

T H A M E S V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**20-26 College Street,
Southampton, Hampshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Tim Dawson and Felicity Howell

**Site Code: SOU1465
(SU 4248 1132)**

**20-26 College Street,
Southampton, Hampshire**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Crest Nicholson South

by Tim Dawson and Felicity Howell
Thames Valley Archaeological Services
Ltd

Site Code SOU1465

July 2011

Summary

Site name: 20-26 College Street, Southampton, Hampshire

Grid reference: SU 4248 1132

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 13th June - 13th July 2011

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Tim Dawson and Felicity Howell

Site code: SOU1465

Area of site: c.0.23ha

Summary of results: No finds or features of archaeological interest were identified

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Southampton Museum in due course, with accession code A.2009.10.

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 27.07.11 Steve Preston ✓ 27.07.11

20-26 College Street, Southampton, Hampshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Tim Dawson and Felicity Howell

Report 07/129c

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 20-26 College Street, Southampton, Hampshire (SU 4248 1132) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Sarah Reeve of Crest Nicholson South, Crest House, Pycroft Road, Chertsey, Surrey, KT16 9GN.

Planning permission (10/00521/MMA) has been gained from Southampton City Council for redevelopment of the site for residential use. This is subject to a condition (2) which requires the implementation of a programme of archaeological work.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's Planning Policy Statement, Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS5 2010), and the City's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Stephen Appleby, Planning Archaeologist at Southampton City Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Tim Dawson and Felicity Howell between 13th June and 13th July 2011 and the site code is SOU1465.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Southampton Museum in due course, with accession code A.2009.10.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located within the urban landscape of Southampton city (Fig. 1). It occupies an area of roughly 0.23ha between the junctions of College Street and Richmond Street with Threefield Lane. The site's immediate surroundings consist of residential and commercial blocks of varying ages with a large car park to the south. Further afield, to the east of the site, flows the River Itchen with the River Test and Town Quay to the south and Lansdowne Hill and Southampton docks to the east. The site formerly consisted of three buildings fronting both College Street and Richmond Street.

The underlying geology is River Terrace deposits (mainly loam and clay) resting on gravel (BGS 1987). The natural geology observed on the site was a red-brown brickearth. It is at approximately 2m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been detailed in a desk-based assessment (Hopkins 2007) and subsequent evaluation (Lewis 2008). In summary, the site lies within the hinterland of Saxon and Medieval Southampton where both historic and prehistoric finds and sites have been recorded. However, the archaeological evaluation mostly revealed the remains of 19th-century building but one shallow feature (1) interpreted as a ditch terminal potentially pre-dated these remains.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the works. This was to involve examination of all areas of intrusive groundworks, such as the digging of pile cap trenches, deep service trenches and other intrusive structures.

Results

Following demolition of the previous buildings, superficial deposits c. 0.3m deep were removed and replaced by crushed rubble to provide a piling mat. This operation was not monitored as it was not of sufficient depth to impinge on the archaeologically relevant level.

The pile caps and service trenches were excavated using a 360°-type mechanical digger with a 0.60m wide ditching bucket. In general the pile caps were dug to a size 0.60m wider than the area of the piles themselves although in more complex or close-packed areas a single large trench was excavated. The spoil removed was monitored as closely as possible and all possible archaeological deposits were hand-cleaned.

The excavations monitored during the groundworks comprised the digging of numerous pile caps across the whole area of the site (Fig. 3). Two service runs were also dug but these did not extend to the depth of the archaeologically sensitive levels and so were not closely monitored.

The pile caps varied considerably in length and width but were all excavated to a depth of between 1.15m and 1.30m. The stratigraphy exposed across the majority of the site typically consisted of 0.33m of crushed rubble lying on a membrane sheet which covered c. 0.05-0.1m of a disturbed brown brickearth (subsoil) above a brighter red-brown brickearth which was the natural geology proper (Fig. 4). The only major change in stratigraphy occurred along the south-eastern edge of the site, near to the existing buildings. This change introduced 0.57m of made ground containing modern brick beneath the piling mat membrane and, along the eastern site boundary, a concrete surface overlying the made ground.

No finds or features of archaeological interest were identified during the groundworks.

Finds

No finds of archaeological interest were recovered.

