

2 Southwood Road, Farnborough, Hampshire: A Watching Brief under Archaeological Supervision Report

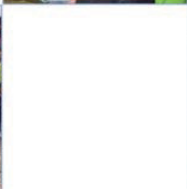
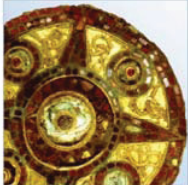
Planning Reference Number: 11/00243/FUL

National Grid Reference Number: SU 8536 5578

AOC Project No: 31075

Site Code: A2011.23

Date: December 2011



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

2 Southwood Road, Farnborough, Hampshire: A Watching Brief Under Archaeological Supervision Report

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National Grid Reference (NGR): **SU 8536 5578**

AOC Project No: **31075**

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This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Non-Technical Summary

On the 21st December 2011 AOC Archaeology Group undertook a watching brief under archaeological supervision at 2 Southwood Road, Farnborough, Hampshire. The watching brief was commissioned by Les Parslow. This report details the results of the archaeological watching brief, undertaken during the excavation of groundworks associated with the construction of a single private bungalow.

The observations made during the investigation indicate that the original topography of the site has been greatly truncated. The earliest deposit recorded were natural sands and gravels (101) which were overlain directly by a dark brown loam topsoil (102). In light of the negative results of the investigation it is recommended that no further archaeological work is required.

1. Introduction

- 1.2 This report details the results of a watching brief under archaeological supervision on groundworks for a new development at 2 Southwood Road, Farnborough, Hampshire (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) SU 8536 5578 (Figure 2). The site lies on the west side of Southwood Road, near to the junction with Cove Road. A small electricity sub-station lies to the west, and a railway line runs along the northern boundary of the site. The site is a roughly triangular parcel of land of c.380m².

2 Planning Background

- 2.1 The local planning authority is Rushmoor Borough Council. Archaeological advice to the council is presently provided by David Hopkinson of Hampshire County Council.

- 2.2 A planning application (Planning Reference Number 11/00243/FUL) has been made for development of the site. Permission has been granted, with conditions. Condition 7 states: *Unless otherwise agreed in writing, no works shall start within the application area until the developer has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation to be first submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The approved scheme of archaeological investigation shall subsequently be implemented and completed in full as specified.*

Reason - The site is of archaeological interest as the location of a post-medieval pottery and in order to comply with Local Plan Policy ENV31 and the guidance set out in PPG16 "Archaeology".

- 2.3 The site does not contain any Listed Buildings or Scheduled Monuments and does not lie in any Registered Parks and Gardens, Battlefields or World Heritage Sites.
- 2.4 The required works comprise monitoring of foundation trenches and any areas of ground reduction by an experienced archaeologist with provision made for further excavations should significant archaeological materials be recovered. This is due to the suspected presence in the general area of pottery kilns dating to the 16th century, which were very much in the forefront of pottery development and fashion at the time. Waste kiln products have been recorded around Cove and Farnborough.
- 2.5 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (AOC 2011) was produced by AOC and approved by David Hopkinson prior to commencing the investigation. The WSI conforms to the requirements of PPS 5 Planning and the Historic Environment Guidance and English Heritage guidance documents. The methodology contained within the WSI was designed in accordance with current best archaeological practice and local and national standards and guidelines:
- Department of Communities and Local Government - Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning and the Historic Environment (DCLG 2010).
 - English Heritage – Management of Archaeological Projects MAP2 (EH 1991).
 - Institute for Archaeologists – Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (IfA 2008).
 - Institute for Archaeologists – Code of Conduct (IfA 2010).
- 2.6 No previous archaeological work has been undertaken within, or in close vicinity to, the development area.

3 Geology and Topography

- 3.1 The British Geological Survey indicates that the site overlies a solid geology of undifferentiated sand, silt and clay of the Bracklesham and Barton Group.
- 3.2 The site is flat and is located within the flood plain of a tributary of the Blackwater River. The site lies at a height of approximately 66m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD).
- 3.3 No previous geotechnical investigations are known to have been undertaken on site.

