75 The Avenue, Southampton

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Planning Ref: 21/01398/FUL
Site Code: SOU1940; SOU1951
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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by RPS consulting on behalf of McCarthy Stone, to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a 0.84 ha parcel of land located at 75 The Avenue, Southampton, Hampshire, SO17 1XS, centred on NGR 441920 113330.

The evaluation comprising 7 trial trenches and two geoarchaeological Palaeolithic test pits was undertaken over two phases between 12 and 22 September and 14 and 15 November 2022. Phase one was undertaken prior to the demolition of the existing buildings and phase two was undertaken post demolition.

The trial trench evaluation revealed no evidence for any archaeological features or artefacts pre-dating the late post-medieval and recent/modern periods, and features that were recorded can be shown to relate to buildings or property boundaries shown on the 1st and latter editions of Ordnance Survey mapping and predating the use of the site in the modern era as a car dealership. No evidence was revealed that could be correlated to buildings shown on an 1846 map of the site, although a single wall recorded in trench 3 may belong to this period.

Brickearth was recorded at varying depths across the Site and the nature and varying depth of redeposited brickearth recorded overlying the undisturbed intact clean brickearth would appear to indicate medieval/post-med agriculture and 19th and 20th century gardening, with more recent disturbance in some trenches likely truncation of this deposit relating to development of the site since the Victorian period, and which is likely to have impacted the survival of archaeological remains, if present, predating the post-medieval period.

The results of the Palaeolithic test pitting and the absence of significant Pleistocene sequences and Lower to Middle Palaeolithic artefacts, indicate that the Palaeolithic potential of the Site is considered to be low. Considering the results of this test pitting evaluation and absence of Palaeolithic archaeological material, it is assumed the proposed development will not impact upon any significant Quaternary deposits or prehistoric remains.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank RPS Consulting on behalf of McCarthy Stone, for commissioning the archaeological evaluation, in particular Chris Clarke of RPS Consulting. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of Ingrid Peckham, the Southampton City Council Planning Archaeologist/HER Officer, who monitored the project for Southampton City Council, and to Wessex Demolition for their cooperation and help on site.

75 The Avenue, Southampton

Archaeological Evaluation

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by RPS consulting on behalf of McCarthy Stone, to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a 0.84 ha parcel of land located at 75 The Avenue, Southampton, Hampshire, SO17 1XS, centred on NGR 441920 113330 (**Figure.1**).

1.1.2 The proposed development comprises the re-development of site to create a block ranging from two to four-storeys containing 66 x Assisted Living/Extra Care flats and a four-storey 80-bed Care Home with associated parking and landscaping. A planning application (21/01398/FUL) submitted to Southampton City Council, was granted, subject to conditions, some of which relate to archaeological investigation. Prior to consent being granted, McCarthy Stone indicated that the site would be developed in two parts, to be taken forward separately. Therefore, two SOU site codes were allocated – SOU 1940 and SOU 1951.

1.1.3 This investigation forms part of a wider program of archaeological evaluation and follows other non-intrusive archaeological work, including an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (ADBA; RPS 2020). The latter highlighted that the proposed development could impact upon archaeological remains if present at the Site, and as such, mitigation works were recommended.

1.1.4 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 (RPS 2022). Southampton City Council Planning Archaeologist/HER Officer approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing.

1.1.5 The evaluation comprising 7 trial trenches and two geoarchaeological test pits was undertaken over two phases between 12 and 22 September and 14 and 15 November 2022. Phase one was undertaken prior to the demolition of the existing buildings and phase two was undertaken post demolition.

1.2 Scope of the report

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

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

1.3 Location, topography and geology

1.3.1 The evaluation area is located at 75 The Avenue, Southampton (NGR SU 4192 1333), (Fig. 1) within the Bannister's Park Local Area of Archaeological Potential as designated by Southampton City Council.

1.3.2 The Site is situated in the Hampshire basin approximately 1.75 km north of Southampton city centre. The surrounding area is comprised of suburban housing with business developments including a supermarket immediately north of the Site. The River Itchen lies approximately 1 km east of the Site and transects from north to south.

1.3.3 The Site comprises previously developed made ground with two buildings which are planned to be demolished. The Site is bounded to the north and east by main roads; Banister Road and The Avenue, respectively. On the west and south side, the Site is bounded by hedgerows with suburban housing extending beyond these boundaries.

1.3.4 Existing ground levels as recorded during the evaluation lay between 25.52 m and 25.91 m above ordnance datum (aOD).

1.3.5 The underlying geology is mapped by the British Geological Survey (BGS) as comprising sand, silt and clay of the Wittering Formation which formed approximately 56–41.2 Mya during the Palaeogene period. The Wittering Formation is overlain by Pleistocene fluvial sands and gravels (British Geological Survey: accessed on 18th January 2022).

1.3.6 Borehole records from approximately 75m to the north of the Site record ~1.10 m of flint gravels overlain by sandy clay with angular gravel likely representative of brickearth deposits. Brickearth was recorded during the evaluation at c. 1 m below ground level (bgl) (c. 24.78 m aOD) capped by redeposited brickearth of c. 0.20 m (24.98 m aOD) in TP102 to 0.70m (25.45 m aOD) in depth in TP 103.

1.3.7 The thickness of fluvial gravels in this area was unknown due to existing borehole records not extending to bedrock. However, within TP103 on the western side of the site fluvial gravels recorded at 24.32 m aOD were shown to be c. 1.80 m in depth overlying the bedrock GLEY1 7/N Bluish grey stiff silty clay, which was revealed at a depth of 3.30m below ground level (bgl) (22.52 m aOD). On the eastern site of the site within TP102 the bedrock was not revealed at an excavated depth of 3.50 m (22.23 m aOD) with fluvial gravels in excess of 2.35 m in depth being revealed at a depth of 1.15 m bgl (24.58 m aOD)

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 What follows comprises a review of archaeological background of the study site as contained with the Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (RPS 2020) utilising a 500m radius study area around the study site. Discoveries of undated remains have been omitted from this report, although they are included in the DBA (RPS 2020)

2.2 Previous investigations

2.2.1 No previous investigations have taken place within the boundary of the site.

2.3 Archaeological and historical context

Prehistoric (970000 BC -AD43)

2.3.1 In accordance with BGS mapping, the coarse-grained deposits underlying the Site are associated with Pleistocene fluvial sands and gravels of Terrace 4, also referred as the Belbin/Upper Warsash Terrace, of the River Test (Hatch et al. 2016; Davis et al. 2021).

2.3.2 The terraces of the Test are associated with the Solent River Formation (Allen and Gibbard 1993, Westaway et al. 2006, Ashton and Hosfield 2010, Briant et al. 2012). The modern Solent is a sea channel separating the Isle of Wight from southern England but for most of its history it was a major river system that drained the Hampshire basin and the surrounding chalklands. Its catchment area included large parts of Hampshire, Dorset, south Wiltshire and the Isle of Wight. Following extensive coastal erosion and eustatic Holocene sea level rise, all that is visible terrestrially today of Solent River system is the upper reaches of the Solent itself, now the River Frome, and its tributary rivers, including the Stour, Avon, Test, Itchen and Medina.

2.3.3 The remnant fluvial deposits of the Solent River Formation, along with overlying 'Head-brickearth', have produced many thousands of Lower and Middle Palaeolithic artefacts that provide evidence for human occupation of the region during the Middle Pleistocene and Upper Pleistocene (Roe 1968; Wessex Archaeology 1993; Ashton and Hosfield, 2010; Davis 2013).

2.3.4 Deposits described as 'Head-brickearth' can have been deposited through different processes and can include aeolian, colluvial, alluvial and soliflucted material. Such sequences can include material deposited during more than one period of the Pleistocene and can contain Palaeolithic archaeology of different ages.

2.3.5 The Belbin/Upper Warsash Terrace of the Test are known to preserve significant Lower Palaeolithic and Middle Palaeolithic archaeological material. The Belbin/Upper Warsash Terrace typically underlies Southampton and has been recorded at 29 sites, with an assemblage comprising approximately 1595 handaxes and 12 Levallois artefacts (Davis 2013; Davies, et al. 2016). At Warsash (Burkitt, et al. 1939) Levallois artefacts were identified in superficial deposits stratigraphically overlying fluvial sands and gravels of Terrace 4, which are assigned to MIS 10 (362–339 kya; Westaway, et al. 2006). Nonetheless, the Belbin/Upper Warsash terrace is expected to have been deposited in multiple phases from MIS 12 to MIS 9 (Hatch et a. 2017).

2.3.6 A large concentration of artefacts associated with the Belbin/Upper Warsash Terrace were identified at sites including Dunbridge and Belbin's Pit; 66% and 11% of total artefacts, respectively. At Dunbridge, the fresher and often painted material included pointed flint handaxes, Levallois cores and flake and a bout coupé handaxe. Based on the condition of artefacts at Dunbridge, it was suggested that the Levallois techno-complex initially emerged in the Test Valley during the formation of the Belbin/Upper Warsash river terrace (Westaway, et al. 2006; Harding et al. 2012). Consequently, the terrace deposits in the current Site have the broad potential to preserve significant Lower and/or Middle Palaeolithic geoarchaeological datasets.

2.3.7 The earliest evidence for human activity within the wider study area is associated with the recovery of several isolated Palaeolithic artefacts. A worked flint flake and hand axe were found separately c250m to the north of the study site (MSH189, SU 41747 13572; MSH190, SU 41706 13532). A second Palaeolithic hand axe was found underneath Rockstone Place

c350m to the south (MSH236, SU 41996 12966), with another two hand axes recovered a further 100m to the south (MSH235, SU 42027 12903).

2.3.8 The study site is located on River Terrace 4, which is one of the most prolific in Southampton for the recovery of Palaeolithic hand axes (pers. comm. Dr Francis Wenban-Smith).

2.3.9 Three Neolithic flint or stone axe heads have been found approximately 275m east of the study site (MSH245, SU 42332 13442; MSH254, SU 42230 13424).

2.3.10 A north-south ditch containing Neolithic or Bronze Age flint work was found approximately 150m to the west of the study site. Several undated ditches and pits were also found in the immediate proximity (MSH1198, SU 41742 13228).

2.3.11 Two non-descript features containing Prehistoric pottery, with one sherd dating to the Bronze Age period, were excavated at Archers Road c100m to the south of the study site (MSH1064, SU41916 13208).

2.3.12 An archaeological watching brief on Archers Road, c. 275m to the southwest of the study site, recorded the presence of a ditch, pit and posthole from which Iron Age pottery was recovered. A spread of residual finds and undated features were interpreted as being contemporary (MSH1201, SU 41584 13090). Archaeological investigation further to the west has also identified a small number of pottery sherds and features that may date to the Iron Age period (MSH1195, SU 41559 13020; SU 41508 13076).

2.3.13 A pit dating to the Iron Age was also found at New College c250m to the south of the study site, in association with a small quantity of earlier residual artefacts (MSH4068, SU 41948 13077).

2.3.14 Due to high levels of Post-Medieval and Modern truncation and disturbance encountered during archaeological investigations within the study area, many features and artefacts encountered during such investigations have only been attributed to the Prehistoric period in general. This is the case for two investigations within 75m of the southern site boundary where two possible Prehistoric pits or ditches were recorded (MSH5424, SU 41883 13211), with two Prehistoric worked flints found during archaeological trial trenching on The Avenue (MSH4075, SU 41967 13240).

2.3.15 A handful of ditches, pits, postholes and stakeholes, all thought to be generally Prehistoric in date, were found during a programme of trial trenching at Locksley Court, approximately 175m to the southwest of the study site (MSH1068, SU 41710 13141). The investigations at the site adjacent to Locksley Court recovered residual Prehistoric artefacts consisting of four flint flakes and a fragment of pottery (MSH1068, SU 41785 13153).

2.3.16 A possible Prehistoric ditch and posthole were excavated at Northlands House c275m to the west of the study site (MSH2873, SU 41533 13280).

2.3.17 Archaeological investigations located on the northwest 500m study area boundary have also identified a number of features and artefacts attributed to the Prehistoric period in general (MSH1040, SU 41455 13568; MSH1842, SU 41579 13682; MSH1050, SU 41746 13731).

2.3.18 The study site is located on a ridge of high ground between the Itchen and Test River systems. This position in the landscape indicates that the study site may lie in proximity of a Prehistoric routeway.

Roman (AD43-410)

2.3.19 During the Roman period the main settlement within the immediate landscape, known as Clausentum, was located approximately 1.25km to the east of the study site, located on the opposite bank of the River Itchen at Bitterne. Roman occupation evidence has also been identified at St Denys, across the river from Bitterne, and elsewhere in central Southampton.

2.3.20 Roman activity recorded on the HER within the 500m study area is relatively sparse. The greatest concentration of features of this date were identified during an archaeological watching brief at Southampton Magistrates Court, c350m to the south of the study site, where two ditches, two pits, and small number of other features were recorded. The features contained a low density of domestic waste such as pottery and shell (MSH1461, SU 42043 12940). A number of Roman coins have also been found close to this location (MSH237, SU 42057 12891; MSH2291, SU 42123 12873).

2.3.21 Isolated pits or ditches containing Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery have been found c250m to the south of the study site (MSH4068, SU 41948 13077), and c275m to the southwest of the study site (MSH1201, SU 41584 13090).

2.3.22 Residual artefacts dating to the Roman period have been recovered during archaeological investigations on Archers Road approximately 125m to the south and southwest of the study site (MSH1064, SU 41916 13208; MSH1068, SU 41785 13153), with residual finds recorded c375m to the northwest of the study site (MSH1842, SU 41579 13682).

Anglo-Saxon and Medieval (AD 410-1500)

2.3.23 The key Anglo-Saxon settlement of Hamwic was located in the current St. Mary's suburb of Southampton, approximately 1.8km to the southeast of the study site.

