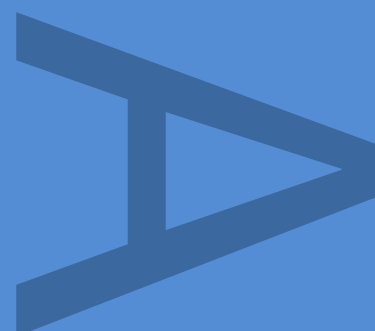


GOWER SOUTH
DEVELOPMENT,
UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHAMPTON

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF ON
GEOTECHNICAL SITE
INVESTIGATION

REPORT NO: R12312

DECEMBER 2015



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

**GOWER SOUTH DEVELOPMENT, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON GEOTECHNICAL SITE
INVESTIGATION**

Issue 1: For Approval

Site Code: SOU 1699

Central NGR: 442402 115441

Local Planning Authority: Southampton City Council

Commissioning Client: Ramboll

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December 2015

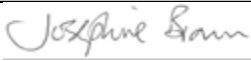

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DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

Gower South Development, University of Southampton

Watching Brief Report

Report Ref: R12312

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code			K4294
	Name & Title	Signature	Date
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Graphics Checked by:	J Brown		16/12/2015
Project Manager Sign-off:	P McCulloch		16/12/2015

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Figure 1: Site Location

Figure 2: Plan of Proposed Exploratory Investigations, showing location of composite section

Figure 3: Composite section of all monitored interventions

1 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Ramboll to undertake an archaeological watching brief during geotechnical site works at Gower South, University of Southampton (NGR 442402 115441). This report concerns the results of the archaeological watching brief, which involved a series of monitoring visits made between 24th of November and the 8th December 2015.

No significant archaeological deposits, features, artefacts or environmental remains were observed during the course of the watching brief. A largely consistent sequence of deposits was observed across WS01, WS03, WS05, WS07 and BH03. These demonstrated deposits of made-up ground to depths between 1.2m and 1.9m BGL, which overlay Brickearth. None of the window samples revealed any lower deposits, however BH03 showed Wittering Formation clay at approximately 4m below ground level. Brickearth was observed at a higher level in WS02 and WS06 (0.40m BGL), possibly indicating areas with limited disturbance. WS04 displayed no evidence for Brickearth, showing made up ground to a depth of approximately 0.40m BGL and a sequence of possibly re-deposited or disturbed greyish clay beneath. The absence of Brickearth is likely to be the result of some form of disturbance. Four of the five interventions that are located in the northern area of site (WS05, WS01, WS03 and BH03) can be shown to demonstrate a relatively consistent interface level between the made up ground and the Brickearth.

No archaeological deposits were observed in any of the monitored investigations. The variable presence and depth of intact Brickearth suggests that the study site has been subject to disturbance. This may indicate that the study site retains low archaeological resource potential, however this conclusion should be treated with caution given the limited nature of the recorded investigations. Furthermore there is insufficient evidence from the observations conducted to make any suggestions to the specific nature of the underlying natural topography.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Project Background

2.1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) was appointed by Ramboll, on behalf of the University of Southampton, to undertake an archaeological watching brief on a Geotechnical Site Investigation at Gower South, University of Southampton, Southampton, hereafter 'the site' (NGR 442402 115441). This document is informed by a Desk-based Assessment (DBA), prepared by Ramboll (2015), and Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), prepared by PCA (2015). The DBA provides a detailed assessment of known archaeological resources and the resource potential within the site and a wider study area. The resource potential was identified in the DBA as follows:

'A review of available data has established that the site has a low to moderate potential for Palaeolithic flintwork, high potential to contain a boundary feature of at least post-medieval date that may relate to a division between parishes and high potential for housing and backfilled basements of Victorian and Edwardian date. Extensive deposits of other periods are thought unlikely within the site on the basis of current evidence.'

2.1.2 The watching brief has been undertaken in accordance with the following documents and guidance:

- Written Scheme of investigation (PCA);
- Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs (CIfA 2014);
- Standards for the Creation, Compilation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives, Southampton City Council;
- Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (Historic England 2006).

2.1.3 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited is a Registered Archaeological Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and operates within the Institute's 'Code of Practice'.

2.2 Location, Topography and Geology

2.2.1 The site of Gower South and associated car parks lies within the University of Southampton's Highfield Campus off Salisbury Road and is located within the northern fringes of Southampton City, east of Southampton Common. The site is bounded by University buildings, associated landscaping and the Salisbury Road (figure 1 and 2).

