



Central Hall, St. Mary Street Southampton, Hampshire

Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief Report



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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Jones Lang LaSalle Limited on behalf of the Department of Education to undertake an archaeological evaluation and watching brief on preliminary ground investigation works, on a parcel of land measuring approximately 483 m² located at Central Hall, St Mary's Street, Southampton, SO14 1NF. The investigation area is centred on National Grid Reference 442525 111537.

The archaeological evaluation comprised of two trenches identified as Trench 2 and 3. Trench 2 measured 2.1m in length and 1.4m in width, Trench 3 was 3.65m in length and 1.4m in width. Both trenches were excavated to a depth of 1.2m below ground level. The preliminary ground investigations archaeological monitored under a watching brief, comprised of three boreholes within the evaluation area.

No archaeological features were observed during the works. The soil sequence was consistent across the investigation area and indicated modern made ground deposits overlying agricultural soils. Archaeological artefacts were recovered from the lower agricultural soils which included post-medieval and medieval pottery.

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Central Hall St Mary Street Southampton

Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Jones Lang LaSalle Limited ('the client'), on behalf of The Department for Education, to undertake an archaeological evaluation and watching brief on preliminary ground investigation works on a parcel of land covering 483 m² located at Central Hall, St Mary's Street, Southampton, SO14 1NF. The evaluation and watching brief area was centred on NGR 442525 111537 (**Fig. 1**) and is hereafter referred to as 'the Site'.
- 1.1.2 The development comprises the installation of two modular buildings providing a two-storey temporary teaching accommodation within the car park to the rear of the hall.
- 1.1.3 Details on the foundation design for the modular buildings are forthcoming, although it is likely this will comprise of a number of supporting footpads around the base of the structure. The depth of associated groundworks is to be confirmed, however it is possible the supporting pads will be situated above existing in-situ modern made ground. There will be a requirement for utility groundworks to connect the modular building to local services.
- 1.1.4 A planning application (20/00697/FUL) submitted to Southampton City Council (SCC), the local planning authority (LPA), was granted 28th July 2020, subject to conditions. The following conditions relate to archaeology and followed consultation by the LPA with their archaeological planning advisor (PA) at SCC:

02 Archaeological damage-assessment [Pre-Commencement Condition]

Prior to any intrusive groundworks commencing on site, the type and dimensions of all proposed groundworks shall be submitted to and agreed in writing 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.

03 Archaeological evaluation/watching brief investigation [Pre-Commencement Condition]

If any groundworks are required, 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 condition]

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

Reason: To ensure that the archaeological investigation is completed.

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

The developer will secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation 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.

06 Archaeological works programme (further works) [Performance Condition]

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

Reason: To ensure that the archaeological investigation is completed.

- 1.1.5 The results of the investigations, as detailed within this report, will help inform on the results of the required archaeological damage-assessment in response to Condition 2 of application 20/00697/FUL, alongside consideration of the foundation design for the modular build and associated service groundworks.
 - 1.1.6 Condition 3 of application 20/00697/FUL has been discharged and Condition 4 relates to the archaeological works undertaken and covered within this report.
 - 1.1.7 Following submission and approval of this report to the PA SCC, a decision on the requirement for further mitigation works will be made by the PA SCC. Future mitigation works will be addressed under Conditions 5 and 6 of application 20/00697/FUL.
 - 1.1.8 The evaluation and preliminary watching brief 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 and watching brief (Wessex Archaeology 2020). The PA approved the WSI, on behalf of SCC prior to fieldwork commencing.
 - 1.1.9 The evaluation was to comprise the excavation of 3 trial trenches, but due to the proximity of one the trenches to the south-east boundary wall and under tree canopy, in consultation with the PA SCC, it was decided not to proceed with Trench 1 (**Fig. 1**).
 - 1.1.10 The excavation of three boreholes within the site was monitored on the 5th and 6th of October 2020.
 - 1.1.11 The evaluation trenches were undertaken between the 7th of October 2020 and the 9th of October 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 and watching brief, 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 investigation area is located within the car park to the rear of Central Hall, St Mary's SO14 1NF, Southampton, SO14 1NF (**Fig.1**). The site is located east of the junction between St Mary Street and Evans Street, in a largely residential area within the centre of the city, bordered to the south and north-west by flats. A dense tree line immediately south east of the development separates the site from the residential area of Maryfield. A number of community services, including Hope Community School and the church of the New Community Network lie immediately to the west of the proposed development in the area of Central Hall. St Mary's Church lies approximately 135 m to the north east.

- 1.3.2 A recent topographic survey undertaken for the development and the existing ground levels are recorded as between 3.15 m and 3.05 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). There is a gradual slope downwards towards the south-west in the area of the development footprint. The archaeological investigations confirmed the existing ground levels in the topographic survey.

- 1.3.3 The underlying geology is mapped as Wittering Formation Sand, Silt and Clay with superficial River Terrace Deposits No. 1 comprising Sand and Gravel (British Geological Survey online viewer). However, archaeological investigations within Central Southampton have shown that Quaternary and Pleistocene deposits consist of brickearth overlying river terrace or valley gravels (PA for SCC pers. comms.).

The borehole survey and evaluation trenching confirmed silty clay (brickearth) deposits up to 1.7m below ground level (bgl) overlying sandy gravels (river terrace or valley gravels) followed by geological sandy clay and clay deposits. The basal layer of geology revealed was a firm grey clay with frequent white inclusions (windlesham clay) at the depth of 5.1m to 10m blg. These results were consistent across all monitored boreholes.

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 250 m study area of the development (**Fig. 2**). 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 8 (City Centre and Itchen Ferry). The area includes the peninsula of land defined by the River Itchen and River Test, the adjacent estuarine areas, and Itchen Ferry. Significant activity from the 8th century is present within the area, with evidence of Prehistoric and Roman settlement also present.

2.2 Previous investigations

- 2.2.1 Aside from a building recording undertaken in 2005 (SOU 1357 / ESH1693) no archaeological investigations are known to have been undertaken within the site boundary (**Fig. 1**). However, there have been a number carried out within the immediate vicinity, a summary of the findings from these is presented below.



