



Middlebridge Street Romsey, Hampshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Mildren Construction Limited ('the client'), to undertake an archaeological watching brief during drainage works centred on NGR 435171 120907, at Middlebridge Street, Romsey, Hampshire, S51 8HJ.

The works are part of the Environment Agency's Romsey Flood Alleviation Scheme, developed in response to the flooding of the town over the winter 2013/14. They include improvements to the highway drainage network at Middlebridge Street and the creation of additional points of discharge to the River Test via Holbrook Stream in an effort to manage surface water. Wessex Archaeology were monitored the excavation of six trial pits for drainage works undertaken at intervals across the carriageway and the existing verges adjacent to Middlebridge Road.

The watching brief demonstrated that no archaeological features were present within the monitored trial pits. The works have confirmed that modern made ground deposits overlay alluvial deposits observed within Trial pits 1 and 2. Finds recovered from the made ground ranged from post-medieval to modern dates.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Mildren Construction Limited, for commissioning the archaeological watching brief. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of Heritage Advisor and County Archaeologist, who monitored the project for Test Valley Borough Council, and to Mildren Construction Limited for their cooperation and help on site.



Middlebridge Street Romsey

Archaeological Watching Brief

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Mildren Construction Limited ('the client'), to undertake an archaeological watching brief during drainage works centred on NGR 435171 120907, at Middlebridge Street, Romsey, Hampshire, S51 8HJ (**Fig. 1**).
- 1.1.2 The works are part of the Environment Agency's Romsey Flood Alleviation Scheme, developed in response to the flooding of the town over the winter 2013/14. They included improvements to the highway drainage network at Middlebridge Street and the creation of additional points of discharge to the River Test via Holbrook Stream in an effort to manage surface water.
- 1.1.3 The watching brief monitored the excavation of six trial pits for drainage works undertaken at intervals across the carriageway and the existing verges adjacent to Middlebridge Road. Wessex Archaeology was not notified of any further works, therefore no other monitoring was carried out.
- 1.1.4 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed (Wessex Archaeology 2020). The County Archaeologist approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing. The watching brief was undertaken 29-30 September 2020.

1.2 Scope of the report

- 1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the results of the watching brief, to interpret the results within their local or regional context (or otherwise), and to assess their potential to address the aims outlined in the WSI, thereby making available information about the archaeological resource (a preservation by record).

1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 The watching brief took place along Middlebridge Street, Romsey, within an Archaeologically Important Area and Romsey Conservation Area. The works were focussed at intervals along the street with some excavation planned north-west of the southern end of the carriageway, north of the A27 (Bypass Road) (**Fig.1**).
- 1.3.2 Middlebridge Street is located on the south-western edge of Romsey, approximately 95 m to the east of the River Test, linking the A27 (Bypass Road) with Broadwater Road. Broadlands Park lies to the south. Residential properties are located to the north and south of Middlebridge Street, with a small area of hardstanding and verge comprising small trees/shrubs at its southern end.
- 1.3.3 Middlebridge Street is located within an undulating landscape with ground levels mapped between 14 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the south at the junction with the A27,

dropping to 12 m aOD in the area of Riverside Gardens. Ground levels then rise to 15 m aOD at the northern end of the street towards the junction with Broadwater Road.

- 1.3.4 The underlying geology is mapped as sand silt and clay of the Bracklesham Group and Barton Group with no superficial deposits recorded within the area of the proposed works, though alluvial deposits have been recorded to the east of the works. (British Geological Survey online viewer).
- 1.3.5 The underlying geology is mapped as sand silt and clay of the Bracklesham Group and Barton Group with no superficial deposits recorded within the area of the proposed works, though alluvial deposits have been recorded to the east of the works. (British Geological Survey online viewer).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background of the wider area has previously been assessed during various archaeological works (Wessex Archaeology 2005 and 2010), the results of which were consulted alongside the Hampshire Historic Environment Record (HER) and other publicly accessible online resources, including the Extensive Urban Survey (HCC 2004). A summary of the results deemed most relevant are presented below, with relevant entry numbers from the HER and National Heritage List for England (NHLE). Additional sources are referenced as appropriate.
- 2.1.2 The area of Middlebridge Street is recognised as an Archaeologically Important Area, located within Romsey Conservation Area.

