

**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**

**Former Three Crowns Public House, 10 St James's Street,  
Portsmouth, Hampshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**by Felicity Howell**

**Site Code: SJP11/94**

**(SU 6360 0030)**

**Former Three Crowns Public House,  
10 St James's Street, Portsmouth, Hampshire**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief**

**For PMC Construction Ltd**

by FelicityHowell  
ThamesValleyArchaeologicalServices  
Ltd

SiteCodeSJP11/94

**November 2011**

## Summary

**Site name:** Former Three Crowns Public House, 10 St James's Street, Portsmouth, Hampshire

**Grid reference:** SU 6360 0030

**Planning reference:** 09/00643/OUT

**Site activity:** Watching Brief

**Date and duration of project:** 11th October to 2nd November 2011

**Project manager:** Sean Wallis

**Site supervisor:** Sean Wallis

**Site code:** SJP 11/94

**Area of site:** c. 0.16 ha

**Summary of results:** No archaeological features were identified but sherds of late medieval and post-medieval pottery were recovered from made ground deposits which may have been used to build the site up following gravel extraction in the area

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

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 12.12.11 Steve Preston ✓ 12.12.11
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# Former Three Crowns Public House, 10 St James's Street, Portsmouth, Hampshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Felicity Howell

Report 11/94

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at the former site of the 'Three Crowns' Public House, 10 St James's Street, Portsmouth, Hampshire (SU 6360 0030) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Stephen Cripps of PMC Construction Ltd, 106 Queens Road, Portsmouth, Hampshire PO2 7NE.

Planning permission (09/00643/OUT) has been gained from Portsmouth City Council to construct new student accommodation on the site, which will incorporate a basement cycle storage area. The permission is subject to a condition (6) relating to archaeology, which requires that an archaeological watching brief should take place during groundworks to mitigate the possibility of damage or destruction of archaeological deposits. This is in accordance with *Planning for the Historic Environment* (PPS5, 2010), and the City Council's policies on archaeology. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation approved by the Archaeology Advisor to Portsmouth City Council, Dr Andrew Russell. The fieldwork was undertaken by Felicity Howell and Sean Wallis between 11th October and 2nd November 2011, and the site code is SJP 11/94. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Portsmouth Museum in due course.

## Location, topography and geology

The site is located in Portsea, immediately south of the Naval Base and about 100m north of the historic core of the city of Portsmouth (Fig. 1). The site itself is located on the eastern side of St James's Street, immediately south of Lion Street (Fig. 2) and was formerly occupied by a public house, which has recently been demolished (pl. 1). According to the British Geological Survey, the underlying geology consists of river terrace deposits (BGS 1994), and this was confirmed when natural gravel was observed during the watching brief. The site is relatively flat, and lies at a height of approximately 4m above Ordnance Datum.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site, in part, stems from its location within one of Portsmouth's Local Areas of Archaeological Importance (LAAI 2), which is primarily concerned with the naval dockyard, founded by 1495 and its defences. A settlement grew up around the dockyard, and had become known as Portsea by the 17th century. Evidence of this post-medieval settlement has been recorded close to the present site, at 9 St James's Street and 5 Lion Street, and it is therefore possible that similar archaeological deposits may survive on the present 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, including foundation trenches for the new building. Sufficient time was to be allowed within the developer's and groundworker's schedules to record any archaeological features revealed.

## **Results**

The footings for the proposed halls of residence were monitored over the course of the watching brief (Fig. 3; pl. 2). It became apparent shortly after development began that a large amount of the site had been previously disturbed by the footings of the former 'Three Crowns' Public House which had occupied a significant proportion of the area of interest. This building was demolished several years ago and the cellar infilled. The foundation design of the new building consisted of piles linked by relatively shallow groundbeams. The foundation trenches were generally 0.90m wide and 0.95m deep and revealed predominantly made ground, with the exception of the south west corner, where the stratigraphy consisted of 0.18m of overburden above 0.66m of made ground (51), which lay directly above natural gravel, reaching a maximum depth of 1.35m. No archaeological features were observed during the watching brief, although some pottery sherds were found within the made ground deposits (51 and 52) in the north east corner of the site (Fig. 4).

