

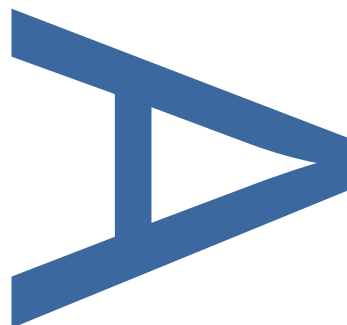
**63 TOWER STREET, WINCHESTER,  
HAMPSHIRE SO23 8TA**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EVALUATION REPORT**

**PCA REPORT NO: R13630**

**SITE CODE: AY684**

**MARCH 2019**



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY**

**63 TOWER STREET, WINCHESTER, HAMPSHIRE, SO23 8TA**  
**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT**

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**Issue 1:** Issued for Approval

**Local Planning Authority:** Winchester City Council

**Planning Reference:** 18/02816/HOU

**Site Code:** AY684

**Central NGR:** 447894 129825

**Commissioning Client:** Dan Rivers

**Project Manager:** Paul McCulloch BA MCIfA, PCA Winchester

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**March 2019**

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## DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

**Site Name: 63 Tower Street, Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 8TA**

**Type of project: Archaeological Evaluation**

**Report: R13630**

### Quality Control

<b>Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code</b>		<b>K6062</b>
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Project Manager:	P McCulloch	26/03/2019

<b>Revision No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Checked</b>	<b>Approved</b>

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**Figure 1: Site Location**

**Figure 2: Detailed Site Location**

**Figure 3: Test Pit: Plan and Section**

## **1 ABSTRACT**

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd was appointed by Dan Rivers, client and householder, to carry out an archaeological evaluation at 63 Tower Street, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8TA, NGR 447894 129825. The Site is the subject of a proposed rear extension to form a cantilevered terrace and car port.

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken following the methodology detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation, which was approved by the HETA at Winchester City Council. The evaluation comprised the excavation of one 4m by 1.2m test pit, to a total depth of 0.45m. The test pit was positioned to correspond to the foundation and footprint for the proposed cantilevered terrace.

The evaluation has confirmed the potential for the Site to contain evidence of the Roman defensive rampart. The evaluation would appear to demonstrate that the development of Portland house and adjacent properties in the 19th century may have required some levelling of the line of the rampart although not its total removal.

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

### **2.1 Project Background**

- 2.1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) was appointed by Dan Rivers, client and householder, to carry out an archaeological evaluation at 63 Tower Street, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8TA, hereafter 'the Site', NGR 447894 129825 (**Figure 1**). The Site is the subject of a proposed rear extension to form a cantilevered terrace and car port.
- 2.1.2 The archaeological evaluation was a requirement of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Winchester City Council (planning reference 18/02816/HOU) and designed in discussion with the LPA's Historic Environment Team Archaeologist (HETA). The requirement reflected the potential of the Site to contain archaeological remains that may be affected by the proposed development.
- 2.1.3 This document provides a report on the results of the evaluation, carried out between the on the 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> of March 2019, and has been prepared in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists standard and guidance for archaeological 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 (**Figure 2**) lies in the north-eastern corner of the historic core of Winchester, and on the line of a section of the City's defences that ran between Tower Street and Sussex Street. The Site comprises Portland House, part of a short terrace on the north side of Tower Street, the gardens of which originally extended across the line of the City defences that, by the time the terrace was built, had been levelled. To the west lie properties fronting Sussex Street, to the north Kingsdale Court, a residential block, and to the south, Tower Road and the offices of Hampshire County Council.
- 2.2.2 Tower Street, at 56m above OD, occupies a relatively elevated location within the historic walled City and lies close to the north-west corner of the City's historic defences that was marked by the so-called Hermits Tower. The land falls to the east overlooking the City toward the River Itchen valley, and rises gently to the west toward Oram's Arbour and the fringes of the historic City.
- 2.2.3 The bedrock geology of the Site is mapped as Seaford Chalk Formation, with superficial deposits likely to include gravel and alluvial deposits. The depth at which natural deposits occur beneath the Site is not known.

