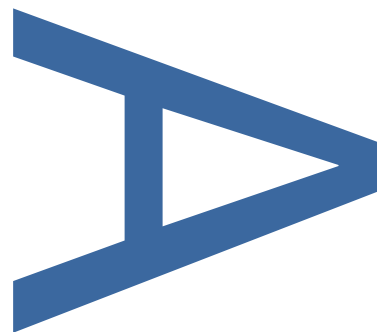
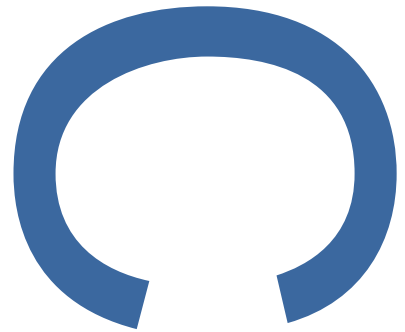


**NO. 2 ABERDEEN ROAD,
SOUTHAMPTON,
SO17 2LN:
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION REPORT**



PCA REPORT NO: R15148

NOVEMBER 2022

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

NO. 2 ABERDEEN ROAD, SOUTHAMPTON, SO17 2LN: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Issue 1: Issued for Approval

NGR: SU 43494 14334

Local Planning Authority Southampton City Council

Planning Reference 20/00737/FUL

Southampton Museums Site Code: SOU1952

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DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

Site Name: 2 Aberdeen Road, Southampton, SO17 2LN

Type of project: Archaeological Evaluation

Report: R15148

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code		K7442
	Name	Date
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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) was appointed by Knight Architectural Design on behalf of Tom Sheridan to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation at no. 2 Aberdeen Road, Southampton, SO17 2LN. The Site is the subject of a development proposal for the erection of a 2-storey side extension to facilitate the creation of a 2-bedroom dwelling with associated parking and landscaping with external alterations changes to existing dwelling.
- 1.1.2 The evaluation was carried out on 26th September 2022. No archaeological features, deposits or finds earlier than the 20th century were found. Modern topsoil directly overlay natural geological layers with a clear horizon between them, which may suggest that the Site had been levelled during the recent past.
- 1.1.3 One feature was recorded during the evaluation. This large feature, some 2.42m wide and over 0.54m deep, was partially exposed. It had steeply sloping sides and its fill contained a 1932 farthing, fragments of modern glass and ceramic building material. The exact purpose of this mid-20th century feature is unclear. There were no structural remains associated with it and it seems unlikely that it was a planting pit due to its large size and depth, extending far below the ground level.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Project Background

2.1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) was appointed by Knight Architectural Design on behalf of Tom Sheridan to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation at no.2 Aberdeen Road, Southampton, SO17 2LN, hereafter 'the Site' (**Figures 1 and 2**). The Site is the subject of a development proposal for the erection of a 2-storey side extension to facilitate the creation of a 2-bedroom dwelling with associated parking and landscaping with external alterations changes to existing dwelling.

2.1.2 The archaeological evaluation and subsequent reporting were required by conditions 14, 15, 16 and 17 of planning consent granted by the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Southampton City Council (SCC) (planning ref. 20/00737/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 2022) 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 archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014, updated 2020);
- *Standard for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (CIfA 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 lies to the south of the junction of Aberdeen Road and Priory Road. It is situated in a residential area. The Site is centred at NGR SU 43494 14334 (**Figures 1 and 2**).

2.2.2 Although largely obscured by urban development, the natural topography is flat, which is consistent with its location on the western edge of the River Itchen valley floor, with rising ground to the west. The Site sits at approximately 5m OD.

2.2.3 The underlying bedrock geology of the Site is shown by the British Geological Survey (BGS Online 2021) as London Clay Formation– clay, silt and sand, which are overlain by superficial Quaternary River Terrace 1 Deposits comprising sand and gravel. The BGS also shows a patch of River Terrace 1 Clay and Silt nearby to the south-west of the Site. This is commonly known as brickearth and may be present on the Site as the uppermost Quaternary deposit.