4 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 The following historical background is taken from research into another site in close proximity to Southwood Road, AOC (2009) '*Kenmore Land Farnborough, Ively Road, Farnborough EIA: Vol 2 Environmental Statement: Chapter 9 Archaeology and Built Heritage.*'

4.1 Prehistoric (c. 500,000 BC – AD 43) and Roman (AD 43 – AD 410)

- 4.1.1 There is little evidence for activity in the immediate area prior to the Roman period and it is possible that early settlement of the site was inhibited by the poor soil conditions observed across the area. It should be noted however that very little archaeological work has been undertaken in the area and as such the prehistoric potential of the site remains largely unknown.
- 4.1.2 Evidence for Roman activity is limited to spotfinds of Roman coins found in the locality. The three copper Roman coins included a probable coin of Commodus dating from 182-192 AD and a probable coin of Antoninianus and Gallienus 305-311 AD. The third coin was defaced and as such unidentifiable. The discovery of possible Roman remains in the new Pyestock testing facility west of the Proposed Development is discussed by Holt (Holt 1952), who makes reference to the Romans maintaining "*some sort of a station here*". The absence of further details regarding these remains precludes further assumptions about them, but is indicative of Roman activity near to the site.

4.2 The Early Medieval (AD 410 – AD 1066) and Medieval (AD 1066 – AD 1536) Periods

- 4.2.1 The site lay within the hundred of Crondall, which was granted by King Edgar to the Old Monastery at Winchester in AD 976. The Hundred of Crondall was described in a charter as containing the parishes of Aldershot, Crondall, Farnborough, Long Sutton and Yateley. In 1086 the Hundred of Crondall was listed by the Domesday Survey as being in the ownership of the Bishop of Winchester; Crookham and Fleet were tithings of Crondall.
- 4.2.2 The poor sand and loamy acidic soils of the heathland on which the site is located is reflected in the Domesday Book of 1086, which describes sparse settlements and a low population density in what is a comparatively large area of the county. North of the site was the medieval village of Southwood, which was first documented in AD 1248 as 'sudwe' and may have extended south into the site.
- 4.2.3 The settlement of Fleet, located west of the site, was first recorded in 1313 as 'Flete' and in 1505 as 'Flete pond'. The name 'Fleet' probably derives from the Old English 'Fleot' meaning creek or pond (Coates 1989). Farnborough to the west is derived from the Old English 'fern hill'
- 4.2.4 In the later medieval period, population growth in the countryside increased the demand for land and new settlements were created upon more marginal land such as the heathlands. Many hamlets grew from isolated farmsteads and these expanded their cultivated land (Page 1973).

4.3 Post-Medieval and Modern Periods (AD 1536 – present)

- 4.3.1 Farnborough is known to be one of the main production centres of Border ware, the manufacture of which flourished in the border area of north-east Hampshire and west Surrey during the 16th and 17th centuries. A number of kilns and evidence of wasters associated with Border ware have been found in the Farnborough area, with three 16th century kilns discovered at Farnborough Hill Convent, located c. 2.3km to the northeast of the site. Several dumps of Border ware pottery were also revealed during the construction of the M3 at Cove, approximately 1.2km to the north (Pearce 1992, 1-2). A large proportion of Border ware production was destined for use in London, while other examples have been found in assemblages abroad associated with British colonies of that period (Pearce 1992). Limited research has been undertaken into the manufacture of this style of pottery, making any discoveries of kilns and pottery dumps associated with it very significant.
- 4.3.2 Early maps of the site, such as Morden's map of 1695 are too small in scale and stylistic to provide any indication of land-use at this time and only the larger settlements such as Farnborough and Cove are shown. Taylor's map of 1759 indicates the area of the site lies on the northeast edge of the settlement of Southward. Milne's map of 1791 places the site in a similar position.
- 4.3.3 Greenwood's map of 1826 provides greater detail in regards to the location of the site, placing the area of the proposed development close to the junction of several roads to the north of Southward Farm, and to the east of an isolated area of raised ground.
- 4.3.4 The area of the site is first planned in detail on the 1872 First Edition Ordnance Survey Map. The site is undeveloped, and the railway line runs along the north of the site. The map shows a field with a similar boundary line north of the railway line, suggesting the railway has bisected a single property. The 1880 Ordnance Survey Map depicts the site is located in an area of undulating ground with occasional trees, possibly suggesting the land has been utilised in some form, whether it has been previously used for dumping, pitting, or had structures present. The land north of the railway has a saw pit marked, and there is also a note of a gravel pit indicating aggregate extraction taking place. The only development along Southwood Road is the extensive farm titled 'Doglets'.
- 4.3.5 The later maps show the gradual development of the street, until residential properties line both sides of the street, although the open land remains to the south.

