



© Southampton City Council

## **Southampton Archaeology Unit**

### **Report 1161**

### **Report on the Archaeological Watching Brief with option to excavate on the construction of a MUGA at St Mary's Church of England Primary School, Southampton SOU 1631**

EL Anderson BA MA AIfA and Dr AD Russel BA PhD MIfA

2014

Client: Saints Foundation



## Contents

1. Summary .....	2
2. Introduction.....	2
3. Aims of the investigation.....	2
4. Site location and geology.....	4
5. Historical background .....	4
6. Archaeological background .....	5
7. Methodology .....	7
8. Results of the watching brief.....	7
8.1. Natural deposit .....	7
8.2. Prehistoric residual finds.....	8
8.3. Middle Saxon features (contexts 7–12) .....	8
8.4. Post-Medieval (1550–1750) residual finds.....	11
8.5. Early modern (1750–1900) .....	11
8.6. Modern (1900–2014) layers.....	11
9. Conclusions .....	13
Bibliography .....	14
Appendix 1. Context list.....	15
Appendix 2. Finds list .....	17

# **Report on the Archaeological Watching Brief with option to excavate on the construction of a MUGA at St Mary's Church of England Primary School, Southampton SOU 1631**

By EL Anderson BA MA and Dr AD Russel BA PhD MIfA

Site code	SOU 1631
Archaeology Unit report	1161
Ordnance Survey grid reference	SU 42731205

## **1. Summary**

The Archaeology Unit of Southampton City Council carried out an archaeological watching brief with option to excavate on the groundworks required to construct a multi-use games area (MUGA) in the grounds of St Mary's School, Golden Grove, Southampton, on behalf of Saints Foundation.

Most of the groundworks were less than 0.9m deep and did not expose archaeological deposits. The natural brickearth was 1.1m below the surface and was observed in only the deepest trench, where two Middle Saxon pits were observed. Above the brickearth was a buried ploughsoil layer containing fragments of post-medieval brick and 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century pottery. Above the buried soil was a series of modern layers, containing fragments of clay pipe, coal, concrete and bricks, relating to the post-war demolition of the houses built in this part of expanding 19<sup>th</sup> century Southampton.

