

**536 PORTSWOOD ROAD,  
SOUTHAMPTON**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION  
REPORT**

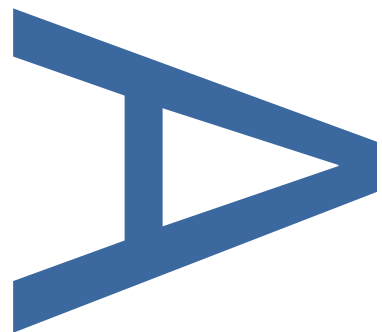
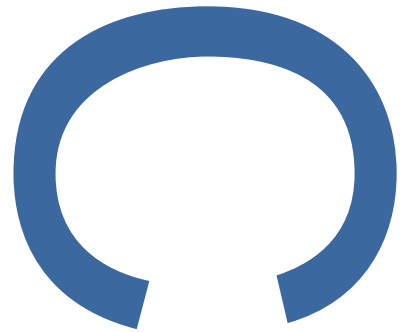
**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:  
SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL**

**PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBERS:  
15/02401/FUL**

**PCA REPORT NO: R13805**

**SITE CODE: SOU1746**

**AUGUST 2019**



**536 PORTSWOOD ROAD, SOUTHAMPTON  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT**

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**Issue 1:** Issued for Approval

**Site Code:** SOU1746

**Central NGR:** SU 43550 15172

**Local Planning Authority:** Southampton City Council

**Planning Reference:** 15/02401/FUL

**Commissioning Client:** Midas Group

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August 2019**

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## DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

**Site Name: 536 Portswood Road, Southampton**

**Type of project: Archaeological Evaluation Report**

**Report: R13805**

### Quality Control

<b>Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code</b>		<b>K5501</b>
Text Prepared by:	T Hayes	16/08/2019
Graphics Prepared by:	D Valk	19/08/2019
Graphics Checked by:	M Roughley	19/08/2018
Project Manager:	P McCulloch	19/08/2018

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

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Figure 1: Site Location

Figure 2: Trench Location Plan

Figure 3: Trench Sections

Figure 4: Test Pit Sections

## **1 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd was appointed by Midas Group to undertake a watching brief and to complete a report on the watching brief and a previous archaeological evaluation at 536 Portswood Road, Southampton. The site is the subject of proposed development described as ‘the demolition of the existing buildings and erection of two linked buildings of 5 and 6 storeys above basement to provide 199 units of student residential accommodation with associated communal living spaces, landscaping and parking’.

The evaluation comprised the excavation of two evaluation trenches and three test pits. The evaluation trenches measured 25m X 1.8m (Trench 1) and 15m X 1.8m (Trench 2) and were located in the north and south of the site. The archaeological evaluation at 536 Portswood Road did not uncover any significant archaeological finds or features. Both trenches indicated that the site had been subject to significant post-medieval and modern disturbance and, as such, is unlikely to retain any potential for significant, in situ, archaeological resources.

The watching brief was proposed to monitor the demolition and removal of the basement area in the centre of the site. As the site changed ownership multiple times in between the completion of the evaluation and the production of this report, demolition work occurred on site without PCA being contacted, as such the watching brief was not able to be enacted during these works. We recommend that this document is submitted in support of the discharge of planning conditions relating to the archaeology of the site.

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

### **2.1 Project Background**

2.1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) was appointed by Midas Group to undertake a watching brief and to complete a report on the watching brief and a previous archaeological evaluation at 536 Portswood Road, Southampton, hereafter 'the site' (**Figure 1**). The site is the subject of proposed development described as 'the demolition of the existing buildings and erection of two linked buildings of 5 and 6 storeys above basement to provide 199 units of student residential accommodation with associated communal living spaces, landscaping and parking'.

2.1.2 The archaeological evaluation was a requirement of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Southampton City Council (15/02401/FUL). This evaluation was designed in discussion with the LPA's Historic Environment Team Archaeologist (HETA) and reflected the potential of the Site to contain archaeological resources 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 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 6<sup>th</sup> of April 2017. 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, NGR SU 43550 15172 (**Figure 1**), lies in the Portswood area of Southampton, between Portswood Road and Thomas Lewis Way, and lies some 100m west of the current course of the River Itchen.