2.2.4 Entries in the Southampton Historic Environment Record corroborate this, with river

terrace deposits recorded c.311m southeast of the site at Cobden Bridge (MSH364). In addition, peat deposits have also been recorded within the vicinity of the Site. These deposits were observed during construction of the flyover across Kent Road (MSH1781) c.287m northwest of the Site and during archaeological works (SOU437 and SOU489) at the former Kent Road Depot (MSH1791) c100m north of the Site.

2.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

2.3.1 The archaeological and historic background to the Site was set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation for the evaluation (PCA, 2022), as follows:

'Prehistoric

A total of 28 prehistoric monuments and findspots have been identified across a 500m radius search area from the centre of the Site. Three of these records relate to finds recovered in the immediate vicinity of the Site. A Mesolithic flint core and secondary flakes found at 15-17 Aberdeen Road -c.33m southwest of the Site (MSH1793, SOU 411). Some worked flint was also recovered during works at 12 Aberdeen Road – c.40m south of the Site (MSH1428, SOU 1084). During ground works at 41 Kent Road – c.95m west of the Site- deposits dating to the Bronze Age were observed (MSH2381, SOU 1271).

The HER records 5 other sites where prehistoric deposits were observed within the 500m radius search area. Including at a site at 8 Priory Avenue – c.200m southeast of the Site - where a Mesolithic flint working site was uncovered (MSH1800, SOU 448).

The HER records 20 prehistoric findspots within the search area, dating from the Palaeolithic period through to the Bronze Age. The finds recorded including a range of flint tools and bronze spearhead (MSH358).

Roman

There are a total of 15 monuments and findspots recorded in the HER that are dated to the Roman period. The HER details evidence from excavations and findspots in the area that have shown that the St Denys area was the site of a Roman settlement, occupied throughout the period (MSH2568). These include works undertaken at 21 Aberdeen Road – c.38m southwest of the Site - in which a Roman quern and pottery was observed (MSH4723).

The Site is situated c.200m east of the projected route of the Roman road between Clausentum (Bitterne Manor) and Venta Belgarum (Winchester) (MSH470, MSH485). Another projection of this road places it on the other side of the Itchen Estuary (MSH 453).

Medieval

A total of 24 monuments and findspots dating from the medieval period are recorded in the HER. Most of the activity recorded in the HER relates to the Former Priory of St Denys, founded c.1124 and dissolved in 1536. The main priory complex was situated c.95m south of the Site (MSH1501).

In 1939, just to the north of the application site, a broken stone coffin containing human bones was found during the digging of a new gas main in Priory Road (HER record

MSH5461). The burial may have been medieval, associated with the nearby priory (the location of the priory cemetery is currently unknown), or may have been Roman. The GIS polygon for MSH5829 (possible Priory Cemetery) includes two widely separated finds of burials.

Postmedieval

A total of 11 entries in the HER relate to records dated to the postmedieval period. After the dissolution, the land of the former priory was sold off and the site of the priory itself was occupied by a series of farmhouses.

By the 18th century, the Site was within the estate of the former Portswood House (MSH3651), the house itself was built in 1776, c.945m southwest of the Site. At the northern entrance to the estate a lodge was built c.1770. the lodge still survives and is now 324 Portswood Road (MSH2155).

A total of 8 other post-medieval entries in the HER relate to various deposits from the period seen across the study area.

19th Century

A total of 32 records in the HER are dated to the 19th Century. In 1840 the railway line (MSH5710) was constructed across the Portswood House estate and subsequently the land was sold off, with the house itself demolished in 1852.

With the construction of the railway line associated infrastructure was also constructed across the study area this includes St Denys Railway station (MSH2203) and two bridges (MSH5585 and MSH5526).

St Denys Farm (MSH5302) is shown on the 1846 map of the area as a rectangular group of buildings around a central courtyard on the site of the former priory c.100m south of the Site.

St Denys Hotel was constructed opposite the Site, between 1897 and 1909 (MSH5462).

The remaining entries for the period relate to various activity and buildings throughout the study area reflecting the period of development that the study area underwent. Much of the character of the study area originated in the 19th century.