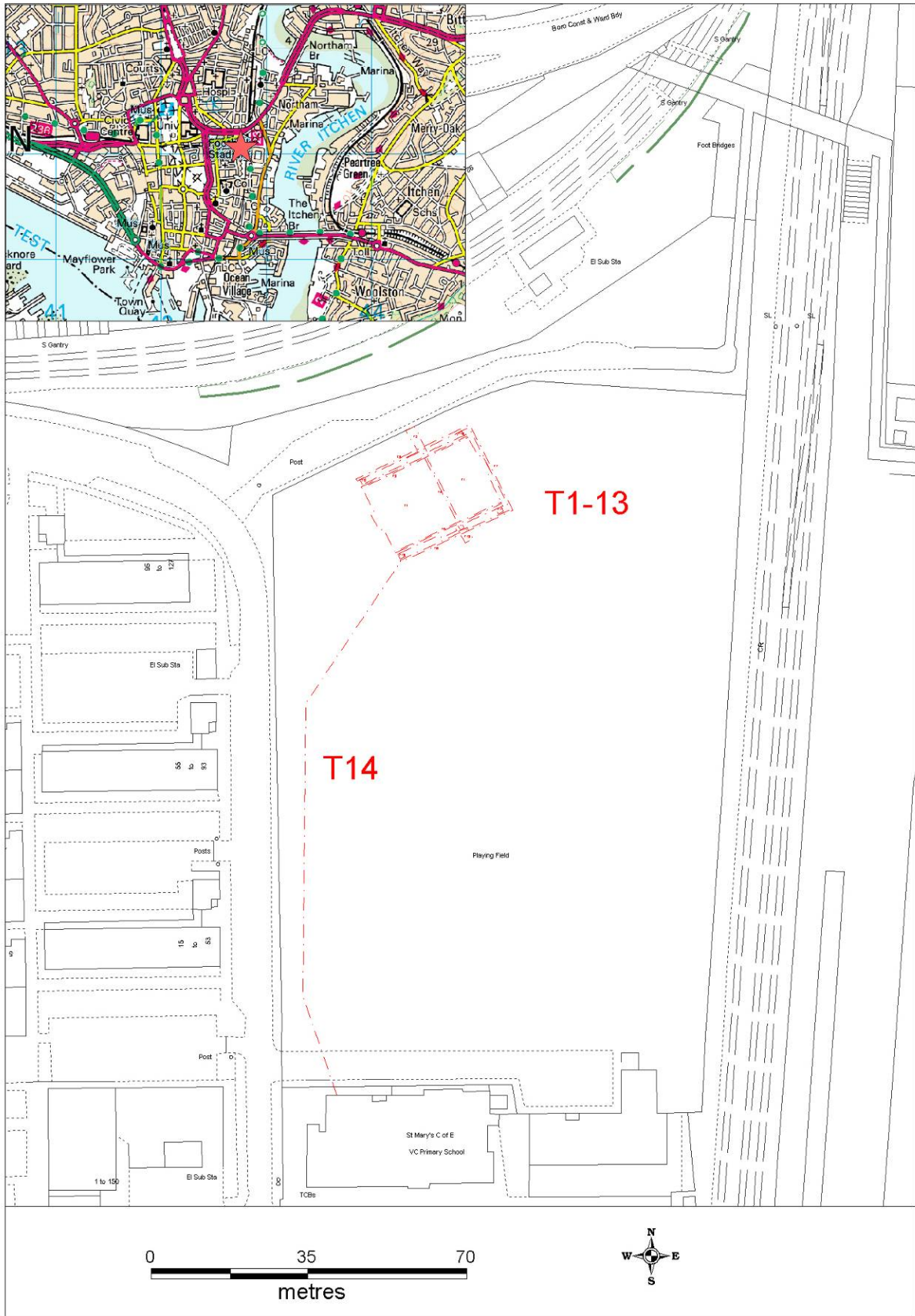
## **2. Introduction**

The Archaeology Unit of Southampton City Council carried out an archaeological watching brief with option to excavate on the groundworks required to construct a multi-use games area (MUGA) in the grounds of St Mary's School, Golden Grove, Southampton (Fig 1), on behalf of Saints Foundation. The observations were made by Anastasia Vasileiadou BA MA, Matt Garner BA MIfA and Emma Anderson BA MA MIfA between 25/7/2013 and 19/2/2014. The project was managed by Matt Garner. Dr Andy Russel BA PhD MIfA and Matt Garner identified the finds and edited this report.

The works were carried out under the approval given to Planning Application 11/01698/R3CFL. As part of the planning process an evaluation had been carried out on the site by Wessex Archaeology under reference SOU 1565. Three Middle Saxon pits were found in the evaluation and the local planning authority had stipulated a watching brief with option to excavate during the groundworks.

## **3. Aims of the investigation**

The main aims of the evaluation were to '*record the nature of the archaeology and, if exposed, the natural deposits. Should archaeology be encountered and is to be destroyed by the groundworks enough will be excavated and recorded to ascertain the nature and date of the deposits*' (SCC 2013).



**Figure 1. Site and trench location plans, trenches in red.**

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



#### 4. Site location and geology

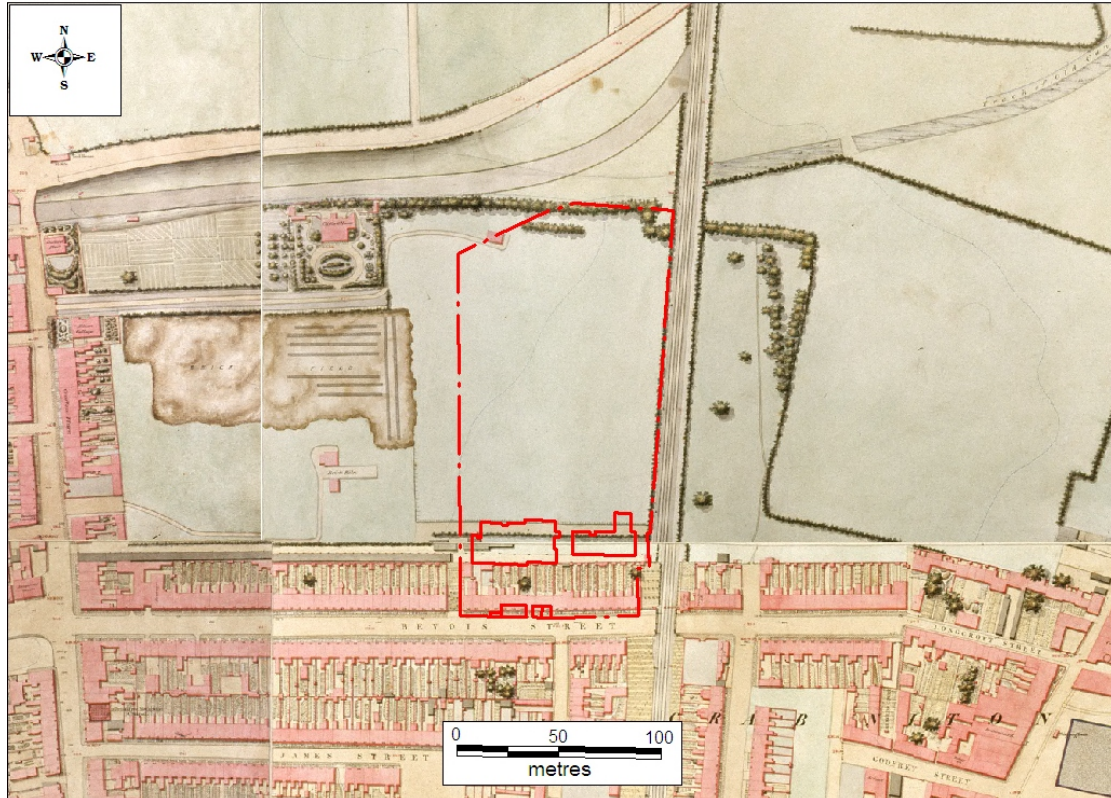
The site lies at OS grid reference SU 427121 (Fig 1). It was located on the west side of the River Itchen, to the east of the modern commercial centre of Southampton, and was bounded on the south by a remnant of the former Bevois Street, on the west by Golden Grove, on the north by the main London to Southampton railway line and on the east by the railway line to the East Docks, formerly the main line to Southampton Terminus Station.

The natural topography of the area has been obscured by urban development, but the surrounding terrain has a slight slope up from north to south. The land in the area of the school buildings is generally level and was in use as a playing field. At the east side of the site the field surface is at 4.26m OD, at the west side it is 4.93m OD.

The geology map (BGS 1987) shows that the surface deposits at the site consist mainly of made ground with River Terrace Deposits (mainly gravel) of the first terrace. The evaluation showed that this was overlain by natural brickearth.

#### 5. Historical background

All historic maps up to 1846 show the site as a field. By 1846 the growth of the St Mary's suburb was well developed (Fig 2). By 1868 the Southampton to Dorchester railway had been linked to the Southampton to Waterloo line with a triangular junction laid out in the north part of the site. A curving road, Clifford Street, was built parallel with the railway line and it had terraced houses on its northeast side. The railway triangle enclosed allotment gardens in the north part of the site (Fig 3). By 1896 more terraced houses had been built.



