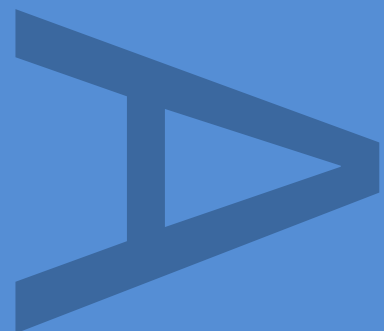


60-64 ST MARY'S ROAD,
SOUTHAMPTON
SO19 8HG

INTERIM STATEMENT OF
RESULTS OF
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS

SITE CODE: SOU1636
REPORT NO: R11617

January 2014



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

60-64 ST MARY'S ROAD, SOUTHAMPTON, SO14 0BL
INTERIM STATEMENT ON THE RESULTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS

Local Planning Authority:	Southampton City Council
Planning Ref:	TBC
Grid Reference:	SU4228 1252
Site Code:	SOU1606
Commissioning Client:	Bouygues UK
PCA Report No.:	R11617
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DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

SOU1606

60-64 St Mary's Road, Southampton SO14 0BL

Interim Statement of Results on Archaeological Works

Quality Control

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CONTENTS

1	ABSTRACT	1
2	INTRODUCTION	2
2.1	Project Background.....	2
2.2	The Site, Topography and Geology	2
2.3	Archaeological Background.....	3
3	RESULTS	3
3.1	Archaeological Excavation.....	3
4	REFERENCES	4
5	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	4

List of Plates

- Plate 1** **SOU1636 Trench 1. View to north showing base of stripped trench. Scale 1m.**
- Plate 2** **SOU1636 Trench 1 (background) & eastern end of Trench 2 (foreground). View to South. Scale 1m.**
- Plate 3** **SOU1636 Trench 2, Test Pit 1 (foreground). View to East. Scale 1m.**
- Plate 4** **SOU1636 Trench 2, Test Pit 2 (foreground). View to East. Scale 1m.**

List of Figures

- Figure 1** **Site location**
- Figure 2** **Plan of SOU1636 excavation areas Trenches 1 & 2**
 showing Test Pits TP 1 & TP 2 and previous excavation areas

1 ABSTRACT

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) was appointed by appointed by Bouygues UK to carry out a programme of archaeological works in advance of development of 60-64 St Mary's Road, Southampton (NGR 442299 112516) hereafter 'the site'. The works were requirements of Conditions 10, 11 & 12 of planning permission for the development granted by the Local Planning Authority Southampton City Council (Planning reference 12/01525/FUL) and based on the advice of the Council's Historic Environment Officer (HEO).

A written scheme of investigation (WSI) (PCA 2013) detailing the method by which the works would be undertaken was submitted to and approved by the HEO at Southampton City Council prior to the commencement of the works. The works comprise an archaeological excavation and watching brief. The excavation was to consist of open area excavation in two trenches, Trench 1 being a re-investigation of a previous area of investigation known as 'SOU379 Trench 1' and Trench 2 a new trench on line of the former Northam Street (Figure 2). This Interim Statement provides a report on the result of the archaeological excavation.

Trench 1 was set out following the outline of the previous archaeological excavation 'SOU379 Trench 1'. Machine excavation was carried out using a 13ton tracked excavator fitted with a toothless bucket and under constant supervision by PCA and proceeded from south to north within the former excavation trench, re-opening the trench along its entire extent north-south. It was apparent that the base of the former excavation trench was no longer intact and had been reduced mechanically at some point following that excavation, removing all trace of archaeological features that had been previously investigated and recorded. No additional archaeological features or deposits were identified.

Trench 2 was set out based on the remaining extent of the former Northam Street, which survived as an island of ground surrounded by the areas of previous archaeological excavations SOU379 and SOU1112. The trench area was mechanically excavated revealing in its northern half the line of several buried services running east-west. The southern half of the trench revealed, immediately beneath the former pavement, intact natural brickearth. No archaeological features or deposits were observed.

At a site meeting with Kevin White, Southampton City Council's HEO on Thursday 19th September 2013, it was agreed that the area of Trench 1 retained no archaeological resources. It was also agreed that two test pits be cut through the natural brickearth exposed in Trench 2 in order to test that the brickearth was indeed natural and not re-deposited and masking deeper archaeological resources. The test pits appeared to confirm that the brickearth was an undisturbed and a natural deposit.

