

**2 SPRING LANE, CARISBROOKE, NEWPORT,  
ISLE OF WIGHT**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

National Grid Reference: **SZ 4881 8812**

**By: AOC ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP**

**Client: Mr. and Mrs. Thompson**

**March 2008**

**National Grid Reference:** SZ 4881 8812

**Site Code:** 6244

**On behalf of:** Mr. and Mrs. Thompson

**Prepared by:** Catherine Edwards

**Watching Brief by** Catherine Edwards

**Illustrations by:** Jonathan Moller

**Timing:** Watching Brief  
29<sup>th</sup> February 2008

Draft Report  
March 2008

**2 SPRING LANE, CARISBROOKE,  
NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT**

1	ABSTRACT.....	2
2	INTRODUCTION .....	2
3	GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY.....	3
4	ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.....	3
5	AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION.....	5
6	METHODOLOGY .....	6
7	RESULTS .....	6
8	FINDS.....	8
9	CONCLUSIONS.....	8
11	ARCHIVE DEPOSTION.....	9
12	BIBLIOGRAPHY .....	9

Figures

APPENDIX A	Context Register
APPENDIX B	OASIS Form

## 1 ABSTRACT

*On the 29th February 2008 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken to observe the excavation of strip foundations, on behalf of Mr and Mrs Thompson. The excavations revealed both natural alluvial deposits and modern disturbance. No archaeological features were observed on site. However, a large limestone block was identified during the excavations. No features or dating evidence was recovered relating to the block.*

## 2 INTRODUCTION

### SITE LOCATION

- 2.1 The site is centered on National Grid Reference (NGR) SZ 4881 8812, and is within land bounded by Spring Lane to the north-east, residential properties to the south-east, gardens to the south-west and land owned by Southern Water Authority to the north-west. The site is roughly rectangular in shape and measures 260m<sup>2</sup>, (Figure 2). The area affected by the development covers a total area of approximately 61m<sup>2</sup>.

### DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

- 2.2 Currently the site is occupied by a single storey residential property. The proposed development is for the erection of two new dwellings.

### PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 2.3 The local planning authority (LPA) is the Isle of Wight Council. Archaeological advice to the council is provided by the Isle of Wight Planning Archaeologist, Owen Cambridge.

- 2.4 A planning application has been submitted to develop the site (Application No.: P/01653/07). Planning permission to undertake the development has been granted under the Town & Country Planning Act (1990) (Ref No. P/02288/07 - CAC/28511/A), subject to an archaeological condition. The condition states:

“No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which has been submitted to and approved by the Planning Authority in writing.”

- 2.5 This condition has been required in accordance with Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16) issued by the Department of the

- Environment in 1990 (DoE, 1990), and was recommended by the LPA archaeological advisor.
- 2.6 The site lies within the Carisbrooke Conservation Area as defined in the Isle of Wight Plan.
  - 2.7 The proposed scheme involves the construction of 2 new residential properties (Figure 2), with associated gardens and drives. The construction of the new properties will be carried out in two phases.
  - 2.8 None of the proposed structures will contain basements. The design involves the use of strip foundations. This means that the impact will affect a considerable proportion of the footprint of the building, in the upper part of the profile.
  - 2.9 The archaeological investigation was required to inform the local planning department about an appropriate mitigation strategy, in relation to the destruction of the potential archaeological resource.
  - 2.10 A Desk Based Assessment was not required as part of this process due to the limited scale of the development.

### **3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

- 3.1 The geology of the area indicates that the site is situated upon the chalk ridge that runs centrally east-west across the island.
- 3.2 A small test pit was excavated to ascertain the character of the deposits present on site. Chalk was observed at a depth of 1m below ground level.

### **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 No previous archaeological investigations have occurred on the site; however, the site is located within close proximity to several known archaeological sites.

