



225 King Georges Avenue Southampton

Archaeological Watching Brief



Planning Ref: 16/02056/FUL
Accession Number: SOU 1753
Ref: 116330.03
August 2017



**225 King Georges Avenue
Southampton
SO15 4LD**

Archaeological Watching Brief

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August 2017

**Site Code: SOU 1753
WA Report Ref: 116330.03**



Quality Assurance

Project Code	116330	Site Code	SOU 1753	Client Ref.	
Planning Application Ref.	16/02056/FUL	Ordnance Survey (OS) national grid reference (NGR)	SU 439110 113720		

Version	Status*	Prepared by	Checked and Approved By	Approver's Signature	Date
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File:	\\projectserver\wessex\Projects\116330_Reports\superseded\116330_225 King Georges Avenue_draft AZ_170510_v1				
v02	E	AZ	DDR		11/05/17
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* I = Internal Draft; E = External Draft; F = Final

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Archaeological Watching Brief

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by E and H Property Investment to conduct an archaeological watching brief as part of development on land at 225 King Georges Avenue, Southampton, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 439110 113720.

The development consisted of the erection of a 2-storey side extension to the building following the demolition of an existing garage and works. The archaeological watching brief monitored the excavation of foundation trenches for the new extension.

The stratigraphic sequence observed consisted of natural underlying geology viewed at a depth of 1.50m below ground level (8.15m aOD), this was subsequently overlain by a buried subsoil and topsoil and then a thick band of modern made ground. This layer of made ground was possibly laid down during the construction of the houses during the 1930s or 1940s to raise the ground level above and alleviate the risk of flooding from Tanners Brook which lies only some 40m to the west of the site.

No archaeological features or deposits were observed during the course of the archaeological watching brief.

The watching brief was undertaken on 4 May 2017



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Archaeological Watching Brief

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology is grateful to E and H Property Investment for commissioning the project and to Max Holmes in this regard.

Ingrid Peckham, Historic Environment Officer (Archaeology) Southampton City Council, is thanked for her advice during the course of this archaeological watching brief.

The fieldwork was carried out by Neil Fitzpatrick. The report was written by Alistair Zochowski. The graphics were prepared by Nancy Dixon. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Damian De Rosa.



225 King Georges Avenue Southampton SO15 4LD

Archaeological Watching Brief

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by E and H Property Investment to undertake an archaeological watching brief on a proposed development at 225 King Georges Avenue, Southampton, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 439110 113720 (hereafter 'the Site', **Figure 1**).

1.1.2 A planning application (ref. 16/02056/FUL) had been approved (subject to conditions) by Southampton City Council (SCC) for the redevelopment of the Site for the erection of a 2-storey side extension to create a 3-bed dwelling following demolition of existing garage with associated works.

1.1.3 The following archaeological conditions were attached to the planning consent:

03. Archaeological evaluation/watching brief investigation (Pre-Commencement)

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.

04. Archaeological evaluation/watching brief work programme (Performance)

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 (SCCHET) was consulted by SCC prior to determination of the planning application and stated that "*The archaeological investigation will take the form of a watching brief on the groundworks with option to excavate should archaeological deposits be uncovered*". SCCHET requested that the archaeological conditions shown above should be applied to any consent.



2 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Location, topography and geology

2.1.1 The Site is located on the corner of King Georges Avenue and Oakley Road. Residential housing lies to the south and an industrial unit lies to the west of the Site. Tanners Brook lies c. 40m to the west. The Site is occupied by the existing property, which lies on the southern side of the Site with an attached garage and garden to the north. The garage was demolished as part of the proposed development, and will be replaced by the new extension, which will also extend into the garden area.

2.1.2 Within its boundary the Site is level at a height of c. 9.65m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

2.1.3 The bedrock geology underlying the Site is mapped as Wittering Formation - Sand, Silt and Clay. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 40 to 56 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period. Local environment previously dominated by shallow sea. The Site lies within in a corridor of Wittering Formation and although superficial deposits are not indicated as underlying the Site, they are indicated within the very close and surrounding vicinity as River Terrace Deposits, 3 - Sand and Gravel. Superficial Deposits formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. Local environment previously dominated by rivers (BGS 2017).

