spoil/core samples from WS04, 0.50 m scale



Plate 6: Spoil/core samples from WS01, 0.50 m scale

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