

**GOWER SOUTH, SALISBURY
ROAD, UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHAMPTON, SOUTHAMPTON**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION**

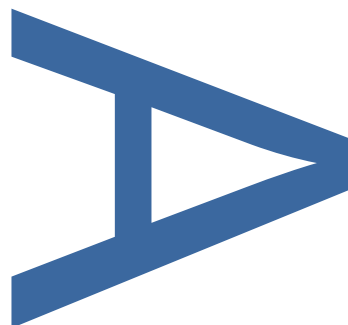
**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:
SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL**

**PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBERS:
15/02460/FUL & 15/02461/FUL**

PCA REPORT NO: 12638

SITE CODE: SOU 1699

OCTOBER 2019 (REV 1)



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

**GOWER SOUTH, SALISBURY ROAD, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON,
SOUTHAMPTON
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

Local Planning Authority: Southampton City Council

Planning Reference: 15/02460/FUL & 15/02461/FUL

Central NGR: 442428 115438

Southampton HET Reference: 7945

Site Code: SOU 1699

Commissioning Client: Ramboll UK

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DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

Gower South, University of Southampton

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Report Ref R12638

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code			K4623
	Name & Title	Signature	Date
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1 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (West) was commissioned by Ramboll UK Consulting to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Gower South, University of Southampton, Salisbury Road, Southampton (NGR 442428 115438). This report concerns the results of the evaluation, which was undertaken between the 15th and 24th of August 2016.

Five trenches were excavated, measuring 4m, 8m, 5m, 3.5m and 10m respectively. A general deposition sequence was identified across all five evaluation trenches. No archaeological resources or artefacts, significant or otherwise, were identified. The Site appears to have been subject to widespread levelling, probably associated with construction existing built environment. It is concluded that the Site retains no archaeological resource potential.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Project Background

2.1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) was appointed by Ramboll UK Consulting to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Gower south, University of Southampton, Salisbury Road, Southampton, (**Figure 1**), hereafter 'the Site' (NGR 442428 115438), in respect of a proposal for the development of a new university learning and teaching centre. This document reports on the result of the evaluation and follows an initial stage of archaeological monitoring of geo-technical boreholes, carried out in November/December 2015 (PCA 2015).

2.1.2 The archaeological evaluation was in keeping with the advice of the Historic Environment Team (HET) at Southampton City Council. The evaluation forms part of a staged approach aimed at establishing the archaeological implications of the proposed development of the Site.

2.1.3 This document has been prepared in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation (CIfA 2014) and Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (Historic England, 2015).

2.2 Location, Topography and Geology

2.2.1 The Site 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 and associated landscaping. Surfacing across the majority of the Site consists of Tarmacadam car park areas and the Salisbury Road carriageway; Gower Car Park lies north of the road and Salisbury Road car park lies to its south.

2.2.2 The valley of an un-named stream drains from the northeast tip of Southampton Common, southeast towards Portswood. The Site slopes very gently south towards this valley bottom, from 45.8m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the north to 40.8m aOD in the south. The underlying geology of the Site comprises the sand, silt and clay of the Wittering Formation, largely overlain by gravelly clay, sand and gravel of the River Terrace Deposits. These superficial deposits may not extend into the western fringes of the Site, south of Salisbury Road. Brickearth has been recorded as being present within the wider area, but is not found within the site boundary.

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 (Ramboll 2015).

2.3.2 A watching brief was carried out on a geotechnical investigation of the Site in 2015. The watching brief report (PCA 2015) summarised the results as follows:

'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.'*

*Upon further investigation, the material identified as 'Brickearth' in the initial watching brief is likely to have been a Cohesive River Terrace Deposit

3 AIMS

3.1 Archaeological Evaluation

3.1.1 The general aim of the archaeological evaluation was to determine in five trenches (**Figure 2**) the character, extent, date, condition and significance of archaeological resources surviving within the Site, taking account of their potential to contain biological and palaeo-environmental remains. Additionally, the evaluation aimed to identify and record the nature, dimensions and relationship of natural deposits on the Site.

