

**6 BASSETT VILLAGE  
GREEN, BASSETT,  
SOUTHAMPTON.  
HAMPSHIRE**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
WATCHING BRIEF REPORT**

**REPORT NO: R12705**

**NOVEMBER 2016**



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY**

## **PROJECT SUMMARY**

**Site Location:** 6 Bassett Green Village, Bassett, Southampton. SO16 3LZ

**Investigation Type:** Watching Brief

**NGR** SU 4287 1632 (centred)

**PCA Site Code:** SOU 1731

**Fieldwork Dates:** 13 - 14/10/16

**Local Planning Authority:** Southampton City Council

**Planning Ref:** 16/00473/FUL/23343

**Commissioning Client:** Limewood-Builders on behalf of Mr. Sam Gee

**Archive Recipient:** Southampton Museums and Archive Service

**OASIS ID:** preconst1-267862

**PCA Report Ref:** R12705

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**November 2016**

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## DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

6 Bassett Green Village, Bassett, Southampton  
 Archaeological Watching Brief Report R12705  
 Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code			K4770
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R1	23/11/2016		
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## **Abstract**

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. (PCA) was commissioned by Limewood-Builders Ltd. on behalf of Mr Sam Gee (the Client) to undertake an archaeological watching brief at No. 6 Bassett Green Village, Bassett, Southampton. The watching brief was carried out on 13 – 14 October 2016 and observed the machine excavation of a trench measuring broadly 5.8m x 4.4m for the construction of an extension at the rear of the property.

The groundworks exposed three site layers within the trench: a topsoil, a subsoil and natural geological deposits. A modern service pipe associated with an earlier 1970s extension to the cottage was observed cutting the subsoil and natural; no archaeological features were observed. Two sherds of Early - Mid - 18<sup>th</sup> century Verwood pottery were retrieved from the topsoil.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Planning Background

1.1.1 Planning permission was granted by the Local Planning Authority (LPA) Southampton City Council for the erection of a single storey residential extension (Planning Ref: **16/00473/FUL/23343 & SCC HET reference 8042**) at 6 Bassett Village Green (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The site lies within Area 16 of the Local Areas of Archaeological Potential, as defined in Policy HE6 of the City of Southampton Local Plan and, in consequence, the Historic Environment Team (HET), Southampton City Council, archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), requested that an archaeological watching brief condition be applied to the groundworks for the re-development as a requirement of planning consent.

1.1.3 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA West) were appointed by Limewood-Builders Ltd. on behalf of Mr Sam Gee (the client) to undertake the watching brief.

1.1.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced and submitted by PCA prior to the commencement of the groundworks. The WSI did not include a Historic Environment Record (HER) search for the historical and archaeological background around the site, in order to expedite the commencement of groundworks which, due to an administrative oversight were scheduled to begin before submission and approval of a WSI. The HET approved the WSI on 12/10/2016 on the proviso that a full HER search be conducted upon completion of the watching brief and be included within the report on the results of the observations. The HET issued PCA with a unique site code (**SOU 1731**) to incorporate on all records associated with the watching brief. A copy of the WSI was issued to the client on site on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

1.1.5 The archaeological watching brief was carried out on 13 – 14 October 2016.

### 1.2 Site Location and Description

1.2.1 The site is located in the northernmost suburb of Southampton in Bassett Green Village which comprises a mixture of late 18<sup>th</sup> and late 20<sup>th</sup> century buildings clustered around a triangular land parcel or 'Green' (NGR SU 4288 1631). The site forms the southernmost of a row of three cottages (Nos 2, 4 & 6) with Grade II listed building status, near the eastern entrance to the road accessed from Bassett Green Road.

### 1.3 Topography and Geology

- 1.3.1 The site lies at a height of approximately 45m above OD (extrapolated from a spot height (44.5m) recorded on the road outside the property). The geology of the site is formed by bedrock London Clay; no superficial deposits are recorded on the site according to the BGS Geology of Britain Viewer 2016.

