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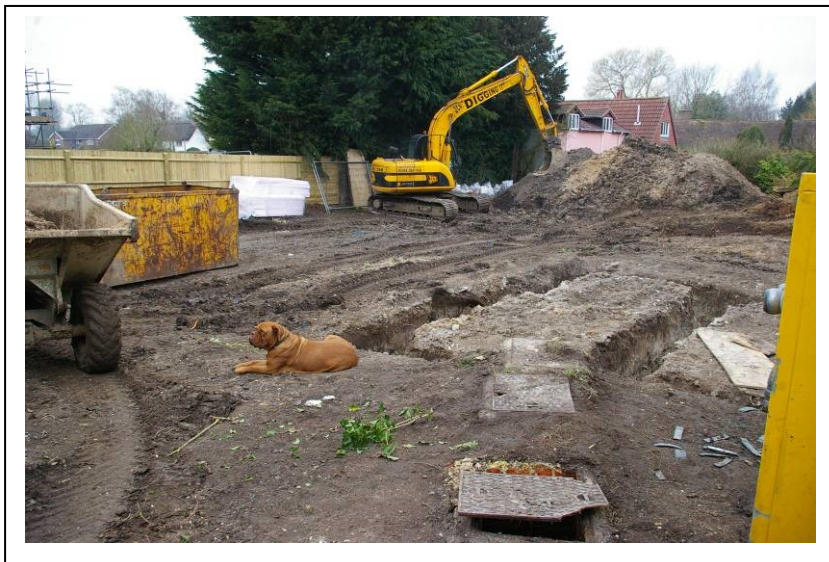
Southampton Archaeology Unit

Archaeological watching brief at Poplar Bungalow, Chilbolton, Hampshire

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2013
Report 1119

Client: Sargeant Developments Ltd



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Archaeological watching brief at Poplar Bungalow, Chilbolton, Hampshire.

By EL Anderson BA MA and Dr A Russel BA PhD MIFA

Site code	A2012.38
Archaeology Unit report	1119
Ordnance Survey grid reference	SU 39424004
Planning application number	12/0182/FULLN
Accession number	A2012.38

1. Executive Summary

The Archaeology Unit of Southampton City Council carried out an archaeological watching brief at the site of a proposed redevelopment at Poplar Bungalow, Cart Lane, Chilbolton, Hampshire on behalf of Sargeant Developments Ltd. The natural was alluvium comprising silty clays with flint and chalk. A layer of cultivated soil above the natural pointed to a long history of cultivation marked by burnt flints, a worked flint flake, a fragment of 13th-14th century pottery, and 19th/20th century pottery, china, clay pipe and brick.

2. Introduction

2.1 The Archaeology Unit of Southampton City Council carried out an archaeological watching brief on at the site of a proposed redevelopment at Poplar Bungalow, Chilbolton, Hampshire (fig 1) on behalf of Sargeant Developments. The survey was carried out in response to a planning condition imposed on planning application 12/0182/FULLN.

2.2 The observations were carried out by EL Anderson BA MA between the 14/1/13 and the 6/3/13. The project was managed by J Russel MIFA. Dr A Russel identified the finds recovered from the site and Matt Garner MIFA identified the flints.

3. Aims of the investigation

3.1 The aims of the investigation as defined in the written scheme of investigation were *'to determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within the area of the site, and to record such evidence'* (SCCAU 2012).

4. Methodology

4.1 The watching brief was kept on the foundation trenches for a new development (fig 2). The trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator under archaeological supervision, after which the sections were cleaned and recorded. All archaeological records were made using the Southampton City Council archaeological recording system. The colours of deposits were recorded using the Munsell Soil Color Chart and these are used in this report (Munsell Color 1975).