**Figure 2. Detail of the Royal Engineers' map of Southampton dated 1846, showing the outline of the school.**

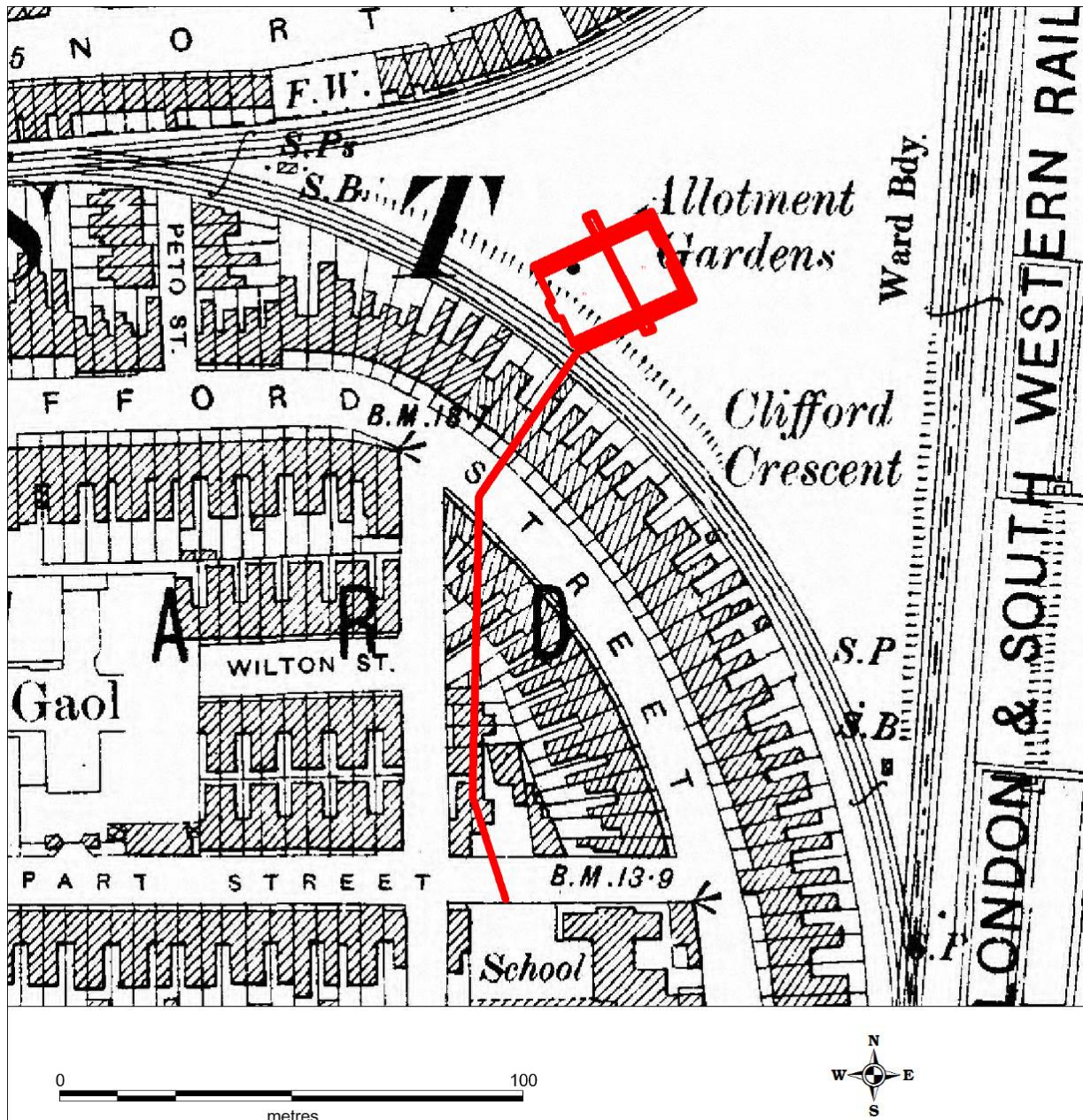


Figure 3. Detail of the Ordnance Survey map of 1896, showing trenches.

