



# Keeper's Cottage, Paultons Park Ower, Hampshire

Archaeological Watching Brief



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## **Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by RPS Consulting Services Ltd, on behalf of Paulton's Park Ltd, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the removal of foundations associated with the former Keeper's Cottage building and the construction of new office blocks within Paulton's Family Theme Park (Paulton's Park), Ower, Hampshire, centred on NGR 431595 116648. The watching brief was carried out as a condition of planning permission, granted by New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA) (Ref. 19/00521, Decision Notice issued 10th September 2019).

Despite the potential for the presence of remains associated with the medieval deer park and the late 18th century landscaping of the park, no archaeological finds, features or deposits were uncovered in the area monitored.

## **Acknowledgements**

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank RPS Consulting Services Ltd on behalf of Paulton's Park PLC, for commissioning the archaeological watching brief, in particular Mick Rawlings. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of the New Forest National Park Archaeologist, who monitored the project for New Forest National Park Authority, and to Portsmouth Demolition for their cooperation and help on site.





# Keeper's Cottage Paulton's Park

## Archaeological Watching Brief

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project and planning background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by RPS Consulting Services Ltd, on behalf of Paulton's Park Ltd, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the proposed groundworks associated with the construction of a three-storey office building together with seventeen additional car parking spaces and a cycle storage area, including the removal of the footings of Keeper's Cottage (demolished in January 2020). The monitored works, centred on NGR 431600 116647 (SU 31600 16647) were undertaken at Paulton's Park, Ower, Hampshire, SO51 6AL (Fig. 1).

1.1.2 The watching brief was carried out as a condition of planning permission, granted by the New Forest National Park Authority (Ref. 19/00521). The following conditions relate to archaeology:

*Condition 4:*

*No demolition or development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which been submitted by the applicant and first approved in writing by the New Forest National Park Authority.*

*The demolition or development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation.*

*Reason: The development is located in an area of archaeological significance where the recording of archaeological remains should be carried out prior to the development taking place in accordance with Policy DP2 of the New Forest National Park Local Plan 2016-2036 (August 2019).*

1.1.3 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed (RPS Consulting Ltd 2019). The archaeologist for the New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA) approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing. The watching brief was carried out in January 2020 (removal of footings) and March 2022 (groundworks associated with construction of the office building and car parking facility etc.).

#### 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 site was located within Paulton's Family Theme Park (Paulton's Park) and is just to the east of the main visitors' entrance at the Gateway building. The development area is located to the south, north and west of the meandering Cadnam River. Car parking facilities are positioned to the immediate west of the development, with access roads providing the southern, western and eastern site boundaries. Additional existing development is located immediately to the north.
- 1.3.2 The site is relatively flat and lies around 16 m OD. The underlying geology is mapped as sands, clays and silts of the Wittering Formation. No superficial deposits have been recorded (RPS Consulting Ltd 2019).

## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Introduction**

- 2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background was assessed in the WSI (RPS Consulting Ltd 2019), which considered the recorded historic environment resource within a 1 km study area of the development site. A summary of the results is presented below, with relevant entry numbers from the Hampshire Historical Environment Record (HER).

### **2.2 Archaeological and historical context**

- 2.2.1 Evidence pertaining to early activity within the study area is notably limited. Worked flint of varying typologies covering a range of potential dates from the Mesolithic to the Bronze Age were found during fieldwalking undertaken in connection with the establishment of a golf course located to the north-west of the development area (HER 35447, 35449, 35451, 35452, 35453, 63977). However, trial trenching, also undertaken in connection with the creation of the golf course, produced negative results despite cropmark data indicating the presence of several rectilinear enclosures in the area (HER 33000).
- 2.2.2 Early historic maps of the area, such as John Norden's Map of Hampshire (1595) and John Speed's Map of Hampshire (1611) indicate the potential presence of a medieval deer park in the vicinity of Paulton's Park. The latter depicts a palisaded enclosure to the east what is now known as Paulton's and west of what is now known as Moorcourt. Such a representation is typically used to depict deer parks on such mapping. No further information regarding the location and extent of the deer park is known.
- 2.2.3 Glastonbury Abbey held the estate from at least AD 1269. The estate was sold to John de Palton, who gave his name to the park/estate, as indicated on the Norden and Speed maps. The estate passed into the possession of the crown and was then given to John Paulet in 1547. Pottery sherds of late medieval or post-medieval date were recorded during the fieldwalking undertaken in association with the establishment of the golf course (HER 35448, 35449, 35451).
- 2.2.4 No evidence for a house located within the estate was present until Isaacs Taylor's Map of Hampshire 1759 which depicts a large house set within a landscaped park. Lancelot 'Capability' Brown is known to have remodelled the park in the late 18th century. During the early 19th century, the house was substantially extended.
- 2.2.5 By 1897 the Cadnam River and small subsidiary stream had been dammed and a serpentine lake created. The lake extended around three sides of the house, though none of these landscape features are recorded within the development area.





