

**STAUNTON COUNTRY PARK,
MIDDLE PARK WAY, HAVANT,
HAMPSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING
BRIEF REPORT**

**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY: HAVANT
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBERS:
10/00707**

PCA REPORT NO: 11088

SITE CODE: PSCP11

AUGUST 2011



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

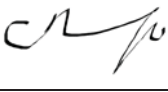

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

STAUNTON COUNTRY PARK, MIDDLE PARK
WAY, HAVANT, HAMPSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Quality Control

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	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	Paul McCulloch		August 2011
Graphics Prepared by:	Mark Roughley		August 2011
Graphics Checked by:	Josephine Brown	 pp	August 2011
Project Manager Sign-off:	Chris Mayo		August 2011

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Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Unit 54
Brockley Cross Business Centre
96 Endwell Road
London
SE4 2PD

**Staunton Country Park, Middle Park Way, Havant, Hampshire
Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

Local Planning Authority: Havant Borough Council
Planning Application Number: 10/00707

National Grid Reference: 472120,108695
PCA Site Code: PSCP11

Commissioning Client: Gifford
On behalf of
Hampshire County Council

Written by: Paul McCulloch, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
August 2011

Project Manager: Paul McCulloch BA MifA

Contractor: Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited,
Unit 54, Brockley Cross Business Centre,
96 Endwell, Road, Brockley,
London, SE4 2PD

Tel: 020 7732 3925
Fax: 020 7732 7896
E-mail: pmcculloch@pre-construct.com
Web: www.pre-construct.com

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August 2011**

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, working on behalf of Gifford, undertook an archaeological watching brief on behalf of Hampshire County Council within the North Garden and former Hartley Greenhouses Nos. 1 and 2 area of Staunton Country Park during the excavation of pad foundation pits for two new polytunnel greenhouses to be erected on the site.
- 1.2 The watching brief was a requirement of planning permission for the new polytunnels and was intended to address the potential for the foundation pits to reveal structural remains of 19th-century date thought to include remains of tropical fruit houses initiated by Sir George Staunton. The watching brief was carried out between the 5th and 8th July 2011.
- 1.3 The watching brief confirmed that remains of probable 19th-century brick structures survive beneath the site, broadly corresponding with the structures identified by a previous archaeological evaluation within the present site. These include walls and a possible vaulted conduit running roughly east-west representing structures and installations to the south of the recorded locations of the Pine Pit and Melon House structures of similar date. The vaulted conduit does appear to represent a previously unattested installation that presumably served the tropical fruit houses, perhaps part of the sophisticated measures taken to raise the temperature within them in order to generate propagation.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, working on behalf of Gifford, undertook an archaeological watching brief on behalf of Hampshire County Council at Staunton Country Park, Havant, Hampshire, hereafter 'the site', NGR 472120 108695 (Figure 1). Staunton Country Park, formerly known as Leigh Park, is located on the B2419 approximately 2 miles north of Havant centre and currently operates as a historic country park open to the public.
- 2.2 The watching brief comprised monitoring groundwork to form pad foundations for two new polytunnel greenhouses to be erected over the footprint of two former greenhouses erected in the 1960's known as Hartley House Nos. 1 & 2.
- 2.3 The watching brief was required in order to address the potential impact of the new polytunnel greenhouse foundations on remains of mid-19th-century structures known to have stood on or close to the site. These included tropical fruit hot houses and related installations, elements of the pioneering botanical initiatives of Sir George Staunton (Gifford 2004a). The locations of 'Pine Pits' and 'Melon Ground' greenhouses, to the north of the site, were the subject of an archaeological evaluation in 2004 (Gifford 2004b), which also included a trench within the site (Figure 2).
- 2.4 The watching brief was conducted in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation between the 5th and 8th July 2011 and was supervised by Jonathan Martin AIFA for Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on behalf of Gifford.

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 Planning permission for the new polytunnel greenhouses was granted to Hampshire County Council by the County Planning Authority (Planning Ref: APP/10/00707) in March 2011, following consultation with Havant Borough Council and the Government Office for the West Midlands in respect of the site's Conservation Area status. Staunton Country Park is a Conservation Area and is designated as Grade II* within the English Heritage Register of Historic Parks and Gardens and contains some nine Listed Buildings (of Grade II and II* status).