2.2.2 The Site falls from west to east and from north to south. Ground level in the higher north-west corner of the Site is at c. 10.5m above Ordnance Datum (AOD). Ground level in the south-east corner of the Site is at c. 5.70m AOD. In the northern part of the Site, ground level slopes gently from Portswood Road toward Thomas Lewis Way, which runs below a retaining wall forming the Site's north-eastern boundary. In the southern part of the Site ground level falls steeply from Portswood Road and levels off toward the Site's south eastern boundary.

2.2.3 The underlying geology of the Site comprises clay, silt and sand of the London Clay Formation, overlain by superficial Quaternary River Terrace Deposits comprising sand and gravel (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> 2013).

### **2.3 Archaeological and Historical Background**

2.3.1 An assessment of the site's potential archaeological resources, based on a 500m site centred search of the Southampton Historic Environment Record, was included within the written scheme of investigation and is not repeated in detail here.

2.3.2 The assessment of the Southampton HER highlighted that within the search area archaeological finds of most dates had been recorded, but with the majority of HER records relating to the post-medieval period. There were no records of the site itself containing any significant archaeological resources with the historic mapping showing that it appeared to have remained largely undeveloped until the production of the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition ordnance survey map of 1897. The HER did highlight that the site had the potential to contain a culverted stream, which had previously been identified as the line of a sewer during archaeological investigations at the nearby B&Q site (SOU1701).

### **3 AIM**

#### **3.1 Archaeological Evaluation**

3.1.1 The aims of the archaeological evaluation was to determine in two trenches the presence or absence of archaeological resources within the Site and, if present, determine their character, extent, date, condition and significance taking account of their potential to include biological and palaeo-environmental remains. Additionally, the evaluation will aim to identify and record the nature, dimensions and relationship of natural deposits on the Site and to assess the potential for natural deposits to contain or conceal archaeological evidence.

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

- What is the archaeological resource potential of the Site?
- If present, does the resource potential provide evidence for the development of the Site in the prehistoric, Roman, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods that may be compared to evidence for these periods previously recorded in the vicinity of the Site?
- 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?

#### **3.2 Archaeological Watching Brief**

3.2.1 The aims of the archaeological watching brief were to:

- Monitor below slab level works to demolish and clear the existing Site;
- Identify and assess any previous impact below ground;
- Identify and record areas of the site that may retain archaeological resource potential below ground level (in particular, the removal of cellar walls may expose a section through stream valley deposits)



## **4 RESULTS**

### **4.1 Introduction**

4.1.1 The following presents a summary of the evaluation results based upon the Site archive, which comprises a Site diary, digital photographs. A trench register, containing details of all trenches and test pits, including context numbers and depths appears in **Appendix 1**. Photographs of the site appear in **Appendix 2**. The archive of all stages of the archaeological work is held at PCA's Winchester office under the site code SOU1746 and will in due course be deposited with the Southampton Museums Service.

### **4.2 Methodology**

4.2.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken following the methodology detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (PCA 2016), which was approved by the Local Planning Authority in advance of the works and on the advice of the HETA.

4.2.2 The evaluation comprised the excavation of two evaluation trenches and three test pits. The evaluation trenches measured 25m X 1.8m (Trench 1) and 15m X 1.8m (Trench 2) and were located in the north and south of the site.

4.2.3 The watching brief was proposed to monitor the demolition and removal of the basement area in the centre of the site. As the site changed ownership multiple times in between the completion of the evaluation and the production of this report, demolition work occurred on site without PCA being contacted, as such the watching brief was not able to be enacted during these works.

### **4.3 Evaluation Trenches**

4.3.1 Trench 1 was located along the northern boundary of the site (**Figure 2**). Natural geology [103] was encountered at between 0.18m and 0.25m below ground level (BGL) (**Figure 3 and Plates 1 & 2**). The natural was covered by modern made ground [101]/[102], with no surviving evidence of sub-soils or archaeological deposits. A modern service trench was seen to truncate the natural at eastern end of the trench. No archaeological features or finds were identified in Trench1.

