



© Southampton City Council

Southampton Archaeology Unit

Report 1160

Archaeological Watching Brief at Land to the rear of Roxtons (formerly Viva) High Street, Stockbridge, Hampshire. A2013.75

AD Russel BA PhD MfA & A Fedorowicz
2014

Client: Bendall Developments Ltd



Contents

1. Summary.....	3
2. Introduction.....	3
3. Aims of the investigation.....	3
4. Watching brief methodology.....	3
5. Site location and topography.....	4
6. Historical and archaeological background.....	4
7. Results of the watching brief.....	6
8. Conclusions.....	8
Bibliography.....	8

Front cover: General view of the site. Looking south

Southampton Archaeology
93 French Street
Southampton
SO14 2DY
archaeology@southampton.gov.uk

Report on Archaeological Watching Brief at Land to the rear of Roxtons (formerly Viva) High Street, Stockbridge, Hampshire. A2013.75

AD Russel BA PhD MfA & A Fedorowicz

Site code	A2013.75
Archaeology Unit report	1160
Ordnance Survey grid reference	435692 135047
Planning reference number	12/02765/FULLN

1. Summary.

An archaeological watching brief was carried out on land to the rear of Roxtons (formerly Viva) in High Street, Stockbridge, Hampshire SO20 6HF. Excavation of trenches some 800mm deep revealed 400mm of modern deposits over 400mm of undated soil. Soil investigation work showed that peat lay 1.4m below the surface, but it was not exposed in the groundworks.

2. Introduction

The Archaeology Unit of Southampton City Council carried out an archaeological watching brief at Land to the rear of Roxtons (formerly Viva) High Street, Stockbridge (fig 1), on behalf of Bendall Developments. The site is potentially of archaeological significance in accordance with Test Valley Borough Local Plan policy ENV11.

The aim of the developer's work was to construct a two bedroom house with parking and provision of a turntable. The observations were made by A Fedorowicz and Dr A Russel on 29th and 30th of October 2013. The project was managed by Dr A Russel.

3. Aims of the investigation.

The aims of the investigation were principally to investigate the presence or absence of human use of the area, and the date, type, state of preservation, and extent of that use; to recover associated objects; and to record such evidence as did survive. In addition, the nature, dimensions, and relationship of natural deposits were to be noted and recorded.

4. Watching brief methodology.

The fieldwork consisted of the observation of the groundworks which were principally the excavation of service trenches. The excavation was carried out using a 3.5 ton machine.

All archaeological records were made using the Southampton City Council archaeological recording system. Soil colours were recorded using Munsell soil colour charts. No finds were retained. The archive will be deposited with the Hampshire County Museum Service on completion of the project.

