



129 St Denys Road Southampton, Hampshire

Archaeological Mitigation Works



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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Sway Road Limited to undertake archaeological mitigation works comprising the excavation of five areas and an archaeological watching brief in association with the re-development of a parcel of land located at 129 St Denys Road, Southampton, SO17 2JY. The works were centred on NGR 443640 114055 (SU 43640 14055) and carried out as a condition of planning permission (19/01417/FUL), and in response to an impact assessment informed by a preceding evaluation.

The evaluation, comprising the excavation of three trenches, identified several post-medieval ditches, a probable deposit of mortar within the top of the natural brickearth, a robbed out early post-medieval wall and extensive made ground deposits across the site. Intact brickearth was also confirmed as the underlying geology. The excavation areas targeted areas subject to the major construction impacts of proposed piling, with the objectives of the investigation to further identify and investigate, any potential medieval remains, the post-medieval ditches and mortar deposit within Trench 2 and to examine the area within the north of the site, unable to be investigated during the evaluation due to on-site constraints.

The excavation comprised of four areas, with a fifth due to be monitored in the watching brief not being archeologically investigated. A further proposed watching brief on new service runs was not required, as their proposed depth of impact and finished level did not extend to the depth of the archaeological horizon, though the excavation of an attenuation tank within the south of the site was observed, though no archaeological features or deposits were identified.

Two of the three parallel ditches originally identified within Trench 2 of the evaluation were located within the excavated area (Area 5), though the mortar deposit was not located. All three of these parallel ditches were found to terminate within Trench 2/Area 5, although extending beyond the excavated areas to the north. Three further ditches, approximately parallel, were located to the north-east of these, in Area 7, and Area 9, within the north of the site. The ditches were all found to contain a silty clay deposit of natural derivation with manganese flecks and iron staining present throughout, suggestive that the deposits were laid down in wet conditions. A larger ditch was also revealed traversing Area 9 in a west-south-west – east-north-east direction. This was found to contain multiple deposits indicative of natural silting over time, with a final, notably gritty, capping deposit containing pottery of post-medieval date. The smaller ditches within the area appeared to feed into this larger ditch which extended outside of the excavation bounds. It is believed that this ditch forms the main drainage ditch of a system of smaller drainage ditches arranged in a herringbone formation across the site.

Some linear features identified during the evaluation and mitigation works may correspond to boundaries depicted on the 1876 – 83 Ordnance Survey Map, for instance the large ditch located within Area 9 and the gully within Trench 4. The three parallel ditches identified within Trench 2 and Area 5 may correlate with depictions on the 1658 map of the Manor of Portswood. One of the ditches in Area 5 produced pottery of medieval date, along with fragments of slate most likely from the southwest, which indicates that the drainage ditches could date back to the medieval period in origin. The three ditches in Area 7 appeared to be stratigraphically early and were not clearly depicted on any maps.

In the central area of Area 9 a well, of Victorian origin was located. Frosted bricks and pottery were identified within the upper deposit, confirming its date as Victorian in origin. No other features were located during the works. The mitigation investigations confirmed the broad stratigraphy across the site, with intact brickearth overlain by made ground deposits. However, within the eastern area of the site, not subject to evaluation, an expanse of possible subsoil was also located. Artefactual



evidence was slight across the excavated areas, also correlating with the evaluation results, with pottery, animal bone, slate and oyster shell recovered from a handful of deposits.

Whilst conclusions could not be made regarding a relationship between this site and another to the north, where a water management system associated with the Priory of St Denys was located (SOU 1136), the possibility of both sites being associated, remains. The excavations were undertaken in two phases on the 28th to 29th September 2020 and 29th to 30th October 2020, with the watching brief for the excavation of an attenuation tank carried out on the 6th June 2021.

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129 St Denys Road Southampton, Hampshire

Archaeological Mitigation Works

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Sway Road Limited to undertake archaeological mitigation works comprising the excavation of five areas and an archaeological watching brief in association with the re-development of a parcel of land located at 129 St Denys Road, Southampton, SO17 2JY. The archaeological mitigation area is centred on NGR 443640 114055 (SU 43640 14055) (**Fig. 1**).
- 1.1.2 The work was carried out as a condition of planning permission, granted by Southampton City Council (19/01417/FUL) for the demolition of the former property and redevelopment of the site comprising the erection of nine flats with associated cycle and refuse storage.
- 1.1.3 The archaeological mitigation was the final stage in a programme of archaeological works, which has included an archaeological evaluation, which identified a number of ditches believed to be field boundaries and/or drainage ditches, a robbed out early post-medieval wall and a deposit of inconclusive origin but postulated to comprise mortar.
- 1.1.4 Following the results of the evaluation, and in accordance with conditions attached to planning permission (19/01417/FUL) an impact assessment was undertaken. The assessment highlighted that the identified archaeological horizon would be affected by the proposed piling and new foundations associated with the development (Planning Archaeologist for Southampton City Council – email correspondence of 24/09/2020). As such further mitigation was deemed necessary. The strategy for the works was agreed in consultation with the Planning Archaeologist (PA) for Southampton City Council (SCC).
- 1.1.5 The excavation and watching brief were undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI), which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed, for both the fieldwork and the post-excavation work (Wessex Archaeology 2020a). The PA at SCC approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing.
- 1.1.6 The archaeological works were undertaken on the 28th to 29th September 2020, 29th to 30th October 2020 and the 6th June 2021

1.2 Scope of the report

- 1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the results of the excavation, and the preceding evaluation, and to assess the potential of the results to address the aims and objectives outlined in the WSI. Where appropriate, it includes recommendations for a programme of further analysis, outlining the resources needed to achieve the aims, leading to dissemination of the archaeological results via publication and the curation of the archive.

1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 The site is located at 129 St Denys Road, Southampton, approximately 42 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 demolished as part of the works, 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 slopes gently towards the south-east with existing ground levels recorded as approximately 3.70 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the north-west corner and 2.30 m aOD in the south-east corner. St Denys Road was built on an embankment, so raised above the existing ground surface. The present ground level 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 2.3.14**). The site lies to the east of (and therefore below) the 20ft contour (c. 3.20m aOD) shown on 1846 Royal Engineers Map. Archaeological evidence from a site north of St Denys Road (SOU 1136) suggested that the backfilling of this valley had started prior to 1846. (See 2.3.14 for more about this valley and SOU 1136.)
- 1.3.3 The underlying geology is mapped as Clay, Silt and Sand of the London Clay Formation with superficial River Terrace Deposits comprising Sand and Gravel (British Geological Survey online viewer).
- 1.3.4 The archaeological evaluation preceding the mitigation works confirmed the presence of modern made ground across the site, with underlying geology comprising well intact brickearth (Wessex Archaeology 2020b). The made ground was previously identified during a Geoenvironmental and Geotechnical Assessment of the site which also confirmed the presence of River Terrace Deposits (TEC 2020). Stratigraphy encountered during the mitigation works further confirms the presence of made ground overlying natural brickearth deposits, with the latter identified at 1.50 m aOD in the east of the site (Area 7), 1.60 m aOD in the west (Area 5) and 1.40 m aOD in the north (Area 9).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background has previously been assessed within the WSI accompanying the evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2020c) and within the evaluation report (Wessex Archaeology 2020b). Both studies consulted the Southampton Historic Environment Record within a 500 m radius of the site and a summary is given below. Relevant entry numbers from the Southampton Historic Environment Record (SHER) and the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) are 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 (Portswood, Highfield and northern St Denys).

2.2 Previous works related to the development

Archaeological Evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2020b)

- 2.2.1 A total of three trenches were excavated during the evaluation, with a fourth unexcavated due to the presence of a signal identifying a previously unknown service (**Fig. 1**). During the investigation intact brickearth was located between 0.67 and 1.1 m below the existing ground surface (averaging at approximately 1.60 m aOD), and, as evidenced by a sondage within Trench 2, was present up to 1.48 m bgl (1.12 m aOD). Within the sondage the brick

earth was found to overlies gravels. No subsoil was identified during the course of the investigation.

- 2.2.2 The features revealed during the evaluation included a gully, wall and three parallel linear features (**Fig. 1**) of post-medieval origin. The former, within the south of the site (Trench 4), is aligned with a field boundary depicted on the 1876 – 1883 Hampshire and Isle of Wight OS Map (Fig. 3). The remains of a wall, also identified within Trench 4, comprised two rough courses of limestone and red bricks, bonded with redeposited brickearth. The stone was a finely grained limestone containing occasional shell debris, probably a variant of Purbeck limestone, and a piece of Quarr. The Quarr was quarried on the Isle of Wight and widely used during the medieval period (as well as on a limited scale during the Romano-British period). It is thought to have been worked out by the 14th century (Bishop 2001). Despite a lack of artefactual evidence, the presence of red brick in the wall is indicative of an early post-medieval date.
- 2.2.3 The three parallel linear features (orientated north-east – south-west) were identified within Trench 2 (immediately east and partially within Area 5 of the mitigation works – **Fig. 1**). These appeared aligned with a field boundary depicted on the 1658 map of the Manor of Portswood. During excavation of the sondage within Trench 2 a deposit similar to natural tufa was identified. On-site the material was unable to be confirmed as natural or man-made in origin, but post excavation assessment of the sample at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury confirmed the material to be man-made.
- 2.2.4 Immediately north of Area 6 of the mitigation works, Trench 3 of the evaluation contained modern disturbance in the form of two possible drains at either end of the trench.
- 2.2.5 The results of the evaluation will be discussed further in relation to the results of the mitigation works in section 5.

