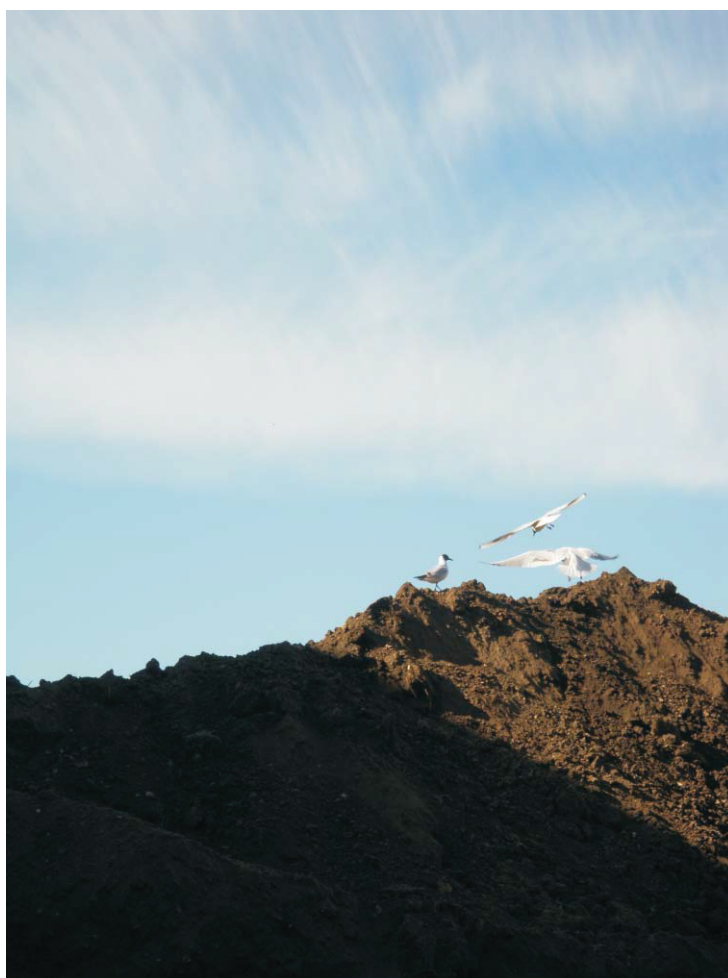


Plots D6 and D7, Ampress Lane, Lymington, Hampshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report





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**PLOTS D6 AND D7
AMPRESS LANE, LYMINGTON
HAMPSHIRE**

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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Planning Reference: 10/95414


July 2011

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QUALITY ASSURANCE

SITE CODE	76900	ACCESSION CODE		CLIENT CODE	
PLANNING APPLICATION REF.	10/95414	NGR		432049, 96884	

VERSION	STATUS*	PREPARED BY	APPROVED BY	APPROVER'S SIGNATURE	DATE	FILE
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* I= INTERNAL DRAFT E= EXTERNAL DRAFT F= FINAL

**PLOTS D6 AND D7
AMPRESS LANE, LYMINGTON
HAMPSHIRE**

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Contents**

Summary	iv
Acknowledgements	v
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Project Background	1
1.2 The Site, Location and Geology	1
1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background	2
1.4 Introduction	2
1.5 Prehistoric	2
1.6 Romano-British	2
1.7 Anglo-Saxon, Medieval and Later Activity	2
1.8 Aims and Objectives	3
2 METHODOLOGY	3
3 WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS.....	3
3.1 Introduction	3
3.2 Results	4
4 FINDS	4
5 CONCLUSIONS	5
6 ARCHIVE	5
7 REFERENCES	6
APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT SUMMARY TABLE	7
APPENDIX 2: OASIS SUMMARY FORM	8
OASIS ID: wessexar1-104678	8

Figure 1: Location of Site, monitored area and results

Figure 2:

Plate 1: Northwest-facing section through Ditch **112/113**

Plate 2: South-facing section through Ditch **106**

Front cover: Northern edge of Ditch (**112/113**)

**PLOTS D6 AND D7
AMPRESS LANE, LYMINGTON
HAMPSHIRE**

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by New Forest Ice Cream Ltd. (the Client) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks during the development of land on Plots D6 and D7, Ampress Lane, Lymington Hampshire, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 432049, 96884.