- 2.2.6 During the mid-20th century, the house was turned into a luxury hotel, subsequently becoming derelict and eventually burning down in 1963. Since 1979 the estate has gradually been developed to become the Paulton's Family Theme Park. The serpentine lake remains and the access road leading to the theme park crosses the lake on a Grade II listed bridge constructed c.1850.

### **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **3.1 Aims**

- 3.1.1 The aims of the watching brief as defined in the *CIfA Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 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 Site-specific Objectives**

- 3.2.1 As detailed within the WSI (RPS Consulting Ltd 2019), the principle focus of archaeological interest within the development site was any remains associated with the Paulton Estate, particularly features or deposits associated with the medieval deer park or the late 18th century landscaping of the park. There was also the potential for the presence of worked flint with the possibility of associated features and/or deposits, following the discovery of similar material during works associated with the establishment of the golf course to the north.

#### **3.3 Research Objectives**

- 3.3.1 As discussed within the WSI (RPS Consulting Ltd 2019) the area is covered by the *Solent-Thames Research Framework for the Historic Environment* (Hey and Hind 2014). The Research Agenda for the Post-medieval and modern period includes several topics regarding further study. Of particular interest to the project was that relating to designed landscapes which include:

- *Studies of significant gardens and parks, particularly those which are not on the Register of Parks and Gardens, should consider social issues, such as their roles as status symbols and in competition between members of the elite, as well as their design components.*

- 3.3.2 The WSI concluded that should remains associated with the landscaping of the park be identified within the development site, subsequent investigation had the potential to provide information relating to this research question.



## 4 METHODS

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methodology set out within the WSI (RPS Consulting Ltd 2019) 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 groundworks monitored during the course of the archaeological watching brief consisted of the removal of concrete foundations of the former Keeper's Cottage, recorded as Trench 1 and the excavation of new foundation trenches for the new office buildings, recorded as Trench 2.

4.2.2 The concrete foundations corresponding to the footprint of the now demolished Keeper's Cottage were removed with a 30-tonne mechanical excavator using a toothed bucket where necessary under direct archaeological supervision. The foundation trenches for the new office building were excavated using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothed bucket where required, and otherwise fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

4.2.3 Spoil resulting from the monitored groundworks was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. No artefacts were present during the works.

#### *Recording*

4.2.4 All exposed deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. Summaries of the individual contexts encountered are included in **Appendix 1**.

4.2.5 A Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service surveyed the location of the monitored works. All survey data is recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSTN15 and OSGM15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.

4.2.6 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 (RPS Consulting Ltd 2019). 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 NFNPA monitored the watching brief on behalf of the LPA. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with the client and NFNPA.



## 5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

### 5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The groundworks monitored comprised the mechanical removal of the concrete footings of the former Keeper's Cottage (Trench 1) and the excavation of new footings for the proposed new office building (Trench 2). No archaeological features or deposits were identified during the works.

### 5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

#### *Trench 1*

- 5.2.1 The stratigraphy encountered during the removal of the foundations for Keeper's Cottage was variable (Figs 2 – 4). In part the natural gravels (103), present from approximately 0.3 m below ground level were overlain by a mid to dark brown silty clay topsoil (101; Figs 2 and 4). This was particularly the case along the edge of the concrete foundations.
- 5.2.2 In other areas the natural gravels (103) were sealed by a mixed made ground deposit comprising natural gravels and demolition rubble (102; Fig. 3).
- 5.2.3 No archaeological features or deposits were encountered within Trench 1.

