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# Whitehaven Lodge, Buttermere Close, Millbrook, Southampton, Hampshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report



Planning Ref: 13/01384/FUL  
Ref: 106960.02  
January 2015



**Whitehaven Lodge, Buttermere Close, Millbrook,  
Southampton, Hampshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

**On behalf of:**

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**January 2015  
SOU 1674**

**106960.02**



## Quality Assurance

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

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# Whitehaven Lodge, Buttermere Close, Millbrook, Southampton, Hampshire

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

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**Figure 1:** The site showing trenches

**Plate 1:** South west facing section of Trench 1 with remnant modern foundations.

**Plate 2:** South west facing section of sondage in Trench 1

**Plate 3:** East facing section of sondage in Trench 5

**Plate 4:** View from east of Trench 6 with a sondage

**Front cover:** View of site from north east.



# **Whitehaven Lodge, Buttermere Close, Millbrook, Southampton, Hampshire**

## **Archaeological Evaluation Report**

### **Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by F.E.Chase & Son Limited (the Client) to undertake an archaeological evaluation on a 0.35ha block of land located within the site of the former care home 'Whitehaven Lodge', Buttermere Close, Millbrook, Southampton, Hampshire.

Eight trenches measuring an average of 8.0m by 1.80m were excavated. No significant archaeological features or deposits were identified. Seven trenches encountered deep deposits of modern made ground directly beneath the turf, which were at least 1.20m in depth (maximum depth of the main evaluation trenches) below the modern ground surface. A series of sondages were excavated to assess the top of the natural geology, which was found at approximately 2m below current ground level. Only in one trench (Trench 5) was natural geology recorded at a higher level, in this case at a depth of approximately 1.10m below the present ground surface.

Historic map evidence supplied by Southampton Historic Environment record indicates that the Site and the immediate surrounding area was extensively used for gravel extraction in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, which is likely to have heavy impact on any surviving archaeological remains.

The fieldwork was carried out on the 1-3<sup>rd</sup> December 2014.



# **Whitehaven Lodge, Buttermere Close, Millbrook, Southampton, Hampshire**

## **Archaeological Evaluation Report**

### **Acknowledgments**

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Mr Peter Chase (F.E.Chase & Son Limited ) for commissioning the work. The help and advice of Ingrid Peckham and Kevin White, who monitored the works on behalf of Southampton City Council, is also gratefully acknowledged.

The evaluation was carried out by Piotr Orczewski, assisted by Rachel Williams and Vijaya Pieteron. Piotr Orczewski has written and compiled this report. The illustrations were prepared by William Foster. The finds were assessed by Lorrain Mephram (pottery) and Phil Harding (flint). The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Andy Manning.



# Whitehaven Lodge, Buttermere Close, Millbrook, Southampton, Hampshire

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by F.E.Chase & Son Limited (the Client) to undertake an archaeological evaluation on a 0.35ha block of land located on the site of the former care home 'Whitehaven Lodge', Buttermere Close, Millbrook, Southampton, Hampshire, SO16 9GL, hereafter referred to as 'the Site'. The Site is centred on National Grid Reference NGR 438210 114760 (Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 The Site has been proposed for residential development comprising 28 new dwellings with associated car parking and access to Buttermere Close. A formal planning application (Southampton City Council Planning Application 13/01384/FUL) was submitted to Southampton City Council in August 2013 and was approved in October 2014.
- 1.1.3 Two archaeological conditions were placed on the approval notice (Conditions 14 and 15):

**14.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.

**Reason:**

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

**15.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.

**Reason:**

To ensure that the archaeological investigation is completed.

- 1.1.4 The Southampton City Council Historic Environment Team (HET) was consulted regarding the application (HET consultation number 7491) regarding the application. The Site was noted as being adjacent to the Nursling Plantation Local Area of Archaeological Potential, which is known to contain evidence for significant prehistoric settlement activity.
- 1.1.5 There was therefore deemed, at the time, to be a 'strong possibility' that evidence for prehistoric settlement and other activity, and potentially for later periods, may survive within the proposed development area. Such remains would be significant in adding to,





and broadening, the current understanding of both ancient settlement and development patterns in the area.

