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## **Southampton Archaeology Unit Report 1420**

**Archaeological Watching Brief at Gordon Hall Offices, 9 Carlton  
Road, Southampton.**

**SOU 1855**

By

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Client: Student No Fee Property Agency



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Front cover: Typical section.

**Summary Sheet**

|  |
|--|
| Site name / address: Gordon Hall Offices, 9 Carlton Road, Southampton  |
| SOU site code: SOU 1855  |
| Contractor site code: SOU 1855   |
| HET consultation number: 8465  |
| Grid reference of site: NGR 441874 113026  |
| Fieldwork dates: 21-24/1/20 and 11-14/2/20   |
| Type of fieldwork: Watching Brief  |
| Name of contracting unit: Southampton City Council Archaeology Unit  |
| Report authors: Dr AD Russel, T Riley  |
| Name of client: Student No Fee Property Agency   |
| <p>Non-technical summary</p> <p>Southampton City Council Archaeology Unit carried out an archaeological watching brief at the Gordon Hall Offices, 9 Carlton Road, Southampton, in response to a condition on Planning Application No: 17/00503/FUL. Historically the site had been located in the grounds of Bannisters Farm during the medieval period, Bannisters Park in the Georgian era and Archers Lodge in the mid-19th century. The River Terrace gravels were overlain by brickearth. The upper surface of the brickearth had been weathered by bioturbation and contained a few burnt flints, suggestive of prehistoric activity. Above the brickearth was a garden/plough soil layer. It had probably built up slowly for millennia, and included a few fragments of oyster shell and brick. No significant archaeological deposits or features were seen.</p> |

## **Archaeological Watching Brief at Gordon Hall Offices, 9 Carlton Road, Southampton, SO15 2HN**

### **SOU 1855**

AD Russel BA PhD MCIfA

#### **1. Summary**

Southampton City Council Archaeology Unit carried out an archaeological watching brief at the Gordon Hall Offices, 9 Carlton Road, Southampton, in response to a condition on Planning Application No: 17/00503/FUL. Historically the site had been located in the grounds of Bannisters Farm during the medieval period, Bannisters Park in the Georgian era and Archers Lodge in the mid-19th century. The River Terrace gravels were overlain by brickearth. The upper surface of the brickearth had been weathered by bioturbation and contained a few burnt flints, suggestive of prehistoric activity. Above the brickearth was a garden/plough soil layer. It had probably built up slowly for millennia, and included a few fragments of oyster shell and brick. No significant archaeological deposits or features were seen.

#### **2. Introduction**

2.1 Permission to erect a 2-storey building for use as office and storage, following demolition of the existing building at Gordon Hall Offices, 9 Carlton Road, Southampton, SO15 2HN was granted under Application No: 17/00503/FUL.

2.2 The following conditions relating to archaeology were placed on the permission:

##### **03. APPROVAL CONDITION Archaeological watching brief investigation [Pre-Commencement Condition]**

No development shall take place within the site until the implementation of a programme of archaeological work has been secured in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved by the Local planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that the archaeological investigation is initiated at an appropriate point in development procedure.

##### **04. APPROVAL CONDITION Archaeological watching brief work programme [Performance Condition]**

The developer will secure the completion of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved by the Local planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that the archaeological investigation is completed.

2.3 The definition of an archaeological watching brief is *a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive.* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2015).

2.4 Southampton City Council Archaeology Unit were commissioned to carry out the archaeological work. A Written Scheme of Investigation was written and approved by

Southampton City Council Planning Team prior to the evaluation (Southampton Archaeology 2019). All work was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*.

2.5 The HET number is 8465.

### 3. Site Location, geology and topography

3.1. The property lies to the east of Carlton Road at NGR 441874 113026 (fig 1). The site lies at c25mOD, and according to the British Geology Survey the site lies on an area of Wittering Formation overlain by sand and gravel of River Terrace 4 (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>). Archaeological work in the area has shown the gravel is often overlaid by a deposit of brickearth.

