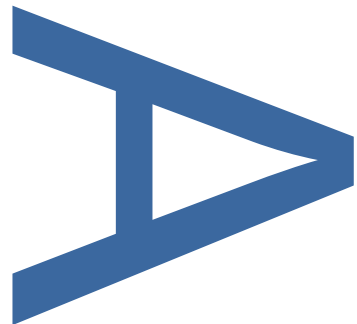
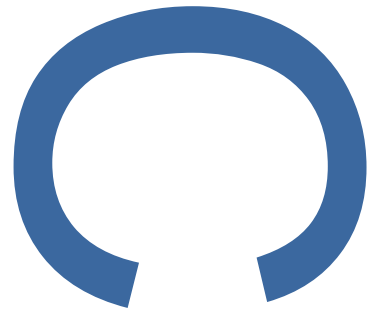


**45-47 ROMSEY ROAD,
WINCHESTER, HAMPSHIRE
SO22 5DE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING
BRIEF REPORT**

PCA REPORT NO: 13365

SITE CODE: AY655



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

**45-47 ROMSEY ROAD, WINCHESTER, HAMPSHIRE, SO22 5DE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT**

Issue 1: Issued For Approval
Local Planning Authority: Winchester City Council
Planning Ref: 17/00612/FUL
NGR: SU 47309 29428
Site Code: WINCM: AY655

Commissioning agent: Guy Logan Architects

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August 2018

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DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

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Document type: Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Report R13364

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code		K5325
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Project Manager:	P McCulloch	16/08/2018

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Plate 1: Service trench, inside 45 Romsey Road. Scale: 0.5m.

Plate 2: Stairwell pad foundation pit, view to east. Scale: 0.5m.

1 ABSTRACT

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd was appointed by Guy Logan Architects, to carry out an archaeological watching brief, at 45-47 Romsey Road, Winchester, Hampshire. The Site is the subject of a proposed change of use and development to form accommodation for 23 students.

The watching brief was conducted on the 11th, 12th & 13th June and 8th August 2018. Visits coincided with internal service trench excavations within 45 Romsey Road and with excavations for pad foundations for a new external stairway on the rear of 47 Romsey Road. It is understood that no other below-ground excavations were required

No archaeological deposits, features or finds were revealed in the limited excavations that were monitored. Both the internal service trenching and stairwell pad foundation pits suggest the Site lies partially on disturbed ground or *in situ* bedrock chalk, suggesting that existing below-ground impacts may have removed or severely impacted any potential archaeological remains. However, the below ground excavations that were monitored were limited in extent and close to or within the existing buildings and may not represent the Site's wider archaeological potential to the south.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Project Background

2.1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) was appointed by Guy Logan Architects, to carry out an archaeological watching brief, at 45-47 Romsey Road, Winchester, Hampshire, hereafter 'the Site' (**Figure 1**). The Site is the subject of a proposed change of use and development to form accommodation for 23 students.

2.1.2 The archaeological watching brief and subsequent reporting were required as conditions 13 and 14 of planning permission for the development of the site granted by the Local Planning Authority Winchester City Council (planning ref. 17/00612/FUL). The conditions were based on the advice of the Council's Historic Environment Team Archaeologist (HETA) and reflect the potential of the Site to contain archaeological resources that may be put at risk by the development.

2.1.3 Planning condition 13 states: '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. The Written Scheme of Investigation shall include:

- An assessment of significance and research questions
- The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording
- Provision for post investigation assessment, reporting and dissemination
- Provision to be made for deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation (archive)

2.1.4 Planning condition 14 states: 'Following completion of all archaeological fieldwork a report shall be produced in accordance with an approved programme including where appropriate post-excavation assessment, specialist analysis and reports and publication'. This document provides an outline for post-excavation assessment reporting, which would include proposals for subsequent specialist analysis reports and an appropriate level of publication.

2.1.5 This document addresses conditions 13 and 14 of planning permission and has been prepared in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief (ClfA 2014) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (English Heritage, 2006). PCA is a ClfA Registered Archaeological Organisation and is bound by its code of conduct.

2.2 Location, Topography and Geology

2.2.1 The proposed site is located to the south of Romsey Road, opposite HMP Winchester and West Hill.

2.2.2 The site is relatively level, located at approximately 91m aOD and lies at an elevated level in the local landscape, on the higher ground of the western side of the River Itchen valley and above the historic core of Winchester.

2.2.3 The Site's underlying geology is mapped as Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation (LECH). Although no superficial geology is mapped as being present on site, it is likely that the bedrock is overlain by clay and flint.

