AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT OTTERBOURNE MANOR, OTTERBOURNE, HAMPSHIRE

SITE CODE: PMAN 09

AUGUST 2009

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

An Archaeological Watching Brief at Otterbourne Manor, Otterbourne, Hampshire

Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference: SU 4649 2230

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Commissioning Client: Malcolm and Lorna Berryman

Site Code: PMAN 09

Contractor:

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1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Malcolm and Lorna Berryman to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Otterbourne Manor, Otterbourne, Hampshire, centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference SU 4640 2230. The moated manor site of Otterbourne Manor is a Scheduled Monument (Hampshire SM 12055) and is well documented throughout the medieval period.
- 1.2 Otterbourne Manor is a Grade II listed building. In its listing description it is described as '*The Manor House...1699 on tablet, ruinous c.1900 and restored C20. Chequered brickwork, part pebbledashed, old plain tile roof...*'. The Manor House appears to have been rebuilt in 1699 and incorporates elements, such as primary floor joists, doors and door frames, from an earlier timber-framed house within its structure. These elements presumably came from the earlier manor house on the moated site, which the 1699 Manor House replaced. It is possible that at the end of the 17th century, the moated site was reorganised to the current arrangement with the house, stables, barns and other buildings arranged around a farm courtyard.
- 1.3 The watching brief was undertaken as a condition of Scheduled Monument and planning consent (Case No. 08/02797/FUL) for the demolition of a late 20th century extension to the rear (south end of the east side) of the Manor House and the construction of a single storey rear extension. The watching brief was carried out from 30th June to 8th July 2009 during all groundworks connected with the new extension.
- 1.4 The earliest deposit revealed during the watching brief, apart from Valley Gravel, was a layer of re-deposited Valley Gravel in Trench 2, which contained a sherd of 16th century pottery. A late 17th/early 18th century wall was found to the south of the Manor House and may have been a boundary wall built at the same time as the house. Other features observed included a 19th century deep brick lined well and a late 19th/early 20th century drain. Finds recovered from a garden soil included residual late medieval and late 16th/17th century pottery sherds as well as 19th century Transfer Printed Ware.
- 1.5 No further groundworks associated with this phase of construction are anticipated, and therefore no further archaeological work is recommended, apart from the preparation of a summary on the results of this watching brief for publication in *Hampshire Studies*.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Malcolm and Lorna Berryman to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Otterbourne Manor, Otterbourne, Hampshire, centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference SU 4640 2230 (Figures 1 and 2).
- 2.2 The site of Otterbourne Manor is moated. The moat is water filled and in good condition. It encloses an area *c*.115m by 60m and is *c*.12m wide and *c*.2m deep. The moated manor site is a Scheduled Monument (Hampshire SM 12055). The manor at Otterbourne is well documented throughout the medieval period, and was granted to Merton College, Oxford in the mid 15th century.
- 2.3 Otterbourne Manor is a Grade II listed building. In its listing description it is described as 'The Manor House... 1699 on tablet, ruinous c. 1900 and restored C20. Chequered brickwork, part pebbledashed, old plain tile roof. 2 storey and attic on raised cellar, 4 bay, 2 bays deep, outshot to rear. Front has high plinth cut by door under rubbed brick arch... Wide coved eaves to hipped roof swept down to rear. Stack on right end and tablet on left and large gabled dormer on each hip'. The Manor House appears to have been rebuilt in 1699 and incorporates elements, such as primary floor joists, doors and door frames, from an earlier timber-framed house within its structure. These elements presumably came from the earlier manor house on the moated site, which the 1699 Manor House replaced. It is possible that at the end of the 17th century, the moated site was reorganised to the current arrangement with the house, stables, barns and other outbuildings arranged around a farm courtyard.
- 2.4 The watching brief was undertaken as a condition of Scheduled Monument and planning consent (Case No. 08/02797/FUL) for the demolition of a late 20th century extension to the rear (south end of the east side) of the Manor House and the construction of a single storey rear extension. The watching brief was carried out during all groundworks connected with the new extension. It was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2009), which was agreed in advance of fieldwork by Dr Richard Massey, English Heritage Inspector of Ancient Monuments, South East Region. It was also undertaken in accordance with guidance given in the document by the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (1994, revised 1999). The watching brief was carried out between 30th June and 8th July 2009.



