



129 St Denys Road, Southampton, Hampshire

Archaeological Evaluation



Planning Ref.: 19/01417/FUL

Site Code: SOU1876

Document Ref: 235160.03

September 2020



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Document Information

Document title	129 St Denys Road, Southampton, Hampshire
Document subtitle	Archaeological Evaluation
Document reference	235160.03
Commissioned by	Sway Road Limited
Address	Cedar House 6 - 12 Royal Crescent Road Ocean Village Southampton SO14 3FS
Site location	129 St Denys Road, Southampton, SO17 2JY
County	Hampshire
National grid reference (NGR)	443640 114055 (SU 4364 1405)
Statutory designations	Local Area of Archaeological Potential
Planning authority	Southampton City Council
Planning reference	19/01417/FUL
Museum name	Southampton City Council Archaeological Collections
Museum accession code	TBC
HET reference number	9349
Site Code	SOU 1876
OASIS Id	wessexar1-402154
WA project name	129 St Denys Road, Southampton, Hampshire
WA project code	235160
Dates of fieldwork	13/08/2020 – 18/08/2020
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Quality Assurance

Issue number & date	Status	Author	Approved by	
1	10/09/2020	Draft submitted to Client	EL	DDR
2	22/09/20	Draft to PA SCC	DDR	Client
3	06/10/20	2 nd draft following review by PA SCC	EL / DDR	PA SCC
4	14/10/20	Final	DDR	PA SCC



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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Sway Road Limited, to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at 129 St Denys Road, Southampton, SO17 2JY in response to planning conditions within planning application 19/01417/FUL granted by Southampton City Council for the development of the site.

In total three trenches were excavated. Due to the presence of an electrical signal a fourth proposed trench location could not be excavated, and site restrictions did not allow for its relocation. Across the site intact brickearth was encountered at between 0.67 and 1.1 m below ground level (bgl). A sondage in Trench 2 confirmed that the brickearth was present up to 1.48 m below ground level. Trenches were dug through garden soil, topsoil or hardstanding in association with the existing property which overlay made ground with no subsoil recorded.

A modern rubbish pit cut into made ground and filled with demolition material was observed in addition to a gully also filled with building material, including roofing slate, of possible 19th century date. The gully, located in Trench 4, appears to be aligned with a field boundary depicted on the 1876-1883 Hampshire and Isle of Wight OS Map. Three parallel cut features (orientated north-east – south-west) were identified within Trench 2, aligned with a field boundary depicted on the 1658 map of the Manor of Portwood. Structural elements pre-dating the existing site were found in the form of a wall within the southern extent of the site in the western end of Trench 4, and is also possibly aligned to boundaries on the 1658 map. The rough courses of limestone blocks and red bricks were found bonded with redeposited brickearth. The upper part of the wall was probably robbed. Although no further artefactual material was found associated with the wall, the bricks used would suggest an early post-medieval date.

A sondage cut into Trench 2 reached river terrace gravels at 1.48 m bgl. During the excavation a deposit of man-made material resembling mortar was located within the top of the brickearth at 1.3 m bgl. Though no feature was seen in association with the deposit, and the origin and function of the material remains unclear.

The results of the evaluation are similar to those of excavations to the north, at the site of the former PVC works at 13 - 18 Priory Avenue to the north of St Denys Road where features of a structural nature relating to the water supply to the medieval priory of St Denys were uncovered. Structural elements and features associated with post-medieval activity within the vicinity were also recorded. Whilst the site can be seen to have undergone little development, historic mapping does indicate small changes in the footprint of the building and the presence of earlier, well-defined boundaries. At this stage the precise origins and exact functions of the features remain inconclusive, however a relationship with those found to the north remains possible.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Sway Road Limited, for commissioning the archaeological evaluation, and in particular David Price. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of Ingrid Peckham the Planning Archaeologist / Historic Environment Officer for Southampton City Council, who monitored the project for Southampton City Council.



129 St Denys Road, Southampton, Hampshire

Archaeological Evaluation

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Sway Road Limited, to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a parcel of land located at 129 St Denys Road, Southampton, Hampshire, SO17 2JY centred on NGR 443640 114055 (SU 4364 1405) (**Fig. 1**).

1.1.2 The proposed development comprises the demolition of the existing property and redevelopment of the site by the erection of nine flats with associated parking, and cycle and refuse storage. An area within the southern bounds of the site will be set aside for communal gardens. A planning application (19/01417/FUL) submitted to Southampton City Council (SCC), was granted 23rd December 2019, subject to conditions. The following conditions relate to archaeology and followed consultation by the LPA with their archaeological planning advisor, Planning Archaeologist / Historic Environment Record Officer (PA) at SCC:

08. Archaeological evaluation 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.

09. Archaeological evaluation work programme [Performance Condition]

The developer will secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation as necessary which will be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that archaeological investigation is completed

1.1.3 Further related archaeological conditions state:

07. Archaeological damage-assessment [Pre-Commencement Condition]

No development shall take place within the site until the type and dimensions of all proposed groundworks have been submitted to and agreed by the Local planning Authority. The developer will restrict groundworks accordingly unless a variation is agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To inform and update the assessment of the threat to the archaeological deposits

10. Archaeological investigation (further works) [Performance Condition]

The Developer will secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a further written scheme of investigation as necessary which will be

submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

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

11. Archaeological work programme (further works) [Performance Condition]
The developer will secure the completion of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a further 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 results of the evaluation, as detailed and discussed within this report, will inform an archaeological damage-assessment in response to condition 07 as stated above within application 19/01417/FUL. If further mitigation is deemed necessary by the PA for SCC following the archaeological damage-assessment, further planning conditions (10 and 11) as stated above within application 19/01417/FUL will need to be addressed.
- 1.1.5 All works were undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed in order to undertake the evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2020). The PA SCC approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing.
- 1.1.6 The evaluation was to comprise the excavation of 4 no trial trenches, but due to the presence of a previously unidentified power signal/service running along the northern edge of the northernmost trench, and on site restrictions, trench 1 could not be excavated (**Fig. 1**). Slight adaptations to Trench 2 is also noted due to the site conditions following demolition and clearance of the site. Provisions were made within the WSI for the works that due to such site constraints the adaptation of trench size and location may be necessary. The WSI also stated that should ground conditions not allow for overall coverage of the site, further trenches may be required in order to meet the objectives of the evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2020).
- 1.1.7 Fieldwork was undertaken between the 13/08/2020 and 18/08/2020.

1.2 Scope of the report

- 1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a detailed description of the results of the evaluation, to interpret the results within a local, regional or wider archaeological context and assess whether the aims of the evaluation have been met.
- 1.2.2 The presented results will provide further information on the archaeological resource that may be impacted by the proposed development and facilitate an informed decision with regard to the requirement for, and methods of, any further archaeological mitigation.

1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 The evaluation area is located at 129 St Denys Road, Southampton, approximately 42 m and 74 m to the west of the River Itchen at Cobden Bridge (**Fig. 1**). The development area, which comprised a residential property and garden which was partially demolished and cleared prior to the archaeological evaluation, is positioned on the southern side of St Denys Road with further properties located immediately to the west. A treeline separates the site from a boatyard, and associated slipways into the river, to the east. Land belonging to 258 Priory Road forms the southern boundary of the site.



- 1.3.2 The site gently slopes towards the south-east with existing ground levels recorded as approximately 3.70 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the north-western corner and 2.30 m aOD in the south-eastern corner. St Denys Road was built on an embankment, so raised above the level of the existing ground surface. The present ground level of c. 2.40m aOD is not the “natural ground level” as historic mapping and archaeological evidence has shown that a small valley was backfilled in the 19th century (**section 2.2.3**). The site lies to the east of the 20ft contour (c. 3.20m aOD) shown on 1846 Royal Engineers Map.
- 1.3.3 The underlying geology is mapped as Clay, Silt and Sand of the London Clay Formation with superficial River Terrace Deposits No.1 comprising Sand and Gravel (British Geological Survey online viewer).
- 1.3.4 Archaeological investigation of the former PVC site at 13 - 18 Priory Avenue (Brading forthcoming) to the north of the development area confirmed that the natural geology was that of River Terrace Deposits No. 1 overlain by brickearth to the west, which comprised solid ground. To the east, intertidal river muds were observed to have encroached upon the geology. These were overlain by early modern and modern infill.
- 1.3.5 A geotechnical soil investigation survey of the site as part of a Preliminary Geoenvironmental and Geotechnical Assessment (TEC 2020) has also been undertaken comprising the excavation of 1 no borehole and 3 no window samples. The survey identified up to 0.90 m in total of made ground identifiable as two separate deposits at each location, with the lower made ground deposit being described as brown sandy gravelly clay and brown gravelly sandy clay containing Gravel of flint, brick, occasional black carbonaceous material, clinker and rare slate. This overlay the River Terrace Deposits with the upper deposit being described as soft to very soft orange-brown to brown slightly gravelly sandy clay with gravel of fine to medium flint inclusions. The top of the River Terrace Deposits was identified in BH01 on the west of the site at c. 2 m above Ordnance datum (aOD) and at WS03 to the east at c. 1.46m aOD.
- 1.3.6 The soil matrix within the excavated trenches (**Section 5** and **Appendix 1**) confirmed the presence of modern made ground across the site. Geology identified across the site comprised well intact brickearth.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background considers the search results of the Southampton Historic Environment Record within a 500 m study area of the development. A summary of the results is presented below, with relevant entry numbers from the Southampton Historic Environment Record (SHER) and the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) included. Additional sources of information are referenced, as appropriate.
- 2.1.2 The site lies within a Local Area of Archaeological Potential, as defined in the Southampton Local Plan and Core Strategy – LAAP 10 (Portwood, Highfield and northern St Denys).

