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Southampton Archaeology Unit Report 1487

Archaeological Watching Brief on construction of a single-storey rear extension at 2 Forest View, Southampton, SOU 1934

AD Russel BA PhD MCIfA and P Girdwood-Carroll BA MA
1/3/2023

Client: Lau Wai Fong



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Cover photo: West facing section of Trench 1, 0.5m scale

Summary Sheet

Site name/address: 2 Forest View, Southampton, SO14 2BZ
SOU site code: SOU 1934
HET consultation number: 9724
Grid reference of site: 441860 111477
Fieldwork date: 14/03/2022
Type of fieldwork: Watching Brief
Name of contracting unit: Southampton City Council Archaeology Unit
Accession Number: 2022.8
Report author: P Girdwood-Carroll & Dr AD Russel
Name of client: Lau Wai Fong
<p>The Archaeology Unit of Southampton City Council observed groundworks for the installation of a single-storey rear extension at 2 Forest View, Southampton. The observation took place in March 2022. The site lies in Local Area of Archaeological Potential 8, within the bounds of Southampton Castle, and numerous archaeological projects have taken place in the area producing evidence from the prehistoric period onwards. The trenches were excavated to a maximum of 0.45m, and the earliest deposit was modern made ground that contained much 20th century and late 19th century rubble and was not considered to be of archaeological significance. No features or artefacts of archaeological importance were encountered.</p>

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P Girdwood-Carroll BA MA and AD Russel BA PhD MCIfA

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Site code	SOU 1934
Grid reference	441860 111477
Planning reference no	20/01670/FUL
HET number	9724

1. Summary

The Archaeology Unit of Southampton City Council observed groundworks for the installation of a single-storey rear extension at 2 Forest View, Southampton. The observation took place in March 2022. The site lies in Local Area of Archaeological Potential 8, within the bounds of Southampton Castle, and numerous archaeological projects have taken place in the area producing evidence from the prehistoric period onwards. The trenches were excavated to a maximum of 0.45m, and the earliest deposit was modern made ground that contained much 20th century and late 19th century rubble and was not considered to be of archaeological significance. No features or artefacts of archaeological importance were encountered.

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2. Introduction

2.1 Planning permission was granted for a single-storey rear extension at Flat 1, 2 Forest View, Southampton SO14 2BZ (fig.1) under Application 20/01670/FUL.

2.2 Two conditions relating to archaeology were placed on the permission:

3 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.

4 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 HET number for the site is 9724.