3.2 Topographically the site lies on the west side of a gravel ridge that slopes southwards to Southampton. The land also slopes to the west into the valley of the Rollesbrook, which rises on the Common and flows south to join the river Test (Burgess 1982, 6-9).



**Figure 1. Location of site marked by red star.**

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### 4. Historical Background

4.1 The site lies in Local Area of Archaeological Potential 7 (Bannister's Park), as defined in the Southampton Local Plan and Core Strategy. A scatter of Prehistoric and Roman evidence has been found in the surrounding area, including on the former La Sainte Union/New College site to the east (SOU 1406). In the medieval and early post-medieval periods, the site was probably part of the manor of Banaster Court, later known as Bannister's Farm and Banister Court. In 1792 this became a Georgian mansion with landscaped grounds, called Banister's Park (and various other names).

4.2 By 1846 the site lay in the grounds of Archers Lodge (fig 2), east of a lane that later became Carlton Road. Between 1870 and 1897, houses were built on the Carlton Road

frontage, with gardens behind. Between 1909/10 and 1933, a building was constructed to the rear of No 9, presumably the single-storey structure now standing on the site.



**Figure 2. The 1846 Royal Engineers' Map of Southampton map showing the approximate position of the site, marked by a red star.**

## **5. Aims of the Investigation**

5.1 The watching brief aimed to make a record of any archaeology disturbed by the works and to determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality, and date of any archaeological remains encountered, as dictated by current best practice.

5.2 A secondary aim was to identify and record the nature, dimensions, and relationship of natural deposits on the site, and to assess the potential of the natural deposits to contain or conceal archaeology.

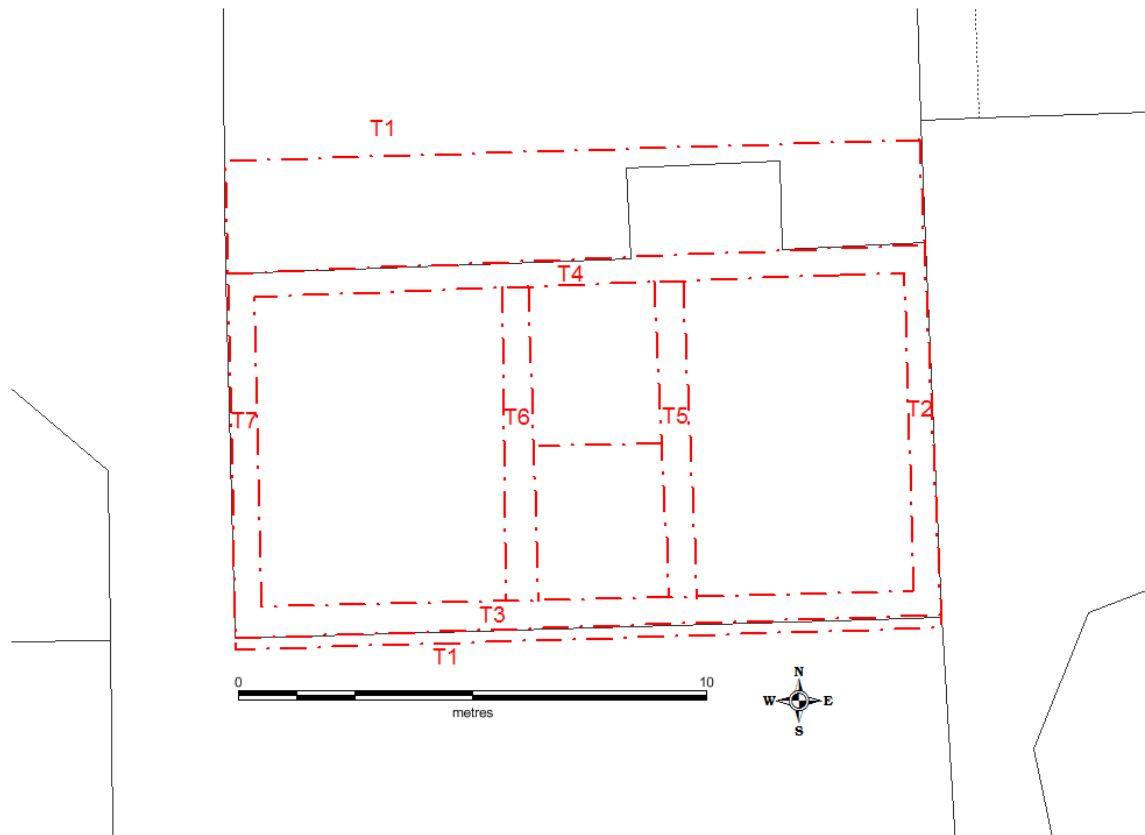
5.3 For the purposes of this project archaeology was deemed to be significant if it dated from before 1850.