## **Finds**

### *Pottery* by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised of 5 sherds with a total weight of 76g. The pottery types are all well-known in the region. The sherds are in fairly good condition, and appear reliably stratified, although they all seem to have been lightly burnt after breakage.

Just one sherd weighing 24g of Border Ware AD1550–1700 occurred in context (51). The sherd is a rim from a bowl with notched rouletting around the shoulder. Such decoration is rare on Border Ware, and only two bowls are known which were treated in such a manner, from London, where they are dated to the mid-late 17th century (Pearce 1988, 14).

Four sherds, weighing a total of 52g were recovered from context (52). The fabric type noted was Late Medieval Sandy Ware (15th–16th century) appearing as hard fired, orange sandy fabric with a mottled copper green glaze. Similar fabric is known from Oyster Street, Portsmouth (Fox and Barton 1986). Three of the four sherds of Late Medieval Sandy Ware are from the same bowl with an internal glaze, a typical product of the tradition. They cannot be dated other than to within the broad lifespan of the industry.

### *Other Finds* by Felicity Howell

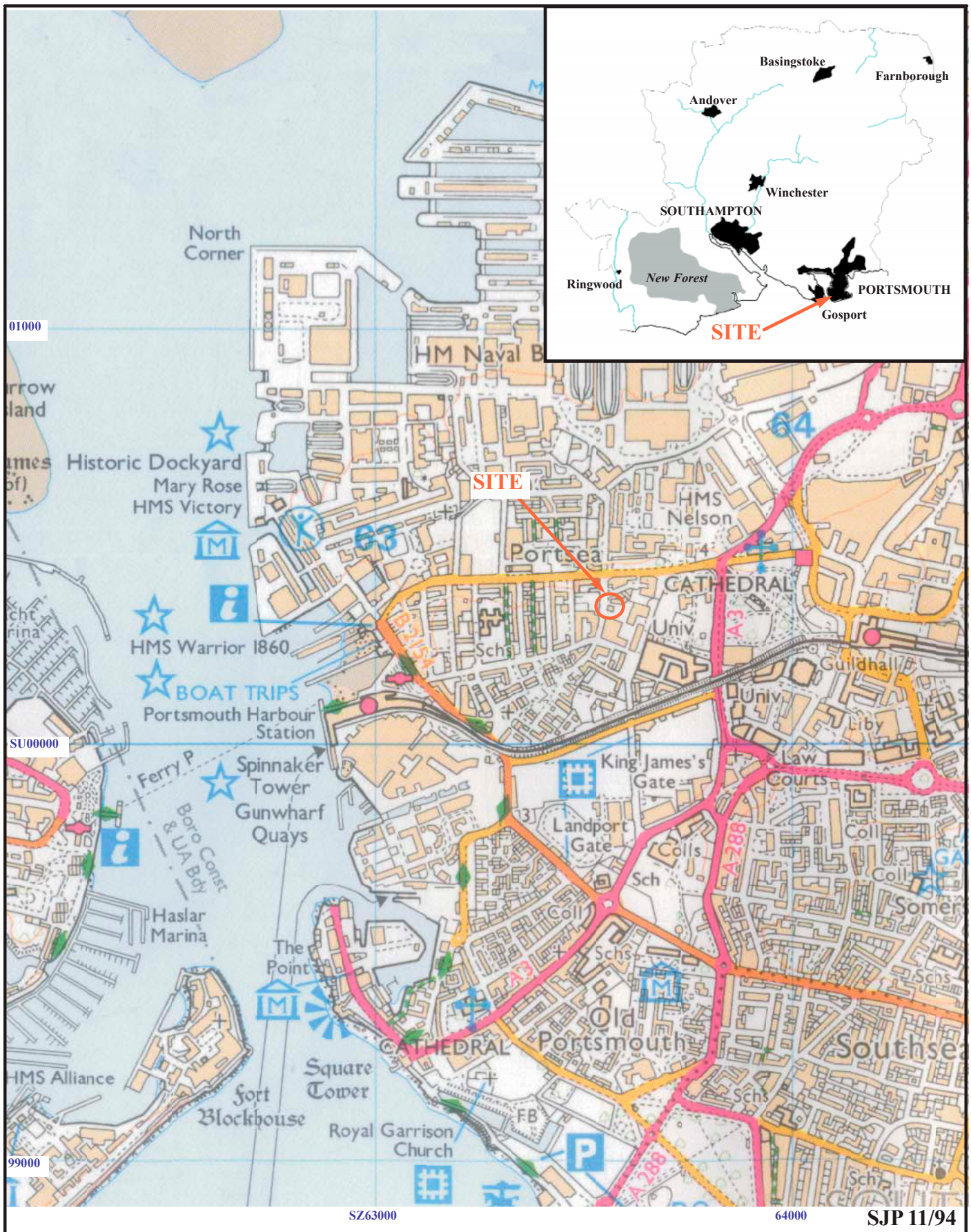
Several fragments of post-medieval brick were found during the watching brief. This material all came from made ground deposits and was not retained.