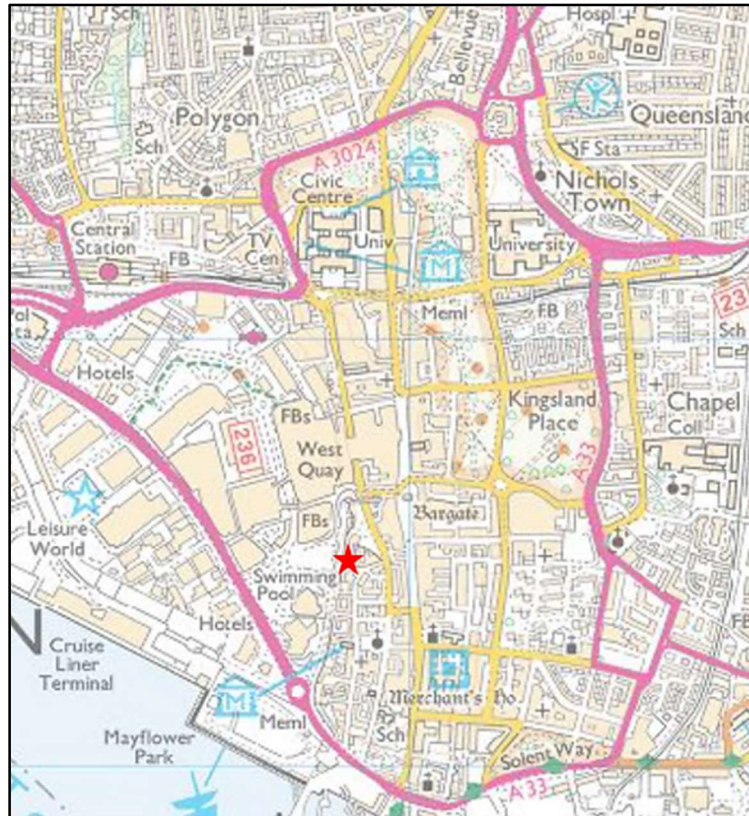


Figure 1. Extract from modern OS map showing location of 2 Forest View marked by red star.
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2.4 A written scheme of investigation for an archaeological watching brief was produced by Southampton Archaeology Unit (Russel 2021). This was written to the recommended guidelines for archaeological projects laid down by English Heritage in The Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment 2006. All work was to be carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct.

2.5 On 14th March 2022, the Archaeology Unit of Southampton City Council carried out the archaeological watching brief using the site code SOU 1934.

2.6 The archive will be deposited with Southampton Museums under accession number 2022.8 on completion of the project. The project was managed by Dr AD Russel BA PhD MCIfA.

3. Site Location, description, and geology

3.1 The site lies to the east of Forest View and North of Cement Terrace at grid reference 441860 111477 (fig.1). Forest View lies to the west of Castle Way and east of Western Esplanade, south of the Castle Way/Albion Place car park.

3.2. The Geological Survey shows the site to be on Earnley Sand, a part of the Bracklesham Group, overlain by River Terrace Deposits 2. (<https://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

3.3 The site lies at the top of a natural cliff some 8.5m above Western Esplanade which lies on land reclaimed from the estuary of the River Test. There is an Ordnance Survey benchmark of 10.58mOD to the southwest of the site on the castle wall at the junction of Forest View and Cement Terrace.

4. Archaeological and Historical Background

4.1 The site lies within Area 8 of the Local Areas of Archaeological Potential (LAAP) as defined in the City of Southampton Core Strategy 2010.

4.2 Forest View is a terrace of houses built between 1846 and 1870 on the site of post-medieval pleasure garden that lay within the bailey of Southampton castle. The garden was bounded on the west by the west wall of the castle, which was constructed on the former beach at the base of a natural cliff. The gap between the cliff and the castle wall was backfilled probably in the medieval period. Archaeological observations at No 1 Forest View to the south found the edge of the cliff about 9m east of the west wall castle.

4.3 Numerous archaeological projects have taken place in the area producing evidence from the prehistoric period onwards:

SOU No.	site name	date	type
29	Maddison St SARC 29	1980/1	EX
116	Castle S Vault/Castle Hall & Watergate	1979 & 83	EX
130	Castle, Upper Bugle St, Site 1	1953	EX
131	Castle Mound, Site 2	1953	EX
133	Castle, Lansdowne Hill. Site 4	1953	EX
134	Castle, Zion Chapel, Site 11	1955	EX
145	Castle Mound, Lansdowne Hill (AA Castle site 1)	1959/60	EX
146	Maddison St 1, (AA Castle site 2)	1960	EX
146	Maddison St 1, (AA Castle site 2)	1960	EX
147	Castle Eastgate, Castle Lane (AA Castle site 3)	1960	EX
179	Cement Terrace 5	1983	WB
222	High St/Castle Lane (Dup of SOU 356, qv)	1957	WB
247	Castle Square	1986	WB
439	1 Forest View	1991	WB
441	Castle Vault, Western Esplanade	1991	EX
461	Cement Terrace Cottage	1988	WB
467	Castle Way (By Castle Gate)	1988	WB
550	4 Forest View borehole	1993	WB
565	Cement Terrace	1993	WB
625	Castle Way	1961	WB
791	Maddison Court, Castle Lane	1996	WB
791	Maddison Court, Castle Lane	1996	WB
852	Lansdowne Ho., Castle Lane	1997	WB
996	1 Forest View	1999	WB/EX
1005	Old Court House	1999	BS
1005	Old Court House Maddison Court/Castle Lane	1999	BS
1007	3-5 Forest View	1999	WB
1008	Old Court House	1999	WB

SOU			
No.	site name	date	type
1008	Old Court House Maddison Court/Castle Lane	1999	WB
1118	7 Forest View	2001	WB
1232	1 Forest View	2003	WB
1400	Castle Hall	2006	EX

4.4 Mesolithic and other flint work was recovered during excavations at 1 Forest View (SOU 439). Middle Bronze Age pottery has been recovered from SOU 29. Roman remains are scarce, and consist only of stray finds. Fragments of Roman tile were found at SOU 145, and tile and pot fragments came from SOU 889.

