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The Triangle Site, Brownhill Way Southampton, Hampshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report



Planning Application Ref: 12/00596/FUL
Ref: 101640.03
January 2014



The Triangle Site, Brownhill Road, Southampton, Hampshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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**Southampton City Council Planning Application Ref: 12/00596/FUL
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Quality Assurance

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* I = Internal Draft; E = External Draft; F = Final

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The Triangle Site, Brownhill Way, Southampton, Hampshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Contents

Summary.....	v
Acknowledgements.....	vi
1 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Project background.....	1
1.2 Location, topography and geology.....	2
2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	2
2.1 Introduction.....	2
3 AIMS AND METHODS.....	2
3.1 General aims and objectives.....	2
3.2 Fieldwork methodology.....	3
4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS.....	3
4.1 Introduction.....	3
4.2 Natural deposits and soil sequences.....	3
4.3 Trenches 1, 3 and 4.....	4
4.4 Trench 2.....	4
4.5 Trench 5.....	4
5 FINDS.....	4
5.2 Pottery.....	4
5.3 Flint.....	5
5.4 Ceramic Building Material (CBM).....	5
5.5 Selection and Retention.....	5
6 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES.....	5
7 DISCUSSION.....	5
8 STORAGE AND CURATION.....	5
8.1 Museum.....	5
8.2 Preparation of Archive.....	6
8.3 Discard Policy.....	6
8.4 Security Copy.....	6



9	REFERENCES.....	6
	APPENDIX 1: TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS	8
	APPENDIX 2: OASIS SUMMARY.....	11
	OASIS ID: wessexar1-168953.....	11

Figures

- Figure 1: Site location
Figure 2: Trench location plan and archaeological features (inc. Plates 1 to 3)
Figure 3: Plates 4 to 6

Plates

- Plate 1: North facing representative section of Trench 3
Plate 2: North-west facing section of ditch **203** and field drain **205**
Plate 3: East facing section of ditch **207**
Plate 4: Trench 2, view from the north
Plate 5: Trench 4, view from the north
Plate 6: Excavation of ditch **207**, Trench 2

- Front cover: General site shot, view from the south-west



The Triangle Site, Brownhill Way, Southampton, Hampshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Turley Associates, acting on behalf of The Trustees of the Barker Mill Estates, to carry out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land proposed for a housing development at The Triangle Site, Brownhill Way, Southampton, Hampshire. The archaeological trial trenching comprised the excavation of five 1.8 x 30m trenches which were targeted on the location of the proposed housing development. The work was undertaken on the 2nd to 4th November 2013.

Archaeological features, comprising two shallow ditches (**203** and **207**) and a modern field drain (**205**), were identified in only one of the five trenches (Trench 2). A very small quantity of finds of Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval date were recovered from contexts in all five of the trenches excavated. However with the exception of a single fragment of medieval Ceramic Building Material recovered from the fill of ditch **203**, these finds were contained within topsoil or subsoil deposits, as were a small quantity of burnt flint fragments.

The relatively low density of evidence is likely to reflect a likely absence of archaeological activity within the Site. In particular, there was no evidence for an extension of any Bronze Age settlement activity which from previous work is known to have been located in close proximity, to the north-west of the Site.



The Triangle Site, Brownhill Way, Southampton, Hampshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Rebecca Fenn-Tripp (Turley Associates) for commissioning the work on behalf of The Trustees of the Barker Mill Estates. The help and assistance of Jenny and Ken Mallison with site access and logistics was also greatly appreciated.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Simon Flaherty with Pete Wilson. This report was written by Simon Flaherty and edited by Gareth Chaffey. The finds analysis was undertaken by Lorraine Mephram. The report illustrations were drawn by S.E. James. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Andy Manning.



The Triangle Site, Brownhill Way, Southampton, Hampshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by Turley Associates, acting on behalf of The Trustees of the Barker Mill Estates (the Client), to undertake a trial trench evaluation on land located at the Triangle Site, Brownhill Way, Southampton, Hampshire SO16 9LL (hereafter 'the Site'), centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 437621 115023 (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The Site has been proposed for residential development comprising 14 new dwellings with access to the Lower Brownhill Road, to the south of the Site. A formal planning application (Southampton City Council Planning Application 12/00596/FUL) was submitted to Southampton City Council and was approved in August 2013.