2.2.2 The valley of an un-named stream drains from the northeast tip of Southampton Common, southeast towards Portswood, beyond the site. The site slopes very gently south towards this valley, from 45.8m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the north to 40.8m aOD in the south. The underlying geology of the site is mapped as sand, silt and clay of the Wittering Formation, overlain by sand and gravel of River Terrace Deposits and Brickearth (BGS 2015).

2.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

2.3.1 The archaeological and historical background to the site was addressed comprehensively in the Ramboll desk-based assessment and is not repeated here.

3 AIMS

3.1 Archaeological Watching Brief

- 3.1.1 The aim of the archaeological watching brief was to monitor groundwork in order to identify and, if present, record archaeological resources, as well as natural deposits. Recording is aimed at characterising those resources, accounting for their archaeological potential as well as their extent, date, nature and state of preservation.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The following summary is based on the site archive, which comprises a site diary, test pit recording sheets and digital photographs. The archive is held at PCA's Winchester office under the site code SOU 1699 and will in due course be deposited with the Southampton Museum and Archive Service.

4.1.2 A series of archaeological monitoring visits were made between the 24th of November and the 8th of December 2015.

4.2 Methodology

4.2.1 The watching brief was undertaken following the methodology that was detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation, which was prepared in advance of the commencement of works.

4.2.2 Eight interventions were required to be monitored as a part of this project, this was agreed in advance with the Historic Environment Team at Southampton City Council. These interventions are represented by seven window samples (WS) and one borehole (BH) (figure 2). The window samples comprised a hand excavated starter pit, measuring approximately 0.40m by 0.40m, dug to an approximate depth of 1m below ground level (BGL). A drilled sample was then taken to a maximum depth of 3m BGL. The borehole consisted of a starter pit subsequently drilled to a maximum depth of 30m BGL, with cores being retained from pre-determined levels.

4.2.3 Descriptions and depths of deposits were recorded for each monitored intervention and are summarised in Appendix 1.

4.3 Observations

4.3.1 No significant archaeological deposits, features, artefacts or environmental remains were observed during the course of the watching brief.

4.3.2 A largely consistent sequence of deposits was observed across WS01, WS03, WS05, WS07 and BH03. These demonstrated deposits of made-up ground to depths between 1.2m and 1.9m BGL, which overlay a red (munsell-2.5yr 4/8) aeolian fine silty clay deposit (Brickearth) (plate 1 and 3). None of the window samples revealed any lower deposits, however BH03 showed Wittering Formation clay at approximately 4m BGL.

4.3.3 Brickearth was observed at a higher level in WS02 and WS06 (0.40m BGL), (plate 2), possibly indicating areas with limited disturbance.

4.3.4 WS04 displayed no evidence for Brickearth, showing made up ground to a depth of approximately 0.40m BGL and a sequence of possibly re-deposited or disturbed greyish clay beneath. The absence of Brickearth is likely to be the result of some form of disturbance.

4.3.5 The general west to east profile of the observed interventions has been illustrated in figure 3. Four of the five interventions that are located in the northern area of site (WS05, WS01, WS03 and BH03) can be shown to demonstrate a relatively consistent interface level between the made up ground and the Brickearth.

4.4 Conclusion

4.4.1 No archaeological deposits were observed in any of the monitored investigations. The variable presence and depth of intact Brickearth suggests that the study site has been subject to disturbance. This may indicate that the study site retains low archaeological resource potential, however this conclusion should be treated with caution given the limited nature of the recorded investigations. Furthermore there is insufficient evidence from the observations conducted to make any suggestions to the specific nature of the underlying natural topography.

5 ARCHIVE PREPARATION & DEPOSITION

5.1 The Site Archive

5.1.1 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 the Institute for Archaeologists 'Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives' (ClfA 2014). On completion of the project PCA will arrange for the archive to be deposited in accordance with the provisional arrangements made at the onset of the watching brief with Southampton City Council (SCC), in keeping with the Council's 'Standards for the creation, compilation and transfer of archaeological archives' (SCC 2007).

5.2 Copyright

5.2.1 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.

5.2.2 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).

5.2.3 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.

5.3 Contents of Archive

Items	No.	Sheets
Test Pit Recording Sheets	1	8
Digital Photographic Register	1	3
Digital Photographs	78	n/a
Drawing Register	1	1
Drawings	1	1

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Pre-Construct Archaeology is grateful to Melissa Conway, Ramboll, for commissioning the watching brief on behalf of the University of Southampton and to Rob Taylor of the Environmental Scientifics Group for assistance on site.