4.3.2 Trench 2 was located towards the southern boundary of the site. Modern made ground deposits were encountered to a depth of between 0.25m and 0.5m BGL, beneath the concrete slab that overlaid the trench location (**Figure 3 and Plates 3 & 5**). These deposits [201]/[202] appeared to be contaminated with polycarbons and were therefore likely to be modern in date. Although natural deposits were encountered within the trench, these had mostly been truncated by the red brick culvert [207] that ran diagonally through the trench (**Figure 2 and Plates 4**) and other modern interferences. The entire trench showed signs of modern and post-medieval disturbance, with no significant archaeological features or finds present.

#### **4.4 Watching Brief**

4.4.1 The proposed watching brief was designed to target an area in between the two trenches (**Figure 2**), during the demolition and removal of cellared area in the centre of the site. These works occurred without PCA being contacted. A site visit was undertaken by PCA in August 2019 where groundworks were undertaken in order to locate the basement, which had previously been left open (**Plates 6 and 7**). It became clear that the demolition works had already been undertaken and the site levelled. As such no results could be derived from the exercise and the watching brief aims can not be answered.

#### **4.5 Discussion**

4.5.1 No significant *in situ* archaeological resources were identified during the course of the archaeological evaluation.

4.5.2 Trench 1 demonstrated only modern overburden lying directly on top of natural deposits. This indicates that the northern end of the site had previously been scarped, likely involving the removal of natural deposits, as well as any topsoil or subsoil. As such it can be concluded that the northern area of the site retains no archaeological potential.

4.5.3 Trench 2 demonstrated significant post-medieval and modern disturbance. The culvert is likely to represent a continuation of the same feature identified in the B&Q archaeological investigations, SOU 1701. However, the creation of the culvert is likely to have caused an extensive impact on natural deposits and any *in situ* archaeological features. Similarly to the deposit sequence identified in Trench 1 no subsoils were identified in Trench 2, further indicating that the site had been extensively levelled during the post-medieval or modern period. Owing to the extensive modern disturbance identified in Trench 2 it is unlikely that the surrounding area retains any significant archaeological potential.

#### **4.6 Conclusion**

4.6.1 The archaeological investigations at 536 Portswood Road did not uncover any significant archaeological finds or features. Both trenches indicated that the site had been subject to significant post-medieval and modern disturbance and, as such, is unlikely to retain any potential for significant, *in situ*, archaeological resources.

4.6.2 We recommend that this document is submitted in support of the discharge of planning conditions relating to the archaeology of the site.

## **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 Southampton Museums.

### **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 Museums 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 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 Midas Group for commissioning this archaeological evaluation report and to Ingrid Peckham, Southampton City Council Historic Environment Team Archaeologist, for her advice.

The evaluation was undertaken by Thomas Hayes and Gareth Hatt

## **7 REFERENCES**

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014. Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation

Historic England 2015. Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment

PCA 2016. 536 Portswood Road, Southampton: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation

## Appendix 1: Trench and Test Pit Index

Tr. No.	Section No.	Context	Type	Description	Depth (m) BGL
Tr. 1	1a, 1b	101	Layer	Dark greyish brown, silty sand, modern made ground	0.00-0.06
		102	Layer	Dark reddish brown, modern made ground	0.06-0.25
		103	Layer	Natural geology	0.28-0.68
Tr. 2	1c, 1d	201	Layer	Made ground - modern Gravel	0.00-0.12
		202	Layer	made ground - modern black (poss. Polycarbons)	0.00-0.28
		203	Layer	natural geology	0.60+
		204	Layer	natural geology	0.60+
		205	Cut	Construction cut for culvert [207]	0.45+
		206	Fill	Re-deposited natural, backfill of construction cut [205]	0.45+
		207	Structure	Red brick Culvert	0.45+