3.1.2 The evaluation trenches will address specific aims, which are:

- What is the archaeological resource potential of the Site?
- Whether, if present, these archaeological remains provide evidence for the development of the Site in the periods prior to the 19th century, comparable to that which has been previously recorded in the vicinity of the Site;
- Whether, if present, these archaeological remains provide evidence for previously unknown human activity within this part of Southampton; and
- 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?
- to identify and record the nature, dimensions, and relationship of natural deposits on the Site, and assess the potential for those deposits to contain or conceal archaeological evidence.

3.1.3 This document reports on the findings of the archaeological evaluation and aims 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.

Note: For the purposes of this project, archaeologically significant remains and contexts are defined as remains and contexts relating to human use of the area prior to 1850

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The following summary is based on the Site archive, which comprises a Site diary, context recording sheets, Site drawings and digital photographs. The archive is held at PCA's Winchester office under the Site code SOU1699 and will in due course be deposited with the designated receiving museum, Southampton City Council.
- 4.1.2 The archaeological evaluation was carried out between the 15th and the 24th of August 2016.

4.2 Methodology

- 4.2.1 The evaluation was undertaken following the methodology that was detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Ramboll 2016), which was prepared in advance of the commencement of works.
- 4.2.2 The evaluation comprised the excavation of five trenches, measuring 4m, 8m, 5m, 3.5m and 10m respectively (**Figure 2**). Four of the five evaluation trenches (trenches 1, 2, 4 and 5) were located in an area currently used as Salisbury Road Car Park (**Plate 1**) in the eastern half of the Site, with trench 3 located in a small grassed area to the west of the Site (**Plate 2**). The orientation of trench 3 was changed in order to avoid a borehole.

4.3 Evaluation Results

- 4.3.1 No significant archaeological deposits, features, artefacts or environmental remains were observed during the course of the archaeological evaluation.
- 4.3.2 Two general deposition sequences were identified during the course of the archaeological evaluation (a detailed trench register is included in **Appendix 1**). Trenches 1, 2, 4 and 5 (located in the current car park) had the following average depositional sequence (**Figures 3 & 3**):

- Modern overburden (tarmac and crush car park surface) – 0m-0.42m Below Ground Level (BGL)
- Mixed dark brown Sub-soil – 0.42m-0.66m BGL
- Natural (river terrace deposits) – 0.66m BGL +

- 4.3.3 Trench 3, located in the small open grassed area, recorded the following deposition sequence (**Figures 2 & 3**):

- Turf/topsoil – 0m-0.32m BGL
- Sub-soil – 0.32m – 0.54m BGL
- Natural (river terrace deposits) – 0.54m BGL +

- 4.3.4 The natural geology observed across the Site can be described as River Terrace deposits, consistent with British Geological Survey mapping. Slight variations in the terrace deposits were identified in trenches 1 and 5. The variation took the form of a slightly darker, greyish clay and gravel. These were initially investigated to understand whether they were the result of archaeological activity or of natural processes. Owing to their sterility, lack of form and consistency with variations that are known to occur within river terrace deposits, it was concluded these deposits were a result of natural processes.

4.4 Discussion

- 4.4.1 The lack of any archaeological resources or artefacts, significant or otherwise, in the evaluation trenches suggests that the Site retains no archaeological potential.
- 4.4.2 The Desk Based Assessment (Ramboll 2015), showed that by the time of the third edition Ordnance Survey map, 1909, a row of terraced houses had been constructed, fronting Salisbury Road. By 1992 these buildings had been demolished. Trenches 1 and 2 targeted an area in the north-east of the Site that was shown as a location for these early 20th century terraced buildings. No sign of foundations or demolition material was identified in either of the two trenches, suggesting that the Site had been subject to extensive levelling/scarping in advance of the construction of the existing university buildings in the 1990's. This suggestion is supported by the lack of any intact 'Brickearth' capping to the underlying River Terrace deposits and could go some way to explain the lack of any archaeological features or artefacts within the trenches.
- 4.4.3 The relatively consistent deposition sequence observed in the evaluation trenches would indicate that disturbance and levelling of the Site is likely to be Site-wide.