- 2.2.2 Immediately north-east of the development archaeological evaluations have provisionally identified evidence pertaining to the Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods (SOU 1389; Garner 2006 / SOU 1413 / Anderson and Russel 2014), including a Saxon post built building and rubbish pits (MSH5528), a major medieval stone building believed to be an early phase of Chantry House and various medieval pits and ditches (MSH5529). Post-medieval evidence comprised the presence of buried plough soils and residual finds (MSH5530). Burnt flint purporting to general prehistoric activity was found within the brickearth present across the site from approximately 0.40 m to 1.20 m below ground level.
- 2.2.3 Evidence for Saxon activity was also found during archaeological investigations at The Deanery in Chapel Road (SOU 184; Garner and Brisbane 1987), immediately south-east of the site boundary. Clusters of pits, wells, ditches (including a possible boundary ditch) were among the features recorded with evidence for iron and textile working also noted (MSH1236 / MSH1237). The possible boundary ditch MSH1237 is projected to run just outside of the eastern boundary of the Site, however the exact location of this ditch is unknown and potentially could pass through the Site itself. The works also uncovered a likely Saxon inhumation aligned east-west under Chapel Road (MSH1238).
- 2.2.4 Medieval features, comprising a possible pit and a linear feature, were revealed alongside a number of indeterminate features during archaeological investigations at Bridge House, Marsh Lane to the south of the site boundary (SOU 522 / MSH1146 / Russel 1992). The features survived beneath an agricultural soil with residual finds dating to the Saxon, medieval and post-medieval period. Overburden and structures believed to be 19th or 20th century in date were also identified. The presence of slag and hammerscale within deposits, the date of which remains unknown, was noted.
- 2.2.5 Further evidence pertaining to Saxon, medieval and post-medieval activity within close proximity of the site is shown within results of an evaluation excavation undertaken to the south-south-east at the Former Deanery School, Marsh Lane, Southampton (SOU 655 / MSH1262 / Kavanagh 1994). Likely pits, postholes and construction trenches, and a metal layer were uncovered to the west. Deposits relating to a known saltmarsh (MSH1345) were identified in the east along with remains of a railway marshalling yard (MSH1264). Post medieval features (pits, gully, possible brickearth or gravel quarry, postholes) were also recorded (MSH1262). Further investigation of the site (SOU 713 / SOU 724) highlighted the presence of natural brickearth and identified an undated ditch and late/post medieval gravel surface. Structural remains were also identified on the site and probably represent the Chantry courtyard wall or gateway as shown on Speed's map dating to 1611 (MSH1262).
- 2.2.6 To the west of the site, on the opposite side of Evans Street, a series of archaeological investigations at the former East Street Shopping Centre (SOU 45 / SOU 104 / SOU 1611 / MSH 1137 / MSH4919) have provisionally found a possible prehistoric feature in addition to medieval deposits comprising a hollow-way with associated wheel-ruts along the line of East Street, structural features and pits, these investigations demonstrated continuous occupation from the 14th century with early medieval phases also present. Pits and layers dating to 18th century along with waste deposits and possible structures associated with a cannon foundry (MSH4829) were identified.
- 2.2.7 Investigations to the south of the site have identified the medieval Chantry of St Mary and its grounds (MSH1240) and a fragment of a surviving wall lies within the front yard of Deanery House.

2.3 Archaeological and historical context

Prehistoric

- 2.3.1 Evidence purporting to the prehistoric period in the vicinity of the site is largely of a type unable to be closely dated. There is a scattering of prehistoric evidence of various periods across the search area, although of course much disturbed by later activity. Where present, finds are mostly associated with the presence of brickearth across the area or recovered from later deposits. A scatter of worked flint was found during investigations to the south-east of the site, in addition to pre-Roman pottery (SOU 184 / MSH1235 / Garner and Brisbane 1987) and residual worked and burnt flints were recorded during investigations immediately east of the site (SOU 1389; MSH4070).
- 2.3.2 Early Neolithic or possibly Late Bronze Age activity was recorded to the north of the site during an archaeological excavation on the land on the southern corner between St Mary Street and Coleman Street. The natural brickearth uncovered was overlain by a disturbed brickearth, which possibly originated in the prehistoric but was later disturbed in the Middle Saxon period. A small pit was recorded which contained a substantial quantity of either Early Neolithic or Late Bronze Age (likely the former) pottery, along with worked flint and other finds. Burnt flints were found also found in the pit as well as in the brickearth layer and elsewhere, these may have been scattered from a prehistoric burnt mound. (SOU 1267/ MSH2379).
- 2.3.3 Further afield, largely to the north of the site slightly more prehistoric activity is known. A sherd of pottery likely dating to the Iron Age and three worked flints were recovered from later deposits during archaeological works (SOU 1025 / MSH2610) and a Neolithic polished axe or adze was found within later deposits during an excavation at the churchyard wall of St Mary's Church (SOU 753 / MSH1310).

Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)

- 2.3.4 Evidence of activity dating to the Romano-British period is also slight. Roman finds were among those recovered from excavations immediately south-east of the development site (SOU 184 / MSH1235 / Garner and Brisbane 1987). Investigations undertaken at the churchyard wall of St Mary's also recorded the presence of Roman tile and pottery within later deposits (SOU 753 / MSH1311) as did excavations within the Cook Street area to the north (SOU 254 and 567 / MSH1152). North of the site, at the south corner of St Mary and Coleman Street roman brick, tile and pottery were recovered (SOU 1267 / MSH2673).

Anglo-Saxon (AD 410 – 1066)

- 2.3.5 Saxon activity within the immediate area is well evidenced, with St Mary Street originating as a central part of the middle Saxon town of Hamwic (MSH 4721 / MSH2947 / MSH2592). Believed to have origins within the 8th century, the town became an important port between 700 and 850 AD, though recent archaeological investigations have provided evidence to suggest that the town's economic focus was less of international trade and more on its Wessex hinterland (MSH2947 / SOU 1277 / SOU 1332 / SOU 1386 / SOU 1511). Hamwic declined in the 9th century, likely due to the economic and political changes in part brought by Viking activity. St Mary's church to the north of the site has Saxon origins and many archaeological excavations within the immediate vicinity of the site, and further afield, have provided a wealth of information regarding Saxon settlement and activity, including iron and horn working (as discussed above).
- 2.3.6 Slightly further north significant amount of evidence pertaining to several phases of middle Saxon activity has been recorded (SOU 254 and 567). A wealth of features including possible a timber building, pits, gullies and a possible well were identified with evidence of



smithing and antler working. Burials later found to be part of a large cemetery, and a boundary ditch dating (MSH2261; MSH1156) to the early 8th century were also recorded and are believed to comprise the earliest of the saxon activity on the site, the projected line of MSH1156 is along a north-west – south-east alignment heading towards the Site. Late Saxon activity was also noted in the form of a ploughsoil, ditch and holloway (MSH1150).