### 1.4 Historical and Archaeological Background

#### 1.4.1 General

- 1.4.1.1 A search of the HER was conducted by the HET within a 1Km radius of the site. A summary of the most archaeologically significant results of the search are incorporated into the text below. HER entries are highlighted in **bold**.

#### 1.4.2 Prehistoric (Pre-AD43)

- 1.4.2.1 Prehistoric activity within the vicinity of the site is represented by numerous flint tool finds from various locations within the 1Km search (**MSH366**; **MSH431**; **MSH1623**) three possible Bronze Age burnt mounds, one in Daisy Dip (**MSH272**), one in Parkville Road (**MSH1826**) and another in Fleming Road (**MSH2504**). Significant occupation evidence was found at Montefiore Halls of Residence in Wessex Lane where Neolithic/Bronze Age pits, scoops and a palaeochannel were excavated (**MSH1813** and **MSH2366**). Further possible activity is recorded at Carnation Road (**MSH2229**) and Violet Road (**MSH2234**) in the form of worked and burnt flint finds. A Bronze Age flint dagger was found in the grounds of the University of Southampton in Highfield in 1949 or before (**MSH274**).

- 1.4.2.2 Archaeological monitoring of Geo-technical investigations at Parkville Road (**MSH3142**) revealed alluvial and colluvial deposits which, radiocarbon dating indicates, were laid down over an extended period from the Early Mesolithic through to, possibly, the Romano-British period.

- 1.4.2.3 Beyond the scope of the HER search but within the environs of the site, is the site of a univallate Iron Age hillfort called 'Chilworth Ring', some 1.7Km to the northwest.

#### 1.4.3 Romano-British (AD43 – AD410)

- 1.4.3.1 The possible route of a Roman Road between Bitterne Manor and Winchester (**MSH470**) is thought to have entered the present day Southampton via North Stoneham and Swaythling. Two routes are conjectured, one via Portswood Road to St Denys (**MSH485**), ending at a hard on the shore of the River Itchen opposite Clausentum, which could be reached by fording the river, the other via South Stoneham, crossing the river at Woodmill and then south to Clausentum

- (**MSH453**). Two parallel ditches were interpreted as delineating the Roman Road at the Montefiore Halls of Residence investigations in 1992 (**MSH1814**).
- 1.4.3.2 The present-day Burgess Road was recorded as Burgess Street in Medieval records and was one of the few made roads outside the medieval town of Southampton. It may have originally been of Roman or pre-Roman origin (**MSH529**).
- 1.4.3.3 A large quantity of Roman pottery and brick and tile was recovered during the excavations at Montefiore Halls of Residence in Wessex Lane, along with a possible quarry pit and postholes (**MSH1814**). Roman building fragments, mainly limestone masonry but also brick and tile were recorded at South Stoneham Campus, Wessex Lane and may represent demolition from a nearby Roman building (**MSH2403**). A 'brickearth' layer recorded at Montefiore House to the immediate south of the Montefiore Halls of Residence was dated to the Late Iron Age/ Early Romano-British period from finds within it (**MSH2749**).
- 1.4.3.4 A hoard of c.200 Roman coins was found in a vessel by a workman in the late 1870s, believed to be during the widening of the South Western Railway in Swaythling, although there appears to be some confusion as to whether this is the correct location (**MSH259**). A silver coin of Trajan was found during building work at 68 High Road in Swaythling (**MSH367**) and four further coins were found at locations within South Stoneham (**MSH368**).
- 1.4.4 Anglo-Saxon/Medieval (AD410 – AD1500)**
- 1.4.4.1 Elements of a Late-Saxon settlement comprising a post-built timber building and associated pits were identified from excavations at the Montefiore Halls of Residence (**MSH1815**).
- 1.4.4.2 Southampton Common is first recorded in 1228 in reference to a dispute over land rights, though it may have been used as common land during the Anglo-Saxon period (**MSH2463**). Late Saxon Charters refer to gates on the Common, which implies that it was enclosed by hedges or fences (**MSH4362**).
- 1.4.4.3 An earthwork called the Cutted Thorn or Cutthorn, situated at the north end of Southampton Common, just southeast of the Avenue/Burgess Road junction which served as a meeting place for the Court Leet in the post-medieval period, may have been "Thunres Lea" or the "Gaetes Hiaewe" referred to in Late Saxon Charters although a Bronze Age date has also been postulated for its origin (**MSH203**). The Burlestone Cross, which previously stood on Burgess Road



