

**210 BASSETT GREEN ROAD & THE GRAYS, SPINNEY
SOUTHAMPTON,
HAMPSHIRE**

NGR: SU 4203 1685 (Centred)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SOU 1647

Report No. 841
October 2012



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Quality Assurance

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CONTENTS

List of Illustrations

Summary

Glossary

1	INTRODUCTION
1	PROJECT BACKGROUND
3	AIMS
4	METHODOLOGY
5	RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
6	ARCHIVE
7	BIBLIOGRAPHY
8	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1: Site Location

Figure 2: Trench Plan

SUMMARY

On the 25th October 2012 Foundations Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation on land at 210 Bassett Green Road and The Grays, Spinney, Southampton, Hampshire (NGR: SU 4203 1685 centred) (Figure 1). The work was commissioned by Rob Bourn of CgMs Consulting.

Planning permission has been applied for to Southampton City Council for the demolition of two properties and the construction of five new houses at the above site. The development site falls within an Area of Archaeological Importance 16 and lies close to a number of known historic assets, including the Iron Age Hillfort of Chilworth Ring, which lies within 600m of the site, and other associated earthworks of the same date, as well as a Mesolithic flint working site to the west of the site, and a coin dating to the Romano-British period to the north. The site also lies immediately adjacent to a Medieval deer park which covers the area to the northeast.

The trenches were all located within garden plots on relatively flat land with a gentle slope from west to east, lying between 80.15m OD in the west (Trenches 1 and 2) and 79.14m in the east (Trench 3). Natural deposits of river terrace gravel were encountered at depths between 0.29m and 0.37m below the current ground level, immediately beneath the topsoil in Trench 1 and beneath thin subsoils in Trenches 2 and 3, which clearly indicates a degree of previous truncation, almost certainly associated with landscaping of the existing gardens. Where tested, the gravel layers were at least 1.5m thick; no trace was seen of the underlying London Clay, which is known to be present at depth.

No archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within the evaluated area suggesting a relatively low potential for the presence of archaeology within the immediate area.

GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Archaeology

For the purpose of this project archaeology is taken to mean the study of past human societies through their material remains from prehistoric times to the modern era. No rigid upper date limit has been set, but AD 1900 is used as a general cut-off point.

Bronze Age

The period from *c.* 2,000 BC to *c.* 600 BC.

CBM

Ceramic Building Material

Iron Age

The period from *c.* 600 BC to *c.* 43 AD.

Medieval

The period between the Norman Conquest (AD 1066) and *c.* AD 1500.

Mesolithic

The period from *c.* 12,000 BC to *c.* 4,500 BC.

Natural

In archaeological terms this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site.

NGR

National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid.

OD

Ordnance datum; used to express a given height above sea-level.

OS

Ordnance Survey

Romano-British

Term used to describe the fusion of indigenous Iron Age traditions with invasive Roman culture.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In October 2012 Foundations Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation on land at 210 Bassett Green Road, Southampton, Hampshire (NGR: SU 4203 1685, centred) (Figure 1). The work was commissioned by Rob Bourn of CgMs Consulting.
- 1.2 Planning permission has been applied for to Southampton City Council for the demolition of two properties and the construction of five new houses at the above site, which lies within an area of known archaeological importance.
- 1.3 Foundations Archaeology is certified to BS EN ISO 9001: 2008 for quality assurance in the provision of archaeological services. The company is a Registered Organisation with the Institute for Archaeologists and subscribes to that organisation's Code of Conduct. All relevant IfA Codes of Practice were adhered to throughout the course of the project.
- 1.4 This report constitutes the results of the archaeological works. The project was undertaken in accordance with a specification issued by CgMs Consulting and the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* as issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (rev. 2009).

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site is located at 210 Bassett Green Road and The Grays, Spinney, Southampton, Hampshire (NGR: SU 4203 1685 centred) (Figure 1), on the northern edge of Southampton. The geology comprises river terrace gravels overlying London Clay.
- 2.2 The site comprises two, currently separate, plots with individual planning applications.
 - Application no: 11/01682/FUL for the demolition of The Grays followed by the erection of two detached houses with detached garages
 - Application no: 10/00811/FUL for the demolition of 210 Bassett Green Road followed by the erection of three detached houses, car parking and amenity space.
- 2.3 The development site falls within Area of Archaeological Importance 16 and lies close to a number of known historic assets, including the Iron Age Hillfort of Chilworth Ring, which lies within 600m of the site, and other associated earthworks of the same date, as well as a Mesolithic flint working site to the west of the site, and a coin dating to the Romano-British period to the north. The site also lies immediately adjacent to a Medieval deer park which covers the area to the northeast. There is also evidence for a Romano-British villa complex and for extensive Bronze Age activity in the wider vicinity.