Medieval 1066 – 1500

- 2.3.7 Settlement activity is seen to continue within the area of St Mary's into the medieval period. Features and building material dating to the period were recorded during excavations adjacent to the eastern boundary of the site (SOU 1389 / MSH4451). Pottery dating to the Anglo-Norman period and the high medieval period was also present.
- 2.3.8 Further work in the same area unearthed the presence of a major medieval stone building believed to be the remains of a predecessor to the mansion shown on Speed's map of Southampton published in 1611 (SOU 1413 / MSH5529). The mansion, said to have been built with the remains of St Mary's Church (possibly demolished in 1550), was likely the residence of the rector or equivalent of St Mary's Church. Indeed, though archaeological evidence within the area is indicative of chiefly agricultural activity (MSH3057), the area around St Mary Street, particularly to the west along East Street, is known to have comprised a slightly built up area forming a suburb to the medieval town of Southampton (Wessex Archaeology 2016).

Post-medieval 1500 – 1800

- 2.3.9 Occupation activity continued into the post medieval period (MSH3057 / MSH4406 / MSH1344) with the area immediately to the east of the site comprising the gardens to Chantry House (later the Deanery) after the demolition of the aforementioned mansion (MSH 5530).
- 2.3.10 A former watercourse is also known to have run along Marsh Lane (MSH4332) as a possible mill race or aqueduct supplying water to a fulling mill (MSH 4331) from Houndwell Spring (MSH2948).

Modern 1800- present day

- 2.3.11 In the immediate environs of the site a period of redevelopment can be seen with The Deanery being constructed to the east of the site, on the site of The Chantry (MSH3710) and the building of Central Hall, within the grounds of which the development is located.
- 2.3.12 Central Hall was constructed in 1923-25 by the Methodist Church and sold to the local education authority in the 1960s. After functioning as an annexe to the Technical College, the building was then purchased by the Community Church in 1990 and has seen many uses including as a cinema, concert hall. The building is locally listed (SOU 1357 / MSH3042).

2.4 Map regression

- 2.4.1 Below are the results of a brief map regression conducted using publicly available maps from the Southampton City Council website (<http://www.southampton.gov.uk/whereilive/mapsouthampton.aspx>), and maps supplied by the PA for SCC, this is by no means an exhaustive study of the maps of the area.
- 2.4.2 John Speed's 1611 map is the earliest map consulted. Within the approximate vicinity of the Site Speed mapped a walled courtyard. By the 1771 Mazell map this wall appears to have been removed with the area transformed in to square plots.



- 2.4.3 The 1846 map shows the Site as part of the large, formal gardens associated with The Deanery, a tree lined driveway appears to cross the norther part of the Site in a broadly east – west direction. Whilst the Site is still within the grounds of The Deanery on the 1870 map the driveway appears to have been removed.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General aims

- 3.1.1 The general aims 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 help address condition 2 and
- inform either the scope and nature of any further archaeological work that may be required to address conditions 5 and 6; 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 once the full details of the proposed ground disturbances are known.

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 of the evaluation were to:

- examine evidence for remains associated with the Saxon town of Hamwic;
- assess the potential for the presence of archaeological remains relating to the development of 8th century towns;
- to investigate potential Saxon boundary ditches;
- to examine if archaeological features pertaining to the medieval chantry of St Mary's and later Deanery extend to within the site boundary;



- establish whether any intact brickearth deposits survive within the site;
- and establish the presence or absence of prehistoric and/or Romano-British activity within the site;
- archaeological significance is defined as pre- 1850 AD.

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). Any significant variations to these methods was agreed in advance with the PA SCC, prior to being implemented. The methods employed are summarised below.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

- 4.2.1 The preliminary ground investigation which were monitored by an attending archaeologist under the watching brief comprised of three boreholes. Borehole 1 was located to the north-east of Trench 3, Borehole 2 to the north-west of Trench 2 and Borehole 3 to the south of Trench 2 (**Fig.1**).
- 4.2.2 Excavation of the boreholes was recorded by the monitoring archaeologist and mapped using Leica Global Navigational Satellite System (GNSS) equipment connected to Leica's SmartNet service.
- 4.2.3 The trench locations were set out using GNSS equipment, in the positions proposed in the WSI. Trench 1 was not excavated due to its location below tree canopy and its proximity to the 2.5m high boundary wall immediately to the south-east of the Site. Trench 3 was also relocated and shortened due to proximity to the boundary wall (**Fig. 1**). All variations in trench layout were discussed with the PA SCC during site monitoring of the fieldwork.
- 4.2.4 The two trenches, were excavated in level spits using a 360° excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist. Machine excavation proceeded until the depth of approximately 1.2m was reached due to safety concerns.
- 4.2.5 Trench 2 measured 2.1m in length and 1.4m in width, Trench 3 measured 3.65m in length and 1.4m in width.
- 4.2.6 The base of the trench/surface of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand.
- 4.2.7 Spoil from machine stripping 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.
- 4.2.8 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

- 4.2.9 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 drawn as there was no significant variation in the deposits along the trench. Soils were described using the Soil Survey Handbook (Soil Survey of England and Wales) and Munsell soil colour chart (hard copy not digital printouts) (Munsell Color 1975 edition).
- 4.2.10 A Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service surveyed the location of the trenches and sections. 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. 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.

4.3 Finds and environmental strategies

- 4.3.1 Strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of finds and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b) and *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011).

4.4 Monitoring

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

5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 No archaeological features were observed during the watching brief and evaluation. The evaluation trenches revealed layers of modern made ground overlying agricultural soils which contained archaeological finds (post-medieval and medieval pottery and ceramic building material). The trenches were not excavated beyond the depth of 1.2m bgl due to safety concerns. The natural geology was not reached within the trenches but was recorded within the three boreholes which were excavated to a depth of 10m bgl.
- 5.1.2 Detailed descriptions of individual contexts are provided in the borehole and trench summary tables (**Appendix 1**).

