

**61-64 HIGH STREET,
SOUTHAMPTON SO14 2NS**

**REPORT ON AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
INVESTIGATION (WATCHING
BRIEF)**

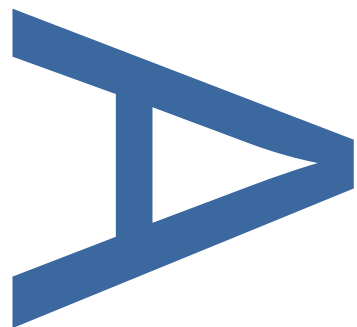
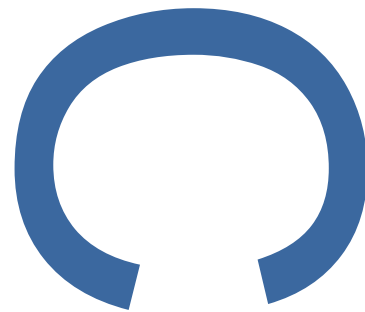
**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:
SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL**

**PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBERS:
20/01159/FUL**

PCA REPORT NO: R14712

SITE CODE: SOU1901

OCTOBER 2021 (REVISED 19/11/2021)



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

**61-64 HIGH STREET SOUTHAMPTON SO14 2NS:
REPORT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION (WATCHING BRIEF ON
EXTENSION)**

Issue 1: Issued for Approval

NGR: SU 4203 1117

Local Planning Authority Southampton City Council

Planning Reference 20/01159/FUL (four storey extension)

Southampton Museums Site Code: SOU1901

Prepared for: The Malins Group

Written by: Paul McCulloch

Project Manager: Paul McCulloch

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (Winchester)
5 Red Deer Court
Elm Road
Winchester
Hampshire SO22 5LX
Tel: 01962 849 549
E-mail: pmcculloch@pre-construct.com
Web: www.pre-construct.com

© Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
October 2021 (Revised 19/11/2021)

© The material contained herein is and remains the sole property of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited and is not for publication to third parties without prior consent. Whilst every effort has been made to provide detailed and accurate information, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited cannot be held responsible for errors or inaccuracies herein contained.

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

Site Name: 61-64 High Street, Southampton SO14 2NS

Type of project: Archaeological Investigation (Watching Brief)

Report: R14712

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code		K6801
	Name	Date
Written by:	P McCulloch	18/10/2021
Graphics by:	D Valk	20/10/2021
Graphics checked:	M Roughley	20/10/2021
Project Manager:	P. McCulloch	21/10/2021

Revision No.	Checked	Approved	Date
1	GH	PCM	19/11/2021

CONTENTS

1	ABSTRACT	4
2	INTRODUCTION	5
3	AIMS	8
4	RESULTS	9
5	ARCHIVE PREPARATION, DEPOSITION AND COPYRIGHT	11
6	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	12
7	REFERENCES	13
	APPENDIX 1: PLATES 1-4	14
	APPENDIX 2: OASIS RECORD.....	17

List of Figures:

Figure 1 – Site Location

Figure 2 – Detailed Site Location

Figure 3 – Plan showing Proposed Extension and New Mass Concrete Foundation

1 ABSTRACT

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd was appointed by The Malins Group to carry out an archaeological investigation (watching brief) at 61-64 High street, Southampton, hereafter 'the Site'. The Site is the subject of a development comprising a four storey extension to the existing building.

The watching brief was carried out between the 5th of August and the 1st of September 2021.

It was not possible to carry out the investigation in the manner set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation. This resulted from the client's groundworker forming a single open area in which to form new foundations, which was not safe to work within at any stage.

However, the following observations can be made:

- The archaeological potential of the courtyard area north and east of the existing building would appear to contain archaeological potential. This occurs from 1.2m below ground level and includes a possible buried soil and deposits and cut features that penetrate the brickearth, which appears to occur at approximately 1.6m below ground level

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Project Background

2.1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) was appointed by The Malins Group to carry out an archaeological investigation (watching brief) at 61-64 High street, Southampton, hereafter 'the Site' (**Figures 1 & 2**). The Site is the subject of a development to form a four storey extension to the existing building.

