



Land to Rear of 95 to 127 Reforne, Portland, Dorset

Archaeological Observations and Recording during groundworks



Report No. 53442/3/1

September 2016

Land to Rear of 95 to 127 Reforme, Portland, Dorset

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October 2015 – July 2016

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Project Report Summary Page

Project Details			
OASIS Reference	terraina1-261783		
Project Title	Land to Rear of 95 to 127 Reforme, Portland		
Short Description of Project	Terrain Archaeology observed the excavation of the footings for four new detached houses and garages. No archaeology was revealed.		
Project Dates	Start: 08-10-2015	End: 28-07-2016	
Previous/Future Work	No/No		
Project Code	53442		
Monument Type and Period	None		
Significant Finds	None		
Project Location			
County/District/Parish	Dorset/ Weymouth and Portland/Portland		
Site Address	Land to Rear of 95 to 127 Reforme, Portland, DT5 2AP		
Site Coordinates	SY 6883 7193		
Site Area	420 m ²		
Height OD	92.6 – 96.1 m aOD		
Project Creators			
Organisation	Terrain Archaeology		
Project Brief Originator			
Project Design Originator	Terrain Archaeology		
Project Supervisor	Peter Bellamy		
Project Manager	Peter Bellamy		
Sponsor or Funding Body	Client		
Project Archive			
Archive Type	Physical	Digital	Paper
Location/Accession No	None	None	None
Contents	None	None	None

Land to Rear of 95 to 127 Reforne, Portland, Dorset

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1. Introduction

1.1 Project introduction

This document has been prepared by Terrain Archaeology on behalf Phil Laming & Sons Ltd, to comply with Condition 10 of Planning Application No. WP/14/00300/FUL, *Land to rear of 95 to 127 Reforne, Portland*.

Terrain Archaeology was commissioned by Phil Laming and Sons Ltd to carry out archaeological observations and recording during groundworks associated with the construction of four new dwellings to the rear of 95 to 127 Reforne, Portland.

A planning application for the formation of private drive and erection of 4 detached houses and garages (Application No. WP/14/00300/FUL) was granted permission on 27 October 2014. Condition No. 10 states *“The development shall not commence until the applicant has made arrangements for archaeological observation and recording to take place during development. These arrangements shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority at least one month before any work commences on the development site.*

Reason: The area is of potential archaeological interest and it is important that any archaeological features and finds are properly recorded, in accordance with Policy B5 of the adopted Weymouth and Portland Local Plan 2005.”

The fieldwork was carried out intermittently between 8th October 2015 and 28th July 2016 by Peter Bellamy.

1.2 Brief

No written brief for the works was produced by or on behalf of the Client or the Local Planning Authority.

1.3 Site Location

The site comprises the former allotment gardens known as 'Four Acres' bounded by the properties along St George's Road, the gardens to Grosvenor Road to the south and the gardens to 123-95 Reforne to the north, centred on Ordnance Survey NGR SY 6883 7193. The east and south sides are bounded by a footpath with low drystone boundary walls. The site is accessed through the garden of 125 Reforne. The site covers an area of about 0.264 ha and the ground slopes down to the east between 92.5 and 95.5 m aOD.

1.4 Geology

Bedrock geology is mapped as Jurassic and Cretaceous Limestone of the Lulworth Formation, with no recorded superficial deposits (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

1.5 Historical Background

Portland has a long history of human exploitation with archaeological evidence remaining from the Mesolithic period onwards. However, there are no recorded prehistoric or Roman sites or findspots on or in the immediate vicinity of the site.

Portland was a royal manor in the Saxon period. It was granted to the monks of Winchester by Henry I and returned to the Crown in the 15th century. The medieval settlement pattern is not known but Wakeham, Easton, Weston and Southwell may be medieval settlements. There was an extensive open field system but it does not appear that particular fields were associated with particular hamlets. Reforne appears as a separate hamlet on the O.S. map of 1811 and during the 19th century Easton, Wakeham and Reforne grew together to form the large village of Easton (RCHME 1970, 258-9).

