

# Mayflower Plaza, Commercial Road, Southampton, Hampshire: An Archaeological Watching Brief Report

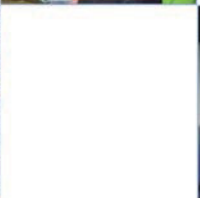
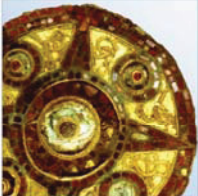
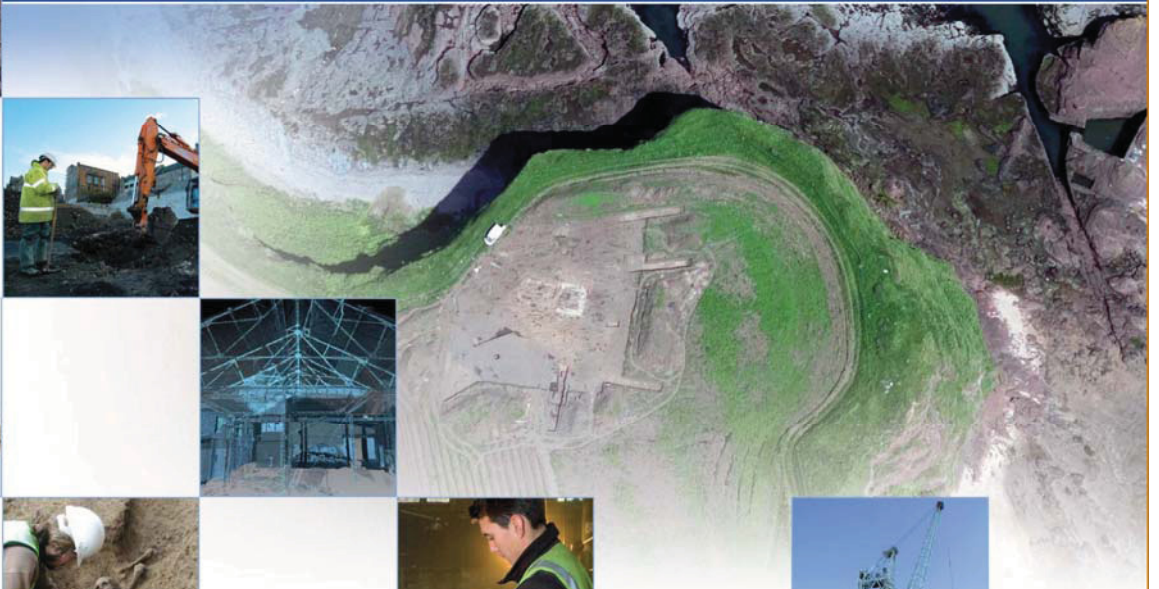
Planning Reference: 12/00294/SCO

National Grid Reference Number: SU 4161 1228

AOC Project No: 32244

Site Code: SOU 1587

Date: November 2012



# Mayflower Plaza, Commercial Road, Southampton, Hampshire: An Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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**National Grid Reference (NGR):** **SU 4161 1228**

**AOC Project No:** **32244**

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**Date of Report:** **November 2012**

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

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**Date:** November 2012

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**Date:** November 2012

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## Non-Technical Summary

*During October and November 2012, AOC Archaeology Group undertook a watching brief on land adjacent to the Mayflower Theatre in Southampton, following an archaeological evaluation which revealed limited evidence for medieval activity at the site. The site is located at National Grid Reference (NGR) SU 4161 1228.) The watching brief was commissioned by Geoffrey Osborne Developments (South) Ltd, and was undertaken as a condition on planning permission.*

*The watching brief recorded a sequence of naturally deposited gravels with 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century house foundations and terracing above, and associated garden soil. Archaeological features of medieval date were located in the west of the site, comprising a boundary ditch and two pits. Given the topography of the site, it appears likely that these features mark the eastern limit of activity which would have been focussed in the area of the Mayflower Theatre.*

*No further work is recommended. Due to the nature of the project, publication will be restricted to a summary of results in 'Hampshire Studies', the Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club and via the Archaeological Data Service (ADS). The archive, consisting of paper records, drawings, photographs, and digital records will be deposited with Southampton Museums Service.*

## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken during groundworks for the development of land at Mayflower Plaza at Commercial Road, Southampton, Hampshire (NGR SU 4161 1228; Figure 1).
- 1.2 The site is a parcel of land located directly east of the Mayflower Theatre. It is an irregular triangle in shape and measures approximately 0.7 hectares in size. It is bound by West Park Road to the south, Commercial Road to the north, Havelock Road to the east and The Mayflower Theatre to the west (Figure 2).
- 1.3 The development comprises three accommodation blocks. Two are to be sited on made ground, whilst the third, in the southwest portion of site, required the ground level to be reduced. The reduced-level excavation was the only area where archaeological features were revealed.