3.2 Planning permission was conditional upon an archaeological watching brief being carried out. Condition 2 stated:

'No development will take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of an archaeological monitoring and recording action (watching brief) in accordance with a specification that has been submitted to, and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority'

3.3 In keeping with the condition Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation (PCA 2011) on behalf of Hampshire County Council.

4 SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 4.1 The site lies within in the former North Garden of Staunton Country Park, which is located on the northern outskirts of Havant, west of the B2149 Petersfield Road.
- 4.2 The site lies over Tertiary deposits including sand, noted within the watching brief, characteristic of the Hampshire Basin. The natural topography of the site, largely re-modelled in the 19th-century, is consistent with its location toward the eastern extent of the Hampshire Basin, which is largely flat although gently rising to the north and toward the Chalk of the South Downs. The site lies at approximately 36m above Ordnance Datum.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 5.1 The archaeological and historical background to the watching brief has been comprehensively addressed in a Historical Study of Staunton Country Park (Gifford 2004a) and in reports of archaeological evaluation investigations carried out by Gifford (2004b), all at the instigation of Hampshire County Council for the purpose of preserving and enhancing the Country Park as an amenity.
- 5.2 To summarise, evidence of prehistoric, Romano-British and medieval occupation has come to light through various archaeological investigations carried out over last fifty years and through chance finds (Gifford 2004a). However of principal interest here is the development of Staunton Country Park from its origins as Leigh Park in the late 18th-century to the present day and in particular its development by Sir George Staunton between 1821 and his death in 1858. Staunton carried out a spectacular programme of landscaping and monument building, which remodelled Leigh Park in its entirety.
- 5.3 Staunton, a botanist, also embarked on improving the Northern Garden of Leigh House (the area of the current site) and constructed a number of buildings designed to allow for the propagation of exotic fruit such as bananas. Historical records indicate these also included 'Pine Pits' and 'Melon Ground' greenhouses equipped to create suitable growing environments. Archaeological evidence of these was brought to light by evaluation investigations carried out by Gifford (2004b). Two evaluation trenches were opened to the north of the present site, and revealed evidence of the Melon House and Pine Pit structures, while a third trench was located within the area of the present site and the former Hartley House No. 1. The latter trench, aligned north-east to south-west and running the length of Hartley House No. 1 revealed walls apparently representing three structures; the watching brief reported here represents further investigation of the archaeological remains of these structures.

6 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 In keeping with the Written Scheme of Investigation (PCA 2011) the watching brief had the following objectives:
- To establish the presence, location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quantity of any archaeological remains, if present;
 - To ensure that any archaeological remains or deposits present were appropriately recorded;
 - To report on the results of the fieldwork.
- 6.2 The methodology employed on site comprised monitoring the excavation of pits for the new pad foundations. The pits were hand excavated by the groundwork contractor Tew Bros Ltd. All investigation and recording was carried out as set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation, under an allocated site code PSCP11.
- 6.3 For the new pad foundations a total of 27 foundation pits were excavated, each measuring 0.5m X 0.5m X 0.6m deep, and their excavation was monitored; ten of these (FP's 1 – 10) were recorded in detail (Figure 3) and in seven archaeological evidence for 19th-century structures was revealed. A written, drawn and digital photographic record of FP's 1 – 10 was made. Excavation of the remaining 17 foundation pits was observed but no detailed record of them was made; they contained no 19th-century structural remains and revealed the same general soil sequence as was recorded in detail in FP 1; further detailed recording of this sequence was deemed un-necessary.

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE AND FINDINGS

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 This section provides a summary of the results of the watching brief and is based on the site archive. A list of context descriptions is provided in Appendix 1.
- 7.1.2 At the commencement of the watching brief the site had been cleared to ground level, which comprised garden soil (Figure 4, Plate 2). The rectangular outline of the demolished 1960's Hartley Houses Nos. 1 & 2 was visible at ground level and was represented by parallel rows of brickwork footings.