The initial groundworks and excavation of footings was undertaken under archaeological supervision in late May and early June 2011. A large proportion of the site appears to have been truncated and/or disturbed by modern activity. However, a small number of significant archaeological features were noted during the watching brief.

These remains included part of the southern defensive ditch of Ampress Camp (**112/113**) which was partly traced as running through the northern area of the site. Within the southern half of the site, two palaeochannels were noted in the base of footings. In addition, three shallow ditches (**104**, **106** and **108**) were also noted within the southern half of the site. Although poorly dated, these features are likely to be post-medieval and/or modern in date.

**PLOTS D6 AND D7
AMPRESS LANE, LYMINGTON
HAMPSHIRE**

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by New Forest Ice Cream Ltd and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Graham Jenman in this respect. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Lee Markee (Mildren Construction) and Hannah Fluck (Hampshire County Council) for all their help and assistance during the project.

The watching brief was carried out by Naomi Hall and Piotr Orczewski. The report was written and compiled by Naomi Hall and Andy Manning, with specialist finds report by Lorraine Mephram. The illustrations were prepared by S.E James and the project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Andy Manning.

**PLOTS D6 AND D7
AMPRESS LANE, LYMINGTON
HAMPSHIRE**

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by New Forest Ice Cream Ltd (the Client) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during development groundworks on land at Plots D6 and D7, Ampress Lane, Lymington Hampshire (hereafter 'the Site') centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 432049, 96884 (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 Planning permission 10/95414 with conditions was granted in August 2010 for the construction of 26 offices (1 building), 12 workshops (2 buildings), industrial unit (1 building) and associated external works (**Figure 1**).

1.1.3 Condition 5 of the planning permission states that:

"No development hereby permitted shall commence until the developer has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority (LPA).

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 DW-E28 of the adopted New Forest District Local Plan First Alteration.

1.1.4 The condition was attached to the planning permission following consultation with Hannah Fluck, Senior Archaeologist at Hampshire County Council (SAHCC), acting on behalf of the LPA, who advised that an archaeological watching brief should be undertaken during the course of the development.

1.1.5 The watching brief was carried out between 23rd May and 8th June.

1.2 The Site, Location and Geology

1.2.1 The Site is approximately 38m by 116m (4300m²) in size and lies within the Ampress Park Industrial Estate. The Site is rectangular in shape with the longer side orientated northwest – southeast. The northern and southern edges of the Site are bounded by Ampress Lane, the rest of the Site boundaries are formed by existing industrial units (**Figure 1**).

1.2.2 The topography of the Site is relatively flat and is located at a height of approximately 4m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The underlying natural geology has been identified as Bagshot Beds (sand and gravel) (BGS Sheet 330).

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

1.4 Introduction

- 1.4.1 The full archaeological and historical background can be found in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Wessex Archaeology 2011); a summary of this information is included here.
- 1.4.2 There have been no previous archaeological investigations carried out directly within the Site, but it does lie in area of known archaeological potential. Archaeological investigations undertaken by Thames Valley Archaeological Services in 2001 (TVAS 2001) identified to the east of the Site in Plot D8 the southern rampart ditch of Ampress Camp Iron Age Hill Fort and it was highly likely that this ditch continued into the northern area of Plot D6 (**Figure 1**).
- 1.4.3 Archaeological watching briefs undertaken within Ampress Park for residential development (AC Archaeology 2005) and to the south of the Site at Lymington Hospital (Wardell Armstrong 2005) did not identify any archaeological features or deposits.

