



making sense of heritage

2-8 Queensway Southampton, Hampshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report



Planning Reference No:12/01262/FUL
Ref: 101101.03
January 2014



**2-8 Queensway, Southampton,
Hampshire**

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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**SOU 1648
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Quality Assurance

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2-8 Queensway, Southampton, Hampshire

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2-8 Queensway, Southampton, Hampshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Hampshire & Regional Property Group Ltd on behalf of PMC Construction & Development Services Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological trial trenching at 2-8 Queensway, Southampton, Hampshire, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 442206 111158. The works were required as a planning condition in advance of the demolition of the existing buildings, including a nightclub, and the development of residential accommodation.

The evaluation consisted of four trenches measuring 8m x 1.8m, all of which contained modern and post-medieval deposits beneath a modern concrete layer. A fifth trench had already been excavated and reported on during investigation of the adjacent 10-12 Queensway site.

Natural clay geology was found at a depth of 1.40m below the current ground surface in three of the trenches, whilst the fourth noted heavy truncation and made-ground deposits. The fieldwork was carried out between 20th and 21st January 2014.

The evaluation identified no evidence for archaeological remains within the areas investigated on the Site. A very small assemblage of post-medieval finds, as well as a single medieval pottery sherd, were recovered from the made-ground deposits, none of which were retained. This absence of evidence is likely to reflect the high level of post-medieval truncation recorded across the Site.



2-8 Queensway, Southampton, Hampshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Hampshire & Regional Property Group Ltd, acting on behalf of PMC Construction & Development Services Ltd, who commissioned the archaeological evaluation. In particular, thanks are due to Steve Cripps and Tim Guest (PMC Construction and Development Services Ltd) and Shaun Adams (Hampshire & Regional Property Group Ltd). Thanks are also due to Kevin White (Southampton City Council Planning Archaeologist) who monitored the work on behalf of the Local Planning Authority. We would like to thank the staff of Portsmouth Demolition and Salvage Limited, particularly Tim Meaney, for their assistance on site.

The evaluation was carried out by Gareth Chaffey and Ed Grenier. This report was written and compiled by Gareth Chaffey. Finds were identified by Lorraine Mephram and the illustrations were drawn by S.E James. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Andy Manning.



2-8 Queensway, Southampton, Hampshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by Hampshire & Regional Property Group Ltd on behalf of PMC Construction & Development Services Ltd (the Client) to undertake a trial trench evaluation at 2-8 Queensway, Southampton, Hampshire, hereafter referred to as 'the Site', centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 442206 111158 (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 Outline planning permission (Southampton City Council Planning Ref. No: 12/01262/FUL) was granted in September 2013 for the residential development of land former occupied by a block of buildings including a nightclub (2-8 Queensway). The proposed redevelopment of the Site includes a 7-storey building, 7x 4-storey houses, 3x 2-storey houses and commercial offices with associated car parking. The proposal also includes alterations to the public highway along the western side of the development.
- 1.1.3 The Southampton City Council Planning Archaeologist (within the Historic Environment Team, which forms part of the Planning, Transport and Sustainability Division), the archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), was consulted and indicated that a phased programme of archaeological work would be required to be carried out, commencing with an initial phase of trenched evaluation within the accessible areas of the Site.
- 1.1.4 The results of the evaluation will be used to assess the archaeological potential within the Site and inform the scope, nature and extent of any future programme of archaeological mitigation, which may be required, including appropriate reporting and archiving of records.
- 1.1.5 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the evaluation (WA 2013a) was prepared by Wessex Archaeology and submitted to, and approved by the Southampton City Council Planning Archaeologist and subsequently the LPA, prior to the start of the fieldwork. The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (IfA 2008).
- 1.1.6 The fieldwork was undertaken from 21st to 22nd January 2014.

1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The proposed development is located at the south end of Queensway, to the east of the historic core of Southampton. The Site is occupied by a former nightclub, which fronts on to Queensway. The Site is bounded to the north by 10-12 Queensway, Briton Street to the south and Brunswick Square to the east.

