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Land adjacent to Southampton Solent University

Archaeological Watching Brief Report



Southampton City Council Planning Application 13/01628/Ful
Southampton City Council Accession Number: SOU 1664
Ref: 105360.03
May 2016



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Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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Report no.105360.03
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Southampton City Council Planning Application 13/01628/Ful



Quality Assurance

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Land adjacent to Southampton Solent University

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Contents

Summary..... iii

Acknowledgements..... iv

1 INTRODUCTION 1

1.1 Project background..... 1

1.2 The Site..... 2

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND 2

2.1 Introduction 2

2.1 Recent investigations in the area 3

3 METHODOLOGY 3

3.1 Aims and objectives..... 3

3.2 Health and safety 3

3.3 Best practice..... 3

3.4 Fieldwork methodology..... 3

3.5 Recording..... 4

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS 4

4.1 Introduction 4

5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE 5

6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE..... 5

7 CONCLUSIONS 5

8 STORAGE AND CURATION..... 5

8.1 Museum 5

8.2 Archive 5

8.3 Discard policy..... 5

8.4 Security copy 6

9 REFERENCES 6

9.1 Bibliography 6

APPENDIX 1: OASIS SUMMARY 7

OASIS ID: wessexar1-251210 7



Figures

Figure 1: Site location and plan

Plates

Front cover: View of Site from North

Plate 1: Representative section showing tarmac and build up layer on top of brickearth

Plate 2: Stripped area in East part of Site

Plate 3: Ditch 1003

Plate 4: Working section of Ditch 1003 and brick wall



Land adjacent to Southampton Solent University

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Interserve, on behalf of Southampton Solent University, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the initial groundworks associated with the redevelopment of land adjacent to Southampton Solent University, Southampton, Hampshire.

The archaeological watching brief was required as a condition of the planning permission (13/01628/Ful) for the construction of a new five-seven storey teaching building on the north side of the existing campus building, with alterations to the vehicular access to St Andrews Road and associated car parking arrangements.

The watching brief comprised monitoring during the initial ground reduction within the area immediately adjacent to the current building and excavation construction of a large storm water attenuation tank (Referred to as Trench 9), services (Referred to Trench 8) and wider ground reduction to the north of the main building.

The watching brief recorded no evidence of any significant archaeological features, deposits or finds, beyond the survival of a shallow brick wall foundation and a shallow north/south orientated ditch (1003) which was located at the north-western edge of Trench 9. The ditch was cut into the top of the brickearth natural and filled with abundant late 19th century china, pottery, bottle glass and slate fragments.

Throughout the watching brief, no evidence of an undisturbed topsoil or subsoil were noted and the natural brickearth across the site appeared to have been heavily truncated, possibly to construct the terrace and/or again or when the demolition rubble was cleared away, since it was very apparent that very little of the 19th century archaeology survived.

The results has largely confirmed earlier test-pit observations made in 2012, which found a small number of ditches and boundary features and suggested that the former substantial town-house properties, which fronted on to East Park Terrace would have had a substantial impact to deposits of archaeological potential in this zone.

The watching brief was carried out intermittently between the 11th July 2014 and the 22nd May 2015.



Land adjacent to Southampton Solent University

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Rob Green, Jason Moore and Jamie Thomas of Interserve and Kevin White (Southampton City Council (SCC) Historic Environment Team Leader) who monitored the site on behalf of the Local Planning Authority.

The watching brief was carried out by Benjamin Cullen, Tom Burt and Phil Harding. Susan Clelland and Piotr Orczewski compiled this report. The illustrations were prepared by Nancy Dixon. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Andrew Manning.



Land adjacent to Southampton Solent University

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by Interserve, on behalf of Southampton Solent University (the **Client**), to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the initial groundworks associated with the redevelopment of land adjacent to Southampton Solent University, Southampton, Hampshire, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 442245 112313 (**Figure 1**); referred to henceforth as 'the Site'.
- 1.1.2 The development comprised the construction of a new five-seven storey teaching building (total internal floor space of 9,250 square metres) on the north side of the existing campus building, with alterations to the vehicular access to St Andrews Road and associated car parking arrangements.
- 1.1.3 A planning application was submitted in October 2013 (Planning Application 13/01628/Ful) and was subsequently approved. Two archaeological conditions were incumbent on the planning approval:
- **Condition 22:** *Archaeological investigation (watching brief)*
 - *The Developer will secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which will be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority*
 - *Reason: To ensure that the additional archaeological investigation is initiated at an appropriate point in the development procedure*
 - **Condition 23:** *Archaeological work programme (watching brief)*
 - *The Developer will secure the completion of a programme of archaeological works 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*
- 1.1.4 Due to an unfortunate delay in securing the services of an archaeological contractor, the initial groundworks within the footprint of the new building were undertaken without any archaeological observation (**Figure 1**). An initial visit was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology to the Site to assess the impact of this work.
- 1.1.5 This inspection concluded that the northern part of the proposed building foot print was likely to have been reduced during the construction of the former Southampton College of Technology (now Southampton Solent University) and that any archaeological deposits and features had been removed by this work.