4.5 Conclusion

- 4.5.1 A general deposition sequence was identified across all five evaluation trenches comprising natural River Terrace deposits beneath modern make-up and surfacing. No archaeological resources or artefacts, significant or otherwise, were identified. It is concluded that the Site retains no archaeological resource potential.

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 Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 'Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives' (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 2016).

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.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Pre-Construct Archaeology is grateful to Ramboll (on behalf of University of Southampton) for commissioning the archaeological evaluation and to Ingrid Peckham, Southampton City Council for providing advice. The evaluation was supervised by Thomas Hayes with assistance from Gareth Hatt. This report was prepared by Thomas Hayes with illustrations prepared by Charlotte Faires. The project was managed for PCA by Paul McCulloch.

7 REFERENCES

PCA, 2015, 'Gower South Development, University of Southampton: An archaeological Watching Brief on Geotechnical Site Investigation', R12312.

Ramboll, 2015, 'University of Southampton – Gower South development: Archaeological Desk-based Assessment', 61032002-008-ACH R05

Ramboll, 2016, University of Southampton – Gower South development: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation', Ref: 61032002-008/ENV/ARCH/R11

Appendix 1 – Trench Register

Trench No.	Section No.	Context	Type	Description	Depth (m) BGL
1	1a + 1b	+	Layer	Modern Overburden	0-0.33
		101	Layer	Dark brown sub-soil	0.28-0.57
		102	Layer	Natural	0.57 +
2	2a + 2b	+	Layer	Modern Overburden	0-0.46
		201	Layer	Dark brown sub-soil	0.46-0.69
		202	Layer	Natural	0.69 +
3	1c+1d	301	Layer	Topsoil	0-0.32
		302	Layer	Sub-soil	0.32-0.54
		303	Layer	Natural	0.54 +
4	4a + 4b	+	Layer	Modern Overburden	0-0.41
		401	Layer	Dark brown sub-soil	0.41-0.72
		402	Layer	Natural	0.72 +
5	5a + 5b	+	Layer	Modern Overburden	0-0.49
		501	Layer	Dark brown sub-soil	0.49-0.66
		502	Layer	Natural	0.66 +

Appendix 2 – Site Photographs



Plate 1: Salisbury Road Car Park east of Gower South building: Trenches 1, 2, 4 & 5. View SE.



Plate 2: Open space west of Gower South Building, Salisbury Road: Trench 3. View SW.



Plate 3: Trench 1, view to NW. Scales 1m & 0.5m.



Plate 4: Trench 1, view to SW. Scale 1m.



Plate 5: Trench 2, view to SW. Scales 1m & 0.5m.



Plate 6: Trench 2, view to NW. Scale 1m.



Plate 7: Trench 3, view to NE. Scales 1m & 0.5m.



Plate 8: Trench 3, view to NW. Scale 1m.



Plate 9: Trench 4, view to NW. Scales 1m & 0.5m.



Plate 10: Trench 4, view to NE. Scale 1m.



Plate 11: Trench 5, view to N. Scales 1m & 0.5m.



Plate 12: Trench 5, view to E. Scale 1m.

Appendix 3: OASIS Form

OASIS ID: preconst1-263963

Project details

Project name	Gower Sth, Salisbury Rd, Southampton
Short description of the project	Archaeological evaluation comprising five trenches on the Site of the proposed redevelopment of the Gower South Site, University of Southampton, Salisbury Rd, Southampton. The five trenches 5m and 10m trenches demonstrated Site-wide truncation to level the Site prior to the construction of the existing Gower South building and adjacent car park and open space. No archaeological deposits, features or finds were recorded.
Project dates	Start: 15-08-2016 End: 24-08-2016
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	SOU1699 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over
Monument type	NONE
Monument type	NONE
Significant Finds	NONE
Significant Finds	NONE
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	HAMPSHIRE SOUTHAMPTON Gower South
Postcode	SO17 1TW
Study area	0.3 Hectares