## 2 Planning Background

- 2.1 The local planning authority is Southampton City Council. Archaeological advice to the council is provided by Stephen Appleby, Planning Archaeologist for Southampton City Council.
- 2.2 Within a 500m radius around the site there is one Registered Park and Garden, Central Parks (East and West Park) to the east of the site, and two Scheduled Monuments; Conduit House to the immediate north of the site along Commercial Road, and Conduit Head to the north east along Hill Lane. Both these monuments are part of the Franciscan Friar's water supply system and date to the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The site lies within a Local Area of Archaeological Importance (LAAI) 5B - Bannister Park. The site contains two HER entries, but no listed buildings or Scheduled Monuments
- 2.3 The proposed development (Planning Application Ref No: (08/00149/FUL)) is for the erection of three blocks of student accommodation together with associated retail/social facilities and car parking. Conditions, including an archaeological condition, were placed upon the Planning Application. Initially, an archaeological desk-based assessment was produced (AOC 2008), which examined the historical and archaeological evidence relating to the site. This was updated in 2012 (AOC 2012a).
- 2.4 AOC Archaeology Group were commissioned by Geoffrey Osborne Developments (South) Ltd to carry out an archaeological evaluation in a response to a Brief for Archaeological work produced by Stephen Appleby, Planning Archaeologist for Southampton City Council, in May 2010. The next stage in the archaeological process was the production of a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), detailing the methodology that would be used for an archaeological evaluation and including some background history of the site (AOC 2012b). The evaluation trenching showed that limited archaeological remains were present between deep basements and large infilled pits (AOC 2012c). As a result, Steven Appleby of HCC recommended that further archaeological recording be carried out, in the form of a watching brief during groundworks.
- 2.5 A second WSI was produced for the watching brief (AOC 2012d). This report presents the results of those investigations.

## 3 Geology and Topography

- 3.1 The general topography of the site slopes down from the northeast to the southwest. The levels vary across the site from 6.20m AOD in the southwestern corner to 10.54m AOD in the northwestern corner, and up to 14.20m AOD in the northeast.

- 3.2 The Geological Survey of Great Britain (1987) indicates that the geology varies across the site. In the northeast area, the River Terrace Deposits (predominantly comprised of gravel (Number 3)) overlie the Wittering Formation bedrock, while the Wittering Formation of the Bracklesham Group is the upper deposit in the south-west side of the site. The River Terrace Deposits present derive from the River Test, the banks of which the site was located upon prior to reclamation. A stream also previously ran across the west of the site that has now been backfilled.
- 3.3 The archaeological evaluation confirmed the results of a geotechnical and environmental report showing made ground deposits measuring up to 2.85m thick were located below the tarmac surface. The made ground comprised silty sandy flint gravel with occasional fragments of concrete, brick and other demolition waste (STATS 2007). Much of the made ground is of modern date, obscuring the natural topography of the site.

## 4 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.0.1 The following background material has been extracted from the Written Scheme of Investigation for the site by AOC (2012d).

### 4.1 Prehistoric (c. 500,000 BC – AD 43)

- 4.1.1 Palaeolithic activity in Hampshire is concentrated along the sea front and inland estuaries, and settlements and habitation gradually radiated into the hinterland.
- 4.1.2 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 19<sup>th</sup> century at Southampton Common and Cobden Bridge, and Iron Age earthworks have been recognised at Lordswood and Alder Moor, with Iron Age buildings also found near to the city centre during excavations at Maddison Street.

### 4.2 The Roman Period (AD 43 – AD 410)

- 4.2.1 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.
- 4.2.2 There is no evidence from the Roman period of occupation within this part of the modern city. Although a Roman cemetery and pottery are recorded from the general area, it was not anticipated that any Roman finds were likely to be present upon the site.

### 4.3 The Early Medieval (AD 410 – AD 1066) and Medieval periods (AD 1066 – AD 1538)

- 4.3.1 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.
- 4.3.2 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> century – Suthamtonia.
- 4.3.3 The Saxon settlement at *Hamwic* was a relatively prosperous trading port with the continent and Scandinavia. It was one of the burghs created by King Alfred in response to the Danish raids of the

9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> century, of which Hamwic suffered several times. These raids are thought to be part reasons for a decline of prosperity in *Hamwic* during the late 9<sup>th</sup> century.

- 4.3.4 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 following a devastating raid by the French in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, and Southampton became one of the strongest fortified centres in England.
- 4.3.5 The site is located to the north of the main locus of the medieval city. Documentary evidence suggests that the site remained fields during this period and there may have been a lane traversing the site. Blake's research in *The Cartulary of the Priory of St Denys near Southampton* (1981) suggests that the portion of land on which the site lies was part of a tenement held by one Thurston Waget. It was subsequently divided among his heirs and reassembled in 1273/4 by Richard de Suwyck. A various number of people are listed in the rentals of 1476 and after dissolution it was demised, along with the surrounding fields to John Vaughan.
- 4.3.6 The primary medieval items of archaeological importance within the vicinity of the site are those associated with a conduit system that ran from Conduit Head (on modern day Hill Lane), through Conduit House (on modern Day Commercial Road/Water Lane) and southwards to the Friary (located on the site of the modern British Telecom Building) (Figure 2).