#### **ROMAN (C. AD 43 - 450)**

- 4.2 The main archaeological potential of the development site is the potential for Roman archaeology. The landscape around Newport appears to be a focal point for Roman settlement activity on the Isle of Wight. Approximately 390m to the west of the site are the remains of Carisbrooke Roman Villa which was discovered in 1859. Remains uncovered during excavations for a new stable block in the grounds of Carisbrooke Vicarage lead to the excavation of a building measuring over 35m long, constructed of chalk and mortar walls, included rooms with mosaic floors, a heated bathroom and other rooms. Further afield are the remains of a 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century Roman Villa at Newport suggesting the local

landscape (containing the development site) would have been influenced by the local Roman population.

- 4.3 The earthwork on which Carisbrooke Castle (NMR SZ 48 NE 1) currently stands is approximately 400m south-west of the development and is believed by many to be the site of a Roman Fort. No evidence has yet been produced which substantiates this theory.

#### **ANGLO-SAXON (C.451-1065)**

- 4.4 Saxon activity has been recorded at the castle site in the form of a 6<sup>th</sup> century cemetery, containing both inhumation and cremation burials and a late Saxon building, enclosure and burh, (English Heritage 2008). The limited number of find spots may suggest a small community.

#### **MEDIEVAL (C.1066 - 1485) AND POST-MEDIEVAL (C.1485 - MODERN)**

- 4.5 The site lies in the southwest of Newport, and may be considered closer to Carisbrooke. Newport has superseded Carisbrooke as the main town of the island, the latter being little more than a village, and containing little in the way of industry. Even market facilities were provided at Newport.
- 4.6 The major monument of the medieval period is the well-preserved and impressive castle, 400m southwest of the site. Carisbrooke Castle was developed in the medieval period into a motte and bailey castle with ancillary buildings. These included a chapel and a gatehouse and a loopholed wall built in 1380. Further buildings, including an artillery Fort and Bastion Trace Fort were built between 1587 and 1602, and additional strengthening of the site occurred during the post-medieval period.
- 4.7 Immediately after the Norman Conquest the main function of Carisbrooke Castle was to impress and subdue the local population and to emphasise the dominance of the new Norman overlord. Carisbrooke was the only substantial fortification until the 16<sup>th</sup> century and its site at the centre of the island left the island open to coastal attack. A variety of earthworks, built structures and below-ground evidence survives for this period within Newport and finds are recorded in the HER.
- 4.8 The bulk of Documentary evidence relating to the island exists post-1293, when the Isle of Wight was incorporated for administrative purposes into the County of Southampton (Hampshire). For local jurisdiction the island was divided into hundreds and tithings. From the 12<sup>th</sup> century there were two hundreds known as the East Medine and the West Medine (Kökeritz 1940 2-4), the dividing line between them being the river Medina. The court for the East Medine met at 'La Hatte' and that of the West Medine at 'La Pitte', both places on St George's Down near Newport, illustrating the town's geographic and social importance.

- 4.9 The medieval town of Newport dates to the late 12<sup>th</sup> century. It was founded by members of the de Redvers family, who were hereditary lords of the island and also established the town of Yarmouth. Although Newport was the most prosperous town on the island during the medieval period, it was not particularly affluent and, like its neighbouring settlements, endured raids by the French in 1377. Excavation of a section of 17<sup>th</sup> century water pipe in the High Street during 1980 revealed a layer of burnt material which has been related to these raids (Tomalin and Scaife 1987).
- 4.10 The medieval town of Newport was planned on a grid system that still survives today. Excavations undertaken at Cockrams Yard (1978), Sea Street (1980), South Street (2004), Lugley Street (2005) and Newport Bus Station (2006) have all revealed discreet medieval remains which relate to the domestic habitation of the town. These remains lie over 800m to the northeast of the site.

