

**T H A M E S      V A L L E Y**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

**S E R V I C E S**

**S O U T H**

**47 Monckton Road, Gosport,  
Hampshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**by Felicity Howell**

**Site Code: MRG11/15**

**(SZ 6080 9809)**

**47 Monckton Road,  
Gosport, Hampshire**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief**

**For Crayfern Homes Ltd**

by Felicity Howell

Thames Valley Archaeological Services

Ltd

Site Code MRG 11/15

**August 2011**

## Summary

**Site name:** 47 Monckton Road, Gosport, Hampshire

**Grid reference:** SZ 6080 9809

**Site activity:** Watching Brief

**Date and duration of project:** 4th – 13th April 2011

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Felicity Howell

**Site code:** MRG11/15

**Area of site:** approximately 560 sq m within plot of 1800 sq m

**Summary of results:** No archaeological finds or features were recorded during the watching brief

**Location and reference of archive** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Hampshire Museum Service in due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 24.08.11 Steve Preston✓ 24.08.11
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# **47 Monckton Road, Gosport, Hampshire An Archaeological Watching Brief**

by Felicity Howell

**Report 11/15**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 47 Monckton Road, Gosport, Hampshire (SZ 6080 9809) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Ian Wood of Crayfern Homes Ltd, Victoria House, 14 St Johns Road, Hedge End, Southampton, Hampshire, SO39 4AB.

Planning consent (K14302/7) has been granted by Gosport Borough Council to construct three new detached houses, with integral garages, on the site. The consent is subject to a condition (4) relating to archaeology which requires that an archaeological watching brief to be carried out during groundworks.

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 Borough Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Dr Hannah Fluck, Archaeological Officer with Hampshire County Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Felicity Howell and Sean Wallis between 4th and 13th April 2011, and the site code is MRG 11/15. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Hampshire Museum Service in due course.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site is located on the east side of Monckton Road, within a residential area to the south of the Haslar inlet (Fig. 2). The historic core of Gosport is situated approximately 2.5km north-east of the present site, on the other side of the Haslar inlet. The site was previously occupied by the garden of 47 Monckton Road, which contained an outdoor swimming pool. According to the British Geological Survey, the underlying geology consists of plateau gravels (BGS 1976), and this was confirmed during the watching brief. The site lies at a height of approximately 4m above Ordnance Datum.

## **Archaeological background**

Despite being located some distance from the historic, medieval core of Gosport and post-medieval fortifications, the site lies on the coastal plain which is considered archaeologically rich for earlier historic and



prehistoric periods. The Hampshire Historic Environment notes the locations of possible Bronze Age barrows and collections of stone tools, with one of the latter in close proximity to the proposal site (HCC 2002, map A). A Late Bronze age occupation site on the western margins of Gosport (Hall and Ford 1994) is one of the very few archaeological excavations in the vicinity, whilst a medieval manorial complex is recorded at Alverstoke to the north-west of the site.

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. This was to involve examination of all areas of intrusive groundworks, particularly the digging of foundation trenches for the three new house plots. These were excavated by a 360° type mechanical excavator, under constant archaeological supervision. During the excavation of these foundation trenches all spoil heaps were monitored for finds.

## **Results**

The footings for the three new houses were monitored over the course of the watching brief (Fig. 3). The foundation trenches were generally between 0.6m and 0.8m wide (Pls 1 and 2), although the footings for the bay windows of plots 2 and 3 were 1m wide. Topsoil had largely been removed from the site prior to the excavation of the footings, although patches did remain, along with small areas of Tarmac and made ground. As a result, the stratigraphy noted during the watching brief varied across the site (Fig. 4). However, in most of the foundation trenches, the stratigraphy consisted of light brown silty sand subsoil, up to 0.21m thick, which lay directly above the natural sand and gravel geology. The survival of the subsoil horizon indicates that the site had not been significantly disturbed in the past. An exception to this was the central areas of plots 2 and 3, where there had previously been an outdoor swimming pool (Fig. 3). This had been removed and backfilled prior to the footings being dug. Due to the loose nature of this backfill, the footings in this area were up to 1.9m deep, in contrast the rest of the site, where the footings averaged *c.* 0.75m deep. Apart from the swimming pool, the only features noted during the watching brief were modern pits and service runs, which were not recorded in detail. No archaeological finds were recovered from the spoilheaps or the footings.