- 1.1.6 However the southern half of the footprint of the new building was likely to have been better preserved and was probably dug away during the initial construction of the new University building, removing any archaeological remains. No archaeological record could be compiled within the northern footprint of the new building, although an initial assessment of the exposed sections did not reveal any significant features or deposits.
- 1.1.7 However, subsequent monitoring of ground disturbance was undertaken of the remaining northern half of the development.
- 1.1.8 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared to detail the proposed methodology to be used for an additional archaeological watching brief to monitor construction of a proposed attenuation plant and alterations to existing access roads as well as the reporting of the final results. This document was prepared in accordance with the *Standards and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014a).

1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The Site is situated on brickearth deposits overlying river terrace gravel within central Southampton, adjacent to Southampton Solent University to the south and bounded by the A33 inner ring road to the east and north, and East Park Terrace (and East Park beyond) to the west.
- 1.2.2 Topographically, the Site occupies a south-east facing slope overlooking the River Itchen floodplain, descending from c. 15.8m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) to the north-west to 8.8m aOD to the south-east. The natural topography has, however, been much altered by modern development, including a terraced car park adjoining the Site's northern boundary.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 A desk-based assessment (DBA) (CgMs 2004) was initially prepared for the site which examined the archaeological and historical background and potential of the site. It concluded that although diagnostic Mesolithic and Neolithic artefacts were present locally they occurred in only low numbers, with a relatively low archaeological potential for further discoveries.
- 2.1.2 Archaeological investigations in 1971 in the immediate vicinity, revealed Iron Age features, pottery, briquetage and burnt daub, which suggested that a settlement was situated at, or in close proximity to, the Site.
- 2.1.3 The desk-based assessment concluded that the Site probably lay beyond both the north-west edge of Middle Saxon Hamwic and the medieval boundary of Southampton. It suggested that the site comprised open farmland for much of the post-medieval and modern period.
- 2.1.4 This pattern prevailed until the mid-19th century at the earliest when extensive Victorian terraces developed along many street frontages (i.e. St Andrew's Rd, St Mary's Rd, Trinity Rd etc.), with large town houses overlooking East Park along East Park Terrace;
- 2.1.5 By the 1960s, most of the area, which had suffered extensive bomb damage, was cleared to the south-west of St Andrew's Rd and was replaced by the former Southampton College of Technology (now Southampton Solent University) and an ambulance station and health clinic, which have both been demolished.



2.1 Recent investigations in the area

- 2.1.1 An archaeological watching brief (SOU 1604) was undertaken during geotechnical investigations at the Site (Wessex Archaeology 2012). The watching brief found no archaeological remains of significance, but detected substantial impact from previous development along the East Park Terrace boundary of the Site.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims and objectives

- 3.1.1 With due regard to the ClfA Standards and Guidance for archaeological watching brief (ClfA 2014a), the project aimed;

- *To preserve by record any archaeological features or deposits uncovered and to establish the extent (where possible), date, character, relationship, condition and significance of surviving archaeological features, artefacts and deposits within the area to be impacted by construction work*
- *To inform discussions on the final extent and scope of any required archaeological mitigation where significant archaeological remains or deposits were identified,*
- *To place any identified archaeological remains within their context.*

- 3.1.2 The watching brief therefore focused on two critical objectives:

- *Identification, recording, and if feasible, rapid excavation/ recovery of archaeological remains exposed; and*
- *Recording a summary of the stratigraphic sequence encountered – this data would inform any further consideration of appropriate mitigation measures.*

3.2 Health and safety

- 3.2.1 Health and safety considerations were of paramount importance in conducting all fieldwork. Safe working practices override archaeological considerations at all times.

- 3.2.2 All work was carried out in accordance with the *Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974* and the *Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992*, and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.

3.3 Best practice

- 3.3.1 The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA) *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014a), excepting where they are superseded by statements made below.

3.4 Fieldwork methodology

- 3.4.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (WA 2015) laid down full details of the way in which the watching brief would be carried out. In summary, where possible the areas of groundworks were monitored, with archaeological deposits or features characterised, their condition established, dated and recorded using Wessex Archaeology's standard *pro forma* recording system.