7.2 General Deposit Sequence

- 7.2.1 In FP 1 (Figures 3 & 4) reddish brown natural sand [103] was observed in the base of the pit at a general depth of 0.5m below ground level (approximately 36.1m OD). The natural sand was sealed by grey-brown sandy loam subsoil [102] (at approximately 36.4m OD), in turn sealed by topsoil [101]. This was the general observed deposit sequence over the site, where visible within a selection of the foundation pits.

7.3 Structural Evidence

- 7.3.1 Foundation pits FP 3, 4, 6 – 10 revealed brick structural remains (Figures 3 & 4) of probably 19th-century date. In FP 4, 6 – 8 and 10 these were wall footings aligned roughly north-east to south-west or north-west to south-east. In FP 3 and 9 brick vaulting was revealed suggesting a vaulted conduit aligned roughly east-west, to the south of the wall footings. The wall footings and vaulted conduit were built in lime mortar bonded un-frogged bricks and, where visible, e.g. in FP 6 (Figures 3 & 4), lay directly on the underlying natural sand and at a depth of between 0.1m and 0.4m below the existing ground level. Typically, the bricks measured 22.5cm by 10.5cm by 6.5cm.
- 7.3.2 Where observable in the limited extent of the foundation pits, the wall footings comprised courses of brickwork laid in two rows, e.g. [602] in FP 6, and in one example, [404] in FP 4, on edge. The vaulted conduit recorded in FP 3 [303] (Figure 4, Plate 1) and in FP 9 [901] appeared to have been partially demolished and did not survive to its full height.

7.4 Finds

- 7.4.1 Two bricks were recovered from the watching brief as samples of brick from the vaulted conduit [303] exposed in FP 3. The bricks are un-frogged examples, typical of the 19th-century structural remains observed on the site. No other significant finds were observed or recovered from the watching brief.

7.5 Environmental Remains

- 7.5.1 No significant environmental remains were observed during the watching brief and no samples were taken.

8 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The aims of the watching brief were met through the monitoring of the foundation pit excavations. However, the size of the pits allowed for only limited observation of sub-surface remains of the 19th-century structures known to survive beneath the site. However, these remains would appear to have been substantially unaffected by the excavation of the foundation pits.
- 8.2 The watching brief has confirmed that remains of probable 19th-century brick structures survive beneath the site, broadly corresponding with the structures identified by Gifford's evaluation trench located within the present site (Gifford 2004b). These include walls and a possible vaulted conduit running roughly east-west representing structures and installations to the south of the recorded locations of the Pine Pit and Melon House structures of similar date. The vaulted conduit does appear to represent a previously unattested installation that presumably served the tropical fruit houses, perhaps part of the sophisticated measures taken to raise the temperature within them in order to generate propagation.