Conclusion

Perhaps surprisingly for a site in Southampton's Saxon and medieval hinterland no archaeological remains were discovered during the excavations. The evaluation previously carried out on the site (Lewis 2008) identified a ditch that, despite having a pile cap dug partially across its probable course (Fig. 3), was not seen during the watching brief. The explanation for this could be that what appeared to be a ditch's terminal end in the evaluation trench was actually a pit. Equally, the area of pile cap that intercepted this feature was tiny, and there was an undisturbed zone where a ditch extending north from terminal 1 might have survived intact between piles.

References

- BGS, 1987, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 315, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Hopkins, H, 2007, '20-26 College Street, Southampton, Hampshire, an archaeological desk-based assessment', Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 07/129, Reading
- Lewis, J, 2008, '20-26 College Street, Southampton, Hampshire, an archaeological evaluation', Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 07/129b, Reading
- PPS5, 2010, *Planning for the Historic Environment*, The Stationery Office, Norwich

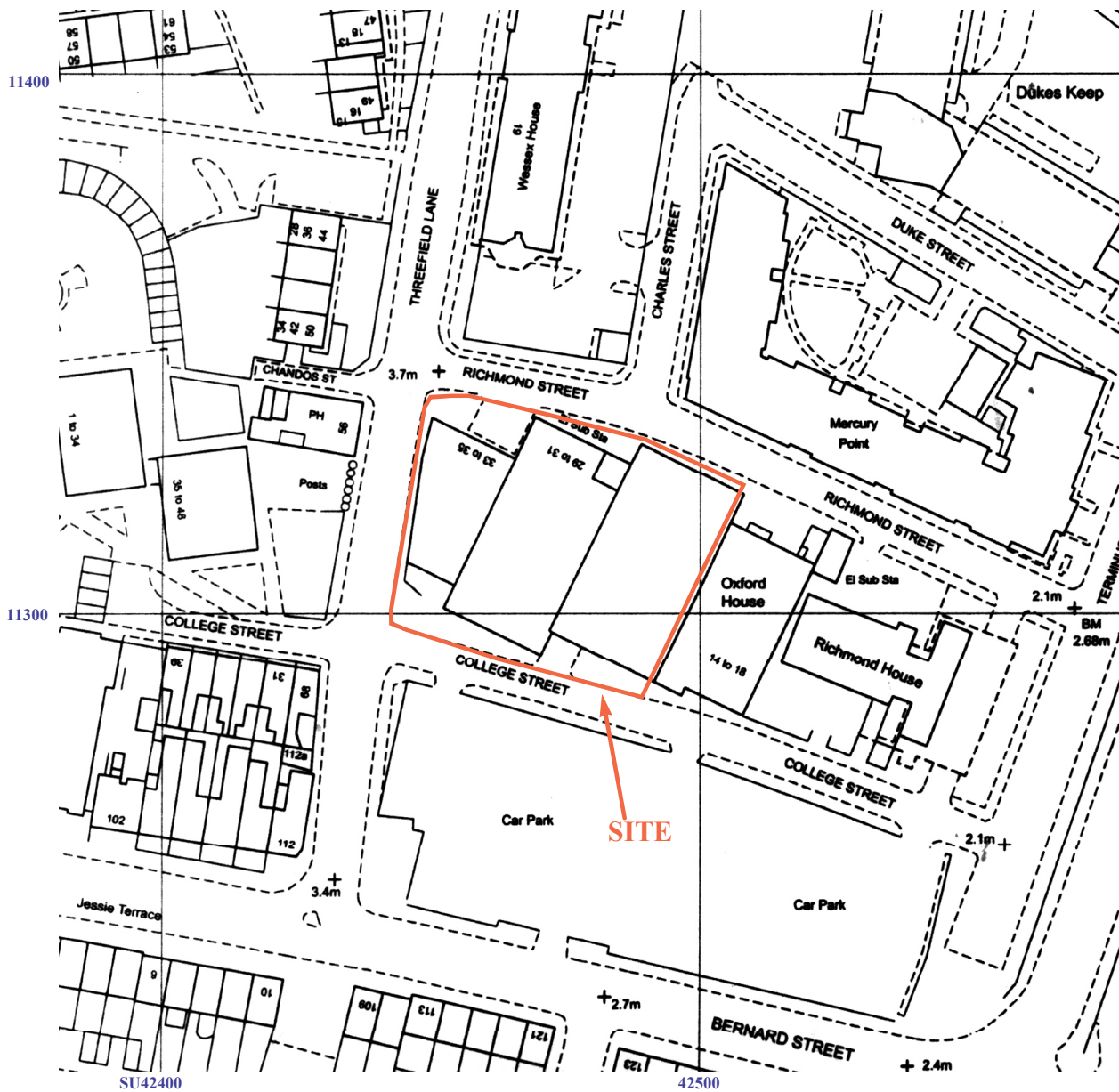


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Figure 1. Location of site within Southampton and Hampshire.

