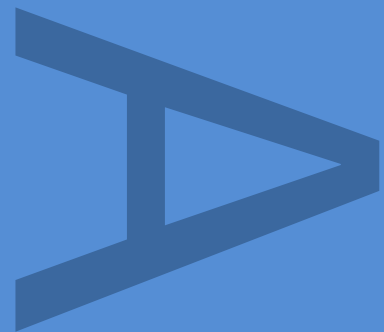


5 EARLSDOWN
NORTHBROOK AVENUE
WINCHESTER
HAMPSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF
REPORT

SITE CODE: AY495
REPORT NO: R11300

January 2013



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

5 EARLSDOWN, NORTHBROOK AVENUE, WINCHESTER, HAMPSHIRE

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Local Planning Authority: Winchester City Council

Planning Ref: 11/02314/FUL

National Grid Reference: 448971 129237

Site Code: WINCM: AY495

Commissioning Client: Felice Hardy, 5 Earlsdown, Northbrook Avenue,
Winchester, Hampshire

PCA Report No.: R11300

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January 2013

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DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

5 EARLSDOWN, NORTHBROOK AVENUE

WINCHESTER, HAMPSHIRE

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code			K2827
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Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) was appointed by Felice Hardy to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for a house extension at 5 Earlsdown, Winchester, Hampshire (**Figure 1**). The watching brief was a requirement of planning permission for the extension, secured as a condition, in given previous discoveries of Anglo-Saxon burials in the vicinity. The watching brief was carried out during groundwork for new foundations on the 25th to 27th July 2012.
- 1.2 The watching brief comprised monitoring of the machine excavation of topsoil, subsoil and foundation trenches. No archaeological features and/or deposits were revealed during the course of the watching brief.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Project Background

2.1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) was appointed by Felice Hardy to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for a c.65m² house extension at 5 Earlsdown, Northbrook Avenue, Winchester, Hampshire, centred on National Grid Reference **448971 129237 (Figure 1)**.

2.1.2 The watching brief and this report are requirements of Conditions 5 and 6 of planning permission for the development granted by the Local Planning Authority Winchester City Council (Planning reference 11/02314/FUL) in November 2011 and based on the advice of the Council's Historic Environment Officer (HEO). The conditions state:

5. No development/demolition or site preparation shall take place until the applicant or their agents or successors in title has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological mitigation work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation that has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. No demolition/development or site preparation shall take place other than in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation approved by the LPA. The Written Scheme of Investigation shall include:

- 1. The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording*
- 2. Provision for post investigation assessment, reporting and dissemination*
- 3. Provision to be made for deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation (archive)*
- 4. Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation.*

Reason: To mitigate the effect of the development upon any heritage assets and to ensure that information regarding these heritage assets is preserved by record for future generations, in compliance with policy HE.1 of the Winchester District Local Plan Review.

6. Following completion of archaeological fieldwork a report will be produced in accordance with an approved programme including where appropriate post-excavation assessment, specialist analysis and reports and publication.

Reason: To ensure that evidence from the historic environment contributing to our knowledge and understanding of our past is captured and made publicly available, in compliance with policy HE.1 of the Winchester District Local Plan Review.

2.1.3 A written scheme of investigation (WSI) (PCA 2012) detailing the method by which the watching brief would be undertaken was submitted to and approved by the HEO at Winchester City Council prior to the commencement of the watching brief.

2.1.4 This report and the WSI were prepared in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (IfA 2008), English Heritage 'The Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment' (EH 2006) and The Institute for Archaeologist's Code of Conduct (IfA 2010).

2.1.5 The Watching Brief was undertaken from 25 to 27 July 2012.

2.2 The Site, Topography and Geology

- 2.2.1 The site (NGR 448971 129237) lies at the western end of Northbrook Avenue, close to the summit of St Giles Hill, a promontory dominating the east side of the River Itchen valley and the historic core of Winchester. The site lies in a residential area of Winchester characterised by detached houses and gardens.
- 2.2.2 The site is generally flat with a slight downward incline from north to south of c.0.40m, and lies at an elevation of approximately 80m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), slightly below the summit of St Giles Hill, to the north-east. The hill provides commanding views to the west of Winchester and to the south toward Chilcomb Vale.
- 2.2.3 The site lies on Upper Chalk (BGS Sheets 315 & 316).