- 1.2.2 The entire Site covers an area of approximately 26m by 60m (1,560m²) and was available for evaluation after the demolition of the above ground structure.
- 1.2.3 The Site is located on the Earnley Sand Formation, which comprises sand, silt and clay deposits, and lies at a height of approximately 4.5m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) (BGS website; <http://www.bgs.ac.uk>).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 A detailed archaeological and historical background for the Site has been compiled and presented previously (WA 2013a), and as such will not be repeated here.
- 2.1.2 In summary, the Site is located within Area 8 of the Local Areas of Archaeological Potential (LAAP) which is one of sixteen areas defined in the City of Southampton Core Strategy and which offers a general guide to the archaeological potential in Southampton. In 2009, a detailed desk-based assessment (DBA) was produced which covered covering the area of the Fruit and Vegetable market, the High Street, Bernard Street and Queensway (Cottrell 2009). In general, the assessment concluded that area covered in the report, including the Site was 'likely to contain well-preserved archaeological deposits of great importance, principally relating to the foundation and growth of Southampton from c. AD 950 to 1940, although there is the potential for earlier prehistoric or Roman-British remains.
- 2.1.3 A substantial amount of archaeological fieldwork has been carried out within the vicinity of the study area used for the DBA, especially within the walls of the medieval city. A number of these sites are particularly relevant to the Site at 10-12 Queensway. These include:
- **SOU338 Orchard Place:** Located approximately 115m to the south-east of the Site, a watching brief during trenching observed a sequence at least 0.62m in depth comprising of a brickearth type material containing Ceramic Building Material (CBM) BM, shell, bone and other material, sealed by a buried soil and modern deposits.
 - **SOU 566 14 Queensway:** Immediately to the north of the Site, a watching brief on the site of the present Halfords Autocentre showed that the western part of the site had been disturbed by deep cellars of the former 19th century buildings. On the eastern side, the natural was exposed at a depth of 1.42m below the current ground surface, and was overlaid by a 0.40m soil containing large quantities of post-medieval finds
 - **SOU 588 10-12 Briton Street:** Located approximately 90m to the south-east of the Site, an evaluation found the western half of this site had been heavily impacted by basements. The natural was encountered on the eastern half although again with substantial evidence of modern truncation and 19th and 20th century features, including a well.
 - **SOU 1639 10-12 Queensway.** Located immediately to the north of 2-8 Queensway and slightly overlapping. Trial trench evaluation of the eastern side of the property found no archaeological remains or material but the southern-most trench did contain a modern cellar. Across the Site, the existing concrete floor overlaid modern made-ground deposits/demolition material up to approximately 0.65m in depth. This demolition material sealed a series of garden soils between 0.34 to 0.60m in depth, which directly overlaid the natural at a maximum depth of 1.48m (3.02m aOD) below the top of the concrete floor (WA 2013b). The location of Trench 1, which contained

the cellar, is now contained within the planning application boundary for 2-8 Queensway (Figure 1).

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims and objectives

3.1.1 Prior to the commencement of the works, a methodology was written (WA 2013a), which set out the agreed aims of the trial trench evaluation and the methods by which these aims would be achieved.

3.1.2 The general aim of the trial trench evaluation was to provide initial information concerning the presence/absence, date, nature and extent of any buried archaeological remains and to investigate and record these within the constraints of the proposed trial trench evaluation. Further aims of the works were to:

- *Assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits;*
- *Enable the preservation by record of any archaeological features or deposits uncovered;*
- *Produce a report which will present the results of the evaluation in sufficient detail to allow an informed decision to be made concerning the Site's archaeological potential;*
- *Consider the results of the evaluation in light of the archaeological potential of the Site to contribute to current local, regional and wider archaeological research objectives.*

3.2 Fieldwork methodology

3.2.1 The evaluation was conducted according to the agreed WSI (WA 2013a) and comprised the excavation of four trial trenches, each measuring 8m x 1.8m (see **Appendix 1** for details) (**Figure 1**). Five trenches were initially proposed, however **Trench 3** could not be excavated due to the location of a large heap of demolition rubble. The positioning of the remaining four trenches were all slightly altered due to access.