## **2.3 Archaeological and Historical Background**

- 2.3.1 The Site lies within the historic core of Winchester and close to numerous archaeological discoveries, sites, findspots and monuments. Evidence for the Iron Age, Roman, Saxon and medieval origins and development of the City has been recorded on Sussex Street and to the south and east of the Site on Tower Street and Staple Gardens (Ottaway, 2017). The Site's principal archaeological interest lies in its location over the line of the Winchester's Roman and medieval defences. Laid out in the first century AD, Roman Winchester was provided with a circuit of defences, with gates, initially comprising an earthen rampart added to, possibly in the third century AD, by a stone wall. In front of the wall and rampart was a wide ditch. Re-fortification of the defences in the late Saxon period (10th-11th centuries AD) retained the line of the Roman defences and also saw the establishment of an intra-mural lane, which survives today as Tower Street. The defences were the subject of sporadic and often disputed repair and investment in subsequent centuries. Much of the circuit became dilapidated by the post-medieval period and large sections of the walls were cleared and the ramparts flattened in the late 18th and 19th centuries. Where the City wall also served to protect significant property in the town, its survival was maintained, such as along the River Itchen where the wall contained the site of Wolvesey Castle. In contrast, the north western section of the defences, close to the Site, were substantially destroyed.
- 2.3.2 Portland House and the adjacent contemporary terrace appear to have been built in 1833 and occupy plots that span the line of the City wall, suggesting that it and the rampart had been substantially cleared and levelled before their construction. However, it is unclear to what depth the defences were levelled and it is possible that some evidence of the Wall and very probably evidence of the rampart will have survived beneath the rear sections, or gardens, of the plots.
- 2.3.3 Previous archaeological investigations have been undertaken in the vicinity of the Site and more widely on the line of the City's Roman and medieval defences. These have confirmed the general sequence and characteristics of the development of the defences, including those of the Roman rampart, which appears to have been built in two distinct stages, the earlier characterised by reddish-brown clay and the later, higher, wider and laid directly over the earlier, characterised by bands of yellow/orange clay and chalk rubble.

- 2.3.4 In a watching brief carried out in 1983 during the development of Tower House and the related excavation of a drainage trench on the line of the Tower House access road immediately east of the Site, a 1.49m thick sequence of deposits was recorded that was interpreted as constituting the Roman rampart (Winchester City Council HER Event Deposit Report Event ID: EWC11252 UAD Deposit Column: Tower Mound 1983 'TM83'). The sequence was recorded in detail in a c. 8m long section of the drainage trench running east to west across the known line of the City defences and as such maybe relied upon as a record of the rampart. The rampart survived below 'made ground' to a height of 55.37m above OD (aOD) and its base was recorded at 53.88m aOD. It lay directly on drift geology 0.33m thick, which lay on top of natural bedrock chalk at 53.55m aOD.
- 2.3.5 The 'TM83' watching brief recorded a section of rampart that in all probability lay west of, i.e. outside of, the line of the City Wall, which, it may be concluded, ran between this observation and the rear of Portland House.

### **3 AIM**

#### **3.1 Archaeological Evaluation**

- 3.1.1 The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to determine the character, extent, date, condition and significance of archaeological resources within the Site, taking account of their potential to contain biological and palaeo-environmental remains. In particular the evaluation aimed to establish the potential of the Site to contain evidence of the City's defences, having regard to the phases of the development of the defences, in particular of the rampart and Wall.
- 3.1.2 This report on the results of the evaluation is aimed at providing sufficient information so that the future treatment of any archaeological resources beneath the Site, in respect of the proposed development, may be determined.

### **4 RESULTS**

#### **4.1 Introduction**

- 4.1.1 The following presents a summary of the evaluation results based upon the Site archive, which comprises written, drawn, survey and digital photographic records and indexes. Photographs of the Site appear in Appendix 1. The archive is held at PCA's Winchester office under the site code **AY684** and will in due course be deposited with the Hampshire Cultural Trust.

#### **4.2 Methodology**

- 4.2.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken following the methodology detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (PCA 2019), which was approved by the HETA at Winchester City Council.



4.2.2 The evaluation comprised the excavation of one 4m by 1.2m test pit, to a total depth of 0.45m. The test pit was positioned to correspond to the foundation and footprint for the proposed cantilevered terrace (**Figure 2**).