The HER contains 19 records for relating to the modern period. None of these records relate to the Site or lie in its immediate vicinity. They show the continued development of the Study Area.

Undated

The HER contains 15 records that are undated. This includes works at 229 Priory Road – c.50m south of the Site - that uncovered a layer of burnt flint- though undated it likely relates to prehistoric activity (MSH1808, SOU 908). Work at 223 Priory Road - c.80m south of the site - uncovered an undated pit cut into river gravels (MSH1803, SOU 281).

The other entries in the HER relate to various undated features and deposits across the Study Area.

Historic Maps

On the 1846 Ordnance Survey map ... the Site lies along the northeast edge of a large

field north of St Denys Farm.

On the 1871 Ordnance Survey map areas to the south and to the west of the Site have been developed, but the Site itself remains part of an irregular parcel of undeveloped land. The 1898 Ordnance Survey map shows the Site as it is currently laid out. It records an end terrace building set in the southwest corner of an irregular - almost triangular plot of land. Subsequent maps record no changes to the layout of the plot.'

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims and Objectives

3.1.1 The aims of the archaeological evaluation were to determine the presence or absence of archaeological resources within the Site and, if present, determine their character, extent, date, condition and significance taking account of their potential to include biological and palaeo-environmental remains. Additionally, the evaluation aimed to identify and record the nature, dimensions and relationship of natural deposits on the Site and to assess the potential for natural deposits to contain or conceal archaeological evidence.

3.1.2 Further specific aims of the evaluation were:

- What is the archaeological resource potential of the Site?
- If present, does the resource potential provide evidence for the development of the Site in the prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods that may be compared to evidence for these periods previously recorded in the vicinity of the Site?
- If present, does the resource potential provide evidence of a previously unknown nature that can characterise the archaeology of the area of Southampton within which the Site is located?

3.1.3 A further aim of the evaluation was the production of this report, which aimed to provide sufficient information, specifically in the form of a deposit model for the whole Site, so that the future treatment of archaeological remains within the Site, in respect of the proposed development, may be determined.

3.2 Methodology

3.2.1 The evaluation was carried out on 26th September 2022. The evaluation followed the methodology set out in the WSI with the exception that the foundation trenches were evaluated rather than the single 10m x 1.8m evaluation trench proposed in the WSI. This change to the methodology was agreed with the SCC Planning Archaeologist in advance of the evaluation fieldwork. In addition, the foundation trenches were excavated to formation level, a deeper depth than was necessary for an archaeological evaluation trench. The foundation trenches formed a grid around three spaces. The trenches were each 0.6m wide and 0.7m deep, with a total area of approximately 27.97m² (**Figures 2 and 3; Plate 1**).

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The following section presents a summary of the results of the evaluation based on the Site archive, which comprises written and drawn records, digital photographs and related electronic data. **Appendix 1** contains a trench table and **Appendix 2** contains the 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 **SOU1952**.

4.2 Deposit sequence

4.2.1 A simple deposit sequence was recorded (**Figure 4; Plate 2 and 3**). The deposition sequence is as follows:

- The earliest natural geological deposit exposed was layer (103) comprising a mid-orangish brown silty clay, with frequent subangular – rounded gravel. It measured 0.12m+ thick in section and was seen to extend beyond the limit of the trench.
- Overlying (103) were natural geological deposits (102) and (106). The relationship between these two layers was unclear. Deposit (102) covered most of the trench and comprised a mid-brownish orange silty clay. Deposit (106) was recorded in the southwest part of the trench and comprised a softer mid brownish orange silty clay. Both deposits were between 0.27-0.38m thick.
- Overlying these deposits was a layer of topsoil (101). This layer was seen across the whole of the Site. It was about 0.32m thick and comprised a mid-brownish grey, silty clay. Fragments of modern ceramic building material (CBM), plastic, glass and concrete were observed throughout this layer. No material from earlier than the 20th century was found.

