

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Portsmouth Flood Alleviation Scheme
Gruneisen Road, Portsmouth
Hampshire**

NGR 464250 102448

**ASE Project No: 5832
Portsmouth City Site Code: 2012/982**

**ASE Report No: 2013150
OASIS ID: archaeol6-153126**



by Simon Stevens BA MIFA

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June 2013

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by 4Delivery Ltd. (4D) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at Gruneisen Road, Portsmouth, Hampshire.

No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the watching brief. Modern made ground was found overlying natural deposits. Excavations were monitored to a depth of c. 4m below which it was agreed that there was little or no potential for archaeologically significant remains to survive.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by 4Delivery Ltd. (4D) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with flood alleviation work at Gruneisen Road, Portsmouth, Hampshire (NGR 464250 102448; Figure 1)

1.2 Topography and Geology

1.2.1 The site at Gruneisen Road lies within parkland immediately to the west of the north-south alignment of the M275, and to the east of the area of Portsmouth historically known as Stamshaw. The area is generally low-lying and lies on the edge of Portsmouth harbour.

1.2.2 According to current data from the British Geological Survey the underlying bedrock consists of the London Clay Formation of clay, silt and sand. The superficial geology is shown as Raised Marine Deposits of sand and gravel (BGS 2013).

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Although the work falls outside the usual regulatory planning framework, following consultation between 4D, ASE and Dr Andy Russel, Portsmouth City Council's archaeological adviser, it was agreed that an archaeological watching brief would be maintained during groundworks at the current site, and at a number of other sites in the city affected by the widescale Portsmouth City Flood Alleviation scheme. The other elements will form the subject of separate reports. The Portsmouth City Council site reference for the Gruneisen Road site is: 2012/982.

1.3.2 Accordingly, a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI; ASE 2012) was produced by ASE outlining the techniques to be used in the field, and in the production of a report and an archive.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The aims stated in the *Written Scheme of Investigation (ibid.)* were:

'to monitor the specified groundworks in order to ensure that any deposits, features, artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest exposed and impacted by the drainage improvements are recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards. Particular attention will be paid to recording any prehistoric settlement or associated activity that may be preserved below made ground. Additionally activity principally associated with the medieval manor of Stamshaw (see below) and later periods may be identified.

The aim is to make the results of the investigation publicly accessible through submission of a report to the Portsmouth City Council (PCC) Historic Environment Record and the project archive to Portsmouth City Museum. An OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations) form will also be completed for the project.'

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 The current report provides results of the archaeological monitoring of the groundworks at the site during May 2013. The on-site work was undertaken by Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologist) and by Antonio Reis (Assistant Archaeologist). The project was managed by Neil Griffin (Project Manager) and by Dan Swift (Post-Excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The following information is taken from the WSI (*ibid.*). A search of the Portsmouth City Council (PCC) Historic Environment Record (HER) has identified five entries within c.500m of the current site. Four are 19th or 20th century Grade II Listed Buildings, two of which are naval buildings on Whale Island to the west of the site (MPM 777 and MPM 778). Entry MPM736 relates to an early 20th century former church and MPM743 relates to an early 19th century former dairy transport depot. The remaining entry relates to the discovery of an antler pick during the construction of an extension to the dock southwest of the site. It is believed to predate the Bronze Age (MPM159).
- 2.2 The site is located within the former Manor of Stamshaw which is depicted on a map of 1585 and formerly known as. Stampeshaw (13th century) and Stanneshowe (15th century) (British History Online 2013).

“This district has always been included within the liberty of Portsmouth. Late in the 13th century it was in the possession of Nicholas Malmains, who held it of the king by the service of rendering a sparrow-hawk yearly and paying 35s. 4d. to the bailiffs of Portsmouth towards the ferm of the town. He died before 1292, leaving a son of the same name aged 17. The latter was seised of a house and lands in Stamshaw at his death in May, 1349, (fn. 45) when his possessions were divided among the heirs of his three daughters.

Henry Kesewyke held a toft and lands called Stamshaw, in the parish of Portsea, 'within the bridge called Portesbrygge' at his death in 1420, and his son Henry conveyed the 'manor' of Stamshaw in February, 1437–8, to William Chamberlayn, who had, however, parted with it before his death. It is said to have been sold by a certain Constantine Derrell to Henry White, whose son Robert conveyed it to Richard Playfote in 1548. (In 1553 Richard Playfote died, leaving a daughter and heir Grace, (fn. 51) who was probably the same Grace, wife of John Wateryng, who joined with her husband in a sale of the manor of Stamshaw to Henry Bickley in 1659. The later descent is unknown.'