4.2 The first phase of groundworks consisted of the excavation of trenches 1-5 forming approximately half of the foundations for the house. Phase 2 consisted of

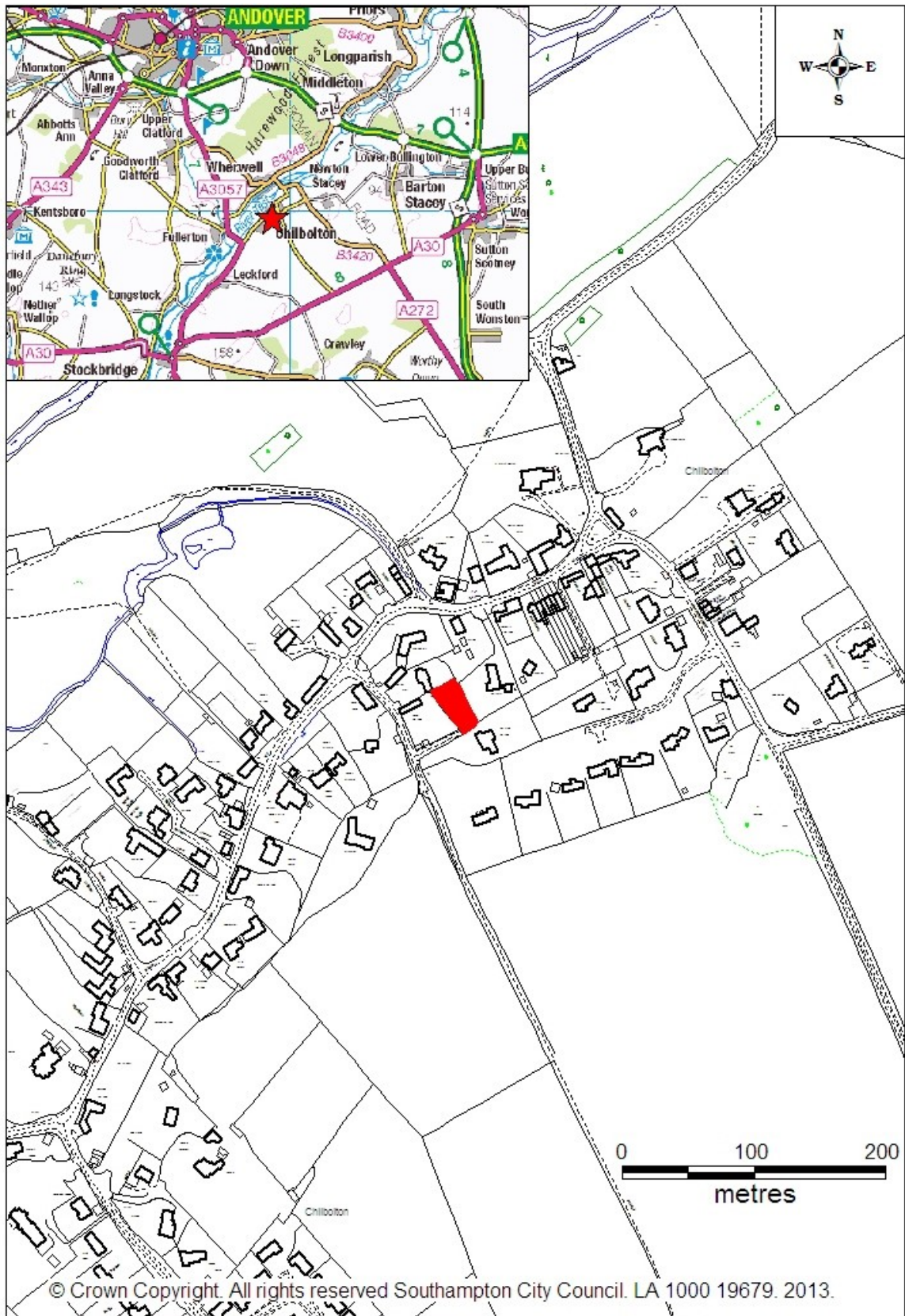


Fig 1: Site location, site shown in red

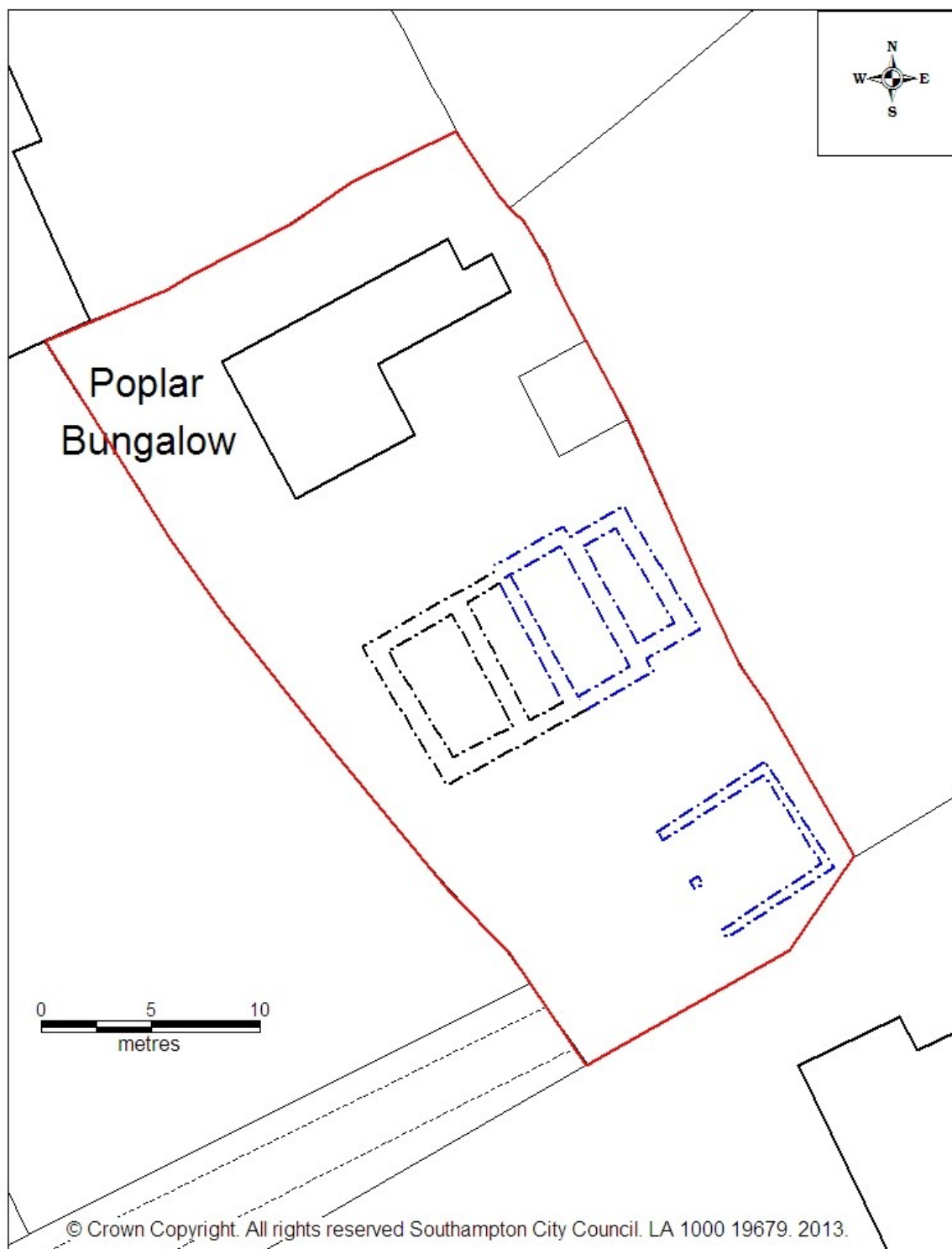


Fig 2: Trench location: observed trenches shown in blue.

the excavation of trenches 6-9 for a garage in the southern part of the site. These two phases showed little evidence of human use of the site in the past, and the completion

of the foundations for the house was not observed in agreement with the Archaeology Team at Hampshire County Council in their role as advisors to the local planning authority.

5. Site location and geology

5.1 The site lies to the south of the main street of the village of Chilbolton at SU 39424004. The site slopes gently southwards towards the river Test. The surface geology at the site is recorded as Upper Chalk with overlying patches of Valley Gravel and Sand (OS 1975). A spot height on Village Street to the north of the site is at some 43.7m above sea level.

6. Historical and archaeological background

6.1 Prehistoric flints and a Roman coin found nearby point to early use of the area. Chilbolton was first mentioned as a place name in AD 909 and was a settlement by the time of the Domesday Survey, AD 1086. The site lies close to the historic core of the village, some 180m from the medieval parish church (fig 1). The main village street lies to the north and a series of plots runs back from the street, thought to relate to medieval property boundaries. The site possibly lies at the southern end of such a medieval property.