2.3 Archaeological Background

- 2.3.1 The site lies in an area of known archaeological sites and findspots and in particular an Anglo-Saxon cemetery. Burials related to the cemetery have been found in the vicinity of the site since the 19th century including one found in the garden of Earlsdown in 1981. The burials have been found to be accompanied with artefacts, which suggest the cemetery was in use in the early Anglo-Saxon period.
- 2.3.2 Finds of Prehistoric date have also been found on St Giles Hill, and in the medieval period, the hill was the site of a medieval fair, for which archaeological evidence in the form of timber and masonry buildings has been found within the vicinity of the site.
- 2.3.3 The existing house was originally one dwelling that was constructed at the turn of the 20th century as a boarding house for St Swithun's Girls School, which lies a short distance to the east of the site. The house as it exists today has been divided into six separate dwellings of which 5 Earlsdown is one part (**Plate 1**).

3 AIMS

3.1 Archaeological Watching Brief

- 3.1.1 The aim of the watching brief was to establish the presence, location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quantity of any archaeological resources, to ensure that any archaeological remains or deposits present were appropriately investigated and recorded, and to report on the results of the watching brief. This report aims to satisfy the Local Planning Authority that the requirement for the watching brief was met.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Fieldwork

- 4.1.1 The watching brief fieldwork was designed to monitor the programme of site works associated with the construction of a new extension to the existing property at 5 Earlsdown (**Figures 1**

and 2).

- 4.1.2 The groundworks monitored the reduced level excavation of topsoil and the cutting of foundation trenches within the excavation area to the top of the archaeological horizon and/or natural chalk, whichever was encountered first. All excavation was undertaken by a 360° machine excavator under the constant supervision of the attending archaeologist.
- 4.1.3 Recording was undertaken using Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited's recording system. This has been developed using the Site Manual of the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS 1994) and is fully compatible with the recording system most widely used elsewhere in the County of Hampshire.
- 4.1.4 A digital photographic record of the watching brief was maintained.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Watching Brief

- 5.1.1 The following provides a summary of the results of the watching brief. Context descriptions are provided below in **Appendix 2: Context summary table**, and are reproduced from the site archive, currently held at the offices of Pre-Construct Archaeology, Winchester, under Winchester City Museum site code AY495.
- 5.1.2 The groundworks consisted of the machine excavation of a c.65m² area. Excavation initially entailed a reduced level dig comprising the stripping of topsoil (1) across the majority of the site (**Plate 2**) and removal of patio slabs at the north end of the site to a depth of c.20cm below ground level (BGL).
- 5.1.3 At the south end of the site the reduced level topsoil strip revealed underlying subsoil (**Plate 2**), and toward the centre of the site weathered natural chalk (6) (**Plate 3**). At the north end of the site the patio slabs had been laid on a c.0.15m bedding course that directly overlay the natural bedrock chalk (7) (**Plate 4**).
- 5.1.4 Foundation trenches c.0.60m wide were cut through the reduced level dig (**Plate 5**) to a depth of c.0.90m BGL. The foundation trench excavation revealed the natural slope of the hillside with the natural bedrock chalk (7) being revealed at c.0.20m below the patio ground level at the north end of the site and c.0.90m BGL at the south end of the site (**Plates 6 and 7**). The section in the south west corner of the site (**Plate 6**) revealed a number of layers (2 - 5) that had most probably been deposited rapidly in order to build up the height of the garden in order to create a level surface. Sherds of blue willow pattern pottery and porcelain tea cup were recovered from the interface between the natural chalk and the soil (5) directly above. This indicated that the deposition of the soil was a fairly recent event most probably associated with the construction and landscaping of the current property at the turn of the 20th century.
- 5.1.5 No archaeological features and/or deposits were observed during the course of the watching brief either within the reduced level dig and foundation trenches or cutting the natural chalk.

5.2 Finds

- 5.2.1 No archaeological finds were identified during the course of the watching brief. Sherds of blue willow pattern pottery and modern porcelain tea cups were recovered from subsoil directly overlying the natural chalk. The sherds were not retained.

5.3 Environmental Remains

- 5.3.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified during the course of the watching brief.