The site appears to have been at the northern limits of Droop or Windmill Field and probably originally consisted of a number of strip fields or lawns. By 1864 the area around the site had been enclosed into a series of small rectangular fields, which lay to the south of the houses along Reforne (Ordnance Survey 25-inch map 1864). The site itself consisted of one of these small fields with a footpath running along its eastern side. By 1902, this field or paddock had become Allotment Gardens (Ordnance Survey 25-inch map 1902). By 1929, the site had become surrounded by houses with the construction of Grosvenor Road to the south (Ordnance Survey 25-inch map 1929). There was no real change to the site until the allotments were abandoned in the late twentieth or early twenty-first century.

1.6 Previous Archaeological fieldwork

There has been no previous fieldwork on or immediately adjacent to the site.

1.7 Aims and Objectives

1.7.1 Aims

- The principal aim of the Archaeological programme of works is to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on the site in fulfilment of the Planning Conditions.
- The programme of works will aim to place the archaeological results within the local, regional and national context, as appropriate, and advance understanding of the archaeology of the site and its surroundings.

1.7.2 Objectives

- To investigate and record all the in situ archaeological deposits and features revealed during the programme of works to an appropriate professional standard.
- To record recovered artefacts and other materials to an appropriate standard.
- To present the results in a report to the appropriate standard.

1.8 Methods

The methodology, scope, aims and objectives of the works was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by Terrain Archaeology in October 2015 (Terrain Archaeology document no. 3442/0/1).

The observation and recording of the groundworks was undertaken to the standards of the Chartered Institute of Archaeologists (CIfA 2014), with an archaeologist in attendance during the excavation of the footings trenches.

A photographic record of the works was maintained in digital format.

1.9 Archive and Dissemination

1.9.1 Paper Archive

No paper archive will be retained beyond the end of the project.

1.9.2 Artefacts

No artefacts or other materials were recovered from the site.

1.9.3 Report

A copy of this report will be lodged with Dorset County Council's Historic Environment Record (HER). The HER is a publicly funded and accessible resource, and deposition of the report will place it, and the project results, in the public domain.

A digital summary of the archive will be placed with the OASIS project (www.oasis.ac.uk) under the reference code *terrains1-261783*. A digital copy of this report will be uploaded for inclusion in the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) online 'grey literature' library.

2. Results

2.1 Introduction

The groundworks consisted of the excavation of the footings trenches of four detached houses and accompanying detached garages (Figure 2). The footings trenches measured between 0.4 m and 0.75 m wide and 1.0 m and 1.5 m deep (Plates 1–3).

2.2 Natural Deposits

The natural bedrock consisted of pale yellowish-grey to mid yellowish-brown clay with layers of limestone slat. Above this was a c. 0.3 m thick layer of mid reddish-brown clay with sparse small limestone pieces.

2.3 Archaeological Features and Deposits

No archaeological features or deposits were discovered during the groundworks.

2.4 Topsoil

The natural clay and stone was sealed beneath a c. 0.3 m thick layer of dark greyish-brown humic clay topsoil. Sparse modern finds were noted in this layer but not collected.

3. Finds

3.1 Finds Assemblage

No finds were recovered from the fieldwork.

4. Discussion and Conclusions

4.1 Conclusions

The results of the archaeological observations and recording indicate there was no surviving evidence for any archaeological activity on the site. The only finds noted were associated with the former allotment gardens that formerly occupied the site.

5. References

- | | | |
|--|------|---|
| ClfA, | 2014 | <i>Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i> . December 2014. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. |
| [RCHME] Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England) | 1970 | <i>An Inventory of Historical Monuments in the County of Dorset, Volume 2: South East, Part 3</i> . London, HMSO. |
| Terrain Archaeology | 2015 | Land to Rear of 95 to 127 Reforne, Portland, Dorset. Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Works during Development. Terrain Archaeology Document No. 3442/0/1, October 2015. |