4.5 Late Saxon evidence at SOU 29 consisted of a large post-in-trench structure (possibly a hall) consisting of at least two bays, at least 24m long by 12m wide, with at least one hearth and internal partition. A scatter of cess pits, gullies and post-holes suggested further structures and occupation. It is possible that this hall stood within an enclosure with an earth rampart. Evidence from 1 Forest View indicated that this occupation may have extended as far west as the cliff top.

4.6 The royal castle of Southampton was imposed on the Late Saxon settlement in the 12th century although the exact date of foundation is not known. The earliest known reference to a defended royal property is from 1153, and the first use of the term *castellum* dates to 1155. The dating of the outer bailey has not been established, but it may have been in existence by the early 12th century. The castle was rebuilt in the late 14th century when a stone keep was added to the castle mound. excavations in Maddison Street (SOU 29) some 20m to the east of Forest View revealed deposits and features associated with the Castle including human burials, a lime kiln, and buildings.

4.7 The castle seems to have fallen into some disrepair by the mid-16th century and it was sold in 1618. The area of Forest View was described in a notice of auction dated 29th July 1834 as being “an eligible piece of land, enclosed by walls and iron palisades, now used as a pleasure garden, but equally applicable for building” (Kemish 1999, 19). It is not clear whether or not the sale went ahead at this time, but the garden is still shown on the Royal Engineers’ map of 1846. Forest View had been laid out by 1867, when the 1868 Ordnance Survey map was surveyed. That map shows the southern end of the terrace as built, with the northern end vacant.

5. Purpose/Aims of Fieldwork

5.1 The aim of the watching brief was 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. Should important archaeology be exposed, important being defined as pre-1860, it will be investigated by hand by archaeologists and subject to full recording.

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

deposits to contain or conceal archaeological remains, particularly from the prehistoric periods.