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Figure 1 Site Location 1:20,000 at A4

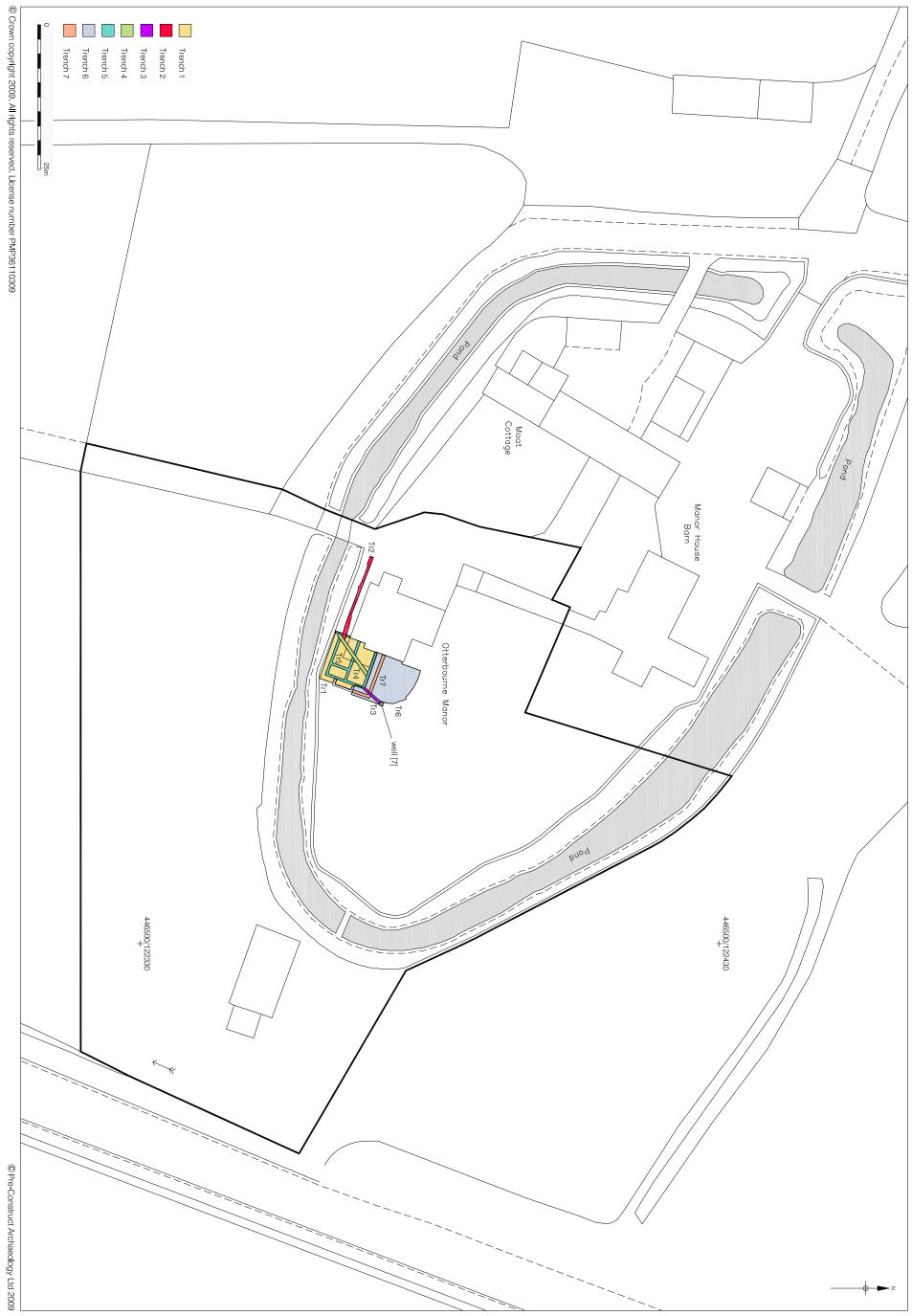
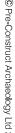