2.2 Archaeological and historical background

Introduction

2.2.1 A summary of the archaeological and historical background to the Site is discussed below informed by a search of the Southampton City Council Historic Environment Record (SCCHER). Relevant entry numbers from the SCCHER and site codes are included where appropriate.

2.2.2 The Site lies in a Local Area of Archaeological Potential, as defined in the Southampton Local Plan and Core Strategy -- LAAP 16 (The Rest of Southampton). This area encompasses parts of the city which are not including in the more specific Local Areas of Archaeological Potential but reflects the general potential of the Southampton area.

Previous investigations

2.2.3 A watching brief some 35 m to the south-west of the Site at the rear of 197 - 225 King George's Avenue in 1992 found over a metre of stratified deposits suggesting activity from the Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval periods (SCCHER MSH590 – SOU 476). The natural deposit was mixed brickearth. This was sealed by a 0.25m thick layer of loamy soil, possibly a buried soil horizon, sealed in turn by over 1m of overburden. The lowest layer above the soil was a 0.14m thick layer of redeposited brickearth, containing some fine brick fragments which, though they could not be closely dated, suggest that this layer was deposited during or after the Roman period. Above this were two layers of loamy soil, each containing small quantities of building material, including slate. The slate might date these layers to the medieval period or later. The upper layers appeared to show signs of burning, though as the ground below was not scorched it was unlikely to be in situ burning. These were sealed by two layers of soil with very little building material, suggesting a developing soil horizon. Above these were a 0.10m thick layer with extremely abundant brick fragments, possibly associated with the construction of the houses on King George's Avenue. The whole site was covered by a 0.30m thick sandy loam garden soil.



- 2.2.4 Roman evidence was found during a watching brief on part of the former site of Western Hospital in 1993/4 (SCCHER MSH581 - SOU 543) c.300m to the north west of the Site. Six features, including a linear feature, which between them contained a few pieces of Roman pottery, are interpreted as being of Roman date. Undated features were also found during the watching brief (SCCHER MSH582 – SOU 543). Seven features contained no datable finds. Two small features may have been of Bronze Age date, and one feature contained eight pieces of pottery of either Iron Age, Roman or Saxon date.
- 2.2.5 Three natural features and some possible prehistoric flints were found during an archaeological watching brief at 119 Regents Park Road in 2007 (SCCHER MSH4443 - SOU 1435) c.450 m to the south west of the site. One feature was a palaeochannel, the others may have been tree throws. Natural deposits were laminated clay of the Wittering Formation, overlain by river terrace gravels (2.15m thick), overlain by a “natural gravel interface layer”, overlain by a buried soil dating to the early modern or possibly post-medieval period, overlain across most of the site by modern topsoil.
- 2.2.6 Approximately 1 km to the north west of the Site features of Iron Age, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval date were found during an archaeological watching brief and excavation at Newlands Primary School, Ullswater Road in 2011 (SCCHER MSH4889 - SOU 1564), on groundworks for a new school building. The Iron Age activity consisted of ditches, pits, post-holes, stake-holes and a hearth. Two buildings were identified - a circular building and a second building with less regular form. Fragments of prehistoric pottery, burnt flints and worked flint were recovered. A radiocarbon date of 390-410BC was obtained from charcoal in one feature. Saxon activity consisted of three shallow features containing charcoal and burnt flint, and a ditch. Three radiocarbon dates spanned the period AD 420 to AD 770. In addition, two shallow medieval pits/post-holes and a post-medieval ditch were found. The natural geology was recorded as brickearth.

Prehistoric (970,000BC – AD43)

- 2.2.7 There are a number of finds of Palaeolithic flint handaxes and tools artefacts recorded from the area, associated with the river terrace gravels, including finds from ‘Old Shirley’ to the north and Millbrook to the south of the Site (SCCHER MSH103, MSH105, MSH107, MSH116, MSH138, MSH475). Results from a watching brief at the former Western Hospital site to the west of Terbourba Way indicate the presence of a paleochannel in this area of likely prehistoric date (SCCHER MSH580 – SOU 543). A Mesolithic axe is also recorded from the Old Shirley area (SCCHER MSH108).
- 2.2.8 Further prehistoric activity in the immediate area of the Site can be seen with Neolithic worked flint found some 250 m to the south-west of the Site (SCCHER MSH90) and further artefacts from the Old Shirley area (SCCHER MSH109, MSH110). During an excavation at 80 Prince of Wales Avenue just to the south-east of the Site a late Bronze Age/ early Iron Age activity was recorded including a possible cremation burial and ironworking (SCCHER MSH589 – SOU189). Bronze Age and prehistoric flint tools are recorded as being recovered from the Millbrook area (SCCHER MSH477, MSH478).

