

Laxton Close (Southampton Regeneration), Sholing, Southampton: An Archaeological Evaluation Report

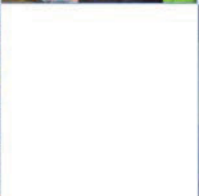
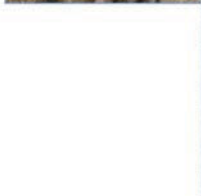
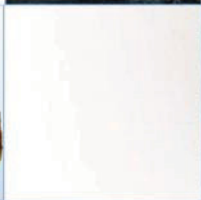
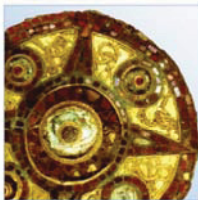
Planning Consent Number: 11/01423/FUL

National Grid Reference Number: SU 4547 1063

AOC Project No: 32048

Site Code: SOU 1591

July 2012



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Laxton Close (Southampton Regeneration), Sholing, Southampton: An Archaeological Evaluation Report

On Behalf of:	Lovell Partership Ltd Kent House 14-17 Market Place London W1W 8AJ
National Grid Reference (NGR):	SU 4547 1063
AOC Project No:	32048
Prepared by:	Chris Clarke
Illustration by:	Jonathan Moller
Date of Fieldwork:	2nd to 4th July 2012
Date of Report:	July 2012

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

Author: Chris Clarke

Date: July 2012

Approved by: Paul Mason

Date: July 2012

Draft Report Stage:

Date: July 2012

Enquiries to: AOC Archaeology Group
Unit 7
St Margarets Business Centre
Moor Mead Road
Twickenham
TW1 1JS

Tel. 020 8843 7380
Fax. 020 8892 0549
e-mail. london@aocarchaeology.com



www.aocarchaeology.com

Contents

Page

List of Illustrations	ii
List of Plates	ii
1. Introduction.....	1
2. Historical and Archaeological Background	1
3. Strategy	3
4 Evaluation Results	4
5. Finds.....	13
6. Conclusion	13
7 Publication and Archive Deposition	14
8 Bibliography.....	14
Appendix A – Context Register.....	21
Appendix B – OASIS Form	23

List of Illustrations

Figure 1 – Site Location

Figure 2 – Detailed Site / Evaluation Trench Plan

Figure 3 – Trenches 1 and 2 plans

Figure 4 – Trenches 6 and 7 plans

Figure 5 – Sections

List of Plates

Plate A – Trench 1 Looking West

Plate B – Trench 2 Looking Northwest

Plate C – Trench 3 Looking South

Plate D – Trench 4 Looking Southwest

Plate E – Trench 5 Looking Southwest

Plate F – Trench 6 Sample Section and Ditch [603] Looking East

Plate G – Ditch [704] Looking Southeast

Plate H – Trench 7 Sample Section and Ditch [706] Looking Southeast

Plate I – Ditch [710] Looking Southeast

Plate J – Trench 8 Looking West

Non-Technical Summary

An archaeological investigation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on behalf of Lovell Partnership Ltd in July 2012 at the site of Laxton Close, Sholing, Southampton. The archaeological investigation consisted of an eight trench evaluation.

During the course of the evaluation, multiple undated ditch features and a single late post-medieval or modern posthole were encountered in the eastern area of the site, cut into the subsoil horizon. The subsoil overlay natural sandy clay gravel. These features are interpreted as being of low to moderate significance due their concentration, although the lack of dating evidence recovered from the ditches prevents greater significance being attributed to them. A phase of modern horizontal truncation was identified as having occurred in the northern area of the site.

The results of the evaluation will be summarised for inclusion in the Hampshire Archaeology Round-up and published via the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) website. The archive will be deposited at the Sea City Museum, Southampton.

1. Introduction

1.1 Site Location

- 1.1.1 This document details the results of an archaeological evaluation, consisting of eight trenches, at the site of Laxton Close, Sholing, Southampton (Figure 1). The Laxton Close site is part of the Southampton Regeneration project, which also incorporates the sites at Exford Drive, Harefield, and Meggeson Avenue, Townhill, in the eastern suburbs of the city. The results of the archaeological evaluations at Exford Drive and Meggeson Avenue will be published as separate reports.
- 1.1.2 The Laxton Close site is located approximately 3km to the east of Southampton City centre, at the southern end of Laxton Close, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) SU 4547 1063. The site is bounded by a railway line to the southwest, and by residential properties to the north and southeast, and is triangular in shape covering an area of approximately 1 hectare.

1.2 Planning Background

- 1.2.1 The local planning authority is Southampton City Council. Archaeological advice to the council is provided by Stephen Appleby of the council's Historic Environment Team.
- 1.2.2 The site is not located within an Archaeological Priority Zone or Conservation Area, nor does it contain any Scheduled Monuments or Listed Buildings.
- 1.2.3 At the time of the archaeological investigation, the site was occupied by vacant medium-rise residential flats and a mixture of soft landscape and hardstanding.
- 1.2.4 The development proposal is for the construction of multiple low rise residential units with associated parking facilities and landscaping.
- 1.2.5 A planning application (11/01423/FUL) has been submitted to Southampton City Council.
- 1.2.6 AOC Archaeology Group were commissioned by Lovell Partnership Ltd to carry out the archaeological evaluation. The methodology was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (AOC 2012), and was approved by Stephen Appleby of Southampton City Council Historic Environment Team.

1.3 Geology and Topography

- 1.3.1 An inspection of the Geological Drift Map (1:50,000 Scale, Sheet 315) for the region shows the site to be overlying River Terrace Deposits, which in turn overlie Earnley Sand.
- 1.3.2 The topography of the site is largely flat, located at a height of approximately 30m above Ordnance Datum (AOD).
- 1.3.3 Geo-technical site investigation works indicated that there were up to 0.70m of made ground or topsoil deposits overlying River Terrace Deposits across the area of the site (Opus International Consultants (UK) Ltd 2010).

2. Historical and Archaeological Background

- 2.1 The following information has been extracted from the Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2012).