The watching brief site work was carried out by Ryan Wolfe. This report was prepared by Ryan Wolfe and Thom Hayes. The project was managed by Paul McCulloch.

7 REFERENCE

British Geological Survey 2015, 'Geology of Britain Viewer
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

PCA, 2015, 'Gower South Development, University of Southampton: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief on Geotechnical Site Investigation', Unpublished PCA Document

Ramboll 2015, 'University of Southampton Gower South Development: Archaeological Desk Based Assessment' Unpublished Ramboll Document

Appendix 1: Site Photographs



Plate 1 Core from WS05 showing interface between the made up ground and Brickearth



Plate 2 Core showing Brickearth from WS02



Plate 3 Core from WS07 showing interface between made up ground and Brickearth

Appendix 2: Test pit index

Identifier	Deposit Description	Depth of Material (BGL)	Archaeological Resource
WS01	Top Soil	0-0.2m	None
	Made-up Ground	0.2-1.8m	None
	Brickearth	1.8-3.25m	None
WS02	Made-up Ground	0-0.4m	None
	Brickearth	0.4-2.4m	None
WS03	Made-up Ground	0-1.2m	None
	Brickearth	1.2-2.5m	None
WS04	Made-up Ground	0-0.35m	None
	Possible Redeposited Natural	0.35-2.0m	None
WS05	Made-up Ground	0-1.9m	None
	Brickearth	1.9-2.7m	None
WS06	Made-up Ground	0-0.4m	None
	Brickearth	0.4-3.45m	None
WS07	Made-up Ground	0-1.8m	None
	Brickearth	1.8-3.0m	None
BH3	Made-up Ground	0-1.7m	None
	Brickearth	1.7-4.0m	None
	Wittering Clay	4.0-12.0m	None

Appendix 3: OASIS Record Form

8 OASIS ID: preconst1-234094

Project details

Project name	Gower South Development, University of Southampton: an Archaeological Watching Brief
Short description of the project	<p>Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Ramboll to undertake an archaeological watching brief during geotechnical site works at Gower South, University of Southampton. No significant archaeological deposits, features, artefacts or environmental remains were observed during the course of the watching brief. A largely consistent sequence of deposits was observed across Window Samples WS01, WS03, WS05, WS07 and BH03. These demonstrated deposits of made-up ground to depths between 1.2m and 1.9m BGL, which overlay Brickearth. None of the window samples revealed any lower deposits, however Borehole BH03 showed Wittering Formation clay at approximately 4m below ground level. Brickearth was observed at a higher level in WS02 and WS06 (0.40m BGL), possibly indicating areas with limited disturbance. WS04 displayed no evidence for Brickearth, showing made up ground to a depth of approximately 0.40m BGL and a sequence of possibly re-deposited or disturbed greyish clay beneath. The absence of Brickearth is likely to be the result of some form of disturbance. Four of the five interventions that are located in the northern area of site (WS05, WS01, WS03 and BH03) can be shown to demonstrate a relatively consistent interface level between the made up ground and the Brickearth.</p> <p>No archaeological deposits were observed in any of the monitored investigations. The variable presence and depth of intact Brickearth suggests that the study site has been subject to disturbance. This may indicate that the study site retains low archaeological resource potential, however this conclusion should be treated with caution given the limited nature of the recorded investigations. Furthermore there is insufficient evidence from the observations conducted to make any suggestions to the specific nature of the underlying natural topography.</p>
Project dates	Start: 24-11-2015 End: 08-12-2015
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	SOU 1699 - Site code
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
---------	---------

Site location	HAMPSHIRE SOUTHAMPTON SOUTHAMPTON Gower South Development, University of Southampton
Postcode	SO17 1TW
Study area	2.2 Hectares
Site coordinates	SU 42402 15441 50.936305153437 -1.396486894076 50 56 10 N 001 23 47 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 40m Max: 42m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	PCA West
Project brief originator	Southampton City Council
Project design originator	Paul McCulloch
Project director/manager	Paul McCulloch
Project supervisor	Ryan Wolfe
Type of sponsor/funding body	Consultancy
Name of sponsor/funding body	Ramboll

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Southampton Museums and Archive Service
Digital Archive ID	SOU 1699
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Southampton Museums and Archives Service
Paper Archive ID	SOU 1699
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Diary", "Notebook - Excavation", "Research", "General Notes", "Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	GOWER SOUTH DEVELOPMENT, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON:

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON GEOTECHNICAL SITE
INVESTIGATION

Author(s)/Editor(s) Hayes, T.