## 5 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

- 5.1 The aims of the Watching Brief were defined as being:
- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the site.
  - To record and sample excavate any archaeological remains encountered.
  - To enable the Archaeological Advisor to the Isle of Wight Council to make an informed decision on the status of the condition on the planning permission, and any possible requirement for further work in order to satisfy that condition.
  - To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation in order to inform the mitigation strategy as part of the planning process.
  - The specific objectives of the Watching Brief were to:
    - Determine the presence of any remains of Roman date on the site.
    - Determine the presence of any remains of Saxon or early medieval date on the site.
- 5.2 The final aim was to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

## 6 METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The focus of the watching brief was concentrated on the excavation of strip foundations only. No other ground reduction was carried out on site.
- 6.2 The excavations were undertaken using a small 360° tracked excavator fitted with 0.50m wide, flat-bladed bucket. The excavations reached a maximum depth of 1.40m.
- 6.3 The fieldwork was conducted by Catherine Edwards, Project Officer under the direction of Andy Leonard, Fieldwork Divisional Manager for AOC Archaeology Group. The site was monitored by Owen Cambridge, Planning Archaeologist on behalf of The Isle of Wight Council
- 6.4 A unique site code **6244** was obtained from the Isle of Wight Museum.
- 6.5 All of the work was carried out in line with Archaeological Guidance Paper (AGP): 3, Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork (English Heritage June 1998); and IFA Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (IFA October 1994).

## 7 RESULTS

- |     |              |       |  |
|-----|--------------|-------|--|
| 7.1 | 0.00 – 0.80m | 1/001 | Mid brown silt clay frequent small chalk nodules and occasional brick and tile. Made ground. |
|     | 0.80 – 0.90m | 1/002 | Mid dark grey clay with very frequent oyster shell.  |
|     | 0.90 – 1.20m | 1/003 | Mid dark grey alluvial clay, rare wood fragments.  |
|     | 1.20m+       | 1/004 | White and brown chalk rubble. Natural  |
- 7.2 The earliest deposit on site was (1/004), a mottled white and brown deposit composed of degraded and solid natural chalk. Overlying the natural deposit was a 0.30m thick deposit of dark grey alluvial clay (1/003). The alluvial deposit probably relates to Lukely Brook which runs approximately 40m to the north of the site.
- 7.3 Overlying alluvial clay (1/003) was a similar deposit of dark grey silty clay (1/002). This clay deposit, however, contained very frequent oyster shell and occasional small tile fragments. The shells appeared to have been dumped on site, possibly as discarded rubbish at the edge of the Brook. No datable evidence was recovered from the deposit.
- 7.4 Above dump deposit (1/002) was layer (1/001), mid brown silty clay with frequent small chalk nodules, occasional modern brick and tile. This deposit represents made ground probably laid during previous phases of development and landscaping of the site.



- 7.5 Truncating (1/001) was modern truncation (1/005), which resulted in the disturbance of north-western half of the site. The truncation formed a 1.20-1.40m deep cut which ran north-east to south-west across the site (Figure 3). The cut was filled by a mix of brown and grey silty and sandy clay with occasional modern bricks, tile and glass. The truncation may have been formed during the development of the land immediately north-west of the site owned by Southern Water Authority.
- 7.6 A large cut limestone block was uncovered during the excavation. The block measured 0.94m x 0.48m x 0.37m thick and was located towards the north-western corner of the foundations trenches (Figure 2). The block was cut into a rectangular shape with a section or large groove removed at one end. Whilst the majority of sides were regular, one side (seen as the top side above) was partially sloped. Whether this was by design or the result of disturbance remains unclear. What also remains unclear is from which deposit the stone originated. The excavations on site were very limited in width and depth. Hand excavation of the trenches was also restricted due to the large amount of ground water in the trenches and the threat of collapsing sections. The block which was observed and removed from the very base of the trench, (1.40m below ground level), may have been *in situ*, cut into the natural, perhaps a foundation block. The block could also have been dumped on site perhaps within the lower backfill of modern truncation (1/005).



- 7.7 There remains the possibility that further blocks in the north-western limit of the site. However, due to the limited excavation area on site; the presence of further blocks could not be confirmed. No other features or finds were recovered on site that may be associated with the block.

## 8 FINDS

- 8.1 Modern brick, glass and tile were observed on site. These were noted but not retained.