2.2 Archaeological and historical context

Palaeolithic – Mesolithic (970,000 – 4000 BC)

- 2.2.1 Palaeolithic activity is well attested for within the vicinity of the site. Upper Palaeolithic material comprising scatters of worked flint were found during excavations at La Sagesse approximately 280 m to the north of the site. These were found to relate to onsite knapping activity and did not appear to have undergone post-depositional disturbance. As such, due to the rarity of such sites, the Palaeolithic site is of national significance (Conneller and Ellis 2007).
- 2.2.2 Worked Mesolithic flint was also found during the La Sagesse excavations and a Palaeolithic handaxe is recorded to the south of Middlebridge Street.

Neolithic – Bronze Age (4000 – 700 BC)

- 2.2.3 No known evidence purporting to this period has been identified within the immediate vicinity of Middlebridge Street.

Iron Age – Romano-British (700 BC – AD 410)

- 2.2.4 Extensive finds of domestic rubbish dating from the Iron Age period through to the Saxon period within former stream courses, likely early tributaries to the River Test, indicate the presence of a pre-medieval settlement at Romsey (HCC 2004). Settlement during this period appears to have been focussed around the Shitlake and Holbrook watercourses (**Fig.1**).
- 2.2.5 An archaeological field evaluation at La Sagesse, north of the site, identified a previously unknown paleochannel, which contained deposits derived from nearby Iron Age to Romano-

British activity (Green 1994). The material recorded was generally domestic in nature, though some evidence for Iron Age iron smelting was identified, three stake holes were also identified (Green 1994 and HCC 2004). It was thought that the paleochannel continued south into the area of Abbey House, where subsequent archaeological investigations identified a large feature. However, it is purported that this relates to modern construction works as opposed to a continuation of the paleochannel (Wessex Archaeology 2011).

2.2.6 Elsewhere, deposits in the area of Narrow Lane (north of the site) are believed to date to the late Iron Age, with residual pottery also found at the junction between Middlebridge Street and Broadwater Road (HER 27294).

2.2.7 Evidence for Romano-British activity within the area was found during excavations undertaken at Narrow Lane, which indicated the presence of 1st and 2nd century timber buildings. Some possible pre-Roman finds were also recovered, signifying the presence of a substantial settlement with the possibility of monumental buildings within its vicinity (Wessex Archaeology 2010). West of the settlement, a Romano-British pit was observed during the 2002 excavations at La Sagesse, though it remains unclear whether this represents a continuation of the Romano-British site (Wessex Archaeology 2002).

Anglo-Saxon (AD 410 – 1066)

2.2.8 Activity dating to the Anglo-Saxon period is known within the area. Romsey Abbey, to the north of Middlebridge Street (**Fig.1**), is believed to have been founded within this period and evidence for Saxon smithing activities was uncovered during the excavations at Narrow Lane (HCC 2004; Wessex Archaeology 2010).

2.2.9 Saxon slag and late Saxon / early medieval pottery have also been found within the immediate vicinity of Middlebridge Road (HER 27348, 27349).

Medieval (1066 – 1500)

2.2.10 During the medieval period Romsey, recorded as having a population of 118, was held by the abbey and was seen to contain several small holdings, 4 mills, a church. The town was granted a Sunday market and four-day fair by King Henry I in the early 12th century. A second four-day fair was granted in 1272 and indicates the prosperity of the town during this period (HCC 2004).

2.2.11 Middle Bridge, at the south-western end of Middlebridge Street, was first recorded in 1380 as bridge of Middlebridge (HCC 2004).

2.2.12 Extensive amounts of archaeological material have been recorded within the immediate vicinity of the site and the wider environs, including pottery dating to the period recovered during the construction of a sewer along Middlebridge Street (HER 24867, 27270, 27350, 55757).

2.2.13 To the north of the site, in the area of Riverside Gardens, a possible medieval pit was identified during archaeological works (HER 60385) and pottery was identified during a watching brief south of Middlebridge Street.

Post-Medieval and Modern (1500 – present)

2.2.14 The economic strength of the town was likely due to it being a centre for the cloth making industry with trades also relating to cloth-finishing located here. The abbey was dissolved in 1539 and Romsey declared a corporation in perpetuity in 1544 when the abbey church was granted to the town inhabitants (HCC 2004). Subsequent and use within the former

abbey precinct is unclear though the presence of a mill used for corn grinding up until the latter half of the 18th century is known (Wessex Archaeology 2005, 2010; HER 24848).