4.3 Archaeological features

4.3.1 One feature was recorded during the evaluation. Feature [104] was partially exposed on the eastern side of the evaluated foundation trenches and measured 2.42m wide and over 0.54m deep. It had steeply sloping sides. It contained one fill (105) comprising a dark brownish grey, silty clay (**Figure 4; Plate 4**). A 1932 farthing, fragments of modern glass and CBM were found in this feature.

4.3.2 The exact purpose of this early/mid-20th century feature is unclear. There were no structural remains associated with it and since it extended far below the ground level it seems unlikely that it was a planting pit.

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1.1 No archaeological features, deposits or finds earlier than the 20th century were found during the evaluation. The modern topsoil directly overlay natural geological layers with a clear horizon between them that may suggest that the Site had been levelled during the recent past.
- 5.1.2 One feature was recorded during the evaluation. This large feature, some 2.42m wide and over 0.54m deep, was partially exposed on the eastern side of the foundation trenches. It had steeply sloping sides and its fill contained a 1932 farthing, fragments of modern glass and ceramic building material. The exact purpose of this early/mid-20th century feature is unclear. There were no structural remains associated with it and it seems unlikely that it was a planting pit due to its large size and depth, extending far below the ground level.

6 ARCHIVE PREPARATION, DEPOSITION AND COPYRIGHT

6.1 The Site Archive

6.1.1 The Site archive, to include all project records and cultural material produced by the project, will 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.

6.2 Copyright

6.2.1 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.

6.2.2 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).

6.2.3 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.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Pre-Construct Archaeology is grateful to Knight Architectural Design on behalf of Tom Sheridan for commissioning the evaluation and to Ingrid Peckham, Southampton City Council, for her advice.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Gareth Howland assisted by Ben Thomas. This report was compiled by Gareth Howland, with illustrations prepared by Malgorzata Malecka. The project was managed for PCA by Charlotte Matthews.

8 REFERENCES

PCA 2022, '*No. 2 Aberdeen Road, Southampton: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation.*'