2.3 Archaeological and historical context

Prehistoric (970,000 BC – AD 43)

- 2.3.1 Evidence purporting to the earliest prehistoric periods within the immediate environs of the site is slight. Palaeolithic artefacts found within the vicinity are typically associated with the river terrace gravels which formed in the Late Pleistocene period (MSH364, MSH517).
- 2.3.2 Evidence dating to the Mesolithic has been encountered within the locality of the site. The Mesolithic period signifies the end of the last ice age, when sea levels would have submerged the river terrace gravels. Boreholes sunk across the River Itchen have identified such a change in the landscape, with peat deposits appearing 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 has been recovered (MSH1793). A late Mesolithic flint working site was found beneath peat layers during an evaluation to the east of the former St Denys Priory (c. 92 m north-north-east of the site; MSH1800 / SOU 448). Further evidence pertaining to this period in proximity to the site comprised the remains of an axe (MSH360). Since the discovery, immediately opposite the site, further investigation of the artefact has been undertaken and instead the tranchet axe is confirmed to date to the Neolithic.
- 2.3.3 Further examples of worked flint dating to the Neolithic have been found in the area of Cobden Bridge, to the east of the site (MSH361; MSH363). Despite the Neolithic typically being associated with more permanent settlement, no features pertaining to such activity have been identified within proximity to the site.

- 2.3.4 Similarly, little has been identified purporting to the Bronze Age period. Though, to the north-west of the site, Bronze Age deposits were located during a watching brief (SOU 1271 / MSH2381). Located within a paleochannel, the layers are believed to have been redeposited and contained pottery, burnt and worked flint, and charcoal inclusions.
- 2.3.5 Finds broadly dating to the prehistoric period have been found in Aberdeen Road (SOU 1084 / MSH1428), Priory Road (SOU 908 / MSH1808; SOU 1056 / MSH2441), St Denys Primary School (SOU 1749 / MSH5809) and the east end of Priory Avenue (SOU 687 / MSH1845).
- 2.3.6 Whilst prehistoric settlement sites have not been identified in proximity to the site, the number of finds spots and the periods they relate to suggest a certain level of prehistoric activity within the site's environs.

Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)

- 2.3.7 The Romano-British settlement at Bitterne Manor (*Clausentum*) (NHLE 1005538; MSH297), located approximately 800 m to the south of the site, on the eastern side of the River Itchen, soon became the principle centre within the region, likely accounting for heightened activity within the area during this period. The exact route of the Roman road between *Clausentum* and Winchester remains uncertain and possible routes have been postulated to the east and west of the site and river (MSH453; MSH485; MSH470).
- 2.3.8 Activity within the St Denys area itself accelerated during the period with numerous finds and features located during archaeological investigations undertaken within the area suggesting a settlement (MSH2568). Evidence dating to the period was located during investigations on land adjacent to 20 Eastfield Road (now 22 to 24a Eastfield Road) (SOU 960 and SOU 981 / MSH1810). Believed to date to the early Roman period, sporadic occurrences of pottery dating to the Iron Age were also located across the investigated area. However, it remains uncertain whether an Iron Age precursor to the settlement existed. Features included a metalled road, probable timber framed buildings and rubbish pits, with evidence of ironworking present in the vicinity. The focus of activity is believed to have moved to the south-west during the later Roman period, when the earlier settlement (SOU 960 and SOU 981 / MSH1810) may have been given over to agriculture. Evidence uncovered during work undertaken at 154 – 170 Priory Road in 1998 revealed a ditch, several pits and finds dating to the 1st to 4th centuries (SOU 822 / MSH1648). The investigations also recorded late Roman building material and artefacts, suggesting that activity intensified within this area during the latter half of the period, when such activity began to decline at the site adjacent to 20 Eastfield Road.
- 2.3.9 Further evidence purporting to activity within the area during this period includes the presence of a quern stone at 21 Aberdeen Road (MSH4723), and further occupation evidence identified during an archaeological watching brief associated with the construction of St Denys Church Centre, west of the development site (SOU 794; MSH1794). Adjacent to the Church Centre, a Romano-British feature was identified during works undertaken in 1997 (SOU 807 / MSH1797).
- 2.3.10 The relationship of the Romano-British settlement within St Denys and *Clausentum* is not fully understood, though it is possible that the two settlements located either side of the river were linked by ferry. This ferry link may also represent a join between 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 have Romano-British origins and is believed to represent a river crossing (MSH1643). Slightly further upriver, timber structures were located within

the inter-tidal area in 1998 (SOU 881). During subsequent investigations radiocarbon and dendrochronological dates were obtained with results indicative of the structures having Roman origins. The timbers form three separate structures thought to represent a riverfront facility, which incorporates a jetty and shoreline revetment (MSH 1645; MSH2968; NHLE 1425731). The structure, located within an area known as The Causeway, is believed to represent a ferry crossing from *Clausentum* at Bitterne Manor, perhaps marking the continuation of a route to Winchester.

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).
- 2.3.14 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 St Denys Road) 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.

- 2.3.15 The evaluation undertaken across the site, preceding the mitigation works, also identified post-medieval features. Largely comprising a series of ditches, a robbed-out wall was also located (see above, **section 2.2**).

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

- 2.3.16 The priory was dissolved in 1536 with the property granted to Francis Dawtrey (MSH1501).
- 2.3.17 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 (evaluation) and Area 5 (mitigation), and the probable wall within Trench 4 (Wessex Archaeology 2020b). 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 appear 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).
- 2.3.18 The 1846 Royal Engineers map (Ordnance Survey; **Fig. 2**) shows the site lies across two fields with a field boundary running approximately east-west across the site. 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 of the evaluation, and Area 5 of the mitigation works, were positioned immediately north of this field boundary. 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 (Wessex Archaeology 2020b). Area 6 of the mitigation works was located along the projected line of this field boundary and similarly, no such feature was identified.
- 2.3.19 The site lies to the 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 (now demolished) occupying the site with small orchards to the west and south. This map also indicates the presence of a field boundary within the south-western portion of the site, across which Trench 4 of the evaluation was located and a gully revealed believed to represent such a feature (Wessex Archaeology 2020b; **Fig. 3**). During the mitigation works, Areas 6 and 7 were positioned across the projected continuation of this field boundary. Despite Area 6 containing no features, several ditches were identified within Area 7. These appear to be on a different alignment to those depicted on the map, and stratigraphically earlier than that located in Trench 4 of the evaluation. 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. The 1876-83 map also depicts a boundary traversing the north of the site in the same direction as the large ditch located within Area 9 of the mitigation works.
- 2.3.20 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 (**Fig. 3**). 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. The base of the embankment, depicted on the 1933 OS map, is shown within the bounds of the site, furthering the notion that the larger, more modern made ground deposits found within Area 9 are related to the construction of the

embankment (**Fig. 4**). The embankment was removed during the groundworks but not observed as part of the watching brief.

- 2.3.21 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 (**Fig. 4**) the locality largely resembles that of today, with the outbuilding within the south-eastern corner of the site appearing on the 1948 OS edition.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

- 3.1.1 The aims (or purpose) of the excavation, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020a) and in compliance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (ClfA 2014a), were to:

- examine the archaeological resource within a given area or site within a framework of defined research objectives;
- seek a better understanding of the resource;
- compile a lasting record of the resource; and
- analyse and interpret the results of the excavation and disseminate them.

- 3.1.2 The aims (or purpose) of the watching brief, as stated within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020a), and in compliance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014b), were to:

- To allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of the development or other works (Evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2020b));
- To provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard; and
- To guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.

3.2 Specific objectives of the mitigation works

- 3.2.1 Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the site the objectives of the mitigation works, as defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020a), were to:

- determine the exact origin, composition and function of the deposit recorded and sampled within Trench 2 of the previous evaluation;

- more fully understand the extent and function of the three parallel linear features within Trench 2 of the previous evaluation;
- to assess the area (Area 9) within the northern extent of the site, where Trench 1 could not previously be excavated;
- to mitigate against the impact of the groundworks, including the piling, on the known archaeological horizon present within the site bounds.

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

4 FIELDWORK METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020a) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in ClfA guidance (ClfA 2014a). The post-excavation assessment and reporting followed advice issued by the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO 2015). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.1.2 The mitigation work comprised the excavation, investigation and recording of four areas positioned within the locations of areas subject to significant concentrations of piling (**Fig. 1**). This included the northern extent of the site where temporary sheet piling was installed for the purposes of reinforcing the embankment comprising the northern boundary of the site. These areas were numbered 5 – 9, following on from trenches evaluated during previous works.

4.1.3 The fifth area (Area 8) was proposed but was not archaeologically observed.

4.1.4 Area 5 was extended to the east in order to reveal the full extent of ditch **504** in plan (**Fig. 1**).

4.1.5 Some minimal site level changes were noted between the conclusion of the evaluation phase and commencement of the mitigation works. These were due to the clearing of demolition debris and the installation of a piling mat and had not impacted upon the underlying archaeological features and deposits.

4.1.6 During the installation of the temporary sheet piling in the north of the site, no archaeological features or other obstructions were encountered, the identification of such features/obstructions and the requirement for their removal being paramount to the necessity of the watching brief, as stated within the WSI, section 3.1.4 (Wessex Archaeology 2020a). As such the excavation of an attenuation tank within the southern extent of the site (Area 10, **Fig. 1**) was archaeologically monitored. However, other groundworks, namely the installation of services, were limited to levels above the existing ground level or within modern made ground deposits, and as such remained unobserved.

4.2 Excavation methods

4.2.1 The excavation areas were set out using a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), in the same position as that proposed in the WSI (**Fig.1**).



- 4.2.2 The topsoil/overburden was removed in level spits of approximately 50-200 mm using a 360° excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist. Machine excavation proceeded in level spits until the archaeological horizon or the natural geology was exposed.
- 4.2.3 Where necessary, the surfaces of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand. A sample of archaeological features and deposits was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the excavation. The sampling strategy followed that set out within the WSI for the works (Wessex Archaeology 2020a).
- 4.2.4 Spoil derived from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological features was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. A metal detector was also used. Artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, although those from features of modern date (1850 or later).