2.1.2 The archaeological watching brief and subsequent reporting was required by conditions 6 and 7 of planning permission granted by the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Southampton City Council (SCC) (planning ref. 20/01159/FUL). The conditions were based on the advice of the LPA's archaeological advisor, the SCC Planning Archaeologist Ingrid Peckham, and reflected the potential of the Site to contain archaeological resources that might be put at risk by the development. The requirements of the conditions have been implemented in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (PCA 2021) approved by the LPA in advance of building work starting.

2.1.3 This report has been prepared in accordance with the WSI and with the following documents and guidance:

- Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief (ClfA 2014, updated 2020);
- Standard and guidance for an archaeological excavation (ClfA 2014);
- Standard for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives (ClfA 2014, updated 2020);
- Standards for the Creation, Compilation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives, (Southampton City Council 2nd ed. 2016)
- Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (Historic England 2015).

2.2 Location, Topography and Geology

2.2.1 The Site is located towards the southern end of High street, Southampton. The Site comprises a four-storey mixed use - commercial and residential - building, the Site totals c.590m². The proposed extension will adjoin the northern elevation of the southern portion of the existing building.

2.2.2 The Site is bounded by the High Street on western side, Oriental Terrace to the south and adjacent buildings to the north and east. The Site is occupied by a mixed-use building, occupying the western and southern parts of the Site. The rest of the Site is occupied by the associated car park car park.

2.2.3 The Site is located on a gradual east facing slope, as the ground falls towards River Itchen, the Site sits at approximately 11m aOD. The site is c.306m north of the current waterfront along Southampton Water and c.1.1km east of the course of the River Itchen.

2.2.4 According to the British Geological Survey (BGS online viewer) the underlying geology of the Site comprises a bedrock formation of Earnley Sand Formation - Sand, Silt And Clay. Superficial deposits comprising River Terrace Deposits, 1 - Clay and Silt are mapped within the eastern part of the Site.

2.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

2.3.1 The archaeological and historical background was set out in the Desk-based Assessment (PCA, 2020) prepared in respect of the proposed development and is not repeated here. In summary, the Desk-based Assessment stated:

The Site lies in the historic core of medieval Southampton in an area of significant archaeological potential. Previous archaeological investigations close to and within the Site attest to this. However, previous impacts within the Site, including archaeological investigations, may have removed much or all of that potential. It is concluded that, if archaeological remains survive within the Site, these are unlikely to represent an overriding constraint on the proposed development. As such, should consent for the proposed development be granted, a programme of archaeological investigation, perhaps comprising an initial stage of evaluation, should be secured by use of a suitable planning condition and implemented in accordance with a methodology that has the approval of the Southampton City Archaeologist.

- 2.3.2 As outlined in the Desk-based Assessment previous archaeological works were undertaken within the Site ahead of the construction of the existing buildings (SOU 2/ SOU 105). To summarise the works revealed:
- *Evidence of a Late Saxon boundary ditch and possible associated rampart bank, running parallel to High street.*
 - *Evidence of occupation of the site from at least the 13th century onwards. The earliest evidence of this period comprised of timber building fronting High Street with cess pits to the rear. Evidence for pottery manufacturing was also recovered (in the form of kiln wasters recovered in what was plot 63). Evidence of later phases of stone and timber buildings was also uncovered, along with evidence of industry within the Site (kitchen ovens and bronze working; hearths, crucibles and scraps).*
 - *These revealed that during the 17th century new stone buildings with cellars were constructed facing High street. The foundations of these buildings formed the basis of the later 18th and 19th century buildings on the Site.*
 - *Previous archaeological investigation within the Site will have impacted the Site's archaeological potential, but the precise location of those excavations is uncertain in relation to the existing building.*
- 2.3.3 The interim report of the works (SOU 105) notes that within plots 62 and 63 the post medieval and late medieval layers were totally excavated but the early medieval layers were only sampled in two sections, where these layers had been previously disturbed by a drainage trench and a 19th century well (Stubbs, 1972).
- 2.3.4 The proposed extension was the subject of a previous planning consent, granted in 2015 (Planning reference 15/00071/FUL) that was not fulfilled, although some groundwork was carried out to form new foundations – a concrete pad was observed during the watching brief and is presumed to relate to the 2015 works - no archaeological investigation was carried out at the time.