- 1.1.6 It was therefore recommended that that an archaeological evaluation was to be carried out to determine the presence and extent of any archaeological remains. Further work would be required to mitigate the impact of the development if required.
- 1.1.7 The full detailed methodology for the archaeological works was set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WA 2014), and is summarised below. All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the guidance and standards outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (CIfA 2014a). which set out the detailed methodology that was to be employed with regard to the archaeological works. In format and content it conforms with current best practice and to the guidance outlined in Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (English Heritage 2006).
- 1.1.8 The evaluation was carried out on the 1-3<sup>rd</sup> December 2014.

## **2 SITE DESCRIPTION**

### **2.1 Location, topography and geology**

- 2.1.1 The Site is located within the Nursling district of Southampton and comprises a 0.35ha block of land which is bounded by Buttermere Close to the south and west of the Site and Green Lane to the north, with residential buildings to the east (**Figure 1**).
- 2.1.2 The site occupies a south facing location at the head of a shallow re-entrant (at a height of 20m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) overlooking the estuary of the River Test. The local topography consists of broad, shallow promontories sloping down to the flood plain and foreshore with higher ground to the north and east. The underlying geology for the Site is mapped as clay, silt and sand of the Wittering Formation (British Geological Survey website).

## **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **3.1 Introduction**

- 3.1.1 A minimum of 19 archaeological sites are recorded within 1000m of the Site on the Southampton City HER and NMR Excavation index. The study area also lies adjacent to the extensive prehistoric landscape revealed at Adanac Park. Detailed descriptions of sites and extracts from monument listings were discussed within the Written Scheme of Investigation (Wessex Archaeology 2014).

### **3.2 Historic OS maps**

- 3.2.1 Evidence was provided by the Historic Environment Record Officer in the form of historic Ordnance Survey (OS) maps dating from 1909 to 1959, which shows that the area of the Site and surrounding area was adjacent to an early 20<sup>th</sup> century brick works. In addition, the Site lies at the centre of an extensive area of historic gravel extraction, which had been backfilled and in use as a Corporation Yard by the 1950s (Ingrid Peckham *pers. comm.*).



## 4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

### 4.1 Archaeological Field Evaluation

4.1.1 The aims of the archaeological field evaluation were to determine, as far as it was reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be impacted by the proposed development.

## 5 METHODOLOGY

### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A total of eight trenches were positioned (**Figure 1**) within accessible areas of the proposed development area and measured approximately 8.00m long and 1.80m wide. Position of two trenches (Trenches 1 and 6) were altered slightly due to Site restraints.

5.1.2 The trenches were laid 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 in general accordance with the pattern given in **Figure 1**. All survey data was recorded using the OSGB36 British National Grid coordinate system.

5.1.3 The trenches were excavated by a tracked mechanical excavator using a toothless bucket (1.80m), under constant archaeological supervision. Mechanical excavation continued in spits through the deposits in an attempt to encounter any remaining archaeological features or the natural geology. Excavation was generally confined to a maximum 1.2m in depth in order allow safe access. Sondages were than excavated in Trenches 1, 4, 5, 6 and 7 to a depth of maximum 2.50m and back-filled immediately after photographing. All arisings were stored at a minimum of 1m from the trench edge. The spoil from the trenches was scanned for artefacts.

5.1.4 Once trenches were completed to the satisfaction of the Client and the Historic Environment Team they were backfilled using the excavated material in the approximate order in which they were excavated and left level on completion. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.

### 5.2 Recording

5.2.1 All features and deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's standard methods and *pro forma* recording system, with all features and deposits being assigned a unique number. Soil descriptions were based on the Soil Science Handbook and Munsell Soil Colour Charts.