1.1.3 Following consultation with the Southampton City Council Planning Archaeologist (within the Historic Environment Team, which forms part of the Planning, Transport and Sustainability Division), two archaeological conditions (11 and 12) were placed on the outline planning approval requiring an initial assessment of the archaeological potential within the proposed development and subsequent mitigation, if appropriate:

- **11. APPROVAL CONDITION – Archaeological Investigation [pre-commencement condition]**

No development shall take place within the site until the implementation of a programme of archaeological work has been secured in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority in writing.

Reason: To ensure that the archaeological investigation is initiated at an appropriate point in the development.

- **12. APPROVAL CONDITION – Archaeological Work Programme [performance condition]**

The developer will secure the completion of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority in writing.

Reason: To ensure that the archaeological investigation is completed.

1.1.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the evaluation (WA 2013) was prepared by Wessex Archaeology and submitted to, and approved by, the Southampton City Council Planning Archaeologist, prior to the start of the fieldwork. The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists's *Standard Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (as amended in 2008).



1.1.5 The fieldwork was undertaken between the 2nd to 4th November 2013.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The Site is located within the Nursling district of Southampton and comprises a 0.52ha triangular block of pasture land which is bounded by Brownhill Way to the north, Lower Brownhill Road to the south and residential dwelling to the west (**Figure 1**).

The land within the Site is generally level at a height of 10m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The underlying geology for the Site is mapped as clay, silt and sand of the Wittering Formation (British Geological Survey website).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 A detailed archaeological and historical background for the Site has been compiled and presented previously (WA 2013), and as such will not be repeated here.

2.1.2 In summary, no archaeological works have been undertaken within the Site, although a number of known sites or find spots have been recorded in the vicinity. A total of 10 known sites, archaeological investigations and/or find spots are recorded within 500m of the Site on the Southampton City HER and NMR Excavation index (WSI **Figure 1**, WA 2013,). These include Neolithic activity at both Adanac Park to the north-west of the Site and at the Nursling Industrial Estate.

2.1.3 There is extensive evidence for Bronze Age activity within the vicinity of the Site and this is related to regionally significant settlement sites in the Test valley. This includes a settlement of Middle to Late Bronze Age date at Adanac Park at the location of the Ordnance Survey Offices (WA 2013b). The excavations also revealed extensive evidence for Iron Age activity in the area, including several barrows. Evidence for Romano-British activity in the Nursling area include field systems, settlement enclosures and pottery associated with a settlement located at a nearby crossing of the River Test, alongside a road leading from *Venta Bulgarum* via Nursling to the New Forest. Evidence for post-Roman activity includes a Saxon settlement in the general Nursling vicinity. Nursling is first mentioned as *Nhutscelle* in a document dated to AD 800.

3 AIMS AND METHODS

3.1 General aims and objectives

3.1.1 With due regard to the *IfA Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation* (IfA 2008), the generic aim of the project was defined as:

- *To locate, identify and to investigate and record the presence/absence of archaeological features or deposits;*
- *The evaluation, where possible, would confirm the extent, date, character, relationship, condition and significance of archaeological features, artefacts and deposits within the proposed development area;*
- *To inform the scope and nature of any requirements for any potential further fieldwork, whether additional watching brief, excavation or post-excavation work;*
- *To enable the preservation by record of any archaeological features or deposits uncovered*

- To place any identified archaeological remains within their historical context, methodology.