2.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

2.3.1 The site lies to the west of the historic core of Winchester, approximately 500m to the west of the line of the City walls. The site is adjacent to Romsey Road, a Roman road that would have led to Old Sarum. The wider area around the site has recorded several late Roman burials, associated to the western Roman suburban cemetery; this has included a burial from within the site itself. The LPA's HETA summarised the historical and archaeological background to the Site as follows:

- *The application site lies within an area of burials forming part of a late 4th – early 5th century cemetery area within the western Roman suburb, located to the south of the Roman road to Old Sarum (represented by the modern Romsey Road).*
- *The cemetery was first identified during the construction of residential accommodation for the Royal Hampshire County Hospital in 1980-81; however several burials were also identified on the site in 1852 and in 1949.*
- *During the 1980-81 archaeological work, 24 burials were recorded, two with grave goods, however construction personnel indicated at the end of the project that many more graves had been seen but were unreported. From this verbal information it seems that the density of burials decreased towards the south of the site. Based on the information received and the best recorded areas, it is estimated that the cemetery may have contained between 400-600 burials.*
- *As many of the recorded burials (and presumably the unreported burials) were located within narrow foundation or service trenches, it is possible that burials may survive in open areas within the cemetery area and potentially beneath the existing buildings constructed in 1980-1 (depending on the extent of groundworks within the building footprints).*
- *Several of the burials were located during groundworks in service areas / the access lane to the rear of properties (including No. 47) fronting onto Romsey Road. One burial was recorded within the current application site.'*

3 AIM

3.1 Archaeological Watching Brief

- 3.1.1 The aim of the archaeological watching brief was to monitor all ground works for the presence of archaeological remains and, if present and where necessary, i.e. where the impact of the groundwork will impact those remains, to investigate and record the remains and determine, as may be possible, their character, including their date, nature and extent.
- 3.1.2 This report on the results of the watching brief aims to be sufficient to demonstrate to the LPA that the watching brief was carried out in accordance with this document and pursuant to the relevant planning requirements.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The following sections summarise of the result of the watching brief and are based on the Site archive, which consists of written and photographic records. The Site archive is held by PCA's Winchester office under the WINCM site code **AY655**.

4.2 The Watching Brief

4.2.1 The watching brief was conducted on the 11th, 12th & 13th June and 8th August 2018. Visits coincided with internal service trench excavations within 45 Romsey Road and with excavations for pad foundations for a new external stairway on the rear of 47 Romsey Road (**Figure 2**). It is understood that no other below-ground excavations were required.

4.2.2 Trench excavations within 45 Romsey Road were limited in extent but revealed redeposited chalk rubble at a maximum depth of 0.5m below the existing slab. In places the chalk rubble was sealed by heavily rooted soil, beneath modern make-up and the slab (**Figure 2 & Plate 1**).



Plate 1: Service trench, inside 45 Romsey Road. Scale: 0.5m.

- 4.2.3 At the rear of 47 Romsey Road the external stairway pad foundation pits measured approximately 1m by 0.5m and 0.5m deep. Two of these were observed and revealed bedrock chalk beneath modern make up and the existing surface concrete slab (**Figure 2 & Plate 2**).



Plate 2: Stairwell pad foundation pit, view to east. Scale: 0.5m.

4.3 Conclusion

4.3.1 No archaeological deposits, features or finds were revealed in the limited excavations that were monitored. Both the internal service trenching and stairwell pad foundation pits suggest the Site lies partially on disturbed ground or *in situ* bedrock chalk, suggesting that existing below-ground impacts may have removed or severely impacted any potential archaeological remains. However, the below ground excavations that were monitored were limited in extent and close to or within the existing buildings and may not represent the Site's wider archaeological potential to the south.

5 Acknowledgements

PCA is grateful to Guy Logan Architects for commissioning the watching brief, Ikon Group Contractors for access to the Site, and to Tracy Matthews, Historic Environment Team Archaeologist, Winchester City Council, for her advice.

The watching brief was carried out by Ryan Wolfe. This report was prepared by Paul McCulloch and the report figures by Hayley Baxter.

APPENDIX 1: OASIS REPORT

OASIS ID: preconst1-326066

Project details

Project name 45-47 Romsey Road Winchester Hampshire

Short description of the project A watching brief on limited internal and external groundwork during refurbishment revealed the site to have been disturbed and lying directly on bedrock chalk. No archaeological remains were found.

Project dates Start: 11-06-2018 End: 08-08-2018

Previous/future work Yes / Not known

Any associated project reference codes AY655 - Sitecode

Type of project Recording project

Site status None

Monument type NONE None

Significant Finds NONE None

Investigation type "Watching Brief"

PromptNational Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country England

Site location HAMPSHIRE WINCHESTER WINCHESTER 45-47 Romsey Road

Postcode SO225DE

Study area 500 Square metres

Site coordinates SU 47309 29428 51.061703537168 -1.324826772785 51 03 42 N 001
19 29 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 90m Max: 91m

Project creators

Name of Organisation PCA Winchester

Project brief originator Tracy Matthews

Project design originator Thomas Hayes
Project director/manager Paul McCulloch
Project supervisor Ryan Wolfe
Type of sponsor/funding body Commercial Developer