#### **4.4 Post-Medieval (AD 1538 – AD 1900) and Modern Period (AD 1900 to present)**

- 4.4.1 By 1600 the town's prosperity had declined and it was described as a 'decayed port', though trade and shipbuilding did continue. The conduit system across the town was still in use during this time, and the *in-situ* pipes that were uncovered during excavations at Conduit House were post-medieval in date. The cistern at Conduit House is thought to have been added at this time. Other aspects of the Conduit House are 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- 4.4.2 Evidence from Kelly's Southampton Directory shows that between 1865 and 1913 the buildings on the streets around the site were primarily residential. By 1921, some of the properties were starting to be used for commercial purposes, such as number 8 (A & B) which was used as a confectioner, milliner's and photographic studio. The Empire Theatre first appears in the 1929-30 edition.
- 4.4.3 By 1938-9 all of the properties that were on the site that front onto Commercial Road were used for commercial ventures; this probably included Nos. 4 – 10 Commercial Road, which was subject to building recording prior to demolition in 1998.
- 4.4.4 The earliest cartographic evidence dates from the beginning of the 19th century and does not indicate that the site had been developed. The 1802 plan of Southampton by an unknown cartographer depicts the site still wholly as open fields. The late 18th century canal tunnel is shown running a short distance south of the site, along the line of the modern railway (Course, 1977: 74). The Royal Engineer's Map of 1846 shows the site as covered by open fields/gardens and an upmarket residence by the name of Bridgefield. At this time it was occupied by only two buildings. Although the house is most likely to date from the first half of the 19th century, it is possible that the earlier 1802 map was not detailed enough to show such detail.
- 4.4.5 The first Ordnance Survey Map procured, of 1877 shows that Bridgefield was still present on site and was more extensive, although the majority of the site had still not been built upon. By 1910, the degree of development had increased, particularly in the south-western portion. In 1933, The Empire Theatre, which is now the current Mayflower Theatre, is shown for the first time. The area was then mostly built up.

4.4.6 Extensive bombing took place upon Southampton in 1940, during the Second World War, as illustrated by Bomb Damage cards held at Southampton City Archive and sources such as the Bomb damage map. It would appear that four or five areas of the site were severely affected by blasts at this time and five buildings on site are highlighted as being damaged. The map also shows a bomb crater in the southwest of the site. Along West Park Road, the bomb damage cards show that most buildings between numbers 1 and 32 had been severely damaged, and many had to be demolished.

4.4.7 The 1953 Ordnance Survey Map shows that the layout of the site has changed little with post war rebuilding taken place upon the same plots of land, following the same property boundaries. More recent maps of the site show complete redevelopment except for a single building along the site's southern boundary. The site is now completely void of building development, covered by tarmac and was, until recently, in use as a car park with fly tipping apparent.

#### **4.5 Previous Archaeological Work**

4.5.1 There have been three previous archaeological investigations within the site itself. A watching brief carried out in 1998 by the Archaeology Unit of Southampton City Council uncovered small quantities of residual worked flint and two sherds of medieval pottery. A building survey was also conducted on the site prior to demolition. In June 2012, an archaeological evaluation comprising eight trenches (AOC 2012c) revealed a shallow medieval feature at the west of the site, a deeper ditch of late medieval date crossing the middle of the site, on an almost north-south orientation, and a gully which probably held the medieval conduit on a oriented northwest-southeast, running towards Conduit House (Figure 2). The conduit appeared to have been removed.

### **5 Aims of the Investigation**

5.1 The aims of the watching brief were defined as being:

- To record any changes in form and direction of the archaeological features identified in the archaeological evaluation.
- To record any other archaeological remains within the site, which may relate to the use of the site in the medieval period
- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any prehistoric 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 confirm 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.

5.2 The final aim was to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

### **6 Methodology**

6.1 Site procedures were defined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2012d). All work was carried out in accordance with national guidelines (IfA 2008, IfA 2010).



- 6.2 The watching brief initially monitored removal of modern surfaces to formation level for two of the accommodation blocks (Blocks A and C). Thereafter, the area of the reduced level excavation was monitored (Block B), an area of approximately 40m by 25m. The area that needed to be reduced was initially stripped to the archaeological horizon, to enable recording of features, before further excavation to formation level was carried out.
- 6.3 Prior to commencing work a unique site code (SOU 1587) had been assigned to the project by the Southampton HER, for the evaluation. This was retained as the site identifier for the watching brief.
- 6.4 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken from 15<sup>th</sup> October to 21<sup>st</sup> November 2012.
- 6.5 Levels for each context were established based on data obtained from the nearest Ordnance Survey benchmark.
- 6.6 The archaeological watching brief was conducted by Les Capon and Paul Fitz, under the overall management of Melissa Melikian, Operations Director. The site was monitored for Southampton City Council by Steven Appleby.

## 7 Results

### 7.1 Block B

- 7.1.1 The watching Brief revealed the sequence of activity on site, from terrace gravels at the lowest level, to modern made ground and a modern tarmac surface.

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
7.50m to 8.49m	0.00m	(1)	Tarmac with demolition horizon
7.10m to 8.09m	0.40m	(2)	19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century buildings
6.85m to 7.60m	0.6m to 0.8m	(3)	Made ground for (2)
6.65m to 7.3m	0.40 – 1.00m	(4)	Dark brown organic sandy silt: topsoil/ garden soi.
5.85m to 7.30m	1.65m	(8)	Yellow sand with high gravel content: terrace gravel