marking the western bounds of Southampton is referenced in Medieval documents but may be of Anglo-Saxon origin (**MSH273**).

1.4.4.4 The name Bassett is believed to be derived from a 'Basset' family that lived in South Stoneham in the 15<sup>th</sup> century (Coates 1989).

1.4.4.5 Medieval features comprising buildings and ditched enclosures (12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century) were identified during the Montefiore Halls of Residence excavation (**MSH1815**).

1.4.4.6 A substantial ditch recorded during an evaluation at South Stoneham Campus, Wessex Lane, contained a significant quantity of Anglo-Norman (c.1100 - 1250) pottery and two sherds of high medieval (1250 - 1350) pottery and was interpreted as a possible settlement evidence within a pre-cursor of Wessex Lane (**MSH2403**). A layer of possible medieval date was recorded at 11 Fleming Road (**MSH2504**).

#### **1.4.5 Post-Medieval/Modern (AD1500 – Present-Day)**

1.4.5.1 The site once formed part of the John Fleming Estate and it is probable that the extant cottages are 'enclosure homes' erected in the Late 18<sup>th</sup> century. Builders secured these sites by the direct method of enclosing a piece of land and squatting on it. At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the 'Village' of Bassett became known as Bassett Green, but it was not incorporated into Southampton until the boundary reorganisation of 1920. Many of the cottages were vacated and demolished in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (Directorate of Planning and Development, Civic Centre, Southampton, 1987).

1.4.5.2 Bassett Green Village was designated as a Conservation Area in September 1977 and comprises a number of residential buildings grouped around the triangular shaped 'green'. Taylor's Map of 1759 does not show Bassett, however it does show the outlying settlements of North and South Stoneham, Swaythling and Chilworth. The earliest map reference to the 'Village' is Milne's Map of Southampton dated 1791, when it was known as "Bassetts Lane End". A later 1841 map, simply refers to the area as Bassett. The row of cottages to which the site is attached have undergone some alterations; most notably the original thatch roofing, which has been replaced with a ceramic tile roof, although these cottages are believed to pre-date the construction of the extant thatch-roof row of cottages (Nos 3, 5 & 7) on the opposing side of the Green (Mr Sam Gee *pers. comm.* 13 October 2016).

## **2. AIMS & OBJECTIVES**

2.1 The principal aim of the watching brief was to mitigate any damage to any surviving archaeological deposits by the development by recording the location,

nature, extent, date and state of preservation of any archaeological deposits or features and the nature, dimensions and relationships of any natural deposits exposed, during groundworks for the development.

### **3. METHODOLOGY**

3.1 The watching brief was carried out on 13 – 14 October 2016 and observed the machine excavation of a trench measuring broadly 5.8m x 4.4m for the construction of an extension at the rear of the property. The trench for the footings for the extension was excavated by a mini-excavator. Trench sections were hand-cleaned and scanned for artefacts. A representative section was drawn and digitally photographed, contexts sheets issued and described and the final extent of the trench measured in plan (**Figure 2**).

### **4. RESULTS**

4.1 A sequence of three layers was recorded during the observations on the groundworks for the extension. At ground level was a very dark grey sandy loam topsoil, **01**, broadly 0.7m thick across the site, though slightly raised to make a garden bed along the northern boundary of the garden, which contained small irregular shaped-stones and abundant rootlets, some small slate fragments and some charcoal inclusions. Two fragments of Late 18<sup>th</sup> century Verwood pottery fragments were recovered from the topsoil.