Figure 2 Trench Location 1:625 at A3



3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The site lies to the south-east of the village of Otterbourne, east of Otterbourne Hill and west of the Southampton to Winchester railway line and the River Itchen Navigation (**Figure 1**).
- 3.2 The parish of Otterbourne, covering an area of approximately 5.7km², lies approximately 8km from the city of Winchester at the base of the chalk downs which rise south-west of the city. From the comparatively low-lying village, which is in the north of the parish, the ground rises to a height of 72.23mOD at Otterbourne Hill at the southern end of the village, and then falls again in the south and south-east of the parish to the low ground west of Allbrook which is crossed by the River Itchen.
- 3.3 A number of Mesolithic flints have been recovered from the Otterbourne area. A chance find of a tranchet axe was found in the bed of a stream known as Rosemary Leet, between Otterbourne and Colden Common. Neolithic finds from the area include an axe found at Otterbourne by a schoolmaster in *c*.1905-6.
- 3.4 Documentary sources show that Otterbourne was in existence by the Late Saxon period. In c. AD 960, Otterbourne is referred to as 'Oterburna', which means 'Otter stream' (Ekwall 1991). The lands in Otterbourne, as part of the district of Chilcomb, were granted by King Edgar to the church at Winchester about 978, and were confirmed to the church by King Ethelred in 984. In the reign of Edward the Confessor, the Manor of Otterbourne was held by Cheping from the Bishop of Winchester. Domesday Book lists Ralph de Mortimer as Lord of the manor, thus at some date after the Norman Conquest, the manor ceased to belong to Winchester Cathedral. The descendents of Ralph de Mortimer held Otterbourne until the 15th century when William Fiennes, Lord Saye and Sele, sold the manor to William Waynflete, Bishop of Winchester, in 1458.
- 3.5 The early medieval moat at Otterbourne Manor encompasses an oval area of some 7,000m² and is crossed by three causeways. It lies just to the south of the deserted medieval village of Otterbourne. All that now remains as a visible record of the deserted village is the remains of the medieval church of St Matthew, which lies just to the north of Kiln Lane. A fragment of the south wall of the porch and stones in the grave-yard are all that survive (labelled as '*Grave Yard*' on **Figure 1**). The nave was demolished soon after 1839 and the chancel was pulled down in 1971 after repeated vandalism. The entire church site was excavated by Southampton University Archaeological Department from 1982 to 1984.

- 3.6 In 1535 the manor was granted to Magdalene College, Oxford. The Court of the Manor was held at the old moated Manor House by the president of Magdalene Collage until the early half of the nineteenth century (Victoria County History 1908). The president and fellows of the college still held the title of Lords of the Manor in the early 20th century.
- 3.7 There are a number of other buildings on the moated site apart from Otterbourne Manor. Two of these buildings are listed; one is an early 18th century brick wall, 5m north-west of the Manor House, which runs north; the other is an early 18th century barn.

4 METHODS

- 4.1 The aims and objectives of the watching brief as set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation were as follows:
 - To record comprehensively any archaeological remains that might be impacted by any groundworks in connection with the construction of new extension;
 - To survey the location of any archaeological features recorded within these areas;
 - To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains present in these areas and to establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features; and
 - To provide information that may be used in the formulation of an appropriate mitigation strategy.
- 4.2 The footprint of the new extension (Trench 1 on **Figure 2**) was excavated to approximately 0.5m below ground level by a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. Trench 1 was 8m square and lay to the east of the Otterbourne Manor.
- 4.3 Three drainage trenches (Trenches 2, 3 and 4) were machine excavated to the south and east of the Manor House. Trench 2 was 15.5m long, 0.3m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.9m below ground level. Trench 3 was 3.5m long, 0.4m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1m below ground level. It connected with well [7] at its north-east end. Trench 4 was 8.5m long, 0.6m wide and was excavated within Trench 1 to 0.2m below formation level for the new extension (the base of Trench 1); the equivalent of 0.7m below ground level. It connected with Trench 2 at its south-west end.
- 4.4 A grid system of trenches (Trench 5) was machine excavated within the base of Trench 1 for the wall foundations of the new extension. The trenches covered an area 7.5m square. Each trench was 0.4m wide and was excavated to 0.2m below formation level (the base of Trench 1); the equivalent of 0.7m below ground level.
- 4.5 The area of an existing patio (Trench 6) was excavated by machine to 0.2m below ground level in advance of the construction of a new patio. Trench 6 was approximately 8m square and lay to the north of the new extension.
- 4.6 Trench 7 was excavated along the southern edge of Trench 6, with a return to the south, as a foundation trench for a retaining wall for a new patio. It was 0.5m wide,