2.3.24 St. Mary's Road located on the southern limit of the study area, and its northern continuation, are thought to have originated during the Anglo-Saxon period (MSH2592, SU 42313 12535), otherwise, archaeological activity associated with this period is absent on the HER within the study area.

2.3.25 The Domesday Survey of 1086 records the town at Southampton, located approximately 1.8km to the south of the study site, was a large settlement of some 185 households (Open Domesday 2022). The size of the settlement at this time strongly implies the presence of a well-established settlement in this location prior to the Norman Conquest.

2.3.26 A sherd of Late Saxon or Early Medieval pottery was found during a watching brief c200m to the southeast of the study site (MSH2861, SU 42156 13259).

2.3.27 There is evidence to indicate that during the Late Medieval period the study area would have been primarily rural and agricultural in character. The HER records the land within the eastern study area, to the east of The Avenue (itself recorded as a known Medieval route; MSH5000, SU 41864 14478) as associated with the Late Medieval Padwell Farm Estate (MSH246, SU 42212 13499; MSH1243, SU 42193 13373).

2.3.28 An estate called "Suttones Place", located c250m to the west of the study site (MSH3625, SU 41614 13307), is first recorded in 1420, and is subsequently listed as the manor of Banaster Court in 1493. The site is within the bounds of the later Bannister Estate, so was probably part of the medieval estate as well. A potentially moated farm is shown in this location on a plan of Southampton dating to c1600.

2.3.29 The area of Southampton Common, boarding the north of the study area, is likely to have been established as common land from the Medieval period onwards (MSH2463, SU 41646 14487; MSH4362, SU 41956 13564).

2.3.30 A number of stakeholes and postholes dated to the Medieval period were found during archaeological investigations at Archers Road, c400m to the west of the study site (MSH2318, SU 41508 13076).

Post Medieval and Modern (AD 1500-Present)

2.3.31 The study site is likely to have remained within the agricultural hinterland of neighbouring settlements until the late 19th century when the study area was incorporated into the suburban expansion of Southampton.

2.3.32 In the 18th century Banister Court, located c250m to the west of the study site, is also referred to as Bannister's Farm, and was sold to William Fitzhugh in 1792, who rebuilt the farmhouse as a Georgian mansion in association with landscaped grounds (MSH3623, SU 41575 13376; MSH3624, SU 41647 13366). The site falls within the grounds of the former Banister court.

2.3.33 The 1846 Map of Southampton (not illustrated here - see RPS 2022 – WSI Figure. 3) depicts the study site as set back from the western side of The Avenue and labelled as Banister Lodge Farm Yard. The study site is occupied by a large property focused around a large square courtyard located in the eastern part of the study site, with the extensive gardens associated with the house occupying the remaining extent. Several small buildings, probable glass houses, are marked in the western part of the gardens. The surroundings are primarily rural in context. This map indicates masonry buildings in pink, with timber walled buildings in grey/brown (although these may well have had brick foundations)

2.3.34 The 1870 Southampton Town Plan (not illustrated) retains only limited coverage of the eastern part of the study site. What is shown is consistent with the 1846 depiction of the study site and labels the site as Banister's Farm (see above).

2.3.35 The layout of the study site shown on the 1869-76 Ordnance Survey mapping (not illustrated here - see RPS 2022 – WSI Figure. 2) is generally consistent with the 1846 depiction of the study site. Suburban development, in the form of rows of terraced housing, is shown on the eastern side of The Avenue.

2.3.36 By 1897 (**Figure. 2**) the existing large domestic property and associated grounds have been cleared, replaced by a number of smaller detached and semi-detached properties and their gardens. The wider study area has been fully integrated into the suburban landscape of the growing city. With the exception of the insertion of additional residential properties, the layout of the study site remains unaltered by 1910.

2.3.37 By 1946 the parcel of land in the eastern part of the study site has had an additional building constructed to the southwest of the main house. Later maps identify this new building as being a commercial garage. By 1954 the footprint of the garage has increased in size.

2.3.38 By the late 1960s the residential properties located centrally within the study site have been demolished in order to facilitate expansion of the commercial garage complex.

2.3.39 By 2004 the remaining house in the western part of the study site has been demolished in order to expand the size of the garage complex. The layout of the study site remains unaltered up to the present.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General aims

3.1.1 The general aims of the evaluation, as stated in the WSI (RPS 2022) and in compliance with the CIfA *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014a), were to:

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

3.2 General objectives

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

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

3.3 Site-specific objectives

3.3.1 Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the site, the site-specific objectives defined in the WSI (RPS 2022) were to:

- To determine the presence of any prehistoric activity, including Palaeolithic artefacts or deposits, within the site. Can this activity be related to contemporary activity taking place in the immediate landscape?
- To determine the presence of any Roman, Anglo-Saxon or Late Medieval activity within the site.
- To determine the presence of any Post-Medieval activity within the site pre-dating 1850. Is there any surviving evidence for the buildings shown on the 1846 mapping?
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land use and development.
- Provide sufficient information to, if appropriate, construct an archaeological mitigation strategy.
- Determine the extent of significant deposits and their depositional processes;
- To determine the potential of Pleistocene deposits for scientific dating and/or palaeoenvironmental assessment.

- To make recommendations for further Palaeolithic geoarchaeological investigations as appropriate.

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the WSI (RPS 2022) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in CIfA guidance (CIfA 2014a). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

4.2.1 The trench locations were set out using a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), in the approximate positions proposed in the WSI, although trenches 2 and 3 had to be slightly moved because of the necessity to keep site access open and located services (Fig. 1).

4.2.2 A total of seven trial trenches were excavated, each measuring 2.5 m in width, three measuring 20 m in length, two measuring 15 m in length and two measuring 10 m in length, were excavated in level spits using a 360º 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.

4.2.3 Where necessary, the base of the trench/surface of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand. A sample of archaeological features and deposits was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the evaluation.

4.2.4 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.

4.2.5 Trenches completed to the satisfaction of the client and the Southampton City Council Planning Archaeologist/HER Officer were backfilled using excavated materials in the order in which they were excavated, and left level on completion. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.

Recording

4.2.6 All exposed archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete record of excavated features and deposits was made, including plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections) and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid.

4.2.7 A Leica GNSS connected to Leica’s SmartNet service surveyed the location of archaeological features. All survey data is recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSTN15 and OSGM15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.

4.2.8 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 16 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

4.3 Geoarchaeological test pits

General

4.3.1 As specified in the WSI (RPS 2022), two test pit locations were set out within one end of archaeological evaluation trenches 1 (TP103) and 4 (TP102) (**Figure 1**). These were positioned to assess the geoarchaeological potential of deposits across the Site.

4.3.2 The positioning of test pits was located through real time kinematic (RTK) survey using a Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service. All survey data was recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD, as defined by OSGM15 and OSTN15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.

4.3.3 Prior to fieldwork commencing, information regarding the presence of any below/above-ground services, any ecological, environmental or other constraints, were provided to Wessex Archaeology by the client.

4.3.4 Before excavation began, the evaluation area was walked over and visually inspected to identify, where possible, the location of any below/above-ground services. All test pit locations were scanned before and during excavation with a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) to verify the absence of any live underground services.

4.3.5 The two test pits (TP102 in trench 4 (**Figures 14** and **17**) and TP103 in trench 1 (**Figure 13**)) were initially excavated to 1.2 m (the recommended maximum depth of entry) to clean and record the upper stratigraphy. After excavation progressed beyond this depth, recording took place from a safe distance from the edge of excavation without entering the test pit.

4.3.6 A section in trench 5 was excavated to a depth of 1.2 m and cleaned and recorded as TP101 (**Figures 15** and **16**) to aid the interpretation of the stratigraphic sequence across the Site. This trench was not excavated any deeper as two other test pits were prioritised for sampling and sieving.

4.3.7 The test pits were excavated using a 20 tonne 360º mechanical excavator with a toothless bucket. Machine excavation was carried out under the constant supervision of a trained geoarchaeologist, who recorded and numbered the sequence of sedimentary units as excavation progressed following standard descriptive practices. The textural characteristics (grain-size, consolidation, colour, material, and sedimentary structures) of sedimentary units were recorded, and the shape and nature of their lithostratigraphic contacts (dip, conformity and overall geometry).

4.3.8 Machine excavation proceeded in level spits of approximately 100-200 mm, respecting the interface between sedimentary units, until either the solid geology was exposed, or further excavation became impractical.

4.3.9 Both test pits were excavated, recorded, photographed and immediately backfilled to 1.2m. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.

Sampling

4.3.10 The deposits excavated were assessed for the presence artefacts and ecofacts. Sampling strategies were in line with those detailed in the WSI (RPS 2022).

4.3.11 To assess whether artefacts and/or ecofacts were present within clast dominated deposits (i.e. gravels) samples were taken at appropriate intervals (usually 100 litres every 20-30

cm), in stratigraphic succession (**Table 1**). These were sieved on site through a 10 mm mesh.

Table 1 Number of litres samples by stratigraphic context

Stratigraphic unit	Litres
Cryoturbated sands and gravels	200
River terrace deposits	1200

4.3.12 The potential for deposits to preserve palaeoenvironmental evidence was assessed for each sediment unit by the monitoring Palaeolithic geoarchaeological specialist. No deposits likely to preserve significant palaeoenvironmental datasets (e.g. molluscs or pollen) were identified and no samples were taken.

4.3.13 Consideration was given to the suitability of any sediment units for optically-stimulated luminescence (OSL) dating. Although deposits suitable for OSL dating were identified, these were not safely accessible and no samples were taken.

Recording

4.3.14 Representative sections from test pits were sketched at a scale of 1:20. Sketches were completed once excavations had reached maximum depth. Photographs were taken at 1.2m once sections were cleaned, and at full depth from a safe distance.

4.3.15 Accompanying geoarchaeological descriptions and interpretations were recorded (**see Appendix 2**).

4.3.16 A photographic record and sampling record were updated during excavations. Sampling records included depth, sample number, context number, description of reason for sampling, and quantity (e.g. 100 litres) taken. 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.

4.4 Finds and environmental strategies

4.4.1 Strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of finds and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (RPS 2022). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b), *Environmental Archaeology. A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011), and CIfA's *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting* (Type 2: Appraisal).

4.5 Monitoring

4.5.1 The Southampton City Council Planning Archaeologist/HER Officer monitored the evaluation on behalf of the LPA. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with the client and the Southampton City Council Planning Archaeologist/HER Officer.

5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The site has been divided into two Southampton Museum site codes (SOU1940 and SOU1951) which relate to the eastern and western part of the site respectively.

5.1.2 Three of the seven excavated trial trenches contained archaeological features and deposits, indicating limited archaeological remains of late post medieval to modern date are present across the site (Fig. 1).

5.1.3 The uncovered features comprised walls, construction features and possible pits, represent two main periods of activity: post-medieval and modern, though several features remain of uncertain date.

5.1.4 The following section presents the results of the evaluation with archaeological features and deposits discussed by period and divided by Southampton site codes.

5.1.5 Detailed descriptions of individual contexts are provided in the trench summary tables (Appendix 1). Figure 1 shows all archaeological features recorded within the trenches. Figure 2 provide details of the features in relation to the historic Ordnance Survey mapping, with earlier mapping found as Figure 3 within the WSI (RPS 2022).

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

SOU1940

5.2.1 Within this part of site, three of the trenches (3, 4 and 5) had as their most recent layer a very dark grey tarmac surface varying in thickness from 0.09-0.10 m. The uppermost layer in trench 7 was light grey reinforced concrete 0.26 m thick. This variation is due to the fact that trench 7 lies within the footprint of the former car dealership garage while trenches 3, 4 and 5 are within the forecourt and parking areas for this building (Figure 1).

5.2.2 Beneath the tarmac within trenches 3, 4 and 5 was a layer of modern stone gravel laid down as a base for the tarmac surface. The soil sequence beneath this layer than varies across the three trenches, but all of them contained a dark layer of made ground directly overlying a possible buried garden or agricultural soil which can be alternatively interpreted as a reworked brickearth layer. All four trenches in this area of site came down onto *in situ* brickearth and in trenches 4 and 7 sondages were dug through this revealing the bedrock gravels beneath.

5.2.3 Within trench 3 (Figure 5B and 13) the sequence of deposits is as follows: modern tarmac overlying modern stone gravel, which in turn overlies a dark brown silty clay made ground which included brick fragments. This layer then overlies the probable garden/agricultural soil layer which in this trench sits on top of a made ground layer consisting of predominantly flint gravel in a sandy slightly clayey matrix which also contained red brick fragments. Beneath this layer were three possible features cut into the top of the natural brickearth deposit which was found starting at approximately 24.71 m aOD. There were several more modern features within this trench.

5.2.4 The sequence of deposits within trench 4 is as follows (Figure 7): modern tarmac overlying modern stone gravel levelling deposit. Beneath this deposit were two layers of made ground of which the upper contained modern brick, tarmac and gravel and got sandier towards the western end of the trench. The lower made ground deposit also contained brick fragments, increasing in frequency towards the western end of the trench. The made ground deposits

directly overlie the layer of garden/agricultural soil or redeposited/reworked brickearth. This deposit rests upon the natural brick earth layer, the top of which is approximately 24.86 m aOD. A sondage in this trench was dug revealing the natural gravel bedrock geology approximately 24.66 m aOD. This trench was then subject to a geoarchaeological test pit which is discussed below (section 5.5).

5.2.5 The sequence of deposits within trench 5 follows a similar pattern to trenches 3 and 4, but with significantly less made ground. From ground level, this trench starts with a tarmac surface overlying a modern stone gravel layer. Beneath this deposit was a thin layer of dark yellowish brown silty clay made ground containing modern bricks and tarmac fragments. This deposit sat on top of the possible garden/agricultural soil/reworked brick earth which is much thicker in this trench than in the other trenches within this part of site. Underneath this layer is the natural brickearth encountered at approximately 24.83 m aOD (Figure 8).