4.3 Recording

- 4.3.1 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. Area edges were fully cleaned and recorded with "representative" sections only being drawn where there was no significant variation in deposits. 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). Due to the depth of Area 10 observations and recording was undertaken from ground level for health and safety purposes.
- 4.3.2 A complete record of excavated 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.
- 4.3.3 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.
- 4.3.4 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 archaeological works.

4.4 Finds and environmental strategies

Finds

- 4.4.1 Strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of finds were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020a).
- 4.4.2 All artefacts from archaeologically significant contexts (i.e. prior to 1850) 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

- 4.4.3 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).

4.5 Monitoring

- 4.5.1 The PA for SCC monitored the works on behalf of the LPA, and was contacted before fieldwork began and during fieldwork as necessary and monitored the progress through a site visit during both two phases of attendance.
- 4.5.2 The fieldwork was signed off by the PA SCC, although it was noted that a watching brief should have been conducted at the location of Area 8.

5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

Summary of archaeological features and deposits

- 5.1.1 Three of the four excavated areas contained archaeological features. Primarily comprising ditches, some continuations of those identified during the preceding evaluation, a Victorian well was also identified (Area 9). Finds from the ditches included pottery, ceramic building material (CBM), slate and oyster shell, with frog brick located in the top of the well. The uncovered features are suggestive of post-medieval activity across the site, confirming the results of the evaluation.
- 5.1.2 During the archaeological monitoring within Area 10 no archaeological features or deposits were identified. However, it is noted that observations were restricted and undertaken at ground level for health and safety purposes, due to the depth of the groundworks.
- 5.1.3 The following section presents the results of the archaeological works with features and deposits discussed by period.
- 5.1.4 Detailed descriptions of individual contexts are provided in summary tables (**Appendix 1**). **Figure 1** shows all the archaeological features recorded, including those revealed during the preceding trench evaluation. **Figures 2 – 5** show relevant historic mapping and **Figures 6 and 7** show relevant plan and section drawings.

Methods of stratigraphic assessment and quantity of data

- 5.1.5 All handwritten and drawn records from the excavation have been collated, checked for consistency and stratigraphic relationships. Key data has been transcribed into a database, which can be updated during any further analysis. Preliminary phasing of archaeological features and deposits was principally undertaken using stratigraphic relationships and the spot dating from artefacts, particularly pottery.

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

- 5.2.1 For the most part the areas were excavated through two made ground deposits (**Fig. 6**). Within Areas 5 and 6 the made ground deposits (**501, 502; 601, 602**) comprised a dark brownish grey clayey silt (10YR 3/3) with abundant brick and concrete fragments overlying a brownish yellow silty clay (10YR 4/4) with common brick fragments (**Plate 1**). The upper made ground deposits (**501, 601**) within these areas was between 0.42 m and 0.47 m in depth. The underlying deposits measured 0.4 m in depth across Area 5 (**502**) and 0.23 m in depth across Area 6 (**602**).

- 5.2.2 Within Area 5, made ground deposit **502** overlay the natural geology (**503**) comprising a mottled light yellowish grey brickearth (10YR 6/3) with abundant calcareous flecks throughout located at 1.60 m aOD (approximately 0.87 m bgl) (**Fig. 6**). The presence of calcareous flecks within brickearth is unusual; however, the brickearth was located beneath made ground (502), and it is possible that this flecking is derived from water percolation processes causing movement of material from the overlying deposit. The sequence of deposits confirms the stratigraphy of Trench 2 of the earlier evaluation, located partially within and immediately east of Area 5 (**Fig. 1**), however a deposit of possible sandy mortar (**211**) observed during the evaluation could not be relocated during the mitigation.
- 5.2.3 Area 6 however, comprised notably different stratigraphy sealed by the made ground deposits (**601, 602**) (**Plate 1**). Underlying lower made ground deposit **602** a layer comprising a reddish-brown sandy clay (5YR 6/4) with rare limestone flecks was observed (**603**). The deposit was approximately 0.01 m in depth and located at 0.65 m below ground level and may represent a fine lense of mortar, possibly associated with deposits located in the south-eastern end of Trench 3 of the evaluation. Below deposit (**603**), a mid-grey silty clay (5YR 5/1) with dark reddish-brown mottling (**604**) was identified. Occasional slate fragments were noted within the deposit which may represent a subsoil. However, no subsoil has been recorded on the site prior to these works. Deposit **604** was located approximately 0.66 m below the existing ground level and directly overlay the natural brickearth (**605**), located at 0.87 m below the existing ground level (1.45 m aOD). No archaeological features were identified within Area 6 and the modern drains identified at either end of Trench 3 were also not present within the excavation area.
- 5.2.4 Unlike Areas 5 and 6, Area 7 was excavated through topsoil (**701**) which comprised a dark grey clayey silt (10YR 3/3) (**Fig. 6; Plate 2**). The deposit, 0.27m in depth, was seen to contain fragments of brick and abundant rooting. The topsoil (**701**) directly overlay a deposit of made ground (**702**) which appeared mid-greyish brown (10YR 4/4) in section. The clayey silt deposit (**702**) was present up to a depth of 0.5 m below existing ground level and contained a significant number of red brick fragments. Deposit **703** was found directly underlying the made ground and consisted of a dark yellowish-brown clayey silt (5YR 5/1) with gravel and charcoal inclusions. Like deposit **604** this has been interpreted as possible subsoil, despite no record of a subsoil previously having been made. However, it is also noted in regard to Area 7 and deposit **703** that this area of excavation lay to the east of the preceding evaluation trenches and as such may indicate a change in geological sequence in this area. Natural brickearth was encountered at 0.78 m bgl (1.50 m aOD) and appeared as a mottled mid greyish-yellow (10 YR 6/3).
- 5.2.5 Area 8 remained unexcavated (see above: **section 4.1.3**).
- 5.2.6 Like Areas 5 and 6, Area 9 was excavated through made ground (**Fig. 7; Plate 3**). In this area of the site the uppermost deposit (**900**) comprised c.0.47 m in depth of material laid down for the piling mat and overlay and was separated from the underlying made ground (**901**) by a black plastic textile membrane within the eastern and central area. In the west of the excavated area, the upper deposit (**900**) was not laid upon any membrane and a yellow sandy lense, not evident elsewhere, was identified (**Plate 4**). The made ground (**901**) comprised a brown (7.5YR 3/4) silty clay with gravel and sandy lenses, and was approximately 0.60 m in depth.
- 5.2.7 Beneath layer **901**, approximately 0.92 m below ground level, a deposit similar to **703** (area 7) was observed. Deposit **902** was seen across the east-south-eastern extent of Area 9 and comprised a dark yellowish-brown clayey silt (10YR 4/4) with gravel and charcoal inclusions. Where present the deposit overlay the natural brickearth geology (**910**). Within

the rest of the area the made ground deposit **901** overlay the natural brickearth (**910**) which was present at 1.12 m bgl (1.40 m aOD).

- 5.2.8 Area 10 (**Plate 5**) was also excavated through made ground with the uppermost deposit (**1001**) associated with construction of a temporary access for site vehicles due to soft ground conditions. This comprised 0.30 m thick mid greyish brown (10 YR 5/3) coarse sand with demolition rubble (stone, ceramic building material, mortar fragments) inclusions (**Plate 6**). The deposit was separated from those below by black terram. Directly underlying the temporary road surface, deposit 1002 consisted of the previous garden soil ground surface, present during the initial evaluation and mitigation works, upon which the temporary access road was laid. The dark greyish brown (10 YR 3/2) silty clay loam contained fragments of ceramic building material and mortar and overlay made ground deposit 1003. Encountered at 0.76 m below ground level (1.99 m aOD) the deposit contained significant amounts of building rubble mixed with black bitumen and sand lenses. Tile fragments were particularly concentrated within the eastern half of the area. Deposit 1003 sealed the natural brickearth geology, which was observed at approximately 1.90 m aOD. The difference in level compared to the rest of the site is due to the 0.30 m thick temporary access laid upon the previous ground level.
- 5.2.9 The presence of such widespread deposits of made ground across the site is indicative of the earlier development and associated landscaping of the development site. Likely related to the construction of the former property at 129 St Denys Road, the presence of archaeological features within the earlier evaluation trenches (Trenches 2, 3 and 4) and Areas 5, 7 and 9 of the mitigation works indicate the survival of the archaeological footprint beneath these modern deposits. Some slight truncation was evident within Area 5 and attributed to the installation of an earlier service and the excavation of evaluation Trench 2.

5.3 Medieval/Post-Medieval

- 5.3.1 Features uncovered during the mitigation works, conforming with those of the preceding evaluation, primarily comprised medieval/post-medieval ditches. Indeed, within Area 5, continuation of two of the three ditches previously identified within Trench 2 were recorded (**Fig. 1 and 6**). Ditch **504**, a continuation of ditch **209**, comprised the western most linear, which measured 0.44 m in width and 0.12 m in depth and was seen to terminate within the confines of the area (**Plate 7**). A slot comprising 35% of the total feature was excavated through ditch (**504**) and found to contain a single deposit (**505**) of mid brownish-grey (10YR 4/2) silty clay derived from the natural accumulation of material during its use. Two sherds of pottery dating to the medieval period was recovered from the deposit alongside animal bone, slate and oyster shell.
- 5.3.2 Immediately east of this, ditch **506** was located. A continuation of ditch **207**, this was found to have been truncated by the sondage excavated during the evaluation phase in addition to truncation caused by a modern service. The ditch, measuring 0.35 m in width, was not further excavated beyond the 25% excavated during the evaluation phase, but was seen to contain a deposit (**507**) similar in appearance and texture to **505** (**Plate 8**).
- 5.3.3 A number of similar ditches were also located within Area 7, within the east of the development site. The three linear features (**705**, **707** and **709**) were positioned approximately parallel to each other on an east-north-east to west-south-west alignment (**Fig. 6; Plates 9 – 11**). Ditch 709 appeared to cut the base of the subsoil deposit (703) (**Fig. 6; Plate 11**), though the feature does appear to be sealed by the upper extent of the subsoil. The precise relationship between the remaining ditches and the subsoil within Area 7 remains unclear. The northernmost ditch (**705**), with a width of 0.72 m and depth of 0.21 m, comprised the larger feature. A naturally derived dark grey silty clay deposit (**706**, **708**, and

710) was present within all three ditches and is believed to comprise material washed into the features during their use. Indeed, the presence of manganese and iron staining throughout the deposits is indicative of the material having formed during wet conditions. Post medieval brick fragments were identified within deposits **706** and **708**, in ditches **705** and **707**. No archaeological artefacts were located within ditch **709**.