## **Conclusion**

The watching brief at this site successfully examined those areas which were to be most disturbed by the construction of new halls of residence. The predominance of made ground across the site suggests the significant truncation that has occurred in the area in the distant past. No archaeological features were recorded during the project.

## **References**

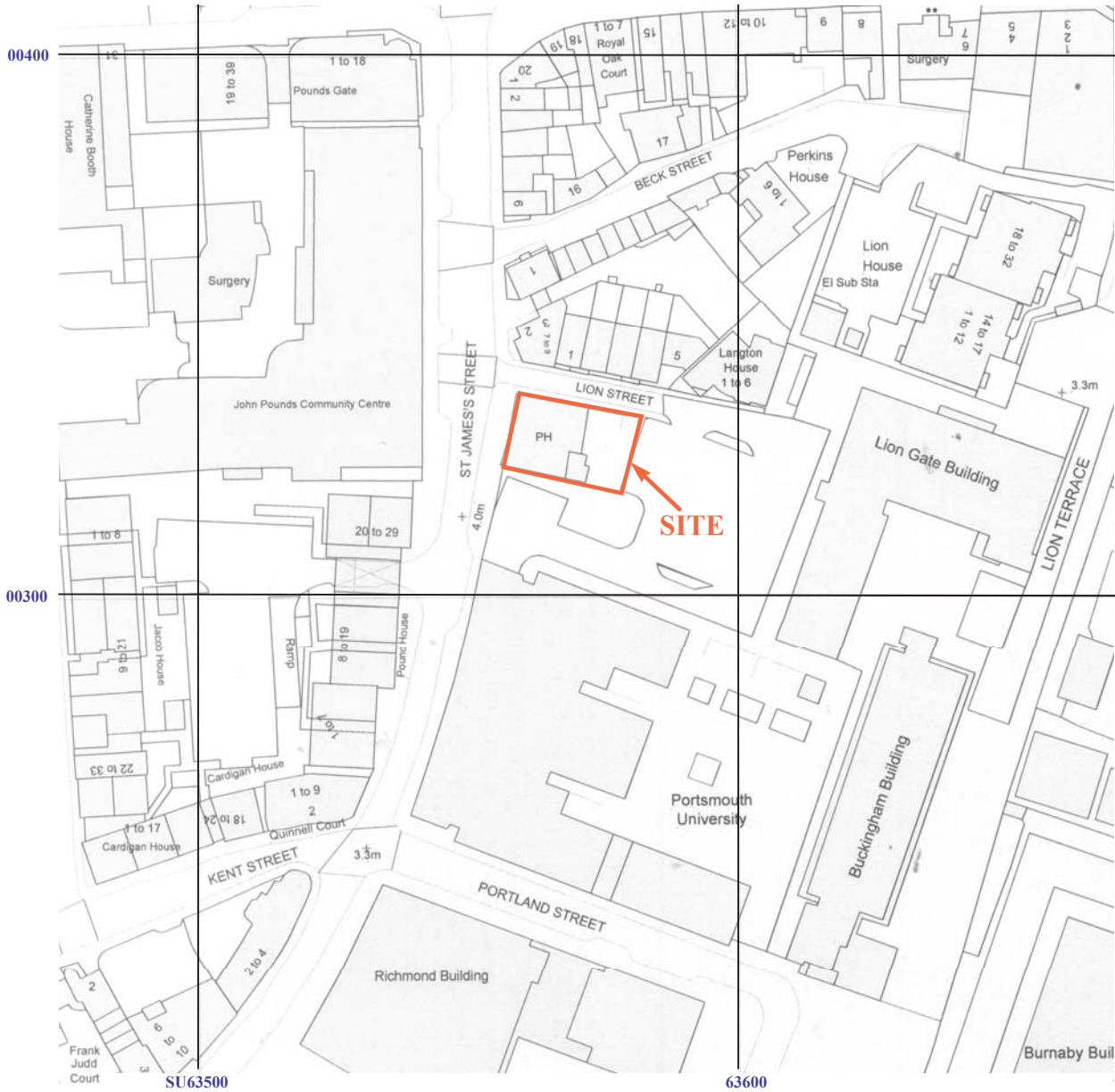
- BGS, 1994, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 331, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth.  
Fox, R and Barton, K J, 1986, 'Excavations at Oyster Street, Portsmouth, Hampshire, 1968-71', *Post-Medieval Archaeol* **20**, 31–255  
Pearce, J, 1998, *Border Wares*, London  
PPS5, 2010, *Planning for the Historic Environment*, Planning Policy Statement 5, The Stationery Office, Norwich