- 2.2.15 By the early 1600s the condition of the bridge at the south-western end of Middlebridge Street was deteriorating and repairs were made. However, the bridge fell into disrepair again in the late 18th century. In 1784 a new bridge was completed and subsequently widened during the 1900s (HCC 2004).
- 2.2.16 Within the immediate vicinity of the site post-medieval evidence comprises sporadic findspots of pottery and building materials (HER 27270, 55769). Pottery was also found within lower gravels beneath a peat deposit found during gas main works along Middlebridge Street, east of the junction with Riverside Gardens (HER 27303). The peat itself contained leather and a bone handled spoon and various animal bones.
- 2.2.17 A cast iron water wheel previously used to pump liquids and run the tumbler drum in the tannery is also known to have existed in the area (HER 24851). The wheel is believed to have gone out of use in 1926 and was subsequently removed. The tannery (HER 54873) is depicted on the 1867 and 1870 OS maps of the area, immediately south of Middlebridge Street, opposite the junction with Riverside Gardens. Though the duration of use of the tannery is unknown, it remains depicted on OS mapping until the 1938-1942 edition.
- 2.2.18 To the east of the tannery a timber yard is also depicted (HER 54874). This appears to have undergone alterations by 1895 when a long narrow building and L-shaped building are shown as having been removed. Instead, a moderately large building, aligned parallel with Chavvy Water, on the eastern boundary of the yard is depicted.
- 2.2.19 Throughout the historical mapping, the northern and southern sides of Middlebridge Street have been lined with both residential and industrial properties, some of survive as listed buildings, such as The Three Tuns Public House (NHLE 1232370) which dates to the late 18th century and Bath House (NHLE 1268501) dating to the mid-19th century. Almshouses to the north and south are depicted until the 1938 OS map, where those to the south appear to have been demolished in order for the construction of the Romsey Bypass. By the late 1940s the buildings lining the street appear to become more residential in nature, with widespread residential development occurring to the north by 1973.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

- 3.1.1 The aims of the watching brief, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020) and as defined in the ClfA *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014a), were to:
- allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of the development or other works;
 - provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard; and
 - guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.



3.2 Objectives

3.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the objectives of the watching brief, also defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020), were to:

- determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified works area;
- record and establish, within the constraints of the works, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains (a preservation by record);
- place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
- make available information about the archaeological resource on the site by preparing a report on the results of the watching brief.

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methodology set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in ClfA guidance (ClfA 2014a). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

4.2.1 The watching brief monitored the excavation of six test pits along Middlebridge street. The watching archaeologist monitored all excavations within the specified area. Where necessary, the surfaces of uncovered archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand to aid visual definition. A sample of archaeological features and deposits was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the watching brief.

4.2.2 Spoil was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. Artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained.

Recording

4.2.3 All exposed archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete record of excavated features and deposits was made, including plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections) and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid.

4.2.4 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

4.3 Finds and environmental strategies

4.3.1 Strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of finds and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Guidance for the*

collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (ClfA 2014b), *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011) and ClfA's *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting* (Type 1: Description).

4.4 Monitoring

- 4.4.1 The Heritage Advisor monitored the watching brief on behalf of the LPA.

5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 None of the six trial pits excavated contained evidence of archaeological activity (**Fig. 1**). All test pits were topped with tarmac and associated made ground deposits, Trial Pits 1 and 2 revealed alluvial deposits. Services were observed in Trial pits 3, 5 and 6. The test pits are summarised below with detailed descriptions of individual contexts being recorded in the trench table (**Appendix 1**).

5.2 Results

Trial Pit 1

- 5.2.1 Trial Pit 1 (**Plate 1**) was topped with the tarmac footpath (101) 0.10 m thick, this overlain a made ground (102) of mid yellowish brown sandy clay with common to abundant flint gravels, lenses of more sandy material and Type 1 hogging, 0.25 m thick. Beneath this lay a further made ground (103) of light brownish grey to mid brownish grey sandy clay with common to abundant gravels and sand with brick, CBM, animal bone, pottery and clay tobacco pipe (not retained), 0.45 m thick.
- 5.2.2 The earliest deposit observed was an alluvial gravel layer (104) consisting of dark bluish grey, sandy clay, with common small sub-rounded and sub-angular flints, with an observed thickness of 0.10 m. Darker silty clay loam elements throughout likely derive from the former stream base with silt and some waterlogged organic materials. No archaeological finds were recovered.

Trial Pit 2

- 5.2.3 Trial Pit 2 (**Plate 2**) was topped with the tarmac road surface (201) 0.15 m thick, this overlain a made ground (202) of dark grey sand with abundant to common sub-angular stone inclusions (hardcore) made up for the road surface and bands of yellow sand 0.50 m thick. This sealed an alluvial gravel layer (203) of mid grey, with lenses of light brownish grey, sand clay with abundant sub-angular and sub-rounded flint gravels and pea grits, with an observed thickness of 0.20 m. A wooden stake was observed at 0.65-0.70 m below ground level (bgl) and driven into the alluvial gravels, the date of which is unknown but found below the modern road make up. It may possibly be an earlier fence post that defined the edge of road or the property boundary to the east of the Middlebridge Street. Post was approximately 0.07 m square.