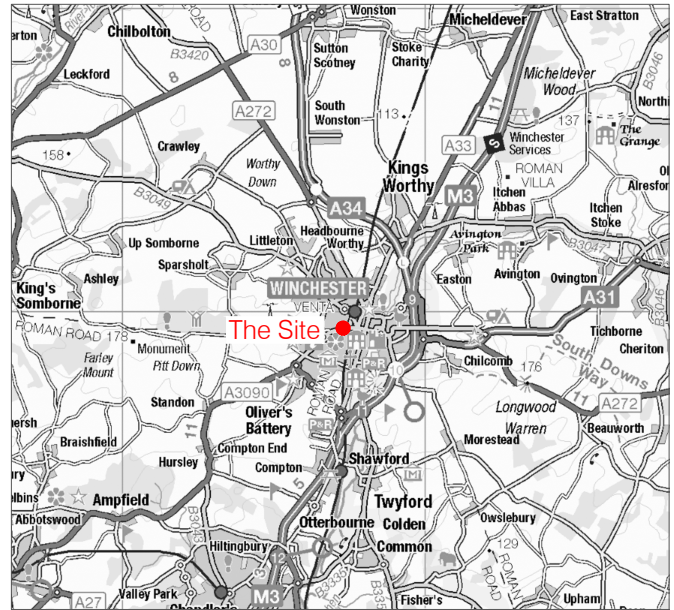
Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
Digital Archive recipient Hampshire Cultural Trust
Digital Contents "none"
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient Hampshire Cultural Trust
Paper Contents "none"
Paper Media available "Report","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

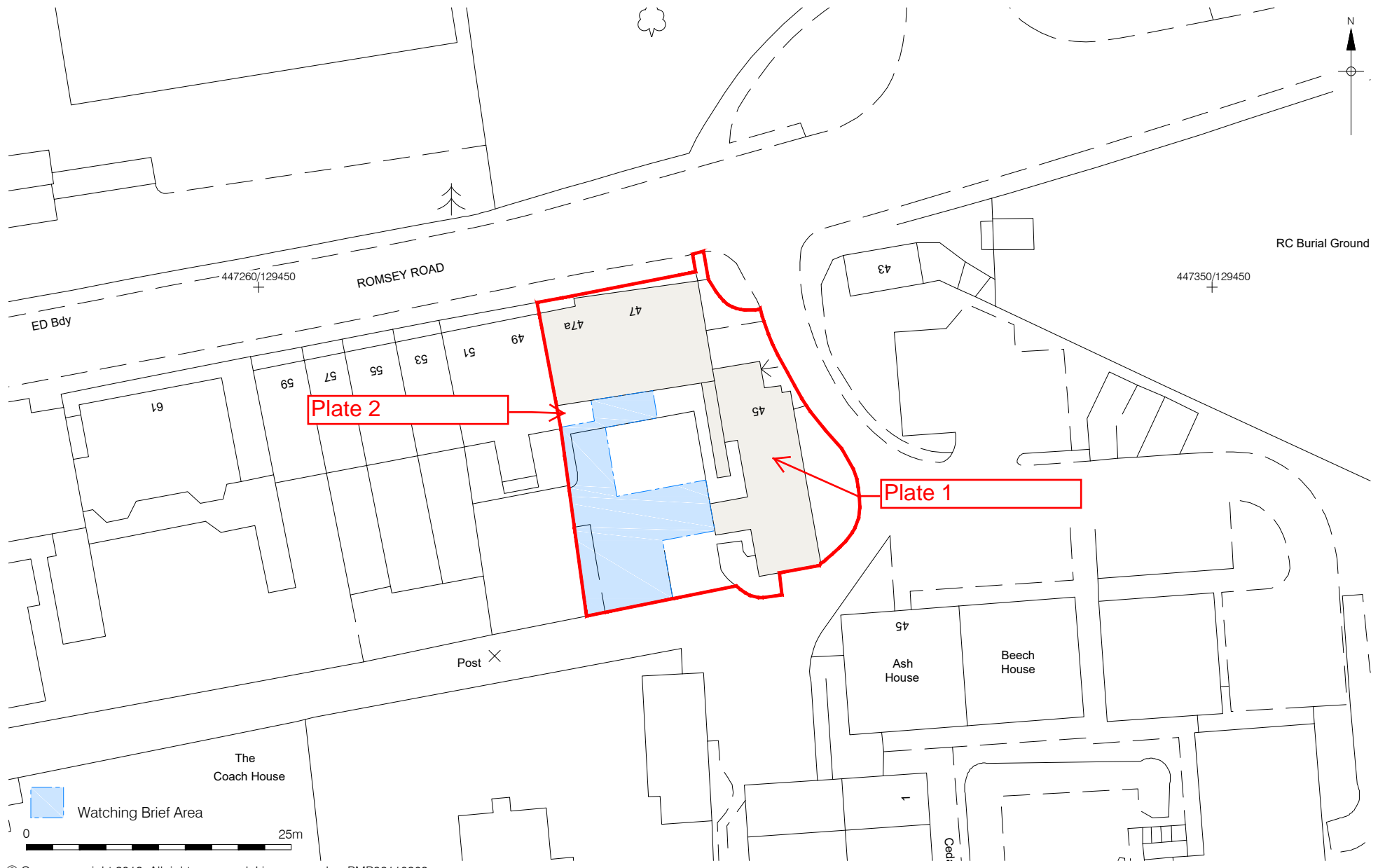
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Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:2,000,000 & 1:250,000 & 1:25,000 at A4



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Figure 2
 Detailed Site Location and Area of Watching Brief
 1:500 at A4

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