3.2 Fieldwork methodology

- 3.2.1 The evaluation was conducted according to the agreed WSI (WA 2013) and comprised the excavation of five trenches; each measuring 30m x 1.8m in size (see **Appendix 1** for details). The location of these trenches has been indicated in **Figure 1** and **2**, and all proposed trenches were excavated.
- 3.2.2 Prior to machining, the trench locations were scanned by WA using a cable tracing device. The trenches were excavated under constant archaeological supervision using a tracked mechanical excavator employing a toothless ditching bucket. The turf, topsoil and subsoil were stored separately to facilitate appropriate backfilling and consolidation of each trench following the completion of recording.
- 3.2.3 All potential features and deposits of possible archaeological origin were partially excavated to ascertain their nature and function and were fully recorded using WA's *pro forma* record sheets. All deposits were assigned a unique number and soil descriptions were based on the *Soil Science Handbook*, and Munsell colour descriptions were used.
- 3.2.4 A photographic record was kept. Particular attention was taken to record all access routes and trench locations to provide a full record of both the original and final condition of the fieldwork locations. A full graphic record was maintained. The site drawings were drawn at an appropriate scale, typically 1:10 for sections and 1:20 for plans.
- 3.2.5 Site survey was carried out using a Leica Viva series GNSS unit using the OS National GPS Network through an RTK network with a 3D accuracy of 30mm or below. All survey data was recorded using the OSGB36 British National Grid coordinate system.
- 3.2.6 All archaeological fieldwork was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Kevin White (Southampton City Council Planning Archaeologist), and by Andrew Manning on behalf of WA.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The following sections provide a summary of the information held in the Site archive. Details of individually excavated contexts and features are retained in the Site archive and a tabulated version of these can be found in **Appendix 1**.

4.2 Natural deposits and soil sequences

- 4.2.1 The natural stratigraphic sequence varied slightly across the Site. Across the Site, the topsoil comprised of a silty clay that varied in depth between 0.25m to 0.35m, which generally overlaid the natural brickearth. However, within two trenches (Trenches **1** and **3**) a thin silty clay subsoil (approximately 0.15m in thickness) was recorded between the topsoil and natural, that varied in depth from 0.25m to 0.40m below the current ground surface.
- 4.2.2 The natural clay was encountered in all trenches, between 9.82m and 10.64m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), between 0.26m and 0.40m below the current ground surface (**Figure 2, Plate 1**).



4.3 Trenches 1, 3 and 4

4.3.1 **Trenches 1, 3 and 4** did not contain any archaeological features (**Figure 2**). **Trenches 3 (Plate 1)** and **4** did contain a few pieces of residual burnt flint within their subsoils **302** and **402** respectively. Three sherds of Roman pottery from a single ring-based vessel were recovered from the top of the natural (**402**) in **Trench 4**.

4.4 Trench 2

4.4.1 **Trench 2** contained two ditches (**203** and **207**) cut into the top of the brickearth natural and a modern field drain **205**. Ditch **203 (Figure 2, Plate 2)** was located within the northern end of the trench and ran in a north-east to south-west orientation. Its full width was not exposed due to the restrictions of the evaluation. Two pieces of medieval Ceramic Building Material (CBM), which may have been residual, were recovered from the single fill. The ditch was truncated by a later ceramic field drain **205** which ran on the same alignment within the centre of the ditch, suggesting the ditch **203** was an old field boundary/drainage ditch that was reused in recent times.

4.4.2 Ditch **207 (Plate 3)**, was located 4.17m to the south of ditch **203** and was north-east-east to south-west-west aligned. Although undated, the single fill was very similar to that of ditch **203** and is likely to represent a boundary or drainage ditch.

4.5 Trench 5

4.5.1 **Trench 5** contained a single feature, **503**, which was thought to represent a possible posthole. However, excavation showed an irregular base and shape suggesting that it is a natural feature, likely to have been formed through root action.

5 FINDS

5.1.1 The evaluation produced a very small quantity of finds, in a restricted range of material types, deriving from contexts in all five of the trenches excavated. Datable material includes objects of Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval date.

5.1.2 Finds have been classified following Southampton City Council's *Standards for the creation, compilation and transfer of archaeological archives*, and comprise Flint, Ceramic and Pottery. Quantities by context are given in **Table 1**.

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

Context	Flint	Ceramic	Pottery
101		1/27	
204		1/10	
302	2/36		3/40
402	4/162		
501	1/70	1/58	
TOTALS	7/268	3/95	3/40

5.2 Pottery

5.2.1 The three sherds recovered (from **Trench 3** top of natural) are conjoining, and form part of a footring base from a vessel in a Romano-British sandy greyware. The vessel cannot be dated more closely within the Romano-British period.



5.3 Flint

- 5.3.1 All of the flint is unworked and burnt. This material type is intrinsically undatable, although often taken as an indicator of prehistoric activity. In this instance this putative dating is not supported by the presence of any other prehistoric artefacts and the fragments remain undated.

5.4 Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

- 5.4.1 This category consists of flat (peg) roof tile; one fragment is of medieval date (fill **204** of ditch **203**), and the other two are post-medieval (topsoil in **Trenches 1** and **5** respectively).