Prehistoric (c. 500,000 BC – AD 43)

- 2.2 Palaeolithic activity in Hampshire would appear to be concentrated along the sea front and inland estuaries, and settlements and habitation gradually radiated into the hinterland.
- 2.3 Within the vicinity of Southampton, Mesolithic activity has been noted at Priory Avenue in St Denys, and Neolithic activity at nearby Shirley. Bronze Age artefacts were discovered in the 19th century at Southampton Common and Cobden Bridge, and Iron Age earthworks have been recognised at Lordswood and Aldermoor, with Iron Age buildings also found near to the city centre during excavations at Maddison Street.
- 2.4 A single, unstratified, worked and utilised flint flake was recovered the former allotments at New Road off The Grove, Sholing. The flake was probably of Late Neolithic or Bronze Age date. Some slightly burnt flints observed in the topsoil were not necessarily prehistoric. No deposits of archaeological significance were observed; natural layers were overlaid by the cultivated soil of the allotments.

Roman (c.AD 43 – 410)

- 2.5 During the Roman period the focus of settlement was north of the modern city at the bend in the River Itchen, where Bitterne now stands. Clausentum became an important port, and excavations have revealed traces of a bath-house, warehouses, roadways and tracks, and defences in the form of banks and walls.
- 2.6 The site is located c.3.5km to the southeast of Clausentum and lies to the south of the Roman road which connected it to Portsmouth. Evidence of Roman activity within 500m of the site is demonstrated by Romano-British tile that was recovered, along side medieval ceramics from a truncated pit outside 350 Portsmouth Road.

Early Medieval (c.AD 410 – 1066) and Medieval (c.AD 1066 – 1485)

- 2.7 The settlement in the Saxon period, Hamwic, was located to the north of the modern city centre in the Queensland, Belvidere, Chapel and Crosshouse areas of modern Southampton. The middle Saxon (c.700-850) town of Hamwic was situated further south around what is now Northam and St Marys.
- 2.8 The name Hamtun-scire was mentioned in the English Chronicle of 755. The first mention of the town that gave the name to the shire was made in the 9th century. The name Ham-tun means 'Home enclosure' and appears in the 837 English Chronicle as Hamtun/Hamtune. In 1045 the settlement was referred to as Heantun. The prefix of south first appears in documentary evidence in the middle of the 10th century – Suthamtonia.
- 2.9 The Saxon settlement at Hamwic was a relatively prosperous port, trading with the continent and Scandinavia. It was one of the burghs created by King Alfred in response to the Danish raids of the 9th and 10th century.
- 2.10 By the medieval period settlement in Southampton again shifted, south to the area of the modern city centre. The Norman period saw the construction of the castle and town defences, which were all later refortified after a devastating raid by the French in the 14th century, and Southampton became one of the strongest fortified centres in England.

- 2.11 Laxton Close lies within the historic Parish of Hound and Netley and to the north of Netley Abbey, an important medieval abbey of which the scheduled remains still survive. Netley Abbey was first inhabited in 1239 by a colony of Cistercians from Beaulieu. The scheduled remains of an associated aqueduct survive approximately 1km to the southeast of the site.
- 2.12 Archaeological investigations from within the surrounding area indicates the potential for surviving medieval horizons. As previously discussed, Romano-British tile was recovered along side 10th / 11th century ceramics from a truncated pit outside 350 Portsmouth Road. Additionally, a watching brief at the community Sports Centre at Western Lane recorded a buried land surface which may be medieval to post-medieval in date and contained abraded medieval to 18th century ceramics.

Post-Medieval (c.AD 1485 - Modern)

- 2.13 By 1600 the town's prosperity had declined and it was described as a 'decayed port', though trade and shipbuilding did continue.
- 2.14 In 1545 a small fort was built by Sir William Paulet within the grounds of Netley Abbey at the request of Henry VIII, for the protection of the coast and the approach to Southampton. Certain manors and lands were granted to him for the upkeep of the fort and its garrison, which consisted of a captain, two soldiers, a porter, and six gunners. This garrison was still maintained in 1627, but the fort, known as Netley Castle, was shortly afterwards enlarged and turned into an ordinary residence.
- 2.15 The site is located within open agricultural lands which were defined by the mid 19th century by the rail line that runs to the south of the site. The site remained undeveloped until the 1960's, although the urbanisation of the surrounding area occurred slightly earlier.

3. Strategy

3.1 Aims of the Archaeological Investigation

- 3.1.1 The aims of the evaluation were defined as being:
- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the site.
 - To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
 - To record and sample excavate any archaeological remains 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 Southampton City Council, to make an informed decision on the status of the condition, and any possible requirement for further work in order to satisfy that condition.
 - To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation.
- 3.1.2 The final aim was to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions, through ADS OASIS website.

3.2 Methodology

- 3.2.1 A Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2012) defined the site procedures for the archaeological evaluation. This document detailed how the evaluation, consisting of eight machine excavated trenches (Figure 2) would be undertaken. All work was carried out in accordance with local and national guidelines (IfA 2009 & 2010, EH 2008 & 2009). Provision was made for a report as defined in the Written Scheme of Investigation.
- 3.2.2 During the evaluation Trenches 3, 4 and 8 were relocated and overall size altered due to the presence of services and obstructions on site.
- 3.2.3 A unique site code for the project (**SOU 1591**) has been issued by the Southampton Heritage Environment Record, and was used as the site identifier for all records produced.
- 3.2.4 The evaluation took place on the 2nd to 4th July 2012.
- 3.2.5 The locations and levels for the trenches were established using a Trimble R6 global positioning system.
- 3.2.6 The evaluation was conducted by the author under the overall management of Paul Mason, AOC Project Manager. The site was monitored by Stephen Appleby on behalf of Southampton City Council.

4 Evaluation Results

4.1 Trench 1

- 4.1.1 Surface of Trench = 29.02m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description
29.02-28.92m	0.00m	(100)	Tarmac.
28.92-28.64m	0.10m	(101)	Formation deposit. Loose, yellowish brown, sandy gravel with frequent CBM.
28.64-27.89m (NFE)	0.38- 1.13m	(102)	Natural horizon. Compact, orangey brown, sandy clay gravel.

- 4.1.2 Trench 1 was located in the northwest corner of the site, orientated east-west and measured 15m by 2m in plan (Figures 2, 3 and 5, Plate A).
- 4.1.3 The earliest deposit identified in Trench 1 was a compact, orangey brown, natural sandy clay gravel (102), recorded at a height of 28.64m AOD. Overlying natural sandy clay gravel (102) was a loose, yellowish brown, sandy gravel modern formation deposit (101), 0.30m thick, which contained frequent 20th century yard bricks. The bricks were grey and measured 250mm by 160mm by 45mm, with an incised lattice pattern on one side, and appeared to once have been incorporated into a formerly *in-situ* yard surface. Formation deposit (101) was sealed by a 0.10m thick layer of tarmac. A modern rectangular intrusion, possibly a geo-technical trial pit, was identified in the central area of the trench.