#### *Trench 2*

- 5.2.4 Trench 2, comprising of the excavation the new foundations for the new office building, revealed more consistent stratigraphy (Figs 1 and 5 – 7).
- 5.2.5 A compacted aggregate layer (201) comprising the modern car parking surface overlay the remains of a buried garden soil (202). The grey-brown clayey sandy silt was present approximately 0.23 m below ground level and on average measured 0.10 m in depth. This, in turn, overlay a dark yellow-brown clayey sand subsoil (203) which contained occasional flint gravel components. The natural geology (204), a light yellowish brown slightly clayey sand with common gravel inclusions, was identified underlying the subsoil at approximately 0.49 m below ground level (Figs 6 – 7).
- 5.2.6 No archaeological features or deposits were encountered within Trench 2.

## 6 FINDS EVIDENCE

- 6.1.1 No archaeological finds were recovered or observed during the archaeological monitoring.

## 7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

- 7.1.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified.

## 8 CONCLUSIONS

### **Summary and discussion.**

- 8.1.1 Despite the potential of the site to contain finds, features and/or deposits relating to prehistoric activity, medieval deer park and late 18th century landscaping, no archaeological remains were encountered during the monitoring of the groundworks. Instead deposits of made ground were evident, consistent with earlier construction having taken place within the site bounds (Keeper's Cottage).



8.1.2 Indeed, within the western extent of the development area, the site was truncated by the foundations of Keeper's Cottage, with the construction of the residence likely to have removed any archaeological remains should an archaeological footprint have been present.

8.1.3 However, it is notable that within the eastern extent of the development area, remnants of a buried garden soil and subsoil survived beneath the car parking surface, indicating the minimal impact of the construction of the car park. As such the lack of archaeological features and deposits within this area is more conclusive of a general lack of traceable early activity. The buried garden soil may pertain to 18th century gardens though no landscaping features were evident within the deposit.

## **ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION**

### **8.2 Museum**

8.2.1 The archive resulting from the watching brief is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury. Hampshire Cultural Trust has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project, under the accession code A2020.9. 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.

### **8.3 Preparation of the archive**

#### *Physical archive*

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

8.3.2 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 file/document case of paper records

#### *Digital archive*

8.3.3 The digital archive generated by the project, which comprises born-digital data (e.g. 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.

### **8.4 Selection strategy**

8.4.1 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, i.e. the retained archive should fulfil the requirements of both future researchers and the receiving Museum.

8.4.2 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; Wessex Archaeology's internal selection policy) and follows



ClfA's 'Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives'. It should be agreed by all stakeholders (Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists, external specialists, local authority, museum) and fully documented in the project archive.

## **8.5 Security copy**

- 8.5.1 In line with current best practice (e.g., 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.

## **8.6 OASIS**

- 8.6.1 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 archaeologist for the New Forest National Park Authority 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.

## **9 COPYRIGHT**

### **9.1 Archive and report copyright**

- 9.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*.
- 9.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.

### **9.2 Third party data copyright**

- 9.2.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g., Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material.



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- ClfA 2014b *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials* (revised edition October 2020). Reading, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
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- ClfA *Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives* <https://www.archaeologists.net/selection-toolkit> (accessed 18/03/2022)
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## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1 Trench Tables

Trench No 1		Length 10 m	Width 7 m	Depth 1.20 m
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL (m)
101		Topsoil	Mid to dark brown silty clay, numerous modern inclusions, patchy and only present along the edges of the trench	0-0.30
102		Made ground	Mixed deposit comprising of demolition rubble and natural gravels, present under concrete slab.	0-0.30
103		Natural	Mixed sands and gravels, yellow brown in colour	0.30+

Trench No 2		Length Unknown	Width 0.90 m	Depth 1 m
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL (m)
201		Carpark surface	modern carpark surface - compacted aggregate layer	0 - 0.23
202		Buried garden soil	Remnant surviving in section in NE of the trench. Grey-brown clayey sandy silt.	0.23 - 0.33
203		Subsoil	Dark yellow brown clayey sand with occasional flint gravel inclusions	0.33 - 0.49
204		Natural	Light yellow brown slightly clayey sand with common flint gravel inclusions.	0.49+