5.2.6 Trench 7 has a different soil sequence to the other trenches within this area of site (Figures 3 and 9). Its uppermost layer consists of reinforced concrete. Beneath this layer are multiple layers of made ground, varying in consistency from silty clays to sands and gravels. These deposits vary along the trench with different deposits occurring at the eastern and western ends (Figure 3). At the base of the made ground layers is found the deposit of possible garden/agricultural soil, although in this trench it felt much more like redeposited brickearth when being cleaned. Beneath this deposit is the natural brickearth which is encountered from approximately 24.58 m aOD, although the depth varies along the trench. A sondage was dug at the eastern end of trench 7 and this revealed the fluvial gravels at approximately 24.50 m aOD.

SOU1951

5.2.7 There are three trenches within the area of this site code: 1, 2 and 6 (Figure 1). Similar to the trenches within SOU1940 the uppermost deposits within these trenches vary dependent on whether or not the trenches fell within (trench 6) or outside (trenches 1 and 2) the footprint of the former car dealership garage. The natural brickearth was encountered in all three trenches, a sondage was dug at the end of trench 6 revealing the natural gravels beneath this and a geoarchaeological test pit was dug at the end of trench 1.

5.2.8 In trench 1 (Figure 10), the uppermost deposit is the modern tarmac surface. Beneath this are two distinct layers of modern gravel made ground laid as levelling layers for the tarmac surface. Beneath these made ground layers was a layer of possible garden/agricultural soil or redeposited natural that had been heavily disturbed in places by modern services and contained fragments of rubber, brick and glass which may be intrusive from modern interaction. This deposit rested on top of the natural brickearth which was encountered at approximately 24.67 m aOD. Below this deposit were the natural gravels which have been analysed below (section 5.5).

5.2.9 Trench 2 (Figures 4 and 11), has an uppermost layer of tarmac, resting on levelling layers of modern gravel. Beneath these gravel layers are various layers of made ground consisting of silty clays and gravels and in one case, a large area of redeposited natural brickearth (Fig. 10). The layers of made ground sit on top of the garden/agricultural soil or possibly reworked brickearth. This deposit sits on top of the natural brickearth which is encountered at approximately 24.93 m aOD.

5.2.10 The uppermost deposit in trench 6 (Figure 5A and 12) is a layer of reinforced concrete. This rests on top of several layers of modern made ground consisting of flint gravel and sands containing brick and concrete fragments. Beneath these is a very dark grey brown silty clay made ground with rare brick fragments. This then sat on top of a deposit of what appeared

to be reworked brickearth but is possibly an agricultural/garden soil. This then rests on top of the natural brickearth which is encountered approximately 24.62 m aOD. A sondage was dug at the eastern end of this trench and revealed that the natural bedrock gravels were encountered approximately 24.42 m aOD.

5.3 Post-medieval to modern (AD 1500 – present)

SOU1940

5.3.1 The only trench within this area to contain archaeological features was trench 3 (Figures 2, 5B, 6 and 13). These features consisted of two walls and two concrete slabs/structures.

5.3.2 Wall 308 is the earliest feature within trench 3 (Figures 5B and 13). This wall only survived as a single brick wide and two courses high, so it is difficult to suggest its function and purpose. It was constructed of roughly dressed frogged red brick bonded with a light yellow brown sandy mortar. It is aligned roughly north-south and only 2.84 m in length was revealed within this trench. There is insufficient evidence to be certain about the function and purpose of this foundation, but it is likely to have been for a garden wall or a small structure. On the 1897 map there is the east wall of a glasshouse marked in this location, which is likely this wall. There also appears to be a wall in a similar position on the 1846 map, which may mean it is part of the same building. This wall is located very high within the sequence of deposits within this trench so it appears that it is very recent in date and has been truncated by the creation of the car park associated with the former Doves Vauxhall garage.

5.3.3 Wall 319 is located running roughly parallel to wall 308 along the eastern side of Trench 3 (Figures 2 and 13). It is constructed of breeze blocks, bonded with a mix of mortar and concrete, in a stretcher bond. This wall extends beneath the base of the trench and had a clear construction cut 318 which was backfilled with concrete rubble. It is clearly the foundation for a structure. This wall appears to be bonded to the large concrete slab/structure 315. It is likely that this wall and slab/structure represent an earlier twentieth century building on this site, predating the current former Vauxhall garage.

5.3.4 Another concrete slab 317 was found at the northern end of trench 3 (Figures 2 and 13). It was not investigated due to the potential for there being unknown fuel storage tanks on the site and it ran beyond the end of the trench.

SOU1951

5.3.5 Structural remains were found in trenches 2 and 6 within this area of site. They appear to correspond to buildings and plot boundary walls on the Ordnance Survey map (Fig 2).

5.3.6 Two walls (211 and 215) were found within trench 2 at opposite ends of the trench and effectively mirror each other. Both walls survived up to the base of the gravel made ground underneath the modern tarmac. These walls appear to correspond to the front of a building marked on the Ordnance Survey map (Figure 2).

5.3.7 Wall 211 is found at the eastern end of trench 2 and is constructed of red brick, bonded with mortar in what appears to be a stretcher bond (Figures 4 and 5C) This wall is sat on top of a concrete foundation (210) and it appears that within the area bonded by this wall is filled with rubble, but this was not investigated.

5.3.8 Wall 215 is virtually identical to wall 211, although less courses of brickwork have survived (Figures 4 and 15). It again is made of red brick, jointed with mortar and appears to also have a stretcher coursing pattern. This wall sits on a concrete foundation (214) and appears

to have a rubble internal fill which may represent demolition of the building or is forming a core deposit for the wall.

5.3.9 A single wall foundation (610) was found running roughly north-south across trench 6 (Figures 2, 5A, and 15). This appears to be a plot boundary shown on the ordnance survey map (Figure 2). This wall was predominantly constructed of red bricks with very rare yellowish brown bricks with thick irregular joints and widely slobbered mortar. There was no obvious coursing or bonding pattern, although the courses gradually step in from the lowest. This foundation was not dug into the brickearth, but stopped in the garden soil/reworked brickearth above it.

5.4 Uncertain date

SOU1940

5.4.1 There were a total of three features of uncertain date found in trench 3 (Figure 5B). All three of these features are probably pits and (309, 311, and 313) are found beneath the lowest made ground layer cutting into the top of the brickearth. None of these features were clearly visible in plan when the trench was being opened so they were only recorded in the east facing section of the trench (the eastern side of the trench being obscured by wall 319).

5.4.2 Pit 309 had shallow concave sides and a flat base and contained one secondary fill. This pit was observed as 0.60 m wide and 0.08 m deep. There was a distinct horizon between the cut and fill.

5.4.3 Pit 311 had moderately sloping concave sides and a flat base and contained one secondary fill. This pit was observed as 1.20 m wide and 0.14 m deep. There was a distinct horizon between the cut and fill.

5.4.4 Pit 313 had moderately sloping straight sides, a flat base and contained a single secondary fill. This pit was observed as 1.50 m wide and 0.20 m deep. There was a distinct horizon between the cut and fill.

5.4.5 Given the shallow nature of these features and the fact that they were only recorded in section, it is impossible to determine their function and purpose.

5.4.6 Upon machining further trenches, it is possible that these are not features and are in fact undulations in the top of the brick earth infilled with the garden soil layer above.

5.5 Geoarchaeological test pits

Stratigraphic evidence

5.5.1 Introduction

5.5.2 The specific lithologies and stratigraphic succession encountered in each test pit are outlined in **Appendix 2**

5.5.3 The Quaternary deposits present form a consistent sequence of Pleistocene fluvial sands and gravels attributed to Terrace 4 of the River Test, overlain by cryoturbated sands and gravels, which are in turn overlain by *in situ* and reworked Pleistocene Head-brickearth deposits. The superficial sediments are capped by thick sequences of made ground.

5.5.4 The generalised stratigraphic sequence encountered is presented, and the deposits described below:

- Wittering Formation Bedrock
- River terrace deposits (Pleistocene)
- Cryoturbated sands and gravels (Pleistocene)
- Head-brickearth deposits (Pleistocene)
- Reworked head-brickearth (Modern)
- Made ground

Wittering Formation

5.5.5 Palaeogene bedrock deposits comprising bluish grey stiff silty clay was recorded as underlying Quaternary sediments in a single test pit (TP103) (Figure 16). The deposit was noted as structureless and contained no clasts. The upper surface of the Wittering Formation was not recorded in TP102 considering that the bottom of fluvial sands and gravels was not reached.

River terrace deposits

5.5.6 Coarse-grained deposits consisting of greyish brown fine to coarse subangular to subrounded gravel, in a fine to coarse sandy matrix, were recorded in two test pits. Collectively, these deposits are interpreted as Pleistocene fluvial terrace deposits of the River Test with sediments exhibiting a clear fluvial structure, including sub-horizontal bedding.

5.5.7 The river terrace deposits in TP102 (Fig 17) are 2.15 m in thickness, and are recorded at an elevation of between 23.82 m and 22.52 m aOD (**Appendix 2**). However, the full extent of these fluvial sands and gravels was not established given that the underlying Wittering Formation was not reached as further excavation of deposits became impractical. The lowermost sediments exhibited an iron enriched unit approximately 30 cm in thickness. Bedrock was reached in TP103, with fluvial terrace deposits recorded between 2.0 mbgl and 3.3 mbgl (23.82–22.52 m aOD). Occasional rounded tertiary clasts were also documented in deposits from both test pits.

5.5.8 Based on existing long profiles that illustrate a broad elevation range for distinct fluvial terraces of the River Test stratigraphy, the sands and gravels recorded at the Site correspond to Terrace 4, or the Belbin/Upper Warsash Terrace (Hatch et al. 2017; Davies et al. 2021).

Cryoturbated fluvial gravel

5.5.9 Fluvial sand and gravel deposits are overlain by fine (<2 mm) to coarse (40 mm) subrounded to angular flint gravel in a clayey sand matrix in TP101, TP102 and TP103. These deposits are unconsolidated and poorly sorted. This coarse-grained unit also contains frequent frost-fractured angular material with evidence of concave scarring associated with pot lids. The lithological characteristics of these deposits indicate cryoturbation of fluvial gravels.

5.5.10 Within TP101, the upper surface of the cryoturbated fluvial gravels was recorded at 1.15 mbgl (24.58 m aOD). However, excavation did not exceed 1.20 m and therefore the full extent of this unit was not established in TP101. The fractured gravels in TP102 were recorded between 1.15 m and 1.35 mbgl (0.20 m thick) and at an elevation of between

24.58 and 24.38 m aOD). This deposit was comparatively thicker (0.50 m) in TP103, recorded between 1.50 m and 2.00 mbgl (24.32–23.83 m aOD) (**Appendix 2**).

Head-brickearth

5.5.11 Cryoturbated deposits are overlain by lithologically variable units of silt and clay. These sediments are complex and may include units deposited by different processes over multiple periods. The deposits are interpreted as Head-brickearth.

5.5.12 A unit of sandy silty clay was recorded between 0.65 m and 1.20 m, in the west facing section of TP101 (Fig 18). Despite this, an equivalent fine-grained unit was absent from the east facing section (Fig 19) due to truncation by overlying made ground. Head-brickearth was also recorded in both TP102 (figures 17 and 20) and TP103, at thicknesses of 0.20 m and 0.42 m respectively. These deposits were recorded at similar elevations of between 24.78–24.58 m aOD (TP102) and 24.74–24.32 m aOD (TP103).

5.5.13 The upper boundary of this unit in both TP101 and TP103 contained evidence of bioturbation. Fine to medium angular to occasionally subrounded flint gravel was also recorded in each deposit.

Redeposited head-brickearth

5.5.14 Redeposited Head-Brickearth was recorded overlying undisturbed Head-Brickearth deposits in the west facing section of TP101, TP102 and TP103. The disturbed sediments were fine-grained silt and clay and often included occasional fine to medium fragments of brick. Evidence of bioturbation was also recorded at the upper boundary of TP103, with manganese flecks documented throughout.

5.5.15 The redeposited Head-Brickearth was recorded at a depth of between 0.56 and 0.65 m (25.30–25.21 m aOD) in the west facing section of TP101. In TP102, the redeposited brickearth was 0.2 m thick (24.98–24.78m aOD) whereas in TP103 was comparatively thicker at 0.71 m (0.37–1.08 mbgl; 25.45–24.74 m aOD).

Made ground

5.5.16 Made ground was recorded in all test pits, typically overlying Head-Brickearth except for TP101 (east-facing section) where cryoturbated fluvial gravels were overlain by made ground (**Appendix 2**). Made ground was recorded at various thickness between 0.37 m (TP103) and 1.10 m (TP101; east-facing section). Made ground included fragments of gravel and tarmac overlain by a layer of consolidated tarmac.

Scientific dating potential

5.5.17 Consideration was given to the suitability of sedimentary units for OSL dating. The fine-grained deposits of undisturbed Head-Brickearth would be suitable for OSL dating. However, the undisturbed Head-Brickearth in TP101 recorded frequent bioturbation throughout the deposit and was deemed unsuitable for luminescence dating. The undisturbed sediments in TP102 were recorded as firm silty clay. Given the absence of sands with the necessary quartzite and feldspar required for successful luminescence dating, no samples were taken from this test pit. Bioturbated sediments were also documented towards the upper boundary of the Head-Brickearth in TP103. Despite the lower sediments being largely undisturbed, these were recorded below 1.20 m or alternatively the maximum depth of entry.

Palaeoenvironmental evidence

5.5.18 The palaeoenvironmental potential of the Quaternary deposits encountered during excavations was generally low and no environmental remains were recovered during Pleistocene test pitting.

6 FINDS EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 A small group of finds, amounting to 4.1 kg, was recovered, and dates to the post-medieval period. The finds have been cleaned and quantified by material type within each context, with the data recorded in a digital database, which forms part of the permanent archive. Table 1 provides a summary of this information.