5.2.2 A complete drawn record of excavated trenches was compiled with sections drawn to appropriate scales. The Ordnance Datum (OD) height of all principal features and levels will be calculated and plans/sections will be annotated with OD heights.

5.2.3 Trench locations and were surveyed using a Total Station/GPS and tied in to the Ordnance Survey.

5.2.4 A full photographic record was maintained using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images will be subject to managed quality



control and curation processes which will embed appropriate metadata within the image and ensure long term accessibility of the image set. The photographic record illustrates both the detail and the general context of features and trenches.

## **6 RESULTS**

### **6.1 Introduction**

6.1.1 Details of individual excavated contexts are retained in the project archive. Summaries of the excavated sequences can be found in **Appendix 1**.

### **6.2 Results**

#### Stratigraphy

6.2.1 Directly below the turf, seven trenches encountered modern made ground layers at least 1.20m in depth and in many cases at least 2m in total depth. Only in Trench 5, was the made-ground layer significantly shallower and the top of the natural gravel was recorded at depth of approximately 1.10m before the top of the modern ground surface.

6.2.2 There was some thin banding within the made ground deposits, but mostly they consisted of reddish brown silty sand with abundant gravel mixed with grey and yellow gravel deposits. Layers of compact, crushed tarmac were also recorded at a depth of 0.70m. The deposits contained significant amounts of demolition and modern domestic material.

6.2.3 Deeper sondages were excavated in Trenches 1, 4, 5, 6 and 7 and revealed natural geology (either as sand or gravel) at a depth of between 2.50m to 1.80m below the current ground level. In Trench 4 a sondage was dug and exposed natural blue green sand at depth of 2.20m.

6.2.4 No archaeological features or deposits were identified during the evaluation.

6.2.5 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified.

## **7 FINDS**

7.1.1 Two fragments of flint were collected on Site, but after consultation with flint specialist and in regard of context were deemed undiagnostic and discarded. The material recovered and initial retained was identified as modern building material. This material was subsequently discarded.

## **8 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES**

8.1.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified.

## **9 CONCLUSIONS**

9.1.1 No archaeological features, finds or deposits were identified during the course of the fieldwork. The modern historic mapping shows that the Site and its immediate environ has been extensively impacted by gravel extraction (present up to at least the 1950s) and potentially by the earlier brick works.

9.1.2 All the trenches show a significant depth of modern made ground between 2.50m to 1.10m across the Site, which is likely to have infilled the former gravel pit which in turn is likely to have completely removed any archaeology which may have been present.



- 9.1.3 It appears likely that the ground had historically been levelled after the gravel extraction ceased and by the 1950s was in use as a Corporation Yard. The higher levels of disturbance and construction material are therefore likely to relate to the previous use of the Site and construction of the Whitehaven Lodge, which was constructed over the top of former gravel pit and yard.

## 10 THE ARCHIVE

### 10.1 Preparation of Archive

- 10.1.1 The complete Site archive, which includes paper records, photographic records, and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Southampton City Council Museums in line with the standards laid down in "Standards for the Creation, Compilation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives" (Southampton City Council, 2007), and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014b; Brown 2011; ADS 2013)
- 10.1.2 The complete Site archive is currently held at the Wessex Archaeology offices in Salisbury under the WA project code 106960.

### 10.2 Security copy

- 10.2.1 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

- ADS, 2013, *Caring for Digital Data in Archaeology: a guide to good practice*, Archaeology Data Service & Digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practice
- Brown, D.H., 2011, *Archaeological archives; a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*, Archaeological Archives Forum (revised edition)
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014a, Standards and guidance for Archaeological field evaluation, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Dec 2014
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014b, Standard and Guidance: For the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Dec 2014
- SMA, 1995, *Towards an Accessible Archaeological Archive*, Society of Museum Archaeologists
- Wessex Archaeology, 2014, Whitehaven Lodge, Buttermere Close, Millbrook, Southampton, Hampshire, Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation, WA Ref: 106960.01



## APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

bgl = below ground level

TRENCH 1			Type:	Machine excavated
Dimensions:		8.50x1.80m	Max. depth:	0.81m
			Ground level:	20.20m aOD
Context	Description		Depth bgl (m)	
101	Made ground	Made ground with various deposits including layer of crushed tarmac and demolition debris. Mostly mid yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) silty sand with abundant gravel (3-6cm).	0.00-0.81m	
102	Made Ground	Mid brown yellow (10YR 6/6) silty sand with abundant gravel. Redeposited natural with dark grey topsoil derived deposits mixed through. Recorded in sondage up to depth of 2.50m.	0.81-2.50m	
103	Natural	Mid bluish green (GLEY 1 5/5GY) silty sand.	2.50m+	

TRENCH 2			Type:	Machine excavated
Dimensions:		8.80x1.80m	Max. depth:	1.06m
			Ground level:	20.10m aOD
Context	Description		Depth bgl (m)	
201	Made ground	Made ground contained deposits of mid yellowish brown (10YR 6/8) silty sand with abundant gravel inclusions of sub angular gravel (3-6cm) and lenses of dark blueish grey and reddish material, all giving off strong oily smell.	0.00-1.06m	
202	Made ground	Made ground at base of trench consisted of light yellowish silty sand with reddish hue (7.5YR 5/4) with abundant sub rounded gravel (3-5cm) mixed with patches of dark grey material. All giving off strong oily smell.	1.06m+	

TRENCH 3			Type:	Machine excavated
Dimensions:		9.00x1.80m	Max. depth:	0.88m
			Ground level:	20.00m aOD
Context	Description		Depth bgl (m)	
301	Made ground	Made ground with various deposits including mid yellowish brown (7.5YR 5/6) silty sand with abundant subangular (4-6cm) gravel, lenses of dark bluish grey, mid reddish yellow and mid green grey silty sand with abundant gravel. All giving off strong oily smell.	0.00-0.78m	
302	Made ground	Light yellowish brown (7.5 YR 6/8) silty sand with abundant gravel (3-5cm)	0.78m+	

TRENCH 4			Type:	Machine excavated
Dimensions:		8.80x1.80m	Max. depth:	1.26m
			Ground level:	20.10m aOD
Context	Description		Depth bgl (m)	
401	Made ground	Made ground with various deposits; red brown silty sand with abundant gravel, dark grey silty sand with crushed tarmac, yellow silty sand with abundant gravel. All containing modern material and giving off strong oily smell. Recorded in sondage up to depth of 1.80m.	0.00-2.20m	
402	Natural	Fine blue green (GLEY 1 5/5GY) silty sand.	2.20m+	

TRENCH 5			Type:	Machine excavated
Dimensions:		8.90x1.80m	Max. depth:	01.20m
			Ground level:	19.90m aOD
Context	Description		Depth bgl (m)	
501	Made ground	Made ground with various deposits of mainly silty sand with abundant gravel varying in colour from light to mid yellow brown (7.5YR 3/2), dark red brown and dark blue grey.	0.00-1.10m	
502	Natural	Light red brown (10YR 6/6) sandy clay with abundant gravel (3-	1.10-1.20m	



		5cm)	
503	Natural	Mid yellow mottled due to iron staining with red (10YR 8/8 and 5YR 5/8) fine sand, no inclusions.	1.20m+

<b>TRENCH 6</b>		<b>Type:</b>	Machine excavated
<b>Dimensions:</b> 8.00x1.80m		<b>Max. depth:</b> 1.10m	<b>Ground level:</b> 19.70m aOD
<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>		<b>Depth bgl (m)</b>
601	Made ground	Made ground with various deposits including layer of crushed tarmac and demolition debris. Mostly mid red brown (7.5YR 3/4) silty sand with sub angular gravel. (4-6cm)	0.00-0.72m
602	Made Ground	Crushed tarmac layer, very compact.	0.76-0.86m
603	Made Ground	Mid red brown silty sand with abundant gravel, very similar to (601) with patches of darker, oily soil with strong smell.	0.86-1.70m
604	Natural	Mid brown yellow (10YR 6/6) silty sand with abundant gravel. Thin remnant layer of natural gravel.	1.70-1.80m
605	Natural	Mid bluish green (GLE Y 1 7/5GY) silty sand, very fine	1.80m+