8m long and the return was 3m long. It was excavated to a depth of 0.60m below the base of Trench 6.

- 4.7 All archaeological deposits (layers and fills) and features (cuts and structures) were drawn in plan at a scale of 1:100 or 1:50 and in section at a scale of 1:10. These were recorded on *pro-forma* sheets. A digital photographic record of the site was made.
- 4.8 Levels were estimated from the nearest Ordnance Survey benchmark to the site. The benchmark was located on the south face of the railway bridge that crosses Kiln Lane (value: 20.07m aOD (above Ordnance Datum)). While some distance from the site, the topography of the surrounding area is relatively flat and allowing for a slight rise to the north east of the site, ground level was estimated to be between 19.57m aOD and 20m aOD. A Temporary Bench Mark (TBM) was established on the top of a lower course of corbelling on the south corner of the porch of the Manor House, which is on the west side of the house. This was given an arbitrary value of 20.7mOD (0.7m above ground level).
- 4.9 The groundworks were carried out in the south-corner of the moated site, adjacent to the rear (east) wall of Otterbourne Manor House. The site measured approximately 15.5m north-south by 7m east-west, giving a total excavated area of 108.5m².

5 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 The British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series sheet 299 (Winchester) and sheet 315 (Southampton) indicates that the underling drift geology at the site is characterised by the flood plain of the River Itchen which is predominantly covered in Alluvium, with some deposits of Valley Gravel and Brickearth to the sides. From the base of Otterbourne Hill the soil changes from clay to gravel, with the soils of the parish of Otterbourne characterised as gravel, with a subsoil of gravel and chalk.
- 5.2 In the base of Trenches 1, 3 and 5, a layer of mid yellowish brown gravelly sand was observed which was interpreted as natural geological deposits of Valley Gravel. These were found at between 19.7m aOD and 19.8m aOD.
- 5.3 The ground rises gradually to the north and east within the moated manor site. The ground level at the watching brief site was estimated to be about 19.57m aOD in the south and west, and about 20m aOD in the north and east.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 The following description of the stratigraphy, details the main characteristics of each context and its position in the phased stratigraphic matrix. Further information regarding the contexts can be found in Appendix 1.

6.2 Phase 1: Natural geological deposits (Figures 2 and 4)

6.2.1 A mid yellow brown gravelly sand deposit [5] was observed in the base of Trenches 1, 3 and 5. The top of this layer was 0.55m below ground level, at approximately 19.02m aOD. No archaeological finds were found in this deposit and it was interpreted as Valley Gravel, a natural geological deposit.

6.3 Phase 2: Late medieval (Figures 2 and 3)

6.3.1 A mid reddish brown clayey gravel, layer [2], was exposed in the base of Trench 2. The top of the layer was 0.4m below ground level, at approximately 19.47m aOD. A single fragment of 16th century Fine Green Glaze Ware was recovered from this context, which may suggest a late medieval date for the deposit.