Table 2 Summary of finds by material and count/weight in grams

	Trench 1		**Trench 2**		**Trench 3**		**Trench 6**		**Trench 7**		**Grand total**	
Material	**Ct.**	**Wt. (g)**	**Ct.**	**Wt. (g)**	**Ct.**	**Wt. (g)**	**Ct.**	**Wt. (g)**	**Ct.**	**Wt. (g)**	**Ct.**	**Wt. (g)**
Ceramic building material					3	3271					**3**	**3271**
Clay pipe							1	4			**1**	**4**
Glass	1	309					3	29			**4**	**338**
Pottery	2	96	8	153	8	107	13	88	5	43	**36**	**487**
Grand total	**3**	**405**	**8**	**153**	**11**	**3378**	**17**	**121**	**5**	**43**	**44**	**4100**

6.2 Pottery

6.2.1 The pottery comprises sherds of post-medieval and modern date. The material has been recorded by broad ware type and quantified within each context (Table 2). Featured sherds and other variables such as surface treatment and evidence for use were recorded where present. This level of recording accords with a 'basic record' aimed at characterising an assemblage and producing a comparative dataset (Barclay *et al.* 2016, section 2.4.5).

Table 3 Summary of pottery by ware type

	Trench 1		**Trench 2**		**Trench 3**		**Trench 6**		**Trench 7**		**Grand total**	
Ware	**Ct.**	**Wt. (g)**	**Ct.**	**Wt. (g)**	**Ct.**	**Wt. (g)**	**Ct.**	**Wt. (g)**	**Ct.**	**Wt. (g)**	**Ct.**	**Wt. (g)**
Brown-glazed earthenware							1	5			**1**	**5**
Creamware	1	52			1	2					**2**	**54**
Porcelain							1	10			**1**	**10**
Redware	1	44					1	11			**2**	**55**
Refined whiteware			8	153	5	59	10	62	4	31	**27**	**305**
Stoneware					1	24			1	12	**2**	**36**

Verwood earthenware					1	22					**1**	**22**
Grand total	**2**	**96**	**8**	**153**	**8**	**107**	**13**	**88**	**5**	**43**	**36**	**487**

6.2.2 The sherds survive in a moderate condition, with a mean sherd weight of 13.5g. The majority are of post-medieval/modern (late 18th and 19th century AD) date. The earliest sherds can only be broadly dated to the post-medieval period; one Verwood earthenware sherd from pit 311 and one brown-glazed earthenware sherd from made ground 606. The latter was recovered alongside later pottery. The most common type is refined whitewares, of late 18th to 19th century AD date. The rest of the group includes stoneware, creamware and porcelain, of similar date. The latest material comprises unglazed earthenware, probably flowerpots of 19th or later date. Vessel forms include plates, cups and bowls and are consistent with household material.

6.3 Ceramic building material

6.3.1 A complete brick, in two fragments, was recovered from structure 308. It is a frogged type, a mid-19th century AD development, and the dimensions (9''x4''x2.5'') are consistent with the standard imperial measurements for this date. A brick fragment, unmeasurable and undatable, came from made ground 305.

6.4 Clay tobacco pipe

6.4.1 A single clay pipe stem fragment, which can only be broadly dated from the mid-16th to late 19th centuries AD, was recovered from made ground 606.

6.5 Glass

6.5.1 Glass was limited to just four fragments from two made ground deposits. A milk bottle from the Southampton dairy company Brown and Harrisons, formed when two dairies of the same names merged in 1940 AD, came from made ground 104. Three bottle fragments of probably modern date, two green and one colourless, came from made ground 606.

6.6 Statement of potential

6.6.1 The finds are of a relatively recent date, extending from the late 18th to mid-20th centuries and are typical of domestic material. The usefulness of the assemblage is limited by the small quantity of each material type recovered, which restricts further research potential.

6.7 Geoarchaeological artefactual evidence

6.7.1 Thirteen potential lithic artefacts were recovered during the test pitting evaluation. These were all recovered from the river terrace deposits. A single burnt flint clast was recorded, as well as a pressure flake with thermal scars on the dorsal. All the flint clasts were interpreted as natural flakes with frequent evidence of thermal fracturing.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1.1 No deposits deemed suitable for environmental sampling were encountered.

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Summary

Evaluation trenching

8.1.1 In general, across the whole site, there has been no evidence for archaeological activity pre-dating the post-medieval and modern periods. There is evidence of widespread truncation across the site as a result of medieval/post-medieval agriculture and 19th and 20th century gardening with more recent disturbance due to modern construction in some trenches, although the depths of this impact vary across site.

8.1.2 A total of five walls, two slabs/structures and three undated pits were found on this site. Within the area of SOU1940 only one of these features (wall 308) appears to correspond to any features on historic mapping. Wall 308 is on the line of the east wall of a timber building shown on the 1846 map, and a glasshouse on the 1897 map, which may be the same building. In SOU1951 all the features found appear to correspond to buildings shown on late 19th century Ordnance Survey mapping (Fig 2).

Geoarchaeological test pits

8.1.3 This test pit evaluation has demonstrated the extent, broad age and geoarchaeological potential of Quaternary deposits within the Site.

8.1.4 The sediments present reflect Pleistocene fluvial terrace deposits which correspond to Terrace 4, referred to as the Belbin/Upper Warsash Terrace of the River Test terrace stratigraphy. These fluvial gravels may be broadly equivalent of others within the region dated by OSL to MIS 9 (337–300 kya), however the age of these deposits may range between MIS 12 and MIS 9 (~478–300 kya) (Hatch et al. 2017). The river terrace deposits are overlain by cryoturbated sands and gravels, reworked and in situ head-brickearth deposits and made ground.

8.1.5 The potential for the deposits to preserve artefacts and environmental samples, and to provide dating samples was assessed. A total of 13 potential lithic artefacts were from recovered from Pleistocene river terrace deposits during the evaluation. However, all flint clasts were interpreted as natural flakes with frequent evidence of thermal fracturing demonstrated.

8.1.6 Although Terrace 4 (Belbin/Upper Warsash terrace) of the River Test has previously produced significant Lower and Middle Palaeolithic archaeological material in the Southampton area (Davies et al. 2016), the results of this evaluation demonstrate that the Palaeolithic potential of the Pleistocene fluvial sands and gravels and head-brickearth sequence at the Site is low.

8.2 Discussion

Evaluation trenching

SOU1940

8.2.1 Within this area of site, the only archaeological evidence surviving was in trench 3 (Fig 2). This archaeology consisted of three undated possible pits, a modern breezeblock wall with associated concrete slabs/structures and a small brick-built wall. Only the brick-built wall 308 could be earlier than the modern period, but it has been heavily truncated/demolished and is the east wall of a timber building shown on the 1846 map, and a glasshouse on the 1897 map. The breezeblock-built wall and associated concrete structures are almost definitely modern and are indicative of the potential levels of truncation within this part of

site. The three undated possible pits are under multiple layers of made ground and given that the max depth surviving was 0.20 m, it suggests that there is a high degree of truncation within this site, if these were indeed features, not just variations in the natural.

8.2.2 Within the four trenches within this area of site, the base of made ground varied from 0.52-1.22 m bgl. This suggests that there is a high degree of truncation within SOU1940. The level of truncation is greatest in trench 3 where there is a high degree of modern disturbance and trench 7 which fell within the footprint of the former Vauxhall garage (Fig. 2). The depth of modern made ground in trenches 4 and 5 was lower, suggesting that the level of truncation is less in the areas outside the footprint of the former Vauxhall garage. The presence of the possible buried garden/agricultural soil in all the trenches suggests that there is some possibility for earlier activity to be preserved within the top of the brick earth, but no evidence for this was found within this evaluation. If this lowest deposit above the natural deposits is in fact reworked natural, then there is far more truncation evident on site, this is particularly true of trench 7 which appears to have been subject to far more disturbance than the other trenches within SOU1940.

8.2.3 The only evidence within this area of site of buildings shown on the 1846 mapping was wall 308 which appears to be on the line of the east wall of a timber building shown on the 1846 map, and a glasshouse on the 1897 map.

SOU1951

8.2.4 Within the three trenches (1, 2 and 6) in this area of site, a total of three brick-built walls were found, all of which appear to relate to features on late 19th century Ordnance Survey mapping (Fig 2). None of these walls appear to relate to the buildings on the 1846 mapping. There was no evidence revealed for any archaeological features or artefacts on this site dating to earlier than the post-medieval period. Trench 1 was aligned to look at potential structures on the 1846 mapping. There was no evidence within this area of site for the buildings shown on the 1846 mapping.

8.2.5 In this area of site, the depth of made ground varied from 0.36-0.90 m bgl indicating a varying degree of truncation across this area. The made ground was shallowest in trench 1 which contained no archaeological features. The buried garden/agricultural soil in this trench had been heavily disturbed by modern services and material working its way down into the deposit, making it appear to be more like a made ground layer. In trench 2 the greater depth of made ground is a result of the construction of walls 211 and 215 as material was removed and replaced around the foundations here. There is a possibility that the raised area of redeposited brick earth 208 may be the result of two horticultural/garden bedding trenches dug to the west and east, then filled with buried garden soil 205. In trench 6 most of the made ground can be attributed to the construction of the Vauxhall garage as all the layers of made ground appear to post-date wall 610, the construction cut of which appears to cut through the buried garden soil, although this was not completely clear. All three walls found in this area of site appear to have been truncated by modern construction on site.

Geoarchaeological test pits

8.2.6 The results of the Palaeolithic test pitting evaluation can be summarized as follows:

- A Pleistocene sequence comprised of fluvial sands and gravels overlain by cryoturbated fluvial sands and gravels, both reworked and *in situ* head-brickearth deposits and made ground, was identified within the Site.

- A total of thirteen potential artefacts were recovered during the evaluation, nonetheless all finds were interpreted as natural flakes.

- No deposits likely to preserve palaeoenvironmental datasets were identified during this evaluation.

- Deposits associated with Head-brickearth sequences contain horizons with potential for OSL dating. However, these deposits were not safely accessible during the investigation and thus no samples were taken.

8.2.7 Previous investigations of historic Lower and Middle Palaeolithic artefacts collections from Terrace 4, also referred to as the Belbin/Upper Warsash terrace, of the River Test stratigraphy (most notably ~10 km south-east of the current Site at Warsash) have suggested that fluvially abraded Levallois artefacts, including handaxes, originate from within the terrace gravel (Burkitt et al. 1939; Davis et al. 2016). Despite this, neither Lower or Middle Palaeolithic artefacts were recovered from fluvial deposits or overlying Head-brickearth sequences.

8.2.8 Based on the results of this evaluation and the absence of significant Pleistocene sequences and Lower to Middle Palaeolithic artefacts, the Palaeolithic potential of the Site is considered to be low.

8.2.9 Considering the results of this test pitting evaluation and absence of Palaeolithic archaeological material, it is assumed the proposed development will not impact upon any significant Quaternary deposits or prehistoric remains.

8.3 Recommendations

8.3.1 The following recommendations are intended to represent the view of Wessex Archaeology only and are not intended to prejudice the view or advice given by the planning authority's archaeological advisor.

Early prehistoric

8.3.2 The Palaeolithic test pitting evaluation has demonstrated that fluvial sands and gravels are present across the Site. These Pleistocene deposits are equivalent to Terrace 4, or the Belbin/Upper Warsash terrace of the River Test terrace stratigraphy.

8.3.3 The potential for the deposits to preserve artefacts and ecofacts was assessed. No Palaeolithic artefacts unequivocally provenanced to these deposits were recovered during the evaluation and their palaeoenvironmental potential has been assessed and classed as low. Consequently, no further geoarchaeological evaluation works are recommended for this Site.

9 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 Museum

9.1.1 The archive resulting from the evaluation is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury. Southampton City Museum has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project, under the site codes **SOU1940 and SOU1951**. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner to transfer title of all finds to the museum.

9.2 Preparation of the archive

Physical archive

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

9.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the site codes **SOU1940 and SOU1951**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:

- 01 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type
- 01files/document cases of paper records

Digital archive

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

9.3 Selection strategy

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

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

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

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

Finds

9.3.5 All the finds have been recorded to a sufficient level for archive purposes and no further work is proposed. The assemblage is not considered to merit long term curation.

Documentary records

9.3.6 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

9.3.7 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.

9.3.8 Given the very limited results of the fieldwork, it is considered that the site conforms to the definition of a 'sterile project' (i.e., one that produces nothing of evidential value), according to the *CIfA Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives (archaeological archives from sterile projects)*. It is therefore recommended that only selected digital data are deposited with ADS, an approach commensurate with the scale and significance of the project. Deposition will involve the uploading of the site report via OASIS only [optional: with selected additional photographs].

9.4 Security copy

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

9.4.2 On completion of the project, a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of microfilm, following national guidelines (Handley 1999). The master jackets and one copy of the microfilm will be deposited with the Historic England Archive in Swindon.

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 3). A .pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by Southampton City Council Planning Archaeologist/HER Officer on behalf of the LPA. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) ArchSearch catalogue.