*Table of Stratigraphy*

- 7.1.2 The ground reduction for the watching brief exposed the surface of naturally lain terrace gravel, and by synthesising the results from the evaluation trenches, a wider understanding of the topography local to Building B can be formed. The terrace gravel (8) is a thick deposit of yellow sand containing up to 80% rounded gravel by volume, and has irregular patches of light yellowish brown sandy clay throughout it. This gravel drops from a high point of 14.25mOD at the east of the site, falling gently along the 80m of the Commercial Road frontage to 12.11mOD, and more steeply along the 100m of the West Park Road edge to 5.85mOD. The gravel, however, lies more level in an arc of c.40m radius from the southwest corner of site, with a localised slope of around 1:40.
- 7.1.3 The archaeological features are located on this flatter area of gravel, but it was recognised that there was no subsoil between this and deposits above, indicating that the gravel may have been truncated to an unknown degree.
- 7.1.4 The earliest dated feature to cut the gravel was a circular pit with a diameter of 1.20m [9] (Figure 2, Figure 3, Section 2). This was only 0.21m deep, and was thought likely to have been horizontally truncated. The sides dropped near-vertically to a flattish base. There were two fills, both of different character. The lowest fill (11) was blackish brown sandy silt with rare tiny grits, and was dominated by small, medium and large fragments of charcoal. The charcoal lay regularly across the base of the

pit. Towards the western edge of the pit, the charcoal fragments were compacted and appeared almost interlaced, as if there had been either a wattle lining, or a length of hurdle had been burnt in the pit. The wood charcoal in the pit was probably burned *in situ*, since there was some discolouration of the underlying terrace gravel. This burnt deposit was up to 50mm deep, and had two sherds of pottery on the surface. This dates the feature to the Middle or Late Iron Age: 400-100BC. Above this was a fill of dark greyish brown sandy silt with occasional small rounded stones (10) which formed the main fill of the pit, and presumably marks in-filling after the burning activities had finished. The shallowness of the surviving part of the feature precluded identification of tip lines, so it could not be determined whether this feature filled gradually through erosion and slumping of the sides, or was deliberately backfilled.

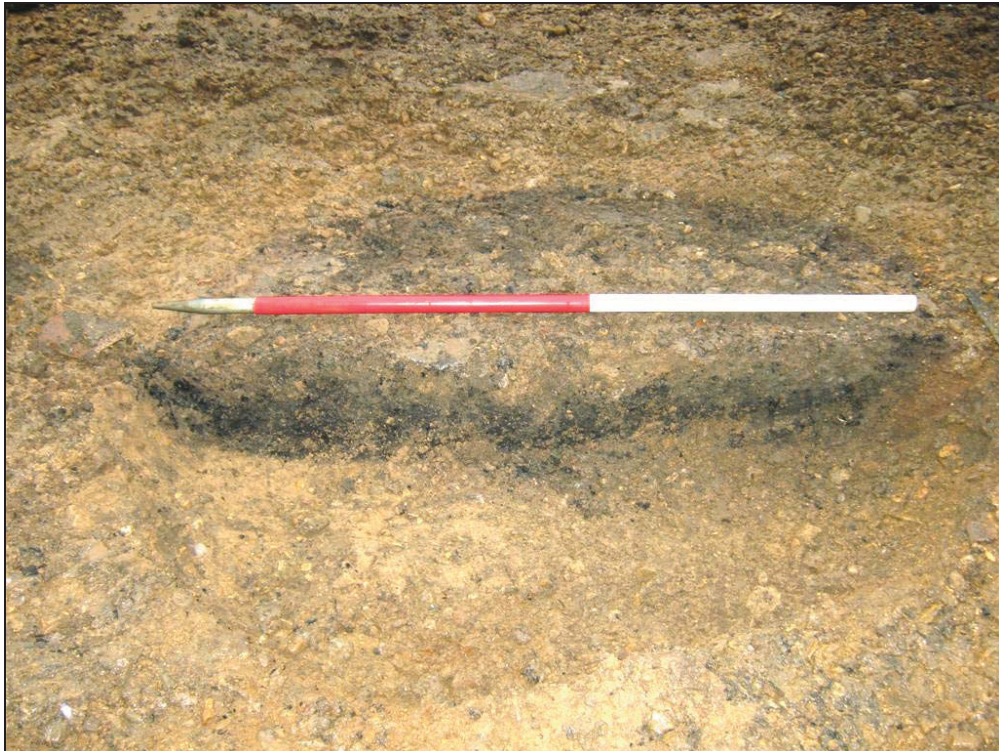


Plate 1: Pit 9, Looking East

- 7.1.5 Five metres northwest of this circular pit was a second feature [7] (Figure 2, Figure 3, Section 1), that continued westwards beyond the limit of excavation. It too was 1.20m wide, and was probably a circular pit of similar function to the other. The pit had a more rounded base 0.22m deep and had a lower fill of burnt wooden fragments (6) that was just 30mm thick. There was less interweaving of burnt wood in this pit. The upper fill of the pit was dark greyish brown sandy silt (5) with moderate inclusions of rounded gravel. This did not contain any dating evidence, but the similar form of the two features suggests that they are contemporary.
- 7.1.6 To the south of the two pits was a linear feature; a ditch [13] (Figure 2, Figure 3, Section 3). This was oriented southwest-northeast, with a slight curve northwards at its northeast limit. The ditch was seen for a distance of 14m within the reduced level excavation for the development. The ditch was 1.20m wide and survived for a maximum depth of 0.4m, with an irregular profile. The northwestern side dropped at c.30° to a flattish ledge, before dropping almost vertically to a flat base, whilst the southeastern edge dropped more sharply to a wider ledge, before dropping to the base. This irregularity may be evidence of a recut of the ditch, once partially filled, although there was little variation in the single recorded fill. If this continued in a straight line, this would have appeared in evaluation Trench 4, yet there were no features present. This feature may have been truncated, if it

did continue further, by partial terracing of the site in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century when houses were established on the site, with garden plots behind.