5 Aims of the Investigation

- 5.1 The aims of the archaeological watching brief were defined as being:
- To establish or otherwise the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the site
 - To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains should they be encountered
 - To record and sample excavate any archaeological remains should they be encountered
 - To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological features and deposits.
 - To determine the extent of previous truncations of the archaeological deposits
 - To enable the archaeology advisor to Rushmoor Borough Council to make an informed decision on the status of the condition and thereby to advise Rushmoor Borough Council as to this status
 - To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation.
- 5.2 The specific aims of the watching brief were defined as being:
- Determine the presence of any post-medieval industrial activity on site. If this industrial activity is in the form of pottery kilns, can dating evidence be used to provide greater definition of the chronology of these wares?

- 5.3 The final aim is to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

6 Methodology

- 6.1 The watching brief was undertaken on the 21st December 2011 and involved the archaeological monitoring of the excavation of the foundation trenches for the proposed bungalow.
- 6.2 Fieldwork procedures followed the Museum of London Archaeological Site Manual (3rd Edition) (MoL 1994).
- 6.3 The monitoring, recording and reporting conform to current best archaeological practice and local and national standards and guidelines:
- English Heritage – Management of Archaeological Projects MAP2 (EH 1991).
 - English Heritage – Archaeological Assessment and Evaluation Reports (Guidelines) (EH 1992).
 - English Heritage – Archaeological Guidance Paper 3: Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork (EH 1998b).
 - English Heritage – Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) (EH 2006)
 - Institute for Archaeologists – Standards and Guidance and Guidelines for Finds Work (IfA 2008a).
 - Institute for Archaeologists – Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (IfA 2008b).
 - Institute for Archaeologists – Code of Conduct (IfA 2008c).
 - Museum of London – Archaeological Site Manual (Third Edition) (MoL 1994).
 - RESCUE & ICON – First Aid for Finds (RESCUE & ICON 2001).
 - United Kingdom Institute for Conservation – Conservation Guidelines No.2 (UKIC 1983).
 - United Kingdom Institute for Conservation – Guidance for Archaeological Conservation Practice (UKIC 1990).
- 6.4 Archaeological recording consisted of:
- Limited hand cleaning of deposits sufficient to establish the stratigraphic sequence exposed.
 - A scaled photographic record of representative exposed features, sections and surfaces, along with sufficient photographs to establish the setting and scale of the groundworks.
 - Annotations of existing plans provided by the client and sections of exposed deposits drawn at 1:20 scale.
- 6.5 A unique site code for the project (A2011.23) was used as the site identifier for all records produced.
- 6.6 The monitoring was undertaken by Helen MacQuarrie under the overall direction of Alan Ford, Project Manager. The progress and results of the watching brief were notified to David Hopkinson of Hampshire County Council.

7 Results

7.1.1 The investigation involved monitoring the excavation of the foundation trenches for the proposed bungalow. The trenches were uniformly 0.5m wide and 1m in depth (Fig 3). The excavation was undertaken by a 2.5 tonne machine with a 0.5m toothless bucket.