1.5 Prehistoric

- 1.5.1 To the north of the town and to the west of the Site is the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Buckland Rings, an Iron Age hillfort with triple bank and ditch defences enclosing approximately 4 acres (Scheduled Monument 24327). The fort dates from the fourth century BC, and was in occupation until the first century AD when it appears that parts of the defences were deliberately dismantled. Evidence for earlier, Neolithic and Bronze Age occupation was found during the limited excavations that have been undertaken (Hawkes 1937).
- 1.5.2 Immediately to the north and east of the Site is the smaller, single rampart fortification of Ampress Camp which overlooks the River Lymington. The camp is almost certainly an Iron Age fortification, probably associated with Buckland Rings. Part of the camp, notably the western defences, were damaged by the construction of the Wellworthy engineering works. Part of the southern rampart ditch was revealed in archaeological investigations in 2001 (TVAS 2001) (**Figure 1**).

1.6 Romano-British

- 1.6.1 To the north of the town and west of the Site, gravel extraction in the late nineteenth century uncovered several burials, coarse pottery and items of jewellery (Hughes 1976, 83). It is possible that the burials are either of Roman or Saxon date. Roman coins have been also found at Buckland Rings and there are isolated findspots of coins and pottery from within the town.

1.7 Anglo-Saxon, Medieval and Later Activity

- 1.7.1 Saxon pottery has been found within the town and an excavation to the north-east of the church revealed a gully and a pit that indicating possible pre-borough activity.
- 1.7.2 Despite the several excavations that have been undertaken within the area of burgage plots along High Street, evidence for the medieval borough of

Lymington has been difficult to locate, with only relatively small quantities of medieval pottery being recovered.

- 1.7.3 Domesday Book makes reference to the manor of *Lentune*. The town received its borough charter from William de Redvers some time between 1184 and 1216, the borough probably came into existence due to the proximity of the salterns and the convenient harbour. Lymington was the greatest centre for salt making in the county in the medieval and early post-medieval periods.
- 1.7.4 The 1973 OS mapping (1:10,000) annotates the land as playing fields; previous to this the land appears to have been fields associated with Ampress Farm.

1.8 Aims and Objectives

- 1.8.1 The objective of the watching brief was to record, as far as reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, nature and character of any surviving archaeological remains observed during the watching brief.
- 1.8.2 Specifically the aim was to identify whether any archaeological features or deposits associated with Ampress Camp were present within the Site.
- 1.8.3 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the *Institute for Archaeologist's Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (IfA revised 2008).

2 METHODOLOGY

- 2.1.1 The full detailed methodology of the archaeological works was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (Wessex Archaeology 2011), this is summarized below:
- 2.1.2 All archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma record sheets with a unique numbering system for individual contexts. A full photographic record was compiled utilising digital images. Digital images were taken as part of Wessex Archaeology's digital photography project in cooperation with HCC.
- 2.1.3 Archaeological features and deposits were hand-drawn at either 1:10 or 1:20, planned at an appropriate scale and related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid coordinate system.
- 2.1.4 A unique site code **76900** was allocated to the Site, and was used on all records and finds.

3 WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 A summary of the excavated contexts are contained in Appendix 1. Full written and drawn records of individual excavated contexts and features are retained within the site archive.

- 3.1.2 This phase of work consisted of the more westerly portion of the Site, comprising of plots D6 and D7, a further phase of archaeological monitoring is scheduled to be carried out on the remaining plot D5, prior to its development, proposed for the end of 2011/early 2012.
- 3.1.3 The watching brief consisted of monitoring ground reduction and where the depth of reduction was not sufficient to establish the presence or absence of archaeological deposits, monitoring was undertaken on deeper ground excavations such as footings/foundation trenches.