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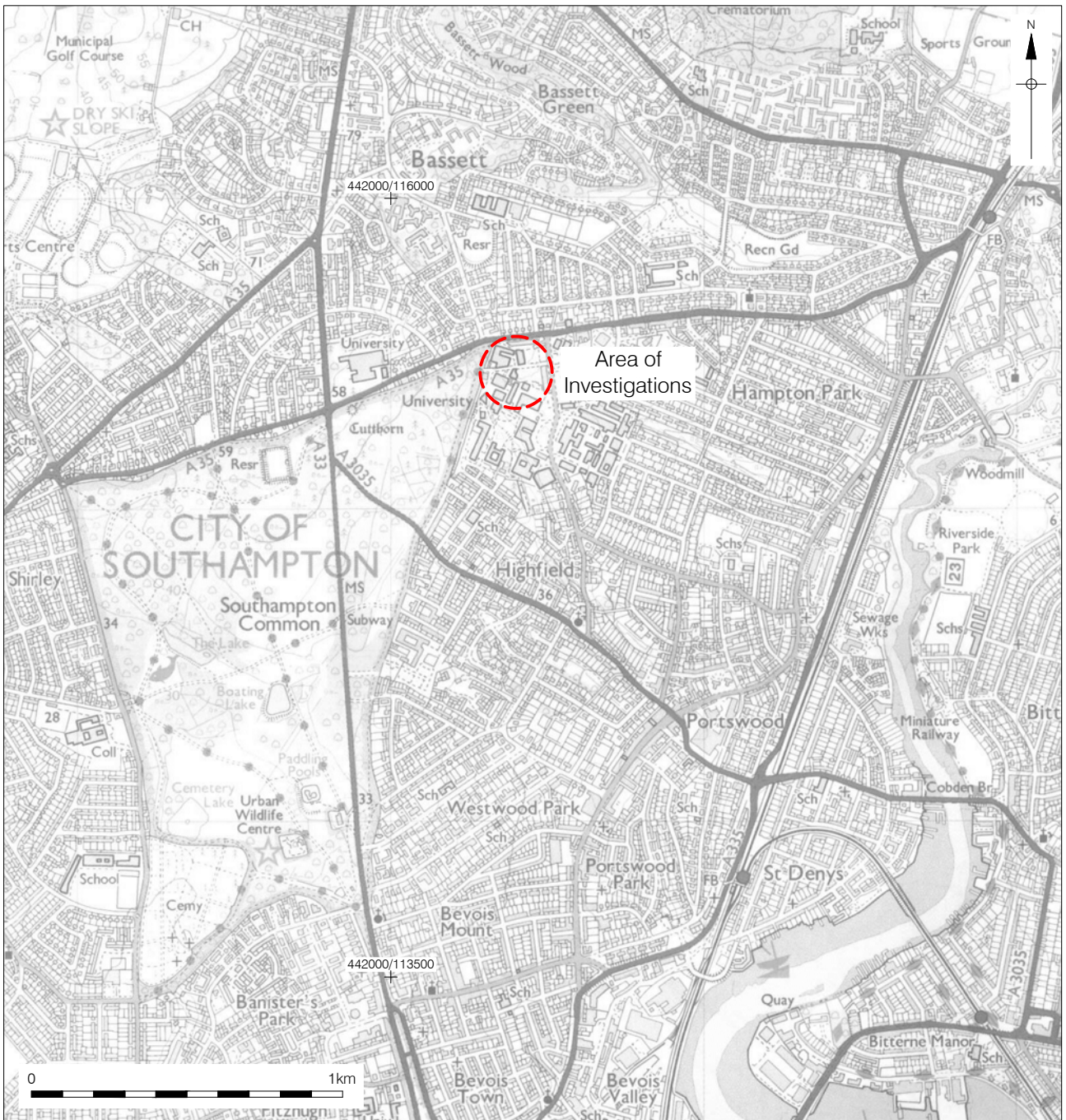
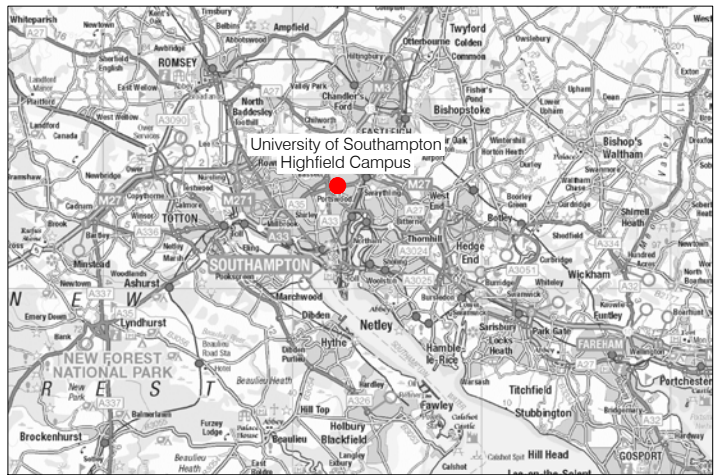
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Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:2,000,000, 1:400,000, 1:20,000 at A4