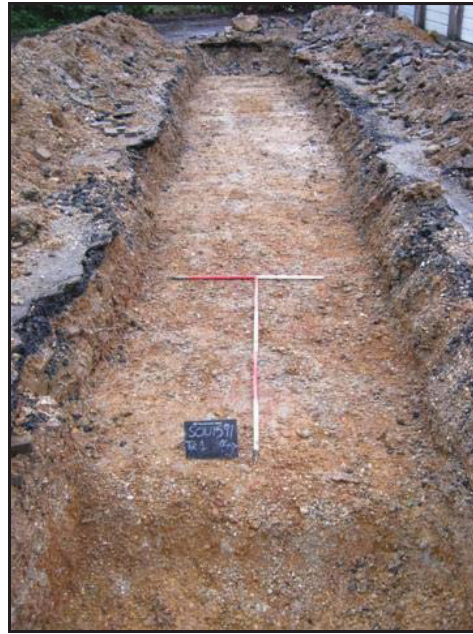


Plate A. Trench 1 Looking West

4.1.4 No finds or features of archaeological interest were identified in Trench 1.

4.2 Trench 2

4.2.1 Surface of Trench = 29.60m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description
29.60-29.05m	0.00m	(200)	Topsoil. Soft, dark brown, clayey silt.
29.05-28.85m	0.55m	(201)	Made ground. Hard, dark greyish brown, silty clay. Occasional fleck charcoal and heated stones.
28.85- 28.75m (NFE)	0.75- 0.85m	(204)	Natural horizon. Compact, dark orangey brown, sandy clay gravel.

4.2.2 Trench 2 was located adjacent to the southwest boundary of the site, orientated northwest-southeast and measured 30m by 2m in plan (Figures 2, 3 and 5, Plate B).

4.2.3 The earliest deposit recorded was a compact, orangey brown, natural sandy clay gravel (204), recorded at a height of 28.85m AOD.

4.2.4 At the southeast end of Trench 2 an oval feature [203] was observed cut into the natural sandy clay gravel (204), part of which lay beyond the northeast limit of the trench. Feature [203] was at least 1.25m in length by 1.10m wide, with a depth of 0.35m. The irregular shape and profile of the feature suggests it is either a tree pit or some other naturally formed feature. Feature [203] was filled by a firm, light brownish grey, sandy clay deposit (202) which did not contain any finds. In the central area of the trench the natural horizon (204) had also been disturbed by possible tree rooting.

4.2.5 Sealing fill (202) and extending across the full area of the trench was a hard, dark greyish brown, silty clay made ground deposit (201) 0.20m thick, which contained moderate flecks of charcoal and occasional heated stones. It was unclear if layer (201) was the result of the disturbance of an *in-situ* soil horizon, or the deposition of imported made ground material. Overlying made ground

(201) was a soft, dark brown, clayey silt disturbed topsoil horizon (200), up to 0.55m thick, which contained lenses of sharp sand and gravel. It is thought that a large proportion of topsoil (200) was imported onto the site. A series of small square intrusions related to modern concrete posts were identified along the length of the trench.



Plate B. Trench 2 Looking Northwest

4.2.6 No finds or features of archaeological interest were identified in Trench 2.

4.3 Trench 3

4.3.1 Surface of Trench = 29.90m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description
29.90-29.65m	0.00m	(300)	Topsoil. Soft, dark brown, clayey silt.
29.65-29.35m	0.25m	(301)	Subsoil. Soft, mid brown, sandy clay.
29.35-29.15m (NFE)	0.55- 0.75m	(302)	Natural horizon. Compact, orangey brown, sandy clay gravel.

4.3.2 Trench 3 was located adjacent to the southeast boundary of the site, orientated north-south and measured 11.50m by 1.50m in plan (Figure 2, Plate C).

4.3.3 The earliest deposit identified in Trench 3 was a compact, orangey brown, natural sandy clay gravel (302), recorded at a height of 29.35m AOD. Overlying natural sandy clay gravel (102) was a soft, mid brown, sandy clay subsoil deposit (301), 0.30m thick. The sequence was sealed by a soft, dark brown, clayey silt topsoil deposit (300) measuring up to 0.25m thick. Modern intrusions were observed in the northern half of the trench.



Plate C. Trench 3 Looking South

4.3.4 No finds or features of archaeological interest were identified in Trench 3.

4.4 Trench 4

4.4.1 Surface of Trench = 29.59m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description
29.59-29.37m	0.00m	(400)	Topsoil. Soft, dark brown, sandy silt.
29.37-29.12m	0.22m	(401)	Subsoil. Soft, mid brown, sandy clay.
29.12-28.96m (NFE)	0.47- 0.63m	(402)	Natural horizon. Compact, orangey brown, sandy clay gravel.

4.4.2 Trench 4 was located in the southern area of the site, orientated northeast-southwest and measured 8.50m by 1.50m in plan (Figure 2, Plate D).

4.4.3 The earliest deposit observed in was a compact, orangey brown, natural sandy clay gravel (402), recorded at a height of 29.12m AOD. Above natural sandy clay gravel (402) was a soft, mid brown, sandy clay subsoil deposit (401), 0.25m thick. The sequence was sealed by a soft, dark brown, sandy silt topsoil deposit (400) measuring up to 0.25m thick.

4.4.4 No finds or features of archaeological interest were identified in Trench 4.



Plate D. Trench 4 Looking Southwest

4.5 Trench 5

4.5.1 Surface of Trench = 30.08m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description
30.08-29.88m	0.00m	(500)	Tarmac/Concrete.
30.08-29.78m	0.00m	(503)	Topsoil. Soft, dark brown, clayey silt.
29.88-29.58m	0.20m	(501)	Formation deposit. Loose, yellowish brown, sandy gravel with frequent CBM.
29.78-29.58m	0.30m	(504)	Made ground. Loose, dark grey, silty sand gravel. Poorly sorted.
29.58-29.46m	0.50m	(502)	Made ground. Soft, orangey brown, sandy clay. Frequent stones.
29.58-29.28m (NFE)	0.50-1.10m	(505)	Natural horizon. Compact, orangey brown, sandy clay gravel.

4.5.2 Trench 5 was located in the northeast corner of the site, orientated northeast-southwest and measured 30m by 2.50m in plan (Figure 2, Plate E).