6.4 Phase 3: Post-medieval and modern (Figures 2, 3 and 4)

- 6.4.1 A short length of a north-south wall [3] was exposed in Trench 2, and built over layer [2] (Figure 3). It was 0.58m wide (east west) and 4 courses (0.27m) high. Most of the wall was constructed from unfrogged 17th-18th century red brick, 45mm x 120mm, with a soft lime mortar, although a small number of thicker 19th century purple bricks with a hard cement mortar suggest a later repair. The wall was in header bond and may have been built at the same time as the Manor House. It lay below a more modern boundary wall and may have been an earlier version of this wall.
- 6.4.2 Drain [4] lay to the east of wall [3] and comprised a clay drain pipe supported by a brick and tile construction, possibly the remains of a manhole inspection chamber. Frogged bricks and a hard cement mortar suggested a late 19th/early 20th century date for the structure.
- 6.4.3 A mid grey silty clayey sand [6], approximately 0.3m thick, overlay wall [3] and drain[4] in Trench 2. The top of this layer was 0.1m below ground level, at approximately19.77m aOD. No archaeological finds were found in this deposit

- 6.4.4 Both features [3] and [4] and layer [6] were sealed by a 0.1m thick layer of modern made ground, topped by shingle, the top of which formed the current ground level at approximately 19.87mOD.
- 6.4.5 A mid grey brown gravely silt [10], with very occasional fragments of ceramic building material (CBM), some 0.15m thick, overlay Valley Gravel in Trenches 1 and 3 (Figure 4). The top and base of this layer were at approximately 19.75m aOD and 19.6m aOD respectively. It was interpreted as post-medieval/modern made ground. No archaeological finds were found in this deposit.
- 6.4.6 A dark greyish brown silty sand [1] or garden soil, between 0.12m and 0.3m thick, overlay post-medieval/modern made ground [10]. Pottery sherds recovered from this layer include 19th century Transfer Printed Ware, 17th to 19th century Red Ware and residual late 16th/17th century Surrey/Hampshire Border Ware and 14th to 16th century Late-Medieval Oxidised Ware.
- 6.4.7 A modern concrete manhole cover covered brick lined circular well shaft [7] at the northern end of Trench 3. Well [7] was approximately 1.2m in diameter and 3.3m deep. The top 0.6m was capped with a circular brick well head that stepped in to a diameter of 0.5m. This feature was not fully excavated, and only the outer construction was part exposed in Trench 3. This consisted of outward radiating headers of 19th century frogged orange red brick, 210mm x 100mm x 60mm. A vertical construction cut [8] for the well was observed, which was backfilled with a dark grey brown silty sand [9] with occasional fragments of CBM. This feature was cut from the ground surface at approximately 20m aOD.