5.4 Discussion

- 5.4.1 The aim of the watching brief was to monitor the groundworks for the construction of a new extension at the site and to identify and record any archaeological features and/or deposits that may have been present and impacted upon by the groundworks.
- 5.4.2 No archaeological features and/or deposits of pre-20th century date were observed during the course of the groundworks. However, it could be seen that the natural slope of the land had been infilled with soil in order to create a flat garden surface, most probably at the time of the construction of the existing house at the start of the 20th century. Sherds of blue willow pattern pottery and porcelain tea cups were recovered from the subsoil directly overlying the natural chalk.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Felice Hardy for commissioning the watching brief. The help and advice of Stephen Appleby, Historic Environment Officer for the City of Winchester is also gratefully acknowledged. The author would like to thank the groundwork contractor for their help and cooperation. The author would also like to thank Paul McCulloch, PCA Regional Manager, for editing the report and Josephine Brown, PCA Graphics Manager, for preparing the report figures.

7 REFERENCES

English Heritage 2006, Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)

IfA 2010, Code of Conduct, Institute for Archaeologists

IfA 2008, Standards and Guidance for Excavation, Institute for Archaeologists

IfA 2008, Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief, Institute for Archaeologists

McCulloch 2012, 5 Earlsdown, Northbrook Avenue, Winchester, Hampshire. Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, unpublished Client document.

APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: View of the Site looking north-west showing 5 Earlsdown



Plate 2: View looking north of reduced level excavation



**Plate 3: View looking west of topsoil and weathered chalk
in section following reduced level excavation.**



**Plate 4: View looking north of natural chalk
below patio slabs at north end of site**



Plate 5: View looking north during excavation of foundation trenches



Plate 6: View looking west of section in south west corner of the site.



**Plate 7: View looking south east of section
in south east corner of the site**

APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT SUMMARY TABLE

Context	Description – Section at south end of site	Ground level c.80m aOD
		Depth BGL(m)
1	Topsoil: - loose to moderate compaction, dark grey-brown sandy loam. Very occasional red brick fragments and small pebble. Maximum depth of 0.40m at south end of the site. 0.20m deep at north end of the site before being replaced by patio slabs.	0 – 0.40m
2	Subsoil: - soft to moderate compaction. Dark grey-black, sandy loam with very occasional brick fragments. Possible buried turfline. Extends for c.10m along section from south to north before fading out into rising natural slope of the ground level.	0.40m – 0.45m
3	Subsoil: - Moderate compaction, mixed mid-brown, sandy silty clay with frequent flecks and fragments of redeposited chalk, very occasional red brick flecks and fragments and small pebble. Extends for c.8m along section from south to north before fading out into rising natural slope of the ground level and extends over the whole site	0.45m – 0.50m
4	Subsoil: - moderate compaction, light to mid-brown sandy clay with occasional to moderate chalk flecks and fragments. Extends for c.8m along section from south to north before fading out into rising natural slope of the ground level.	0.50m – 0.60m
5	Subsoil: - soft to moderate compaction, light brown sandy clay. Very clean layer with very occasional red brick flecks and fragments with sherds of blue willow pattern pottery and porcelain tea cup, glazed flower pot and modern glass. Extends for c.8m along section from south to north before fading out into rising natural slope of the ground level.	0.60m – 0.72m

6	Natural: - hard but fragmentary compaction, off white weathered chalk. Observed across whole of the excavation area, but fades out to north where it not present below patio slabs. Natural weathered chalk overlying harder white bedrock chalk (7)	0.72m – 0.85m (0.30m+ at centre of the site)
7	Natural: - Chalk – hard, white bedrock chalk.	0.85m+ (0.20m+ at north end of the site)

APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1 - 134499

Project details

Project name	5 Earlsdown, Northbrook Avenue, Winchester, Hampshire
Short description of the project	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) was appointed by Felice Hardy to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for a c.65m ² house extension at 5 Earlsdown, Northbrook Avenue, Winchester, Hampshire. The watching brief comprised the archaeological monitoring of the machine excavation of topsoil and foundation trenches. No archaeological features and/or deposits were identified during the course of the watching brief. However, it could be seen that the natural slope of the hillside had been infilled with soil in order to level the ground surface most probably at the time of the construction of the existing house at the start of the 20th century. Sherds of blue willow pattern pottery and porcelain tea cups were recovered from the subsoil directly overlying the natural chalk.
Project dates	25/07/2012 to 27/07/2012
Previous/future work	No/No
Any associated project reference codes	11/02314/FUL - Planning Application No. AY495 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Garden
Monument type	None
Significant Finds	None
Investigation type	Watching Brief
Development type	PPS
Prompt	Planning Condition

