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Southampton Archaeology Unit Report 1226

Archaeological Watching Brief at Peartree House, Peartree Road, Southampton. SOU 1687

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2016

Client: Fernside Healthcare



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Summary Sheet

Site name/address: Peartree House, Peartree Road, Southampton.
SOU site code: SOU 1687
Contractor site code: SOU 1687
HET consultation number: 7664
Planning application number: 15/00312/FUL
Grid reference of centre of site: 444181 111940
Fieldwork dates: 05/01/2016 – 20/01/2016
Type of fieldwork: Watching Brief
Name of contracting unit: Southampton City Council Archaeology Unit
Report author: Emma Anderson and Andrew Russel
Report number: 1226
SCC Accession Number: 2016.4
Name of client: Fernside Healthcare
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The Archaeology Unit of Southampton City Council carried out a watching brief at Peartree House, Peartree Road, Southampton from the 05/01/2016 to the 20/01/2016.</p> <p>Natural gravel was observed some 980mm below the surface in the deeper trenches. Above it was natural brickearth some 600mm below the surface.</p> <p>Three features and two layers have been dated to the post medieval/early modern periods. These consisted of part of the foundations of Peartree House (listed Grade II); a layer that contained fragments of pottery and clay pipe dating from the middle of the 17th century to the early 18th century; a 17th century brick-and-limestone-built drain; and a 19th century brick-and-slate-built drain.</p>

Report on the Archaeological Watching Brief at Peartree House, Peartree Road, Southampton. SOU 1687

By EL Anderson BA MA ACIfA and AD Russel BA PhD MCIfA

1. Summary

The Archaeology Unit of Southampton City Council carried out a watching brief at Peartree House, Peartree Road, Southampton from the 05/01/2016 to the 20/01/2016.

Natural gravel was observed some 980mm below the surface, in the deeper trenches. Above it was natural brickearth some 600mm below the surface.

Three features and two layers have been dated to the post medieval/early modern periods. These consisted of part of the foundations of Peartree House; a layer that contained fragments of pottery and clay pipe dating from the middle of the 17th century to the early 18th century; a 17th century brick-and-limestone-built drain; and a 19th century brick-and-slate-built drain.

2. Introduction

2.1 Fernside Healthcare obtained planning permission to construct two single storey extensions to an existing listed building, Peartree House, Peartree Road, Southampton under planning application number 15/00312/FUL.

2.2 The site lies in Area 16 of the Local Areas of Archaeological Potential (LAAP) as defined in the City of Southampton Core Strategy 2010 and an archaeological watching brief was required as a condition of the planning permission. Peartree House, built by 1617 but refaced circa 1800, is listed Grade II.

2.3 The Archaeology Unit of Southampton City Council carried out the watching brief between 05/01/2016 to the 20/01/2016.

2.4 The project was managed by Dr AD Russel BA PhD MCIfA. The artefacts were identified by Dr AD Russel. The report illustrations were prepared by E Anderson BA MA ACIfA and the report was edited by Dr AD Russel. On completion of the archaeological work the archive will be deposited with Southampton City Council Museums.

3. Site location, topography and geology

3.1 Pear Tree House lies between Peartree Avenue and Merridale Road, to the north of Sholing Road, at Ordnance Survey grid reference 444181 111940 (fig 1).

3.2 The geology at the site is recorded as River Terrace Deposits 4 - Sand and Gravel over Wittering Formation deposits - Sand, Silt and Clay.

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>.