Site coordinates	Central NGR:	442428 115438
Height OD / Depth	Min: 45m Max: 45.3m	
Project creators		
Name of Organisation	PCA West	
Project brief originator	Southampton City Council	
Project design originator	Ramboll	
Project director/manager	Paul McCulloch	
Project supervisor	Thomas Hayes	
Type of sponsor/funding body	University	
Name of sponsor/funding body	University of Southampton	
Project archives		
Physical Archive Exists?	No	
Digital Archive recipient	Southampton Museums and Archive Service	
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic"	
Digital Media available	"Database","GIS","Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"	
Paper Archive recipient	Southampton Museums and Archives Service	
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic","Survey"	
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Diary","Drawing","Plan","Section"	
Project bibliography		
1		
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)	
Title	Gower South, Salisbury Road, University of Southampton, Southampton	
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hayes, T	
Other bibliographic	R12638	

details

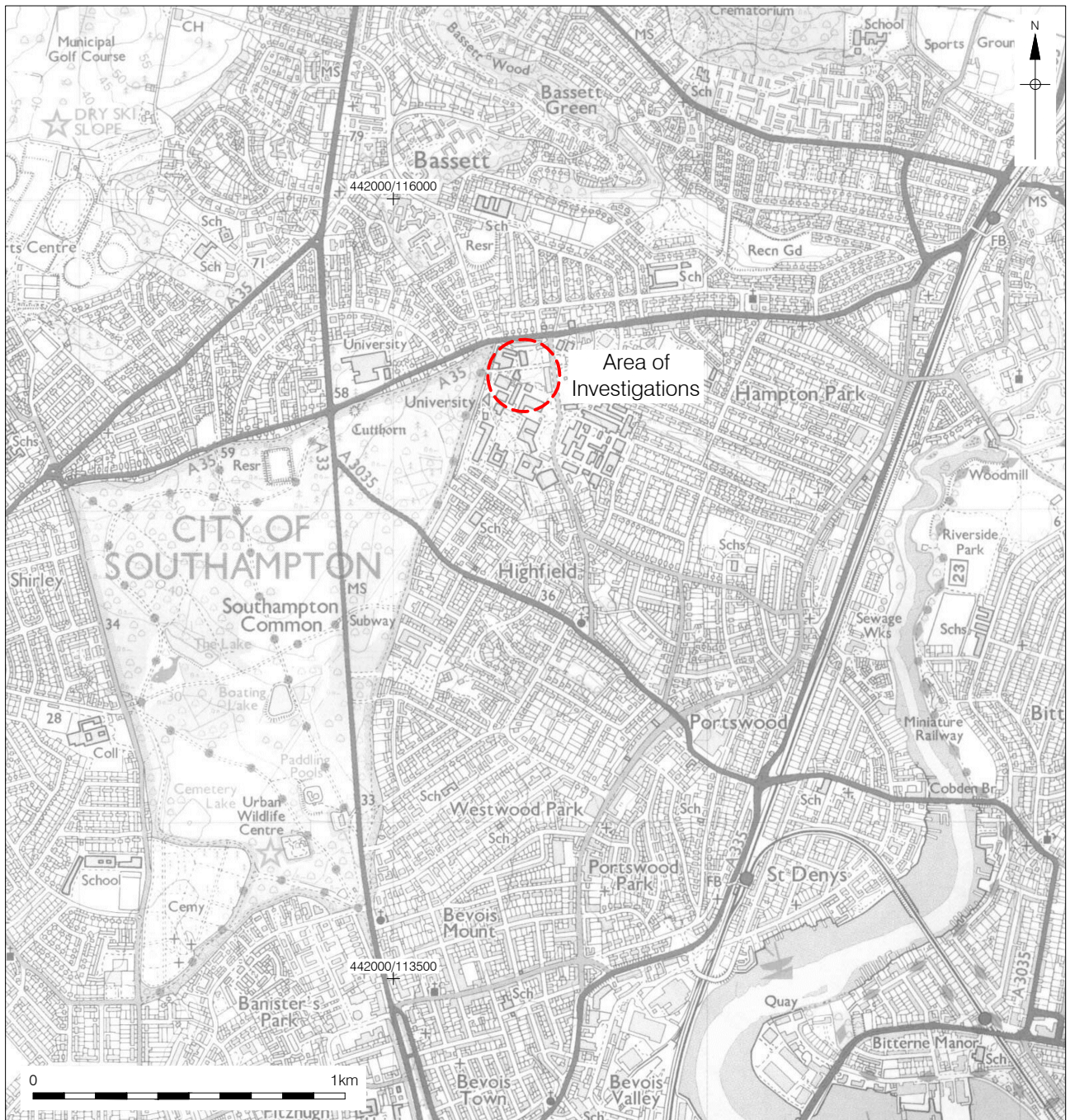
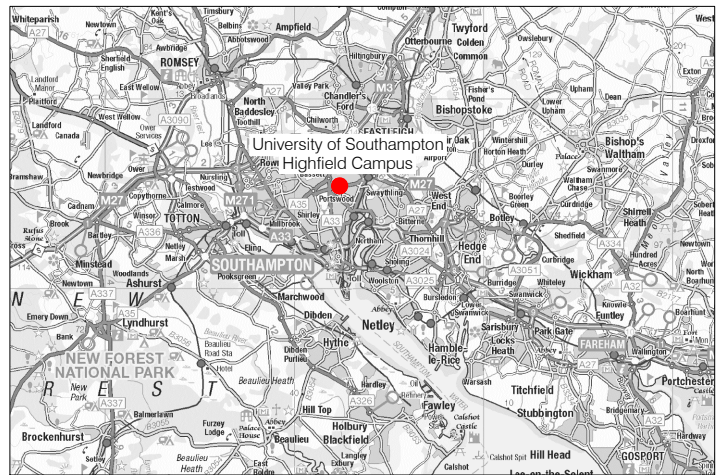
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Place of issue or publication	Winchester
Description	Evaluation Report, hardcopy A4 and electronic PDF, text and illustrations
Entered by	Paul McCulloch (pmcculloch@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	27 September 2016