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

- 5.2.1 The two trenches share a similar soil sequence. Both trenches were excavated through the current tarmac carpark surface, which overlies a foundation of very loose coarse sand (**2002** and **3002**). In turn, this sealed a layer of (10yr4 / 4) silty clay loam made ground, comprising of modern ceramic building material, roof slate fragments, mortar and charcoal flecks along with sub-rounded and sub-angular gravel (**2003** and **3003**) (**Fig.3, Plates 1-4**).



- 5.2.2 Below this, a slight variation in sequence occurs between trenches 2 and 3. Beneath **2003**, a made ground (**2004**) was observed, which comprised of a (7.yr3 / 0) charcoal rich silty clay loam, with sub-rounded and sub-angular gravel, ceramic building material and roof slate inclusions (**Plates 2 and 3**). Whereas within trench 3, beneath **3003**, a different made ground deposit was observed which comprised made ground (**3004**) consisting of a very thin layer of loosely compacted sand, which did not appear throughout the entire trench (**Fig.3, Plates 1 and 4**).
- 5.2.3 Beneath layers **2004** and **3004** trenches 2 and 3 contain similar layers of agricultural soil. Layers **2005** and **3005** comprised of a (7.5yr3 / 4) very loamy agricultural soil, with sub-rounded and sub-angular gravel and charcoal flecks, CBM and roof tile fragments. This overlain an agricultural soil (**2006** and **3006**) comprising of (7.5yr4 / 2) silty clay loam with sub-rounded and sub-angular gravel. Some CBM, roof slate fragments, and charcoal flecks (**Fig.3, Plates 1-4**).
- 5.2.4 The horizons between the agricultural soils in both trenches was noted to be very diffuse and displayed a gradual change in colour and composition between deposits. This is likely caused by the constant reworking of this material by ploughing activity whilst in use as cultivated land, as well as bioturbation and post depositional processes.
- 5.2.5 The basal deposits (**2007** and **3007**) revealed in the trenches comprised of (10yr6 /6) silty clay loam with rounded and sub-rounded gravel and charcoal flecking. Pottery was retrieved from this layer which has been identified as high medieval to post medieval in date. This layer is most likely weathered brickearth, this could potentially be an agricultural soil or possibly formed by natural processes in the top of the brickearth. The presence of anthropogenic material within the deposits, although rare in frequency, suggests these deposits may not be in-situ geology unless the finds are intrusive as a result of bioturbation processes and animal burrowing activity. (**Fig.3, Plates 1-4**).
- 5.2.6 The depth of trenches 2 and 3 were 1.25m and 1.16m below ground level (bgl) respectively. Excavations ceased at this depth due to health and safety. Natural in-situ geology was therefore not recorded within the two trenches. However, the composition of the basal deposits (**2007** and **3007**) possibly suggests the natural brickearth geology is not far beneath the depth of the trench bases.
- 5.2.7 Boreholes were dug to the depth of 10m bgl, the locations are shown on Figure 1.
- 5.2.8 In Borehole 1, three layers of made ground were recorded as the tarmac carpark surface (**101**), a brown (7.5 yr 5/4) very gravelly sand (**102**) followed by a dark brown (10yr 4/4) slightly gravelly silty sand (**103**). Below this, at a depth of 0.8m to 1.7m bgl, an agricultural soil of dark brown (7.5 yr 4/2) slightly silty sandy clay with gravel inclusions (**104**) was observed, which overlaid the natural gravel geology of orange brown (10 yr 5/6) gravelly sand (**105**). Beneath this in was a thin (0.1m) layer of grey (2.5 yr 3/2) sandy clay (**106**) which does not appear in the other boreholes. The final layer recorded comprised of layer of firm grey (2.5 yr 3/2) clay with frequent white inclusions (windlesham clay) (**107**).
- 5.2.9 In Borehole 2 three layers of made ground were recorded as the tarmac carpark surface (**201**), a brown (7.5 yr 5/4) very gravelly sand (**202**) followed by a dark brown (10yr 4/4) slightly gravelly silty sand (**203**). This overlaid an agricultural soil comprising of dark brown (7.5 yr 4/2) silty sand and clay with gravel (**204**), which overlaid the natural gravel geology of orange brown (10 yr 5/6) gravelly sand which became very gravelly at c.3m (**205**). The depth of the natural gravels was recorded at 1.6m bgl. The final layer comprised of firm grey (2.5 yr 3/2) clay with frequent white inclusions (windlesham clay) (**206**).

- 5.2.10 In borehole 3 again three layers of made ground were recorded as the tarmac carpark surface (**301**), a brown (7.5 yr 5/4) very gravelly sand (**302**) and following this, a dark brown (10yr 4/4) slightly gravelly silty sand (**303**), to a depth of 1.4m bgl. This was followed by layers of natural gravel geology of an orange (10 yr 5/6) gravelly sand (**304**) and a final layer comprising of firm grey (2.5 yr 3/2) clay with frequent white inclusions (windlesham clay) (**305**).
- 5.2.11 There does not appear to be a comparable agricultural soil to **104** and **204** within borehole 3, nor is there equivalent deposits within the boreholes to the weathered brickearth (**2007** and **3007**) uncovered in the trenches. This is possibly the result of oversimplified recording of the boreholes, however there may be other factors that within the confines of a borehole are difficult to determine.

6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

- 6.1.1 A very small quantity of finds was recovered, deriving from two contexts, both of which are interpreted as agricultural deposits (**2007** and **3007**). These comprise nine sherds of pottery (seven from **2007** and two from **3007**) and five pieces of burnt, unworked flint (weighing 101 g) from **3007**.

