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# Plot D5 Ampress Lane Lymington, Hampshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report



New Forest District Council Planning Reference: 10/95414  
Ref: 76901.01  
December 2015



**Plot D5 Ampress Lane, Lymington,  
Hampshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

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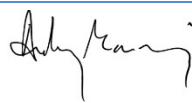
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## Quality Assurance

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<b>Planning Application Ref.</b>	New Forest District Council 10/95414	<b>Ordnance Survey (OS) national grid reference (NGR)</b>	432006, 96853		

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

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# Plot D5 Ampress Lane, Lymington, Hampshire

## Archaeological Watching Brief Report

### Summary

### Acknowledgements

<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	Project background .....	1
1.2	Site location, topography, current land use and geology .....	2
<b>2</b>	<b>ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.....</b>	<b>2</b>
2.1	Introduction .....	2
2.2	Prehistoric .....	2
2.3	Romano-British .....	2
2.4	Anglo-Saxon, Medieval and later activity .....	3
2.5	Previous archaeological work.....	3
<b>3</b>	<b>AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....</b>	<b>3</b>
3.1	Introduction .....	3
<b>4</b>	<b>METHODOLOGY.....</b>	<b>4</b>
4.1	Methodology.....	4
4.2	Recording.....	4
<b>5</b>	<b>RESULTS.....</b>	<b>4</b>
5.1	Introduction .....	4
5.2	Natural deposits and soil sequences .....	5
5.3	Archaeological features.....	5
<b>6</b>	<b>FINDS.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>CONCLUSIONS.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>STORAGE AND CURATION.....</b>	<b>5</b>
9.1	Museum .....	5
9.2	Preparation of archive .....	6
9.3	Discard policy.....	6
9.4	Copyright.....	6
9.5	Security copy.....	6



**10 REFERENCES..... 6**

**APPENDIX 1: TRENCH AND CONTEXT SUMMARIES..... 8**

**APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM ..... 10**  
**OASIS ID: WESSEXAR1-233440**

**Figures**

Figure 1: Location of the Site, monitoring area and results

**Plates**

Cover: General wide shot of site stripping  
Plate 1: General shot of site stripping  
Plate 2: Ditch **203** from the east (scale 1m)



## **Plot D5 Ampress Lane, Lymington, Hampshire**

### **Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

#### **Summary**

Wessex Archaeology were commissioned by Redrow Homes Limited to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the initial ground works on Plot 5, Ampress Lane, Lymington, Hampshire centred on National Grid Reference NGR 432006, 96853. This work followed on from a programme of watching brief in Plots 6 and 7 conducted in May/June 2011.

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

The main construction footprint, 'U'-shaped area measuring 1400 square metres (0.14 hectares) and four approximately 20 square metre geotechnical trial trenches, were monitored during the watching brief.

No significant archaeological features, deposits or finds were discovered. A single 2.7m wide north-east–south-west aligned ditch was observed at the southern end of the 'U'-shaped area. This feature appears to be a continuation of the post-medieval/modern ditch 104 revealed during the previous 2011 watching brief in the adjacent Plot D7.



## **Plot D5 Ampress Lane, Lymington, Hampshire**

### **Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

#### Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank John Nicholas of Redrow Homes Limited for commissioning the work and, together with Mark Curran (Kamm Civil Engineering Ltd.) for their assistance during the course of the project. The Site was monitored by Neil Adam of Hampshire County Council on behalf of the Local Planning Authority.

The watching brief was undertaken by Mike Dinwiddy. This report was written and compiled by Steve Thompson with report illustrations by Nancy Dixon. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Andy Manning.



# Plot D5 Ampress Lane, Lymington, Hampshire

## Archaeological Watching Brief Report

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology ('WA') were commissioned by Redrow Homes Limited (the Client) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the initial ground works within Plot D5, Ampress Lane, Lymington, Hampshire (hereafter 'the Site') centred on National Grid Reference NGR 432006, 96853 (**Figure 1**). This work followed on from a programme of watching brief in Plots D6 and D7 conducted in May/June 2011 (WA 2011b).
- 1.1.2 Planning permission with conditions was granted by New Forest District Council (10/95414) in August 2010 for the construction of 26 offices (1 building), 12 workshops (2 buildings), an 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 the 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 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (WA 2011a) setting out the methodologies and standards that were employed by WA in order to undertake the archaeological watching brief was submitted to and agreed by the Client and SAHCC prior to fieldwork commencing. In format and content the WSI conformed with current best practice and to the guidance outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE, English Heritage 2006) and the Institute for Archaeologists' (IfA) *Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (IfA revised 2008 – Now Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA revised 2014)
- 1.1.6 This document presents the results of the archaeological watching brief which took place between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> November 2015.