It may be concluded the site retains no archaeological resources.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Project Background

- 2.1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) was appointed by Bouygues UK to carry out a programme of archaeological works in advance of development of 60-64 St Mary's Road, Southampton (NGR 442299 112516) hereafter 'the site' (Figures 1 and 2).
- 2.1.2 The works were requirements of Conditions 10, 11 & 12 of planning permission for the development granted by the Local Planning Authority Southampton City Council (Planning reference 12/01525/FUL) and based on the advice of the Council's Historic Environment Officer (HEO).
- 2.1.3 A written scheme of investigation (WSI) (PCA 2013) detailing the method by which the works would be undertaken was submitted to and approved by the HEO at Southampton City Council prior to the commencement of the works. The works comprise an archaeological excavation and watching brief. The excavation was to consist of open area excavation in two trenches, Trench 1 being a re-investigation of a previous area of investigation known as 'SOU379 Trench 1' and Trench 2 a new trench on line of the former Northam Street (Figure 2). This Interim Statement provides a report on the result of the archaeological excavation.
- 2.1.4 The outstanding requirement set out in the WSI for an archaeological watching brief will be met in the event the proposed development goes ahead and will be conducted alongside formation of drainage and services on the site periphery. On completion of the watching brief a final report on the results of the archaeological works will be prepared.
- 2.1.5 The WSI provided background information to the works, referencing the results of previous archaeological investigations on the site and a desk-based assessment (PCA 2011).
- 2.1.6 This report was prepared in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (IfA 2008) and 'The Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment' (English Heritage 2006).
- 2.1.7 The archaeological excavation was undertaken between the 16th and 24th of September 2013.

2.2 The Site, Topography and Geology

- 2.2.1 The site is bounded to the east by St Mary's Road, Charlotte Place to the north, St Andrew's Road to the west and Compton Walk to the south. The proposed development is centred at SU422821252, and covers an area of approximately 3134m². At the time of the excavation the site was open, comprising spoil-heaps, overgrowth, areas of previous groundwork and residual road surfacing; current ground level at the site varies but occurs generally between approximately 10m and 11.6m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). It is apparent that original ground levels on the site have been largely reduced although it is apparent that the site originally sloped down from the west to the east.

2.3 Archaeological Background

- 2.3.1 During previous archaeological investigations on the site (SOU379 & SOU1112) it was demonstrated that archaeological resources were better preserved on the eastern frontage, where horizontal deposits were encountered as well as deep pits. Deposits interpreted as evidence of a hollow-way, a pre-cursor of St Mary's Road, were recorded within the eastern frontage and some evidence of a possible track leading west from it was also indicated. The pits contained a typically wide range of artefactual and biological evidence.
- 2.3.2 It was anticipated that archaeological resources would occur beneath the former access into the site from its eastern boundary. This follows the line of Northam Street, which was originally flanked by Victorian terraces and, by the early 1950's, the site of the Wholesale Co-operative Society building. The building occupied 60-64 St Mary's Road and appears to have been demolished in the 1970's, leaving the relic line of Northam Street as the only evidence of the site's former built-up character.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Archaeological Excavation

- 3.1.1 This section sets out the results of the excavation and is based on the site archive for which the unique Southampton City Council site code SOU1636 was allocated. The archive is currently held at PCA's Winchester office and subsequent to the completion of the archaeological works and final report will be deposited with Southampton City Council.
- 3.1.2 Trench 1 was set out following the outline of the previous archaeological excavation 'SOU379 Trench 1', its eastern and southern extent visible beneath partial backfilling, undergrowth and fly-tipped rubbish. Machine excavation was carried out using a 13ton tracked excavator fitted with a toothless bucket and under constant supervision by PCA. Mechanical excavation proceeded from south to north within the former excavation trench, re-opening the trench along its entire extent north-south (Plates).
- 3.1.3 Using photographs from the previous SOU379 Trench 1 excavation to compare, it was apparent that the base of the former excavation trench was no longer intact and had been reduced mechanically at some point following that excavation, removing all trace of archaeological features that had been previously investigated and recorded. No additional archaeological features or deposits were identified.
- 3.1.4 Trench 2 was set out based on the remaining extent of the former Northam Street, which survived as an island of ground surrounded by the areas of previous archaeological excavations SOU379 and SOU1112. The trench area was mechanically excavated, removing modern surfacing, kerbs and pavement blocks, revealing in its northern half the line of several buried services running east-west. The southern half of the trench revealed, immediately beneath the former pavement, intact natural brickearth. No archaeological features or deposits were observed.

- 3.1.5 At a site meeting with Kevin White, Southampton City Council's HEO on Thursday 19th September 2013, it was agreed that the area of Trench 1 retained no archaeological resources. It was also agreed that two test pits (TP's 1 & 2) be cut through the natural brickearth exposed in Trench 2 in order to test that the brickearth was indeed natural and not re-deposited and masking deeper archaeological resources. The test pits appeared to confirm that the brickearth was an undisturbed and a natural deposit (Plates).
- 3.1.6 It may be concluded the site retains no archaeological resources.