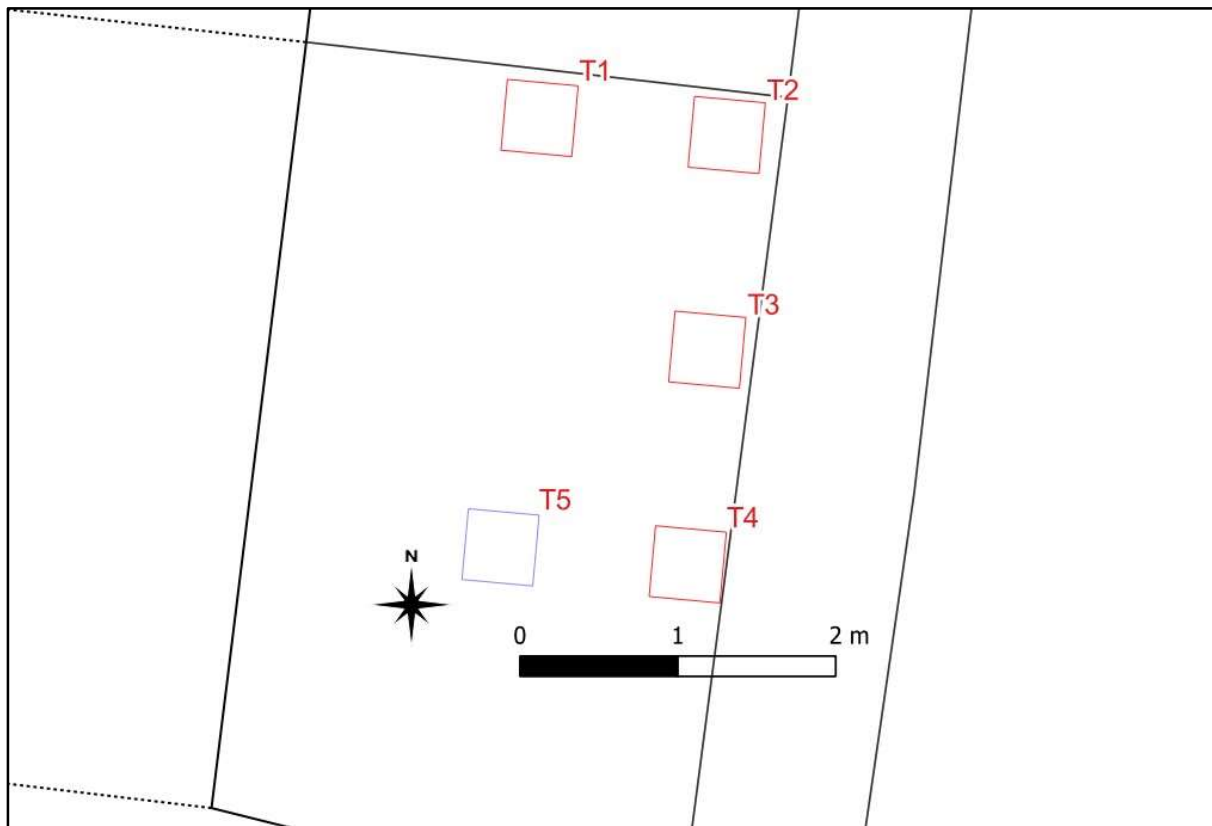


Figure 2. The location of Trenches 1-4 (red) and aborted trench 5 (blue) in the back garden of 2 Forest View.

6. Watching Brief Methodology

6.1 The methodology followed that specified in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Russel 2021). The extension measured 3.2m by 2.9m and was to sit on 5 pads as in figure 2. Foundation holes 1 to 4 were each approximately 0.45m by 0.45m across and were 0.45m deep. Foundation hole 5 was not excavated due to the discovery of existing concrete of sufficient thickness in the pad's location.

6.2 All archaeological records were made using the Southampton City Council archaeological recording system. Deposits were described using the Soil Survey handbook, and colours of deposits were recorded using the Munsell Soil Color Chart and these are used in this report (Munsell Color 2000).

7. Results

7.1 The results are presented in chronological order from the oldest to the most recent. A total of 2 layers were recorded. Both were observed in all 4 excavated trenches.

7.2 The earliest deposit encountered was layer 2, a very stony, greyish brown (10YR 5/2) sandy clay loam. It contained abundant fragments of brick, slate, and salt-glazed pipe and occasional oyster shell and concrete. It was observed to be at least 300mm deep with no sign of a bottom (fig. 3).

7.3 Directly overlying layer 2 was layer 1. This was a modern surface 150mm thick, comprised of 50mm thick concrete slabs resting on a 100mm thick bed of gravel in a brownish yellow (10YR 6/8) sandy silt loam matrix.



Figure 3. South-facing section of Trench 4, showing layers 1 and 2. 0.5m scale.

8. Conclusions

8.1 With no trench excavated to a depth greater than 0.45m, the earliest deposit was modern made ground. It contained much 20th century and late 19th century rubble and was not considered to be of archaeological significance. No features or artefacts of archaeological importance were encountered.

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Appendix: Contexts

Depths in mm

Context	Category	Keyword	Depth	MUNSELL Colour	Texture	Description/ Inclusions	Above	Below	Period
1	LAYER	Slabs and Bedding	150	10YR 6/8	Sandy silt loam	Concrete slabs on gravel bedding. 50mm slabs, 100mm bedding.	2	-	MOD
2	LAYER	Rubbly Soil	300 +	10YR 5/2	Sandy clay loam	Brick, slate, plastic, salt glazed pipe, occ. oyster, concrete.	-	1	MOD