## 6. Archaeological background

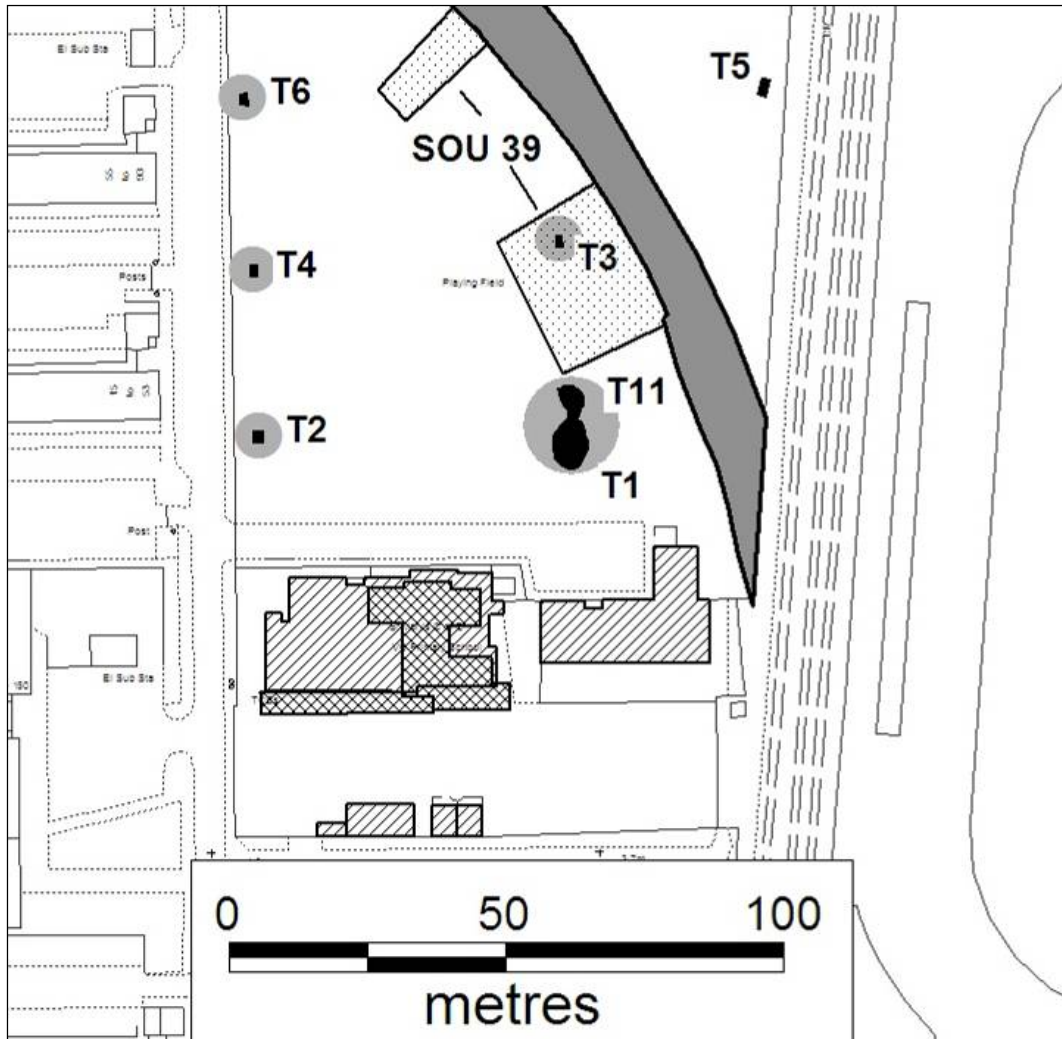
The site lies in Area 8 of the Local Areas of Archaeological Potential as defined in the City of Southampton Core Strategy 2010. Area 8 includes the peninsula of land defined by the River Itchen and River Test. The area of the site lay within the Middle Saxon town of Hamwic which occupied this area between 650 and 900AD.

Excavations within 50m of the site include SOUs 39, 1013 (Fig 4), 1565 and 1654. SOU 39 revealed 13 Middle Saxon pits; pottery covering a wide date range was recovered from all but two of them. Any traces of structures had been removed by brickearth digging. The finds included a sceatta and a bone with a runic inscription. The areas available were



clearly not totally excavated as a Saxon pit was later excavated at Trench 3 of SOU 1013, located within the SOU 39 perimeter (see Fig 4).

An evaluation excavation and watching brief (SOU 1013) revealed Middle Saxon features and deposits in Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 11 (Fig 4). These comprised a Middle Saxon gravel yard surface, two post-holes and five rubbish and cesspits, indicating intensive domestic occupation at that period. Evidence of bone-working and metalworking industries was recovered.



**Figure 4. The school site showing previous archaeological investigations.**

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

- Dark grey = former railway cutting: very low potential
- Dotted = area of SOU 39, not excavated over whole area.
- Black = SOU 1013 T1–6, grey surrounds indicate Saxon remains
- Hatched = present school buildings
- Cross-hatched = approximate outline of 19<sup>th</sup> century school building

An evaluation excavation (SOU 1565) on the site of the MUGA revealed three Middle Saxon pits (Wessex Archaeology 2011).

An area near the southeast corner of the school field was evaluated in 2014 (SOU 1654). It revealed a weathered brickearth layer containing prehistoric pottery and flints. The brickearth layer was cut by seven Middle Saxon pits and a post-hole (Garner 2014). One pit contained fragments of bone and antler combs and waste from bone and antler working.

Investigations (SOU 942, 993, 1002, and 1019) on the site of St Mary's Stadium, about 50m east of SOU 1631, revealed cremation and inhumation cemeteries of early Middle Saxon date (Birbeck 2005). Middle Saxon occupation evidence was also present.

The area was developed for housing in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, being finally built over by a terrace of houses between 1870 and 1896. The northeast part of the site was allotment gardens. The housing was removed in the post-war period and the area was grassed over.

## **7. Methodology**

The fieldwork methodology followed that detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation. A total of 14 trenches were excavated (Figs 1 and 5). Trench 1 was a level reduction for the MUGA; it was 25m long, 16m wide and 300mm deep. Trench 2 was situated to the north of the site, and was dug for a pathway leading to the MUGA; it was 5m long, 1.8m wide and 300mm deep. Trench 3 was situated in the north of the MUGA trench and it ran southwest–northeast. It was dug for drainage and was 25m long, 500mm wide and 300mm deep. Trench 4 ran northwest–southeast across the middle of MUGA trench 1. It sloped towards soakaway trench 13, and was 300mm deep in the north and 800mm deep in the south. Trench 5 was another drainage trench situated in the south of the MUGA and it ran southwest-northeast. It was 25m long, 500mm wide and 300mm deep. Trench 6 was a cable trench and was situated to the south of the MUGA. It ran northeast–southwest and was 26m long, 600mm wide and 500mm deep. Trench 7 was a cable trench and was situated to the east of the MUGA. It ran northwest–southeast and was 17m long, 600mm wide and 500mm deep. Trench 8 was a cable trench and was situated to the north of the MUGA. It ran northeast–southwest and was 26m long, 600mm wide and 500mm deep. Four trenches, trenches 9–12, were dug at the corners of the MUGA. They were dug for the light bases and were 1.2m long, 1.2m wide and 850mm deep. Trench 13 was to the south of the MUGA and was dug for a soakaway. It was 3m long, 2m wide and 1.1m deep. A cable trench, trench 14, was dug from the south of the MUGA towards St Mary's School. It was 140m long, 350mm wide and 300mm deep.