4.2 Beneath the topsoil was a pale yellowish brown loamy sand, **02**, which was broadly a uniform 0.3m in thickness and contained a few small irregular-shaped stones and some rootlet inclusions. No finds were recovered from it.

4.3 At the bottom of the trench, a brownish yellow silty clay, **03**, was recorded. The deposit was excavated to a depth of 0.3m within the trench and represents the natural geological bedrock deposits of the London Clay formation.

4.4 A modern soakaway pipe was recorded cutting through the trench layers on a NW-SE alignment, terminating in the SE corner of the trench, and was probably inserted as part of the groundworks for the previous extension to the cottage in the 1970s.

4.5 No further features, archaeological or otherwise, were observed during the groundwork investigations.

### **5. FINDS**

#### **5.1 Pottery** by Kevin Trott

5.1.1 Two small unabraded body sherds from two vessels (weighting 12g each) were recovered from the topsoil, **01**. The fabrics are from the common Verwood-type Whiteware, with well-sorted fine quartz inclusions. Both are pale greenish-yellow

and a darker green internal glazes are present on the two sherds. The thickness and curvature of both sherds with internal glazes suggests the sherds derive from chamber pots of early-mid 18<sup>th</sup> century date.

## 6. CONCLUSIONS

6.1 The watching brief demonstrated that, other than some slight Modern disturbance, there had been very little prior activity in the area of the site observed. Two early-mid 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery sherds, whilst not significant, allude to some activity on the site marginally pre-dating the formation of the buildings on the site.

## 7. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Southampton City Council, 2007, Standards for the Creation, Compilation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Mr. Sam Gee for funding the project.

Limewood-Builders for commissioning the project.

SCC HET for their collaborative role.

PCA Project Management: Paul McCulloch

PCA Fieldwork and Report: Tony Molloy

PCA CAD team for preparing the illustrations

## APPENDIX 1. PLATES



Plate 1. Initial machine stripping of topsoil, looking northeast.



Plate 2. Working shot showing Modern soakaway pipe.



Plate 3. General shot of trench excavated to finished depth, looking northeast. Scale: 1 x 0.5m.



Plate 4. Southwest-facing section of the trench, showing topsoil, **01**, subsoil, **02**, and bedrock London Clay, **03** in section and at the base of the trench. Scale: 1 x 0.5m.

## APPENDIX 2. CONTEXT INDEX

In the following table the abbreviations, where used, used mean the following: UE means 'unexcavated'; < means 'up to'; Context numbers are followed by a brief description and interpretation, their dimensions and their stratigraphic relationships.

Context	Category	Key Description	Munsell Colour	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	H/Depth/T hk (m)	Diameter (m)	After	Before	Finds
01	Layer	Very dark grey sandy loam	10YR 3/1	Topsoil	Site	Site	<0.9		02	Air	Pottery
02	Layer	Yellowish brown loamy sand	10YR 6/4	Subsoil	<17.5	<2	0.18		03	01	-
03	Layer	Brownish yellow silty clay	10YR 6/6	Natural London Clay Geology	<10	<2	0.4		UE	02	-

## APPENDIX 3. OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

# 1 OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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### Printable version

#### 1.1.1 OASIS ID: preconst1-267862

##### Project details

Project name	6 Bassett Green Village, Bassett, Southampton
Short description of the project	<p>Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. (PCA) was commissioned by Limewood-Builders Ltd. on behalf of Mr Sam Gee (the Client) to undertake an archaeological watching brief at No. 6 Bassett Green Village, Bassett, Southampton. The watching brief was carried out on 13– 14 October 2016 and observed the machine excavation of a trench measuring broadly 5.8m x 4.4m for the construction of an extension at the rear of the property.</p> <p>The groundworks exposed three site layers within the trench: a topsoil, a subsoil and natural geological deposits. A modern service pipe associated with an earlier 1970s extension to the cottage was observed cutting the subsoil and natural; no archaeological features were observed. Two sherds of Early-Mid 18<sup>th</sup> century Verwood pottery were retrieved from the topsoil.</p>
Project dates	Start: 13-10-2016 End: 14-10-2016
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	SOU 1731 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	COTTAGE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	VERWOOD WHITEWARE Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Conservation Area Consent