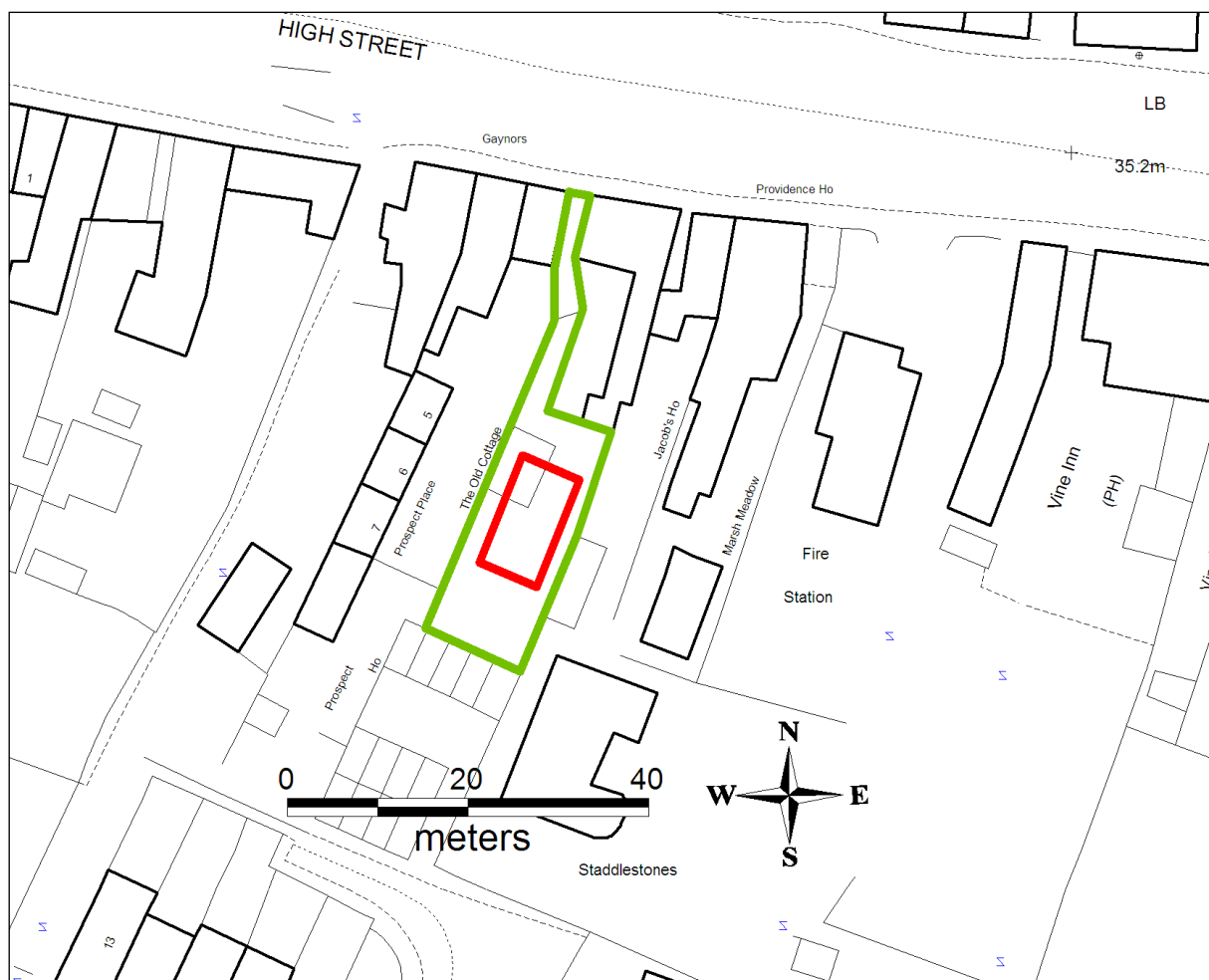


Figure 1. Location of the site.

Site boundary (green). Footprint of the proposed building (red).

© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved Southampton City Council. LA 1000 19679 2014.

5. Site location and topography.

The site lies to the south of the main street of Stockbridge at grid reference 435692 135047 (fig.1), in the valley of the River Test. Spot heights shown on the OS map in High Street are 35.2m AOD, some 70 m to the north-east, and 34.9m AOD, some 50m to the north-west. The geological survey map (Ordnance Survey 1987) shows the site to lie on river gravels and alluvium overlying the Upper Chalk.

6. Historical and archaeological background.

The Hampshire County Council Assessment of Historic Towns in the Test Valley suggests that Stockbridge may have had a Late Saxon/Norman origin but the town does not appear by name in the Domesday Book. William de Briwere, the lord of the manor, was granted a market charter for Stockbridge by Richard I in 1190 and King John confirmed the charter in 1200. Burgages are referenced in the 1230's and in 1264 sixty-four burgage plots were recorded. By 1289 there were ninety-seven burgage properties in the town. The site lies

in the core of the historic town in an area identified in the HCC assessment as of High Archaeological Importance.

Preliminary soil investigations on the site revealed approximately 1.4m of 'deposits over peat.