Trial Pit 3

- 5.2.4 Trial Pit 3 (**Plate 3**) was topped with the tarmac road surface (301) 0.10 m thick, this overlain a made ground (302) of mid grey sand, with abundant to near complete sub-angular stone inclusions, with an observed thickness of 0.60 m. Finds including pottery, clay tobacco pipe and animal bone was recovered (section 6.1.1).

Trial Pit 4

- 5.2.5 Trial Pit 4 (**Plate 4**) was topped with tarmac footpath (401) 0.10 m thick, this overlay a made ground (402) of dark brown grey (black), sand with common and abundant sub-angular stone, 0.22 m thick. Beneath this lay a further made ground (403) of dark yellowish brown sandy loam, with common to abundant flints and sub-rounded stone. Finds including pottery (stoneware) clay tobacco pipe and animal bone was recovered. This sealed a layer of mid bluish grey silty clay loam (404), with an observed thickness of 0.10 m. Only a small portion was encountered at the base of the trial pit, it may be the top of the river silts or more backfill. Found up against river wall in the corner of the trial pit.

Trial Pit 5

- 5.2.6 Trial Pit 5 (**Plate 5**) was topped with the tarmac road (501) 0.10 m thick, this overlay a made ground (502) of mid grey sand, near complete sub-angular stone hardcore, with an observed thickness of 0.65 m.

Trial Pit 6

- 5.2.7 Trial Pit 6 (**Plate 6**) was topped with the tarmac road (601) 0.10 m thick, this overlay a made ground (602) mid grey sandy clay with a mix of backfilled brick rubble and building waste. Appeared to be modern make up that has been backfilled below pavement and up against the wall of the river. No finds retained, but there were frags of pottery, bone and China (blue and white plate) of a modern date.

6 FINDS EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 A very small quantity of finds was recovered during the watching brief, all of post-medieval/modern date. They derived from two contexts in two of the trial pits excavated (trial pits 3 and 4).
- 6.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results are presented in Table 1.

Table 1 All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)

Context	Description	Animal Bone	Clay Pipe	Pottery	Other Finds
302	Made ground	7/312	2/5	2/101	1 glass; 1 iron
403	Made ground	5/122	2/5	4/213	1 worked bone
Total		12/434	4/10	6/314	

6.2 Pottery

- 6.2.1 The six sherds of pottery are in two ware types. Four sherds (one from 302 and three from made ground 403) are in Verwood-type earthenware, a distinctively pale-firing earthenware found across east Dorset and parts of the surrounding counties. This was a dispersed rural industry in which kilns were located in several east Dorset villages, including Verwood. The earliest known kiln date to the mid-17th century and the last kiln closed in 1952 (Draper with Copland-Griffiths 2002). Within this date range, although some forms are more chronologically restricted, there is little development of the basic repertoire (bowls, jugs and jars). These sherds include one from a narrow-mouthed jar, one from a large wide-mouthed jar (used for dry storage) and one from a flared bowl. Of these, the wide-mouthed jar (from made ground 403) is the most closely datable, being a later form produced from the 19th century onwards.



- 6.2.2 The other two sherds (one from 302 and one from 403) are in stonewares. A small handle from 302 is from a jug of 18th-/19th-century date, while the sherd from 403 is from the base of a cylindrical jar or bottle dating to the 19th or early 20th century.

6.3 Worked Bone

- 6.3.1 A small bone handle was found in made ground 403. Both ends were broken; it has a surviving length of 61mm and a thickness of 5mm. It is a little small for a cutlery handle and a more likely interpretation is as part of a small brush, perhaps a toothbrush.

6.4 Animal Bone

- 6.4.1 Several cattle bones were recovered from two post-medieval deposits. They include fragments of horn core, humerus and rib from 309, and scapula and from 403. The bones are in good condition and a few show signs of butchery.

6.5 Other Finds

- 6.5.1 Other finds comprise four plain clay pipe stems (17th-century or later), a fragment from a free-blown green wine bottle (late 17th-/18th-century) and an iron nail (undated).

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

- 7.1.1 No deposits or horizons were deemed suitable for environmental sampling and consequently no samples were taken.