<b>TRENCH 7</b>		<b>Type:</b>	Machine excavated
<b>Dimensions:</b> 8.90x1.80m		<b>Max. depth:</b> 1.22m	<b>Ground level:</b> 20.00m aOD
<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>		<b>Depth bgl (m)</b>
701	Made ground	Made ground with various deposits including demolition debris. Mostly dark brown (7.5YR 3/3) silty sand with abundant gravel (3-6cm).	0.00-0.80m
702	Made Ground	Crushed tarmac layer, very compact.	0.80-1.12m
703	Made ground	Made ground, mostly red brown (5YR 4/6) silty sand with abundant (3-6cm) gravel with patches of dark grey material, giving off strong oily smell.	1.18-2.0m
704	Natural	Mid brown yellow (10YR 6/8) silty sand with abundant sub rounded gravel (2-4cm).	2.0m+

<b>TRENCH 8</b>		<b>Type:</b>	Machine excavated
<b>Dimensions:</b> 8.20x1.80m		<b>Max. depth:</b> 0.93m	<b>Ground level:</b> 20.25m aOD
<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>		<b>Depth bgl (m)</b>
801	Made ground	Made ground with various deposits including mid yellow brown (7.5YR 4/4) silty sand with abundant gravel inclusions of sub angular flint (2-5cm), lenses of dark blue grey, mid red brown and mid green grey gravel rich materials.	0.00-0.93m
802	Made Ground	Light yellow brown (7.5YR 3/4) silty sand with red hue and sub angular abundant gravel (3-5cm)	0.93+



## APPENDIX 2: OASIS REPORT

OASIS ID: wessexar1-200659

### Project details

Project name	Whitehaven Lodge, Buttermere Close, Southampton
Short description of the project	Eight trenches measuring an average of 8.0m by 1.80m were excavated. No significant archaeological features or deposits were identified. Seven trenches encountered deep deposits of modern made ground directly beneath the turf, which were at least 1.20m in depth (maximum depth of the main evaluation trenches) below the modern ground surface. A series of sondages were excavated to assess the top of the natural geology, which was found at approximately 2m below current ground level. Only in one trench (Trench 5) was natural geology recorded at a higher level, in this case at a depth of approximately 1.10m below the present ground surface.
Project dates	Start: 01-12-2014 End: 03-12-2014
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	106960 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	SOU 1674 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	HAMPSHIRE SOUTHAMPTON SOUTHAMPTON Whitehaven
Postcode	SO16 9GL
Study area	0.35 Hectares
Site coordinates	SU 38202 14708 50.9300069744 -1.45633985869 50 55 48 N 001 27 22 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 17.50m Max: 20.00m

### 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	Piotr Orczewski
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	F.E.Chase & Son Limited