6.2 Pottery

- 6.2.1 The pottery is listed by ware type, following the Southampton type series (Brown 2002) in **Table 1**. The nine sherds include four of medieval date and five post-medieval. All are in known local or regional ware types and fall within the expected range for the area.
- 6.2.2 The earliest sherds are three of Southampton Coarseware, include a jar rim with characteristic internal bevel. The other two sherds conjoin to form a square rim from a flared bowl or dish, or possibly a curfew (see Brown 2002, fig. 10, 49), with curvilinear tooling along the top of the rim. These coarseware sherds mark a development from the local Anglo-Norman ceramic tradition but are generally dated c 1250–1350. The fourth medieval sherd dates to the later medieval period (c 1350–early 16th century) and is noticeably hard-fired (Late Well-fired Sandy ware).
- 6.2.3 The post-medieval wares include three types of lead-glazed earthenware: Verwood-type ware from east Dorset (a flared bowl rim), white-firing Border ware from the Surrey/Hampshire border industry (a small handle, possibly from a mug), and a generic redware of uncertain (though probably relatively local) source. These wares are not generally susceptible to particularly close dating, but the Border ware is 16th- or 17th-century, while the Verwood-type ware is probably 18th-century or later. The fifth post-medieval sherd is a tin-glazed earthenware, but not distinctive enough to determine whether this is of British or imported type.

Table 1 Pottery by context

Context	Period	Ware	Fabric Code	Sherd Count	Wt. (g)	Comment
2007	Post-medieval	Border ware	BORD	1	10	Small handle, yellow glaze
2007	Post-medieval	Tinglazed earthenware	TGW	1	4	Small body sherd, tin-glazed both sides
2007	Post-medieval	Redware	PMR	1	18	Rim sherd, unknown form



2007	Post-medieval	Verwood earthenware	VER	2	29	Conjoining sherds, flared bowl rim, internally glazed
2007	Late Medieval	Late Well-fired Sandy ware	LWFS	1	17	Body sherd
2007	High Medieval	Southampton Coarseware	STCW	1	19	Jar rim, internally bevelled
3007	High Medieval	Southampton Coarseware	STCW	2	42	Conjoining sherds; squared rim from flared bowl or dish; curvilinear tooling along top of rim

6.3 Burnt Flint

6.3.1 Although this material type is often taken as an indicator of prehistoric activity, it has also been found on middle Saxon Hamwic sites. It would be impossible to determine which period it dates from as burnt, unworked flint is intrinsically undatable.

7 CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Summary

7.1.1 Despite the site's proximity to known Saxon, medieval and post-medieval activity, no archaeological features were revealed within the trenches and boreholes excavated during the investigations. However, as the natural geology was not reached within the trenches, there remains the possibility that archaeological features cut through the natural geology may be present beneath the deposits of agricultural soil.

7.1.2 The results of the evaluation indicate a relatively low impact to potential archaeological remains within the proposed development area of the Site.

7.2 Discussion

7.2.1 Previous investigations carried out immediately north-east of site revealed a Saxon post built structure and rubbish pits, a medieval stone building identified as possibly an early phase of Chantry House, along with various medieval ditches and pits (SOU 1389; Garner 2006 / SOU 1413 / Anderson and Russel 2014). However, no archaeological features were exposed within the trenches during this evaluation, possibly due to previous agricultural use of the land.

7.2.2 Previous investigations immediately to the south-east of the site also uncovered various archaeological features such as wells and pits, along with a broadly north-south aligned boundary ditch (MSH1237), the route of which is currently unknown and therefore has potential to extend into the site. However, the ditch was not revealed within the trenches excavated in this evaluation.

7.2.3 Evidence of buried agricultural soils was present across both trenches with finds retrieved dating from the high medieval to post medieval. These are likely soils built up over an extended period of time as the result of the deposition and subsequent ploughing of material. These soils were expected to be present as evidence of buried plough soil was also retrieved during the previous investigation to the north-east (SOU 1389; Garner 2006 / SOU 1413 / Anderson and Russel 2014).



- 7.2.4 There may be potential for earlier activity beneath the medieval agricultural layers as burnt flint was found within layer **3007**, which is possibly an indicator of prehistoric or middle Saxon activity.
- 7.2.5 The absence of archaeological remains is indicative of medieval and post-medieval agricultural activity in this area. There is potential for the site to also have been used as agricultural land in earlier periods, however as the middle Saxon boundary ditch was not uncovered during the evaluation excavation, it cannot be determined whether the site lies on the outside of the ditch.

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. 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 **SOU1881**, 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.
- 8.3.2 This is a very small assemblage (nine sherds of pottery and five pieces of burnt, unworked flint). The pottery falls within the expected range of medieval and post-medieval ware types for Southampton, and there is nothing of particular intrinsic interest. The burnt, unworked flint is undated. All finds came from agricultural soils and can therefore be regarded as redeposited.
- 8.3.3 The proposed selection strategy is for none of the finds to be retained, although this will be discussed and confirmed with (or amended by) the Museum.

8.4 Security copy

- 8.4.1 In line with current best practice (e.g., Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an



ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

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 (e.g., 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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Wessex Archaeology 2020 *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief* Unpublished client report ref 237830.01



APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Trench summaries

NGR coordinates and OD heights taken at centre of each trench; depth bgl = below ground level

Trench No 2		Length 2.10 m		Width 1.40 m		Depth 1.25 m	
Easting 442519.27			Northing 111533.06			m OD 3.06	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description			Depth BGL	
2001		Pavement	Tarmac.			0.0-0.10	
2002		Foundation	Foundation layer. Very loosely compacted coarse sand. In the SE side abundant sub-angular and A gravel ≤ 40 mm. NW side fairly coarse, containing common sub-angular and A gravel. Foundation of the tarmac. Clear horizon above and below.			0.20-0.10	
2003		Made ground	10yr4 / 4. Silty clay loam. Common SA, sub-rounded and R gravel ≤ 40 mm, poorly sorted. Common modern CBM, roof slate fragments, mortar and charcoal flecks. Tightly compacted heterogeneous layer. Sparse fine rooting. Clear horizon above and below.			0.18-0.39	
2004		Made ground	7.yr3 / 0. Charcoal rich silty clay loam. Sparse sub-rounded and sub-angular gravel ≤ 40 mm, poorly sorted. Some CBM and roof slate fragments. Sparse fine rooting. Clear horizon above and below. Possible thin demolition layer.			0.38-0.40	
2005		Agricultural soil	7.5yr3 / 4. Silty clay loam. Layer very loamy with sparse sub-rounded and sub-angular gravel (≤ 30 mm) and sparse charcoal flecks. Sparse CBM and roof tiles fragments. Tightly compacted with sparse fine rooting. Clear horizon above and fairly clear below.			0.40-0.60	
2006		Agricultural soil	7.5yr4 / 2. Silty clay loam. Tightly compacted and very loamy. Moderate sub-rounded and sub-angular gravel ≤ 30 mm, poorly sorted. Some CBM, roof slate fragments, and charcoal flecks. Sparse fine rooting. Fairly clear horizon above but diffuse below.			0.60-0.88	



2007		Agricultural soil	10yr6 / 6. Very loamy silty clay loam. Very tightly compacted homogeneous layer. Rare R and sub-rounded gravel ≤40mm, poorly sorted. Rare fine rooting and charcoal flecking. Diffuse horizon above. Retrieved pottery from this layer.	0.88+
The trench was dug 1.20m deep and due to health and safety reasons it was decided to stop at this level.				