2.2 Previous investigations

- 2.2.1 There are no previous archaeological investigations known to have taken place within the site, though several archaeological works have been undertaken within the immediate vicinity.

- 2.2.2 Most significantly, on the north side of St Denys Road, the site of the Medieval Priory (MSH1501; MSH5579; NHLE 1001872), and its immediate environs, has been subject to many archaeological investigations. The majority of these comprise small scale watching briefs, though several evaluations and excavations have taken place (including SOU 448, SOU 918, SOU 1049, SOU 1136). A number of these have taken place immediately opposite the area of development. An evaluation undertaken by Southern Archaeological Services (SOU 1049; Southern Archaeological Services 2000) uncovered stone foundations relating to St Denys Priory alongside various features which the provisional results dated at the time to the medieval period including a lime kiln, probable priory ditch, stone lined drain and medieval ploughsoil. Following the excavation phase (SOU 1136), the lime kiln is now considered to be early 19th century. Remnants of building material and pottery likely associated with the priory's use were also recorded. It is noted that evidence pertaining to Prehistoric and Roman activity within the locality was also recovered.
- 2.2.3 In addition to the archaeological data recovered from the site, the evaluation and subsequent excavation (SOU 1049 and 1136), also provided insights into the topography and geology of the immediate area prior to land reclamation, including the presence of a possible valley to the south (Brading forthcoming). The presence of the valley is supported by contours on the 1846 map, which suggest the site was formerly positioned between c.3.2 m and c.3.5 m aOD towards the base of the south-east facing slope of the valley. The map also records a pond in the valley bottom (now under the bridge) and a river wall. Evidence from SOU 1136 suggests some initial reclamation of the valley had taken place behind the river wall by 1846, with further reclamation occurring later in the century.
- 2.2.4 To the east of the development site a borehole survey (ESH1329) was undertaken across the River Itchen along the line of Cobden Bridge. The survey indicated the presence of a buried gravel river terrace and peat (MSH364 and MSH365). The gravel was found to be approximately 2.13 m thick and was found to be overlain by a thick layer of peat towards the east of the surveyed area. The peat (MSH365) is believed to have been laid down during the Mesolithic Period.
- 2.2.5 To the south of the development, at 248 Priory Road, an archaeological evaluation and watching brief was undertaken (SOU 1778). These investigations crossed the former shoreline of the River Itchen and the eastern part of the site had been reclaimed. The western part of the site was defined by brickearth, previously mistaken for alluvium, and contained several features of unknown origin, though these did not appear archaeological.
- 2.2.6 Further to the south a number of archaeological investigations have revealed evidence for Roman activity (SOU 960; SOU 981 / MSH1810; SOU 1602 / MSH5572; SOU 1694; SOU 822 / MSH1648). Evidence included pits and ditches, pottery and CBM across the sites which lie along and close to Priory Road. This suggests the presence of a Roman settlement in the St Denys area (MSH2568). The settlement is believed to date to the early Roman period. In some instances, sporadic Iron Age pottery was recovered, though it remains unknown whether the settlement had an Iron Age precursor (SOU1602 / MSH5572; SOU 822 / MSH1648).
- 2.2.7 To the west of the development site, a watching brief on groundworks for St Denys Church Centre indicated that the natural geology was brick earth deposits overlying the river terrace gravels (MSH1794 / SOU 794). Finds recovered during the investigations are indicative of Roman occupation. This is further corroborated by results of a contemporary watching brief (SOU 807) which revealed Roman features and a post-medieval ditch immediately south of SOU 794. This is further evidence for a Roman settlement in the St Denys area (MSH2568).

2.3 Archaeological and historical context

Prehistoric (970,000 BC – AD43)

- 2.3.1 Evidence purporting to the earliest prehistoric periods within the locality of the site is slight. Palaeolithic artefacts which have been found within the vicinity are in association with the river terrace gravels, which formed in the Late Pleistocene period, in the locality of the site (MSH364, MSH517).
- 2.3.2 Evidence within the vicinity of the site has been encountered for the Mesolithic period which signifies the end of the last ice age, when sea levels would have submerged the river terrace gravels. This landscape change has been identified in boreholes sunk across the River Itchen where peat levels appear to have been laid down during this period (MSH365; MSH1791). A little further to the north of the site, in Aberdeen Road, probable Mesolithic worked flint was recovered (MSH1793). A late Mesolithic flint working site was found beneath layers of peat during an evaluation just east of the site of the former St Denys Priory, approximately 92 m to the north-north east of the development site (MSH1800). Further evidence pertaining to this period in proximity to the development was believed to have been found close to this flint working site (MSH360) immediately opposite the development site. However, the tranchet axe comprising the find has since been more thoroughly investigated and is now purported to be Neolithic in date.
- 2.3.3 Further evidence of Neolithic activity has also been found in local area with worked flint dating to the period having been recovered to the east of a site near Cobden Bridge (MSH361; MSH 363). No confirmed features dating to this period have, however, been found; despite the period, alongside that of the Bronze Age, being associated with more permanent settlement.
- 2.3.4 Similarly, little has been found indicating the presence of Bronze Age settlement, though a watching brief to the north west of the site identified three layers of such origins (SOU 1271 / MSH2381). The layers, containing pottery, burnt and worked flint, and charcoal inclusions, appeared to have been redeposited within a possible paleochannel.
- 2.3.5 Although not closely datable worked flint found in Aberdeen Road (SOU 1084 / MSH1428), Priory Road (SOU 908 / MSH1808; SOU 1056 / MSH2441), St Denys Primary School (SOU1749 / MSH5809) and the east end of Priory Avenue (SOU 687 / MSH1845) also indicate the presence of prehistoric activity within the environs of the development site.

Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)

- 2.3.6 The Romano-British settlement at Bitterne Manor (*Clausentum*) (NHLE 1005538; MSH297), on the eastern side of the River Itchen located approximately 800m to the south of the site, became, within a few decades of the Roman Conquest in AD 43, the principal centre within the region. The exact route of the Roman road between *Clausentum* and Winchester (*Venta Belgarum*) is not known and possible routes to the west and east of the site and the river are suggested (MSH453; MSH485; MSH470). Within the St Denys area itself is a known Roman settlement with numerous finds and features located during archaeological investigations as discussed above (MSH2568). The relationship between this settlement and that of *Clausentum* is unclear.
- 2.3.7 The two settlements, located either side of the River Itchen, may have been linked by a ferry, perhaps joining the Winchester and Chichester routes (MSH470; MSH485). Archaeological investigations undertaken at 64 Priory Road uncovered a paved surface with probable timber foundation sealed beneath the inter-tidal river mud; this may date to the Roman period and thought to represent a river crossing (MSH1643). Slightly further upriver,

timber structures were found in the inter-tidal area in 1998 and subsequently investigated (SOU 881). A radiocarbon and dendrochronological date were indicative of a Roman date. The timbers, comprising three separate structures, are interpreted as a riverfront facility which incorporates a jetty and shoreline revetment (MSH1645; MSH2968; NHLE 1425731). The structure, identified in the 1990s is located within the area known locally as The Causeway, and is believed to represent a ferry crossing from the settlement at Bitterne Manor, perhaps marking the continuation of a route to Winchester.

- 2.3.8 Evidence for activity and occupation during the Roman period is not limited to the settlements discussed above. A quern stone is recorded as being found at 21 Aberdeen Road (MSH4723) and significant occupation evidence was identified during a watching brief on groundworks for the St Denys Church Centre, to the west of the development site (SOU794 / MSH1794). A Roman feature was found during a watching brief on land adjacent to St Denys Church, Dundee Road in 1997 (SOU 807 / MSH1797), adjacent to the SOU 794 site. Roman finds from the site included pottery, brick and tile.
- 2.3.9 Archaeological work on land adjacent to 20 Eastfield Road (now 22 to 24a Eastfield Road) (SOU 960 / MSH1810; SOU 981), uncovered part of an early Roman settlement (1st/2nd century or mid/late 1st century), with a metalled road, probable timber framed buildings and rubbish pits. Evidence was found of iron working in the vicinity, perhaps supplying raw materials during the establishment of Clausentum in the mid-1st century. The site may have been given over to agriculture in the later Roman period.
- 2.3.10 A watching brief at 154 - 170 Priory Road in 1998 (SOU 822 / MSH1648) revealed a Roman ditch, several pits and finds. Roman finds dated from the 1st to the 4th centuries, with late Roman material, and building material. This suggests non-intensive early Roman occupation, becoming more intensive in the later Roman period with the focus of activity moving from the area around 20 Eastfield Road to the south west as evidenced by the later Roman material at SOU 822.