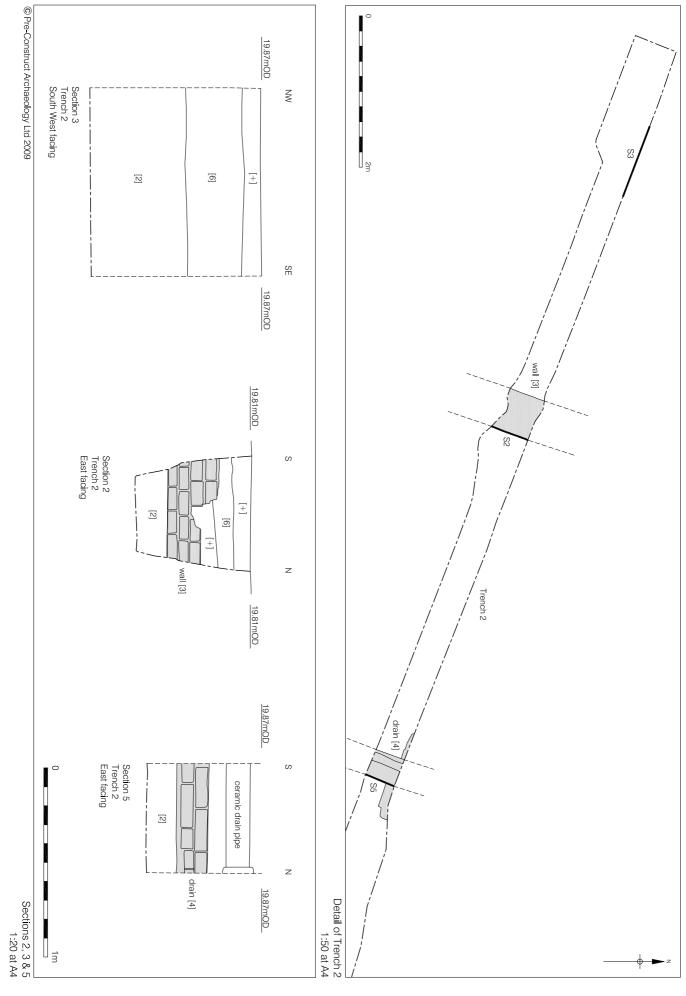


Figure 3 Detail of Trench 2 & Sections 2, 3 & 5

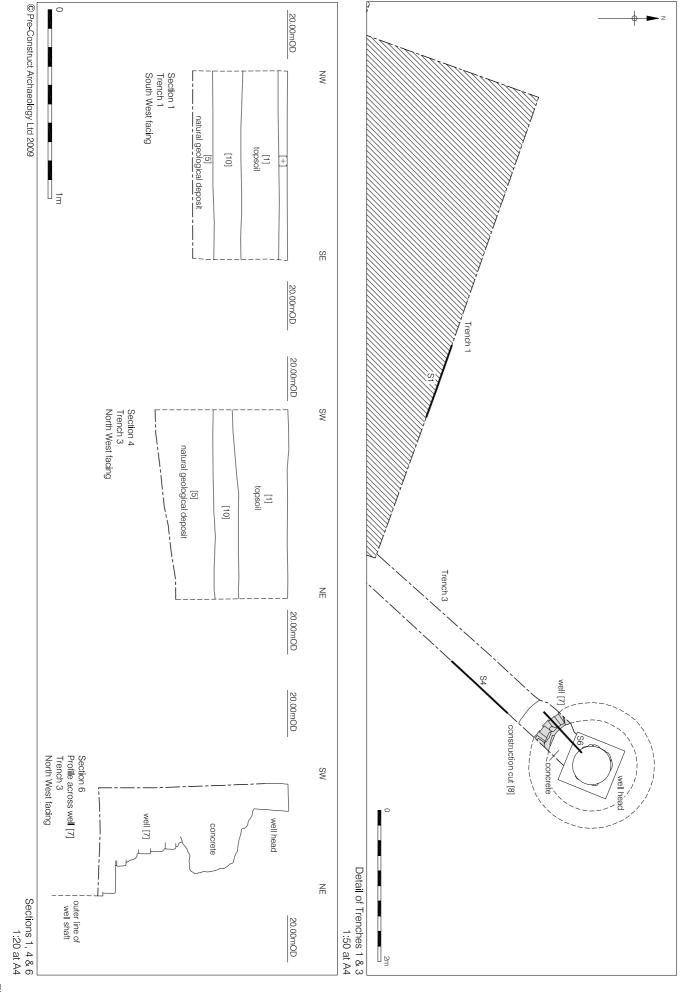


Figure 4 Detail of Trenches1 & 3; Sections 1, 4 & 6

7 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 The earliest deposit revealed during the watching brief, apart from Valley Gravel, was a layer of re-deposited Valley Gravel in Trench 2, which contained a sherd of 16th century pottery. A late 17th/early 18th century wall was found to the south of the Manor House and may have been a boundary wall built at the same time as the house. Other features included a 19th century deep brick lined well and a late 19th/early 20th century drain. Finds recovered from a garden soil included residual late medieval and late 16th/17th century pottery sherds as well as 19th century Transfer Printed Ware.
- 7.2 No further groundworks associated with this phase of construction are anticipated, and therefore no further archaeological work is recommended, apart from the preparation of a summary on the results of this watching brief for publication in *Hampshire Studies*.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 8.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Malcolm and Lorna Berryman for commissioning the archaeological work. The assistance of John Dowling, architect, is also gratefully acknowledged. In addition, thanks are due to the building contractors, Lampard Twyford Ltd, for their help on site. The collaborative role of Dr Richard Massey, English Heritage Inspector of Ancient Monuments, South East Region, is also acknowledged.
- 8.2 The watching brief was managed for Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd by Charlotte Matthews. This report was compiled by Stuart Watson with contributions from Kevin Haywood (ceramic building material) and Bernie Sudds (pottery). The illustrations were prepared by Hayley Baxter.

