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Land at 12 – 18 Hulse Road Southampton, Hampshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report



Southampton City Council Planning Ref. No: 14/01446/FUL Southampton site code: SOU 1689 Ref: 109550.03 December 2015

wessexarchaeology



Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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Southampton City Council Planning Ref. No: 14/01446/FUL

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Quality Assurance

Project Code	109550	Accession Code		Client Ref.	-
Planning Application Ref.		Ordnance Survey (OS) national grid reference (NGR)	441843 113522	2	

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Cover Photo: Basement uncovered in the north-western corner of the Site

Land at 12 – 18 Hulse Road Southampton, Hampshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Persimmon Homes South Coast to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the initial groundworks associated with the proposed redevelopment of land at 12 - 18 Hulse Road, Southampton, Hampshire, SO15 2GS (NGR 441853 113522). The watching brief was carried out intermittently between 26^{th} August and the 3^{rd} November 2015.

The Site has been proposed for residential development, namely the demolition of the existing buildings and the construction of eight houses and 36 flats.

The groundworks comprised of the monitoring of the removal of former foundations and excavation of the foundation and service trenches for the proposed new buildings. The archaeological watching brief identified no archaeological features, deposits, or artefacts. Given the disturbed nature of the site due to past landscaping and redevelopment, it is probable that the archaeological horizon has had a large degree of disturbance and may not be present.

Land at 12 – 18 Hulse Road Southampton, Hampshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by Persimmon Homes South Coast, and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank them in this regard. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Wessex Demolition and Salvage Ltd, and KAMM Civil Engineering for their co-operation. Thanks are also due to Kevin White and Ingrid Peckham (Southampton City Council's Historic Environment Team (HET) who monitored the work on behalf of the Local Planning Authority.

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Phil Harding, Mike Dinwiddy, Benjamin Cullen and Matt Kendall. The report was compiled by Matt Kendall and the graphics were prepared by Karen Nichols and Nancy Dixon. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Andrew Manning, who also edited this report.

Land at 12- 18 Hulse Road Southampton, Hampshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by Persimmon Homes South Coast (the Client), to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the initial groundworks associated with the proposed redevelopment of land at 12-18 Hulse Road, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 441843 113522 (Figure 1); referred to henceforth as 'the Site'.
- 1.1.2 The development comprises the residential redevelopment of the Site, including the demolition of the existing buildings and the construction of eight houses and 36 flats within four main housing blocks, with associated parking, landscaping and access from Hulse Road.
- 1.1.3 A detailed planning application was submitted in August 2014 (Planning Application 14/01446/Full) and was subsequently approved in March 2015. The approval was conditional on a number of conditions, including two archaeological conditions (Conditions 7 and 8). These conditions include:

Condition 7: Archaeological watching brief work Programme (Performance Condition)

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.

Condition 8: Archaeological watching brief (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 the development procedure.

1.1.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by WA (WA 2015) to comply with the standards outlined in the Chartered Institute of Archaeologists (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 2014a). This was submitted to the Southampton City Council (HET) Archaeologist for approval before work was undertaken.



1.1.5 This document presents the results of the archaeological watching brief which was undertaken intermittently between the 26th August and the 3rd November 2015.

1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The land at 12-18 Hulse Road is approximately 0.45 ha in extent and comprised originally a single outbuilding. The Main building was bounded by Hulse Road to the west and residential development immediately to the north, east and south of the Site. The location of the new buildings is outlined in **Figure 1**.
- 1.2.2 The underlying geology of the Site is described as Wittering Formation deposits, comprising of sands, silts, and clays (BGS online, <u>http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyof</u>britain/home.html). Superficial deposits of River Terrace Deposits comprising of sands and gravels have also been recorded in the local vicinity.
- 1.2.3 Topographically, the Site occupies a relatively flat area at a height of *c*. 25m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 1.2.4 Recent geotechnical test-pitting across the Site (CgMs Consulting 2014) identified potential disturbance and made ground deposits at a typical depth of between 0.20m to 0.50m below the current ground surface and which overlaid river terrace deposits. In a small number of places, within the central area, northern edge, south-west corner and eastern edge of the Site, deeper disturbance was identified between 0.90m and 1.85m in depth below the current ground surface.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 A detailed Desk Based Assessment (DBA) has already been prepared for this site, which considers the archaeological and historical background and potential of the Site (CgMs 2014).
- 2.1.2 The Registered Park and Garden of Southampton Cemetery is located 400m to the northwest of the site. The site is situated within the locally designated Area Archaeological Potential (AAP) for Southampton Common.
- 2.1.3 The HER records that there have been a number of archaeological investigations within the 500m study radius of the site. Many of these have been entirely devoid of archaeological finds or features, including a watching brief c.50m to the north-east (SOU 499), another watching brief c.150m to the east (SOU 1101) and evaluations c.100m south (SOU 1238), c.200m south-east (SOU 491), and a larger evaluation c.150m west of the site (SOU 1085).
- 2.1.4 The majority of finds and isolated features suggest general activity through the Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman and medieval periods, although the DBA concluded that the study site could be considered to have a generally low archaeological potential.
- 2.1.5 The Site appears to have remained open land until the early 20th Century and had undergone a number of phases of redevelopment since which appears to have had a heavy impact within the Site. No natural overburden (top soil or sub soil) horizon was found across the Site. This is suggestive that either terracing or ground works at the site has removed these layers and is likely to have impacted the archaeological horizon.