9 BILIOGRAPHY

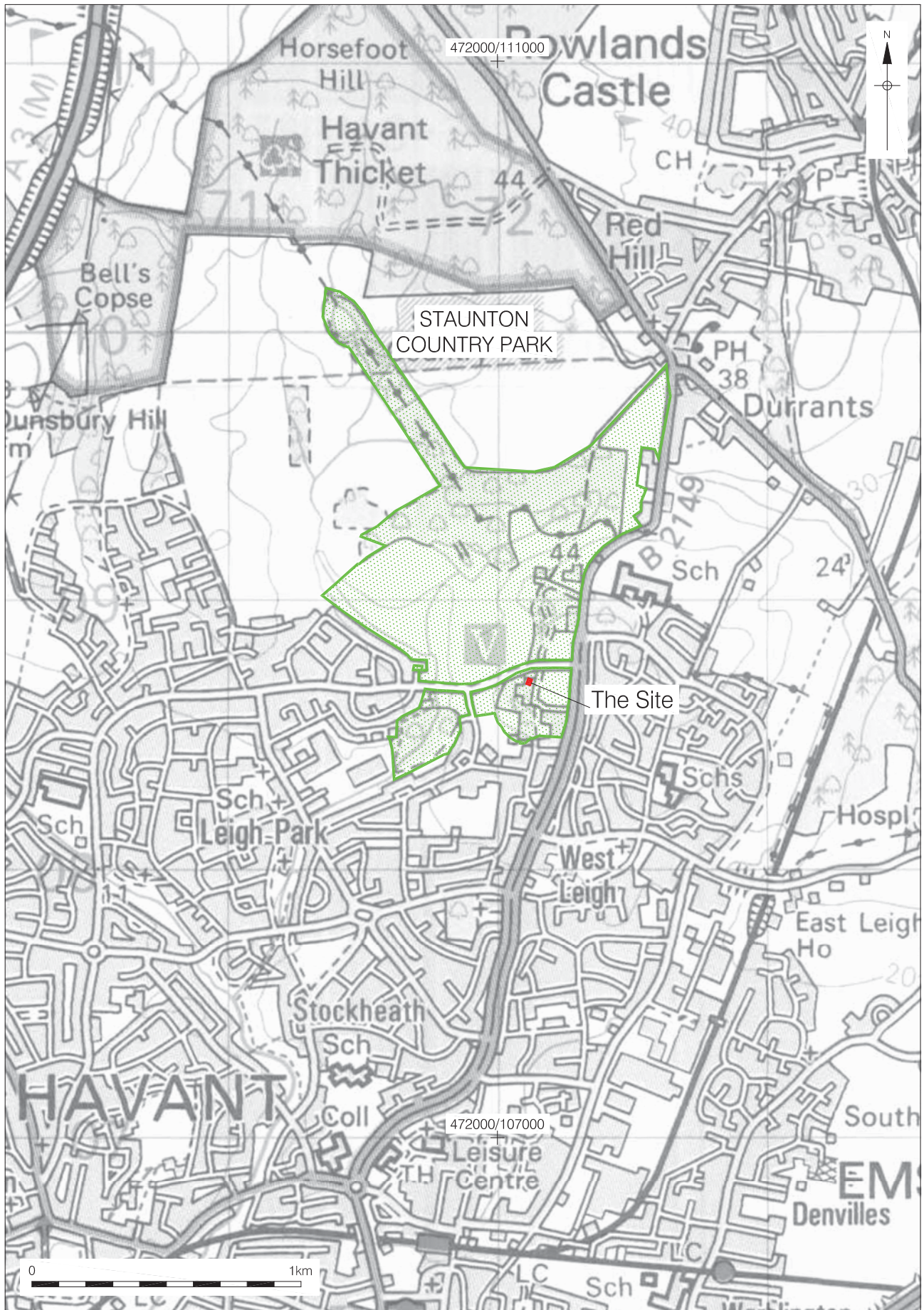
Gifford, 2004a, Staunton Country Park Historic Study, Vol. 1, Report No. 11373.R02

Gifford, 2004b, Staunton Country Park: Excavation of the Pine Pits and Melon Ground In the North Garden, Report No. 11373.R03

PCA, 2011, Staunton Country Park, Middle Park Way, Havant, PO9 5HD: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief, Client Document.