3 AIMS

3.1 Archaeological Investigation (Watching Brief)

3.1.1 The aims of the archaeological investigation were as follows:

- To monitor development groundworks within the Site.
- To archaeologically hand excavate significant pre-1850 features, deposits or remains, including human remains, revealed by the works and to determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality, and date of any archaeological remains encountered, in keeping with current best practice, within the extent of the proposed works.
- To identify and record the nature, dimensions, and relationship of natural geological deposits on the Site and assess the potential of the natural geological deposits to contain or conceal archaeologically significant remains, particularly from the prehistoric periods within the extent of the proposed works.
- To identify and assess any previous impact below ground as may be observable within the proposed works.
- To produce a report on the results of the investigation that sets out the archaeological information investigated and recorded during the investigation. The report will aim to provide sufficient information so that the relevant requirements of planning consent can be satisfied and, if appropriate, discharged.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The following section presents a summary of the results of the watching brief based on the Site archive, which comprises a Site diary and digital photographs along with related electronic data. **Appendix 1** contains **Plates 1-4**. **Appendix 2** contains an OASIS record. The archive is currently held at PCA's Winchester office and in due course will be deposited with Southampton Museums under the Site code SOU1901.

4.2 Methodology

4.2.1 The watching brief was carried out between the 5th of August and the 1st of September 2021. Visits coincided with mechanical excavations for the proposed foundations (**Figure 3**). The watching brief was very restricted by a lack of safe access owing to the decision to bulk excavate the extension footprint to a depth beneath the foundations of the existing building, and a lack of temporary shoring. The client's structural engineer required rapid remedial action to prevent undermining of the existing building's foundations, which effectively prevented any adequate recording of archaeological deposits that were visible but consequently inaccessible. The remedial action included pouring mass concrete against the exposed existing foundations and in all of the excavated proposal footprint, including on top of deposits of probable archaeological significance and *in situ* natural brickearth (**Plate 1**).

4.3 Observations

4.3.1 Initial excavation of the extension footprint revealed, in the eastern exposed section brickwork foundations and walls of probably 19th century date and very mixed fill, down on to brickearth at approximately 1.6m depth below ground level and, on the south side, infill between brick foundation piers of the existing building comprised modern rubble (**Plate 2**). On the north side, the exposed profile revealed made ground to approximately 1.2m below ground level. Beneath this was a band of grey-brown soil, possibly a buried soil horizon, lying over seemingly natural brickearth (**Plate 3**). In the western section a possible feature was observed, containing a dark grey fill and fragments of charcoal (**Plate 4**). On the base of the excavated area, the natural brickearth appeared to be cut into or overlain by discrete areas of dark grey deposits, possible pit fills or horizontal deposits; it was not possible to investigate the nature of these deposits.

4.3.2 No further observations providing more certainty of the archaeological deposits on or cut into the natural brickearth was possible, although their survival appeared confirmed when subsequent mechanical excavation was undertaken on the west side of the area. This revealed a possible pit fill or horizontal deposit comprising a layer of dark grey material; it was not possible to investigate the nature of this deposit (**Plate 5**).

4.4 Conclusion

4.4.1 It was not possible to carry out the investigation in the manner set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation. This resulted from the client's groundworker forming a single open area in which to form new foundations, which was not safe to work within at any stage.

4.4.2 However, the following observation can be made:

- The archaeological potential of the courtyard area north and east of the existing building would appear to contain archaeological potential. This occurs from 1.2m below ground level and includes a possible buried soil and deposits and cut features that penetrate the brickearth, which appears to occur at approximately 1.6m below ground level.

5 ARCHIVE PREPARATION, DEPOSITION AND COPYRIGHT

5.1 The Site Archive

5.2 The Site archive, to include all project records and cultural material produced by the project, is to be prepared in accordance with Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage (UKIC 1990) and Standards for the Creation, Compilation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives (Southampton City Council, 2nd ed. 2016). On completion of the project PCA will arrange for the archive to be deposited with Southampton City Council.