Romano-British (AD 43-410)

- 2.2.9 The Romano-British settlement at Bitterne Manor (*Clausentum*), located approximately 4.5 km to the east of the Site, became, within a few decades of the Roman Conquest in AD 43, the principal centre within the region.
- 2.2.10 Within the vicinity of the Site, Romano-British activity was identified within the former Western Hospital site (SCCHER MSH581 – SOU 543). Two Roman coins are also

recorded to the south of the Site in King George's Avenue (SCCHER MSH88, MSH89) and, although no features were located, late Iron Age or Romano-British pottery was recovered from a watching brief just to the south-east of the Site in Prince of Wales Avenue (SCCHER MSH2382 – SOU 1272). Brick fragments found within deeply stratified deposits off Oakley Road may be of Romano-British date (SCCHER MSH590 – SOU 476).

Saxon and medieval (410-1066)

- 2.2.11 The mid-Saxon town of *Hamwic* developed in the late 7th century to become an important trading and production centre. Throughout the 8th and 9th centuries, *Hamwic* grew and expanded to become a major international trading port and one of the largest towns in England. The available evidence indicates that *Hamwic* had been abandoned by the mid-9th century and the new settlement of *New Hampton* (Southampton) is thought to have been established in the early 10th century on the higher grounds by the River Test, to the south-west of the site of *Hamwic*.
- 2.2.12 Shirley is documented in the 1086 Domesday Survey was a moderately sized settlement, this and the fact that a church is also recorded suggest the settlement has Saxon origins; the precise location of this church is unknown (SCCHER MSH596). Millbrook is also thought to date to the Late Saxon period and appears to have been focused on Millbrook Road (SCCHER MSH3132). The Site lies immediately to the east of Tanner's Brook (SCCHER MSH4391); place name evidence from Late Saxon land charters suggests that this was the location of one or more watermills (SCCHER MSH4392). The mill race of the former Mousehole Mill/ Mousehole Foundry which originally extended to the south of Oakley Road may have Saxon origins (SCCHER MSH591).
- 2.2.13 Building material found during a watching brief to the south-west of the Site may indicate some medieval or later activity (SCCHER MSH590 – SOU 476).

Post-medieval, 19th century and modern (1066 – present day)

- 2.2.14 Immediately to the west of the Site on the opposite bank of Tanner's Brook was the location of a Mousehole Mill, thought to date to the late 18th century (SCCHER MSH100). The mill become an iron foundry in the mid-19th century which was then replaced by a paint works. Land to the north-east of the Site and to the north of Oakley Road was formerly the location of Shirly Park and Shirley House, which was constructed in the late 18th century (SCCHER MSH3621).
- 2.2.15 The area of the Site can be seen as still undeveloped agricultural land on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey mapping (1869-83), although the foundry and a sand pit can be seen just to the north. A building can be seen immediately to the north-west of the Site on the 1897 edition which may relate to Shirley Mill, already disused by this time. The mill complex, including this building appear by the 1907 edition to have become the paint works and it is on this edition that residential development to the north of the lane can be seen. The existing property is first visible on the post-war 1947 edition although the construction of King George's Avenue and adjacent residential street can be seen to have begun in the 1930s.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1.1 The aims and objectives for the archaeological watching brief are detailed within the Written Scheme of Investigation (WA 2017) and are summarised below:

- *Identify the presence/absence of any buried archaeological remains within the Site;*



- *Record and establish, within the constraints of the works, the date, character and condition of any surviving remains within the Site;*
- *Within the constraints of the work, identify and record the nature, and relationship of natural deposits on the Site, including the potential for such deposits to contain or conceal archaeological remains; and*
- *Produce a report to disseminate the results of the watching brief.*

3.1.2 All works carried out during the course of the archaeological watching brief followed the standards and guidelines outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 2014a).