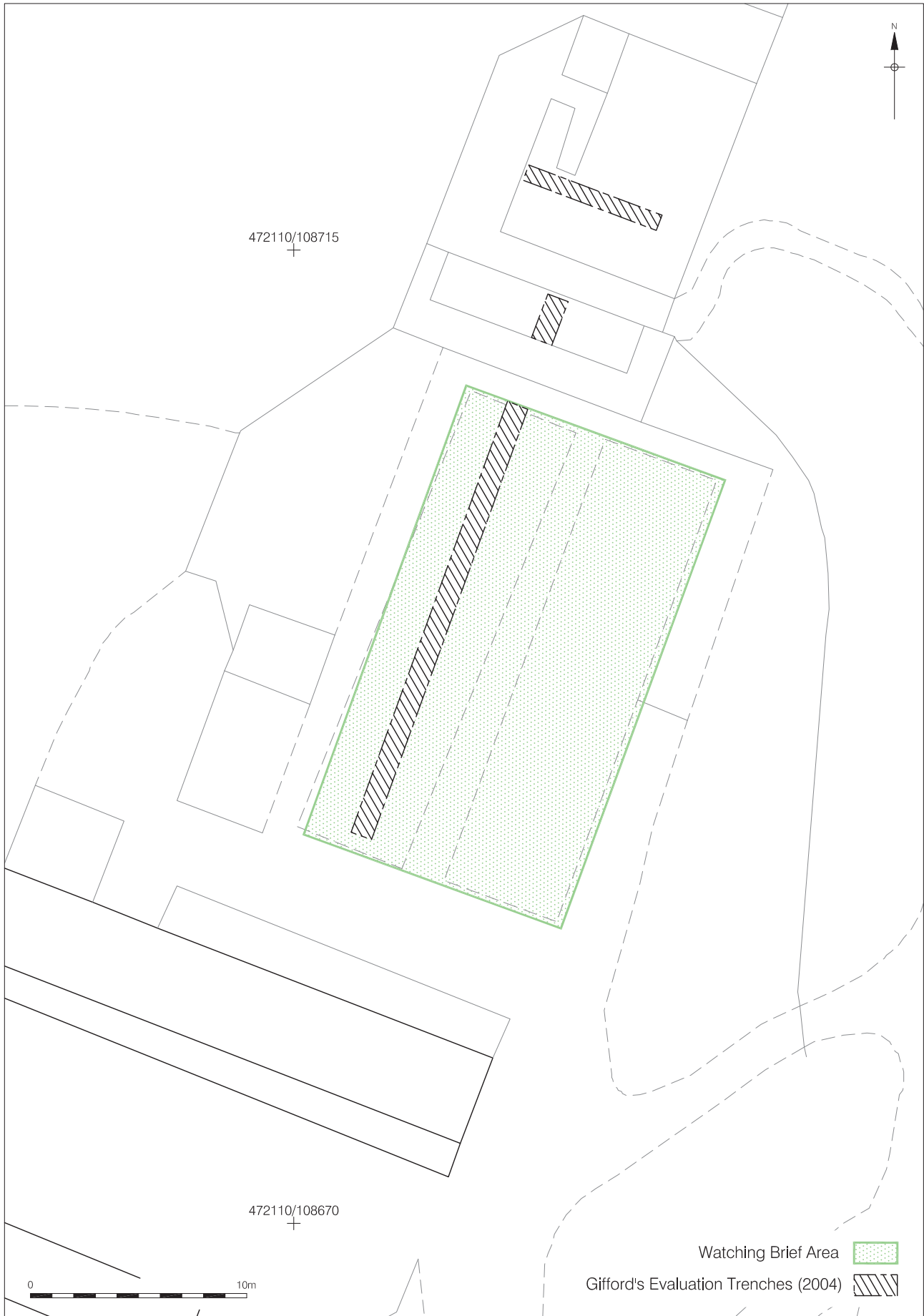
10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 10.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Andy Shelley of Gifford for commissioning the watching brief on behalf of Hampshire County Council and the staff of Staunton Country Park and the groundwork contractor Tew Brothers Ltd for their assistance on site.
- 10.2 The watching brief was undertaken by Jonathan Martin. This report was prepared by Paul McCulloch and edited by Chris Mayo. The report illustrations were prepared by Mark Roughley.