5.5 Selection and Retention

- 5.5.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal* (Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact categories that are not considered to warrant any future analysis.
- 5.5.2 In this instance, the burnt, unworked flint and ceramic tile could be targeted for discard and, given the fact that the Romano-British pottery does not derive from a stratified feature, this too might be discarded. Any proposed discard policy will be agreed with Southampton City Council before implementation.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

- 6.1.1 No archaeological features or deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified during the course of the fieldwork.

7 DISCUSSION

- 7.1.1 The evaluation identified limited evidence for archaeological remains within the area investigated on the Site. Two ditches were recorded within **Trench 2** and may represent field boundaries although both remain undated. A single piece of medieval roof tile was recovered from the upper fills of ditch **203**, although this may be residual.
- 7.1.2 Some residual finds within **Trenches 3, 4 and 5** comprising burnt flint fragments (potentially prehistoric in date) and three fragments of a Roman pottery base suggests activity within the a wider landscape, although no evidence of any features was recorded during the works.
- 7.1.3 In particular, the evaluation was unable to identify any evidence for the extension into the Site of Bronze Age settlement activity at Adanac Park, which is located directly to the north-west of the Triangle site (WA 2013).
- 7.1.4 Therefore, the observed absence of archaeological features is likely to accurately reflect an absence of archaeological activity within the Site.

8 STORAGE AND CURATION

8.1 Museum

- 8.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with Southampton City Council. The Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project



archive on completion of the project. Deposition of any finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

8.2 Preparation of Archive

8.2.1 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Southampton City Council, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; IfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

8.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site/accession code and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following:

- *1 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts & ecofacts, ordered by material type*
- *1 files/document cases of paper records & A3/A4 graphics*

8.3 Discard Policy

8.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in Selection, Retention and Dispersal (Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. Any discard of artefacts will be fully documented in the project archive.

8.3.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2002).

8.4 Security Copy

8.4.1 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.

9 REFERENCES

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- SMA, 1995. *Towards an Accessible Archaeological Archive*, Society of Museum Archaeologists



Wessex Archaeology, 2013, The Triangle Site, Brownhill Way, Southampton, Hampshire,
Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation, Unpublished Client
Report ref 101640.01

Wessex Archaeology, 2013b. Adanac Park and Bargain Farm, Southampton, Hampshire.
Heritage Statement, WA Ref: 62328.01



APPENDIX 1: TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1	Dimensions :	30m x 1.8m x 0.49m	Ground surface level:	9.82m aOD
	Coordinates (NGR):	437568.51, 115024.50 437596.75, 115024.92		
Context	Category	Description		Depth (bgl)
101	Layer	Mid grey black (10YR 4/3) silty clay topsoil. Contained some gravels <60mm, sub-angular to sub-rounded, moderately sorted, occasional. The top 0.1m is turf and the layer is heavily bioturbated through route action.		0-0.26m
102	Layer	Subsoil. Light greyish brown (10YR 6/2) silty clay interface between the topsoil and the natural. It contained rare gravels, <40mm, sub-angular to sub-rounded poorly sorted. Evidence of bioturbation that may have caused layer through root penetration of the natural.		0.26m-0.37m
103	Layer	mottled grey orange a mixture of 10YR 7/1 & 7/6 brickearth		0.38m +

Trench 2	Dimensions :	30m x 1.8m x 0.35m	Ground surface level:	9.95m aOD
	Coordinates (NGR):	437608.44, 115034.98 437608.57, 115005.96		
Context	Category	Description		Depth (bgl)
201	Layer	Topsoil mid brown (10YR 4/3) Clay Loam with rare charcoal flecking and red earthen ware.		0-0.35m
202	Layer	Natural brickearth, red hued light brown (10YR 4/4) clay mottled with darker and lighter patches		0.35m +
203	Cut	Ditch running in south-west to north-east direction. Irregular shaped sides and base. It ran for 3.15m within the trench. Its full width was not exposed within the trench. Possibly an old field boundary as it was truncated by a land drain 205 which ran in the same direction.		0.30m
204	Fill	Secondary Fill. Mid greyish brown (10YR4/2) clay it contained rare small flint gravel it was truncated by field drain 205. Contained 2 small pieces of C.B.M. Fill was quite grey and looked washed out and looked like it had been subject to being waterlogged.		0.30m
205	Cut	Cut of field drain running in a north-west to south-east direction it contained a ceramic field drain 205. Runs along the same alignment as 203.		0.30m
206	Fill	Deliberate backfill of field drain. Mid greyish brown (10YR 4/2) clay that contained abundant small flint gravel that surrounded a ceramic field drain		0.30m
207	Cut	Cut of ditch running in a north-east to south-west direction. It ran for a length of 1.82m and was 1.34m wide and was 0.65m deep. It was steep, straight		0.65m