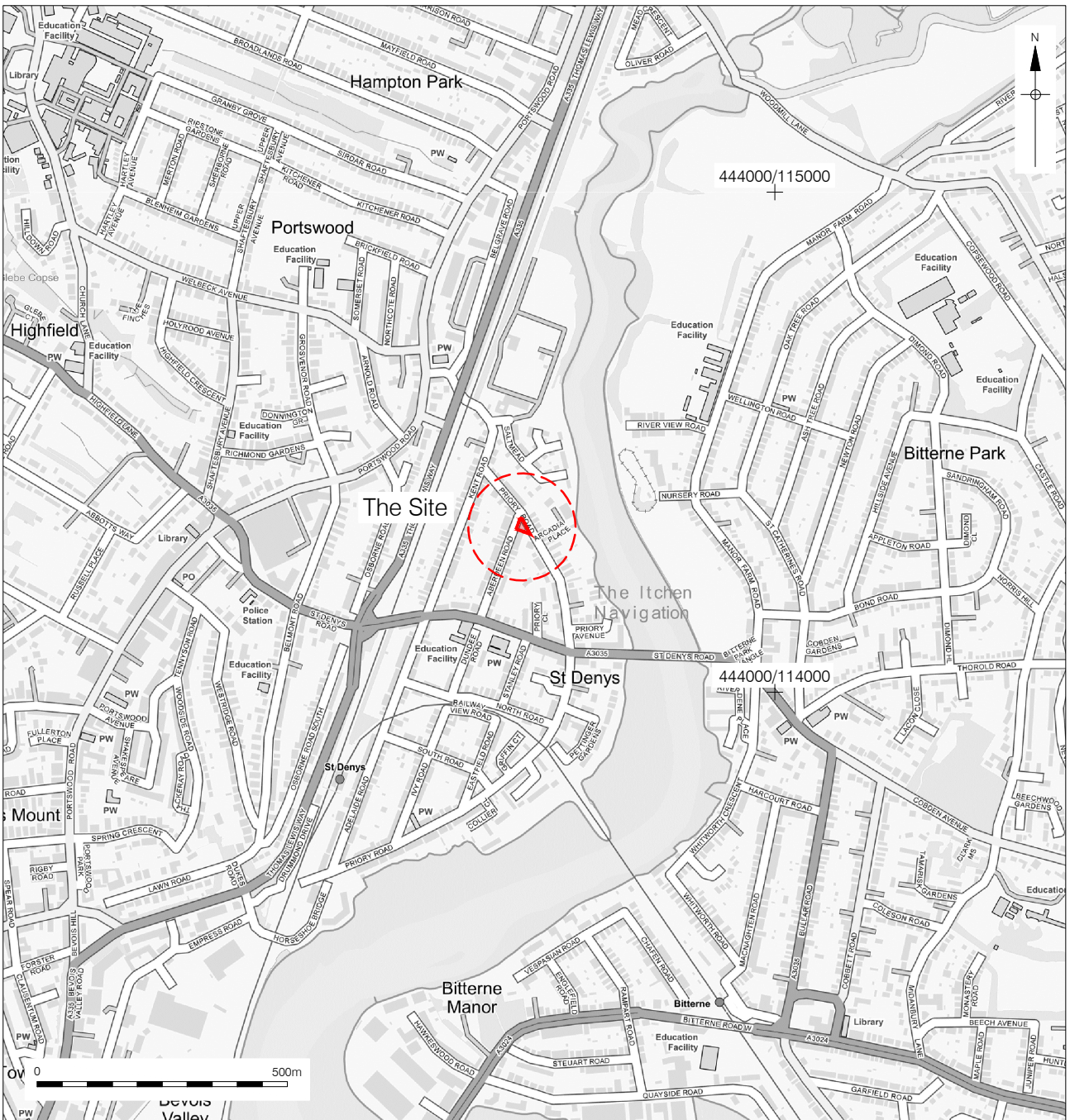
APPENDIX 1: TRENCH TABLE

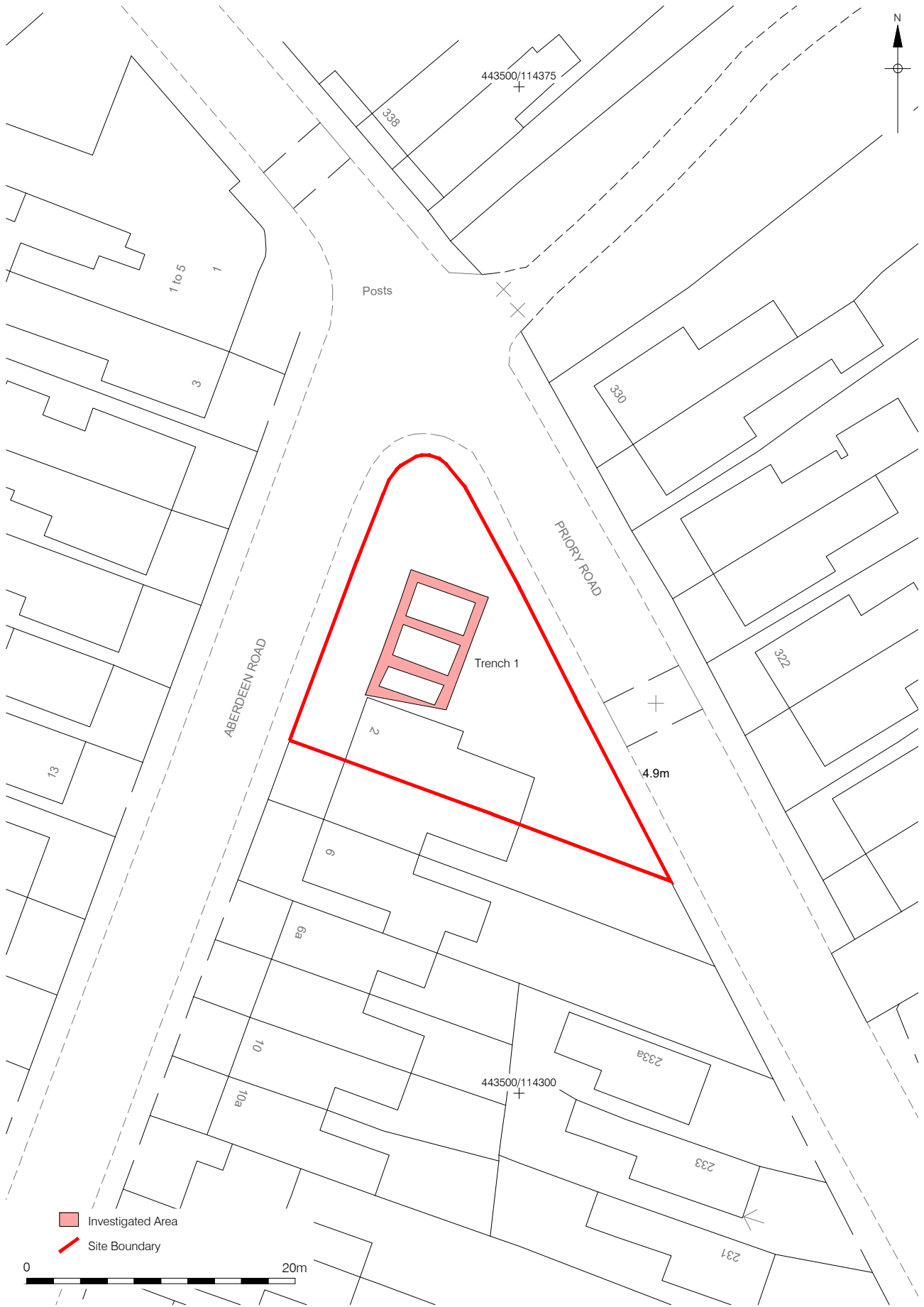
Trench	Context	Description	Date	Interpretation	Depth below Ground Level
1	101	Loose, Mid Brownish Grey, Silty Clay	Modern	Modern Topsoil	0-0.32m
	102	Firm, Mid Brownish Orange, Silty Clay	Natural Geological Deposit	Natural Geological Deposit	0.32-0.58m
	103	Firm, Mid Orangish Brown, Silty Gravel	Natural Geological Deposit	Natural Geological Deposit	0.58-0.7m+
	104	Cut of Feature	Mid C20th	Cut of large mid C20th feature	0.32-0.9m+
	105	Only Fill of [104], Loose, Dark Brownish Grey, Silty Clay.	Mid C20th	Only Fill of large mid C20th feature	0.32-0.58m
	106	Soft, Mid Brownish Orange, Silty Clay	Natural Geological Deposit	Natural Geological Deposit	0.32-0.9m+