10 COPYRIGHT

10.1 Archive and report copyright

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

10.2 Third party data copyright

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

Appendix 1 Trench summaries

SOU1940

Trench No 3	Length 9.80 m	Width 3.20 m	Depth 1.30 m
Easting 441935.89	Northing 113331.70	25.69 m aOD	

Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
301		Modern ground surface	Very dark grey / black Tarmac. Very compact. Sharp contact. 10YR 3 / 1, 1 / 1	0–0.10
302		Made ground	Reddish Grey slightly sandy GRAVEL. Sand is fine to coarse. Gravel is near complete angular to sub-rounded fine to coarse limestone, sandstone, granite ≤60 mm. Sharp Contact. Friable. 10 YR 5 / 2. Levelling layer / bedding layer for 301 above.	0.10–0.34
303		Made ground	Dark brown slightly sandy slightly gravelly silty CLAY. Sand is fine to coarse. Gravel is sparse sub-angular to rounded fine to coarse flint ≤60 mm with extremely rare angular and sub-angular medium to coarse brick fragments ≤60 mm. Firm. Abrupt contact. 10 YR 4 / 3	0.34–0.54
304		Made ground	Potentially buried garden soil. Firm dark yellow brown slightly gravelly silty CLAY. Gravel is rare sub-rounded to rounded fine to coarse flint ≤60 mm. Abrupt contact. 10 YR 4 / 4. Undulating lower boundary.	0.54–0.82
305		Made ground	Dark yellow brown slightly sandy slightly clayey GRAVEL. Sand is fine to coarse. Gravel is near complete sub-angular to rounded fine to coarse flint ≤60 mm with an extremely low cobble content ≤100 mm. Very rare sub-angular to angular brick fragments ≤100 mm. Abrupt contact. 10 YR 3 / 4 Undulating lower boundary.	0.66–1.12
306		Natural	Brick earth. Soft yellow brown slightly gravelly silty CLAY. Gravel is sparse sub-angular to rounded fine to coarse flint ≤60 mm occurring in pockets throughout the brick earth. 10 YR 5 / 6	0.88–

307	308	Construction cut	Linear construction cut aligned N-S with vertical, straight sides and a flat base. Length: >2.84 m. Width: >0.40 m. Depth: 0.20 m.	0.34–0.54
308	307	Foundation	Linear foundation aligned North-South with stepped sides and a flat base. Constructed from red brick. roughly dressed. frogged. and bonded with light yellow brown sandy mortar. rare fine to medium sub-angular flint inclusions. Maximum height: 0.20 m.	0.34–0.54
309	310	Pit	Pit with shallow, concave sides and a flat base. Width: >0.60 m. Depth: 0.08 m.	1.04–1.12
310	309	Secondary fill	Grey brown 10 yr 5 / 2 slightly gravelly silty clay with rare sub-angular to rounded fine to coarse flint ≤60 mm	1.04–1.12
311	312	Pit	Pit with moderate, concave sides and a flat base. Width: 1.20 m. Depth: 0.14 m.	1.00–1.14
312	311	Secondary fill	Grey brown 10 yr 5 / 2 slightly gravelly silty clay with gravel is rare sub-rounded to rounded fine to coarse flint ≤60 mm	1.00–1.14
313	314	Pit	Pit with moderate, straight sides and a flat base. Width: 1.50 m. Depth: 0.20 m.	0.90–1.14
314	313	Secondary fill	Grey brown 10 yr 5 / 2 slightly gravelly silty clay with gravel is rare sub-rounded to rounded fine to coarse flint ≤60 mm	0.90–1.14
315	316	Construction cut	Rectangular construction cut aligned East-west with vertical, stepped sides and a flat base. Length: >3.20 m. Width: 2.45 m. Depth: 0.60 m.	0.34–0.94
316	315	Foundation	Rectangular foundation aligned East to West with stepped sides and a flat base. Constructed from concrete. in place breeze blocks. and bonded with mortar. Maximum height: 0.60 m.	0.34–0.94
317		Surface	Area of reinforced concrete slab and possible breeze block structures. Not excavated due to potential for covering oil tanks and also level of archaeology.	Unexcavated
318	319, 320	Construction cut	Linear construction cut aligned North to South with vertical, straight sides. Length: >5.20 m. Width: 0.40 m. Depth: 1.04 m.	0.34–

319	318	Foundation	Linear foundation aligned North to South with straight sides and an unknown base. Constructed from breeze blocks and bonded with mix of mortar and concrete. Maximum height: 1.04 m.	0.34–
320	318	Deliberate backfill	Light grey very slightly sandy gravel with near complete angular to sub-rounded coarse concrete with medium cobble content ≤100 mm	0.34–
Trench not fully based as modern concrete slabs were blocking. Natural geology reached between walls at southern end of trench.				

Trench No 4	**Length 10 m**	**Width 2.50 m**	**Depth 1.20 m**
Easting 441963.09	**Northing 113365.46**	**25.81 m aOD**	

Context Number	**Fill Of/Filled With**	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
401		Surface	Tarmac. Very dark grey (Munsell 10 YR 3 / 1). very hard compaction. lower boundary clear.	0–0.09
402		Made ground	Reddish grey (Munsell 10 Yr 5 / 3). modern surface under tarmac of rubble. hard compaction. lower boundary clear.	0.09–0.37
403		Made ground	Silty sandy clay. Dark yellowish brown (10 YR 4 / 6). modern inclusions such as brick and tarmac fragments. moderate gravel (10-80mm). moderate compaction, at western end of trench layer becomes sandier and softer. lower boundary clear.	0.37–0.56
404		Made ground	Silty clay. Very dark greyish brown (10 YR 4 / 2) moderate compaction. lower boundary clear. modern inclusions such as brick, at western end of trench more brick than eastern.	0.56–0.73
405		Topsoil	Garden Soil. Redeposited natural. silty clay. Dark yellowish brown (10 YR 3 / 6), sparse sub-angular stones (10-50mm), sparse manganese and iron panning flecks. moderate compaction.	0.73–0.95
406		Natural	Brick earth. 10YR 4 / 5 Light yellowish brown silty firm clay with occasional angular and sub-rounded fine (2mm) to medium (15mm) flint gravel, unconsolidated. abrupt dipping 20 degrees east	0.95–1.15

407		Natural	10 YR 4 / 5 Fine (<2mm) to coarse (40mm) sub-angular to angular flint gravel in a clayey sand matrix. Sand is fine to medium. Unconsolidated, poorly sorted, cryoturbated	1.15+
Sondage at E end of trench to 1.20m.				

Trench No 5	**Length 20 m**	**Width 2.50 m**	**Depth 1.30 m**
Easting 441979.02	**Northing 113350.31**	**25.91 m aOD**	

Context Number	**Fill Of/Filled With**	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
501		Surface	Tarmac. Very dark grey (Munsell 10 YR 3 / 1). lower boundary clear. very hard compaction. modern car park.	0–0.10
502		Made ground	Reddish grey (Munsell 10 YR 5 / 2). Modern rubble and stones (10-60mm), surface under tarmac. hard compaction. lower boundary clear.	0.10–0.41
503		Made ground	Silty clay. Dark yellowish brown (Munsell Hue 10YR 3 / 6). Modern inclusions such as CBM / brick, tarmac fragments. Common gravel inclusions (10-80mm). moderate compaction. lower boundary clear.	0.41–0.52
504		Topsoil	Garden soil. Silty clay. Dark yellowish brown (Munsell 10YR 4 / 4) Modern inclusions as CBM, brick. Common gravel inclusions (10-80mm). moderate compaction. lower boundary clear.	0.52–1.12
505		Natural	Brick Earth with moderate gravel. Yellowish brown (Munsell Hue 10YR 5 / 8) moderate compaction.	1.12+
Rep Sec drawn before trench was remachined.				

Trench No 7	Length 13.90 m	Width 2.45 m	Depth 1.54 m
Easting 441946.75	Northing 113322.23	25.61 m aOD	

Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
701		Surface	10 YR 7 / 2. Light grey reinforced concrete. Sharp contact.	0–0.26
702		Made ground	10 YR 3 / 2. Very dark greyish brown gravelly silty CLAY. Gravel is very common angular to sub-rounded fine to coarse flint ≤60 mm. Extremely rare pottery sherds. Moderate angular to sub-angular brick fragments varying in size from coarse to cobbles ≤220 mm. Bricks were frogged. Fairly compact. One large slab of concrete approximately 3.0 by 1.0 by 0.20 m was recovered from this deposit. Sharp contact.	0.26–0.50
703		Made ground	10 YR 5 / 4. Yellowish brown slightly gravelly slightly clayey SAND. Sand is fine to coarse. Gravel is sparse sub-angular to sub-rounded fine to coarse flint ≤40 mm. Homogeneous. Abrupt contact.	0.50–0.60
704		Made ground	10 YR 4 / 4 dark yellowish brown sandy GRAVEL. Sand is fine to coarse. Gravel is near complete sub-angular to rounded fine to coarse flint ≤60 mm. Sharp contact.	0.60–0.74
705		Made ground	10 YR 3 / 3. Firm Dark brown slightly gravelly slightly sandy silty CLAY. Sand is fine to coarse. Gravel is very rare sub-angular to rounded fine to coarse flint ≤60 mm. Abrupt contact. Locally light grey brown with pockets of yellowish brown silty clay. Redeposited brick earth or possibly garden / agriculture soil.	0.50–0.80
706		Made ground	10 YR 4 / 2. Dark greyish brown slightly sandy GRAVEL. Sand is fine to coarse. Gravel is near complete sub-angular to rounded fine to coarse flint ≤60 mm. Loose compaction. Abrupt contact.	0.76–1.08

707		Made ground	10 YR 3 / 3. Firm Dark brown slightly gravelly slightly sandy silty CLAY. Sand is fine to coarse. Gravel is very rare sub-angular to rounded fine to coarse flint ≤60 mm. Abrupt contact. Locally light grey brown with pockets of yellowish brown silty clay. Redeposited brick earth or possibly garden / agriculture soil.	0.70–1.22
708		Natural	10 YR 5 / 6. Yellowish brown slightly gravelly slightly sandy silty CLAY. Sand is fine to coarse. Gravel is sparse sub-angular to rounded fine to coarse flint ≤60 mm, generally occurring in pockets which may be natural geology beneath being exposed. Varies in thickness along trench, but is generally less than 0.10 m thick where present. Diffuse contact.	1.02–
709		Natural	10 YR 5 / 6. Yellowish brown sandy GRAVEL. Sand is fine to coarse. Gravel is near complete sub-rounded to rounded fine to coarse flint ≤60 mm. Bedrock geology.	1.26–
Sondage dug at eastern end of trench to check brick earth was not redeposited and establish depth of top of gravel deposit. Thickness of deposits and depths below ground level vary along trench. See section drawing 701 for further details.				

SOU1951

Trench No 1	Length 20 m	Width 2.50 m	Depth 1.20 m
Easting 441863.91	Northing 113316.10	25.69 m aOD	

Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
101		Surface	Tarmac. Very dark grey (10 YR 3 / 1) Very hard compaction. lower boundary clear.	0–0.15
102		Made ground	Dark Reddish grey (10 YR 5 / 2). gravel (sub-angular 20-80mm) for levelling surfacing under tarmac. compact. lower boundary clear.	0.15–0.22
103		Made ground	Gravel (sub-rounded 5-100mm), dark yellowish brown (10 YR 4 / 6) probably used to level ground before laying tarmac. compact. lower boundary clear.	0.22–0.36
104		Made ground	Silty clay. very dark greyish brown (10 YR 3 / 2) modern inclusions such as rubber, brick and glass. moderate compaction. lower boundary clear. Possibly a buried garden / agricultural soil rather than made ground.	0.36–1.08
105		Natural	Silty clay. yellowish brown (10 YR 5 / 8) moderate compaction. sparse sub-rounded stones (10-60mm)	1.08+

* investigated as possibly feature, but investigation showed this was part of made ground (104), area of trench was only at 1.08 whereas rest of trench 1.20m. so not all made ground was taken away. dimensions of intervention 0.8x 0.65, extends below W FAC. edge and starts about 0.7 away from E. Fac. edge. Depth 0.14m.

Trench No 2	Length 20 m	Width 2.50 m	Depth 1.30 m
Easting 441891.55	Northing 133338.94	25.71 m aOD	

Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
201		Surface	Tarmac. Very dark grey (10 YR 3 / 1) very hard compaction. lower boundary clear.	0–0.06
202		Made ground	Gravel. dark greyish brown (10 YR 4 / 2) Hard compaction. lower boundary clear.	0.06–0.12
203		Made ground	Silty clay. dark yellowish brown (10 YR 3 / 4). Modern inclusions such as red brick. Hard compaction lower boundary clear.	0.12–0.48

204		Made ground	Redeposited natural. yellowish brown (10 YR 5 / 6). Silty clay with moderate gravel (10-80mm). Modern inclusions such as brick. moderate compaction. layer at eastern end of trench. lower boundary clear.	0.48–0.78
205		Topsoil	Garden soil. Silty clay. Brown (10 YR 4 / 3). moderate compaction, inclusions such as red brick, Victorian pottery and glass. lower boundary clear.	0.78–1.10
206		Made ground	Gravel (subangular flint (10-100mm). layer beneath tarmac but only visible at the western end of trench. lower boundary clear.	0.10–0.20
207		Made ground	Dark yellowish brown (10 YR 4 / 4).Silty clay. Moderate compaction. modern inclusions such as red brick and glass. layer at western end of trench. lower boundary clear.	0.50–0.82
208		Natural	Gravely silty clay. yellowish brown (10 YR 5 / 6) Common gravel (sub-rounded flint 10-120mm). Moderate compaction.	1.10+
209	210, 211, 212	Construction cut	Sub-rectangular construction cut with straight sides and a flat base. Length: >2.00 m. Width: 1.00 m. Depth: 0.90 m.	0.24–1.14
210	210	Foundation	Sub-rectangular foundation with straight sides and an unknown base. Constructed from concrete with common gravel inclusions. Maximum height: 0.40 m.	0.74–1.14
211	210	Wall	Wall. Constructed from red brick and bonded with mortar. Maximum height: 0.53 m.	0.24–0.74
212	211	Deliberate backfill	Light grey rubble	Unexcavated
213	214, 215, 216	Construction cut	Construction cut Length: 1.50 m. Width: 1.40 m. Depth: >0.62 m.	0.30–0.92
214	213	Foundation	Sub-rectangular foundation with straight sides and a flat base. Constructed from concrete with gravel inclusions. Maximum height: 0.32 m.	0.60–0.92
215	213	Wall	Sub-rectangular wall. Constructed from red brick and bonded with mortar. Maximum height: 0.32 m.	0.30–0.60
216	215	Fill	Light grey rubble	Unexcavated
Munsell Chart - Hue 10YR				