4 REFERENCES

PCA 2011, 'Land at 60-64 St Mary's Road, Southampton, Hampshire, SO14 0BL: Archaeological Desk-based Assessment'. Unpublished client report Ref 11063

PCA, 2013, '60-64 St Mary's Road, Southampton, SO14 0BL: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Mitigation Works', Client document dated July 2013

5 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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PLATES



Plate 1: SOU1636 Trench 1. View to north showing base of stripped trench. Scale 1m.



Plate 2: SOU1636 Trench 1 (background) & eastern end of Trench 2 (foreground). View to South. Scale 1m.



Plate 3: SOU1636 Trench 2, Test Pit 1 (foreground). View to East. Scale 1m.



Plate 4: SOU1636 Trench 2, Test Pit 2 (foreground). View to East. Scale 1m.

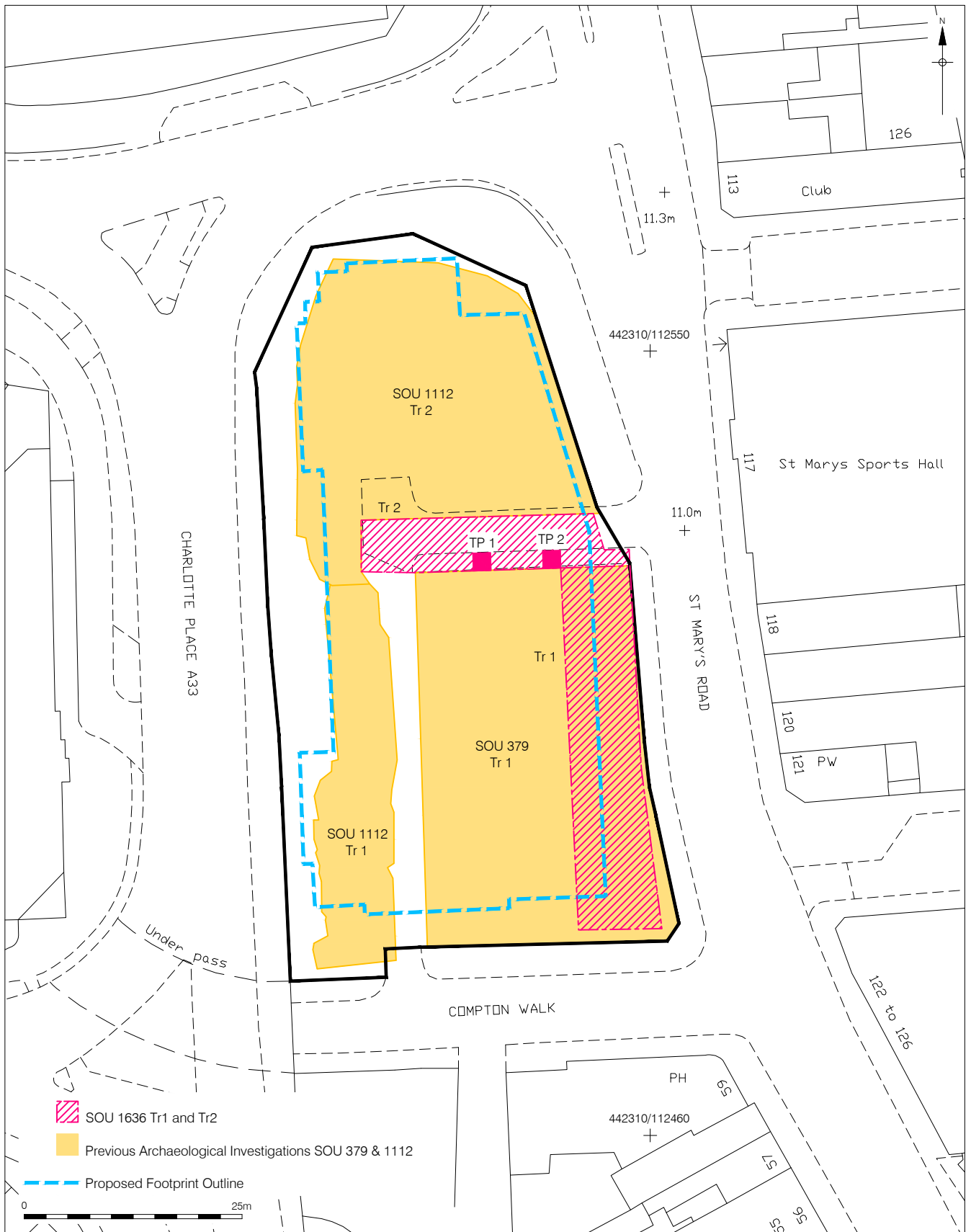


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Figure 1
Site Location
1:20,000



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Figure 2
Plan of SOU1636 excavation areas Trenches 1 & 2
showing Test Pits TP 1 & TP 2 and previous excavation areas
1:625 at A4

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