3.2.2 Prior to machining, the trench locations were scanned by WA using a cable tracing device. The trenches were excavated under constant archaeological supervision using a tracked mechanical 360° excavator employing a toothless bucket. Concrete was removed from areas larger than actual trench sizes to provide easier access and additional stability of trench sides. The resulting material was stored separately to facilitate appropriate backfilling and consolidation of each trench following the completion of recording. All spoil was scanned for artefacts.

3.2.3 All potential features and deposits of possible archaeological origin were partially excavated to ascertain their nature and function and were fully recorded using WA's *pro forma* record sheets. Soil descriptions were based on the *Soil Science Handbook*, using Munsell colour descriptions.

3.2.4 A full photographic record was kept. Particular attention was taken to record all access routes and trench locations to provide a full record of both the original and final condition of the fieldwork locations. Special attention was placed on the recording of the mechanical excavation, spoil handling and storage prior to, during and following the completion of the trial trenching.

- 3.2.5 A full graphic record was kept. The site drawings were drawn at an appropriate scale, typically 1:10 for sections and 1:20 for plans.
- 3.2.6 Site survey was carried out using a Leica Viva series GNSS unit using the OS National GPS Network through an RTK network with a 3D accuracy of 30mm or below. All survey data was recorded using the OSGB36 British National Grid coordinate system.
- 3.2.7 All archaeological work was monitored on behalf of the LPA by Kevin White (the Southampton City Council Planning Archaeologist) and by Andrew Manning on behalf of WA.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 Details of individual contexts are retained in the project archive. Summaries of the excavated sequences can be found in the **Appendix 1**.

4.2 Natural deposits and soil sequences

- 4.2.1 Natural clay geology was encountered in all trenches, at an average depth of 1.40m below the current, concrete ground surface. Across the Site, an average of 0.35m of concrete overlay modern made-ground deposits/demolition material up to approximately 0.65m in depth. This demolition material sealed a series of garden soils which was between 0.34 to 0.60m in depth, which overlaid the natural at a maximum depth of 1.48m (3.02m aOD) below the top of the concrete floor (**Plates 1-8**).
- 4.2.2 The garden soils contained a small quantity of modern brick, oyster shell and a small quantity of modern pottery.

4.3 Archaeological features

- 4.3.1 No archaeological features were identified during the course of the fieldwork.
- 4.3.2 A possible natural feature or tree-throw hole was located on the southern edge of **Trench 1**, and measured 1.88m x 1.35m. No datable material was recovered.

5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

- 5.1.1 A small quantity of finds was recovered from the post-medieval garden soil deposit (**203**). This included a small fragment of clay pipe stem, and post-medieval pottery sherds. A single sherd of possible medieval sandy ware (Southampton Coarseware (STCW) was recovered from made-ground deposit (**101**) and is dated to the 13th/14th century. The material was examined and assessed by Lorraine Mephram (Senior Project Manager, WA) and the material recommended for discarding.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

- 6.1.1 No archaeological features or deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified during the course of the fieldwork.

7 DISCUSSION

- 7.1.1 The evaluation identified no evidence for archaeological remains, either features or finds, within the area investigated on the Site, although significant levels of truncation were observed.

7.1.2 The evaluation did not identify further evidence of 19th century housing as identified in historic mapping (Map 11 1898, Cottrell 2009). However, the Site lies within a land parcel investigated as part of the DBA's study area (Parcel 6) and lay outside the line of the east will within an orchard (Speed map of 1611). This may account for the possible tree-throw hole noted in **Trench 1**.

7.1.3 The observed absence of archaeological features is likely to accurately reflect an absence of any archaeological activity within the Site, rather than due to the removal of potential archaeological evidence due to the previous construction during the 1950s and 1960s.

8 STORAGE AND CURATION

8.1 Preparation and deposition

8.1.1 The complete project archive will be prepared in accordance to Wessex Archaeology's *Guidelines for Archive Preparation* and accordance with *Guideline for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage* (UKIC 1990). Details of the archaeological evaluation will also be entered into the online "OASIS" database maintained by the Archaeological Data Service (ADS). A copy of the OASIS entry has been included in this report (**Appendix 2**).