OASIS:

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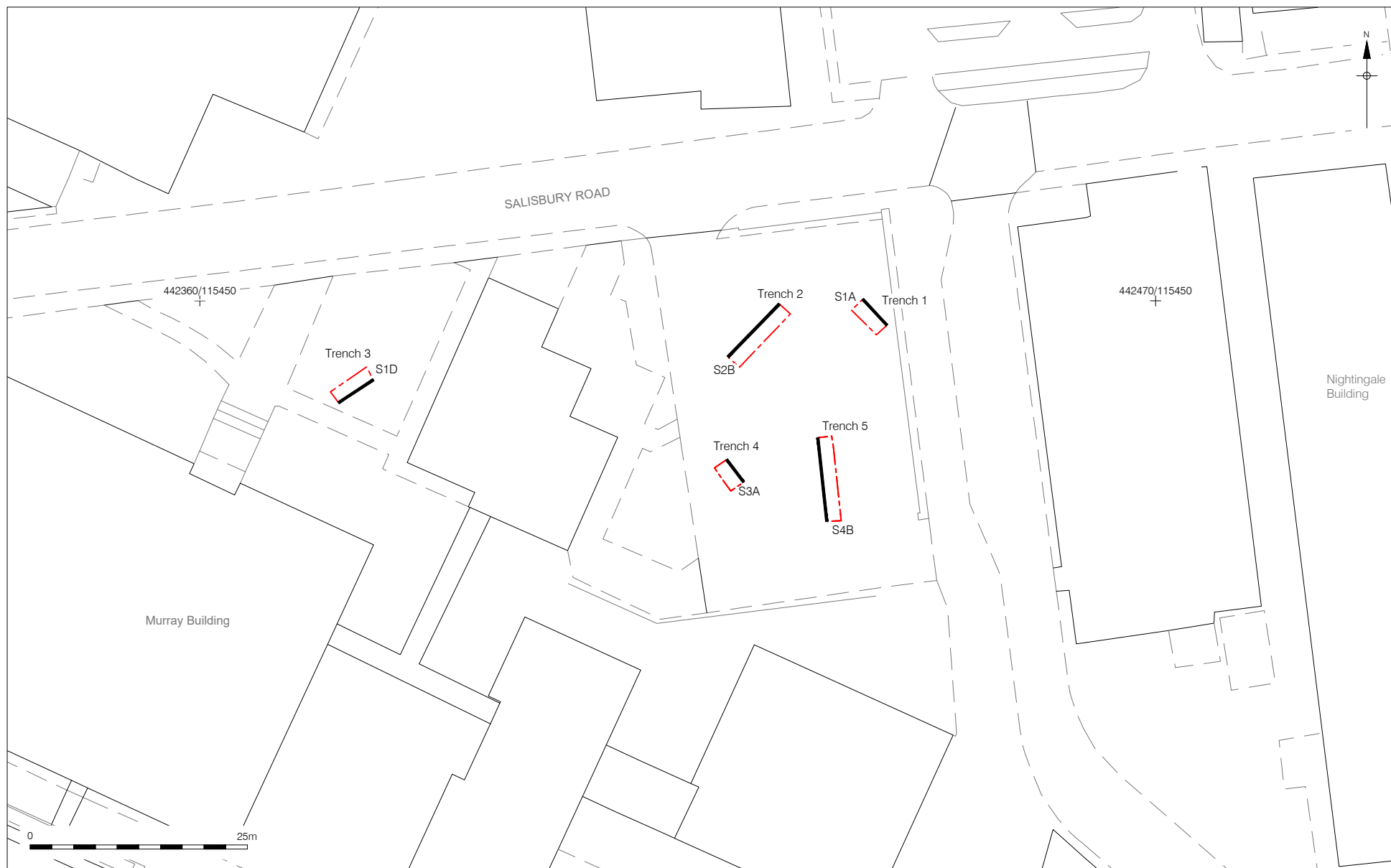