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Summary

- 8.1.1 The watching brief was successful in showing as much as practicable that no archaeological features are present within the monitored trial pits, despite the proximity to known archaeological activity. The results confirm that the drainage works have had little or no impact on any archaeological remains within the site, and that no significant remains were damaged by the drainage. The works have confirmed that modern made ground deposits overlay alluvial deposits observed within Trial Pits 1 and 2.

8.2 Discussion

- 8.2.1 Previous investigations carried out in the vicinity of the site recorded significant Palaeolithic and Mesolithic activity, as well as Iron Age to Post-Medieval activity. However, no archaeological features were exposed in this package of works. The wooden stake found within Trial pit 2 was not dated but pre-dates the modern road surface, it may denote a previous property or roadside boundary.
- 8.2.2 The layers of made ground directly overlaying alluvial deposits at 0.80 m below the ground level suggests the area has been heavily truncated by the post-medieval and modern iterations of the road, as indicated by the finds retrieved.
- 8.2.3 As Wessex Archaeology did not monitor all works it is possible that archaeological remains have been exposed and disturbed without the stipulated recording, however the depths of made ground deposits observed during monitoring works and seen elsewhere suggests that anything in the line of the road has been heavily truncated and therefore the likelihood of any undisturbed remains are low.



9 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 Museum

9.1.1 The archive resulting from the watching brief is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury. Hampshire County Museums Service has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project, under the accession code A2020.51. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner to transfer title of all finds to the museum.

9.2 Preparation of the archive

Physical archive

9.2.1 The physical archive, which includes paper records, graphics, and artefacts will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Hampshire County Museums Service, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011).

9.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the **accession code**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:

- 1 box of finds
- 1 file of paper records

Digital archive

9.2.3 The digital archive generated by the project, which comprises born-digital data (eg site records, survey data, databases and spreadsheets, photographs and reports), will be deposited with a Trusted Digital Repository, in this instance the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), to ensure its long-term curation. Digital data will be prepared following ADS guidelines (ADS 2013 and online guidance) and accompanied by metadata.

9.3 Selection strategy

9.3.1 It is widely accepted that not all the records and materials (artefacts and ecofacts) collected or created during the course of an archaeological project require preservation in perpetuity. These records and materials will be subject to selection in order to establish what will be retained for long-term curation, with the aim of ensuring that all elements selected to be retained are appropriate to establish the significance of the project and support future research, outreach, engagement, display and learning activities, ie the retained archive should fulfil the requirements of both future researchers and the receiving Museum.

9.3.2 The selection strategy, which details the project-specific selection process, is underpinned by national guidelines on selection and retention (Brown 2011, section 4) and generic selection policies (SMA 1993) and follows ClfA's 'Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives'. It should be agreed by all stakeholders (specialists, local authority, museum) and fully documented in the project archive.

9.3.3 In this instance, given the relatively low level of finds recovery, the selection process has been deferred until after the fieldwork stage was completed. Project-specific proposals for selection are presented below. These proposals are based on recommendations by Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists and will be updated in line with any further comment by other stakeholders (museum, local authority). The selection strategy will be fully documented in the project archive.



- 9.3.4 Any material not selected for retention may be used for teaching or reference collections by Wessex Archaeology.

Finds

- 9.3.5 This is a very small assemblage all of which is of relatively recent date (17th-century or later). It comprises commonly occurring and well documented types (eg pottery, clay pipe stems, bottle glass). In view of the small quantities involved, their nature and provenance (all from made ground and therefore redeposited), retention for long-term curation is not recommended for any of the assemblage.

Documentary records

- 9.3.6 Paper records comprise site registers (other pro-forma site records are digital), drawings and reports (Written Scheme of Investigation, client report). All will be retained and deposited with the project archive.

Digital data

- 9.3.7 The digital data comprise site records (tablet-recorded on site) in spreadsheet format; finds records in spreadsheet format; survey data; photographs; reports. All will be deposited, although site photographs will be subject to selection to eliminate poor quality and duplicated images, and any others not considered directly relevant to the archaeology of the site.

9.4 Security copy

- 9.4.1 In line with current best practice (eg, Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

9.5 OASIS

- 9.5.1 An OASIS (online access to the index of archaeological investigations) record (<http://oasis.ac.uk>) has been initiated, with key fields completed (**Appendix 2**). A.pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by the Heritage Advisor and County Archaeologist on behalf of the LPA. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) ArchSearch catalogue.