Trench No 6	Length 13.40 m	Width 2.45 m	Depth 1.40 m
Easting 441901.40	Northing 113307.52	25.52 m aOD	

Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
601		Surface	10 YR 7 / 2. Light grey reinforced concrete. Rebar approximately 3 mm diameter. Sharp contact.	0–0.16
602		Made ground	10 YR 6 / 8, 5 / 1, 4 / 1 and 3 / 1. Brownish yellow and grey to very dark grey Fine to coarse flint GRAVEL. Clasts are angular to rounded ≤60 mm. Sharp contact. Levelling layer.	0.16–0.30
603		Made ground	10 YR 7 / 8. Yellow fine to coarse SAND. Sharp contact. Probably a levelling layer or put in to seal layer below.	0.30–0.40
604		Made ground	10 YR 5 / 8. Yellowish brown slightly sandy GRAVEL. Sand is fine to coarse. Gravel is super abundant angular to sub-rounded fine to coarse flint ≤60 mm tending towards the finer fractions. Common angular to sub-angular coarse to cobbles of brick ≤220 mm. Sparse cobbles and boulders of concrete ≤1000 mm. Bricks are frogged. Sharp contact.	0.40–0.80
605		Made ground	10 YR 3 / 2. Very dark greyish brown slightly gravelly silty CLAY. Gravel is sparse sub-angular to sub-rounded fine to coarse flint ≤60 mm. Firm compaction. Abrupt contact. Feels like it is contaminated, but no obvious smell of hydrocarbons. Very rare brick fragments.	0.50–0.90
606		Made ground	10 YR 4 / 3. Dark brown slightly sandy slightly gravelly silty CLAY. Sand is fine to coarse. Gravel is rare sub-angular to rounded fine to coarse flint ≤50 mm. From compaction. Locally mottled mid grey brown. Sharp contact. Appears to be redeposited brick earth, but may be a garden / agricultural soil. Cut by 609.	0.72–1.10

607		Natural	10 YR 5 / 6. Yellowish brown slightly sandy slightly gravelly silty CLAY. Sand is fine to coarse. Gravel is common sub-angular to rounded fine to coarse flint ≤60 mm generally occurring in pockets throughout the deposit. Possibly this is the bedrock geology being exposed. Brick earth. Diffuse contact.	1.10–1.30
608		Natural	10 YR 5 / 6. Yellowish brown slightly sandy fine to coarse flint GRAVEL. Clasts are sub-angular to rounded ≤60 mm. No cobbles observed in area exposed.	1.30–
609	610	Construction cut	Linear construction cut aligned NNW-SSE with vertical, stepped sides and a flat base. Length: >2.70 m. Width: >0.55 m. Depth: 0.50 m.	0.60–1.10
610	609	Foundation	Linear foundation aligned NNW-SSE with stepped sides and a flat base. Constructed from red brick. in rare cases yellowish brown brick. and bonded with mortar. Maximum height: 0.50 m.	0.60–1.10
sondage dug at eastern end of trench to check brickearth was not redeposited.				

Appendix 2 Geo archaeological test pit summaries

The stratigraphic succession encountered in each test pit are outlined below. Heights are given in metres above OD.

NGR coordinates and OD heights taken at centre of each trench; depth bgl = below ground level TP103 – 25.8285 / TP102 – 25.806

Site:		75 The Avenue, Southampton		**Area:**	-	**Comments:** East facing section	
Site code:		264490 (SOU1940)		**Test Pit ID:**	101		
Level (top):		25.86 m aOD	**Length:**	2.50 m			
			Width:	1.20 m			
			Depth:	1.20 m			
Depth		**Sediment description**		**Interpretation**		**Context**	**Samples < >**
Mbg	**mOD**						
0.00−0.08	25.86–25.78	Black tarmac **SHARP; SMOOTH**		MADE GROUND		1011	
0.08–0.56	25.78–25.30	Fine to medium gravel with black tarmac and brick (hoggin). Poorly consolidated **SHARP; SMOOTH**		MADE GROUND		1012	
0.56–1.10	25.30–24.76	10YR 4/4 Dark brown slightly sandy, silty clay with occasional flecks and fine gravel fragments of brick. Well consolidated **ABRUPT; SLIGHTLY UNDULATING**		MADE GROUND		1013	
1.10−1.20+	24.76–24.66	10YR 5/8 Dark yellowish brown clayey slightly sandy gravel. Gravel is fine to medium subangular to angular gravel. Poorly consolidated		CRYOTURBATED FLUVIAL GRAVEL		1014	

Site:	75 The Avenue, Southampton		Area:	-	Comments:
Site code:	264490 (SOU1940)		Test Pit ID:	101	West facing section
Level (top):	25.89 m aOD	Length:	2.50 m		
		Width:	1.20 m		
		Depth:	1.20 m		

Depth		Sediment description	Interpretation	Context	Samples
Mbg	mOD				< >
0.00–0.08	25.89–25.81	Black tarmac **SHARP; SMOOTH**	MADE GROUND	1011	
0.08–0.56	25.81–25.33	Fine to medium gravel with black tarmac and brick (hoggin). Poorly consolidated **SHARP; SMOOTH**	MADE GROUND	1012	
0.56–0.65	25.30–25.21	10YR 4/4 Dark brown slightly sandy silty clay with occasional fine to medium flint gravel and occasional flecks and fine gravel of brick. Well consolidated. Stratigraphically above 1014 **SHARP; SLIGHTLY UNDULATING**	REDEPOSITED BRICKEARTH	1015	
0.65–1.20+	25.21–24.66	10YR 6/6 Slightly clayey silt with occasional fine flint gravel and frequent bioturbation	BRICKEARTH	1016	

Site:		75 The Avenue, Southampton		Area:	-	Comments:
Site code:		264490 (SOU1940)		Test Pit ID:	102	
Level (top):		25.83 m aOD	Length:	2.50 m		
			Width:	1.20 m		
			Depth:	3.50 m		

Depth		Sediment description	Interpretation	Context	Samples
Mbg	mOD				< >
0.00–0.10	25.83–25.73	Black tarmac **SHARP; SMOOTH**	MADE GROUND	1021	
0.10–0.30	25.73–25.43	Fine to medium gravel with black tarmac and brick (hoggin). Poorly consolidated **SHARP; SMOOTH**	MADE GROUND	1022	
0.30–0.75	25.43–24.98	GLEY1 7/10Y Light greenish grey clayey silt with occasional fragments of brick including a lower c. 100mm layer of coarse brick. Moderately consolidated **SHARP; SMOOTH**	MADE GROUND	1023	
0.75–0.95	24.98–24.78	7.5YR 3/4 Dark brown slightly sandy silty soft clay with occasional manganese flecks and fine angular flint gravel. Moderately consolidated **SHARP; SUB-HORIZONTAL**	REDEPOSITED BRICKEARTH	1024	
0.95–1.15	24.78–24.58	10YR 4/5 Light yellowish brown silty firm clay with occasional fine (2mm) to medium (15mm) angular to subrounded flint gravel. Well consolidated **SHARP; SUB-HORIZONTAL**	BRICKEARTH	1025	
1.15–1.35	24.58–24.38	10YR 4/5 Fine (<2mm) to coarse (40mm) subangular to angular flint gravel in a clayey sand matrix. Sand is fine to medium. Unconsolidated. Poorly sorted. **ABRUPT; SLIGHTLY UNDULATING**	CRYOTURBATED FLUVIAL GRAVEL	1026	1
1.35–3.50+	24.38–22.23	10YR 4/5 Light yellowish brown sandy gravel. Sand is fine to coarse. Gravel is fine (<1mm) to medium (30mm) with occasional (<10%) coarse (90mm) subrounded to subangular flint gravel. Sub-horizontal bedding with iron pan bed.	FLUVIAL SANDS AND GRAVELS	1027	2-9

Site:	75 The Avenue, Southampton		Area:	-	Comments:
Site code:	264490A (SOU1951)		Test Pit ID:	103	
Level (top):	25.82 m aOD	Length:	2.50 m		
		Width:	1.20 m		
		Depth:	3.50 m		

Depth		Sediment description	Interpretation	Context	Samples
Mbg	mOD				< >
0.00–0.14	25.82–25.68	Black tarmac **SHARP; SMOOTH**	MADE GROUND	1031	
0.14–0.37	25.68–25.45	5YR 5/1 Grey to 10YR brownish yellow sands and gravel with tarmac fragments (hoggin). Poorly consolidated **SHARP; SUB-HORIZONTAL**	MADE GROUND	1032	
0.37–1.08	25.45–24.74	10YR 5/2 greyish brown slightly sandy clayey silt with occasional fine (2mm) to medium (20mm) subrounded to angular flint gravel clasts. Occasional flecks and fine clasts of brick. Bioturbation towards upper boundary. Poorly sorted. Moderately consolidated **ABRUPT; SLIGHTLY UNDULATING**	REDEPOSITED BRICKEARTH	1033	
1.08–1.50	24.74–24.32	10YR 5/3 Brown clayey silt with rare fine (<3mm) flint clasts. Moderately sorted. Bioturbation towards upper boundary **ABRUPT; UNDULATING**	BRICKEARTH	1034	
1.50–2.00	24.32–23.82	10YR 4/5 Fine (<2mm) to coarse (40mm) subrounded to angular flint gravel in a clayey sand matrix. Sand is fine to medium. Unconsolidated. Poorly sorted **ABRUPT; SLIGHTLY UNDULATING**	CRYOTURBATED FLUVIAL GRAVEL	1035	10
2.00–3.30	23.82–22.52	10YR 5/2 greyish brown slightly clayey sandy gravel. Sand is fine to coarse. Gravel is fine (2mm) to medium (25mm) with occasional (15%) coarse subrounded to subangular flint gravel. Occasional (20%) rounded tertiary clasts. Sub-horizontal bedding. Poorly sorted. Unconsolidated. **LOWER BOUNDARY UNCLEAR**	FLUVIAL SANDS AND GRAVELS	1036	11-14
3.30+	22.52	GLEY1 7/N Bluish grey stiff silty clay	BEDROCK	1037	

Appendix 3 OASIS summary

Summary for wessexar1-511929

OASIS ID (UID)	wessexar1-511929
Project Name	Evaluation at 75 The Avenue, Southampton
Sitename	75 The Avenue, Southampton
Activity type	Evaluation
Project Identifier(s)	Project code 264490, SOU1940, SOU1951
Planning Id	21/01398/FUL
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Pre application
Organisation Responsible for work	Wessex Archaeology
Project Dates	20-Dec-2021 - 15-Nov-2022
Location	75 The Avenue, Southampton NGR : SU 41920 13330 LL : 50.9179156064079, -1.4050284729146 12 Fig : 441920,113330
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Hampshire District : Southampton Parish : Southampton, unparished area
Project Methodology	The evaluation was undertaken on a 0.84 ha parcel of land and comprised the excavation and recording of seven trial trenches and two geoarchaeological Paleolithic test pits. Three of the trial trenches measured 20 m in length, two measured 15 m in length and two measured 10 m in length. All were 2.5m wide. The test pits were excavated by mechanical excavator with a toothless bucket. Machine excavation was carried out under the constant supervision of a trained geoarchaeologist, who recorded and numbered the sequence of sedimentary units as excavation progressed following standard descriptive practices. The trial trenches were excavated prior to the demolition of the existing buildings and the geoarchaeological pits post demolition.
Project Results	The trial trench evaluation revealed no evidence for any archaeological features or artefacts pre-dating the late post-medieval and recent/modern periods, and features that were recorded can be shown to relate to buildings or property boundaries shown on the 1st and latter editions of Ordnance Survey mapping and predating the use of the site in the modern era as a car dealership. No evidence was revealed that could be correlated to buildings shown on an 1846 map of the site, although a single wall recorded in trench 3 may belong to this period. Brickearth was recorded at varying depths across the Site and the nature and varying depth of redeposited brickearth recorded overlying the undisturbed intact clean brickearth would appear to indicate medieval/post-med agriculture and 19th and 20th century gardening, with more recent disturbance in some trenches likely truncation of this deposit relating to development of the site since the Victorian period, and which is likely to have impacted the survival of archaeological remains, if present, predating the post-medieval period. The results of the Palaeolithic test pitting and the absence of significant Pleistocene sequences and Lower to Middle Palaeolithic artefacts, indicate that the Palaeolithic potential of the Site is considered to be low.