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Figure 1. Location of site within Portsmouth and Hampshire.

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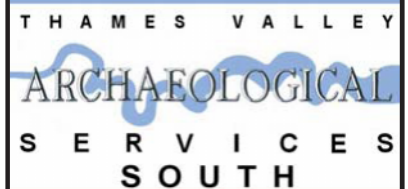
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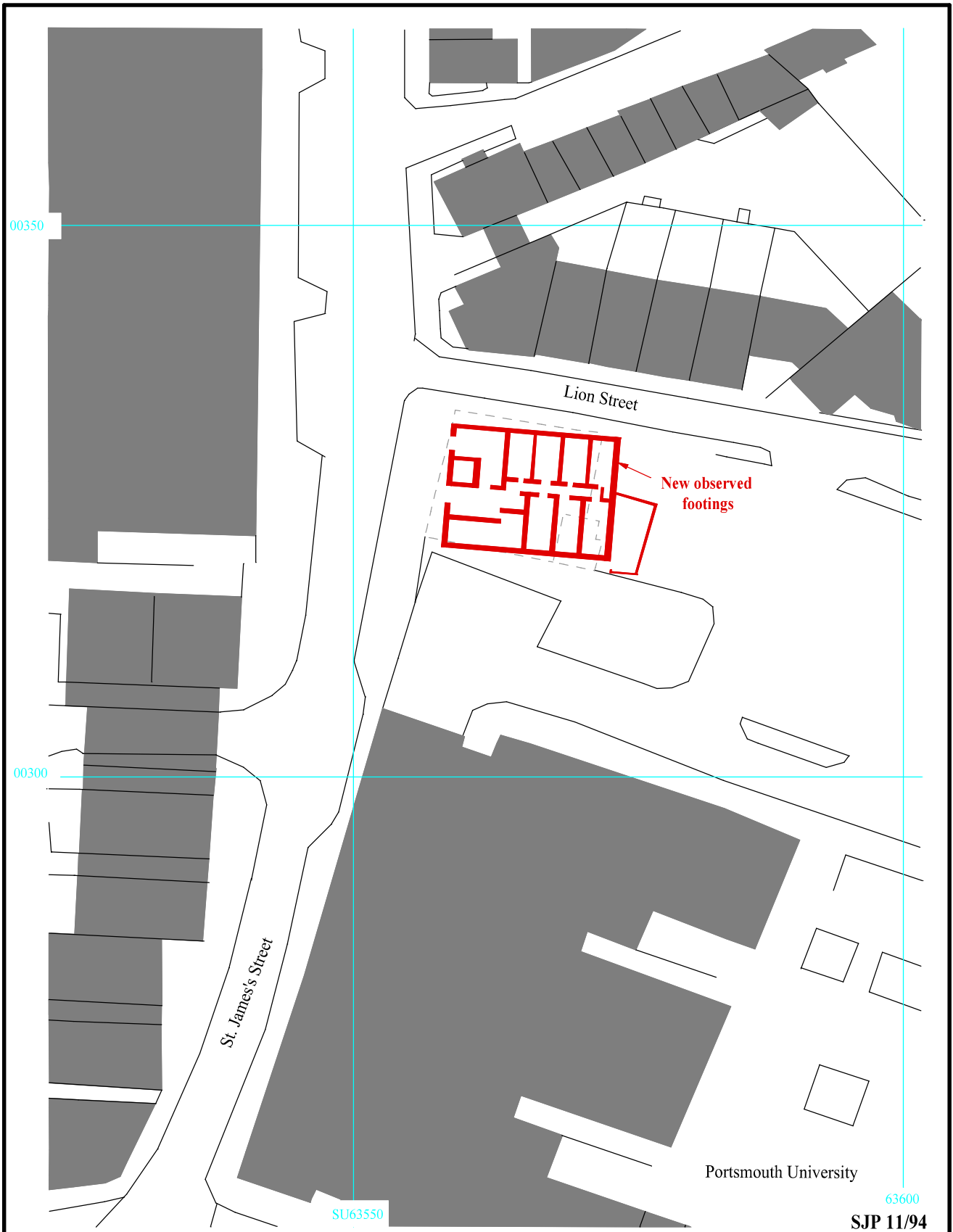
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off St. James Street.