4.5.3 The earliest deposit recorded in was a compact, orangey brown, natural sandy clay gravel (505), recorded at a height of 29.58m AOD. Overlying natural sandy clay gravel (505) for a distance of 22.50m in the northeast area of the trench was a soft, orangey brown, sandy clay deposit (502) containing frequent stones, 0.10m thick. The character of deposit (502) indicated it was a disturbed horizon of natural sandy clay gravel. Immediately above disturbed natural (502) was a loose, yellowish brown, sandy gravel modern formation deposit (501), 0.30m thick, which contained frequent 20th century yard bricks. The same type of brick was observed in Trench 1. Formation deposit (501) was overlain in the southwest end of the trench by a loose, dark grey, silty sand and poorly sorted gravel made ground deposit (504), 0.20m thick. Made ground (504) was sealed by a dark brown sandy silt imported topsoil horizon (503), measuring up to 0.30m

thick. Overlying formation deposit (501) and abutting topsoil (503) was a 0.20m thick layer of tarmac and concrete (500) forming the existing yard surface.

4.5.4 No finds or features of archaeological interest were identified in Trench 5.



Plate E. Trench 5 Looking Southwest

4.6 Trench 6

4.6.1 Surface of Trench = 30.05m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description
30.05-29.75m	0.00m	(600)	Topsoil. Soft, dark brown, clayey silt.
29.75-29.60m	0.30m	(601)	Subsoil. Soft, mid brown, sandy silt.
29.60-29.35m (NFE)	0.45- 0.70m	(604)	Natural horizon. Compact, orangey brown, sandy clay gravel.

4.6.2 Trench 6 was located adjacent to the southeast boundary of the site, orientated north-south and measured 19m by 2m in plan (Figures 2, 4 and 5, Plate F).

4.6.3 The earliest deposit identified in Trench 6 was a compact, orangey brown, natural sandy clay gravel (604), recorded at a height of 29.60m AOD. Overlying natural sandy clay gravel (604) was a soft, mid brown, sandy silt subsoil (601), 0.15m thick.

4.6.4 Located in the central part of the trench was northwest-southeast aligned ditch [603]. It is unclear if ditch [603] was cut through subsoil (601) or sealed by it due to close similarity between the subsoil and ditch fill (602). Ditch [603] was 1.15m wide by c.0.95m deep with a sharp V-shape profile. Ditch fill (602) was a soft, mid brown, sandy silt deposit which was very clean. The only anthropomorphic inclusions identified were occasional flecks of charcoal and one very small fragment of CBM.

4.6.5 Potentially sealing ditch fill (602) and extending across the full area of the trench, was a soft, dark brown, clayey silt topsoil deposit (600) measuring up to 0.30m thick.



Plate F. Trench 6 Sample Section and Ditch [603] Looking East

4.7 Trench 7

4.7.1 Surface of Trench = 29.96m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description
29.96m	0.00m	(700)	Topsoil. Soft, dark brown, clayey silt.
29.56-29.36m	0.40m	(701)	Subsoil. Soft, mid brown, sandy silt.
29.36-29.21m (NFE)	0.60- 0.75m	(711)	Natural horizon. Compact, orangey brown, sandy clay gravel.

4.7.2 Trench 7 was located in the northeast area of the site, orientated northeast-southwest and measured 30m by 2m in plan (Figures 2, 4 and 5, Plate G, H & I).

4.7.3 The earliest deposit recorded was a compact, orangey brown, natural sandy clay gravel (711), recorded at a height of 29.96m AOD. Above natural sandy clay gravel (711) was a soft, mid brown, sandy silt subsoil (701) 0.20m thick.

4.7.4 During the course of the evaluation four features were identified as cut into subsoil deposit (701) in Trench 7. Located in the northeast end of the trench was north-south orientated ditch terminal [704]. Ditch terminal [704] was 1.20m wide by 0.55m deep with a steep sided concave profile (Plate G). The primary fill of ditch terminal [704] was a soft, light orangey brown, silty sand deposit (703), which was overlain by a smaller secondary fill consisting of a loose, orangey brown, sandy clay gravel deposit (702). Neither deposit contained any finds.

4.7.5 A northwest-southeast orientated ditch [706] was located in the central area of Trench 7. Ditch [706] was 1.40m wide by 0.95m deep, with a V-shaped profile (Plate H). The ditch contained a soft, yellowish brown, sandy silt deposit (705) which did not contain any finds.

4.7.6 The third feature, in the form of a north-south orientated ditch terminal [710], was located in the southwest end of the trench. Ditch terminal [710] was the smallest of the three features with a width of 1.15m and depth of 0.30m, with a simple concave profile (Plate I). The fill of ditch terminal [710] was a soft, yellowish brown, clayey silt deposit (709). No finds were recovered from fill (709).



Plate G. Ditch [704] Looking Southeast



Plate H. Trench 7 Sample Section and Ditch [706] Looking Southeast



Plate I. Ditch [710] Looking Southeast

- 4.7.7 Adjacent to ditch terminal [710] was the cut for circular posthole [708] which was 0.40m in diameter by 0.14m deep. The soft, dark brown, clayey silt fill (707) a fragment of late 19th or 20th century bottle glass and CBM.
- 4.7.8 Sealing all four features was a soft, dark brown, clayey silt topsoil deposit (700) measuring up to 0.40m thick.
- 4.7.9 No finds of archaeological interest were identified in Trench 7.

4.8 Trench 8

- 4.8.1 Surface of Trench = 29.82m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description
29.82-29.67m	0.00m	(800)	Topsoil. Soft, dark brownish grey, silty clay.
29.67-29.42m	0.15m	(801)	Made ground. Firm, greyish brown, silty clay.
29.42-29.27m (NFE)	0.40- 0.55m	(802)	Natural horizon. Compact, orangey brown, sandy clay gravel.

- 4.8.2 Trench 8 was located in the northern area of the site, orientated east-west and measured 9.50m by 1.50m in plan (Figure 2, Plate J).
- 4.8.3 The earliest deposit recorded in Trench 8 was a compact, orangey brown, natural sandy clay gravel (802), recorded at a height of 29.42m AOD. Above natural sandy clay gravel (802) was a firm, greyish brown, silty clay made ground deposit (801), 0.25m thick, which contained frequent pea gravel and occasional small fragments of CBM. The sequence was sealed by a soft, dark greyish brown, silty clay imported topsoil deposit (800) measuring up to 0.15m thick.
- 4.8.4 No finds or features of archaeological interest were identified in Trench 8.