- 2.4 The development area therefore contained the potential for the preservation of archaeological deposits; predominately associated with the Roman period. This did not prejudice the watching brief against features and finds relating to other periods.

3 AIMS

- 3.1 The aims of the archaeological watching brief were to gather high quality data from the direct observation of archaeological deposits in order to provide sufficient information to establish the nature, extent, preservation and potential of any surviving archaeological remains.
- 3.2 These aims were achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:
- i) To clarify the presence/absence and extent of archaeological deposits within the site;
 - ii) To identify, within the constraints of the evaluation, the date, character, condition, significance, quality and depth of any surviving remains within the site;
 - iii) To assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The evaluation comprised three trenches measuring 30m, 10m and 7m long by 1.8m in width. Topsoil and non-significant overburden was removed by a mechanical excavator fitted with a wide, toothless grading bucket working under constant archaeological supervision. All archaeological features were to be investigated in accordance with the specification. Spoil tips were scanned by eye and metal-detector for unstratified artefacts.

5 RESULTS

- 5.1 **Trench 1** measured 10m in length by 1.8m in width and was aligned approximately north-south. Natural deposits were encountered at a depth of 0.30m (79.85m OD) below the current ground level and comprised a hard/compact light grey medium course sandy chalk gravel (102). A sondage was excavated 1.5m into the gravels at the northern end of the trench to confirm that they did represent natural deposits. The natural was directly overlain by a dark brown friable silt clay topsoil (101), averaging 0.30m thick. No archaeological features were present within the trench, although a number of irregular dark patches in the top of the natural were investigated, which were found to be the result of rooting and bioturbation.

- 5.2 **Trench 2** measured 7m in length by 1.8m wide and was aligned north-northwest to south-southeast. Natural deposits were encountered at 0.37m (79.73m OD) below the current ground level and comprised a compact mid orange medium course gravel with lenses of light grey sandy chalk gravel (203); a sondage at the northern end confirmed that this gravel layer exceeded 1.5m in depth and was indeed the natural geology. The overlying deposits comprised (202), a dark brown compact/friable silt clay subsoil with occasional small sub rounded stones, up to 0.13m thick. The latest stratigraphic unit (201) comprised dark brown friable silt clay humic topsoil. No archaeological features were present within this trench.
- 5.3 **Trench 3** measured 30m in length, and 1.8m in width and was aligned approximately west-northwest to east-southeast. Natural deposits (303) were encountered at an average depth of 0.29m (79.07m OD) below the current ground level, and comprised a compact mid orange medium course gravel with lenses of light grey sandy chalk gravel, as seen in Trench 2. This was overlain by (302), a dark greyish brown friable silt clay subsoil, up to 0.10m thick. The latest stratigraphic unit comprised of (301), a dark brown friable silt clay topsoil, up to 0.19m thick. No archaeological features were present within this trench.

6 DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The trenches were all located within garden plots on relatively flat land with a gentle slope from west to east, lying between 80.15m OD in the west (Trenches 1 and 2) and 79.14m in the east (Trench 3). Natural deposits of river terrace gravel were encountered at depths between 0.29m and 0.37m below the current ground level, immediately beneath the topsoil in Trench 1 and beneath thin subsoils in Trenches 2 and 3, which clearly indicates a degree of previous truncation, almost certainly associated with landscaping of the existing gardens. Where tested, the gravel layers were at least 1.5m thick; no trace was seen of the underlying London Clay, which is known to be present at depth.
- 6.2 No archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within the evaluated area, suggesting a relatively low potential for the presence of archaeology within the immediate area.

7 ARCHIVE

- 7.1 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology. It comprises:

Digital photographs
Record sheets
Correspondence
Written Scheme of Investigation
Risk Assessment and Health and Safety Method statement

- 7.4 The archive has been prepared in accordance with *MoRPHE* (English Heritage 2006) and *Guidelines for the preparation of archaeological archives for long-term storage* (UKIC 1990). It will be deposited with Southampton Museum within 12 months.
- 7.5 The results of the work will be published in an appropriate journal and an OASIS report will be completed and submitted.