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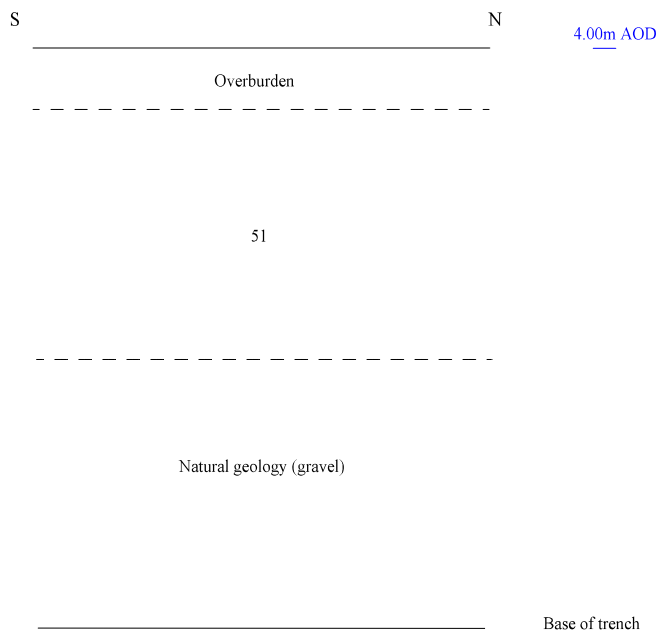