3.2 Results

- 3.2.1 The watching brief identified a number of significant archaeological features within the Site. The continuation of the Iron Age defensive ditch (**112/113**) associated with Ampress Camp was confirmed as running through the northern part of the Site (**Figure 1**) in two separate observations. The northern edge, (**112**) was only seen partly in plan at the construction level for a length of 12m. The southern edge, (**113**) and upper deposits were observed in a foundation trench in the northeast corner of the new building (**Figure 2: Plate 1**), giving a total width of approximately 6m. The upper tertiary fill (**116**) was very similar to the modern topsoil and represents the final stabilization of the ditch. Below this were two gravel rich sandy deposits (**114**) and (**115**), which is very similar to the ditch sequence recorded by TVAS in 2001. No finds were recovered from this feature.
- 3.2.2 Three shallow ditches (**104**), (**106**) and (**108**) were located in the southern half of the Site. Ditches (**104**) and (**108**) were between 16m-12m in length and 2-1m in width, respectively and were less than 0.2m in depth. Both ditches ran parallel with each other on a southwest – northeast alignment. A fragment of post-medieval brick was obtained from the wider of these two features, Ditch **104**. The remaining ditch (**106**) was 38m in length, 1m in width and 0.20m in depth, was orientated approximately northnorthwest – southsoutheast and was undated (**Figure 2: Plate 2**).
- 3.2.3 The western part of the Site was covered by an area of modern disturbed ground, approximately 0.4m in depth, containing modern brick, plastic and metal, (**110**).
- 3.2.4 Two small sections of palaeochannels were seen within the footing trenches (**Figure 1**). The largest channel was found close to the western edge of the Site, at least 1.30m in width and 0.45m in depth, while a smaller channel approximately 1m in width and 0.5m in depth was found in the eastern footings. Both channels were sealed by the subsoil (**102**)

4 FINDS

- 4.1.1 The only artefacts recovered during the watching brief comprise three pieces of worked flint, two waste flakes from topsoil (**101**) and one scraper from the subsoil (**102**) and a fragment of a post-medieval brick (**105**) recovered from the fill of Ditch **104**. The worked flint is not diagnostic of a specific period(s).
- 4.1.2 The small size and type of assemblage means that no further analysis of the assemblage is necessary, and that retention for long-term curation is not recommended. These finds will be discarded prior to archive deposition.

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1.1 This watching brief identified the western continuation of the southern defensive ditch of Ampress Camp Ditch (**112/113**). The north-western extent of this beyond the northern boundary of the Site is likely to have been badly truncated by existing development.
- 5.1.2 A small number of shallow ditches, (**104**), (**106**) and (**108**) were located during this work and are likely to be post-medieval or modern in date. The orientation of these ditches is consistent with the pattern of existing post-medieval field boundaries which are mirrored by a modern track around the playing fields and the present day road.
- 5.1.3 The discovery of the palaeochannels is consistent with the vicinity of the Site to the Lymington River.

6 ARCHIVE

- 6.1.1 The project archive was prepared in accordance with the guidelines outlined in Appendix 3 of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and in accordance with the *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage* (UKIC 1990). It comprises a ring-bound file containing the written records and a copy of the *Written Scheme of Investigation* as well as a single box of finds. The project archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology under the project code 76900. In due course the complete archive will be deposited with Hampshire County Council Museums Service.
- 6.1.2 An OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/projects/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators Forms. All appropriate parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to the AHBR. This will include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy will also be included with the archive).
- 6.1.3 A summary detailed the results of this work will be sent to *Hampshire Studies* within one year of completion of all fieldwork.