## **1.2 Site location, topography, current land use and geology**

- 1.2.1 The Site measures approximately 38m by 116m (4300 square metres) in size and lies within the Ampress Park Industrial Estate. The Site is rectangular in shape with the longer side orientated north-west – south-east. 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) (Geological Survey of England and Wales, 2013).

## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Introduction**

- 2.1.1 The full archaeological and historical background can be found in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WA 2011a); a summary of this information is included here.
- 2.1.2 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**).
- 2.1.3 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.

### **2.2 Prehistoric**

- 2.2.1 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).
- 2.2.2 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, was damaged by the construction of the Wellworthy Piston Rings Ltd factory after 1939. Part of the southern rampart ditch was revealed in archaeological investigations in 2001 (TVAS 2001).

### **2.3 Romano-British**

- 2.3.1 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.



## 2.4 Anglo-Saxon, Medieval and later activity

- 2.4.1 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.
- 2.4.2 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.
- 2.4.3 Domesday Book makes reference to the manor of Lentune. The town received its borough charter from William de Redvers sometime 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.
- 2.4.4 Analysis of the historic mapping indicates the Site was located within fields associated with Ampress Farm (OS 1868, 1:2,500) and the area remained unchanged until 1939 when the land was purchased by Wellworthy Piston Rings Ltd and a new factory was built to the north of Ampress Lane. This structure did not appear on the 1939–42 OS 1:10,500 map though it is on the 1963 OS 1:10,500 map. The location of the Site to the south of Ampress Lane remained as fields associated with Ampress Farm until c. 1973 (OS 1:10,000 map) when the farm house has been demolished and playing fields associated with the factory established.

## 2.5 Previous archaeological work

- 2.5.1 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**).
- 2.5.2 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.
- 2.5.3 In 2011 a watching brief was undertaken in Plots D6 and D7 immediately to the east and north-east of Plot D5 (WA 2011b). This work identified the continuation of the southern defensive ditch of Ampress Camp (approximately 85m to the north-east) which had been previously identified by TVAS in 2001 (TVAS 2001). Within the southern half of the site, two narrow palaeochannels and three shallow ditches were observed and though poorly dated, the ditch features were likely to be post-medieval and/or modern in date. These shallow ditches potentially extended into the southern part of D5.

## 3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

### 3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 The aims and objectives of the watching brief were outlined within the submitted WSI (WA 2011b) which conforms to *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE, English Heritage 2006) and the Institute for Archaeologists' (IfA) *Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (IfA revised 2008 – Now Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA revised 2014).



3.1.2 The aims of the archaeological field evaluation were to:

- *to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains, and should remains be present, to ensure their preservation by record to the highest possible standard;*
- *to confirm the approximate date or date range of the remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence;*
- *to determine or confirm the approximate extent of any remains;*
- *to determine the condition and state of preservation of the remains;*
- *to determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present; and*
- *to prepare a report on the results of the watching brief.*

## 4 METHODOLOGY

### 4.1 Methodology

4.1.1 The watching brief saw the monitoring of ground reduction of a c.12m wide 'U' shaped trench 54m in length and north-west – south-east aligned for the new road. The mechanical excavation was undertaken using a toothless ditching bucket and under constant supervision by WA and appropriate time was allowed by the groundworks team for inspection of the suspected archaeological features.

4.1.2 Four geotechnical trial trenches were also monitored during the programme of works.

### 4.2 Recording

4.2.1 All exposed archaeological deposits were recorded using WA's *pro forma* recording system.

4.2.2 A complete drawn record of the excavation was compiled including both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections), and with reference to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD) height of all principal features and levels will be calculated and plans/sections will be annotated with OD heights. A representative section of the overlying deposits recorded within the trenches and the test pits was recorded and drawn.