Plate J. Trench 8 Looking West

5. Finds

- 5.1 During the course of the archaeological evaluation no finds were collected.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The evaluation successfully characterised both the stratigraphic sequence and the archaeological potential of the site. Undisturbed natural sandy clay gravel was observed on site at a maximum height of between 28.64m AOD and 29.60m AOD. This is approximately comparable to the modern site topography.
- 6.2 The earliest deposits encountered during the evaluation were undisturbed subsoil horizons identified in Trenches 3, 4, 6 and 7. Five features of archaeological interest were identified in Trenches 6 and 7 which were recorded as cutting the subsoil horizon. In Trench 6 a single northwest-southeast orientated ditch [603] was excavated, while in Trench 7 two north-south orientated ditch terminals [704] and [710] were recorded, in addition to a length of northwest-southeast orientated ditch [706]. The form and orientation of ditches [603] and [706] indicate they belong to the same overall ditch alignment. Unfortunately, the only find recovered from the four ditch slots was from the fill of ditch [603] in the form of an undiagnostic fragment of CBM. Due to this lack of diagnostic finds, the ditch sections remain undated. The northwest-south and north-south alignments of the ditches recorded do indicate that there is at least two possible phases of activity on site.
- 6.3 A small posthole [708] was also identified in Trench 7, which contained late 19th or 20th century finds.
- 6.4 Trenches 3, 4, 6 and 7 appear to be sealed by *in-situ* topsoil deposits representing the presence of undisturbed soil profiles in these locations.
- 6.5 In Trenches 1, 2, 5, and 8 natural sandy clay gravel was overlain by made ground deposits or formation deposits for modern yard surfaces, strongly implying that a phase of horizontal truncation has occurred in these areas, removing the pre-existing soil horizons. The material contained within the made ground and overlying deposits indicated the phase of horizontal truncation was associated with the construction of the current housing estate during the mid 20th century.
- 6.6 The evaluation revealed four undated ditch features in Trenches 6 and 7 which appear to represent three separate ditches on two different alignments, in addition to a late 19th or 20th century posthole. The undisturbed soil sequences associated with these features were also identified in Trenches 3 and 4 indicating that the southeast area of the site has avoided being truncated during the development of the site in the mid 20th century. Modern horizontal truncation observed in Trenches 1, 2, 5 and 8 would limit the potential for features of archaeological interest to survive in the northern area of the site. A review of the existing site topography and the level of surviving natural deposits in comparison to those areas which have experienced truncation, suggests that the impact on the natural deposit in the northern area of the site may be restricted to the upper horizon of the deposit.

7 Publication and Archive Deposition

- 7.1 Due to the nature of the results at this stage of the archaeological investigation, publication is expected to be limited to a summary in the Hampshire Archaeology Round-up and publication via the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) (Appendix B).
- 7.2 The archive, consisting of paper records, drawings, digital and black and white photographs, will be deposited with the SeaCity Museum, Southampton.

8 Bibliography

- AOC Archaeology (2012). *Southampton Regeneration, Southampton, Hampshire: A Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*.
- English Heritage (2008). *Archaeological Guidance Papers 2-4: Standards and Practices*. English Heritage.
- English Heritage (2009). *Archaeological Assessment and Evaluation Reports (Guidelines)*.
- Institute for Archaeologists (2009). *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*.
- Institute for Archaeologists (2010). *Code of Conduct*.
- Opus International Consultants (UK) Ltd (2010). *Geo-Environmental Ground Investigation Report Laxton Close, Sholing, Southampton*.

LAXTON CLOSE (SOUTHAMPTON REGENERATION), SHOLING, SOUTHAMPTON:
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

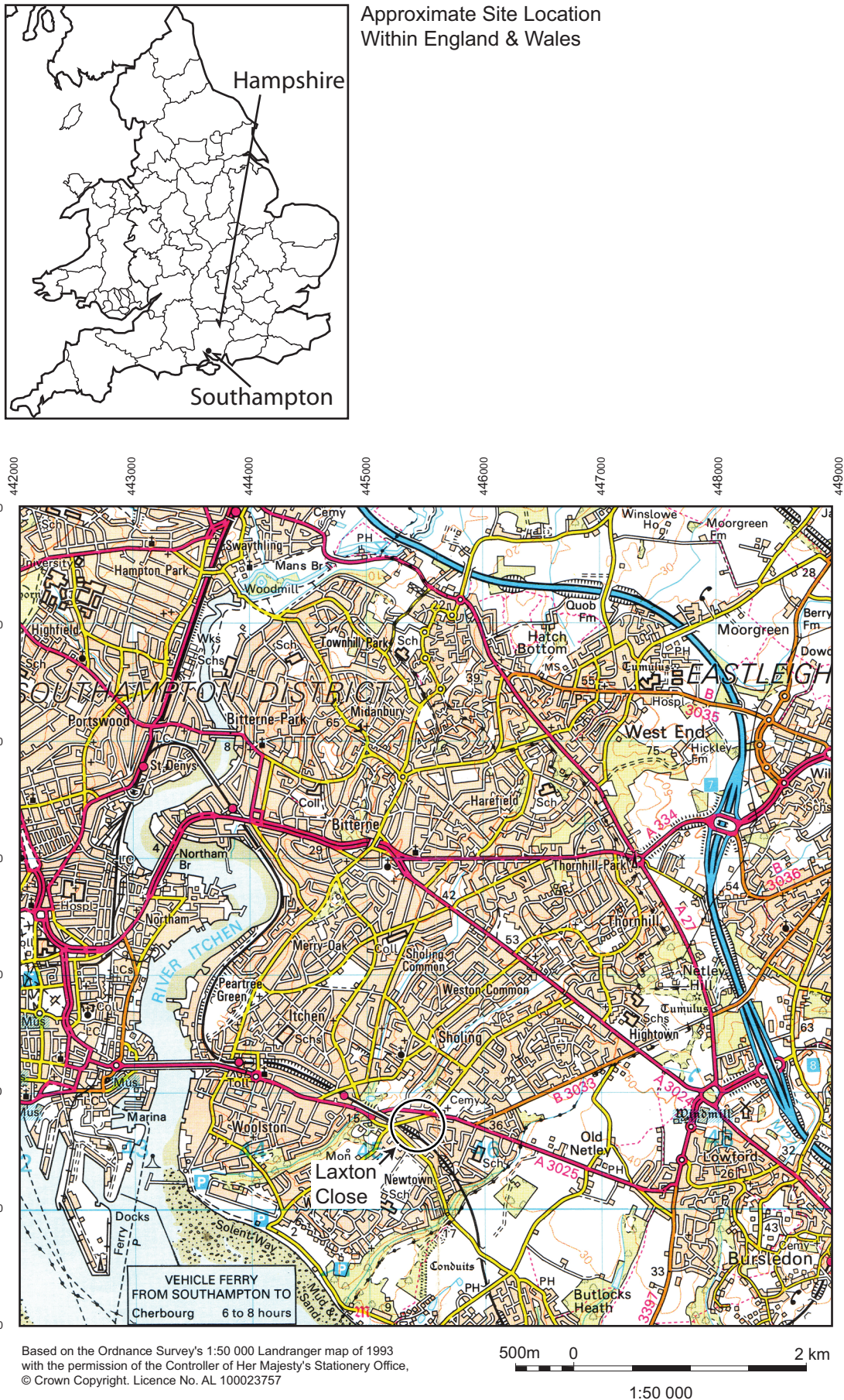
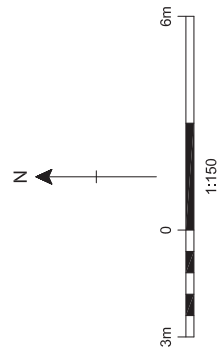