Plate 2: Ditch 13, Looking East

- 7.1.7 The fill of the ditch was dark greyish brown sandy clay silt (12). This had inclusions of small and medium rounded gravel. It contained few finds, but all suggest a date between the 13<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. The finds assemblage from this ditch comprises ceramic building materials and pottery. The building materials are broadly medieval in date, whilst fragments of two domestic cooking pots date from around 1250-1350.
- 7.1.8 The archaeological features were sealed by a highly organic layer of fine sandy clay silt (4) which represents the use of the site as fields prior to housing development in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and as gardens thereafter. This lay at 6.75mOD in the southwest corner of site, and at 7.3mOD at the northwest point. This garden soil was up to 0.8m deep, and had a sharp interface with the underlying gravel. The lack of any subsoil indicates that the reworking of this layer is likely to have removed any occupation horizon relating to the medieval features, and also the upper parts of the pits and ditch.
- 7.1.9 The garden soil was overlain in places by compact lenses of sand and gravel (3) with a variety of concrete pads and brick footings above (2). These represent the housing that was developed on the

site over the last century, and are of low archaeological importance: these properties are all depicted on Ordnance Survey maps, and in the southwest corner of the site, no development is shown until after 1910 (AOC 2012a). Above the remnant foundations was a rubble horizon, representing the demolished houses, sealed by tarmac (1). Prior to development the land in the southwest corner of the site stood at 8.50mOD at the northern part of the watching brief area, dropping to 7.50m in the southwest corner.

## 8 Finds

- 8.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the course of the watching brief from the fill of one pit (11) and from the fill of the ditch (12) (Appendix B). Although this is a small assemblage of finds, its use lies in providing a date range for the features on site. The pit contains burnt fire debris, specifically wood charcoal, and is dated by pottery to the Iron Age. The ditch is dated to between 1250 and 1450 AD, and contains fragments of building material and domestic pottery.

## 9 Conclusions

- 9.1 During the course of the watching brief, the archaeological horizon was successfully identified, and all cut features were investigated. There were few features, yet the results add to the general archaeological knowledge of the immediate area. Much of the site remains undisturbed, except by piles for the new development. The only area of ground reduction was for a basement of Block B, in the southwest corner of the site.
- 9.2 The earliest dated feature on site was a circular pit with the evidence of a burning (fire) in the base, dating to the middle to late Iron Age. A second feature nearby was very similar in character, and is probably contemporary. There have been other excavations in Southampton which have found evidence for Iron Age dwelling, such as a site on Maddison Street, 750m south of the site, at Archers Road, 1km to the north, and in the area of the Civic Centre. The evidence is sparse, but becoming more recognised in the local area (Allen 2007). These two pits lie at the base of the gravel slope as West Park Road runs southwestwards towards the ancient waterfront, located at the site of Southampton Central Station. The topography of the site, and the lack of any findings uphill, suggest that if there were further remains around the site, they would have been lost when the theatre site was developed. The two pits had concentrations of wood charcoal at the base, suggesting that these were a type of 'fire pit'. There were no other remains of habitation found, apart from the pottery, so these pits may represent temporary pits excavated as required.
- 9.3 The only other archaeological feature recorded during the watching brief was a length of ditch running roughly east-west. This dates to the 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> century, and is probably a field boundary. Two small sherds from domestic cooking pots in the fill indicate a household near to the site. This ditch, either a property boundary or a field boundary, is broadly contemporary with the truncated remains of a gully recorded in evaluation (AOC 2012c), that remains north of the footprint of Block B. This ditch is not the same feature recorded in evaluation (Figure 2).
- 9.4 The site is located to the north of the main locus of the medieval city. The boundary and suggestions of household activity nearby may relate to a tenement recorded in 1274 on the site. However, this may be over interpretation of the limited evidence to associate the archaeological record with historical documents.
- 9.5 One of the principal aims of the site works was to determine whether the medieval conduit crossed the site. Having carried out an archaeological evaluation and a watching brief across the site, it seems most likely that if the conduit was present, it followed a contour across the middle of the site (Figure 2), and may have been robbed or removed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The later archaeological

activity on the site is represented by agricultural or horticultural soils, and terracing associated with 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century housing.

- 9.6 These sequences provide a limited insight into the general development of this area from the Iron Age period through into the later post-medieval period, in an area outside the historic core.

## 10 Publication and Archive Deposition

- 10.1 Due to the nature of the project, publication will be restricted to a summary of results in 'Hampshire Studies', the Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club and via the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) (Appendix C).
- 10.2 The archive, consisting of paper records, drawings, photographs, and digital records will be deposited with Southampton Museums Service.