4.2.3 A photographic record was maintained during the evaluation 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.

## 5 RESULTS

### 5.1 Introduction

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

5.1.2 The following result section should be read in conjunction with trench descriptions in **Appendix 1**.



## 5.2 Natural deposits and soil sequences

- 5.2.1 The overlying deposits were relatively uniform across the main 'U' shaped area and the four geotechnical trial trenches. A 0.80–0.90m thick deposit of mixed and disturbed dark brown silty loam former topsoil containing mixed modern material (CBM etc) and incorporating probable subsoil material was removed by machine to the top of the natural geology. This overlying deposit was recorded as **200, 207, 209, 211** and **213**.
- 5.2.2 In the north-eastern corner of the 'U' shaped trench an area of modern disturbance and contaminated ground (layer **201**) was revealed cutting the top of the natural which was recorded as **202, 208, 210, 212** and **214**. The geology was a light to mid yellow brown sandy silty with common sub rounded and rounded gravels. This natural was revealed at approximately 2.80m aOD and was quite patchy with areas of green sand and numerous sporadic areas of modern disturbance. It is probable that the areas of disturbance and contamination are associated with activity on the Site from 1939 onwards and the Wellworthy Piston Rings Ltd factory. Though map evidence suggests the area remained as fields or playing fields during the occupation of the Site by the piston factory it is possible that temporary structures associated with the construction of the factory did impact the area of observed during the watching brief

## 5.3 Archaeological features

- 5.3.1 A single north-east–south-west aligned ditch was observed at the southern end of the 'U' trench and recorded as **203/205**. The ditch was at least 2.70m wide but could not be investigated as it was truncated by an existing live service. This ditch was the continuation of the post-medieval or modern ditch **104** revealed in the 2011 watching brief in Plot D7 (WA 2011b). No further archaeological features were observed within Plot D5.

## 6 FINDS

- 6.1.1 No finds were recovered during the programme of works.

## 7 ENVIRONMENTAL

- 7.1.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were recorded on the Site.

## 8 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1.1 The programme of archaeological watching brief conducted on Plot D5, Ampress Lane, Lymington was successful in its stated aims of clarifying that archaeological remains identified during earlier work continued through into the Site. These features are however of low archaeological interest.

## 9 STORAGE AND CURATION

### 9.1 Museum

- 9.1.1 As per the agreed WSI (WA 2011b), it is recommended that the project archive resulting from the watching brief be deposited with a repository to be agreed with the Hampshire County Museum Service. Prior to deposition the archive will be temporarily stored at Wessex Archaeology's offices in Salisbury under site code **76901**. Deposition of the archive with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.



## 9.2 Preparation of archive

- 9.2.1 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by the local museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014b; Brown 2011; ADS 2013). Details of the archaeological watching brief will also be entered into the online "OASIS" database maintained by the Archaeological Data Service (ADS). A copy of the OASIS entry has been included in this report (**Appendix 2**).
- 9.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the Site code **76901**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following:
- 1 file of paper records & A4 graphics
- 9.2.3 The archive of all records and finds will be consistent with the principles of Management of *Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) (English Heritage 2006).

## 9.3 Discard policy

- 9.3.1 WA 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.
- 9.3.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2011).

## 9.4 Copyright

- 9.4.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the Site will be retained by Wessex Archaeology Ltd under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The recipient museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profit making, and conforms with the *Copyright and Related Rights regulations 2003*.

## 9.5 Security copy

- 9.5.1 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.

## 10 REFERENCES

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## APPENDIX 1: TRENCH AND CONTEXT SUMMARIES

Bgl: Below Ground Level.  
aOD: above Ordnance Datum

'U' Shaped Road Trench	Dimensions :	53m long by 12 wide by 1m deep	Ground surface level:	3.5m aOD
	Centre line Coordinates (NGR):	432000.14, 96876.35 432014.53, 96824.89		
Context	Category	Description	Depth (bgl)	
200	Layer	Mixed and disturbed dark brown silty loam former topsoil, which has been heavily mixed following removal of buildings and structures on site. Contains mixed modern material (CBM etc) which has been pressed into the deposit. This deposit also incorporates probable subsoil material which has become incorporated with the upper topsoil deposit. Seals (201)	0-0.90m	
201	Layer	Modern deposit of dumped material which seals the natural geology (202) and is sealed by layer (200). This deposit was clearly modern and was not investigated.	0.90m+	
202	Natural	Light to mid yellow brown sandy silty with common sub rounded and rounded gravels. This natural is quite patchy with areas of green sand and numerous sporadic areas of modern disturbance.	0.90m+	
203	Cut	Cut of north-east-south-west aligned ditch which was also recorded as (205) to the north-east and is likely the continuation of ditch 104 identified to the east in Plot D7. This ditch had been truncated by a modern live service and so was not investigated.	0.90m+	
204	Fill	Upper fill of ditch 203. Dark grey brown silty clay, probable secondary fill derived from the erosion of ground surface material in to the ditch.	-	
205	Cut	Continuation of 203 recorded to the east.	-	
206	Fill	Upper fill of 205, equal to 204.	-	
<b>Comments:</b>				