5.3 Copyright

5.3.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the Site will be retained by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved. Southampton City Council, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profitmaking, and conforms to the Copyright and Related Rights regulations 2003. Further distribution and uses of the report either in its entirety or part thereof in paper or electronic form is prohibited without the prior consent of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.

5.3.2 The licence extends to the use of all documents arising from this project in all matters relating directly to the project, as well as for *bona fide* research purposes (which includes the Southampton Historic Environment Record).

5.3.3 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd has made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the content of this report. However, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd cannot accept any liability in respect of, or resulting from, errors, inaccuracies or omissions this report contains.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Pre-Construct Archaeology is grateful to The Malins Group for commissioning the watching brief and to Ingrid Peckham, Southampton City Council, for her advice.

The watching brief was supervised by Bartłomiej Grden and this report compiled by Paul McCulloch, with illustrations prepared by Diana Valk. The project was managed for PCA by Paul McCulloch.

7 REFERENCES

PCA 2021, '61-64 High Street, Southampton SO15 2NS: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Works.'

Stubbs, K. 1972, 'Southampton Research Committee 1971 Excavations – Site 2' Southampton

APPENDIX 1: PLATES 1-4



Plate 1 – Mass concrete poured against existing foundation piers. View to south. Scale 1m.



Plate 2 – East and south sections of new foundation excavations. View to south-east Scale 1m.



Plate 3 – North section of new foundation excavation. View to north-east. Scale 1m.



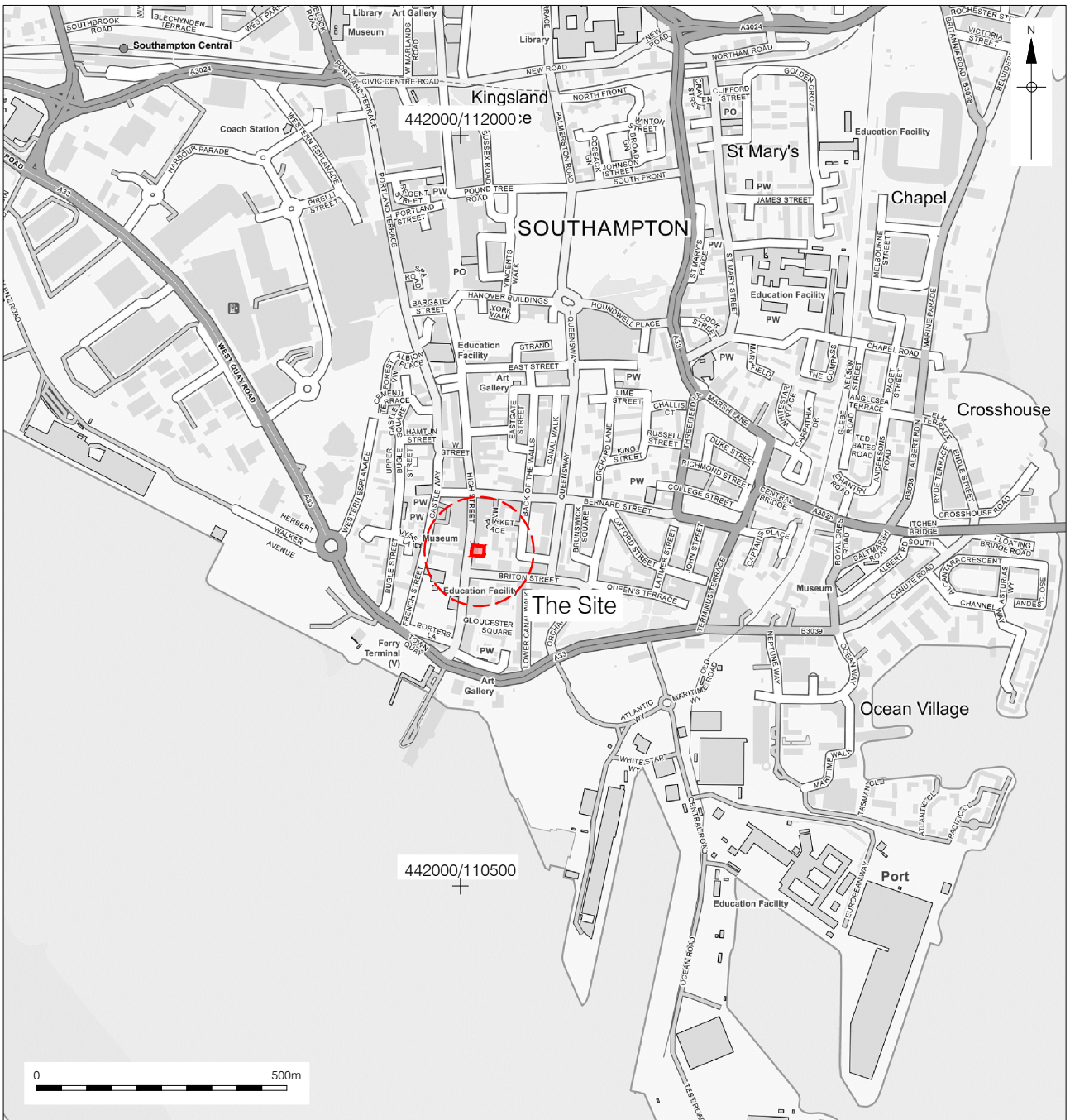
**Plate 4 – West section of new foundation excavation in progress. View to south-west. No scale.
Photo courtesy of Ingrid Peckham.**