3.5 Recording

- 3.5.1 All exposed archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system.
- 3.5.2 A full photographic record was made using digital photography. The photographic record illustrated both the detail and the general context of uncovered deposits as well as the Site as a whole. Digital images have been subject to a managed quality control and curation process which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and ensures the long term accessibility of the image set.
- 3.5.3 A Southampton City Council Accession Number was allocated for the works and was used on all records. A unique WA project code **105360** was also allocated.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The archaeological watching brief comprised monitoring during construction of a storm water attenuation tank (northern half of Trench 9), new services (Trench 8), surrounding areas and stripping of new access roads to the new building (**Figure 1**).
- 4.1.2 Initial service excavations along the eastern edge of the new building footprint (Trench 8, **Plate 1**) and during stripping within the area of the new storm water attenuation tank (northern half of Trench 9, **Plate 2**) located within the former car park were located to the north side of the new University building at the east end.
- 4.1.3 The natural ground level within this area slopes gently downward west to east, towards the River Itchen valley. The base of the attenuation tank was therefore terraced into the slope and was deeper to the west.
- 4.1.4 All surface deposits were removed systematically by machine to the surface of the natural brickearth geology to expose any archaeological features. The underlying geological deposits were removed to the required depth once these had been recorded.
- 4.1.5 The area of the watching brief was covered by a layer of made ground deposit comprising reworked silty clay (1001) of varying thickness that contained abundant quantities of brick rubble.
- 4.1.6 The redeposited soil directly overlay the surface of the natural geology with a clear, but undulating contact. There was nothing to indicate that any former top soil or natural subsoil survived.
- 4.1.7 Within the north-western corner of Trench 9, a north/south orientated shallow ditch, approximately 0.50 m wide was noted, cut into the brickearth natural (**Plate 3**). The fill of the feature (1004) contained brick fragments, Victorian china and pottery, bottle glass and fragments of roof slate.
- 4.1.8 Isolated sections of shallow Victorian brick wall foundations were also noted (**Plate 4**). Most of the foundations had been removed during demolition of the terraces making it impossible to reconstruct any complete building footprints.
- 4.1.9 These observations suggest that the original land surface has been extensively reduced or stripped at some time in the past. This may have taken place during the construction of

the Victorian terrace; however the absence of building foundations suggests that this may have happened during its subsequent demolition.

5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

5.1.1 No artefacts were retained during the course of the watching brief.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1.1 No material suitable for environmental analysis was present within the Site.

7 CONCLUSIONS

7.1.1 The watching brief did not identify any significant archaeological features, deposits or finds. The results largely confirmed earlier observations that the original land surface has been extensively reduced and disturbed at some time in the past (Wessex Archaeology 2012). This activity is likely to have taken place during the construction of the Victorian terrace; however the nature of the noted building foundations suggests that this may have happened during subsequent demolition of the properties.

8 STORAGE AND CURATION

8.1 Museum

8.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with Southampton City Council who have agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project. Deposition of the finds with the Museum Service will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

8.2 Archive

8.2.1 The complete site archive, which includes paper records, photographic record, graphics, and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Southampton City Council, as detailed in "Standards for the Creation, Compilation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives" (Southampton City Council, 2007) and in general following nationally recommended guideline (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014b; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

8.2.2 An OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/projects/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators Forms. This will include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy will also be included in the archive). A copy of the OASIS entry has been included in this report (Appendix 1).

8.3 Discard policy

8.3.1 Wessex Archaeology will follow standards laid down in "Standards for the Creation, Compilation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives" (Southampton City Council, 2007) 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).

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

9.1 Bibliography

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APPENDIX 1: OASIS SUMMARY

OASIS ID: wessexar1-251210

Project details

Project name	Southampton Solent University
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Interserve, on behalf of Southampton Solent University, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the initial groundworks associated with the redevelopment of land adjacent to Southampton Solent University, Southampton, Hampshire. The results has largely confirmed earlier test-pit observations made in 2012, which found a small number of ditches and boundary features and suggested that the former substantial town-house properties, which fronted on to East Park Terrace would have had a substantial impact to deposits of archaeological potential in this zone.
Project dates	Start: 11-07-2014 End: 22-05-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	105360 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	SOU 1664 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Project location

Country	England
Site location	HAMPSHIRE SOUTHAMPTON SOUTHAMPTON Southampton
Postcode	SO14 0AE
Study area	1 Hectares
Site coordinates	SU 42263 12314 50.908194561744 -1.398827692101 50 54 29 N 001 23 55 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 8m Max: 15m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Southampton City Council
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology