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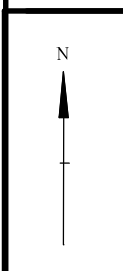
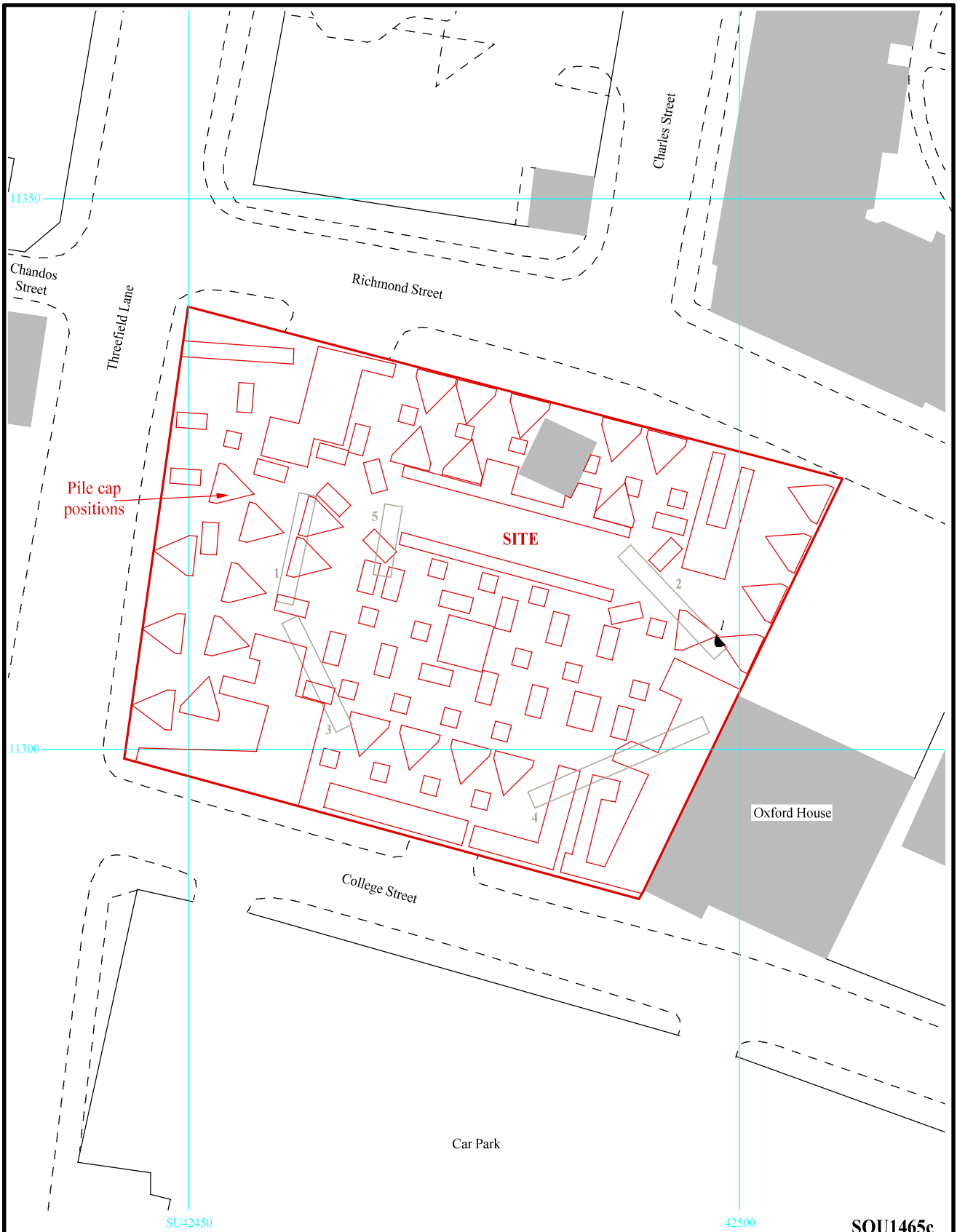


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off College Street, shown prior to development in 2008.

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Figure 3. Location of groundworks observed and evaluation trenches, showing undated ditch 1.



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East

1.62m aOD

Rubble/crush

Membrane

Subsoil

Brickearth natural geology

Base of trench

South

1.62m

Rubble/crush

Membrane

Made ground



Brickearth natural geology

Base of trench

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Figure 4. Representative sections.