- 5.3.4 The similarities with ditches located elsewhere on the site suggests the features are contemporary and together form a herring bone pattern of field boundaries or water management system aimed at keeping the area dry.
- 5.3.5 This postulation is further evidenced by the presence of several ditches within Area 9. In total four ditches were found within the excavated area, with three ditches (**903**, **913** and **915**) of similar form to those previously discussed and one ditch (**905**) appearing much larger (**Fig. 7**; **Plates 3, 4**, and **12**). The smaller linear features, between 0.6 m and 1.5 m in width and 0.3 m and 0.41 m in depth, were located at the eastern end and within the southern extent of the centre of the area, approximately 25% of the total feature lengths were excavated and surface collection of finds was undertaken. On varying alignments, the features contained a single, naturally accumulating deposit (**904**, **914** and **916**) typically comprising a silty clay with manganese flecking throughout. The deposit varied between a greyish brown, mid-grey and dark grey colour, with the only finds located within deposit **914** of ditch **913**.
- 5.3.6 Orientated north-south (**903**), east – west (**915**) and east-south-east – west-north-west (**913**) the ditches were observed as feeding into the larger ditch traversing the area in a west-south-west – east-north-east direction (**Fig. 1**). Within the 0.60 m investigative slot which covered the width of ditch **905** (equating to a 10% sample), measuring 1.1 m wide, the feature was found to measure 1.2 m in depth, and was observed as having a straight, steep northern edge, and a more stepped southern edge. A number of deposits indicative of natural silting of the ditch (**906 - 908**) with a final levelling/capping deposit (**909**) (**Fig. 7**; **Plate 4**) were evident. The basal fill (**906**) comprised dark grey/black (2.5YR N3), organic silty clay believed to comprise material eroding from the upper edge of the feature soon after it was dug, mixed with material washed in from the surrounding area. This was overlain by another silty clay, lighter in colour (2.5YR N5) and with less organic content (**907**). Above this a larger deposit 0.7 m thick was identified (**908**). Comprising a mid - dark brown (10YR 4/3) clay loam, the material is also believed to be of natural origin. The upper fill (**909**), a greyish-brown (10YR 5/2) silty clay similar in appearance to the deposits within other ditches across the site, was notably gritty, with frequent stone inclusions. Pottery, probably dating to the 17th or 18th century, stone and shell were recovered from this layer, though the underlying deposits were particularly devoid of archaeological inclusions.
- 5.3.7 Upon investigation of the linear features, it is thought likely the larger ditch **905** comprises the main ditch of a water management system/network of field divisions, with the smaller ditches feeding into it. Map regression has shown a corresponding large boundary depicted on the 1876 – 83 OS map, with possible locations of smaller ditches feeding into it (though these do not appear to have any particular trajectory) (**Fig. 3**).
- 5.3.8 Towards the centre of Area 9 a well (**911**), believed to date to the Victorian period was recorded (**Cover** and **Plate 13**). Due to the late date of the well, evidenced by the presence of frogged bricks and pottery within the uppermost deposit (**912**) of the feature, in addition to the likely depth of the feature and dimensions of the excavated area, no further investigation of the well was undertaken.

6 FINDS EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 A small quantity of finds was recovered, deriving from contexts in one evaluation trench (trench 4) and three mitigation areas (Areas 5, 7 and 9). The assemblage ranges in date from medieval to post-medieval, although datable finds (pottery, ceramic building material) are very limited in quantity.
- 6.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results are presented in Table 1.

Table 1 All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)

Context	Description	Animal Bone	CBM	Pottery	Other finds
405	Construction cut 404		1/1333		3 stone
505	Ditch 504	1/4		2/18	1 shell; 4 slate
706	Ditch 705		9/47		
708	Ditch 707	1/3	6/74		
909	Ditch 905			1/214	1 stone; 2 shell
914	Ditch 913	3/24			
Total		5/31	16/1454	3/232	

CBM = Ceramic Building Material

6.2 Pottery

- 6.2.1 Of the three pottery sherds recovered, two are medieval and one post-medieval. All three have been correlated with the Southampton type series for medieval and early post-medieval pottery (Brown 2002). The two medieval sherds were found in Area 5 (ditch 504). Both are in the local Southampton Coarseware: one in the definitive type (STCW) and the other in the fine sandy variant (STCS). The latter sherd is from a jar rim, with the typical internally bevelled rim profile. In Southampton these coarsewares date to the high medieval period (c 1250–c 1350).
- 6.2.2 The post-medieval sherd, from Area 9 (ditch 905) is from a flanged bowl rim in a glazed redware (PMR), probably dating to the 17th or 18th century.

6.3 Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

- 6.3.1 This category comprises fragments of brick and roof tile, all apparently of post-medieval date. One large brick fragment was taken as a sample from wall 405 in evaluation trench 4. This is from a wide but relatively shallow brick (width 120 mm, thickness 50 mm), unfroged and with one surface vitrified. The size and surface finish suggest an early post-medieval date, perhaps 16th or early 17th century. There are 14 other small brick fragments from ditches 705 and 707, but these are too small to attempt any closer dating than broadly post-medieval. One flat roof tile fragment from ditch 707 is also broadly post-medieval.

6.4 Stone and Slate

- 6.4.1 Four small fragments of grey slate were retained (505). These are most like slate from the south-west (Devon or Cornwall) and slate from that region was widely used at locations along the south coast during the medieval period (Jope and Dunning 1954, 209).



- 6.4.2 A slablike piece of limestone from ditch 905 has no surviving surface and shows no obvious signs of working, although was in all likelihood utilised as building material, although of uncertain date. The limestone is this is probably a variant of Purbeck limestone as previously identified within the wall in evaluation Trench 4.

6.5 Animal Bone

- 6.5.1 The small animal bone assemblage (five fragments representing three bones) includes one cattle vertebra (ditch 913), a sheep-size long bone fragment (ditch 504) and an unidentifiable fragment (ditch 707).

6.6 Marine shell

- 6.6.1 All three shell fragments recovered are oyster. Two complete left valves (ie consumption waste) came from ditch 905 and a fragment from a right valve (preparation waste) from ditch 504.

6.7 Significance and further potential

- 6.7.1 This is a very small assemblage of finds which contains nothing outside the expected range of types for medieval and post-medieval Southampton. The archaeological significance is therefore limited by the small quantities and lack of intrinsic interest, and the assemblage is considered to have little or no further research potential.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were encountered during the archaeological investigation.

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Summary

- 8.1.1 In confirmation of the preceding evaluation results, the mitigation work revealed a number of ditches, including continuations of those located within evaluation Trench 2. Despite the evaluation concluding that the ditches found represented field boundaries, further investigation and the location of further features of similar size and character may suggest the location of a medieval/post-medieval water management system, with the ditches arranged in a herringbone pattern, traversing the site and feeding into a main drainage ditch located within Area 9 and possibly depicted on the 1876-83 OS map as a boundary.
- 8.1.2 Given the low-lying nature of the site, with the River Itchen located 42 m to the east, and historic mapping indicative of the site having been infilled in later periods, the land would likely have been subject to seasonal flooding. Certainly, in the location of Area 9 which is probably in the bottom of the valley indicated by the contours on the 1846 map, the ground surface appeared particularly wet in places during the investigations and the presence of manganese flecking and iron staining/mottling within many of the deposits within the ditches suggests the fill materials accumulated in wet conditions. Finds within ditch 504 (Area 5) indicates that the establishment of the drainage ditches dates back potentially to the medieval period at the site.
- 8.1.3 The investigations undertaken have, therefore, furthered understanding concerning the extent and function of the parallel features identified within Trench 2 of the evaluation, in accordance with the site-specific objectives. However, due to the depth of the mortar

deposit recorded and sampled within Trench 2 being greater than that of the excavation depth of Area 5, no further conclusions regarding that deposit can be made. The assessment of Area 9 has highlighted the presence of further ditches in addition to furthering understanding of ditches present across the site.

- 8.1.4 No further structural remains believed to relate to the robbed wall located in Trench 4 of the evaluation were identified during the latest investigations. Positioned south of the mitigation works, the wall likely represents a boundary as opposed to a larger structure. Indeed, no archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the watching brief on the excavation of the attenuation in the south of the site (Area 10), positioned to the north-east of Trench 4 of the earlier evaluation (**Fig. 1**). No evidence for gully 410 continuing was identified, likely due the eradication of such evidence during earlier landscaping or development activity associated with the deposition of made ground 1003. The area of the works was positioned too far east to further investigate the survival of any remains of a continuation of wall 405.

8.2 Discussion

- 8.2.1 Despite the possibility of remains relating to St Denys Priory lying within the site bounds, the features identified during the archaeological investigations are relatively limited in scope. Chiefly comprising ditches of possible medieval and post-medieval date, the water management/field drainage system identified pertains to later use of the site, likely agricultural in nature. The need for such a network of drainage ditches dating back to the medieval period as indicated by ditch 504 suggests the immediate area was historically wet, unsurprising given its low-lying nature, probably in the bottom of the valley indicated by the contours on the 1846 map, and the proximity of the River Itchen.
- 8.2.2 Whilst associations with the site to the north (SOU 1136, Brading forthcoming) cannot definitively be discounted, after all the site and that to the north (SOU 1136) were owned by the same estate from the time of St Denys Priory until after the mid-19th century, it remains uncertain that the water management system located to the north is related to the ditches encountered during the investigations undertaken at 129 St Denys road. Although the ditch in Trench 5 and those in Trench 7 would appear to possibly date to the medieval period. Several of the recorded linear features correspond to boundaries shown on historic mapping. It is likely that such maps took into account the larger, more prevalent features, with the smaller ditches left unmapped.