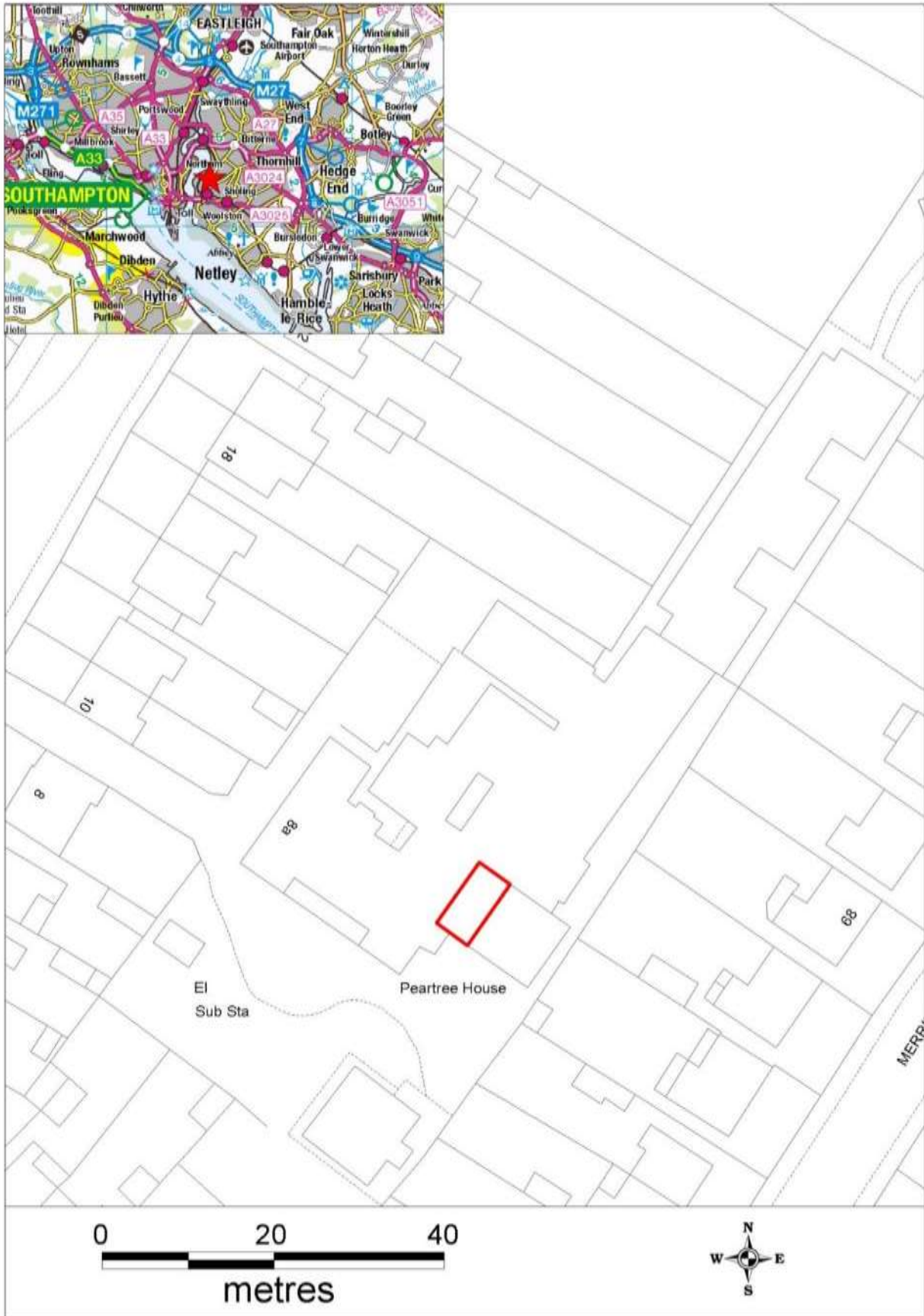


Figure 1. Location of site (inset red star) and watching brief main area (red outline).

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4. Archaeological and Historical background

4.1. The site lies on the east bank of the River Itchen (fig 1) in Area 16 of the Local Areas of Archaeological Potential (LAAP) as defined in the City of Southampton Core Strategy 2010. The area lies between the Roman settlement of Clausentum at Bitterne Manor, to the north, and the medieval settlement of Itchen Ferry, to the south. The Roman road from Clausentum to Noviomagus Reginorum (Chichester) ran approximately 1km to the northeast of the site.

4.2 Peartree House itself was built in the late 16th century by Francis Mylles, who rented Bitterne Manor, on the site of Roman Clausentum, from the Bishops of Winchester who allowed him to take stone from there to build his new house. After Mylles his son-in-law Captain Richard Smith lived in the house. He enclosed ground on Ridgeway Heath to provide a chapel and burial ground, opened in 1620. Peartree House was occupied by the Mylles family for almost three centuries; the last of the family died in 1780, and it was then passed to members of the Speed and Waring families, who were related to the Mylles (Coles 1981). During the early 19th century, the property was extended and the castellated facade was added (Vale, 1980). A later inhabitant was General Shrapnel who lived in Peartree House from 1835 to 1842. The building was used as a school and later as a hotel in the 20th century, before being purchased by Southampton Corporation for use as a care home. The building is now run by the Fernside Healthcare Group.

4.3 Sites of interest within 500m of the site are as follows (fig 2):

MSH388

A large hoard of Bronze Age implements was found in 1898, during the construction of a cottage in Brook Road (now Poole Road), south of Peartree Green. The hoard consisted of 41 bronze palstaves, and is thought to have been a founder's hoard.

MSH1851

Undated layers and an undated posthole were observed during a watching brief on land formerly part of the grounds of the Woolston School Annexe, Seaward Road in 1992 (SOU 495). The site area is now known as School Place. No deposits or finds of certain archaeological significance were observed.

MSH2141

Peartree House (Listed Grade II). Built by 1617 but refaced circa 1800. Two storeys with tiled roof. C17 chimney stack. South facade has castellated parapet. Seven sashes with glazing bars intact on the first floor only. The end window bays project with hipped roofs over. The centre has a veranda on the ground floor of 5 wooden archways with Neo-Tudor heads. The wings have iron balconettes to first floor windows. Tripartite sashes to side elevations. The interior has inglenook fireplaces, mainly blocked.