Trench No 3		Length 3.65 m	Width 1.40 m	Depth 1.16 m
Easting 442522.49		Northing 111536.90		m OD 3.14
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
3001		Pavement	Tarmac	0.0-0.10
3002		Foundation	Foundation layer. Very loosely compacted coarse sand. SE side abundant sub-angular and A gravel <40 mm, from mid to NW fairly coarse sand with common sub-angular and A gravel. Foundation for tarmac. Clear horizon above and below.	0.10-0.16
3003		Made ground	10yr 4 / 4 Silty clay loam with common SA, sub-rounded and R gravel <40 mm in size. Coarse components poorly sorted. Common modern CBM, roof slate fragments, some mortar and charcoal flecks. Tightly compacted and heterogeneous. Sparse fine rooting. Clear horizon above and below.	0.16-0.42
3004		Made ground	7.5yr 7 / 2 Very thin layer of coarse sand in the mid part of the section. Loosely compacted. Homogenous.	0.36-0.40
3005		Agricultural soil	7.5yr 3 / 4 Silty clay loam. Very loamy and tightly compacted. Sparse sub-rounded and sub-angular gravel <30 mm, poorly sorted. Sparse charcoal flecking and fine rooting. Sparse CBM and roof tile fragments. Moderately clear horizon below and clear above.	0.40-0.57



3006		Agricultural soil	7.5yr 4 / 2 Silty clay loam. Tightly compacted and very loamy. Moderate sub-rounded and sub-angular gravel <30 mm and poorly sorted. Some CBM and roof slate fragments. Some charcoal flecking. Sparse fine rooting. Moderately clear horizon above, diffuse below.	0.57-0.74
3007		Agricultural soil	10yr 6 / 6 Silty clay loam. Very loamy tightly compacted homogenous layer. Rare R and sub-rounded gravel <40 mm, poorly sorted. Rare fine rooting and charcoal flecking. Diffuse horizon above. Retrieved finds from this layer,	0.74+
The trench 3 was shortened to allow 3 m buffer between the trench and the wall. This was done after the tarmac was removed. Also due to health and safety digging the trench was stopped at 1.20m below ground level.				

Borehole 1		Diameter 300mm		Depth 10m
Easting 442524.87		Northing 111544.57		m OD 3.13
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
101		Pavement	Tarmac	0.0-0.15
102		Foundation	Foundation layer. Brown (7.5 yr 5/4) very gravelly sand. Sparse sub-angular flints. Grey patches Foundation for tarmac. Clear horizon above and below.	0.15-0.25
103		Made ground	Dark brown (10yr 4/4) slightly gravelly silty sand. Common angular flints. Contained mortar and clinker.	0.25-0.80
104		Agricultural soil	Dark brown (7.5 yr 4/2) slightly silty sandy clay. Sparse rounded flints. Slightly gravelly.	0.80-1.70
105		Natural gravels	Orange (10yr 5/6) sandy gravel.	1.70-5.00
106		Natural clay	Grey (2.5 yr 3/2) sandy clay. Has laminations.	5.00 – 5.10
107		Natural clay	Firm grey (2.5 yr 3/2) clay with frequent white inclusions (windlesham clay).	5.10 10m +



Borehole 2		Diameter 300mm		Depth 10m	
Easting 442515.18		Northing 111536.19		m OD 3.10	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL	
201		Pavement	Tarmac	0.0-0.15	
202		Foundation	Foundation layer. Brown (7.5 yr 5/4) very gravelly sand. Sparse sub-angular flints. Occasional rooting and organic odour. Foundation for tarmac. Clear horizon above and below.	0.15-0.25	
203		Made ground	Dark brown (10yr 4/4) slightly gravelly silty sand. Common angular flints, cbm and mortar.	0.25-0.50	
204		Agricultural soil	Dark brown (7.5 yr 4/2) Silty sand and clay. Gravel frequent to moderate with sub-angular to sub-rounded flints.	0.50-1.60	
205		Natural gravels	Orangy brown (10 yr 5/6) gravelly sand sub-angular to rounded flints and frequent to moderate gravel. Becomes very gravelly at c.3m.	1.60-4.90	
206		Natural clay	Dark grey (2.5 yr 3/2) silty clay. Occasional white incusions. Occasional sand lenses.	4.90-10.00 +	

Borehole 3		Diameter 300mm		Depth 10m	
Easting 442520.78		Northing 111529.56		m OD 3.22	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL	
301		Pavement	Tarmac	0.0-0.10	
302		Foundation	Foundation layer. Brown (7.5 yr 5/4) very gravelly sand. Sparse sub-angular flints. Foundation for tarmac. Clear horizon above and below.	0.10-0.30	
303		Made ground	Dark brown (10yr 4/4) slightly gravelly silty sand. Common angular to sub-angular flints, cbm inclusions.	0.30-1.40	
304		Natural gravels	Orange (10 yr 5/6) gravelly sand angular to rounded flints and frequent to moderate gravel.	1.40-5.10	
305		Natural clay	Dark grey (2.5 yr 3/2) silty clay. Occasional white incusions. Occasional sandy lenses.	4.90-10.00 +	