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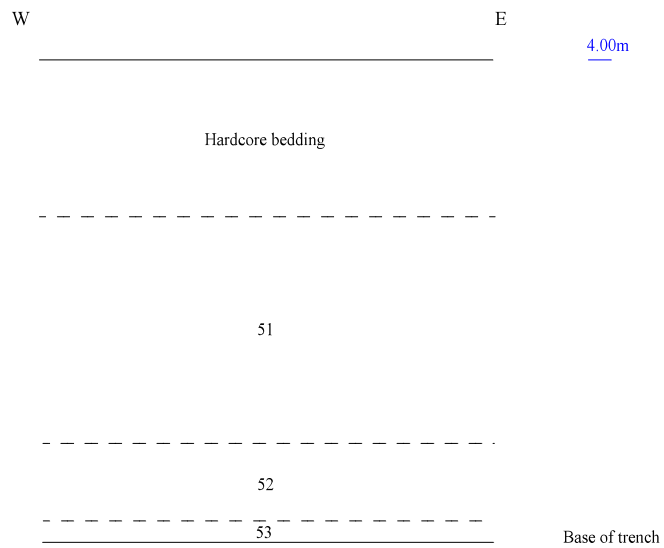
Figure 3. Location of area observed.



Section at south west corner of footing trench



North section of footing trench



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Figure 4. Sections.



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Plate 1. General site view, looking south west.



Plate 2. NE corner of dug footing, looking north, Scale: 1m.

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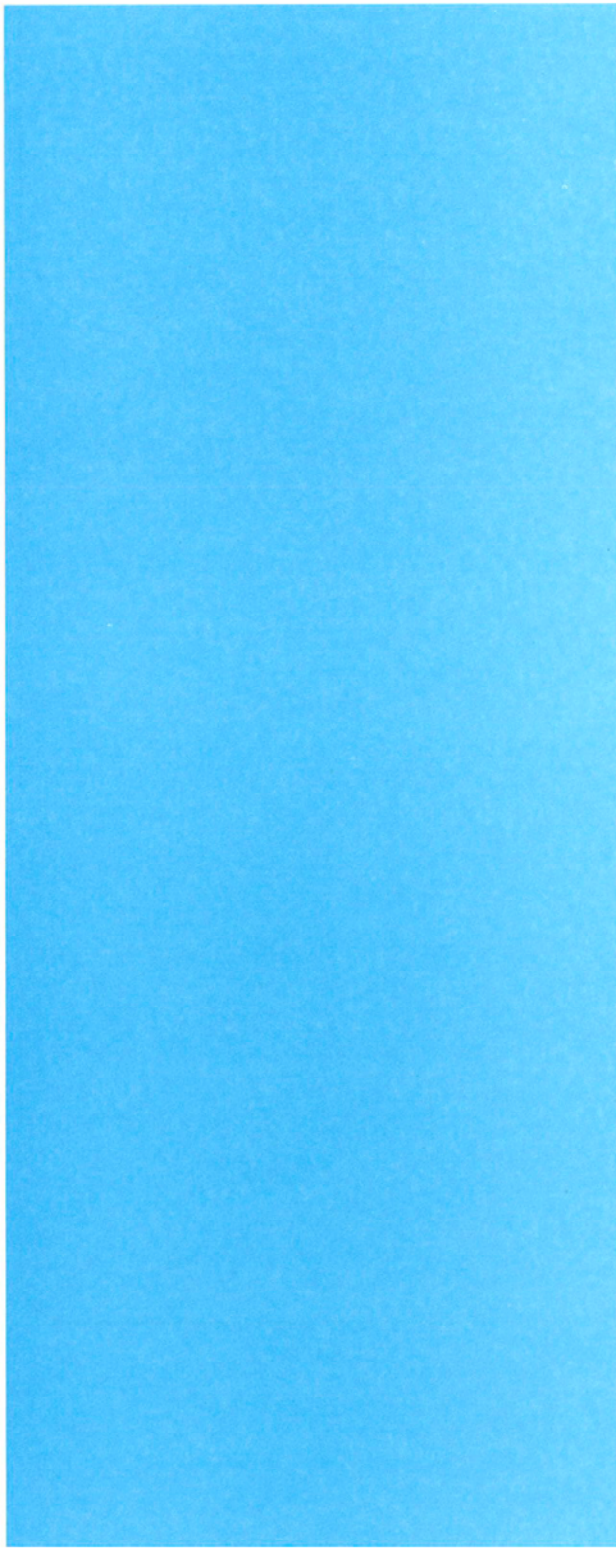
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Plates 1 and 2.**

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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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