Keywords	Wall - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Pit - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Layer - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	
HER	Southampton HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Benjamin, Cullen, Hayley, Hawkins
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Physical Archive, Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Southampton City Council Cultural Services;

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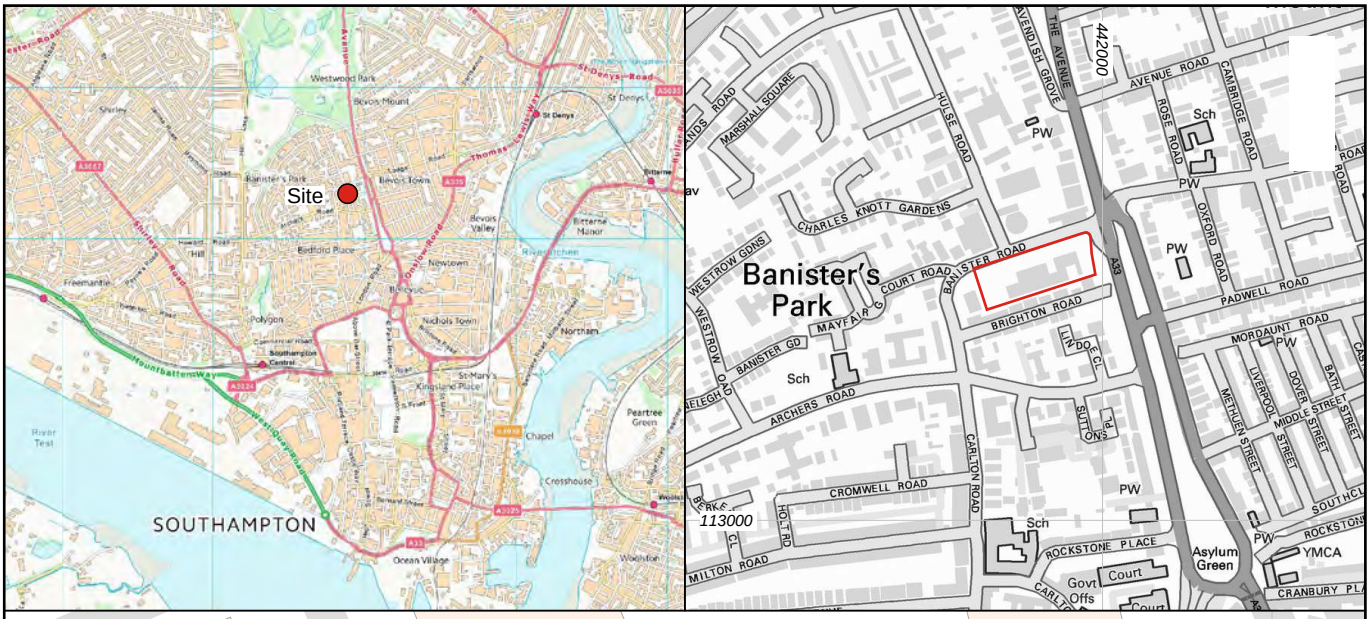
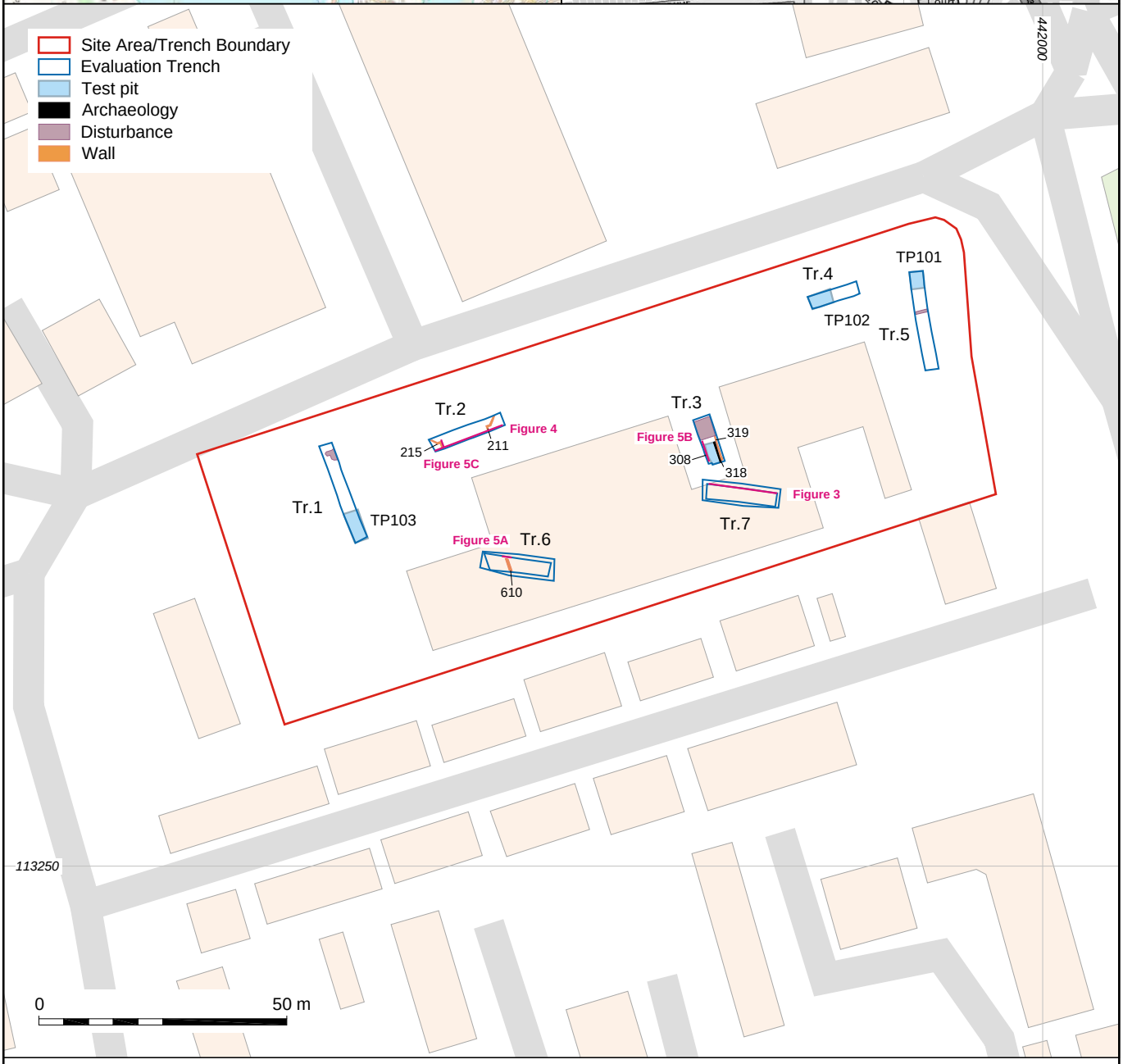
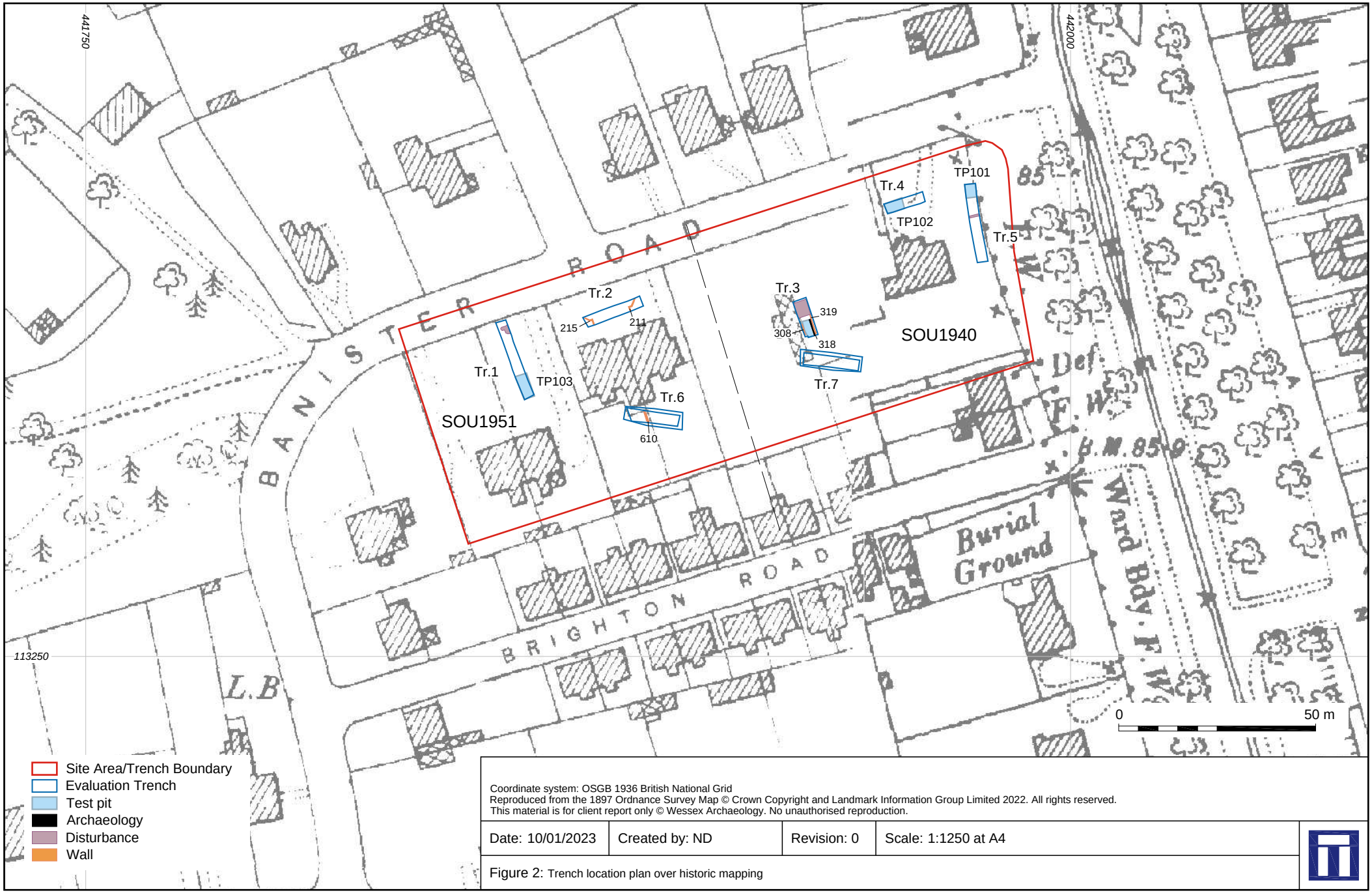




Coordinate system: OSGB 1936 British National Grid

Date: 10/01/2023	Created by: ND	Revision: 0	Scale: 1:1250 (main graphic) at A4

Figure 1: Site and trench/test pit locations



Coordinate system: OSGB 1936 British National Grid

Date: 10/01/2023	Created by: ND	Revision: 0	Scale: 1:1250 at A4

Figure 2: Trench location plan over historic mapping

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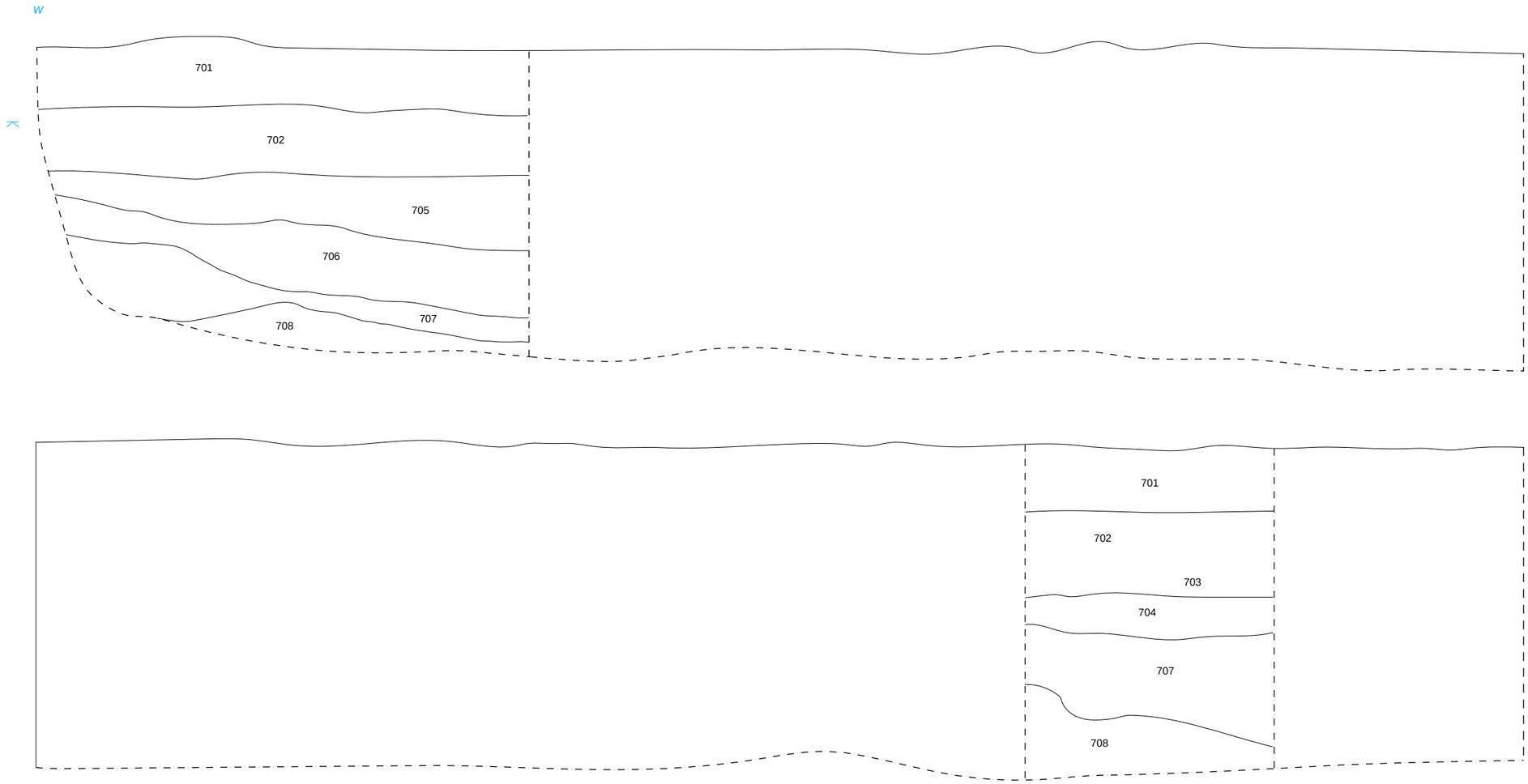