Project location

Site location	HAMPSHIRE WINCHESTER, Winchester, Hampshire
Postcode	SO23 0AG
Study area	65 square metres
Site coordinates	NGR - SU 489 292

LL - 51.0595198606 -1.3021533183 (decimal)

LL - 51 03 34 N 001 18 07 W (degrees)

Polygon

Height OD / Depth Min: 78.70m Max: .79.80m

Project creators

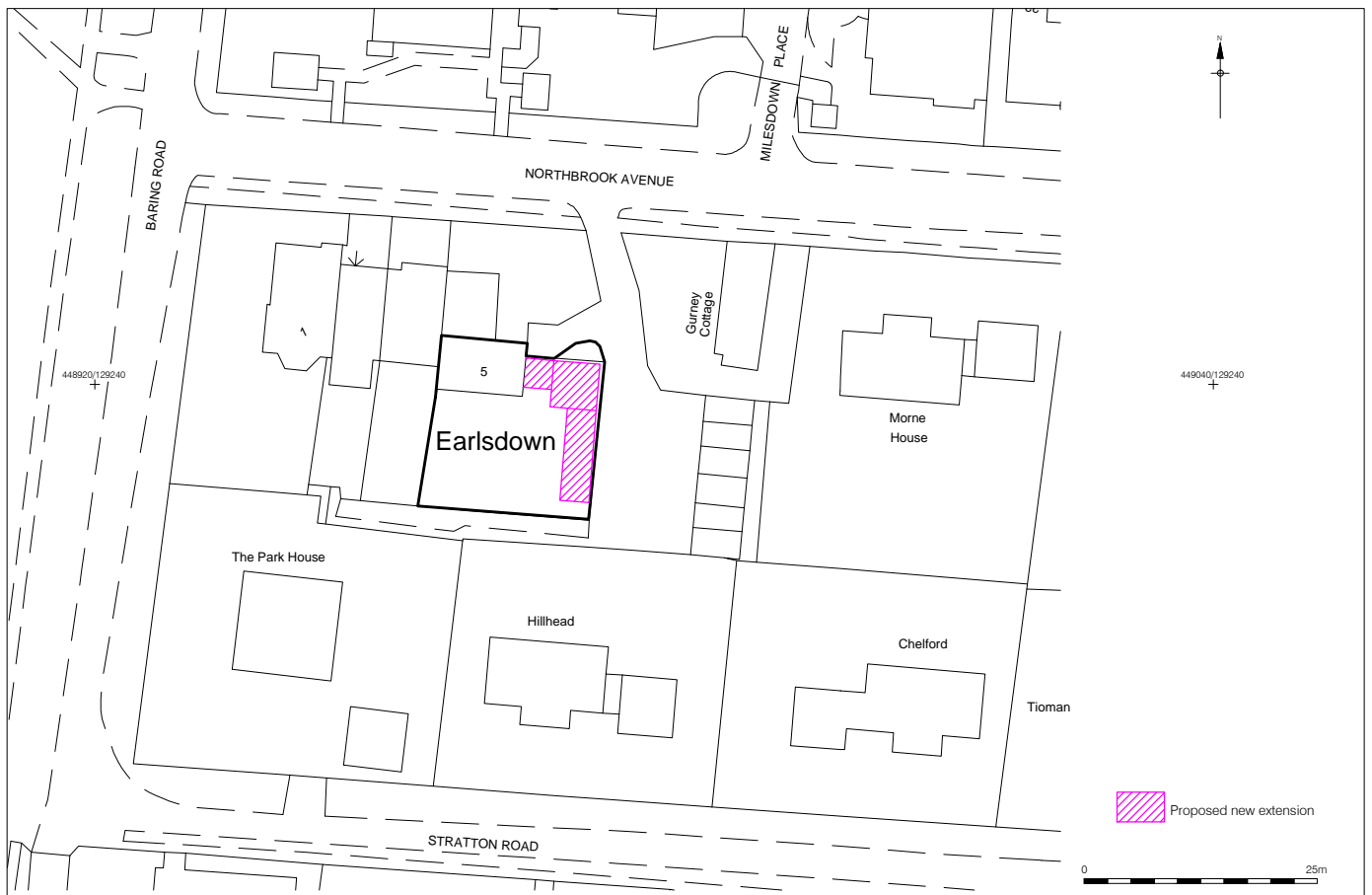
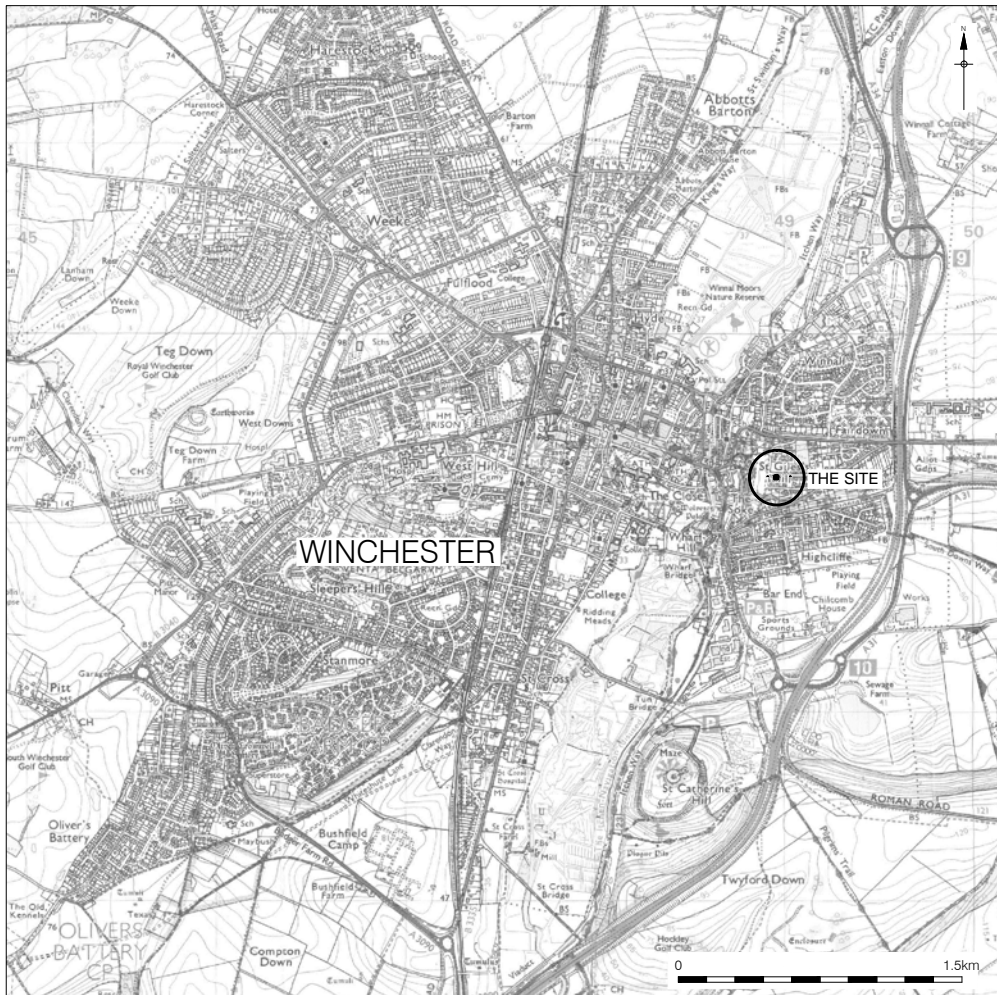
Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Historic Environment Officer Winchester City Council
Project design originator	Paul McCulloch
Project director/manager	Paul McCulloch
Project supervisor	Damian De Rosa
Type of sponsor/funding body	Householder
Name of sponsor/funding body	Felice Hardy

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Winchester Museums and Archives Service
Physical Contents	No physical archive
Digital Archive recipient	Winchester Museums and Archives Service
Digital Contents	None
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography', 'Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Winchester Museums and Archives Service
Paper Contents	none
Paper Media available	'Context sheet', 'Diary', 'Drawing', 'Report', 'Section'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	5 Earlsdown, Northbrook Avenue, Winchester, Hampshire– Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	De Rosa, D.
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Place of issue or publication	unpublished
Description	Watching brief report in A4 format, with 2 no. A4 figure drawings and 7 plates. PCA Ltd blue front and back cover
Entered by	Damian De Rosa (damianedr@yahoo.co.uk)
Entered on	28 September 2012