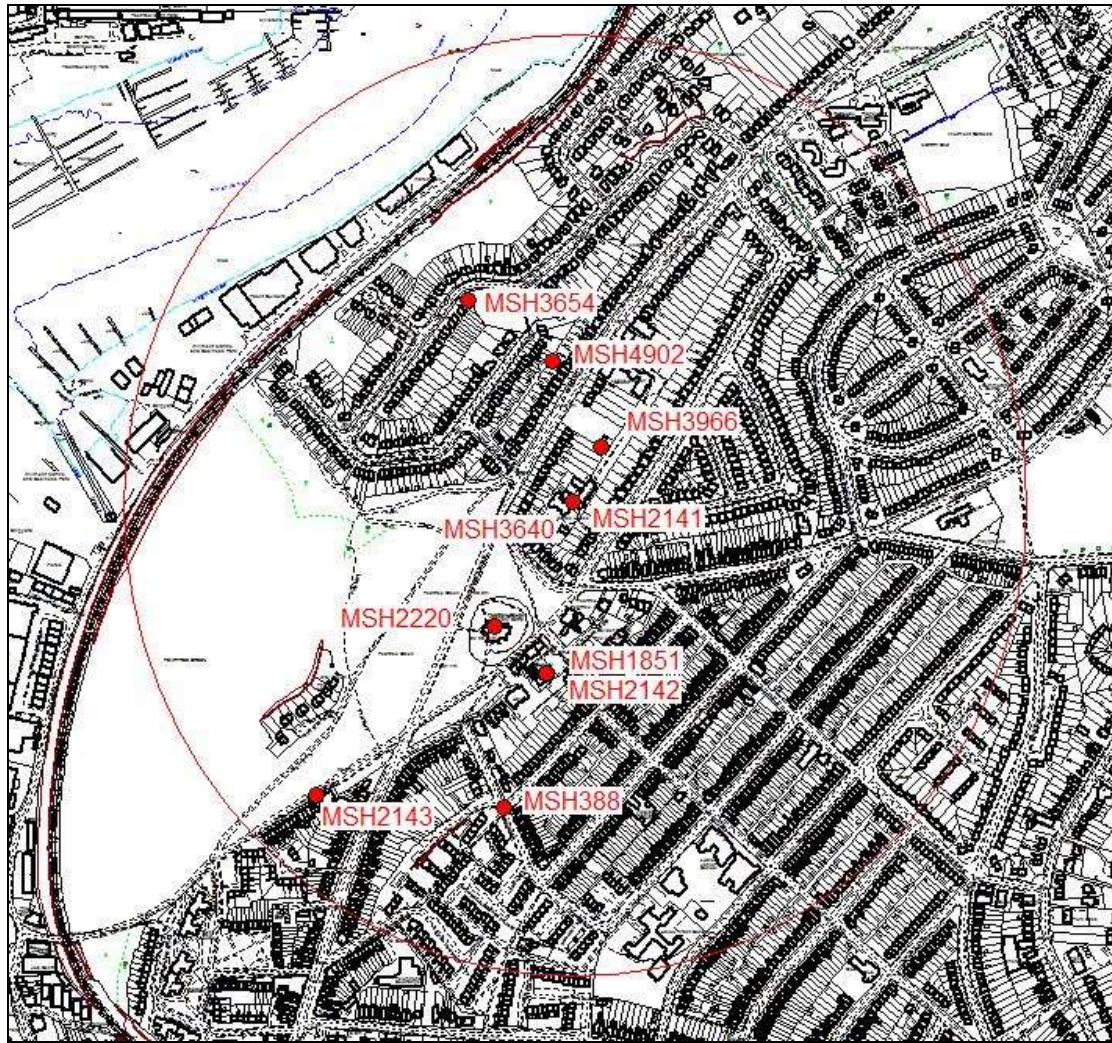


Figure 2. Known sites of interest within 500m of the site. The site lies in the centre of the red circle at the point identified by MSH2141 and MSH3640.

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MSH2142

Woolston Secondary Mixed School (Listed Grade II). 1857. Built by The National Society in memory of Reverend William Lewis Davis. Originally 2 buildings, now linked at ground floor level. Built of coursed rubble. One storey and attics. Slate roof with ridge tiles. Gable ends with stone coping and kneelers, long and short quoins. Windows are mullioned or mullioned and transomed casements with hood moulding to windows in gables. South-east building has a spirelet with louvred lantern and weathervane. The south-west building has a bellcote over the gable. Plinth. Gabled weather porches with tablet above porch to south-east building.

MSH2143

Peartree Green United Reform Church (Grade II). 1838. Built as a Congregational Church in Neo-Decorated style, of yellow brick with slate roof. Gabled front with stone spirelet. Three windows, the central one traceried, the side ones lancets. Arched doorcase. The nave is of 5 bays with brick and stone buttresses and lancet windows. Cast iron forecourt railings.

MSH2220

Peartree Church Listed Grade II*). Built as Jesus Chapel in 1620 to serve the part of the parish of St Mary which lay across the Itchen (St Mary Extra). It is said to have been built using stone rubble from Bitterne Manor. The only part of the original building remaining is the centre west gable, and an adjacent window. In 1822 a west porch and south transept were added by E Burrough and J Ede in Neo-Tudor style. In 1846 a north aisle was added, in 1866 an east aisle, and a new chancel and south chapel were added in 1883.

MSH3640

The grounds of the late 16th century Peartree House (MSH2141). The garden is shown on the 1881 map but has since been redeveloped for housing.

MSH3645

Former grounds of Ridgeway Castle. Ridgeway Castle was built in the late 18th century as a castellated mansion with grounds. It was demolished in 1855. By 1859 a new house called Ridgeway had been constructed, demolished c1920.

MSH3966

Overgrown flint structure at the rear of 30/32 Peartree Avenue, shown on historic maps back to 1897.

MSH4902

There was apparently a medieval house called "Riggeweye", first documented in 1291, on or near the site of the later Ridgeway House (MSH3645). A hamlet called Ridgeway is mentioned in 1659.