Level (Top of deposit)	Thickness	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
0.00m	0.60 – 0.80m	101	Topsoil: loose dark brown loam with occasional root and flint nodule
0.60 – 0.80m (bgs)	N.F.E	102	Geology: light orange sands with lenses of ballast

7.1.2 The excavation of the foundation trenches revealed a consistent stratigraphic sequence across the site. The earliest deposit encountered was a light orange brown sand, with occasional patches of light orange gravels (102). This was overlain by a dark brown loam topsoil (101), with roots throughout and occasional flint nodules (Figure 4). The topsoil ranged in thickness from 0.60m in the west of the site to 0.80m in the north.

7.1.3 The observed sequence indicates that the site has previously been truncated and built up with topsoil. A fragment of 20th century white glazed table ware was observed – but not retained. It is possible that this truncation is associated with the construction of the adjacent railway embankment.



Plate 1: General view of excavation area from north-west corner of site (direction south-east)



Plate 2: Excavated foundation trench (direction west)

8 Finds and Environmental Samples

- 8.1 No artefacts were recovered during the archaeological investigations and no environmental samples were taken.

9 Conclusions

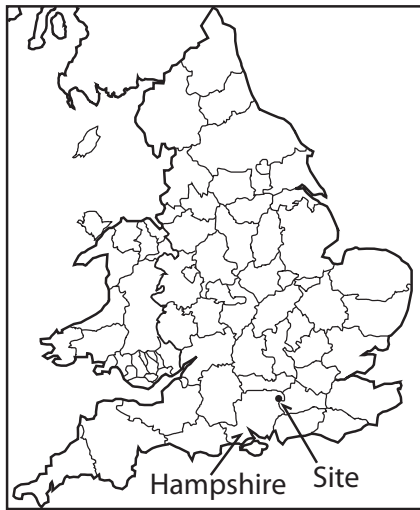
- 9.1 The observations made during the excavation of the foundation trenches (Figure 3) indicate that the original topography of the site has been greatly truncated, possibly during construction of the adjacent railway embankment. The earliest deposit recorded were natural sands and gravels (101) which were overlain directly by a dark brown loam topsoil (102). No archaeological features, deposits or finds were noted during the investigation.
- 9.2 In light of the negative results of the investigation it is recommended that no further archaeological work is required.

10. Publication and Archive Deposition

- 10.1 Due to the nature of the project, publication will be restricted to a summary of results in the Hampshire Archaeological Review, and via the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) (Appendix A).
- 10.2 The archive, consisting of paper records, drawings, photographs and digital records will be deposited with Hampshire County Museums. The site archive will be prepared in the format agreed with the receiving museum. The excavation archive will be security copied and a copy deposited with the National Archaeological Record (NAR) before post-excavation analysis begins or as soon after as can be arranged.

11 Bibliography

- AOC Archaeology (2009): *Kenmore Land Farnborough, Ively Road, Farnborough EIA: Vol 2 Environmental Statement: Chapter 9 Archaeology and Built Heritage.*
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Approximate Site Location
Within England & Wales