10 COPYRIGHT

10.1 Archive and report copyright

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Wessex Archaeology 2020 *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief.*
Unpublished report ref. 239800.01



APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Trial Pit Table

Trench No 1		Length 1.10 m	Width 0.75 m	Depth 0.90 m
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
101		Surface	Tarmac. Footpath surface.	0–0.10 m
102		Made ground	Mid yellowish brown sandy clay. Common to abundant flint gravels ranging from pea grit to gravel, max 50-60mm. Lenses of more sandy material and Type 1 hogging, looks relatively recently built up for pavement or road surface.	0.10–0.35 m
103		Made ground	Light brownish grey to mid brownish grey sandy clay with common to abundant gravels and sand. Brick, CBM, animal bone, pottery and clay tobacco pipe recovered.	0.35–0.80 m
104		Alluvium	Alluvial Gravels. Dark bluish grey, sandy clay, fairly soft and gritty, common small sub-rounded and sub-angular flints, mostly small up to 40 mm. Darker silty clay loam element almost looks like peat. More likely the former stream base with silt and some waterlogged organic materials.	0.8–0.9 m
Trench No 2		Length 1.10 m	Width 1.03 m	Depth 0.85 m
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
201		Surface	Tarmac. Road surface.	0–0.15 m
202		Made ground	Dark grey, sand. Abundant to common sub-angular stone inclusions (hardcore) made up for the road surface, bands of yellow sand.	0.15–0.65 m
203		Alluvium	Alluvial Gravels. Mid grey, with lenses of light brownish grey, sand clay with abundant sub-angular and sub-rounded flint gravels and pea grits. Wooden stake found at 0.65-0.7 m BGL and driven into the alluvial gravels, no idea as to date of wood but found below the modern road make up. Possibly an earlier fence post that defined edge of road or the property boundary to the east of the Middlebridge Street. Post is approximately 0.07 m square.	0.65–0.85 m
Trench No 3		Length 1 m	Width 1 m	Depth 0.70 m
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL



301		Surface	Tarmac. Road Surface	0–0.1 m
302		Made ground	Mid grey Sand, with abundant to near complete sub-angular stone inclusions ranging up to 0.60 mm in length. Modern make up for the road surface and lying over an electric cable running along the street.	0.1–0.7 m

Trench No 4		Length 1.10 m	Width 1 m	Depth 0.95 m
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
401		Surface	Tarmac. Footpath surface.	0–0.10 m
402		Made ground	Dark brown grey (black), sand. Common and abundant stone, sub-angular with max length of 50 mm. Made up materials for the footpath base.	0.1–0.32 m
403		Made ground	Dark yellowish brown, sandy loam. Common to abundant flints and stone sub-rounded up to 70 mm. Brick tile and some finds including pottery (stoneware) clay tobacco pipe, animal bone. Material retained for now.	0.32 –0.85 m
404		Layer	Mid bluish grey silty clay loam, only a small portion encountered at the base of the trial pit, could be top of river silts or more backfill, found up against river wall in the corner of the pit. Hard to interpret further, possibly alluvial?	0.85–0.95 m

Trench No 5		Length 1.05 m	Width 1 m	Depth 0.75 m
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
501		Surface	Tarmac. Road Surface.	0–0.10 m
502		Made ground	Mid grey sand, near complete sub-angular stone between 20-50 mm in length. Modern make up layers for the base of the road, hardcore or crushed stone type materials	0.10–0.75 m

Trench No 6		Length 1.17 m	Width 0.70 m	Depth 0.80 m
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
601		Surface	Tarmac. Modern pavement surface	0–0.1 m
602		Made ground	Mid grey sandy clay. Mix of backfilled brick rubble and building waste along with sand and gravels. Looks like fairly modern make up that has been backfilled below pavement and up against the wall of the river / stream. No finds retained but there were frags of pottery, bone and China (blue and white pate). Modern.	0.1–0.8 m+



Appendix 2 OASIS record

Summary for wessexar1-502632

Summary for wessexar1-502632

OASIS ID (UID)	wessexar1-502632
Project Name	Watching Brief at Middlebridge Street, Romsey, Hampshire
Activity type	Watching Brief
Project Identifier(s)	239800, A2020.51
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Heritage management
Organisation Responsible for work	Wessex Archaeology
Project Dates	29-Sep-2020 - 30-Sep-2020
Location	Middlebridge Street, Romsey, Hampshire NGR : SU 35171 20907 LL : 50.9864972582957, - 1.50030402640065 12 Fig : 435171,120907
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Hampshire District : Test Valley Parish : Romsey
Project Methodology	The watching brief monitored the excavation of six trial pits for drainage works undertaken at intervals across the carriageway and the existing verges adjacent to Middlebridge Road.
Project Results	The watching brief was successful in showing that no archaeological features are present within the monitored trial pits. The results confirm that the drainage works will have little to no impact on any archaeological remains within the site, and that no remains will be damaged by the drainage. The works have confirmed that modern made ground deposits overlay alluvial deposits observed within Trial pits 1 and 2.
Keywords	Butchered Animal Remains - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Body Sherd - FISH Archaeological