## Appendix 2: Site Photographs



*Plate 1 View to the east of Trench 1*



*Plate 2 South facing section of Trench 1*



*Plate 3 View to the east of Trench 2*



*Plate 4 View to the south-east of culvert*





*Plate 5 South facing section of Trench 2*



*Plate 6 View to the north of proposed watching brief area (former basement)*



*Plate 7 View to the south of proposed watching brief area*

## Appendix 3: OASIS Form

### OASIS ID: preconst1-364184

#### Project details

Project name	536 Portswood Road, Southampton
Short description of the project	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd was appointed by Midas Group to undertake a watching brief and to complete a report on the watching brief and a previous archaeological evaluation at 536 Portswood Road, Southampton. The site is the subject of proposed development described as 'the demolition of the existing buildings and erection of two linked buildings of 5 and 6 storeys above basement to provide 199 units of student residential accommodation with associated communal living spaces, landscaping and parking'. The evaluation comprised the excavation of two evaluation trenches and three test pits. The evaluation trenches measured 25m X 1.8m (Trench 1) and 15m X 1.8m (Trench 2) and were located in the north and south of the site. The archaeological evaluation at 536 Portswood Road did not uncover any significant archaeological finds or features. Both trenches indicated that the site had been subject to significant post-medieval and modern disturbance and, as such, is unlikely to retain any potential for significant, in situ, archaeological resources. The watching brief was proposed to monitor the demolition and removal of the basement area in the centre of the site. As the site changed ownership multiple times in between the completion of the evaluation and the production of this report, demolition work occurred on site without PCA being contacted, as such the watching brief was not able to be enacted during these works.
Project dates	Start: 03-04-2017 End: 31-07-2019
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	SOU1746 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	CULVERT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

#### Project location

Country	England
Site location	HAMPSHIRE SOUTHAMPTON SOUTHAMPTON 536 Portswood Road, Southampton

Postcode	SO17 3SP
Study area	0.24 Hectares
Site coordinates	SU 43542 15178 50.933855040942 -1.38029356336 50 56 01 N 001 22 49 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 4.99m Max: 10.2m

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#### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	Southampton City Council
Project design originator	Thomas Hayes
Project director/manager	Paul McCulloch
Project supervisor	Thomas Hayes
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Midas Group

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#### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Southampton Museums and Archive Service
Digital Archive ID	SOU1746
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Southampton Museums and Archives Service
Paper Archive ID	SOU1746
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Diary", "Notebook - Excavation", "Research", "General Notes", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Survey "

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#### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	536 Portswood Road, Southampton: Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hayes, T