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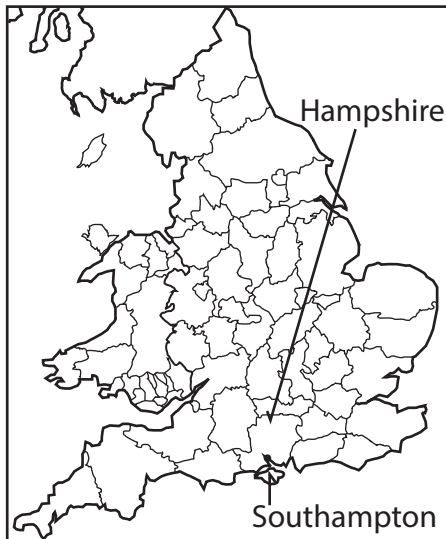
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MAYFLOWER PLAZA, COMMERCIAL ROAD, SOUTHAMPTON, HAMPSHIRE:  
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT



Approximate Site Location  
Within England & Wales



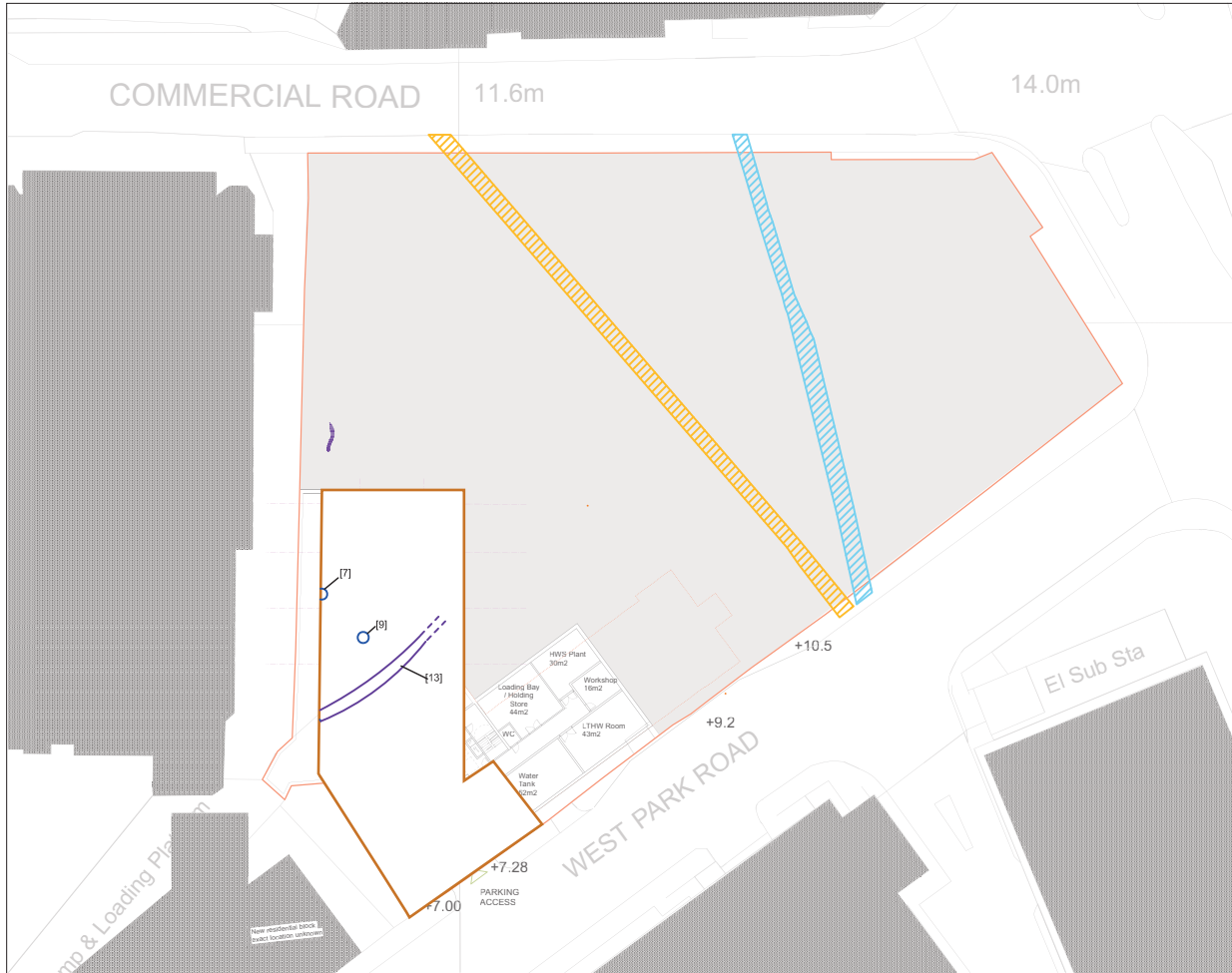
Based on the Ordnance Survey's 1:50 000 Landranger map of 1995 with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright. Licence No. AL 100023757

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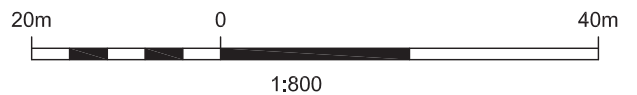
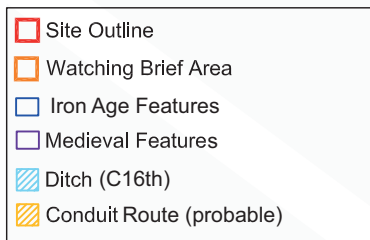
1:50 000