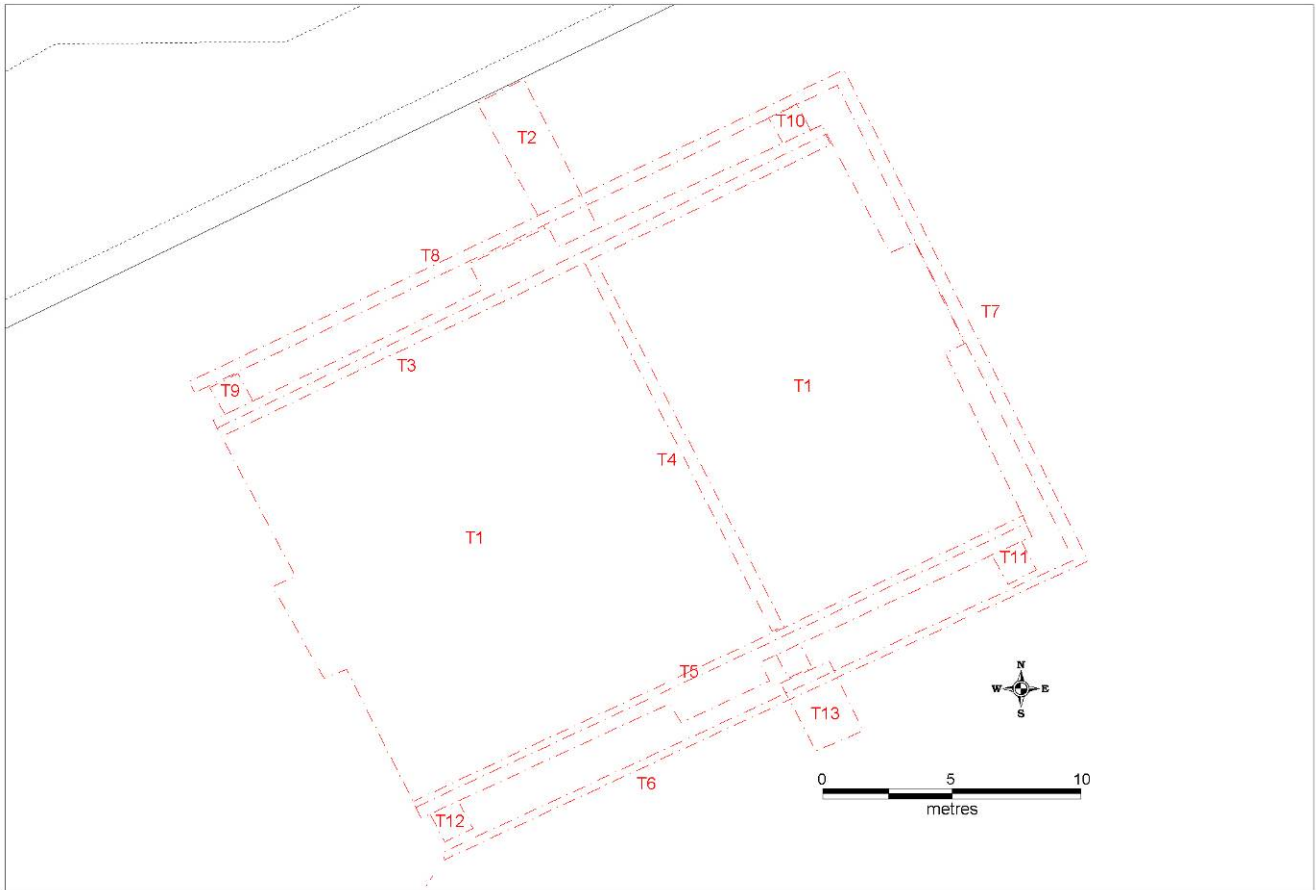
The trenches were excavated by machine with a toothless bucket. Excavated spoil was examined for finds, including the use of a metal detector. A portion of each feature was excavated to ascertain extent, date, and nature. Contexts were recorded on forms and by photography, drawing, and survey with a Total Station. Finds were recovered and soil samples were taken.

## **8. Results of the watching brief**

### *8.1. Natural deposit*

Natural brickearth 6 was observed 1.1m below the surface only in trench 13 (Figs 6, 8 and 9). It was a brownish yellow (10YR 6/6) silty clay loam and it was at least 500mm thick. This layer was not exposed in the other trenches as they did not go deep enough.





**Figure 5. Location plan of trenches 1–13.**

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

### 8.2. Prehistoric residual finds

No prehistoric contexts were identified but prehistoric flints were present in later contexts. One flint flake was recovered from each of contexts 4 and 10. A total of five burnt flints were recovered from contexts 4, 8 and 10. Burnt flints are common on prehistoric but those from SOU 1631 could be later in date.