#### **4.3 Results**

4.3.1 The Test Pit was hand excavated by PCA to a total depth of 0.45m following the removal of 200mm of modern reinforced concrete and gravel hardcore by the client's builder. No natural deposits were encountered.

4.3.2 The test pit revealed archaeological deposits immediately beneath the modern surfacing, which were hand excavated stratigraphically to a depth of 0.45m below existing ground level. Following excavation, the archaeological deposits were recorded in plan and section.

4.3.3 The following deposition sequence was observed and recorded (described in order of deposition) (**Figure 3** and **Plates 1 & 2**):

- [+]
- Layers [001] Firm mid-yellow & brown clay & chalk & [007] compacted light orange & brown silty clay
- Layer [002] Compact white chalk rubble
- Layer [004] Loose dark brown & grey silty clay & chalk
- Layer [003] Firm mid-yellow brown silty clay & chalk
- Layer [005] Firm dark yellow-brown silty clay & chalk
- Layer [006] Compact white silty chalk rubble including flint

4.3.4 The character and arrangement of the deposits, which were observed to slope from the west down to the east, were typical of the Roman rampart. No finds of any sort were recovered from the deposits.

#### **4.4 Discussion**

4.4.1 The evaluation has confirmed the potential for the Site to contain evidence of the Roman defensive rampart. The top of the rampart was found, as surviving, at 54.99m aOD immediately beneath the Site's existing ground surface (55.19m aOD). Immediately east of the Site, the base of the rampart was recorded in 1983 at 53.88, aOD, suggesting that within the Site the rampart deposits are likely to be 1.11m thick and likely to lie on 0.33m of drift geology and bedrock chalk at 53.55m aOD (1.64m below existing ground level).

4.4.2 The evaluation would appear to demonstrate that the development of Portland house and adjacent properties in the 19<sup>th</sup> century may have required some levelling of the line of the rampart although not its total removal.

## **5 ARCHIVE PRERARATION AND 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 with the Hampshire Cultural Trust.

### **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. Hampshire Cultural Trust, 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 Winchester HER).
- 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 Ltd. Is grateful to Dan Rivers for commissioning the archaeological evaluation and to Tracy Matthews, Winchester City Council Historic Environment Team Archaeologist, for her advice.

The evaluation was undertaken by James Bannister and Oliver Farmer. This report was prepared by Paul McCulloch and the report illustration prepared by Mark Roughley.

## **7 REFERENCES**

Ottaway, P 2017, '*Winchester St Swithun's 'City of Happiness and Good Fortune', An Archaeological Assessment*', Oxford: Oxbow Books

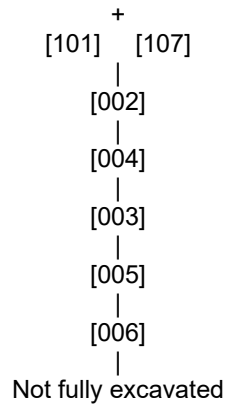
PCA, 2019, '*63 Tower Street, Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 8TA: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation*'.

## APPENDIX1: CONTEXT INDEX

Site code AY684 Index :

Context No.	Plan	Section / Elevation	Type	Description
001	2	1	Layer	Firm Mid yellowish-brown Chalk/clay
002	2	1	Layer	Compact White chalk
003	2	1	Layer	Firm mid yellowish-brown silty clay/chalk
004	2	1	Layer	Loose dark brownish grey silty clay/chalk
005	2	1	Layer	Firm dark yellowish-brown silty clay/chalk
006	2	1	Layer	Compact white silty chalk incl. flint
007	2	1	Layer	Compact light orange brown silty clay

Context Matrix :



## APPENDIX 2: SITE PHOTOGRAPHS



*Plate 1: View of site, rear of Portland House, Tower Street. View to south-east.*



*Plate 2: Plan view of test pit and rampart deposits. View to south. 0.5m scale.*





*Plate 3: West facing section, northern part, showing rampart deposits. 1m scale.*



*Plate 4: West facing section, southern part, showing rampart deposits. 1m scale.*



## APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-347116

### Project details

Project name 63 Tower Street Winchester Hampshire

Short description of the project An evaluation at the rear of the existing house investigated a test pit 4m X 1.2m. Immediately beneath 200mm of modern surfacing was a sequence of archaeological deposits that were hand excavated to a depth of 0.45m. The deposits comprised bands of chalk and clay interpreted as components of the defensive rampart in the north-west corner of the Roman town. It was concluded that the site lies on rampart material that probably survives 1.11m thick. The evaluation was required by Winchester City Council's archaeological advisor in order to inform a decision concerning a proposed extension on the rear of the existing property.