**Figure 1:** Site Location

MAYFLOWER PLAZA, COMMERCIAL ROAD, SOUTHAMPTON, HAMPSHIRE:  
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT



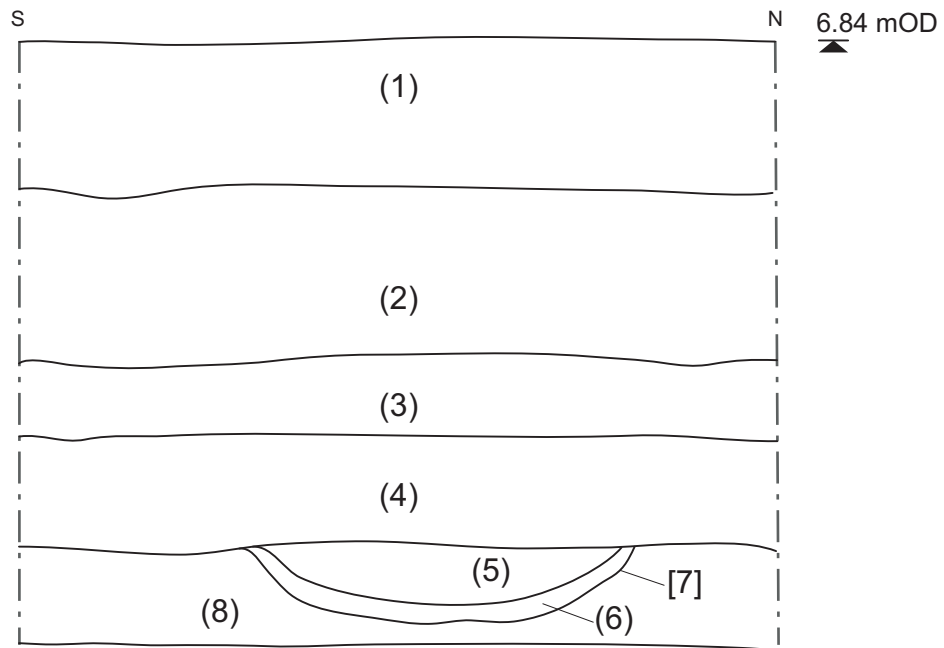
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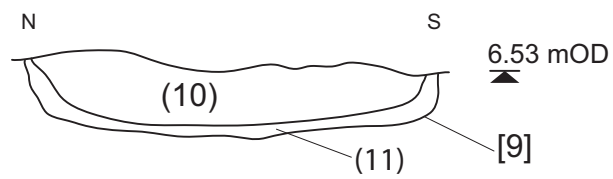
**Figure 2:** Detailed Site/Feature Location Plan



Section 1



Section 2



Section 3

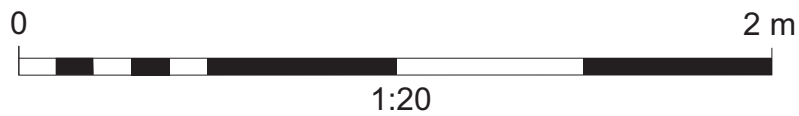
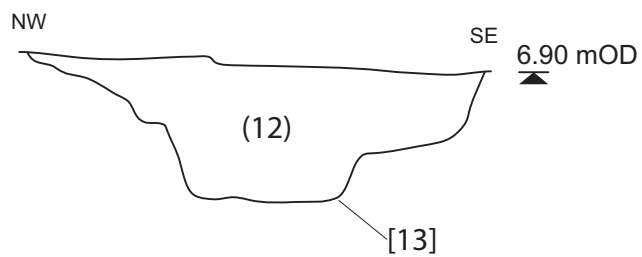


Figure 3: Sections Through Features

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## Appendices

## Appendix A – Context Register

Context No.	Context Description	Length	Width	Depth
1	Demolition deposits with Tarmac surface	40m	25m	0.40m
2	Concrete and brick building foundations	40m	25m	0.45m
3	Levelling layer associated with (3)	40m	25m	0.25m
4	Garden or field soils	40m	25m	0.40m
5	Upper fill of Pit [7]	1.20m	1.20m	0.18m
6	Lower fill of Pit [7]	1.20m	1.20m	0.03m
7	Pit	1.20m	1.20m	0.21m
8	Terrace Gravels	40m	25m	N/A
9	Pit	1.20m	1.20m	0.25m
10	Upper fill, Pit [9]	1.20m	1.20m	0.20m
11	Lower fill, Pit [9]	1.20m	1.20m	0.05m
12	Fill of [13]	14.00m	1.20m	0.40m
13	Ditch	14.00m	1.20m	0.40m

## Appendix B – Specialist Finds Report

### Summary

A small assemblage of mixed finds was recovered from two contexts. These reveal two dates of activity on the site, the Iron Age and the medieval period. Although the finds assemblage is small, the dating evidence is considered secure.

### The Prehistoric Pottery by Anna Doherty

Two unabraded cross-fitting sherds, weighing 46 grams were recovered from context (11). These are in a fabric with moderate quartz of c. 0.1-0.3mm and sparse flint of 0.2-0.7mm. The bodysherds are smoothed on both internal and external surfaces. Although it is always difficult to date featureless prehistoric sherds with certainty, this fabric is probably most typical of the Middle or Late Iron Age. A carbonised residue on the internal surface of the sherds may be sufficient for a radiocarbon date. However, this would only date the use of the vessel and might produce quite a broad determination because of the shape of the calibration curve in the Iron Age.

No further work is required at present.