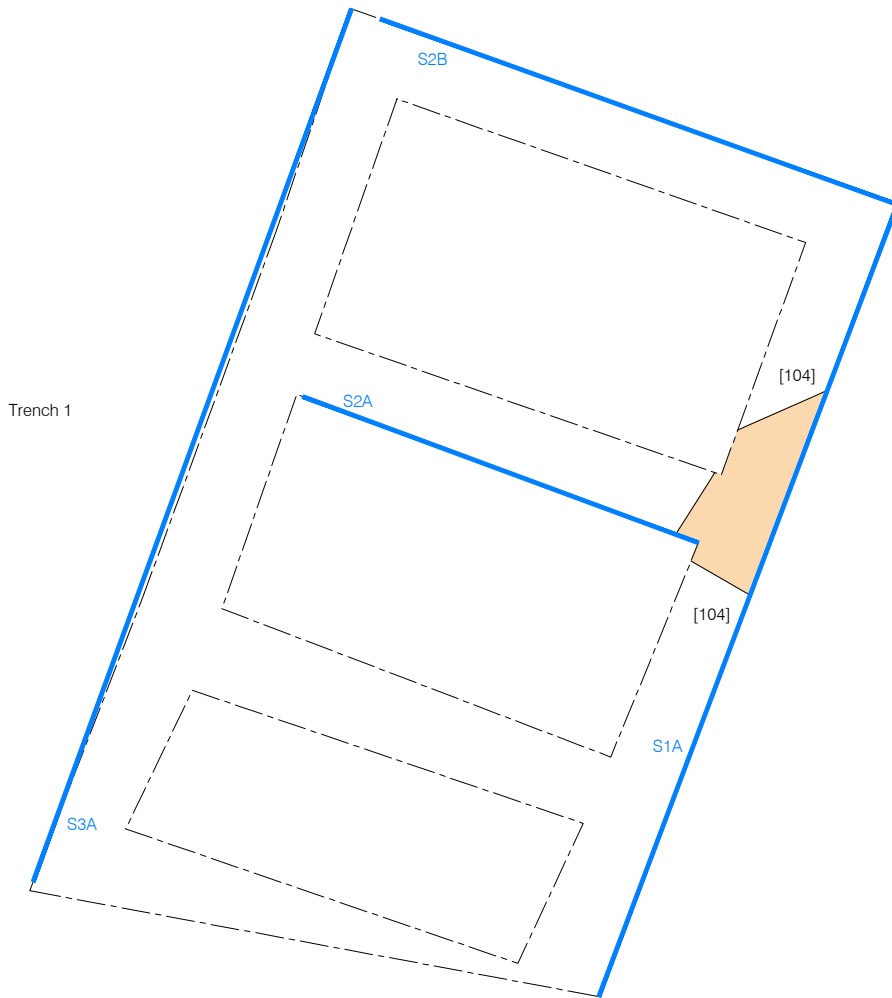
APPENDIX 2: OASIS RECORD


Summary for preconst1-509776

OASIS ID (UID)	preconst1-509776
Project Name	2 Aberdeen Road, Southampton, SO17 2LN: An Archaeological Evaluation Report
Sitename	2 Aberdeen Road, Southampton, SO17 2LN
Activity type	Evaluation
Project Identifier(s)	2 Aberdeen Road, Southampton, SO17 2LN
Planning Id	20/00737/FUL
Reason For Investigation	Planning requirement
Organisation Responsible for work	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project Dates	26-Sep-2022 - 26-Sep-2022
Location	2 Aberdeen Road, Southampton, SO17 2LN NGR : SU 43494 14334 LL : 50.9268272256782, -1.38251909342888 12 Fig : 443494,114334
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Hampshire District : Southampton Parish : Southampton, unparished area
Project Methodology	The evaluation was carried out on 26th September 2022. The evaluation followed the methodology set out in the WSI with the exception that the foundation trenches were evaluated rather than the single 10m x 1.8m evaluation trench proposed in the WSI. This change to the methodology was agreed with the SCC Planning Archaeologist in advance of the evaluation fieldwork. In addition, the foundation trenches were excavated to formation level, a deeper depth than was necessary for an archaeological evaluation trench. The foundation trenches formed a grid around three spaces. The trenches were each 0.6m wide and 0.7m deep, with a total area of approximately 27.97m ²
Project Results	The evaluation was carried out on 26th September 2022. No archaeological features, deposits or finds earlier than the 20th century were found. Modern topsoil directly overlay natural geological layers with a clear horizon between them, which may suggest that the Site had been levelled during the recent past. One feature was recorded during the evaluation. This large feature, some 2.42m wide and over 0.54m deep, was partially exposed. It had steeply sloping sides and its fill contained a 1932 farthing, fragments of modern glass and ceramic building material. The exact purpose of this mid-20th century feature is unclear. There were no structural remains associated with it and it seems unlikely that it was a planting pit due to its large size and depth, extending far below the ground level.
Keywords	
Funder	
HER	Southampton HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	G, Howland
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Southampton City Council Cultural Services;