Project dates Start: 18-03-2019 End: 19-03-2019

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes AY684 – Site code

Any associated project reference codes 18/02816/HOU - Planning Application No.

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Other 15 - Other

Monument type RAMPART Roman

Significant Finds NONE None

Methods & techniques "Test Pits"

Development type Small-scale extensions (e.g. garages, porches, etc.)

Prompt National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Position in the planning process Between deposition of an application and determination

### Project location

Country England

Site location HAMPSHIRE WINCHESTER WINCHESTER 63 Tower Street

Postcode SO23 8TA

Study area 4.8 Square metres

Site coordinates SU 447894 129825 50.914015690907 -1.362811007187 50 54 50 N 001 21 46 W

Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 53.55m Max: 53.55m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation PCA Winchester

Project brief originator Tracy Matthews

Project design originator Paul McCulloch

Project director/manager Paul McCulloch  
Project supervisor James Bannister  
Type of sponsor/funding body Householder  
Name of sponsor/funding body Dan Rivers

Project archives

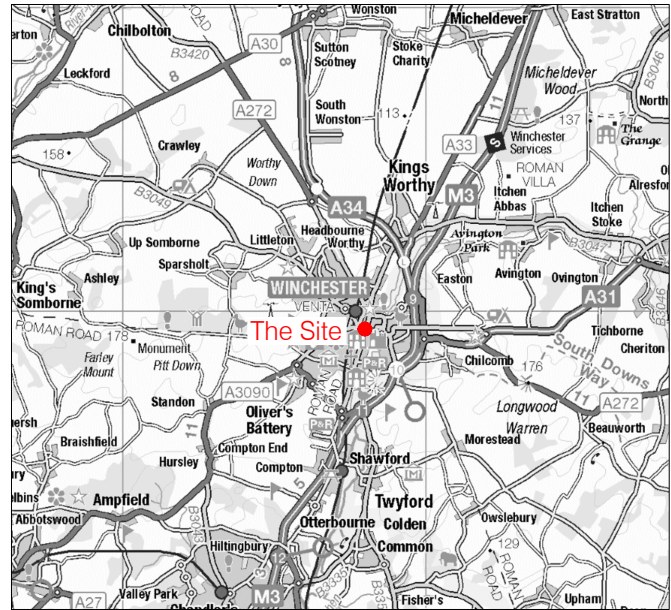
Physical Archive Exists? No  
Digital Archive recipient Hampshire Cultural Trust  
Digital Archive ID AY684  
Digital Contents "none"  
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Survey", "Text"  
Paper Archive recipient Hampshire Cultural Trust  
Paper Archive ID AY684  
Paper Contents "none"  
Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey "