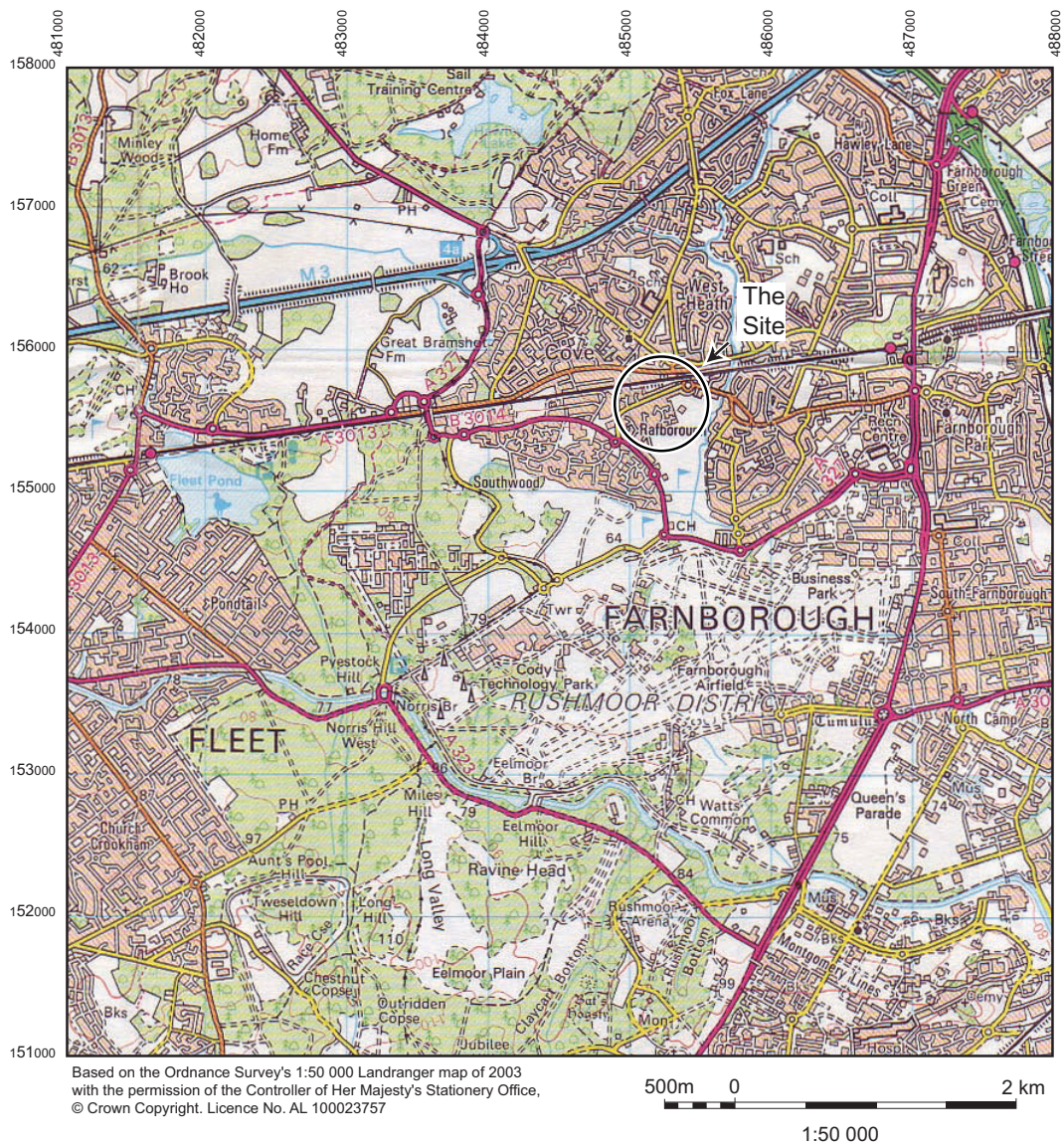