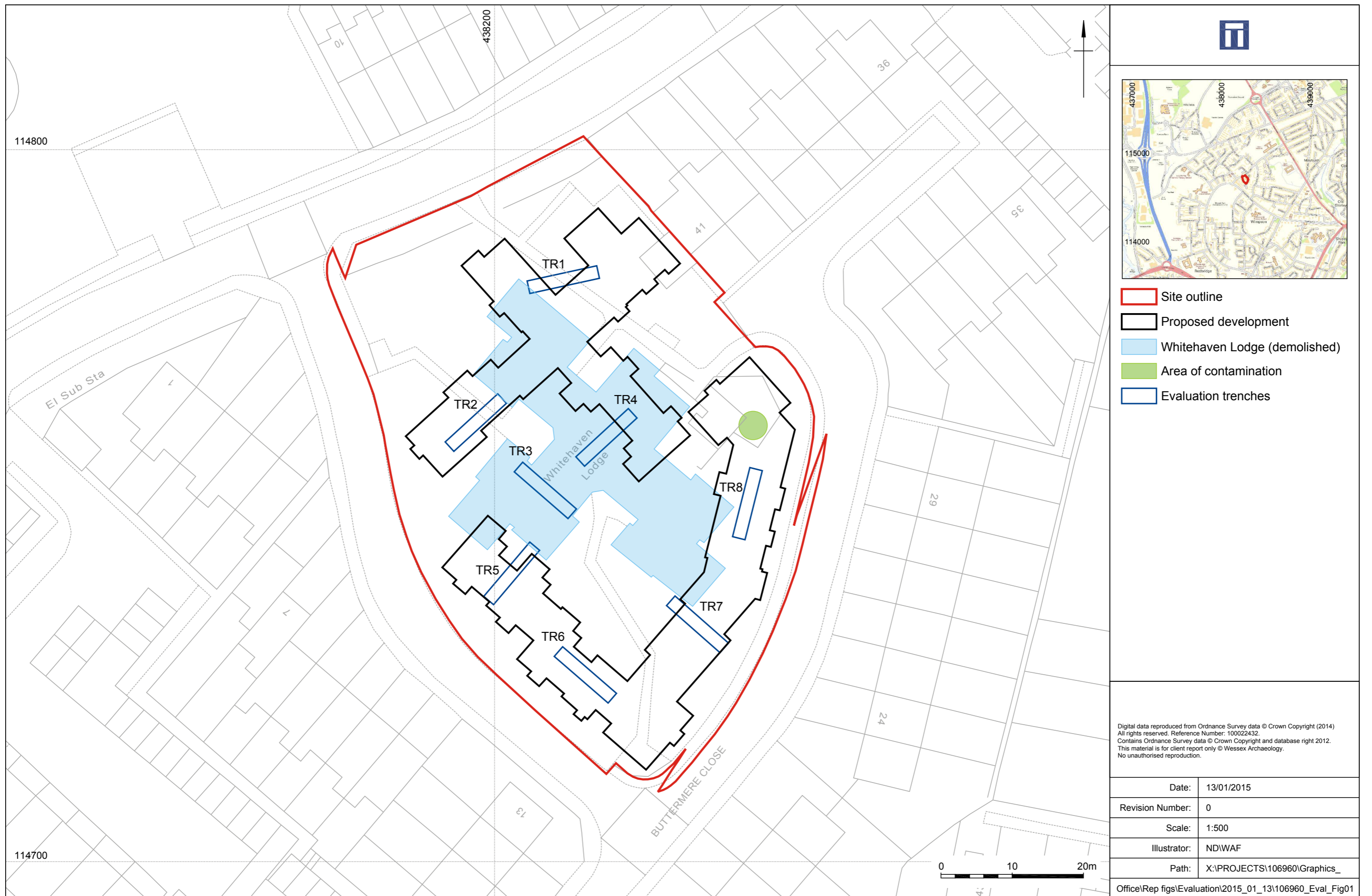
### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Southampton City Museum Service
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Southampton City Museum Service
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Whitehaven Lodge, Buttermere Close, Millbrook, Southampton, Hampshire: Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Orczewski, P
Other bibliographic details	106960.02
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Wessex Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Salisbury
Description	Short illustrated standard soft back report c. 13 pages
Entered by	Andrew Manning (a.manning@wessexarch.co.uk)
Entered on	16 January 2015





The site showing evaluation trenches

Figure 1



Plate 1: South west facing section of Trench 1 with remnant modern foundations



Plate 2: South west facing section of sondage in Trench 1


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	Date:	13/01/2015	Revision Number:	0
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Plate 3: East facing section of sondage in Trench 5



Plate 4: View from east of Trench 6 with a sondage

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