9 STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 Museum

- 9.1.1 The archive resulting from the excavation 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 **SOU 1876**. 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.

9.2 Preparation of the archive

Physical archive

- 9.2.1 The physical archive, which includes paper records, graphics, artefacts and ecofacts, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Southampton Museum (last updated April 2016), and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011).

9.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site code SOU1876, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:

- 1 box of artefacts and ecofacts
- 1 file of paper records

Digital archive

9.2.3 The digital archive generated by the project, which comprises born-digital data (eg site records, survey data, databases and spreadsheets, photographs and reports), will be deposited with a Trusted Digital Repository, in this instance the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), to ensure its long-term curation. Digital data will be prepared following ADS guidelines (ADS 2013 and online guidance) and accompanied by full metadata.

9.3 Selection strategy

9.3.1 It is widely accepted that not all the records and materials (artefacts and ecofacts) collected or created during the course of an archaeological project require preservation in perpetuity. These records and materials will be subject to selection in order to establish what will be retained for long-term curation, with the aim of ensuring that all elements selected to be retained are appropriate to establish the significance of the project and support future research, outreach, engagement, display and learning activities, ie the retained archive should fulfil the requirements of both future researchers and the receiving Museum.

9.3.2 The selection strategy, which details the project-specific selection process, is underpinned by national guidelines on selection and retention (Brown 2011, section 4), the museum's in-house guidelines for selection (Southampton City Council 2016) and generic selection guidelines (SMA 1993), and follows ClfA's 'Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives'. It should be agreed by all stakeholders (Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists, external specialists, local authority, museum) and fully documented in the project archive.

9.3.3 In this instance, given the relatively low level of finds recovery, the selection process has been deferred until after the fieldwork stage was completed. Project-specific proposals for selection are presented below. These proposals are based on recommendations by Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists and will be updated in line with any further comment by other stakeholders (museum, local authority). The selection strategy will be fully documented in the project archive.

9.3.4 Any material not selected for retention may be used for teaching or reference collections by Wessex Archaeology.

Finds

9.3.5 In this instance, proposals for selection/retention are based on the small quantities of material recovered overall, and the perceived low archaeological significance and negligible further research potential. The majority of the finds fall within categories which the museum specifically targets for selection (building stone, brick, shell). On this basis, no proposal for retention of any finds is made but this will be confirmed with the Museum before discarding.

Documentary records

9.3.6 Paper records comprise site registers (other pro-forma site records are digital), drawings and reports (Written Scheme of Investigation, client report). All will be retained and deposited with the project archive.

Digital data

- 9.3.7 The digital data comprise site records (tablet-recorded on site) in spreadsheet format; finds records in spreadsheet format; survey data; photographs; reports. All will be deposited, although site photographs will be subject to selection to eliminate poor quality and duplicated images, and any others not considered directly relevant to the archaeology of the site.

9.4 Security copy

- 9.4.1 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, and also microfiche (the latter format is a requirement of the receiving museum). PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

9.5 OASIS

- 9.5.1 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.

10 COPYRIGHT

10.1 Archive and report copyright

- 10.1.1 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.
- 10.1.2 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.

10.2 Third party data copyright

- 10.2.1 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 Tables

Evaluation Phase

Trench No 2		Length Unknown	Width 1.22 m	Depth Unknown
Easting		Northing		m OD
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	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
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
301		Topsoil	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	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description			Depth BGL	
401		Topsoil	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

Mitigation Phase Trench Tables

Trench No 5		Length 6.70 m		Width 2.80 m		Depth 1.08 m	
Easting			Northing			m OD	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description			Depth BGL	
501		Made ground	Dark brownish grey (10YR 3 / 3) clayey silt with abundant angular brick rubble, concrete etc.			0-0.47	
502		Made ground	Mid brownish yellow (10YR 4 / 4) silty clay with common brick fragments <100mm, occasional slate fragments <50mm			0.47-0.87	
503		Natural	Mottled light yellowish grey (10YR 6 / 3) sandy silt with abundant calcareous flecks throughout.			0.87+	



504	505	Ditch	Linear ditch with steep, concave sides and a flat base. Length: >3.00 m. Width: 0.44 m. Depth: 0.12 m.
505	504	Secondary fill	Mid brownish grey with orange mottled 10yr 4 / 2 silty clay with very common sub-angular flint gravel <50mm inclusions
506	507	Ditch	Cut of ditch. Unexcavated. Linear in plan. Truncated by machine, eval trench and modern cut.
507	506	Uncategorised context	Mid brownish grey (10YR 4 / 2) silty clay with very common sub-angular flint gravel <50mm, common charcoal flecks <5mm

Trench No 6		Length 9.80 m		Width 1.80 m		Depth 0.90 m	
Easting			Northing			m OD	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description			Depth BGL	
601		Made ground	Dark brownish grey (10YR 3 / 3) clayey silt with abundant angular brick rubble, concrete etc.			0-0.42	
602		Made ground	Mixed mid brownish yellow (10YR 4 / 4) silty clay with common brick fragments <10mm and common mortar? Flecks and fragments <40mm			0.42-0.65	
603		Possible mortar lense?	Mid reddish brown (5YR 6 / 4) sandy clay with rare limestone flecks <5mm			0.65-0.66	
604		Subsoil?	Mid grey with dark orange mottling throughout (5YR 5 / 1), silty clay with rare charcoal flecks <5mm, occasional slate fragments <60mm and occasional sub-angular flint gravel.			0.66-0.87	
605		Natural	Light greyish brown (10 YR 6 / 3) silty clay with manganese mottling and calcareous flecks throughout and occasional sub-angular flint gravel			0.87+	



Trench No 7		Length 4.80 m		Width 1.80 m		Depth 0.85 m	
Easting		Northing		m OD			
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description			Depth BGL	
701		Topsoil	Dark grey (10 YR 3 / 3) clayey silt with occasional brick fragments <30mm and abundant roots <10mm			0-0.27	
702		Made ground	Mid greyish brown (10 YR 4 / 4) clayey silt with abundant brick fragments <30mm			0.27-0.5	
703		Subsoil?	Dark yellowish brown (5 YR 5 / 1) clayey silt with occasional charcoal fragments <10mm occasional sub-angular gravel <30mm			0.5-0.78	
704		Natural	Mottled mid greyish yellow (10 YR 6 / 3) clayey silt with occasional sub-angular flint gravel <30mm			0.78+	
705	704	Ditch	Linear ditch with moderate, concave sides and a flat base. Length: 2.30 m. Width: 0.72 m. Depth: 0.21 m.				
706	705	Secondary fill	Dark grey silty clay with moderate sub round and sub-angular gravel 10-15% 10-30mm, moderate iron staining and sparse manganese flecks 3-7% 2-6mm inclusions				
707	708	Ditch	Linear ditch with steep, concave sides and a flat base. Length: 2.44 m. Width: 0.56 m. Depth: 0.17 m.				
708	707	Secondary fill	Dark grey silty clay with moderate sub-angular and sub round gravel 10% 10-40mm, sparse manganese flecks 3% 2-6mm, sparse iron staining inclusions				
709	710	Ditch	Linear ditch with moderate, concave sides and an irregular / undulating base. Length: 1.34 m. Width: 0.49 m. Depth: 0.16 m.				
710	709	Secondary fill	Dark grey silty clay with moderate iron staining, sparse manganese 7% 2-6mm, sub round and sub-angular gravel 3-7% 10-40mm inclusions				



Trench No 9		Length Unknown	Width Unknown	Depth 1.12 m
Easting		Northing		m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
900		Made ground	Modern made ground. Formed by successive tips of material forming lenses of different colour / textured. This layer lays on top of black plastic terram which creates a clear horizon between 900 and 901. The western bulk differs slightly from the rest of the trench as no terram and shows yellow sand lense, not present anywhere else. The rest of the trench presents dark brown silty clay toppings. Which contained moderate sub-angular and sub round flint gravel 15% 6-50mm with sparse CBM fragments and fired clay 3-7%. Moderate bioturbation, rooting. Mostly 7.5 YR 3 / 2 Dark brown	0-0.47
901		Earlier made ground	Dark Brown (7.5 YR 3 / 4) silty clay with lenses of gravel, and lenses of yellowish-brown sand. Moderate sub round gravel 10-15% 6-70mm Low rooting activity Clear horizon with 902 Sparse CBM and fired clay 3-7%	0.47-1.07
902		Subsoil	Dark yellowish brown (10 YR 4 / 4) clayey silt with occasional charcoal fragments <10mm occasional sub-angular gravel <30mm. Similar to 703	0.92-1.12
903	904	Ditch	Linear ditch with moderate, concave sides and an irregular / undulating base. Length: 0.50 m. Width: 1.50 m. Depth: 0.30 m.	
904	903	Secondary fill	Greyish brown 10yr 5 / 2 silty clay with occasional sub-angular to sub round stones <40mm inclusions	
905	906, 907, 908, 909	Ditch	Linear ditch with steep, straight sides and a flat base. Length: 0.60 m. Width: 1.10 m. Depth: 1.20 m.	
906	905	Primary fill	Dark grey / black 2.5yr n3 silty clay	
907	905	Secondary fill	Mid grey 2.5yr n5 silty clay with occasional rounded stones <30mm inclusions	
908	905	Secondary fill	Mid to dark brown 10yr 4 / 3 clay loam with common sub round stones <40mm inclusions	