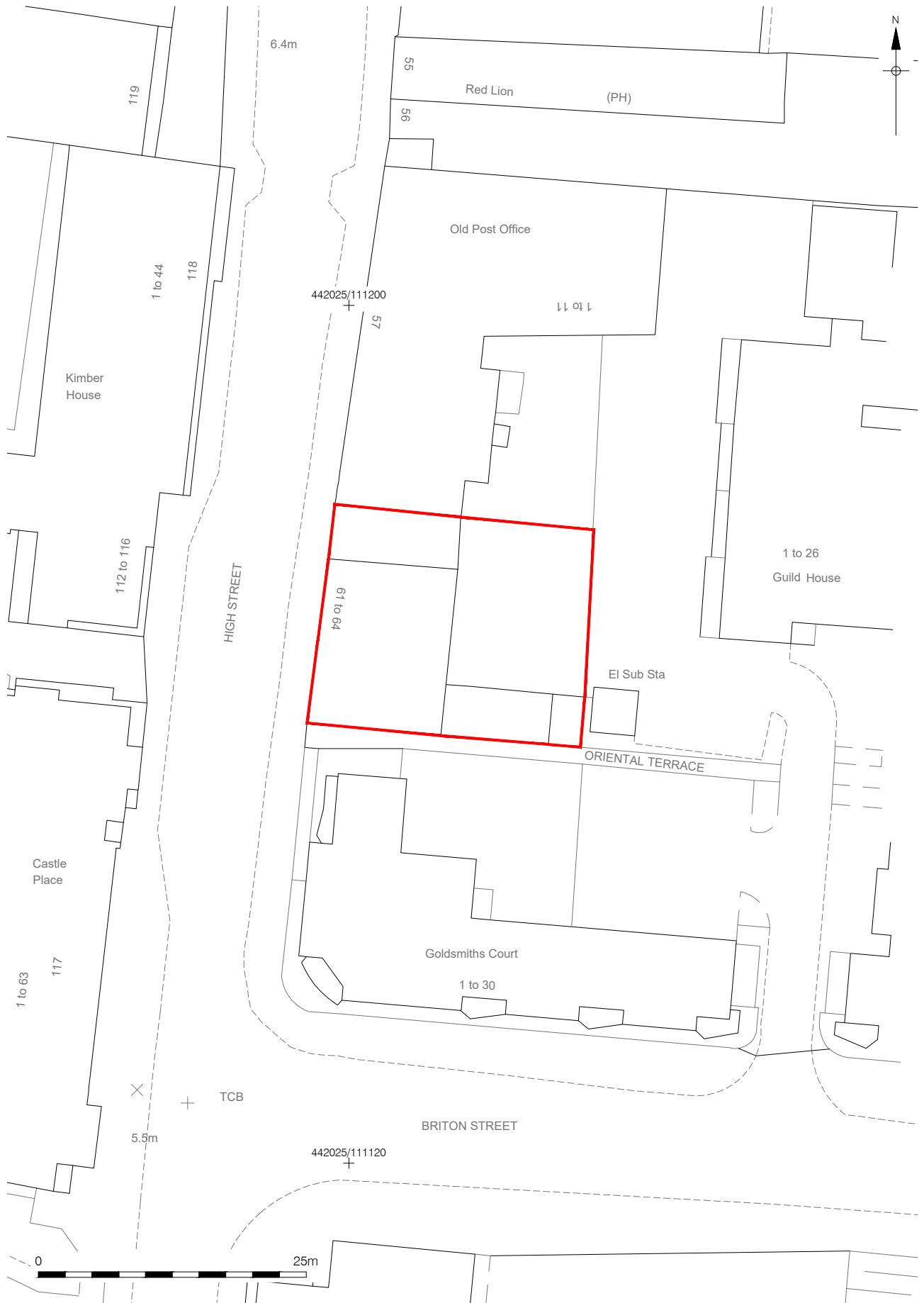


Plate 5 – West section of new foundation excavation. View south-west. No scale.

APPENDIX 2: OASIS RECORD

OASIS ID (UID)	preconst1-502547
Project Name	Watching Brief at 61-64 High Street Southampton
Activity type	Watching Brief
Project Identifier(s)	61-64 High Street Southampton
Planning Id	20/01159/FUL
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project Dates	05-Aug-2021 - 01-Sep-2021
Location	61-64 High Street Southampton NGR : SU 42030 11170 LL : 50.8984851398388, - 1.4037118133555 12 Fig : 442030,111170
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Hampshire District : Southampton Parish : Southampton, unparished area
Project Methodology	Groundwork to form foundations for extension to existing building were monitored. Very limited access was possible but archaeological deposits were visible in section and plan between 1.2m and 1.6m below existing ground level, in places heavily disturbed. The archaeological features included deposits and cut features, but were not datable.







NOTES

- GENERAL NOTES:
1. THIS DRAWING IS TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE OTHER RELEVANT CONSULTANTS DRAWINGS.
 2. ALL FINISHES ARE TO CONFORM TO THE CURRENT BUILDING REGULATIONS.
 3. REFER TO A SEPARATE DOCUMENT FOR THE DESIGNERS RISK ASSESSMENT.