### 8.3. Middle Saxon features (contexts 7–12)

Pit 7 was situated in the northwest of trench 13 some 1.1m below the surface (Figs 6-9). Only its eastern side was observed; it was at least 1.8m long, 800mm wide and 300mm deep. It seemed to be rectangular in plan and the sides sloped at a 20 degree angle from vertical. A slot was dug across the eastern side of this feature (Fig 8). The pit contained three fills. Context 12 was the lowest fill observed. It was a light yellowish brown (10YR 6/4) silty clay loam and was at least 200mm thick. Above was context 11; it was a brown (10YR 5/3) silty clay loam, at least 200mm thick, and contained some flecks of charcoal. The top fill was context 8; some 300mm of very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) silty clay loam, containing fragments of charcoal, burnt flint, daub, cow bone and five fragments of Middle Saxon pottery with food residue.



Figure 6. Pre-excavation view of pits 7 and 9, looking west.

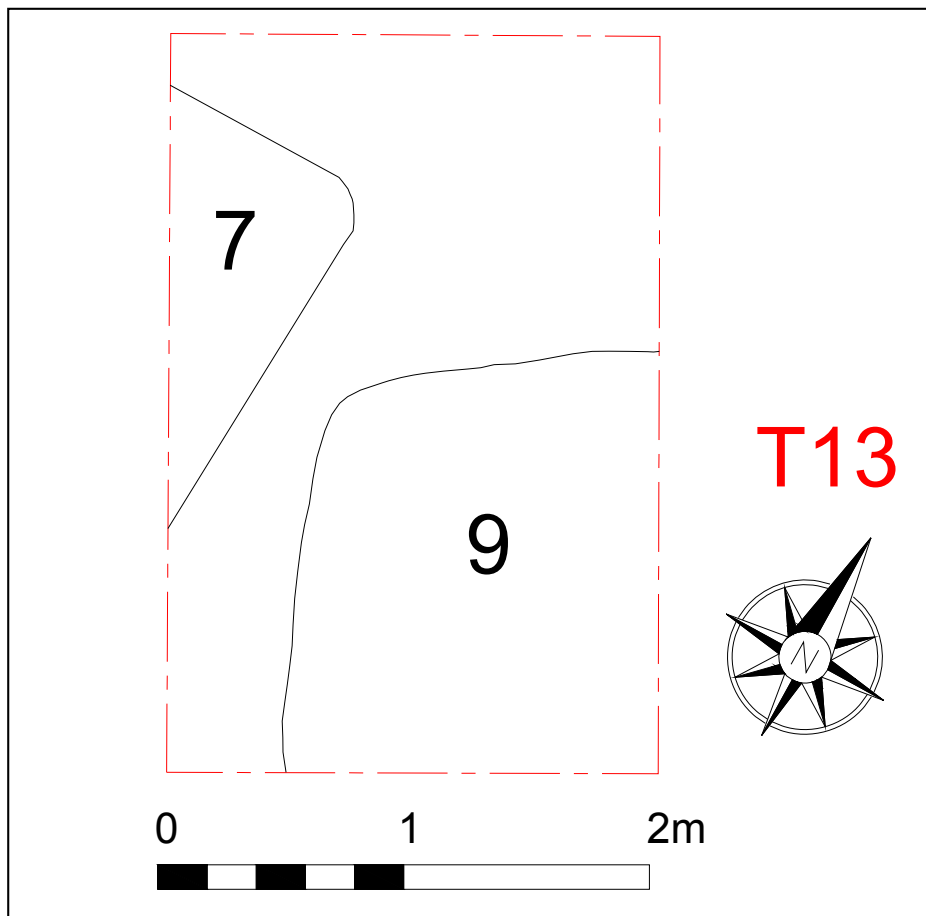
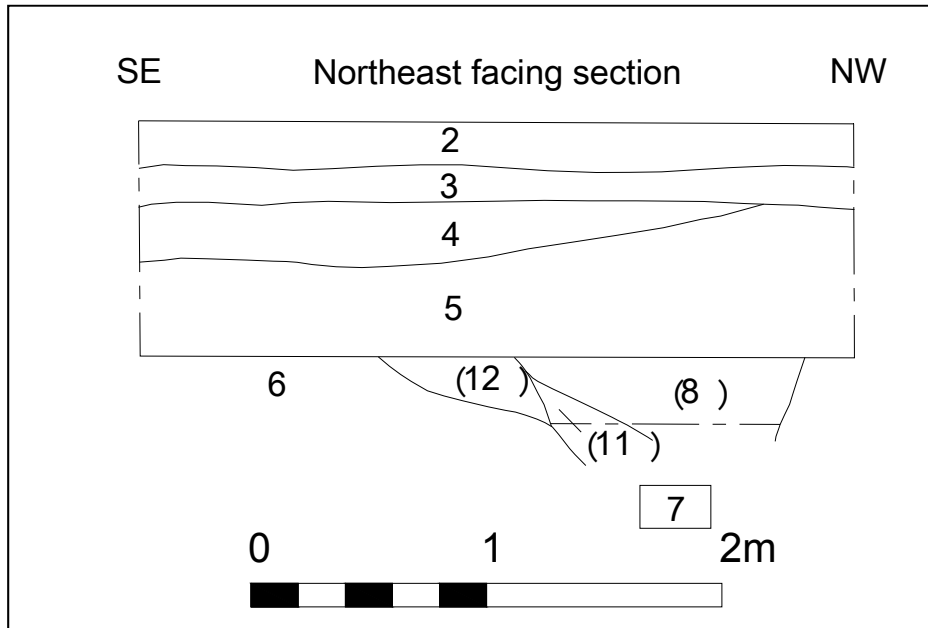


Figure 7. Plan of trench 13 showing pits 7 and 9.