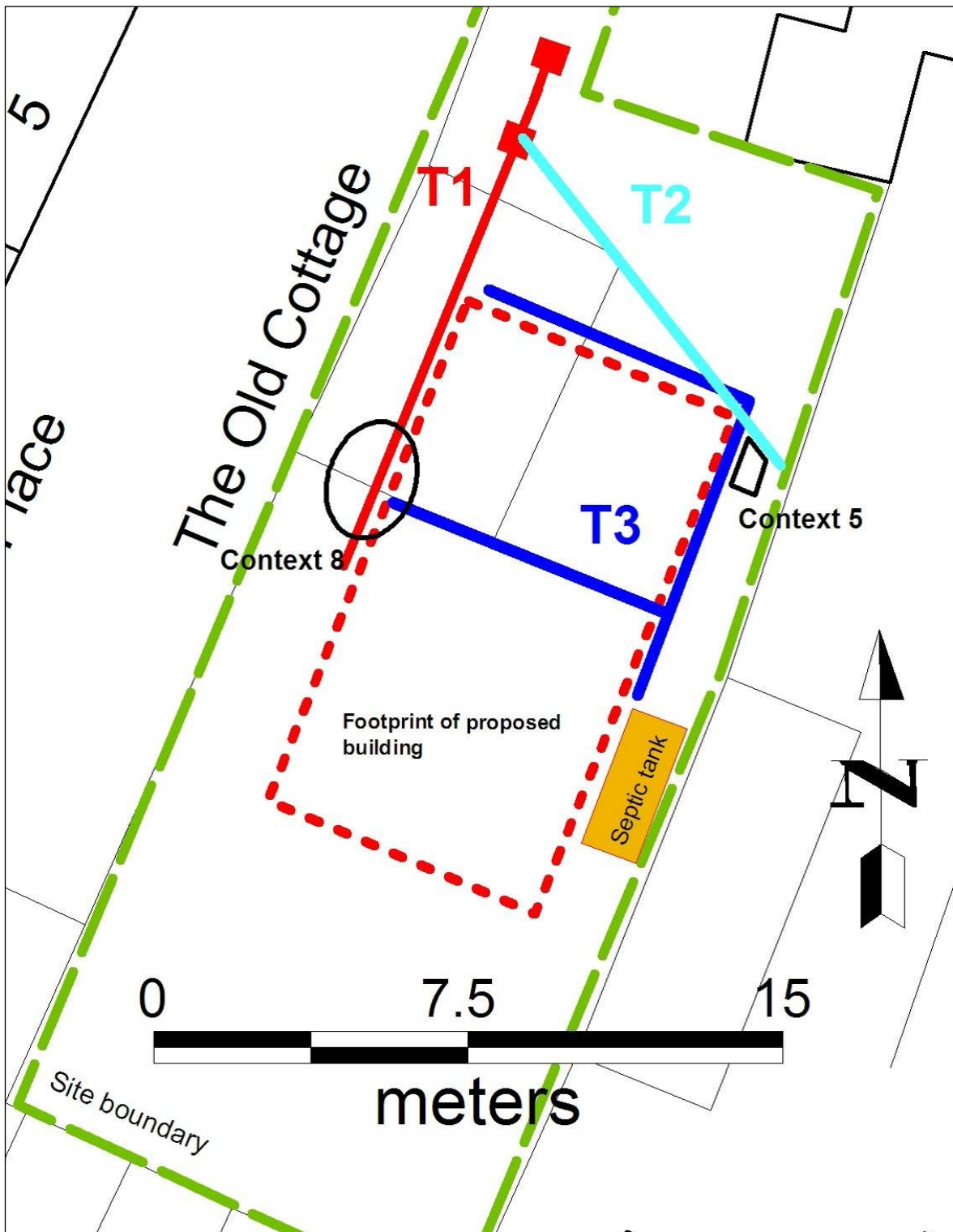


Figure 2. Plan of the site showing observed areas.

© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved Southampton City Council. LA 1000 19679 2014.

7. Results of the watching brief.

Prior to the works taking place a previous development had been started and much of the area to be developed had been subject to a level reduction, in the base of which were the concrete filled footing trenches of the partially built previous construction.

The new building was to be founded on driven piles overlaid by a concrete slab so the only groundworks of any depth were the drainage trenches (T 1 & T 2 on fig 2). The driven piles did not bring archaeology to the surface, and the casting of the slab did not penetrate the modern deposits.



Figure 3. West facing section of Trench 1 showing context 8.

7.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was 13.5 m long, 0.6m wide and 0.7-0.8m deep. It was orientated roughly north-south and was located west of the footprint of the proposed building (fig2).

The upper part of the trench was context 1, a 0.2m thick layer of silty clay loam, 10YR 2/1 -3/1 in colour. It was mixed with rubble and 19th- 20th century finds. Below that was context 7, a 0.25m thick layer of silty clay loam, 10YR 2/1 in colour, with occasional chalk inclusion. It was interpreted as a garden soil. Below context 7 was context 9, a layer of silty loam, 10YR 4/2 in colour, with brick fragments. It was least 0.21m thick, and its base was not reached.

Contexts 7 and 9 were cut by context 8, a pit, 3.6m long and at least 0.6m deep (fig 3). Its sides were sloping gently, and the base of the feature was not exposed. It was backfilled with context 3 and 2. Context 2 was a top fill of the pit 8. It was 0.35m thick. It consisted of 90% shattered glass and 10% of silty clay loam. Some late 19th/early 20th

century pottery was recovered from this context. Below fill 2 was context 3, at least 0.3m of silty clay loam with some sand lenses. Its colour varied from 10YR 2/1 to 5/1.

7.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was 10m long, 0.6m wide and 0.7m deep. It was located north of the footprint of the proposed building and was orientated northwest-southeast (fig 2).

Trench 2 encountered context 1 to a depth of 0.1 m. Below that was context 5, 42mm thick paving slabs made of Purbeck lime stone. The slabs were of various sizes (maximum 350mm wide and long), and were exposed only within an area which was 0.46m wide and 0.53m long. Below the paving was a soil layer which contained much chalk. It varied between 0.25m to 0.4m thick, and was highly disturbed by roots (fig 4). Below that was context 7, silty clay loam with occasional chalk inclusion, interpreted as a garden soil.



Figure 4. Context 5. Looking south.

7.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 was dug through recent deposits to expose the concrete footings of the uncompleted previous building. At least 22m of this structure was uncovered. Trench was approximately 0.8-1m wide. Where the previous footings coincided with planned piles the concrete was broken up, but not removed. No context numbers were issued in this trench.

7.4 Unstratified find.

Context 4 was a wooden beam of unknown provenance found on the surface of the site. It was 2174mm long, 218mm wide and 200mm thick and the mortice slots and peg holes show that it had come from a timber-framed building (fig 5).



Figure 5. Context 4.

8. Conclusions.

The soil investigations showed that there was 1.4m of deposits over peat. Some 0.8m of the deposits were exposed by the groundworks. The top 0.4m was recent material; the bottom 0.4m was undated soil.

Bibliography.

Ordnance Survey, 1987: *Geological Survey of Great Britain (England and Wales) - drift*. Sheet 315.