8.2 The archive

8.2.1 The complete archaeological evaluation archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; IfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

8.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site code **SU1648**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following:

- 1 files/document case of paper records & A3/A4 graphics
- Digital data (site photographs, drawings, Word and pdf files)

8.2.3 The archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury under the project code **101101/SU1648**. On completion of the project, it is anticipated that the archive will be deposited with Southampton City Council.

8.3 Discard policy

8.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal* (SMA 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. Any discard of artefacts will be fully documented in the project archive.

8.3.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2002).

8.4 Security copy

8.4.1 In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

9 REFERENCES

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APPENDIX 1: TRENCH TABLES

bgl = below ground level

TRENCH 1			
Dimensions: 8.85 x 2.15m		Max. depth: 1.14m	Ground level: 3.55m aOD
Context	Description		Depth (m)
100	Layer	Modern made-ground, 5YR 3/1 very dark grey, silty clay. Frequent modern brick/tile/slate. Occasional charcoal and shell, contained glass, blue and white pottery, clay pipe and animal bone (not retained).	0-0.35
101	Layer	Levelling deposit, silty clay 10YR 6/4 light yellowish brown, occasional charcoal flecking, frequent crushed shell fragments. Contained single sherd of medieval pottery (residual).	0.35-0.60
102	Layer	Made ground. Silty clay 5YR 5/2, mid greyish brown, garden soil deposit. Occasional small sub-angular stones 5-10mm diameter, frequent crushed shell fragments.	0.60-0.85
103	Layer	Subsoil. 10YR 6/3 pale brown silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub-angular stones/gravel, 5-10mm diameter, rare charcoal flecking.	0.85-1.00
104	Natural	Natural silty clay. 10YR 7/6 yellowish brown, occasional gravel/small stones	1.00 +
105	Cut	No archaeological root disturbance or tree-throw hole, unexcavated but mattock tested	

TRENCH 2			
Dimensions: 8.37m x 2.68m		Max. depth: 1.40m	Ground level: 3.54m aOD
Context	Description		Depth (m)
200	Layer	Modern capping/levelling deposit. Mix of crushed concrete, tarmac and brick/tile. 10YR 6/2.	0-0.34
201	Layer	Capping layer, largely formed by red brick and concrete slabs, mixed deposit, dark brown sandy matrix 10YR 4/2.	0.34-0.45
202	Layer	Dark brown silty clay 10YR 3/3. Waste material/deliberately backfilled into large cut. Contained large quantities of brick and tile (not retained).	0.45-1.26
203	Layer	Light brownish grey 10YR 6/2 silty clay. Dumped material located on southern edge of cut 204. Contained pottery (including blue and white).	1.26 +
204	Cut	Modern cut, truncates other made-ground deposits to the south. Likely to have been machine dug to dispose of waste material prior to site being levelled.	
205	Layer	Made-ground deposit, large quantities of modern brick and rubble, dark brown silty clay 10YR 3/3.	0.45-0.81
206	Layer	Brownish yellow silty clay 10YR 6/6, dumped material. Very similar to 203, high sand content, made-ground.	0.81-0.99
207	Layer	Made-ground. Dark greyish brown silty clay 10YR 4/2. Contained fragments of concrete and brick. Garden soil material.	0.99-1.08
208	Layer	Subsoil. Appears to be relatively undisturbed subsoil, diffuse contact with natural 209 below. Very rare stone inclusions 2% <0.02m, no dating material.	1.08-1.34
209	Natural	Largely undisturbed natural clays, 10YR 7/6 yellowish brown.	1.34 +