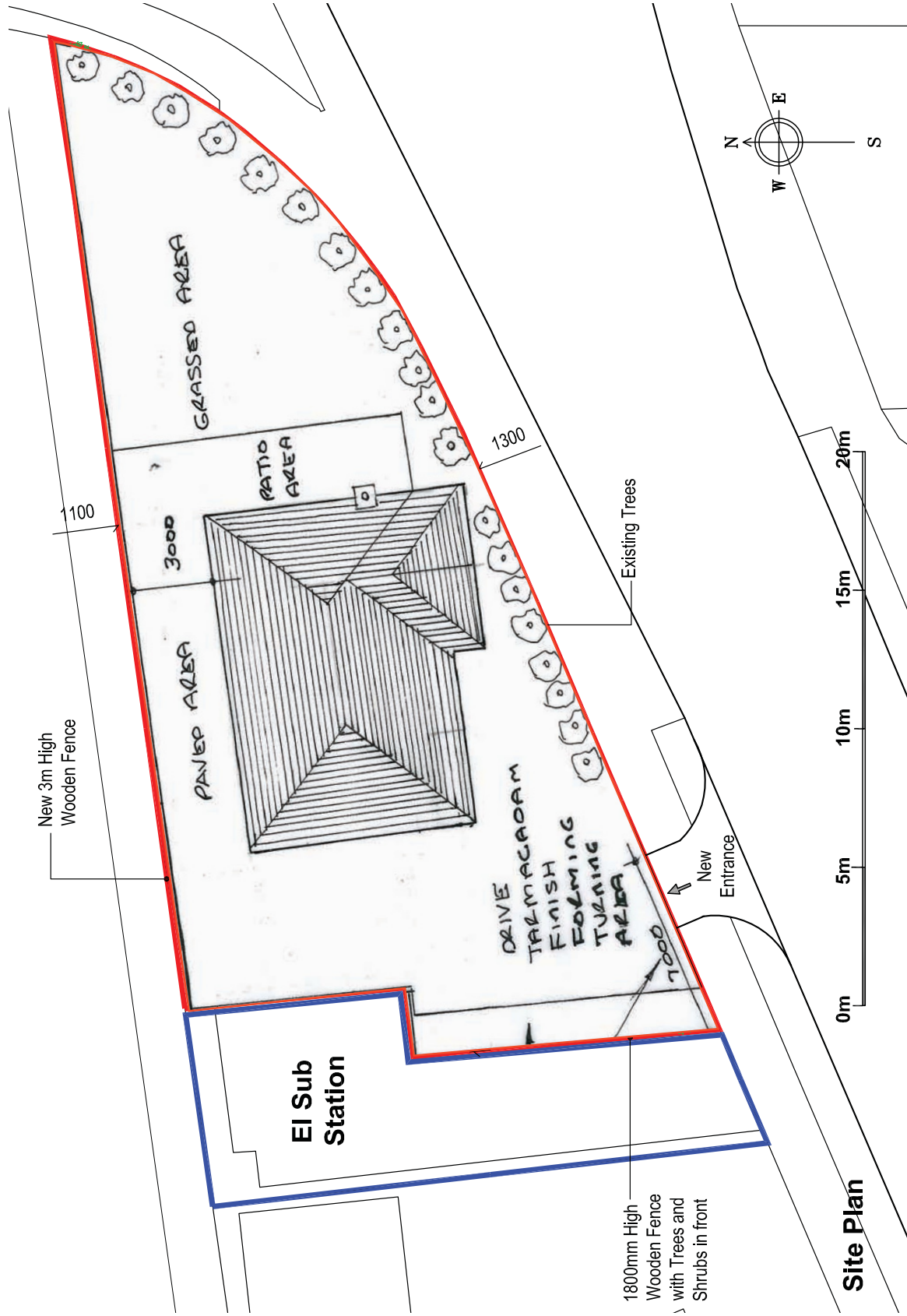