Saxon and Medieval (410 – 1066)

- 2.3.11 The nearest documented settlements at the time of the 1086 Domesday Survey were South Stoneham to the north and Northam (MSH4900), approximately 1.33 km to the south-south-west of the site. The latter likely existed at the same time as the town of Hamwic (MSH2947) and may have been mentioned in 842 AD as North-Hamwic (*Nordhunnwig*). A ploughsoil of possible Saxon or medieval date identified during groundworks for the St Denys Church Centre (SOU 794 / MSH1794) suggests the immediate area was still rural during this period. Saxon features, three adjacent and parallel linear features, two of which had Saxon pottery, and one other possible discrete feature, were also identified in excavations undertaken north of 129 St Denys (Brading forthcoming; SOU 1136)
- 2.3.12 The site lies to the south of the Priory of St Denys on land that belonged to the medieval priory. The priory was founded in the early 12th century, with the main buildings (MSH5579) located over 103 m to the north-west of the site at later St Denys Farm. The existing standing remains comprising a wall and archway related to a building associated with the Priory is located approximately 66 m to the north of the site (MSH2156). A watermill is purported to have been located immediately north of the priory on the western bank of the river and fed by an artificial watercourse (MSH4366; MSH5587).
- 2.3.13 In the excavation of the site north of St Denys Road (SOU 1136) stone structures and ceramic pipes were found, interpreted as being part of the water-management system of the medieval priory. Many of the suggested medieval walls appeared to have been robbed in the early post-medieval period, and again in the 19th century, when there is documentary

evidence for the removal and reuse of the stone. Some suggested medieval wall lines only survived as robber trenches on this site (SOU 1136). Despite the severe damage of the walls, where they did survive they were seen to have been constructed from Bembridge limestone blocks with some greensand and smaller amounts of Purbeck limestone and metamorphic stone. The report also mentions Caen stone (Brading forthcoming). Several large post-Dissolution pits contained demolition material, including architectural fragments. Early post-medieval evidence included several stone walls/structures and a copper-working hearth. After this the immediate area seems to have been used as farmland until the 19th century (Brading forthcoming).

Post-Medieval, 19th Century and Modern (1066 – present day)

- 2.3.14 The priory was dissolved in 1536 with the property granted to Francis Dawtrey (MSH1501).
- 2.3.15 The 1658 map of the Manor of Portswood shows several boundaries crossing the site. The line of these appear to correlate with features found within Trench 2 and the probable wall within Trench 4. The later South Stoneham tithe map dating to the 1840s also indicates the presence of a boundary along the southern extent of the site, and these seem to be the same boundaries shown on the 1846 Royal Engineers map (**Fig. 2**). Boundaries continue to be depicted across the site on various mid-19th century plans of the area including Plans of Portswood Park and St Dennis Estates dating to before and after 1852 (SSH 1271 and 5496).
- 2.3.16 The 1846 Royal Engineers map (Ordnance Survey) shows the site lies across two fields with a field boundary running approximately east-west across the site (**Fig. 2**). The field boundary appears to be in the same position as that on the 1658 map allowing for an extension to the east. Trenches 2 and 3 were positioned immediately north of this field boundary, with Trench 3 also orientated east-west. Despite its proximity to and alignment with this field boundary, recorded stratigraphy within Trench 3 did not indicate the presence of the boundary along its length. The site lies to south east of the building complex of St Denys Farm, which is also marked as the site of the Priory. The farm has been demolished by the time of the 1876 – 83 1st edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map which shows Firgrove House (the current property due for demolition) occupying the site with small orchards to the west and south (**Fig. 3**). This map also indicates the presence of a field boundary within the south-western portion of the site, across which Trench 4 was located (**Fig. 3**). Further residential development of the area can also be seen with residential areas further to the south along what is now known as Priory Road and to the north-west in the area of Aberdeen Road.
- 2.3.17 St Denys Road is first shown on plans of the estate, the Portswood Park and St Dennis/St Denys Estates map dating to the mid-19th century. Until sometime after 1852 the road can be seen to head straight to the Itchen shore, though later plans indicate a slight kink to the north, as on the 1876-83 OS map. It remains unclear whether this represents a route adaptation or whether one depiction is merely more accurate than the other. By 1897 it has been built up onto an embankment to take it over the new Cobden Bridge. Evidence for this embankment was found on SOU 1136 to the north of the road. Hence the road is now at a higher level than the site
- 2.3.18 The 1897 1st edition OS map highlights the speed of development within the locality, with much of the area being given over to housing. The boat house immediately east of the site, and Cobden Bridge also appear on the map for the first time, though the area immediately to the west of the site remains undeveloped. Indeed, it isn't until the 1909 OS edition that development here is mapped. By 1933 – 1946 the locality largely resembles that of today

(**Fig. 4**), with the outbuilding within the south-eastern corner of the site appearing on the 1948 OS edition.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General aims

3.1.1 The general aims (or purpose) of the evaluation, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020) and in compliance with the ClfA *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a), were to:

- provide information about the archaeological potential of the site;
- to allow for an archaeological damage-assessment to be prepared to address condition 07, which will require full details of proposed ground disturbances to assess the impact that the proposed new development could have on the identified archaeological resource; and
- inform either the scope and nature of any further archaeological work that may be required to address conditions 10 and 11; or the formation of a mitigation strategy (to offset the impact of the development on the archaeological resource) to be informed by the archaeological damage assessment; or a management strategy.

3.2 General objectives

3.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the general objectives of the evaluation were to:

- determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified area;
- establish, within the constraints of the evaluation, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains;
- place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
- make available information about the archaeological resource within the site by reporting on the results of the evaluation.

3.3 Site-specific objectives

3.3.1 Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the site the site-specific objectives defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020) were to establish:

- Whether any intact brickearth deposits survive within the site
- Any further Mesolithic activity that may be present within the site given the evidence within the vicinity to date, although in light of previously identified alluvial deposits having been identified as brickearth following investigation;
- Any Romano-British activity that may be associated with the known occupation activity to the south of the site and other Romano-British activity indicated within the vicinity of the site. Can occupation activity dating to this period be shown to extend further north in to the St Denys area than previously identified?;

- Any archaeological activity associated with the former Priory of St Denys, which lies immediately to the north of the site, and given that the site is on land that belonged to the medieval priory.
- Evidence relating to post-medieval use of the priory, or St Denys Farm, and the field boundary shown on the 1846 map.

3.3.2 For the purposes of this project, archaeologically significant remains and contexts are generally defined as remains and contexts relating to human use of the area prior to 1850.

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in ClfA guidance (ClfA 2014a). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

- 4.2.1 The evaluation was undertaken following the soft strip and clearance including partial demolition of the former property and clearance of the site to ground level. There was no grubbing out of foundations or other below ground works prior to the undertaking of the evaluation.
- 4.2.2 The trench locations were set out using a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), in the approximate positions proposed in the WSI, although Trench 1 was not excavated due to the presence of a previously unknown power line running along the northern edge of the trench (as identified during the scanning of the area with a Cable Avoidance Tool). The trench could not be repositioned due to the presence of other previously identified services, and on site restrictions.
- 4.2.3 Trench 2 also had to be slightly relocated and was shortened to 3.75 m because of obstacles comprising a spoil heap and brick pile resulting from demolition works. The general site conditions resulting from these demolition works also resulted in the shortening of Trenches 3 and 4 from 10 m to 7.5 m and 9 m respectively. The trenches were also narrower than the intended 2 m, measuring between 1.22 m (Trench 2) and 1.60 m (Trenches 3-4) in width (**Fig. 1**). Overall, of an intended 40 m of trenching, 20.25 m was excavated.
- 4.2.4 In total 3 trial trenches, of length and width as indicated above, were excavated in level spits of 100 mm or less using a 360° tracked excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist. Machine excavation proceeded until either the archaeological horizon or the natural geology was exposed.
- 4.2.5 Where necessary, the base of the trench/surface of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand. A sample of archaeological features and deposits was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the evaluation.
- 4.2.6 Spoil from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. Artefacts were collected and bagged by context.

All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, although those from features of modern date (1850 or later) were recorded on site and not retained.

- 4.2.7 Trenches completed to the satisfaction of the client and the PA for SCC were backfilled using excavated materials in the order in which they were excavated, and left level on completion. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.

Recording

- 4.2.8 All exposed archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. Trench edges were fully cleaned and recorded with "representative" sections only being drawn where there was no significant variation in deposits along the trench. Soils were described using the Soil Survey Field Handbook (Soil Survey of England and Wales) and Munsell soil colour chart (hardcopy not digital printouts) (Munsell Color 1975 edition).
- 4.2.9 A complete record of excavated archaeological features and deposits was made, including plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections) and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid.
- 4.2.10 A Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service surveyed the location of archaeological features. All survey data is recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSTN15 and OSGM15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.
- 4.2.11 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 16 megapixels. This recorded both the detail and the general context of the principal features and the site. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set. Photographs were also taken of all areas, including access routes, to provide a record of conditions prior to and on completion of the evaluation.