**Figure 8. North-east facing section in trench 13, showing layers 2–6 and partly excavated pit 7.**



**Figure 9. North-east facing section in trench 13, showing layers 2–6 and partly excavated pit 7.**

Pit 9 was situated in the southeast of trench 13 (Figs 6 and 7). Only its northwest side was observed but it could have been rectangular in plan and was at least 1.7m long, 1.48m wide and 200mm deep. A slot was dug across its western side to investigate the top fill. Context 10 was a very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) silty clay loam. It contained some charcoal, burnt flints, daub, cow bone and two fragments of Middle Saxon pottery.

#### *8.4. Post-Medieval (1550–1750) residual finds*

No post-medieval contexts were identified but post-medieval ceramics were present in later contexts. Layer 4 contained two fragments of post-medieval or early modern brick. Layer 5 contained two small fragments of post-medieval brick or tile. Layer 21 contained the stem of an 18<sup>th</sup> century tobacco pipe and a sherd of a 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> century tin-glazed earthenware with hand-painted cobalt blue decoration. Layer 23 contained a sherd of a 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century German stoneware flagon.

#### *8.5. Early modern (1750–1900)*

Above the natural brickearth and Middle Saxon fills was a layer of soil, context 5 (Figs 8 and 9). It was situated 550–700mm below the surface and was observed in the deeper trenches 9–13. It was 550mm thick and was a brown (10YR 4/3) silty clay loam, with some fragments of coal, post-medieval bricks and 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery.

#### *8.6. Modern (1900–2014) layers*

A brickearth layer (4/14/17/20/22/24/26/28/31/33/35/44) was observed in all the trenches (Figs 8 and 9). It was situated 100–500mm below the surface and was some 150–300mm thick. It contained fragments of coal, slate, post-medieval or early modern brick, and one fragment of clay tobacco pipe with the initials 'RG' on the stem. These initials stand for Richard Goodall of Gosport and he is recorded in trade directories as working from 1841–67 (Fox and Hall 1979, 21).

A 150mm thick layer of very dark brown (10YR 2/2) silty clay loam, context 19, was above the redeposited brickearth layer (Figs 6 and 9).

Layer 32/34/38/39/43 was situated along the middle of trench 14 (Fig 10). It was a dark yellowish brown (10YR 3/4) silty clay loam some 350–400mm thick. It contained abundant brick fragments, oyster shell, china and fragments of 19<sup>th</sup> century clay tobacco-pipe.





**Figure 10. View looking south along trench 14, showing spoil from some of the modern layers.**

Soil layer 3/21/23/25/27/29/30/42 was seen in all the trenches (Figs 8, 9 and 10). It was situated some 300mm below the surface and was 300mm thick. It was a dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) silty clay loam, contained abundant fragments of brick, concrete, slate and glass.

Layer 41 was situated in the north of trench 14 and was in the cutting for the railway that used to cross the northwest of the site. It was a very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) silty clay loam at least 400-420mm thick, and contained fragments of brick, coal, slate, china and clay pipe.

Layer 13/16/18 was a moderately stony, dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6), silty clay loam. It was observed in the south of trench 14 below the car park of St Mary's School. It was situated 130mm below the surface and was some 100mm thick. It contained fragments of bricks, sewer pipe and glass.

Modern sand and gravel layer 15 was directly below the tarmac of the car park in the south of trench 14.

Sandy layer 36/37/40 was situated near the northern end of trench 14 (Fig 10). It was some 450mm thick, brownish yellow in colour (10YR 6/6) and was situated just below the top soil. No finds were observed.

A layer of yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) loamy sand, 36, was situated in the north of trench 14. It was 300mm thick, no finds were observed.

Topsoil 2 was situated over the entire site except for the car park at the south end. It was a dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) silty clay loam, some 300mm thick.

## **9. Conclusions**

Natural brickearth was 1.1m below the surface and was observed in only trench 13.

Two pits, contexts 7 and 9, cut the natural brickearth in trench 13 and have been dated by the pottery recovered from them to the Middle Saxon period.

Above the natural brickearth and sealing the pits was a buried soil layer some 550mm thick containing fragments of post-medieval brick and 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery.

Above the buried soil was a series of modern layers, containing fragments of clay pipe, coal, concrete and bricks. The extensive, thick, layer of brickearth 4/14/17/20/22/24/26/28/31/33/35/44, must have been the result of a large excavation, possibly that for the railway.

Features and deposits of archaeological significance were exposed in only trench 13. They were below early modern and modern deposits with a combined thickness of 1.1m. The other trenches were too shallow all being less than 0.9m deep.

## **Bibliography**

BGS British Geological Survey, 1987, *Geological Survey of Great Britain; Southampton Drift, Sheet 315, 1:50000*, Ordnance Survey.

Birbeck, V with Smith, RJC, Andrews, P and Stoodley, N, 2005, *The Origins of Mid-Saxon Southampton: Excavations at the Friends Provident St Mary's Stadium 1998–2000*, Wessex Archaeology Report **20**.

Cottrell, PR and Russel, AD, 2011, *St Mary's Church of England Primary School, Southampton. Heritage Statement (Archaeology)*. Southampton City Council Archaeology Unit Report **1044**.

Fox, RT and Hall, RB, 1979, *The Clay Tobacco Pipes of the Portsmouth Harbour Region 1680–1932*.

Garner, MF, 2014, *Archaeological Evaluation of land at St Mary's Church of England Primary School, Southampton, SOU 1654*. Southampton City Council Archaeology Unit Report **1156**.

Morton, AD, 1992 *Excavations at Hamwic Volume 1: excavations 1946–83, excluding Six Dials and Melbourne Street*, Counc Brit Archaeol Res Rep **84**.

Munsell Color, 2000, *Munsell Soil Color Charts*, New Windsor.

Russel, AD, 2014, *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation of land to the north of St Mary's School, Golden Grove, Southampton*. Southampton City Council Archaeology Unit.