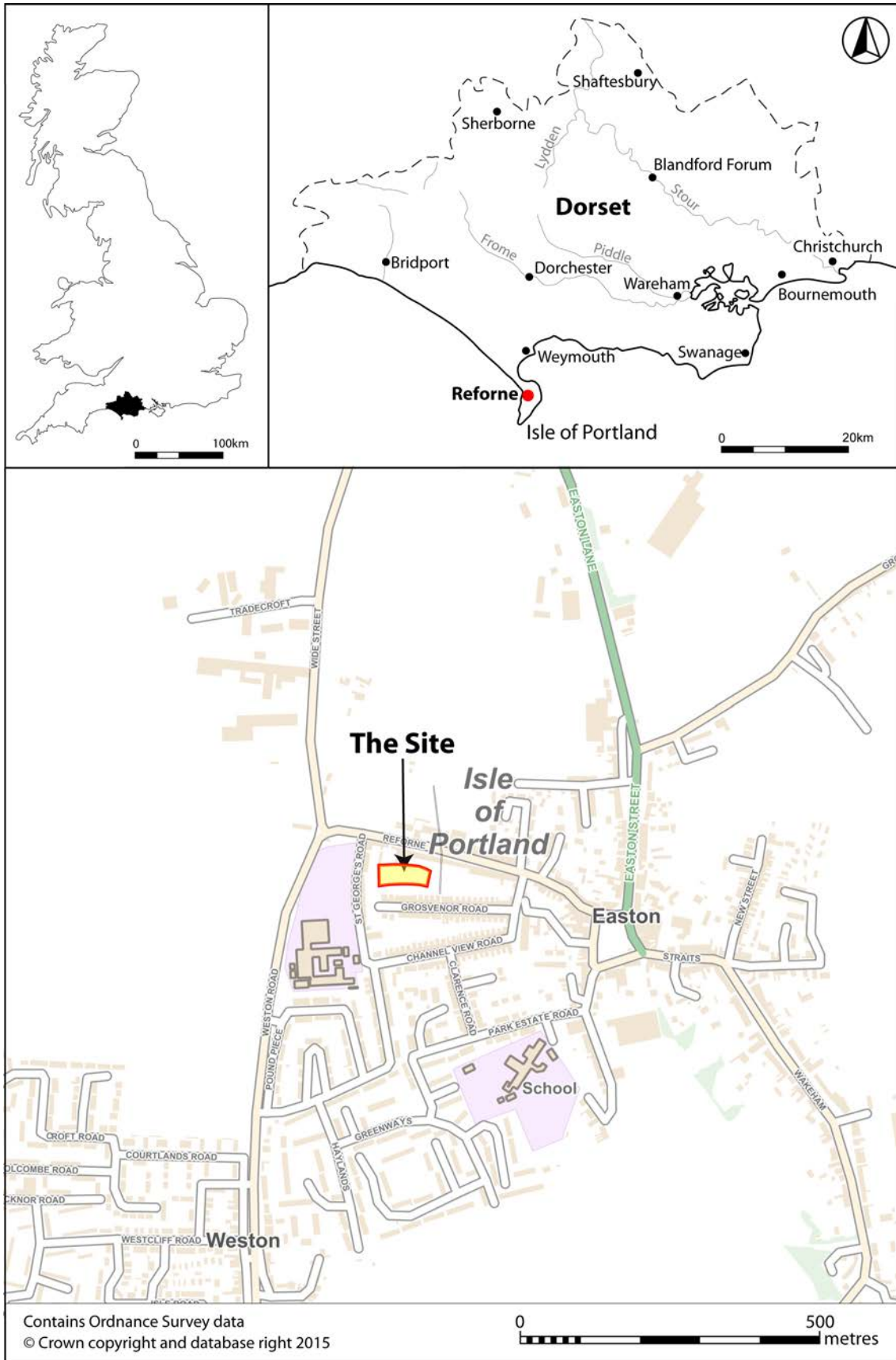


Figure 1: Location map.



Figure 2: Plan of Observations.



Plate 1: Trench 2 viewed from east.



Plate 2: Trench 6 viewed from north.



Plate 3: Trench 7 viewed from south.