## 9 CONCLUSIONS

- 9.1 Both natural chalk and alluvial deposits were observed on site. The earliest observed deposit was degraded natural chalk overlaid by a 0.30m thick deposit of alluvial clay. A mixed deposit of clay and very frequent oyster shell was observed above the alluvium which suggests domestic dumping along the brook edge. Overlying the clay and shell was a thick deposit of brown silt clay which represents made ground.
- 9.2 The only feature observed during the watching brief was a modern truncation recorded in the north-western area of the site. The truncation may relate to the construction of the Southern Water reservoirs and underground tanks.
- 9.3 A large limestone cut block was recorded on site. The block of unknown date and function was recovered from the base of a foundation trench. It remains unclear whether the block was *in situ*, cut into the natural chalk or was dumped in the backfill of the modern truncation mentioned above. Unfortunately due to the limited size of the site, the restricted size of the trenches and the poor conditions, no further information could be ascertained.
- 9.4 Modern disturbance to the natural soil profile was observed in the western area of the site whilst the southern and eastern limits appeared relatively undisturbed. Should further excavations on the property to the south of this development be undertaken these will be monitored under watching brief conditions.

## 10 PUBLICATION

- 10.1 Due to the limited result of the project, publication will be limited to a summary in the Hampshire Archaeology Round-up and publication via the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) (Appendix B).

## 11 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

- 11.1 The archive, consisting of paper records and digital photographs, will be deposited with the Isle of Wight Museum Services

## 12 BIBLIOGRAPHY

AOC Archaeology Group, (2008). 2 Spring Lane, Carisbrooke, Newport, Isle of Wight: A Written Scheme of Investigation For An Archaeological Watching Brief

English Heritage (2008). Carisbrooke Castle: [online] available at [http://pastscape.english-heritage.org.uk/hob.aspx?hob\\_id=459868](http://pastscape.english-heritage.org.uk/hob.aspx?hob_id=459868)

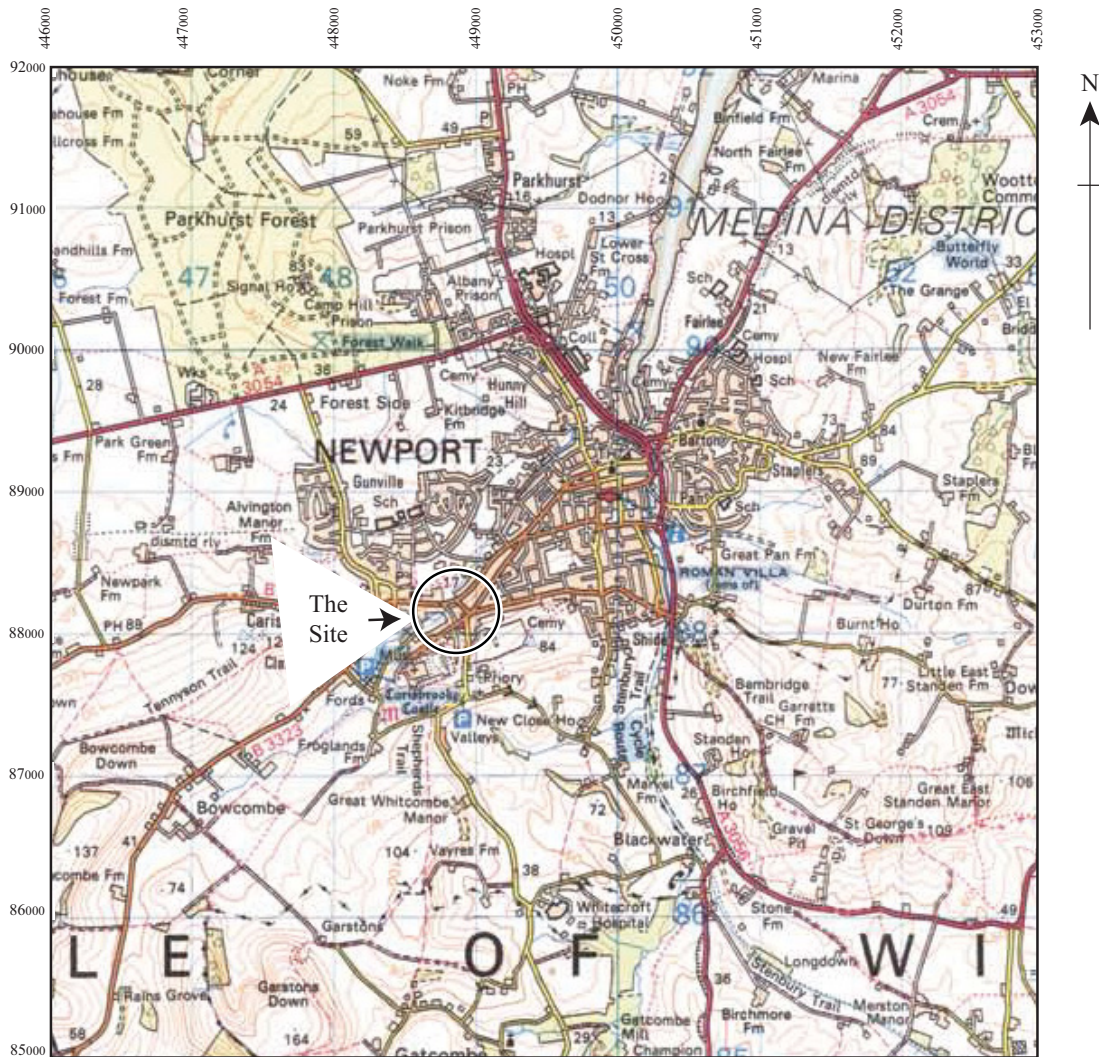
English Heritage (1998). *Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork* 3.