Geotechnical Trial Trench 1	Dimensions :	5m long by 4m wide by	Ground surface level:	3.67m aOD
	Centre Point Coordinates (NGR):	432032.60, 96848.81		
Context	Category	Description	Depth (bgl)	
207	Layer	Mixed and disturbed dark brown silty loam former topsoil, which has been heavily mixed following removal of buildings and structures on site. Contains mixed modern material (CBM etc) which has been pressed into the deposit. This deposit also incorporates probable subsoil material which has become incorporated with the upper topsoil deposit. Seals (201)	0-0.80m	
208	Natural	Light to mid yellow brown sandy silty with common sub rounded and rounded gravels	0.80m+	
<b>Comments:</b>				



Geotechnical Trial Trench 2	Dimensions :		Ground surface level:	3.8m aOD
	Centre Point Coordinates (NGR):	432025.06, 96873.63		
Context	Category	Description	Depth (bgl)	
209	Layer	Mixed and disturbed dark brown silty loam former topsoil, which has been heavily mixed following removal of buildings and structures on site. Contains mixed modern material (CBM etc) which has been pressed into the deposit. This deposit also incorporates probable subsoil material which has become incorporated with the upper topsoil deposit. Seals (201)	0-0.80m	
210	Natural	Light to mid yellow brown sandy silty with common sub rounded and rounded gravels	0.80m+	
<b>Comments:</b>				

Geotechnical Trial Trench 3	Dimensions :		Ground surface level:	3.7m aOD
	Centre Point Coordinates (NGR):	432020.37, 96888.31		
Context	Category	Description	Depth (bgl)	
211	Layer	Mixed and disturbed dark brown silty loam former topsoil, which has been heavily mixed following removal of buildings and structures on site. Contains mixed modern material (CBM etc) which has been pressed into the deposit. This deposit also incorporates probable subsoil material which has become incorporated with the upper topsoil deposit. Seals (201)	0-1m	
212	Natural	Light to mid yellow brown sandy silty with common sub rounded and rounded gravels	1m+	
<b>Comments:</b>				

Geotechnical Trial Trench 4	Dimensions :		Ground surface level:	3.9m aOD
	Centre Point Coordinates (NGR):	431973.32, 96875.32		
Context	Category	Description	Depth (bgl)	
213	Layer	Mixed and disturbed dark brown silty loam former topsoil, which has been heavily mixed following removal of buildings and structures on site. Contains mixed modern material (CBM etc) which has been pressed into the deposit. This deposit also incorporates probable subsoil material which has become incorporated with the upper topsoil deposit. Seals (201)	0-0.80m	
214	Natural	Light to mid yellow brown sandy silty with common sub rounded and rounded gravels	0.80m+	
<b>Comments:</b>				





## APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: wessexar1-233440

### Project details

Project name	Plot D5 Ampress Lane, Lymington, Hampshire Archaeological Watching Brief
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology were commissioned by Redrow Homes Limited to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the initial ground works on Plot 5, Ampress Lane, Lymington, Hampshire centred on National Grid Reference NGR 432006, 96853. This work followed on from a programme of watching brief in Plots 6 and 7 conducted in May/June 2011. Planning permission 10/95414 with conditions was granted in August 2010 for the construction of 26 offices (1 building), 12 workshops (2 buildings), an industrial unit (1 building) and associated external works. The main construction footprint, 'U'-shaped area measuring 1400 square metres (0.14 hectares) and four approximately 20 square metre geotechnical trial trenches, were monitored during the watching brief. No significant archaeological features, deposits or finds were discovered. A single 2.7m wide north-east-south-west aligned ditch was observed at the southern end of the 'U'-shaped area. This feature appears to be a continuation of the post-medieval/modern ditch 104 revealed during the previous 2011 watching brief in the adjacent Plot D7.
Project dates	Start: 03-11-2015 End: 18-11-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	wessexar1-104678 - OASIS form ID
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 1 - Industrial
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	HAMPSHIRE NEW FOREST LYMINGTON AND PENNINGTON Plot D5 Ampress Lane, Lymington, Hampshire
Postcode	SO41 8JX
Study area	1400 Square metres
Site coordinates	SZ 32006 96853 50.769810208331 -1.546074220436 50 46 11 N 001 32 45 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 2.8m Max: 4m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project	A Manning



director/manager  
Project supervisor Mike Dinwiddy  
Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