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Plate 1. Pile caps on the eastern edge of the site.



Plate 2. Pile cap in the centre of the site.

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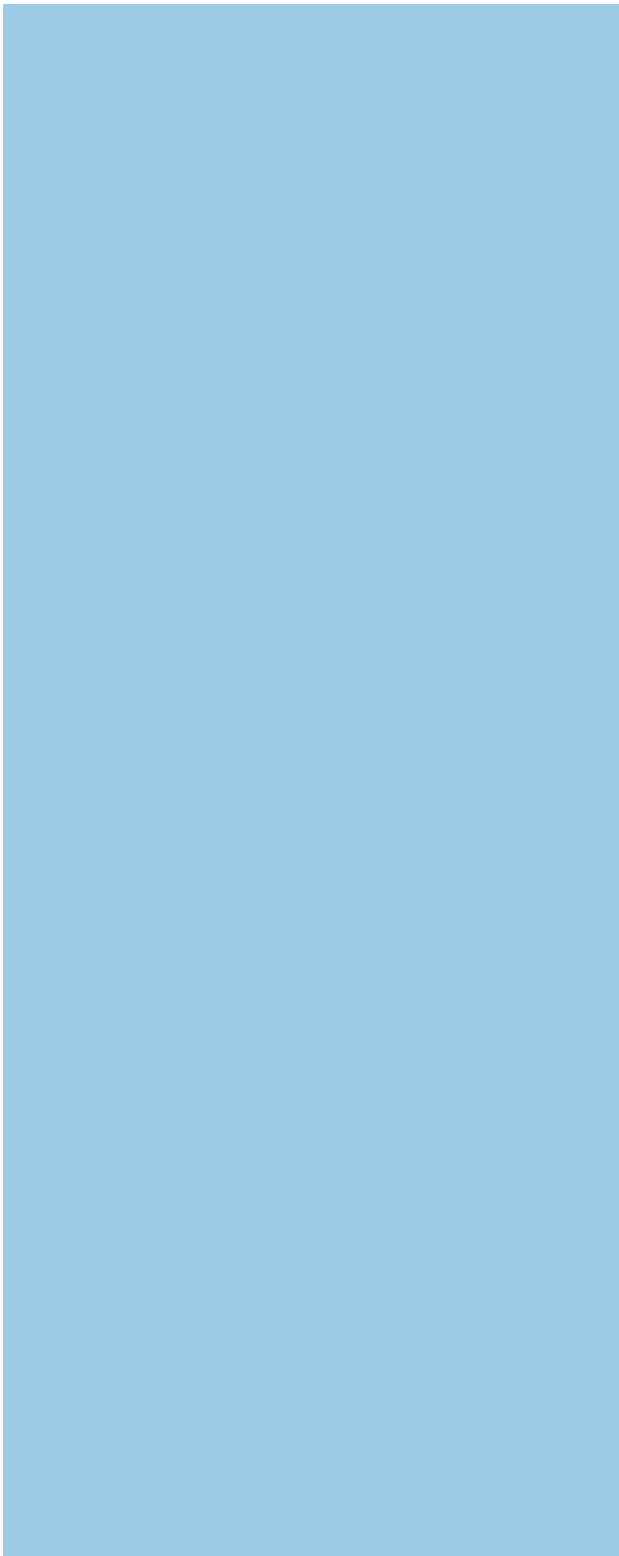
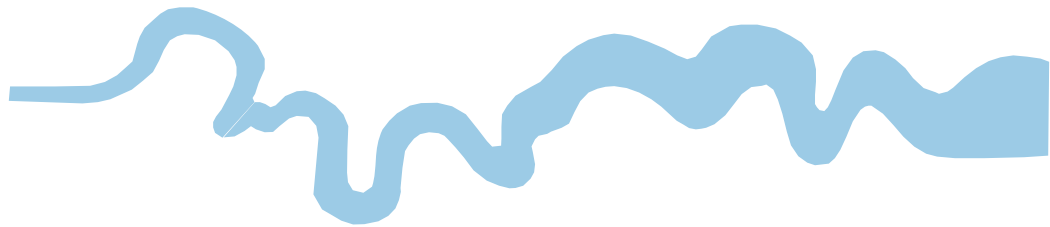
Plates 1 and 2.

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TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43
Iron Age _____	BC/AD 750 BC
Bronze Age: Late _____	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle _____	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early _____	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC





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