7. Results of the watching brief

7.1. Introduction

A total of 9 trenches were observed. Trenches 1-5 were dug for the footings of the new house. They were 0.7m wide and were dug to a depth of 1.6-1.8m. Trenches 6-9 were dug for the footings of the garage. They were 0.7m wide and 1.9m deep (fig 2).

7.2. Natural

The natural on the site consisted of a sequence of alluvial layers composed of clay with flints and chalk washed from the surrounding chalk land.

The deepest layer observed was a deposit of strong brown (7.5YR5/6) clay, context 4. It contained common flint nodules and was at least 1.1m thick. It was only observed in trenches 1-5 (fig 3), where it was situated some 1.1m below the surface. In the garage trenches (trenches 6-9) the lowest deposit was context 5 (fig 4). It was similar to 4 but contained much comminuted chalk and was therefore white (10YR8/1). It was situated some 1.45m below the surface and was over 450mm thick.

Above context 4 in trenches 1-5 was layer 3 (fig 3) which was a light brownish grey (10YR6/2), sandy silty loam. It was situated 810mm below the ground surface and was some 290mm thick.

Above layer 5 in trenches 6-9 was layer 7, a chalky clay deposit some 1.1m below the ground surface (fig 4). It was a brown (7.5YR5/2) silty clay some 450mm thick. Above it was soil and chalk layer 6. It was a light grey (10YR7/2) clay loam, some 200mm thick and its upper surface was some 800mm below the ground surface (fig 3).

7.3. Cultivated soil

Above layers 3 and 6 across the whole site was cultivated soil 2 (figs 3 & 4). It was a greyish brown (10YR5/2) silty clay loam some 510mm thick and situated 350mm below the surface. It contained burnt flints, one worked flint flake, one fragment of 13th-14th century pottery, one fragment of 1800-1900 pottery, one fragment of 1850-1950 china, one fragment of 19th century clay pipe and two fragments of modern brick.

7.4 Topsoil

Above cultivated soil 2 was topsoil 1 (figs 3 & 4). It was a dark greyish brown (10YR4/2) silty clay loam. It was 350mm thick and contained fragments of modern plastic and glass.



Fig 3: West facing section in trench 1, showing layers 1-4.



Fig 4: West facing section in trench 6, showing layers 1, 2, 6, 7, and 5.

8. Conclusions

The natural consisted of deposits of clay-rich alluvium with flints and chalk at least 1m thick. Above the natural had developed a layer of cultivated soil. This contained burnt flints, one worked flint flake, one fragment of 13th-14th century pottery, together with more recent artefacts. These finds suggest cultivation and manuring of this area for many centuries. The low density of finds would fit with the sites postulated position towards the rear of a medieval property.

9. Acknowledgments

Thanks to Andrew Hayward of Bosinney Architects Ltd who managed the archaeological element of the project, David Hopkins of Hampshire County Council for his assistance, and Jason Sargeant for his help on site.

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Appendix 1. Context list

Number/letter codes (eg 10YR 3/1) = Munsell soil colour codes.

sa = stone abundance – 0 = virtually stone free; 5 = gravel

Context	Above	Below	Description
1	2		Top soil. Silty clay loam. 10YR4/2. sa3
2	3	1	Cultivated soil. Silty clay loam. 10YR5/2. sa3
3	4	2	Layer. Sandy silty loam. 10YR6/2. sa3
4		3	Alluvium. Clay. 7.5YR5/6. sa2
5		7	Alluvium. Clay with chalk and flints. 10YR8/1. sa3
6	7	2	Alluvium. Clay loam. 10YR7/2. sa3
7	5	6	Alluvium. Silty clay. 10YR5/2. sa3

Appendix 2. Finds list

Finds recording form					
Context no:	Mat Type	Find Type	No of fragment:	Weight(gm):	Description:
2	POT	FRAGMENT	1	7	Industrial slip ware. 1800-1900.
2	POT	FRAGMENT	1	1	China. 1850-1950.
2	PIPE CLAY	TOBACO PIPE	1	5	19th century? Illegible mark.
2	POT	FRAGMENT	1	19	13th-14th century. Cooking pot? Gritty chalk and shell tempered. Kennet Valley ware.
2	CERAMIC	BRICK	2	11	Modern
2	FLNT	BURNT	6	131	
2	FLNT	FLAKE	1	1	Tertiary. Edge damage. White patina.