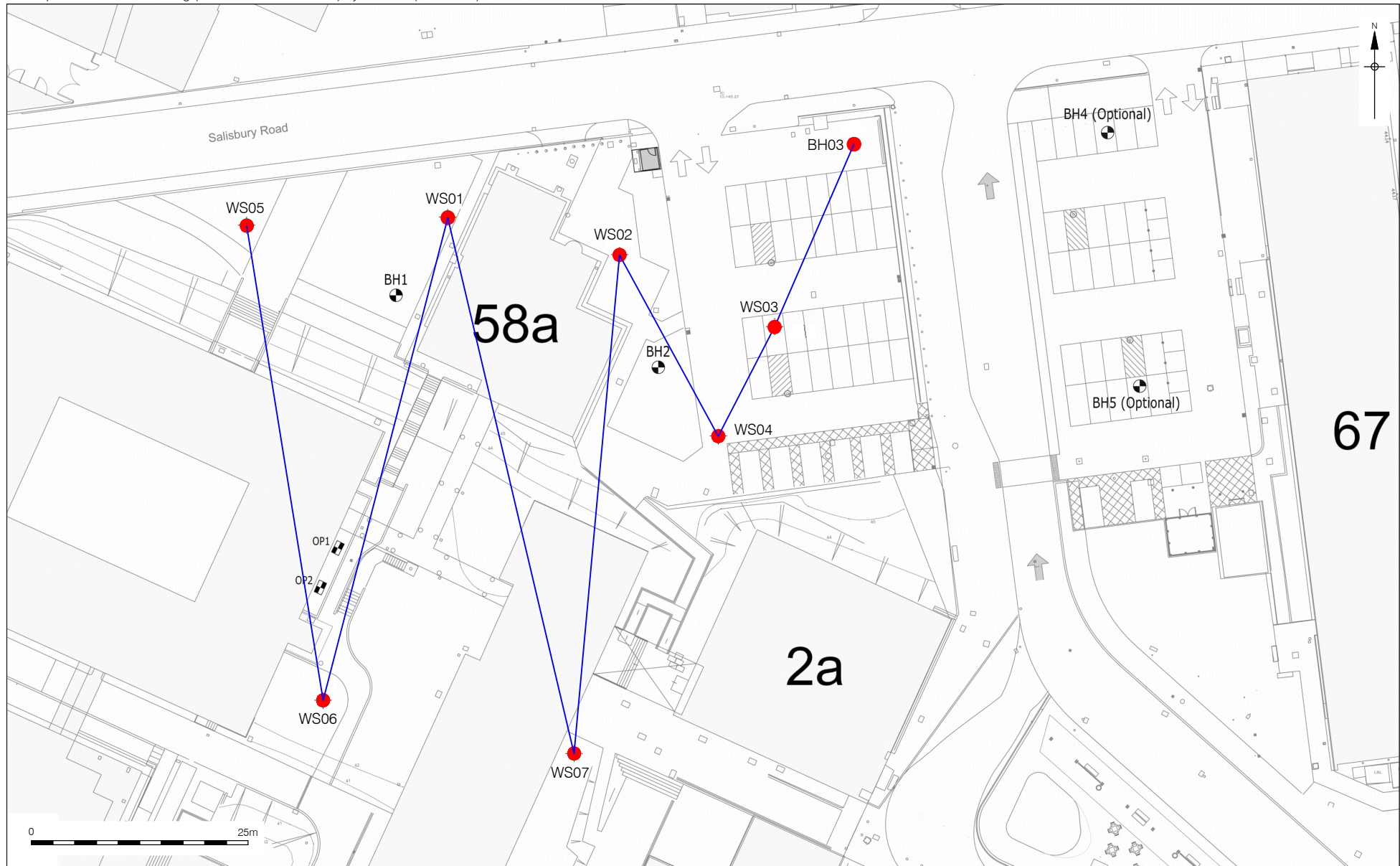


Figure 2
Plan of Exploratory Investigations,
showing location of composite section
Approx. 1:625 at A4