Figure 1: Site Location



Based on the Ordnance Survey's 1:2500 Survey of Great Britain of 2011 with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown Copyright. Licence No. AL 100023757

- ▨ Previous Buildings
- ▭ Evaluation Trenches
- Sample Sections

Figure 2: Detailed Site / Evaluation Trench Plan

LAXTON CLOSE (SOUTHAMPTON REGENERATION), SHOLING, SOUTHAMPTON:
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

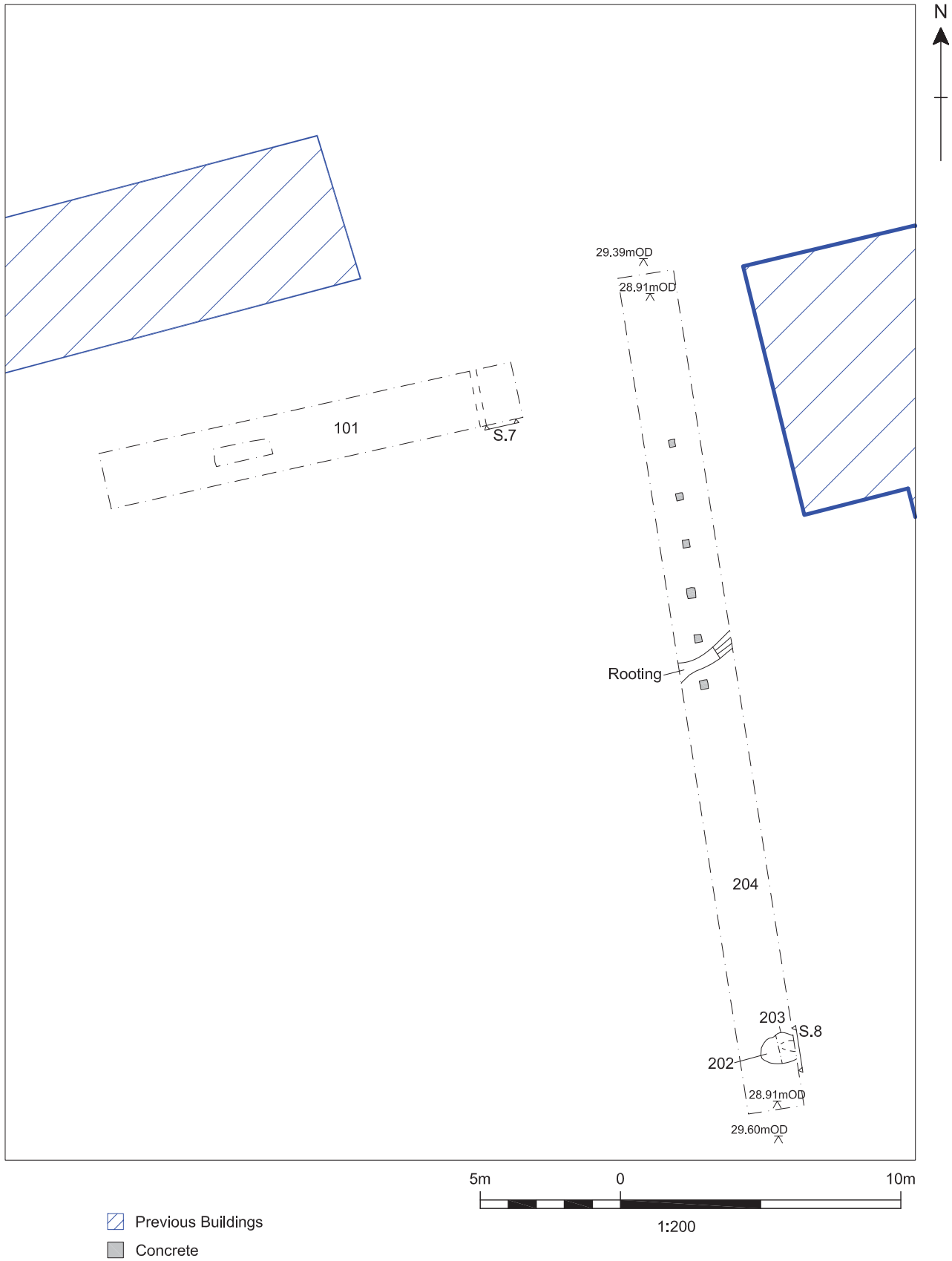


Figure 3: Trenches 1 & 2 Plans

LAXTON CLOSE (SOUTHAMPTON REGENERATION), SHOLING, SOUTHAMPTON:
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

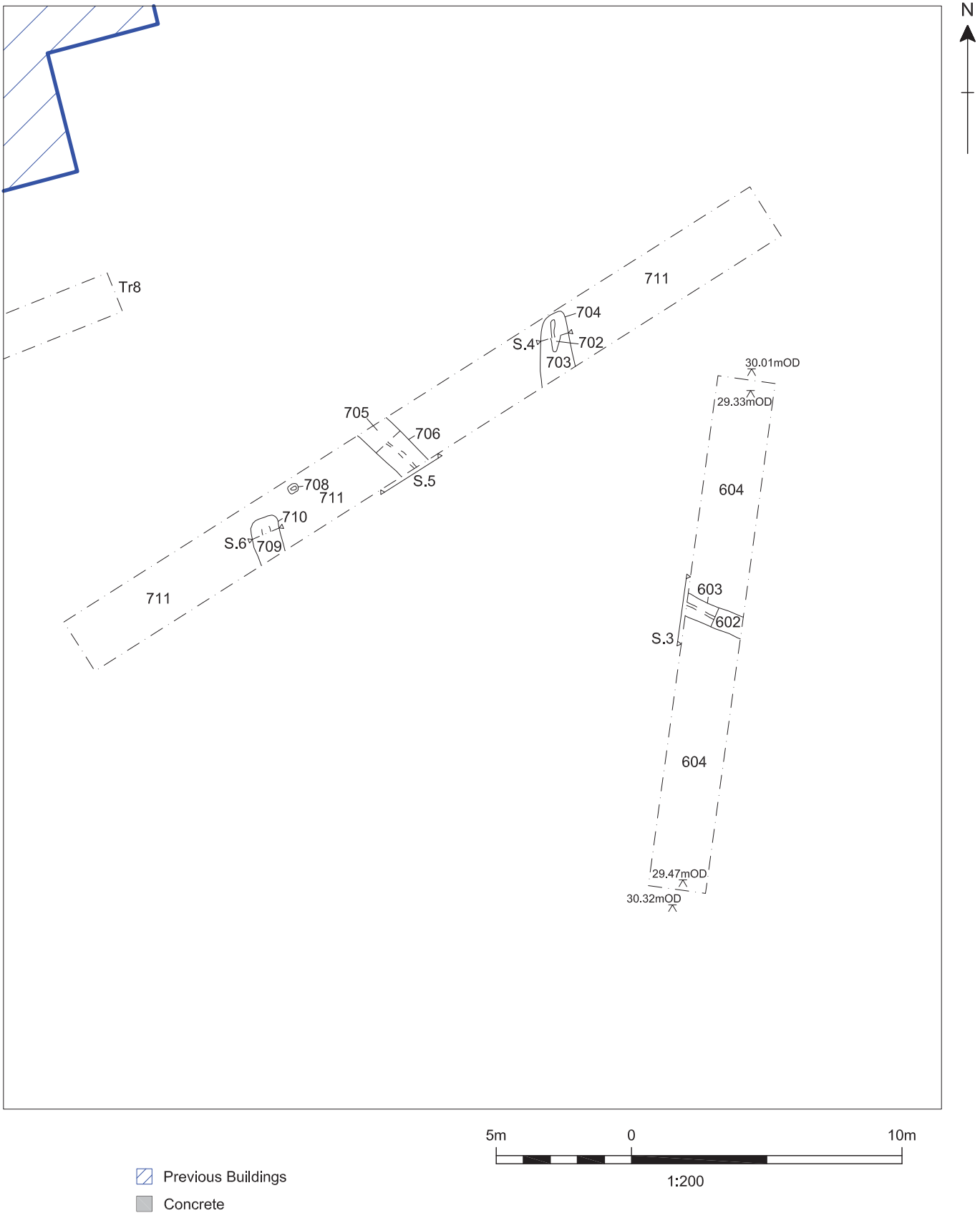


Figure 4: Trenches 6 & 7 Plans

LAXTON CLOSE (SOUTHAMPTON REGENERATION), SHOLING, SOUTHAMPTON:
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

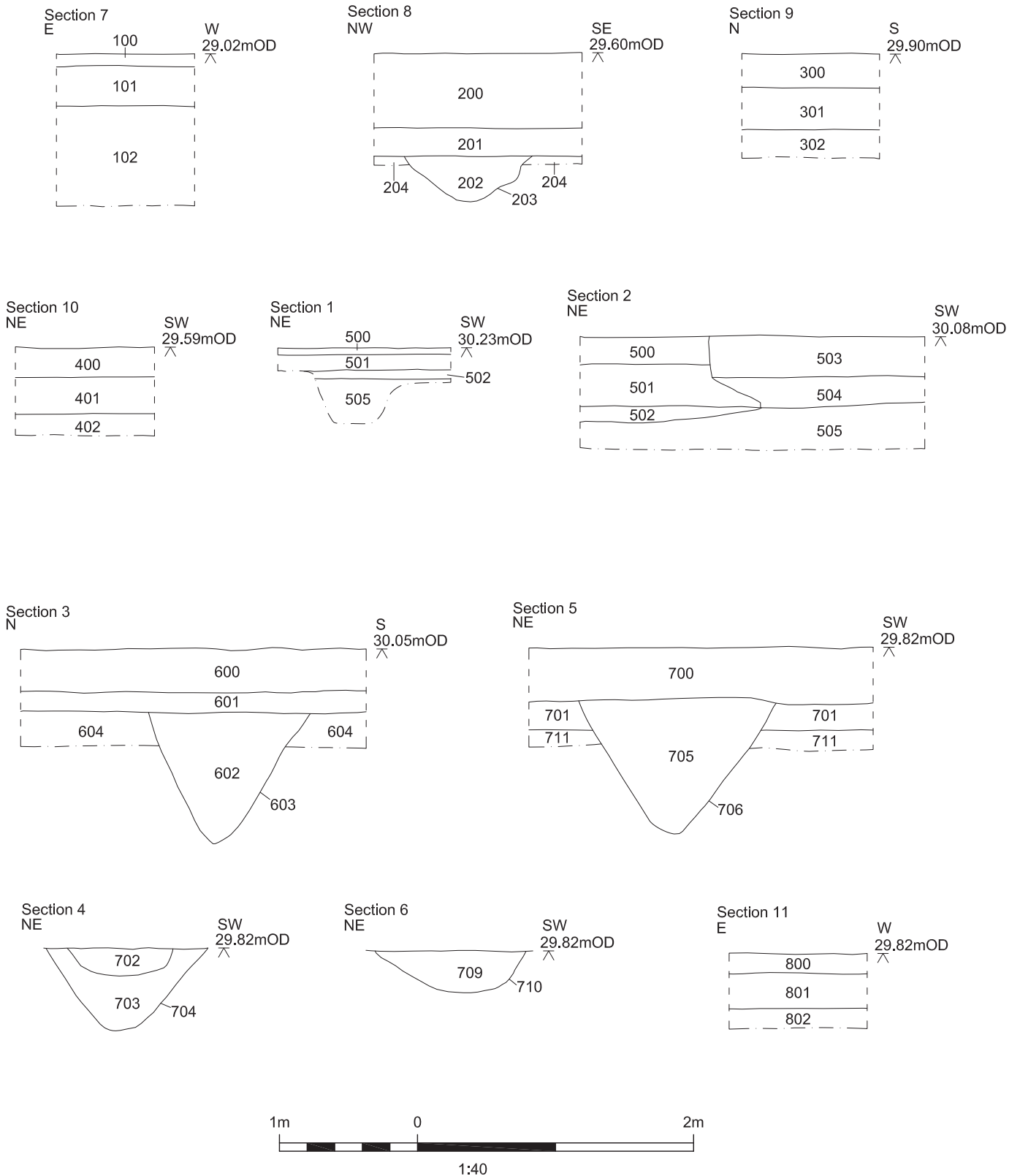


Figure 5: Sections

Appendices

Appendix A – Context Register

Context No.	Context Description	Length	Width	Depth
100	Tarmac	15.00m	2.00m	0.10m
101	Made Ground	15.00m	2.00m	0.30m
102	Natural	15.00m	2.00m	0.75m+
200	Topsoil	30.00m	2.00m	0.55m
201	Made Ground	30.00m	2.00m	0.20m
202	Fill of [203]	1.25m+	1.10m	0.33m
203	Cut of Feature	1.25m+	1.10m	0.33m
204	Natural	30.00m	2.00m	0.10m+
300	Topsoil	11.50m	1.50m	0.25m
301	Subsoil	11.50m	1.50m	0.30m
302	Natural	11.50m	1.50m	0.20m+
400	Topsoil	8.50m	1.50m	0.22m
401	Subsoil	8.50m	1.50m	0.25m
402	Natural	8.50m	1.50m	0.16m+
500	Tarmac	30.00m	2.00m	0.20m
501	Made Ground	22.50m	2.00m	0.33m
502	Disturbed Natural	22.50m	2.00m	0.12m
503	Topsoil	7.50m	2.00m	0.30m
504	Made Ground	7.50m	2.00m	0.20m
505	Natural	30.00m	2.00m	0.10m+
600	Topsoil	19.00m	2.00m	0.30m
601	Subsoil	19.00m	2.00m	0.15m
602	Fill of [603]	2.10m	1.14m	0.95m
603	Cut of Ditch	2.10m	1.14m	0.95m
604	Natural	19.00m	2.00m	0.10m+
700	Topsoil	30.00m	2.00m	0.40m
701	Subsoil	30.00m	2.00m	0.20m
702	Fill of [704]	1.00m	0.20m	0.20m
703	Fill of [704]	2.10m	1.20m	0.55m
704	Cut of Ditch	2.10m	1.20m	0.55m
705	Fill of [706]	2.10m	1.40m	0.96m
706	Cut of Ditch	2.10m	1.40m	0.96m