Project director/manager	A Manning
Project supervisor	Phil Harding
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Southampton Solent University

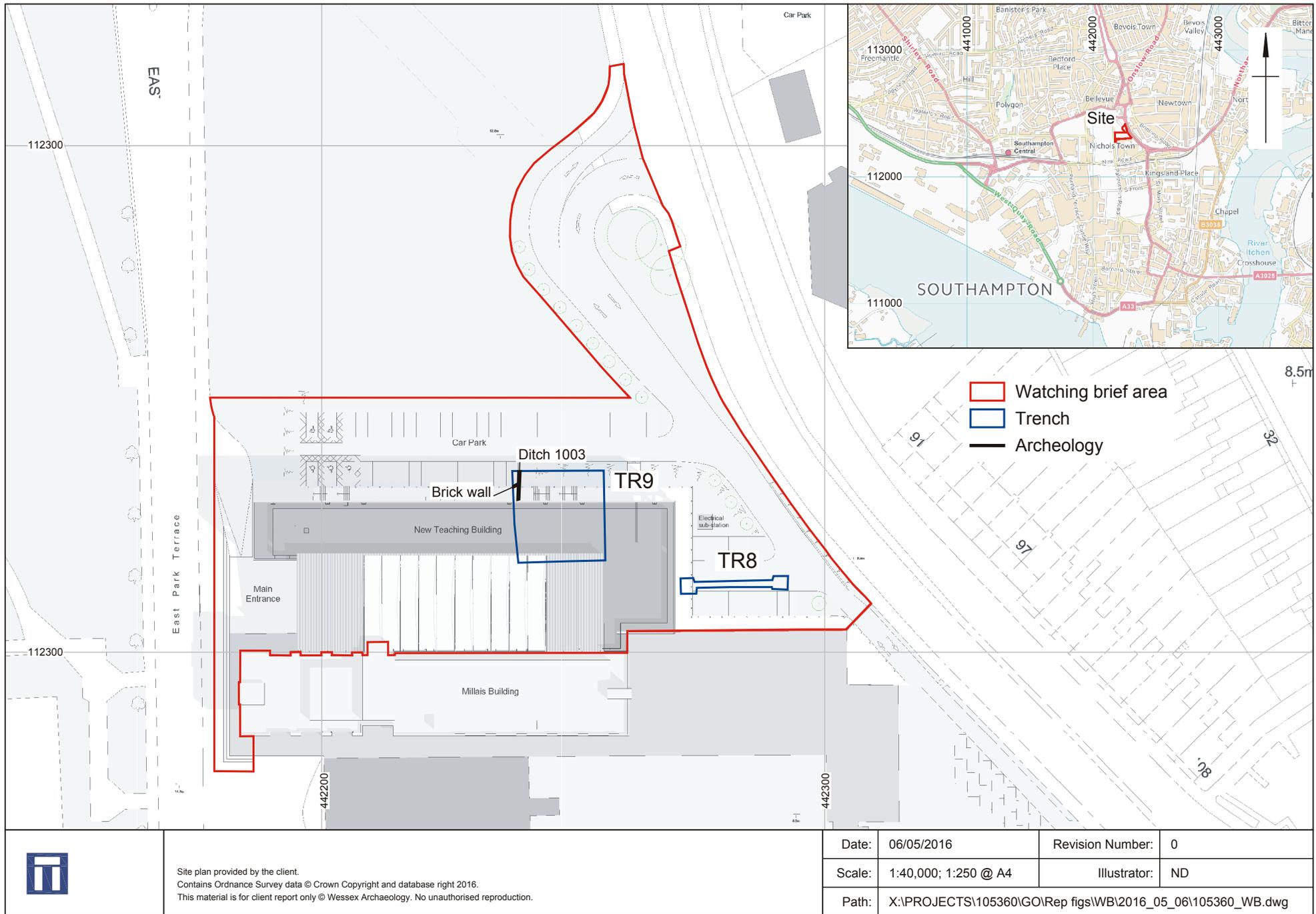
Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Southampton City Museum Service
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Southampton City Museum Service
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Notebook - Excavation', ' Research', ' General Notes", "Photograph", "Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land adjacent to Southampton Solent University: Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Orczewski, P
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Entered by	Andrew Manning (a.manning@wessexarch.co.uk)
Entered on	11 May 2016



Site location and plan

Figure 1



Plate 1: Representative section showing tarmac and build up layer on top of brick earth



Plate 2: Stripped area in East part of site

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Plate 3: Ditch 1003



Plate 4: Working section of Ditch 1003 and brick wall

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