### Post-Roman Pottery by Luke Barber

The archaeological work recovered just two bodysherds of post-Roman pottery from the site: both being recovered from context [12]. Both sherds show slight signs of abrasion, suggesting they have been subjected to at least some reworking. The larger sherd (12g) is in a reduced fabric tempered with moderate fine sand with rare/sparse coarse quartz grains and flint grits to 2mm. The piece appears to be from a medium-fired cooking pot. The other sherd (3g) is oxidised and tempered with moderate/abundant medium sand with occasional larger quartz grains and chalk/shell inclusions to 0.5mm. The piece appears to be from a medium fired cooking pot with wiped surface. Although more diagnostic sherds would be needed to be certain, an early/mid 13<sup>th</sup>- to early 14<sup>th</sup>- century date range is probable.

### Other Finds by Les Capon

Two pieces of ceramic building materials were collected from ditch fill [12]. One (20g) is a piece of peg tile, and broadly dates from 1200-1800. The other (28g) is a fragment of brick, in pale red clay-rich fabric, and is likely to be of medieval date. With no complete dimensions, it is difficult to assign an accurate date.

A piece of quartz-rich stone from ditch fill [12] has one curved surface, and broken edges. This may be part of a quern. It weighs 435g. This would be a typical Saxon find, but clearly, the ditch is later, as shown by peg tile and pottery within the fill.

A single piece of slate (22g) from ditch fill [12] may be a roofing material.

A single piece of bone from ditch fill [12] is part of the pelvis of a sheep or goat. It weighs 47g, and has cut marks indicative of butchery.

### Environmental Sample

A single sample, from pit fill [11] was taken, and processed. The sample is dominated by carbonised wood fragments. No carbonised nut, shell or other plant remains were present. This strongly suggests that a fire was the primary activity within the pit.

No further work is recommended on the carbonised remains.

## **Discussion/Recommendations**

Whilst the finds assemblage is small, it gives sufficient evidence to date the features from which the individual pieces come. Of most interest is the Iron Age pottery from pit fill [11]. These are unabraded, quite quite large sherds, and are unlikely to have travelled far before deposition. It does not however, indicate the function of the pit.

The finds from the ditch suggest that it was filled during the later medieval period: after 1200AD. Although the finds are few, the lack of any later material such as china, porcelain or clay pipe, would indicate a probable medieval date for the filling of the ditch.

## **Material for illustration**

None

## **Analysis of potential**

The ceramic provides broad dating evidence for the features in which they occur.

## **Significance of the data**

### *International and national*

The assemblage is not of international or national significance.

### *Regional and local*

The assemblage is of no regional / local significance.

## **Further work required**

*None*

## **Preparation for deposition in the archive and conservation**

The artefacts will be bagged and stored in accordance with local archive guidelines.

## Appendix C – Oasis Form

**OASIS ID: aocarcha1-138220**

### Project details

Project name	Watching Brief at Mayflower Plaza, Southampton
Short description of the project	A Watching brief revealed two Iron Age fire pits and a Medieval boundary. This site had suffered some horizontal truncation
Project dates	Start: 15-10-2012 End: 21-11-2012
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	32244 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	SOU 1587 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	FIRE PIT Middle Iron Age
Monument type	BOUNDARY DITCH Medieval
Significant Finds	BOWL Middle Iron Age
Significant Finds	BOWL Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

### Project location

Country England  
Site location HAMPSHIRE SOUTHAMPTON SOUTHAMPTON Mayflower Plaza  
Postcode SO15  
Study area 0.70 Hectares  
Site coordinates SU 4161 1228 50 -1 50 54 28 N 001 24 29 W Point  
Height OD / Depth Min: 5.85m Max: 12.04m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation AOC Archaeology  
Project brief originator Southampton CC  
Project design originator AOC Archaeology  
Project director/manager Melissa Melikian  
Project supervisor Les Capon  
Type of sponsor/funding body Developer  
Name of sponsor/funding body Geoffrey Osborne Ltd

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Southampton City Museum

Physical Archive ID	SOU 1587
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Physical Archive notes	held at AOC until transfer
Digital Archive recipient	Southampton City Museum
Digital Archive ID	SOU 1587
Digital Contents	"Ceramics", "Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector", ' Text"
Digital Archive notes	held at AOC until transfer
Paper Archive recipient	Southampton City Museum
Paper Archive ID	SOU 1587
Paper Contents	"Ceramics", "Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Unpublished Text"
Paper Archive notes	held at AOC until transfer

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### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Mayflower Plaza, Commercial Road, Southampton, Hampshire, An Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Capon, L.
Date	2012



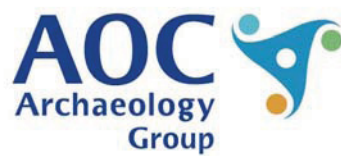
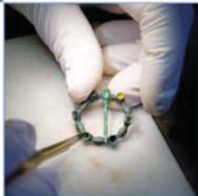
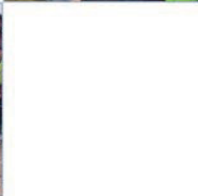
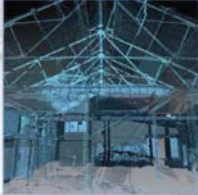
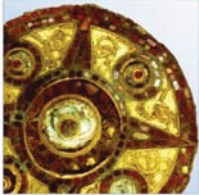
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