Context No.	Context Description	Length	Width	Depth
707	Fill of [708]	0.40m	0.40m	0.14m
708	Cut of Posthole	0.40m	0.40m	0.14m
709	Fill of [710]	1.50m	1.15m	0.30m
710	Cut of Ditch	1.50m	1.15m	0.30m
711	Natural	30.00m	2.00m	0.20m+
800	Topsoil	9.50m	1.50m	0.15m
801	Made Ground	9.50m	1.50m	0.25m
802	Natural	9.50m	1.50m	0.10m+

Appendix B – OASIS Form

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-130357

Project details

Project name Laxton Close (Southampton Regeneration), Sholing, Southampton

Short description of the project An archaeological investigation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at the site of Laxton Close, Sholing, Southampton. The archaeological investigation consisted of an eight trench evaluation. During the course of the evaluation multiple undated ditch features and a single late post-medieval or modern posthole were encountered in the eastern area of the site cut into the subsoil horizon. The subsoil overlay natural sandy clay gravel. These features are interpreted as being of low to moderate significance due their concentration, although the lack of dating evidence recovered from the ditches prevents greater significance being attributed to them. A phase of modern horizontal truncation was identified as having occurred in the northern area of the site.

Project dates Start: 02-07-2012 End: 04-07-2012

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any project codes associated reference 32048 - Contracting Unit No.

Any project codes associated reference SOU1591 - Sitecode

Any project codes associated reference 11/01423/FUL - Planning Application No.

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed

Monument type DITCH Uncertain

Monument type POSTHOLE Modern

Methods & "Sample Trenches"
techniques

Development type Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Position in the After full determination (eg. As a condition)
planning process

Project location

Country England

Site location HAMPSHIRE SOUTHAMPTON SOUTHAMPTON Laxton Close, Sholing,