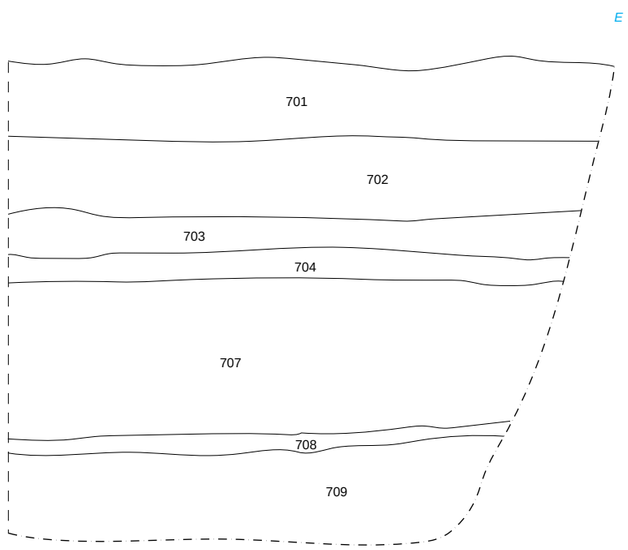

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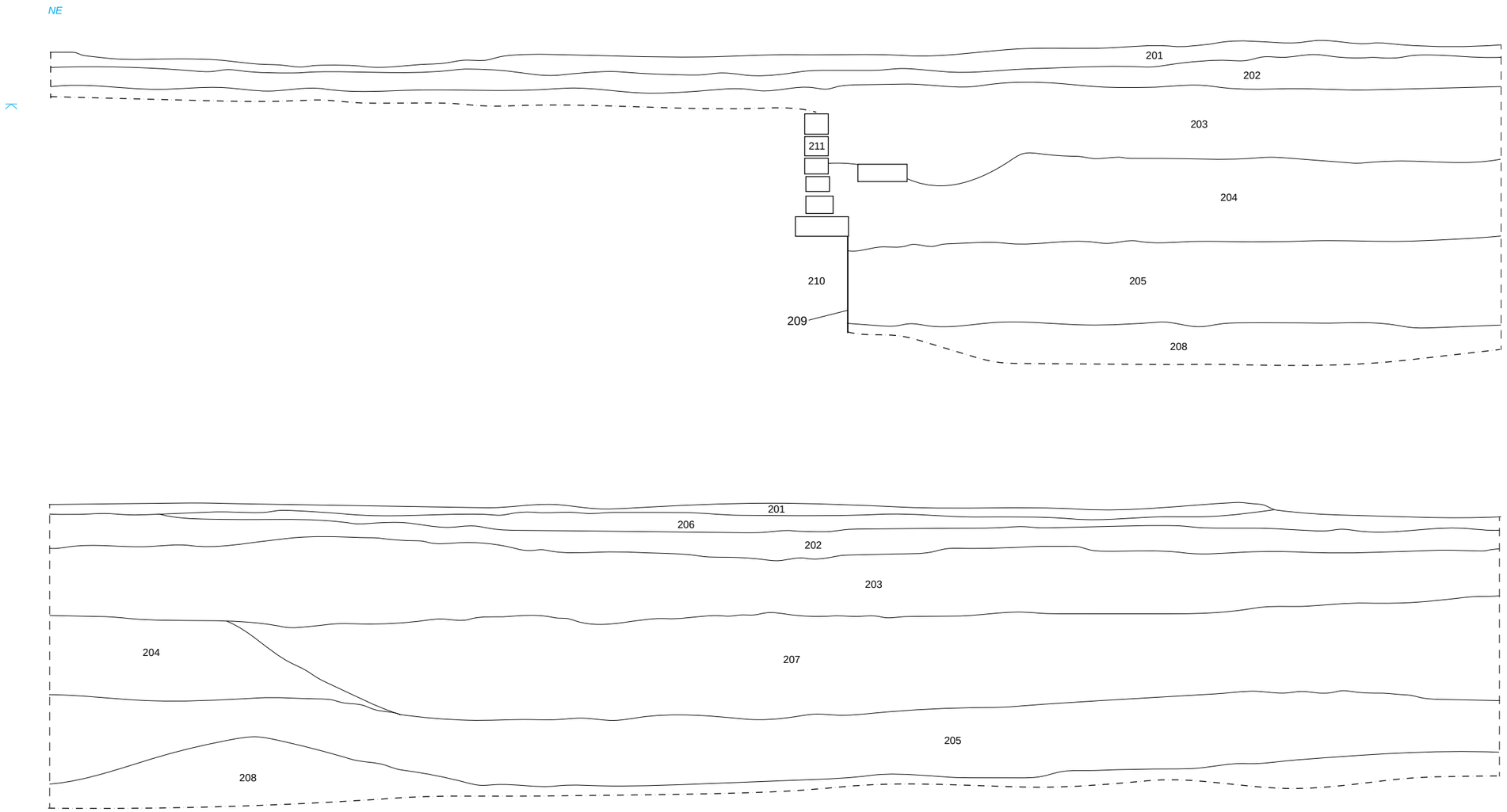
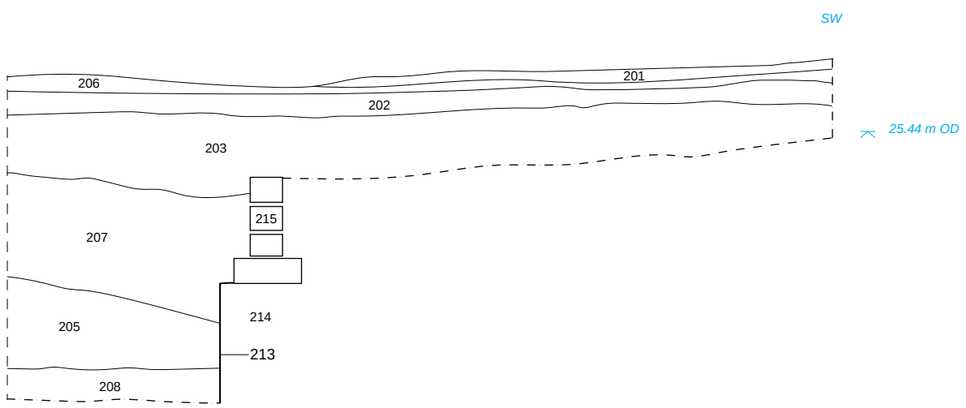
Date: 21/12/2022	Created by: ND	Revision: 0	Scale: 1:20 at A3

Figure 3: South facing section of Trench 7



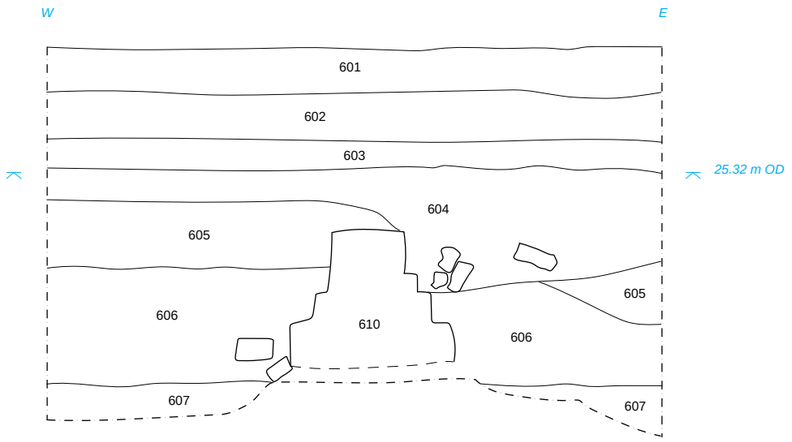


0 1 m

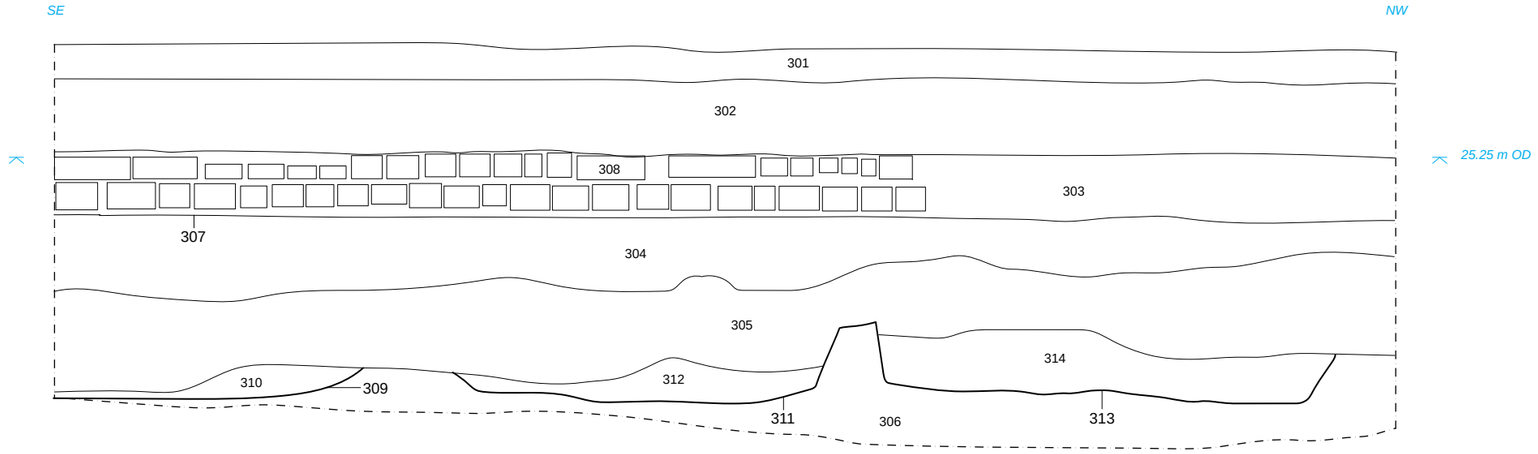
Date: 21/12/2022 | Created by: ND | Revision: 0 | Scale: 1:20 at A3

Figure 4: North-west facing section of trench 2

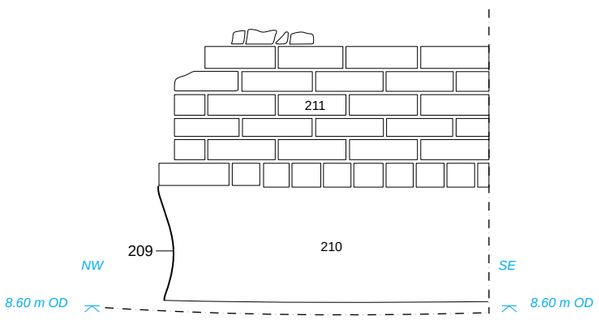
A. South facing section of Trench 6

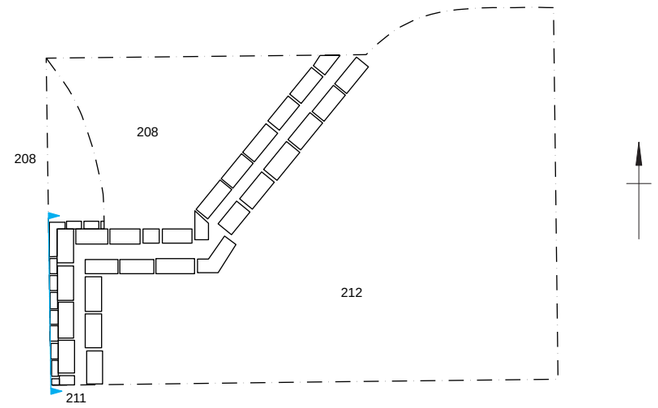


B. North-east facing section of Trench 3



C. Wall 211 elevation and plan





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0 1 m

Date: 21/12/2022	Created by: ND	Revision: 0	Scale: 1:20 at A3

Figure 5: Sections and plan

Figure 6: East facing section of Trench 3

Figure 7: North facing section of Trench 4

Figure 8: East facing section of Trench 5

Figure 9: South facing section of Trench 7

Figure 10: West facing section of Trench 1

Figure 11: Oblique shot of north facing section of Trench 2

Figure 12: South facing section of Trench 6

Figure 13: View of trench 3 from south

Figure 14: East facing elevation of wall 215

Figure 15: West-south-west facing elevation of wall 610

Figure 16: TP103 – East facing section at 3.50m

Figure 17: TP102 – North facing section at 3.50m

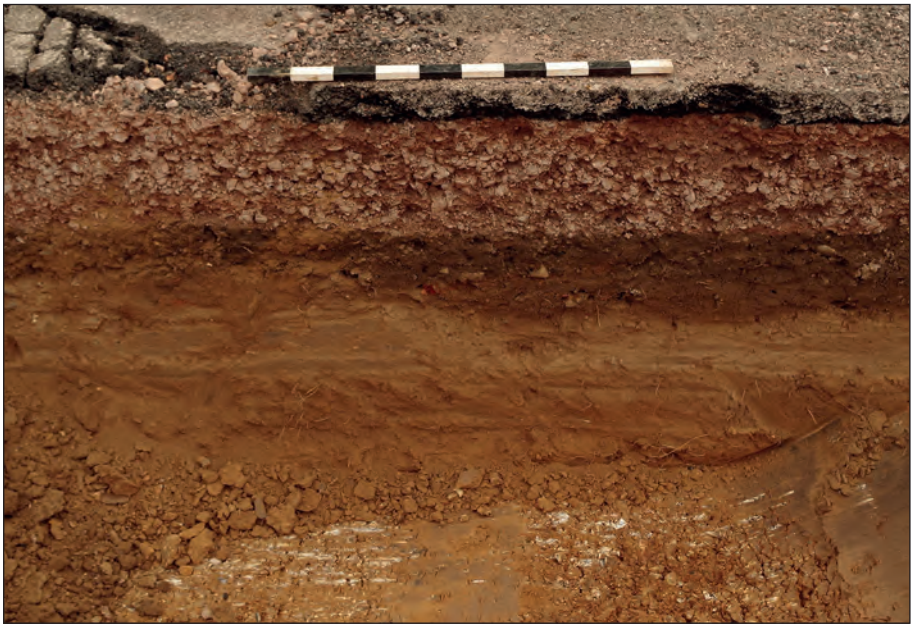

Figure 18: TP101 – West facing section at 1.20m

Figure 19: TP101 – East facing section at 1.20m

Figure 20: TP102 – North facing section at 1.20m

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