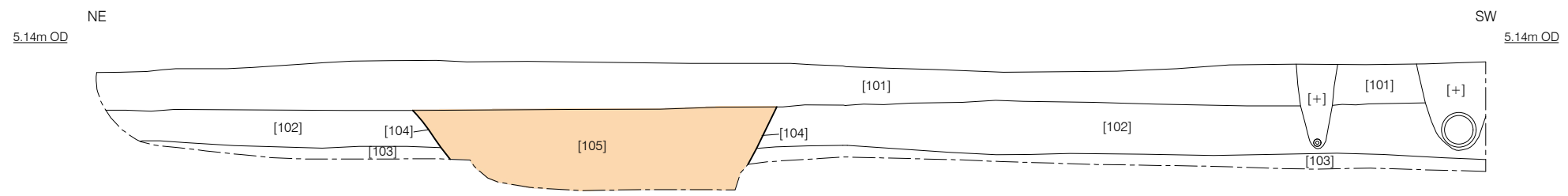




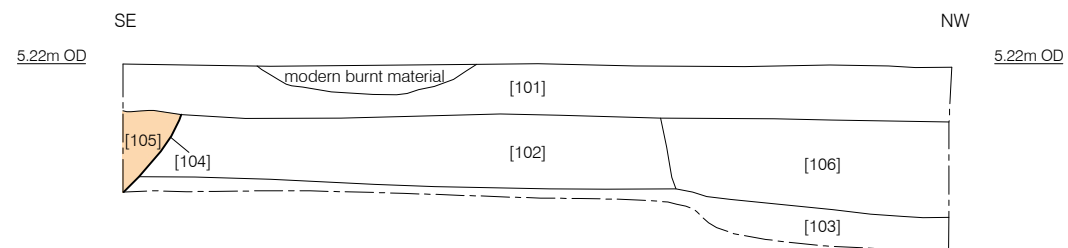


 Feature

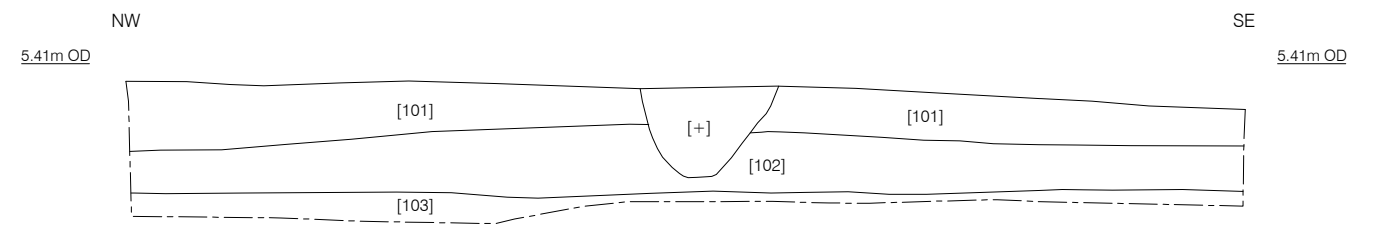




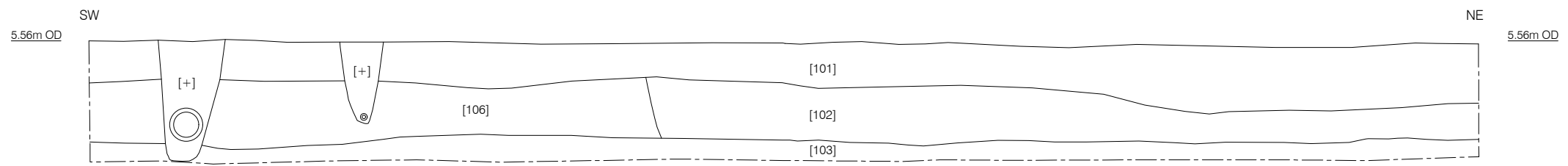
Section 1A
Northwest Facing
Trench 1



Section 2A
Northeast Facing
Trench 1



Section 2B
Southwest Facing
Trench 1



Section 3A
Southeast Facing
Trench 1



PLATES 1



Plate 1. Overview of the Site. Taken looking south with a 1m scale.



Plate 2. West facing section of eastern part of the trench, showing remains of modern fire. Taken looking east with a 1m scale.



Plate 3. East facing section of western part of the trench. Taken looking west with a 1m scale.



Plate 4. West facing section of feature [104]. Taken looking northeast with a 1m scale.

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