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	HAMPSHIRE SOUTHAMPTON 6 Bassett Village Green, Southampton
Postcode	SO16 3LZ
Study area	20 Square metres
Site coordinates	SU 42871632 50.944732 -1.391164
Height OD / Depth	Min: 44.8m Max: 46m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	PCA West
Project brief originator	PCA
Project design originator	Tony Molloy
Project director/manager	Tony Molloy
Project supervisor	Tony Molloy
Type of sponsor/funding body	Private Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mr Sam Gee

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Southampton Museums and Archive Service
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Southampton Museums and Archive Service
Digital Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Media available	"GIS","Images raster / digital photography","Text"



Paper Archive recipient Southampton Museums and Archives Service

Paper Contents "Ceramics"

Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Diary", "Map", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

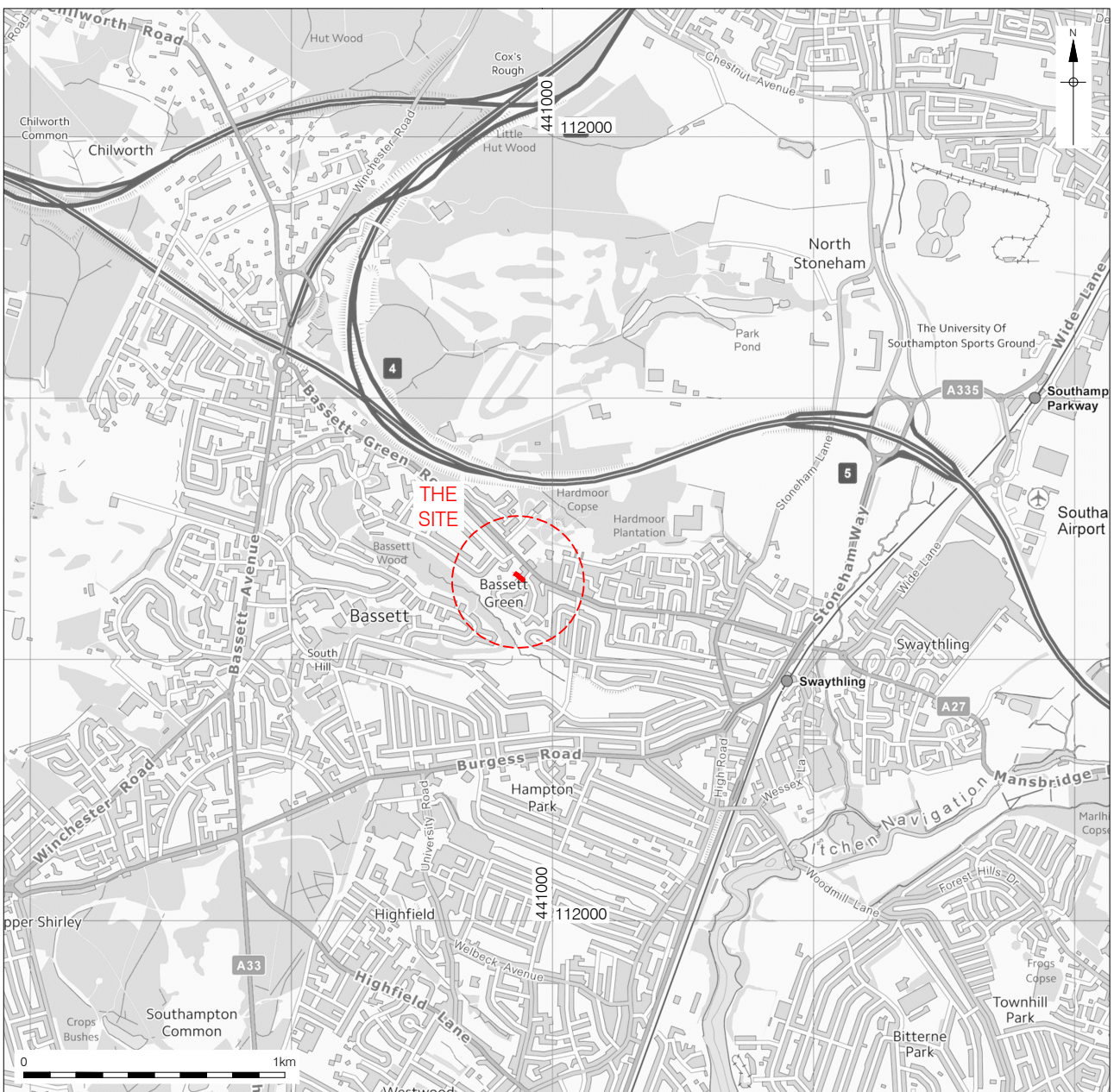
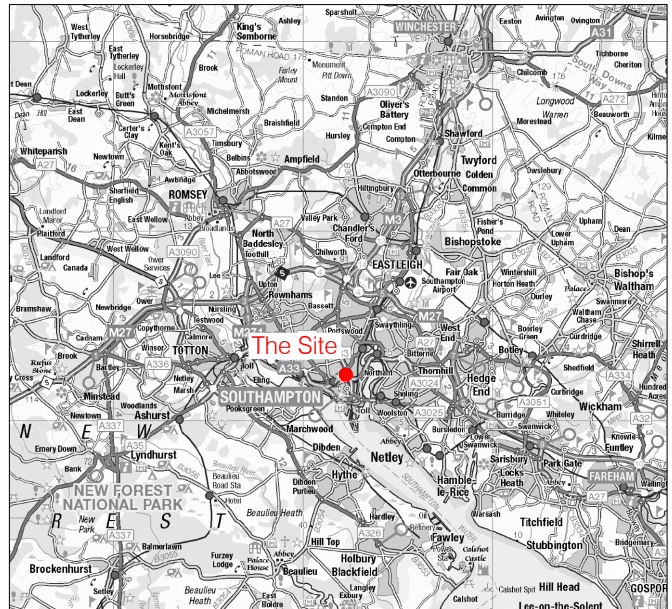
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Entered by Tony Molloy (TMolloy@pre-construct.com)