Other bibliographic details R13805

Date 2019

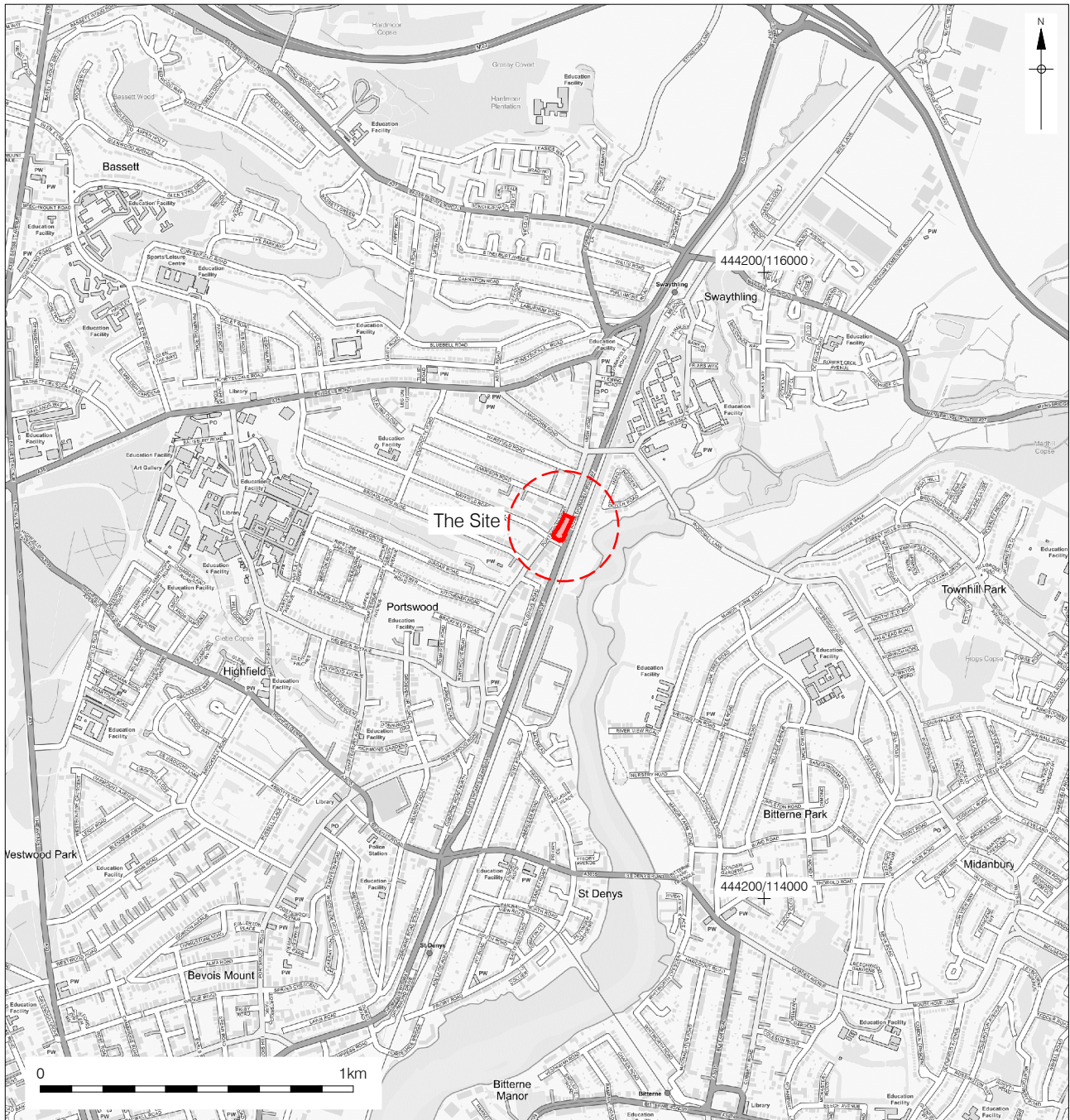
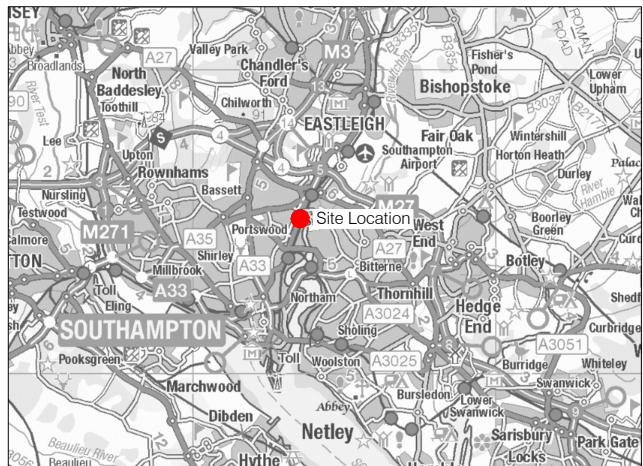
Issuer or publisher Pre-Construct Archaeology

Place of issue or publication Winchester

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Entered by Thomas Hayes (thayes@pre-construct.com)