## **Finds**

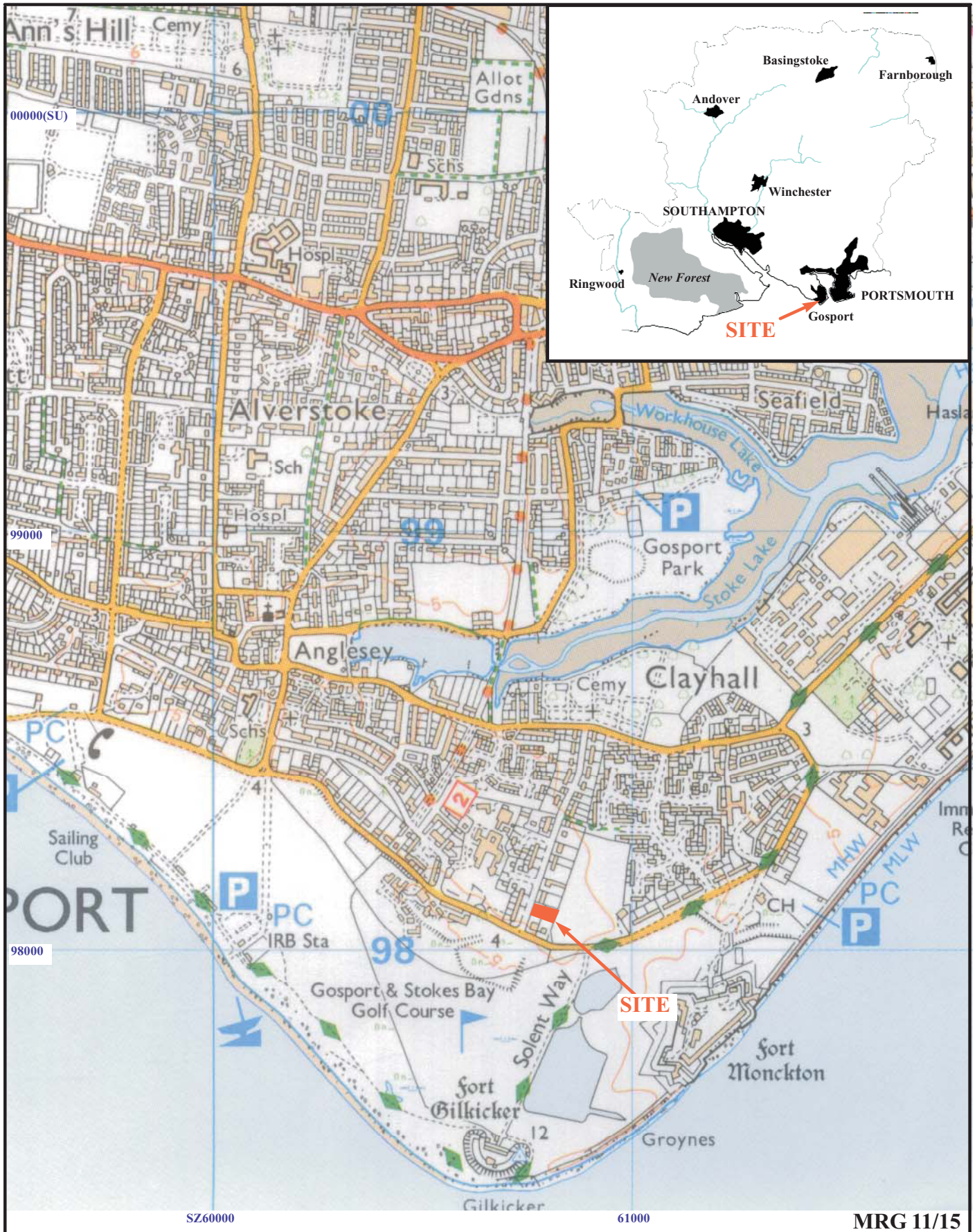
No archaeological finds were recovered during the watching brief.

## **Conclusion**

The watching brief at this site successfully examined those areas which were to be most disturbed by the construction of the new houses. The survival of a subsoil horizon across most of the site suggests that the site had not been significantly truncated in the past, except by the swimming pool which formerly occupied parts of plots 2 and 3. No archaeological finds or features were recorded during the project.