Geology of Hampshire and Isle of Wight. [online] available at <http://www.soton.ac.uk/~imw/jpg/hantmap.jpg>

Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994). *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Briefs*.

Kökeritz, H, 1940 *The Place-Names of the Isle of Wight*, Uppsala. 2-4

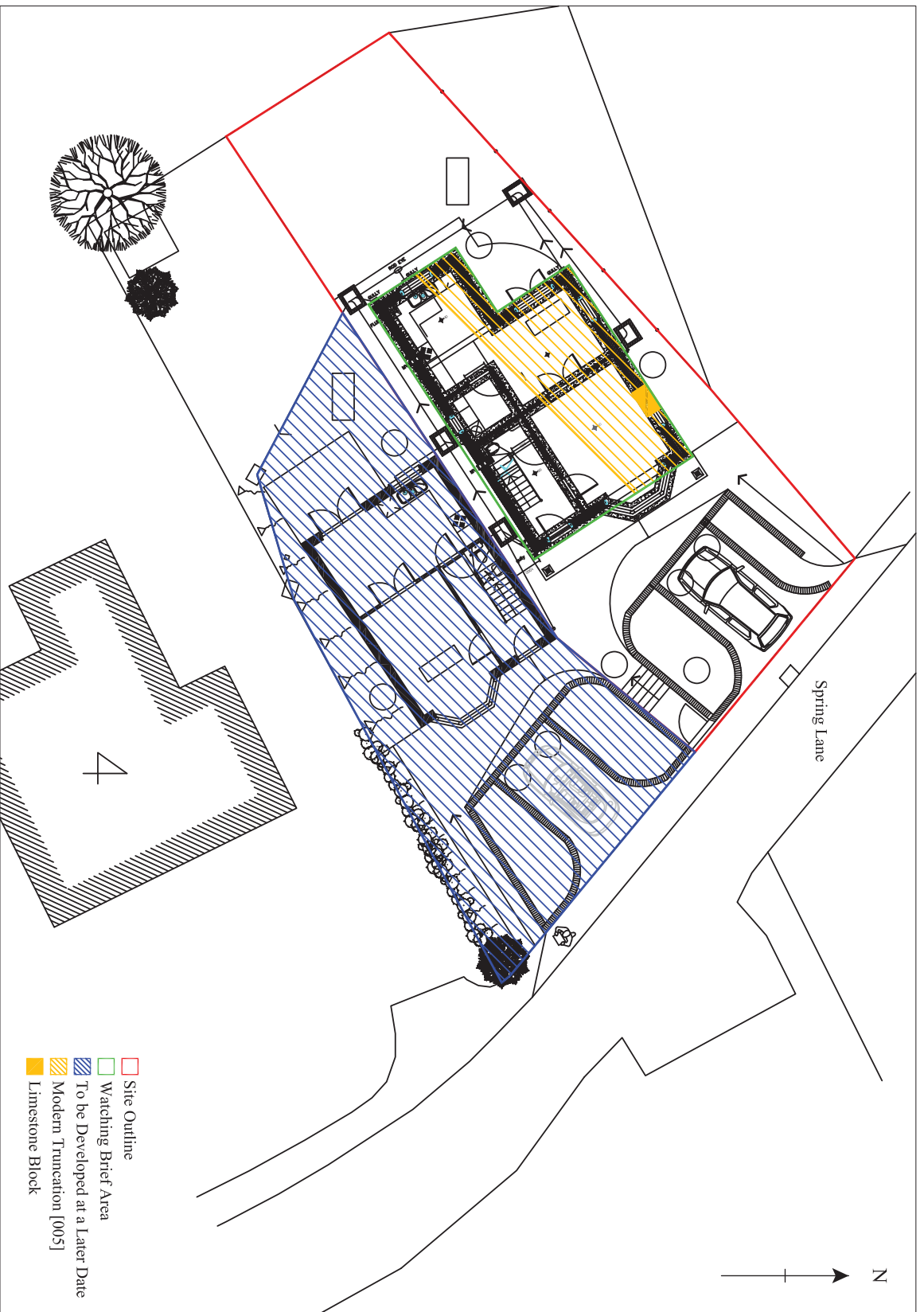
Tomalin, D, and Scaife, R, 1987, The excavation of the first piped-water system at Newport, I.W. and its associated urban palynology, *PIWNHAS* VIII, Part II, 68-81