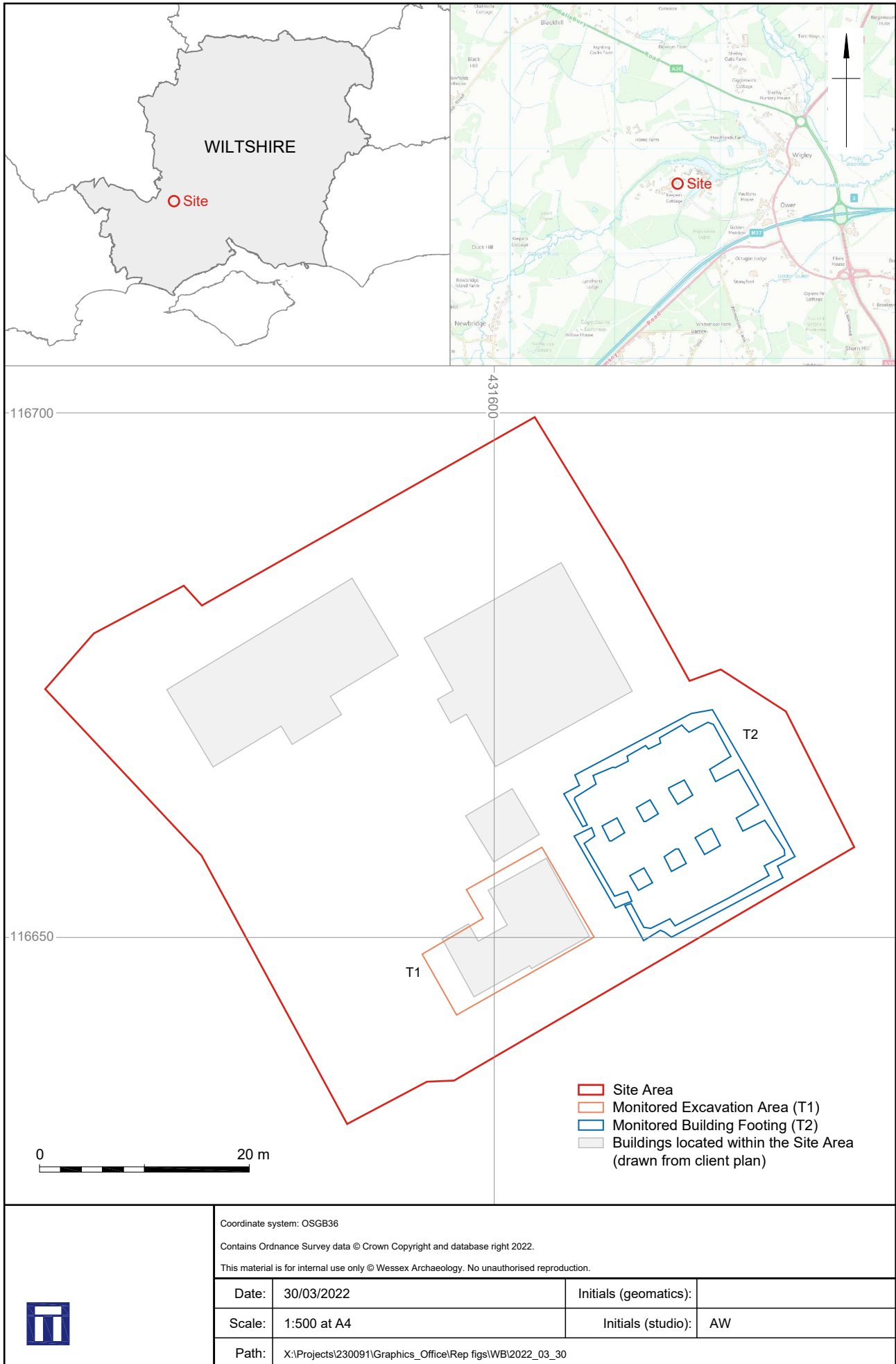
## Appendix 2. OASIS summary

OASIS ID (UID)	wessexar1-505493
Project Name	Watching Brief at Keeper's Cottage
Sitename	Keeper's Cottage, Paultons Park, Ower
Activity type	Watching Brief
Project Identifier(s)	230091
Planning Id	Ref. 19/00521
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Wessex Archaeology
Project Dates	31-Jan-2020 - 11-Mar-2022
Location	Keeper's Cottage, Paultons Park, Ower NGR : SU 31600 16647 LL : 50.948396, -1.55154 12 Fig : 431600,116647
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Hampshire District : New Forest Parish : Copythorne
Project Methodology	<p>A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken during the removal of footings associated with the now demolished Keeper's Cottage and the excavation of foundation trenches required for the new office building. The concrete foundations corresponding to the footprint of the now demolished Keeper's Cottage were removed with a 30-tonne mechanical excavator using a toothed bucket where necessary under direct archaeological supervision. The foundation trenches for the new office building were excavated using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothed bucket where required, and otherwise fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.</p> <p>Spoil resulting from the monitored groundworks was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. No artefacts were present during the works.</p>