## **References**

- BGS, 1976, *British Geological Survey*, IOW special sheet, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Hall, M and Ford, S, 1994, 'Archaeological excavations at Grange Road, Gosport, Hampshire, 1992', *Proc Hampshire Fld Club Archaeol Soc* **50**, 5–34
- HCC 2002, *An extensive urban survey of Hampshire's and the Isle of Wight's Historic Towns: Gosport*, Hampshire County Council, Winchester
- PSS5, 2010, *Planning for the Historic Environment*, The Stationery Office, Norwich



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Figure 1. Location of site within Gosport and Hampshire.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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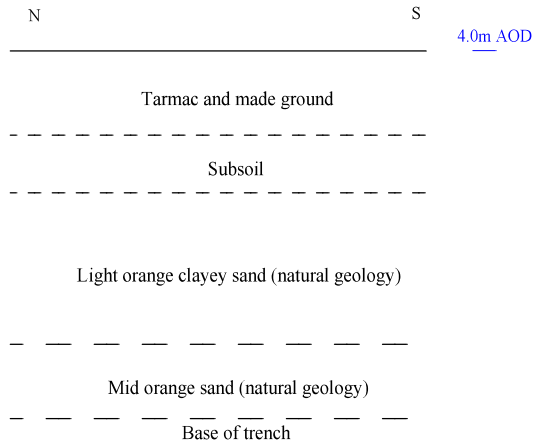


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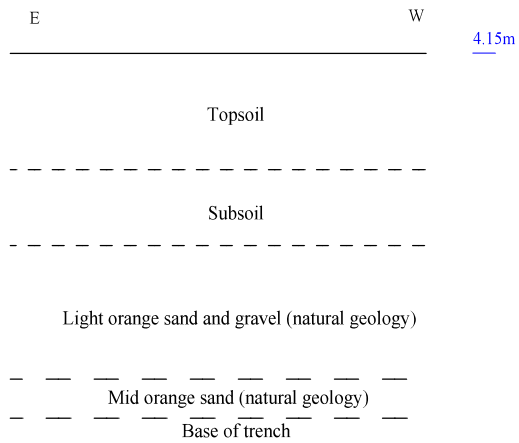
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Figure 3. Locations of footings observed.  
 Scale 1:400

**Footing Trench - Plot 1**



**Footing Trench - Plot 3**



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Figure 4. Representative sections





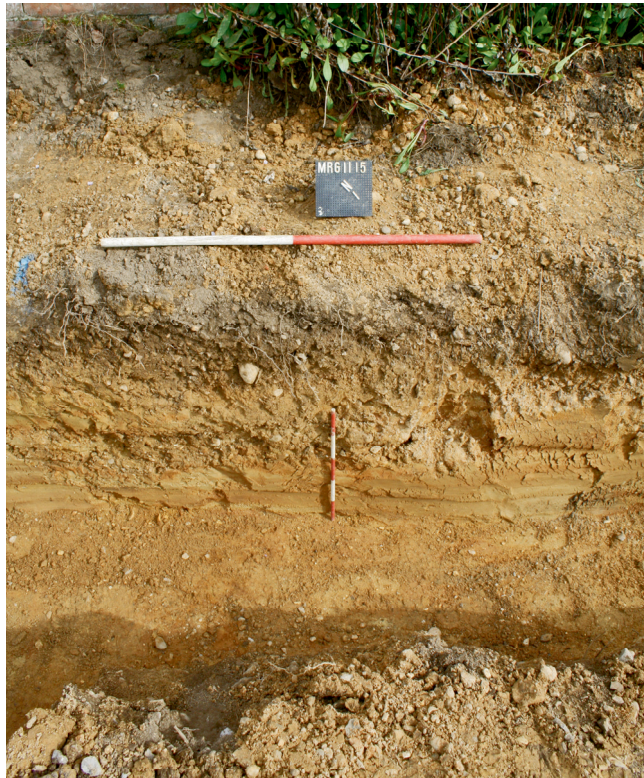


Plate 1: northern section in plot 1, looking north; Scales: 1m and 0.5m



Plate 1: northern section in plot 1, looking east; Scales: 2m and 0.5m

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Plates 1 and 2

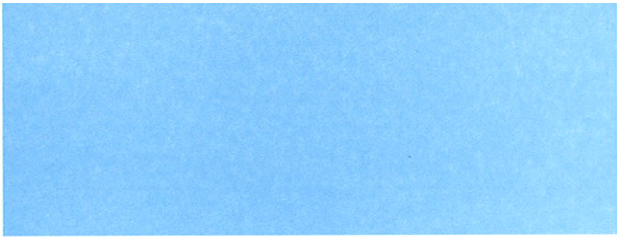
THAMES VALLEY  
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SERVICES  
SOUTH

## 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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