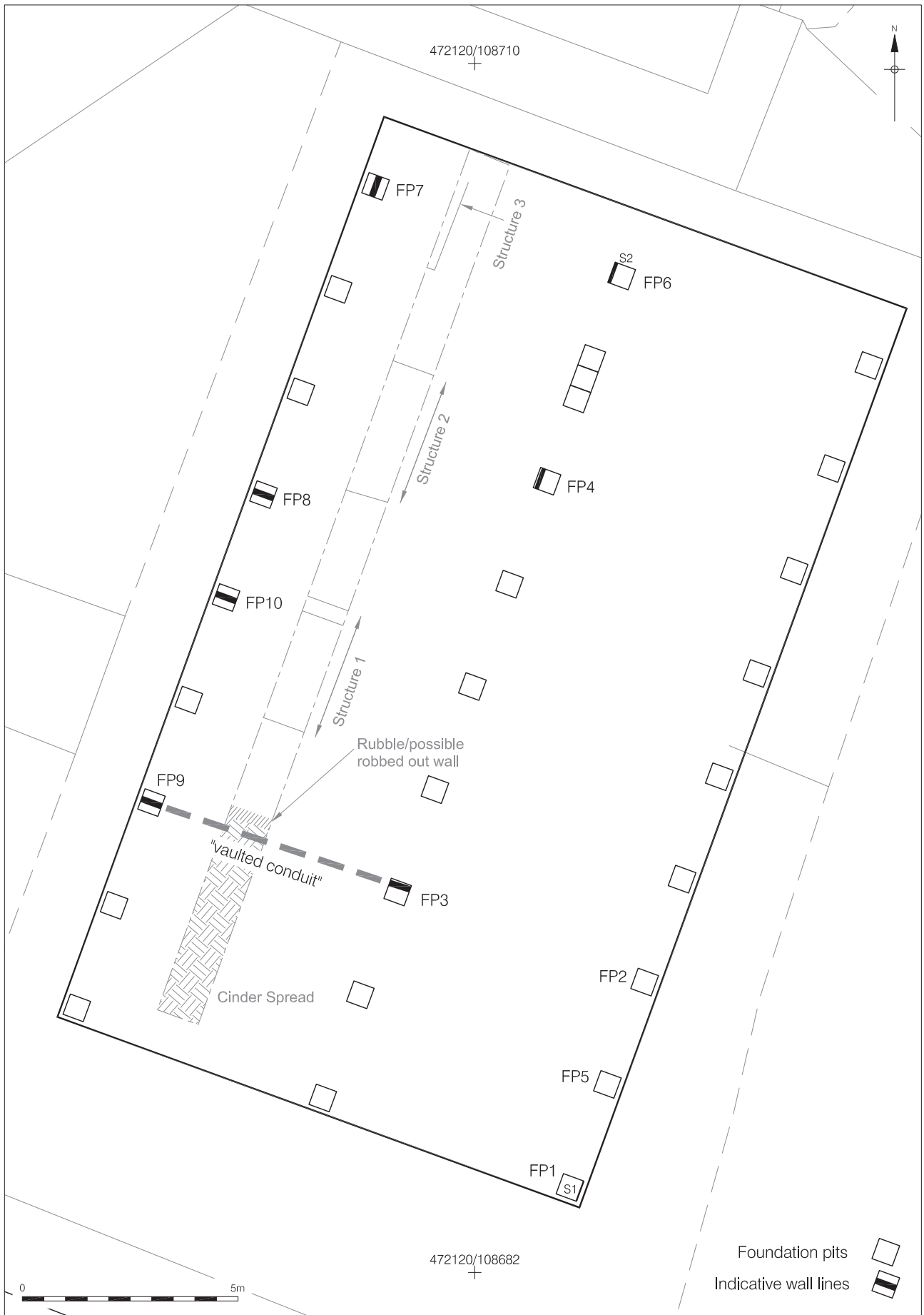
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Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:20,000 at A4



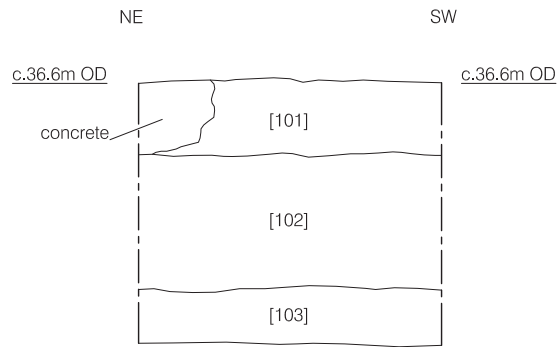
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Figure 2
 Site plan showing previous evaluation trenches and area of watching brief
 1:250 at A4

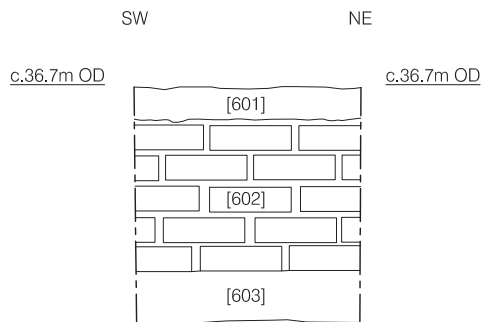


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Figure 3
 Site plan showing location of foundation pits, structural remains exposed and results from earlier evaluation
 1:125 at A4