909	905	Tertiary fill	Greyish brown 10yr 5 / 2 silty clay with frequent sub round and sub-angular stones <30mm inclusions	
910		Natural	Pale reddish brown brickearth clay.	1.12+
911	912	Well	Well	
912	911	Fill	Fill of well	
913	914	Ditch	Linear ditch with moderate, concave sides and a concave base. Length: 0.50 m. Width: 0.93 m. Depth: 0.41 m.	
914	913	Secondary fill	Mid grey 10yr 5 / 1 silty clay with sub-angular stones <60mm inclusions	
915	916	Ditch	Linear ditch, with steep northern edge and moderate sloping southern edge with a flat base. Length 0.50m. Width 0.60m. Depth 0.30m.	
916	915	Secondary fill	Mid to dark grey 10r 4 / 1 silty clay with sub-angular stones <20mm inclusions	

Trench No 10		Length 11.50 m	Width 1.60 m	Depth 1.40 m
Easting 443641.05		Northing 114043.51		m OD 2.75
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1001		Made ground	Temporary road, mid greyish brown coarse sand (10YR5 / 3), abundant sub-angular stone approximately 100mm diameter, CBM, mortar pieces, demolition rubble, friable, fairly loose. Under black terram, layer built to firm the ground for machines.	0.0–0.3
1002		Topsoil	Garden soil. Dark greyish brown silty clay loam (10YR3 / 2), CBM, mortar pieces, stones, clear horizon above and below.	0.3–0.76
1003		Made ground	Mid greyish brown (10YR4 / 3) silty clay with common demolition rubble (CBM, mortar pieces, stones, old pipe (service pipe), fragments, black bitumen mixed sand and stones), at the base especially. In eastern half of the trench large area if dumped demolition rubble with abundant tile fragments. Disturbed made ground continued under this.	0.76–1.4



1004		Natural	Light greyish brown (10YR6 / 3) silty clay with fairly common manganese and calcareous flecks, in addition, occasional gravel was observed. Depth recorded as 0.8 / 1.1 m+ .	0.8+
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Appendix 2 OASIS record

OASIS ID: wessexar1-411054

Project details

Project name	129 St Denys Road, Southampton,
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Sway Road Limited to undertake archaeological mitigation works comprising the excavation of five trenches and an archaeological watching brief in association with the re-development of a parcel of land located at 129 St Denys Road, Southampton, SO17 2JY. The archaeological mitigation followed on from an archaeological evaluation. The mitigation work revealed a series of ditches, some of which can be identified on historic OS mapping, which are likely to relate to the water management and drainage of the site in the post medieval period prior to development of the land in the Victorian period. The mitigation works also included a watching brief undertaken during excavations of an attenuation trench. No archaeological features or deposits were identified. Overall the results of the works confirmed those of the preceding evaluation. Soil sequences largely comprised made ground deposits overlying natural brickearth.
Project dates	Start: 29-09-2020 End: 30-06-2021
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	SOU1876 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	235160 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	19/01417/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	wessexar1-402154 - OASIS form ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	WELL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Significant Finds	SLATE Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Part Excavation", "Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning 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 443640 114055 50.899866803065 -1.369054236683 50 53 59 N 001 22 08 W Point

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, S. Wilson,
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Sway Road Limited

Project archives

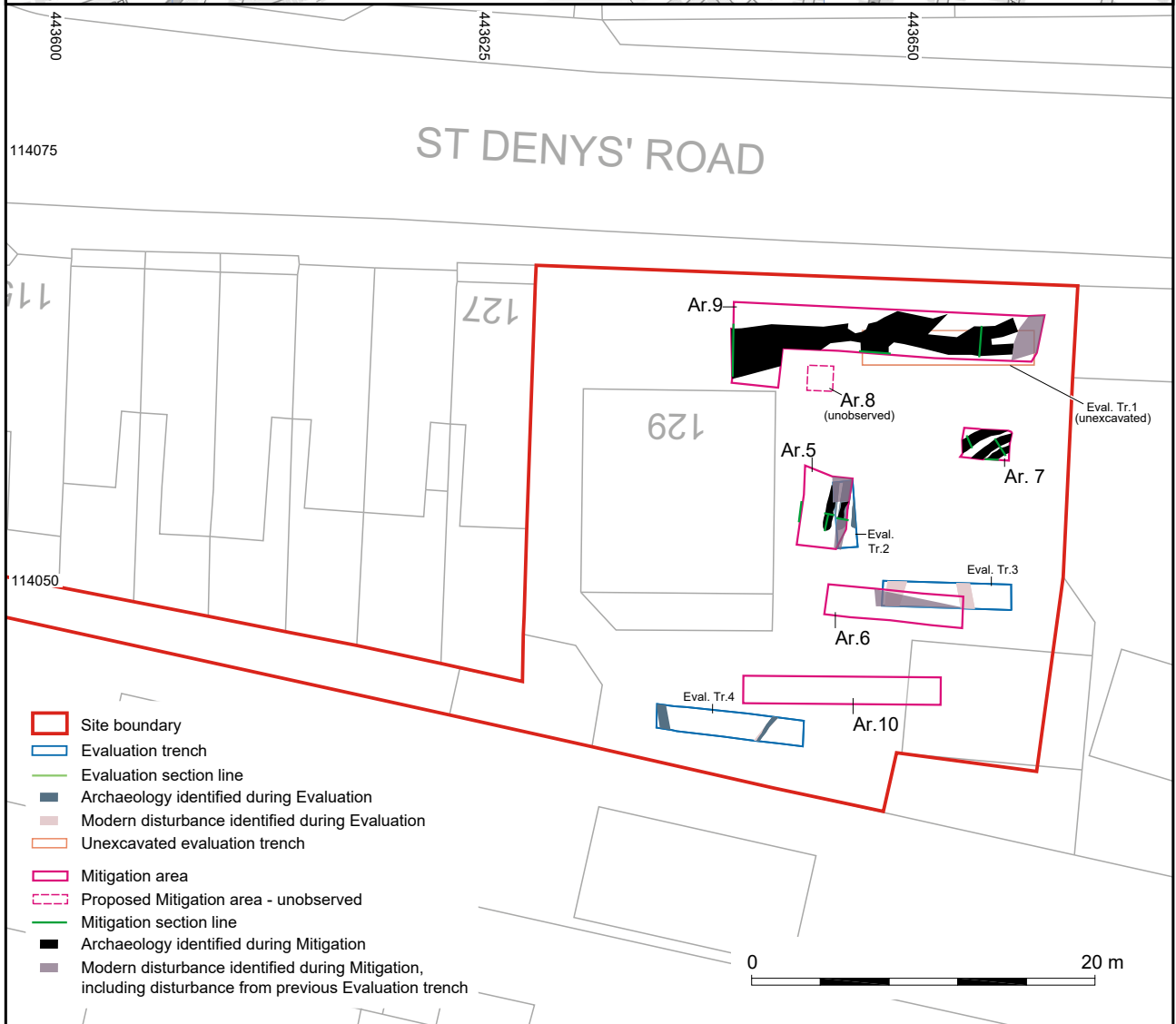
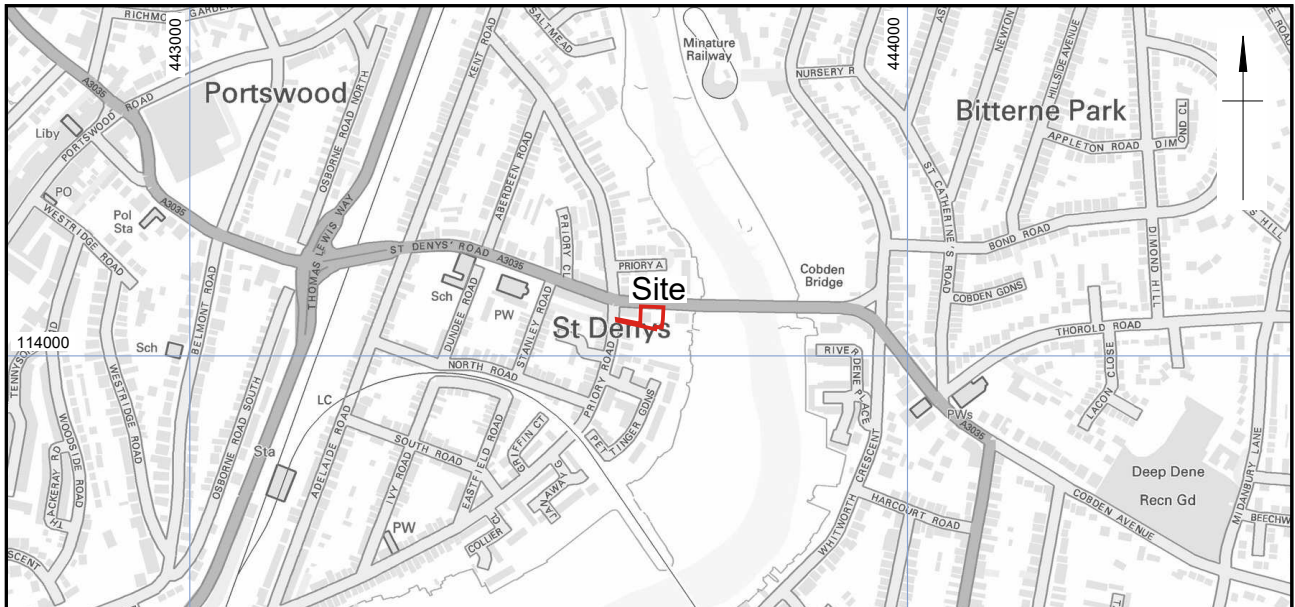
Physical Archive recipient	Southampton City Council Archaeological Collections
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Southampton City Council Archaeological Collections
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient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


Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Title 129 St Denys Road, Southampton, Hampshire: Archaeological Mitigation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	E. Legg
Other bibliographic details	unpublished client report ref. 235160.06
Date	2020
Issuer or publisher	Wessex Archaeology



Place of issue or publication	Salisbury
Description	A4 bound booklet



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	Scale:	1:10,000 & 1:400 @ A4	Illustrator: KL;JLA;ND
Path:		X:\PROJECTS\235160\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\Mitigation\2021_09_20	


Site location and archaeological results

Figure 1



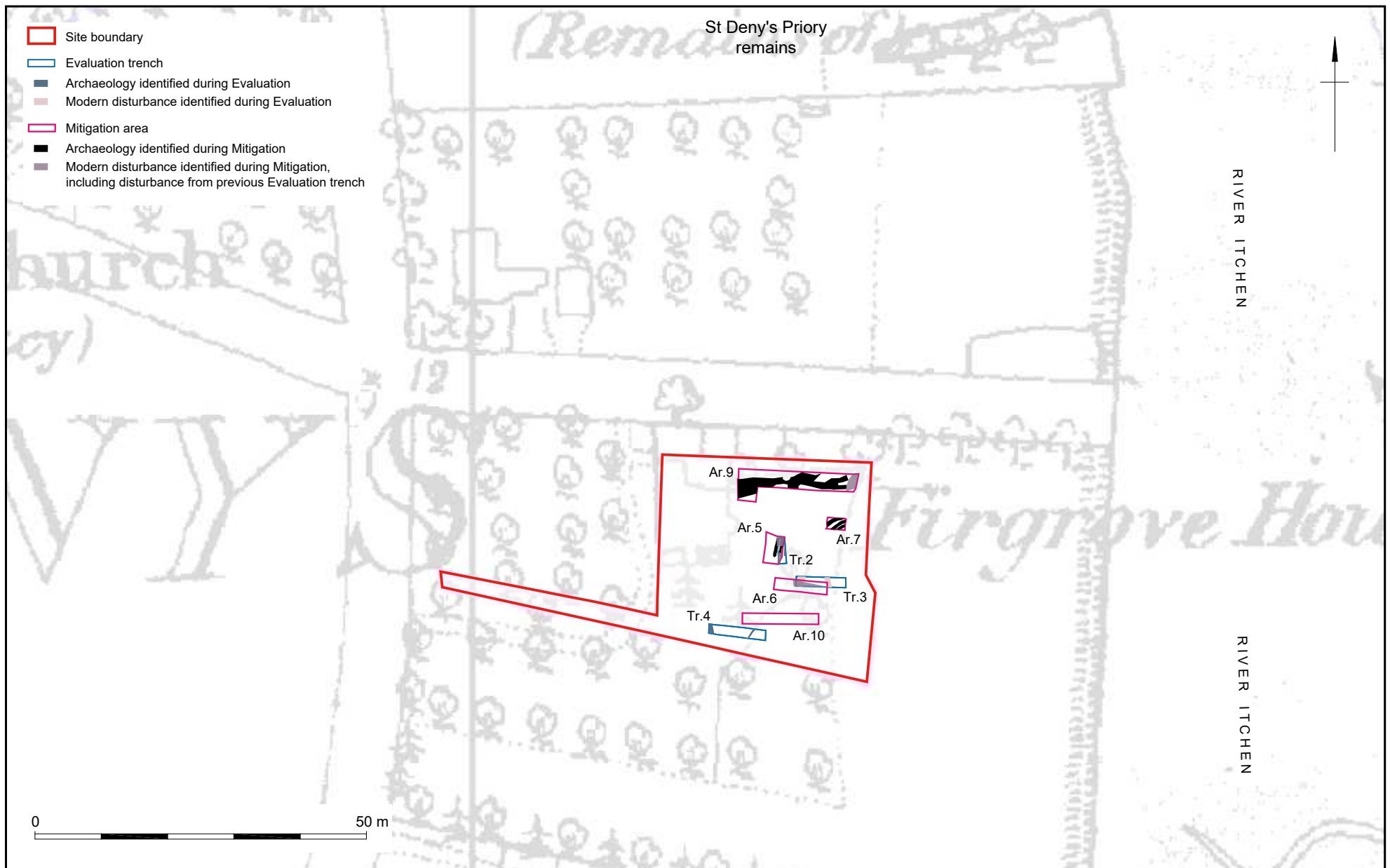
- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeology identified during Evaluation
- Modern disturbance identified during Evaluation
- Mitigation area
- Archaeology identified during Mitigation
- Modern disturbance identified during Mitigation, including disturbance from previous Evaluation trench



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1846 Royal Engineers Map, with site outline and archaeological results

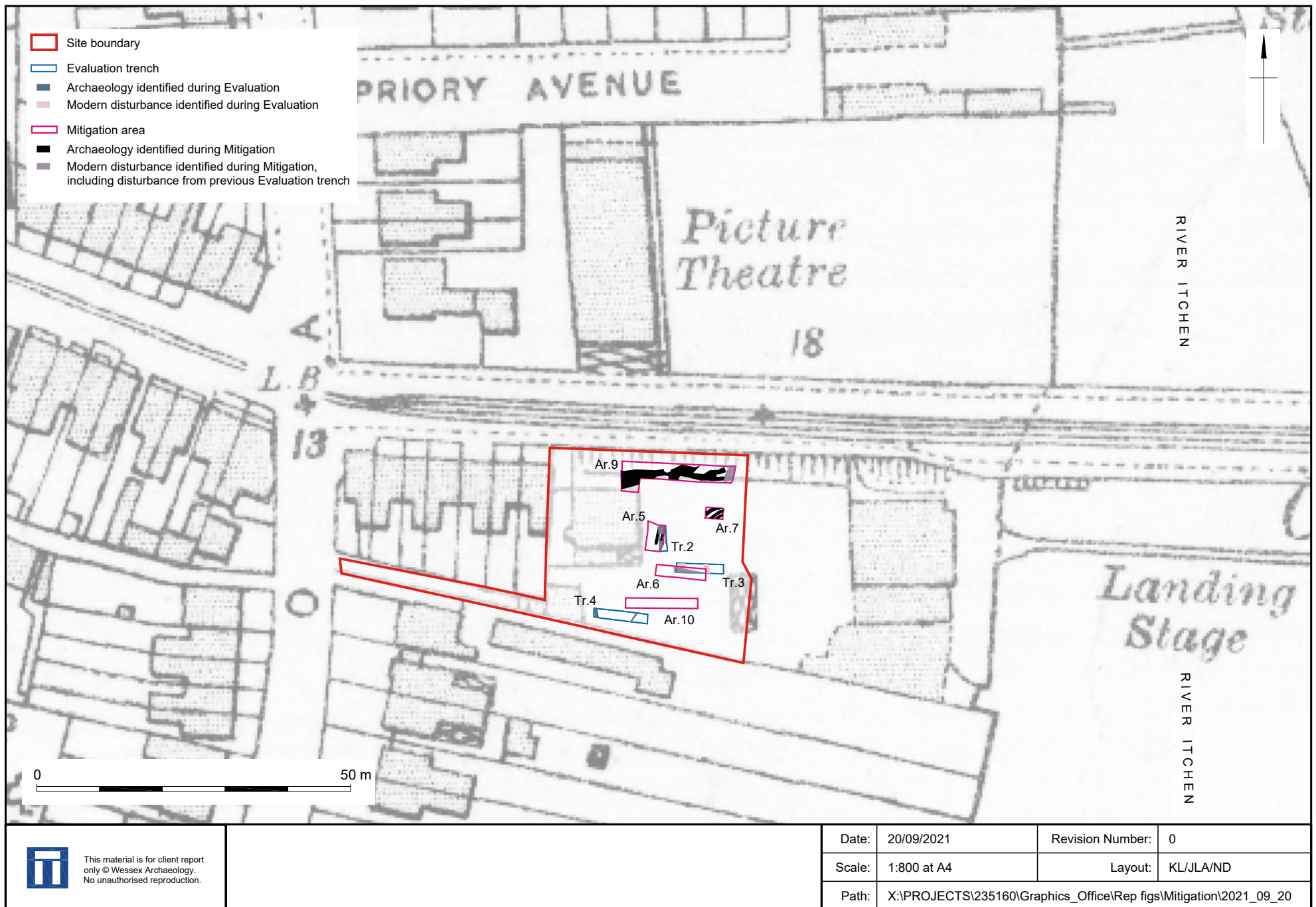
Figure 2



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1876–1883 Hampshire and Isle of Wight OS Map, with site outline and archaeological results


Figure 3



1933 OS Map, with site outline and archaeological results

Figure 4

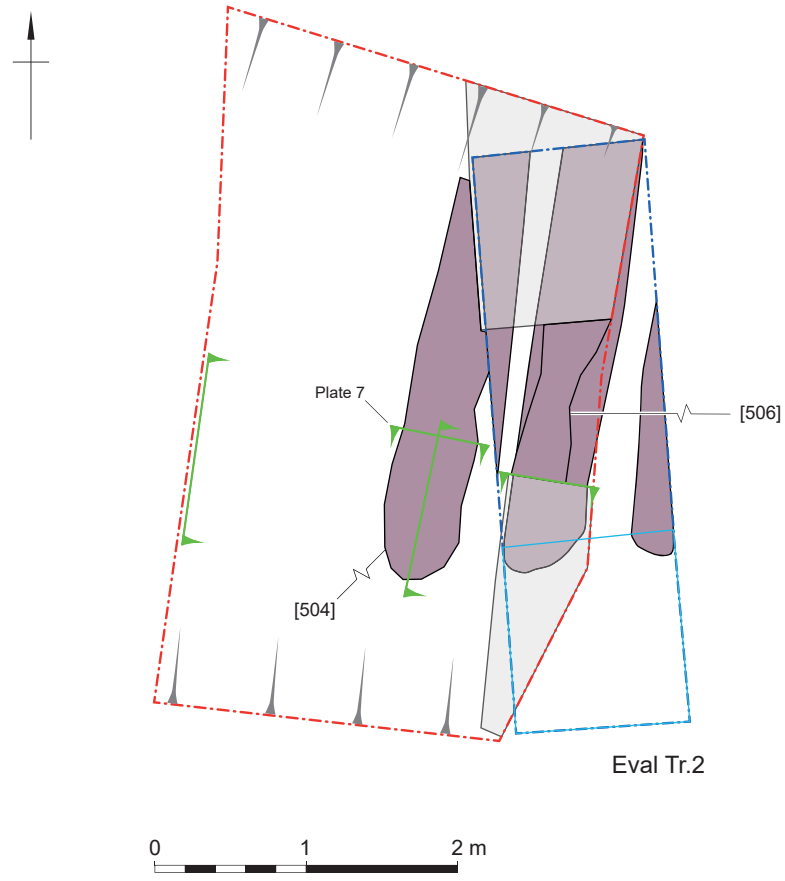


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Path:		X:\PROJECTS\235160\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\Mitigation\2021_09_21	