Figure 1: Site Location



Based on the Plan Produced by Raymond Stemp Associates

Figure 2: Detailed Site Location

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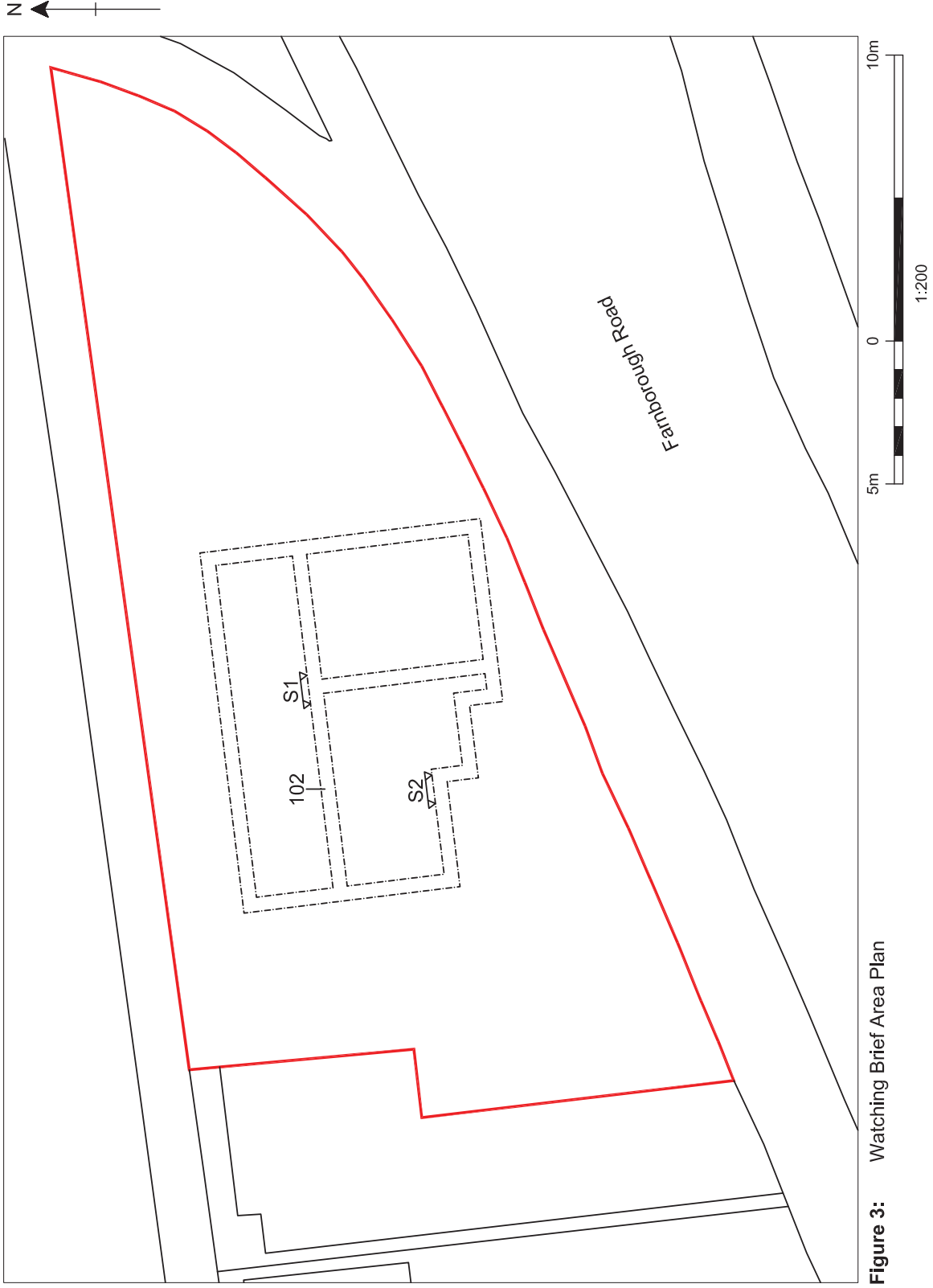