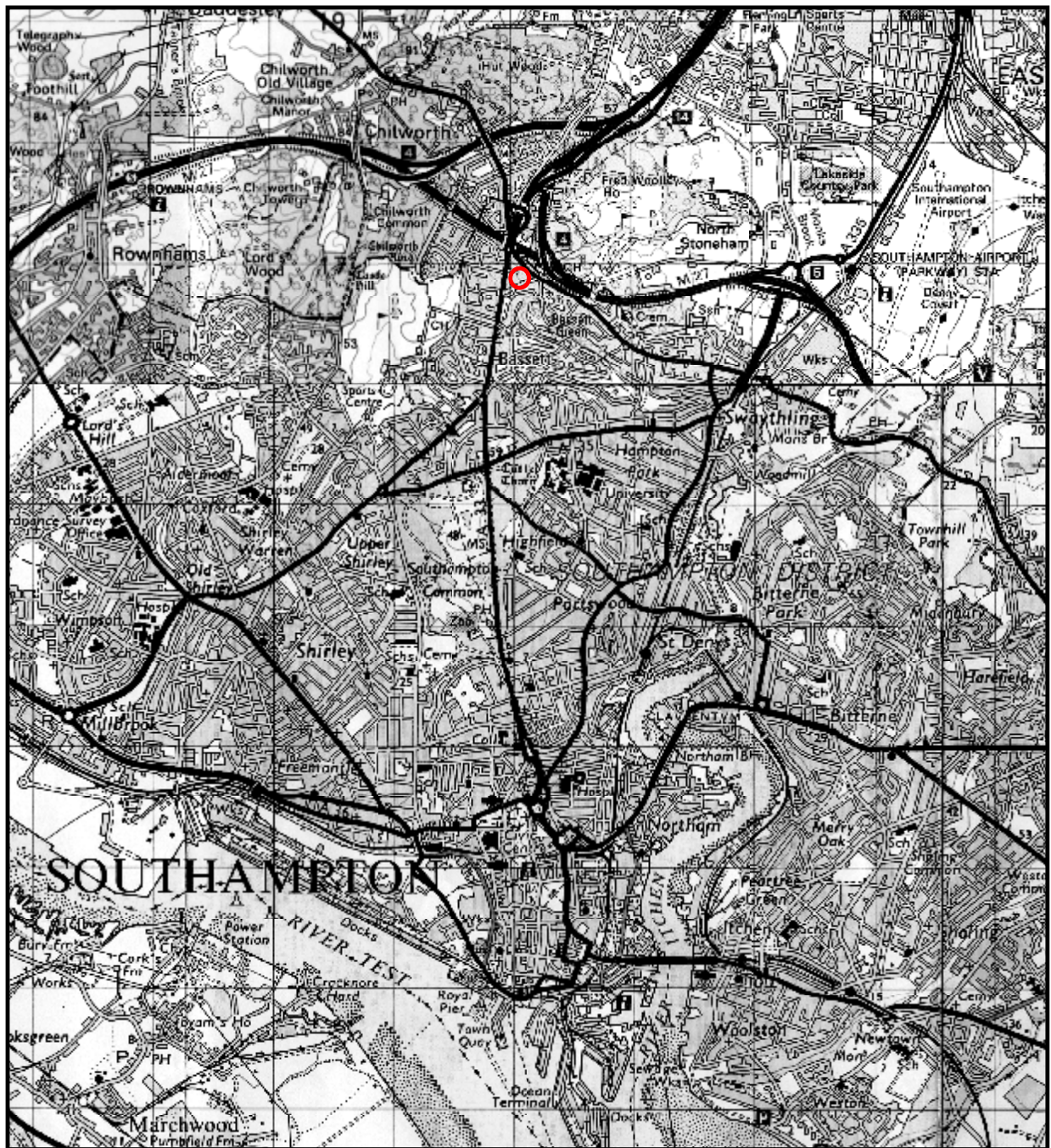
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9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Site Code: BAS12
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N

0km 2km

1:500

FIGURE 1: Site Location



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TRENCH LOCATIONS

 0m 50m

 1:1250

FIGURE 2: Trench Locations