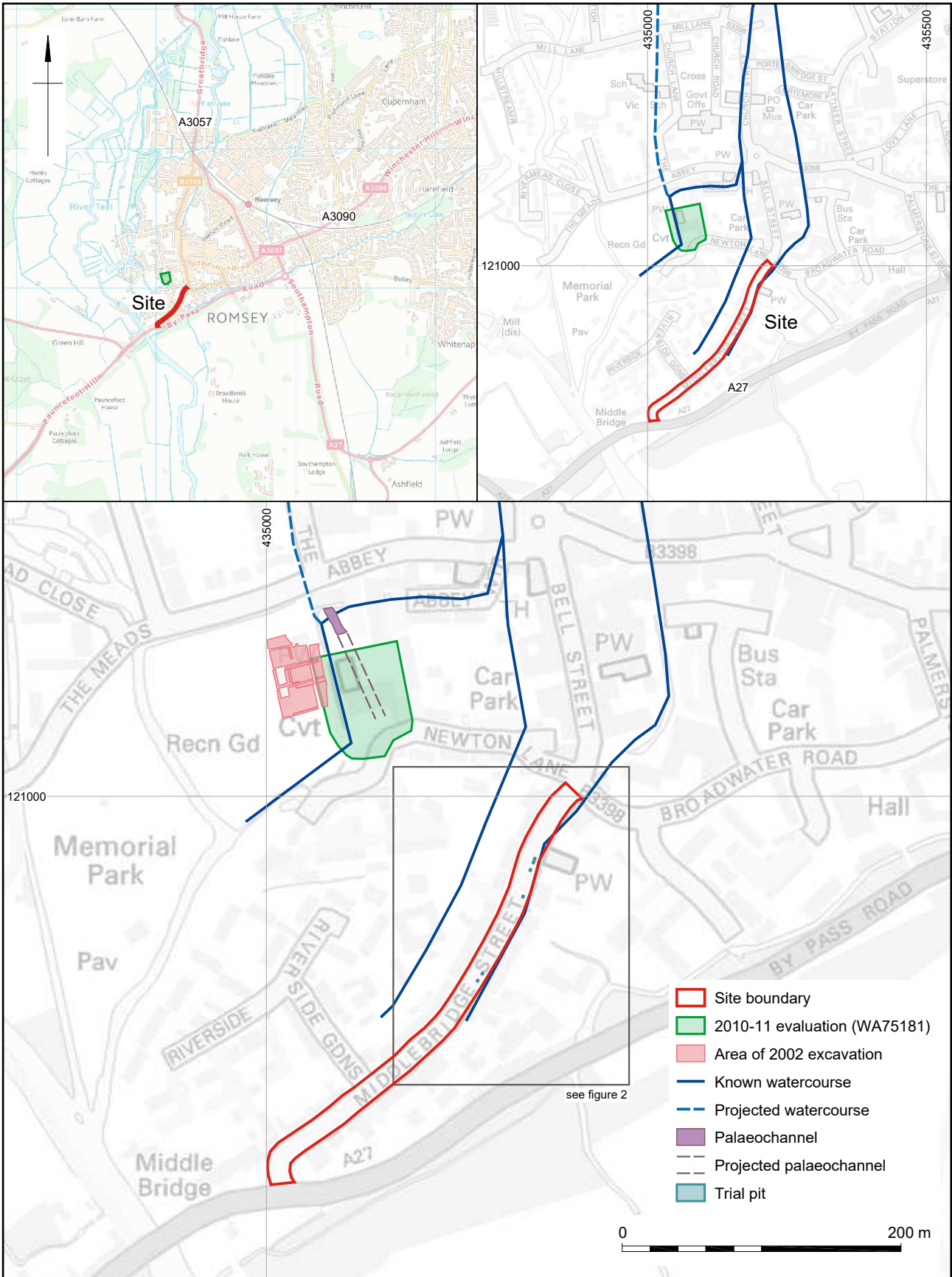
	Objects Thesaurus Body Sherd - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Clay Pipe (Smoking) - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus
HER	Hampshire Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record (AHBR) - unRev - STANDARD
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Hampshire County Council Arts & Museums Service