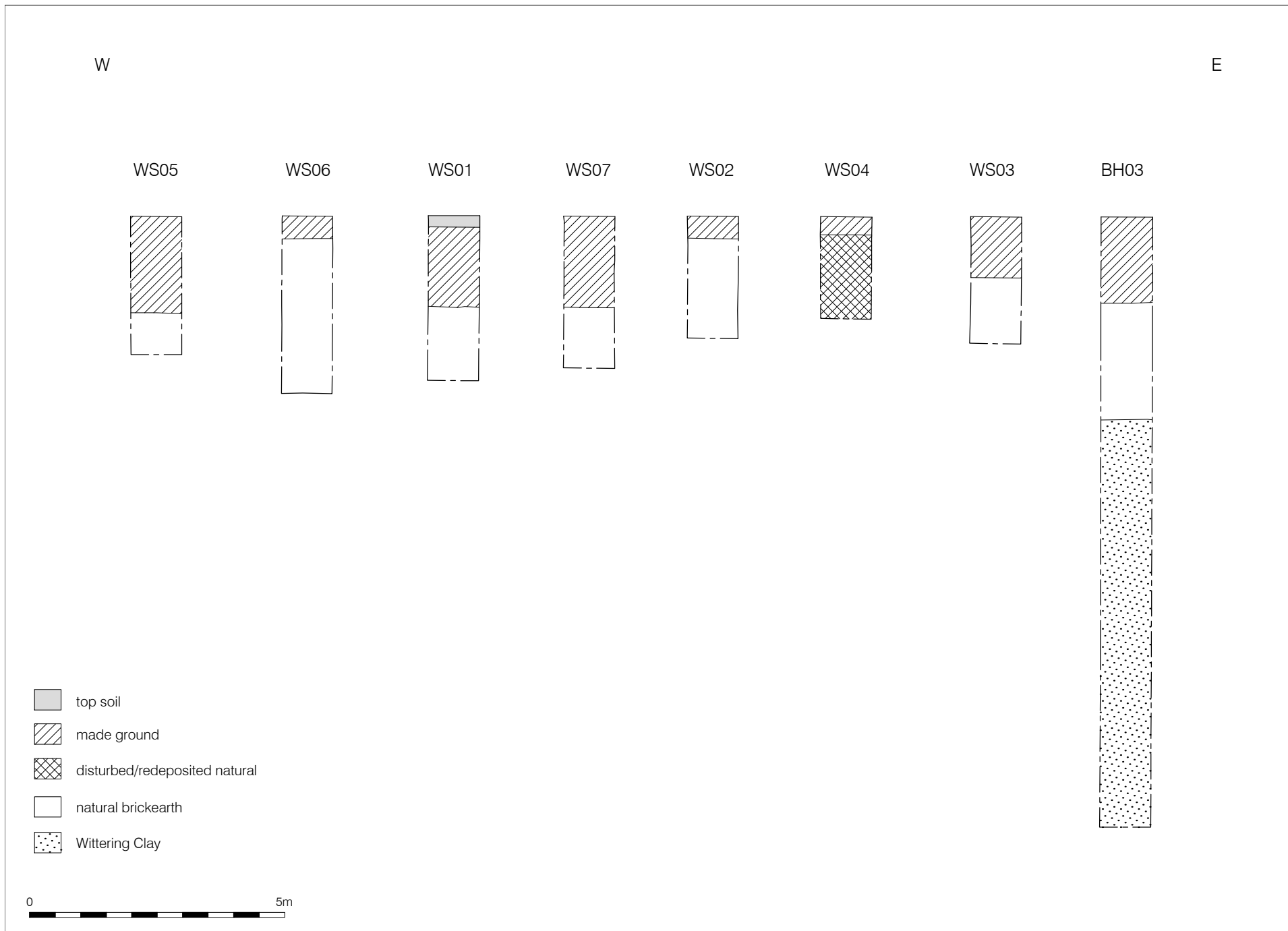


Figure 3
Composite section of all monitored interventions
1:100 at A4

PCA

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