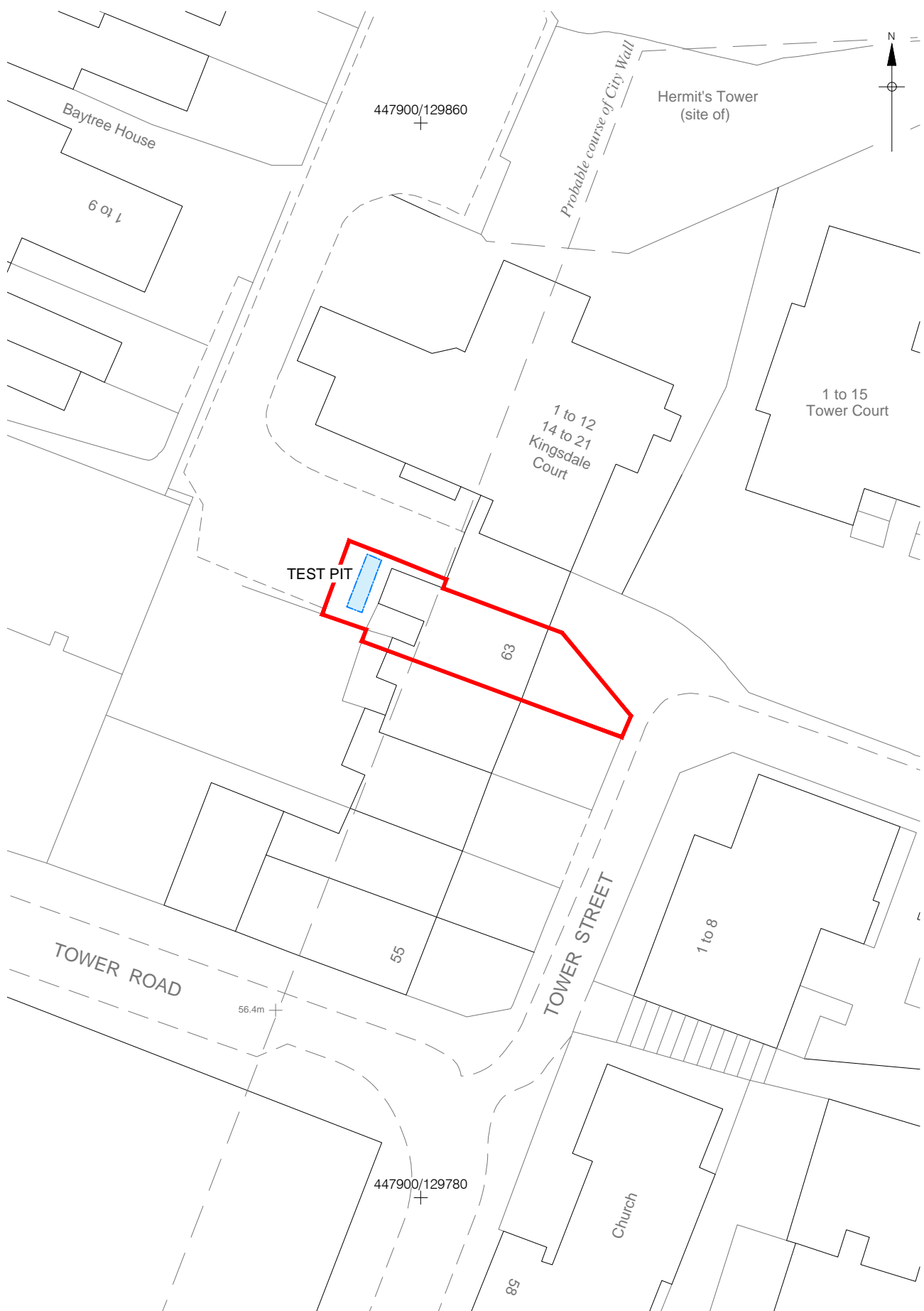
Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title 63 Tower Street Winchester: an archaeological evaluation report  
Author(s)/Editor(s) McCulloch, P  
Other bibliographic details R13630  
Date 2019  
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Place of issue or publication Winchester  
Description A4 book, text, graphics and covers.