10 **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

PMAN 09

Context	Туре	Trench	Comments	Date	Phase
1	Layer	TR1&3	Garden soil	Post-med	3
2	Layer	TR2	Re-deposited Valley Gravel	Late med	2
3	Masonry	TR2	Wall	C19	3
4	Masonry	TR2	Drain	Late C19/ early C20	3
5	Natural Geological deposits	TR 1, 3 & 5	Valley Gravel		1
6	Layer	TR 2	Sub-soil	C20	3
7	Masonry	TR 3	Well	C19	3
8	Cut	TR 3	Cut for well [7]	C19	3
9	Fill	TR 3	Backfill of cut [8]	C19	3
10	Layer	TR6, 7	Gravel made ground	Post- med/modern	3

APPENDIX 2: MATRIX

PMAN09				+			
	9						
Phase 3 Post-med				6			
	7		1		3	4	
	8		10				
Phase 2 Late med					2		
			 	 	 	 	-
Phase 1 Natural		Ĺ					
				NFE	 		

APPENDIX 5: OASIS FORM

Project details

Project name An Archaeological Watching Brief at Otterbourne Manor, Otterbourne, Hampshire

Short description Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Malcolm and Lorna Berryman to undertake an archaeological watching brief at of the project Otterbourne Manor, Otterbourne, Hampshire, centred on Ordnance Survey NGR SU 4640 2230. The medieval moated manor site of Otterbourne Manor is a Scheduled Monument (Hampshire SM 12055). Otterbourne Manor is a Grade II listed building. The Manor House appears to have been rebuilt in 1699 and incorporates elements from an earlier timber-framed house within its structure. The watching brief was undertaken as a condition of Scheduled Monument and planning consent for the demolition of a late 20th century extension and its replacement with a single storey extension. The watching brief was carried out from 30th June to 8th July 2009 during groundworks for the new extension. The earliest deposit revealed during the watching brief, apart from Valley Gravel, was a layer of re-deposited Valley Gravel in Trench 2, which contained a sherd of 16th century pottery. A late 17th/early 18th century wall was found to the south of the Manor House and may have been a boundary wall built at the same time as the house. Other features observed included a 19th century brick well and a late 19th/early 20th century drain. Finds recovered from a garden soil included residual late medieval and late 16th/17th century pottery sherds.

Project dates Start: 30-06-2009 End: 08-07-2009

Previous/future Not known / Not known work

Any associated PMAN09 - Sitecode project reference codes

- Type of project Field evaluation
- Site status Scheduled Monument (SM)
- Site status Listed Building
- Current Land use Residential 1 General Residential
- Monument type WALL Post Medieval
- Significant Finds POTTERY Medieval
- Significant Finds POTTERY Post Medieval
- Methods & 'Visual Inspection' techniques
- Development type Small-scale extensions (e.g. garages, porches, etc.)
- Prompt Scheduled Monument Consent
- Prompt Listed Building Consent

Position in the After full determination (eg. As a condition) planning process

Project location

Country	England
Site location	HAMPSHIRE WINCHESTER OTTERBOURNE Otterbourne Manor
Postcode	SO21
Study area	143.30 Square metres
Site coordinates	SU 4649 2230 50.9976710262 -1.337428916950 50 59 51 N 001 20 14 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 19.02m Max: 19.02m

Project creators				
Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd			
Project brief originator	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd			
Project design originator	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd			
Project director/manager	Charlotte Matthews			
Project supervisor	Stuart Watson			
Type of	Private Client			

sponsor/funding body

Name of Malcolm and Lorna Berryman sponsor/funding body

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Local museum
Physical Contents	'Ceramics','Glass'
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Contents	'Ceramics', 'Glass'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Matrices','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Unpublished Text'
Project	

Project	
bibliography 1	
	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Publication type	
Title	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Otterbourne Manor,

Otterbourne, Hampshire

Author(s)/Editor(s) Watson, S.

Date 2009

Issuer or publisher Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Place of issue or London publication

Description A4 report

Entered by Archivist (archive@pre-construct.com)

Entered on 13 July 2009

PCA

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