Entered on 7 November 2016

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## APPENDIX 4. ILLUSTRATIONS



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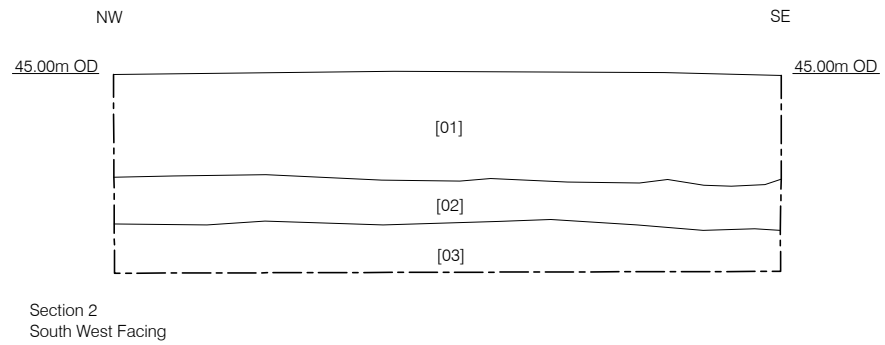
28/10/16 CF

Figure 1  
Site Location  
1:2,000,000, 400,000 & 1:25,000 at A4



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Figure 2  
 Trench Location  
 1:500 at A4



# PCA

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