1658 map of the Manor of Portswood, with site outline and archaeological results

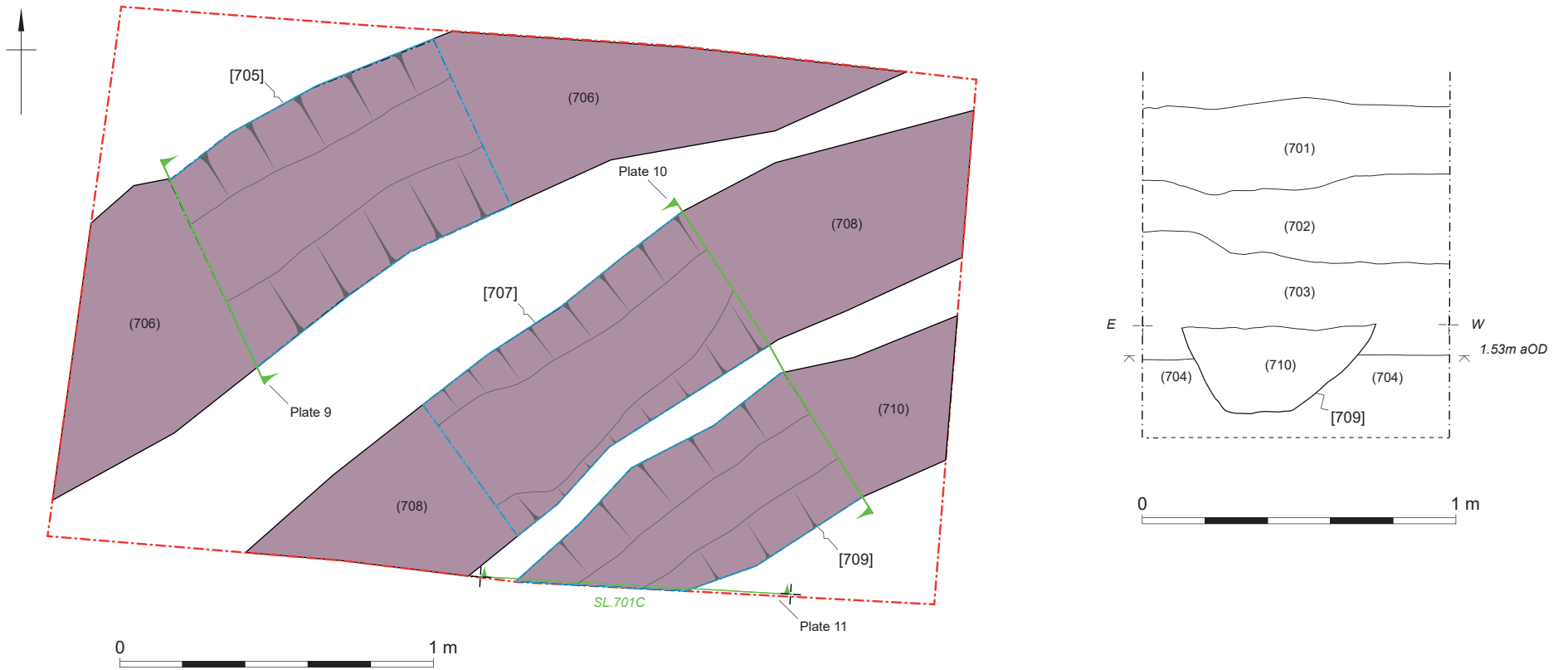
Figure 5

Area 5









Plan of Area 5.

Area 7

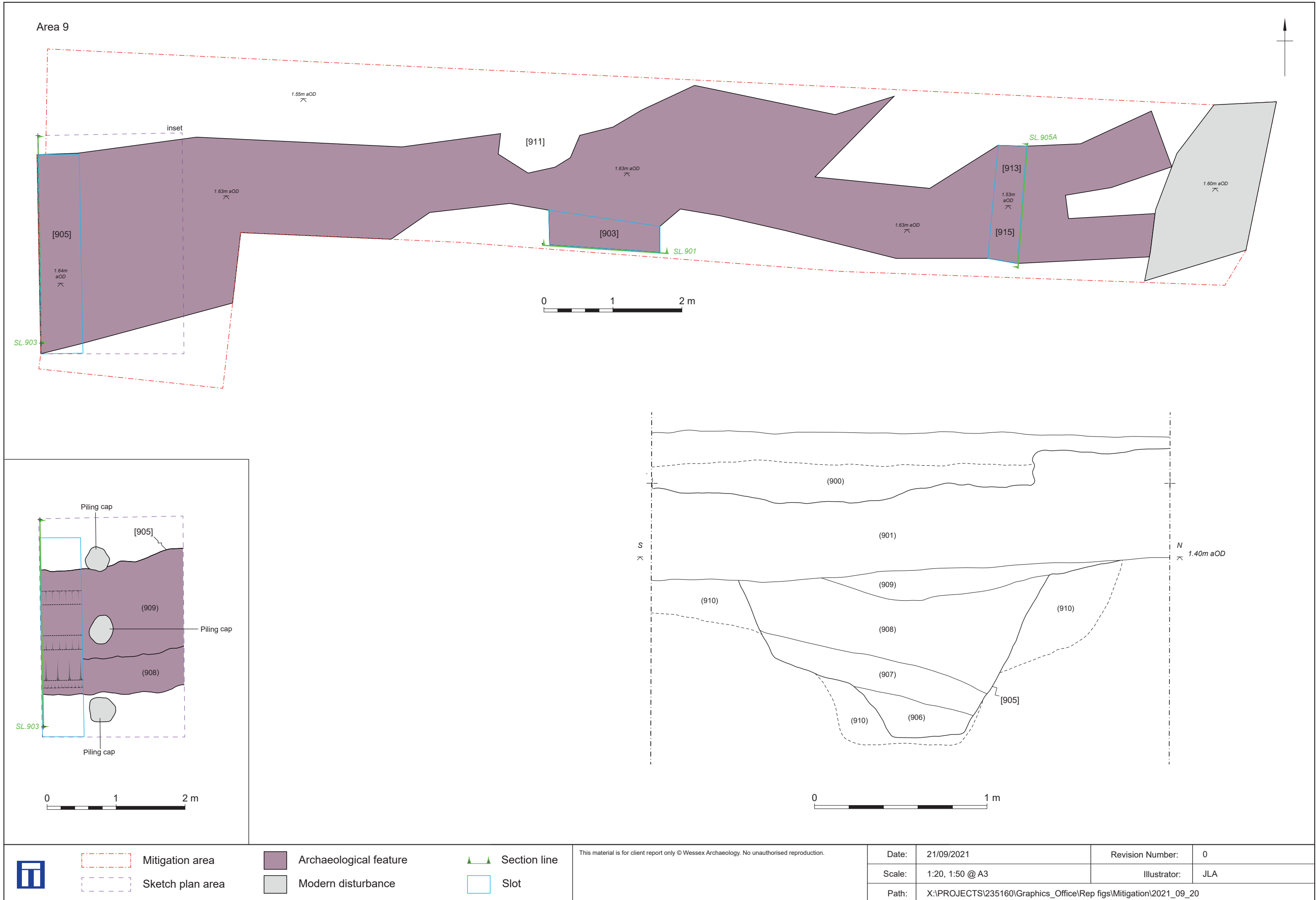


Plan of Area 7, and north-facing section of Area 7 and Ditch 709.

-  Mitigation area
-  Evaluation trench
-  Slot
-  Archaeological feature
-  Disturbance from previous Evaluation trench
-  Section line

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Scale:	1:50, 1:20 @ A3	Illustrator:	JLA
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	Mitigation area	Archaeological feature	Section line
	Sketch plan area	Modern disturbance	Slot

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Plan and section of Area 9 and ditch 905 (inset: digitised sketch plan)

Figure 7



Plate 1: North facing representative section of Area 6, 1 m scale



Plate 2: North facing representative section of Area 7, 1 m scale


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Plate 3: Area 9 and ditch 903, view from the north-east, 1 m scale



Plate 4: Area 9 and ditch 905, view from south-east, 1 m and 0.5 m scales


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Plate 5: View of Area 10 from the east (1 x 1 m, 1 x 2 m scales)



Plate 6: North facing representative section of Area 10 (1 x 1 m, 1 x 2 m scales)


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Plate 7: South-facing section of ditch terminus 504, 0.2 m scale



Plate 8: Representative section of Area 5 from unknown direction, 1 m scale


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Plate 9: North-east facing section of ditch 705, 0.5 m scale



Plate 10: South-west facing section of ditches 707 and 709, 1 m scale


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Plate 11: North facing representative section of Area 7 and ditch 709, 1 m scale



Plate 12: View of ditches 913 and 915 from the north-west, 1 m scale



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Plate 13: View of Victorian well 911 from the west, 1 m scale

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