## **6. Archaeological Methodology**

6.1 The Southampton site code SOU 1855 was issued by the Southampton City Council Planning Archaeologist.

7.2 Seven trenches were dug under archaeological supervision (fig. 4). Trench 1 was assigned to the removal of the existing foundations and the floor slab. Trenches 2-7 were dug for the foundations of the new building and were 0.6m wide and excavated to a depth of between 0.6 and 2m.

7.3 After the completion of the watching brief on the foundation trenches it was decided, with the agreement of the City Planning Archaeologist, that no further observations were needed as the drainage was only to be excavated to a depth of 0.3m and thus would not impact on any archaeology.



**Figure 4. Plan of observed trenches.**

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## **8. Results**

The results are presented in stratigraphic order from the earliest to the latest. Contexts 1-11 were assigned (Appendix 2), with the same layer numbers being used across all trenches. Contexts 10 and 11 were only observed in trenches 2 and 7, respectively. Appendix 1 contains 6 photographs showing the trenches and deposits. No finds were retained.

### **8.1 Natural**

8.1.2 The earliest deposit was context 11 (Plate 5), a deposit of brownish yellow (10YR6/6) natural River Terrace gravel found some 1400mm below the surface in trench 7. The gravel was overlain by a very slightly stony, brownish yellow (10YR6/6) silty clay loam (natural brickearth) 8 (Plate 4). It was 900mm thick and situated some 500-700mm below the surface, over the entire site.

8.1.3 The upper 200mm of the brickearth was a weathered horizon, layer 7. It was a very slightly stony, light yellowish brown (10YR6/4) silty clay loam containing a few burnt flints. It was below layers 2 and 5, and was cut by foundation trench 3.

8.1.4 Overlying the weathered brickearth was Layer 5, a slightly stony, dark grey (10YR4/1) silty clay loam garden/plough soil, 500mm thick. (Plate 4) It contained some fragments of oyster shell and brick. It was below layer 6, and was cut by foundation trench 3.

## **8.2 Late 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century.**

8.2.1 Overlying the weathered brickearth was Layer 5, a slightly stony, dark grey (10YR4/1) silty clay loam garden/plough soil, 500mm thick. (Plate 4) It contained some fragments of oyster shell and brick. It was below layer 6, and was cut by foundation trench 3.

8.2.2 Context number 3 was assigned to the construction trenches of the Gordon Hall (Plate 1) demolished before the project started. They covered an area 11.9m long, 7m wide, and 0.5m deep. They cut layers 5 and 7. The construction trenches were filled by brick and concrete foundations 4 (Plate 1 & 2). The brickwork was 200mm thick with a slate damp course being observed in the northern wall and the concrete underneath was 300mm thick. Many of the bricks appeared to be wasters of varying sizes, with complete bricks measured 234mm x 112mm x 69mm. Fill 4 was below layer 1, and butted by layers 2 and 6.

8.2.3 Layer 2 was a mix of light yellowish brown (10YR6/4) sandy clay loam soil, flint gravel and brick rubble, with slate and concrete fragments (Plate 4). It was 200mm thick and contained complete bricks that measured 234mm x 112mm x 69mm. It was above layer 7, below layers 1 and 10, and butted fill 4.

8.2.4 Layer 1 was the concrete slab from the previous building, consisting of concrete with fragments of brick and flint pebbles. It was 200mm thick, and was above layer 2 and fill 4.