		sided with a concave base.	
208	Fill	Secondary fill of ditch 207. Mid Grey Brown (10YR 4/2) clay with rare small to medium flint gravel. The fill was caused by gradual silting up of the feature through water action. The fill was quite grey and washed out and contained manganese suggesting the feature was quite waterlogged.	0.65m

Trench 3	Dimensions :	0.30m x 1.8m x 0.43m	Ground surface level:	10.20m aOD
	Coordinates (NGR):	437587.64, 114998.45 437616.11, 114998.74		
Context	Category	Description	Depth (bgl)	
301	Layer	Topsoil. Mid greyish brown (10YR 4/3). Silty clay topsoil top 0.1m is turf the rest is heavily bioturbated it contained occasional gravel inclusions that were sub-angular sub-rounded moderately sorted < 70mm. It was slightly diffuse with the subsoil below.	0-0.25m	
302	Layer	Subsoil. Mid yellowish brown (10YR 5/4) silty clay contained rare gravel inclusions <40mm sub-angular sub-rounded moderately to poorly sorted. It contained pottery and burnt flint. It was slightly diffuse between the topsoil and the natural.	0.25m-0.40m	
303	Layer	Natural. Mid yellowish brown (10YR 5/8) silty clay loam brick earth with very rare sub rounded moderately to poorly sorted <20mm gravel inclusions.	0.40m+	

Trench 4	Dimensions :	30m x 1.8m x 0.37m	Ground surface level:	10.64m aOD
	Coordinates (NGR):	437615.04, 115024.21 437644.31, 115026.72		
Context	Category	Description	Depth (bgl)	
401	Layer	Topsoil. Mid greyish brown (10YR 4/3) silty clay. The 0.1m is turf the rest is heavily bioturbated. It contained rare gravel inclusions that were sub rounded <40mm poorly- moderately sorted. The layer is diffuse with the natural (402) as the horizon is heavily bioturbated.	0-0.30m	
402	Layer	Natural. Mid yellow brown (10YR 5/6) silty clay loam brick earth. Bioturbated and as such is diffuse with the topsoil (401). It contained very rare gravel < 30mm sub rounded, moderately and contained 4 pieces of burnt flint within the interface.	0.30m+	



Trench 5	Dimensions :	30m x 1.65 x 0.26m	Ground surface level:	10.54m aOD
	Coordinates (NGR):	437640.45, 115035.07 437665.20, 115051.69		
Context	Category	Description	Depth (bgl)	
501	Layer	Topsoil. Mid brown (10YR 4/3) Clay Loam. Sparse charcoal flecking	0-0.26m	
502	Layer	Natural. Mid yellow brown (10YR 5/6) silty clay loam brickearth	0.26m+	
503	Cut	Cut of natural feature. Originally looked like a posthole but upon investigation was more likely to be a root it measure 0.25m in diameter and 0.29m deep it had an irregular base and steep irregular sides.	0.29m	
504	Fill	Natural silting of possible shrub bole/ post hole. Red hued light brown (10Yr 4/3) clay with small fine charcoal flecking	0.29m	



APPENDIX 2: OASIS SUMMARY

OASIS ID: wessexar1-168953

Project details

Project name	The Triangle Site, Southampton
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Turley Associates, acting on behalf of The Trustees of the Barker Mill Estates, to carry out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land proposed for a housing development at The Triangle Site, Brownhill Way, Southampton, Hampshire. The archaeological trial trenching comprised the excavation of five 1.8 x 30m trenches which were targeted on the location of the proposed housing development. The work was undertaken on the 2nd to 4th November 2013. Archaeological features, comprising two shallow ditches (203 and 207) and a modern field drain (205), were identified in only one of the five trenches (Trench 2). A very small quantity of finds of Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval date were recovered from contexts in all five of the trenches excavated. However with the exception of a single fragment of medieval Ceramic Building Material recovered from the fill of ditch 203, these finds were contained within topsoil or subsoil deposits, as were a small quantity of burnt flint fragments.
Project dates	Start: 02-11-2014 End: 04-11-2014
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	101640 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	SOU1644 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Roman
Significant Finds	POT Medieval