Southampton

Postcode SO19 9LG

Study area 1.00 Hectares

Site coordinates SU 4547 1063 50 -1 50 53 34 N 001 21 12 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 28.64m Max: 29.60m

Project creators

Name of AOC Archaeology
Organisation

Project brief Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
originator

Project design AOC Archaeology
originator

Project director/manager Paul Mason

Project supervisor Chris Clarke

Type of Developer sponsor/funding body

Name of Lovell sponsor/funding body

Project archives

Physical Archive No
Exists?

Digital Archive Seacity Museum
recipient

Digital Archive ID SOU1591

Digital Media "Images raster / digital photography"
available

Digital Archive notes To be held at AOC until readt to archive

Paper Archive Seacity Museum
recipient

Paper Archive ID SOU1591

Paper Media "Context sheet", "Plan", "Report", "Section"
available

Paper Archive notes To be held at AOC until readt to archive

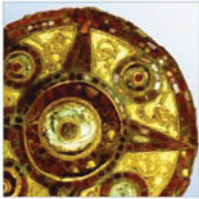
**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	SOUTHAMPTON REGENERATION, SOUTHAMPTON, HAMPSHIRE: A WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
Author(s)/Editor(s)	MacQuarrie, H.
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	AOC Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	A4 text, 4 illustrations, 23 pages bound between plastic covers

**Project
bibliography 2**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	LAXTON CLOSE (SOUTHAMPTON REGENERATION), SHOLING, SOUTHAMPTON: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Clarke, C.
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	AOC Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	A4 text, 8 illustrations, 31 pages bound between plastic covers

Entered by Chris Clarke (chris.clarke@aocarchaeology.com)
Entered on 13 July 2012



AOC Archaeology Group, Unit 7, St Margarets Business Centre, Moor Mead Road, Twickenham TW1 1JS
tel: 020 8843 7380 | fax: 020 8892 0549 | e-mail: london@aocarchaeology.com

www.aocarchaeology.com