8.2.5 Context 10 was a slightly stony, dark grayish brown (10YR4/2) silty clay loam topsoil layer, 300mm thick, observed in the east of the site (Plate 4) It had been removed by the carpark, 6, in the rest of the site. It was above layer 2.

8.2.6 Layer 6 was a gravel carpark laid over terram in the south of the site. It was 0.15m thick and at least 5m in length and width. It was above layer 5 and butted foundation 4.

8.2.7 Layer 9 was observed in the west of the site, and comprised brick paving slabs in a sandy gravel bedding on-top of a geotextile membrane. (Plate 6) It was 0.3m thick and at least 7m wide.

## **9. Conclusion**

9.1 The River Terrace gravels were overlain by brickearth. The upper surface of the brickearth had been weathered by bioturbation and contained a few burnt flints, suggestive of prehistoric activity. Above the brickearth was a garden/plough soil layer. It had probably built up slowly for millennia, and included a few fragments of oyster shell and brick.

9.2. No significant archaeological deposits or features were seen.

## **10. Bibliography**

Southampton Archaeology 2019 *Written Scheme of Investigation for Watching Brief at Gordon Hall Offices, 9 Carlton Road.*



**Appendix 1 Photographs**



**Plate 1. South-facing section of Foundation 4.**



**Plate 2. View of trench 1 looking northeast, showing context 4.**



**Plate 3. View of West end of Trench 1, after footing removal. Context 9 visible to the west.**



**Plate 4. West-facing section of Trench 2, showing brickearth layers 8 and 7.**



**Plate 5. View of Trench 7, looking north, showing the River Terrace gravel in the base of the trench.**



**Plate 6. Overview of site showing foundation trenches near completion.**

**Appendix 2. Contexts**

All measurements in mm

| Context | Category | Key Word            | Depth | Munsell Colour | Texture         | Description   | Above | Cut By | Below          | Period |
|---------|----------|---------------------|-------|----------------|-----------------|---|-------|--------|----------------|--------|
| 1       | Layer    | Concrete Slab       | 200   |                |                 | Concrete slab of previous building. Concrete with fragments of brick and flint pebbles  | 2, 4  |        |                | MOD    |
| 2       | Layer    | Rubble              | 200   | 10YR 6/4       | Sandy Clay Loam | Mix of soil, flint gravel and brick rubble. Complete brick 234x112x69mm   | 4, 7  |        | 1              | MOD    |
| 3       | Feature  | Construction Trench | 500   |                |                 | Construction trench for foundations of demolished building  | 5, 7  |        | 4              | MOD    |
| 4       | Fill     | Construction Trench | 500   |                |                 | Brick foundations, individual bricks 234x112x69mm. Red bricks with shallow frogs in cement mortar matrix. In northern wall was a slate damp course. The lower half of the foundations was concrete. | 5, 3  |        | 1, 2           | MOD    |
| 5       | Layer    | Garden Soil         | 500   | 10YR 4/1       | Silty Clay Loam |   | 7     | 3      | 6              |        |
| 6       | Layer    | Gravel              | 150   |                |                 | Gravel carpark and terram   | 4, 5  |        |                | MOD    |
| 7       | Layer    | Dirty Natural       | 200   | 10YR 6/4       | Silty Clay Loam | Dirty natural, situated 400-500mm below the surface   | 8     | 3      | 2, 5           |        |
| 8       | Layer    | Natural             | 900   | 10YR 6/6       | Silty Clay Loam | Natural brickearth, situated 500-700mm below the surface  | 11    |        | 7              | NAT    |
| 9       | Layer    | Paving              | 300   |                |                 | Brick paving slabs at W-end of site on a gravel bedding, above a geotextile membrane.   | 4, 5  |        |                | MOD    |
| 10      | Layer    | Topsoil             | 300   | 10YR 4/2       | Silty Clay Loam | Topsoil seen in the E of the site. Removed in the rest of the site.   | 2     |        | Tarmac & crush | MOD    |
| 11      | Layer    | Natural             |       | 10YR 6/6       | Clay            | Natural gravel, situated 1400mm below the surface   |       |        | 8              | NAT    |