4.3 Finds and Environmental Strategies

Finds

- 4.3.1 Strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of finds were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020).
- 4.3.2 All artefacts from archaeologically significant contexts were retained and processed according to the standards laid down in "Standards for the Creation, Compilation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives" (Southampton City Council 2016).

Environmental Sampling

- 4.3.3 All sampling was undertaken following Wessex Archaeology's in-house guidance, which adheres to the principles outlined in Historic England's guidance (English Heritage 2011 and Historic England 2015).

4.4 Monitoring

- 4.4.1 The PA for SCC monitored the evaluation on behalf of the LPA. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with the client and the PA SCC.

- 4.4.2 The PA for SCC was contacted before fieldwork began and during the fieldwork as necessary, and monitored the progress through a series of site visits.

5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 Two of the three excavated trial trenches contained archaeological features and deposits, indicating archaeological remains are present across the site (**Fig. 1**).
- 5.1.2 The uncovered features comprising the remains of a wall and three parallel ditches are suggestive of post-medieval activity within the development area. A 19th century gully and modern rubbish pit was also identified.
- 5.1.3 Intact brickearth was observed across the site, with alluvial deposits – of underlying natural gravel river terrace reached within a sondage cut into the northern end of Trench 2. Features were seen to have been cut into the brickearth which also contained an expanse of mortar like material or natural tufa deposit, which was sampled and confirmed as man-made material once back at the offices of Wessex Archaeology (see below).
- 5.1.4 The following section presents the results of the evaluation with archaeological features and deposits discussed by period.
- 5.1.5 Detailed descriptions of individual contexts are provided in the trench summary tables (**Appendix 1**). **Figure 1** shows all archaeological features recorded within the trenches, **Figures 2 – 4** show relevant historic mapping and **Figure 5** shows relevant trench sections.

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

- 5.2.1 Trench 2 was excavated through topsoil (**201**) which directly overlay a layer of made ground (**202**) believed to represent the base of a fountain associated with the now demolished property. This in turn overlay a second layer of made ground (**203**) comprising a dark brown (10YR 6 / 6) silty clay with rounded gravel and ceramic building material (CBM) inclusions. This layer sealed the natural geology (**204**) comprising yellow (10YR 6 / 8) brickearth which was observed at between 1.1 m below ground level (bgl) (1.60 m aOD) (**Plate 1; Fig. 5a**).
- 5.2.2 A sondage was cut into the northern end of Trench 2 and was excavated to 1.48 m bgl (1.12 m aOD) where an alluvial deposit of sandy clay with bands of gravel (**212**) was identified (**Plate 2, Fig. 5a**). In the top of the brickearth (**204**), at a depth of 1.3 m bgl, an expanse of material (**211**) was initially observed as either natural tufa or mortar (**Plate 2**). Due to the inability to determine its origins and exact composition on site a sample was taken in order to fully investigate the material during post-excitation analyses. Upon inspection by Wessex Archaeology's geoarchaeologist and finds specialists the material was ascertained as man-made. Though its precise nature remains uncertain, it is possible the material comprises a sandy mortar. The sondage was machine excavated in haste and it is noted that the base was unable to be cleaned due to health and safety reasons (hence the smudgy **Plate 2**).
- 5.2.3 Trench 3 was partially excavated through a gravelled area (**306**) associated with a shed, which directly overlay the garden soil through which the remainder of the trench was excavated (**301**). The garden soil was found to directly overlie made ground comprising a yellowish brown (10YR 5 / 8) silty clay (**302**) containing fragments of post-medieval brick and believed to have originated during demolition and ground levelling in association with development in the mid-late 19th century, prior to construction of the house. The natural

geology (**303**), a mid-yellowish brown (olive yellow 2.5Y 6 / 8) sandy clay was observed at between 0.67 and 0.9 m bgl (1.66 m to 1.43 m aOD) (**Plate 3**). During a site visit a thin deposit possibly composed of pale fine gravel or mortar was noted within the south-eastern corner of Trench 3, between the natural brickearth and the made ground (Ingrid Peckham pers. comms.). Though this wasn't recorded on site, the material was observed as similar to that of 211 within Trench 2. The precise origin and function of the deposit remains unclear.

- 5.2.4 Modern disturbance comprising two drains (**304** and **307**) at either end of the trench was observed during the works (**Fig 5b**). Although that found at the western end (**304**) may represent a cut for a structure, the position of the feature (cut through modern made ground) and its backfill with brick and concrete implies a modern date; particularly as historic mapping shows the site as undeveloped until the residential property, demolished just prior to the evaluation, was constructed (1876 – 83 1st edition Ordnance Survey) (**Figs. 2 - 4**).
- 5.2.5 Trench 4 was also excavated through garden soil (**401**) which overlay made ground (**402**) comprising the same material as Trench 3. The natural geology, comprising olive yellow (2.5Y 6 / 8) brickearth (**403**) was encountered at 0.8 m bgl (1.86 m aOD). A modern rubbish pit (**408**) was found within the western extent of the trench at 0.32 m bgl (**Plate 4**). The pit was seen to cut the modern made ground (**402**) and contained a dumped deposit comprised of a dark greyish-brown loam with brick, tile and concrete fragments (**409**).

5.3 Medieval / Post-Medieval (AD 1066 – 1850)

- 5.3.1 Three parallel ditches aligned north-east – south-west and cutting brickearth (**204**) were recorded within Trench 2 (**Plate 1 and 5**). The eastern (**209**) and western (**205**) ditches were only partially uncovered, due to their edges running beneath the baulk, however the terminal ends of **207** and **209** were investigated. Both ditches were found to have been deliberately backfilled (**208** and **210**) with deposits noted as being particularly similar to made ground layer **203**. Small fragments of CBM and slate fragments were present within the features, which are believed to be of 19th century date due to these inclusions.
- 5.3.2 The 1658 Map of the Manor of Portswood shows the presence of a filed boundary orientated north-south. Trench 2 was located in the approximate position of the line of this boundary, with the parallel ditches following a similar alignment. It is possible that at least one of the features identified represents this boundary, though it is noted that the deliberate backfilling with modern building material is unusual and may be indicative of the robbing out of walls and immediate levelling of the area. This notion is furthered by the vertical nature of the cut edges and the sharp angle between the sides and base of the ditches. The base is also particularly flat. No mortar was recorded within the backfill (**208** and **210**) though any walls that had been present may have been earth-bonded.
- 5.3.3 The presence of man-made material resembling mortar found at the top of the brickearth (**section 5.2.2; Plate 2**) may further indicate an earlier presence of a structure. However, the precise function of the material remains unknown and the notion of an earlier structure remains tentative due to the lack of depiction on earlier mapping (**Figs 2 – 4**).
- 5.3.4 However, within Trench 4 the remains of a possible early post-medieval wall (**405**) were identified within construction cut **404**, which was cut into the natural brickearth **403** (**Plate 6; Fig. 5c**). Wall **405** was aligned south-east – north-west and the two rough courses of in situ rubble uncovered comprised limestone and brick facing material. These were seen to have been bonded with re-deposited brickearth. A layer of silty clay (**406**) was observed above the structure (**405**) overlain by a layer of redeposited natural (**407**). It is possible that these layers represent disturbance to the top of the wall during 19th century development

of the site prior to the dumping of made ground material (**402**) which overlies the structure (**405**) of the wall and its upper layers (**406, 407**) (**Fig. 5c**). Indeed, loose rubble, not in situ, was present within the top of the structural remains.

- 5.3.5 The dating of the structure remains unclear due to a lack of associated finds, though the handmade and unfrosted brick is suggestive of an early post-medieval date. The function of the wall also remains unknown. The upper part was heavily disturbed, probably as it had been robbed. It was initially thought to be a drain. However, further examination confirmed the structural nature of the remains.
- 5.3.6 A single gully (**410**) was also identified within Trench 4 (**Plate 7**). Cut into the brickearth, the north-east – south west aligned gully was filled with a single deposit (**411**) comprised of material similar to the overlying modern made ground (**402**). The similarity of deposit **411** with **402** caused an indistinct horizon between the two deposits, resulting in an unclear conclusion concerning whether the feature cuts the modern made ground. Indeed, it also remains unclear whether the fill of the gully is in fact the same material as **402** and the feature was, in some way, associated with the former property; or whether the feature represents earlier activity within the site bounds. It is noted that the gully is in the same position as an earlier field boundary depicted on the 1876-1883 Hampshire and Isle of Wight OS Map (**Fig. 3**) and as such could be related to such a function, with the modern building debris being used as infill following its disuse.
- 5.3.7 Fragments of slate and CBM noted within fill **411** are suggestive of a later date for the backfilling event.