Appendix 2 OASIS record

OASIS ID: wessexar1-405695

Project details

Project name	Central Hall St Mary Street Southampton
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Jones Lang LaSalle Limited on behalf of the Department of Education to undertake an archaeological evaluation and watching brief on preliminary ground investigation works, on a parcel of land measuring approximately 483 m ² located at Central Hall, St Mary's Street, Southampton, SO14 1NF. The investigation area is centred on National Grid Reference 442525 111537. The archaeological evaluation comprised of two trenches identified as Trench 2 and 3. Trench 2 measured 2.1m in length and 1.4m in width, Trench 3 was 2.65m in length and 1.4m in width. Both trenches were excavated to a depth of 1.2m below ground level. The preliminary ground investigations archaeological monitored under a watching brief, comprised of three boreholes within the evaluation area. No archaeological features were observed during the works. The soil sequence was consistent across the investigation area and indicated modern made ground deposits overlying agricultural soils. Archaeological artefacts were recovered from the lower agricultural soils which included post-medieval and medieval pottery.
Project dates	Start: 05-10-2020 End: 09-10-2020
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	237830 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	SOU1881 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts 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 Central Hall St Mary Street
Postcode	SO14 1NF
Study area	483 Square metres



Site coordinates	SU 42525 11537 50.901187809857 -1.395191624562 50 54 04 N 001 23 42 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 3.05m Max: 3.15m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	with advice from Southampton City Council HET
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	Ruth Panes
Project supervisor	Darryl Freer
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Department for Education

Project archives

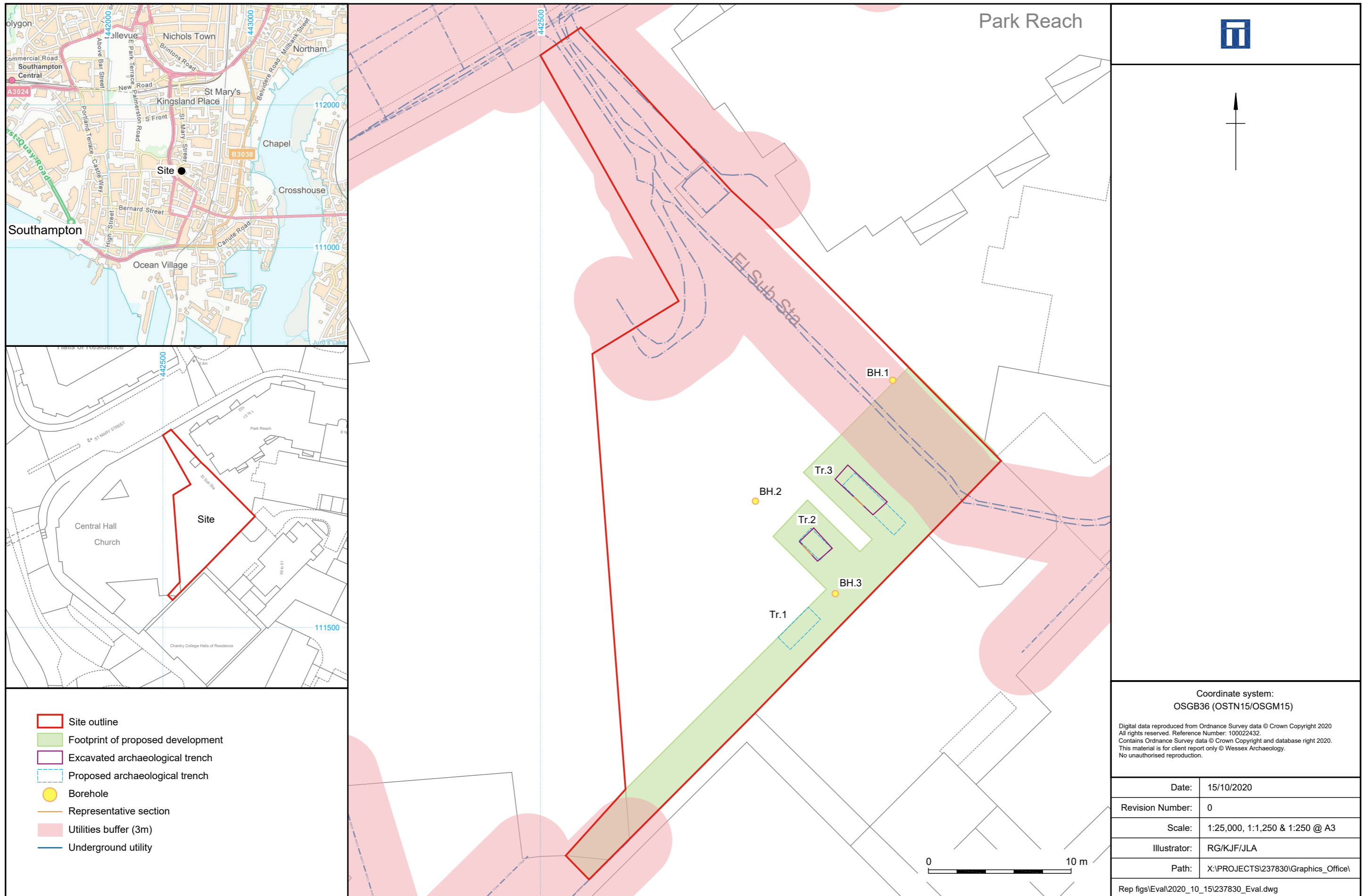
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Physical Archive ID	SOU1881
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Southampton City Council Archaeological Collections
Digital Archive ID	SOU1881
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Southampton City Council Archaeological Collections
Paper Archive ID	SOU1881
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Notebook - Excavation", " Research", " General Notes", "Plan", "Report", "Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Central Hall St Mary Street Southampton Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Wessex Archaeology
Other bibliographic details	237830.03