TRENCH 4			
Dimensions: 6.60m x 2.60m		Max. depth: 1.44m	Ground level: 3.78m aOD
Context	Description		Depth (m)
400	<i>Layer</i>	Crushed concrete layer, capping deposit of modern made-ground 10YR 7/1.	0-0.34
401	<i>Layer</i>	Made-ground material, likely some form of levelling deposit, light greyish brown, high sand content 10YR 6/2.	0.34-0.45
402	<i>Cut</i>	Construction cut for modern red brick wall 403.	
403	<i>Layer</i>	Modern red brick wall, likely to be associated with nightclub building, now demolished.	
404	<i>Layer</i>	Light yellowish brown sand, 10YR 7/6, dump of material, likely to be related to modern wall construction.	0.45-0.70
405	<i>Layer</i>	Redeposited material, mid greyish brown 10YR 5/2, silty clay. Most like garden soil seen in earlier trenches to the north. Contains CBM and charcoal flecking (not retained).	0.70-1.15
406	<i>Layer</i>	Apparent subsoil, appears to be largely undisturbed, diffuse contact with natural (407) below. Mid brown silty clay 10YR 4/2.	1.15-1.41
407	<i>Natural</i>	Mid yellowish brown silty clay 10YR 4/4, silty clay. Some disturbance in southern end of trench with modern material pushed in.	1.41 +

TRENCH 5			
Dimensions: 9.30m x 3.20m		Max. depth: 1.40m	Ground level: 4.59m aOD
Context	Description		Depth (m)
500	<i>Layer</i>	Made ground/ levelling deposit 10YR 7/6 yellow. Deliberate backfill of gravel, abundant gravel 50%<0.05m. Modern brick and debris throughout	0-0.98
501	<i>Layer</i>	Levelling deposit, dump of tarmac-like material, dark greyish brown 10YR 4/2, tipped in from the east. Very clear contact with (500) above.	0.98-1.20
502	<i>Layer</i>	Very dark brown silty clay 10YR 2/2, possible garden soil, contains large amounts of rubble and red brick material. Dumped on top of red brick walls seen at base of trench.	1.20 +
Trench stopped at a depth of 1.40m			



APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: wessexar1-170329

Project details

Project name	2-8 Queensway, Southampton
Short description of the project	<p>Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Hampshire and Regional Property Group Ltd on behalf of PMC Construction and Development Services Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological trial trenching at 2-8 Queensway, Southampton, Hampshire, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 442206 111158. The works were required as a planning condition in advance of the demolition of the existing buildings, including a nightclub, and the development of residential accommodation. The evaluation consisted of four trenches measuring 8m x 1.8m, all of which contained modern and post-medieval deposits beneath a modern concrete layer. A fifth trench had already been excavated and reported on during investigation of the adjacent 10-12 Queensway site. Natural clay geology was found at a depth of 1.40m below the current ground surface in three of the trenches, whilst the fourth noted heavy truncation and made-ground deposits. The fieldwork was carried out between 20th and 21st January 2014. The evaluation identified no evidence for archaeological remains within the areas investigated on the Site. A very small assemblage of post-medieval finds, as well as a single medieval pottery sherd, were recovered from the made-ground deposits, none of which were retained. This absence of evidence is likely to reflect the high level of post-medieval truncation recorded across the Site.</p>
Project dates	Start: 20-01-2014 End: 21-01-2014
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	101101 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	SOU 1648 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 2 - Offices
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	HAMPSHIRE SOUTHAMPTON 2-8 Queensway



Postcode	SO14 3AZ
Study area	0.15 Hectares
Site coordinates	SU 422 112 50.8981810469 -1.39985259861 50 53 53 N 001 23 59 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 3.00m Max: 4.50m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	City/Nat. Park/District/Borough archaeologist
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	A Manning
Project supervisor	G Chaffey
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	PMC Construction & Development Services Ltd