Russel, JI, 2000, *Report on the Community Excavation and Subsequent Watching Brief on a School Pond in St Mary's Church of England School Playing Fields, Southampton (SOU 1013 and 1028)*. Southampton City Council Archaeology Unit Report **420**.

Southampton City Council Archaeology Unit, 2013, *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief with option to excavate on the construction of a MUGA at St Mary's C of E School, Southampton*.

Wessex Archaeology, 2011, *St Mary's Primary School, Ascupart Street, Southampton. Archaeological Evaluation Report. Reference 78880.03. SOU 1565*.

**Appendix 1. Context list**

Context	Category	Keyword	Depth/ thick	Above	Below	Same as	Period
1	Unstrat	Unstratified					Unstrat
2	Layer	Topsoil	300	3			Modern
3	Layer	Subsoil	300	4	2	21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 30, 42	Modern
4	Layer	Redeposited brickearth	300	5	3	14, 17, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 31, 33, 35, 35	Modern
5	Layer	Buried soil	550	6	4		Post- medieval
6	Layer	Brickearth	500		5		Natural
7	Feature	Pit	300	6	8, 11, 12		Middle Saxon
8	Fill	Pit	300	9, 11	5		Middle Saxon
9	Feature	Pit	200	6	8		Middle Saxon
10	Fill	Pit	200	9	5		Middle Saxon
11	Fill	Pit	200	7, 12	8		Middle Saxon
12	Fill	Pit	200	7	11		Middle Saxon
13	Layer	Soil	100	14		16	Modern
14	Layer	Redeposited brickearth	90		13	4, 17, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 31, 35, 44	Modern
15	Layer	Soil	120	16			Modern
16	Layer	Soil	250	17	15	13	Modern
17	Layer	Redeposited brickearth	100	16		14, 4, 17, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 31, 33, 35, 44	Modern
18	Layer	Soil	270	19		16, 13	Modern
19	Layer	Soil	150	20	18		Modern
20	Layer	Redeposited brickearth	50		19	4, 14, 17, 22, 24, 26, 28, 31, 33, 35, 44	Modern
21	Layer	Subsoil	270	22		3, 23, 25, 27, 29, 30, 42	Modern
22	Layer	Redeposited brickearth	80		21	4, 14, 17, 20, 24, 26, 28, 31, 33, 34, 44	Modern
23	Layer	Subsoil	450	24		3, 21, 25, 27, 29, 30, 42	Modern
24	Layer	Redeposited brickearth	100		23	4, 14, 17, 20, 22, 26, 28, 31, 33, 35, 44	Modern
25	Layer	Subsoil	320	26		3, 21, 23, 27, 29, 30, 42	Modern
26	Layer	Redeposited brickearth	100		25	4, 14, 17, 20, 22, 24, 28, 31, 33, 35, 44	Modern
27	Layer	Subsoil	320	28		3, 25, 21, 23, 29, 30, 42	Modern
28	Layer	Redeposited	120		27	4, 14, 17, 20, 22, 24, 28,	Modern



		brickearth				31, 33, 35, 44	
29	Layer	Subsoil	350			3, 23, 25, 27, 29, 30, 42	Modern
30	Layer	Subsoil	400	31		3, 23, 25, 27, 29, 30, 42	Modern
31	Layer	Redeposited brickearth	400		30	4, 14, 17, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 33, 35, 44	Modern
32	Layer	Soil	400	33		34, 38, 39	Modern
33	Layer	Redeposited brickearth	100		32	14, 4, 17, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 31, 35, 44	Modern
34	Layer	Soil	400	35		32, 38, 39	Modern
35	Layer	Redeposited brickearth	100		34	14, 4, 17, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 31, 33, 44	Modern
36	Layer	Sand	450			37, 40	Modern
37	Layer	Sand	200	38		36, 40	Modern
38	Layer	Soil	350		37	32, 34, 39	Modern
39	Layer	Soil	350			32, 34, 38	Modern
40	Layer	Soil	170	41		37, 36	Modern
41	Layer	Soil	420		40		Modern
42	Layer	Subsoil	400			3, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 30	Modern
43	Layer	Soil	300	44	42	32, 34, 38, 39	Modern
44	Layer	Redeposited brickearth	100		42, 43	14, 4, 17, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 31, 33, 35	Modern

**Appendix 2. Finds list**

Context	Mat type	Find type	Wgt (gm)	No of frag	Description
4	Ceramic	Brick	19	2	Post-med / early modern
4	Stone	Coal	1	2	
4	Pipe clay	Tobacco pipe	16	3	Bowl. 'RG'. Goodall of Gosport. 19th C
4	Flint	Burn	14	1	
4	Flint	Flake	2	1	No cortex. Edge damage. Distal end missing
5	Ceramic	Fragment	3	2	Post-med brick?
5	Pot	Fragment	14	1	Glazed. 19th C, red ware
8	Pot	Fragment	29	5	Middle Saxon, mixed grit, food residue
8	Flint	Burnt	22	1	
8	Bone	Cow	256	21	
8	Burnt clay	Fragment	48	2	
10	Daub	Fragment	46	13	
10	Pot	Fragment	28	2	Rim, Middle Saxon
10	Bone	Cow	9	1	Tooth
10	Flint	Flake	2	1	Tertiary flake. Ancient?
10	Flint	Burnt	76	3	
21	Pot	Fragment	1	4	Tin glazed. Earthen ware. 16/17th C
21	Pipe clay	Tobacco pipe	1	5	Stem 18th C
23	Pot	Fragment	5	1	Stoneware flagon. German 17/18th C
32	Pipe clay	Tobacco pipe	2	12	19th C. Bowl. 'RG'