5. Historical mapping

5.1 The Ordnance Survey map of 1867-83 shows the trenches were dug in what was a landscaped garden with pathways and trees, trench 7 seems to go through a possible boundary wall (fig 3). By 1896-97 most of the paths had disappeared (fig 4). By 1933-46 all of the trees and paths had either disappeared or were not marked (fig 5).

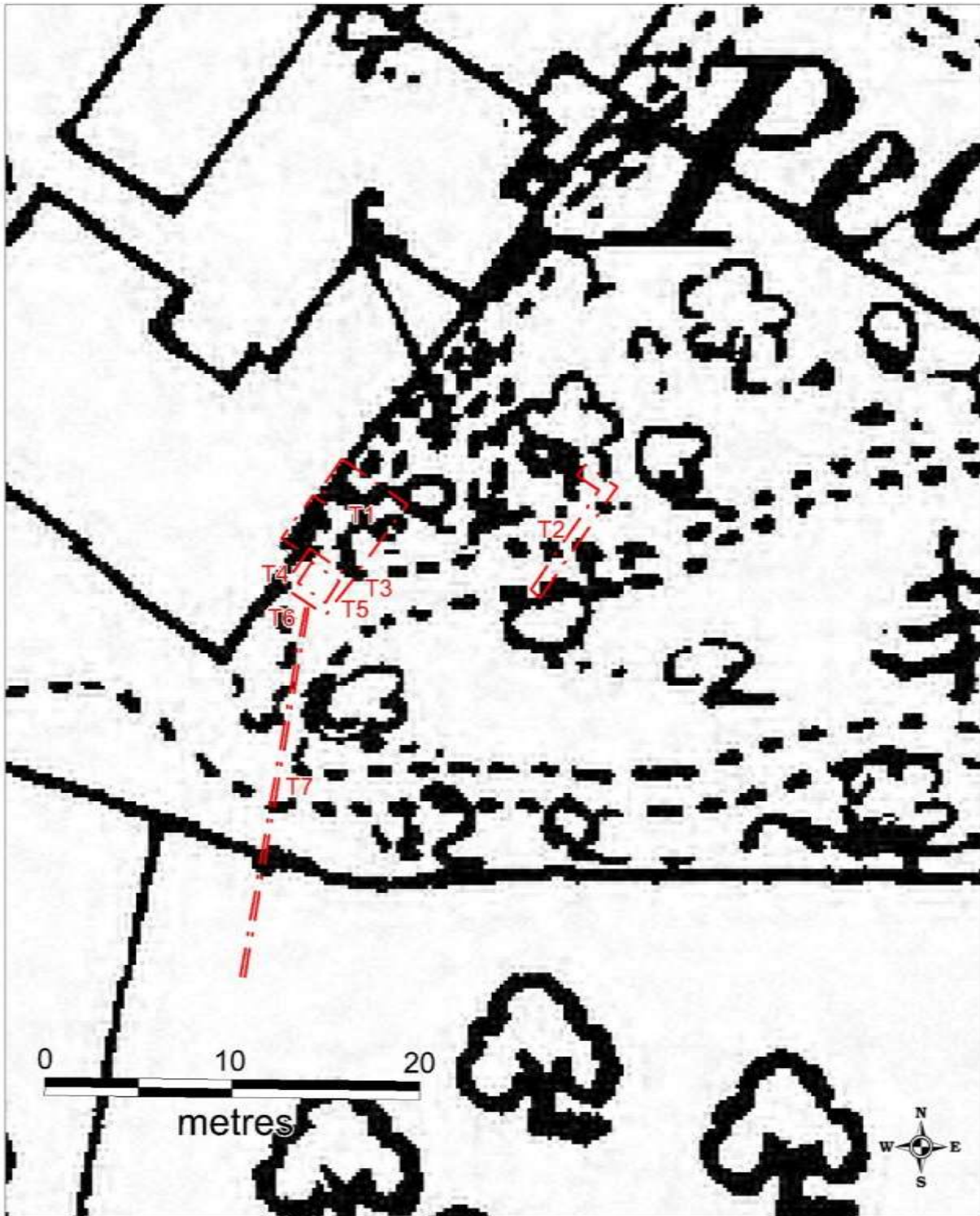


Figure 3. The 1867-83 Ordnance Survey map showing Peartree House and garden with watching brief trenches in red.