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Watching brief methodology

4.1.1 The methodologies for the archaeological watching brief are detailed within the Written Scheme of Investigation (WA 2017) and are summarised below.

4.1.2 The methodology for the archaeological watching brief consisted of monitoring the groundwork made beneath the present ground surfaces. This was to include any foundation trenches, services and any below ground works including ground breaking and removal of existing foundations that could impact upon the archaeological resource.

4.1.3 For the purposes of this project, archaeologically significant remains and contexts were defined as remains and contexts relating to pre-1850 human use of the area. The Southampton Site code (SOU 1753) as issued by the HET was used throughout the project to identify the site records and artefacts.

4.1.4 The watching brief was undertaken by one experienced archaeologist subject to the number of site operations being undertaken at any one time. Any mechanical excavation was, where possible, undertaken using a toothless ditching bucket and under constant supervision by Wessex Archaeology. Where practicable and without causing unreasonable delay to the groundwork programme, excavations were halted whilst investigations were carried out by Wessex Archaeology staff.

4.1.5 In the event that archaeological deposits were encountered, these were to be identified and made clear to the SCC Historic Environment Team, the Client and the groundwork contractor, who would subsequently allow reasonable access to Wessex Archaeology Staff to excavate and record the archaeology present.

4.1.6 The watching brief took place on 4 May 2017. The sides of the narrow trenches were rather unstable and could not be entered. Groundworks for the foundation trenches were observed. The watching brief was then terminated, with the agreement of the HET, and further groundworks were not observed.

4.2 Recording

4.2.1 All exposed archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's 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 colour descriptions were used.

4.2.2 A complete drawn record of archaeological features and deposits was compiled. This included both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 for plans,



1:10 for sections), and with reference to a site grid tied to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD) height of all principal features and levels was calculated and plans/sections were annotated with OD heights.

- 4.2.3 All excavated archaeological features were digitally surveyed in order to produce a site plan, using GPS within the OS NGR system, and including heights above OS datum (Newlyn).
- 4.2.4 A digital photographic record was maintained using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. The photographic record illustrates both the detail and the general context of the principal features and finds excavated and the Site as a whole.

5 RESULTS

- 5.1.1 Three foundation trenches for the external walls and one internal wall foundation trench for the purposes of concrete footings were excavated by a mechanical excavator using a toothless bucket within a c. 38m² footprint located to the east of the existing building. The foundation trenches measured c. 22.20 m in total linear length with each trench c.0.65m wide and excavated to a maximum depth of 1.60 m below existing ground level (**Figures 1, 2 and Plates 1 to 4**).
- 5.1.2 The underlying natural geology (**100**), consisting of mixed light grey brown sands and gravels was observed at the base of the trench at a depth of c. 8.15m aOD, 1.5m below ground level. Overlying the natural was a layer of possible yellowish brown silty clay subsoil (**101**), this had an average thickness of 0.20m and was observed at a depth of between 1.3 and 1.5m below ground level (**Figure 2**).
- 5.1.3 The subsoil layer (**101**) was sealed by a thin layer of possible buried topsoil (**102**) that was dark grey in colour and had an average thickness of 0.10m. This layer was encountered at a depth of 1.20m below ground level (**Figure 2**).
- 5.1.4 Overlying this sequence of deposits was a thick layer of mixed made ground (**103**). Within this layer modern building debris was observed (**Figure 2, Plates 2, 3 and 4**). This layer had a thickness of up to 1.20m and also formed the current ground level for the Site at a height of c.9.50m to 9.65m aOD. Within this layer a rectangular concrete structure measuring 1.3m in width and 1.9m in length was observed and is likely to be associated with the demolished garage that was formerly on the Site.
- 5.1.5 No archaeological features or layers were observed within the foundation trench.

6 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL

- 6.1.1 No finds were present or retrieved during the course of the watching brief
- 6.1.2 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were recovered during the course of the watching brief.

7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1.1 The archaeological watching brief did not reveal any archaeological features or deposits within the confines of the monitored groundworks as part of the redevelopment of the Site.



7.1.2 The fact that no archaeological features or deposits were observed within the foundation trenches may also reflect the limited nature of the groundworks undertaken and monitored. The archaeological and historical background to the Site had indicated a generally low potential for the presence of archaeological activity within the vicinity of the Site and this appears to have been borne out by the results of the watching brief.