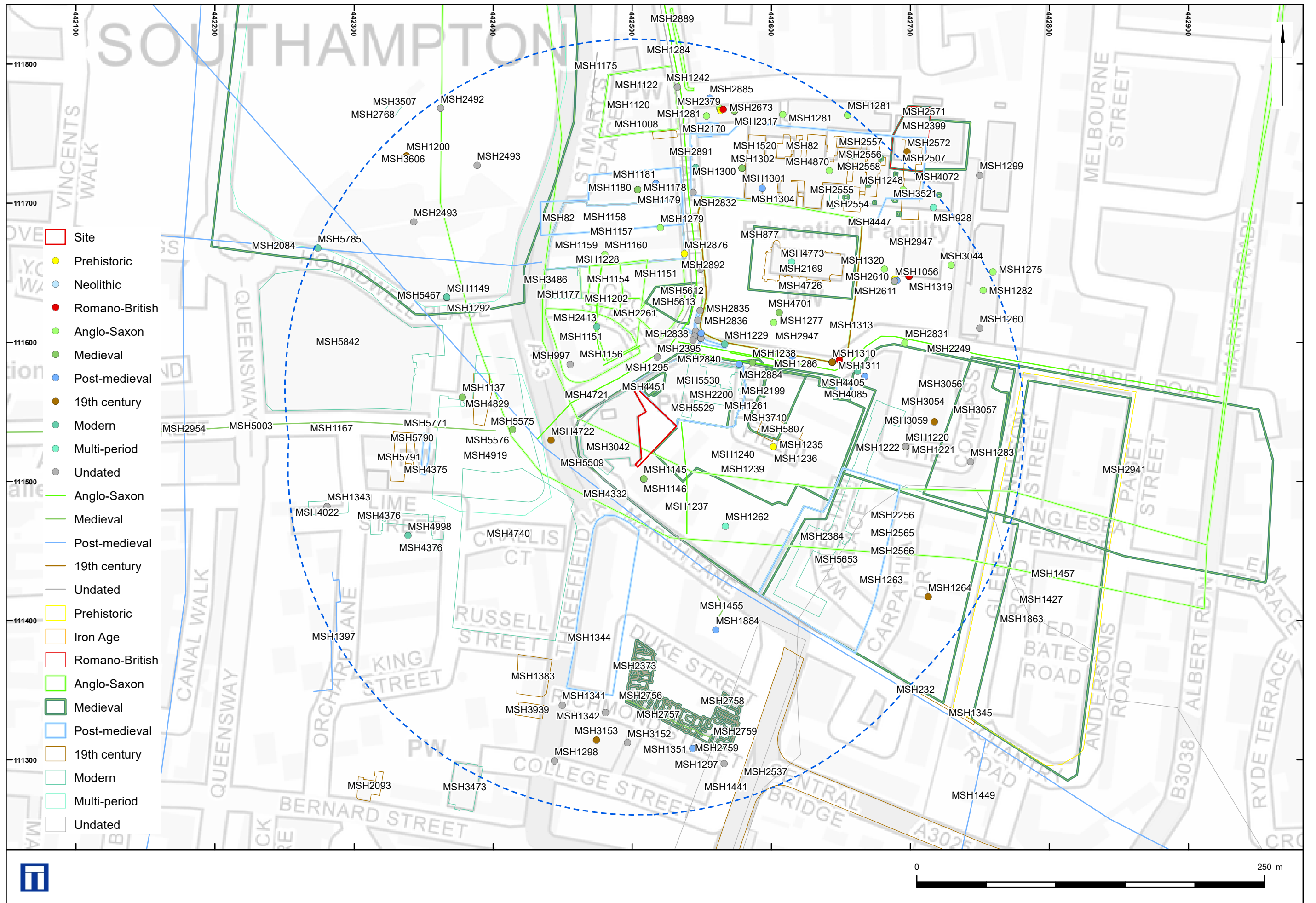


Date	2020
Issuer or publisher	Wessex Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Salisbury
Description	A4 bound client report
URL	http://www.oasis.ac.uk



Site location, trench plan and borehole locations

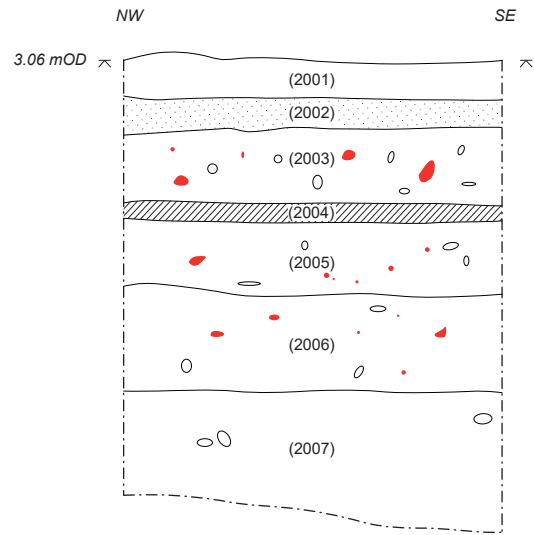
Figure 1







Central Hall, St Mary Street

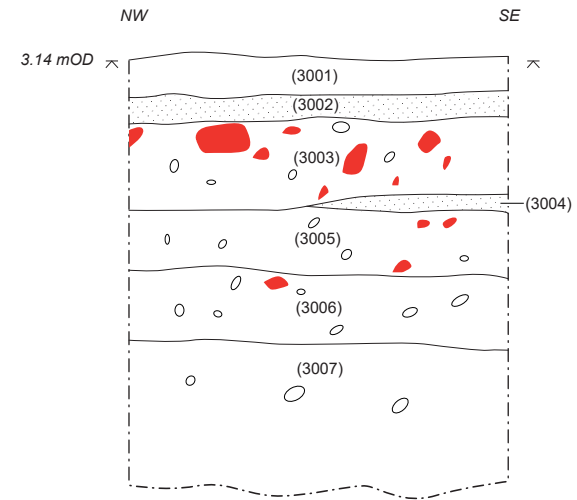
Figure 2

North-east facing representative section of Trench 2

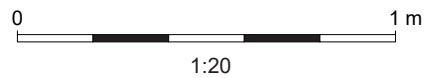


-  Coarse sand
-  Made ground (charcoal-rich silty clay loam)
-  CBM
-  Gravel

North-east facing representative section of Trench 3



-  Coarse sand
-  CBM
-  Gravel



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Date:	15/10/2020	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:20 at A4	Illustrator:	JLA
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Trenches 2 and 3 representative sections

Figure 3



Plate 1: North-east facing representative section of Trench 3, 1 m scale.



Plate 2: North-east facing representative section of Trench 2, 1 m scale.


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Plate 3: Trench 2, view from the east, 1 m scale.



Plate 4: Trench 3, view from the north, 2 m scale.



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Plate 5: Borehole working shot, view from the north-west.

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