3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims and objectives

- 3.1.1 The aims of the watching were;
 - To enable the preservation by record of 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
 - where significant archaeological remains or deposits are identified, to inform discussions on the final extent and scope of the required archaeological mitigation
 - to place any identified archaeological remains within their context.
 - identification, recording, and if feasible, rapid excavation/ recovery of archaeological remains exposed,
 - recording a summary of the stratigraphic sequence encountered this data will inform any further consideration of appropriate mitigation measures; and
 - to prepare a report on the results of the watching brief.

3.2 Fieldwork methodology

- 3.2.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the methodology set out within the WSI (WA 2015), which was approved in advance of the commencement of the fieldwork.
- 3.2.2 In format and context it conforms with the current best practise and to the guidance outlined in Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE, Historic England 2015). All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the guidance and standards outlined in the ClfAs' *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014a).
- 3.2.3 An initial programme of test pitting during geotechnical ground investigation of the site had indicated that parts of the Site had been heavily truncated by previous activity. These areas comprised the footprint of the former building and surrounding land within the western half of the Site, including the south-western corner of the Site. Initial discussions with the SCC (HET) identified that the watching brief should focus particularly on the north-eastern and south-eastern areas of the Site, where the potential for the survival of archaeological features was thought to be greater.
- 3.2.4 The watching brief, in particular, focused on the monitoring during the removal of the main slab foundation associated with the former building, ground reduction and the excavation of new footings and service trenches within the eastern half of the Site. A large part of the south-eastern part of the Site was ultimately retained at the original ground levels and remained, outside the foot print of the new building, unimpacted by the new development.

3.3 Monitoring

3.3.1 During the works, the archaeologist for SCC (HET) was notified on a regular basis by WA on the progress of the project.

3.4 Recording

3.4.1 All exposed archaeological deposits were recorded using WA's *pro forma* recording system.



3.4.2 A complete drawn record of archaeological features and deposits was complied. This included both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections), and with reference to a site grid tied to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD) height of all principle features and levels was calculated and plans/sections annotated with OD heights.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The following summary details the results of the archaeological watching brief of the Site which was carried out intermittently from the 26th August to the 3rd November 2015. The initial breaking and grubbing out of the old foundations and slab base within the footprint of the former building was monitored. In addition, ground reduction and the excavation of foundation trenches and service trenches to the top of the natural gravels for the proposed buildings within the north-eastern and south-eastern corners of the Site was also monitored (**Figure 1**).

4.2 Natural deposits and soil sequences

- 4.2.1 Covering the entire Site was a layer of made ground which originates from the multiple redevelopment phases of the Site during the 20th Century. This deep deposit, as predicted within the DBA ranged in depth from 0.50 m in the south-eastern corner of the Site (**Plate** 1) to around 1.00 m in the north (**Plate 2**). This deposit directly overlaid the natural geology which was made up of River Terrace Gravels (**Plate 3**).
- 4.2.2 No evidence of natural overburden (topsoil or subsoil) or buried soil horizons were identified during the works.

4.3 Summary of archaeological results

4.3.1 No evidence of archaeological features, deposits or archaeological material were identified during the works and accordingly there was no trace of any previous occupation or activity had taken place on the Site prior to its development in the early 20th Century.

5 ARTEFACTUAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

5.1 Artefactual evidence

5.1.1 No archaeological artefacts were encountered during the monitoring of the works.

5.2 Environmental evidence

5.2.1 No material suitable for environmental sampling was present within the monitored areas and accordingly no samples were taken.

6 DISCUSSION

- 6.1.1 As anticipated in the DBA, the level of truncation varied in impact across the Site. To the north, where the main body of the pre-existing building stood, the truncation of the natural stratigraphy was quite severe. This was partially evident in the north-western corner of the Site where a deep basement was fully revealed during the removal of the concrete slab foundation (cover Plate).
- 6.1.2 Further investigation revealed that the construction method for the former building involved the insertion of steel uprights into large foundation pits. The south-eastern corner



of the Site, where the former carpark was situated, showed lesser signs of truncation (**Plate 1**), although the area was still badly disturbed by a number of modern services, drains, and concrete pads. A similar picture was observed in the north-eastern corner of the Site (**Plate 2**), although the made ground was particularly mixed and in places should areas of fuel oil contamination.

- 6.1.3 At the north-western edges of the Site, isolated higher surviving patches of River Terrace gravels were observed, although no evidence of any archaeological features were observed (**Plate 3**).
- 6.1.4 Given that the Site has had multiple phases of redevelopment, and since no natural overburden deposits were identified during the works, it is likely, as suggested in the DBA, that the Site has undergone a high level of terracing or landscaping which would have largely removed the archaeological horizon.