- 2.3 Although only a single archaeological site is recorded within 500m of the site on the Hampshire County Council Historic Environment Record, the former foreshore, mudflats, harbour basin in general and submerged land surfaces are known to have been attractive areas of past human activity from the Palaeolithic period (and in particular during the lower sea-level of the Late Mesolithic / Neolithic period) but are also highly susceptible to destruction from reclamation activities as well as the erosive processes of the sea (Dix 2000).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The mechanical excavation of a substantial 12.5m wide circular shaft was monitored in 2 visits during May 2013 (Figure 2 and photographs). The excavation was undertaken by a 25 tonne 360° excavator fitted with a grab-bucket.
- 3.2 The excavations were monitored to a depth of c. 4m below ground level at which point discussions with ASE’s in-house palaeoenvironmental team and between ASE and Dr Andy Russel agreed that further visits to the site were not necessary as it was considered unlikely that any archaeologically significant deposits would exist below this depth.
- 3.3 Obvious health & safety concerns precluded entry into the shaft so the excavations were monitored from ground level to detect the presence of archaeological features. Close examination of the material for archaeological artefacts was impossible as the spoil was either dropped into a bunded container, or loaded directly into lorries for removal from site.
- 3.4 All archaeological recording was conducted to accepted professional standards as per the WSI (ASE 2012) and in line with Institute for Archaeologists guidance documentation (IfA 2009).
- 3.5 All deposits were recorded using standard Archaeology South-East recording sheets. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart.
- 3.6 A digital photographic record of the work was kept and forms part of the site archive.
- 3.7 The site archive is currently held by Archaeology South-East in Portslade and will be offered to Portsmouth City Council under site code 2012/982 at the end of the project. The archive consists of the following material:

Number of Contexts	5
No. of files/paper record	1
Photograph	26 digital images

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Two visits were made to the site to monitor the groundworks; the mechanical excavation of a 12.5m diameter shaft.

4.2 Results

4.2.1 The following stratigraphic sequence was recorded. No archaeological features or finds were uncovered.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
001	Layer	Made Ground	c.2m
002	Layer	Alluvium	c.500mm
003	Layer	Alluvium	c.500mm
004	Layer	Chalky material	c.1.2m
005	Layer	Alluvium	continuing

Table 2: Recorded contexts

4.2.2 The uppermost layer, [001] consisted of recently deposited made ground containing bricks, plastic and other modern detritus. It directly overlay an orangey grey alluvial silty clay, [002], which in turn overlay a layer of grey clay, [003]. This overlay a layer of chalky/tufa material, [004], which overlay the earliest deposit, a grey clay, [005].

4.2.3 Although close examination of the material was not possible, no archaeological features were observed in any of the deposits and no pockets of organic material, such as peat, were noted. No artefacts were seen either.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the watching brief.
- 5.2 Given the employed groundwork methodology, close monitoring of the excavations were not possible. However, it was possible to ascertain the site stratigraphy which is interpreted as purely natural in deposition.
- 5.2 Excavations were monitored to a depth of c. 4m below which it was agreed that there was little or no potential for archaeologically significant remains to survive.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank 4Delivery Ltd. for commissioning the work, Dr Andy Russel for his input at all stages of the project, and to the on-site groundworks contractors for their hospitality.

HER Summary Sheet

Site Code	2012/982 (Portsmouth City)					
Identification Name and Address	Gruneisen Road					
County, District &/or Borough	Portsmouth, Hampshire					
OS Grid Refs.	464250 102448					
Geology	Raised Marine Deposits over London Clay					
ASE Project Number	5832					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief ✓	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban ✓	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 9.05.2013 – 13.05.2013	Other		
Sponsor/Client	4Delivery Ltd.					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin/Dan Swift					
Project Supervisor	Simon Stevens					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other <i>Modern Made Ground</i>		
<p>Summary</p> <p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by 4Delivery Ltd. (4D) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at Gruneisen Road, Portsmouth, Hampshire.</p> <p>No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the watching brief. Modern made ground was found overlying natural deposits. Excavations were monitored to a depth of c. 4m below which it was agreed that there was little or no potential for archaeologically significant remains to survive.</p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-153126

Project details

Project name	An archaeological watchinmg brief at Gruneisen Road, Portsmouth, Hampshire
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by 4Delivery Ltd. (4D) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at Gruneisen Road, Portsmouth, Hampshire. No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the watching brief. Modern made ground was found overlying natural deposits. Excavations were monitored to a depth of c. 4m below which it was agreed that there was little or no potential for archaeologically significant remains to survive.
Project dates	Start: 09-05-2013 End: 13-05-2013
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	5832 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	2012/982 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Water Act 1989 and subsequent code of practice