6 FINDS EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 A very small quantity of finds was recovered from trench 4, comprising stone and ceramic building materials. The stone recovered includes three blocks of fine-grained limestone (each weighing 1845 g, 2719 g and 4270 g), used in the construction of wall 405, and three small chips of probable roofing slate recovered from gully 410. One of the stone blocks has three cut faces and is 120 mm thick; another has one flat face. The precise location from which the blocks were recovered is not recorded and the precise type of limestone has not yet date been ascertained. It remains unclear whether the slate is of West Country or Welsh origin due to the fragmentary nature of the material. The ceramic material comprises a single brick in a red, fine sandy fabric, from wall 405. The brick is handmade and unfrosted, 123 mm wide and 54 mm thick; it is of probable early post-medieval date.
- 6.1.2 A sample of soil taken from layer 211 in trench appears to contain heavily degraded fragments of possible mortar.

Table 1 Quantification of finds

Context	Material					
	Stone (limestone)		Stone (slate)		CBM	
405	3	8834			1	1333
411			3	1		

7 CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Summary

- 7.1.1 A number of features pertaining to activity within the post-medieval period were uncovered. A possible wall and three parallel ditches, along with a deposit of man-made material, are suggestive of the presence of an earlier structure, whilst the function of a small gully remains unclear.
- 7.1.2 Geological sequences were seen to confirm the results of an earlier geoenvironmental and geotechnical investigation across the site (TEC 2020).

7.2 Discussion

- 7.2.1 The site lies within the area of small valley prior to 1846, which was backfilled during the 19th century (SOU 1136). Historic mapping has also indicated that the route of St Denys Road may have been relocated slightly, with its former course crossing part of the site. No obvious early topsoil above the brickearth was encountered during the evaluation.
- 7.2.2 The presence of intact brickearth across the site indicates a potential for archaeological features. Despite the presence of modern disturbance noted in the form of drains and the presence of modern rubbish pits and made ground, a number of archaeological features were encountered, pertaining to the survival of the archaeological signature.
- 7.2.3 The parallel ditches in Trench 2 are on an approximate alignment with a field boundary as depicted on the 1658 Map of the Manor of Portswood. However, the form of the ditches (particularly the vertical nature of the cut edges and the angle between the sides and base of the feature) and the deliberate backfill with building material would suggest that these ditches might be robbed out walls and subsequent levelling of the area. It is also noted that whilst the field boundary shown on the 1658 map continues across the site, the terminal ends of both investigated ditches were observed. It is noted that the third ditch remains uninvestigated due to its location outside of the trench.
- 7.2.4 The structural remains and overlying layers located within Trench 4, within the southern portion of the development area also suggests the presence of an earlier wall. It is believed the remains within Trench 4 relate to an early post-medieval wall and that the upper parts of the wall have been robbed. During the medieval period and up until 1536, when it was dissolved, the site lay within the lands held by St Denys Priory. Remains found during the excavation of land to the north (SOU 1136) also revealed stone structures and ceramic pipes, these were believed to relate to the water-management system of the priory (Brading forthcoming). The report (SOU1136) notes that many of the walls found on the site had been robbed. The excavations also revealed early post-medieval features, including a gully, which were found to contain demolition material (Brading forthcoming), similar to that found within the ditches in Trench 2, as well as stone walls/structures.
- 7.2.5 As such, the remains found during the evaluation are in-keeping with those found within the wider area and a relation between the site and that to the north should not be discounted.

8 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

8.1 Museum

- 8.1.1 The archive resulting from the evaluation is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury. Southampton City Council Archaeological Collections has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project, under the site code **SOU1876**.

Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner to transfer title of all finds to the museum.

8.2 Preparation of the archive

8.2.1 The archive, which includes paper records, graphics, artefacts, and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Southampton City Council Archaeological Collections, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

8.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the site code **SOU 1876**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:

- 01 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts, ordered by material type;
- 01 files/document cases of paper records and A3/A4 graphics;

8.3 Selection policy

8.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows national guidelines on selection and retention (SMA 1993; Brown 2011, section 4). In accordance with these, and any specific guidance prepared by the museum, a process of selection and retention will be followed so that only those artefacts or ecofacts that are considered to have potential for future study will be retained. The selection policy will be agreed with the museum, and is fully documented in the project archive.

8.4 Security copy

8.4.1 In line with current best practice (eg, 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 OASIS

8.5.1 An OASIS (online access to the index of archaeological investigations) record (<http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main>) has been initiated, with key fields completed (**Appendix 2**). A .pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by the PA SCC on behalf of the LPA. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) ArchSearch catalogue.

9 COPYRIGHT

9.1 Archive and report copyright

9.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*. In some instances, certain regional museums may require absolute transfer of copyright, rather than a licence; this should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.



9.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.

9.2 Third party data copyright

9.2.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (eg, Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Trench summaries

Trench No 2		Length Unknown	Width 1.22 m	Depth Unknown
Easting		Northing		m OD 2.70 m
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
201		Topsoil	Most visible in west facing section. Mid greyish brown 10YR 5 / 3, sandy loam with some rooting	0.0 - 0.1
202		Made ground	Light yellowish grey 10YR 6 / 4 sand, probably base of structure, fountain in this area.	0.1 - 0.5
203		Made ground	Dark brown 10YR 6 / 6 silty clay with 20% rounded gravel and rare 5% CBM, clear horizon with natural	0.5 - 1.1
204		Natural	Yellow 10YR 6 / 8 sandy clay 'brick earth'	1.1 - 1.3
205		Ditch	Western feature of 3 parallel ditches, aligned NE - SW.	
206		Deliberate backfill	Similar to (203), perhaps same fill, 10YR 5 / 3 silty clay 50% gravel and CBM, clear horizon with natural	
207	208	Ditch	Linear ditch with vertical, straight sides and a flat base. Length: >1.80 m. Width: 0.48 m. Depth: 0.25 m.	
208	207	Deliberate backfill	10yr 5 / 3 silty clay with very common gravel inclusions	
209	210	Ditch	Linear ditch with steep, straight sides and a flat base. Length: 1.74 m. Width: >0.29 m. Depth: 0.14 m.	
210	209	Deliberate backfill	10yr 5 / 3 silty clay with very common flint inclusions	
211		Sample 1 10YR 8/2 sand and shell	Sample 1 10YR 8 / 2 sand and shell	1.3 - 1.48
212		Natural	Yellow 10YR 6 / 8 sandy clay	1.48 +



Trench No 3		Length 9 m	Width 1.60 m	Depth 0.90 m
Easting		Northing		m OD 2.33 m
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
301		Garden soil	Dark greyish brown (very dark greyish brown 10YR 3 / 2) loam. Moderate rooting. Post medieval brick, glass, CBM, concrete fragments throughout 10% clear horizons.	0-0.45
302		Made ground	Yellowish brown (10YR 5 / 8) silty clay. Clear lense of post medieval brick fragments 50-100mm. Clear horizons. Seems likely it is derived from the demolition, then material was used to level and build up the ground. Little rooting.	0-45-0.67
303		Natural	Mid yellowish brown (Olive yellow 2.5Y 6 / 8) sandy clay. Clear horizon. Round gravels 10mm <1%	0.67-0.9+
304		Cut at western end of trench	Possibly drain or cut for structure. Backfilled with brick and concrete rubble likely from the demolition. Cuts the made ground.	
305		Deliberate backfill		
306		Made ground	Yellowish brown 10YR 5 / 8 layer of gravel and sand. Gravelled area surrounding grey shed	0.0 - 0.08
307		Drain	Cut at eastern end of trench. Possibly drain or cut for structure. Backfilled with brick and concrete rubble likely from the demolition. Cuts the made ground.	
308		Deliberate backfill	Deliberate backfill	



Trench No 4		Length 9 m		Width 1.60 m		Depth 0.90 m	
Easting			Northing			m OD 2.65 m	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description			Depth BGL	
401		Garden soil	Very dark greyish brown 10YR 3 / 2 loam. Heavily rooted throughout from adjacent hedges. Post medieval brick, glass, CBM, mortar fragments throughout 10% clear horizons.			0-0.45	
402		Made ground	Yellowish brown 10YR 5 / 8 silty clay. Patchy lense of post medieval brick 50-100mm, clearest at eastern end. Smaller CBM and mortar fragments throughout. Small sub round flint gravel <1%. Clear horizons. Possibly derived from the demolition, then material was used to level and build up the ground. Heavy rooting from adjacent hedges. Clear horizons			0.45-0.8	
403		Natural	Olive yellow 2.5Y 6 / 8 sandy clay 'brick earth'. Rare intrusive CBM and mortar fragments 10mm pushed in top from made ground above. Clear horizons. Heavy rooting from adjacent hedges.			0.8-0.9	
404	404, 405	Construction cut	Linear construction cut with vertical, straight sides and a flat base. Length: >1.60 m. Width: 0.60 m. Depth: 0.55 m.			0.9-1.35	
405	404	Wall	Linear wall aligned SE-NW with straight sides and a flat base. Constructed from limestone and brick and bonded with brick earth, re deposited natural. Maximum height: 0.40 m.			0.9-1.35	
406	404	Fill	Greyish brown silty clay			0.9-1.35	
407		Layer	Olive yellow sandy clay			0.8-0.9	
408	409	Pit	Sub-circular pit with moderate, concave sides and a concave base. Length: 1.30 m. Width: >0.70 m. Depth: 0.50 m.			0.32-0.8	
409	408	Deliberate dump	Very dark greyish brown loam with common chalk flecks, common rounded stones c≤3cm inclusions			0.32-0.8	
410	411	Gully	Linear gully with moderate, concave sides and a flat base. Length: >1.70 m. Width: 0.28 m. Depth: 0.13 m.			0.78-0.91	