7 STORAGE AND CURATION

7.1 Museum

7.1.1 It is recommended that the archive be deposited with Southampton City Council. The archive is currently held at WA's Salisbury office under the site code **109550**.

7.2 Archive

- 7.2.1 The complete site archive, which includes paper records, photographic record, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts, 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).
- 7.2.2 An OASIS online record <u>http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/projects/oasis/</u> 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**).
- 7.2.3 All archive elements will be marked with the site code and accession number, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following;
 - 1 file of paper records

7.3 Discard policy

- 7.3.1 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.
- 7.3.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2002).

7.4 Security Copy

7.4.1 In line with current best practise (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



and 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.

8 **REFERENCES**

8.1 Bibliography

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8.2 Online Resources

http://www.bgs.ac.uk/



APPENDIX 1: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: wessexar1-230201

Project details	
Project name	Land at 12-18 Hulse Road, Southampton, Hampshire
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Persimmon Homes South Coast to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the initial groundworks associated with the proposed redevelopment of land at 12 - 18 Hulse Road Southampton, Hampshire, SO15 2GS (NGR 441853 113522). The watching brief was carried out intermittently between 26th August and the 3rd Novembe 2015. The Site has been proposed for residential development, namely the demolition of the existing buildings and the construction of eight houses and 36 flats. The groundworks comprised of the monitoring of the excavation of the foundation trenches for the proposed new buildings. The archaeological watching brief identified no archaeological features, deposits, or artefacts. Given the disturbed nature of the site due to past landscaping and redevelopment, it is probable that the archaeological horizon has had a large degree of disturbance and may not be present.
Project dates	Start: 26-08-2015 End: 03-11-2015
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	14/01446/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	SOU 1689 - Southampton site code ID
Any associated project reference codes	109550 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	HAMPSHIRE SOUTHAMPTON SOUTHAMPTON Land at 12-18 Hulse Road, Southampton, Hampshire
Postcode	SO152GS
Study area	0.45 Hectares
Site coordinates	SU 41843 13522 50.919088626725 -1.404663076119 50 55 08 N 001 24 16 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 24m Max: 26m

Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	Andrew Manning
Project supervisor	PA Harding
Project supervisor	M. Dinwiddy
Project supervisor	Ben Cullen
Project supervisor	Matt Kendall
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Persimmon Homes South Coast
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Southampton Museum
Digital Archive ID	109550
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Southampton Museum
Paper Archive ID	109550
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Diary","Map","Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Report"
Project bibliography 1	
	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Publication type	
Title	Land at 12-18 Hulse Road, Southampton, Hampshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Kendall, M
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Manning, A
Other bibliographic details	109550.03
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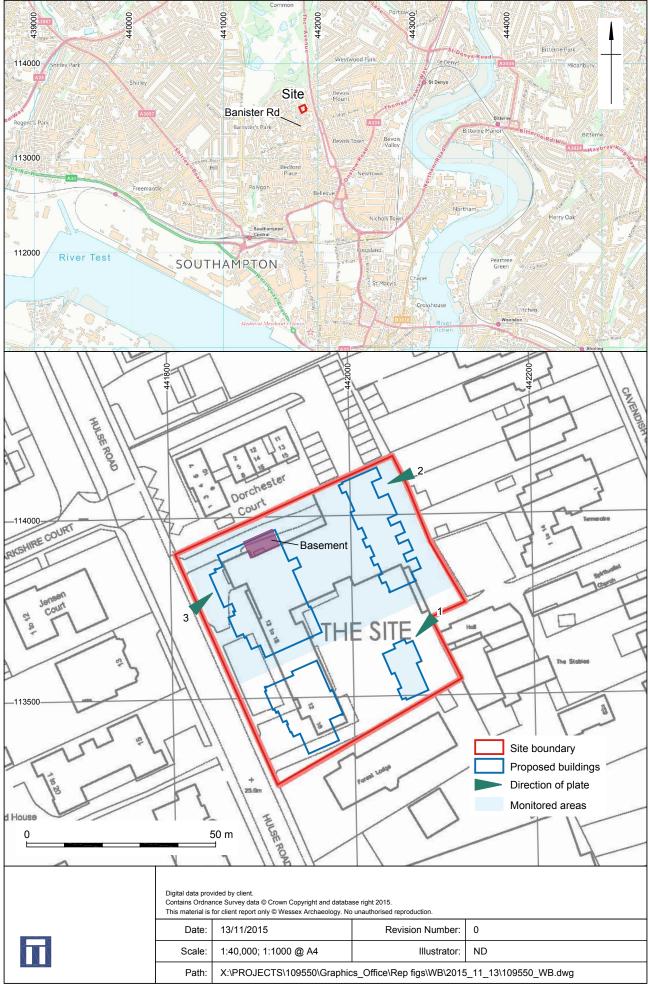




Plate 1: South-eastern foundations viewed from the east showing depth of disturbance



Plate 2: North-eastern foundations viewed from the east showing depth of disturbance (1x1m)

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Plate 3: Stripping area in the north-eastern area of the Site showing River Terrace gravels

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