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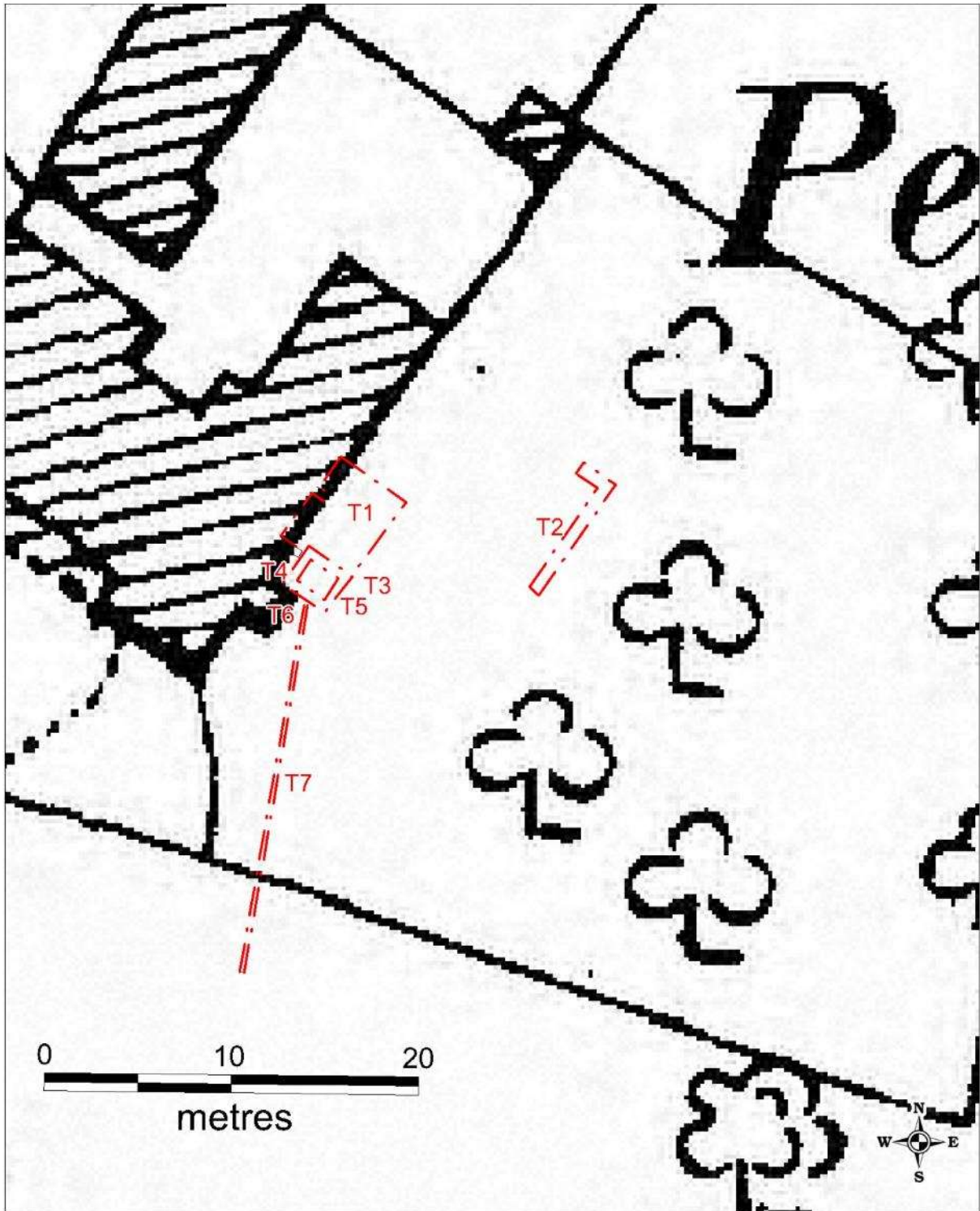


Figure 4. The 1896-97 Ordnance Survey map showing Peartree House and garden with the watching brief trenches in red.

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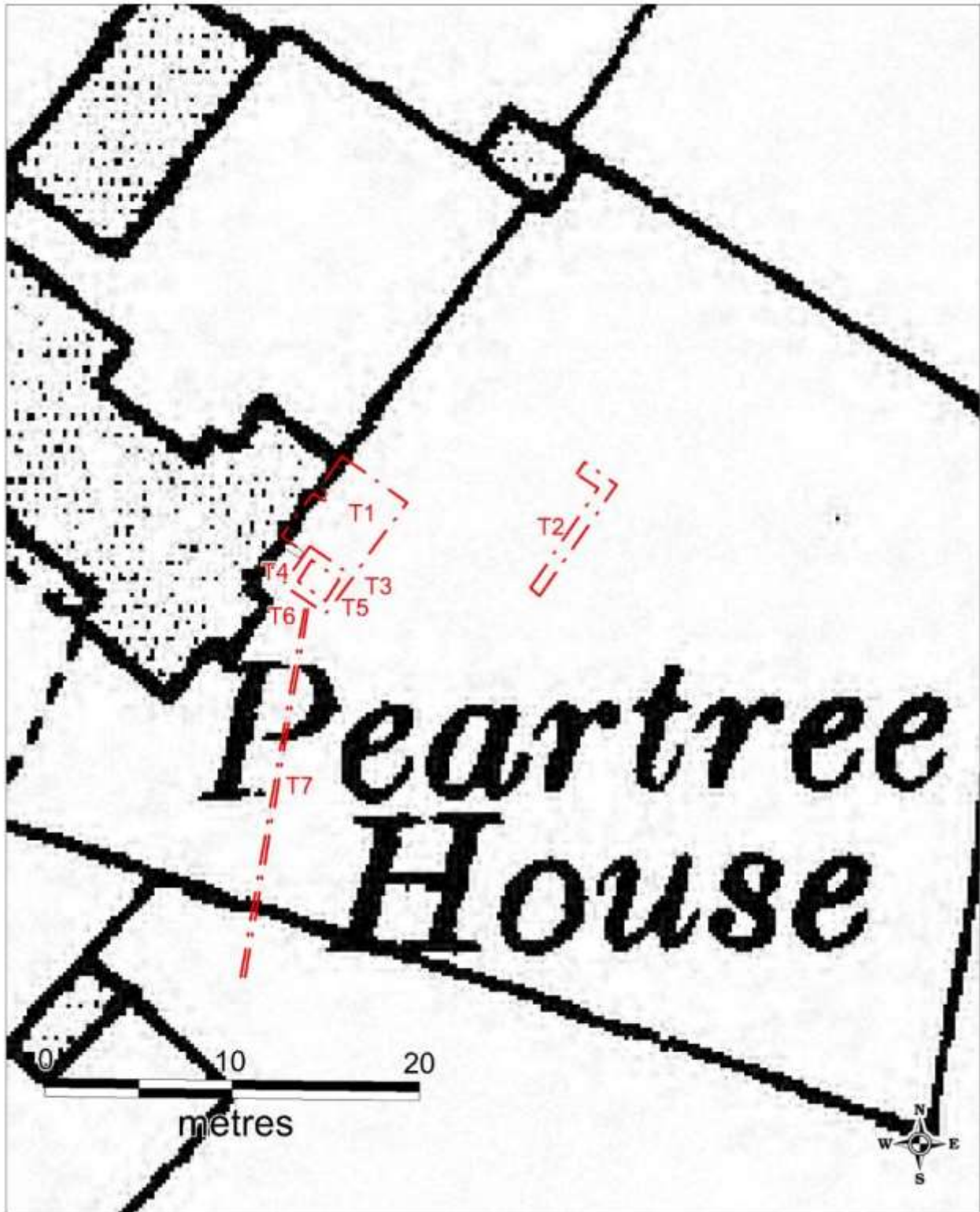