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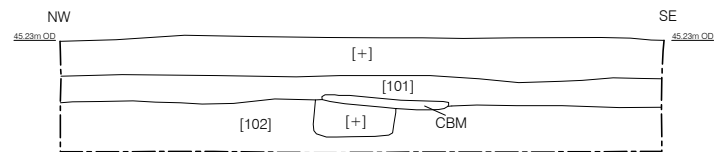
24/09/16 CF

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



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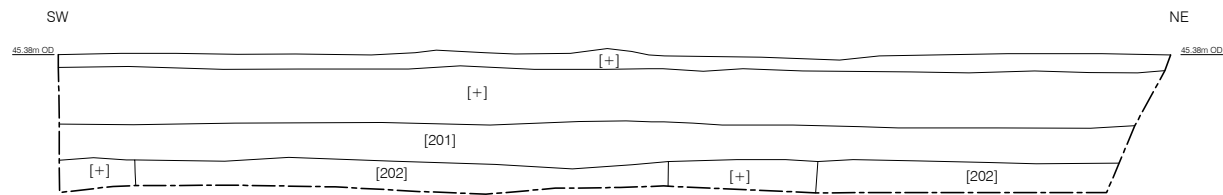
Figure 2
 Trench Location
 1:625 at A4



Section 1A
South West Facing
Trench 1



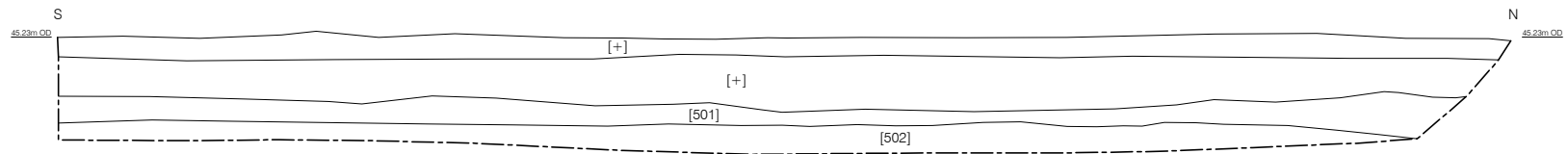
Section 1D
North West Facing
Trench 3



Section 2B
South East Facing
Trench 2



Section 3A
South West Facing
Trench 4



Section 4B
East Facing
Trench 5



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