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Entered on 27 March 2019





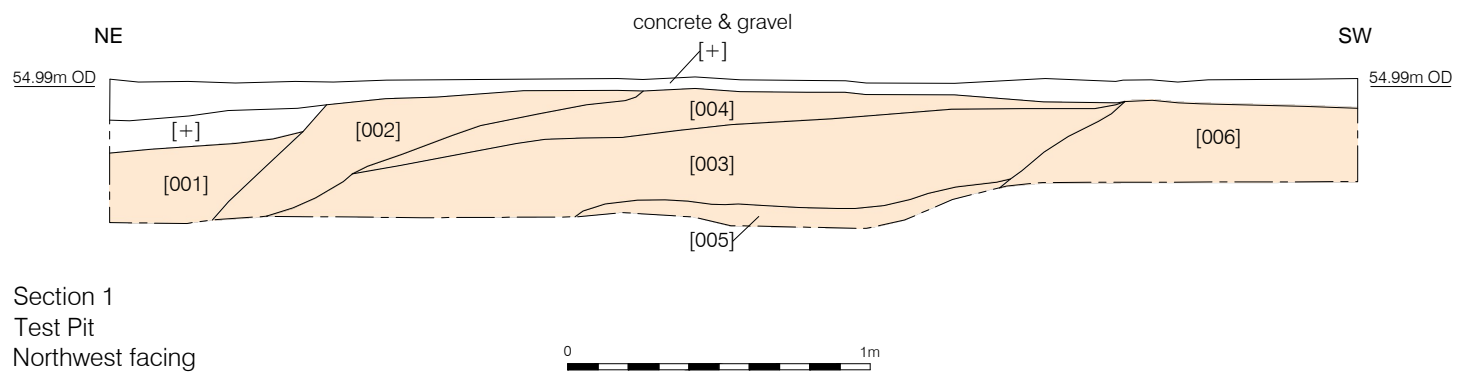
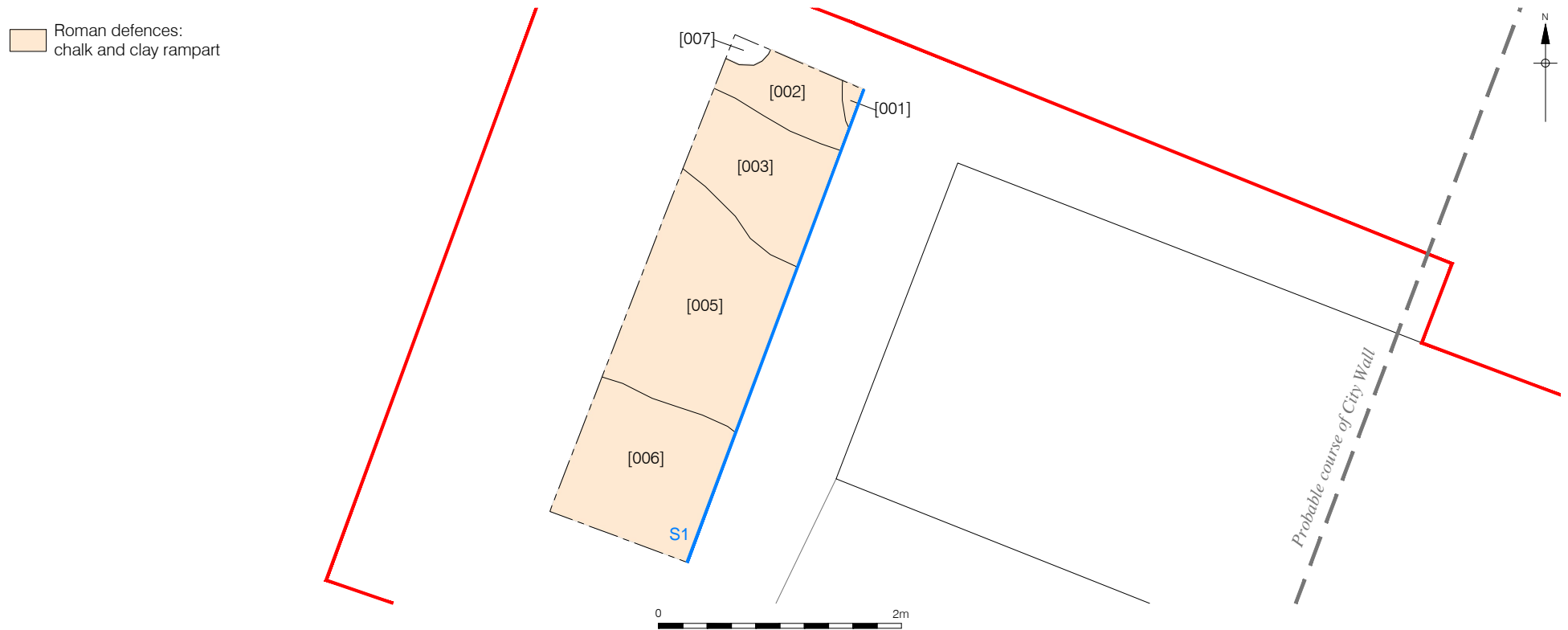
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26/03/19 MR

Figure 2  
Detailed Site Location  
1:400 at A4



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