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- 6.1.4 This report 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 we are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferrable by Wessex Archaeology. You are reminded that you remain bound by the conditions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT SUMMARY TABLE

Context	Description	
101	<i>Layer</i>	Topsoil
102	<i>Layer</i>	Subsoil
103	<i>Layer</i>	Natural geology
104	<i>Cut</i>	East-west running wide concave-sided ditch which cuts 102 (subsoil). Feature approximately 2.50m in width and 0.30m in depth with a
105	<i>Fill</i>	Fill of Ditch 104 . Mid brownish clay fill containing occasional brick fragments
106	<i>Cut</i>	North-south aligned undated ditch running within the southern half of the Site.
107	<i>Fill</i>	Fill of 106 . Mid orange brown sand
108	<i>Cut</i>	East-west running narrow concave-sided ditch
109	<i>Fill</i>	Fill of 108 . Mid greyish brown sandy silt
110	<i>Layer</i>	Disturbance/made-ground deposit with large quantities of modern brick and glass. Overlies gravel band 111
111	<i>Layer</i>	Thin band of gravel overlying natural deposit 103
112/113	<i>Cut</i>	Southern and northern edge of Iron age ditch seen on separate WB days. Ditch traced for approximately 20m and turning to the northwest. Approximately 6m in width and at least 1m in depth.
114/118	<i>Fill</i>	Secondary fill of Ditch 112/113
115	<i>Fill</i>	Secondary fill of Ditch 112/113
116	<i>Fill</i>	Tertiary fill of Ditch 112/113
117	<i>Layer</i>	Modern made-ground deposit partly over 112/113

APPENDIX 2: OASIS SUMMARY FORM

OASIS ID: wessexar1-104678

Project details

Project name Plots D6 and D7, Ampress Park, Lymington, Hampshire

Short description of the project Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by New Forest Ice Cream Ltd. (the Client) to undertake an archaeological watching during groundworks during the development of land on Plots D6 and D7, Ampress Lane, Lymington Hampshire, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 432049, 96884. The initial groundworks and excavation of footings was undertaken under archaeological supervision in late May and early June 2011. A large proportion of the site appears to have been truncated and/or disturbed by modern activity. However, a small number of significant archaeological features were noted during the watching brief. These remains included part of the southern defensive ditch of Ampress Camp (112/113) which was partly traced as running through the northern area of the site. Within the southern half of the site, two palaeochannels were noted in the base of a footing. In addition, three shallow ditches (104, 106 and 108) were also noted within the southern half of the site. Although poorly dated, these features are likely to be post-medieval and/or modern in date.

Project dates Start: 23-05-2011 End: 08-06-2011

Previous/future work No / Yes

Any associated project reference codes 76900 - Contracting Unit No.

Type of project Recording project

Site status None

Current Land use Industry and Commerce 1 - Industrial

Monument type DITCH Iron Age

Monument type DITCH Post Medieval

Significant Finds WORKED FLINT Late Prehistoric

Investigation type 'Watching Brief'

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Project location

Country England

Site location HAMPSHIRE NEW FOREST LYMINGTON AND
PENNINGTON Ampress Park

Postcode SO41 8LW
 Study area 0.40 Hectares
 Site coordinates SZ 3190 9690 50.7702387372 -1.547573440490 50 46 12 N
 001 32 51 W Point
 Height OD / Depth Min: 4.00m Max: 4.00m

Project creators

Name of Wessex Archaeology
 Organisation
 Project brief Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning
 originator Authority/advisory body
 Project design Wessex Archaeology
 originator
 Project A Manning
 director/manager
 Project supervisor Naomi Hall
 Type of Developer
 sponsor/funding
 body
 Name of New Forest Ice Cream
 sponsor/funding
 body

Project archives

Physical Archive No
 Exists?
 Digital Archive Hampshire County Museums Service
 recipient
 Digital Contents 'Survey'
 Digital Media 'Images raster / digital
 available photography','Spreadsheets','Survey','Text'
 Paper Archive Hampshire County Museums Service
 recipient
 Paper Contents 'none'
 Paper Media 'Context sheet','Drawing','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',
 available General Notes','Plan','Report','Section','Survey '