Based on the Ordnance Survey's 1:50 000 Landranger map of 1993 with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright. Licence No. AL 1000 16114



**Figure 1:** Site Location



APPENDIX A Context Register

<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Context Description</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Width</b>	<b>Depth</b>
1/001	Mid brown silt clay. Madeground.	11.00m	4.00m	0.80m
1/002	Mid dark grey clay with frequent oyster shell.	11.00m	4.00m	0.10m
1/003	Mid dark grey clay. Alluvial deposit.	11.00m	4.00m	0.30m
1/004	White and brown degraded chalk.	11.00m	6.50m	-
1/005	Modern truncation backfilled with a mixed silty and sandy clay.	11.00m	4.00m	1.20-140m

## APPENDIX B OASIS Form

### OASIS ID: AOCARCHA1-39552

#### Project details

Project name	Spring Lane, Carisbrooke, Newport, Isle of Wight
Short description of the project	On the 29th February 2008 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken to observe the excavation of strip foundations, on behalf of Mr and Mrs Thompson. The excavations revealed both natural alluvial deposits and modern disturbance. No archaeological features were observed on site however a large limestone block was recovered during the excavations. No other features or dating evidence was recovered relating to the block.
Project dates	Start: 29-03-2008 End: 29-03-2008
Previous/future work	No / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	6244 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	6244 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Significant Finds	LIMESTONE BLOCK Uncertain
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

#### Project location

Country	England
Site location	ISLE OF WIGHT ISLE OF WIGHT NEWPORT 2 Spring Lane, Carisbrooke, Newport
Postcode	PO30 1NP
Study area	61.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	SZ 4881 8811 50.69 -1.308888888890 50 41 24 N 001 18 32 W Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	AOC Archaeology Group
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	AOC Archaeology Group
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard
Project supervisor	Catherine Edwards
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mr and Mrs Thompson

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Isle of Wight Museum
Digital Archive recipient	Isle of Wight Museum



Digital Contents	'Survey'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Spreadsheets','Survey','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Isle of Wight Museum
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic','Survey'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Drawing','Map','Matrices','Microfilm','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Unpublished Text'

### **Project bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	2 SPRING LANE, CARISBROOKE, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT. AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Edwards, C
Date	2008
Issuer or publisher	AOC Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	Bound A4 report with illustrations

Entered by	Catherine Edwards (catherine.edwards@aocarchaeology.com)
Entered on	20 March 2008