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### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No  
Digital Archive recipient Hampshire County Museums Service  
Digital Contents "none"  
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"  
Paper Archive recipient Hampshire County Museums Service  
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Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Miscellaneous Material", "Report", "Survey ", "Unpublished Text"

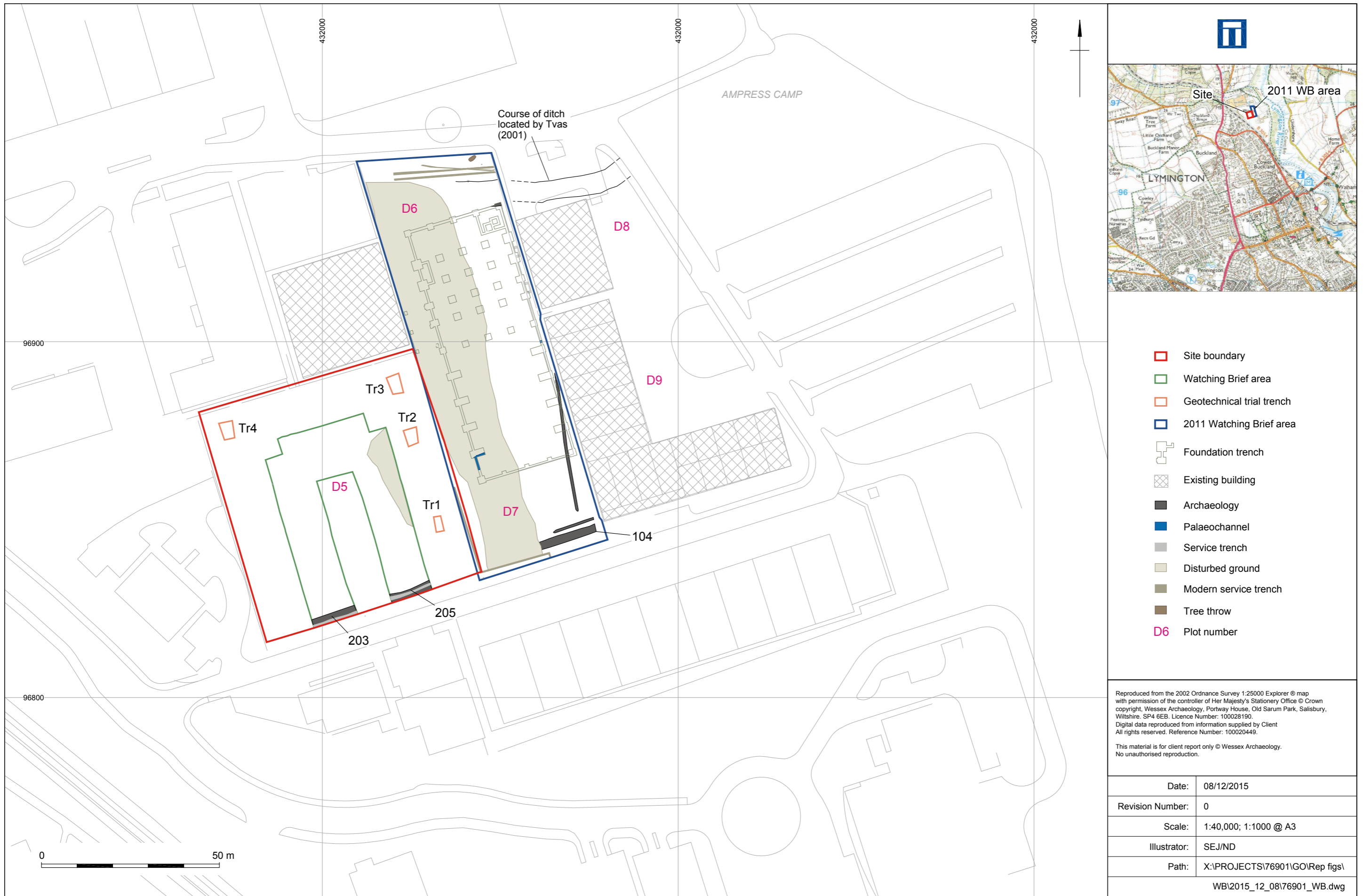
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### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
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Author(s)/Editor(s) Thompson, S and Manning, A  
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Location of site, monitored area and results

Figure 1






Plate 1: General shot of site stripping



Plate 2: Ditch 203 from the east (scale 1m)

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