Figure 5. The 1933-46 Ordnance Survey map showing Peartree House and garden, with the watching brief trenches in red.

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6. Aims of the watching brief

6.1 The aims of the watching brief were 'to make a record of the deposits within the site, and collect any artifacts revealed' (Southampton Archaeology 2015, 4).

7. Watching brief methodology

7.1 The methodology followed that specified in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Southampton Archaeology 2015). A total of 7 trenches were observed by the archaeologist (fig 6). The trench dug for the extension to the east of Peartree House (Trench 2) was dug and filled with concrete before the archaeologist was notified of the works having started.

- Trench 1 was a level reduction between Peartree House to the west and a more modern extension to the east, it was 5.7m long, 4.4m wide and 300mm deep.
- Trench 2 had been dug prior to the watching brief commencing and was not observed by the archaeologist.

Trenches 3, 4, 5 and 6 were footings dug for the steel frame.

- Trench 3 ran northwest – southeast to the southwest of trench 1. It was 1.8m long, 600mm wide and 1m deep.
- Trench 4 ran northeast – southwest and was 1.8m long, 600mm wide and 1m deep.
- Trench 5 ran northeast – southwest, it was 1.8m long, 800mm wide and 1.3m deep. Trench six ran northwest – southeast, it was 1.8m long, 600mm wide and 1m deep.
- Trench 7 was dug to connect the services to an existing manhole, it ran north – south and was 23m long and 210mm wide. This trench was 500mm deep in the north and sloped to a depth of 700mm in the south.

7.2 All trenches and features were plotted onto geo-referenced scaled plans on site. All archaeological records were made using the Southampton City Council archaeological recording system. Soils were recorded following the soil; Survey Handbook and colours of deposits were recorded using the Munsell Soil Color Chart and these are used in this report (Munsell Color 2000). Contexts 1–16 were assigned. The archive will be deposited with Southampton City Council under Accession Number 2016.4 on completion of the project.

8. Results

The results are presented in chronological order from the oldest to the most recent. Stone abundance refers to naturally occurring flint pebbles. Appendix 1 lists basic details of the contexts.