7.1.3 The layer of made ground which covers the entire site may have been the result of site levelling and ground elevation during construction of the house during the 1930s or 1940s to minimise the potential risk of flooding caused by the nearby Tanners Brook.

8 STORAGE AND CURATION

8.1 Site archive

8.1.1 Wessex Archaeology confirms that the project archive resulting from the watching brief will be deposited with SCC's depository under Site code SOU 1753.

8.1.2 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 Southampton City Council Archaeological Collections (SCC 2016), and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; Brown 2011; ADS 2013; ClfA 2014b). A full-colour paper copy of the entire report will also be included with the archive.

8.1.3 All archive elements will be marked with the Site code 1753, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:

- *1 file/document case of paper records*

8.2 Discard policy

8.2.1 It is important to note that 'Standards for the Creation, Compilation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives' (Southampton City Council, 2016) takes precedence regarding finds retention policy. No finds will be discarded without prior approval from SCC Archaeology Collections.

8.2.2 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections (SMA 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.

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

8.3 OASIS

8.3.1 An OASIS online record <http://ads.adhs.ac.uk/projects/oasis/> has been completed for the archaeological watching brief works.

8.4 Security copy

8.4.1 In line with current best practise (e.g., Brown 2011); on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.



8.5 Copyright

- 8.5.1 Wessex Archaeology shall retain full copyright of the commissioned report, under the *Copyright, Design and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved; excepting that it will provide an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters relating to the project as described in the Project Specification or Design (Wessex Archaeology 2017).
- 8.5.2 Wessex Archaeology will assign copyright to the client upon written request but retains the right to be identified as the author of all project documentation and reports as defined in the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* (Chapter IV, s.79).
- 8.5.3 Wessex Archaeology will also grant a licence to the relevant museum for the use of the Trust's archives. In addition, Wessex Archaeology hereby gives permission for the Southampton City Council to freely copy the report for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process, without reference to Wessex Archaeology.

9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Wessex Archaeology 2017 *225 King Georges Avenue, Southampton, SO15 4LD. Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*. Unpublished client report, ref. 116330.01



APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT TABLE

Trench 1	Dimensions: 8.0m x 5.50m x 1.50m-Overall area of extension footprint.		
	Land use: Domestic building		
	Ground level: 9.65m aOD		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
100	Layer	Natural-Mixed sand and gravels-10YR 7/1 & 8/6. Quite common flint pebbles, sub-rounded and sub-angular <55mm. Loose consistency.	1.50m+
101	Layer	Subsoil-10YR 5/4. Slightly sandy clay silt, occasional flint pebbles, sub-rounded and sub-angular <35mm. Friable consistency.	1.30-1.50m
102	Layer	Topsoil-10YR 4/1. Silty clay loam. Friable consistency.	1.20-1.30m
103	Layer	Mixed made-up ground. Modern brick, sand and soil mixture. Loose consistency.	0.00-1.20m
104	Structure	Modern concrete structure	0.00-0.90m



APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: wessexar1-284916

Project details

Project name	225 King Georges Avenue, Southampton
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by E and H Property Investment to conduct an archaeological watching brief as part of development on land at 225 King Georges Avenue, Southampton. The development consisted of the erection of a 2-storey side extension to the building following the demolition of an existing garage and works. The archaeological watching brief monitored the excavation of foundation trenches for the new extension. The stratigraphic sequence observed consisted of natural underlying geology viewed at a depth of 1.50m below ground level (8.15m aOD), this was subsequently overlain by a buried subsoil and topsoil and then a thick band of modern made ground. This layer of made ground was possibly laid down during the construction of the houses during the 1930s or 1940s to raise the ground level above and alleviate the risk of flooding from Tanners Brook which lies only some 40m to the west of the site. No archaeological features or deposits were observed during the course of the archaeological watching brief.
Project dates	Start: 04-05-2017 End: 04-05-2017
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	SOU 1753 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	116330 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	HAMPSHIRE SOUTHAMPTON SOUTHAMPTON 225 King Georges Avenue Southampton
Postcode	SO15 4LD
Study area	38 Square metres
Site coordinates	SU 39110 13720 50.921061041969 -1.443524589249 50 55 15 N 001 26 36 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 8.15m Max: 8.15m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
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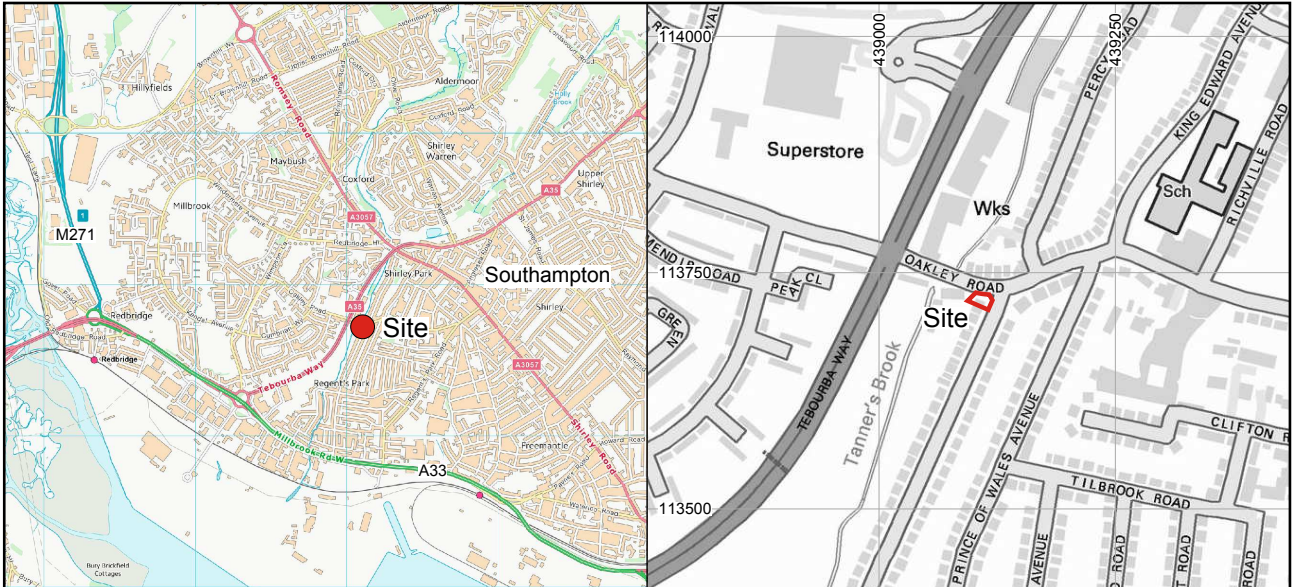
Project brief originator	Southampton City Council
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	Damian De Rosa
Project supervisor	Neil Fitzpatrick
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	E and H Property Investment


Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Southampton City Museum Service
Digital Media available	"GIS", "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Southampton City Museum Service
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Diary", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

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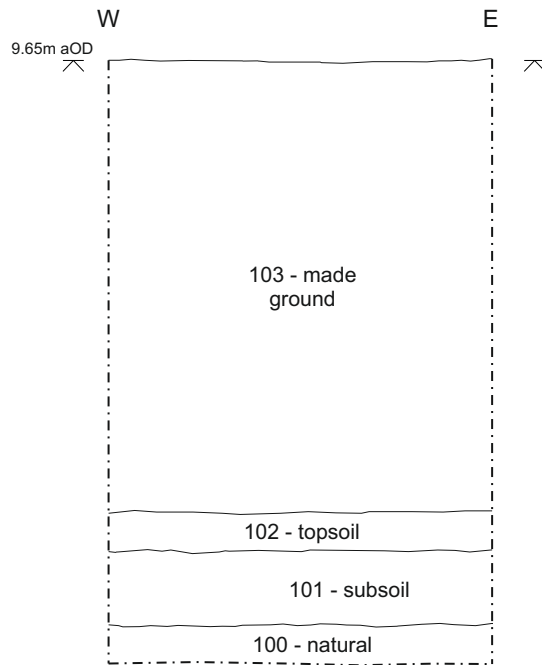


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Site location plan

Figure 1

South facing representative section of extension footings



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Plate 1: Site looking west



Plate 2: Representative section, 1m scale, looking east



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Plate 3: Representative section, 1m scale, looking south-east



Plate 4: Representative south facing section, 1m scales, looking north

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