411	410	Deliberate backfill	Yellowish brown 10yr 5 / 8 silty clay with sub round flint gravels <10mm 1% inclusions	0.78-0.91
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Appendix 2 OASIS record

OASIS ID: wessexar1-402154

Project details

Project name	129 St Denys Road, Southampton
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was commissioned on land at 129 St Denys Road, Southampton, SO17 2JY. The works were undertaken in response to planning conditions set out in planning application 19/01414/FUL approved by Southampton County Council. Three trenches were excavated and intact brickearth was found across the site. A sondage excavated within Trench 2 confirmed brickearth was present to a depth of 1.48 m bgl where alluvial deposits were observed. A modern rubbish pit and a gully of 19th century date, were observed. Both were filled with demolition material. Three parallel ditches (orientated NE - SW) were identified within Trench 2, on the approximate alignment of a field boundary depicted on the 1846 Royal Engineers Map of the area. Upon investigation the ditches were found to more closely resemble robbed out walls due to their vertical sides, flat base and the presence of deliberate backfill comprising building material. A wall was located within the southern extent of the site. The rough courses of limestone blocks and bricks were found bonded with redeposited brickearth. No associated finds were recorded. The construction techniques and materials used suggest an early post-medieval date. Man-made material resembling mortar was identified within the brickearth at 1.3 m bgl. No features were identified in association with the deposit. The results are consistent with those found during previous investigations in the vicinity.
Project dates	Start: 13-08-2020 End: 18-08-2020
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	SOU 1876 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	235160 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	GULLY Uncertain
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Monument type	PIT Modern
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Significant Finds	SLATE Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition



Position in the planning process After full determination (e.g. As a condition)

Project location

Country England
Site location HAMPSHIRE SOUTHAMPTON SOUTHAMPTON 129 St Denys Road
Postcode SO17 2JY
Study area 0.1 Hectares
Site coordinates SU 4364 1405 50.923703686436 -1.379033955827 50 55 25 N 001 22 44 W Point
Height OD / Depth Min: 1.43m Max: 1.86m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator Southampton City Council
Project design originator Wessex archaeology
Project director/manager Damian De Rosa
Project supervisor P Capps and E Troake
Type of sponsor/funding body Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body Sway Road Limited

Project archives

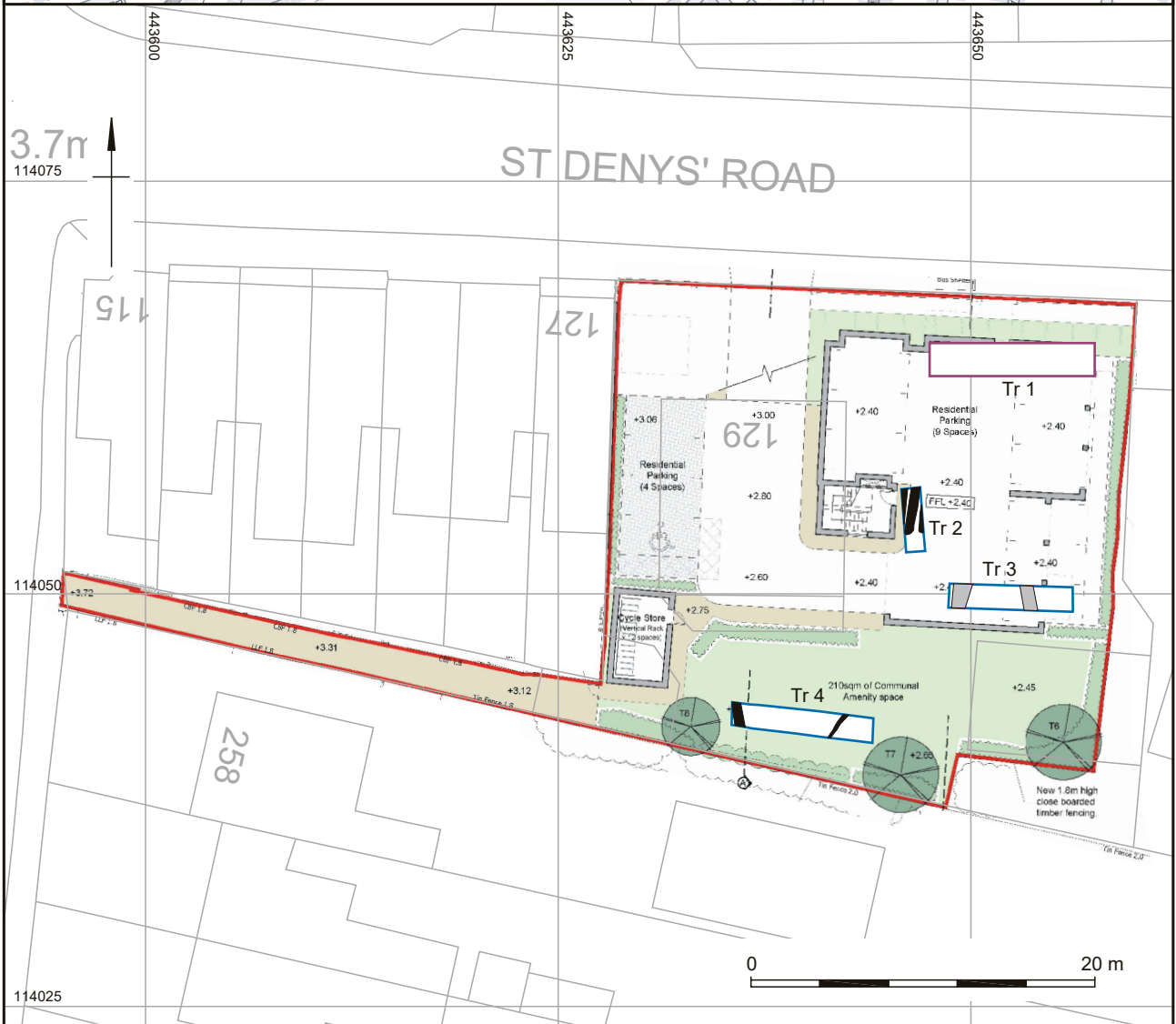
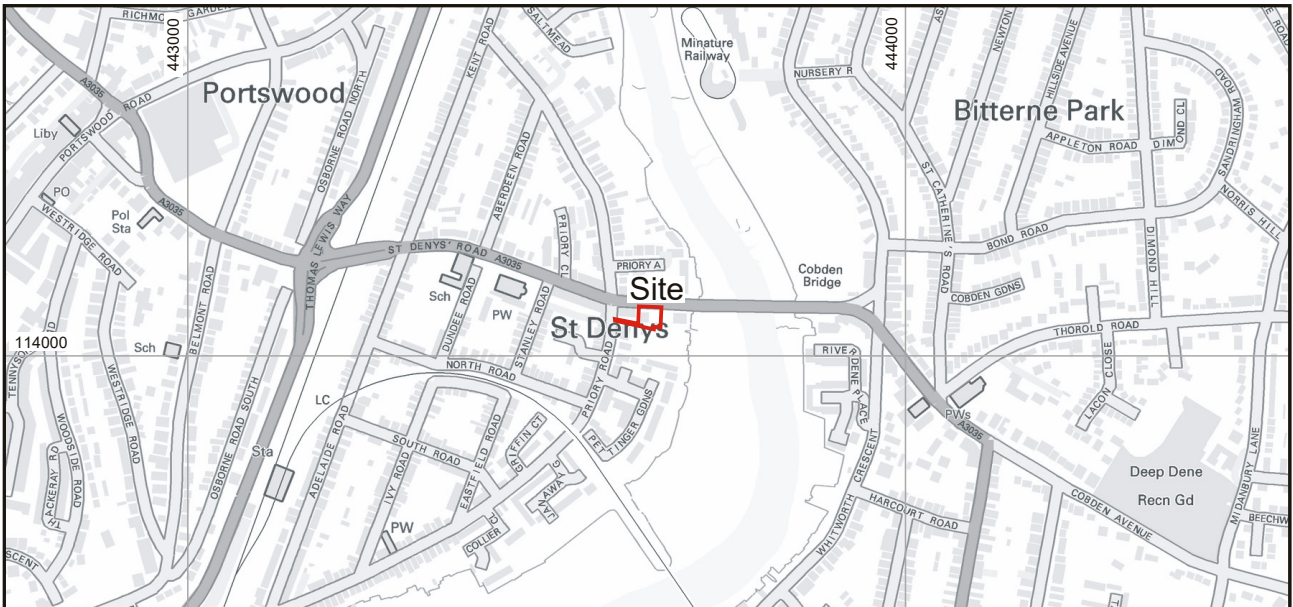
Physical Archive recipient Southampton City Council Archaeological Collections
Digital Archive recipient Southampton City Council Archaeological Collections
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient Southampton City Council Archaeological Collections
Paper Media available "Plan", "Section", "Unpublished Text"


Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title 129 St Denys Road, Southampton, Hampshire: Archaeological Evaluation



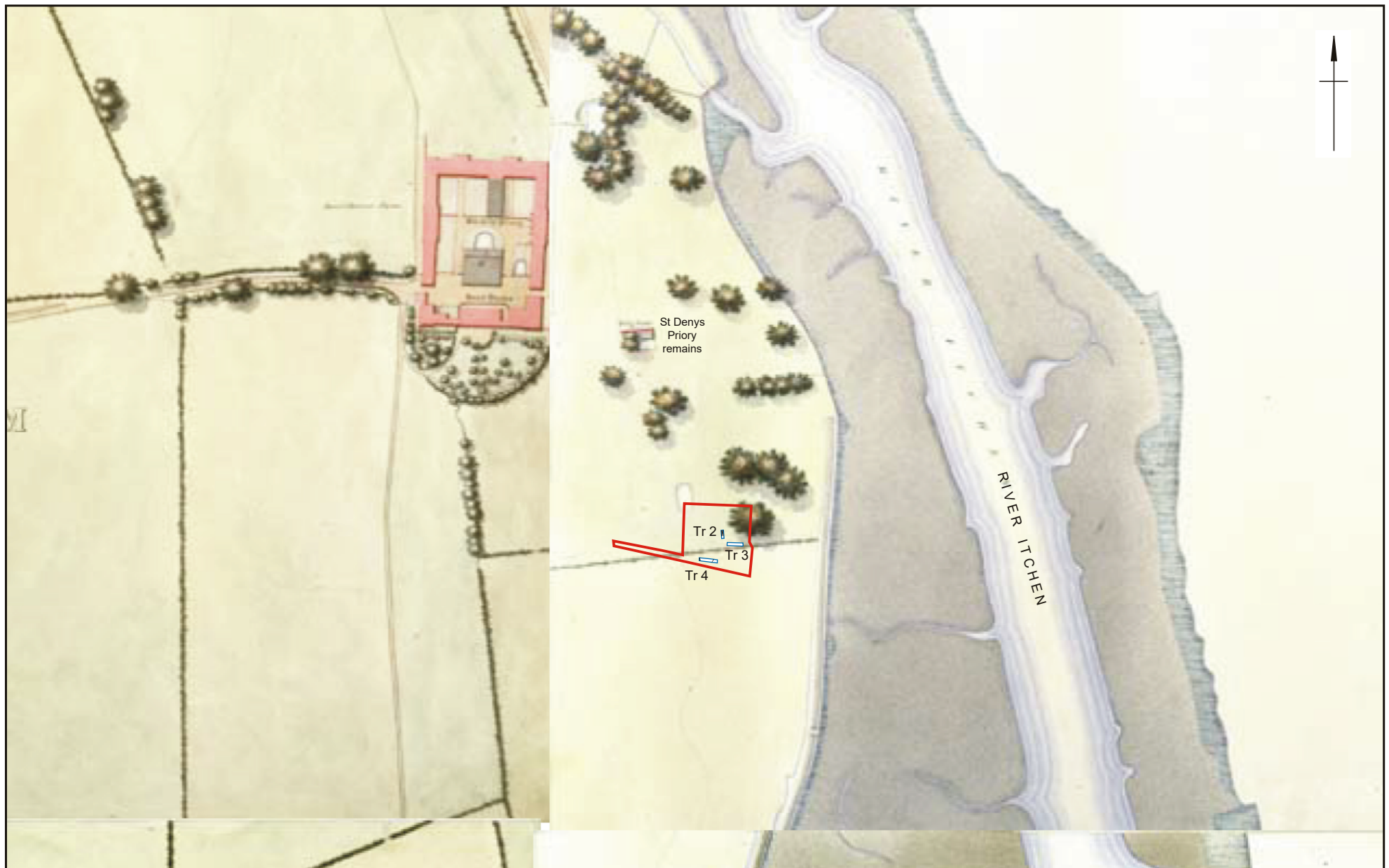
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Legg, E
Other bibliographic details	unpublished client report ref. 235160.03
Date	2020
Issuer or publisher	Wessex Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Salisbury
Description	A4 bound booklet




<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Site □ Evaluation trench □ Unexcavated trench ■ Archaeology ■ Modern disturbance 	Coordinate system: OSGB36 (OSTN15/OSGM15) Proposed development supplied by the Client. Digital data reproduced from Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright 2020 All rights reserved. Reference Number: 100022432. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright and database right 2020. This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.			
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	Scale:	1:10,000 & 1:400 @ A4	Illustrator:	KL
	Path:	X:\PROJECTS\235160\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\eval\2020_08_26\Fig01.dwg		

Site location and trench plan

Figure 1



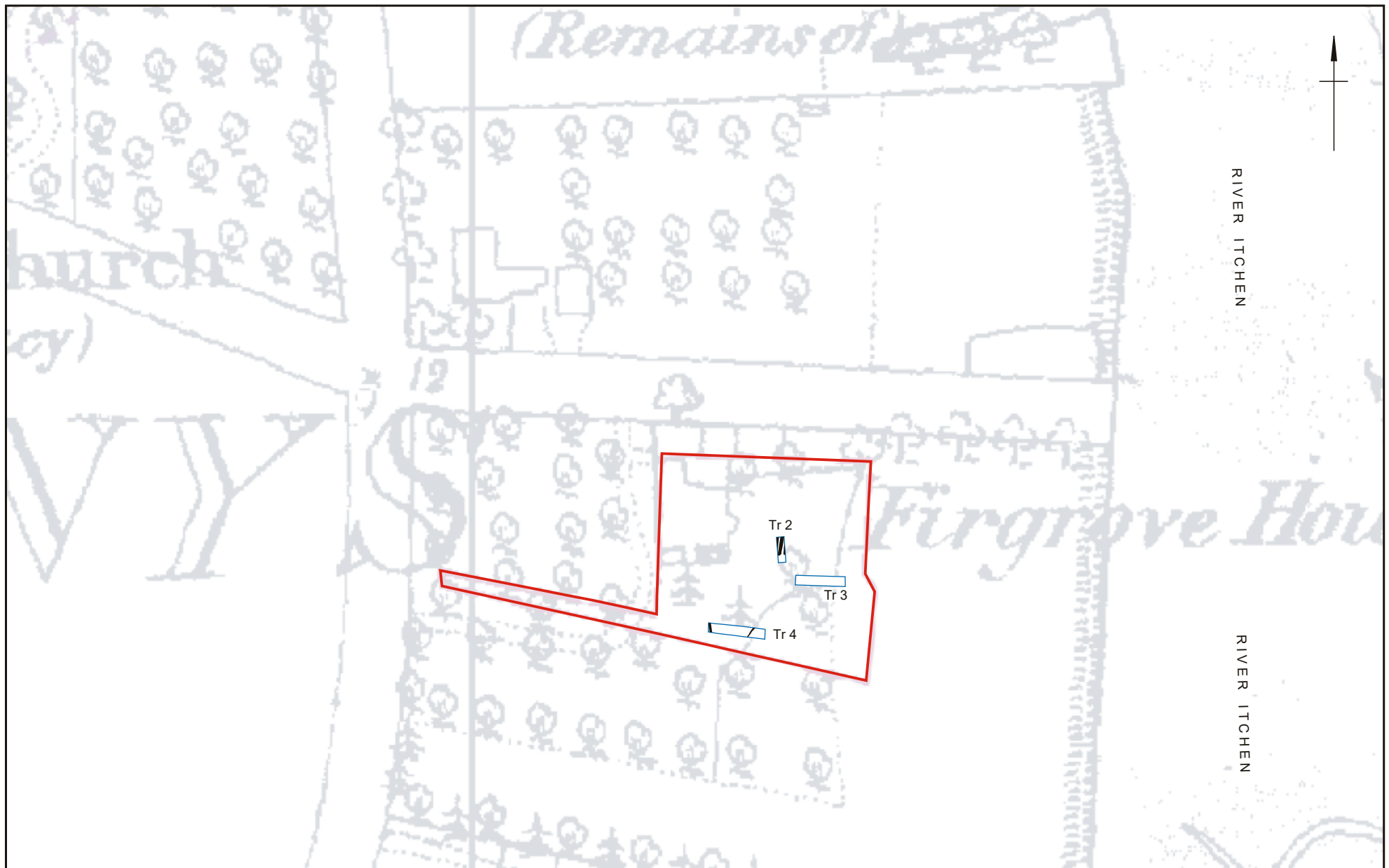

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- Site
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature

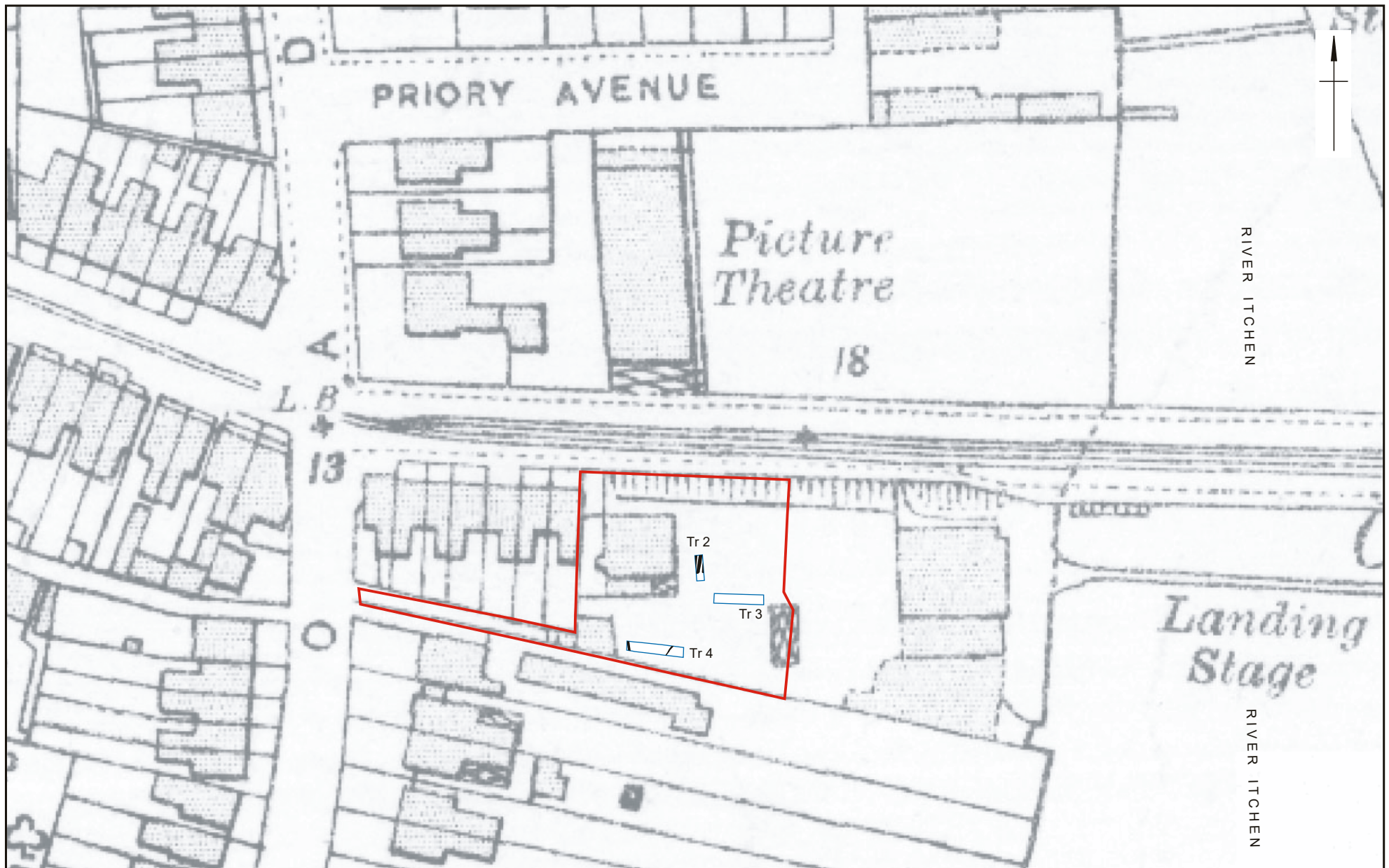
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1846 Royal Engineers Map with site and evaluation trenches

Figure 2



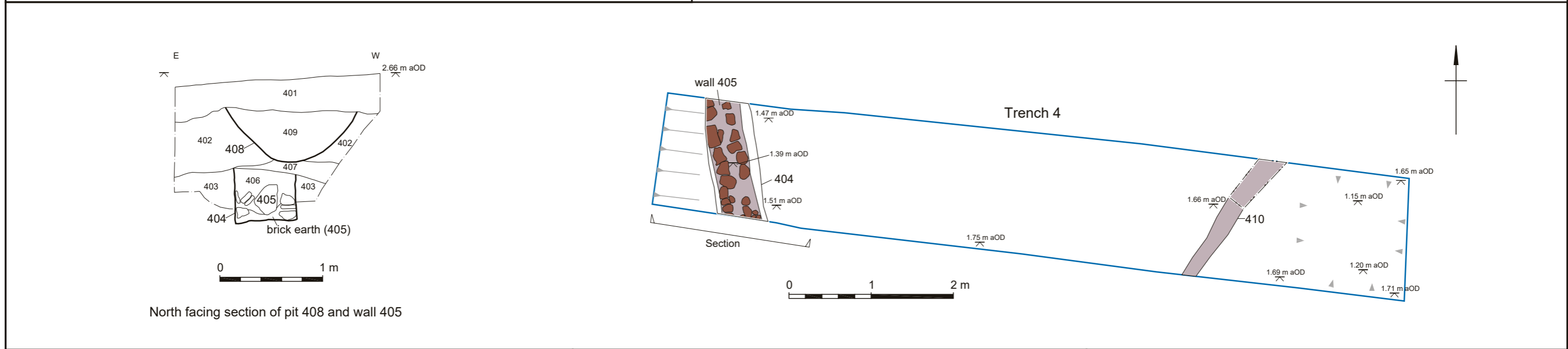
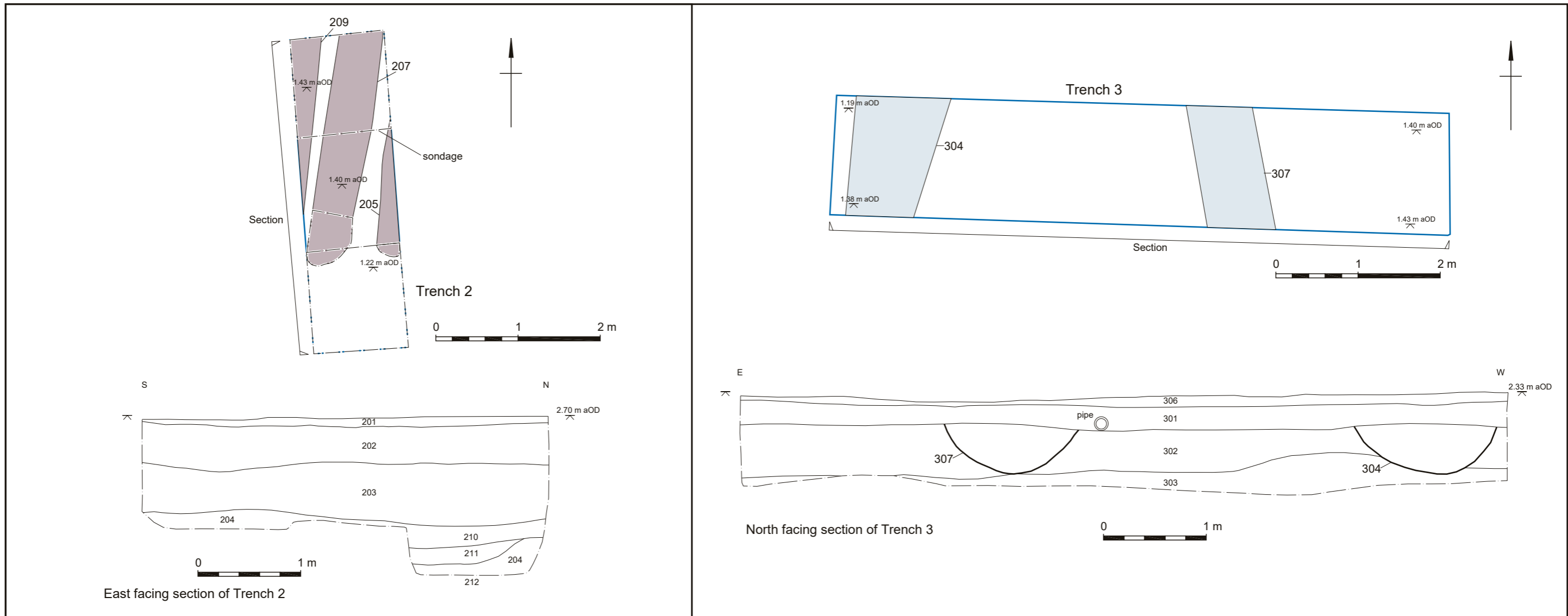
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- Evaluation trench
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- Modern disturbance

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Plate 1: Trench 2 (view from the south)



Plate 2: East facing representative section of sondage within Trench 2


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Plate 3: South facing representative section of Trench 3



Plate 4: Trench 4 (view from the east)


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Plate 5: South facing section of ditch 207



Plate 6: Wall 405 in plan (view from the east)



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Plate 7: Gully 410 in plan (view from the south)

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