Project location

Country	England
Site location	HAMPSHIRE SOUTHAMPTON SOUTHAMPTON The Triangle site, Lower Brownhill Road
Postcode	SO16 9LL
Study area	0.50 Hectares
Site coordinates	SU 375 149 50.9317797174 -1.46630993122 50 55 54 N 001 27 58 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 10.00m Max: 11.00m

Project creators



Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Southampton City Council
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	A Manning
Project supervisor	Simon Flaherty
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner
Name of sponsor/funding body	The Trustees of the Barker Mill Estates

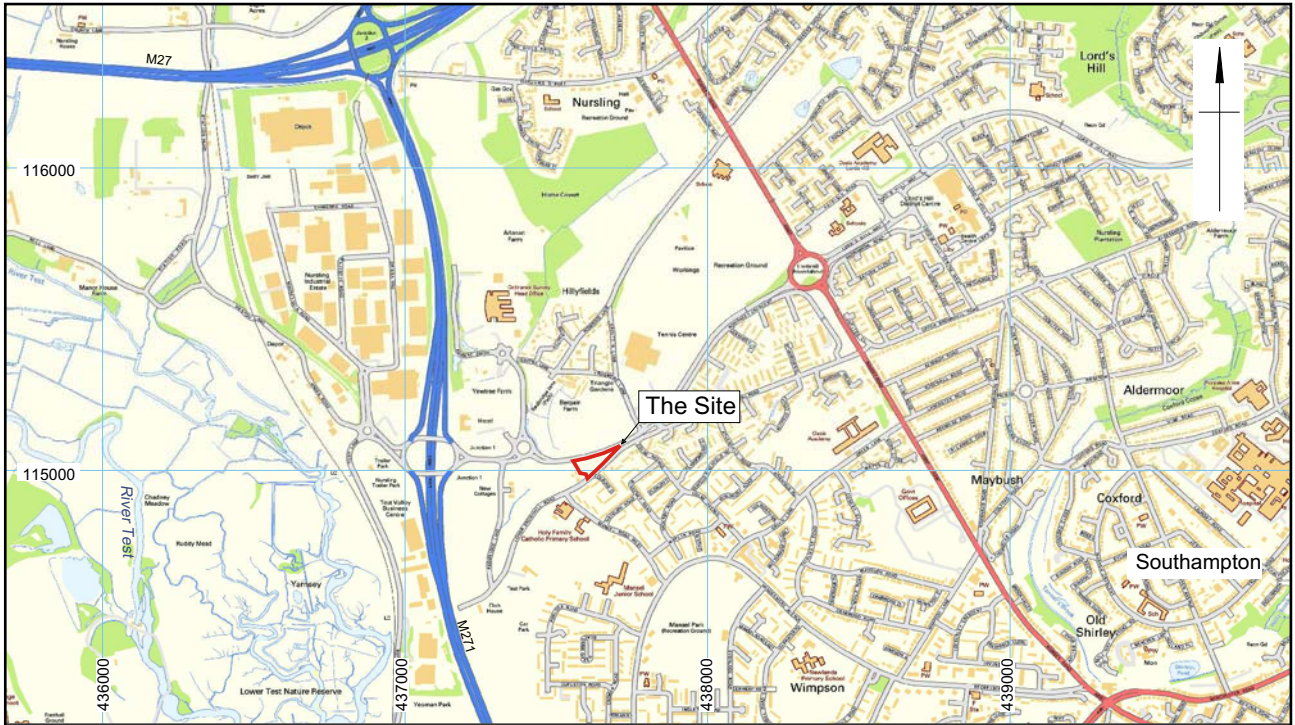
Project archives



Physical Archive recipient	Wessex Archaeology
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Southampton Museum
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Southampton Museum
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Notebook - Excavation", "Research", "General Notes", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	The Triangle Site, Brownhill Road, Southampton: Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Flaherty, S
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Entered by	Andrew Manning (a.manning@wessexarch.co.uk)
Entered on	17 January 2014