Figure 3: Watching Brief Area Plan

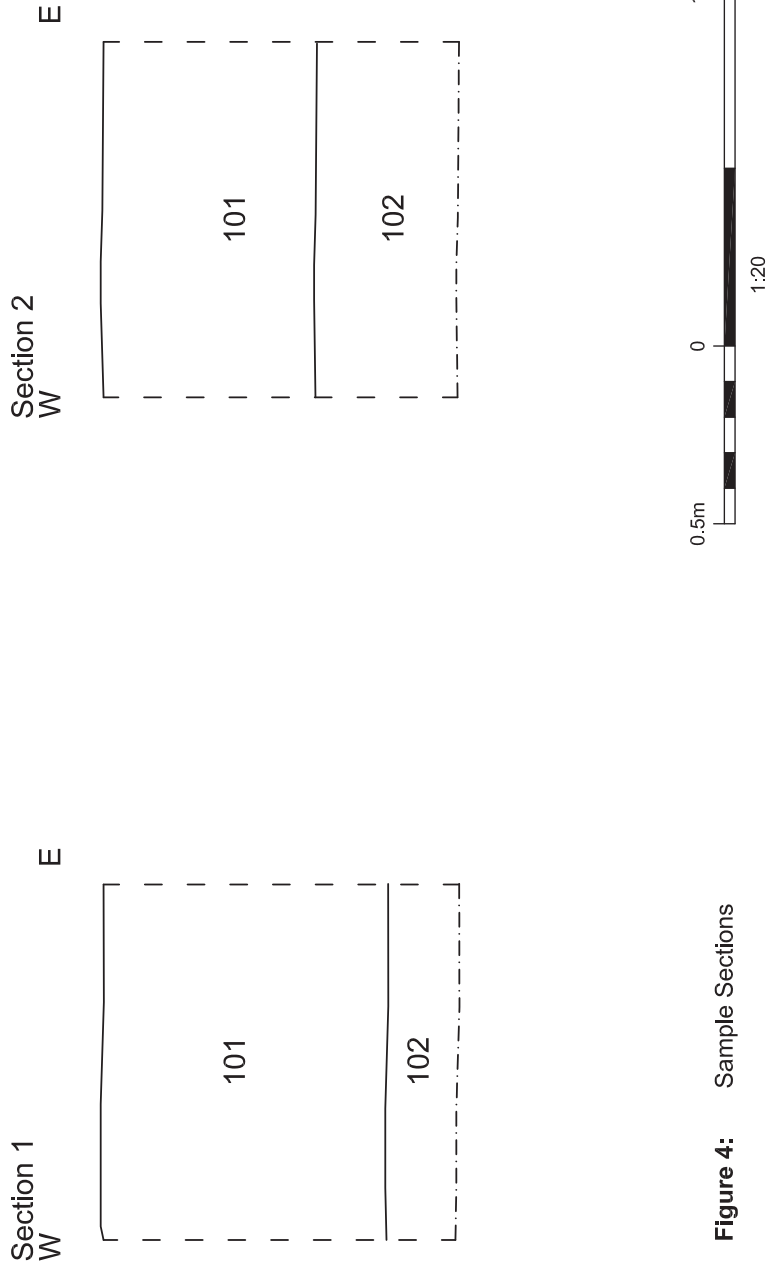


Figure 4: Sample Sections



Appendices

Appendix A – Context Register

Context No.	Context Description	Dimensions	Thickness	Top of deposit (below ground surface)
101	Topsoil: loose dark brown loam with occasional root and flint nodule	Site	0.60 – 0.80m	0.00m
102	Geology: light orange sands with lenses of ballast	Site	N.F.E.	0.60 – 0.80m

Abbreviations:

N.F.E: Not found extent

Appendix B – Oasis Form

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-113215

Project details

Project name	2 Southwood Road, Farnborough, Hampshire
Short description of the project	A watching brief under archaeological supervision prior to the development of residential properties. The investigation established that the site has been truncated and no further work is recommended.
Project dates	Start: 21-12-2011 End: 21-12-2011
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	A2011.23 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	30175 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	11/00243/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	A 2011.23 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Project location

Country England

Site location HAMPSHIRE RUSHMOOR FARNBOROUGH 2 Southwood Road,
Farnborough, Hampshire

Postcode GU14 9RU

Study area 380.00 Square metres

Site coordinates SU 8538 5579 51.2943204281 -0.775332388185 51 17 39 N 000 46 31 W
Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation AOC Archaeology

Project brief originator Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District
Archaeologist)

Project design originator AOC Archaeology

Project director/manager Alan Ford

Project supervisor Helen MacQuarrie

Type of Developer
sponsor/funding body

Name of Les Parslow
sponsor/funding body

Project archives

Physical Archive No
Exists?

Digital Archive Hampshire County Museum
recipient

Digital Archive ID A2011.23

Digital Media available 'Images raster / digital photography'

Paper Archive Hampshire County Museum
recipient

Paper Archive ID A2011.23

Paper Contents 'Stratigraphic'

Paper Media available 'Plan','Report','Section'

Project bibliography

1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title 2 SOUTHWOOD ROAD, FARNBOROUGH, HAMPSHIRE: A WRITTEN
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SUPERVISION

Author(s)/Editor(s) Capon, L. and Clarke, C.

Date 2011

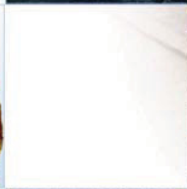
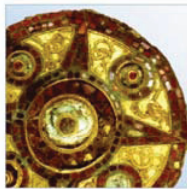
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