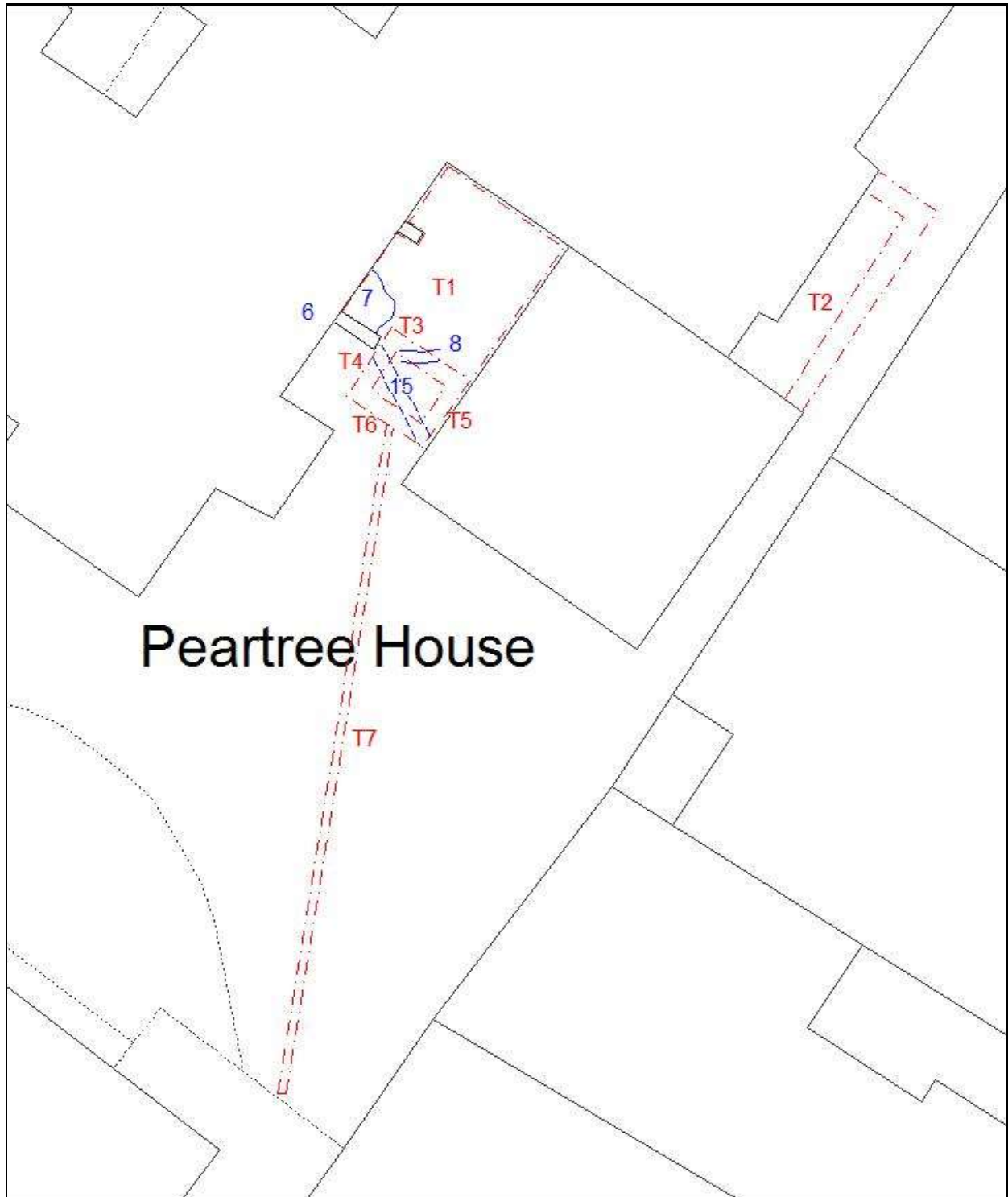


Figure 6. Plan of the watching brief trenches, trenches in red and features and layer 7 in blue.

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8.1. *Natural*

8.1.1 Natural gravel 14 was observed in trenches 3 – 6 some 980mm below the surface (fig 7). It was a brownish yellow (10YR6/6) sandy clay loam and was at least 100mm thick. Above it was natural brickearth, 11, observed 600mm below the surface in trenches 3 – 6 (fig 7). It was a brownish yellow (10YR6/6) silty clay loam and was 300-400mm thick.



Figure 7. Northeast facing section trench 3, showing layers 2, 10, 11 and 14, feature 8 to left, and modern disturbance to right.

8.2. *Post Medieval / Early Modern*

8.2.1 Part of the foundation of Peartree House was exposed in the northwest of trench 1 (fig 8). The trench did not go deep enough to expose the construction trench, context 3. The foundation, context 4, consisted of bricks and lime stone blocks in a sandy yellow mortar. It was at least 3m long, 100mm wide and 300mm deep. This wall was butted by the more modern brick buttress, context 6.



Figure 8. West corner of trench 1 showing layer 7, the brick and stone foundation 4 of Peartree House, and butress foundation 6 on the left.

8.2.2 Layer 10 was observed in trenches 3-6. It was a dark greyish brown (10YR4/2) sandy clay loam and was some 300mm thick. It lay above natural 11 and below subsoil 2. It contained fragments of oyster shell and brick. Fragments of pottery and clay pipe dating from the middle of the 17th century to the early 18th century were recovered from this layer.

8.2.3 Drain trench 15 was observed running northwest – southeast across trenches 4 and 5. It was at least 3m long, 450mm wide and 400mm deep. It was filled with a brick-built drain with a limestone slab covering (fig 9). The bricks had no frogs and have been dated the 17th century, they were bonded with a sandy lime mortar. Concrete from the modern extension to the southeast had flowed into the drain and set.

8.2.4 Part of a second, curving, drain was exposed in the southwest of trench 1. It ran roughly east – west, and was at least 1.1m long, 300mm wide and 200mm deep. The construction trench, context 8, cut layer 10. In the trench had been built a drain, context 9 (fig 10). The bricks of the sides were made from Reading Beds clay, had shallow frogs and were dated to the 19th century. The bricks were bonded with a sandy, lime mortar. The floor of the drain was a layer of Welsh roof slates.



Figure 9. Northwest facing section trench 5, showing feature 15.



Figure 10. Southwest end of trench 1, showing drain, feature 8.

8.2.5 Layer 2 was observed in all the trenches. It was a mixed layer of sandy clay loam and gravel, some 300mm thick. It was mostly dark greyish brown (10YR4/2) in colour, with patches of brownish yellow (10YR6/6). It contained fragments of Welsh

slate and animal bone. One fragment of roof tile dated to the 18-19th centuries was recovered.