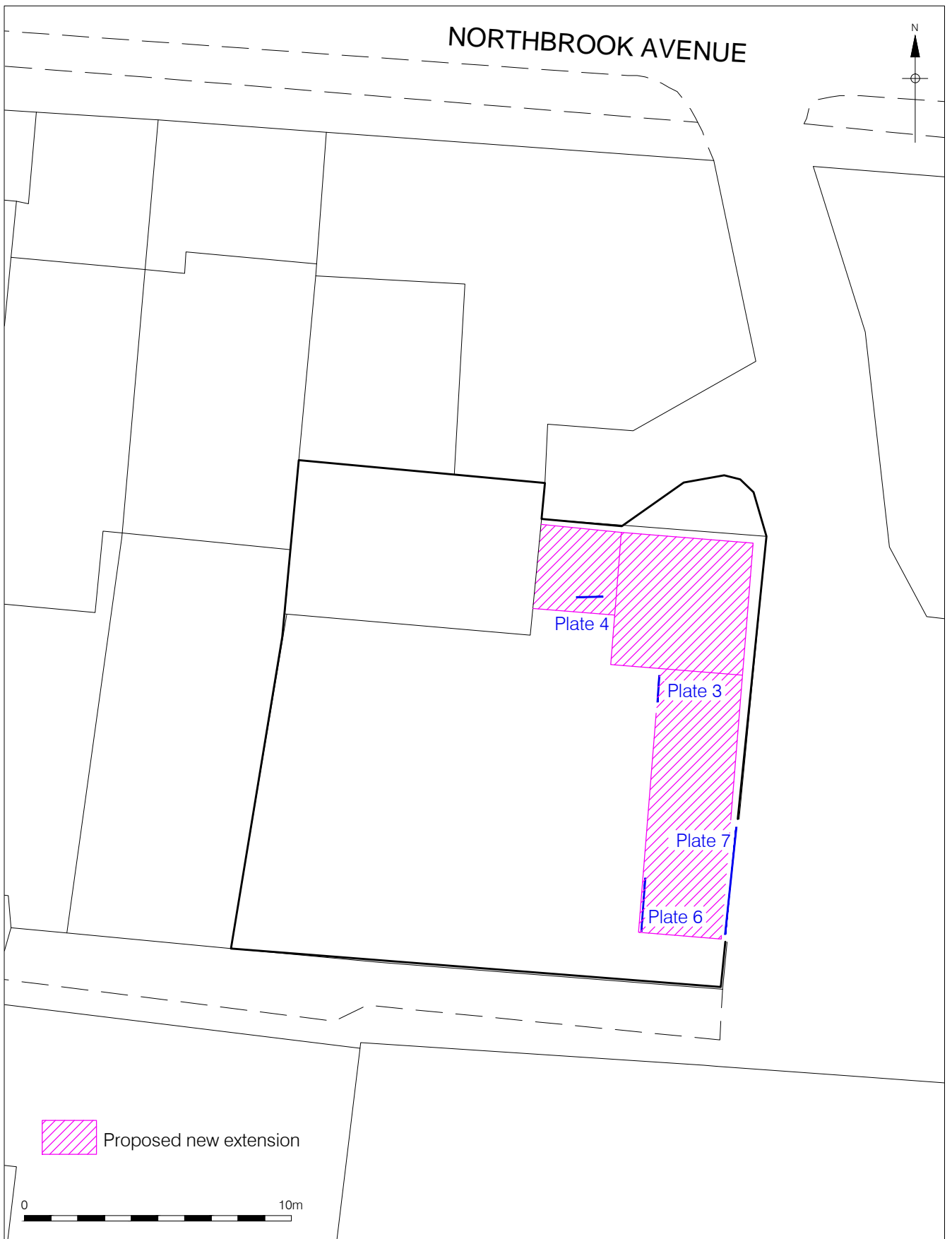


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JB 26/09/12

Figure 1
Site Location
1:40,000 and 1:800 at A4



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Figure 2
 Plan showing location of sections on Plates 3,4, 6 and 7
 1:200 at A4

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