Project Results	<p>Despite the potential for the presence of remains associated with the medieval deer park and the late 18th century landscaping of the park, no archaeological finds, features or deposits were uncovered in the area monitored.</p> <p>Indeed, within the western extent of the development area, the site was truncated by the foundations Keeper's Cottage, with the construction of the residence likely to have removed any archaeological remains should an archaeological footprint have been present.</p> <p>However, it is notable that within the eastern extent of the development area, remnants of a buried garden soil and subsoil survived beneath the car parking surface, indicating the minimal</p>



	impact of the construction of the car park. As such the lack of archaeological features and deposits within this area is more conclusive of a general lack of traceable early activity. The buried garden soil may pertain to 18th century gardens though no landscaping features were evident within the deposit.
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HER	New Forest National Park Authority - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Eva, Estela Jaume
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Hampshire County Council Arts & Museums Service ;



Site location with Trench 1 and Trench 2

Figure 1





Figure 2: East facing section of Trench 1 (1x1 m)

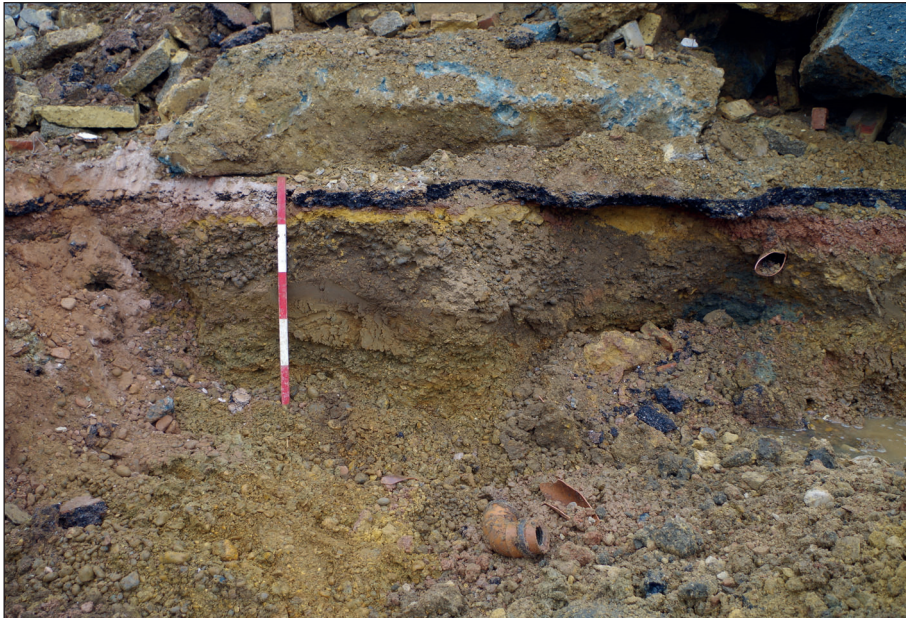


Figure 3: West facing section of Trench 1 (1x1 m)


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Figure 4: Excavation of the footings in Trench 1, view from East



Figure 5: North facing section of Trench 2 (1x1 m)


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Figure 6: North-East facing section of Trench 2 (1x1 m)



Figure 7: General view of Trench 2 from South (1x1 m)

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