Entered on 19 August 2019



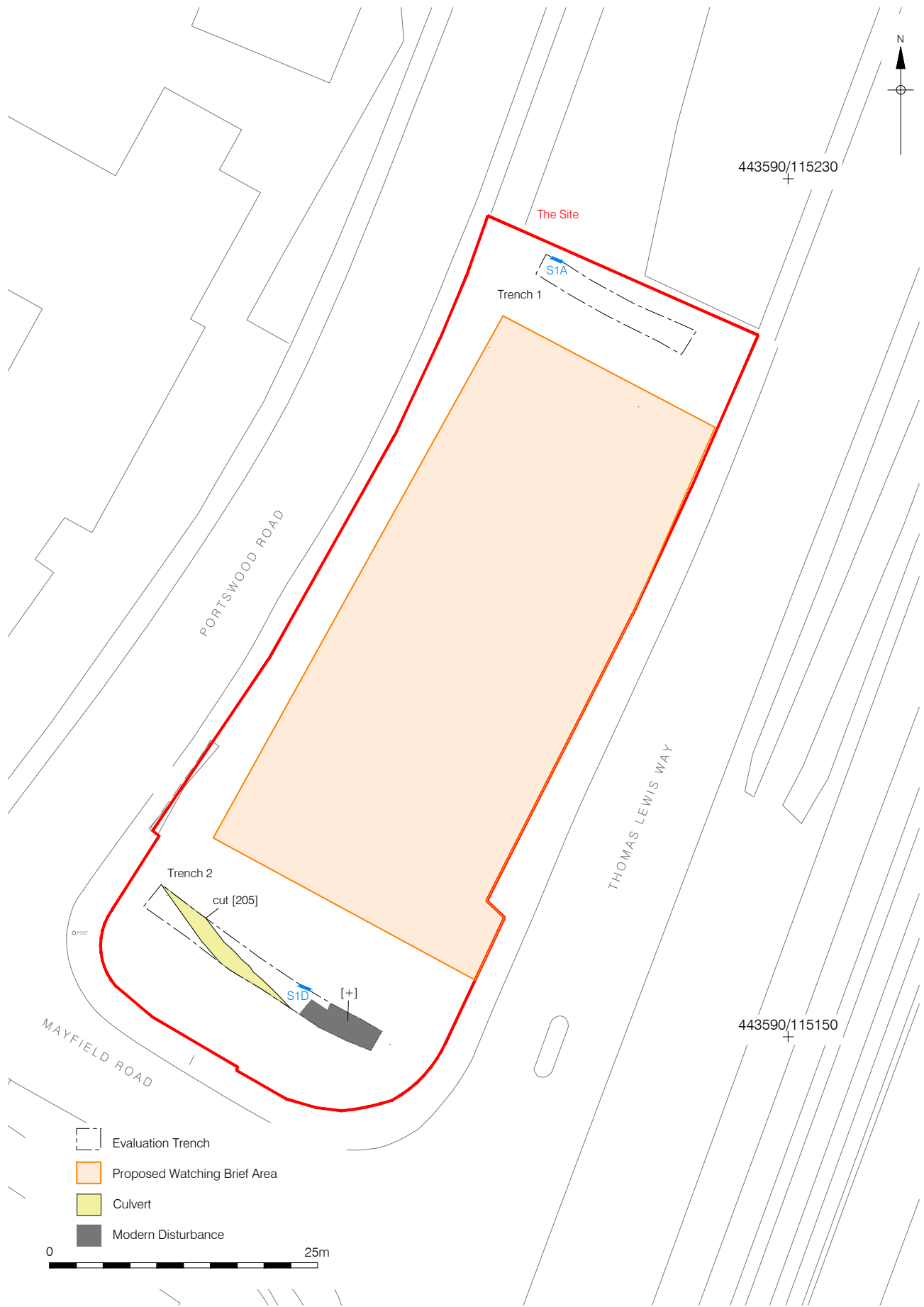
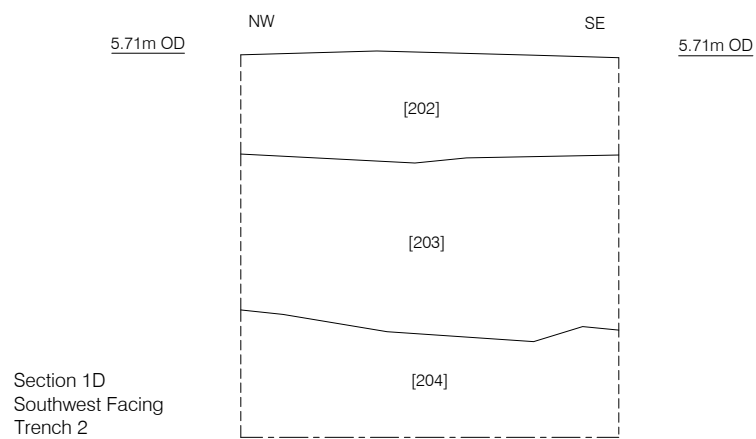
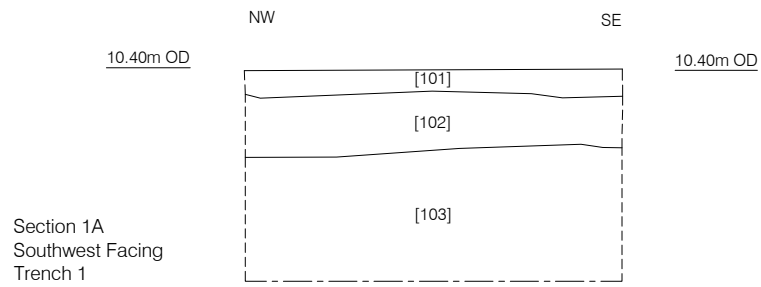


Figure 2  
 Trench Locations and Proposed Watching Brief Area  
 1:500 at A4





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