Project bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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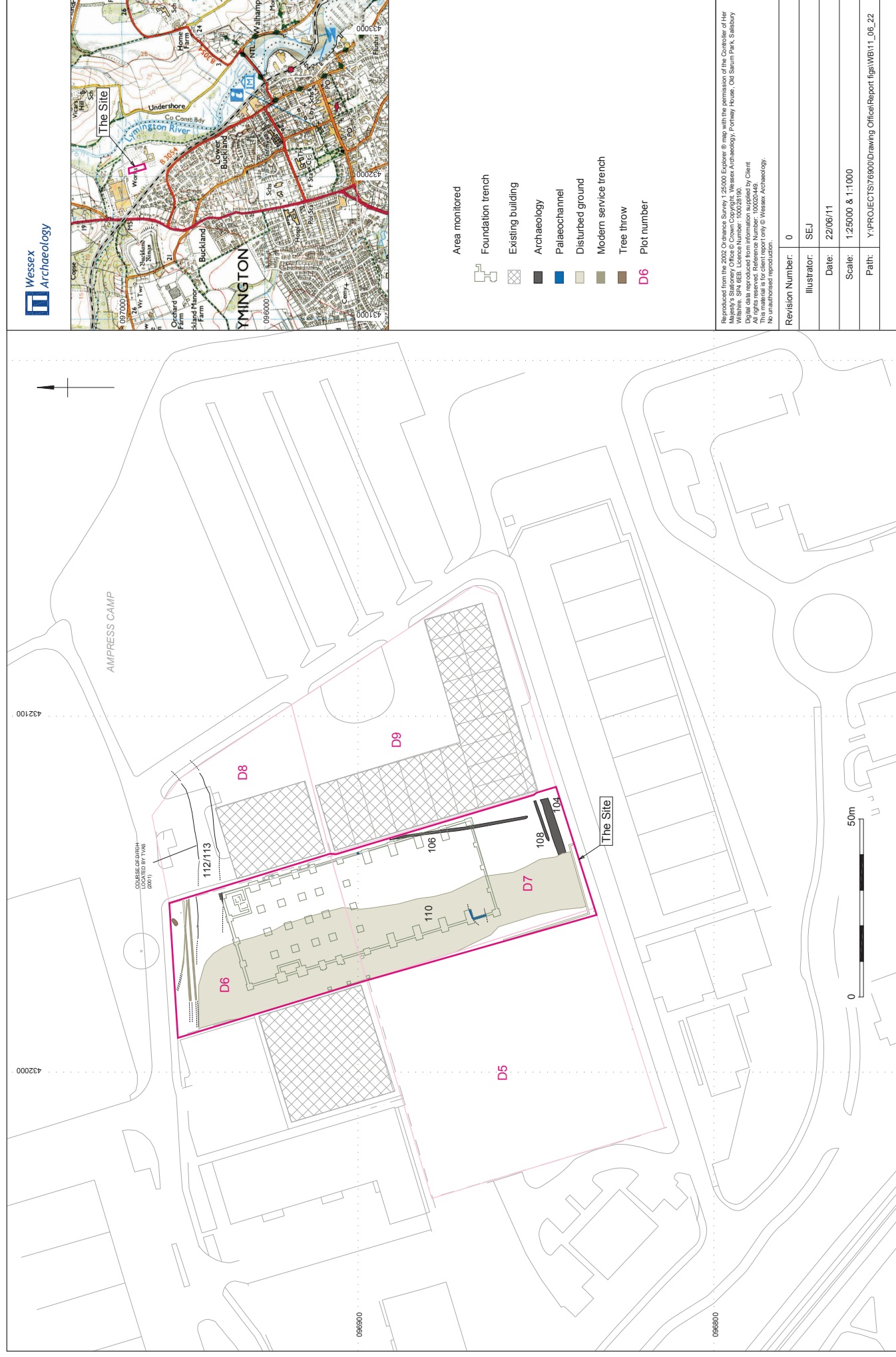
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Entered on 5 July 2011



Location of Site, monitored area and results


Figure 1



Plate 1: Northwest-facing section through Ditch (112/113)



Plate 2: South-facing section through Ditch (106)

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