Project location

Country	England
Site location	HAMPSHIRE PORTSMOUTH PORTSMOUTH Gruneisen Road
Postcode	PO2 8QG
Study area	10.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	SU 6420 0240 50 -1 50 49 01 N 001 05 18 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Archaeology South-East
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin/Dan Swift
Project supervisor	Simon Stevens
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	4Delivery Limited

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Portsmouth City Council
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Portsmouth City Council
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Correspondence","Miscellaneous Material","Notebook - Excavation"," Research"," General Notes","Report","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Watching Brief Report - Gruneisen Road, Portsmouth, Hampshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Stevens, S.
Other bibliographic details	ASE Report No. 2013150
Date	2013

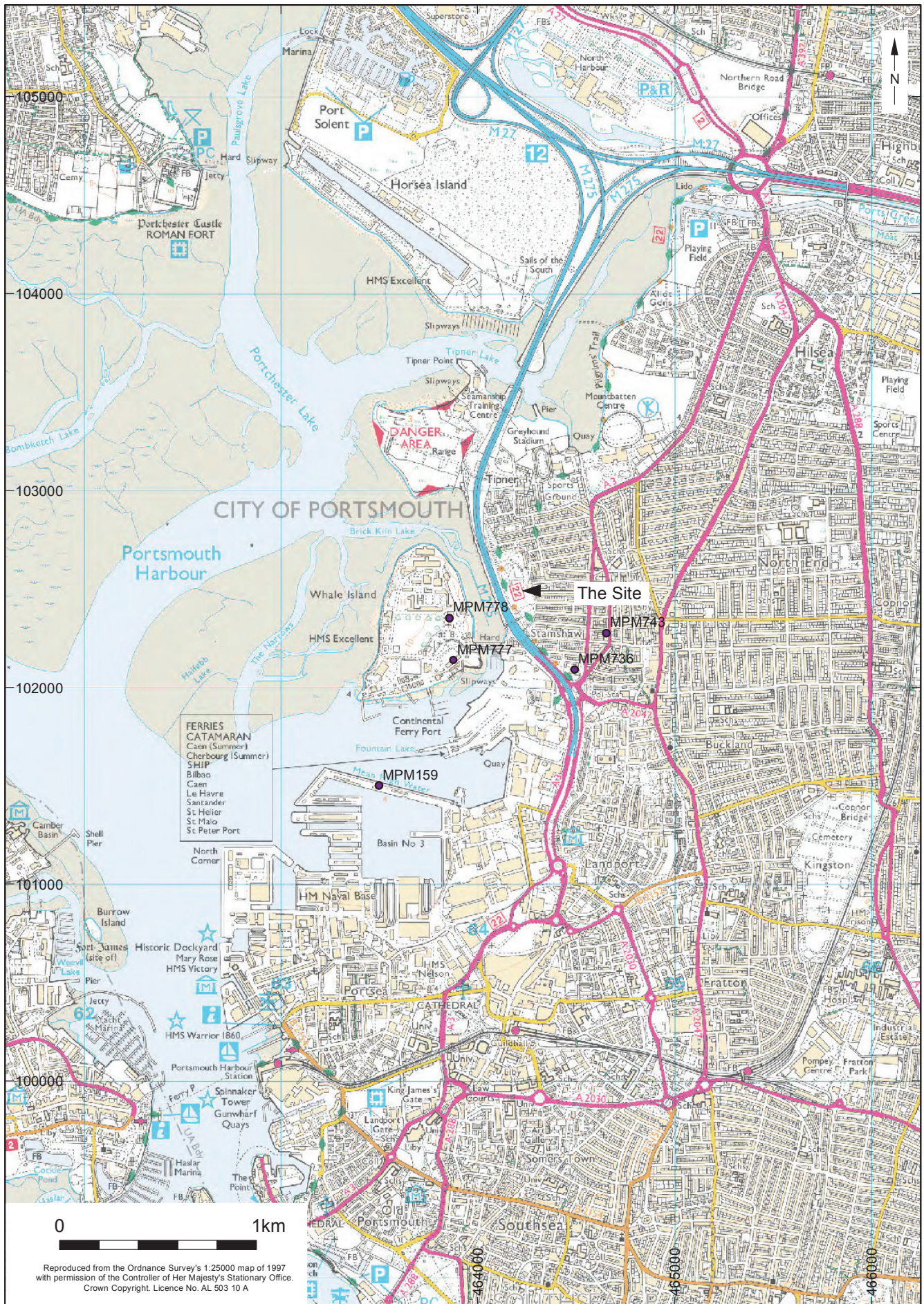
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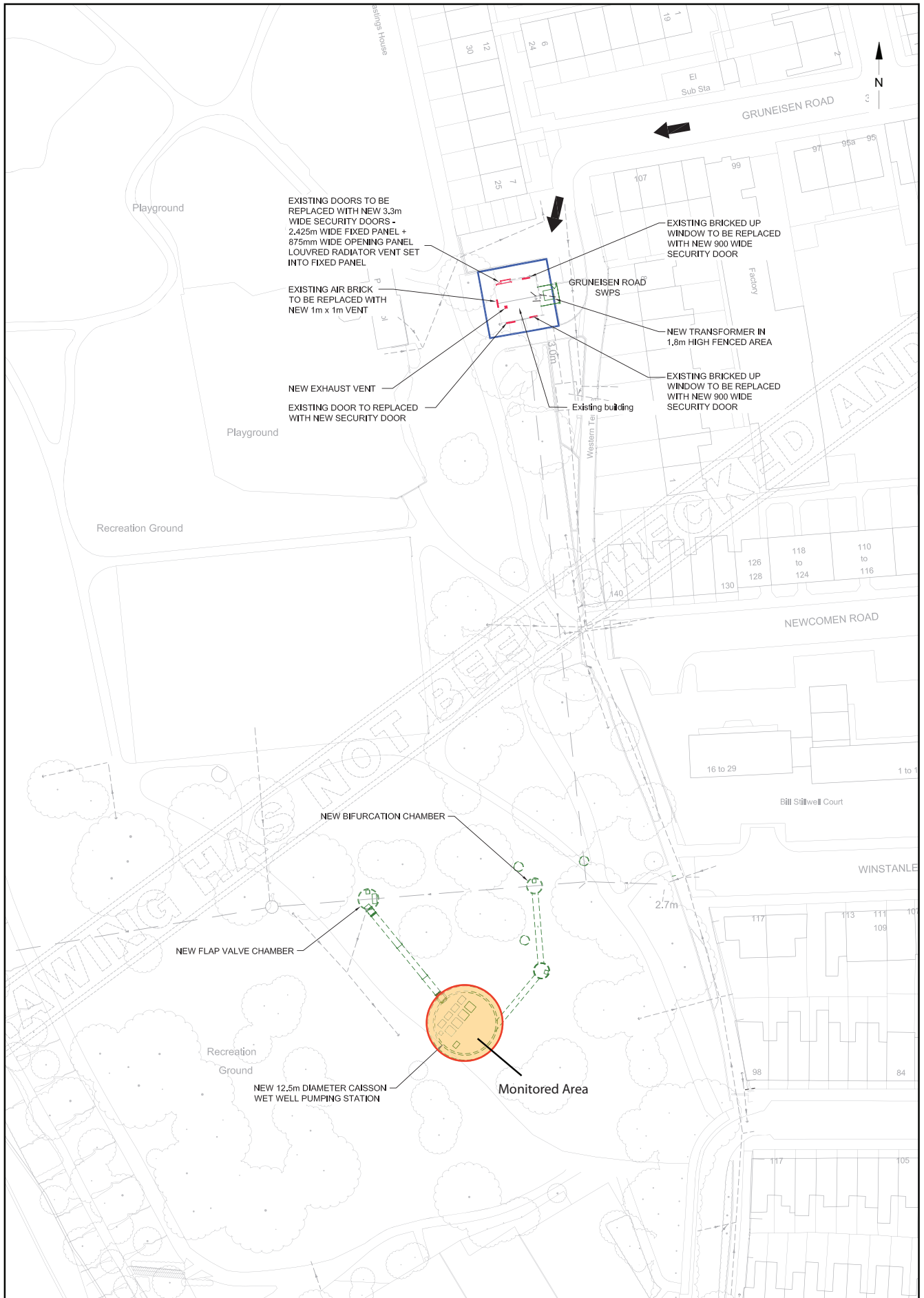
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Entered on 21 June 2013



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© Archaeology South-East		Gruneisen Road, Portsmouth	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 5832	June 2013	Site location	
Report Ref: 2013150	Drawn by: RHC		





The shaft



Unloading spoil



Made ground [001], alluvium [002] and chalky material [003]



Alluvium [002] and chalky material [003]



Alluvium [002], chalky material [003] and alluvium [004]

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