8.3. Modern

8.3.1 Part of the foundation for a modern buttress was observed in the trench 1 (fig 8). The trench was not deep enough to observe the construction trench, context 5. The foundation, context 6, was made of modern bricks in cement mortar. It was 1.55m long, at least 240mm wide and 300mm deep. It butted the older foundation of Peartree House.

8.3.2 A lens of brick rubble, context 7, was observed in the west of trench 1 (fig 8). Although it butted the modern buttress foundation 6, it contained finds dated to the Tudor period. It is possible that this context was disturbed and redeposited when the foundation for the buttress was dug. It was a dark yellowish brown (10YR4/4) sandy clay loam at least 300mm thick. It contained abundant fragments of brick, tile, slate, and oyster shell. Three fragments of brick were recovered from this context, they were dated to the 17th century and Tudor periods. One fragment of tile was retained, it was dated to the 18th-19th centuries.

8.3.3 A large modern feature, 12, was observed in trench 5. It was possibly associated with the modern extension to the southeast of the trench. It was 1.5m long and at least 800mm wide and 1.2m deep. It was filled with a dark greyish brown (10YR4/2) silty clay loam containing abundant fragments of bricks, concrete and plastic.

8.3.4 Layer 1 was given to very modern deposits such as topsoil observed in the flower beds in trench, 1 and paving and carpark layers in the other trenches. It was a dark greyish brown (10YR4/2) sandy clay loam, with abundant fragments of brick and concrete. It was between 250 and 500mm thick.

9. Conclusions

9.1 Natural gravel was observed some 980mm below the surface in the deeper trenches 3 – 6. Above was natural brickearth, also observed in the deeper trenches, some 600mm below the surface.

9.2 Three features and two layers were dated to the post-medieval/early modern periods. Part of the foundation of Peartree House was exposed in the northwest of trench 1. Layer 10 was observed in trenches 1-6, it was above the natural brickearth. Fragments of pottery and clay pipe dating from the middle of the 17th century to the early 18th century were recovered from this layer. A brick-and-limestone-built drain was observed running northwest – southeast across trenches 4 and 5. The bricks have been dated the 17th century and it may be associated with one of the earlier phases of Peartree House. A curving brick-and-slate-built drain was exposed in the southwest of trench 1. The bricks were dated to the 19th century.

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Appendix 1. Context list

CONTEXTS									
CONTEXT	CATEGORY	MUNSELL page	MUNSEL Col No	TEXTURE	STONE ABUND	DESCRIPTION	ABOVE	BELOW	PERIOD
1	LAYER	10YR	4/2	SANDY CLAY LOAM	4	Topsoil and brickwork	2		modern
2	LAYER	10YR	4/2	SANDY CLAY LOAM	3	Mixed sub soil	10	1	modern
3	FEATURE					Construction trench not observed.		4	post medieval
4	FILL					Foundation for Peartree house. Brick and lime stone	3	6, 7	post medieval
5	FEATURE					Construction Trench for buttress. Not observed		6	modern
6	FILL					Red brick foundation for buttress	4, 5	7	modern
7	LAYER	10YR	4/4	SILTY CLAY LOAM	4	Lens of brick rubble	4, 6, 10	2	modern
8	FEATURE					Curving drain construction trench	10	9	Early modern
9	FILL					Brick and slate drain.		2	Early modern
10	LAYER	10YR	4/2	SANDY CLAY LOAM	3	Dark soil,	11	2, 8, 12	post medieval
11	LAYER	10YR	6/6	SILTY CLAY LOAM	2	Brickearth. Observed 600mm below the surface.	14	10	natural
12	FEATURE					Large modern feature	10, 11, 14	13	modern
13	FILL	10YR	4/2	SILTY CLAY LOAM	4	Mixed backfill of modern feature	13	1	modern
14	LAYER	10YR	6/6	SANDY CLAY LOAM	4	Gravel situated 0.98 m below the surface.		11	natural
15	FEATURE					Drain running roughly N-S. Construction trench	10	16	post medieval
16	FILL					Red brick drain with lime stone covering	15	2	post medieval

Appendix 2. Finds List

FINDS DATABASE					
Context no	Mat Type	Find Type	Wgt(gm)	No of frag	Description
2	Ceramic	Roof tile	174	1	Pegtile 18th/19 th century
2	Slate	Roof tile	24	1	Welsh, nail hole
2	Ceramic	Brick	26	1	Lime mortar
2	Bone	Mammal	54	1	Cow?
7	Ceramic	Brick	1369	1	Tudor 108 x 47mm lime mortar.
7	Ceramic	Brick	539	1	108 x 50mm 17 th century?
7	Ceramic	Brick	570	2	Blue header 47mm thick, waster, but used.
7	Ceramic	Roof tile	323	1	150mm wide. 18 th -19 th century
9	Ceramic	Brick	2894	2	Slight frog 19 th century. Reading Beds. 240x117x67mm
9	Slate	Roof tile	74	1	Welsh
10	Pipe clay	Tobacco pipe	7	2	Mid/Late17 - Early 18 th century
10	Pottery	Bowl	89	1	Verwood copy of a 17 th century Dutch form
16	Ceramic	Brick	2390	1	218 x 100 x 58 mm. 2 1/4 inch thick. 17 th century?