Project archives

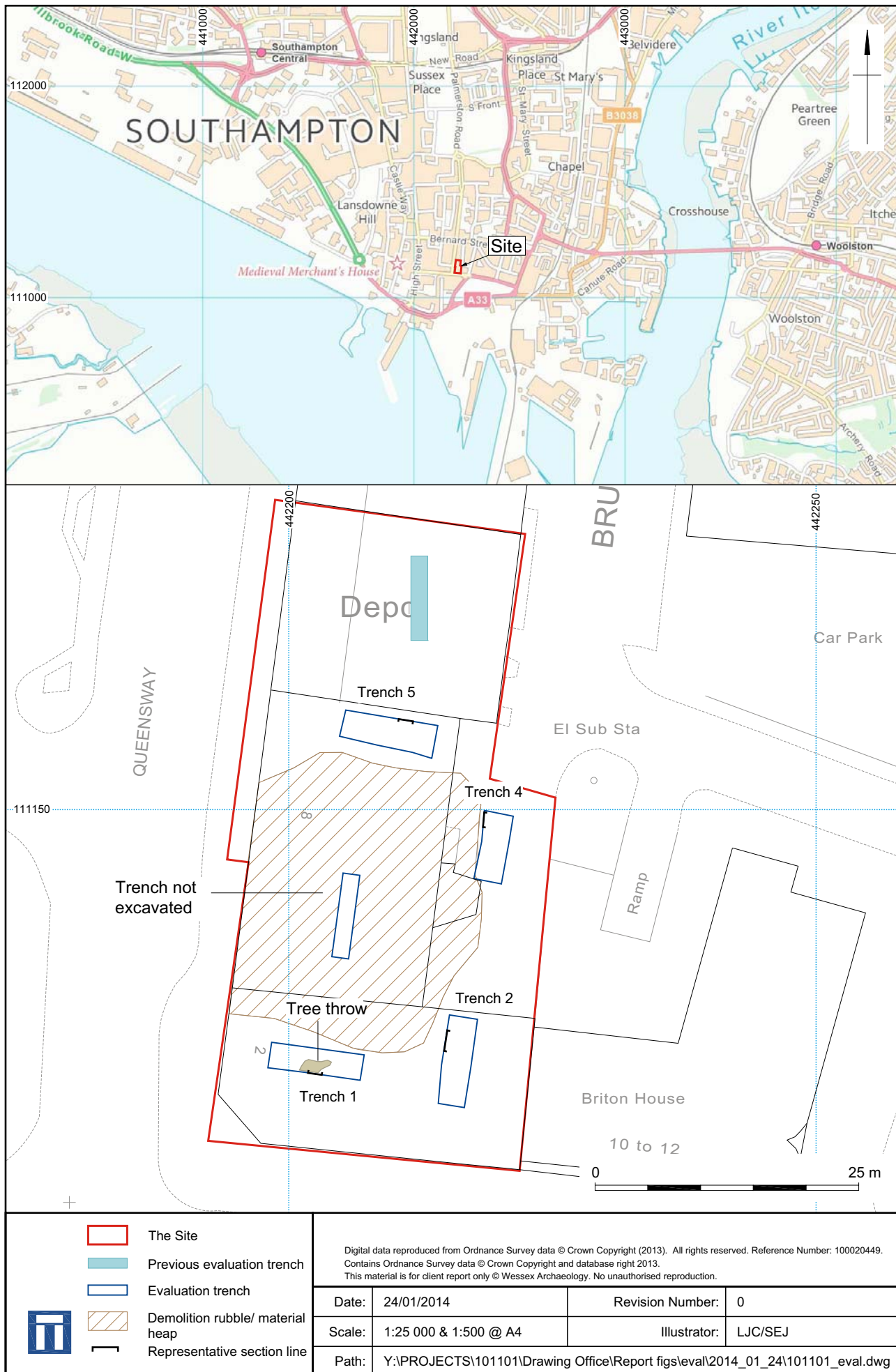
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	Southampton Museum
Digital Archive recipient	Southampton Museum
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Southampton Museum
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Notebook - Excavation", "Research", "General Notes", "Report", "Section", "Survey"