 Site boundary
 Evaluation trench

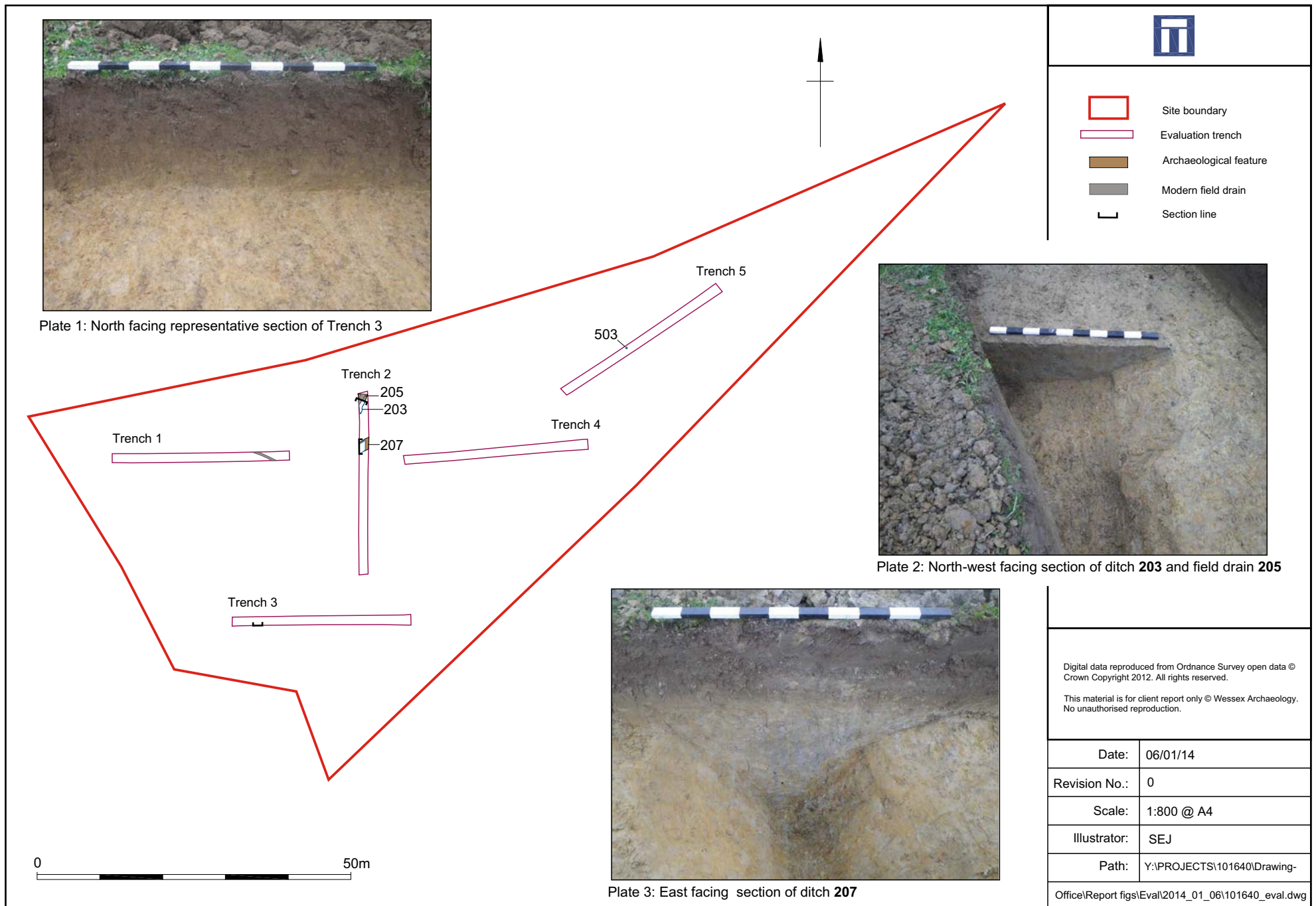


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Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\101640\Drawing Office\Report figs\Eval\2014_01_06\101640_eval.dwg		

Site location

Figure 1



Trench location plan and archaeological features

Figure 2



Plate 4: Trench 2, view from the north



Plate 5: Trench 4, view from the north



Plate 6: Excavation of ditch **207**, Trench 2

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