 4. ALL WORKS OR MATERIALS INDICATED ON THIS DRAWING ARE TO BE TO THE LATEST RELEVANT BRITISH STANDARDS AND CARRIED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BRITISH STANDARDS CODES OF PRACTICE OR RECOGNISED INSTITUTE OR TRADE ASSOCIATION RECOMMENDATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS.

Key

- Existing Walls
- Proposed Walls
- Removed Walls
- Proposed Extension
- Mass Concrete Foundation



PCA

PCA CAMBRIDGE

THE GRANARY, RECTORY FARM
BREWERY ROAD, PAMPISFORD
CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB22 3EN
t: 01223 845 522

e: cambridge@pre-construct.com

PCA DURHAM

THE ROPE WORKS, BROADWOOD VIEW
CHESTER-LE-STREET
DURHAM DH3 3AF
t: 0191 377 1111

e: durham@pre-construct.com

PCA LONDON

UNIT 54, BROCKLEY CROSS BUSINESS CENTRE
96 ENDWELL ROAD, BROCKLEY
LONDON SE4 2PD
t: 020 7732 3925

e: london@pre-construct.com

PCA NEWARK

OFFICE 8, ROEWOOD COURTYARD
WINKBURN, NEWARK
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NG22 8PG
t: 01636 370 410

e: newark@pre-construct.com

PCA NORWICH

QUARRY WORKS, DEREHAM ROAD
HONINGHAM
NORWICH NR9 5AP
T: 01603 863 108

e: norwich@pre-construct.com

PCA WARWICK

UNIT 9, THE MILL, MILL LANE
LITTLE SHREWLEY, WARWICK
WARWICKSHIRE CV35 7HN
t: 01926 485 490

e: warwick@pre-construct.com

PCA WINCHESTER

5 RED DEER COURT, ELM ROAD
WINCHESTER
HAMPSHIRE SO22 5LX
t: 01962 857 330

e: winchester@pre-construct.com