Project bibliography 1

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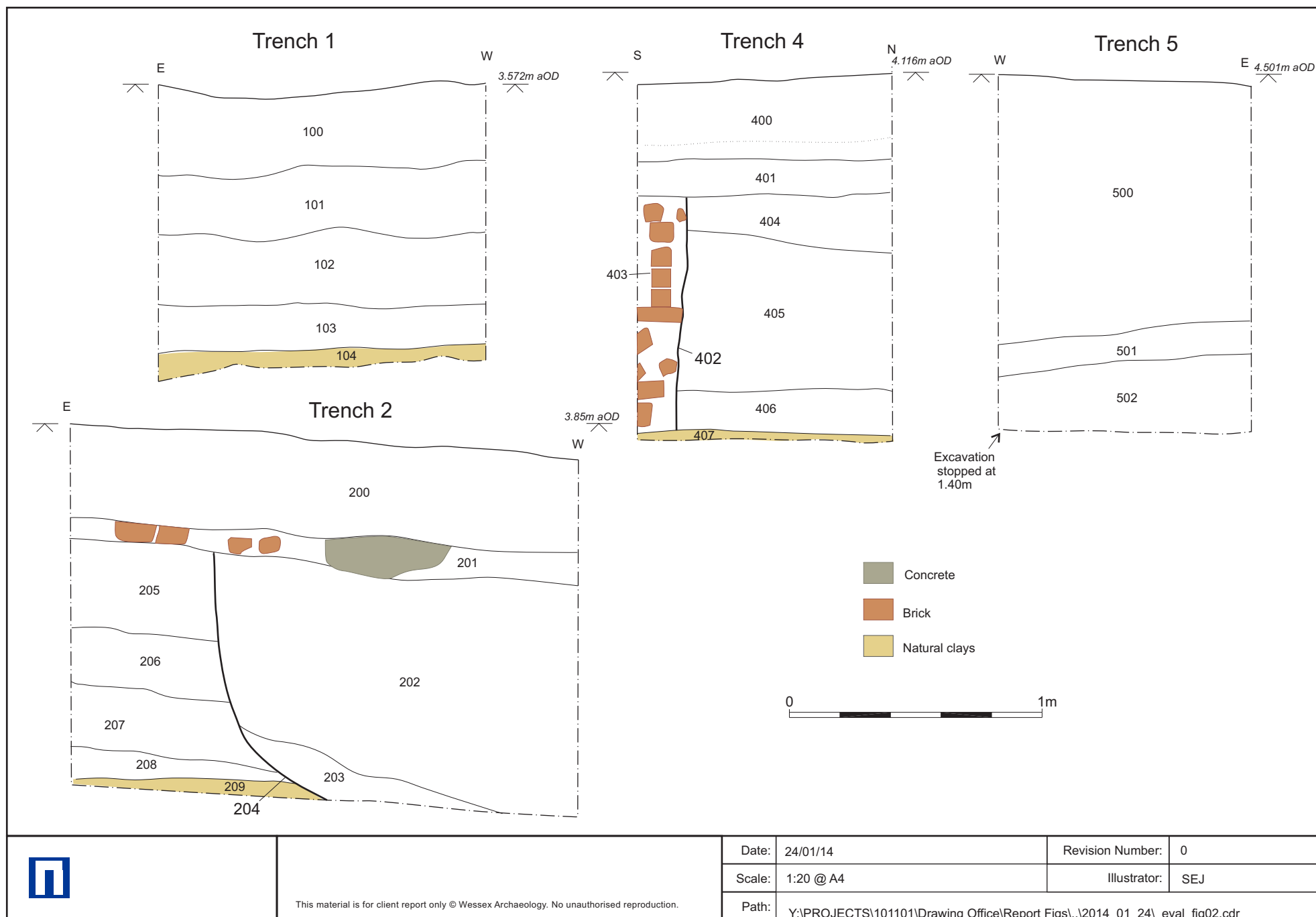


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Location of Site and evaluation trenches

Figure 1



Representative trench sections

Figure 2



Plate 1: View of Trench 1 from the west



Plate 2: North facing section of Trench 1


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	Date:	24/01/14	Revision Number: 0
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Plate 3: View of Trench 2 from the south



Plate 4: East facing section of Trench 2


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Plate 5: View of Trench 4 from the north



Plate 6: West facing section of Trench 4



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Plate 7: View of Trench 5 from the east



Plate 8: South facing section of Trench 5

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