Section 1
 Foundation Pit 1
 Northwest Facing



Section 2
 Foundation Pit 6
 Southeast Facing



Figure 4
 Sections 1 and 2
 1:20 at A4

Plate 1: Vaulted Conduit in Foundation Pit 3



Plate 2: View North across the site



APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Site Code: PSCP 11

FP = Foundation Pit

Context	Type	FP	Comments	Date
101	Layer	1	Grey-brown loam - topsoil	Modern
102	Layer	1	Sandy loam - subsoil	Modern
103	Layer	1	Red-brown - natural sand	
201	Layer	2	Topsoil	Modern
202	Layer	2	Subsoil	Modern
203	Layer	2	Natural sand	
301	Layer	3	Topsoil	Modern
302	Layer	3	Re-deposited yellow-brown sand	Modern
303	Structure	3	Vaulted brick structure	19 th -century
401	Layer	4	Topsoil	Modern
402	Layer	4	Sandy loam	Modern
403	Layer	4	Loose soil and rubble	Modern
404	Layer	4	Layer of bricks	19 th -century
601	Layer	6	Topsoil	Modern
602	Structure	6	Brick wall footing aligned north-west to south-east.	19 th -century
603	Layer	6	Subsoil	Modern
701	Layer	7	Topsoil	Modern
702	Layer	7	Subsoil	Modern
703	Structure	7	Brick wall footing	19 th -century
704	Layer	7	Natural sand	
901	Structure	9	Vaulted brick structure	19 th -century
1001	Structure	10	Brick wall footing aligned north-east to south-west	19 th -century

APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-107761

Project details

Project name	Staunton Country Park, Middle Park Way, Havant, Hampshire
Short description of the project	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd carried out an archaeological watching brief within the North Garden and former Hartley Greenhouses Nos. 1 and 2 area of Staunton Country Park during the excavation of pad foundation pits for two new polytunnel greenhouses to be erected on the site. The watching brief was a requirement of planning permission for the new polytunnels and was intended to address the potential for the foundation pits to reveal structural remains of 19 th -century date thought to include remains of tropical fruit houses initiated by Sir George Staunton. The watching brief confirmed that remains of probable 19 th -century brick structures survive beneath the site, broadly corresponding with the structures identified by a previous archaeological evaluation within the present site. These include walls and a possible vaulted conduit running roughly east-west representing structures and installations to the south of the recorded locations of the Pine Pit and Melon House structures of similar date. The vaulted conduit does appear to represent a previously unattested installation that presumably served the tropical fruit houses, perhaps part of the sophisticated measures taken to raise the temperature within them in order to generate propagation.
Project dates	Start: 05-07-2011 End: 08-07-2011
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	PSCP11 – Site code
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	WALLS Post Medieval
Monument type	CULVERT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Project location

Country	England
Site location	HAMPSHIRE HAVANT Staunton Country Park, Middle Park Way
Postcode	PO9 5HD
Study area	264.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	SU 7211 0868 50.8725588855 -0.975042473892 50 52 21 N 000 58 30 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 36.10m Max: 36.10m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.
Project brief originator	City/Nat. Park/District/Borough archaeologist

Project design originator	Chris Mayo
Project director/manager	Paul McCulloch
Project supervisor	Jonathan Martin
Type of sponsor/funding body	County Council
Name of sponsor/funding body	Hampshire County Council

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Hampshire Museums and Archives Service
Physical Contents	'Ceramics'
Digital Archive recipient	Hampshire Museums and Archives Service
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Digital Media available	'Images vector','Spreadsheets','Text','Images raster / digital photography'
Paper Archive recipient	Hampshire Museums and Archives Service
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Correspondence','Miscellaneous Material','Notebook - Excavation','Research','General Notes','Plan','Section'

Project bibliography 1

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Entered on	15 August 2011

PCA

PCA SOUTHERN

UNIT 54

BROCKLEY CROSS BUSINESS CENTRE

96 ENDWELL ROAD

BROCKLEY

LONDON SE4 2PD

TEL: 020 7732 3925 / 020 7639 9091

FAX: 020 7639 9588

EMAIL: info@pre-construct.com

PCA NORTHERN

UNIT 19A

TURSDALE BUSINESS PARK

DURHAM DH6 5PG

TEL: 0191 377 1111

FAX: 0191 377 0101

EMAIL: info.north@pre-construct.com

PCA CENTRAL

7 GRANTA TERRACE

STAPLEFORD

CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB22 5DL

TEL: 01223 845 522

FAX: 01223 845 522

EMAIL: mhinman@pre-construct.com