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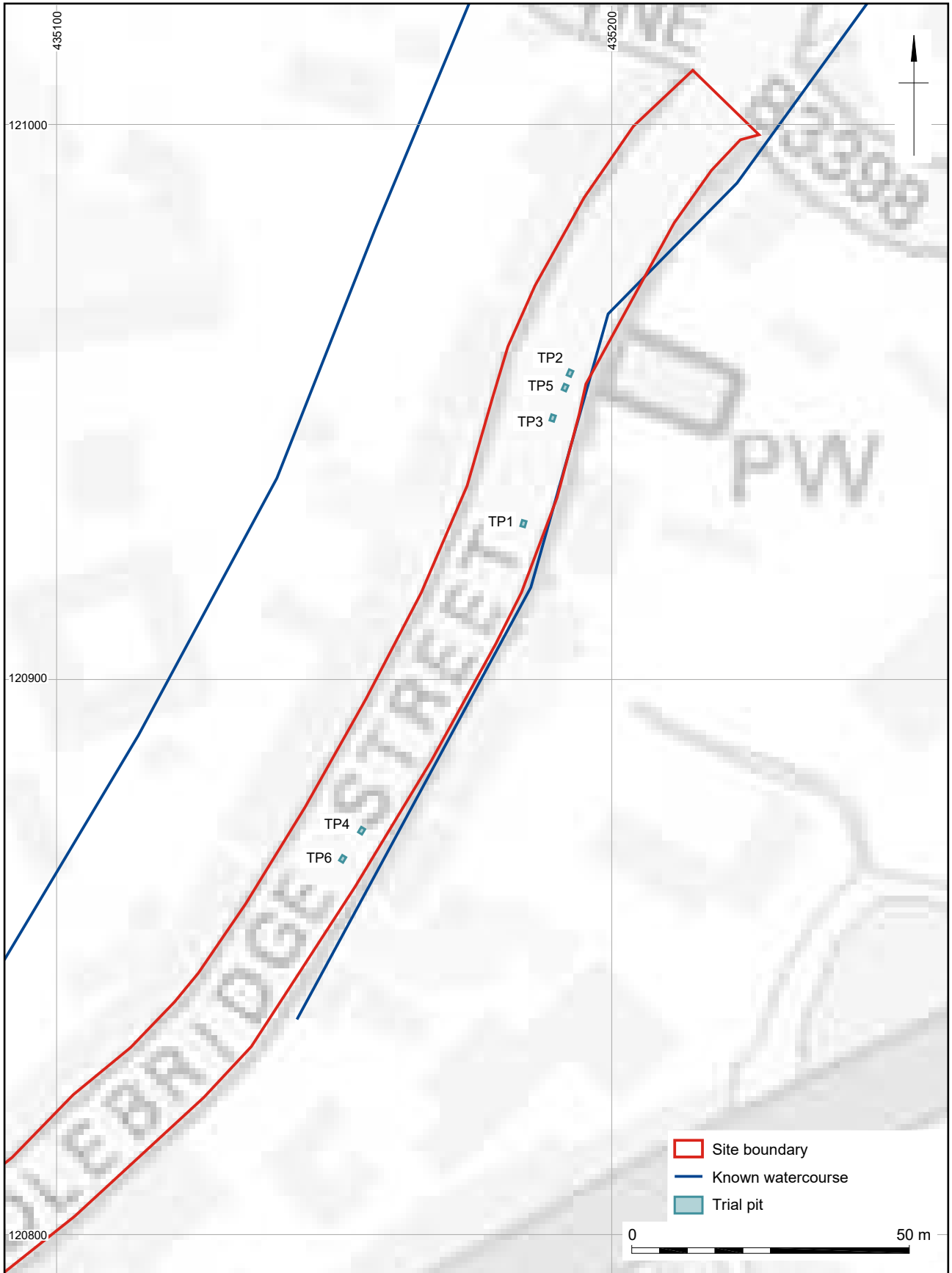
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Site location

Figure 1



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Site location and Trial Pit plan

Figure 2



Plate 1: Northeast facing section of Trial Pit 1, with 1 m scale



Plate 2: Northeast facing section of Trial Pit 2, with 0.50 m scale


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Plate 3: Northeast facing section of Trial Pit 3, with 0.50 m scale



Plate 4: Northwest facing section of Trial Pit 4, with 1 m scale



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Plate 5: Southeast facing section of Trial Pit 5, with 0.50 m scale



Plate 6: Northeast facing section of Trial Pit 6, with 1 m scale

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